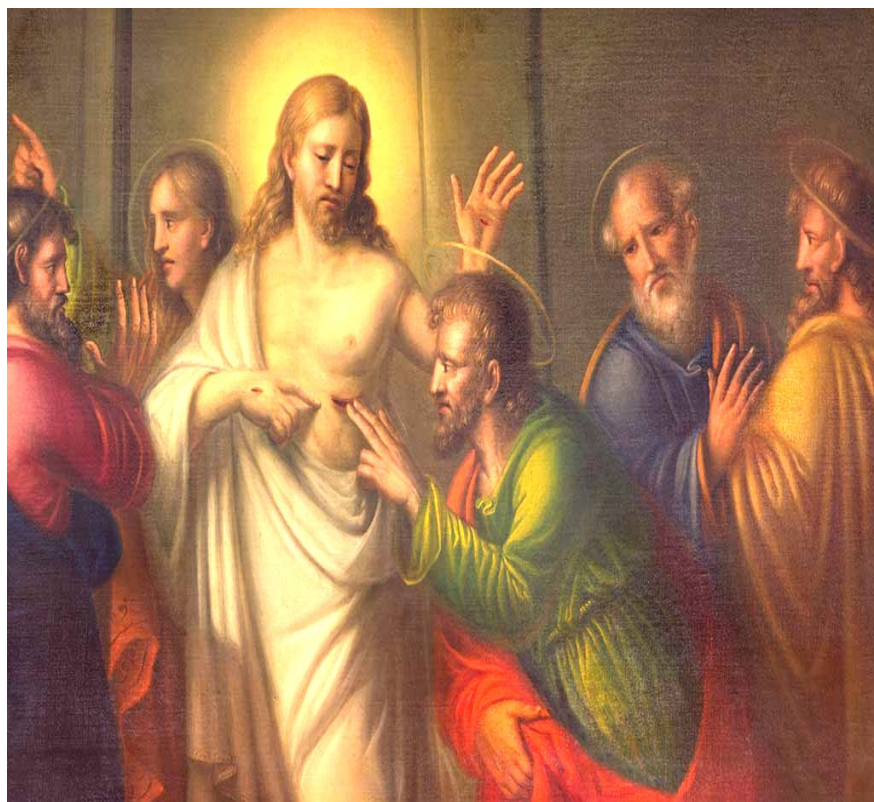


OUR LADY OF PEACE CHURCH
APRIL 12, 2026

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY



HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS

Saturday 5:15 p.m. Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 noon

Masses: Monday-Saturday: 8:00 a.m.

Last Tuesday of the month: 7:00 p.m.

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

SATURDAYS 4:00 - 4:45PM

GPS: 620 Amboy Ave. Edison, NJ 08837 Mailing Address P.O. Box 60, Fords,
NJ 08863 Parish Office: 26 Maple Ave. Edison, NJ 08837

Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00am - 4:00pm

Phone: 732-738-7940 Email: mail@olpfords.org Webpage: www.olpfords.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK....



Dear OLP Family,

Happy Easter! Yes, Easter is such a foundational feast of our faith, that the Church continues to celebrate it for about seven weeks. These Sundays are named 2nd Sunday of Easter, 3rd Sunday of Easter, etc. The power of Easter has transformed the face of the earth as believers began to increase and Christianity began to spread all over the world. The early Christians themselves were the best missionaries to their own neighbors and friends, sharing the power of the Resurrected Jesus to bring about change of hearts. It still continues to happen in our own times.

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday – a feast instituted by St. John Paul II, in order to realize the depth of the mercy of God for each one of us personally. Sister Faustina, who had revelations about this desire from Jesus, wrote the words of Jesus in her diary entry # 206: *“On the day of My feast, the Feast of Mercy, you will go through the whole world and bring fainting souls to the spring of My mercy. I shall heal and strengthen them”*.

Some have asked me: “Father, are we bound to believe in such revelations to individuals like St. Faustina?” Let me answer with a quote from the most authoritative document of the Church, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: *“Throughout the ages, there have been so-called ‘private’ revelations, some of which have been recognized by the authority of the Church. They do not belong, however, to the deposit of faith. It is not their role to improve or complete Christ’s definitive Revelation, but to help live more fully by it in a certain period of history”* (#67).

Thus the Church is very clear that the revelations experienced by Saint Faustina were of a private nature, which are not essential to anyone’s acceptance of the Catholic faith. And yet the Church promotes this popular devotion because God’s loving mercy, the focus of Divine Mercy Sunday, is the very heart of the gospel. So we see that the devotion to Divine Mercy in no way replaces any of our rich liturgical traditions or faith. The Divine Mercy devotion fosters the virtue of trust in God’s mercy that finds its fulfillment in the liturgy of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist.

And yet, today’s gospel is about doubting the resurrection of Jesus by one of his own disciples! Presenting the doubting Thomas’ famous profession of Faith, *“My Lord and my God,”* the Gospel illustrates how Jesus showed his mercy to the doubting apostle and emphasizes the importance of Faith. We are invited to receive liberation from doubts and reservations about our faith, first by verbalizing our doubts and trying to get answers from those who know, and second by surrendering our lives to the Risen Lord of Mercy.

Here at OLP, we have been praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet for the past nine days, and today we have the concluding Divine Mercy Service at 3PM. All are welcome to come and join.

May the Resurrected Lord help us experience His mercy as we live the season of Easter.

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

April 12 Sunday 8:00am

+Catherine Sadowski from BethAnn Lynch & Family

10:00am

Holy Rosary - Altar Rosary

12:00 noon

+Mario Alaimo from Emil

April 13, Monday 8:00am

+James & Lena Chicuto from Family

April 14, Tuesday 8:00am

+Joseph Cristino from The Dekonski Family

April 15, Wednesday 8:00am

+Frank St. Marie from The Kennedy Family

April 16, Thursday 8:00am

+John Medvetz from Family

April 17, Friday 8:00am

+For Our Parishioners

April 18, Saturday 8:00am

+Sharon Shevlin from JoAnn Grandal

5:15pm

+John Gonyo from Eleanor & John Beitz

April 19 Sunday 8:00am

+Ramona Arocho from Elizabeth & Ken Perlas

10:00am

+Domenica Pugliese from Family

12:00 noon

+Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas D'Antico from Daughter Margie & Family

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday April 12

9am-12pm Holy Name-Altar Rosary Mtg. -

Regina Caeli Room

9:30am Holy Name-Altar Rosary to pray the Rosary - Church

3pm Divine Mercy - Church

Monday - April 13

8:30am Novena - Church

Tuesday - April 14

7:00pm Blue Army - Church

7:30pm NJ State Columbiettes - Regina Caeli Rm

Wednesday - April 15

4:30 - 5:45pm Religious Ed. Grade 1-4 - Parish Center

7:00-8:15pm Religious Ed. Grade 5-7, II Parish Center

8:00pm KOC Social Mtg - Parish Hall

Thursday - April 16

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal - Church

Friday - April 17

No Activities

Saturday April 18

4:00pm Confessions - Church

Sunday April 19

1:00pm Live Lent! Groups Gathering - Parish Hall

Ministry Schedule for

April 18/19

5:15pm Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Barbara Balog, Joan Deyak, Karen Senatore

Reader: Gloria DeMarzo

Altar Server: Delgado Family

8:00 a.m. Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Martin Verendia,

Tom Bednar, Alan Nygard

Reader: Bill Herring

10:00 a.m. Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Prumos, Maria Frey, Maryann Shingola

Reader: Annalise Dantes

Altar Server: Brienne Szylar

12:00 Noon

Eucharistic Ministers: Frank Heelan,

Lorraine O'Prandy, Kathy Kazary

Reader: Thomas Deignan

Altar Server: Alexis Nwinyi

Catholic Daughters of the Americas



The calendar says it's Spring!

What better time to come and meet some new friends? As always, we'll be serving cake, coffee, and friendship after the meeting. We meet at the K of C Hall in Woodbridge at 7 PM. This month's **meeting is on April 15**, but Catholic women age 18+ are invited to come to any meeting and see what we're all about. Our members belong to several parishes, including OLP, St. James, St. Cecelia, and St. Matthew, so chances are you already know someone who's a member! For more info - email cdacourt769@gmail We're looking forward to seeing you!



SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY



A priest was forced by a police officer to pull over for speeding. As the officer was about to write the ticket, the priest said to him, "*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.*" The police officer handed the priest the ticket, and said, "*Go, and sin no more.*"

A boy is in court for killing his parents. He is presented in front of a judge and he begs the judge to show mercy while delivering his punishment. The judge says to him, "You killed your own parents. Why would I show mercy to you?" The guy looks at the judge and says, "Well, because I am an orphan."



Today, I picked up my first pair of running shoes. May God have mercy on my Sole.

A pastor was giving a lesson to a group of children on the 23rd Psalm. He noticed that one of the little boys seemed disquieted by the phrase "Surely, goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life..." "What's wrong with that, Johnny?" the pastor asked.

"Well," answered Johnny, "I understand about having goodness and mercy, for God is good. But I'm not sure I'd like Shirley following me around all the time."



The Greatest Easter Egg In the World

Few years ago, I served as pastor at St. John Neumann parish in Califon. Tommy Gemma, a 4th grader, shared with me his experience of Easter Egg:

Do you remember that Easter egg hunt at church? Those prizes inside the eggs were good! Mmmmmmmmm, candy! Also, Mrs. France hid them pretty darn well. (I had to search in the plants, move heavy logs, and dig under branches and leaves! Mrs. France said that most of the eggs that were near the office were still there!) I opened my eggs, licking my lips. I popped one open expecting candy, but when I held it upside down to collect my sweet, it was empty! Now, you might get upset, get angry, or tell an employee of the church. But I didn't do that. I was happy about my little surprise. You're probably wondering why. What else was expected to have something in it, but turned out to be empty? Jesus's Tomb! And why was his tomb empty? Because he had risen! God had given him new life! New life. New life. Think about that. It's good. And that's what we all get! So my egg actually symbolized new life instead of containing sweets. I really don't understand why it was empty. Did God empty my egg on purpose? Was it empty on accident? I don't know. But continue to love God, even when He leaves you in wonder. All of the good people will have new life. Well, worship and trust The LORD, and goodbye!

Please pray for the Sick

Eunice McLaughlin, Raymond Miller, Danielle Maglies, Anna Verrico, Rolando Rey, Christine Mary Brown, Donna Ferrara, Lonie Ebarle, Julia Forsythe, Joanne M., Maria Lavid, Teddy Sabo, Lisa Sabo, Norma Nebus, Nancy Gaid, Joan Trainor, Peter Rutkowski, Renata Wisnik, Raul Ramos, Veronica Roush, Suzanne Pontes Sarisky, Kelly Lease, Maria Turek, Evelyn Prince, Alex Deliso, John Herring, Marie Burke, Bill Herring, Mercedes de Leon, Eve Morawski, Andrew Southern, Shelly Greene, Danuta, Debra Ambrosi, Michael L., Wendy Snee, Catherine Miller, Tano Camarillo, Elizabeth Savner, Joan Quinn

Please pray for the Dearly Departed

Arlene Herman, Joyce Trasky, Viola Davitt, Agnes Smith, Anne Trepono, Debbie Hernandez, Donald Jantas, Darlene Holowka, Debbie Mullen, Madeline Strong, Octavio Ruiz, John Harvie, Anthony Alexander, Thomas J. Felcetto, Evelyn Mrozek, Mildred Manresa, Marie Girona, Evelyn Codd, Gary Dzama, Michael Sena, Marie Pugliese, Stefan Wysocki

“Sir, that is what I am afraid of!”

There is a story about a soldier brought before General Robert E. Lee. Accused of misconduct, the soldier was trembling. The general said to him, "Do not be afraid, son. Here you will receive justice." The soldier looked at the general and said, "Sir that is what I am afraid of."

Like that soldier, Peter would have reason to tremble. He had boasted about his bravery, how he would always stand by Jesus. Yet when Jesus needed him most, he nodded off. Perhaps one could forgive him for falling asleep, but later - when he was wide awake - he denied Jesus. "I do not know the man." Some rock! In strict justice, Peter should have been punished - at the very least, removed as head of the Church. In Christ's passion, however, a deeper justice is at work. That is what we will discover this Divine Mercy Sunday. God's justice has a name - it is called the Divine Mercy.

CLOTHING DRIVE APRIL 25th & 26th

Our Lady of Peace Holy Name Altar Rosary Society will be conducting a Clothing Drive on the Weekend of April 25th & April 26th.

Please bring all **wearable**:

men's, women's and children's clothing
shoes, belts, handbags, stuffed animals,
pillows, blankets, towels and bed linens to
the Parish Center GYM

Saturday, April 25th from 2:00pm to 6:30pm
and Sunday, April 26th from 9:30am to 2:00pm.

All clothing must be in plastic bags,
NO coat hangers.

**To better serve our Parish Family and Community,
The Holy Name Society will do home pick up:
Please call Alan Nygard (732)-986-3199 to schedule
a pick up. Please tell your friends and neighbors.**

Parochial Ministry

Rev. Abraham Orapankal, Ph.D. Pastor
Rev. Sebastian Kaithackal C.M.I., (In Res.)
Deacon John A. Raychel

Parish Services

Rev. John J. Zec, Ph.D., Music Director
Candida Gonzalez, Coordinator of Religious Ed.
Lourdes Hnath, Organist

Parish Staff

Walter Springer, Business Administrator
Norma Izzo, Assistant Bookkeeper
Dawn Aube, Parish/PREP Secretary

Trustees

Joan C. Deyak, Robert Butvilla

STEWARDSHIP

March 29, 2026

Weekly Offering	\$ 6,639.00
Mail-in	\$ 909.00
Online giving	\$ 2,818.50
Parish Assessment	\$ 986.00
Retired Clergy	\$ 1,121.00
Total	\$ 12,473.50

Stewardship of Treasure

Thank you for remembering your parish with your continued financial support.

The Parish is in need of Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Altar Servers.

For more information and to apply,
please contact the Parish Office at
732-738-7940, Monday - Friday,
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM.



Another easy way to manage your church giving is with Online Giving. You can manage your giving or give a one-time gift. Visit our church website, www.olpfords.ort and click the Online Giving link and register with our church. Your support during the year helps sustain our Church.



Holy Name-Altar Rosary welcomes all to join them on Sunday April 12, at 9:30am to pray the Rosary to our blessed Mother before the 10:00am Mass.

St. Faustina and the Image of the Divine Mercy

St. Faustina of Poland is the well known apostle of Divine Mercy. On 30th of April, 2000, at 10:00 AM on the Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday, the Feast requested by Jesus in His communications with St. Faustina), His Holiness Pope St. John Paul II celebrated the Eucharist in Saint Peter's Square and proceeded to the canonization of Blessed Sister Faustina. [John Paul himself would be canonized on this same Feast Day – April 27 in 2014 – by Pope Francis.] Saint Faustina invites us by the witness of her life to keep our Faith and Hope fixed on God the Father, rich in mercy, Who saved us by the precious Blood of His Son. During her short life, the Lord Jesus assigned to St. Faustina three basic tasks:

1. to pray for souls, entrusting them to God's incomprehensible Mercy;
2. to tell the world about God's Generous Mercy;
3. to start a new movement in the Church focusing on God's Mercy.

At the canonization of St. Faustina, Pope St. John Paul II said: "The cross, even after the Resurrection of the Son of God, speaks, and never ceases to speak, of God the Father, Who is absolutely faithful to His eternal love for man. ... Believing in this love means believing in mercy." "The Lord of Divine Mercy," a drawing of Jesus based on the vision given to St. Faustina, shows Jesus raising his right hand in a gesture of blessing, with His left hand on his heart from which gush forth two rays, one red and one white. The picture contains the message, "Jesus, I trust in You!" (*Jezu ufam Tobie*). The rays streaming out have symbolic meaning: red for the Blood of Jesus, which is the life of souls and white for the Baptismal water which justifies souls. The whole image is symbolic of the mercy, forgiveness and love of God.

"Law vs Mercy"

Once in *Reader's Digest*, Jim Williams of Montana, wrote: "I was driving too fast late one night when I saw the flashing lights of a police car in my rearview mirror. As I pulled over and rolled down my window of my station wagon, I tried to dream up an excuse for my haste. But when the patrolman reached the car, he said nothing. Instead, he merely shined his flashlight in my face, then on my seven-month-old in his car seat, then on our three other children, who were asleep, and lastly on the two dogs in the very back of the car. Returning the beam of light to my face, he then uttered the only words of the encounter. 'Son,' he said, 'you can't afford a ticket. Slow down.' And with that, he returned to his car and drove away."

Sometimes mercy triumphs over law. So it is for sinners who call out to Jesus."

Let us accept God's invitation to celebrate and practice mercy. One way the Church celebrates God's mercy throughout the year is through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Finding time for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is another good way to receive Divine Mercy. The Gospel command, "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful," demands that we show mercy to our fellow human beings always and everywhere. We radiate God's mercy to others by our actions, our words, and our prayers. It is mainly through the corporal and spiritual works of mercy that we practice mercy in our daily lives and become eligible for God's merciful judgment.

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Dr. Seeman, Sr. has been a devoted parishioner of Our Lady of Peace for 60 years, has been part of OLP from Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, Reconciliation and Marriage, and has served the community for 35 years.

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