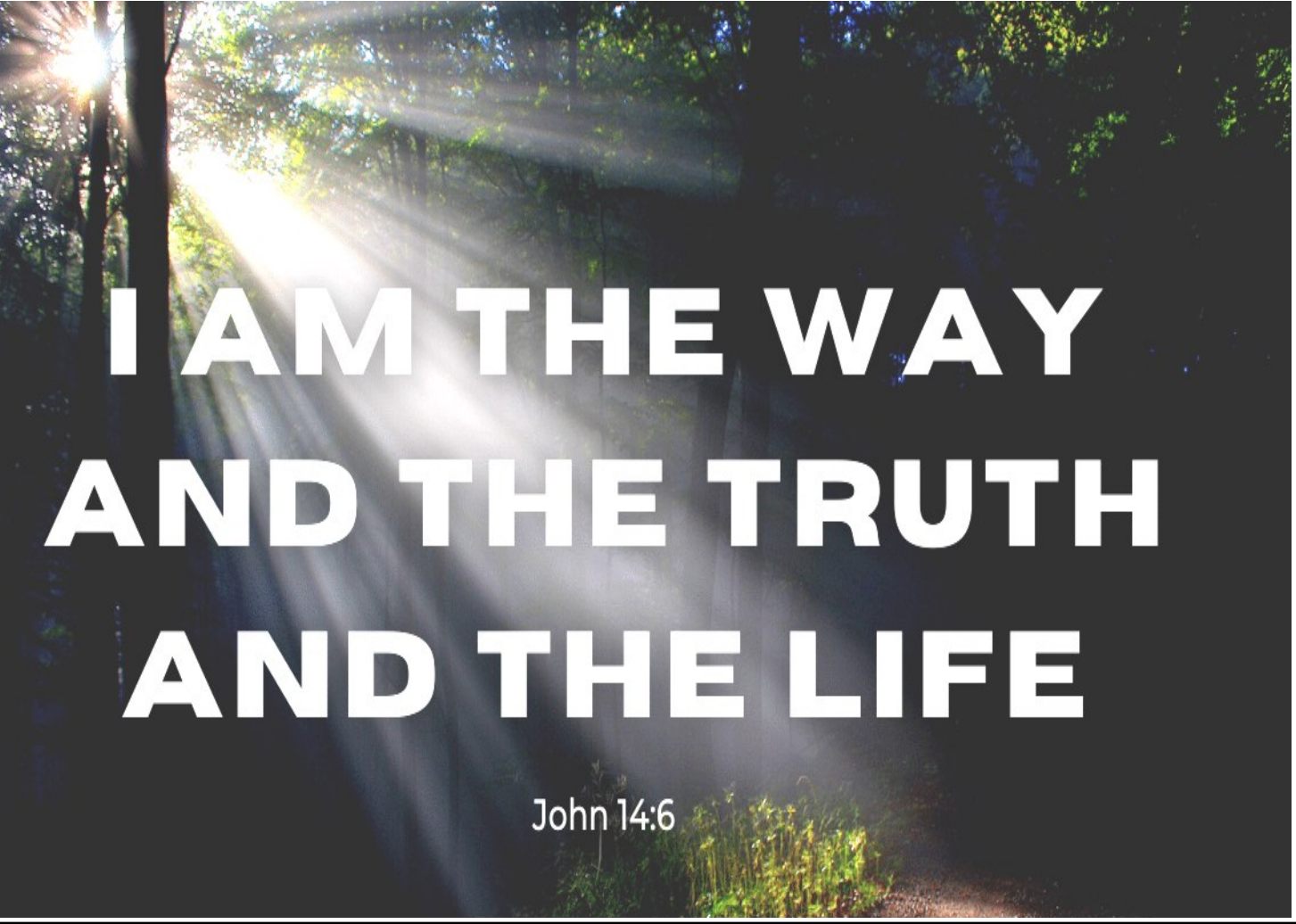


OUR LADY OF PEACE CHURCH

May 3, 2026



**I AM THE WAY
AND THE TRUTH
AND THE LIFE**

John 14:6

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,

We know that May is the month of Mary. But did you notice that we began this month with the feast of St. Joseph the Worker on May 1? Why? Human labor is the means for us to sustain our life on this earth. Every year on May 1st, working people around the world join together for a day of remembrance and demonstrations. That is why May Day is also known as International Workers' Day, a holiday celebrating workers and the history of labor movement.

From the Catholic perspective, human labor is one of the important means of achieving holiness. It was Pope Pius XII who instituted the feast of Saint Joseph the Worker in 1955, in order to foster deep devotion to Saint Joseph among Catholics, and in response to the "May Day" celebrations for workers sponsored by Communists. This feast extends the long relationship between Joseph and the cause of workers in the Catholic faith and devotion. Beginning in the Book of Genesis, the dignity of human work has long been celebrated as a participation in the creative work of God. By work, humankind both fulfills the command found in Genesis to care for the earth (Gen 2:15) and to be productive in their labors. Saint Joseph, the carpenter and foster father of Jesus, is but one example of the holiness of human labor.

Our greatest help to holiness comes when we gather for Sunday worship and welcome the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. **This weekend is the celebration of our First Communicants Class of 2026 during the 10 AM Mass on May 2nd. They are: Louis Andreou, Penelope Masella, Aubrey Colon, Camila Morales, Emely Delgado, Valentina Mota, Christopher Hernandez, Jayden Quinones, Jake Larzaro, Xavier Sellona, Jaxon Lazaro, Jaylani Serrano, Adamo Lotrecchiano, Sienna Sieczkowski, Emma Manalo, Angelica Souza, Chelsea Manalo, Gereily Torres, Riley Manresa and Juliette Vargas. As we congratulate them, I wish to thank Candida Gonzalez the Religious Ed. Coordinator, their catechists Mrs. Barbara DeRollo, Ms. Kathy Kazary, Ms. Cecile Salcedo, and Ms. Dawn Aube who prepared them with great passion and commitment with the help and cooperation of their parents and Godparents.** We need to nurture the faith formation of these children as we witness to our faith especially by attending Sunday worship regularly and growing in holiness.

Today our children remind us the importance of honoring Mary during the month of May by crowning her statue during our 12 noon Mass. May Crowning is a long-standing tradition with beautiful blossoms representing Mary's beauty and virtue. It's also a reminder to the faithful to strive to imitate our Blessed Mother's virtue in our own lives. May Crowning, in some areas, is a huge celebration. The Catholic Church proclaims the great nobility of the Mother of Jesus, and presents her as the supreme model for all mothers. Next Sunday as we celebrate Mother's Day, presenting all mothers on the altar, let us sing the beautiful song we sing or reflect on the lyrics: "*Gentle woman, peaceful dove, teach us wisdom, teach us love.*" Let us show our love and appreciation for all our mothers, and let us ask our Heavenly Mother to take care of our earthly mothers. We need to be persons for others, sacrificing our time, talents and lives for them, as our mothers are.

Happy Mother's Day in advance to all Mothers! Blessings on all our labor!

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

May 3, Sunday 8:00am

+The Ward Family from The Borg Family

10:00am

+Paciencia Aviso from Family

12:00 noon

+Emiliano Reyes from Family

May 4 Monday 8:00am

+Paciencia Aviso from Family

May 5, Tuesday 8:00am

+Agnes Gorzka from Roseanne Brady

May 6, Wednesday 8:00am

+For Our Parishioners

May 7, Thursday 8:00am

+Carole Fackina from The Fackina Family

May 8, Friday 8:00am

+Angelo Restivo from The Dekonski
Family

May 9, Saturday 8:00am

+Rani Jayaratnam from Mercy Gabriel

5:15pm

+Angeles & Ernesto Velez from Nancy Potts
& Family

May 10, Sunday 8:00am

+In Gratitude to the Holy Mother from
Virginia

10:00am

+Holy Name Altar Rosary Society

12:00 noon

+ Joan & Anthony Romano from The Borg
Family

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday May 3

12:00 noon Mass - May Crowning

Monday - May 4

8:30am Novena - Church

Tuesday - May 5

7:00pm Blue Army - Church

Wednesday - May 6

Religious Education Last Day

7:00pm KOC Business Mtg - Parish Hall

Thursday - May 7

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal - Church

7:00pm Columbiettes Officers Mtg. - Regina Caeli Room

Friday - May 8

No Activities

Saturday May 9

4:00pm Confessions - Church

Sunday May 10

9am Holy Name Altar Rosary Society Mtg. - Regina Caeli Room

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



The Our Lady of Peace Holy Name Altar Rosary Society would like to extend an invitation to **YOU** to attend our Hour with Mary event being held on Sunday, May 17, 2026 beginning at 3:00 p.m. in the Our Lady of Peace Church, Fords, New Jersey. *All* are welcome to attend. Please call Angela Chundak at 732-221-0977 for further information.

We will be reciting the Rosary again in different languages this year. We are looking to expand on this venture. If you or someone you know can recite the Hail Mary in a language other than English, please also call Angela Chundak and give your name and language spoken. We would love to make tribute to our Blessed Mother while highlighting our very diverse Parish. Please help us to make this event a success!

Prayer is Power! We all need Prayer. Queen of the
Rosary, Pray for us.



Ministry Schedule for
May 9/10, 2026

5:15pm Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Barbara Balog,
Joan Deyak, Barbara Sinko

Reader: Gloria DeMarzo

Altar Server: Delgado Family

8:00 a.m. Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Kenneth Egan,
Arlene Verendia, Margarita Cebulski

Reader: Tom Bednar

10:00 a.m. Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Maria Frey,
Mary Prumos, Maryann Shingola

Reader: Alyssa Dantes

Altar Server: Brienne Szylar

12:00 Noon

Eucharistic Ministers: Kathy Kazary,
Benjamin Praval, Angela Chundak

Reader: Frank Heelan

Altar Server: Ashley Alfaro



MAY CROWNING

May 3, 2026

12:00 Noon Mass

The Crowner is Valentina Mota
The flowers and crown will
be carried by Adamo Lotrecchiano
and Riley Manresa

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.org 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

May 10, at 9:30am to
pray the Rosary to our
blessed Mother before
the 10:00am Mass.



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 Gironda, Evelyn Codd, Gary Dzama, Michael
Sena, Marie Pugliese, Stefan Wysocki, Julia Dischler



**The smallest seed of
faith is better than the
largest fruit of happiness.**

HENRY DAVID THOREAU

Southern Living

STEWARDSHIP

April 26, 2026

Parish Assess. To Diocese	\$ 703.00
Weekly Offering	\$ 4,392.00
Mail-in	\$ 483.00
Online giving	\$ 2,096.50
Divine Mercy	\$ 921.00
Total	\$ 8,595.50

Stewardship of Treasure

Thank you for remembering your parish with your continued financial support; it is essential and much appreciated by our parish community.

Today's first reading (Acts 6:1-7)

The early Church developed social institutions and Church offices to keep Jesus' memory alive. Today's first reading tells us how the apostles and early Christians, as a Church community, prayerfully and amicably solved a community problem. It is the famous account of the selection of the first deacons in the church. The Greek-speaking widows complained that the Aramaic-speaking food-ministers were short-changing them at meals in favor of the Aramaic-speaking widows. The apostles solved the problem by convening a meeting of "the whole community of the disciples" and informing them that they should be the ones to work through their problem. Their task: "Select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to the task" of distributing the food (6:3).

Note the names of the chosen seven: "Stephen, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolaus of Antioch." Every one is a Greek! Luke tells us that the Church believed that if the Greeks in the community had a problem, then the Greeks in the community were important and gifted enough to solve their problem. The apostles ratified the choice of these community servants by praying over them and laying hands on them. The apostles' choice to solemnize the choosing by the ancient ritual of the imposition of hands on those chosen suggests something very interesting about service in the church. The Apostles seem to be saying that the role of the community servant is worthy of what would become known as "ordination." That is, service is so important in the life of the Church, that we cannot be the Church of Christ Jesus if we're without mutual service. Service constitutes the Church, as do Word and Sacrament.

"Have faith in God; have faith also in me!"

Dr. Robert Schuller, that legendary advocate of "Possibility Thinking," says that there are two words that have killed more God-inspired dreams and hopes than anything else he can think of. These two words are "Be realistic!" If we Christians, Dr. Schuller says, were "realistic" then nothing would be accomplished. But if we have real, dynamic faith in God and in Jesus His Son we can do anything. He cites the example of Tom Dempsey--a young man who was born with half a right foot and a deformed right arm but a ton of faith. Dempsey wanted to be a football player in spite of his considerable handicaps. And he did play football. He became a kicker for his high school team. But that wasn't enough. He wanted to play college ball. And again, he became the kicker on his college team. But when he graduated from college, his dream became even wilder and more fantastic. He wanted to be a professional football player! A professional football player with half a foot and a deformed right arm! Impossible! No coach would accept him. They all shook their heads - all except one. And it is ironic and more than coincidental that Dempsey became a kicker for the professional football team, The New Orleans SAINTS! The rest, as they say, is history. In 1972, Dempsey kicked the longest field goal ever--63 yards! All because he was not "realistic"! All because, Schuller tells us, Tom Dempsey had faith in Jesus Christ who gave him the strength to do what he dreamed.

"I see I Am not your first visitor!"

In his book *The Transforming Friendship*, Leslie Weatherhead passes on to us a lovely story of an old Scotsman who, when he was very ill, was visited by his minister. As the minister sat down on a chair by the bedside, he noticed on the other side of the bed another chair placed at such an angle as to suggest that a visitor had just left. "Well, Donald," said the minister, glancing at the chair, "I see I am not your first visitor." The old Scotsman looked up in surprise, so the minister pointed to the chair. "Ah," said the sick man, "I'll tell you about that chair. Years ago I found it impossible to pray. I often fell asleep on my knees, I was so tired. And if I kept awake, I could not control my thoughts from wandering. One day I was so worried I spoke to the minister about it. He told me not to worry about kneeling down. "Just sit down," he said, "and put a chair opposite you. Imagine that Jesus is in it, and talk to Him as you would to a friend." Then the Scotsman added, "And I have been doing that ever since." A week later the daughter of the old man drove up to the minister's house and knocked. She was shown into his study, and when the minister came, she said quietly, "Father died in the night. I had no idea the end was so near. I had just gone to lie down for an hour or two. He seemed to be sleeping so comfortably. When I discovered that he was gone, he hadn't moved since I last saw him, EXCEPT THAT HIS HAND WAS OUT ON THE EMPTY CHAIR AT THE SIDE OF HIS BED." Jesus said, "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you." And He, my friends, is a Man and God of His word! Thanks be to God!

☺ **SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY** ☺

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother, Joel, were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church." "Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked. Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers." ☺

After my husband injured himself, I ran him over to the doctor's office. There, the nurse dressed his wound and gave him instructions on how to care for it. She then reassured him by adding, "Now, if you do everything I've told you, you won't be with us for long." ☺

"Anyone want to buy some exercise equipment? I'm having a going-out-of-fitness sale." ☺
"Mom, our Sunday school teacher said that God made our brains and they are like computers; when is God going to upgrade mine?" ☺

Surprises in Heaven

A few years ago, a minister of the United Methodist Church was forced out of his congregation and the ministry because he had the "audacity to preach heresy" during his Sunday sermon: "I'm in a church," he said, "which acts as if God has a very small house, with only a few rooms and only one door. But thanks be to God, God's house, according to Jesus, has many rooms, many places to dwell. If it were not so, he would have told us." To add fuel to the fire, he explained his theory with a story. A good man died and was ushered into heaven, which appeared to be an enormous house. An angel began to escort him down a long hallway past "many rooms". "What's in that room?" the man asked, pointing to a very somber-looking group of people chanting a Gregorian Mass. "That's the Roman Catholic room," said the angel. "Very high church." "What's in that noisy room?" the man asked, pointing to a group of white-clothed people dancing, clapping and singing and occasionally shrieking out loud. "That's the Pentecostal group," said the angel. "Very lively." "What's in that room?" asked the man, pointing to a group of bald-headed people meditating to the sound of an enormous gong. "That's the Zen group," said the angel. "Very quiet. You would hardly know they were here." Then the angel stopped the man, as they were about to round a corner. "Now, when we get to the next room," said the angel, "I would appreciate it if you would tiptoe past. We mustn't make any sound." "Why's that?" asked the man. "Because in that room there's a group of very fundamentalist Christians; and they think they're the only ones here."

This story can be applied to Catholics too, because there was a time when the Catholics thought they would be the only ones in heaven! But in today's Gospel, Jesus gives a true picture of his Father's house as a place of inclusion and welcome to all who live by His values.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

We're having a Baby Shower! All donated baby gifts will be given to Life Choices in Metuchen. For 41 years, Life Choices has been helping thousands of women choose **LIFE** for their babies by providing them with love and support. We'll also be ***Crowning our Blessed Mother***, and of course, 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 May 20***, but Catholic women age 18+ are welcome at any of our meetings. Come and see what we're all about! Our members belong to several parishes, including OLP, St. James, St. Cecelia's, and St. Matthew's, so chances are you already know someone who's a member! For more info, email cdacourt769@gmail.com We're looking forward to seeing you!

Parochial Ministry: Rev. Abraham Orapankal, Ph.D. Pastor, Rev. Sebastian Kaithackal C.M.I. (in Res.) Deacon John 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 & Rel. Ed. Secretary

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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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