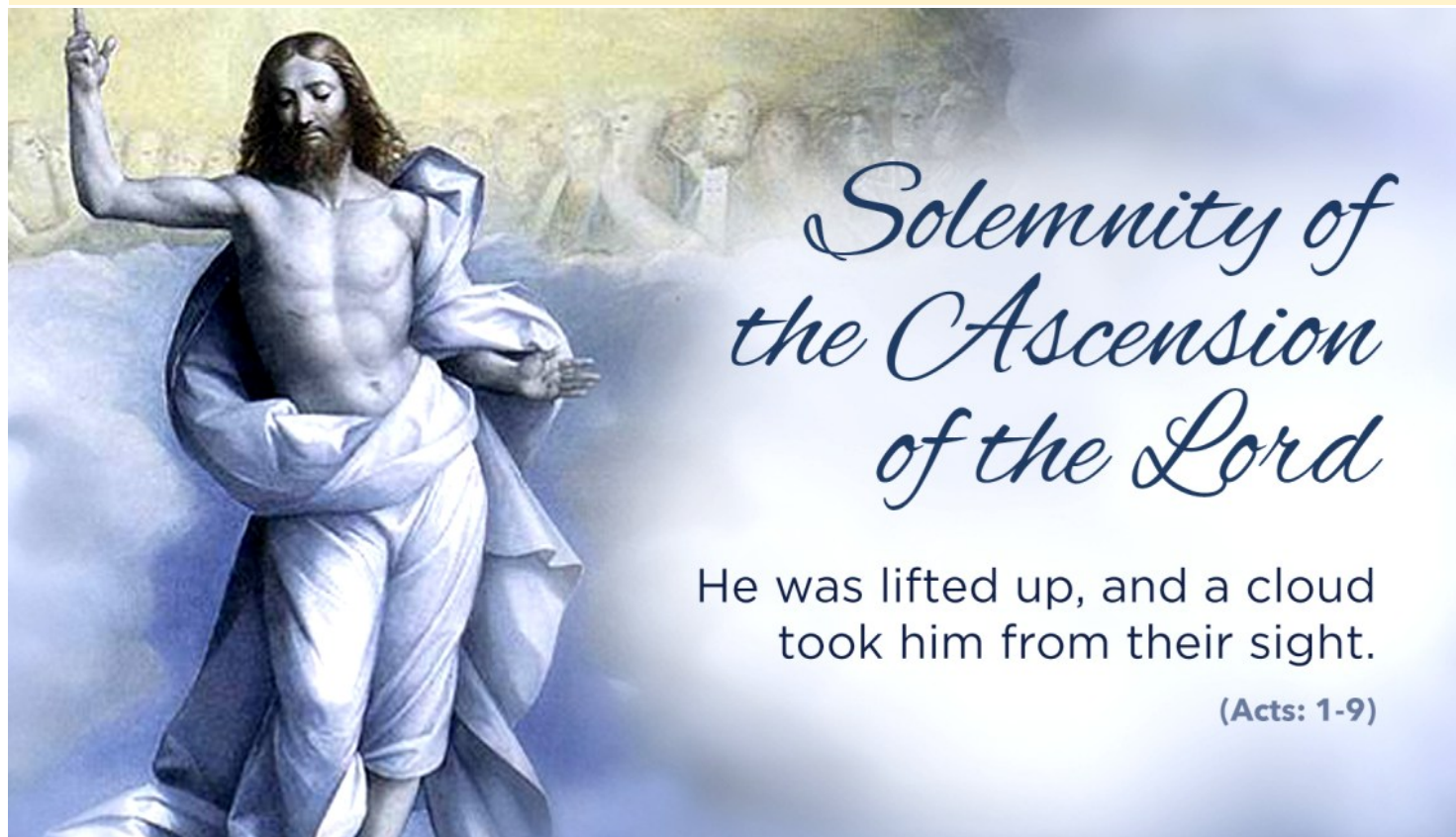


OUR LADY OF PEACE CHURCH

May 17, 2026



Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

He was lifted up, and a cloud
took him from their sight.

(Acts: 1-9)

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/RECONCILIATION

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 from the Bible that the Ascension of Jesus took place forty days after the Resurrection: “[Jesus] presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days.” Acts 1:3. The 40th day after Easter Sunday will always be Thursday, therefore the Church, from very early on, celebrated Christ’s Ascension on this day.

But with declining number of attendance on a weekday, many US Ecclesiastical Provinces as well as some countries, decided to transfer this feast to Sunday. You may remember that it was only a few years ago that our bishops of New Jersey decided to permanently transfer the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord from Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter to the following Sunday, the Seventh Sunday of Easter. Hence we keep the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord today.

Ascension does not mean that Jesus disappeared, because even as he ascended, his assurance was, “I will be with you always, even to the end of times” (Matthew 28:20). What is celebrated is Jesus’ exaltation and the end of his earthly existence as a prelude to the gift of the Spirit. Hence this feast is a celebration of Jesus’ final glorification after his suffering, death and Resurrection – a glory in which we also hope to share.

And yet, humanly speaking, the concept of bodily Ascension is a mystery that we cannot fully understand. Few years ago, I was happy to read the way Pope Francis explained this mystery of Ascension. He said: “Jesus’ Ascension into Heaven thus allows us to know this reality that is so consoling on our journey: in Christ, true God and true man, our humanity has been brought to God. He has opened the way. He is like the leader of a mountain climbing party that is roped together. He has reached the summit and pulls us to himself, leading us to God. If we entrust our lives to him, if we let ourselves be guided by him, we are certain of being in safe hands.”

Next Sunday is the great Feast of Pentecost. We are who we are because of the power of the Holy Spirit whose indwelling is within each one of us. Remember, what happened to the Apostles and the Blessed Mother after the Ascension? They gathered in the Upper Room and began to prepare themselves for the next nine days for the coming of the Holy Spirit just as Jesus told them (Acts 1:4; Lk 24:49). They were anointed by the Holy Spirit and were totally changed. They became as new persons with a new life that even the citizens around them could see it so clearly.

As a parish of Our Lady of Peace, we can be proud that we are becoming a spirit-filled community, not only when we gather to worship in church, but also as we volunteer to serve the community through the various ministries we have. Thank you to those who have volunteered to join the Choir, the Holy Name Altar Rosary Society. I invite everyone to consider helping in other ministries too as Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, etc. Listen to the Spirit and see if you are called to join any of these ministries. Do pray about it these days that the gift of the Holy Spirit will be “fanned into a flame”, “rekindled”, and “kept alive.” You can contact me via my email address given below. May the Spirit bless us as we prepare for the Feast of Pentecost.

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal
fatherabraham@olpfords.org

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

May 17, Sunday 8:00am

+Joseph Bakos from Family

10:00am

+Michael Forsythe from Family

12:00 noon

+ George Bandics from Wife & Children

May 18, Monday 8:00am

+Anna Palus from Family

May 19, Tuesday 8:00am

+MaryJo Delahunry from Nancy Gaid

May 20, Wednesday 8:00am

+Deceased Members of the Edwin
Family from Mercy Gabriel

May 21, Thursday 8:00am

+Thomas & Julia Dischler from Loving
Family

May 22, Friday 8:00am

+For Our Parishioners

May 23, Saturday 8:00am

*Special Intentions for Robert & Ada

Medvedz from Family

5:15pm

+Anna & Stephen Panko from Marcella &
Family

May 24, Sunday 8:00am

+George Rader from The Wendt Family

10:00am

+Paul Grogan from The Grogan Family

12:00 noon

+ Jozefa Zimon from Stan

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday May 17

3:00pm An Hour with Mary - Church

Monday - May 18

8:30am Novena - Church

Tuesday - May 19

5:30 - 9:30pm Scouts - Parish Center

7:00pm Blue Army - Church

Wednesday - May 20

6:00pm KOC Social Mtg - Parish Hall

Thursday - May 21

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal - Church

Friday - May 22

No Activities

Saturday May 23

4:00pm Confessions - Church

Sunday May 24

1:00pm - Baptism - Church

**THE JOYFUL, LUMINOUS, SORROWFUL
OR GLORIOUS MYSTERIES**

Joyful Mysteries

1. The Annunciation of the Angel Gabriel to Mary
2. The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth
3. The Birth of Jesus in Bethlehem of Judea
4. The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple
5. The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

The Luminous Mysteries

1. Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan
2. The Wedding at Cana
3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom
4. The Transfiguration
5. The Institution of the Eucharist

The Sorrowful Mysteries

1. The Agony of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane
2. The Scourging of Jesus at the Pillar
3. The Crowning of Jesus with Thorns
4. The Carrying of the Cross
5. The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus

The Glorious Mysteries

1. The Resurrection of Jesus
2. The Ascension of Jesus into Heaven
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost
4. The Assumption of Mary into Heaven
5. The Coronation of Our Lady in Heaven

Ministry Schedule for

May 23/24 2026

5:15pm Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Joan Deyak,
Karen Senatore, Roseanne Brady

Reader: Gloria DeMarzo

Altar Server: Delgado Family

8:00 a.m. Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Kenneth Egan, Alan
Nygard,

Arlene Verendia

Reader: Thomas Bednar

10:00 a.m. Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Arlene & Augustus Cezar,
Maria Frey

Reader: Annalise Dantes

Altar Server: Ava Pridady

12:00 Noon

Eucharistic Ministers: Frank Heelan,
Kathy Kazary, Benjamin Praval

Reader: Frank Heelan

Altar Server: Sienna Santos



**Just as love is a
verb, so is faith.**

NANNIE HELEN BURROUGHS

STEWARDSHIP

May 10, 2026

Repair & Maint.	\$ 953.00
Weekly Offering	\$ 4,928.00
Mail-in	\$ 437.00
Online giving	\$ 1,886.50
Total	\$ 8,204.50

Stewardship of Treasure

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

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, 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, Julia Dischler

Stewardship Scripture Reflections

"I am praying for them..." (John 17:9)

Prayer is the foundation of our Faith and the foundation of
Stewardship. Pray in good times and in bad. Prayer is always the
first best option in any situation, not just the last resort. Pray for
friends and family and for those that don't treat you very
well. Pray to give praise, to thank, and to ask God for help.
Pray to see what God wants you to do with the gifts
He has given you.

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Parish Staff

Rev. Abraham Orapankal, Ph.D. Pastor Rev. Sebastian Kaithackal C.M.I., (In Res.)
Deacon John A. Raychel
Rev. John J. Zec, Ph.D., Music Director
Candida Gonzalez, Coordinator of Religious Ed.
Lourdes Hnath, Organist
Walter Springer, Business Administrator Norma Izzo, Assistant Bookkeeper
Dawn Aube, Parish & PREP Secretary
Trustees Joan C. Deyak, Robert Butvilla

Gospel Bombs

Some time ago now, Joseph Bailey wrote a book called the *Gospel Blimp*. It's about the attempt of Christian neighbours reaching out to the community for Christ. The family purchased a hot air balloon to broadcast the Gospel to the community and dropped "bombs" on the town (These "bombs" were tracts wrapped in coloured cellophane). In spite of the trouble and expense of this attempt at witnessing to Jesus, it failed miserably. The point the writer was making is that there is no substitute for loving care and personal witness, even though this is slow, time-consuming, likely to cause anxiety and even likely to create some hostility. You have probably heard these sayings, "I'd rather see a sermon than hear one", and "Actions speak louder than words." There is truth in these sayings, but there are still those times when words are necessary, and we must speak. The Gospel, by its very nature, needs to be shared.

We need to be proclaimers and evangelizers: In today's gospel, Jesus gives his mission to all the believers: "Go out to the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature." This mission is not given to a select few but to all believers. To be a Christian is to be a proclaimer and an evangelizer. There is a difference between preaching and proclaiming. "We preach with words but we proclaim with our lives." As we celebrate the Lord's return to His Father in heaven - His Ascension -- we are being commissioned to go forth and proclaim the Gospel of life and love, of hope and peace, by the witness of our lives. On this day of hope, encouragement and commissioning, let us renew our commitment to be true disciples everywhere we go, beginning with our family and our parish, "living in a manner worthy of the call [we] have received." When was the last time you talked with someone outside of your circle of Christian friends about Jesus? When was it that you last attempted to share your Faith with someone or at least invited someone to your Church on a Sunday?

Three-step Baptism

In one of the great cathedrals of Europe there is a baptistery that tells the story. The water flows through it reminding us that Jesus says he is the living water. To be baptized, a person walks down three steps, each one marked by a word: the world, the flesh, and the devil. Descending the steps the convert is plunged beneath the water to die to sin and then raised from the depths to newness of life in Christ. To leave the baptistery now he must climb three steps, each one marked by a word: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. So it is that a new creature is born, a new breed of man, a citizen of a new kingdom, a breed apart. Dead to sin, he is alive to God and sent forth to grow and love and give light to a lost and dying world. He doesn't do it alone. He does it in the Church, in little communities. In these, people demonstrate, in their way of being together, God's eternal kingdom come upon them. It took Michelangelo over ten years to paint the Sistine Chapel.

Our missionary commission lasts until the job gets done, until life is over, "until the close of the age." Jesus taught us lessons of faith, hope, forgiveness, mercy, redemption and love. We cannot put these lessons on a shelf and ignore them. They stand before us in the person of Jesus. Although no longer visibly present in the world, He is present in his words. We must make his words real in our lives and in the lives of others. Christianity was meant to be a faith in which Jesus' followers would help and care for others, just as Jesus had done. But the spreading of the Good News to all nations is not a goal that can be attained by human might and craft. This is why Jesus promises to empower his messengers with His abiding presence and that of the Holy Spirit. The challenge of sharing the Good News with all mankind should, therefore, begin with our admission that we have often been arrogant and overbearing. We must learn to be humble and let the Holy Spirit lead the way.

Great Commissions

Actually there have been many persons given exciting commissions in their lifetimes. There was Michelangelo's commission to paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, Sir Christopher Wren's commission to build St. Paul's Cathedral in London, Walter Reed's assignment to stop yellow fever at the "Big Ditch" in Panama, Chamberlain's orders to stop the Confederates at Little Roundtop in Gettysburg and most recently the mission of the U.S. Navy Seals to get the terrorist master-mind, Bin Laden, dead or alive. ***But I tell you, in my life and yours, there is an even greater commission. It is found here in Matthew 28:18-20 where Jesus Christ turns to his disciples and says, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."***



SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY



After attending a convention led by Billy Graham a woman wrote to him. "Dear Sir, I feel that God is calling me to preach the gospel. But the trouble is that I have twelve children. What shall I do?" The televangelist replied: "Dear Madam, I am delighted to hear that God has called you to preach the Gospel. I am even more delighted to hear that He has already provided you with a congregation in your own home."



"Is your mother home?" the salesman asked the small boy. "Yeah, she's home," the boy said, scooting over to let him past. The salesman rang the doorbell, got no response, knocked once, then again. Still no one came to the door. Turning to the boy, the fellow said, "I thought you said your mother was home!?" The kid replied, "She is; but this isn't where I live."



The newlywed wife said to her husband when he returned from work, "I have great news for you. Pretty soon, we're going to be three in this house instead of two." Her husband ran to her with a smile on his face and delight in his eyes. He was glowing with happiness and kissing his wife when she said, "I'm glad that you feel this way since tomorrow morning, my mother moves in with us."



Solar Power

One of the national coordinators of Sun Day held early in May every year is Denis Hayes. He worked as researcher at a Washington D.C. 'think-tank' and has written a book on solar energy entitled *Rays of Hope: The Transition to a Post-Petroleum World*. Hayes claims that we are at the crossroads of making a critical choice for mankind – the choice between going solar or going nuclear for a power source. Hayes opts for the sun because it is "the world's only inexhaustible, predictable, egalitarian, non-polluting, safe, terrorist-resistant and free energy source." We've already learned to use the power of the sun to grow food, make wine and operate greenhouses. All we need to do is develop better technology to harness solar energy to heat houses, drive our cars and run our industry. People like Hayes are looking at the sky with its sun as the main source of our future energy supply.

Today we turn our attention to the sky for another reason – to commemorate our Lord's Ascension into heaven. In the first reading, from Acts, Jesus makes a promise: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes down on you." That Spirit is the power source that can give all the energy we need to live our lives to the full.



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.



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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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