

OUR LADY OF PEACE CHURCH

AUGUST 2, 2026

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



5 LOAVES & 2 FISH

MATTHEW 14:13-21

"Come, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters; and he who has no money,
come, buy and eat!

...

Incline your ear, and come to me;
hear, that your soul may live"

Isaiah 55:1, 3



HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS

Monday-Friday: 8:00 am

Saturday 5:15 pm

Sunday: 9:00 am & 11:00 am

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAYS 4:00 - 4:45 pm



Parish Staff

Rev. Abraham Orapankal, Ph.D. Pastor

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

Kelly-Ann Dunn, Parish Secretary

Trustees

Joan C. Deyak, Robert Butvilla

GPS

620 Amboy Ave. Edison, NJ 08837

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 69, Fords, NJ 08863

Parish Office

26 Maple Ave. Edison, NJ 08837

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday 9:00am - 4:00pm

Friday 9:00am - 1:00pm (July-August)

Phone

732-738-7940

Email

mail@olpfords.org

www.olpfords.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear OLP Family,

The feast of St. John Marie Vianney is on August 4. He is the patron of priests and parish clergy. Please pray for all the priests, especially the priests who serve us. I have included a brief sketch of his holy life in this bulletin. The feast of Transfiguration falls on August 6. "Listen to Him" was the instruction God gave to the three disciples who were privileged to witness this unique event on Mount Tabor. That is the instruction God gives us too: Listen to Him.

Fr. Sebastian informed me that he safely reached his home in Kerala, India. Before his departure, he had given me a note to share with you all. I am giving that below.

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



Thank you note from Fr. Sebastian

My dear Parishioners of OLP,

As you read this, I know I will have reached in India – God willing. Since September 1, 2020, I started living at OLP Rectory. As you know, I was a resident priest here while doing full time ministry as Catholic Chaplain at JFK University Hospital, Edison. Fr. Matt, the then pastor, wholeheartedly welcomed me here. I have been helping with Masses and Confessions here at OLP. It was my joyful experience to live here and develop friendship with you all. Actually, the whole community of OLP wholeheartedly welcomed me. Your love and acceptance was my strength. I take this opportunity to thank you very sincerely as I return to India.

My send-off Mass on July 12 was a very touching experience for me. So many of you came to participate in the Mass and the fellowship that followed; many gave me monetary gifts. I take this opportunity to thank you all for your gifts and your physical presence. May the good Lord reward you abundantly.

Living with Fr. Abraham, your pastor, was a very joyful experience for me. He is trying to make this parish more God-centered and alive. For that, your full cooperation is needed. I am sure that you will do that. I am leaving here with a joyful heart, even though it pains me to leave you all, wondering if I will ever get a chance to return and see you. No matter what, we will be united in prayer. I will be praying for you from India. Please do pray for me too, especially for my wellbeing.

With lots of love and prayers, and thanking you for everything,

Yours faithfully, Fr. Sebastian, Kaithackal, CMI





August 2, Sunday 9:00am

+James Flanagan from Joan Flanagan
&

+Philip & Maureen Gouveia from Maureen
11:00am

+George & Margaret Dinkelacker from
Sarah Dinkelacker & Lisa Dzama

August 3, Monday 8:00am

+James Dekonski from The Dekonski
Family

August 4, Tuesday 8:00am

+For Our Parishioners

August 5, Wednesday 8:00am

+Michael Flanagan from Joan Flanagan

August 6, Thursday 8:00am

+Robert Bertekap from Joann, Ben and
Family

August 7, Friday 8:00am

+Mark Strucich from Joe Strucich

August 8, Saturday 5:15pm

+To The Glory of God from Virginia
&

+Jim Sinko from Family

August 9, Sunday 9:00am

+Helen Rader from Wendt Family
&

+Holy Name Altar Rosary

11:00am

+Catalina Oasan from Sotela Family



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES



Monday - August 3rd

8:30am Novena - Church

Tuesday - August 4th

5:30pm Boy Scouts - Parish Center

7:00pm Blue Army Devotions - Church

Wednesday - August 5th

7:00pm KOC Business Meeting - Parish Hall

Saturday - August 8th

4:00pm Confessions - Church



This week our Sanctuary Candle
burns in remembrance of Stanislaw
"Stanley" Turek From Family

ST. JOHN MARIE VIANNEY

August 4th

Popularly known as Curé of
Ars, John Marie was born in
1786. He wanted to become a
priest. His inability to
understand Latin lectures was
a serious problem. After a lengthy battle with the
books, John was ordained on the strength of his
devotion to Mother Mary! Situations calling for
"impossible" deeds followed him everywhere. As
pastor of a near-extinct parish at Ars, John
encountered people who were indifferent and quite
comfortable with their style of living. His vision led
him through severe fasts and short nights of sleep.
Among his pastoral ministry, direction of souls as a
confessor is John Vianney's most remarkable
accomplishment. In the winter months he was to
spend 11 to 12 hours daily reconciling people with
God. In the summer months this time was
increased to 16 hours. Crowds came daily; miracles
began to occur; conversions happened galore. In
1929, Pope Pius XI named him the patron of parish
priests worldwide.





August 8th & 9th 2026

Saturday, 5:15pm Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Barbara Balog,
Karen Senatore, Joan Deyak

Reader: Bill Herring

Altar Server: Delgado Family

Sunday, 9:00am Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Kenneth Egan,
Martin Cebulski, Arlene Verendia

Reader: Thomas Bednar

Sunday, 11:00am Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Kathy Kazary,
Benjamin Praval

Reader: Thomas Deignan

Altar Server: Ashley Alfaro



July 19, 2026

Weekly Offering	\$4,525.00
Mail-in	\$697.00
Online giving	\$1,835.50
Parish Ministries	\$840.00
Parish Assessment	\$651.00
Total	\$8,548.50

Stewardship of Treasure

Thank you for remembering your parish with your continued financial support; it is essential and much appreciated by our parish community. Another easy way to manage your church giving is with Online Giving. Please 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.

WE PRAY:

For those who are sick, or in nursing homes and hospitals

Eunice McLaughlin, Raymond Miller, Danielle Maglies, Rolando Rey,
Christine Mary Brown, Donna Ferrara, Lonie Ebarle, 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, Mercedes de Leon, Eve
Morawski, Andrew Southern, Shelly Greene, Danuta, Debra Ambrosi, Michael L.,
Wendy Snee, Catherine Miller, Tano Camarillo, Elizabeth Savner, Joan Quinn,
Marien Zondlo, Wilson Aguirre, William Riggio

For those who have passed to Eternity

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, Angelo
VanNostrand, Eleanor Kavejon, Ronald G. Cunningham, Margaret Hagan, Marie
O'Mullan, Arlene Stec, Angela Canales, Jennifer DeSantis, Angela Sossa, Louise
Sutch, Thomas Katchisin, Patrick Kennedy, Anna Verrico, Jonathan Lopez,
Rosario Arvisu

For all those who are serving in the Military

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Jesus said: "There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves." Matthew 14: 13-21 One morning, before Mass starts, you're sitting quietly in your bench, and you find yourself praying, "O God, please help the young couple next door. Their baby is not doing well and they're back and forth from the hospital several times a day. "If you listen attentively, you might well hear God reply: "Why don't you do something to help them?" "I'd like to, but I have nothing." But you hear God counter: "You have a great recipe for steak tips. Make a batch and take it over to them some afternoon. They'd welcome it. You do NOT have nothing." During the pastor's annual parish financial report, you sigh to yourself, "Tell me about it, Father. Money's tight all over." And, in that quiet, barely audible voice in your heart, you hear God: "So why don't you lend a hand?" "I don't know anything about church work. I have nothing to contribute." But God persists: "You have a talent and love of gardening - get a group together to clean up the church yard and fix up the landscaping. You have an hour during the week - volunteer to help in the parish office. You get along great with kids - give that hour to help a teacher in the religious education program. You do NOT have nothing." Watching the news or reading the newspaper one evening, you can barely hide your disgust at the state of things.

But there's that voice: "So what are you going to do about it?" "Hey, God, I don't do politics. I have nothing - no interest, no patience, no competence in these issues." But God admonishes: "You do have an interest and a stake in this - for you and your children and your neighbors. This is your community; this is your country. These matters affect you deeply - and the world I gave you. You can learn about these issues. You can ask questions. You can become an informed and an aware voter. You do NOT have nothing." When confronted by his disciples with the need to feed the crowds, Jesus first challenges them to give something from what they have. With more truth than they realize, the disciples confess, "We have nothing." But they manage to scrape together a few pieces of bread and fish - and with that, Jesus works the miracle. God can take our paltry offerings and transform them into bread. Similarly, Jesus challenges us to give of our "nothing" with faith that God can transform our "scraps" into manifestations of his loving presence in our midst.

"I shared my rice because she has several starving children:"

From her personal experience, Mother Teresa relates a story showing how generous the poor are, and how ready to share what little they have with others because they themselves have experienced hunger and poverty. Learning of a poor Hindu family in Calcutta who had been starving for many days, Mother Teresa visited them and gave a parcel of rice to the mother of the family. She was surprised to see that the woman divided the rice into two equal portions and gave one to her Moslem neighbor. When Mother Teresa asked her why she had done such a sacrificial deed, the woman replied: "My family can manage with half of what you brought. My neighbor's family is in greater need because they have several children who are starving." In Matthew's account of the miraculous feeding of 5000 people the apostles shared their lunch while in John's account, a small boy showed this same kind of generosity by sharing his small lunch (which consisted of five small loaves of barley bread and two dried fish) with Jesus to feed a multitude. Thus either the apostles or a small boy became the instrument of a miracle in Jesus' hands.

ARE WE OVER-EATING OURSELVES TO DEATH?

Experts tell us that we Americans are over-eating ourselves to death. Public health experts and studies show that poor diets and high rates of excess weight significantly shorten lives in the U.S. Obesity is America's number one health problem. The average American eats daily nine hundred more calories than needed. Fifty-three percent of the deaths are caused by diseases that are related to obesity. We spend annually ten billion dollars on diets and slimming programs. If we would voluntarily change our life-styles to those which would call for less food in-take, then, we could take the money saved from buying less food and use it help the poor here and abroad. **One Christian denomination within a two-year period gave eight million dollars for world hunger. This was possible because loyal members sacrificed by eating less that others might eat more. Jesus gave the bread to the apostles to distribute to the people. In our day those who have food, as America does, should have the compassion of Jesus to share with those who have little or no food.**

☺SMILE WIITH YOUR FAMILY ☺

A woman was taking an afternoon nap. When she woke up, she told her husband, "I just dreamed that you gave me a pearl necklace. What do you think it means?" "You'll know tonight." he said. That evening, the man came home with a small package and gave it to his wife. Delighted, she opened it to find a book entitled "The Meaning of Dreams" ☺

Two older women, who were rivals in a social circle, met at a party. "My dear" said the first woman "Are those real pearls?" "They are" replied the second woman. "Of course the only way I could tell would be for me to bite them." Smiled the first. The second responded "Yes, but for that you would need real teeth." ☺

Why didn't Noah do much fishing on the ark? He had only two worms. ☺

What do you get if you divide the circumference of a pumpkin by its diameter? Pumpkin pi ☺

INVITATION TO OCIA

OCIA(Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) is a program offered by our parish for those who wish to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion, or Confirmation. This program is for adults who are interested in the Catholic Church. So we welcome:



1. those who have not been baptized,
2. those who have been baptized in another faith and wish to be part of the Catholic Church, and
3. those baptized in the Catholic faith but did not receive First Communion and/or Confirmation.

If you find yourself in one of these categories, or if you know someone interested in wanting to be a full-fledged Catholic, please call the Parish Office at 732-738-7940 for more information. You can also email Arlene at arlenecezar2005@yahoo.com



*Did you know...OLP Bulletins are available online? **Visit** our [website](http://www.olpfords.org) www.olpfords.org and click on **Weekly Bulletin**.*

THE FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

AUGUST 6TH

The traditional site for the Transfiguration is Mount Tabor, a high mountain in the north country of Israel. Over the years, the Church has gone where Peter could not go, and we have built what he could not build. Helena, mother of Constantine, built a sanctuary in the top of Mount Tabor in 326 A.D. By the end of the sixth century, three churches stood on the mountaintop, one each for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. More shrines were built there over the next 400 years, and Saladin destroyed them all in 1187. A fortress built in 1212 was destroyed by the end of the thirteenth century. The summit was abandoned for another six hundred years, until a Greek Orthodox community built a monastery there. Sometime later, the Franciscans built a Latin basilica on the highest point of the summit, where they now maintain worship services.

"Listen to him!"

During the Transfiguration, God the Father spoke: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." (Matthew 17:5) This charge - to listen to Jesus - was meant not just for the three apostles present, but for all of us. We shouldn't simply hear Jesus' words but listen, as in let Jesus' message sink in deeply and move us to action. To listen to Jesus means to heed him. As Jesus was transfigured, giving us a preview of sorts of the glorified life with God that awaits us all, we are transformed by our encounter with him. That transformation is meant to make us closer to Jesus not just in our relationship with him, but in who we are: Christ-like in our interactions with others; loving one another in the same selfless, self-sacrificing way that God loves 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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