

OUR LADY OF PEACE CHURCH

AUGUST 16, 2026

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A



ALTAR SERVER PIZZA PARTY IS NEXT SUNDAY
SEE DETAILS INSIDE



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,

Last Sunday I had mentioned this about the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary: *though it is usually a holy day of obligation, it is not a holy day of obligation this year*. A couple of parishioners told me that they were a bit confused about it. So I thought of giving a longer explanation here so that it can benefit all of us.

During a recent presentation I gave to our Catechists on the topic of “Tradition and Catholic Guilt”, I asked them how many holy days of obligation there are (in addition to Sundays). Some said 5, some 6, some said it depends! True the correct answer is: it depends! Currently, most of the Dioceses in the USA has 5 holy days of obligation:

1. 3 of these honor our Blessed Mother: January 1, The Solemnity of Mary, the holy Mother of God; August 15: her Assumption; and December 8: her Immaculate Conception;
2. one honors All Saints [November 1] and Christmas.

These are the five days of obligation for us in New Jersey and in about 85% of the Dioceses in the USA. There used to be six, but In the recent past, the Bishops of NJ moved the Ascension Thursday of the Lord (a holy day of obligation) to Sunday, joining the majority of the US Dioceses. But the Provinces of New York (all the Dioceses of New York state), Philadelphia (all Dioceses in Pennsylvania) and Boston (all of Massachusetts), the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic, and the Diocese of Omaha, NE, have retained it on Ascension Thursday. What is very interesting is that Hawaii has only 2 holy days of obligation! They are: the Immaculate Conception, (our National Patronal Feast Day), and Christmas.

So it depends! Depends on the bishop of each diocese! Are you confused by now? If not, hear this: the reason why August 15 is not a holy day of obligation this year is because the US Bishops decided that if a holy day of obligation falls on a Saturday or a Monday, then there is no obligation for that year. But there is a catch: Christmas and the Immaculate Conception are unique: they are always holy day of obligation, even when they fall on a Saturday or Monday. Since the USA is entrusted to the Immaculate Conception as our Patroness, it is still a holy day of obligation even on a Saturday or Monday.

Why such rules, changes, exception, etc that cause much confusion in the minds of ordinary Catholics? For that we must understand that we have two types of Tradition: Primary and Secondary (or Tradition with a capital T and tradition with a small case t) Very briefly put, Primary Traditions are those fundamental Catholic doctrines and practices that are unchangeable. Secondary traditions are those practices that are changeable. The holy days of obligation are part of the secondary traditions and so they are changeable by the legitimate authority who is the bishop of a diocese or the body of the bishops called United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). This needs more unpacking - hopefully at a later time. But in the meanwhile, if you have any questions, most welcome to email me.

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



Mass Intentions

August 16, Sunday 9:00am

+Kathrine & Sal Gamba from
Barbara LaRegina
&

+Edward Sheridan from Maryann & Family

11:00am

+Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Nigro from
Margie and Family

August 17, Monday 8:00am

+Baby John Carl Vlearborne from
Joan Flanagan

August 18, Tuesday 8:00am

+Msgr Michael Alliegro from Nancy Gard

August 19, Wednesday 8:00am

+For Our Parishioners

August 20, Thursday 8:00am

+Patrick Devaney from Nancy Gard

August 21, Friday 8:00am

+Marie Gilonda from Pam & John Hulka

August 22, Saturday 5:15pm

+Edward Sprague from JoAnn Grandal
&

+Josefina Cortes from Your Daughter
Norma

August 23, Sunday 9:00am

+Manuel Tavera from OLP Staff
&

+Lillian Restivo from Dekonski Family

11:00am

+Jose Santos from Dawn Aube and Family



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES



Tuesday - August 17th

8:30am Novena - Church

Wednesday - August 18th

7:00pm Blue Army Devotion - Church

Thursday - August 19th

6:00pm KOC Social Mtg - Parish Hall

Saturday - August 22nd

4:00pm Confessions - Church

SAVE THE
DATE!

***The Social Concerns Ministry will
be holding a Fall Blood Drive at
the Parish Center October 4 th
2026. More information to follow***



Keeping Alicia Torres in our prayers
this week, the Sanctuary Candle burns
in her memory, courtesy of the
Alterado family



This week's bread and wine are of-
fered in appreciation for the clergy
and staff at Our Lady of Peace Church,
gifted by a grateful parishioner.



*Altar
Flowers*

Last week's altar flowers were placed in
loving memory of George Quattrone, gifted
by his daughter Gloria and Frank DeMarzo.

This week's altar flowers are placed in loving
memory of Wayne Borg, gifted by his family.



August 22nd & 23rd 2026

Saturday, 5:15pm Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Joan Deyak,
Barbara Balog, Deacon John

Reader: Bill Herring

Altar Server: Ava Pridady

Sunday, 9:00am Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Alan Nygard,
Arlene Verendia, Roseanne Brady

Reader: Thomas Bednar

Sunday, 11:00am Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Arlene Cezar,
Augustus Cezar, Lorraine O'Prandy

Reader: Frank Heelan

Altar Server: Sienna Santos



Week of August 9th

Weekly Offering\$3,951.00

Mail-in\$345.00

Online giving\$2,400.50

Repairs and Clean-up\$958.00

Total\$7,654.50

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, Zairis D. Peña, Augie Elio

For those who have passed to Eternity

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, 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, William Mahoney, Mario Rosario, Michael Wytanis

For all those who are serving in the Military

“ARE YOU WAITING TO SPEAK TO ONE OF US?”

Here are a couple of stories about Dorothy Day, the founder of the Catholic Worker Movement, demonstrating how she valued each human being as *a* child of God and hence as important. A reporter came to interview her at her office on 4th Street in Manhattan. He could see her talking to a man who was either drunk or mentally ill. Time passed and the reporter grew impatient. Dorothy finally appeared and said, “Are you waiting to speak to one of us?” Obviously, Dorothy did not think that she was more important than the person she was talking with.

On another occasion a woman came in and donated a diamond ring to the Catholic Worker. Her co-workers wondered what Dorothy would do with it. If she asked one of them to take it to a diamond merchant and sell it, it would buy a month’s worth of rice and other food items for a poor family. That afternoon, however, Dorothy gave the diamond ring to an old woman who lived alone and often came to Dorothy for meals. “That ring would have paid her rent for the better part of a year,” someone protested. Dorothy replied that the woman had her dignity. So she could sell it if she liked and spend the money for rent, a trip to the Bahamas, or keep the ring to admire. “Do you suppose,” Dorothy asked, “God created diamonds only for the rich?”

Dorothy Day was one of the prophets of her day. Her vision allowed her to see all human beings as equal – no one distinguishable from another. She recognized, as Mother Teresa did, the mark of the children of God in everyone, in the same way Jesus recognized God’s child in the Canaanite woman who belonged to a race inimical to the Jews. We need to pull down our walls of separation and share in the universality of God’s love: Very often we set up walls which separate us from God and from one another. Today’s Gospel reminds us that God’s love and mercy are extended to all who call on him in faith and trust, no matter who they are. In other words, God’s care extends beyond the boundaries of race and nation to the hearts of all who live, and God’s house should become a house of prayer for all peoples. It is therefore fitting that we should pray that the walls which our pride, intolerance and prejudice have raised, may crumble. Next, we have to be grateful to God for all the blessings we enjoy. As baptized members of the Christian community, we have been given special privileges and easy access to God’s love. But we also have serious responsibilities arising from these gifts. One of these responsibilities is to make clear to others, with true humility and compassion, that God’s love, mercy and healing are for them also because they too are the children of God.

“WHO IS YOUR MOST FAVORITE CHILD?”

A professor of mine once told me the following story: I’m one of thirteen children. One day when I was playing in the street of our hometown, I got thirsty and came into the house for a glass of water. My father had just come home from work for lunch. He was sitting at the kitchen table with a neighbor. A door separated the kitchen from the pantry and my father did not know I was there. The neighbor said to my father, “Joe, there’s something I wanted to ask you for a long time. You have thirteen children. Out of all is there one that is your favorite, one that you love more than all the others?” I had pressed my ear against the door hoping against hope it would be me. My father said: “*That’s easy. That’s Mary the twelve-year-old. She has got braces on her teeth and feels so awkward and embarrassed that she won’t go out of the house any more. Oh, but you asked about my favorite. That’s my twenty-three-year-old Peter. His fiancée just broke their engagement and he is desolate. But the one I really love most is little Michael. He’s totally uncoordinated and terrible in any sport he tries to play. But of course, the apple of my eye is Susan. Only twenty-four, living in her own apartment, and developing a drinking problem, I cry for Susan. But I guess of all the kids.... and my father went on mentioning each of us thirteen children by name.*

The professor ended his story saying: “***What I learned was that the one my father loved most was the one who needed him most at that time. And that’s the way the Father of Jesus is: He loves those most who need Him most, who rely on Him, depend on Him, and trust Him in everything. All that matters is trust. God doesn’t wait until we have our moral life straightened out before He starts loving us.***”

"YES, BUT NOT WITH THAT BUNCH!"

Billy Graham once told of an incident that happened a long time ago when teachers could talk about religion in the classroom. A teacher was talking to her class of young boys, and she asked, "How many of you would like to go to Heaven?" And all the hands instantly shot into the air at once, except one. She was astounded. She asked, "Charlie, you mean you don't want to go to Heaven?" He said, "Sure, I want to go to Heaven, but not with that bunch!"

Unfortunately, that is how many religious groups feel about one another. Consider Christian militias in some countries fighting extremist Muslims driving all Christians from their territories on pain of death, unless they convert; consider the never-ending conflict between Arabs and Jews.... All three great Faiths trace their origins through the patriarch Abraham. All three of them honor the Mosaic Law. All three are monotheistic. And yet as the political walls of this world come tumbling down, the religious walls seem to grow higher and higher. How tragic. Today's Gospel tells us how Jesus healed the daughter of a Gentile woman in spite of the religious prejudice of his fellow Jews towards the Gentiles.

☺ SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY ☺

☺ How true are the following! ☺

LAW OF BREAD: When the buttered slice of bread falls it always fall on the buttered side. ☺

LAW OF THE LANES: If you change lanes, the one you have left will start to move faster than the one you are in now. ☺

LAW OF THE TELEPHONE: When you dial a wrong number, you never get an engaged one. ☺

LAW OF MECHANICAL REPAIR: After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch. ☺

LAW OF PROPOSAL: After you accept a proposal you will get a better one ☺

LAW OF THE THEATER: People with the seats at the farthest from the aisle arrive last. ☺

LAW OF THE RESULT: When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it will. ☺

LAW OF THE WORKSHOP: Any tool, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible corner. ☺

LAW OF COFFEE: As soon as you sit down for a cup of hot coffee, your boss will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold. ☺

CALLING ALL OUR ALTAR SERVERS

We appreciate the ministry that our boys and girls do as Altar Servers at Mass Sunday after Sunday. We want to celebrate all of you, our Altar Servers, on Sunday August 23 at the 11AM Mass. And we will have a pizza party for you after the Mass. Come and celebrate.



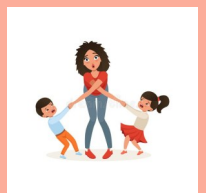
MARRIAGE TUNE-UP

Do you treat your boss or friend better than your spouse? Who gets your promptness? Who do you dress up for? Who do you clear your calendar for? Who gets your undivided attention and best effort?



PARENTING TUNE-UP

Read a book to (or with) your child that was a favorite when you were their age. Already done that? Do another. Already done that too? How about writing or telling a short story together?



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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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