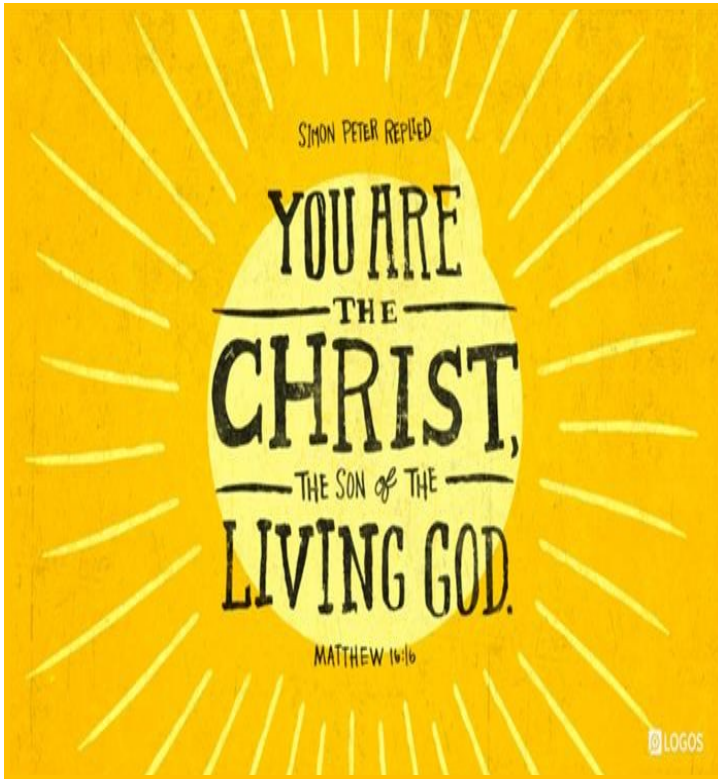


OUR LADY OF PEACE CHURCH

AUGUST 23, 2026

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A



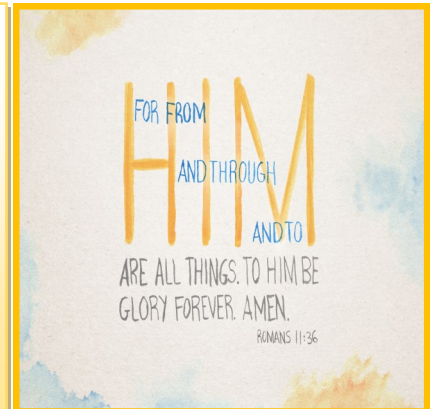
Hearty welcome to
Father Dawid Malik
to our parish



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
Rev. Dawid Malik, in residence
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,

I am very happy to welcome Fr. Dawid Malik to our parish as a “Priest in Residence.”

He is the full-time Catholic Chaplain at JFK Hospital, Edison. We are very happy to offer him residence here and he will be helping us as and when he can and as and when needed.

Fr. Dawid Malik was born in Poland. Desiring a life of service, he recalled, *“I wanted to be a police officer or soldier but at one point of my life I realized that the most important fight in which I can be involved is fighting for human souls. I followed the examples of other good priests who were the real shepherds of their flocks.”* Fr. Dawid attended the Pontifical University of John Paul, earning a master’s degree in theology. Before his seminary studies, he was employed in the fields of photography, store-keeping and as a cook in a fast-food restaurant. He took a surprising route to his ordination, studying at two U.S.-based seminaries: Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Krakow/Orchard Lake, Mich., and Immaculate Conception at Seton Hall University, South Orange, where he earned a master’s degree in pastoral theology.

When asked for the reason he studied for the priesthood in America, Fr. Dawid answered, *“I had never thought about that, and I never was good at learning language, so if someone ten years ago would tell me that I will be fluent in English and will prepare for priestly ordination in the USA, I would just laugh at him, however God’s providence unfolded for me His path for me.”* He was ordained a priest on June 8, 2024 and was appointed as the Parochial Vicar at the Cathedral of St. Francis Assisi. We are very happy to welcome him to our parish. Even though his full-time ministry is that of a hospital chaplain, we are grateful to him for whatever help he can give to our parish community.

Today we celebrate our Altar Servers. Our 11AM Mass today is a special Mass with them present. And they will gather for a pizza party downstairs. Altar serving is a key tool in hooking children’s interests and getting them involved in the Mass. It helps them develop a sense of respect and understanding of the Mass. Altar serving teaches punctuality, focus, teamwork, and quiet respect. It also gives them an opportunity for leadership as they become confident in themselves mentoring younger servers.

Dear Parents, please encourage your child to be an Altar Server. The Altar serving ministry here at OLP is a wonderful way for your child to feel a sense of belonging to the church. The way to get kids and teens to take ownership of their faith is to give them responsibility, and altar serving is one practical way for just that. They also learn the meaning behind the symbols, prayers, and sacred items used during the service.

Thank you dear Altar Servers for doing a wonderful job. I express my gratitude to you in the name of our OLP Parish Family for your commitment and service to God and to the People of God. May your example inspire more boys and girls to become altar servers.

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



Mass Intentions

August 23, Sunday 9:00am

+Manuel Tavera from OLP Staff
&

+Lillian Restivo from Dekonski Family

11:00am

+Jose Santos from Dawn Aube and Family

August 24, Monday 8:00am

+Josef Urbanik from Family

August 25, Tuesday 8:00am

+Frank Pfeifer Jr from Marietta Mistal

August 26, Wednesday 8:00am

+Colleen Colandene from Aunt Jeannie &
Family

August 27, Thursday 8:00am

+For Our Parishioners

August 28, Friday 8:00am

+Wayne Borg from Family

August 29, Saturday 5:15pm

+Edward Sprague from JoAnn Grandal
&

+Rose Cappiello from Dolores Quattrone

August 30, Sunday 9:00am

+Matie Gironda from Cheryl Montross
&

+Josephine Montross from Cheryl Montross

11:00am

+Mary & Joseph Lyons from Family



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES



Monday - August 24th

8:30am Novena - Church

8:00pm KOC 4th Degree Mtg - Parish
Hall

Tuesday - August 25th

7:00pm Blue Army Devotion - Church

Wednesday - August 26th

6:00pm KOC Officers Mtg - Parish Hall

Saturday - August 29th

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**



This week's sanctuary candle burns in loving memory of **Rose Kamitsuka**, offered by the **Alterado Family**, and **John A. Conyo**, offered by the **Conyo Family**. May the light of this candle serve as a loving reminder of their lives and the eternal light of Christ.



This week's bread and wine are offered in appreciation for **John A. Gonyo** gifted by the **Gonyo Family**



*Altar
Flowers*

This week's altar flowers are placed in loving memory of **John A. Gonyo** gifted by the **Gonyo Family**



August 29th & 30th 2026

Saturday, 5:15pm Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Joan Deyak,
Karen Senatore, Roseanne Brady

Reader: Gloria DeMarzo

Altar Server: Delgado Family

Sunday, 9:00am Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Thomas
Bednar, Kenneth Egan, Alan Nygard,

Reader: James Carroll

Sunday, 11:00am Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Kathy Kazary,
Ronak Bantleman, Angela Chundak

Reader: Thomas Deignan

Altar Server: Sienna Santos



Week of August 16th

Weekly Offering	\$4,531.00
Mail-in	\$917.00
Online giving	\$2,416.50
Summer Maintenance	\$928.00
Assumption	\$1,113.00
Total	\$9,905.50

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, Norma Nebus

For all those who are serving in the Military

“WHO IS JESUS?”

In his teens, C.S. Lewis was a professed agnostic. He was influenced in his conversion to Christianity by reading the book *The Everlasting Man* by G.K. Chesterton and through the influence of two of his Christian friends. After his conversion, he wrote a number of books defending Christianity. During the Second World War, in his famous BBC radio talk, “Mere Christianity,” he said, “I am trying to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Jesus: ‘I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept his claim to be God.’ That is the one thing we must not say. A man who is merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic, on the level with a man who says he is a poached egg, or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse.” If we accept Jesus as a moral teacher, then we must necessarily accept Him as God, for great moral teachers do not tell lies.

WHERE DO WE FIND JESUS?

In his book, “Pray from Where You Are,” James Carroll recalls something many of us remember from our childhood. Every Sunday, the comic page of our newspapers used to carry a series of printed games. One of everybody’s favorites was a picture showing some scene, like a family enjoying a picnic in a park. Printed beneath the picture were the words, “Can you find the man hidden in the picture?” You’d look and look, and at first wouldn’t see anything that looked like a man. Then you’d turn the paper this way and that to get a different view of it. Suddenly, from the edge of a fluffy white cloud you’d see an ear. Then, from the green leaves of a tree you’d see a mouth, and so on, until you’d see an entire man’s face smiling out at you from the picnic scene. Once you saw the man, that picnic scene was never the same again. For you had found the hidden man. You yourself had seen the smiling face. It’s the same way in our own lives. We Christians know by Faith that there is a man hidden away in every scene of daily life. And that man’s name is Jesus. Once we find Jesus, up close and personal, no scene in our lives is ever the same. That is part of the message of today’s Gospel.

“What is your personal opinion? For the first time in their relationship Peter, speaking for the other disciples, declared publicly: “You are the Christ (Messiah), the Son of the living God.” Peter was the first apostle to recognize Jesus publicly as the Anointed One (also translated Messiah or Christ. Christ is the Greek word for the Hebrew word Messiah). Peter was saying that Jesus is the Christ, the anointed one of God, Immanuel, the Salvation of God - - God who became Man to save sinners! It is evident that Jesus was well pleased with Peter’s answer. Jesus first pronounced a blessing upon Peter, the only disciple in the Gospels to receive a personal blessing. “Blessed are you, Simon son of John!” Next, Jesus confirmed Peter’s insight as a special revelation from God. “No mere man has revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father.” However, Jesus was quick to explain to the disciples that he was not a political Messiah. Instead, He was a Messiah who must suffer, die and be raised to life again. What is our personal answer to that question that is put to us individually?

MISSIONARY CO-OPERATION PLAN IN OUR PARISH

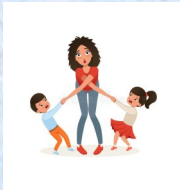
Next Sunday we will have our annual Mission Appeal preached by Fr. Tholitho. This is for the Diocese of Kohima in Nagaland (in the northeast of India) where missionary work is happening through direct evangelization and various socially uplifting programs. We will take *up* a second collection after Holy Communion. Hearty welcome to Fr. Tholitho who is originally from Nagaland, but is doing ministry as Parochial Vicar in our neighborhood at St. Ambrose Church, Old Bridge.

The most disputed text, "Upon this rock I will build my Church"

Origen interpreted the text to mean that Peter is the type of every true, spiritual Christian on whom the Church is built. The "Eastern" Church interpreted the rock as the faith of Peter, so that the Church is built on the faith of believing Christians. The Roman or pontifical interpretation which dates from the fourth century is that rock is Peter, and the promises made to Peter apply also to Peter's successors in the Petrine ministry. Since Vatican I, this has been the normative interpretation for Roman Catholics. The Middle Ages gave the Christological interpretation, according to which Christ is the rock (see 1 Cor. 3:11, 10:4). Non-Catholics argue that there is no evidence that Peter's ministry would be successive. However, the whole context and meaning of the imagery from the beginning to the end show it to be a ministry that must be successive. First of all, the image of the rock is, by its very nature, a timeless and everlasting image. That's why the image of the rock was chosen. That's how rocks are. They're there to stay. Then, in Matthew 16, Jesus himself says that the steward's ministry will have an eternal dimension. He holds the keys to the Kingdom of God and the gates of hell will never prevail against it. Finally, the image of the shepherd, as we have seen, is an eternal one because God himself is the ultimate Good Shepherd. If the rock, the steward, and the shepherd are eternal ministries, then for it to last that long, the ministry must be successive. How could this eternal ministry have died out with Peter himself and still have been eternal?

PARENTING TUNE-UP

Sometimes parents of young adults (15-30+) struggle with what appears to be a lack of faith in their offspring. Consider, "Sometimes you must lose faith to find it." Your child may have to let go of "inherited faith" and eventually reflect on what is missing in their life. You can support them by listening to their attitudes towards faith. Your arguments may not convince them but you can continue to witness to your faith.



MARRIAGE TUNE-UP

How wise, knowledgeable and beyond human understanding are the ways of God. (Romans 11:33-36) When in the throes of love one's spouse may seem to also have these qualities. What intellectual trait is your beloved strongest in? What about yourself?



☺ SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY ☺

When Advertising Slogans are translated into foreign languages:

Beer company Coors put its slogan, "Turn it loose," into Spanish, where it was read as "Suffer from diarrhea" ☺

The Chevy Nova never sold well in Spanish speaking countries. "No va" in Spanish means "it doesn't go" ☺

When Pepsi started marketing its products in China a few years back, they translated their slogan, "Pepsi Brings You Back to Life" pretty literally. The slogan in Chinese really meant, "Pepsi Brings Your Ancestors Back from the Grave" ☺

A hair products company, Clairol, introduced the "Mist Stick", a curling iron, into Germany only to find out that mist is slang for manure. Not too many people had use for the manure stick. ☺

A Schweppes campaign went down the tubes when the company's Italian team translated tonic water as "toilet water." ☺

KFC mistakenly translated its "finger-lickin' good" tagline to "eat your fingers off" in Chinese. ☺

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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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