

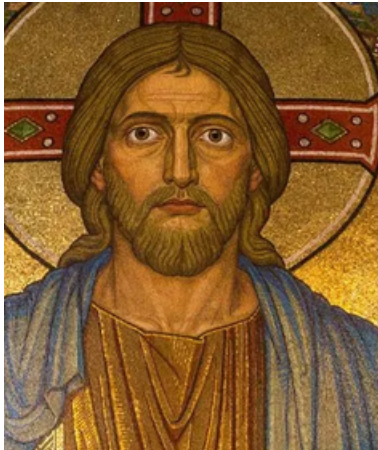


OUR LADY OF PEACE

SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

CATHOLIC CHURCH



Matthew 18, 15-20



MASS READINGS

Sunday, 6 September 2026

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Ezekiel 33: 7-9

Psalms: Psalms 95: 1-2, 6-7, 8-9

Second Reading: Romans 13: 8-10

Alleluia: Second Corinthians 5: 19

Gospel: Matthew 18: 15-20

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKEND MASS

Saturday Vigil | 5:15pm

Sunday | 9:00am & 11:00am

WEEKDAY MASS

Monday - Friday | 8:00am

RECONCILIATION

Saturday | 4:00pm

CONTACT US

GPS

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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

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear OLP Family,

We celebrate two important events this week.

First, Labor Day! Since Labor Day first became a federal holiday in 1894, the first Monday of September has been set apart to celebrate and value the role of workers and their work by providing, ironically and fittingly, a day off to rest and enjoy the fruits of one's labor. But it is also a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the deeper meaning of our work, which the language of faith provides. The creation story shows our God working six days and resting on the Sabbath (Exodus 20:11). The Catholic Church proclaims the dignity, meaning and redemptive value of all human work. In 1981 Pope St. John Paul II wrote an Encyclical letter entitled "On Human Work" (*Laborem Exercens*) which beautifully presented this Christian vision of the dignity and meaning of human work, based on the biblical teachings. So I wish you all a very happy and relaxing Happy Labor Day weekend.

Second: The anniversary of 9/11 is this Friday. This is the 25th anniversary of that terrible tragedy. That means the experience of 9/11 is fresh in the minds of those of us in our 30's and above. We can never forget the trauma we underwent as a nation, and so we cannot allow the anniversary to be erased from our memories as the years pass by. We need to be more enthusiastic to make every effort to keep those memories alive in gratitude to those fallen heroes – some of whom were known to us or connected to us.

But the younger generation, especially those in their teens and early twenties, will have no idea of 9/11 except as history lessons that could become folklore with the passage of time. That is all the more reason for us to keep this anniversary as an opportunity to enlighten our younger generation about this historic tragedy that struck our nation. They need to be present at the anniversary ceremonies so that they can understand the pain and agony – physical and emotional – of those who suffered and continue to suffer. I am asking our parents to bring their children to those ceremonies/memorials taking place in the towns around us.

Desmond Tutu, the famous Anglican theologian from South Africa said: *"As human beings we have the most extraordinary capacity for evil. We can perpetrate some of the most horrendous atrocities."* **9/11 anniversary is a somber time to remind ourselves not only the truth of that statement but also that we are capable of the opposite: that we have infinite capacity to do good.** We can build up instead of tear down, because we are created in God's own image and likeness (Genesis 1:27). Keeping in mind the words of St. Paul: *"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (Romans 12:21)*, let us remember that we are capable of bringing about conditions for living in harmony and peace with all.

Happy Labor Day! Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal
fatherabraham@olpfords.org





September 6, Sunday 9:00am

**+Virgilio Bautista from Berlin & Novie Families
&**

**+Ed Delaney from Jeannie & Family
11:00am**

+Russell D'Antico from Sister Margie & Family

September 7, Monday 8:00am

+Grace & George Gibson from D & R

September 8, Tuesday 8:00am

+In Gratitude of the Blessed Mother from Virginia

September 9, Wednesday 8:00am

+Paul & Anne Heelan from Frank & Anne Heelan

September 10, Thursday 8:00am

+For Our Parishioners

September 11, Friday 8:00am

+Domenica DeBari from Fran, Bill & Joe

September 12, Saturday 5:15pm

+Marie Gallagher from Joe Strucich

&

**+Theodore & Mary Rodzinka from Deacon John &
Family**

September 13, Sunday 9:00am

**+Stella & Stanley Myslinski from Marcella & Family
&**

**+Holy Name Altar Rosary Society
11:00am**

+Katherine Gamba from Barbara Laregina



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES



Monday - September 7th

****Parish Office Closed****

8:30am Novena - Church

Tuesday - September 8th

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

7:00pm Blue Army Devotion - Church

7:00pm Social Concerns - Regina Caeli Room

Thursday - September 10th

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal - Church

7:00pm Columbiettes Business Meeting -

Regina Caeli Room

Saturday - September 12th

4:00pm Confessions - Church

This Week's Special Offerings

We offer Zairis D. Peña in a special way through this week's parish offerings.

 **Sanctuary Candle** — burns for Zairis D. Peña, with prayers for God's continued love, guidance, and blessings.

 **Bread and Wine** — offered for Zairis D. Peña, as a special prayer and blessing.

 **Altar Flowers** — offered for Zairis D. Peña, in prayerful remembrance and with love.

All offerings are lovingly given by Michael and Michele McLaughlin.



The 2027 Mass Book will open for your Mass intentions on September 16th in the Parish Office. Office hours are 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Monday thru Friday. Please feel free to stop by the Parish Office to reserve your Mass intentions.



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



September 12th & 13th 2026

Saturday, 5:15pm Mass

**Eucharistic Ministers: Karen Senatore,
Maryann Shingola, Deacon John**

Reader: Gloria Demarzo

Altar Server: Ava Pridady

Sunday, 9:00am Mass

**Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Prumos,
Margarita Cebulski, Roseanne Brady**

Reader: Tom Bednar

Altar Server:

Sunday, 11:00am Mass

**Eucharistic Ministers: Frank Heelan,
August Cezar, Arlene Cezar**

Reader: Corinne Ambrosi

Altar Server: Alexis Nwinyi



Week of August 30th

Weekly Offering.....	\$4,457.00
Mission Sunday.....	\$1,555.00
Parish Assesment.....	\$864.00
Mail-in.....	\$251.00
Online giving.....	\$4,479.50
Total.....	\$11,606.50

Thank you for your continued financial support of our parish. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and helps sustain our Church and its ministries.,,For your convenience, please consider Online Giving by visiting www.olfords.org and clicking the Online Giving link to register.

Thank you for your generosity and continued support!

Marriage Tune-Up; Which of the 10 commandments is hardest for you (or your spouse) to keep? Do you know your beloved well enough to predict their answer? Of course, there's always the Great Commandment, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Your spouse is your closest neighbor.



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, Bill Herring, Elaine Cerreta

For those who have passed to Eternity

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, John Sarisky, Janice
Cucchiara

For all those who are serving in the Military

Inspirational quotes on Human Labor

Mother Teresa: The miracle is not that we do this work, but that we are happy to do it.

Martin Luther King, Jr.: All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity.

Mahatma Gandhi: The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.

Henry Ford: There is joy in work. There is no happiness except in the realization that we have accomplished something.

Pearl S. Buck: To find joy in work is to find the fountain of youth.

Booker T. Washington: Nothing ever comes to one that is worth having except as a result of hard work.

Thomas Edison: Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.

Vince Lombardi: The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary.

Mark Twain: Thunder is good, thunder is impressive; but it is the lightning that does the work.

Thomas Edison: Genius is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration.

Bible on human labor

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. Genesis 2:15

Six days shall you labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work... Exodus 20:9-10

You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you.—Psalm 128:2

You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you.—Psalm 128:2

Colossians 3:23 = Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,

Proverbs 10:4 = Lazy hands make for poverty, but diligent hands bring wealth.

Proverbs 14:23 = All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.—Matthew 11:28

For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either. For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread. But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good. 2 Thessalonians 3:10-13

"LET'S HAVE HARMONY!"

More than thirty years ago, a brief story appeared in *Reader's Digest* about a town in Minnesota that got its name in a strange way. When the community was first settled, it had no name. People began to move to the area, and soon the townspeople called a meeting to choose a name for their town. Many suggestions were made, but they couldn't agree on the name. The discussion soon became heated and quarrelsome. One man in attendance that night became so disgusted by the way things were going that he jumped up, pounded on the table with his fist, and shouted, "Let us have harmony!" Someone present suddenly seized the idea and shouted back, "Yes! Let's have harmony!" And the town got its name: Harmony, Minnesota.

Harmony is a wonderful thing to have in a community, a family or a church. If harmony is going to take place, someone has to heed Jesus' advice for reconciliation as given in today's Gospel.

06 MORE TO LOVE

September 6, 2026 Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

"DAD, I JUST CAME OVER TO TELL YOU THAT I LOVE YOU,"

In one of the popular Chicken Soup volumes, Dennis E. Mannering tells about an assignment he once gave to a class he teaches for adults. He gave them the assignment, "Go to someone you love, and tell them that you love them." At the beginning of the next class, one of the students began by saying, "I was angry with you last week when you gave us this assignment. I didn't feel I had anyone to say those words to. But as I began driving home my conscience started talking. Then I knew exactly who I needed to say 'I love you' to. Five years ago, my father and I had a vicious disagreement and never really resolved it. We avoided seeing each other unless we absolutely had to at family gatherings. We hardly spoke. So by the time I got home, I had convinced myself I was going to tell my father I loved him. Just making that decision seemed to lift a heavy load off my chest. At 5:30, I was at my parents' house ringing the doorbell, praying that Dad would answer the door. I was afraid if Mom answered, I would chicken out and tell her instead. But as luck would have it, Dad did answer the door. I didn't waste any time. I took one step in the door and said, 'Dad, I just came over to tell you that I love you.' It was as if a transformation came over my dad. Before my eyes his face softened, the wrinkles seemed to disappear and he began to cry. He reached out. But that's not even my point. Two days after that visit, my dad had a heart attack. So my message to all of you is this: Don't wait to do the things you know need to be done. What if I had waited to tell my dad? Take the time to do what you need to do and do it now!" ("Do It Now!" *Condensed Chicken Soup for Souls*, Copyright 1996 by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen & Patty Hansen.).

That's the advice that Jesus would give us. People hurt us, sometimes intentionally, sometimes without meaning to. But sometimes who is in the right and who is in the wrong is not as important as finding a common ground where the relationship can be maintained. Sometimes that means that we have to take the first step, even though we know that the other person is in the wrong. And the best time to take that step is today!



SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY



If all the cars in the United States were placed end to end... it would probably be Labor Day Weekend.

If a train station is where the train stops, and a bus station is where the bus stops, what is a work station?

Labor Day is a glorious holiday because your child will be going back to school the next day. It would have been called Independence Day, but that name was already taken."

I said to my son, "Do you know, most people don't have to work today, because it's Labor Day?"

He replied, "If people aren't working, shouldn't it be called "No-Labor Day?"

What is the day when most Babies are born? Well, I was always told it's Labor Day.

I don't mind coming to work, but this 8-hour wait to go home is just ridiculous!



PEER CONSULTANT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Life Choices Resource Center in Metuchen is seeking volunteer Peer Consultants to support women and families facing unexpected pregnancies. We welcome clients from all backgrounds and provide our services completely free of charge. If you feel called to this ministry, we invite you to attend our upcoming Information Session.

Saturday, October 3, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

Life Choices Resource Center, 503 Main Street, Metuchen

To register, please contact Carolyn: 732-516-0911

or email: lifecoices@optonline.net



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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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