



OUR LADY OF PEACE

SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

CATHOLIC CHURCH



**The last will be first,
and the first will be last**

SAINT MATTHEW 20,1-16A

MY ROSARY
GOSPEL OF THE DAY

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Abraham Orapankal, Ph.D. Pastor
Rev. Dawid Malik, in Residence
Deacon John A. Raychel
Rev. John J. Zac, 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
Trustess
Joan C. Deyak, Robert Butvilla



Hearty Welcome To Our
Newly Appointed Bishop.
Pope Leo XIV has appointed
Most Reverend Michael A. Saporito,
currently Auxiliar Bishop of Newark, as the
Bishop of Metuchen.

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKEND MASS

Saturday Vigil
Sunday | 5:31pm

WEEKDAY MASS

Monday - Friday | 8:00am

RECONCILIATION

Saturday | 4:00pm

CONTACT US

GGS

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear OLP Family,

As the 20th century's most influential Catholic communicator, Archbishop Fulton Sheen has been a household name for us Americans. His beatification, scheduled for September 24, 2026 is a historic milestone that we are happy to celebrate. This Thursday's ceremony at the Dome at America's Center in St. Louis, Missouri, will formally elevate him to the rank of "Blessed," marking the final major step before potential canonization. He will be the first U.S.-born bishop to be beatified, cementing a monumental moment for the Catholic Church in the United States.

Archbishop Sheen recognized early on that mass media was a tool for the Gospel rather than a threat. He reached millions of viewers from all walks of life and every religious belief through his radio broadcasts and his Emmy Award-winning television program, *Life Is Worth Living*. The book with the same title contains the full-length scripts of forty-four of those top-rated TV programs that drew thousands of letters weekly to Sheen from his viewers in response to the advice and insights he gave on his shows.

His beatification holds profound importance for modern evangelization, offering a celestial model and potential patron for how the Church can utilize television, radio, and digital platforms to share the faith. His strict, daily commitment to a Holy Hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament for all 60 years of his priesthood, was the strength behind his accomplishments.

The date itself - Sept. 24 - carries a deep Marian significance. It is the feast of Our Lady of Mercy. Archbishop Sheen had a profound devotion to the Blessed Mother and often expressed his desire to die on a Marian feast day. That his Beatification falls on a day honoring Mary is seen by many as a beautiful and fitting providence.

The miracle attributable to Archbishop Sheen's intercession occurred in 2010 when a baby in Central Illinois was born lifeless. For 61 minutes, the child didn't breathe. While medical staff performed emergency resuscitation for over an hour, his parents, Bonnie and Travis Engstrom, continuously prayed to Archbishop Fulton Sheen for his intercession. Then, as doctors were about to declare him dead, he suddenly began breathing. Today, James Fulton Engstrom is healthy. This miracle was rigorously reviewed and officially recognized by Pope Francis in 2019. Hence this miracle satisfies the canonical requirement for a proven "reputation for intercessory power," confirming to the faithful that the intercessor is in heaven.

All of this makes the beatification of Archbishop Sheen not just an event, but a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. It is a chance to witness history, to celebrate holiness, and to be renewed in faith. It is an invitation to celebrate and rejoice in the life of a man who reminded the world that "life is worth living," and to marvel at how God continues to inspire witnesses of His love in every generation. This is an opportunity for us all to read more about him, his writings and his TV series – many of which are easily available online.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal
fatherabraham@olpfords.org



Mass Intentions

September 20, Sunday 9:00am
+Judith Wendt from Wendt Family
&

+Anna Zmigrodski from Family
11:00am

+Joe & David Ferlicchi from Emil

September 21, Monday 8:00am
+Michael Brady from Family

September 22, Tuesday 8:00am
+John Potts from Nancy Potts & Family

September 23, Wednesday 8:00am
+Barbara & Vito Romeo from Borg Family

September 24, Thursday 8:00am
+For Our Parishioners

September 25, Friday 8:00am
+Marylou Koppin from Franklin

September 26, Saturday 5:15pm
+Marie Lyons from Jeremiah & Marlaine Hampton
&
+Camille & Clem Falzarano
from Joann, Ben & Family

September 27, Sunday 9:00am
+Gerard Kennedy from Kennedy Family
&
+Colleen Melia from Cheryl
11:00am
+Fructuoso Cielo Ho from Maria Raymundo
&
Elpidio Rivera Rosario from Candi González



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES



Monday - September 21st
8:30am Novena - Church

Tuesday - September 22nd
5:30pm-9:30pm Scouts - Parish Center
7:00pm Blue Army Devotion - Church

Wednesday - September 23rd
4:30 - 5:45pm Religious Education
Gr 1 - 4 - Parish Center
7:00-8:15pm Religious Education
Gr 5 - 8 & I-I - Parish Center

Thursday - September 24th
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal - Church

Saturday - September 26th
4:00pm Confessions - Church

This Week's Sanctuary Candle

This week's Sanctuary Candle burns in loving memory of Frank Sonsiadek, offered with love and prayers by Andrea and Michele.

This Week's Bread and Wine

This week's Bread and Wine are offered in loving memory of MaryLou Koppin, with love and prayers from Franklin.

CALLING OUR SILVER AND GOLDEN COUPLES

Couples celebrating their 5th or 25th or 50th or 50+ wedding anniversaries in 2026 are invited to attend the Silver and Gold Anniversary Prayer Service on Sunday, October 18, 2026, at 3:00 PM, at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, 32 Elm Ave, Metuchen, NJ 08840. For more information and to register, please visit: <https://diometuchen.org/silver-and-gold-anniversary-celebration>



September 26th & 27th 2026

Saturday, 5:15pm Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Barbara Sinko,
Maryann Shingola, Barbara Balog
Reader: Gloria DeMarco
Altar Server: Delgado Family

Sunday, 9:00am Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Margarita Cebulski,
Mary Prumos, Thomas Bednar
Reader: Corinne Ambrosi
Altar Server: TBD

Sunday, 11:00am Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Angela Chundak,
Gary Coghlan, Deacon John
Reader: Thomas Deignan
Altar Server: Alex Gironda



The Knights of Columbus will be holding it's monthly fellowship free to all breakfast on Sunday, September 27, 2026 immediately following the 9:00am mass in the cafeteria. All Are Welcome!



WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 6TH

WEEKLY OFFERING.....\$4,972.00
MAIL-IN.....\$572.00
PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION\$775.00
ONLINE GIVING.....\$4,484.50
TOTAL.....\$10,803.50

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 13TH

ONLINE GIVING.....\$2,411.50
MAIL-IN.....\$487.00
MISSION COOP.....\$783.00
WEEKLY OFFERING.....\$4,564.00
TOTAL\$8,245.50

LIFECCHAIN – October 4

LIFE CHAIN is a peaceful and prayerful public witness of pro-life individuals standing for 90 minutes praying for our nation and for an end to abortion. It is a visual statement of solidarity by participants of all faiths, especially the Christian community, that abortion kills children and that the Church supports the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception until natural death. Several locations within the Diocese will host as prayer sites. For more information, please visit <https://diometuchen.org/humanlifeanddignity>

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

ARE DEATHBED CONVERSIONS FAIR...??!!

Conversions at the point of death have a long history. The first recorded deathbed conversion appears in the Gospel of Luke where the good thief, crucified beside Jesus, expresses belief in Christ. Jesus accepts his conversion, saying "Today you shall be with me in Paradise." Perhaps the most momentous conversion in Western history was that of Constantine I, Roman Emperor, later proclaimed a Christian Saint. While his belief in Christianity occurred long before his death, it was only in 337 on his deathbed that he was baptized. A famous literary genius who entered the Church at the final moment was Oscar Wilde. He had written plays like "The Importance of Being Ernest" and novels, such as "The Picture of Dorian Gray." Wilde lived a notorious lifestyle. He did things that scandalized, even repulsed, his contemporaries. What most do not know, however, is that at the end of life he converted to Catholicism! On his deathbed, Oscar Wilde asked for and received baptism and anointing of the sick from Fr. Cuthbert Dunne. But he was unable to receive the Eucharist.

As in today's parable he entered the vineyard - the Church - at the last hour. While Wilde's conversion may have come as a surprise, he had long maintained an interest in the Catholic Church, having met with Pope Pius IX in 1877. He described the Roman Catholic Church as "for saints and sinners alone – for respectable people, the Anglican Church will do." Some might consider this type of eleventh hour, deathbed conversion unfair. They might feel like the workers who started working early and received equal wage with the late-comers.

"Father, no sermons on smoking, drinking or gambling!"

A young priest with a lot of zeal began his pastoral life as the associate pastor at a parish in the hills of Kentucky. On the first Sunday, he preached on the evils of smoking. After Mass, some of the parish leaders met him at the door: "We're a little surprised that you would deal with the subject of smoking because nearly half of the state of Kentucky raises tobacco. You might want to think twice about talking about tobacco in our church." The priest thanked them for enlightening him. The next Sunday he came back and preached with additional fervor against liquor and its evils. The same group met him at the door after the Holy Mass. They said: "We think we need to tell you that you ought to be careful about preaching against alcoholic beverages, especially since nearly a third of our county distills whiskey." "I didn't know that," the young priest replied. "Thank you for helping me." The next Sunday he preached a stirring sermon on gambling, especially on horse races. The same group met him after the Mass: "We think we need to tell you that over half of our county raises thoroughbred racehorses, so you want to be real careful about talking about gambling from the pulpit." Being a quick learner, the next Sunday, based on the gospel text of Peter's attempt to walk on water, the young priest preached against the evils of scuba diving in international waters! Nobody was offended as it did not concern any of them.

Obviously, this young priest took the easy way out by compromising with evil. But this is not what we, as Christians, are called to do, as Jesus demonstrates in the parable of the workers in the vineyard in today's Gospel. He tells the Jews that, although they are the first-comers in God's vineyard as God's chosen race, the latecomers, like his Gentile disciples, are going to inherit the same kingdom of God, which they had thought was "reserved" for themselves. The result of this parable was to turn their lives upside down. Ultimately, this is why Jesus was crucified.... because he said things that made people uncomfortable about compromising with evil.

Whoever said life was fair?

A million dollar golf tournament was held which drew contestants from near and far. Many experienced golfers who had worked for years and years on their game came for their shot at the jackpot. The winner would be the closest to the pin. Golfer after golfer tried for the hole, and one skilled veteran made it within six inches. Not too shabby. Then he watched as a certain hacker came to the tee, and swung the most horrible looking swing had ever seen. But luck was with this amateur. His ball bounced off a nearby photographers' cart and landed just one inch from the hole. He won the contest. He won the money. Who ever said life was fair? There's an old farmer's saying about people who just stumble into good luck without working hard – "The dumber the farmer, the bigger the spuds". It's another way of saying, life is not fair.

Even when life may not look fair to us, can we express our gratitude to God in our daily lives? God personally calls each of us to Himself and shows us his care by giving us His grace and eternal salvation. To God, we are more than just numbers on a payroll. Our call to God's vineyard is a free gift from God for which we can never be sufficiently thankful. All our talents and blessings are freely given by God. We need to avoid the temptation to consider what we have is paltry in comparison to what others have. Hence, we should express our gratitude to God by avoiding sins, by rendering loving service to others, by sharing our blessings with the needy, and by constant prayer, listening and talking to God at all times.

**SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY**

Manager to the job applicant: " So you will start at \$15 an hour and later you could earn at least \$20 an hour." Applicant: "Alright then I'll be back later!" 😊

Employee: I'd like to be paid what I'm worth. 😊

Employer: And I'd like to pay you what you're worth, but I can't because there are minimum wage laws. 😊

Corporations never actually mention 'money' because that would be vulgar. They prefer words like 'turnover,' 'profit,' 'revenue,' 'budget,' 'premium,' and 'savings,' all much more refined. 😊

Letter to God: Dear God, you can go ahead and destroy this world on any other day but please not on my salary day! 😊

Letter to Boss: Dear Bo\$\$, In thi\$ life, we all need one thing mo\$t de\$perately. I think you \$hould be under\$anding of the need\$ of u\$ worker\$ who have given \$o much \$upport including \$weat and \$ervice to your company. I'm \$ure you will gue\$\$ what I mean and re\$pond \$oon. Your\$ \$incerely, \$teven\$on 😊

I am confident I love salary day more than Romeo loved Juliet! 😊

Oh, salary! I've waited for you for one month, please don't leave in one hour. 😊

MARRIAGE TUNE-UP

What is fair? In marriage sometimes one partner gives more than the other (makes more money, does more chores - especially the unwanted ones, etc.) Recently I broke my arm and my husband did everything for me. When has your beloved carried the bigger part of life's burdens for you?

**Our Lady of Fatima "1000 Strong Rosary for Life"**

Tuesday, Oct. 13th at 7:00 PM

Please join the virtual "1000 Strong Rosary for Life Conference Call" Join priests from throughout NJ to pray for the Protection of Babies in the Womb and in reparation for the sin of abortion.

Our Lady wants us to pray the rosary! For more info: 973-497-4520.

Register at: lifeneteducation.org/1000strong Conference Call Number: 1-401-252-0031

Code: 759297 #

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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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