



OUR LADY OF PEACE

OCTOBER 4, 2026

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

CATHOLIC CHURCH

"Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you & given to a people who will produce its fruit.

📖 MATTHEW 21:43

🐾 BLESSING OF ANIMALS 🐾

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 • 12:15 PM
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE
11:00 AM MASS

BRING YOUR BELOVED PETS AS WE
CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF ST.
FRANCIS OF ASSISI AND ASK
GOD'S BLESSING UPON ALL HIS
CREATURES! 🐶 🐱 🐦 🐾
ALL PETS ARE WELCOME!

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

620 Amboy Ave, Edison, NJ 08837

Mailing Address

PO Box 69, Fords, NJ 08863

Parish Office

26 Maple Ave, Edison, NJ 08837

Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9:00am - 4:00pm

Phone

732.738.7940

E-mail

mail@olpfords.org

Website

www.olpfords.org

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 know October is Respect Life Month, promoting respect for human life in light of our intrinsic dignity as created in God's image and likeness and called to an eternal destiny with him. **This year's theme is "Mary, Mother of Life."** It is meant to remind us how the life of the Blessed Mother teaches us to respect each human life in every stage and circumstance. In becoming the mother of Jesus, Mary becomes the *mother of life*. Mary's acceptance in this unforeseen moment demonstrates how each of us must welcome the gift of new human life, even when that gift is unexpected or calls us to make sacrifices. While our efforts must remain strong to end legalized abortion, it is our responsibility as Catholics to surround mothers in need with life-giving support and personal accompaniment.

Today is Respect Life Sunday, when thousands will join the Life Chain which is a peaceful, prayerful demonstration in opposition to abortion, other attacks on human life and an end to all violence. In this public witness, pro-life individuals stand 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. The nearest location for us is in Perth Amboy. The event begins at 450 Market St (in front of Planned Parenthood) Ends at City Hall Circle from 3:00 – 5:00 PM. Everyone is welcome to join.

Today is also the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. This is the 800th anniversary of the death of this very popular saint. Hence Pope Leo had proclaimed this year as the Jubilee Year of Saint Francis, that runs from January 10, 2026, to January 10, 2027. This extraordinary jubilee is an opportunity for a continuation of spiritual renewal while imitating the life of holiness modeled by St. Francis. It will benefit us greatly to pray his best known prayer:

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.*

*O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.*

We have the Blessing of animals today at 12:15PM, after the 11AM Mass, in honor of St. Francis of Assisi who showed us the right attitude of care for all of God's creatures. Francis had pets, a lamb, a pheasant, a rabbit, a cicada, a dog and a wolf! He was as polite and considerate to an earthworm, a slug, a bird, a beetle, or amole, as amusedly tolerant, understanding and warmly loving as one would be to one's brother and sister. Indeed, he addressed them as his brothers and sisters! "Laudato Si" of Pope Francis is a great resource to read on this occasion.

Your brother in Christ.

Fr. Abraham Orapankal



Mass Intentions

October 4, Sunday 9:00am

- +Robert Bertekap from Marcella & Family
- +David & Darryl Swanick from

11:00am

- +Aunt Vennie & Uncle Joe from Family
- +Eleanor Egan from Michael

October 5, Monday 8:00am

- +Judith McDonnell from Jeannie Delaney
- +Mary Swiderski from Louise & Jim Hamilton

October 6, Tuesday 8:00am

- +Marie Gironda from Susan Carlstrom

October 7, Wednesday 8:00am

- +In Gratitude to the Blessed Mother from Virginia

October 8, Thursday 8:00am

- +Julia Dischler from Friends

October 9, Friday 8:00am

- +For Our Parishioners

October 10, Saturday 5:15pm

- +Julia Dischler from Patricia Bustin
- +Special Intentions for the 34th Wedding Anniversary of Walter & Liza Springer from Family

- +Jacqueline Collie from Family

October 11, Sunday 9:00am

- +Marie Gironda from Joan & Rich Feter
- +Holy Name Altar Rosary Society

11:00am

- +Bernice Barone from Friends
- +Eleanor Egan from Michael

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES



Sunday - October 4, 2026

- 7:00am - 2:00pm Blood Drive - Parish Center
- 12:15pm Blessing of Animals - Church Lot

Monday - October 5, 2026

- 8:30am Novena - Church

Tuesday - October 6, 2026

- 5:30pm: 9:30pm Scouts - Parish Center
- 7:00pm Blue Army Devotion - Church

Wednesday - October 7, 2026

- 7:00pm Religious Education Opening Mass
- 7:00pm KOC Business Mt - Parish Hall

Thursday - October 8, 2026

- 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal - Church

Saturday - October 9, 2026

- 4:00pm Confessions - Church

☀ Open House ☀

Thursday, October 22, 2026 • 7PM

Regina Caeli Room • Parish Center

Are you a practicing Catholic woman, age 18 or older? Come meet the Our Lady of Peace Columbiettes! We are a faith-based women's organization dedicated to helping our church and community, making new friends, and having fun along the way!

Come see what we're all about!

For more information contact

Marianne Harris at 732-261-2190

Join The Columbiettes!



This Week's Sanctuary Candle

This week, our Sanctuary Candle burns in loving memory of Norma Nebus, offered by Doug and Maryann Ulbrich. May her memory remain a blessing.



MINISTRY SCHEDULE

October 10th & 11th 2026

Saturday, 5:15pm Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Barbara Sinko, Joan

Deyak, Deacon John

Reader: Gloria DeMarzo

Altar Server: Delgado Family

Sunday, 9:00am Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Roseanne Brady,

Margarita Cebuski, Mary Prumos

Reader: Tom Bednar

Altar Server: TBD

Sunday, 11:00am Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: August Cezar, Arlene

Cezar, Kathleen Kazary

Reader: Corinne Ambrosi

Altar Server: Alexis Nwiniyi

**** ATTENTION****

If you have been thinking about joining the choir, why wait... no time like the present! The Choir meets for rehearsal every Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the church choir loft. We sing at the 9:00 a.m. mass every Sunday and as requested.

For more information, please text or call Jean at 908-2249-3069 or Angela at 732-221-0977



Week of September 27th

Weekly Offering.....	\$3,649.00
Assessment to Diocese.....	\$721.00
Mail-In.....	\$747.00
Online giving.....	\$3,501.50
Total.....	\$8,618.50

Thank you for your continued financial support of our parish. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and much appreciated our church and its ministry. For your convenience, please consider Online Giving by visiting www.sofords.org and clicking the Online Giving link to register.

DID YOU SIGN UP FOR FALL INTO FAITH?

Bible sharing in small groups have been a blessing for the participants. One said: "I appreciate going through the Scripture with others because the perspective gained from a larger audience brings rich growth." Another parish said: "It's been great. We have grown spiritually, our relationships with the group have grown greatly, and I'm challenged by the Word of God. We'll go for it next session." Here at OLP, we begin our FALL INTO FAITH Bible sharing groups next week. Why not sign up today?

WE PRAY:

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

Nancy Gaid, Joan Trainor, Peter Ruttowski, Renata Wisnik, Raul Ramos, Veronica Roush, Suzanne Pontes Sariska, Kelly Lease, Maria Turek, Alex Deliso, John Herring, Marie Burke, Mercedes de Leon, Eve Morawski, Andrew Southern, Shelly Greene, Deba Ambrosi, Michael L., Wendy Sneec, Catherine Miller, Tano Camarillo, Elizabeth Saver, 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 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 Cucchiera, Buju Thomas, Ruth Manieri

For all those who are serving in the Military

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI: A REFLECTION

While it is commonly known that St. Francis of Assisi was a lover of both creation and the Creator, his role as a grassroots environmentalist is often surprisingly underplayed in biographical synopsis of his life which center mainly upon his profound journey of faith. Decreed the Patron Saint of the Environment/ Ecology and of Animals, Francis' latter life was not only an unblemished model of religious devotion, but an exemplary paragon of harmonious existence on Earth. He was a friend to man and beast, an admirer of the sun and of nature, and a peacemaker in every sense of the word.

Francis was not merely at peace with his fellow man – he was at peace with all living things, everything beautiful that his eyes could behold. He wrote hymns of praise to his God for the creations he felt so blessed to behold, and he wrote poems to his "Brother Sun" and "Sister Moon," even repeatedly praising his "Sister Death" upon his deathbed – as he felt so much at one with creation that he considered the sun his brother, the moon, his sister, all men his siblings. Francis felt compelled to reach out to the voiceless, the rejected, and the needy. He embraced and assisted lepers, whom, at the time, were outcasts of society, their skin condition causing them to be feared. He visited hospitals and cared for the sick. He sent food to thieves. He befriended women and recognized their abilities and their intelligence, a concept foreign in that time.

Yet again, his allegiance did not only lie with human beings. He was deeply committed to the well-being of the environment and of all of creation in as grass roots a fashion as has ever been seen. He lived with animals. He rejoiced amongst nature. He preached to the birds to remind them to praise their Creator for the blessings they had. He tamed a wild wolf and made it one of his many pets. Yet, he understood the plight of nature and the circle of life, albeit brutal at times. Despite, he felt that his Creator would not create evil, and hence, everything around him was good and accordingly, should be treated with courtesy and kindness and generosity, from the earthworm to the lamb, the cicada to the wolf. It is perhaps because they recognized his genuine sincerity towards their existence that the animals felt so drawn to him as well. (Claudia Herrera Hudson)

REJECTED STONE BECOMING THE CORNERSTONE:

A girl named Kristi Yamaguchi was born to a young couple whose parents had emigrated to the U.S. from Japan in the early twentieth century. Unfortunately, one of her feet was twisted. Her parents tried to heal her by means of physical therapy. To strengthen her legs further they enrolled her in an ice-skating class. Kristi had to get up at four a.m. on school days to do her practice in the ice rink before she went to school. This helped her to develop into a world-class figure-skater. Believe it or not, in 1992 Kristi won the gold medal for the United States in women's figure-skating at the XVI Winter Olympics in Albertville, France, 1992. Kristi thus became one of the several examples of *"the stone rejected by the builders becoming a cornerstone"* of the U.S. Women's Olympic team. Kristi is very passionate about making a positive difference in the lives of children. In 1996, Kristi established the *Always Dream Foundation* whose mission is to encourage, support and embrace the hopes and dreams of children.

In today's Gospel, after telling the parable of the wicked tenants, Jesus prophesies that, rejected by the Jewish nation, he will become the cornerstone of the Kingdom of God.

Marriage Encounter—October 9-11, 2026

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend gives you the time and tools to enrich your marriage, deepen communication, and nourish the spirituality in your marriage. The next local retreat will take place Oct 9-11, 2026 at St. Joseph By the Sea in Mantoloking, NJ.

Call Tom & Ruth DeFalco (732-904-9636) to apply and learn more.

😊 SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY 😊

I bought my sons a pet rabbit after they promised they would take care of it. As expected, I ended up with the responsibility. Exasperated, one evening I said, "How many times do you think that rabbit would have died if I hadn't looked after it?" "Once," my 12-year-old son replied. 😊

Dave's parrot was always using bad language, so he asked the vet how he could stop it. "Every time the bird swears, put it in the freezer for 15 seconds," advised the vet. The next time the parrot uttered an expletive, Dave did as the vet said. Then, feeling guilty, Dave opened the freezer. Shivering, the parrot came out saying, "I'm sorry for all the bad language I've been using." Dave was astounded at the sudden change. Then the parrot said, "By the way, what did the chicken do?" 😊

Baby Snake 1: Are we poisonous? Mother Snake 2: I don't know. Why? Baby Snake 1: I just bit my lip. 😊

The drive-up window at the bank where I'm a teller has an outside drawer to accept customer transactions. A woman once drove up with her dog in the front passenger seat, and the pet eagerly jumped over onto the driver's lap when the car reached my window. He looked excited to see me. "Your dog is so friendly!" I said to the owner. "Yes because he thinks he's at McDonald's," she replied. 😊

Total ingratitude and cold indifference!

Andrew Carnegie, a multimillionaire, left one million dollars to one of his relatives, who in return cursed Carnegie bitterly because he had left \$365 million to public charities and had cut the relatives off with one million each. Samuel Leibowitz, criminal lawyer and judge, saved 78 men from the electric chair. Not one of them ever bothered to thank him. Many years ago, as the story is told, a devout king was disturbed by the ingratitude of his royal court. He prepared a large banquet for them. When the king and his royal guests were seated, a beggar shuffled into the hall, sat down at the king's table, and gorged himself with food. Without saying a word, the beggar then left the room. The guests were furious and asked permission to seize the tramp and tear him limb from limb for his ingratitude. The king replied, "That beggar has done only once to an earthly king what each of you does three times each day to God. You sit there at the table and eat until you are satisfied. Then you walk away without recognizing God, or expressing one word of thanks to Him."

The parable in today's Gospel is about the gross ingratitude of God's chosen people who persecuted and killed all the prophets sent to them by God to correct them and finally crucified their long-awaited Messiah. What is our attitude toward everything God has given to us? Are we grateful for everything God has given to us, or are we like the ungrateful tenants who acted as if they owned everything God had given them? Do we practice justice every day of our lives? Do we recognize the righteousness of God that keeps us from self-righteousness? Do we remember to show mercy? Is our parish a real sign of Jesus' presence and love? What kind of impact do we have? Do we measure the quality of our parish by what happens during Mass, or on what happens when we leave Church? Obviously, both are important but there cannot be one without the other.

October 4, 2026 - 27 th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"The stone that the builders rejected has become the corner stone..." - MATTHEW 21:42
Jesus was rejected by the religious and political leaders of his day, as well as ordinary citizens, but he was still obedient to God, the Father. Similarly, living a stewardship lifestyle may cause you to be "rejected" by others, but we, too are called to be obedient. Saying grace before a meal in a restaurant may attract some strange looks from some. But to others it is a sign that God is alive and well!

Host YourNext Event at OurLadyof Peace!

**Looking for an affordable and convenient place to hold your next gathering, celebration, or activity?
Our Lady of Peace has several spaces available for rent!**

CAFETERIA

Our cafeteria is a welcoming space available for **private parties and gatherings**, including:



PARISH CENTER GYMNASIUM

Our spacious gymnasium is also available for **sports organizations, practices, and activities**, including:

For availability, pricing & rental information, contact the Parish Office.

Gather • Celebrate • Grow

Vincz's Food & Liquors

1066 Amboy Ave., Edison
(732) 225-5570

*God, in His Goodness,
Sent Us Grapes
To Cheer Both Great & Small.
Little Fools Will Drink Too Much,
Great Fools Not At All!*

DELI
LOCAL DELIVERY
SPECIAL ORDERS

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR

POLICE OFFICERS

**WHO KEEP OUR
COMMUNITIES SAFE!**

Compliments of the Rak Family



**THE DIOCESE OF
METUCHEN**
Catholic Cemeteries



Holy Cross Cemetery

840 Cranbury-South River Rd., Jamesburg
Featuring Mary Sorrowful Mother Mausoleum • Crematorium On Site

Resurrection Cemetery

Hoes Lane & Park Ave., Piscataway
Grand Opening of the Mausoleum of the Holy Spirit

DIOMETUCHEN.ORG/CEMETERIES

For Your Peace of Mind & Information: 800-943-8400

Advertise Here!

Engage with consumers in
your neighborhood.



Support Our Advertisers!

Never miss our bulletin!

Get this bulletin
delivered straight to
your inbox every week.

Scan to subscribe on
parishesonline.com



Made you look.

Advertise here to
reach your local
audience.

Visit 4lpi.com/advertising-solutions

Scan to get
started!



We're Hiring Ad Sales Executives

- Paid Training
- Full-time with Benefits

Visit www.lpicommunities.com/careers

Does your organization need a newsletter?

We'll cover the
printing costs!

Learn more at
lpicommunities.com



IF YOU LIVE ALONE You Need

MDMedAlert!™

As Low As

\$19⁹⁵
/mo.

- ✓ Ambulance ✓ Police ✓ Family
- ✓ GPS & Fall Alert



**CALL
NOW!**

800.808.9294

md-medalert.com



**OWEN S. DUNIGAN
AND CO., INC.**
Plumbing & Heating

732-634-0630
WOODBIDGE

is my
Plumber!

James Juarez • St. Lic. #7121 & 283
Cert. Backflow Insp Lic #8714

Plumb-Rite
PLUMBING 🔥 HEATING ❄️ COOLING

732-417-4444

Free Estimate

Since 1983 NJ Plmbg Lic. 8411

\$35 OFF ANY SERVICE



For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.4lpi.com

Our Lady of Peace Church, Edison, NJ

04-0366



Flynn and son Funeral Homes, Inc.

A Family Tradition of Caring Since 1900

732-826-0358 | Flynnfuneral.com

Flynn and son/Mitruska Funeral Home
23 Ford Ave. • Edison-Fords, NJ 08863
Brendan J. Flynn Jr., Mgr., NJ Lic. No. 4105

Flynn and son Funeral Home
424 East Ave. • Perth-Amboy, NJ 08861
James J. Flynn IV, Mgr., NJ Lic. No. 4152

Flynn and son/Koyen Funeral Home
319 Amboy Ave. • Metuchen, NJ 08840
Brendan J. Flynn, Jr., Mgr., NJ Lic. No. 4105

Ann Silvestri
MSW, LCSW
Quality Counseling Services
for Depression & Anxiety
MEDICARE AND OTHER
INSURANCES ACCEPTED
973-462-2840

KENNETH VERCAMMEN
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Wills & Probate
2053 Woodbridge Ave.
Edison, NJ 08817
 **732-572-0500**
www.njlaws.com

catholicmatch®
New Jersey

CatholicMatch.com/NJ

SHEVCHENKO
MONUMENTS
4th Generation Craftsmen
Factory Showroom
329 Florida Grove Road
Hopelawn
(732) 442-1286
shevcomonuments.com

Advertise Here!

Engage with consumers in
your neighborhood.



Gloria DeMarzo
Realtor-Associate

Office: 732.499.0030 ext. 217

Direct: 908.419.0340

Gloria@HallmarkRealtors.com

112 Westfield Ave, Clark NJ 07066

www.HallmarkRealtors.com



ADT-Monitored Home Security

Get 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trust

- Burglary
- Flood Detection
- Fire Safety
- Carbon Monoxide



 Authorized
Provider

SafeStreets

833-287-3502



SEEMAN
FAMILY CHIROPRACTIC

Dr. Joseph Seeman, Sr.

SEEMAN FAMILY CHIROPRACTIC
515 New Brunswick Ave., Fords, NJ 08863
732-738-0030 / Fax 732-738-4040

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.

**MEET
THE
RIZZOS**

RE/MAX
WELCOME HOME

 **MOTTO**
MORTGAGE
SUCCESS



MARC RIZZO
BROKER/OWNER
CELL: 732-259-1729
marcrizzo@remax.net



MICHELLE RIZZO
BROKER
ASSOCIATE/OWNER
CELL: 908-501-2651
michellerizzo@remax.net



ALLISON RIZZO
BROKER/OWNER
LIC #486033
CELL: 732-266-5184
allison.rizzo@mottomortgage.com

1199 AMBOY AVENUE, EDISON

OFFICE: 732-549-9500

Advertise Here!

Contact Jay Schwartz

jschwartz@4LPi.com

(800) 950-9952 x6801

**FREE AD
DESIGN WITH
PURCHASE OF
THIS SPACE**

Call 800.950.9952

**ROOFING • CHIMNEYS • GUTTERS • MASONRY
SIDEWALKS & STEPS • DECK REPAIR & REPLACEMENT**
We Find & Fix Leaks!



EXPERT CHIMNEY & ROOFING

\$1,250 OFF
Any New Roof Replacement

20% OFF
Any Roof, Chimney, Gutter,
Masonry Repair & SENIORS

Family Owned/Operated - Lic.#13VH11097900 • Bonded & Insured - 20 Years
Serving All of New Jersey

732-520-9554 | www.expertchimneyroofing.com



For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.4lpi.com

Our Lady of Peace Church, Edison, NJ

04-0366