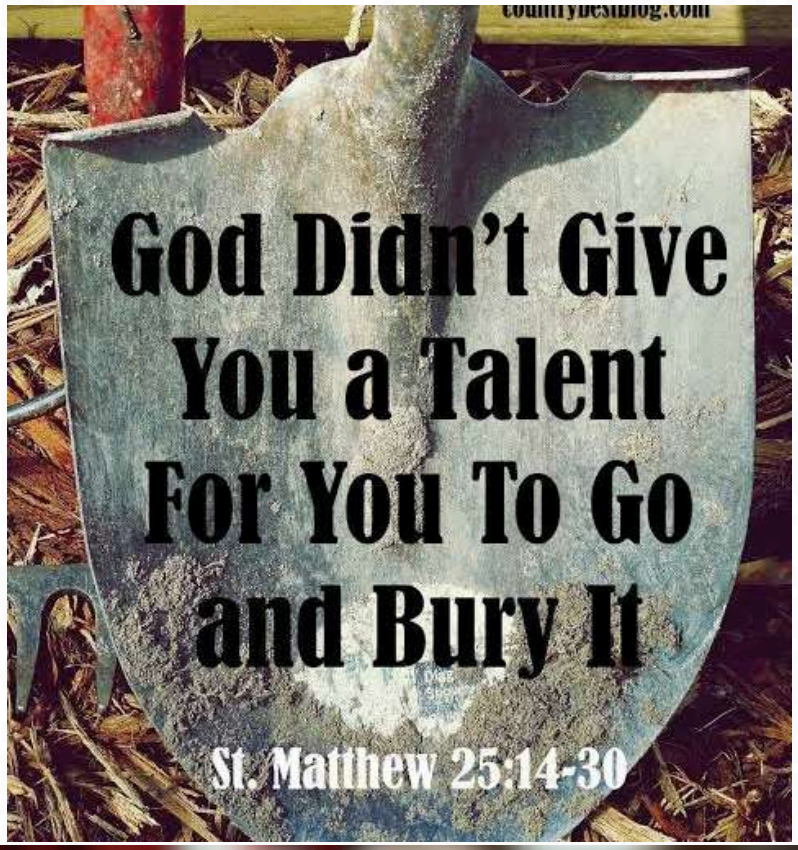
OUR LADY OF PEACE

NOVEMBER 15, 2026

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

CATHOLIC CHURCH



"Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you have been faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities." - MATTHEW 25:21

God calls us to nurture and develop the gifts He has given us and then generously return a portion with increase. He doesn't want us to waste or hoard the gifts He has given us. He expects us to grow our gifts, to use them wisely, and to be generous with them. Unfortunately, many of us are not generous in proportion to all that God has given us. God asks us to be generous with all our gifts, especially the one that means the most to you.



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

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PARISH STAFF

Rev. Abraham Orapankal, Ph.D. Pastor

Rev. Dawid Malik, in residence

Deacon John A. Raychel

Rev. John I. 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,

Today is the "World Day of the Poor," established by Pope Francis in 2017, for Catholics to *"reflect on how poverty is at the very heart of the Gospel."* The theme for 2026 is *"the Lord is the refuge of the poor" (Psalm 14).* Pope Leo noted that this was written during a dramatic period marked by the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, when the people *"felt deprived of God's presence and experienced unprecedented material and moral misery."* Psalm 14 continues to speak to every generation. The opening verses, the Pope said, points to the contrast between those who live wisely and those who *"go through life as if there were nothing greater than themselves. Sadly, we see that even today there is widespread social injustice arising from arrogant corruption, which is as deplorable as it is discriminatory."* Hence caring for the poor should be an integral part of our Christian practice – as individuals and community.

We all know that Pope Leo XIV is on a 12-day apostolic journey through Latin America from November 6 to 17, 2026, marking his first major international tour after recent lung cancer surgery. Last weekend he was in Uruguay – the most secular country in Latin America. Then he crossed over to Argentina. And he is now in Peru where he spent over 20 years as a missionary.

The welcome he received in Uruguay surprised even longtime Vatican observers: Tens of thousands of people were eager to see the pope, as some 70,000 free tickets for the Nov. 7 prayer vigil at Montevideo's Centenary Stadium were quickly snapped up in less than three hours. This was an unexpected display of enthusiasm in a country where only about 35% of the population identifies as Catholic and more than 50% declare having no religious affiliation at all. Local media outlets reported that this demand broke records.

In his homily, Leo urged the faithful to build bridges of faith, fraternity and encounter, recalling the nearby bridge over the Uruguay River that unites Uruguay and Argentina. He also pointed to the ritual of drinking *"mate,"* the ubiquitous bitter herbal tea that Uruguayans and their neighbors carry everywhere, as a poignant symbol of unity and encounter that he suggested should be applied to spreading the faith today. Mate, a cherished national symbol in Paraguay, Argentina and Uruguay, is above all a sharing ritual. The leaves are steeped in a hollowed gourd and sipped through a metal straw called a bombilla, and the gourd passes from hand to hand among friends, family and sometimes strangers, refilled for hours. Commenting on this, Leo said: *"It teaches us to share and to be together, strengthening the bonds that unite us as brothers and sisters."* His comments drew a round of long applause.

How wonderful that Pope Leo is taking the message of Jesus across the globe and making an impact in the lives of so many people. We too can easily access his speeches and homilies and be inspired and encouraged. Thus we can accompany the successor of Peter in his apostolic trips and be spiritually renewed.



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

Mass Intentions

November 15, Sunday 9:00am
+Mary & Joseph Kennedy from Kennedy Family
+Jean Ann Zmigrónski from Family
11:00am
+John Potts from Nancy Potts & Family
+Tara Luna Ignacio from Ray Ronces Valles
November 16, Monday 8:00am
+For Our Parishioners
November 17, Tuesday 8:00am
+Ann Cristiano from Dekonski Family
November 18, Wednesday 8:00am
+Bill Frasche from Emil
November 19, Thursday 8:00am
+Gary Glynn from John Stachera & Family
November 20, Friday 8:00am
+Katherine "Kathie" Maccia
from John Stachera & Family
November 21, Saturday 5:15pm
+Margaret Wierzbicki from JoAnn Grandal
+Nancy Leary from Groggel Family
November 22, Sunday 9:00am
+Arlene Czapor from Friend
+Donna Morgan from Her Sister Cheryl
11:00am
+Edward Ecobichon from Ecobichon Family
+Robert & Grace Kovacs Family
from Mr. & Mrs. W. Dworak

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

CHURCH

Monday - November 16, 2026
8:30am Novena - Church
9:00am Fall Into Faith - Parish Hall
Tuesday - November 17, 2026
9:00am Fall Into Faith - Parish Hall
7:00pm Blue Army Devotion - Church
7:00pm Fall Into Faith - Parish Center
Wednesday - November 18, 2026
4:30pm-5:15pm Religious Ed.Gr 1-4 - Parish Center
7:00pm-8:15pm Religious Ed.Gr 5-8, II
- Parish Center
6:00pm KOC Social Meeting - Parish Hall
6:30pm Fall Into Faith - Parish Center
7:00pm Communion Parents' Meeting Gr2 & II
Thursday - November 19, 2026
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal - Church
Friday - November 20, 2026
7:00pm Fall Into Faith - Parish Hall
Saturday - November 21, 2026
3:30pm Fall Into Faith - Parish Hall
4:00pm Confessions - Church
7:00pm Fall Into Faith - Rich Fetzer's Home



The Bread and Wine will be offered in loving memory of Nancy Leary, with prayers and remembrance from the Goggel Family.



MASS BOOK FOR ALL YOUR MASSES

When our 2027 Mass Book was open, we had put a limit to the number of Masses a person could reserve, so that everyone will be given a fair chance. Now we are inviting everyone to come to the parish office and reserve the Masses you need without any limit.

HERE AT OUR LADY OF PEACE GIVE A BIRTHDAY GIFT TO THE INFANT JESUS
(HELP CLOTHE A BABY)

Gifts of UNUSED baby clothing, bedding, diapers (infant-12mo), antilaiteries (baby wipes, soap, oil, shampoo, lotions, etc.) may be placed in or adjacent to the bassinet in the middle of the church from the First Sunday of Advent. November 29 to December 13th
If preferred, financial donations by check, payable to OLP SOCIAL CONCERNSCHILD SHOWER may be placed in the collection basket at t1ne weekend Masses. Your gifts will be given to various organizations Please do not wrap gifts.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

November 21st and 22nd 2026

Saturday, 5:15pm Mass
Eucharistic Ministers: Barbara Balog, Joan Deyak, Karen Senatore
Reader: Gloria DeMarzo
Altar Server: Delgado Family

Sunday, 9:00am Mass
Eucharistic Ministers: Alan Nygard, Roseanne Brady, Kenneth Egan
Reader: Mathew Simon
Altar Server: TBD

Sunday, 11:00am Mass
Eucharistic Ministers: Angela Chundak, Gary Coghlan, Maryann Shingola
Reader: Thomas Diegnan
Altar Server: Alex Gironda



Week of November 8, 2026

Weekly Offering.....$4,419.00
All Souls.....$208.00
Repairs and Clean-up.....$1,071.00
Mail-In.....$854.00
Online giving.....$1,991.50
Total.....$8,543.50

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of our parish and its ministries. For your convenience, Online Giving is available by visiting www.olpfords.org and clicking on the Online Giving link to register.



🙂 SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY 🙂

Upgrade mine: "Mom, our Sunday school teacher said that God made our brains and they are like computers; when is God going to upgrade mine?" 🙂

Kidding?: Reaching the end of a job interview, the Human Resources Officer asks a young engineer fresh out of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, "And what starting salary are you looking for?" The engineer replies, "In the region of $125,000 a year, depending on the benefits package." The interviewer inquires, "Well, what would you say to a package of five weeks vacation, 14 paid holidays, full medical and dental, company matching retirement fund to 50% of salary, and a company car leased every two years, say, a red Corvette?" The engineer sits up and says, "Wow! Are you kidding?" The interviewer replies, "Yeah, but you started it." 🙂

"I'm under five!" A little boy in church for the first time watched as the ushers passed around the offering plates. When they came near his pew, the boy said loudly, "Don't pay for me, Daddy, I'm under five." 🙂

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

Louise Sutch, Thomas Katchisin, Patrick Kennedy, Anna Verrico, Jonathan Lopez, Rosario Arvisu, William Mahoney, Mario Rosario, Michael Wytanis, Norma Nebus, John Sarisky, Janice Cucchiera, Byju Thomas, Ruth Manieri, Christine M. Mellas, Walter Dworak, Margaret Eleanor Levins, Betty Lou Rabold, Monica Netta

For all those who are serving in the Military

GIVE IT YOUR BEST SHOT!

Tom Dempsey was born without a right hand and with only half a right foot. Tom went to school and played football. He even played on a junior college team in California. In time he began to place kick for the team. He got so good that eventually he was signed by the New Orleans Saints. On November 8, 1970, the Saints were trailing Detroit 17-16 with two seconds to go. They had the ball on the Detroit 45 yard line. New Orleans coach J. D. Roberts tapped Tom on the shoulder and said, "Go out there and give it your best shot!" The holder set the ball down eight yards behind the line of scrimmage, instead of seven, to give Dempsey a split second more time to get the ball off. This put the ball 63 yards from the uprights. The rest of the story is history. Tom's half a right foot made perfect contact. Tom later said in Newsweek Magazine: "I couldn't follow the ball that far. But I saw the official's arms go up, and I can't describe how great I felt." The Saints won the game 19-17, and Dempsey shattered the NFL field goal record by seven yards.

What does this story have to do with today's Scripture readings – especially Jesus' point in today's Gospel? We need to trust God enough to make use of the gifts and abilities we have been given. Some of us are clearly very gifted with valuable abilities, but there is no one, absolutely no one, who can say he has been gifted with nothing. We may be especially talented in teaching children or cooking meals or repairing homes or programming computers. So we should ask ourselves how we are using our particular gifts in the service of our Christian community and the wider society. Why not follow the example of people who use their God-given talents the best way possible, like, for instance, nursing assistants who take great pride in keeping their patients clean and comfortable, or carpenters who gain enormous satisfaction from building quality homes, or teachers who find joy in the discoveries of the classroom, or attorneys who keep the goal of justice at the very center of their practices?

THE MAN WHO DID NOT BURY HIS TALENT!

Antonio Stradivari was born in Cremona, Italy, in 1644. Because Antonio's voice was high and squeaky, he did not pass the audition for the Cremona Boys' Choir. When he took violin lessons, the neighbors persuaded his parents to make him stop. Yet Antonio still wanted to make music. His friends made fun of him because his only talent was wood-carving. When Antonio was 22 he became an apprentice to a well-known violinmaker, Nicholas Amati. Under his master's training Antonio's knack for carving grew, and his hobby became his craft. He started his own violin shop when he was 36. He worked patiently and faithfully. By the time he died at 93, he had built over 1,500 violins, each one bearing a label that read, "Antonius Stradivarius Cremonensis Faciebat Anno....." ("Antonio Stradivarius of Cremona made in the year...") They are the most sought-after violins in the world and sell for more than $100,000 each. Antonio couldn't sing or play or preach or teach but he used the ability he had, and his violins are still making beautiful music today.

Antonio is a challenge to people who have only a single talent and who try to bury the talent for fear of failure -- like the lazy servant in Jesus' parable. The lazy and the unproductive will be punished. Even the person with only one talent has something to offer to others. If he fails to do some positive good work he will lose what he has. If he tries and fails he will meet compassion and forgiveness. God blesses generous sharers and punishes the selfish hoarders. Those who share generously the gifts they have been given are likely to find themselves constantly and immeasurably enriched, while those who jealously and selfishly preserve, out of fear, what they have been given, will lose it. In short, the parable outlines the result of abundant, grace-filled stewardship of God's resources.

USING ONE'S TALENTS

Booker T. Washington started life as a black American slave. At the age of sixteen, he walked almost five hundred miles from his slave home to Hampton Institute in Virginia. When he got there, he was told that classes were already filled. But that didn't stop him. He took a job at the school doing menial jobs: sweeping floors and making beds and anything they wanted just so he could be around the environment of learning. He did these jobs so well that the faculty found room for him as a student. He worked his way up at the school, became a famous teacher, the first black faculty member at Hampton Institute. He became a writer and the author of Up From Slavery. He was a popular public speaker. And he eventually founded Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, where he brought George Washington Carver to teach and do all his research which changed and improved farming techniques.

Booker T. Washington had enough excuse not to pursue his God-given talents but he persisted and we all gained from it. The third servant in today's gospel (Matthew 25:14-30) decided to avoid risk-taking and showed too much caution with money. His excuse was that, after all, he had not been given explicit orders about how to do his investing. Besides, any type of business is risky and the master might hold him accountable for any loss. He probably knew the long-standing rabbinic teaching that anyone who buries money that has been put into his care is no longer liable for its safety. Through this description of a lazy servant Jesus teaches us that that there is no "safe" position in life. Christian living is strenuous business involving occasional risk-taking. God expects us to use our every talent for personal growth, community service and religious witness. Hence, this parable reminds us of the terrible punishments which lie in store for those who do not produce new spiritual wealth from the talents God has placed in their stewardship. Traditionalists who fear the gift of the Second Vatican Council and a changing church, and want to keep their treasure intact through a return to outdated rituals and arcane theology, are represented by the lazy servant.

MARRIAGE TUNE-UP



"When one finds a worthy wife [husband] their value is far beyond pearls [money]." (Proverbs 31:10) Although this scripture traditionally refers to wives, it works equally well for husbands. Pause for a moment and ponder the worth of your beloved.

PARENTING TUNE-UP

Even with natural talent, it takes work to develop it. Help your child identify one talent this week, and one way they can improve it. Often this includes the "P" word - Practice. (Mt 25: 14-30)



Catholic Daughters of the Americas

Christmas Mini-Auction this month (Nov. 18) at the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Mercedes #769! We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, from September - June, and Catholic women age 18+ are invited to come at any time and see what we're all about. Our members belong to several parishes, including OLP, St. James, St. Cecelia, and St. Matthew, so chances are you already know someone who's a member! We meet at the K of C Hall in Woodbridge at 7 PM. For more info: cdacourt769@gmail.com



Tree Lighting Ceremony

You are cordially invited to join Flynn & Son's 26th Annual Memorial Tree Lighting Ceremony on Wednesday, December 2, 2026 at 7:00pm. Located at 319 Amboy Avenue in Metuchen. There will be a guest speaker, the local choir, personalized holiday ornaments, refreshments and more. All are welcome!

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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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