

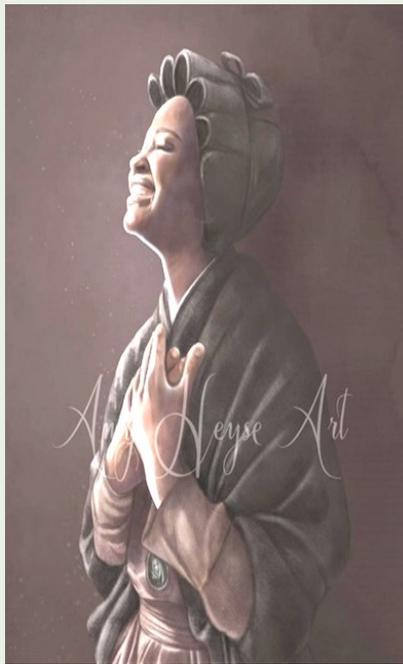
**OUR LADY OF PEACE
CHURCH**
February 8, 2026

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE
4:00 P.M. to 4:45 P.M.

February 8, 2026
Happy World Marriage Day



February 8,
2026 Feast of
St. Josephine
Bakhita,
Internation
Day of Prayer
and
Awareness
Against
Human
Trafficking



February 11, 2026
World Day of the Sick



**HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE
MASS**

Saturday: 5:15 P.M.
Sunday: 8:00 A.M.
10:00 A.M. 12:00 P.M.
Weekday Mass
Monday – Saturday
8:00 A.M.
Last Tuesday of the
Month 7:00 P.M.

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Email us: mail@olpfords.org
Visit us at: www.olpfords.org
Parish Office: 26 Maple Ave.
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Hours: Monday through Friday
9:00am - 4:00pm
Phone: 732-738-7940

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear OLP Family,

MASS IN SIGNED LANGUAGE IN OUR PARISH: Our Diocese of Metuchen has a vibrant ministry for the deaf and hearing-impaired communities. I was asked if I would be open to hosting an interpreter at our 10:00 am Mass on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. I agreed and so the first signed language or interpreted Mass in our parish begins today. The next one will be on the 4th Sunday of this month on February 22nd. That Sunday, we will have Msgr. Joe Curry, the Diocesan Coordinator of this ministry, preside at the 10 AM Mass.

Interpreted Masses are offered each week in our Diocese and are advertised on the Diocesan Facebook page: **[Diocese of Metuchen, NJ- ASL Interpreted Masses](https://www.facebook.com/groups/5830375140308941/)**. You can access it at this link and spread this good news: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/5830375140308941/>.

WHAT IS YOUR PLAN FOR LENT THIS YEAR?

Yes, in just about 10 days we will enter Lent with Ash Wednesday. Lent is a time for listening to God in a very special way and renew our spirit. Lent is a time for practicing spiritual discipline. We Catholics traditionally “give up” comforts, vices, or habitual pleasures for 40 days to foster self-discipline, reflection, and spiritual growth. Many of us give up chocolate, alcohol, social media, meat (specifically on Fridays), sugar, caffeine, coffee, or TV. But this year, I am inviting you to do something positive: to know more about the Bible by joining our LIVE LENT! Small groups.

WHY JOIN A SMALL GROUP? The first century Christianity spread in and through small groups called ‘house churches.’ The same holds true today. The communal worship on Sunday is important. But there is something powerfully unique about an intimate gathering that forces us to think differently than when we are in the bigger space of our Church for worship. Small groups, in fact, are where much of the Bible and theology taught in our pulpits begins to be fleshed out in conversation and action. That has been the experience of tens of thousands of parishioners across America. Let us too experience it.

You heard me explaining this plan last Sunday at all the Masses. ***Today, I am inviting you to sign up after prayerful consideration. You can join a group that meets on a day and time of your convenience. The groups choose to meet in someone’s home or in our Parish Center.*** You will benefit so much from this method of sharing God’s Word in small groups. You will find it very fruitful and spiritually enriching. That in turn will make our parish come all the more alive! Do sign up today, please! Trust me, it will transform your personal life and the life of our parish family.

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal



**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE
WEEK**

February 8, Sunday 8:00 am

+ Robert Tan from The Berame Family

10:00 am

+ Holy Name/Altar Rosary Society

12:00 Noon

+ Joseph J. Claffy from Family

February 9, Monday 8:00 am

+ Michael Dekonski from The Dekonski
Family

February 10, Tuesday 8:00 am

+ In Gratitude of the Blessed Mother
from Virginia

February 11, Wednesday 8:00 am

+ Deceased Members of the Coleman
Family from Family

February 12, Thursday 8:00 am

+ For our Parishioners from Your Pastor

February 13, Friday 8:00 am

+ Ellen Powers from The Lesch Family

February 14, Saturday

8:00 am

+ Yolanda Martinez from JoAnn Grandal

5:15 pm

+ Paul Coleman from Family

February 15, Sunday 8:00 am

+ Phyllis Bertekap from Marcella and
Family

10:00 am

+ Richard DeRollo from Family

12:00 Noon

+ Emiliano Reyes from Family

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY ~ February 8

9am-12:00pm Holy Name/Altar Rosary Mtg ~ Regina
Caeli Room

9:30am Holy Name/Altar Rosary to say the Rosary ~
Church

MONDAY ~ February 9

8:30 am Novena ~ Church

TUESDAY ~ February 10

Blue Army Cancelled

7:30pm State Columbiettes Mtg. ~ Regina Caeli
Room

WEDNESDAY ~ February 11

4:30 - 5:45 pm Religious Ed. Grades 1 - 4

7:00 - 8:15pm Religious Ed Grades 5-8, II

THURSDAY ~ February 12

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal - Church

7:00pm Columbiettes Business Mtg ~ Regina Caeli
Room

FRIDAY February 13

No Activities

SATURDAY ~ February 14

4:00 pm Confession ~ Church

SUNDAY ~ February 15

NO ACTIVITIES

***Our Social Concerns Ministry is
asking for help for the
OZANAM SHELTER in the month of
February.***

The following items are needed:

Toiletry Items: toothpaste, toothbrushes,
soap, hand cream, mouthwash,
deodorant, etc.

Nursing Supplies: diapers, antibiotic ointment,
nasal aspiration for babies, medicine spoons,
droppers, thermometers with covers,
baby wipes.

Vaseline, laundry detergent,
paper cups (3-5 oz.), zip lock bags (1 qt. size),
Kleenex, hand sanitizer, Bottled water.

*Items can be placed in the bin
provided at the church front doors.*

**Ministry Schedule for
February 14/15, 2026**

5:15 p. m.

Eucharistic Ministers: Barbara Sinko,
Joan Deyak, Karen Senatore

Reader: Gloria DeMarzo

Altar Server: Delgado Family

8:00 a.m. Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Margarita Cebulski,
Kenneth Egan, Alan Nygard

Reader: Bill Herring

10:00 a.m. Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Arlene & Augustus Cezar
Mary Prumos

Reader: Annalise Dantes

Altar Server: Alex Gironda

12:00 Noon

Eucharistic Ministers: Frank Heelan,
Kathy Kazary, Benjamin Praval

Reader: Thomas Deignan

Altar Server: Alexis Nwinyi

Please pray for the Sick

Eunice McLaughlin, Raymond Miller,
Danielle Maglies, Anna Verrico, Rolando Rey,
Christine Mary Brown, Donna Ferrara, Lonie Ebarle,
Julia Forsythe, 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, Evelyn Prince, Alex Deliso, John
Herring, Marie Burke, Bill Herring, Mercedes de Leon,
Eve Morawski, Andrew Southern, Danuta, Evelyn
Codd, Shelly Greene, Danuta, Debra Ambrosi,
Michael L., Wendy Snee, Gary Dzama,
Katherine Miller

Please pray for the Dearly Departed

Robert Bertekap, Barbara Coyle, Paciencia Aviso,
Renee Soto, Maria Couto, Michael O'Hara, Anthony
Sclafani, Bart Miller, Hans Hadman, Ralph Baez,
Maria Lopes, Sandra Husko, John Gonyo, Kevin Mitro,
Jacqueline Collie, John Warshany, Irene Newman, Fr.
Daniel Sloan, Barbara Felcetto, Arlene Herman, Joyce
Trasky, Viola Davitt, Agnes Smith, Anne Trepono,
Debbie Hernandez, Donald Jantas, Darlene Holowka,
Debbie Mullen, Madeline Strong, Octavio Ruiz, John
Harvie, Anthony Alexander

“Mr. Herman’s kids”

“You are the salt of the earth . . . You are the light of the world.” Matthew 5: 13-16

Herman Cruse drives a school bus in Cape May, New Jersey. His young passengers love “Mr. Herman” and with good reason. One morning, Mr. Herman noticed that a kindergartner on his bus seemed a little sad. He asked what was wrong. The boy told Mr. Herman that he wasn’t able to complete his reading assignment because his parents were busy with his four siblings at home. It was hard to find one-on-one reading time with his busy mom and dad. Mr. Herman said, “Listen, I have some free time, and if you don’t mind, I’d like to come to the school and read with you.” So, with the permission of the six-year-old’s teacher, Mr. Herman began coming to her kindergarten classroom. The bus driver and his young friend went to a quiet corner and began to read to each other. “So he read to me, I read to him and we read together, and from there it took on a life of its own,” Mr. Herman remembers. “A second student wanted to read to me, then a third. All these kids were going to the teacher asking, ‘Can I read with Mr. Herman?’”

That was two years ago. Now, two days a week, Mr. Herman spends the four hours between his morning pick-up and afternoon return drives working with kindergartners and a third day with the school’s first- and second-graders. His reading circles have been dubbed “Mr. Herman’s Kids.” Kindergarten teacher Alex Bakley says of her “reading assistant”: “Herman is goofy, silly and super positive and the kids love him. He’s a bright light at our school and makes every child feel loved and heard — they’re drawn to his energy.” Mr. Herman sees his new challenge as a natural extension of his work as bus driver. “Bus drivers are the eyes and ears of students when they’re away from home. We have an uncanny gift to discern what kids are feeling. “It’s a joy to see the kids get excited when they learn to sound out words,” the 55-year-old Cruse, the father of five grown children, says. “They feel a sense of pride. I love how reading opens up a new world for them. I feel lucky to see that firsthand. “What started out as a way to kill time has now blossomed into a way to make a difference in the heart of a child.”

“Mr. Herman’s Kids” mirror Jesus’ challenge to let the light of God’s wisdom shine forth in the simplicity and hiddenness of our everyday lives, to refuse to allow the light we possess — and the light possessed by others — be diminished or extinguished because of fear, isolation or pride. Every one of us has the ability to be “salt” that can enrich our world with compassion, forgiveness and joy; every one of us possesses “light” that can eradicate the darkness of fear, hopelessness and injustice. But fear and doubt can lead us to keeping our light hidden — or worse, we can force the brilliance of others to remain hidden, as well. May we realize Jesus’ challenge to be “salt” for the earth: to make God’s presence and grace realities in our own time and place; to be “light” for the world: to illuminate the dark, hopeless corners of our world with justice and hope.



SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY



I was eating at a restaurant the other day when a lawyer sat at the next table across from me. The waiter arrived to take his order and accidentally knocked the salt and pepper straight into his lap. I thought, "Now there's a seasoned professional!" 😊

I read on the salt packet I bought that it was created from a 250 million year old Himalayan rock salt bed. The label says the expiry date is May 2026. I'm so glad they dug it up just in time 😊

A wife is frying eggs for her husband in the morning. Suddenly the husband appears behind the wife's back and says: "Careful, CAREFUL, put more fat in the pan! You're frying too many at a time. TOO MANY! Flip them! FLIP THEM! Come on! Put more fat in there. Oh dear lord. How are you gonna make space for the fat now, look, they're sticking to the pan! Careful! Careful now! Flip them over already. HURRY! ARE YOU CRAZY? Take it easy! EASY! Nooo, don't forget the salt. Put salt on them, SALT!" The wife stares at her husband: "What's wrong with you? You think I can't fry a few eggs?" The husband answers calmly: "I just wanted to show you what it feels like when I'm driving." 😊

Sign in front of a Church. "Jesus Saves." Sign directly across the street at a grocery store. "We Save You More." 😊

A seven year old boy's letter to Santa. "Dear Santa: Last Christmas I asked you for a baby sister. This year I want you to take her back."

IS YOUR LIGHT SHINING?

"You are the salt and light of the world!" If you doubt your light matters, take this little quiz: 1. Name the five wealthiest people in the world. 2. Name the last five Heisman trophy winners. 3. Name the last five winners of the Miss America Pageant. Do you know all these answers? Probably not. Ask yourself some additional questions: 1. Who fed and clothed you when you were helpless? 2. What was the name of your 1st grade teacher? 3. Who is the first friend you would call in an emergency? You do know the answers to these questions. They are the salt and light of the world.

A light is something which is meant to be seen. (The lamp in Palestine was like a sauce-boat full of oil with a wick floating in it. When people went out, for safety's sake they took the lamp from its stand and put it under an earthen bushel measure, so that it might burn without risk until they came back). Christians must be visible like a "city" on a hilltop and a lamp on a "lamp stand." Jesus therefore expects His followers to be seen by the world (Jn 13:35; 17:21). In addition, they must radiate and give light. "Let your light shine before men" (Mt 5:16). By this metaphor Jesus means that our Christianity should be visible in the ordinary activities of the world, for example, in the way we treat a shop assistant across the counter, in the way we order a meal in a restaurant, in the way we treat our employees or serve our employer, in the way we play a game or drive or park a motor car, in the daily language we use, in the daily literature we read.

Getting Closer to God Means Serving Others:

St Elizabeth Ann Seton, had a long and difficult journey into the Catholic faith. She lived around 1800 and was part of New York high society both by birth and also by marriage. As a young wife and mother, she felt a profound spiritual restlessness. A non-Catholic Christian, she longed for a deeper relationship with Christ, but didn't know where to find it. A series of Crosses, including her husband's death, led her to the Catholic Church, where she found what she was looking for in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Converting to Catholicism led her to be criticized and ostracized by friends, social circles, and even family members. But her deeper intimacy with Christ made the suffering worthwhile. Instead of falling into discouragement or self-pity, in fact, she found herself moved to start a new religious order dedicated to educating the young. Thus was born the Sisters of Charity, which now has five major divisions in the United States and Canada. And thus also began the American system of Catholic education, which today (2011) includes over 7,000 elementary and secondary schools throughout the United States. God wants to bring flavor and light to the world, and the closer we get to his Sacred Heart, the more our hearts will burn with that same desire.

MARRIAGE TUNE-UP

Light a lamp and put it on a stand, says Jesus. Do you notice the goodness of your spouse more than his/her weaknesses? Do you praise the good aspects of your spouse in front of others? Then you yourself are becoming a light.

PARENTING TUNE-UP

"Share your bread... Shelter the homeless...Clothe the naked." (Isaiah 58:7) Although this scripture is usually meant to urge people to go beyond their own families, if you are in the active parenting stage of life, it may be enough to feed, shelter, and clothe your own family. If you're stretched pretty thin this week, you're allowed to count that. It's holy.

STEWARDSHIP

January 25, 2026

Weekly Offertory	\$ 2,901.00
Catholic Ed.	\$ 421.00
Parish Assessment	\$ 435.00
Mail In	\$ 855.00
Online Giving	\$ 2,171.50
Total	\$ 6,813.50

February 1, 2026

Weekly Offertory	\$ 6,266.00
Snow Removal	\$ 1,034.00
Mail In	\$ 1,145.00
Online Giving	\$ 3,526.50
Total	\$ 11,971.50

Stewardship of Treasure

Thank you for remembering your parish with your continued financial support; it is essential and much appreciated by our parish community.



OLP Columbiettes

Open House will be held on Thursday 2-26-2026 in the parish center at 7pm.

If you are a practicing catholic woman age 18 or over, we would like to invite you to join the OLP Columbiettes. We are a faith based woman's charity organization dedicated to helping our church and community while having fun and making new friends.

If you cannot make it but would like to join, please call Marianne Harris at 732-261-2190 to arrange another time to meet.

Parochial Ministry

Rev. Abraham Orapankal, Ph.D.
Rev. Sebastian Kaithackal C.M.I., (In Res.)
Deacon John A. Raychel

Parish Services

Rev. John J. Zec, Ph.D., Music Director
Candida Gonzalez, Coordinator of Religious Ed
Lourdes Hnath, Organist

Parish Staff

Walter Springer, Business Administrator
Norma Izzo, Bookkeeping Assistant
Dawn Aube, Parish/Religious Education Secretary

Trustees

Joan C. Deyak, Robert Butvilla

OFFERTORY GIFTS

Anyone who wishes to present the gifts at the Offertory of the Mass should speak with one of the ushers at the main entrance to the Church before Mass. The usher will give you instructions on where to sit and when to bring the gifts forward.

Another easy way to manage your church giving is with Online Giving. You can manage your giving or give a one-time gift. Visit our church website, www.olpfords.ort and click the Online Giving link and register with our church. Your support during the year helps sustain our Church.

Korean, American and Chinese Christians

As you know, the majority religion in America is still Christianity, and yet we are dominated today not by the values of Christianity, but by the values of humanism and secularism. Yet, in Korea, even though there are 35 million Buddhists, and only two million evangelical Christians, Christian values dominate that culture. Why is that? It is because Korean Christians understand they are to be the salt of the earth. A Chinese Christian came to a missionary one time and said, "I have learned to quote the entire Sermon on the Mount by memory." He stood before the missionary and perfectly quoted the sermon word-for-word. The missionary said, "That is wonderful. How did you practice it in your life?" The Chinese Christian said, "I spent the last year trying to live it."

Dr. James Stewart, a great British preacher, once said:
"The greatest threat to Christianity is not communism, atheism, materialism, or humanism. It is Christians trying to sneak into Heaven incognito without ever sharing their Faith, without ever living out the Christian life as salt of the earth and light of the world." This is exactly the problem Jesus was trying to remedy with the part of the Sermon on the Mount on the Beatitudes.

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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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