

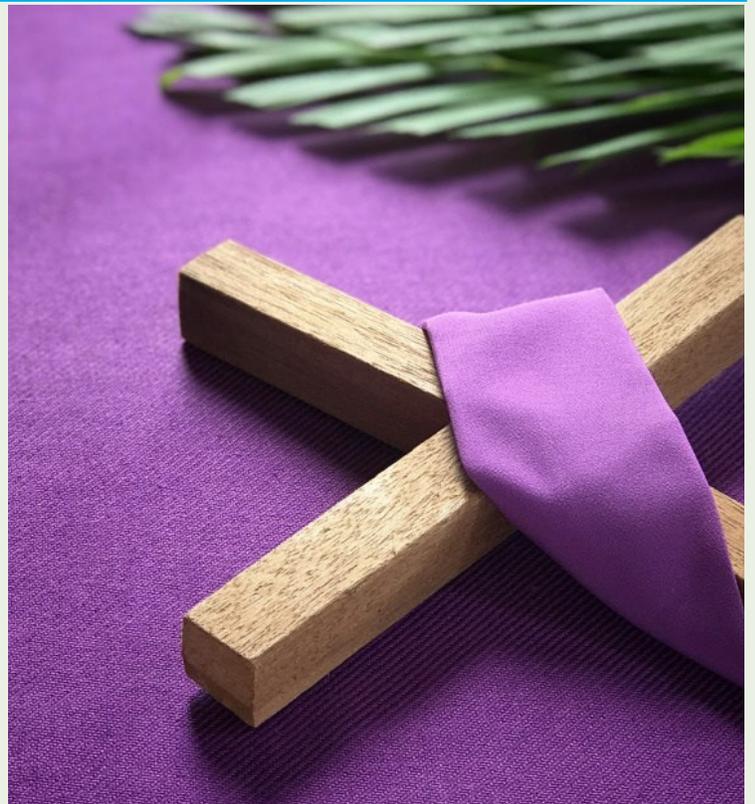
OUR LADY OF PEACE CHURCH

February 15, 2026

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturday: 4:00 P.M. to 4:45 P.M.

11AM Confessions will Resume for Lent
beginning next Saturday



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.

GPS: 620 Amboy Ave,
Edison, NJ 08837

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 69,
Fords, NJ 08863

Email us: mail@olpfords.org

Visit us at: www.olpfords.org

Parish Office: 26 Maple Ave.
Edison, NJ 08837

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

Phone: 732-738-7940

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK ...

Dear OLP Family,

Thank you to those of you who signed up: Last Sunday we had the lowest freezing temperature of the year, making it difficult for people to come to church - with only about half the usual numbers for each Mass. And yet the response of those who signed up to join the "LIVE LENT! Small groups for Bible sharing" was encouraging. Thank you.

What do others say about Lenten group experience? Here are some responses of those who have been in small groups in other parishes:

"I really loved it and feel that it brought me closer to Jesus."

"I'm so glad that I had this opportunity to be in a small group and I can't wait for the next session."

"This is a nice way to meet people in our parish, learn about their experiences as a Catholic and how the Gospel has influenced their life."

"Excellent place to learn and grow in our faith."

"I got more out of the Lenten bible sharing. Really enjoyed the small group dynamic."

Another chance for those who missed: I wish to offer another sign-up opportunity this Sunday to those who could not be present last Sunday. I earnestly encourage you to sign up and reap the benefits of understanding the Scriptures better. The commitment is only for the six weeks of Lent. You can join a group of your choice in terms of the day and time of your availability.

Please note our Ash Wednesday Services: Lent is the liturgical time lasting 40 days before Easter when Catholics prepare to commemorate Jesus's Resurrection through prayer, penance, and fasting. Ash Wednesday marks the first day of the Lenten season. The Services here at OLP are: 8 AM Mass, 12:10 PM Mass, and 7 PM Prayer Service. Most welcome to come to any of these and begin this Holy Season of Lent in the right spirit.

Is Ash Wednesday a Holy Day of Obligation?

No, Ash Wednesday is not a Holy Day of Obligation. However, people flock to churches to witness to their Catholic faith, and mortality, by receiving ashes on their foreheads and spending the day in fasting and prayer.

What's the point of Lent? We must keep in mind that Lent is not just a season on a calendar; it is not merely a checklist that comes around annually, when we might give up coffee, chocolate, alcohol or TV for 40 days, leaving absolutely no impact on us after those 40 days. The real impact should be growing closer to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. What better way to do that than by becoming more familiar with His Word in the Scriptures. That is why I am inviting you again to consider signing up to join the small groups. Will you, please?

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

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

February 16, Monday 8:00 am

+ Neil Noonan from Maureen Gouveia

February 17, Tuesday 8:00 am

+ Arlene Porcellana from Family

February 18, Ash Wednesday

8:00 am

+ Wayne Borg from Sandy DeSapio

12:10pm

* Special Intentions for Dennis & Rosanne

Gorman from Ed Gorman

7:00pm

Prayer Service with Ash Distribution

February 19, Thursday 8:00 am

+ John Podola from Family

February 20, Friday 8:00 am

+ For our Parishioners from Your Pastor

February 21, Saturday

8:00 am

+ Vickie Valentin from The Aube Family

5:15 pm

+ John Deyak from Joan

February 22, Sunday 8:00 am

+ Catherine Gamba from Barbara Laregina

10:00 am

* Special Intentions for Paul & Gina Medvedz

from Family

12:00 Noon

+ Cynthia DiRosa from Cousin Margie &
Family

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY ~ February 15

11:00am Facilitators Training

MONDAY ~ February 16

8:30 am Novena ~ Church

TUESDAY ~ February 17

Blue Army Cancelled This Week

WEDNESDAY ~ February 18

ASH WEDNESDAY

7:00pm All Religious Ed. Class must attend
Prayer Service

THURSDAY ~ February 19

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal - Church

FRIDAY February 20

7:00pm Stations of the Cross ~ Church

SATURDAY ~ February 21

11:00 am Confession ~ Church

4:00 pm Confession ~ Church

SUNDAY ~ February 22

11:00am Knight of Columbus Fellowship ~
Parish Hall

***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 21/22 2026**

5:15 p. m.

Eucharistic Ministers: Barbara Balog
Joan Deyak, Julia Dischler

Reader: Gloria DeMarzo

Altar Server: EmmaRose Felcetto

8:00 a.m. Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Martin Verendia, Tom Bednar,
Roseanne Brady

Reader: James Carroll

10:00 a.m. Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Prumos, Maria Frey,
Maryann Shingola

Reader: Corinne Ambrosi

Altar Server: Brienne Szylar

12:00 Noon

Eucharistic Ministers: Gary Coghlan,
Kenneth Broesler, Angela Chundak

Reader: Bill Herring

Altar Server: Ashley Alfaro

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

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,

Please pray for the Dearly Departed

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,
Thomas J. Felcetto

Ash + Wednesday

February 18, 2026

MASS SCHEDULE 8:00am, 12:10pm,

7:00 pm (Prayer Service)

Ashes will be distributed at all Services

Lenten Regulations for the Diocese of Metuchen, 2026 Lenten Obligations

The days of both fast and abstinence are Ash Wednesday (February 18) and Good Friday (April 3). The other Fridays of Lent (Feb. 20, 27, Mar. 6, 13, 20, and 27) are days of abstinence.

Fasting in the Roman Catholic tradition means to limit oneself to one full meal with two smaller meals which together do not equal the size of your full meal. The obligation of fasting applies only to Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59.

Abstinence in the Roman Catholic tradition means to abstain from eating meat (beef, chicken, pork, turkey, etc.). The obligation of abstinence applies to all Catholics who have reached the age of 14.

ASH WEDNESDAY IS UPON US!

Ash Wednesday (*dies cinerum*), is the Church's *Yom Kippur* or the "Day of Atonement." Its very name comes from the Jewish practice of doing penance wearing "sackcloth and ashes." The Old Testament tells us how the people of Nineveh, the Syrian King, Ben Hadad, and Queen Esther fasted wearing sackcloth and ashes. In the early Church, Christians who had committed serious sins were instructed to do public penance wearing sackcloth and ashes. The Church instructs us to observe Ash Wednesday and Good Friday as days of full fast and abstinence. Fasting is prescribed to reinforce our penitential prayer during the Lenten season.

Ash Wednesday readings: 1st Reading: prophet Joel insists that we should experience a complete conversion of heart, and not simply regret for our sins. 2nd Reading: St. Paul advises us "to become reconciled to God." The gospel instructs us to assimilate the true spirit of fasting and prayer.

The blessing of the ashes and the significance of the day:

The general practice has been for the priest or minister to dip the thumb in ashes and mark the sign of the cross on your forehead, saying the words, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return" or "Repent and believe in the Gospel." Through the imposition of ashes, the Church gives us:

1. A firm conviction that (a) we are mortal beings, (b) our bodies will become dust when buried and ashes if cremated, and (c) our life-span is very brief and unpredictable;
2. A strong warning that we will be eternally punished if we do not repent of our sins and do penance.
3. A loving invitation to realize and acknowledge our sinful condition and return to our loving and forgiving God with true repentance, as the prodigal son did.

ASH WEDNESDAY THOUGHTS

By Almsgiving, we highlight others more important than ourselves and give ourselves to them as Jesus gave Himself to others. By Prayer, we highlight God as most important in our life, magnifying Him, humbling ourselves (thus realizing the distance between Him and us), and trying to come to come closer to the Lord. By Fasting, we discover our personal self and see who we really are. Cutting, pruning and disciplining ourselves will be part of this job. Doing all these three things with joyful heart and mind will prepare us to rise with Jesus.

"Do this, don't do that, can't you read the sign?" Some of the senior citizens here today can remember a song that was popular exactly 55 years ago. In 1971, a group from Canada called the Five Man Electrical Band had a hit called "Signs." The song is about how signs are always telling us what to do, and the chorus says, "Do this, don't do that, can't you read the sign?" Five decades later, the question it poses "Can't you read the sign?" is one we might ask ourselves today. This Wednesday, we are going to be signed with ash the sign of our faith, the cross. "Can't you read the sign?" The cross of ashes means that we are making a commitment that we are undertaking Lent as a season of prayer and penitence, of dying to ourselves. It also describes our human condition: that we are broken, and need repair; that we are sinners and need redemption. Most importantly, it tells us that, as followers of Jesus Christ, we are to carry our crosses. It also reminds us that we are dust and ashes – mortal human beings carrying an immortal soul.



SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY



Announcement in the church bulletin for a National PRAYER & FASTING conference: "The cost for attending the Fasting and Prayer conference includes meals." 😊

Prayer: Johnny had been misbehaving and was sent to his room. After a while he emerged and informed his mother that he had thought it over and then said a prayer. "Fine", said the pleased mother. "If you ask God to help you not misbehave, He will help you." "Oh, I didn't ask Him to help me not misbehave," said Johnny. "I asked Him to help you put up with me." 😊

Surprise: "I can't believe I got fired from the calendar factory. All I did was take a day off." 😊

Boss: "I always tell new hires, don't think of me as your boss, think of me as a friend who can fire you." 😊



STEWARDSHIP

February 8, 2026

Weekly Offering	\$ 3,625.00
Mail Ins	\$ 1,254.00
Online Giving	\$ 2,014.50
Repair & Maint.	\$ 754.00
Total	\$ 7,647.50

Stewardship of Treasure

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



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Visit our church website, www.olpfords.org and click the Online Giving link and register with our church. Your support during the year helps sustain our Church.

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 when to bring the gifts forward.

MARRIAGE TUNE-UP

Yesterday was Valentine's Day! Though Valentine was a saint and martyr, the secular focus has been on romantic celebration. Why not look at your spouse and reflect together on both these aspects of love: the romantic love that brought you two together and the sacrificial love that sustained you together?

PARENTING TUNE-UP

February is Black History month; but sensitivity to people of a race different from your own is bigger than just one color. Enrich your child's life by mixing with people of different races. Talk to your children about beauty in diversity. Reaffirm the truth that we all are beloved children of God.

DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO FOR LENT?

Are you wondering what you should do different for this Lent? Joining the small groups is the answer. But some may wonder, what's the point of joining a small group? In fact a pastor was asked this question. He gave many reasons, but at the end he said: **"But what I feel is one of the most important reasons to join a small group is time. Time is a limited commodity and, frankly, most of us use it badly. We commit to things that are temporal and will pass away, and waste so much of our precious energy growing in everything except love and knowledge of Christ. We unintentionally teach our kids that Church comes after sports and social obligations, and then we are surprised when they grow up and live the lesson we taught. By committing to a small group and being faithful to that obligation, you are declaring to yourself and to all who know you that you have faith as a priority in your life. A declaration like that will always bear good fruit."**

So, what do you think? We already have few groups beginning LIVE LENT! faith sharing next week. Is it too late for you to join? NO! You are most welcome to join, or at least to give a try. Just call our parish office.

LENTEN PRACTICES

During Lent, we are asked to devote ourselves to seeking the Lord in prayer and reading Scripture, to service by **giving alms**, and to practice self-control through **fasting**. Many know of the tradition of abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent, but we are also called to practice self-discipline and fast in other ways throughout the season. Contemplate the meaning and origins of the Lenten fasting tradition in this **reflection**. In addition, the giving of alms is one way to share God's gifts not only through the distribution of money, but through the sharing of our time and talents. As St. John Chrysostom reminds us: "Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2446).

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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.

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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
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