

# OUR LADY OF PEACE CHURCH

## February 22, 2026

### SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturday: 11:00 A.M to 12:00A.M.  
4:00 P.M. to 4:45 P.M.

+

# LENT

– 40 Days Of Renewal –

### 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](mailto:mail@olpfords.org)  
Visit us at: [www.olpfords.org](http://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,

So wonderful to see the big crowds in our church on Ash Wednesday – as in all the Catholic Churches all over the world - to mark entry into the penitential season of Lent. The traditional practices (fasting, meatless Fridays, saying extra prayers, giving up some favorite food or drink, refraining from certain habits, etc.) are all focused on personal or spiritual improvement of oneself. Certainly these are good, but not good enough! **There is also the need to focus on the communitarian dimension of Lent.**

When Jesus fasted and prayed for 40 days just before beginning his ministry (Matthew 4:2), it was his time of preparation for bringing the good news of hope and healing to the people. His time with God was meant to get strength and wisdom to do the task of bringing light and revelation of God to the people who lived in darkness (Isaiah 9:2, Matthew 4:16). When the early Christians fasted and prayed, it was for a similar purpose of helping others to come to Jesus who is the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6). The culmination of their fasting ended in Easter Vigil when non-Christians (Catechumens) were welcomed into the Church through Baptism and those Christians who were away from the Christian way through serious sins (apostasy, murder, etc.) were reconciled to God and the Community of the Church. Thus the Lenten practice of the early Christians was not only for personal holiness but also for the unity and growth of the Church. It was oriented toward the inward growth of the individual as well as the outward growth of the community.

**It is this communitarian dimension that just took concrete shape in our parish this week. For the first time in the history of our parish, we have formed ten groups that began sharing the scripture for this week for the six weeks of Lent. Those who have signed up for LIVE LENT! program will reap its benefits for themselves and for their families. If you want to try it, you are still welcome to contact the Parish Office so we can connect you with a group. What about others who are unable to join a group this year? They too can participate in the communitarian dimension of Lent by practicing the ministry of invitation. What do I mean?**

Can we reach out to our friends, neighbors or family members who stay away from the Church? As committed Catholics, we have a duty to these brothers and sisters of ours to offer them the beauty and goodness of our faith in Jesus Christ. **If we truly appreciate and draw strength from our faith, then we will want to share the same with others. During this season of Lent, if we invite someone to come to Church to have a worship experience, then we are becoming Evangelizers.** We are already beginning to fulfill the great commission of Christ: “Go to the whole world and proclaim the good news to all creation...” (Matthew 28:19-20). **Will you invite someone to join our Sunday worship?**

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

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

February 23, Monday 8:00 am

+ Leonarda Dizon Mendoza from Maria Luisa  
Mendoza Cruz & Family

February 24, Tuesday 8:00 am

+ For our Parishioners from your Pastor

7:00 pm Parish Mass

+ Deceased members of the Blue Army from  
Friends

February 25, Wednesday 8:00am

+ Maureen & Richard Gerrity from Frank &  
Ann Gerrity

February 26, Thursday 8:00 am

\*Special Intentions for Birthday Blessings  
from Mercy Gabriel

February 27, Friday 8:00 am

+ Madeline Strong from Family

February 28, Saturday

8:00 am

+ Frank B. Shannon from Sister Maryann &  
Family

5:15 pm

+ William Trobliger from Bill & Pat Goggel

March 1, Sunday 8:00 am

+ Saverio (Sonny) Loiacono from The  
Loiacono Family

10:00 am

+ Anthony Branciforte & Anthony Zimmerly  
from Michelle Branciforte

12:00 Noon

+ Dennis Medvetz from Family

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

**SUNDAY ~ February 22**

11:00am Knight of Columbus Fellowship ~ Parish Hall

**MONDAY ~ February 23**

8:30 am Novena ~ Church

8:00 am KOC 4th Degree Mtg. ~ Parish Hall

**TUESDAY ~ February 24**

7:00 pm Parish Mass ~ Church

**WEDNESDAY ~ February 25**

4:30 - 5:45 Religious Ed Grade 1 Parish Center

4:30 - 5:45 Rel. Ed Grade 2,3,4, Music ~ Church

7:00 - 8:15pm Religious Ed. Grade 5-7, II ~  
Parish Center

8:00 pm KOC Officers Mtg - Parish Hall

**THURSDAY ~ February 26**

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal - Church

7:00 pm Columbiettes Open House ~ Regina Caile Room

**FRIDAY February 27**

7:00pm Stations of the Cross ~ Church

**SATURDAY ~ February 28**

11:00 am Confession ~ Church

4:00 pm Confession ~ Church

5:15pm Rel Ed. Classes 2,3,4 to sing at 5:15pm Mass

**SUNDAY ~ March 1**

8:00 am - 4pm Blood Drive - Parish Center

12:00 Noon Religious Ed Family Mass ~ Church

**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, Catherine Miller

**Please pray for the Dearly Departed**

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, Marie Gironda,  
Mildred Maresa, Evelyn Mrozek

**Ministry Schedule for  
February 28/March 1, 2026**

5:15 p. m.

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Barbara Balog  
Joan Deyak, Karen Senatore  
**Reader:** Bill Herring  
**Altar Server:** Delgado Family

8:00 a.m. Mass

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Margarita Cebulski,  
Kenneth Egan, Alan Nygard  
**Reader:** James Carroll

10:00 a.m. Mass

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Roseanne Brady,  
Arlene & Augustus Cezar  
**Reader:** Annalise Dantes  
**Altar Server:** Ava Pridady

12:00 Noon

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Kathy Kazary,  
Frank Heelan, Lorraine O'Prandy  
**Reader:** Corinne Ambrosi  
**Altar Server:** Alexis Nwinyi



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

**COME AND JOIN US  
EVERY FRIDAY  
DURING LENT AT  
7:00 P.M.**

**REMEMBER - ALL FRIDAYS DURING  
LENT ARE DAYS OF ABSTINENCE  
(NO MEAT.)**

**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**



**Candle  
In Memory of  
Robert Bell**

**From  
The Devane Family**

**Bread & Wine**

**In memory of  
William Trobliger**

**From  
Bill & Pat Goggel**



**CAN YOU GIVE UP  
THESE FOR LENT?**

GIVE UP grumbling! Instead, "In everything give thanks." Constructive criticism is OK, but "moaning, groaning, and complaining" are not Christian disciplines.

GIVE UP 10 to 15 minutes in bed! Instead, use that time in prayer, Bible study and personal devotion.

GIVE UP looking at other people's worst points. Instead concentrate on their best points. We all have faults. It is a lot easier to have people overlook our shortcomings when we overlook theirs first.

GIVE UP speaking unkindly. Instead, let your speech be generous and understanding. It costs so little to say something kind and uplifting. Why not check that sharp tongue at the door?

GIVE UP your hatred of anyone or anything! Instead, learn the discipline of love. "Love covers a multitude of sins."

GIVE UP your worries and anxieties! Instead, trust God with them. Anxiety is spending emotional energy on something we can do nothing about: like tomorrow! Live today and let God's grace be sufficient.

GIVE UP TV one evening a week! Instead, visit some lonely or sick person.

There are those who are isolated by illness or age. Why isolate yourself in front of the "tube?" Give someone a precious gift: your time!

GIVE UP buying anything but essentials for yourself! Instead, give the money to God. The money you would spend on the luxuries could help someone meet basic needs. We are called to be stewards of God's riches, not consumers.

GIVE UP judging by appearances and by the standard of the world! Instead, learn to give up yourself to God. There is only one who has the right to judge, Jesus Christ. (*Craig Gates, Jackson, MS, "What to Give up for Lent"*)

### Lent and testing in life

Ours is a vibrant culture, always in pursuit of happiness. Death is an obscenity, hidden by cascades of flowers and relegated to remote burial lawns on the edge of town. Sin is denied, camouflaged, psychoanalyzed, and repressed not confessed. We don't really *sin*. We *make mistakes of judgment*. If a popular politician lies, he or she is *only being human*. Lent is a time to look at such temptations, sin and the consequences. Originally Lent was the season when those about to be baptized repented of their sins and sought to know the Lord Jesus more intimately. Then it became a season for the baptized to do the same. We are challenged to die to sin so that we may rise again to the new life in Christ. Since the Church begins the season with a reflection on the origins of sin among us, the main themes in today's readings are temptation, sin, guilt and forgiveness. We are told of the temptations offered to our Lord, submission to which would have destroyed his mission. Today's readings give us the notion that testing comes to us by an agency apart from and in opposition to God. But the truth is that, while testing comes from the outside, temptation comes from within ourselves. However, the good news is that, though we are tempted and often succumb, God's grace provides the way of salvation for us. The ultimate temptations in life are NOT those that only push us to "*do*" things we aren't supposed to "*do*"; rather they are the ones that push us to "*be*" persons we weren't made to be.

### TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY OF MEL GIBSON

Every one of us knows who Mel Gibson who produced *the Passion of the Christ* that brought so much spiritual benefit to millions. But sad to say, the world witnessed how he messed up his life after that successful movie. It wasn't coincidence. He did so much good through this movie that it brought on him a lot of attacks by the evil one as revenge for the spiritual good done by the film. Because he wasn't "careful" enough, or didn't look on what happened to him in his spiritual battlefield, Gibson wasn't ready for battles that came after he had finished the Passion movie. Because of his well-documented paranoia, he repeatedly roared threats to kill his estranged ex-wife of 28 years. He alludes to having earlier hit her hard enough to break her teeth something he claims she "deserved." Mel's former wife claimed that Mel was not only a racist, homophobe, misogynist, and anti-Semite, but also a drug and alcohol abuser and a violent or potentially violent man. **Why did he have all these tragedies after the great triumph of his career *The Passion of the Christ* which grossed over \$604 million worldwide? Because he ignored Peter's advice, "*Stay sober and alert. Your opponent the devil is prowling like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, solid in your Faith.*" (1 Peter 5:8-9a).**

### Higher the timber, the stronger it is!

A group of mountain hikers came across an old woodsman with an axe on his shoulder. "Where are you going?" they asked him. "I'm headed up the mountain to get some wood to repair my cabin." "But why are you going up the mountain?" they asked incredulously. "There are plenty of trees all around us here." "I know," he said, "but I need strong timber and it grows only on the highest elevations, where the trees are tested and toughened by the weather around them. The higher up you go, the stronger the timber grows." ***And that is what God desires for us that through the winds of trial and the storms of temptation we may grow strong and live on a higher level strong to resist the devil's urging, strong to serve God, and strong as we stand together in Faith and service to one another. Take my advice stay close to each other, worship regularly and often, avoid temptation when it comes your way, and fill your hearts with God's word.***



### SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY



Lent was invented so that Catholics could take another shot at their New Year's resolutions.

There is a story about a lady who was struggling with a temptation as to whether or not to have cosmetic surgery. She was thinking about having a facelift. But it was very expensive. Hence, she was totally confused. While she was discussing its high cost with her husband she said, "But what if I drop dead three months after I have this surgery? Then what would you do?" He thought for a moment and said, "Well, I guess we'd have an open casket for your funeral." 

*Giving up what?* A man took his young son to a baseball game. While they were sitting there, he asked the boy what he was going to give up for Lent. The boy replied, "I don't know, Dad. May be candy. What are you going to give up?" His father said, "I've thought about this a lot and decided to give up liquor." Later in the game, the beer man came by, and the man ordered a beer. His son objected, "Hey, I thought you were giving up liquor!" His dad answered, "Hard liquor, son. I'm giving up hard liquor. This is just a beer." To which the boy replied, "Well then, I'm giving up hard candy." 

Last Sunday I found a wallet packed with money down by the church." Did you give it back?" "Not yet. I'm still trying to decide if it's a temptation from the devil or the answer to a prayer." 

# STEWARDSHIP

Due to early publication of the bulletin, the Church Collection and Online Giving collection data will be posted in next week bulletin.

## 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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## OUR LADY OF PEACE PARISH SOCIAL CONCERN BLOOD DRIVE SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026



26 FRANKLIN AVENUE  
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8:30am to 1:30pm in the  
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Appointments are strongly recommended. Please bring picture ID with you to donate blood. Please eat a meal before donating blood and drink plenty of water before and after donation. You can make an appointment at [vitalant.org](http://vitalant.org) or call 877-25-VITAL Use blood drive code: XOLPCE

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Visit our church website, [www.olpfords.ort](http://www.olpfords.ort) 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

Lent has just begun but too easily it can go the way of New Year's resolutions - Good idea but soon forgotten. So, help each other. If you choose the same practice you can reinforce each other. If you choose different ones support each other's growth - but don't nag. It's not a contest.



## Catholic Daughters of the Americas

***Brrr! Baby, it's cold outside!*** What better time to come and meet some new friends? And enjoy a nice hot cup of tea/coffee, not to mention some baked goodies! This month, on ***Feb. 25***, we will be celebrating ***Valentine's Day***. We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the K of C Hall in Woodbridge at 7 PM. Catholic women age 18+ are invited to come to any meeting and see what we're all about. Our members belong to several parishes, including OLP, St. James', St. Cecelia's, and St. Matthew's, so chances are you already know someone who's a member! For more info, email [cdacourt769@gmail.com](mailto:cdacourt769@gmail.com) We're looking forward to seeing you!

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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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