

OUR LADY OF PEACE CHURCH

March 8, 2026

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

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

HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY



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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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,

I wish to share two reflections with you in this column:

First: Today, March 8, is International Women's Day, an annual celebration to honor the achievements and contributions of women, while challenging the discrimination and oppression they continue to face. We salute all the women for their invaluable contributions to enrich our families and communities, and pray for them in a special way. How wonderful that today's gospel is about the encounter Jesus had with the Samaritan woman! Do you know that this is the longest recorded conversation Jesus had with any one person in all the gospels? And that conversation is with a woman!

It is very important to note that Jesus ignored two codes of behavior of the culture of his time. He initiated a conversation with a foreigner, a Samaritan. In addition, this foreigner was also a woman. Her surprise is clear: "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" (John 4:9). Jesus demonstrated profound respect and dignity toward the Samaritan woman by breaking social, ethnic, and gender barriers to engage her in a long conversation. By asking for water, treating her as an equal, and engaging in deep theological discourse, he validated her as a person worthy of respect, ignoring traditional prejudices.

The gospels testify that Jesus refused to treat women as inferior, going against the prevalent culture of male chauvinism. He recognized their dignity, their desires and their gifts. Jesus becomes a model for us all to work towards a gender-equal world, free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination towards women.

Second: We have a wonderful group of OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) class, sitting in the front pews at the 10 AM Mass. For six months now, they have been spending over an hour after the Mass knowing more about the Scriptures and the Catholic faith. All of them have been baptized, but have not completed the remaining Sacraments of Initiation (Holy Eucharist and Confirmation). Lent is a time of intense preparation for them as they will receive the Sacraments during the Easter Vigil. Today they have a rite called "The Penitential Rite for baptized OCIA candidates." It is a Lenten liturgical act of preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession, designed for candidates seeking full communion with the Catholic Church, focusing on purification and conversion.

This Penitential Rite is also an opportunity for the rest of us, to self-examine and see the need for healing in our weakness, detect the sinful habits in our lives and renew our souls through the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). Lent is the time to learn from our mistakes of overindulgence in food, drink, drugs, gambling, promiscuity, or any other addiction that may keep us from coming to the *living waters* of a right relationship with God. The Samaritan woman did that as we hear in today's gospel. Shall we too?

Let's continue to live a happy and holy Lent!

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

March 8, Sunday 8:00 am

+ Judith Wendt from The Wendt Family

10:00 am

+ Holy Name-Altar Rosary

12:00 Noon

+ Sandra Ann Husko from Allison
Ballentine

March 9, Monday 8:00 am

+ Edward Steinard from Barbara DeRollo

March 10, Tuesday 8:00 am

+ Paquito Lazaro from The Reyes Family

March 11, Wednesday 8:00am

+ Helena & Stanley Lunn from Frank &
Ann Heelan

March 12, Thursday 8:00 am

+ For our Parishioners from your Pastor

March 13, Friday 8:00 am

+ Frank Nebus from The DeWitt Family

March 14, Saturday

8:00 am

+ Helen Nash from Nancy Gaid

5:15 pm

+ Daniel Balog from Traci & Barbara

March 15, Sunday 8:00 am

+ Cecelia & Joe Anders from The Wendt
Family

10:00 am

+ Deceased Members of the Shannon &
Sheridan Families from Maryann & Family

12:00 Noon

*Special Intentions for Krista & Ryan
McCrone from Friends

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY ~ March 8

9:00 am to 12pm Holy Name-Altar Rosary Mtg ~ Parish
Center

9:30am Holy Name-Altar Rosary pray the Rosary ~
Church

MONDAY ~ March 9

8:30 am Novena ~ Church

TUESDAY ~ March 10

7:00 pm Blue Army ~ Church

7:00 pm Social Concerns Mtg ~ Regina Caeli Room

8:00 pm NJ State Columbiettes Mtg. ~ Regina Caeli Rm

WEDNESDAY ~ March 11

4:30 - 5:45 Religious Ed Grade 1,3,4 Parish Center

4:30pm Grade 2 First Penance Practice ~ Church

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

7:00pm Individual Instruction
First Penance Practice ~Church

THURSDAY ~ March 12

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal - Church

7:00 pm Columbiettes Business Mtg. ~ Regina Caeli Rm

FRIDAY March 13

7:00pm Stations of the Cross ~ Church

SATURDAY ~ March 14

11:00 am Confession ~ Church

4:00 pm Confession ~ Church

SUNDAY ~ March 15

1:00 pm KOC St. Patrick's Dinner ~ Parish Hall

MARRIAGE TUNE-UP

If you don't do regular maintenance on your car, it may start spluttering and clanking. If your spouse is making noises (complaining, nagging etc.), maybe it's time to look under the hood. You may find that neglect is the culprit. Perhaps you haven't listened closely to what your beloved needs. Maybe work or the kids have become a priority. Ask.

PARENTING TUNE-UP

"The people grumbled against Moses"
(Ex 17: 3) It's normal in any family to grumble occasionally. Parents grumble about their kids and vice versa. But what happens after the grumbling? "I'm sorry. I'll try to do better." Is such apologizing a normal thing in your family?

**Ministry Schedule for
March 14/15 2026**

5:15 p. m.

Eucharistic Ministers: Barbara Balog,
Barbara Sinko, Joan Deyak
Reader: Bill Herring
Altar Server: Delgado Family

8:00 a.m. Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Margarita Cebulski,
Alan Nygard, Tom Bednar
Reader: Thomas Bednar

10:00 a.m. Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Maria Frey,
Arlene & Augustus Cezar
Reader: Corinne Ambrosi
Altar Server: Brienne Szylar

12:00 Noon

Eucharistic Ministers: Kevin Broesler,
Lorraine O'Prandy, Frank Heelan
Reader: Bill Herring
Altar Server: Ashley Alfaro

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, Catherine Miller,
Tano Camarillo

Please pray for the Dearly Departed

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,
Evelyn Mrozek, Mildred Manresa, Marie Gironda,
Evelyn Codd, Gary Dzama, Michael Sena

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



**COME AND JOIN US
EVERY FRIDAY FOR A
DIFFERENT STATION EACH
WEEK 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

WATER IS LIFE!

Gandhi, India's great Champion, proved to the whole world that a person can go without food for a long, long time - for weeks - but water is something else. I don't know how long someone can live without water, but it isn't very long. A baby who can't keep down fluids will dehydrate and die in just a few days. Adults last only slightly longer. The only life-sustaining substance that we need more frequently than water is air. Water, then, is essential to life. In one sense, water is life. Where there is no water, there is no life. Cactuses and camels and gnarled trees and grasses of the desert can adapt to conditions of low water, but there isn't any living thing on this earth that can adapt to no water. "Water is life." Lack of water is death. To be thirsty is to stare death in the eye.

It's no wonder that Jesus turned water and thirst into spiritual teachings for the Samaritan woman as he sat there by Jacob's well, that ancient and sacred place for quenching thirst. If thirst of the body is the very taste of death, then thirst of the soul is the very picture of spiritual despair.

No women allowed!?!?

There is a Greek monastery at Mount Athos in which nothing female is allowed. It is home to 20 Eastern Orthodox monasteries, and 2,000 monks from Greece and other eastern orthodox countries such as Bulgaria, Serbia and Russia. These monks live an ascetic life, isolated from the rest of the world. The Mount - actually a 335 sq km (130 sq mile) peninsula - may be the largest area in the world from which women, and female animals, are banned. Men can enter but not women, roosters but not hens, horses but not mares, bulls but not cows. Armed guards patrol the border to ensure that nothing feminine passes the gates. It has been this way for more than 700 years. [Arnold Prater, *The Presence*, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1993).] Separate and definitely not equal: that has been the attitude toward women of many Churches through the ages.

So it's really remarkable that this particular Samaritan evangelist happens to be a woman. She would be as surprised about it as anybody. When she first met Jesus, she was surprised that even he talked to her. Once converted, she became an evangelist, enthusiastically introducing Jesus to her fellow villagers. We need to allow Jesus free entry into our personal lives. A sign that God is active in our lives is His entering in to our personal, "private" lives. Jesus wants to get personal with us, especially during this Lenten season. Jesus wants to get into our "private" lives. We have a "private" personal life which is contrary to the will of God.

Christ wishes to come into that "private" life, not to embarrass us, not to judge or condemn us, not to be unkind or malicious to us. Rather, Christ comes into our "private" personal life to free us, to change us and to offer us what we really need: living water. The living water is God the Holy Spirit Who enters the soul of the woman through Jesus and his love. We human beings are composed of four parts: mind, body, emotions and spirit. When we let God the Holy Spirit come into us and take control of our thinking, our physical activity, our emotions and our spirit, He can bring harmony to the way we live with all four parts of our humanity. We can find this living water in the Sacraments, in prayer and in the Holy Bible.

"No drinkin' and no dancin' area"!

A couple of Catholic young men from the North were visiting a dusty little town in the back country of West Texas. It was a hard-shell Baptist town in the Bible belt of the South: "No drinkin' and no dancin' area"! But these two men were strangers; so they asked a cowboy where they might get a drink. "In this town," said the cowboy, "we use whiskey only for snakebite: to wash the wound as first aid." Then he added slyly, "If you guys are so thirsty for whiskey, there's only one poisonous snake in this town and that is in the zoo. So you better get a ticket to the zoo, go to the snake park, get hold of a cobra through the iron bar of its cage and give it a big hug! The zoo keeper will appear immediately with whisky."

The woman at the well had a mighty thirst, a thirst like that of these young guys for whiskey, a thirst so big that it led her through five husbands and who knows what else. And still she was thirsty — a thirst caused by the absence of God in her life. A meeting with Jesus gave her the living waters of friendship with Jesus and the anointing of the Spirit of God which restored her dignity and changed her life. She was willing to leave her husbands. We need to leave the "husbands" behind during Lent as the Samaritan woman did. Today's Gospel message challenges us to get rid of our unholy attachments and the evil habits that keep us enslaved and idolatrous. Lent is the time to learn from our mistakes of over-indulgence in food, drink, drugs, gambling, promiscuity, or any other addiction that may keep us from coming to the *living waters* of a right relationship with God. We all have our short list, don't we? And we all know, honest to God, what it is we need to leave behind before we come to the *Living Water* and the Bread of Heaven. Let us make an earnest attempt to do so during this Lenten season.

Food Assistance

For a complete listing of food banks in Middlesex County please call 732-729-0880 or for more information please visit www.middlesexcountynj.gov.



SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY



The story of Adam and Eve was being carefully explained in the children's Sunday School class. Following the story, the children were asked to draw some picture that would illustrate the story. Little Bobby was most interested and drew a picture of a car with three people in it. In the front seat, behind the wheel was a man and in the back seat, a man and a woman. The teacher was at a loss to understand how this illustrated the lesson of Adam and Eve. But little Bobby was prompt with his explanation. "Oh.. this is God driving Adam and Eve out of the garden!"



While shopping for a bathroom scale, I found one that tracks not only weight but also body fat, bone mass, and water percentage. I nixed that one in favor of a low-tech model. As I told the salesperson, "I don't need to be depressed four ways; one is quite enough."



As I showed a photo of my parents to my grandson, I told him: "This is your great-grandma and great grandpa "Do you think I look like them?" He shook his head and said. "Not yet."

While working the beverage cart at the local golf course, a customer asked me if I could go back to the previous green to see if she had left her sandwich there. I had spent some time looking for a sandwich on the grass, when a golfer asked me if someone had lost a sand wedge.



An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, And I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Continually give me the grace to make a worthy Confession.

Amen

Lenten Parish **Confession** **March 25, 2026 at** **7:00pm**

STEWARDSHIP

February 22, 2026

Online Giving	\$ 1,699.50
Mail In	\$ 633.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 3,302.00
Parish Ass.	\$ 808.00
Weekly Offertory	\$ 5,179.00

Total \$ 11,621.50

March 1, 2026

Weekly Offertory	\$ 5,196.00
Mail In	\$ 1,327.00
Online Giving	\$ 2,450.50
Easter Flowers	\$ 1,850.00

Total \$ 10,823.50

Stewardship of Treasure

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

Food Assistance

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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.

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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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