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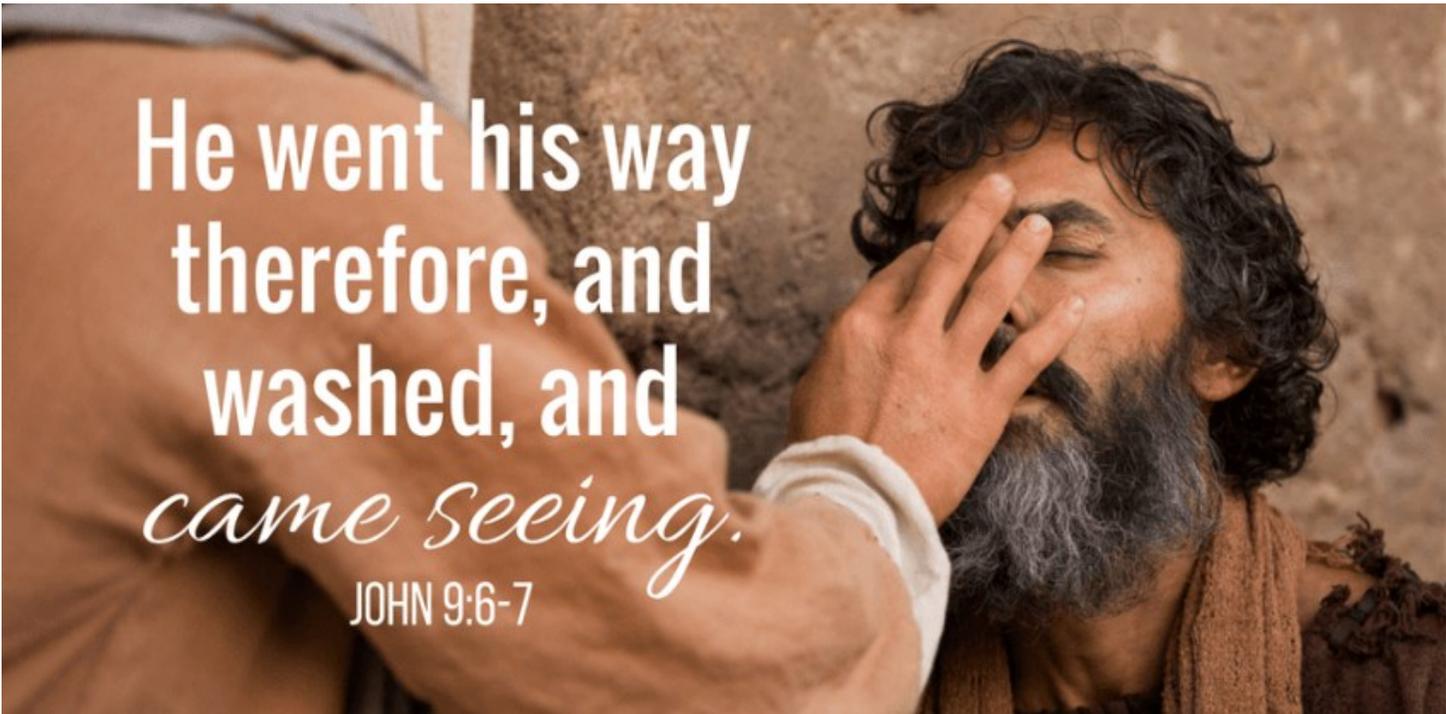
March 15, 2026

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturday: 11:00 A.M to 12:00A.M.

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

HAPPY FEAST OF ST. PATRICK AND ST JOSEPH



He went his way
therefore, and
washed, and
came seeing.

JOHN 9:6-7

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

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9:00am - 4:00pm

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK ...

Dear OLP Family,

Happy St. Patrick's Feast on Wednesday, March 17, when "everyone is an Irish." Our parish is celebrating this popular feast today and our Knights of Columbus is hosting it in our parish hall. ! **And Happy St. Joseph's Feast two days later on March 19!** Lavish celebrations for these two feasts, especially for St. Patrick's Day, are typical. But it is very important to reflect on the spiritual dimension of each feast.

On the feast of St. Patrick, the church focuses on the missionary nature of the life of St. Patrick who converted the Irish population to Catholicism in his 33 years of apostolate there. We celebrate the saint who plucked a shamrock from the ground, and used it, with its three leaves in one plant, to explain the Mystery of the Trinity three Persons in one God. The Irish rightly brought his legacy to places they have settled. This is the right time to read the biography of St. Patrick and be inspired to witness to the gospel values in our life.

The Feast of St. Joseph is a higher ranking Solemnity in the Liturgical calendar of the Church. Therefore the Mass celebrated on March 19 is very much like a Sunday Mass with Gloria, and all the readings. The solemnity in the church is certainly followed by the solemnity at the dinner table too! St. Joseph's silence in the gospels is an indication of his interior disposition of openness to listening to God – something we all can benefit from.

This is a big Feast for Italians because in the Middle Ages, God, through St. Joseph's intercession, saved the Sicilians from a very serious drought. So in his honor, the custom has been for all to wear red, in the same way that green is worn on St. Patrick's Day. In many parishes with large Italian population, a big altar ("la tavola di San Giuse" or "St. Joseph's Table") is laden with food that people bring to be blessed by the priest on the feast day and to have a big feast day meal. I myself have blessed baskets of food that Italian families bring in every parish I have served.

These celebrations do not take away the penitential spirit of Lent. The sacrifices we make, the extra devotions we practice are all meant to bring us to a joyful connection to the Lord. In the Lenten Preface of the Mass we hear: *"Each year You give us this joyful season when we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed."* In fact, today is called 'Laetare Sunday' because we focus on Christian joy in the Mass. Let us continue and complete this joyful season of Lent!

Happy Feast of St. Patrick! Happy Feast of St. Joseph!

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

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

March 16, Monday 8:00 am

+ For our Parishioners from your Pastor

March 17, Tuesday 8:00 am

+ Thomas Dischler from Loving Family

March 18, Wednesday 8:00am

+ Peter Medvedz from Family

March 19, Thursday 8:00 am

+ Jozefa Zimon from Stan

March 20, Friday 8:00 am

+ Richard Cody from Friends

March 21, Saturday

8:00 am

+ Anne Cerreta from Paul, Elaine & Family
5:15 pm
+ Elaine Meszaros from Joan Deyak

March 22, Sunday 8:00 am

+ Magdalena Dequito Ho from Maria Raymundo
10:00 am
+ Linda Miles from Nancy Potts & Family
12:00 Noon
+ Deceased members of the Ferlicchi Family from Family

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY ~ March 15

1-4pm KOC St. Patrick's Celebration ~ Parish Hall

MONDAY ~ March 16

8:30 am Novena ~ Church

TUESDAY ~ March 17

7:00 pm Blue Army ~ Church

WEDNESDAY ~ March 18

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

8:00 pm KOC Social Mtg - Parish Hall

THURSDAY ~ March 19

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal - Church

FRIDAY March 20

7:00pm Stations of the Cross ~ Church

SATURDAY ~ March 21

11:00 am Confession ~ Church

4:00 pm Confession ~ Church

SUNDAY ~ March 22

1:30pm Baptism ~ Church

MARRIAGE TUNE-UP

"Not as humans see does God see, because humans see the appearance, but the Lord looks into the heart." (1 Sam. 16:7) Yes, love can be blind, but deep love sees beneath annoying habits to the inner goodness. Name one positive quality that you see in your beloved that others might not see.

PARENTING TUNE-UP

Teach your child two contradictory life lessons: 1. How to stand up for themselves. 2. How to forgive someone who has hurt them. Model it. Role play potential situations.

**Ministry Schedule for
March 21/22, 2026**

5:15 p. m.

Eucharistic Ministers: Joan Deyak
Julia Dischler, Karen Senatore
Reader: Gloria DeMarzo
Altar Server: EmmaRose Felcetto

8:00 a.m. Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Martin Verendia
Tom Bednar, Roseanne Brady
Reader: Bill Herring

10:00 a.m. Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Kevin Broesler,
Maryann Shingola, Mary Prumos
Reader: Annalise Dantes
Altar Server: Ava Pridady

12:00 Noon

Eucharistic Ministers: Benjamin Praval,
Angela Chundak, Kathy Kazary
Reader: Thomas Deignan
Altar Server: Sienna Santos



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

MODERN SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS

Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, because he does not keep the Sabbath." The blind man said: "One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see." John 9:1-41

A country preacher was listening to a seminary professor cast doubt on the core issues of the Faith and the authenticity of the claims of Jesus. When the professor finished his lecture, the elderly pastor got up, took an apple from his lunch bag and started eating it as he said, "Mr. Professor, I haven't read many of them books you quoted." Then he took another bite of the apple. "Mr. Professor, I don't know much about the great thinkers you mentioned," as he took still another bite of his apple. "Mr. Professor, I admit I haven't studied the Bible like you have," as he finished his apple and dropped it back in the bag. "I was just wondering, this apple that I just ate, was it sour or sweet? The Professor responded, "How could I know? I haven't tasted your apple." To which the old preacher replied, "With all due respect, sir, I was just wondering if you ever had a taste of my Jesus?" The Professor was silent.

Although the Pharisees have long since disappeared from history, there are still many among us who are blinded by the same pride and prejudice. Spiritual blindness is very common in modern times. Perhaps, the most awful disease in our country today is spiritual blindness. Such blindness refuses to see the truths of God's revelation. This blindness refuses even to admit that God or Christ exists. In their pride, the spiritually blind claim that everything ends with death and that there is no life after death. They propagate their errors and accuse believers of childish credulity and folly. They ignore the gifts of the intellect we all possess.

God's revelation through Christ informs us that there is a future life awaiting us in which our spiritual faculties and our transformed bodies will be fully and fittingly glorified. According to Pope Benedict XVI, the miracle of the healing of the blind man is a sign that Christ wants not only to give us sight, but also open our interior vision, so that our faith may become ever deeper, and we may recognize Him as our only Savior. He illuminates all that is dark in life and leads men and women to live as "children of the light" In today's gospel, the blind man says, "Whether or not the cure was approved by the FDA, I once was blind, but now I see." That's enough for me - the spiritually blind can argue and explain all they want.

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, Shelly Greene, Danuta, Debra Ambrosi, Michael L., Wendy Snee, Catherine Miller, Tano Camarillo

Please pray for the Dearly Departed

, 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, Marie Pugliese

STEWARDSHIP

March 8, 2026

Repairs & Maint.	\$ 842.00
Weekly Offering	\$ 4,669.00
Mail-in	\$ 270.00
Online giving	\$ 2,651.50
Total	\$ 8,432.50

Stewardship of Treasure

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

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 when to bring the gifts forward.

Blinded by prejudice:

In the late 1700s, the manager of a large hotel in Baltimore refused lodging to a man dressed like a farmer. He turned the farmer away because he thought this fellow's shabby appearance would discredit the reputation of his distinguished hotel. The farmer picked up his bag and left without saying a further word to anyone. Later that evening, the innkeeper discovered that he had turned away none other than the Vice President of the United States - Thomas Jefferson! Immediately, the manager sent a note of apology to the famed patriot, asking him to come back and be his guest in the hotel. Jefferson replied by instructing the messenger as follows, "Tell him I have already reserved a room. I value his good intentions highly, but if he has no room for a common American farmer, then he has no room for the vice-president of the United States of America."

We need to get rid of cultural blindness. Our culture also has blind-spots. Often it is blind to things like love, happiness, marriage, and true, committed sexual love in marriage. Our culture has become anesthetized to the violence, the sexual innuendo, and the enormous suffering of the world around us. Our culture, our media, our movies and our values, are often blind as to what it means to love selflessly and sacrificially. Our culture, in spite of scientific proofs, is blind to the reality that life begins at the moment of conception, and it callously promotes abortion. We continue to advance destructive practices such as embryonic stem-cell research, homosexual "marriages," euthanasia, and human cloning, and we refuse to see the consequences of godless behavior on human society.

In the name of individual rights, the radical left in our society decries any public demonstration of religious beliefs and practices, or the public appearance of traditional values, questioning the substance of family values. The radical right, on the other hand, decries the immorality of our times, without lifting a finger to help the poor and the underprivileged and without ever questioning unjust foreign policies and wars. This cultural blindness can only be overcome as each one of us enters the living experience of having Jesus dwelling within us and within others, through personal prayer, meditative reading of the Bible and a genuine Sacramental life.



SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY



Marvin and Tina were not a very religious couple but tried their best; they only went to church once a year. As they were leaving the church, the priest said, "Marvin, it sure would be nice to see you and Tina at Mass more than once a year" "I know," replied Marvin, "We're very busy people, leading active lives but at least we keep the Ten Commandments" "That's great," the priest said. "I'm glad to hear that you keep the Commandments." "Yes, we sure do" Marvin said proudly, "Tina keeps six of them and I keep the other four."



Q: How can you drop a raw egg onto a concrete floor without cracking it? A: No worries, concrete floors are very hard to crack.



An exasperated mother, whose son was always getting into mischief, finally asked him, "How do you expect to be saved and get to Heaven?" The boy thought it over and said, "Well, I'll run in and out and keep slamming the door until St. Peter says, 'For Heaven's sake, young man, come in or stay out!'"



David meets his friend John after a decade of not seeing one another and asked: "What are you doing these days?" John: "PHD." David: "Wow! You're a doctor!" John: "No, Pizza Home Delivery."



St. Patrick's Day
Celebration Sunday
March 15, 2026
1:00 - 4:00 pm Par-
ish Hall



\$20 per person in advance
\$25 per person at the door
Contact Rich Fetzer at
732-822-4957

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.

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

Why is today known as "Laetare Sunday?"

Laetare is the first word – meaning "rejoice" in the Latin text of today's entrance antiphon reflecting on Isaiah 66:10-11: "Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exalt "

On Laetare Sunday (fourth Sunday in Lent) the Church expresses hope and joy in the midst of our Lenten fasts and penances. The Ministers may wear pink vestments or, more fittingly, rose to indicate a glimpse of the joy that awaits us at Easter, just before we enter into the somber days of Passiontide. Laetare Sunday is the Church's way of giving us a "shot in the arm" as we approach the darkness and horror of the days through Good Friday and Holy Saturday. It's an opportunity to savor and keep in the back of our minds what awaits us on Easter Sunday. The reality that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead, and that our hearts will always be filled with joy!

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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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