

OUR LADY OF PEACE CHURCH

May 24, 2026



HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS

Saturday 5:15 p.m. Sunday: 8:00 a.m.,
10:00 a.m., 12:00 noon

Masses: Monday-Saturday: 8:00 a.m.

Last Tuesday of the month: 7:00 p.m.

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION

SATURDAYS 4:00 - 4:45PM

GPS: 620 Amboy Ave. Edison, NJ 08837

Mailing Address P.O. Box 60, Fords, NJ 08863

Parish Office: 26 Maple Ave. Edison, NJ 08837

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

Phone: 732-738-7940 Email: mail@olpfords.org

Webpage: www.olpfords.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

Dear OLP Family,

Pentecost literally means 50th. It is a feast celebrated on the 50th day after the Passover feast by the Jews, who originally had it as a post-harvest thanksgiving feast. Later, the Jews included in it, the remembrance of God's Covenants with Noah (after the Deluge) and with Moses (at Mt. Sinai). The Christians celebrated it as a feast on the 50th day after the feast of the Resurrection of Jesus.

Today we join the rest of the Christian world to celebrate this great feast. Most Christians - Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican, Pentecostal and Charismatic churches as well as most Protestant churches – view Pentecost as the watershed event in Christianity, the birthday of the Church in many ways. The Acts of the Apostles recounts the story of the original Pentecost when the Apostles and the Blessed Virgin Mary, who were gathered in the Upper Room, were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in different tongues (Acts 2). Peter's speech that day brought about 3000 people to the way of Jesus. (Acts 2:41). And the Church began to grow.

Pentecost is the New Testament celebration of unity that reverses the Old Testament divisions and animosity of the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11:1-9. If the people who wanted to build the Tower of Babel were divided by language and race because of pride and arrogance, people on the Pentecost Day were united despite the diversity of language and race. Thus Pentecost is a feast that invites us to live and promote unity in diversity. Our parish of Our Lady of Peace is a living proof of this diversity while keeping our unity in faith and fellowship. It was wonderful to hear the "Hail Mary" recited in Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, German, Tagalog, Konkani, Polish, Slavic, French, Russian, Vietnamese, English and in Sign Language, during the "Hour with Mary" last Sunday, organized by our Holy Name Altar Rosary Society.

Today's feast of Pentecost often falls in the month of May, which is the month of Our Lady. All the popes we know in our life-time have encouraged us to be praying her special prayer – the Rosary – every day. Considering that May is also the Mental Health Awareness month, we should be expressing with particular zeal our petitions for help and our confidence in the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary so that we can experience more peace of mind.

Last Sunday both in my column and in my homily, I had invited us all to pray about volunteering for the different ministries. I request you on this feast of Pentecost, to reflect in prayer, and choose one ministry that you feel attracted to. We need more parishioners as Readers/Lectors, Ushers/Ministers of Hospitality, Eucharistic Ministers, etc. I wish to ask our youth who are home for their summer vacation, to take up these ministries on a temporary basis. You can let me know using my email ID given below.

May we all be open to the Holy Spirit who Jesus sends to be our Helper, Comforter and Guide (John 14:16) Let us call upon this Spirit: *"Come Holy Spirit, come into my heart and fill me with your grace and power."* Repeat it like a mantra and see what happens to you! Happy Pentecost!

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal
fatherabraham@olpfords.org



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

May 24, Sunday 8:00am

+George Rader from The Wendt Family

10:00am

+Paul Grogan from The Grogan Family

12:00 noon

+ Jozefa Zimon from Stan

May 25, Monday 8:00am

+For our Parishioners

May 26, Tuesday 8:00am

+Robyn & Paul Miller from The Dischler Family

May 27, Wednesday 8:00am

+Jerry Anderson from Valerie Struchich

May 28, Thursday 8:00am

+Helen Rose Bakos from Family

May 29, Friday 8:00am

+Greg Pape from The Dischler Family

May 30, Saturday 8:00am

+Will Cooper from Mom and Dad

5:15pm

+ Anne Toth from Janet, Judy & Linda

May 31, Sunday 8:00am

+Susan Gibson from Kathy & Steve

Whooley

10:00am

+Anna Medvedz from Family

12:00 noon

+Anthony Sclafani from The Aube Family

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday May 24

1:00pm - Baptism - Church

Monday - May 25 Memorial Day

Parish Office Closed

8:30am Novena - Church

8pm Knights 4th Degree Mtg - Parish Hall

Tuesday - May 26

5:30 - 9:30pm Scouts - Parish Center

7:00pm Parish Mass - Church

Wednesday - May 27

8:00pm KOC Officers Mtg - Parish Hall

Thursday - May 28

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal - Church

Friday - May 29

No Activities

Saturday May 30

4:00pm Confessions - Church

Sunday May 31

11:00am Knight Fellowship with Parishioners - Parish Hall

**The Mass book for this year is all filled.
We have no more Masses available for
2025.**



**There is still Bread & Wine ,
Candles and Flower available.**



Parish Staff

Rev. Abraham Orapankal, Ph.D. Pastor

Rev. Sebastian Kaithackal C.M.I., (In Res.)

Deacon John A. Raychel

Rev. John J. Zec, Ph.D., Music Director

Candida Gonzalez, Coordinator of Religious Ed.

Lourdes Hnath, Organist

Walter Springer, Business Administrator

Norma Izzo, Assistant Bookkeeper

Dawn Aube, Parish & Religious Ed. Secretary

Trustees

Joan C. Deyak, Robert Butvilla

Ministry Schedule for

May 30/31, 2026

5:15pm Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Joan Deyak,
Karen Senatore, Barbara Balog

Reader: Bill Herring

Altar Server: Ava Pridady

8:00 a.m. Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Margarita Cebulski,
Thomas Bednar, Martin Verendia

Reader: James Carroll

10:00 a.m. Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Maryann Shingola,
Mary Prumos, Maria Frey

Reader: Alyssa Dantes

Altar Server: Alex Gironda

12:00 Noon

Eucharistic Ministers: Angela Chundak,
Gary Coghlan, Kevin Broesler

Reader: Thomas Deignan

Altar Server: Sienna Santos

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, 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, Elizabeth Savner,
Joan Quinn

Please pray for the Dearly Departed

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, Stefan Wysocki,
Julia Dischler, Angelo VanNostrand

STEWARDSHIP

Ma 17, 2026

Ascension	\$ 1,233.00
Weekly Offering	\$ 4,375.00
Mail-in	\$ 1,668.00
Online giving	\$ 2,585.50
Development of the Peoples	\$ 637.00
Total	\$ 10,498.50

Stewardship of Treasure

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

GOING ON VACATION?

Isn't it wonderful that our Lord affords us time to get away and relax? Shouldn't we at least make as much effort to attend Mass while away to show our thanks. Can't find a church? There is almost always a church nearby! Most hotels and other accommodations know the nearby churches and their Mass schedules.

There is really no good reason to miss Mass, if you really want to give God His due!

OFFERTORY GIFTS

Anyone who wishes to present the gifts at the Offertory of the Mass (especially if the Mass is being offered for a member of your family or at your request) should speak with one of the ushers at the main entrance to the Church before Mass.

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.org and click the Online Giving link and register with our church. Your support during the year helps sustain our Church.



SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY



Our parish priest had a flair for the dramatic. He got the idea of having a pigeon released from the belfry on Pentecost just at the moment when, on the church steps in front of the procession of worshipers, he would say, "Come, Holy Spirit!" Pentecost came, and the sacristan put a pigeon in a bag, went upstairs to the belfry and waited. When the priest pronounced the words, nothing happened. A few seconds later, we heard a voice from the belfry, "It's stifled!"



A man's prayer: "Lord, controlling my tongue is no problem; it's my face that needs deliverance!"

Three boys are in the school yard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, 'My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him \$50.' The second boy says, 'That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on piece of paper, he calls it an 'article,' they give him \$100.' The third boy, son of a minister, says, 'I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!'



When I told the doctor about my loss of memory, he made me pay in advance.

"DID YOU EVER GET INTO ANY FIGHT?"

A little girl asked her grandfather, "Did you and grandma ever get into any fights?" The grandfather replied: "We don't talk about it very often, but there was a time when we were not getting along very well. We seemed to be picking on each a lot and finding all kinds of things to argue about and really getting on one another's nerves. Well, one day I came in from the garden and I heard a voice upstairs. I went to the stairs and heard your grandmother telling God what she could not bring herself to tell me." "Well, what did you do?" asked the grand-daughter. "I quietly walked up the stairs," he replied, "and knelt down beside her and told God my side of the story. And from that day to this, we have never had a problem which we couldn't resolve by talking it over with each other and with God." *Do you think the Holy Spirit was active in that couples' marriage? There can be no doubt. Conflict will always remain part of every relationship. The fruits of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control – will always remain critical for happy relationships with others.*

OBSERVE PENTECOST EVERYDAY!

"It will always be Pentecost in the church," affirmed Oscar Romero, Archbishop of El Salvador, on Pentecost Sunday 1978, "provided the Church lets the beauty of the Holy Spirit shine forth from her countenance. When the Church ceases to let her strength rest on the Power from above which Christ promised her and which he gave her on that day, and when the Church leans rather on the weak forces of the power or wealth of this earth, then the Church ceases to be newsworthy. The Church will be fair to see, perennially young, attractive in every age, as long as she is faithful to the Spirit that floods her and she reflects that Spirit through her communities, through her pastors, through her very life" (*The Violence of Love*, The Plough Pub. Co., Farmington, PA: 1998). **Archbishop Romero's declaration reminds us -- as does today's Gospel -- that Pentecost is not just one day, but every day. Without breath, there is no life. Without the Spirit, the Church is a field of dry, dead bones. Fulton J. Sheen once said about the Church, "Even though we are God's chosen people, we often behave more like God's frozen people--frozen in our prayer life, frozen in the way we relate with one another, frozen in the way we celebrate our faith." Today is a great day to ask the Holy Spirit to rekindle in us the spirit of new life and enthusiasm, the fire of God's love. Let us repeat Cardinal Newman's favorite little prayer, "Come Holy Spirit:"**

"Oh, it sleeps about eighty!"

A family driving a large camper pulled up in front of the church just as the pastor started toward home. Desiring to be friendly, the pastor introduced himself and expressed his admiration for the camper. The man of the family told him rather proudly: "This camper sleeps eight people." Then he asked: "What is the capacity of your church, Pastor?" The beleaguered pastor replied rather glumly, "Oh, it sleeps about eighty." It is embarrassing sometimes how little the modern day churches resemble the Church that first Pentecost: the sound of a wind-storm, tongues of fire, disciples speaking in different languages, thousands being added to the Church and lots of excitement – excitement everywhere!

If we don't want our church to be a sleepy community, then we need to permit the Holy Spirit to take control of our lives. How?

- 1) *By constantly remembering His holy presence and behaving well.*
- 2) *By praying for His daily anointing so that we may fight against our temptations and control our evil tendencies, evil habits and addictions.*
- 3) *By asking His daily assistance to pray, listening to God through meditative Bible reading and talking to Him.*
- 4) *By asking the help of the Holy Spirit to do good for others and to get reconciled to God and others every day.*

The Christian Pentecost

Pentecost marks the end and the goal of the Easter season. For Christians, it is a memorial of the day the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles and the Virgin Mary in the form of fiery tongues, an event that took place fifty days after the resurrection of Jesus. The Paschal mystery of the Passion, the Death, the Resurrection, and the Ascension of Jesus culminates in the sending of the Holy Spirit by the Father at the request of His Son on Jesus' disciples. The feast also commemorates the official inauguration of the Christian Church by the apostolic preaching of St. Peter which resulted in the conversion of 3000 Jews to the Christian faith. Pentecost is, thus, the official birthday of the Church. **But years ago, *This Rock Magazine* reported that there are now 34,000 Protestant denominations which means that, on the average, more than sixty-nine new denominations had sprung up every year since the Reformation began in 1517. So whose birthday is it anyway? You could say, Pentecost is the birthday of the Church Jesus established nearly 2,000 years ago. Today's Scripture readings remind us that Pentecost is an event of both the past and the present. The main theme of today's readings is that the gift of the Holy Spirit is something to be shared with others. In other words, the readings remind us that the gift of the Holy Spirit moves its recipients to action and inspires them to share this gift with others.**

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CHILD WHO MADE THEIR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION ON MAY 2, 2026



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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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