

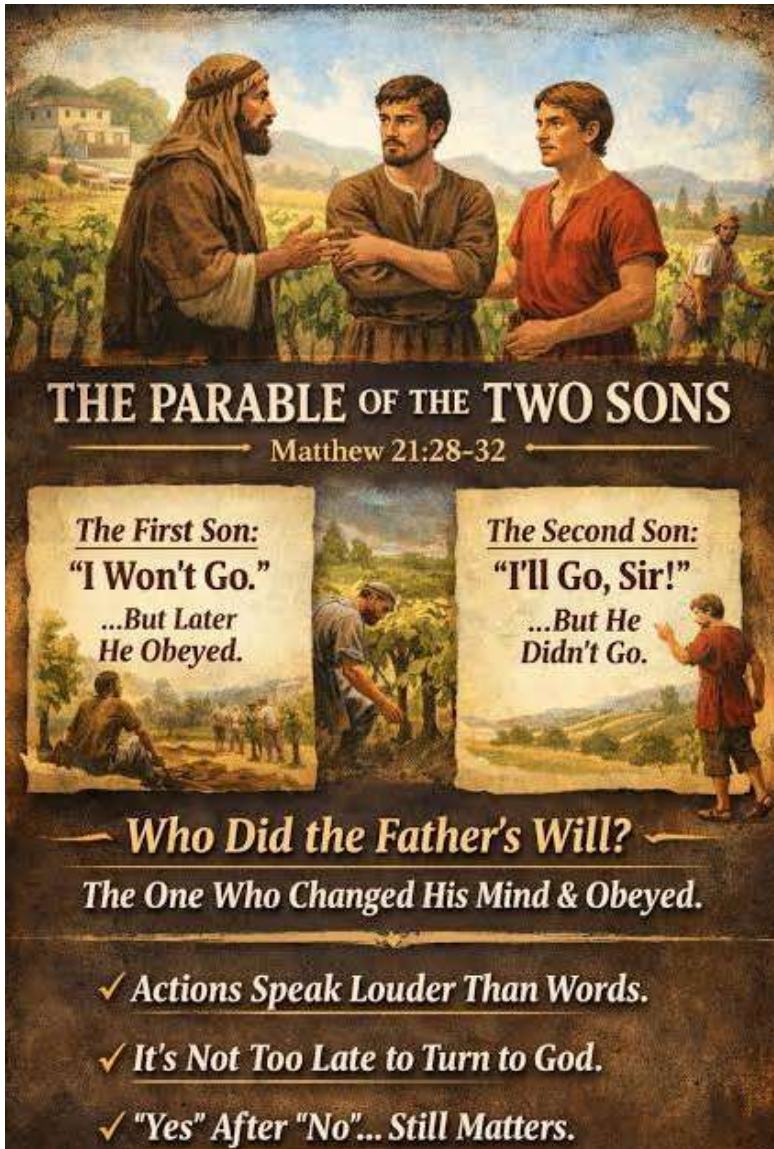


OUR LADY OF PEACE

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

CATHOLIC CHURCH



PARISH STAFF

Rev. Abraham Orapankal, Ph.D. Pastor
Rev. Dawid Malik, in residence
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
Kelly-Ann Dunn, Parish Secretary
Trustees
Joan C. Deyak, Robert Butvilla

BLESSING OF ANIMALS

Next Sunday, we celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals and ecology, known for his deep love of creation and all living creatures.

Please bring your beloved pets to our Blessing of Animals at 12:15 PM, immediately following the 11:00 AM Mass.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKEND MASS

Saturday Vigil | 5:15pm

Sunday | 9:00am & 11:00am

WEEKDAY MASS

Monday - Friday | 8:00am

RECONCILIATION

Saturday | 4:00pm

CONTACT US

GPS

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Parish Office

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Office Hours

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Phone

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E-mail

mail@olpfords.org

Website

www.olpfords.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear OLP Family,

This week we will say goodbye to September with the feast of St. Jerome on the 30th. Jerome was above all a Scripture scholar, translating most of the Old Testament from the Hebrew. He also wrote commentaries which are a great source of scriptural inspiration for us today. He was an avid student, a thorough scholar, a prodigious letter-writer and a consultant to monk, bishop, and pope. St. Jerome is best known for translating the Bible into Latin (the Vulgate).

St Jerome's most famous quote is "Ignorance of the Scripture is ignorance of Christ." This quote highlights the belief that reading and understanding the Bible is essential to knowing Jesus. This is why the Church repeatedly reminds us to become more familiar with the Bible. This is why I am promoting a spirituality rooted in the Word and the Eucharist. This is also the reason why I am inviting all of us to sign up to join our Fall season Bible sharing, titled "FALL INTO FAITH" starting on October 11th.

The Church gives us three scripture passages every Sunday for reflection. But a 10-minute homily cannot do justice to all the beautiful insights from the readings. Hence, in a small group, you yourself can unpack and share many of these insights very effectively. **The participants will meet once a week (on a day and time of your choice) for six weeks and will finish a week before the Thanksgiving rush.** There is no cost as the parish will supply the resources.

Why is the small group format so appealing? Let me mention a couple of reasons:

One: Small groups provide a comfortable atmosphere for openness. One thing people like about small groups is that we meet in homes or in a non-church setting like the parish Center. These are usually comfortable places - without pews, PA systems, and stages – and people can open up, listen, learn, and grow. There are at least twenty-six references in the New Testament that talk about believers meeting in homes or being part of a household. (Acts 12:10-17; Romans 16:5; 1 Corinthians 16:19; Philemon 1:2).

Two: Small groups encourage better learning. Listening to a sermon is a great way to learn the Word, but it is easy to become detached or daydream during a sermon. We become passive listeners. Not so in a small group. When a few people are together, every individual is expected to be involved and to participate. This active involvement is an effective way to learn better.

Three: Small groups allow for mutual edification among believers. It's easy to depend upon the professionals to give us our spiritual food. According to the Bible, God gives spiritual gifts to all believers, not just the guy who preaches on Sunday morning. Often people say after attending the first session, *"You know, I was so surprised to find that everyone in the group had the same issues as me, and I see how others struggle to live by God's Word and I feel so encouraged."* That is edification and mutual encouragement at work.

The sign-up cards are in the church. I do hope and pray that you will be inspired to sign up. I guarantee that you will not be sorry 😊

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal
fatherabraham@olpfords.org





September 27, Sunday 9:00am

+Gerard Kennedy from Kennedy Family
&

+Colleen Melia from Cheryl

11:00am

+Fructuoso Cielo Ho from Maria Raymundo
&

+Elpido Rivera Rosario from Louis & Maria Turco

September 28, Monday 8:00am

+Tony Colantuono from Dekonski Family

September 29, Tuesday 8:00am

+Teddy Felicciano from Marietta Mistal
&

+Raymond Giordano from Jeannie Delaney

September 30, Wednesday 8:00am

+Marie Gironda from Lynch Family

October 1, Thursday 8:00am

+Joseph M. Stucich from Joe Strucich

October 2, Friday 8:00am

+For Our Parishioners

October 3, Saturday 5:15pm

+Alberto D. Bacarro from Joey & Beth Perlas
&

+Special Intentions for the 69th Wedding Anniversary
of Jeanette & Raymond Miller

October 4, Sunday 9:00am

+Robert Bertekap from Marcella & FamilyB
&

+David & Darryl Swanick from Wendy & Bridget Snee

11:00am

+Aunt Vonnie & Uncle Joe from Family
&

+Eleanor Egan from Michael



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES



Sunday - September 27, 2026

10:00am Knights of Columbus Fellowship
12:00pm Baptism Ceremony - Church

Monday - September 28, 2026

8:30am Novena - Church
8:00pm KOC 4th Degree MTG - Parish Hall

Tuesday - September 29, 2026

5:30pm-9:30pm Scouts - Parish Center
7:00pm Blue Army Devotion - Church

Wednesday - September 30, 2026

4:30 - 5:45pm Religious Education
Gr 2 - 4 - Parish Center
4:30 - 5:45pm 1st Gr tour of Church
7:00-8:15pm Religious Education
Gr 5 - 8 & I-I - Parish Center
7:00pm KOC Officers Mtg - Parish Hall

Thursday - October 1, 2026

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal - Church
7:00pm Columbiettes Officers MTG - Regina
Caeli Rm

Saturday - October 3, 2026

2:00 - 3:00 pm Blood Drive Set-up - Parish Ctr
4:00pm Confessions - Church

This Week's Sanctuary Candle

This week's Sanctuary Candle burns brightly for all our dedicated parishioners. Blessings to all of you.

This Week's Bread and Wine

This week's Bread and Wine are offered in loving memory of Juana Calderon, offered by her three daughters Jackeline, Isabel and Elena. May this offering be a prayerful remembrance and a blessing to her loved ones.



October 3rd & 4th 2026

Saturday, 5:15pm Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Joan Deyak, Karen Senatore, Barbara Balog
Reader: Bill Herring
Altar Server: Ava Pridady

Sunday, 9:00am Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Roseanne Brady, Kenneth Egan, Alan Nygard
Reader: James Carroll
Altar Server: Brienne Szylar

Sunday, 11:00am Mass

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

In God's Image, the Catholic Faith Sharing Group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people at Church of the Sacred Heart, South Plainfield, meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7:00PM. Our next meeting is October 14 and will be both in person and online. Please email for more information. The group is open to LGBTQ adults, 18 and over, and their families. All are welcome for faith sharing, prayer, conversation and support. For more information, contact Fr John at 732 790 3136 or the group may be reached via email at sacredheartigi@gmail.com.



Week of September 20th

Weekly Offering.....	\$4,109.00
Repairs & Clean-Up.....	\$967.00
Mail-in.....	\$413.00
Online giving.....	\$2,411.50
Total.....	\$7,684.50

Thank you for your continued financial support of our parish. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and helps sustain our Church and its ministries.,,For your convenience, please consider Online Giving by visiting www.olpfords.org and clicking the Online Giving link to register.

**** ATTENTION ****



The OLP Choir is in need of tenor and bass singers. If you have been thinking about joining the choir, why wait... no time like the present! The Choir meets for rehearsal every Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the church choir loft. We sing at the 9:00 a.m. mass every Sunday and as requested.

We invite you to join us!

For more information, please text or call Jean at 908-249-3069 or Angela at 732-221-0977 .

WE PRAY:

For those who are sick, or in nursing homes and hospitals

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, Mercedes de Leon, Eve Morawski, Andrew Southern, Shelly Greene, Danuta, Debra Ambrosi, Michael L., Wendy Snee, Catherine Miller, Tano Camarillo, Elizabeth Savner, Joan Quinn, Marien Zondlo, Wilson Aguirre, William Riggio, Zairis D. Peña, Augie Elio, Bill Herring, Elaine Cerreta

For those who have passed to Eternity

Marie O'Mullan, Arlene Stec, Angela Canales, Jennifer DeSantis, Angela Sossa, Louise Sutch, Thomas Katchisin, Patrick Kennedy, Anna Verrico, Jonathan Lopez, Rosario Arvisu, William Mahoney, Mario Rosario, Michael Wytanis, Norma Nebus, John Sarisky, Janice Cucchiara, Byju Thomas

For all those who are serving in the Military

ARE YOU A WELL-INTENTIONED PROCRASTINATOR?

A certain nurse won the admiration of her entire community with her patience, her cheerfulness, her genuine concern for others. She gave far more of herself than anyone could ever expect. Her salary was inadequate by any standard, and one day a physician friend spoke to her about that. "Nurse," he said, "Why don't you get out of this backward little community and go where they will pay you a decent salary. God knows you are worth it." With a smile she answered kindly, "If God knows I'm worth it, that's all that matters to me." ***Does God know you are worth it? Are you an indignant protestor or a well-intentioned procrastinator? Many of us are either. God needs laborers for the vineyard. Can He count on you? Can you pass the test of availability, sensitivity and accountability to Him?***

Jesus presents two sons in this parable as he does in the parable of the Prodigal Son. The first son is asked to go into the vineyard, but he says "No." He later changes his mind and goes. The second says "Yes, sir," but does not go. Jesus then asks his listeners which of the two did the father's will. They answer, "The first", and their correct answer strengthens Jesus' case against them. The message of the story is crystal clear. There are two very common classes of people in this world. First, there are those like the parable's first-asked son, whose practice is far better than their profession. Second, there are the people like the second-asked son, whose profession is much better than their practice. While the first class should be preferred to the second, neither is anything like perfect, because the really good man is the man in whom profession and practice meet and match. The ideal son in this parable would be one who accepted the father's orders with grace and respect and who unquestioningly and fully carried them out as Jesus did his Father's orders.

"THEY COULDN'T KEEP HIM OUT OF THE LINE-UP!"

Baseball fans are familiar with the accomplishments of baseball great Cal Ripken, Jr. Ripken entered the sports history books when he played a record 2,632 consecutive baseball games. That's a major feat; most players miss a game here or there because of injuries or a need to rest their bodies. Ripken didn't get injured less than any other player, and he doesn't need less rest. But Ripken earned national respect because he played on in spite of injuries or exhaustion. As he says, "I want to be remembered as an iron man, a player who went out there and put it on the line every day. I want people to say, "They couldn't keep him out of the lineup." (Selling Power, June 2000, p. 96). ***That would be a good epitaph for any of us: "They couldn't keep him out of the lineup." Today's Gospel story about the two imperfect sons challenges us to have Cal Ripken's dedication in Christ's service.***

MARRIAGE TUNE-UP

Must Agree #1. In marriage, there are certain things that you can "agree to disagree" on and others that you absolutely must agree upon. For example, you must agree that your marriage is a top priority and you will do whatever you need to do to strengthen it.



Marriage Encounter--October. 9-11, 2026

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend gives you the time and tools to enrich your marriage, deepen communication, and nourish the spirituality in your marriage. The next local retreat will take place Oct 9-11, 2026 at St. Joseph By the Sea in Mantoloking, NJ. Call Tom & Ruth DeFalco (732-904-9636) to apply and learn more.



PARENTING TUNE-UP

What is fair? Children often complain that a parent, a sibling, or playmate is not being fair - and it may be true. Life is not always fair. Talk with your child about a time when they had an advantage or disadvantage. Share how you cope when something unfair happens.



GOOD INTENTIONS ARE NOT ENOUGH!

There was an example of someone with good intentions in Life magazine. His name was Goold Levison. He was a photographer and an inventor. In the early days of photography, cameras were large, stationary and slow, hardly conducive to shooting candid photographs or what Levison called "instantaneous pictures." So he and his partner George Bradford Brainerd invented their own camera, which they patented in 1885 as the Brainerd-Levison Hand Camera. The pair took the camera along on outings to the New Jersey shore, to Canadian forests and, most often, to scenic spots near their homes in Brooklyn. Their partnership ended with Brainerd's death in 1887 at the age of 41. That same year, Levison invented a camera that could take a series of pictures in rapid succession. It was a real breakthrough. Unfortunately, the distractions of family concerns and other projects kept him from completing the paperwork to patent his invention. This delay cost him his shot at immortality. In 1891, Thomas Edison also invented a camera that would take pictures in rapid succession but it was he, not Levinson, who patented the motion picture camera. Goold Levison intended to patent his own camera. We can be sure of that. There were other pressing matters, though, and he never got around to it.

Good intentions. It's a shame good intentions are not enough. We would all be millionaires if they were. The second son in Jesus' parable had such good intentions, but no actions. We often use flimsy excuses to silence our conscience. They run like this: "We didn't realize how sinful we were"; "We were too occupied with family and personal cares to have time for our spiritual duties"; "We were led astray by bad example"; "We didn't like to be different from others"; "We were going to put things right. " These are not valid excuses at the judgment seat of God. Hence, if we have been disobedient to God in our past life, we need to knock at the door of God's mercy. We need to remember that what God in his mercy did for the tax-collectors and harlots in the parable, the Matthews, the Augustines, the Margarets of Cortona, and the millions of unknown penitents who are now Saints in Heaven, He can also do for us. We need to repent of our past sins and renew our lives as the first-asked son in the parable did. It is never too late for us to be transformed.

😊 SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY 😊

I told my boss that three companies were after me and I needed a raise to stay at my job. We haggled for a few minutes and he gave me a 5 % raise. Leaving his office, he stopped and asked me, "By the way, which companies are after you?" I responded, "The gas, electric and cable company." 😊

An American couple are driving through Canada and stop at a gas station to fuel up. As the man goes into the station to pay, his wife calls out to him, "ask them where we are!" So the husband walks in, pays and asks, "by the way, where are we?" To which the attendant answers, "Saskatoon, Saskatchewan." The man goes back to his car and the wife asks, "where are we?" "He doesn't speak English" replies the husband. 😊

Fun-liners: Sometimes I have to tell myself, "It's just not worth the jail time!" 😊

I really do try to see the best in people. But seriously, some are making it so hard 😊

My therapist told me I am obsessed with revenge But I'll show him! 😊

Somebody stole my Microsoft Office... But I'll get my revenge. You have my Word. 😊

Why can't diabetics get revenge? Because revenge is sweet. 😊

PEER CONSULTANT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Do you have a compassionate heart, a gift for listening, and a belief that every life has value? Life Choices Resource Center in Metuchen is seeking volunteer Peer Consultants to support women and families facing unexpected pregnancies. We welcome clients from all backgrounds and provide our services completely free of charge. If you feel called to this ministry, we invite you to attend our upcoming Information Session. Saturday, October 3, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at LIFECHOICES OF METUCHEN

To register, please contact Carolyn: 732-516-0911 or email: lifechoices@optonline.net

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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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