

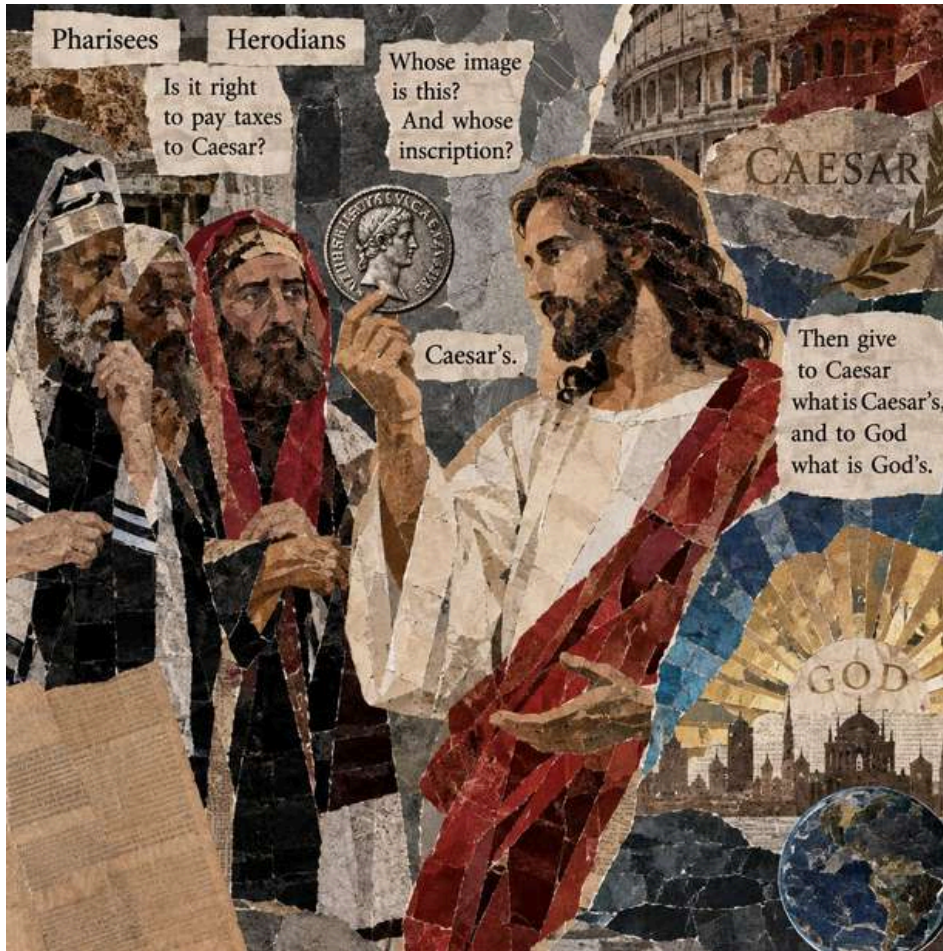


OUR LADY OF PEACE

OCTOBER 18, 2026

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

CATHOLIC CHURCH



Matthew 22:15-2 describes the encounter where the Pharisees and Herodians try to trap Jesus with a question about paying taxes to Rome.

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

Today is World Mission Sunday.

The second collection today helps extend the Church's evangelization work to missionary lands where the Gospel is being proclaimed for the first time, as well as to places where the Church barely exists, or is too young, too persecuted, or too poor to sustain herself. Thank you for responding to Pope Leo's call to help him help missionaries everywhere!

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

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear OLP Family,

A week ago, I got a call from the Diocese: Bishop Michael Saporito wants to come and preside at our 11AM Mass next Sunday, October 25. I was truly surprised because he will be installed as our Bishop this Thursday, October 22, at 2PM, and he wants to visit our parish the very first Sunday after the installation! What an honor for our OLP Family, praise God! I request you to consider attending the 11AM Mass and meet our new Chief Shepherd.

Today, the third Sunday of October, is the World Mission Sunday and this year's theme is: "One in Christ, United in Mission." This theme takes on special significance as we mark the 100th anniversary of the establishment of World Mission Sunday, instituted by Pope Pius XI at the request of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in 1926. The theme echoes Pope Leo XIV's motto, *In Illo uno unum* ("In Him, One"), reminding us that our communion in Christ is the wellspring of our shared missionary call and that the aim of our Christian mission is to bring people into communion with Christ and us.

In his video message for this year's World Mission Sunday, Pope Leo XIV reflected on his own experience as a missionary priest and bishop in Peru, saying: *"I have seen with my own eyes how the faith, prayer, and generosity shown on this day can transform entire communities."*

Those words are a great encouragement to us all. I myself had many beautiful experiences as a missionary priest in the Diocese of Kohima, in the north-eastern Indian state of Nagaland, prior to my coming to the USA. Being one with the simple folks in their own struggles gave me so much contentment. Living with minimum conveniences in the mission lands (no regular power, no heating during winter, no running water, etc.), I was happy to join other missionary priests, nuns, catechists and parish leaders to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to those who were eager to know the truth of the Catholic Church.

How wonderful that we had Fr. Tholitho preaching to us at all the Masses on the weekend of August 29-30 about the missionary work being done in the Diocese of Kohima. This was arranged by the Mission Office of our Diocese of Metuchen as part of the Missionary Cooperation Plan. Thank you to all of you who made a sacrificial contribution at that time. Let us do the same on this World Mission Sunday. In a world where so much divides us, let us rejoice in our unity as missionaries by our Baptism, as it offers each one of us an opportunity to support the life-giving presence of the Church among the poor and marginalized in more than 1,111 mission dioceses.

At the same time we know that many **American Catholic parishes** are facing a profound crisis of empty pews, aging demographics, and a lack of active engagement. To survive and thrive, a growing consensus of church leaders and theologians argues that parishes must shift from a **maintenance mindset** (simply managing the people who already show up) to a **missionary approach** (actively seeking out and welcoming the unchurched). You will agree with me that we need this missionary approach in our own OLP parish. Let us make a conscious effort to make our church more welcoming to all.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal
fatherabraham@olpfords.org



Mass Intentions

October 18, Sunday 9:00am

+Special Intentions for Norma Izzo
+Adelma Tan Adelma from Hiroshi & Elizabeth

11:00am

Deceased Members of the Oasan Family
from Lani Sotelo

October 19, Monday 8:00am

+Tom Devane from Family

October 20, Tuesday 8:00am

+Margaret Delaney from Joan, James & Leo

October 21, Wednesday 8:00am

+For Our Parishioners

October 22, Thursday 8:00am

+Peter & Dorothy Wierzbicki
from JoAnn Grandal

October 23, Friday 8:00am

+Mary Concannon from Devane Family

October 24, Saturday 5:15pm

+Margaret (Peggy) Sheridan
from Mom Maryann & Family

+Dorothy & Albert Miller from Traci & Barbara

October 25, Sunday 9:00am

+Ronald & Judi Huether from DaCasta Family
+Cresente Berame Sr. from Hiroshi & Elizabeth

11:00am

+George Claffy from Family



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES



Monday - October 19, 2026

8:30am Novena - Church

Tuesday - October 20, 2026

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

7:00pm Blue Army Devotion - Church

Wednesday - October 21, 2026

4:30pm-5:45pm Religious Ed Gr 1-4 Parish Ctr

7:00pm-8:15pm Religious Ed Gr 5,6 & II Parish Ctr

6:00pm KOC Social Mtg - Parish Hall

7:00pm Grades 7,8 only - Music - Church

Thursday - October 22, 2026

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal - Church

7:00pm Columbiettes Open House - Parish Center

Saturday - October 24, 2026

4:00pm Confessions - Church

From The Catholic Daughters of The Americas

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Mercedes #769 will be celebrating our Court's 104th Anniversary on Oct. 21 at 7PM. We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, from September - June. Catholic women age 18+ are invited to come at any time and see what we're all about. Our members belong to several parishes, including OLP, St. James, St. Cecelia, and St. Matthew, so chances are you already know someone who's a member!

For more info, email cdacourt769@gmail.com



This Week's Altar Flowers

The flowers adorning our altar this week are offered in loving memory of Margaret Sheridan. May her memory continue to be a blessing, and may she rest in the peace of Christ.

Our 2027 Mass Book is open and there are many spots available for your intentions. We also have openings for our Sanctuary Candles, Bread and Wine, and Altar Flowers for the upcoming year. Please stop in the office we would be happy to help you



MINISTRY SCHEDULE

October 24th & 25th 2026

Saturday, 5:15pm Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Joan Deyak, Karen

Senatore, Barbara Sinko

Reader: Gloria DeMarco

Altar Server: Ava Pridady

Sunday, 9:00am Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Alan Nygard, Martin

Verendia, Margarita Cebulski

Reader: Corinne Ambrosi

Altar Server: TBD

Sunday, 11:00am Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Gary Coghlan, Maryann

Shingola, Deacon John

Reader: Thomas Deignan

Altar Server: Alex Gironda

PARENTING TUNE-UP

Parents who pray together teach by the way they live that God is real; that he is present, listening, and eager to be part of our lives. Do you pray as a family? That is the best parenting you can give your children, for you are the first and best teachers of faith.

MARRIAGE TUNE-UP

Give to God what belongs to God! Giving the right place for God in your marriage is the best way to cement your marriage for good. That means seeing God's presence in your spouse, and thanking God for the gift that your spouse is to you, even when you are conscious of what is lacking in each other!



Week of October 11, 2026

Thank you for your continued financial support of our parish. Your generosity is deeply appreciated and helps support our church and its many ministries. Unfortunately, do to the holiday on Monday, October 12th, we will post last weeks figures next week. Please remember that Online Giving is available for your convenience. Simply visit www.olpfords.org and click on the Online Giving link to register.

DID YOU SIGN UP FOR FALL INTO FAITH?

Bible sharing in small groups has been a blessing to many participants. Nine (9) such groups have formed. Here are the days and times they meet: Mondays at 9am, Tuesdays at 9am & 7pm, Wednesdays at 2pm & 6pm, Fridays at 2pm & 7:45pm and Saturdays at 3:30pm & 7pm. There is still time to join! Please call the Parish Office at 732-738-7940 for more information.

The Installation Mass of Bishop Michael A. Saporito

as the sixth Bishop of Metuchen is on Thursday, October 22 at 2:00PM at The Church of The Sacred Heart in South Plainfield. This is by invitation only but you can watch the Live Stream by going to <https://churchofthesacredheart.net/mass-videos/>

WE PRAY:

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

Nancy Gaid, Joan Trainor, Peter Ruttowski, Renata Wisnik, Raul Ramos, Veronica Roush, Suzanne Pontes Sariska, Kelly Lease, Maria Turek, Alex Deliso, John Herring, Marie Burke, Mercedes de Leon, Eve Morawski, Andrew Southern, Shelly Greene, Deba Ambrosi, Michael L., Wendy Sneec, Catherine Miller, Tano Camarillo, Elizabeth Saver, Joan Quinn, Marien Zondlo, Wilson Aguirre, William Riggio, Zairis D. Peña, Augie Elio, Bill Herring, Elaine Cerreta

For those who have passed to Eternity

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 Cucchiera, Byju Thomas, Ruth Manieri, Christine M. Mellas, Walter Dworak

For all those who are serving in the Military

HE EVANGELIZED ME WITH A CUP OF TEA!

One day Bishop Christopher Mwoleka came to our house in Nyabihanga Village in Rulenge, Tanzania on an unexpected visit. My good friend Athanasius and I hurriedly prepared tea for the villagers who came to greet the bishop. We started with two full thermoses, but then several other visitors came and soon we had finished all the tea. I wondered what I would do if another person came. Just then one of our neighbors arrived to say hello. As I started to apologize for not having any more tea, Athanasius spontaneously picked up his own cup of tea and politely handed it to the visitor. It was a simple gesture of sharing, but for me a profound act of love and beauty. By his example Athanasius had evangelized me. **(Joseph G. Healey, M.M, a Maryknoll Missionary).**

TRUE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS THE BEST WITNESS

The most powerful means of fulfilling the mission of Jesus (Evangelization) is by living a truly Christian life – a life filled with love, mercy, kindness, compassion and a forgiving spirit. Mr. Gandhi used to say: "My life is my message." He often challenged the Christian missionaries to observe the "apostolate of the rose." A rose doesn't preach. It simply radiates its fragrance and attracts every one to it by its irresistible beauty. Hence, the most important thing is not the Gospel we preach, but the life we live. This is how the early Christians evangelized. Their Gentile neighbors used to say: "See how these Christians love one another." The Christ they recognized and accepted was the Christ who lived in each Christian.

WE ARE ONE NATION UNDER GOD!

Not long ago in Blackwood, New Jersey, the Third U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the senior class could not have a non-sectarian prayer at commencement. The senior class had voted to offer this prayer: *"Please bless us in the future and thank you for the blessings of the past. God keep a watchful eye on us in the future. Amen."* The court backed the ACLU's contention that the prayer was unconstitutional. But surely our constitution's authors did not mean to prohibit 17- and 18-year-olds from saying such a prayer if they elected to do so. The principal of that high school did have the last word. At the end of his commencement speech he declared, "God bless you and God bless the United States of America!" Immediately the students jumped to their feet and applauded. We are not "one nation without a God." We are not "one nation afraid to name its God." We are "one nation under God."

"Give to God what is God's." How? Since everything is God's, we must give ourselves to Him 100%, not just 10% on Sundays. We should be generous in fulfilling our Sunday obligations and find time every day for prayer and worship in the family, for the reading of the Bible and the proper training of our children in Faith and morals. Active participation in the various ministries of the parish is the offering to God of our time and talents, yet another way of giving to God his due, our whole self.

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

☺ SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY ☺

A father was trying to teach his fifth-grade son the value of tithes and offerings. The boy listened attentively, and then he went on to say, "I still don't understand why you have to pay taxes." To this the father replied, "Because the Bible says we must give unto Caesar what belongs to Caesar and unto God what belongs to God." His son looked puzzled. "That's what I'm trying to tell you, Dad. Caesar died a long time ago." ☺

With the price of everything else going up these days, aren't you glad the Lord hasn't increased the tithe to 15%? ☺

In Las Vegas people can tithe by dropping casino chips into the offertory. And at the end of each weekend, there is a Brother that goes around to all the casinos to cash them out and make a deposit. He is called the Chip Monk. ☺

THE GRACE OF "OHANA"

"Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God. Matthew 22: 15-21

In Hawaii, it's called *ohana* — "family." *Ohana* is a sensibility, a way of thinking, that embraces everyone as family, as community. *Ohana* is a unifying principle in a fragmented world. In the wake of the devastating fires that destroyed much of Lahaina on the island of Maui, the concept of *ohana* has taken on profound importance. *Ohana* is solace in a time of calamity, compassionate sacrifice for those in pain or despair. *Ohana* envisions everyone as brother and sister, father and mother.

The spirit of *ohana* has been the driving force as Lahaina begins the overwhelming prospect of rebuilding the thousands of homes destroyed by the deadliest wildfire in the United States in more than a century. More than 2,000 structures burned to the ground; the cost to rebuild Lahaina has been estimated to cost more than \$5 billion. In the spirit of *ohana*, Hawaiians all over the state have mobilized to provide food, clothes and everyday necessities to the thousands of families who lost everything — including hundreds of loved ones.

The stories of *ohana* are endless — and inspiring: Every form of seacraft has been pressed into service — from large tourist boats to jet skis to canoes — to ferry food, clothing, generators, tools and building supplies. Hotels have mobilized to provide temporary housing. Colleges and community groups have opened kitchens and dining facilities. To the Hawaiian people, *ohana* never breaks but only gets stronger in times of crisis. One Lahaina resident says that despite the devastation, "*ohana* was never lost. It never left. We will always come to each other's aid." [Associated Press, *The Christian Science Monitor*]

The spirit of *ohana* is at the heart of today's Gospel. Rejecting the Pharisees' attempts to trap Jesus in a God-versus-Caesar controversy, Jesus calls for a *ohana*-like perspective: to look beyond simplistic politics and black-and-white legalisms to realize the dignity possessed by every man, woman and child as God's sons and daughters, brothers and sisters to one another. Authentic faith is a matter of fully embracing our baptismal call to give thanks to the God of all blessings by sharing those blessings with all, to take on God's entrusting to us the work of being prophets of God's justice and peace and agents of that justice in our own corner of the vineyard. We are called by Jesus to understand our shared responsibility to provide for the common good and to protect the most vulnerable among us in a spirit of *ohana*: that we are all family to one another in God.

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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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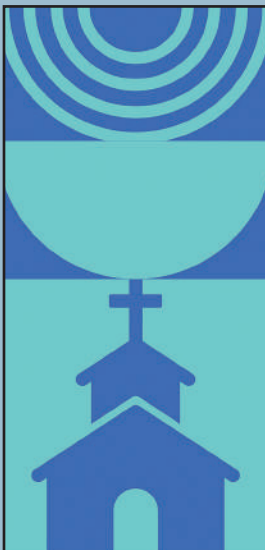
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