OUR LADY OF PEACE

NOVEMBER 1, 2026

31 st Sunday in Ordinary Time (All Saints)

CATHOLIC CHURCH



A Sunday to Remember!

What a blessing to welcome our new Bishop to Our Lady of Peace for the 11:00 AM Mass this past Sunday! His inspiring homily made the occasion even more special.

A heartfelt congratulations to all our ministries who did an outstanding job! Here's a lovely picture of our Altar Servers with Bishop Saporito. For more pictures, go to our website at www.olpfords.org

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Abraham Orapankal, Ph.D. Pastor
Rev. Dawid Malik, in residence
Deacon John A. Raychel
Rev. John I. 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

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend Mass

Saturday Vigil | 5:15pm
Sunday | 9:00am & 11:00am

Weekday Mass

Monday - Friday |8:00am

Reconciliation

Saturday | 4:00pm

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Friends,

What a joyful experience it was for us to have our newly installed Bishop, Most Reverend Michael Saporito, with us last Sunday! He came a full 40 minutes before the 11AM Mass and came to the Parish Hall downstairs to greet the parishioners having the monthly breakfast fellowship hosted by our Knights of Columbus. He met those attending the OCIA session too. His homily during the Mass was truly electrifying. He inspired us all to be a welcoming community and practice the gospel message of love by truly taking note of others and making an effort to really understand them by listening to their stories. That is when love becomes real. He also challenged us to think of those who are not coming to the church anymore and reach out to them..

Many of you told me that you had watched the installation Mass of Bishop Saporito as the sixth bishop of our diocese of Metuchen. In his homily that was spectacular, he said: *"When people come and visit our churches, may they find warm welcome, may they find people in love with the Word of God, joyful ambassadors of Jesus."* His Episcopal motto is "Feed my sheep" (John 21:17). That is the very character of his ministry as a priest for 28 years and as an Auxiliary Bishop of Newark for six years. We thank God for giving us a Bishop who is truly pastoral.

This week is important for us for various reasons. Yesterday was Halloween. Today is All Saints Feast. Tomorrow is All Souls Day. I had written about Halloween in my column last Sunday. Thank you for those of you who thanked me as it brought clarity to their doubts about Christians celebrating Halloween.

For us Catholics, All Hallows Eve, All Saints Day, All Souls Day and the whole of November are opportunities with two goals: first. to really think about, cherish and remember our loved ones who are departed from the earth; and second, to reflect on our own mortality and the meaning of death as a gateway to the next world. That's why this evening at 5pm we will have a special Mass to remember our departed ones. Reading out their names during Mass will help us remember them as a community. The lit candles will remind us of their life in the light of Christ who rose from the dead. Offering prayers help us to thank God for the blessing of their lives in which we too shared.

All these will highlight in our minds the reality of death – a topic we rather not think about! This season of Fall offers a pageantry for our senses with the vibrantly colored leaves, but the falling leaves remind us of the completion of the cycle of life - a living metaphor for death that will happen to all of us. Bible often calls it with a very pleasant term 'sleep' and even Jesus used that term regarding his friend Lazarus who actually had died. See John 11:11-14. St. Paul spoke about those who are alive and those who are asleep (referring to the dead) in 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17. Yes we don't need to be afraid of death because Jesus conquered death through his resurrection. It is a guarantee for us to think of death as a passage to the life of eternity, to join the "communion of saints", a doctrine that reminds us of rejoining our dear departed ones who are with God.

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal
fatherabraham@olpfords.org



Mass Intentions

November 1, Sunday 9:00am
+Carmela Colantuono from Dekonski
+Paciecia Aviso from Family
11:00am
+Alec Ecobichon from Wife Margie & Children
5:00pm
+Special Memorial All Souls Mass
November 2, Monday 8:00am
+Special Intentions for All Souls from Virginia
November 3, Tuesday 8:00am
+MaryJane Soyka from John Soyka & Family
November 4, Wednesday 8:00am
+Arthur Delaney from Jeannie Delaney
November 5, Thursday 8:00am
+For Our Parishioners
November 6, Friday 8:00am
+Catherine Noonan from Maureen Gouveia
November 7, Saturday 5:15pm
+Robert Pincus from Paula Pincus
+George Quattrone from Dolores
November 8, Sunday 9:00am
+Margaret Medvetz from Family
+Holy Name, Altar Rosary
11:00am
+Kathryn Rodzinka from Deacon John & Family

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

CHURCH

Sunday - November 1, 2026
5:00pm All Souls Mass
Monday - November 2, 2026
8:30am Novena - Church
Tuesday - November 3, 2026
5:30pm-9:30pm Scouts - Parish Center
7:00pm Blue Army Devotion - Church
Wednesday - November 4, 2026
No Religious Education Classes
6:00pm K of C Officers Mtg - Parish Hall
Thursday - November 5, 2026
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal - Church
7:00pm Columbiettes Officers Mtg - Regina Caeli Rm
Saturday - November 7, 2026
4:00pm Confessions - Church

This Week's Altar Flowers

The flowers adorning our altar this week are offered in loving memory of George Quattrone. May his memory continue to be a blessing, and may he rest in the peace of Christ.

This Week's Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in loving memory of Marcia Wojtkowiak, offered by Elaine C. Butkowsky. May the light of Christ bring peace and comfort to all who remember her with love.

November 1, 2026

31 st Sunday in Ordinary Time (All Saints)

"Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted." - MATTHEW 23:12 The world celebrates people in the spotlight and those who have the most of everything. We think celebrity, money and possessions are the key to happiness. Yet, our world is filled with more loneliness, anxiety, and depression than ever before. The lives of the saints show that the key to a happy life are relationships. Relationships with God and each other. Trust is the foundation of any good relationship and humility is the seed of trust.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

November 7th and 8th 2026

Saturday, 5:15pm Mass
Eucharistic Ministers: Barbara Sinko, Barbara Balog, Joan Deyak
Reader: Gloria DeMarzo
Altar Server: Delgado Family

Sunday, 9:00am Mass
Eucharistic Ministers: Margarita Cebulski, Martin Verendia, Mary Prumos
Reader: Tom Bednar
Altar Server: TBD

Sunday, 11:00am Mass
Eucharistic Ministers: Augustus Cezar, Arlene Cezar, Deacon John
Reader: Corinne Ambrosi
Altar Server: Alexis Nwinyi



Week of October 25, 2026

Weekly Offering.....$4,059.00
Social Concerns.....$943.00
Mail-In.....$783.00
Online giving.....$2,374.50
Parish Assessment.....$741.00
Total.....$8,900.50

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of our parish and its ministries. For your convenience, Online Giving is available by visiting www.olpfords.org and clicking on the Online Giving link to register.

Why do we give "Mass Cards?"

The doctrine of "Communion of saints" that we profess every Sunday in our Creed is a happy reminder to us of all those who are gone to God. Pope Francis called it a "spiritual connection that exists between those who continue their pilgrimage on earth and those who have passed the threshold of death into eternity." So let us happily depend on their intercessions for us even as we remember them with gratitude in our prayers especially during the Holy Eucharist. This is one reason why we give a 'Mass Card' to those who are grieving the loss of a family member or arrange for Masses to be offered on the anniversary of our dear departed ones.

MARRIAGE TUNE-UP

One sure way to turn your beloved off is to let TV trump your spouse as your companion of choice. Instead, if you want to keep him/her on your side: watch a favorite program together, but beware of TV or videos stealing time from playing together

PARENTING TUNE-UP

November is dedicated to the departed ones. We remember those who have died. Death can be scary, especially to children. Honor those you know who have died. Perhaps try a dinner prayer like, "Dear God, we thank you for the life of _____ who taught us to _____. Include pets if you wish.

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 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, Margaret Eleanor Levins, Betty Lou Rabold

For all those who are serving in the Military

REMEMBERING OUR DEPARTED

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* recommends prayer for the dead in conjunction with the offering of the Eucharistic Sacrifice and also encourages *"almsgiving, indulgences, and works of penance undertaken on behalf of the dead" (CCC #1032).* Let us remember in prayer our dear departed, thank God for the gift of their lives, have Masses offered for them, visit their graves and thus keep their memory live.

The fire of Purgatory can be thought of as an intense, transforming encounter with Jesus Christ and his fire of love. Thus the experience of Purgatory can be an "instant" purification immediately after death, varying in intensity from soul to soul, depending on the state of each individual. According to this view, the refining fire of Purgatory is only a relic of medieval imagery. It is actually the fire of Divine love. It may, in fact, be a form of "blazing enlightenment" which penetrates and perfects our very being. Pope Benedict considers Purgatory as an "existential state" and, hence, it is not necessarily accurate to speak of a location or duration of Purgatory. According to Pope Benedict XVI, "the souls that are aware of the immense love and perfect justice of God consequently suffer for not having responded correctly and perfectly to that love." It is the suffering of the holy souls. He continues that Purgatory is thus *"the fringe of heaven, a state where heaven's eternal light has a refining effect on the "holy souls" (not 'poor souls'), who are held in the arms of Divine Mercy."*

All saints Day

The feast and its objectives: All baptized Christians who have died and are now with God in glory are considered saints. All Saints Day is *intended* to honor the memory of countless unknown and non-canonized saints who have no feast day. On this day we thank God for giving ordinary men and women a share in His holiness and heavenly glory as a reward for their faith. This feast is observed to teach us to honor the saints, both by imitating their lives and by seeking their intercession for us before Christ, *the only mediator between God and man* (I Tim. 2/5). The Church reminds us today that God's call for holiness is universal, that all of us are called to live in His love and to make His love real in the lives of those around us. *Holiness* is related to the word *wholesomeness*. We grow in holiness when we live wholesome lives of integrity truth, justice, charity, mercy and compassion sharing our blessings with others.

Historical note on All Saints Feast

A common commemoration of the saints, especially the martyrs, appeared in various areas throughout the Church after the legalization of Christianity in A.D. 313. The primary reason for establishing a common feast day was the desire to honor the great number of Christians martyred during the persecution of Emperor Diocletian (284-305). In the East, the city of Edessa celebrated this feast on May 13; the Syrians, on the Friday after Easter; and the city of Antioch, on the first Sunday after Pentecost. Both St. Ephrem (d. 373) and St. John Chrysostom (d. 407) attest to this feast day in their preaching. In the West, a commemoration for all the saints also was celebrated on the first Sunday after Pentecost. St. Bede (d. 735) recorded the celebration of All Saints Day on Nov. 1 in England, and such a celebration also existed in Salzburg, Austria. It was Pope Gregory IV who in 835 ordered the ***Feast of All Saints*** to be observed universally on Nov. 1.

MASS BOOK FOR ALL YOUR MASSES

When our 2027 Mass Book was open, we had put a limit to the number of Masses a person could reserve, so that everyone will be given a fair chance. Now we are inviting everyone to come to the parish office and reserve the Masses you need without any limit.

☺ SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY ☺

My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo while I asked, "No, how are we alike?" "You're both old," he replied. ☺
I'm so proud of myself, I decided I'm going to stop procrastinating and do something with my life! Starting tomorrow... ☺
Ever since I worked on my extreme arrogance, I've become a better person. Better than all of you together! ☺
A Husband texted his wife: You are negative. Wife texted back: And you are stubborn, arrogant, care about no one but yourself, and in all your life you've not kept even one of your promises. You good for nothing." Husband: I was just letting you know that your Covid test was negative. ☺

Purpose and challenge of All Saints Day

For Roman Catholics, the Orthodox, and to some extent, the Anglicans, "All Saints Day" is a day, not only to remember the saints and to thank God for them, but also to pray for their help. It is also a day to glorify Jesus Christ, who by his holy life and death has made the saints holy. This feast offers a challenge to each one of us: anybody can become a saint, regardless of his or her age, life style or living conditions. St. Augustine accepted this challenge when he asked the question: "If others can become saints, why can't I?"
On the feast of All Saints the church invites us and challenges us to walk the walk of the saints and not just talk the talk: *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven"* (Matthew 7:21). The feast gives us an occasion to thank God for having invited so many of our ancestors to join the company of saints. May our reflection on the heroic lives of the saints and the imitation of their lifestyle enable us to hear from our Lord the words of grand welcome to eternal bliss: *"Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joys of your master"* (Matthew 25:21). Today is also a day for us to pray to the saints, both the canonized and the non-canonized, asking them to pray on our behalf that we may live our lives in faithfulness like theirs, and so receive the same reward.

A BOOK BY OUR PARISHIONER

Frank Heelan, Our Parishioner, has authored a book, "The Way of Jesus, God-Man and Savior: A Socratic Approach to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John." Using Socrates' method of inquiry-based learning. A question and insight format has been applied to the full four Gospels. The book was inspired by the words of Jesus, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). The Way of Jesus addresses the deepest longings of humankind for understanding salvation and eternal life through faith in Jesus. The book is ideal as a reference for the Live Lent and Fall into Faith sessions, as well as for adult and youth groups, parish catechetical programs, bible study groups, and for personal meditation. Issued by Christian Faith Publishing, The Way of Jesus may be ordered from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Apple iTunes, and Google Play.

A Catholic Men's Conference *is being held on November 7, 2026 from 8a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen.* ***Pro Football Hall of Fame Inductee Joe Klecko*** *is one of several featured speakers at this year's conference.*
Questions or Interest please call 732-548-0100

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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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