



## *Our Lady of Fatima RC Church*

184 Breakneck Road, Highland Lakes, NJ 07422  
February 23, 2025 – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

LOVE  
your  
enemies

LUKE 6:27

**Fr. Babu Thelappilly**

*Pastor*

[babuthelappilly@yahoo.com](mailto:babuthelappilly@yahoo.com)

**Msgr. Robert Carroll**

*Pastor Emeritus*

*Deacons*

**Rev. Mr. Bill Aquino**

**Rev. Mr. Jerzy Chciuk**

*Parish Secretary:* Fran Perrotta

*Religious Education:*

[ccdFatima949@gmail.com](mailto:ccdFatima949@gmail.com)

### *Mass Schedule*

Saturday (Sunday's Vespers).....4:00 pm

Sunday.....8:00, 10:00 am, 12:00 noon

### *Weekday Mass*

Monday - Thursday.....9:00 am

*No morning Mass on Friday and Saturday*

### *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

Saturdays .....3:30 - 4:00 pm

### *Sacrament of Baptism*

The second and fourth Sunday of the month

*Please call the parish office to register.*

***Sacrament of Marriage*** Couples planning to be married should notify the parish office one year before the proposed date. Please follow our parish website for more information.

***Sick Calls*** Please call (973) 764-4457

***Adoration*** Every Tuesday evening from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

***Msza Po Polsku*** – 1<sup>st</sup> Niedziels Miesiaca at 2:00 pm

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### *Parish Office Hours*

10:00 am - 3:00 pm .... Monday – Thursday

**Phone:** (973) 764-4457 **Fax:** (973) 764-4504

**Email:** [office@olfatimaparish.net](mailto:office@olfatimaparish.net) **Website:** [www.olfatimaparish.net](http://www.olfatimaparish.net)

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

### **“God Help Those who help themselves .....**”

It's really hard to comprehend *why many of us commit sin and don't live our faith*. Perhaps, this is brought about *by our weak and superficial faith*, thus we embrace the devil, and we set aside Jesus.

Jesus in the gospel of Mathew 15:11, mentions that *nothing that enters us make us sin but what comes out of us makes us sin*. We therefore have to be careful and discerning about the things that we do. If we think that our actions would make us offend God, then by all means we should not do it. If there's a strong temptation to sin, we should run away from it before it captures us. The problem with sin is it will never stop until it completely destroys us.

The desire to commit sin first emanates from within us. It begins when we think about it and if we don't stop thinking about our desire to commit sin, it slowly progresses until we actually give flesh to our desire to sin by actually doing it!

*How then could we avoid sin?* We pray to Jesus and ask His help to exterminate whatever sinful desires that we have in our minds. Then we also have to do our part by taking action to rid ourselves of the desire to sin. Because if we pray yet our actions is not according to what we have been praying for we will still commit sin sooner or later. As the saying goes *God helps those who help themselves*.

If we don't take our faith in Jesus seriously, we commit sin when we want to commit it. When we continuously mortgage our lives to the devil through sin, there is the danger that we may not anymore be able to get out of it!

It's about time that we change this cycle of sin. It's about time that we rid ourselves of any sinful thoughts and desires. It's about time that we free ourselves from any problems and complications brought about by sin. This could only happen if we ask Jesus to come into our lives.

Remember, when you choose to be with the devil you will be destroyed by it sooner or later. However, when you choose to walk away from it, and you choose



to be with Jesus. Jesus will never stop until He rids you of all of your sinfulness.

**Prayer:** “*Lord Jesus, fill me with your Holy Spirit and make my heart like yours. Strengthen my heart, mind, and my will that I may freely choose to love what is good and to reject what is evil.*”

**Fr. Babu Thelappilly**



### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

<b>Monday, 24</b>	Sir 1:1-18; Mk 9:14-29
<b>Tuesday, 25</b>	Sir 2:1-11; Mk 9:30-37
<b>Wednesday, 26</b>	Sir 4:11-19; Mk 9:38-40
<b>Thursday, 27</b>	Sir 5:1-8; Mk 9:41-50
<b>Friday, 28</b>	Sir 6:5-17; Mk 10:1-12
<b>Saturday, 1</b>	Sir 17:1-15; Mk 10:13-16
<b>Sunday, 2</b>	Sir 27:4-7; 1 Cor 15:54-58; Lk 6:39-45



#### **THANK YOU!**

*Thank you for your continued generosity.*

**To give online:**

<https://www.olfatimaparish.net>

#### **February 16, 2025**

1 <sup>st</sup> Collection	\$ 902.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection	\$ 206.00

#### **February 18, 2024**

	\$ 2,629.00
	\$ 720.00



**Vision & Mission:** We, the people of Our Lady of Fatima parish, are called by Baptism and sent forth by Christ to proclaim the good news of

Jesus Christ. In the spirit of faith, and community, we invite all people to join us in bringing people closer together and closer to God.



**We accomplish this by:**

- ✓ Conforming our lives to the image of Christ through prayer and worship.
- ✓ Contributing to the growth of the parish by spreading the Gospel message in our words and actions.
- ✓ Being faithful stewards to Our Lady of Fatima, by sharing our time, talents and treasures.
- ✓ Lending support to the leadership of our parish, working together to fulfill our parish vision and mission.



## REFLECTION ON LUKE 6:27-38

### Another Kind of Love .....

It is easy to be kind and loving to those we like, to our family and friends, to those who are good to us. All of this comes naturally, but Jesus expects more of His followers.

In today's Gospel, He tells us to love our enemies, be good to those who harm us, and turn the other cheek when they strike us. Is this unrealistic? Let's recognize that Jesus doesn't expect us to *like* everyone. There will be some people who will get on our nerves. There may be enemies who are determined to harm us.

How does Jesus expect us to respond to aggression? Our instinct urges us to hit back. The aggressor must be stopped, otherwise, he will think he can get away with harming us and other people.

Christ's approach is to defuse a hostile situation. He wants us to have a positive approach to those who harm us. He asks us to love them, to wish them well, not evil, by doing them good, not harm. Christian love wants to bring out the best in our enemies and try to correct them. God's merciful response to sinners provides the norm for our behavior.

Jesus gives us the perfect example of what kind of love is expected of us. On the cross, He asked His Father to forgive the very people who were responsible for His execution. Showing mercy is the best expression of the right kind of love. It is centered on the other.



## Mass Intentions

### Monday, 24

9:00 am + Daly Family

### Tuesday, 25

9:00 am +

### Wednesday, 26

9:00 am +

### Thursday, 27

9:00 am + Dolores Gabriele

### Saturday, 1

4:00 pm + Dorothy Pacifico  
Louise Elleo (Sp.Int.)

### Sunday, 2

8:00 am + Catherine Bradshaw  
+ Mary Petnel

10:00 am + Mary Louise Higgins  
+ Dolores Gabriele

12:00 pm + Jim Hill  
+ Mary Petnel



**Week of February 23 - March 1**  
**Gifts of bread and wine: Frank Elleo**  
**Sanctuary Lamps: Frank Elleo**



### MEMORIAL OFFERINGS

If you would like to have Sanctuary Lamps, Bread and Wine, or flowers/plants at the altar for the whole week in memory of a loved one, please contact the parish office.

### Adoration

of the

Blessed Sacrament



**Every Tuesday 7:00 PM**



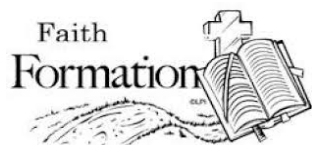
**Mondays 7:30 – 8:30 pm**

## Pray for the SICK

Grace Andrews  
Jim and Rita Franco  
Fran & Larry Marsh  
Kate Ross  
Kurt Rieger  
June Santangelo  
Priscilla Tanis  
Nicolle Jakub  
Heather McKinnon

Jerry Calcagno  
Diana Kenney  
Rob McDermott  
Augustus Saulnier  
Karen Evanick  
Artie Cohan  
David Jansson  
Liam Daniel Jakub  
Brian Lloyd



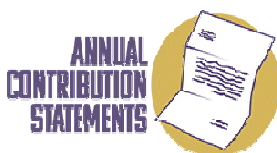


**We appreciate and thank you all  
for the cooperation and support given to  
Our Lady of Fatima Parish  
in sharing your faith with others.  
Next CCD Class – March 9**



**2025 Mass Intention Book is  
available now.**

*If you want to reserve any special  
date to offer Mass / Bread & Wine  
at the Altar / Sanctuary Lamp  
/Plants or Flowers in Memory of  
your loved one, please contact the parish office.*



**If you would like your contribution record for 2024,  
Please contact the parish office.**

### **The Jubilee Prayer**

*Father in heaven,  
may the faith you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of charity enkindled  
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed hope  
for the coming of your Kingdom.  
May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.  
May those seeds transform from within both humanity  
and the whole cosmos  
in the sure expectation  
of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.  
May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.  
May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.  
To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever. Amen.*

# OFFERING

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

My Dear Parishioners in Christ, .....

As we are going through a lot of financial  
commitments, I ask of you to pray and consider  
your Generous Gift  
to Our Lady of Fatima Church.

Your Contributions is crucial to fund  
the physical needs of our parish.

2 Corinthians 9: 7 says,  
“Each of you should give  
what you have decided in your  
heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion  
for God loves a cheerful giver.”

Will you be “a cheerful giver”?

Thank you for your generosity to our parish.

May God bless you all!



**March 5 – Ash Wednesday**

**9:00 am - Mass and Ashes**

**4:30 pm - Liturgy of the Word and  
Ashes**

**7:00 pm Mass and Ashes**

### **CONFESSION**

**Mondays During the Lent 7 – 8 pm  
in the rectory office**



**We will cancel  
Masses and other  
Church activities,  
when it snows and  
the ground is fully  
covered with snow.**

# Jubilee 2025 Year of Hope

December 29, 2024 through December 28, 2025



2025 is the Jubilee Holy Year, the 2,025th anniversary of the Incarnation of our Lord, an “event of great spiritual, ecclesial, and social significance in the life of the Church.” The concept of “Jubilee” has its origins in the Book of Leviticus (chapter 25) as a special year of reconciliation, pilgrimage, and coming home. Pope Francis has designated the 2025 Holy Year as a time to renew ourselves as “Pilgrims of Hope.”

A Jubilee Year is celebrated by the Church every 25 years. This has been the case since 1470, when Pope Paul II changed it from every 50 years. A Pope can also proclaim an Extraordinary Jubilee, like the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy which Pope Francis inaugurated in 2015. In the Catholic Church, a Jubilee of Holy Year is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to come back into right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

The theme of the Jubilee Year in 2025 is ‘*Pilgrims of Hope*’. Pope Francis has invited Catholics to renew our hope and discover a vision that can “restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone”. We are also invited to rediscover a spirituality of God’s creation in which we understand ourselves as “*pilgrims on earth*” rather than matters of the world.

The Jubilee Logo shows four stylized figures, representing all of humanity, coming from the four corners of the earth. They embrace each other to indicate the solidarity and fraternity which should unite all peoples. The figure at the front is holding onto the cross. It is not only the sign of the faith which this lead figure embraces, but also of hope, which can never be abandoned, because we are always in need of hope, especially in our moments of greatest need.

There are the rough waves under the figures, symbolizing the fact that life’s pilgrimage does not always go smoothly in calm waters. Often the circumstances of daily life and events in the wider world require a greater call to hope. That’s why we should pay special attention to the lower part of the cross which has been elongated and turned into the shape of an anchor which is let down into the waves.

The anchor is well known as a symbol of hope. In maritime jargon the ‘anchor of hope’ refers to the reserve anchor used by vessels involved in emergency manoeuvres to stabilise the ship during storms. It is worth noting that the image illustrates the pilgrim’s journey not as an individual undertaking, but rather as something communal, marked by an increasing dynamism leading one ever closer to the cross.

The cross in the logo is by no means static, but it is also dynamic. It bends down towards humanity, not leaving human beings alone, but stretching out to them to offer the certainty of its presence and the security of hope. At the bottom of the logo is the motto of the 2025 Jubilee Year: *Peregrinantes in Spem* (Pilgrims in hope), represented in green letters.

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