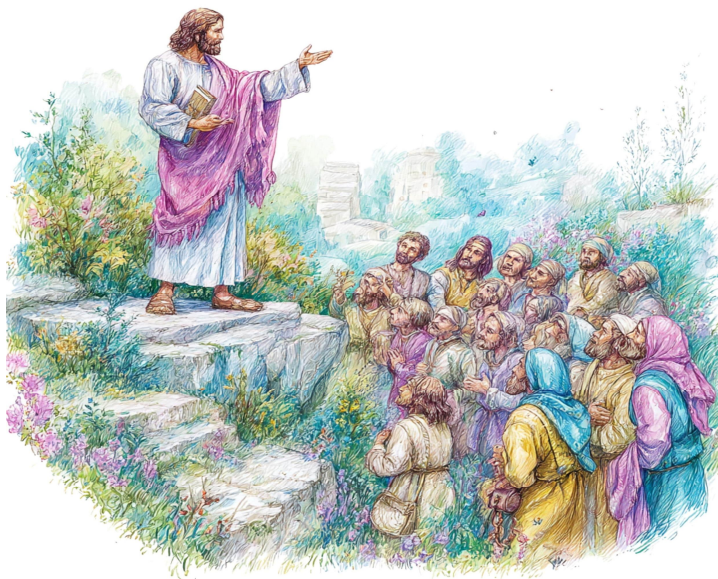




Our Lady of Fatima RC Church

184 Breakneck Road, Highland Lakes, NJ 07422
February 1, 2026 – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Fr. Babu Thelappilly

Pastor

babuthelappilly@yahoo.com

Msgr. Robert Carroll

Pastor Emeritus

Deacons

Rev. Mr. Bill Aquino

Rev. Mr. Jerzy Chciuk

Parish Secretary: Fran Perrotta

Music Director: John Fanelli

music@olfatimaparish.net

Religious Education: Sal Alessio

ccd@olfatimaparish.net

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

Saturdays3:30 - 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 – 1st Niedziels Miesiaca at 2:00 pm

Parish Office Hours

10:00 am - 3:00 pm Monday – Thursday

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

Email: office@olfatimaparish.net **Website:** www.olfatimaparish.net

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

"A Family Without Borders!"

My dear parish family,

One of the most striking moments in the Gospel occurs when Jesus is told that *'His mother and relatives are waiting outside'*. Instead of responding as we might expect, He asks a question that stops us short: *"Who are my mother and my brothers?"* Then, looking at those around Him, He gives an answer that reshapes our understanding of family: *"Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother"* (Mark 3:31-35).

Here, Jesus is not dismissing His earthly family. Rather, He is opening the door wider. He teaches us that belonging to Him is not determined by bloodlines or social ties, but by hearts willing to listen to God and live according to His will. In the Kingdom of God, family is formed by obedience, mercy, and love put into action.

Most of us naturally care for our own families. We support them instinctively, forgive them readily, and make sacrifices without hesitation, because they are ours. Jesus gently challenges us to go beyond what comes easily. He asks us to stretch our compassion further: Can we show the same concern to a stranger in need? Can we offer help without first asking whether someone belongs to our circle?

This is not an easy *'calling'*. To love without conditions, to serve without favoritism, and to show mercy without calculating the cost requires a real conversion of heart. Yet this is precisely the path Jesus places before us if we desire to be counted among His family.

Being Catholic, baptized, or active in Church life is a great blessing, but it is not the finish line. As Jesus reminds us, *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father"* (Matthew 7:21). Faith becomes authentic when it is lived through kindness, forgiveness, generosity, and concrete acts of love.

Mary shows us this truth beautifully. Her greatness lies not only in bearing Jesus, but in her unwavering faith and obedience to God's will. As Saint Augustine observed, Mary was more blessed in hearing and doing God's word than even in bearing Christ physically.

A simple saying from my mother captures this wisdom well: *"Knowing the will of God is the greatest knowledge; discovering the will of God is the greatest*

finding; doing the will of God is the greatest achievement."

Today, Jesus invites us into a family without borders—formed not by blood, but by love lived daily. Every act of mercy and every step beyond our comfort zone draws us closer to Him and makes His Gospel visible in our world.



Prayer: *Heavenly Father, teach us to listen to Your voice and to do Your will with generous hearts. May our lives reflect the boundless family of Your Son. Amen.*

Fr. Babu Thelappilly



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Monday, 2	Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40
Tuesday, 3	2 Sam 18:9,10,14b,24,25a,30 -19:3; Mk 5:21-43
Wednesday, 4	2 Sam 24:2,9-17:4-17; Mk 6:1-6
Thursday, 5	1 Kng 2:1-4,10-12; Mk 6:7-13
Friday, 6	Sir 47:2-11; Mk 6:14-29
Saturday, 7	1 Kng 3:4-13; Mk 6:30-34
Sunday, 8	Is 58:7-10; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16



THANK YOU!

Thank you for your continued generosity.

To give online: <https://www.olfatimaparish.net>

January 18, 2026

January 26, 2025

1st Collection \$ 1,684.00

\$ 2,072.00



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 Mathew 5:1-12a

Blessed!

With the Beatitudes in today's Gospel, Jesus is promising happiness, a joy that is unexpected and unlikely, a blessing that lasts against the odds. He makes it possible for us to be transformed and to be transforming because what we might become and do is already achieved in Him.

This happiness leads to experiences of joy when situations of mourning or persecution make them unexpected and unlikely. This side of heaven is not only a time of hopeful waiting for what will come in the future, but also a time of action. Matthew's Gospel repeatedly writes of the grace of the kingdom as an active energy to behave in a certain way, as well as a source of happiness.

Baptism is a blessing that places us in Christ so firmly and deeply that we can go forward and risk when worldly wisdom suggests otherwise. Rejoice and be glad now, and what is experienced partially will be completed in heaven.

Living the Beatitudes in the power of the Spirit mingles heaven and earth. Today's Gospel on how we are to live begins and ends with references to heaven. As we are being transformed by God, we contribute to transforming the world into the Kingdom. Each of us is unfinished, and so is the world. The promise of the Beatitudes reassures us when we are struggling to give up on a Christ life. It helps us avoid seeking superficial happiness.

The Beatitudes are a blend of present and future blessings.

Grace with a Grin:

The Lost Sheep Homework!

The Sunday school teacher said, "We're like sheep because we sometimes wander off."

A little boy grinned. "That explains a lot!"

"Explains what?" asked the teacher.

The boy replied, "My homework! It didn't disappear. It just wandered off without me! So, if you see it wandering, tell it to come home!"

Moral: Like lost sheep or lost homework, what wanders can always be found if we keep looking with both heart and mind.

St. Agustin of Hippo says, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you."



Mass Intentions

Monday, 2	<i>The Presentation of the Lord (F)</i>
9:00 am	+ Richard A. Klos, Sr.
Tuesday, 3	<i>St. Blaise, Bishop & Martyr (M)</i>
9:00 am	Karen Murphy (Sp. Int.)
Wednesday, 4	
9:00 am	+ John Sullivan
Thursday, 5	<i>St. Agatha (M)</i>
9:00 am	+ Eleanor Gokey
Saturday, 7	
4:00 pm	+ Rose Pacifico + James Geraghty
Sunday, 8	<i>5th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
8:00 am	+ Kochappu Palatty
10:00 am	+ Barbara Saulnier + Sam Sullivan
12:00 pm	+ Pre-born Babies



Week of January 31 – February 7

Gifts of bread and wine: _____

Sanctuary Lamps: _____



MEMORIAL OFFERINGS



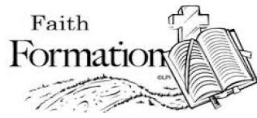
If you would like to have
Sanctuary Lamps, Bread and Wine, or flowers/plants at
the altar for the whole week in memory of a loved one,
please contact the parish office.



2026 Mass Book is available.
Contact the parish office
to schedule Masses

Pray for the SICK

Grace Andrews	Jerry Calcagno
Jim and Rita Franco	Diana Kenney
Fran & Larry Marsh	Rob McDermott
Kate Ross	Kurt Rieger
Karen Evanick	June Santangelo
Artie and Cathy Cohan	Priscilla Tanis
David Jansson	Liam Daniel Jakub
Heather McKinnon	Rod McCune
Paulette Mahoney	



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 – February 8, 2026



If you would like your contribution
record for 2025,
Please contact the parish office.



St. Blaise: Bishop, Martyr, and Healer

The Church celebrates the Feast of **St. Blaise** on **February 3**. He was a 4th-century bishop and martyr of *Sebaste* in present-day Turkey, known for his deep faith, compassion for the sick, and courageous witness to Christ. Trained as a physician, Blaise cared for both body and soul.

St. Blaise is especially remembered for saving a young boy who was choking on a fishbone. Because of this miracle, he is invoked as the patron saint of those suffering from illnesses of the throat. During the persecutions under Emperor Licinius, Blaise was arrested for refusing to deny his faith. After imprisonment and torture, he was **martyred around A.D. 316**. He is counted among the **Fourteen Holy Helpers**.

On his feast day, the Church offers the **Blessing of the Throats**, a cherished sacramental. A priest places two crossed candles near the throat and prays that, *‘through the intercession of St. Blaise, God may protect the faithful from ailments of the throat and from every other evil.’*



This tradition reminds us that God desires our healing for both body and soul and invites us to place our trust in **Christ, the Divine Physician**.



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.

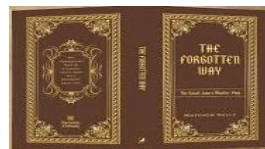
Your Contributions are crucial to fund
the physical needs of our parish.

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!



This Book is available
in the vestibule
Feel free to take

Feast of St. Agatha



St. Agatha, a 3rd-century Christian martyr from Sicily, is honored for her unwavering faith and courage in the face of persecution. She is the patron saint of breast cancer patients, nurses, and those suffering from bodily ailments. Her feast is celebrated on **February 5th**, often with prayers for healing and protection. St. Agatha's life reminds us of steadfast faith, purity, and trust in God even during trials.



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



THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD – February 2 Candlemas: When Light Meets Waiting Hearts

Forty days after Christmas, the Church returns to the Temple in Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. This quiet yet profound feast draws together obedience and prophecy, humility and glory, law and love. It is known by other beautiful names as well: Candlemas, the Purification of Mary, and in the East, *Hypapante* — the Holy Encounter.

Mary and Joseph, faithful Jews, come to the Temple to fulfill the Law of Moses. According to the Law, a mother underwent ritual purification forty days after the birth of a son, and the firstborn was to be presented as belonging to the Lord. Though Mary was sinless and Jesus, the Son of God, needed no redemption, they humbly submitted to the Law, not only out of necessity, but also out of love and obedience. In this simple act, heaven quietly enters history.

The Holy Family offers two turtle doves, the sacrifice of the poor. In this moment of ordinariness, God reveals something extraordinary. Simeon, led by the Holy Spirit, takes the Child into his arms and proclaims Him to be “*a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory for Israel.*” Anna, a widow who had spent decades in prayer and fasting, gives thanks to God and speaks of the Child to all who were waiting for redemption.

This is why candles are blessed on this feast. From early centuries, Christians have carried lighted candles in procession, proclaiming that Christ is the Light no darkness can overcome. Candlemas reminds us that faith is not only celebrated; it is carried out often quietly, into the world.

There is joy in the Temple that day, but there is also prophecy. Simeon speaks of a sword that will pierce Mary’s heart. The light of Christmas already casts the shadow of the Cross. The Child offered in the Temple will one day offer Himself completely.

Yet this feast is not only about what happened long ago, but about what continues to happen now. Like Mary, we are invited to be purified, not by ritual alone, but by grace. Like Joseph, we are called to offer Christ to the Father by the way we live. Our hearts are meant to become temples where Christ dwells, and our lives candles through which His light shines.

Founded by Pope St. John Paul II, this feast is also the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life, reminding us that every vocation whether married, single, ordained, or religious is called to reflect Christ’s light in a waiting world.

Candlemas teaches us this gentle truth: God comes quietly, but He never comes without light. May we, like Simeon and Anna, recognize Him when He enters the temple of our lives and rejoice that our eyes, too, have seen His salvation.

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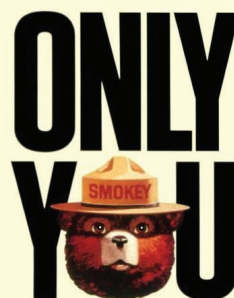
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