



Our Lady of Fatima RC Church

184 Breakneck Road, Highland Lakes, NJ 07422

April 19, 2026 – Third Sunday of Easter



On the Road to Emmaus

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

"God Meets Us on the Road"

There is a quiet truth we often forget: *God does not only meet us at the destination, but He also meets us on the way.* Most of life is lived "on the road," between what has been and what is yet to come, between prayers offered and answers received, between joy remembered and questions still unresolved. It is precisely in this 'in-between space' that God draws near.

The Gospel reminds us that Jesus is never distant from our ordinary journeys. He enters our daily routines, our responsibilities, our worries, and even our disappointments. The disciples on the road to Emmaus did not recognize Him at first. Their hearts were heavy and their hopes were broken, yet Jesus was beside them listening, accompanying, and gently opening their minds to a new understanding.

How often we are like them. We pass through moments when life does not make sense. We carry burdens others may not see. At times, God seems silent or far away. Yet faith assures us: *God is never absent from the path we are walking.* He listens before He teaches. He accompanies before He reveals. He remains close even when He is not recognized.

The Emmaus story also reminds us that recognition often comes gradually — in conversation, in Scripture, in shared moments, and finally in the breaking of bread. We begin to see Christ more clearly when we remain open and allow Him to interpret our lives through the light of His love.

So, we are invited not to rush through our journey. Do not assume God is absent because He is not immediately visible. Stay with Him. Walk with Him. Even our questions, honestly offered, can become prayer. And perhaps, like the disciples, we too will one day look back and say: *"Were not our hearts burning within us while He spoke to us along the way?"*

Dear brothers and sisters, the Lord still does what He has always done — He joins us on the road, walks patiently with us, and reveals Himself in ways that often surprise us. May we learn to recognize Him, not only at the destination, but in every step of the journey.

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, walk with us on every road of our lives. Open our eyes to recognize Your presence in every step we take, and set our hearts burning with Your love.*

Fr. Babu Thelappilly



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Monday, 20	Acts 6:8-15; Jn 6:22-29
Tuesday, 21	Acts 7:51-8:1; Jn 6:30-35
Wednesday, 22	Acts 8:1b-8; Jn 6:35-40
Thursday, 23	Acts 8:26-40; Jn 6:44-51
Friday, 24	Acts 9:1-20; Jn 6:52-59
Saturday, 25	1 Pt 5:5b-14; Mk 16:15-20
Sunday, 26	Acts 2:14a,36-41; 1 Pt 2:20b-25; Jn 10:1-10



THANK YOU!

Thank you for your continued generosity.

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

April 12, 2026

April 13, 2025

1st Collection \$ 3,005.00

\$ 2,781.00

2nd Collection \$ 774.00



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.

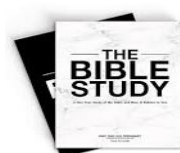


We accomplish this by:

- ✓ 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.



Isabella Nadine Bubenik on April 12, 2026



Bible Study Class postponed until further notice

REFLECTION ON LUKE 24:13-35

One Story

During Easter Season, our usual pattern of scripture reading changes. Instead of an Old Testament Reading, our first reading comes from the Acts of the Apostles. The Acts of the Apostles is the story of the Church – our story.

But the Old Testament doesn't disappear in the face of the Good News of Christ's Resurrection. The Old Testament is the foundation of *our* story. The New Testament draws on the Old; we learn of Christ in the ancient texts.

The great biblical scholar, Saint Jerome, warns that *ignorance of scripture is ignorance of Christ*. That is the point Jesus is making on the road to Emmaus. The message is clear: read the Bible and come to know me.

When Christ and the Apostles quote the scriptures, it is the Old Testament that they are citing. It speaks of the Savior, supports their preaching, and prepares His followers for their encounter with the Risen Lord.

In today's first reading, Peter gives witness to the Resurrection and explains who Jesus is by using the words of King David. As two disciples meet an unrecognizable Jesus on the road to Emmaus, He teaches them the meaning of their history. He opens the scriptures to them.

We take a journey during every Mass. An often-obscure Christ comes to us in the words of ancient men. It is in the breaking of bread that we *see* Him and come to know that the old stories, His story, and ours are one.



Monday, 20

9:00 am + Brett Alemy
Joe & Madeline Brancato (Sp. Int)

Tuesday, 21

9:00 am + All Souls

Wednesday, 22

9:00 am + Peter F., Sr. & Peter A. Healey, Jr.

Thursday, 23

9:00 pm + Greg Bremer

Saturday, 25

4:00 pm + Benny Thelappilly & His Family
Karen Murphy (Sp. Int.)

Sunday, 26

8:00 am + Annam Thomas Thelappilly
10:00 am + Richard A. Klos, Sr.
12:00 am + Benny Thomas Thelappilly

4th Sunday of Easter



Week of April 19 – 25

Gifts of bread and wine: + Benny Thelappilly
Sanctuary Lamps: + Benny Thelappilly



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.

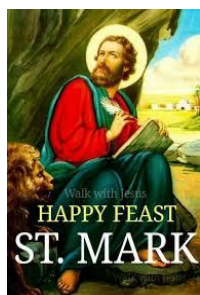
Pray for the SICK

Grace Andrews
Jim & Rita Franco
Fran & Larry Marsh
Kate Ross
Karen Evanick
Artie & Cathy Cohan
David Jansson
Heather McKinnon
Ann Vermeal

Jerry Calcagno
Diana Kenney
Rob McDermott
Kurt Rieger
June Santangelo
Priscilla Tanis
Liam Daniel Jakub
Rod McCune
Jim Opfer



Easter Prayer: Risen Lord Jesus,
today I open my heart to You. Roll
away the stones within me — my fears,
my doubts, my burdens — and fill me
with Your peace and new life. Help me
to walk in the joy of Your resurrection
and to share Your love wherever I go.
Alleluia. Amen.

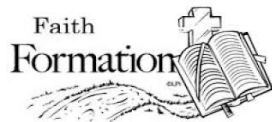


April 25, the Feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist, invites us to reflect on the power of the Gospel to transform hearts and lives.

St. Mark, the author of the earliest written Gospel, presents Jesus Christ as the suffering yet victorious Son of God, calling all people to repentance, faith, and discipleship.

Tradition tells us that Mark was a close companion of Saint Peter the Apostle, faithfully preserving his preaching and witness. On this feast, we are reminded that we too are called to be evangelists in our daily lives — not only through our words, but through acts of love, humility, and service.

May St. Mark inspire us to live the Gospel with courage and joy, so that our lives may become a living witness to Christ in the world today.



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 – April 26, 2026



FIRST COMMUNION
Saturday, May 2nd at 10:00 am
Parents are reminded to be in attendance.

MAY CROWING
Sunday May 3rd at 10:00 am Mass
First Communicants to Participate



Today April 19 – Coffee Sunday
Fellowship after all Masses in the Parish Hall
All are invited



VENDOR / TAG SALE

Saturday April 25th 10 am – 2 pm

Our Lady of Fatima Church Hall

Space available for rent - \$ 25 per space.

Contact: Jeannie – 201 874 6070



EASTER FLOWER OFFERING ENVELOPES

Can be placed in the collection basket. Envelopes
are available in the back of the church.

Thank you for your generosity.



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!

“Grace with a Grin”
Mom is “always right,”
and Dad wisely agrees

Teacher: *Who helps you study at home?*

Child: *My mom.*

Teacher: *Why not your dad?*

Child: *He’s still learning from Mom.*

Teacher: *Oh! Then who’s the best learner
at home?*

Child: *My dad.*

Teacher: *Really? How?*

Child: *When Mom says 2 + 2 = 3...*

Dad immediately says, “You’re absolutely right!”

Teacher: *But that’s wrong!*

Child: *(smiling) In our house... Dad is the smartest,
because Mom is always right.*



Message: Sometimes wisdom is not just about being
right, but about choosing peace and understanding. True
intelligence is found not only in knowing the right answer,
but in knowing how to love and respect one another. In
family life, humility and patience often speak louder than
correctness reminding us that choosing peace in small
moments reflects the grace God calls us to live each day.



ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS (Luke 24:13–35)

There is something deeply human about the road to Emmaus. It is not a road of triumph, but of disappointment. Two disciples walk away from Jerusalem carrying shattered hopes: “*We had hoped...*” These words echo the quiet sorrow of every heart that has felt let down, confused, or lost. And yet, it is precisely on that road that Jesus comes near.

He does not interrupt them. He walks with them. He listens. The Risen Lord is not in a hurry to correct, but patient enough to accompany. How often we think God is absent in our struggles, when in fact He is the unseen companion beside us.

Then, gently, Jesus opens the Scriptures, not with quick answers, but with a deeper vision. He reveals that even suffering has a place in God’s plan. Their hearts begin to burn, not because everything is fully resolved, but because something within them is awakening. Faith often begins as a quiet fire before it becomes clear sight.

On the Road to Emmaus

Finally, at the table, in the breaking of the bread, their eyes are opened. They recognize Him in the Eucharist, where Christ continues to reveal Himself to us today. And then He vanishes, not because He is gone, but because He is present in a new way — no longer seen with the eyes, but known in the heart.

The journey does not end in Emmaus. It turns them back to Jerusalem with urgency, joy, and mission. The road of sorrow becomes a road of witness.

This Gospel is our story. We all walk our Emmaus roads — *moments of doubt, disappointment, and unanswered questions.* Yet the risen Lord walks with us still, speaks to us in His Word, and is revealed in the breaking of the bread. Do not be afraid of the road you are on. Even when it feels like a road away from hope, Christ is already there. Walk with Him, and you will discover not only joy, but a faith that sends you forth.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, You walk beside us even when we do not recognize You. Stay with us on our journey. In our doubts, be our light. In our sorrow, be our hope. Open our hearts as You open the Scriptures and reveal Yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Lead us from discouragement to joy, and from silence to witness. Remain with us, Lord, for it is nearly evening... and our hearts long for You. Amen.

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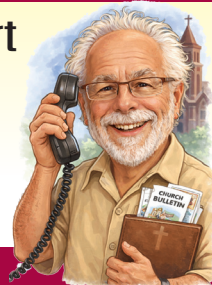
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