



Our Lady of Fatima RC Church

184 Breakneck Road, Highland Lakes, NJ 07422

August 9, 2026 – 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**‘No storm is
greater than His
presence.
Faith fixes our
eyes on Jesus, not
on the storm’.**

- Mathew 14:22-33



Faith Overflows.

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

"Keep Your Eyes on Jesus!"

Dear Beloved Parish Family,

My mother often reminded us, "*Where we fix our eyes often determines where our lives will go.*" There is profound wisdom in those simple words. When we drive, taking our eyes off the road for even a moment can lead to danger. The same is true in our spiritual life. Wherever our eyes are fixed, our hearts will follow.

The Gospel tells us how Peter stepped out of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus (see Matthew 14:22-36). As long as his eyes remained fixed on the Lord, he was able to do what seemed impossible. But the moment he shifted his focus to the wind and the waves, fear replaced faith, and he began to sink.

Isn't that often our own experience? We become overwhelmed by worries about our health, our families, our finances, our future, and the many uncertainties of life. When we focus only on the storms around us, anxiety can easily overcome us. But when we keep our eyes on Jesus, we discover that His presence is greater than every storm and His power is stronger than every fear.

Perhaps the most beautiful part of this Gospel is not that Peter walked on water. It is that when Peter began to sink, Jesus immediately reached out His hand. Peter's faith faltered, but Jesus' love never did.

That is our hope as Christians. God does not wait for us to have perfect faith. He simply asks us to keep turning back to Him. Whenever we begin to sink beneath the weight of fear, disappointment, or discouragement, we need only pray Peter's simple prayer: "**Lord, save me!**" The Lord never ignores that prayer. He reaches out His hand, lifts us up, and walks beside us once again.

No matter what storms you may be facing today, remember that Jesus is already with you. The waves may still rise, and the winds may still blow, but they are never stronger than the One who commands the sea. Keep your eyes fixed on Christ. Trust in His presence, rely on His promises, and allow Him to lead you forward with courage and hope.



May we always remember: *When our eyes remain on Jesus, we never walk through life's storms alone.*

Prayer: Lord Jesus, when fear distracts

us and our faith grows weak, keep our eyes fixed on You. Take us by the hand, strengthen our trust, and lead us safely through every storm. Help us never to lose sight of Your love and Your constant presence. Amen.

Fr. Babu Thelappilly



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Monday, 10	2 Cor 9:6-10; Jn 12:24-26
Tuesday, 11	Ezk 2:8-3:4; Mt 18:1-5,10,12-14
Wednesday, 12	Ezk 9:1-7,10,18-22; Mt 18:15-20
Thursday, 13	Ezk 12:1-12; Mt 18:21-19:1
Friday, 14	Ezk 16:1-15,60,63; Mt 19:3-12
Saturday, 15	Rev 11:19a,12:1-6a,10b; 1 C0r 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56
Sunday, 16	Is 56:1,6-7; Rom 11:13-15,29-32; Mt 15:21-28



THANK YOU!

*Thank you for your
continued generosity.*

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

August 2, 2026

1st Collection \$ 3,294.00
2nd Collection \$ 935.00

August 3, 2025

\$ 3,111.00
\$ 668.00



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.



"What we choose to fix our eyes upon often determines the direction of our lives. When our eyes remain fixed on Jesus, we find the strength to face every storm, the courage to endure every trial, and the peace of knowing that we never walk alone."

— Annam Thomas

REFLECTION ON MATHEW 14:22-33

You Are the Son of God!

In recent days, we have seen news videos of a teenaged lifeguard saving an unconscious boy from monstrous surf in Sant Cruz, California. The power of nature reminds us of our human vulnerability. In today's first reading, the prophet Elijah's encounter with God occurs on a mountain during a mighty storm, an earthquake, and fire. In events like these, we catch a glimpse of the might and power of Nature and of the difference between God and His creatures. The reaction to these events is always one of awe and wonder, and a sense of unworthiness.

In the Gospel, we have another situation in which nature has loosed its power in the wind and the waves. Jesus manifests His divinity in His ability to calm the winds and still the waves. He also has the power to calm the troubled hearts of His disciples and Peter. Their response is not to cover their faces, like Elijah, but to bow down before Jesus, a gesture of awe and reverence which is matched by the proclamation that He is the Son of God.

In the California surf, we were reminded of the destructive power of natural events. Looking deeply, we can admit to the ways in which we and others succeed in creating turbulent and difficult conditions in our lives. We wonder where God can be found.

God shows Himself in such times. He comes in a whisper, walking and stilling the waves, present to the eyes of faith.

Grace with a Grin: "The Umbrella of Faith!"

A parish priest announced that because of a long drought, everyone would gather on Saturday to pray for rain.

The next morning, the church was full. As the priest looked around, he noticed one little girl in the front pew holding a bright yellow umbrella.

Smiling, he asked, "Why did you bring an umbrella? There's not a cloud in the sky!"

The little girl looked puzzled. "Father," she said, "you told us we were coming to pray for rain. I just thought God would answer."



For a moment, the church fell silent. Then the priest smiled and said, "It looks like she's the only one who came expecting a miracle!"

The congregation laughed... and then quietly reflected.

Moral: Faith is more than saying prayers; it is expecting God to hear them. Childlike faith trusts without hesitation. As Jesus said, "Whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours" (Mark 11:24). May we all remember to bring our umbrellas when we pray for rain.



Monday, 10 *St. Lawrence (F)*
9:00 am + Ann Miserere DiLeo
Roger Grey (Sp. Int.)

Tuesday, 11 *St. Clare (M)*
9:00 am Colleen Orso (Sp. Int.)
Mary Rose Castro (Sp. Int.)

Wednesday, 12
9:00 am + Benny Thelappilly

Thursday, 13
9:00 am

Saturday, 15 *Assumption of the Bl. V. Mary (S)*
4:00 pm + Pre-born babies
+ Betty Ruiz

Sunday, 16 *20th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
8:00 am + Ann Miserere DiLeo
10:00 am + All Priests/Religious
+ Stephen Gimbl
12:00 Noon + William Gilheany



Week of August 9-15

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



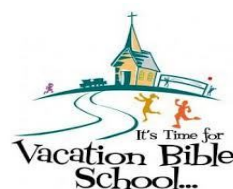
MEMORIAL OFFERINGS



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	Jerry Calcagno
Jim & Rita Franco	Diana Kenney
Fran & Larry Marsh	Rob McDermott
Kate Ross	Kurt Rieger
Karen Evanick	June Santangelo
Artie & Cathy Cohan	Priscilla Tanis
Liam Daniel Jakub	Heather McKinnon
Rod McCune	Ann Vermeal
Jim Opfer	John Ukson
Bill Miklovic	Marie McCoy



August 17-21, 2026

Age 4 – Grade 6

Please Call
the parish office or email:
office@olfparish.net



To Subscribe:
<https://beaconnj.org/>



2026-2027
Online
REGISTRATION

CCD Registration is now open.

Please register by August 15, 2026

or contact the parish office if you need any help.



MARIAN PILGRIMAGE OCTOBER 17, 2026

**The Basilica of the National Shrine of the
Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.**

For Information: DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE OFFICE

Father Michael Rodak, director - Ph: 973-827-8030

pilgrimage@patersondiocese.org



CELEBRATE FATIMA DAY

**August 13th at 7:00 pm at the Church
followed by Social in the hall**



COFFEE SUNDAY

August 16th

Hosted by Holy Rosary Society



**A Kind Reminder:
Caring for One Another**



As members of one parish family, let us be mindful of our parishioners with disabilities. Please help by keeping designated handicap parking spaces and access areas clear at all times for those who rely on them.

Your thoughtfulness is a simple yet meaningful expression of Christian charity, helping ensure that all members of our parish family can safely and comfortably participate in the celebration of the Eucharist.

Thank you for your kindness, understanding, and cooperation.



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!

Adoration

of the

Blessed Sacrament



Every Tuesday - 7:00 pm

Prayer from the Fatima Children

O most Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I adore you profoundly. I offer you the most precious body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the



world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifferences by which He is offended. By the infinite merits of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg the conversion of sinners.

(In 1917 Our Lady appeared to three children: ten-year-old Lucia dos Santos and her cousins, nine-year-old Bl. Francisco and seven-year-old Bl. Jacinta

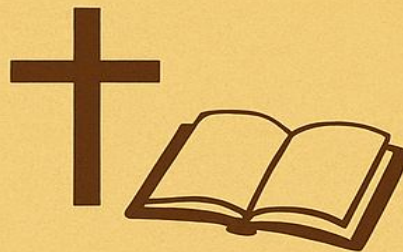


Marto at Fátima, Portugal.)

Our Lady of Fatima Parish

Highland Lakes, New Jersey

Fr. Babu Thelappilly, Pastor



Nurturing Faith at Every Stage

Our parish programs—CCD/Faith Formation, OCIA, and Youth Ministry—are more than classes; they are lifelines of faith. They plant seeds in our children, guide seekers into the Church, and empower our young people to follow Christ with courage.

These ministries also strengthen families by supporting parents as the first teachers of the faith, rekindling the faith of adults, and creating moments where generations grow closer to Christ together. They enrich our parish by building bonds of belonging, welcoming new members, and raising up leaders who serve with joy.

For the Church, they carry forward the mission of Jesus—teaching, witnessing, and renewing the Body of Christ so that our faith remains alive, strong, and passed on with love.

We warmly invite you to pray for, participate in, and support these parish programs—for in them, the future of our faith is being shaped today.

For more information,
please contact the Parish Office.



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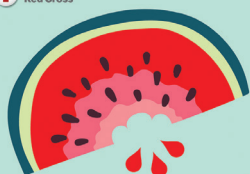
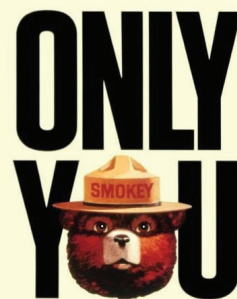
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