



# OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH

One Eagle Rock Avenue, West Orange, New Jersey 07052

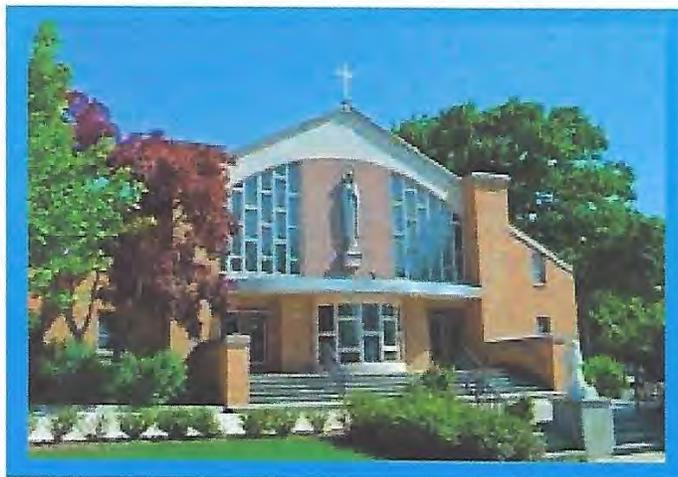
RECTORY/Parish Office 973.325.0110

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**Sunday, December 24, 2023 – Fourth Sunday of Advent**



## Mass Schedule @ Main Church

Saturday Evening, 5:30 pm

Sunday Morning, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 am

Confessions, Saturday 4:15 - 5:00 pm or  
anytime by appointment

## Weekday Morning Mass

Monday - Friday

8:30 am @ MAIN CHURCH

Monday 8:30 am Mass  
with Miraculous Medal Novena

### **Served By:**

Rev. James Ferry, Pastor

Rev. James N. Chern, Weekend Assistant

Rev. Robert K. Suszko, Weekend Assistant

Mrs. Linda Chapman, Director of Music

Mrs. Mary Cassels, Trustee

Mrs. Eileen Reilly, Trustee

RECTORY/Parish Office: 973.325.0110

Fax: 973.325.9105

Email: [ollwonj@verizon.net](mailto:ollwonj@verizon.net)

Website: [lourdeswestorange.org](http://lourdeswestorange.org)

RECTORY/Parish Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

### Religious Education

**Family Catechesis (Grades 1-6)**

Ms. Priscilla Castro 973.325.0110

Email: [Priscillacastro@lourdeswestorange.org](mailto:Priscillacastro@lourdeswestorange.org)

### Religious Education

**Sacrament of Confirmation (Grades 7-12)**

Mr. Paul Hirsch 973.325.0110

Email: [Confirmation.Class@lourdeswestorange.org](mailto:Confirmation.Class@lourdeswestorange.org)

### Religious Education

**Administrative Assistant**

Maggie Macias 973.325.0110 ext. 102

Email: [Maggie.macias@lourdeswestorange.org](mailto:Maggie.macias@lourdeswestorange.org)

### Sacrament of Baptism

Celebrated *usually* the first Saturday of the month. Parents are required to meet with Father Jim Ferry. Please call RECTORY.

### Sacrament of the Sick

Administered in an emergency at any time. Please call RECTORY when someone is ill or admitted to the hospital.

### Sacrament of Marriage

Engaged couples are asked to make their arrangements one year in advance of their wedding. Please call RECTORY for an appointment with a priest.

### First Friday

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm. There is 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Adoration during the “Fall” months of September, October, November and December and the “Spring” months of March, April, May and June.

### Peace and Good Corner Gift Shop

Religious articles, books and cards are available for purchase inside the church before and after all Masses or by appointment. Contact RECTORY.

### New Parishioners

Welcome to Our Lady of Lourdes. Please register at RECTORY or call for registration forms.

**MISSION STATEMENT** *The people of God in West Orange were called by the Holy Spirit in 1914 to form Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, a community centered on Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit remains with us today as we continue our journey to God. We are inspired by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, nourished by the Eucharist, called to respect life and proclaim our Catholic faith. We serve God by providing spiritual, educational, and social activities for our parish family as well as extending God's love and compassion to serve the greater community.*



Dear Brothers and Sisters of Our Lady of Lourdes,  
Will you change your habits to make a call? Will I do the same?

One of my fond memories of our beloved pastor, Monsignor Joe Petrillo, would be overhearing him make a series of phone calls on the Saturday nearest to Christmas to everyone in his address book. You may have been one of his calls. His calls were quite brief in many cases. He enjoyed laughing at his brevity and equating call-duration with his physical stature: "The call and I are both short."

Monsignor Petrillo's persistence and discipline in making these calls also reminded me that Christmas invites us all to renew our relationships both with God and with each other.

**[The Comings of Jesus Christ]** In Advent and Christmas, we recall Jesus manifesting his presence in three ways: in **majesty** at the end of time, in **history** at Bethlehem, and in **mystery** every day of our lives. Watching and waiting for Jesus, we recall he has not simply bounced down from heaven on December 25. Rather, He is already here. It is this mysterious aspect that deserves our attention. Pope Benedict XVI highlights that our faith is not merely an informative experience of data but also a call to allow God's word to be performative. God does not only inform; He also performs.

With these three comings of Jesus, there is also a fourth coming - your appearance, my appearance, our cooperation with God's grace and performance in our lives. You and I are invited to come to Jesus, to understand our struggles and have a personal conversation of prayer. This interaction is not confined to the church building; it is a practice we are called to incorporate into our daily lives wherever we are. Will you make the call to Jesus as confidante and trusted friend?

**[Making a Call]** At this time of year, and perhaps as a New Year's resolution, consider the value of the live phone call in your relationships with others.

Despite our pervasive connectivity through technology, a notable 40% of 16 to 24-year-olds reported feeling lonely in a 2018 BBC study. Social neuroscientist John Cacioppo's loneliness theory suggests that meaningful connections can be a remedy against the negative impacts of loneliness. Live phone calls, focusing on quality

rather than quantity, can be instrumental in fostering meaningful relationships and improving well-being. Phone conversations, with their real-time dialogue, help clarify communication, reducing the chances of misunderstanding compared to text-based communication. (Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2023/02/14/health/young-people-phone-calls-trust-loneliness-wellness-partner/index.html>)

We are also called to make the call of prayer a more intentional part of our lives. Sometimes, I am guilty of sitting back and waiting for God to reveal some information or advice to me. While it is true that St. Paul advises us to "pray unceasingly", this may give us the idea that we can simply think about God throughout the day. While a baseline of cognitive awareness is a good thing, this is only one step in a relationship. Does your spouse, your child, your friend not wish more than to know that you had a fleeting thought? Could this thought not become a real conversation?

As the AT&T commercial once proclaimed: "I just called to say I love you." (<https://www.technologyreview.com/2008/08/19/269130/i-just-called-to-say-i-love-you/>)

We are called to come to Jesus with our energy and effort as well, not just on Christmas but every Sunday for Mass and every day in our prayers and examinations of conscience. If you need Examinations of Conscience for review, they are available online. Here is one resource which offers several for both children and adults: <https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/sacraments-and-sacramentals/penance/examinations-of-conscience>.

**[The Unexpected]** While Christmas involves calendar planning, the Incarnation of the Son of God unfolds amidst unforeseen circumstances. Life, in general, is unforeseen. In 2013, one such event was the sudden passing of our pastor, Monsignor Joe Petrillo on Friday December 20, 2013. We mourned his death and prayed for him that Advent Sunday. On Monday, many mourners visited the church for the wake and prayers in the presence of his body. On December 23, in the evening, a Vigil Mass was celebrated by the Most Reverend Edgar da Cunha, Vicar General and Auxiliary Bishop of Newark. I offered the homily at this Vigil Mass. On December 24, in the morning, the Most Reverend John Joseph Myers, Archbishop of Newark, celebrated the Funeral Mass. Monsignor Frank Del Prete, a dear friend and seminary classmate of Monsignor Petrillo, offered the homily at the Funeral. Together with many parishioners; deacons, priests and bishops of the Archdiocese were present. At the time, the Most Reverend Bernard Hebda was auxiliary bishop and co-adjutor, expecting to succeed Archbishop Myers. This never happened as Archbishop Hebda has since become

(Continued on Page 4)



# PMASS INTENTIONS



### SATURDAY, 23 DECEMBER

5:30 pm Kathleen & Owen Mooney

### SUNDAY, 24 DECEMBER



24TH OF DECEMBER  
CHRISTMAS EVE  
MASSES

7:30 am People of the Parish  
 9:30 am Deceased Members of the Pflug & Napolitano Families  
 11:30 am People of the Parish  
 4:00 pm People of the Parish  
 5:30 pm People of the Parish  
 7:00 pm People of the Parish Misa en Espanol  
 10:00 pm People of the Parish

### MONDAY, 25 DECEMBER

**Christmas Day**



7:30 am People of the Parish  
 9:30 am People of the Parish  
 11:30 am People of the Parish

### TUESDAY, 26 DECEMBER

8:30 am Ann Balzano

### WEDNESDAY, 27 DECEMBER

8:30 am Edward J. Ford, Sr. (27th Ann.)

### THURSDAY, 28 DECEMBER

8:30 am Eleanor English

### FRIDAY, 29 DECEMBER

8:30 am John Kunz

### SATURDAY, 30 DECEMBER

5:30 pm Fred Rice

### SUNDAY, 31 DECEMBER

**New Year's Eve**



7:30 am People of the Parish  
 9:30 am People of the Parish  
 11:30 am People of the Parish  
 5:30 pm People of the Parish



### SUNDAY, 24 DECEMBER 4th Sunday of Advent



7:30 am Mass  
 9:30 am Mass  
 10:30 am Children's Choir (OLLC)  
 11:30 am Mass

**See 5th Page in Bulletin for Christmas Mass Schedule.**

### MONDAY, 25 DECEMBER

**Christr**



7:30 am Mass  
 9:30 am Mass  
 11:30 am Mass



### THURSDAY, 28 DECEMBER

10:00 am Deadline for News & Announcements for the Jan 7th Bulletin. Call the Rectory at 973-325-011.

### SATURDAY, 30 DECEMBER

4:15—5:00 pm Confessions in Church  
 5:30 pm Mass in Church

### SUNDAY, 31 DECEMBER New Year's Eve



7:30 am Mass  
 9:30 am Mass  
 10:30 am Children's Choir Rehearsal  
 11:30 am Mass  
 5:30 pm New Year's Mass



This week's Altar Candles, a gift from John & Ann Pflug is in memory of **BEVERLY MOENCH**.



This week's Bread & Wine, a gift from John & Ann Pflug is in memory of **BEVERLY MOENCH**.



This week's Sanctuary Candle, a gift from John & Ann Pflug is in memory of **BEVERLY MOENCH**.

## WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE

### DEC 30 - DEC 31, 2023

Mass	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Solemnity of Mary Masses	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
5:30 pm	Pat Sigalas	Emily Kunz Judy Albore (Choir)	5:30 pm Dec 31	Michael Lanfrank	Annette Chiamonte
7:30 am	Hermie Santos	Sr. James Soon	9:30 am Jan 1	Bill Talbot	Lou Volpe
9:30 am	JoAnn Melhorn	Joe Petrillo			
11:30 am	Wendy Sheyka	Carmelita Dizon			



Janice Augustine  
 Joan Clarke  
 Keith Hari  
 Mary McGuiness  
 Joan Monik

Jacob Rivera  
 Jaxon Rivera  
 Pat Schoeler  
 Laura Splendoria

If you wish to have a friend or loved one prayed for, please call the Rectory at 973-325-0110.

(PASTOR COLUMN continued from Page 2)

Archbishop of Minneapolis-St. Paul, Archbishop Hebda also concelebrated Monsignor's funeral.

It was a time of great sorrow for our parish. Christmas Eve Mass was celebrated the same evening as Monsignor's funeral.

A few months after Monsignor Petrillo's death, we also lost our dear friend, Deacon Ernest Abad in April 2024. Deacon Ernest served at the Vigil Mass and Funeral Mass for Monsignor Petrillo.

At the time, Monsignor Petrillo had been very much involved in the planning of our Lourdes Parish Jubilee Centennial (1914-2014), together with our hard-working team.

Your perseverance as a parish community, after Monsignor's passing was a beautiful sign to me of your love for our parish and your willingness to assist me as your pastor in every way possible. Thank you for your contribution and collaboration with our mission always.

["O Holy Night"] Unexpected circumstances also form the history behind the carol, "O Holy Night." Originating in France as *Cantique de Noel* in the 1800s, the song faced controversy from its inception, teetering on the brink of obscurity due to opposition by authorities in both Church and music circles. It was deemed unfit for worship. Yet, the resilience of "O Holy Night" carries a message for the present day.

Not only were the lyrics very different from other hymns but also were the composer and lyricist quite unexpected. The lyricist, Placide Cappeau, was an atheist. The composer, Adolph Adams, was Jewish.

In the United States, John Sullivan Dwight, translated *Cantique de Noel* into "O Holy Night". In English, the song becoming a rallying cry for justice and equality, among Christians and anti-slavery abolitionists. The translation reads: "Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love and His gospel is peace, chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother, and in his name, all oppression shall cease," This resonated deeply with those championing the cause of freedom.

"O Holy Night" reminds us not to worship the darkness in our lives but to recall that Jesus Christ is our new daystar. He urges us to come to Him.

He is inviting you and me to make the call. I pray you and yours are blessed in his Solemnity of the Nativity of our Lord.



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**Weekly Food Donations**

Thank you to all our parishioners for their donations to our weekly food collection. Food insecurity is very real in our community and your donations of pantry items are delivered to the local food pantry where they are greatly appreciated and distributed to the increasing number of families in need.

**Christmas Joy**

**Catholic Charities**  
of the Archdiocese of Newark  
Mount Carmel Guild Behavioral Health System  
Mount Carmel Guild Schools

How intense is your joy in this Christmas season? Sharing Christmas joy with gifts, a meal and the support of family and friends is a yearly celebration that most of us cherish. Some people, however, have difficulty experiencing these joys due to their circumstances in life. Catholic Charities aims to help relieve the suffering of many in our society through its various programs. Please help Catholic Charities continue its mission by donating your unwanted clothing, small appliances, shoes, linens, sheets, towels, stuffed animals, knickknacks, toys, and children's books to the bin located on our property. May the spirit of the Christ Child resound through your generosity. Thank you.

**PARISH GIVING**

**FISCAL YEAR STARTING JULY 2023**

WEEKLY GOAL	\$ 6800
<b>Collection*: Dec 9—Dec 10</b>	<b>\$ 4287</b>
Deficit:	\$ 2513

\*Includes Online Giving Weekly Average Deposit

*For Your Stewardship of Time, Talent and Treasure.*



## Christmas & New Year Calendar 2023

Confessions, Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation ("Advent Hours")

**Saturdays** (usual time) 4:15 – 5 pm

**Monday December 18 - St. Jude Mass /Devotion/ Confessions in Verona at Our Lady of the Lake Parish. A major relic of St. Jude, "The Saint of the impossible", will be at Our Lady of the Lake (Verona) on Monday, 12/18. Veneration is from 2:00 pm—10:00 pm, with 7 pm Mass in honor of St. Jude. Confessions are from 2 pm—10 pm.**

**Christmas Eve (12/24) 4 pm MASS (Children's Choir) 5:30 pm MASS (Adult Choir)**

**7 pm Misa en Español (Misa de Nochebuena)**

**10 pm MASS**

**Christmas Morning (12/25) 7:30 am MASS, 9:30 am MASS, 11:30 am MASS**

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God (Jan. 1, New Year's Day)

+ Mass at 5:30 pm (Dec. 31) + Mass at 9:30 am (Jan. 1)

Epiphany Dress Rehearsal . 4:00 to 5:15 pm (Jan 6)



*Celebrate*

**The Children's  
Epiphany Pageant**

**Sunday, January 7**

Pageant Immediately following

Sunday 11:30 Mass



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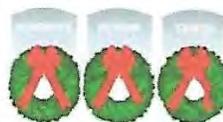
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World Peace



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