



# OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH

One Eagle Rock Avenue, West Orange, New Jersey 07052

RECTORY/Parish Office 973.325.0110

[LOURDESWESTORANGE.ORG](http://LOURDESWESTORANGE.ORG)



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Sunday, December 17, 2023 - Third 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, Advent is a season that calls for heightened awareness and vigilance, a theme reflected in today's Gospel. This reminds me of a previous experience of unexpected danger on a familiar street. It was a seemingly routine day, around 2 pm, when I found myself knocked to the ground by a bicycle messenger whom I hadn't seen due to a obstructing moving van. This incident, while momentarily shocking and causing no physical injury, became a profound lesson in acknowledging the presence of others in our lives.

The encounter made me ponder the meaning of Advent beyond a passive waiting for Jesus. Jesus is already present, and we are called to recognize the significance of our interactions with others and Him. The incident served as a metaphorical collision where both the messenger and I were obstacles to each other.

Jesus manifests his presence in three ways: the historical first Coming (Bethlehem), the future Second Coming in majesty, and the ongoing third Coming in mystery. It is this mysterious aspect that deserves our attention. Pope Benedict XVI highlights that our faith is not merely informative but a call to allow God to act in our lives through his performative word.

How do I get in the way, I get in the Lord's Way?  
How am I an obstacle?

I am an obstacle to the Lord's way, when I am so personally offended when things go the wrong way in my life, and I make things more of a problem than they really are.

I am an obstacle when I am too discouraged by lack of results. As the saying goes, I often want to build the city of Rome in 1 day. I am impatient. And while my impatience sometimes makes me work harder, it sometimes has the opposite effect of making me indifferent, lazy and arrogant.

Being an obstacle to the Lord's way occurs when personal offense amplifies life's challenges, making them more problematic than they are. Impatience can also hinder us, as the desire for instant results can lead to indifference, laziness, or arrogance. Recognizing these obstacles is the first step to getting out of the Lord's way.

So, there are 3 comings of Jesus- but there is a fourth coming – your appearance, my appearance, our cooperation with God's grace and performance in our lives.

Jesus invites us to come to him, understanding our struggles through his own life experiences. The church serves as a place where we can engage in a personal conversation with Jesus, our confidante and trusted friend. 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.

On the day of my little accident, which left me physically unscathed, I was trembling and shaking, I realized, as I brushed myself off and got up from the ground, feeling a bit embarrassed and inclined at first to keep the whole thing to myself.

Shortly thereafter, I saw some of my co-workers and my boss. Telling them what happened, I was not sure how sympathetic or concerned they would be. What ensued as, at first, a concern for me that I was fine. That was to be expected. But, then, we proceeded to discuss and share our experiences about how dangerous this particular street could be.

Jesus invites us to engage in a personal conversation, understanding our struggles through his own experiences. The church serves as a space for this dialogue, extending beyond its physical confines into our daily lives. Personal encounters, like my accident, reveal the importance of seeking support when troubled. Friends who sympathize without judgment can make a significant difference, even if they don't solve our problems. The communal aspect of prayer, both within the church and beyond, reinforces our interconnectedness.

Sharing personal experiences, as I did with my co-workers, emphasizes the significance of having people who understand and sympathize with our challenges. This support is vital, whether in marriage, parenthood, or other aspects of life. Advent reminds us that we are not alone, fostering a sense of communal prayer and mutual understanding. It encourages us to bring our fears and challenges to God, recognizing that our relationship with Him is built through honest communication.

Regarding such communication in the confessional, I assure you, the priest is not there to shake you up or to shake you down. Rather, he is there to help you to know God's mercy in your life. You might have a fear about talking to someone in your life, something difficult in your

OUR LADY OF LOURDES - DECEMBER 17, 2023



<b>SATURDAY, 16 DECEMBER</b> 8:30 am RJ Mercado, Jr. 5:30 pm Lawrence & Catherine Del Plato
<b>SUNDAY, 17 DECEMBER</b> 7:30 am People of the Parish 9:30 am Joan Papale 11:30 am Chrisostome Conserve
<b>MONDAY, 18 DECEMBER</b> 8:30 am Ruth Caste
<b>TUESDAY, 19 DECEMBER</b> 8:30 am Thomas A. Bulger, Jr. (26th Ann.)
<b>WEDNESDAY, 20 DECEMBER</b> 8:30 am Ruby Polixa (4th Ann.)
<b>THURSDAY, 21 DECEMBER</b> 8:30 am Doris Handschuh
<b>FRIDAY, 22 DECEMBER</b> 8:30 am John Lunz
<b>SATURDAY, 23 DECEMBER</b> 5:30 pm Kathleen & Owen Mooney
<b>SUNDAY, 24 DECEMBER</b> 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



<b>SUNDAY, 17 DECEMBER 3rd Sunday of Advent</b> 7:30 am Mass 9:30 am Mass 10:30 am Children's Choir (OLLC) 11:30 am Mass 12:30—3:00 pm Christmas Décor OLLC
<b>MONDAY, 18 DECEMBER</b> 8:30 am Daily Mass will be held Monday thru Friday of each week in church. Miraculous Medal Novena following Monday. 2:00pm—10:00 pm See Page 5 St. Jude Mass/ Devotion / Confessions at Our Lady of the Lake Church -Verona
<b>WEDNESDAY, 20 DECEMBER</b> 6:30—7:30 pm Fam. Cat. GRADE 6 ONLY (Chapel)
<b>THURSDAY, 21 DECEMBER</b> 10:00 am Deadline for News & Announcements for the Dec 24th Bulletin. Call the Rectory at 973-325-011. 6—8:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (OLLC)
<b>SATURDAY, 23 DECEMBER</b> 4:15—5:00 pm Confessions in Church 5:30 pm Mass in Church
<b>SUNDAY, 24 DECEMBER 4th Sunday of Advent</b> 7:30 am Mass 9:30 am Mass 10:30 am Children's Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am Mass <u>See 5th Page in Bulletin for Christmas Mass Schedule.</u>

	This week's Altar Candles, a gift from J.A. Konvalinka is in memory of <b>JAROSLAV &amp; ROSE KONVALINKA</b>
	This week's Bread & Wine, a gift from J.A. Konvalinka is in memory of <b>JAROSLAV &amp; ROSE KONVALINKA.</b>
	This week's Sanctuary Candle, a gift from J.A. Konvalinka is in memory of <b>EMMA CAMPANELLA.</b>

**MORNING PRAYER—Third Sunday of Advent**

Lord God, may we your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen

**PRAYERS Needed For...**

Janice Augustine Joan Clarke	Jacob Rivera
Keith Hari	Jaxon Rivera
Mary McGuinness	Pat Schoeler
Joan Monik	Laura Splendoria

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

WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE		DEC 23 - DEC 24, 2023			
Mass	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Christmas Masses	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
5:30 pm (Choir)	Joy Hayward	Judy Albore Eileen Reilly (Choir)	4:00 pm (Children's Choir)	Kathy Petrillo	Sr. James Soon Joe Petrillo
7:30 am	MaryEllen Chandler	Mary Cassels	5:30 pm (Adult Choir)	Michael Lanfrank	Emily Kunz Eileen Reilly (choir)
9:30 am	Kathy Petrillo	Annette Chiamonte	7:00 pm Misa en Espanol	TBD	Patricia Saway
11:30 am	Wendy Sheyka	Virginia Dimapilis	10:00 pm	Pat Sigalas	Virginia Dimapilis



(PASTOR COLUMN continued from Page 2

life that you might fear bringing up. That's something to bring to prayer first to say, Lord help me to communicate this. Give me the words to say because sometimes the thing that we fear saying is exactly what we are supposed to say or talk about it truthfully, charitably, lovingly to others. Advent reminds us that we are called to watch out for Jesus, that He is already here and that we can watch for him each day.

Advent is more than a passive waiting; it is a call to vigilance, recognizing the presence of Jesus in our lives and others. The metaphorical collisions we experience can serve as opportunities for growth and learning. By identifying and overcoming personal obstacles, we can actively participate in the transformative process of Advent, fostering a deeper connection with God and those around us.

In Christ's Peace,  
Father Jim Ferry



# Church Capital Investment Fund Raffle

CONGRATULATIONS  
TO THE RAFFLE  
**WINNERS**

December 2, 2023  
\$500 winner of 1st Drawing:  
Carol Kurtyka  
\$500 winner of 2nd Drawing:  
Rosanne Bruno



## 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.



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### Christmas Joy



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
Collection*: Dec 2—Dec 3*	\$ 4892
Deficit:	\$ 1908
*Includes Online Giving Weekly Average Deposit	



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## 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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