

# Blessed Mother's Day



## Our Lady of Lourdes

1 Eagle Rock Avenue, West Orange, NJ 07052  
973-325-0110 [lourdeswestorange.org](http://lourdeswestorange.org)





Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ of Our Lady of Lourdes:

#### Part 1: Mary as Mother

In the Catholic Church, Mother's Day arrives early: January 1st, known as the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. On this day, we honor Mary's pivotal role in the life of Jesus. Mary's prominence isn't to elevate her above our Savior, but to remind us that Jesus, the incarnate God, took his physical form from her.

Jesus didn't just briefly inhabit Mary's womb leading up to December 25<sup>th</sup>; he became flesh and blood through her. This deep connection between Jesus and Mary mirrors the bond between any mother and child. This feast day also underscores the importance of a mother's role in pondering and praying for the future of her children, a duty that mothers, godmothers, and other maternal figures carry out.

#### Part 2: Gifts Received

Think back to those cherished Christmas gifts that were given to us without our asking, yet perfectly suited our needs or desires. Similarly, there's joy in discovering and presenting a gift to someone that they didn't request but would deeply appreciate. This act reflects knowing something about the recipient that others might not be aware of.

#### Part 3: Jesus as Unexpected Gift but also Needed

Reflecting on Jesus' origins, theologian John Cavadini suggests that God's plan often reveals unexpected truths or occurrences, a notion echoed in St. Paul's writings. Despite seeming foolish or weak by human standards, God's actions possess a profound wisdom and strength that surpass human understanding.

#### Part 4: God's Foolishness that is Truly Wise

In God's plan, what may seem obvious to human logic isn't always the wisest choice. For example, rather than making a grand announcement of Jesus' birth, God chose a humble path, allowing Jesus to grow up within the context of an ordinary family. This seeming foolishness ultimately reveals a deeper wisdom, hidden from worldly powers but evident to those who believe.

#### Part 5: God's Weakness that is Truly Strong

Jesus, born of Mary and Joseph, experienced life as a human, not as a superhuman being. Through his humanity, Jesus overcame evil and conquered Satan, not through displays of power but through humility and sacrifice. By emptying himself into human form, Jesus invites us to participate in his life and reminds us that entrance into God's kingdom often involves suffering and tribulation, a path he himself walked.

#### Feast of the Ascension

*This is an abridged and paraphrased article from the "Crossroads Initiative" website: (Source: <https://www.crossroadsinitiative.com/media/articles/ascension-christ-new-evangelization/>)*

*The Solemnity of the Ascension celebrates many things, among them the Great Commission to preach the gospel to all nations.*

*The celebration of the Ascension used to leave me a bit flat. It was clear what Good Friday did for me. And Easter Sunday's benefits were indisputable. But as for the Ascension, what's in it for me?*

#### CHARITY: SHARING CHRIST'S JOY

*Christianity is about a kind of love we call "agape" or charity. This love looks away from itself gives itself away. The Divine Word did not become man or endure the cross because something was in it for Him.*

*Charity shares in the beloved's joys and sorrows (John 14:28). The first thing to remember about the Ascension is that it is about sharing in Jesus' joy. It is about celebrating his return to the heavenly glory to which he refused to cling (Phil 2:6-11). It is about rejoicing that his crown of thorns became a kingly crown, that the mocking crowd at Calvary has been replaced with myriads of adoring angels.*

*The Ascension is about Jesus' triumph and glorification. If we get our attention off ourselves and allow the Holy Spirit's love of the Son to animate our souls, we'll experience greater joy than when we see our child hit a home run or graduate from college.*

#### THE ASCENSION & HOPE

*But the Ascension is not just about charity. It is also a feast of hope. Yes, there is something in it for us. He goes to prepare a place for us (John 14:2). We will also one day wear crowns made of gold instead of thorns.*

*For us to endure until that blessed moment, we need divine power. That's another reason we ought to rejoice in his Ascension. He takes his place at God's right hand so that he can pour out the promise of the Father, the Holy Spirit, upon his disciples*

(PASTOR COLUMN continued on Page 4)



7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER - May 12, 2024



<b>SATURDAY, 11 MAY</b> 5:30 pm Barbara L. Gerlach (44th Ann.)
<b>SUNDAY, 12 MAY MOTHER'S DAY</b> 7:30 am People of the Parish 9:30 am People of the Parish 11:30 am People of the Parish
<b>MONDAY, 13 MAY</b> 8:30 am Alma Rosa Reyes -Lejano
<b>TUESDAY 14 MAY</b> 8:30 am Thanksgiving to The Blessed Virgin
<b>WEDNESDAY, 15 MAY</b> 8:30 am Thanksgiving to The Blessed Virgin
<b>THURSDAY, 16 MAY</b> 8:30 am Mary Foley
<b>FRIDAY, 17 MAY</b> 8:30 am Vincenzo Russo
<b>SATURDAY, 18 MAY</b> 5:30 pm Carmaleta & Paul Harris
<b>SUNDAY, 19 MAY PENTECOST</b> 7:30 am People of the Parish 9:30 am People of the Parish 11:30 am People of the Parish

**SUNDAY, 12 MAY ASCENSION/MOTHER'S DAY**  
 Mass  
 7:30 am Mass  
 9:30 am Childrens Choir (OLLC)  
 10:30 am Mass  
 11:30 am May Crowning & Flower Procession



**MONDAY, 13 MAY**  
 8:30 am Daily Mass will be held Monday thru Friday of each week in church.  
 Miraculous Medal Novena following 8:30 am Mass on Monday.

**THURSDAY, 16 MAY**  
 10:00 am Deadline for News & Announcements for the May 26th Bulletin. Call the Rectory at 973-325-0110.  
 6-8:00 pm Choir practice

**SATURDAY, 18 MAY**  
 4:15—5:00 pm Confessions in Church  
 5:30 pm Mass

**SUNDAY, 19 MAY PENTECOST**  
 7:30 am Mass  
 9:30 am Mass  
 10:30 am Children's Choir (OLLC)  
 11:30 am Mass



 This week's Bread & Wine, a gift from Kathy & Joseph Petrillo is in memory of **JOAN PAPALE & VIVIAN PETRILLO.**



+ WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE		May 18 - May 19	
Mass	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers	
5:30 pm	Joy Hayward	Judy Albore Eileen Reilly (Choir)	
7:30 am	Mary Ellen Chandler	Sister James Soon	
9:30 am	Andrew Novoa	Carmelita Dizon	
11:30 am Adult Choir Children's Choir	Rachelle Brown	Wendy Sheyka Paul Hirsch (Choir)	



 PRAYERS Needed For...  
 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

Ephesians 4:10).

As he ascends, he tells the disciples to wait for this power. But notice that he does not tell them to wait passively for the rapture. He does not instruct them to pour over Bible prophecies, debating about how and when he will return. In fact in Acts 1:11, after the Lord ascends out of their sight, the angels ask why the disciples just stand there, staring into space.

**EMPOWERMENT IN THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The waiting is not to be a squandering of precious time. We used to think that evangelization was something that happened far away, carried out by priests and religious. But Vatican II told us that our own neighborhoods are mission territory, and that every single Catholic is called to be an evangelist. Pope John Paul II proclaimed this as the "New Evangelization" because the place is new—right next door—and the missionaries are new since they include all us all.

**NEW EVANGELIZATION – WORDS & DEEDS**

I'm really not sure that St. Francis of Assisi ever said "Preach the Gospel always; when necessary, use words." But if he did, note this—Francis often thought it very necessary to use words. His words could be heard in marketplaces, on street-corners, in Churches, wherever there were people.


Of course, preaching without an authentic witness of life is certainly counterproductive. But forget about the idea that just the witness of our lives is enough. It is not. You may not be called to preach on street corners, but Vatican II and subsequent popes, echoing 1 Peter 3:15, say that we all must be ready to articulate what Jesus has done for us, what he means to us, and why he is the answer to the world's problems.

Feel inadequate to the task? You're in good company. Pope Benedict's first public statement was an admission of his inadequacy. Do as he does—pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to move in and through you, and take the time to keep learning more about your faith so that you can share it with ever greater confidence.


In Christ's Peace,  
Father Jim Ferry

**St. Vincent DePaul Society**

St. Vincent DePaul Society is hosting **Christine's Soup Kitchen** on **Saturday, 5/25/2024** for Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. As of now the soup kitchen is operating on a to-go-lunch basis. Lunches are prepared ahead of time and will be dropped off at Holy Trinity on the morning of **5/25/2024** so you will not have to serve at the soup kitchen itself. If anyone is interested in preparing or purchasing needed items please call Rosanne Bruno at 973-243-0679, or e-mail at [travisb23@juno.com](mailto:travisb23@juno.com).



**ANOTHER YUMMY Pancake Breakfast**



The West Orange Council #5519 Knights of Columbus will host a pancake breakfast fundraiser in the basement of

**Our Lady of Lourdes, Connor Hall**  
**Sunday, May 19**  
**from 8:30 am until 11:30 am**

Pancakes, sausage, eggs, juice, tea, and coffee will be served.

The cost is \$10 for anyone 13 & over, \$5 for children 6-12 years old, and free for any child 5 years old and younger.

Proceeds will go towards supporting local charities in the West Orange area.

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**PARISH GIVING**

FISCAL YEAR STARTING JULY 2024

WEEKLY GOAL	\$ 6800
Collection*: Apr 27-Apr 28*	\$ 4732
Deficit:	\$ 2068

\*Includes Online Giving Weekly Average Deposit



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# SAVE THE DATE

Saturday  
May 11th  
11:30 am  
Mass



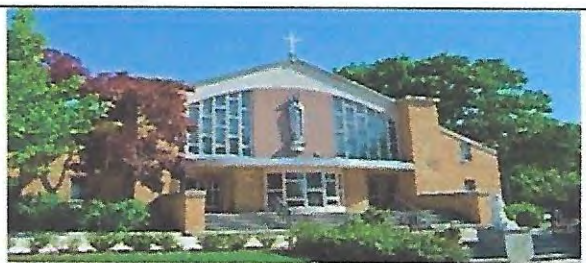
Sunday  
May 12th



Saturday  
June 15th  
(See Flyer)



Save the Date  
**Sunday Nov. 10, 2024**  
11:30 am Mass  
Cardinal Joseph Tobin  
ARCHBISHOP OF NEWARK  
Mass Celebrant for our  
110<sup>th</sup> Parish Anniversary  
1914 – 2024 – ALWAYS



**"I had rather one day in your courts  
than a thousand elsewhere."**  
84<sup>th</sup> Psalm



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