



OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH

One Eagle Rock Avenue, West Orange, New Jersey 07052

RECTORY/Parish Office 973.325.0110

LOURDESWESTORAGE.ORG



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Sunday, August 18, 2024 - Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time



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

Website: 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

Religious Education

Sacrament of Confirmation (Grades 7-12)

Mr. Paul Hirsch 973.325.0110

Email: Confirmation.Class@lourdeswestorange.org

Religious Education

Administrative Assistant

Rhea Catarroja 973.325.0110 ext. 102

Email: rhea.catarroja@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 1st 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 & Sisters of Our Lady of Lourdes

I share with you this article / reflection based from National Catholic Register:

(Source: <https://www.ncregister.com/blog/does-god-change-his-mind-when-we-pray>)

Title: Does God Change His Mind When We Pray? Author: Lillian Fallon March 29, 2019
[ABRIDGED]

“The more you are afflicted, the more you should exult, because a soul in the fire of tribulation will become refined gold...” —Padre Pio

Last summer, I was tempted to give up on praying to God.

Up to that point, my life felt like a Looney Tunes cartoon and I was Bugs Bunny trying to escape a haunted house full of closed doors that just led to more closed doors. Every attempt at finding employment was met with rejection and no matter how many novenas I prayed to get work, God just held up a sign that said, “Wrong way.”

I thought, “Why bother praying when God does what he thinks is best anyway?”

This question always floats to the forefront of my mind when my prayers seem to fall upon deaf ears. But haven’t many of us secretly wondered this? We’re told to pray unceasingly, but do our prayers have any real sway? In one breath we’re told, “Ask and ye shall receive” and “Surrender to divine providence.”

If a family member gets horribly sick but then they get better, it’s because God listened to your prayers.

A couple months ago, the priest at Mass gave a homily on the Wedding at Cana. It was one of those homilies where your ears perk up and you can almost hear God say, “This one’s for you, kid.”

In the homily the priest addressed the topic of whether prayer requests can cause God to change His mind. In this scene of Christ’s first public miracle, Mary says to her son, “They have no wine” (John 2: 3). In reply, Jesus says, “O woman, what have you to do with me? My hour has not yet come” (John 2:4). Yet, He changes the water into wine. The priest explained that Jesus initially had no intention of changing the water into wine, but because His mother

suggested it — he changed his mind. All of this was to remind the congregation that prayer does have impact.

The pew creaked as Father leaned back, “Prayer is a conversation. If you’re in a conversation with someone and you’re thinking of how you can manipulate someone’s response, well, that’s not really a conversation — it’s a script.” His voice echoed, bouncing off the empty pews and then back to me. I thought of all the times I presented God with a manuscript of exactly how the story of my life was going to go.

“It’s hard for us not to approach prayer like that. We all do it. But God still works with us. At a certain early level in prayer, the switch is either off or on — we either feel totally in sync with God because we’re getting what we want or we’re high and dry because we’re not getting what we want.”

Bingo.

I realized I had been looking at the Wedding at Cana all wrong. I was focusing too much on Jesus changing his mind and not enough on Mary’s role in the whole scene. Perhaps one of the most important words to come out of this entire passage is Mary’s, “Do whatever He tells you” (John 2:5). This is directed towards the servants at the wedding, but her words resonate to all children of God, especially since she is the Mother of the Church. She tells us to do whatever her Son tells us to. These words also reflect her fiat at the Annunciation; a complete surrendering of her will and she encourages us to do the same at the Wedding.

Father folded his hands and continued, “When asking God, ‘can I please have this?’ we should exhibit the same trust of Jesus at Gethsemane when he said ‘My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass me by. Nevertheless, let it be as you, not I, would have it’” (Matthew 26:39). Christ’s complete trust on the cross is certainly a sobering wakeup call after you’ve been moping around because of not getting a job.

For so long, I viewed life as a battle of the wills. My will vs. God’s. I always felt like I was at unfair disadvantage because, well, God is God. This perspective warped my mind into believing the whole purpose of my life is to be bossed around by God. I gritted my teeth whenever I said I was open to His will while simultaneously praying against it.

But in this life, we’re hardly forced into anything. We’re actually allowed to make any decision we want in life, even if it’s not what’s best for us. But God doesn’t watch us like rats in a maze, desperately searching for happiness like cheese. When we start going down one path, He offers us opportunity after opportunity to find Him again. Sometimes that opportunity means personal growth through redemptive suffering.

(PASTOR COLUMN continued on Page 4)

OUR LADY OF LOURDES - AUGUST 18, 2024



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| SATURDAY, 17 AUGUST 5:30 pm John J. Buoye |
| SUNDAY, 18 AUGUST 7:30 am People of the Parish 9:30 am Deceased Members of the Pflug & Napolitano Families 11:30 am John Kunz |
| MONDAY, 19 AUGUST 8:30 am Kathleen Duff |
| TUESDAY 20 AUGUST 8:30 am Barbara Clifford |
| WEDNESDAY, 21 AUGUST 8:30 am John Mooney |
| THURSDAY, 22 AUGUST 8:30 am Raymond Dauch |
| FRIDAY, 23 AUGUST 8:30 am James Flaherty |
| SATURDAY, 24 AUGUST 5:30 pm John Mooney |
| SUNDAY, 25 AUGUST 7:30 am People of the Parish 9:30 am Gloria Werner 11:30 am Keith Hari |

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| SUNDAY, 18 AUGUST 7:30 am Mass 9:30 am Mass 11:30 am Mass |
| MONDAY, 19 AUGUST 8:30 am Daily Mass will be held Monday thru Friday of each week in church. <i>Miraculous Medal Novena following 8:30 am Mass on Monday.</i> |
| TUESDAY, 20 AUGUST 7:00 pm Teachers' Mtg. G. 1-5 (Hall) |
| THURSDAY, 22 AUGUST 10:00 am Deadline for News, & Announcements for the Sept. 1 Bulletin. Call the Rectory at 973-325-0110. 7:00 pm Parent Mtg. G. 1-5 (Hall) |
| SATURDAY, 24 AUGUST 4:15—5:00 pm Confessions in Church 5:30 pm Mass |
| SUNDAY, 25 AUGUST 7:30 am Mass 9:30 am Mass 11:30 am Mass |



am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever"
JOHN 6:51



| WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE | | AUGUST 24 - AUGUST 25 | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Mass | Readers | Eucharistic Ministers | |
| 5:30 pm | Andrew Novoa | Judy Albore Eileen Reilly (choir) | |
| 7:30 am | MaryEllen Chandler | Bless Bernardo | |
| 9:30 am | JoAnn Melhorn | Espie Cain | |
| 11:30 am | Julie Okeke | Virginia Dimapilis | |

PARISH GIVING

FISCAL YEAR STARTING JULY 2024

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| WEEKLY GOAL | \$ 6800 |
| Collection*: 8/3-4* | \$ 4869 |
| Deficit: | \$ 1931 |

*Includes Online Giving Weekly Average Deposit

For Your Stewardship of Time, Talent and Treasure.

Jerry Baresich
Robert Santangelo

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)

Like all sin, it boils down to pride and the belief that we know what's best for us. We see ourselves as personal gods and to our limited two dimensional view, we aren't able to see what is truly best for us or the reason behind the crosses we're given for our salvation. God's greatest creation is that good can come from bad, but it's always our choice to choose the good. When we stop trying to change God, we surrender and allow for real graces to make real change in our lives.

Like Mary, when we present our desires or needs before God, we should have already surrendered and accepted his will regardless of the answer. It's when we're in this state of grace that we're able to ask the right questions and able to receive God's answer.

In Christ's Peace
Father Jim Ferry



Join us as **Fridays Gives Back** by partnering with **The Knights of Columbus, Council 5529**, a valuable organization in our community.

All Thursdays in August (Aug 1, Aug 8, Aug 15, Aug 22, Aug 29)

From 11 am to 1 am

TGI Fridays West Orange

495 Prospect Ave, West Orange, NJ 07052

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Join us and TGI Fridays to Give Back and Impact our Community.




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For more details, please call Cheryl Riley, Director of the Respect Life Office, Archdiocese of Newark at **973.497.4350**

Or, via email at cheryl.riley@rcan.org



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“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone.” (1 Corinthians 12:4-6)

Do you feel called to serve in our ministry of
Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion?
Lector / Reader?

Lectors

Lectors are called to proclaim with clarity and grace the Word of God. Through their gifts and talents of preparing the readings in advance, learning proper pronunciation of names and places, articulating well with good tone and pacing, they bring to life the stories of Scripture and give meaning to the General Intercessions. Proudly they carry in procession the Book of God’s Word.

There is always a need for good Lectors. Some training is required. If interested, please contact Eileen Reilly 973-980-4209

Eucharistic Ministers

What more wonderful way is there to serve God than to share the Body and Blood of Christ with your parish community during Mass or at the home of the elderly, infirm or ill? Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion more commonly referred to as Eucharistic Ministers, clearly identifies a person as one who desires to serve God’s people and continue the mission of Christ to His disciples. If you are interested in becoming a Eucharistic Minister, training will be provided; please contact Eileen Reilly - 973-980-4209.

Father Jim Ferry, Pastor

fatherjimferry@lourdeswestorange.org 973.325.0110



Our Lady of Lourdes Church
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West Orange, NJ 07052
973.325.0110 LOURDESWESTORANGE.ORG

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