



OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH

One Eagle Rock Avenue, West Orange, New Jersey 07052

RECTORY/Parish Office 973.325.0110

LOURDESWESTORANGE.ORG



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Sunday, December 29, 2024 - the Joly Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph



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,

[**Being prepared.**] Christmas is a cultural phenomenon of preparation. This leads to a common question up to December 25: Are you ready for Christmas? Even in our dreams, we often face “readiness anxiety”

For example, in your dream, sleeping state, you are a student in school and have a difficult test in a difficult subject and you cannot answer the questions.

Or you are going to a meeting or job interview or on a trip and you have forgotten to bring an important document such as your resume or your passport.

In my case, I have awoken from such a dream and felt relieved to know that I am not taking a math test, nor do I have a job interview.

Maybe I do not have to be ready for these things.

But what about my state of readiness - spiritually, prayerfully - in other areas of my REAL LIFE ... as we say in texting IRL = IN REAL LIFE.

In real life, we are called to be ready each day.

In the Gospel of Advent, we read from John the Baptist: “Prepare ye the way of the Lord...”

[**Thy Will Be Done.**] This command to prepare the way the Lord connects with the words of the Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done. This is not just for the Advent season.

I would like to focus on this petition for God’s will to be done. Do I mean this when I say it, pray it? Sometimes I do the opposite of focusing on God’s will.

For example, when I think about Advent and Christmas, I think about all the things I have to do. Do you make to-do lists, checking them twice, to see what’s naughty or nice?

I know I tend to focus on what I am supposed to be doing and, in my pride - proudly - focus on what I want to be noticed for doing, recognized for achieving.

In this regard, I am not discovering Christmas but distorting Christmas to suit my needs: MY WILL BE DONE. And, everyone else, just get out of my way, prepare the way for me!

Toward the true spirit of Christmas, John the Baptist, says - of Jesus - “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world”. These words of Holy Communion come from the Gospel.

We are called to prepare the way of the Lord by our words and actions. So, there may be various tasks you and I are called to for Christmas - visiting family, buying a gift for the Giving Tree, writing a Christmas card, preparing a meal, for forgiving a hurt or fault experienced by someone’s actions.

In all of these things, I invite you to consider not what you are doing, but what God is doing through you.

You are not God. I am not God. But, we can prepare a highway - or at least our own side street or hallway or entryway for God.

[**Why prepare? Because we cannot predict.**]

We are reminded to prepare our hearts, with prayer, fasting and charitable giving not because we can predict what will happen but because life is unpredictable.

Are there not countless things in this world that we cannot predict?

It is interesting to note that there are at least 3 commonly known professionals who gain lots of attention making predictions often with inaccurate results. They are:

Economists predicting inflation, the stock market and other indicators,

Meteorologists predicting rain and snowfall,

Sportscasters predicting winners and losers on the playing field.

In a sense, all are making predictions to us and, while we listen to lots of predictions, we may not necessarily be prepared anymore just because we got a prediction.

[**Conclusion**] This reminder to prepare continues with Jesus in his conversation with his disciples, up to and including his Passion. On the night before he dies, he goes to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray and get ready spiritually.

He tells his disciples to stay here, watch and pray. When Jesus returns to them, he finds them asleep. It is not really the sleeping that is the problem. They were physically tired. We all need rest.

The problem was that they did not know what to do even after they woke up. The anxiety-based dream is not such a bad dream to have if it reminds that - even if we do not have a mathematics test - we still are called to prepare...



SATURDAY, 28 DECEMBER 5:30 pm John Kunz
SUNDAY, 29 DECEMBER 7:30 am People of the Parish 9:30 am Michael Chiaramonte 11:30 am Anthony Strollo
MONDAY, 30 DECEMBER 8:30 am Fred Rice (24th Ann.)
TUESDAY, 31 DECEMBER <i>New Year's Eve</i> 8:30 am People of the Parish 5:30 pm People of the Parish
WEDNESDAY, 1 JANUARY <i>Happy New Year</i> 9:30 am People of the Parish
THURSDAY, 2 JANUARY 8:30 am Thanksgiving for the Abad & Matias Family
FRIDAY, 3 JANUARY 8:30 am Jose Catarroja
SATURDAY, 4 JANUARY 5:30 pm Joyce LaPola Ventola
SUNDAY, 5 JANUARY 7:30 am People of the Parish 9:30 am Justina Nzegwu (Special Intention) 11:30 am Ernie Abad (45th Ann.)

SUNDAY, 29 DECEMBER 7:30 am Mass in Church 9:30 am Mass in Church 11:30 am Mass in Church
MONDAY, 30 DECEMBER 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, 31 DECEMBER 8:30 am Mass 5:30 pm New Year's Eve Mass
WEDNESDAY, 1 JANUARY 9:30 am New Year's Day Mass
THURSDAY, 2 JANUARY 10:00 am Deadline for News & Announcements for the Jan 12th Bulletin. Call the Rectory at 973-325-0110
SATURDAY, 4 JANUARY 12-1:30 pm Epiphany Dress Rehearsal 4:15-5:00 pm Confessions in Church 5:30 pm Mass in Church
SUNDAY, 5 JANUARY 7:30 am Mass in Church 9:00 am Rosary Recitation 9:30 am Mass in Church 11:30 am Mass in Church EPIPHANY PAGEANT following 11:30 am Mass



This week's Bread & Wine, a gift from Annette & Richard Chiaramonte is in memory of JOHN D. PFLUG, SR.



++ WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE		DEC 31 New Year's Eve Jan 1 New Year's Day			
Mass	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Mass	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
NEW YEAR'S EVE					
5:30 pm	Michael Lanfrank	Annette Chiaramonte Eileen Reilly (choir)	NEW YEAR'S DAY		
JAN 4—JAN 5, 2025					
NEW YEAR'S DAY					
5:30 pm (Adult Choir)	Andrew Novoa	Emily Kunz Eileen Reilly (choir)			
7:30 am	Bless Bernardo	Mary Cassels			
9:30 am	Carol Ford	Espie Cain			
11:30 am (Children Choir)	Wendy Sheyka	Michelle Gizzi Carmelita Dizon (choir)			



Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

Like the Magi, may we
Also journey and be
Attentive, untiring
And courageous on
The path to find the
Invisible God who was
Born among us.
— Pope Francis



PRAYERS

Artemis Soleil Benitez	Robert Santangelo
Judy Bernarducci	Pio Tortola
Mai Fernandez	Janet Wojturski
Beverly McAllister	

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)

Christmas and Advent are often distorted or discombobulated with external displays and excessive lighting - even if it is LED and environmentally friendly.

Darkness and silence - if they promote love of God and love of neighbor - are also friendly to both heaven and earth!

The world means your street, your school bus, Washington or Mount Pleasant Elementary, Edison, West Orange High School, Seton Hall Prep, the Mount, Rutgers, your place of work, your home. The parking lot after Mass. This is your world.

Prepare ye the way of the Lord. Make straight his paths.

Blessed Christmas Season and New Year of 2025 to all of you.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PRAY FOR US,

In Christ's Peace,

PARISH GIVING

FISCAL YEAR STARTING JULY 2024

WEEKLY GOAL	\$ 6800
Collection*: 12/14-15*	\$ 4764
Deficit:	\$ 2036
*Includes Online Giving Weekly Average Deposit	



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**Church Capital Investment
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**CONGRATULATIONS
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ELIZABETH WEISS**

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Advent - Christmas Calendar 2024



Advent & Christmas Choir Concert

Saturday Dec. 7 with Children and Adult Choirs!

6:30 pm (immediately after 5:30 pm Mass)

Simbang Gabi Mass & Blessing of Outdoor Nativity Scene

Monday December 16: Morning Mass @ 8:30 am

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

Saturdays (usual time) 4:15—5:00 pm

Other hours to be announced

+ or call 973-325-0110 for Appointment

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

7 pm Misa en Espanol (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)

Children's Epiphany Pageant (Sun. January 5, immediately after

11:30 am Mass

**Our Lady of Lourdes, One Eagle Rock Avenue, West Orange, NJ 07052
973-325-0110 LOURDESWESTORANGE.ORG**

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