



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, March 2, 2025 - Eighth 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,

We are approaching the season of Lent which begins with Ash Wednesday March 5.

Ashes will be distributed at each every Mass and prayer service on that day, scheduled for: 7 am (service), 8:30 am (Morning Mass), 12 Noon (service), 3:30 pm (service), 5:30 pm (service), 7 pm (service).

I share with my homily of the 6th Sunday (February 16) as a reflection on the Beatitudes and the direction which Jesus is calling us. The 40 Days of Lent are also about a direction for our lives.

The Beatitudes / Redirection / Lent

[Introduction] The Beatitudes (Luke 6:17, 20-26) challenge our understanding of what it means to be blessed: “Blessed are the poor, blessed are those who mourn...” At first glance, these states seem undesirable, something we naturally resist. Yet, Jesus presents them not as circumstances to escape but as a way to navigate life spiritually.

Jesus delivers this message in two different settings – on the mount (Matthew) and the plain (Luke). This contrast symbolizes movement, a call to change direction and embrace an unexpected path. Whether Jesus is speaking from an elevated position or descending to the plain, His message remains the same: the Beatitudes are not simply moral teachings but an invitation to a new way of life.

How do we know if we are headed in the right direction?

[Direction and Navigation] A few years ago, I traveled to Atlanta, Georgia, for a family funeral. My uncle had passed away, and my family, scattered across different states, made their way to the city in their own ways. I flew in alone, rented a car, and thought I could easily navigate my way. After all, I had been there before – even in a time before GPS.

However, as I neared my destination, my GPS signal weakened until it was completely lost. I was left in the dark – literally, as it was nighttime, and the roads were empty. I was unfamiliar with the neighborhood and unable to rely on technology.

In that moment, I had to depend on someone else. My brother, who had driven the same roads a few hours earlier, guided me over the phone. Step by step, he helped me navigate, and I arrived safely. The journey taught me a lesson in trust – relying not only on technology but on another person’s voice.

[Depending on God] Do I trust God’s voice in the same way? Do I listen to His guidance through Scripture, prayer, and the wisdom of others? Do you?

Psalms 119 says, “God’s word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” The Beatitudes serve as this guiding

light. They direct us toward God’s kingdom though their path may be one we would not have chosen.

[Cautions from the Gospel] Life is full of directions and limits. Speed limits, for example, are often seen as restrictions we might not want to follow. Yet, they exist for our safety.

Similarly, Jesus presents the Beatitudes with both promises and warnings: “Woe to you who are rich now... Woe to you who laugh now.” At first, this might seem confusing. Does Jesus want us to be poor and sorrowful? No. But He wants us to recognize that wealth and comfort can be distractions if they distance us from God.

We see public examples of this all the time – celebrities who gain everything the world offers but still find themselves lost. Money, fame, and pleasure are not inherently bad, but when they become our sole focus, they can lead us astray. On the other hand, poverty, mourning, and humility can be blessings when they draw us closer to God. The Beatitudes are our spiritual GPS – guiding us toward a life centered on God rather than temporary gains.

[Virtue in Poverty, Sorrow] I think of my grandparents, who immigrated to this country in the early 1900s with little to their name. They lived simply, even when they eventually became more financially stable. They had one closet in an apartment for five people. Yet, they never measured their lives by their possessions.

Their poverty taught them not just the value of a dollar, but the value of everything. In the same way, mourning teaches us not just the value of the person who has died, the value of everyone’s life, the value of our own lives. Sorrow can open our hearts to a greater appreciation of life and a deeper connection to God.

[Redirection] Jesus’ message in the Beatitudes is not about deprivation for its own sake. It is about reorienting our priorities. We all experience poverty in some form – whether material, emotional, or spiritual. In those moments, we are reminded of our need for God.

Personally, I often want things done my way, on my timeline. When plans change or things don’t go as expected, I can become frustrated. But these moments remind me that my own “GPS” is flawed. I need God’s guidance, not just my own.

Jesus calls us to follow Him, to embrace simplicity and humility, and to trust in His direction – even when the road seems uncertain. The kingdom of God is found in this journey


[Introduction to Ash Wednesday: Fasting and Prayer] Would it not be better for us to recognize our limitations and entrust ourselves to God’s wisdom?

At times, darkness – whether literal or spiritual – can be a blessing. It forces us to seek light beyond ourselves. When we acknowledge our vulnerability, we create space for God to lead us.



SATURDAY, 1 MARCH 5:30 pm Alfonso Solimene
SUNDAY, 2 MARCH 7:30 am People of the Parish 9:30 am Deceased Members of the Pflug & Napolitano Families 11:30 am Jaroslav Konvalinka
MONDAY, 3 MARCH 8:30 am Dorothy Wetzel (13th Ann.)
TUESDAY, 4 MARCH 8:30 am Felicia Okeke (Special Intention)
WEDNESDAY, 5 MARCH 8:30 am Kenneth F. Kunzman See Calendar for Ash Wednesday Prayer Services with Ashes.
THURSDAY, 6 MARCH 8:30 am Peter Cetti, Jr.
FRIDAY, 7 MARCH 8:30 am Vertus Massena
SATURDAY, 8 MARCH 5:30 pm Peggy Ann Mooney
SUNDAY, 9 MARCH 7:30 am People of the Parish 9:30 am JoAnne Chiamonte (2nd Ann.) 11:30 am People of the Parish

SUNDAY, 2 MARCH 7:30 am Mass 9:00 am Recitation of Rosary (OLLC) 9:30 am Mass 9:30—11:45am G.7-12 (OLLC) (HALL) 10:30—11:30 am 1st Communion Class (Chapel) 11:30 am Mass
MONDAY, 3 MARCH 8:30 am Daily Mass will be held Monday thru Friday of each week in church. 5—7:30 pm Family Catechesis (HALL)
TUESDAY, 4 MARCH 1:00 PM RAS meeting—Rectory
WEDNESDAY, 5 MARCH Ash Wednesday Prayer Services with Ashes 7:30 am, 12 noon, 3:30 pm, 5:30 pm 7:00 pm
THURSDAY, 6 MARCH 10:00 am Deadline for News & Announcements for the Mar. 16th Bulletin. Call the Rectory at 973-325-0110
SATURDAY, 8 MARCH 4:15—5:00 pm Confessions in Church 5:30 pm Mass
SUNDAY, 9 MARCH 7:30 am Mass 8:30—11:30 am Knight's of Columbus Pancake Breakfast (Hall) 9:30 am Mass 9:30—11:45 am 1st Communion Class (Chapel) 11:00 am Mass 11:30 am Mass – 2:00 pm G. 7-12 (OLLC, HALL) ATTENDANCE MANDATORY

 This week's Bread & Wine, a gift from Gamie & Rosalinda Saniel is in memory of **RICHARD CHIARAMONTE**.



WEEKEND MARCH 8-9 2025
MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Mass	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers			
5:30 pm Adult	Pat Sigalas	Melinda Prather Eileen Reilly (c)			
7:30 am	Bless Bernardo	Bless Bernardo			
9:30 am	JoAnn Melhorn	Espie Cain			
11:30 am Children's Choir	Wendy Sheyka	Carmelita Dizon Paul Hirsch (c)			

 Prayers Needed

Artemis Soleil Benitez	Beverly McAllister
Judy Bernarducci	Robert Santangelo
Oscar Diaz	Pio Tortola
Mai Fernandez	Peggy Vassallo
Langan Family	

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)

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday – March 5th - a time to reflect on our spiritual journey. The ashes remind us of our mortality and dependence on God. Fasting and prayer help us refocus, not just by giving something up, but by making room for something greater.

Fasting is not just about food—it is about letting go of distractions. It is about fasting from unnecessary worries, from excessive speech about our problems, and from self-reliance. When we fast, we open ourselves to deeper listening—both to God and to those around us.


Are you - am I - going in the right direction? The Beatitudes invite us to look for God’s presence in unexpected places—in poverty, in sorrow, in humility. Let us follow Jesus down this road of simplicity and trust. The kingdom of God is found there.

In Christ’s Peace,
Father Jim Ferry



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
1ST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH
March 7, 2025
5:30–7:30 pm in Church
Join Us!
Jesus is waiting for You!


The **Rosary Altar Society’s March meeting** will be held on:
Tuesday, March 4, at 1:00 pm
in the Rectory.
All Rosarians: Looking forward to seeing everyone there.
Carol Ford, President



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
WEST ORANGE COUNCIL #5519




Sunday, 9th of MARCH 2025
8:30 am - 11:30 am
CONNOR HALL
\$10 DONATION - ADULTS AND CHILDREN 13 & OVER
\$5 CHILDREN 6-12
(No charge for any child 5 & under)
Pancakes, sausage, eggs, juice, and coffee
will be served.
Please make plans for you and your family to attend.
All proceeds will go towards supporting local charities
in the West Orange area.



Thanks to you—the people of Our Lady of Lourdes—through the goodness of your prayers and donations, we collected **151 cans of soup** for our **Souper Bowl 2025 Soup Can drive**.
Your donations were distributed to our local food pantry. They will be greatly appreciated by the many that depend on our generosity to help families with food insecurity.

St. Vincent DePaul Society

St. Vincent DePaul Society is hosting **Christine’s Soup Kitchen** on **Saturday, 3/15/2025** 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 **3/15/2025** 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 her at travisb23@juno.com.



PARISH GIVING

FISCAL YEAR STARTING JULY 2024

WEEKLY GOAL	\$ 6800
Collection*: 2-15/2-16, 2025*	\$ 4060
Deficit:	\$ 2740

***Includes Online Giving Weekly Average**



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

Ash Wednesday March 5

Ashes distributed at both
"Mass" & "Service"

7 am Service

8:30 am MORNING MASS

12 noon Service

3:30 pm Service

5:30 pm Service

7 pm Service




Lenten Meditation Packets

Please pick up a Lenten Meditation Packet prepared by the 6th Grade Religious Education Class. They will be available near the Peace & Good entrance.

By PresentationPRO



Sunday, **March 9th**

Daylight Saving Time
Begins



SET YOUR CLOCK
ONE HOUR FORWARD
BEFORE GOING TO
BED SATURDAY
NIGHT



**Sunday,
March 16th**

St. Patrick's Day Parade
No 11:30am Mass

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