



# 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, June 1, 2025 - Seventh Sunday of Easter



## 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**

Rosa Cruz 973.325.0110 ext. 102

Email: [rosa.cruz@lourdeswestorange.org](mailto:rosa.cruz@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,

*I share with you my homily for May 22: Saint Rita of Cascia.*

Today is the Memorial of Saint Rita of Cascia, an Augustinian nun, born Margarita Lotti in Italy in the 1300s. She eventually joined the Augustinian order, but her path to religious life was long and marked by suffering, perseverance, and, most of all, love—the kind of love that Jesus speaks about in John 14.

In today's Gospel, Jesus says, "If you love me, keep my commandments." This isn't always easy, especially when the commandment is to love everyone—not just the people who are kind to us, but also those who are unkind or even hostile. When we think of love, we tend to think of our family, our friends, the people who are naturally closest to us. But Jesus stretches the command: "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

These are tall orders. And often, our "enemy" isn't a distant stranger or someone in a faraway place—it may be someone very close to us. It could be someone who is opposing us, someone doing something wrong or hurtful, someone making our lives difficult. Yet Jesus calls us to love them too. This is the love of the Gospel: not conditional, not easy, not convenient—but transformative.

Saint Rita's life embodies this Gospel love.

She grew up desiring to become a religious sister, but her parents arranged a marriage for her when she was still a teenager. Her husband, Paolo Mancini, was a harsh and abusive man. Yet, like \* Saint Monica — another great Augustinian figure, the mother of Saint Augustine—Rita did not give up. She prayed fervently for her husband's conversion. And by the grace of God, he did convert. His heart softened. He changed his ways.

Tragically, Paolo was murdered, caught in a cycle of violence and revenge. His death left Rita with two sons, and her sorrow deepened when she learned that they intended to avenge their father's murder. This, of

course, was the culture at the time—it was "*La Vendetta*." Rita feared not only for their souls but also for the consequences they would face if they went through with their plan.

So she prayed again—this time, even more desperately. She asked God to stop them, to intervene, to preserve them from sin. And in a way only God could allow, both of her sons died during a plague before they could carry out the act of revenge. Tragic, yes—but also, in a strange and painful way, merciful.

Now alone, Rita sought again to fulfill her original calling. She entered the monastery and became an Augustinian sister. From that point on, her life was marked by prayer, penance, and peacemaking. Today, she is known as the patron saint of troubled marriages, difficult relationships, family trials, and impossible causes.

And rightly so. Her life was filled with circumstances that seemed impossible: loving an abusive spouse, losing her entire family, and choosing peace in the midst of a culture of revenge. Yet she remained faithful to Jesus' command: "If you love me, keep my commandments."

I first encountered Saint Rita during my time in the seminary. I remember being at a crossroads—wrestling with doubts about my vocation and wondering what direction God was calling me to take. I wasn't planning to leave the seminary altogether, but I was thinking seriously about changing paths—perhaps joining a religious order, perhaps exploring the Augustinians, whose life and mission I admired.

During a retreat at an Augustinian monastery near Villanova University in Pennsylvania, I remember saying to the retreat director, "I really like the community here. Could I join this community?" And that moment opened up a whole new line of thought for me.

It also taught me something important about vocation. When we see someone discerning a vocation, we shouldn't just ask them, "Do you want to be a priest?" or "Do you want to be a religious sister?" There's so much more richness to explore. What kind of priest?

(PASTOR COLUMN continued on Page 4)



SATURDAY, 31 MAY

5:30 pm Trinidad Sarmiento

SUNDAY, 1 JUNE

7:30 am People of the Parish

9:30 am John D. Pflug, Sr.

11:30 am Louis Papale

MONDAY, 2 JUNE

8:30 am John Healy

TUESDAY, 3 JUNE

8:30 am Margaret Brennan

WEDNESDAY, 4 JUNE

8:30 am Ed Fairchild

THURSDAY, 5 JUNE

8:30 am Martin & Anne Healy

FRIDAY, 6 JUNE

8:30 am Mal & Jennie Healy

SATURDAY, 7 JUNE

5:30 pm Barbara Zinn

SUNDAY, 8 JUNE **PENTECOST**

7:30 am People of the Parish

9:30 am Michael Chiaramonte

11:30 am Raymond William Hopkins

SUNDAY, 1 JUNE

7:30 am Mass

9:00 am **Rosary Recitation (OLLC)**

9:30 am Mass

10:30 am—12:00 noon **Annual Meeting, Rosary Altar Society (Rector)**

11:30 am Mass

MONDAY, 2 JUNE

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, 5 JUNE

10:00 am **Deadline for News & Announcements for the June 8th Bulletin. Call the Rectory at 973-325-0110**



FRIDAY 6, JUNE

5:50—7:30 pm **1st FRIDAY ADORATION (OLLC)**

SATURDAY, 7 JUNE

4:15—5:00 pm Confessions in Church

5:30 pm Mass

SUNDAY, 8 JUNE

7:30 am Mass

9:30 am Mass

11:30 am Mass



This week's Bread & Wine, a gift from Nancy Lanfrank is in memory of **JACK MALLOY (6TH ANN.)**



This week's Sanctuary Candle, a gift from Nancy Lanfrank is in memory of **CATHY HIGGINS.**

### PARISH GIVING

FISCAL YEAR STARTING JULY 2024

Goal \$ 6,800

Collection\*: May 17-18, 2025\* \$ 4,616

Deficit: \$ 2,184

\*Includes Online Giving Weekly Average



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

### WEEKEND June 7-8, 2025

Mass	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
5:30 pm	Michael Lanfrank	Emily Kunz Judy Albore (C )
7:30 am	MaryEllen Chandler	Bless Bernardo
9:30 am Choir	Carol Ford	Myrna Regino Joe Petrillo (C )
11:30 am	Lynda Clement	Virginia Dimapilis

### Prayers Needed

Emeka Anyanyo

Judy Bernarducci

James Cunningham

Larry Gomes

Langan Family

Beverly McAllister

Jose Saeteros

Robert Santangelo

Pio Tortola

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)

What kind of sister? What kinds of ministries are possible? There are teachers, scholars, missionaries, hospital chaplains—so many paths.

At that time, I was interested in the life and spirit of the Augustinians. I was inspired by their charism and their mission. Honestly, I think I was also a little bored with my own seminary experience, and maybe the grass seemed greener on the other side.

But had I gone that route, I wouldn't be here now. My life would have unfolded very differently. And I don't regret the path I chose.

During that same retreat, the spiritual director said something to me to encourage me: "Jim, you will be a blessing" It was something I needed to hear and retain. I don't always feel like a blessing, but that moment of affirmation stuck with me. It still does.

And this retreat director (Father Jim McBurney, OSA) noted I would be ordained a deacon on May 22, the feast day of Saint Rita, an Augustinian.

Saint Rita's life teaches us how to remain in the Father's love, even in the darkest and most difficult of situations. She teaches us that to love like Jesus is to love even when it's hard—to love those who don't love us back, to forgive when it seems impossible, to trust when hope feels lost.

She reminds us that there are no truly "impossible causes" with God.

So on this day, as we reflect on Saint Rita's life and listen again to Jesus' words in John 14—"If you love me, keep my commandments"—let's pray for the courage to love like Rita. To persevere like Rita. To trust like Rita.

And let's ask her intercession for all those in our lives who are going through difficult marriages, broken families, or vocational uncertainty. May they, too, discover the grace to love and to persevere—just as she did.

Saint Rita of Cascia, pray for us. Amen.

In Christ's Peace,

Father Jim Ferry

The Rosary Altar Society's Annual meeting will be held on:

**Sunday, June 1st**

**9:00 am Recitation of Rosary**

**9:30 am Mass**

**10:30 am Annual Meeting in the Rectory.**

**All Rosarians:** Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Carol Ford, President



## **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

**1ST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH**

**June 6, 2025**

**5:30–7:30 pm in Church**

***Join Us!***

***Jesus is waiting for You!***



**MISSIONARY COOPERATION  
PLAN APPEAL SHARES JESUS  
ACROSS THE WORLD**

**This year's appeal is on behalf of the Diocese of Gbarnga, Liberia. Members of the Diocese will be visiting Our Lady of Lourdes Parish on July 12-13, 2025 to speak at all Masses about their religious community.**

**This mission appeal is part of the Missionary Cooperative Program of our Archdiocese of Newark. Please be generous with your prayers and contribute to the second collection to help support the missionary work in Gbarnga.**

"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good,

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY**



**TRICKY TRAY**

**POST-EVENT SUMMARY**

We are happy to report that 191 registered guests visited Connor Hall from 8:00 am—4:00 pm on April 26th to try their luck at winning more than 250 gift baskets, 4 Special Prizes and a Fair Share drawing.

The proceeds of the event totaled \$11,274.27. At the June 1st Annual Meeting of the Rosary Altar Society the members voted to present these monies to Fr. Jim with the request that the monies be restricted for church capital expenditures.

A sincere **THANK YOU** to all of our **VOLUNTEERS** for the time and energy that was put into yet another successful Tricky Tray.  
We couldn't do this without you!

**THANK YOU** to all of our **VENDORS & DONORS** for your extreme generosity. The Tricky Tray is our largest fundraiser and helps support the needs of our parish.

**THANK YOU** to our Tricky Tray **GUESTS** for coming out to support our fundraiser.

*Please show your appreciation by supporting the many local businesses in West Orange and surrounding communities.*

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**



**Saturday  
June 14th**

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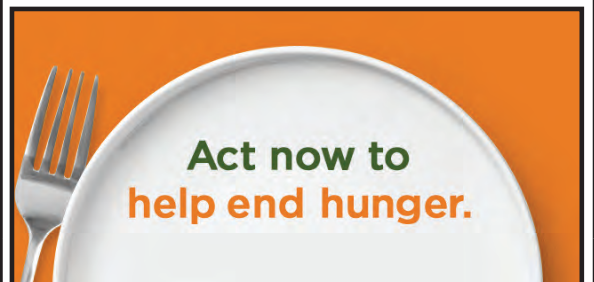


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