



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, August 17, 2025 - 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

Rosa Cruz 973.325.0110 ext. 102

Email: 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 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 Friends,

“Who do you say that I am?” (Matthew 16:18)

1. Publicly Known: The Setting of Caesarea Philippi

The Gospel passage known as the **Confession of Peter** (Matthew 16) does not center on an apology, but on a profession of faith. In this context, "confession" means a declaration of belief — as when we stand and recite the Creed during Mass. Peter’s words are a public acknowledgment of Jesus’ identity, not an admission of guilt.

The setting of this moment is no accident. Jesus brings His disciples to *Caesarea Philippi*, a region far from the religious center of Jerusalem. This was a place known for its diversity of religious beliefs, filled with temples dedicated to pagan gods. In this pluralistic and politically charged location, Jesus reveals His divine identity. He chooses an international, neutral ground to make a statement: He is **Lord not just of Israel, but of all the earth.**

By asking, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” Jesus begins with the opinions of the crowd. Some say John the Baptist. Others suggest Elijah or another prophet. These are flattering comparisons, but ultimately inadequate. They place Jesus within the realm of the **possibly true** — respectable but mistaken categories.

2. Possibly True: Public Opinion vs. Faith

Jesus then shifts the conversation: “But who do you say that I am?” This is the turning point. The question is no longer about hearsay or public perception — it’s about personal conviction.

Peter responds, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” This is the heart of his confession. He doesn’t arrive at this conclusion through theological training or scholarly study. Peter is no academic; he’s a fisherman. Jesus affirms this by saying that Peter’s knowledge was not revealed “by flesh and blood,” but by the Father in heaven. This truth was made known to him through faith and prayer.

This distinction — between what is possibly true and what is personally experienced — matters. Many people today admire Jesus as a good teacher or moral leader. But to call Him the **Christ, the Son of the living God** requires something more than admiration. It requires a relationship. It requires grace.

3. Personally Experienced: The Ministry of the Keys

After Peter’s confession, Jesus gives him a mission: “I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven.” These words mark the beginning of what the Church calls the **ministry of the keys**. It is a ministry of mercy — the authority to bind and loose, to forgive sins, and to extend God’s reconciliation.

As a priest, I received the ministry of the keys in a particular way. When I hear confessions, I am acting not on my own authority but as a minister of Christ's forgiveness. This role comes with profound responsibility. The **seal of confession is absolute**: a priest may never, under any circumstances, reveal what he hears in the confessional. Not even if someone confesses a crime. Not even if someone asks him to.

But this responsibility isn’t only for priests. The logic of forgiveness, once received, is meant to be **lived out** by every Christian. While only the priest is bound by the seal, there is a kind of spiritual confidentiality that all of us are called to practice.

4. Forgiveness: Silent Mercy

Let’s consider a real-life application. Suppose someone wrongs you, and you choose to forgive him or her. The question becomes: Can you truly let go? Can you avoid speaking about it again?

This is difficult. Sometimes, we tell stories of past hurts to process them — even to laugh about them later. But if we continue to retell them over and over, especially in ways that cast the other person in a bad light, are we really forgiving? Or are we holding on?

Jesus says, “Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth

(Pastor Column continued on Page 4)

OUR LADY OF LOURDES - AUGUST 17, 2025



SATURDAY, 16 AUGUST 5:30 pm Portia Chaves Bacal
SUNDAY 17 AUGUST, 7:30 am People of the Parish 9:30 am Deceased Members of the Pflug & Napolitano Families 11:30 am Richard & Jeanne Blind
MONDAY, 18 AUGUST 8:30 am John Kunz
TUESDAY, 19 AUGUST 8:30 am Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin Mary
WEDNESDAY, 20 AUGUST 8:30 am Robert W. Shiel, Jr.
THURSDAY, 21 AUGUST 8:30 am Michael Cassels
FRIDAY, 22 AUGUST 8:30 am Rosemary J. Huber
SATURDAY, 23 AUGUST 5:30 pm Teresa Buena
SUNDAY, 24 AUGUST 7:30 am People of the Parish 9:30 am John D. Pflug, Sr. 11:30 am Grace Catalano

SUNDAY, 17 AUGUST 7:30 am Mass 9:30 am Mass 11:30 am Mass
MONDAY, 18 AUGUST 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, 21 AUGUST 10:00 am Deadline for News & Announcements for the Aug 31st Bulletin. Call the Rectory at 973-325-0110
SATURDAY, 23 AUGUST 4:15—5:00 pm Confessions in Church 5:30 pm Mass
SUNDAY, 24 AUGUST 7:30 am Mass 9:30 am Mass 10:30 am Teacher's Meeting Grades 1-5 with Ms. Priscilla Castro (HALL) 11:30 am Mass 12:30 pm Mass Parents Meeting Grades 1-5 with Ms. Priscilla Castro (HALL)



August 23-24 2025			
Mass	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	
5:30 pm	Andrew Novoa	Eileen Reilly Judy Albore (c)	
7:30 am	MaryEllen Chandler	Sister James Soon	
9:30 am	Bill Talbot	Annette Chiaramonte	
11:30 am	Lynda Clement	Carmelita Dizon	

PARISH GIVING	
FISCAL YEAR STARTING JULY 2025	
Goal	\$ 6,800
Collection*: August 2-3, 2025*	\$ 5,002
Deficit:	\$1,798
*Includes Online Giving Weekly Average	
For Your Stewardship of Time, Talent and Treasure.	

Prayers Needed

Maria Colon	Mary McGuiness
Pierre Ferrus	Reynaldo Rapada
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)

shall be loosed in heaven." This teaching doesn't only apply to priests. It applies to every Christian relationship.

True forgiveness means loosening the chains — and then **not picking them back up**. When we talk endlessly about how we were wronged, even after reconciliation, we are re-binding what was meant to be loosed.

That doesn't mean we never talk about difficult experiences, especially in healing contexts. But the spirit of Christ's forgiveness calls us to mercy without conditions, without loopholes, without keeping a record of wrongs.

5. The Confession That Changes Us

Peter's confession was not just a theological statement — it was a transformative encounter. His life was changed because he was willing to say: "You are the Christ." And he was willing to live by that truth, even when it was difficult, even when it would eventually cost him his life.

Jesus doesn't want to be one revered name among many. He's not just another prophet or sage. He is the **Son of the living God**, and He wants a relationship with us that changes how we live — especially how we treat others.

So Jesus asks each of us, just as He asked Peter: "Who do you say that I am?"

That's not a question about theology degrees or Sunday school knowledge. It's a question about the heart. And our answer can't stay in our heads or on our lips. If we truly believe He is the Son of God, then we are called to show that belief in our mercy, in our forgiveness, and in our willingness to keep what is loosed on earth loosed in heaven.

In Christ's Peace,

Father Jim Ferry



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Religious Education Registration for 2025-2026 is Open!



Our Lady of Lourdes Church
One Eagle Rock Avenue
West Orange, New Jersey 07052

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1st Penance – 1st Communion – Confirmation – Grades 1-12

We encourage you to register your child early to receive a discount and ensure a place in our program.

What is the Tuition? Note the Discount!

- **\$60 / child** if registered by **May 31**
- **\$80 / child** if registered by **June 30**
- **\$100 / child** after July 1.

Final Registration Deadline: September 10, 2025

Checks payable to "Our Lady of Lourdes." Cash payments must be made in person at the Rectory.

What You Need to Register:

1. Baptism certificate
2. First Holy Communion certificate (if completed)
3. Completed registration form
4. Tuition payment. If you have questions, need to make a partial payment or you are in need of financial assistance, please call. No student or child will be turned away!

We also gratefully accept your monetary donations to sponsor a child or children. You may donate at rectory or via Sunday Collection by placing cash or check payable to "Our Lady of Lourdes" in any **envelope marked** "Rel. Ed. Gift".

☎ Call the Rectory Office: 973-325-0110

Email: fatherjimferry@lourdeswestorange.org or rosa.cruz@lourdeswestorange.org

Where You Can Register

► **Online: Visit Website: LOURDESWESTORANGE.ORG**
Click "Faith Formation" → "Religious Ed. Registration"

► **In Person:** Rectory Office Hours, 9 am – 2 pm, Monday-Friday. Forms also available for pickup in church.

What is the 2025-2026 Calendar: Visit Website: LOURDESWESTORANGE.ORG
Click "Faith Formation" → "2025-2026 Religious Ed. Calendar"

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