



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 7, 2025 - Second Sunday of Advent



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,

This is an article I am sharing with you from Crossroads Initiative about Advent by Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio

Source: <https://www.crossroadsinitiative.com/media/articles/advent-of-peace/>

Advent of Peace – Fast before the Feast

Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio

Christmas is a joyous celebration of the birth of Peace. So why does the Church precede the feast of December 25 with a somber season of fast, penance and repentance? A meditation for Advent.

Christmas cards speak about it. Christmas carols sing about it. Even the angels at Bethlehem proclaimed it. "Peace on earth." "The lion shall lie down with the lamb." (Isaiah 11). "Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever" (Psalm 72).

The coming of the Messiah obviously has something to do with the advent of peace.

Peace according to the Bible

But we need to examine the biblical notion of peace. For it is not quite the peace that some have in mind. It is not niceness or political correctness. It is not just the absence of armed conflict or "peaceful co-existence." It is rather right relationship between people that flows from right relationship with God. Pope St. Paul VI said that "if you want peace, work for justice." Justice, however, is not just fair laws and political rights, but the interior justice that the bible calls righteousness.

The world is obviously not at peace, because human hearts are not at peace. We are all pulled in opposite directions by competing desires and torn apart by loyalties to different gods.

Spiritual Warfare before Peace

So before the Prince of Peace can usher in a season of tranquility and refreshment, the forerunner must come with his stern message of warfare. The enemies of peace will not just lie down of their own accord. They must be put down. Peace is a fruit of victory.

The warfare, of course, is not against flesh and blood, but against sin and idolatry, the terrorists that make peace

impossible. Hans Urs von Balthasar said it quite well: we must take sides with the truth against ourselves. The Holy Spirit that the messiah offers to us will empower us to live in perfect harmony (Romans 15:6). But he comes not only as light, but as cleansing fire. In the light of the spirit, we must honestly and fearlessly look at our lives and give him permission to burn away the impurities. This may hurt a bit, but His is a refiner's fire, and His aim is to make us pure gold.

Advent – Repentance, Penance & Change

This is why the joyous season of Christmas is preceded by a sober season of purple vestments, the color of repentance. The Greek word in the New Testament translated as "repentance" is "metanoia." This literally means a change of mind or a transformation of thinking. Repentance starts with an act of the intellect and a change of heart whereby we allow our values to be more influenced by God's truth than the babble of the media.

But a change of mind must lead to a change of life. John the Baptist is adamant about the fact that repentance is incomplete without action. "Give some evidence that you mean to reform!" he says to the pious Pharisees and Sadducees who present themselves for baptism. It's not a question of earning forgiveness by offering sacrifices or doing good works. It's about accepting the gift of grace and letting that grace bear fruit in action. Every tree that does not bear fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. Sterile fruit-trees are worthless. A change of mind without a change of change of life is no change at all.

Advent – Fast before the Feast

The world will not take any time out of the shopping days before Christmas to attend to these things. The true Christian attitude towards holidays is simple . . . first the fast, then the feast. The world's approach is quite different . . . first the feast, then the hangover.

Let's do it right. Let's get everyone in the family to confession this Advent. Daily prayer is a must. Fasting from the din of radio, TV and internet and more time in God's word can go a long way towards driving out the darkness and burning off the dross in our lives.

And try this little Advent custom. In our house, the crèche scene is set up early in Advent but the manger remains empty. We get some bagged straw from the craft shop. As often as anyone does a hidden work of penance or charity, he or she may place a piece of straw in the



SATURDAY, 6 DECEMBER

5:30 pm Gene & Kathleen Mooney

SUNDAY, 7 DECEMBER

7:30 am People of the Parish

9:30 am Faith Nzegwu (Special Intention)

11:30 am Janet Carden

MONDAY, 8 DECEMBER

Solemnity Immaculate Conception

7:00 am People of the Parish

8:30 am Thanksgiving Mass for the Blessed Mother

7:00 pm Garrett Guerreri and John D. Pflug, III

TUESDAY, 9 DECEMBER

8:30 am Patricia Abbott

WEDNESDAY, 10 DECEMBER

8:30 am Anthony Strollo

THURSDAY, 11 DECEMBER

8:30 am Brian Foley

FRIDAY, 12 DECEMBER

8:30 am Our Lady of Guadalupe

SATURDAY, 13 DECEMBER

5:30 pm Julia Coates

SUNDAY, 14 DECEMBER

7:30 am People of the Parish

9:30 am Catalano & Chiaramonte Families

11:30 am Ruth Caste

Immaculate Conception		
December 8	Lector	Eucharistic Minister
7:00 am	Bless Bernardo	Mary Cassels
8:30 am	Wendy Sheyka	Emily Kunz
6:30 pm	Joe Petrillo	Myrna Regino



SUNDAY, 7 DECEMBER

7:30 am Mass

9:00 am Rosary Recitation (OLLC)

9:30 am Mass

9:30—11:45 am G 7-12 (OLLC) (HALL) Parent/Child Meeting

10:30—11:30 am 1st Penance (CHAPEL)

11:30 am Mass

MONDAY, 8 DECEMBER

Miraculous Medal Novena following 8:30 am Mass on Monday.

8:30 am DAILY MASS WILL BE HELD MONDAY THRU FRIDAY OF EACH WEEK IN CHURCH

5—7:30 PM Family Catechesis (HALL)

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION—Masses will be held:
7:00 am, 8:30 am and 7:00 pm

TUESDAY, 9 DECEMBER

5:30—6:30 pm 1st Penance (G-7-12) (OLLC)

WEDNESDAY, 10 DECEMBER

6:30—10:00 pm KOC Meeting (HALL)

THURSDAY, 11 DECEMBER

10:00 am Deadline for News & Announcements for the Dec. 21st Bulletin. Call the Rectory at 973-325-0110

6—8 pm Choir Rehearsal (LOFT)

SATURDAY, 13 DECEMBER

11:00 am—2:00 pm RAS Christmas Luncheon (HALL)

11:00 am—1:30 pm Epiphany Rehearsal (OLLC)

4:15—5:00 pm Confessions in Church

5:30 pm Mass

SUNDAY, 14 DECEMBER

7:30 am Mass

9:30—11:45 am Retreat G. 7-12 (OLLC) (HALL)

9:30 am Mass

10:30 am Choir Rehearsal (LOFT)

10:30—11:30 am 1st Penance (CHAPEL)

11:30 am Mass



This week, December 7, Sanctuary Candle, a gift from Peter McDonald is in memory of **JULIA COATES**.



December 13-14, 2025

Mass	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	
5:30 pm	Pat Sigalas	Emily Kunz Eileen Reilly (C)	
7:30 am	MaryEllen Chandler	Sister James Soon	
9:30 am	Bill Talbot	Annette Chiaramonte	
11:30 am (A. Choir)	Rachelle Brown	Paul Hirsch Wendy Sheyka (C)	

Prayers Needed

Lucky Codada
Maria Colon
Jay Eckert
Pierre Ferrus
Beverly McAllister
Mary McGuiness

Julie Opat
Amante Organo
Reynaldo Rapada
Sister Jean Ruppel
Sonny Tiongson

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)

manger to prepare a comfortable place of rest for the infant King. The goal? To fill the manger by Christmas Eve.

This post concerns Advent as a season of repentance and penance, the fast before the feast. It reflects on the readings for the Second Sunday of Advent, cycle A (Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72, Romans 15: 4-9; Matthew 3:1-12).

Source: <https://www.crossroadsinitiative.com/media/articles/advent-of-peace/>

In Christ's Peace

Father Jim Ferry





Peace & Good Corner

Holiday gift wrap and cards are now available in the Peace & Good Corner. There is also a great selection of religious items for Christmas Gift Giving.

We are open after Mass on weekends and available by appointment. Please call the Rectory—973-325-0110.


Please be sure to stop in.

PARISH GIVING

FISCAL YEAR STARTING JULY 2025

Goal	\$ 6,800
Collection*: Nov. 22-23, 2025*	\$4,574
Deficit:	\$2,226

*Includes Online Giving Weekly Average



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The 54th annual Candlelight Carol Sing will be held at the Cathedral Basilica on:

Wednesday, December 17th & Thursday, December 18th, at 8 pm (two performances).

Doors open at 7 pm both nights. Christmas music in several languages will be sung by the Cathedral Choir with the assembly, and will be accompanied by the great Cathedral organs and brass ensemble. Free-will donation. For more info call 973-484-2400, or visit: www.cathedralbasilica.org.



REPORT FINANCIAL MISCONDUCT CONFIDENTIALLY

If you suspect financial misconduct, use [EthicsPoint](https://ethicspoint.org), an independent and confidential reporting tool that helps the Archdiocesan community address issues while promoting positive parish, school and workplace environments. Visit www.rcan.org for the hotline and reporting link.



Advent - Christmas Calendar 2025



Advent & Christmas Choir Concert

Saturday Dec. 6 with Children and Adult Choirs!

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

Simbang Gabi Mass & Blessing of Outdoor Nativity Scene

Tuesday, 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)

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 4, immediately after

11:30 am Mass

Our Lady of Lourdes, One Eagle Rock Avenue, West Orange, NJ 07052

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