



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 14, 2025 - Third 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,

Advent: A Summons to Prepare the Way of the Lord

Every so often, a plain white envelope arrives in the mail calling and summoning us to jury duty. Many of us know the feeling: plans interrupted, schedules rearranged, our quiet routine suddenly pierced by someone else's crisis and need for justice. We don't volunteer for this responsibility – we're called. Ready or not, our presence matters. That unexpected summons resembles, in a small way, the voice of John the Baptist. His cry in the wilderness broke into the ordinary rhythms of people's lives: *Prepare. Show up. God's work of justice is beginning.* Advent interrupts us to do the same. It calls us to step out of habit, comfort, and distraction, and to stand before the Lord with honesty. I remember sitting in the deliberation room after being selected for a jury. If you've ever been in one, you can picture it: windowless, quiet, sealed off from the world. Phones are put away. The door closes with a firm click. Suddenly the noise of life disappears, and you are held in a pocket of silence. Inside that stillness, the weight of your responsibility settles on you. Someone's future rests in the decisions you will make.

That room – tight, serious, and silent – reminds me of the "inner room" of the conscience. Advent draws us there. God invites us to step away from the noise so that we can hear His Word, receive His truth, and render a verdict in our lives. We do not invent our own Gospel. Like jurors, we receive what is given to us, and we must respond with integrity of heart.

1. When John Confronts the Religious Insiders

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist confronts the Pharisees and Sadducees – groups very different from each other yet united in their resistance to conversion.

The Pharisees, devoted to Scripture and tradition, often drifted toward spiritual pride, emphasizing outward observance over inward repentance.

The Sadducees, tied to Temple leadership and social privilege, rejected many of the mysteries of the faith, including resurrection and angels.

John speaks a hard truth to both: *Do not presume. Prepare your hearts.* Advent's message is the same. No background, no status, no previous faithfulness exempts us from the ongoing work of conversion.

2. Proclaimers of God's Word

John's first task is proclamation:

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

To proclaim God's Word is not to speak our own opinions with religious flair. It is to speak truth rooted in God's authority. Like jurors, we do not shape the law – we receive it. In the "jury room" of our conscience, we are invited to listen to Scripture so that God's truth, not our preferences, guides our judgment.

Every Christian has a role as a proclaimer – not necessarily

through public preaching, but through the steady witness of honesty, integrity, compassion, and fidelity to the Gospel. When our lives speak truth, Christ's kingdom draws near.

3. Prisoners for the Sake of Truth

John the Baptist eventually became a literal prisoner because he refused to compromise God's truth. He challenged Herod's immoral behavior even when it cost him his freedom, and ultimately his life.

Most of us will never be jailed for our convictions, but discipleship still requires a kind of holy captivity. There are moments when God lovingly "arrests" us:

- stopping a habit that harms us,
- confronting a resentment we avoid,
- urging us toward a conversion we delay,
- placing before us a truth we are reluctant to acknowledge.

Avoidance masquerades as freedom, but it only prolongs our bondage. True freedom comes after we face the truth, after we allow God to restrain what is sinful so that He may liberate what is holy. To be a "prisoner for Christ" is to submit to His transforming love so we may walk in genuine freedom.

4. Precursors Who Point to Christ

John the Baptist is the great precursor – the one who goes ahead to prepare the world for the Messiah. His mission is summed up in two powerful statements:

"Behold, the Lamb of God."

"He must increase; I must decrease."

To be a precursor today means allowing our words, choices, and relationships to point beyond ourselves to Jesus. Every act of patience, generosity, forgiveness, or truthfulness clears a small path for Christ to enter another person's life. Advent is not only about our own preparation; it is about helping others recognize the Lord who draws near.

5. Advent's Threefold Invitation

As we celebrate this Third Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday, the Sunday of rejoicing – John the Baptist reminds us of our mission:

Be proclaimers.

Let Scripture shape your conscience. Speak truth in love. Live the Gospel with integrity and courage.

Be willing prisoners.

Allow God to interrupt your habits, challenge your comfort, and purify your heart so He may set you free.

Be precursors.

Point others to Christ through compassion, humility, and joyful witness. Let your life say, "Behold the Lamb of God."

May John the Baptist help us welcome Christ not only at Christmas but every day, prepared in heart and filled with Advent joy.

In Christ's Peace,

Father Jim Ferry

OUR LADY OF LOURDES - DECEMBER 14, 2025



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

MONDAY, 15 DECEMBER

8:30 am David C. Miller

TUESDAY, 16 DECEMBER

8:30 am R J Mercado

WEDNESDAY, 17 DECEMBER

8:30 am Chrisostome Conserve

THURSDAY, 18 DECEMBER

8:30 am Thomas A. Bulger, Jr. (28th Ann.)

FRIDAY, 19 DECEMBER

8:30 am Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin Mary

SATURDAY, 20 DECEMBER

5:30 pm Kathleen & Owen Mooney

SUNDAY, 21 DECEMBER

7:30 am People of the Parish
9:30 am Lawrence & Catherine Del Plato
11:30 am Michael Chiaramonte, Jr.

SUNDAY, 14 DECEMBER

7:30 am Mass
9:30 am Mass
9:30—11:45 am Retreat G 7-12 (OLLC) (HALL)
10:30 am Choir Rehearsal (LOFT)
10:30—11:30 am 1st Penance (CHAPEL)
11:30 am Mass

MONDAY, 15 DECEMBER

Miraculous Medal No- 8:30 am **DAILY MASS WILL BE HELD MONDAY THRU FRIDAY OF EACH WEEK IN CHURCH**
Mass on Monday.

TUESDAY, 16 DECEMBER

8:30am **SIMBANG GABI NOVENA** .
9:00—11:00 am Mass & Blessing of Crèche
Breakfast (Hall)

WEDNESDAY, 17 DECEMBER

5:00 pm **SINBANG GABI NOVENA (HALL)**

THURSDAY, 18 DECEMBER

Deadline for News & Announcements for the Dec. 28 Bulletin. Call the Rectory at 973-325-0110

4:00 pm **SINBANG GABI NOVENA (HALL)**
6—8:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (LOFT)

FRIDAY, 19 DECEMBER

1:30—3:30 pm Soup Kitchen Set-up (HALL)
6:00 pm **SINBANG GABI NOVENA (HALL)**

SATURDAY, 20 DECEMBER

9:00 am—12:00 pm Soup Kitchen (HALL)
4:15—5:00 pm Confessions in Church
5:30 pm Mass
6:30 pm **SINBANG GABI NOVENA (HALL)**

SUNDAY, 21 DECEMBER

7:30 am Mass
9:30—11:30 am **G 6.six (OLLC) (HALL)**
9:30 am Mass
10:30 am Choir Rehearsal (Loft)
11:30 am Mass
5:00 pm **SINBANG GABI NOVENA (HALL)**

 This week, December 14th, Bread & Wine a gift from Kathy & Joseph Petrillo, is in memory of **JOAN PAPALE**.



WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE December 20-21, 2025

Mass	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	
5:30 pm	Andrew Novoa	Melinda Prather Judy Albore (C)	
7:30 am	Mary Cassels	Patricia Saway	
9:30 am (A. Choir)	JoAnn Melhorn	Myrna Regino Joe Petrillo (C)	
11:30 am	Wendy Sheyka	Virginia Dimapilis	



Prayers Needed

Lucky Codada	Julie Opat
Maria Colon	Amante Organo
Jay Eckert	Reynaldo Rapada
Pierre Ferrus	Sister Jean Ruppel
Beverly McAllister	Sonny Tiongson
Mary McGuiness	

If you wish to have a friend or loved one prayed for, please call the Rectory at 973-325-0110.

Church Capital Investment Fund Raffle

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RAFFLE WINNERS

December 6, 2025

\$500 winner of 1st Drawing:
NANCY LANFRANK

\$500 winner of 2nd Drawing:
MICHELE BARDZINSKI

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.

St. Vincent DePaul Society

St. Vincent DePaul Society is hosting **Christine's Soup Kitchen** on **Saturday, 12/20/2025** 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 **12/20/2025** 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 at travisb23@juno.com.



PARISH GIVING

FISCAL YEAR STARTING JULY 2025

Goal	\$ 6,800
Collection*: Nov. 29-30, 2025*	\$3,939
Deficit:	\$2,861

*Includes Online Giving Weekly Average

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

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.

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 **REPORT FINANCIAL MISCONDUCT CONFIDENTIALLY**

If you suspect financial misconduct, use **EthicsPoint**, 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

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

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

Monday, Dec. 15, 7 pm—8 pm

Tuesday, Dec. 16, 7 pm—8 pm

+ or call 973-325-0110 for Appointment

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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