



OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH

One Eagle Rock Avenue, West Orange, New Jersey 07052

RECTORY/Parish Office 973.325.0110

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Sunday, December 21, 2025 - Fourth 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.*



4th Sunday Advent - December 21, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Our Lady of Lourdes,

Source <https://www.crossroadsinitiative.com/media/articles/st-josephs-claim-fame/>

St. Joseph – Father of Faith By Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio [abridged]

This essay makes a case that St. Joseph teaches us some crucial things about the nature of faith that we can't afford to forget.

In the drama of the incarnation, Jesus is, of course, the star. That's the way it is at every birth. All eyes are on the baby. The co-star, though, is definitely mom. Without her love and labor, the event could not have happened. In this case, without mom's faith it couldn't have happened either. According to Luke's Gospel, an angel brought her stunning news. She believed the unbelievable and said "let it be."

JOSEPH, FOSTER-FATHER OF JESUS

But there is a best supporting actor in the drama as well. True, Joseph was not the biological father. But the messiah had to be of David's royal line. In ancient Israel, a child's clan was determined by that of his father. So it was Joseph who legally bound Jesus to the house of David. It was [due to] Joseph that the family [was in] Bethlehem for the census.

God carefully selected the woman who would be the mother of his Son. But he must have been equally careful in his selection of the foster-father. For genes are not the only thing parents impart to their children. Jesus, in his humanity, had to grow in wisdom, age, and grace (Luke 2:52). It was Joseph who was Jesus' male role-model. From Joseph Jesus learned many things, including the trade that he would practice

JOSEPH – MAN OF INTEGRITY

But there are even more important things that Jesus learned from Joseph. For Joseph was a just man, an honest man, a courageous man, a man of integrity.

His betrothed was pregnant but not by him. Imagine the shame, the hurt, and the anger that he must have experienced assuming what anyone would assume in such a situation. His integrity would not allow him to marry an adulteress and pretend the child was his. Neither would he expose the woman he loved to shame and punishment. He did not procrastinate or waffle. He made the difficult decision to divorce Mary quietly.

But then came the messenger. In Luke's Gospel, there was an angelic annunciation to Mary. In the first chapter of Matthew, we learn that Joseph gets one too. He was named after the greatest dreamer of the Old Testament. Maybe that's why his annunciation came in a dream.

FAITH IN THE INCONCEIVABLE

Mary's primary virtue is her faith. When told the unbelievable, she said fiat – let it be. Joseph's claim to fame is also his faith. He too was told the inconceivable and yet dared to believe.

Note, though, that his response of faith entailed taking action—he changed his plans, received Mary into his home, and accepted responsibility for this special child. Keep this in mind, though. Mary needed no revelation to be sure this was a virginal conception. All Joseph had to go by was what he received from an angel . . . in a dream!

Do you think he may have been tempted at some point to second guess this experience? Especially when things did not go smoothly. After all, when a plan is from God, are not doors supposed to open? Yet when they arrived in Bethlehem, the door of the inn was slammed shut in Joseph's face. If this were God's child, wouldn't God provide a room? And if this were really God's son, wouldn't God have turned back Herod's hit men?

WALK BY FAITH

Then the angel shows up again in another dream: "Flee to Egypt with Mary and the baby."

Another journey on foot. This time to a foreign land 250 miles away. Wasn't the 90 mile walk to Bethlehem with a pregnant woman enough? If this was God's doing, shouldn't things be going more smoothly than this?

Joseph may or may not have thought these things. I would have. The point is, Joseph believed and acted. And when the angel came a third time and told him to make the long trek back to Nazareth, he acted again.

Joseph certainly did a lot of walking. From Nazareth to Bethlehem to Egypt and back again. Paul said we walk by faith, not by sight (2 Cor 5:7). Joseph is a model of faith because he keeps walking, even in the dark.

Blessed Advent and Christmas Season to you,

Father Jim Ferry

4th Sunday Advent - December 21, 2025

Mass Intentions	
Saturday Dec. 20 5:30 pm	Kathleen & Owen Mooney
Sunday Dec. 21 7:30 am	People of the Parish
9:30 am	Lawrence & Catherine Del Plato
11:30 am	Michael Chiamonte, Jr.
Monday Dec. 22, 8:30 am	Thanksgiving to Blessed Virgin Mary
Tuesday Dec. 23, 8:30 am	Corazon S. Pedro
Wed. Dec. 24, 8:30 am	People of the Parish
MORNING	
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve	
4 pm	People of the Parish
5:30 pm	People of the Parish
7 pm (Spanish)	People of the Parish
Dec. 25 Christmas Day	
7:30 am	People of the Parish
9:30 am	People of the Parish
11:30 am	People of the Parish
Friday, Dec. 26	
8:30 am	Edith Ferrus
Saturday Dec. 27 5:30 pm	Edward J. Ford, Sr. (29 th Anniversary)
Sunday Dec. 28 7:30 am	People of the Parish
9:30 am	Deceased Members of the Pflug and Napolitano Families
11:30 am	John D. Pflug, Sr.

Altar Candles for the week of December 21

Gift of Jeri Konvalinka in loving memory of **Jaroslav and Rose Konvalinka**

Bread and Wine for the week of December 21

Gift of the Saniel Family in loving memory of **Dr. Ignacio A. Chaves**

Sanctuary Candle for the week of December 21

Gift of the Malabanan Family in loving memory of **Tanya Bhatia**

Church Calendar	
Sunday Dec. 21	7:30 am Mass 9:30 am Mass 9:30 – 11:30 am Gr. 6 (OLLC, Hall) 10:30 am Choir Rehearsal (Loft) 11:30 am Mass 5 pm Simbang Gabi Novena (Hall)
Mon. Dec. 22	Daily Mass at 8:30 am Monday – Friday Miraculous Medal Novena Monday after 8:30 am Mass 6 pm Simbang Gabi Novena (Hall)
Tue Dec. 23	6 pm Simbang Gabi Novena (Hall)
Wed. Dec. 24	10:30 am Simbang Gabi Novena (Hall) Christmas Eve Mass At 4 pm / at 5:30 pm At 7 pm Misa en Español
Thu. Dec. 25	Christmas Day Mass At 7:30 am, 9:30 am, 11:30 am
Fri Dec. 26	Mass at 8:30 am
Sat. Dec. 27	4:15 – 5 pm, Confessions 5:30 pm Mass
Sun., Dec. 28	7:30 am Mass 9:30 am Mass 11:30 am Mass

+ Prayers Needed +

+ Prayers Needed +		
	Lucky Codada Maria Colon Jay Eckert Pierre Ferrus Beverly McAllister Mary McGuinness	Julie Opat Armante Organo Reynaldo Rapada Sister Jean Ruppel Sonny Tiongson

4th Sunday Advent - December 21, 2025

Ministry Schedule, Christmas

Peace and Good Corner

Christmas Eve		
	Lector	Eucharistic Ministers
4 pm	Jeryl Nalupta	Emily Kunz Joe Petrillo (choir)
5:30 pm	Pat Sigalas	Eileen Reilly Melinda Prather (choir)
7 pm	Patricia Saway	Patricia Saway
Christmas Day		
7:30 am	Bless Bernardo	MaryEllen Chandler
9:30 am	JoAnn Melhorn	Espie Cain
11:30 am	Carmelita Dizon	Michelle Gizzi

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.

Ministry Schedule, December 27-28

Holy Family Vigil Mass		
	Lector	Eucharistic Ministers
Saturday 5:30 pm	Michael Lanfrank	Judy Albore, Eileen Reilly (choir)
Holy Family Sunday Mass		
7:30 am	MaryEllen Chandler	Bless Bernardo
9:30 am	Bill Talbot	Annette Chiamonte
11:30 am	Jeryl Nalupta	Carmelita Dizon

Online Giving

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Report of Sunday Offering

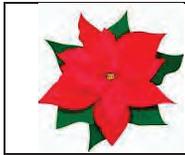
Parish Giving Fiscal Year starting July 1, 2025	
Goal	\$6,800
Collection: Dec. 6 – 7 **	\$5,067
Deficit	\$1,193
** includes Online Giving Weekly Average	

Financial Misconduct

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.

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**Advent – Christmas Calendar 2025
New Year’s Day 2026**



Simbang Gabi Novena Dates (Where? At Lourdes “Connor Hall”, lower level of church)

ALL ARE WELCOME FOR FAITH, FELLOWSHIP AND THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

- Saturday December 20 at 6:30 pm
- Sunday December 21 at 5 pm
- Monday December 22 at 6 pm
- Tuesday December 23 at 6:30 pm
- Wednesday December 24 at 10:30 am (morning)

<p>CHRISTMAS — 2025 MASS SCHEDULE —</p> <p>December 24 - Christmas Eve</p> <p>4 pm (Children’s Choir) 5:30 pm (Adult Choir) 7 pm (Misa de Nochebuena en Español)</p> <p>December 25 - Christmas Day</p> <p>7:30 am 9:30 am 11:30 am</p>	<p>2026 Solemnity Mass Calendar</p> <p>Solemnity of Mary Mother of God (Thursday January 1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• December 31, at 5:30 pm (<i>New Year’s Eve</i>)• January 1, at 9:30 am (<i>New Year’s Day</i>) <i>HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION</i> <p>Epiphany (Sunday January 4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30 pm• Sunday Mass at 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 am
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**Children’s Epiphany Pageant immediately after
11:30 am Mass on Sunday January 4**

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

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