



# 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, December 28, 2025 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph



## 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.*



## The Holy Family: Faithfulness On the Run

*Holy Family Sunday – December 28, 2025*

When we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family, we might expect an image of quiet domestic peace: Mary and Joseph at home, the child Jesus safe and sheltered. Yet the Gospel proclaimed this year tells a different story. It presents the Holy Family not at rest, but **on the move**, fleeing danger, guided by obedience, and sustained by trust in God.

Saint Matthew recounts that an angel appears to Joseph in a dream with an urgent command: *“Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt.”* Joseph does not hesitate. He does not ask questions or demand assurances. He rises in the night, gathers his family, and leaves behind home, livelihood, and familiarity. The Holy Family begins its life together as a family **in exile**.

This moment reveals something essential about the nature of family life in God’s plan. Holiness does not mean protection from hardship. Rather, holiness is formed in **faithful response** to God’s call, even when that call disrupts our plans and expectations.

Joseph stands at the center of today’s Gospel. He speaks no words, yet his actions speak volumes. He listens attentively to God, discerns in silence, and acts decisively. In doing so, he embodies the wisdom praised in the Book of Sirach: *“Whoever honors his father atones for sins... Whoever glorifies his father will live a long life.”* Joseph shows us that fatherhood is not defined by control or dominance, but by **custodial love**—the willingness to guard, protect, and provide for what has been entrusted.

Mary, too, participates fully in this obedience of faith. She leaves Nazareth without protest and entrusts herself again to God’s unfolding plan. Her strength lies not in command, but in steadfast presence. She remains with her Son and her husband, carrying within her heart the

trust she first expressed at the Annunciation. Mary teaches us that love is often expressed not by solving every problem, but by **staying faithful in uncertainty**.

The Second Reading from Saint Paul’s Letter to the Colossians invites us to see family life not as an idealized arrangement, but as a school of virtue. *“Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.”* These virtues are not needed when life is easy; they are needed precisely when life is difficult. The Holy Family is clothed in these virtues as they face displacement, fear, and the unknown.

Psalm 128 proclaims: *“Blessed are those who fear the Lord, who walk in his ways.”* This blessing does not promise comfort or prosperity without struggle. It promises that those who remain faithful to God will not walk alone. The Holy Family’s journey reminds us that God’s blessing often accompanies us through hardship rather than around it.

For many families today, the Holy Family may feel both comforting and challenging. Some households experience stability and joy; others carry wounds of absence, division, or loss. The Church does not present the Holy Family as a flawless ideal meant to discourage us. Instead, she presents them as a **sign of hope**: a reminder that God chose to enter human history within the vulnerability of family life. Jesus was not born into a protected or powerful household, but into one that knew uncertainty, fear, and reliance on God.

This feast also speaks to the life of the Church herself. At times, the Church may feel like a family under threat—misunderstood, marginalized, or pushed aside. Yet, like the Holy Family, the Church is called to remain attentive to God’s word, obedient to His

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF MARY, JOSEPH & JESUS - December 28, 2025**

guidance, and faithful even when the path forward is unclear.

The calendar of the Church today also recalls Saint John of the Cross, who wrote of the “dark night” of faith. The Holy Family lived that dark night long before it was named. They trusted without seeing the full picture. They walked by faith rather than certainty. In doing so, they teach us that God often works most deeply in hidden, quiet fidelity.

As we honor the Holy Family, we are invited to reflect on our own homes and relationships. Holiness does not require perfection. It requires openness to God, patience with one another, and trust that even in times of upheaval, God remains present.

May the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph intercede for our families and our parish community, helping us to listen attentively, to remain faithful, and to trust that God is at work—even when the road leads us into unfamiliar territory.

*In Christ's Peace,*

Father Jim Ferry



**Altar Candles for the week of December 28**

Gift of The Malabanan Family in loving memory of

**Tanya Bhatia**

**Bread and Wine for the week of December 28**

Gift of the Saniel Family in loving memory of

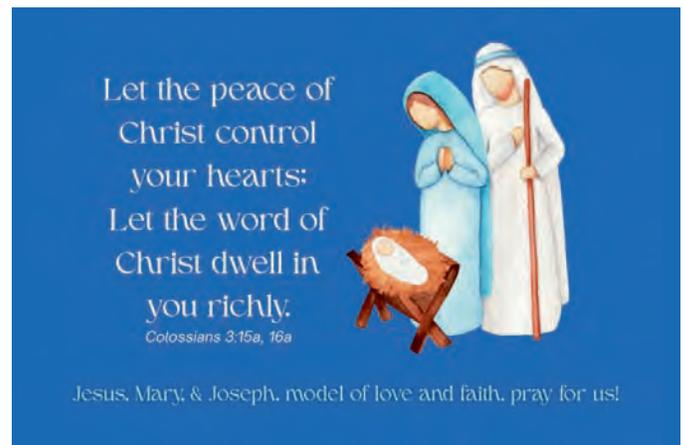
**Dr. Ignacio A. Chaves**

**Sanctuary Candle for the week of December 28**

Gift of the Nalupta Family in loving memory of

**Paloma Gonzales**

Saturday, Dec. 27 - 5:30 pm	Edward J. Ford, Sr. (29th 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.
Monday, Dec. 29 - 8:30 am	Deceased Members of the Carrión and Cruz Families
Tuesday, Dec. 30 - 8:30 am	Fred Rice (25th Anniversary)
Wednesday, Dec. 31 - 8:30 am <b>MORNING</b>	People of the Parish
5:30 pm <b>NY's Eve</b>	John Kunz
<b>Thurs, January 1 - 9:30 am</b> 	People of the Parish
Fri, January 2 - 8:30 am	Frank Mencik
Sat, January 3 - 5:30 pm	Jose Catarroja
Sun, January 4 - 7:30 am	People of the Parish
9:30 am	Alice Patricia Abbot
11:30 am	Andrea Theresa Toloso



**THE HOLY FAMILY OF MARY, JOSEPH & JESUS - December 28, 2025**

<b>Church Calendar</b>	
Sunday, Dec. 28	7:30 am Mass 9:30 am Mass 11:30 am Mass
Mon. Dec. 29	Daily Mass at 8:30 am Monday – Friday  <i>Miraculous Medal Novena Monday after 8:30 am Mass</i>
Tue. Dec. 30	8:30 am Mass
Wed. Dec. 31	8:30 am Mass  <b>5:30 pm New Year's Eve Mass</b>
Thu. Jan. 1	<b>9:30 am New Year's Day Mass</b> (Holy Day of Obligation)  <b>*No 8:30 am Mass today*</b>
Fri. Jan 2	8:30 am Mass
Sat. Jan 3	<b>11am - 1:30pm</b> <b>Epiphany Dress Rehearsal</b>  4:15 – 5 pm, Confessions 5:30 pm Mass
Sun. Jan. 4	7:30 am Mass 9:00 am Rosary Recitation 9:30 am Mass 10:30 am Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am Mass  <b>EPIPHANY PAGEANT following 11:30 am Mass</b>

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



**Ministry Schedule, Dec. 31 - Jan. 1**

<b>Eve of the Solemnity of Mary</b>		
	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>
5:30 pm	Pat Sigalas	Annette Chiaramonte Eileen Reilly (choir)
<b>Feast of the Solemnity of Mary</b>		
9:30 am	Joe Petrillo	Bill Talbot

**Ministry Schedule, Jan. 3 - 4**

<b>Epiphany of the Lord Vigil Mass</b>		
	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>
Saturday 5:30 pm	Andrew Novoa	Emily Kunz Judy Albore (choir)
<b>Epiphany of the Lord Sunday Mass</b>		
7:30 am	Mary Cassels	Patricia Saway
9:30 am	Carol Ford	Espie Cain Paul Hirsch (choir)
11:30 am	Rachelle Brown	Wendy Sheyka

Financial Misconduct



**Report of Sunday Offering**

<b>Parish Giving</b> Fiscal Year starting July 1, 2025	
Goal	\$6,800
Collection: Dec. 13 – 14 **	\$2,529
Deficit	\$4,271
** includes Online Giving Weekly Average	

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Volunteer Service Opportunities



Scan QR to  
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Lourdes Church  
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Peace and Good Corner



**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.*

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**Christmas Season  
New Year's Day Calendar**



**2026 Solemnity Mass**

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Thursday, January 1)**

December 31 at 5:30 pm  
**(New Year's Eve)**  
January 1 at 9:30 am  
**(New Year's Day)**

**Epiphany (Sunday, January 4)**

Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30 pm  
Sunday Mass at 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 am

**Children's  
Epiphany Pageant**



**immediately after  
11:30 am Mass on  
Sunday, January 4**

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