



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, January 4, 2026 - The Epiphany of the Lord



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.*

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - January 4, 2026

Dear Friends,

Epiphany: Gifts from Above

January 4, 2026 – Feast of the Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1–6 · Psalm 72 · Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6 · Matthew 2:1–12

The Gospel for the Feast of the Epiphany draws our attention upward. The Magi fix both their eyes and their hearts on the Star of Bethlehem, a sign that leads them not only to a destination, but to a decision. By orienting themselves toward what is above, they avoid the downward spiral of King Herod's jealousy and fear. They arrive safely in Bethlehem, and they return home by another route—changed.

This contrast remains striking. Herod looks downward, inward, and defensively. The Magi look upward, outward, and generously. Their journey reminds us that spiritual danger often begins when we focus only on what is expedient or convenient rather than on what is right and true. Epiphany invites us to lift our gaze again and to take what might be called the “higher road”—a path shaped by faith, trust, and reverence for God's plan.

That upward focus becomes especially clear in the gifts the Magi bring: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These are not random offerings, nor are they attempts to gain favor or secure advantage. The Magi do not approach Jesus as political opportunists. They come as worshipers. Their gifts reveal a noble purpose: to honor the child not for what He can give them, but for who He is.

Consider first the gift of **gold**. It is fitting that one kingly delegation would bring gold to another king. Yet this gift carries a deeper meaning. Scripture reminds us that when Solomon became king, he did not ask for wealth or power, but for wisdom. Gold, the most precious of metals, comes to symbolize something even more valuable: our wisdom, intelligence, judgment, and mental energy.

When the Magi offer gold, they are not only acknowledging Christ's kingship; they are symbolically placing their understanding and insight at His service. Epiphany invites us to do the same. Our education, experience, and problem-solving abilities are not meant to be buried or hoarded. They are meant to be offered for God's purposes—in family life, parish service, and care for one another.



The second gift, **frankincense**, represents prayer. As the psalms tell us, prayer rises to God like incense. Yet prayer is not meant to be a private tool used only for our own plans and calculations. It is meant to lift us beyond ourselves. St. Thérèse of Lisieux wrote that we come into relationship with God by focusing on what is above us—even what seems beyond our reach.

Prayer gives us altitude. It allows us to see situations more patiently and more truthfully, especially when relationships are strained or circumstances feel out of control. From that higher vantage point, we can begin to separate good from evil, hurt from intention, and fear from truth. Communal prayer, especially at Sunday Mass, forms us in this shared vision and unites our lives to Christ's own offering.

Recently, I noticed something in everyday life. At times, I have trouble turning on the radio in my car. In many cars today, the “radio” is really a multimedia screen—used for music, phone calls, and navigation. Sometimes the car starts, but the screen stays dark and silent. I assumed something was wrong. Then I noticed something curious: even when the audio was “off,” everything suddenly came alive the moment I received a phone call. The connection triggered the system, and everything fell into place.

That experience offers a quiet spiritual insight. In moments of joy or sorrow, confusion or clarity, things often fall into place when we “call” and listen—when we allow God's voice to break through the silence. Like the Magi, who followed the guidance – the navigation -- given to them, prayer reconnects us to the deeper direction of our lives.

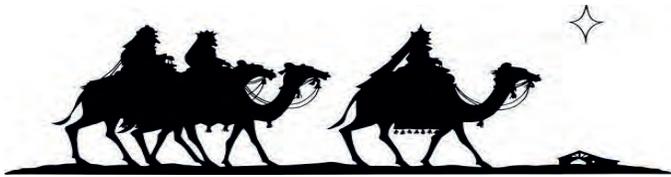
The third gift, **myrrh**, is perhaps the most sobering. Myrrh was used in burial rituals, pointing ahead to Christ's suffering and death. It symbolizes the surrender of one's life to God. Yet this surrender is not postponed until the end of life. Jesus invites daily sacrifice—laying down our lives in love through service, forgiveness, patience, and fidelity. (*Continues...*)

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - January 4, 2026

The Magi presents myrrh to a child who appears powerless and unprotected, yet who already carries within Him the path of self-giving love. In offering myrrh, they acknowledge that true kingship is expressed not in domination, but in sacrifice.

The Epiphany star still shines. It calls us away from fear and toward generosity, away from self-interest and toward worship. By offering our gold, our frankincense, and our myrrh—our wisdom, our prayer, and our daily sacrifices—we allow Christ's light to shape our lives. Guided by that light, we return home changed, carrying within us the grace of having truly encountered the King.

In Christ's Peace,
Father Jim Ferry



	
Saturday, Jan. 3 - 5:30 pm 	Jose Catarroja
Sunday, Jan 4 - 7:30 am 9:30 am 11:30 am	People of the Parish Alice Patricia Abbott Andrea Theresa Toloso
Monday, Jan. 5 - 8:30 am	Justina Nzegwu (Special Intention)
Tuesday, Jan. 6 - 8:30 am	Jeffrey Rattner
Wed, Jan. 7 - 8:30 am	John Healy
Thurs, Jan. 8 - 8:30 am	Robert Rosen
Friday, Jan. 9 - 8:30 am	Romeo Anthony Rodrigues
Sat, Jan. 10 - 5:30 pm	Andrea Theresa Toloso
Sun, Jan. 11 - 7:30 am 9:30 am 11:30 am	People of the Parish Arthur Rupel Andrea Theresa Toloso

Children's Epiphany Pageant



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



Scan QR to sign up for Volunteer Service Hours at Lourdes Church
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+ Prayers Needed +



- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Lucky Codada | Mary McGuinness |
| Maria Colon | Julie Opat |
| Jay Eckert | Armante Organo |
| Pierre Ferrus | Reynaldo Rapada |
| Frances Maroon | Sister Jean Ruppel |
| Beverly McAllister | Sonny Tiongson |

Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes
February 11



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - January 4, 2026

Like the Magi, let us raise our eyes to the heavens,
let us set out to seek the Lord,
let us bow our hearts in adoration...
let us ask for the grace never to lose courage:

the courage to be seekers of God,
men and women of hope,
intrepid dreamers gazing at the heavens-
the courage of perseverance in journeying
along the roads of this world, with the
fatigue of a real journey-
and *the courage to adore*, the courage to gaze
upon the Lord who enlightens every man
and woman.

— Pope Francis



Religious Education Dates, January

	Class	Time/Place
Sun, Jan 11	Confirmation (Gr 7-12 class) 1st Penance (Gr 1-6 class)	9:30am mass, til 11:45, Connor Hall 10:30 - 11:30am, Chapel
<i>Sat, Jan 17</i>	<i>Sacrament:</i> 1st Penance (Gr 7-12)	1:00 pm, Church
Tues, Jan 20	1st Comm. (Gr 7-12) 1st Penance Rehearsal (Gr 1-6)	5:30 - 6:45pm, Church 6:30 - 7:30pm, Church
<i>Sat, Jan 24</i>	<i>Sacrament:</i> 1st Penance (Gr 1-6)	12:30pm, Church
Sun, Jan 25	Confirmation (Gr 7-12 class)	9:30am mass, til 11:45, Connor Hall

Church Calendar

<i>Sunday, Jan. 4</i>	7:30 am Mass 9 am Rosary Recitation in Church 9:30 am Mass 10:30 Choir rehearsal (loft) 11:30 am Mass <i>Epiphany Pageant immediately following 11:30 am Mass.</i>
<i>Mon. Jan. 5</i>	Daily Mass at 8:30 am Monday – Friday <i>Miraculous Medal Novena Monday after 8:30 am Mass</i>
<i>Tues. Jan 6</i>	8:30 am Mass
<i>Wed. Jan 7</i>	8:30 am Mass
<i>Thu. Jan. 8</i>	8:30 am Mass 6 - 8pm Choir rehearsal
<i>Fri. Jan 9</i>	8:30 am Mass
<i>Sat. Jan 10</i>	4:15 – 5 pm, Confessions 5:30 pm Mass
<i>Sun. Jan. 11</i>	7:30 am Mass 9:00 am Rosary Recitation 9:30 am Mass <i>*Religious Ed - see schedule*</i> 10:30 am Choir Rehearsal (loft) 11:30 am Mass

Ministry Schedule, Jan. 10-11

Baptism of the Lord Vigil Mass		
	Lector	Eucharistic Ministers
Saturday 5:30 pm	Pat Sigalas	Judy Albore Melinda Prather (choir)
Baptism of the Lord Sunday Mass		
7:30 am	Bless Bernardo	Lou Volpe
9:30 am	JoAnn Melhorn	Joe Petrillo
11:30 am	Lynda Clement	Virginia Dimapolis Wendy Sheyka (choir)



Stream Mass on YouTube at
www.youtube.com/@lourdeswestorange



Follow us on Facebook at
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THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - January 4, 2026

Report of Sunday Offering

Parish Giving Fiscal Year starting July 1, 2025	
Goal	\$6,800
Collection: Dec. 20 - 21 **	\$4,781
Deficit	\$2,019
** includes Online Giving Weekly Average	



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.



Support Our Lady of Lourdes today using your debit, credit cards, checking, or savings accounts.

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

Please be sure to stop in.

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