



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, February 1, 2026 - Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



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

Office Manager

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,

I write to share with you an article from Crossroads Initiative.

Beatitudes: Is It Wrong to be Happy?

Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio

The Beatitudes appear in the gospels of Matthew and Luke as part of the Sermon on the Mount. But what actually is the nature of true happiness? Must we be miserable in this world to be happy in the next? Faith and hope bring the lasting joy that is the essence of true blessedness.

Beatitude, according to Webster, means perfect blessedness or happiness. But when you read the beatitudes, you seemingly find anything but... It is the poor, the hungry, the weeping and the persecuted who are blessed. In Luke's gospel (Luke 6:20-26), Jesus even adds woes for those who are rich, full, mirthful and popular.

Beatitudes & Happiness

I once heard a preacher say that many of God's people look more like they've been baptized in pickle juice than in water. Is this holiness? Is piety all about being miserable and glum? What are we to make of these alarming words of Jesus?

The last thing we ought to do is to tame Jesus' hard sayings. The Lion of Judah does not respond favorably when we try to domesticate him. But neither should we be literalists and interpret the beatitudes outside of the context of the entire Bible. This is one of the great things about the liturgy of the Word. The Church puts three readings together each Sunday that clarify each other.

Security & Self-Worth

Jeremiah 17:5-8 helps us see what Jesus is getting at in the Beatitudes: Cursed is the man who trusts in human beings, who seeks his strength in flesh, whose heart turns away from the Lord.

Whether our possessions happen to be money, a job, a spouse, or children, they become an obstacle when we find our security and sense of self-worth

in them. Our ultimate security can only be in one place, and our natural tendency is to look for it in someone or something we can see. Yet, to look for security in an invisible Someone, is not quite natural- it is supernatural. To do it we need supernatural gifts called faith and hope.

Faith & Hope

Faith is really about finding our ultimate security and identity in God's love, protection and help. Is it wrong to take pleasure in a good job or a loving spouse? No. But to find your security in them sets you up for heartbreak. Ask the software engineer who was laid off after his job went "offshore." Hope is about what you are looking forward to in the future, about being more excited about the promise of heaven than any other earthly blessing.

Is it wrong to look forward to your wedding day, having a baby, landing a better job, or graduating from college? Not at all. But if you think you will find your ultimate fulfillment in these things, you are under a great illusion. Ask the upwardly mobile executive who climbs to the top of the corporate ladder only to find emptiness there. Paul said it well-if our hopes in Christ are limited to this life only, we are the most pitiable of men. (1 Corinthians 15:19).

Growth in Virtue

We've all been given the supernatural gifts of faith and hope in baptism. But these two virtues are like spiritual muscles that must be exercised and developed. If you don't use them, you lose them. And the only way to grow them is to put some stress on them. This hurts, of course.

So what have you done lately to develop faith and hope? Or better yet, do you recognize what challenges God has permitted in your life for the purposes of developing your faith and hope? Loss of job, health, loved one, money, popularity- these can be seen just as lamentable annoyances . . . or as opportunities to grow.

Lasting Joy & Unshakable Peace

When faith and hope are well developed, they impart a strength and a joy that cannot be taken away by the trials and tribulations that devastate

(PASTOR COLUMN continued on Page 4)

(PASTOR COLUMN continued from Page 2)

superficial happiness. Francis of Assisi had no possessions and was in constant pain in the last few years of his life, and yet was one of the most joyful persons that ever lived. That's because faith and hope matured in him and produced beatitude here and glory in the age to come.

The beatitudes do not demand a morose Christianity. They are all about laying the foundations of an unshakable joy and a peace that passes understanding.

This post on the Beatitudes and faith and hope as keys to true happiness, blessedness and joy is offered as a reflection on the liturgical readings for the sixth (6th) Sunday in Ordinary Time, cycle C (Jeremiah 17: 5-8; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20; Luke 6:17, 20-26).

(Source: <https://www.crossroadsinitiative.com/media/articles/beatitudes-is-it-wrong-to-be-happy/>)

In Christ's Peace,
Father Jim Ferry

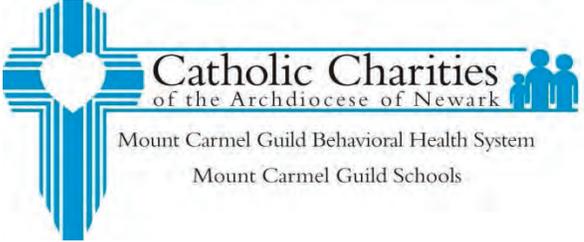



The Pre-Parade Mass for Saint Patrick's Parade will be at Our Lady of Lourdes, West Orange on **Sunday, March 15th at 9:30 am Mass.**

Please plan activities accordingly as the parking lot will have fewer spaces and there will be closed roads in the area, including Main Street and Eagle Rock Avenue starting around 10:30 am until around 4:00 pm.

THERE WILL BE NO 11:30 AM MASS ON SUNDAY, MARCH 15.

Lent – Sacrifice - Clothing Bins - Any Connection?



Mount Carmel Guild Behavioral Health System
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Lent is a time of sacrifice in order to bring us closer to Christ. As we do so, we become more charitable. Would you be willing to sacrifice your time and efforts to go through your closet and donate any used clothing, small appliances, shoes, linens, sheets, towels, stuffed animals, novels, and children's books to the Catholic Charities clothing bin? If you do, you have made the connection and you have moved closer to Christ. Thank you.



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The Rosary Altar Society will hold their Tricky Tray on: **Friday, April 24, 2026** in Connor Hall at Our Lady of Lourdes.

We are now accepting gifts for our Tricky Tray. Gifts of NEW ITEMS are welcome and greatly appreciated by **Monday, April 13th**. Gifts may be left in the Church Sacristy or at the rectory on weekdays between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm. For pick up, contact Eileen Reilly at 973-980-4209 or email at trickytray@lourdeswestorange.org.

(PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU LEAVE YOUR NAME ON THE GIFT.)

Your gift may also be a monetary donor:

Gold Donor	\$100.00
Silver Donor	\$ 50.00
Bronze Donor	\$ 25.00

(Please make checks payable to “Our Lady of Lourdes”)

Join us for our major fund raiser to help support the needs of our parish.

WE HAVE RETURNED TO AN IN-PERSON EVENT

Coming Soon - Pre-Event Ticket Sales
(Seating will be limited)



- For Details Call 973-980-4209 or
- Email: trickytray@lourdeswestorange.org

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