



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, May 17, 2026 - Ascension 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

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 the abridged version of an essay by Monsignor Charles Pope of Washington D.C. about the Feast of the Ascension.

For the full text of this essay, please go to:
<http://blog.adw.org/2018/05/what-does-the-ascension-accomplish-for-us-a-homily-for-the-feast-of-the-ascension-2/>

What Does the Ascension Accomplish for Us?
(MAY 12, 2018, BY MSGR. CHARLES POPE)

This marvelous feast is not merely about something [two millennia] ago, for although Christ our Head has ascended, we the members of His body are ascending with Him. Because He ascended, we too have ascended. In my own life as a Christian, I am brought higher every year by the Lord, who is drawing me up with Him. This is not some mere slogan; it is something I am actually experiencing. An old Baptist hymn says, “I was sinking deep in sin, far from the peaceful shore. Very deeply stained with sin, sinking to rise no more. But the master of the sea heard my despair cry. And from the waters lifted me. Now safe am I. Love lifted me, when nothing else could help. Love lifted me.”

Yes, if we are faithful, the feast of the Lord’s Ascension is our feast, too. Let’s look at it from three perspectives.

I. The Fact of the Ascension – The readings today describe a wondrous event that the apostles witnessed. The Lord, by His own power, is taken to Heaven. In so doing He opens a path for us, too. The gates of paradise swing open again: Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in (Psalm 24:7). In Christ, man returns to God. Consider three things about the Ascension:

The Reality – As a summons to faith, Jesus had once said, What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? (John 6:62) He had also encouraged them by saying, Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man (John 1:51). So here is a glorious reality and a fulfillment of what Jesus had said.

The Rescue – In the Ascension ... an army of former captive’s [is] now set free. Behold the great

procession that enters behind Christ through the now-opened gates of Heaven: Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Rachel, Judith, Deborah, David, Samuel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Malachi, John the Baptist, ... and one day, you! Yes, this is a great rescue. Adam and his descendants have not simply been restored to some paradisiacal garden; they have entered Heaven.

The Rejoicing – Consider how this once captive train sings exultantly as they follow Christ upward to Heaven. I also have it on the best of authority that they were singing this old gospel song: “I’m so glad, Jesus lifted me!” They were even singing this old Motown song: “Your love is lifting me higher, than I’ve ever been lifted before!”

II. The Fellowship of the Ascension – When Christ ascends, we ascend. For if we have been united with him by likeness to his death, we shall be united with him by likeness to his resurrection (Rom 6:3ff). So, when Christ died, we died. When Christ rose, we rose. When Christ ascends, we ascend.


Consider the following humorous example about our physical bodies. When I get on an elevator and push the button for the top floor, although the top of my head gets there before the soles of my feet, my whole body will get there (unless some strange loss of integrity or tragic dismemberment takes place). So, it is also with Jesus’ mystical body. In Christ, our head, we are already in glory.

III. The Fruitfulness of the Ascension – Jesus does not return to Heaven in order to abandon us. In fact, He is more present to us than we are to ourselves. He is with us always to the end of the age (cf Matt 28:20). In ascending (without abandoning us) He goes to procure some very important things. Consider four of them:

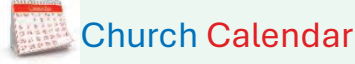
Holy Ghost power – Jesus teaches very clearly that He is ascending in order to send us the Holy Spirit: Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you (Jn 16:7ff). So, the Lord goes so that He might, with the Father, send the Holy Spirit to live within us as in a temple. In this way, and through the Eucharist, He will dwell with us even more intimately than when He walked this earth.


Harvest – Jesus says, And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me (John 12:32). Thus, the saying “One sows and another reaps” is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of

OUR LADY OF LOURDES – MAY 17, 2026

	
SATURDAY, 16 MAY	5:30 pm Carmaleta Harris Paul Harris
SUNDAY, 17 MAY	7:30 am 9:30 am 11:30 am People of the Parish Deceased Members of the Pflug & Napolitano Families Vincenzo “Vinnie” Russo
MONDAY, 18 MAY	8:30 am Bernard Mooney
TUESDAY, 19 MAY	8:30 am John Sharkey (3 rd Ann.)
WEDNESDAY, 20 MAY	8:30 am Bernie O’Gara
THURSDAY, 21 MAY	8:30 am Christian & Grace Okeke
FRIDAY, 22 MAY	8:30 am Bernard Mooney
SATURDAY, 23 MAY	5:30 pm David Miller
SUNDAY, 24 MAY	7:30 am 9:30 am 11:30 am People of the Parish Andrea Toloso Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin Mary & Virgin of the Swan



	
SUNDAY, 17 MAY	7:30 am 9:30 am 9:30 – 11:45 am 10:30 am 11:30 am Mass Mass G 7-12 (OLLC) (HALL) Choir Rehearsal (LOFT) Mass
MONDAY, 18 MAY	8:30 am Miraculous Medal Novena following 8:30 am Mass on Monday. Daily Mass will be held Mon–Fri each Week in Church.
THURSDAY, 21 MAY	6:00 – 8:00 pm Deadline for Announcements For May 31 st Bulletin. Call the Rector at 973-325-0110. Choir Rehearsal (LOFT)
FRIDAY, 22 MAY	1:30 – 3:30 pm Call Rectory for Infor. Soup Kitchen Setup (HALL) Pre-Cana Meeting
SATURDAY, 23 MAY	9 am – 12 noon 4:15 – 5:00 pm 5:30 pm Soup Kitchen (HALL) Confessions in Church Mass
SUNDAY, 24 MAY	7:30 am 8:30 – 11:30 am 9:30 am 10:30 am 11:30 am Mass K O C Pancake Breakfast (HALL) Mass Choir Rehearsal (LOFT) Mass

 MAY 23-24 , 2026		
Mass	Lector	Eucharistic Ministers
5:30 pm	Michael Lanfrank	Emily Kunz Judy Albore (c)
7:30 am	MaryEllen Chandler	Mary Cassels
9:30 am	Carmelita Dizon	Annette Chiaramonte
11:30 am Adult Choir	Lynda Clement	Paul Hirsch Wendy Sheyka (c)

Prayers needed

Emeka Anyanyo, Jeffrey Beauzil,
Paul Di Francesscantonio,
Simon Gutowitz, Frances Maroon,
Beverly McAllister, Mary McGuiness,
Sister Jean Ruppel.

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

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER/A – THE ASCENSION – MAY 17, 2026

(Pastor's Column continued from Page 2)

their labor (Jn 4:35-38). Harvest! And it is the Lord's work from Heaven in which we participate.

Help – At the Father's right hand, Jesus intercedes for us. Scripture says, Consequently he is able, for all time, to save those who draw near to God through him, since he lives always to make intercession for them (Heb 7:25). The Lord links His ascension to an unleashing of special power: Amen, amen, I say to you, he who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I go to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it, that the Father may be glorified in the Son (Jn 14:12). We must not understand that asking in the name of Jesus is some incantation. To ask in His name means to ask in accordance with His will.

Habitation – Simply put, Jesus indicates that in going to Heaven He is preparing a place for us: In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. Here, then, are the ways that Christ, by His love, is lifting us higher (than we've ever been lifted before). Yes, love lifted me, when nothing else could help; love lifted me.

In Christ's Peace,
Father Jim Ferry

Missionary Appeal

JUNE 6-7 at all Masses

The CONGREGATION OF THE DAUGHTERS OF MARY (DM) will be visiting us at all Masses this weekend.

The Congregation of the Daughters of Mary (DM) is a missionary congregation of Pontifical Right and founded on May 8, 1938, by late Monsignor Joseph Kuzhinjalil, a priest of the Archdiocese of Changanassery, Kerala in the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church during the early days of the re-union movement at Marthandam, Kanyakumari District, South India. Today the members of the DM congregation strive to preserve and follow the charism of the founders, and to fulfil the Divine mandate to preach the word to every person, door to door through House visiting until the glorious coming of the Saviour.

PARISH GIVING

FISCAL YEAR STARTING JULY 2025

GOAL:	\$6,800
COLLECTION*: May 1-May 2, 2026:	\$4,545
Deficit	\$2,255

**Includes Online Giving Weekly Average/*

St. Vincent DePaul Society



St. Vincent DePaul Society is hosting **Christine's Soup Kitchen** on **Saturday, 5/23/2026** 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 **5/23/2026** 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.

Knights of Columbus West Orange Council #5519

PANCAKE BREAKFAST



The West Orange Knights of Columbus will host a pancake breakfast fundraiser in the basement of Our Lady of Lourdes, Connor Hall.

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2026

Breakfast will be served from 8:30 until 11:30 am
Pancakes, sausage, eggs, juice, and coffee
will be served

The cost is \$12 for anyone 13 and over and \$5 for children 6-12 years old.
(There is no charge for any child 5 and under.)

Proceeds will go towards supporting local charities in the West Orange area.



lourdeswestorange.org

Our Lady of Lourdes Church, West Orange
Rectory Hours: 9am-2:30pm, M-F – call for appt.

973-325-0110

2026-2027 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Forms are in church, in rectory and online - See "Options/How to Pay" below"

PER CHILD TUITION:

\$60, until May 25

\$80, until June 25

\$100, until July 25

Late Registration \$150, July 26-August 12

Final Registration Deadline:

August 12, 2026

OPTIONS/ HOW TO PAY:

Cash/ Check

(payable to Our Lady of Lourdes)

- Visit Rectory with required docs
- Drop in Sunday Collection Basket

Website - lourdeswestorange.org

>> "Faith Formation / Religious Education"

>> "Religious Education Registration"

or, Scan Here



2026-27 Lourdes
Religious Education
Registration code

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS for each student
(Documentos requeridos para cada estudiante),

- (1) ___ Baptismal certificate (Copia de certificado de bautismo);
- (2) ___ Birth certificate (Copia del certificado de nacimiento);
- (3) ___ 1st Communion certificate (if completed) (Copia de certificado de primera comunión si se completo);
- (4) ___ Registration form (Formulario de inscripción);
- (5) ___ Photography consent at the end of form (Formulario de consentimiento para fotografía)

QUESTIONS/ RECTORY OFFICE HOURS:

973-325-0110 (9am-2:30pm)

rosa.cruz@lourdeswestorange.org

fatherjimferry@lourdeswestorange.org

DEAR PARENTS, GODPARENTS, AND FAMILY MEMBERS,

This program prepares your children for First Communion and Confirmation, but it also depends on your participation as a family. This is not only about learning—it is about **faith, commitment, and service**. The most important expectation is faithful Sunday Mass attendance.

We ask that you **bring your children to Mass every Sunday**, not only on class days. Some parishes track attendance, but we choose to trust you. This trust is rooted in the promise you made at your child's baptism—to raise your child in the faith. That means practicing your faith, attending Mass regularly, and guiding your children to do the same. **Thank you for your support and partnership.**

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