



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, September 20, 2026 - Twenty-fifth 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 Brothers and Sisters of Our Lady of Lourdes,

This is to share with you an [abridged] article on the subject of forgiveness. In the Gospel, Peter asks if he must forgive “as many as seven times”. You and I might ask the question a different way, not in terms of numbers but in terms of memories. In other words, what if you endeavor to forgive but you still cannot forget?

Title: “Must I Forgive and Forget?” (Part 1 of 2)

(Source: <https://www.catholic.com/magazine/online-edition/to-forgive-or-not-to-forgive-that-is-the-question>) Author: TIM STAPLES
Date: 10/27/2022

Does God require us to forgive those who grievously wrong us, even when they are not sorry? And then completely forget about what they did?

A man—I’ll call him Robert—once wrote to me telling me a horror story about a [family member by whom he had been hurt]. To say [that he was treated] uncharitably ... would be an understatement. Of course, I am hearing only one side of the story, but his question boiled down to this: “Am I required to forgive, even though this person is not sorry for anything, and then to forget because God ‘forgets’ when he forgives and calls us to do the same? I must confess to you that I just cannot live this because I believe [this person] is dangerous to both me and my children.”

Scenarios like this—which, unfortunately, are not rare—raise some important questions about the nature of forgiveness. There are at least four points to be considered for clarifying the issues at hand:

Part 1. We are not called to go beyond what God himself does when it comes to forgiveness. Many Christians believe with Robert that they are obliged to forgive even those who are not in the least bit sorry for their offenses. And on the surface this sounds really . . . Christian. But is it true? God himself doesn’t do it. He forgives only those who repent of their sins. 2 Corinthians 7:10 says, “Godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation.” 1 John 1:9 says, “If we confess our sins, he . . . will forgive our sins.”

Our Lord obviously has not forgiven and will not forgive the souls in hell right now for the simple reason that they did not ask for forgiveness. This seems as clear as clear can be.

The question is, are we required to do more than God does when it comes to forgiveness? Jesus seems to answer for us in Luke 17:3-4:

If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him; and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, and says, “I repent,” you must forgive him.

According to this text, and as we would suspect, Jesus requires his followers to forgive only those who are sorry for their offenses, just as

God does. And this only makes sense. Colossians 3:13 says we are called to forgive each other “as the Lord has forgiven [us].”

Some will say at this point, “Didn’t Jesus forgive everyone from the cross when he said, ‘Forgive them, for they know not what they do’ in Luke 23:34?” Actually, he didn’t. He petitioned the Father for those who had beaten and crucified him to be forgiven, revealing his will that “all men . . . be saved” (1 Tim. 2:4). But this was not a declaration that even these men were actually forgiven, much less a declaration that he was forgiving everyone for all time.

Part 2. We have to distinguish between our calling to forgive those who are sorry and ask for forgiveness and our call to love everyone without exception, including those who have wronged us and are not sorry that they did. Sometimes these two concepts are conflated.

St. Thomas Aquinas tells us love is “willing the good of the other” selflessly (see also 1 Cor. 13:5). In a sense, this is all God can do, because “God is love” (1 John 4:8). God can do nothing other than to share the infinite good of himself with every single person ever created or conceived—even the souls who reject his love and forgiveness, because a God not loving would be a God contradicting his own essence, which is absurd.

Thus, God’s love is unconditional because it comes from within, regardless of what happens outside the godhead. This brings profound meaning to Jesus’ words: “Love one another as I have loved you” (John 15:12). In essence, Jesus is calling us to love with that same unconditional love with which he loves as the God-Man. Regardless of varying situations and relationships in our lives, “God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit” (Rom. 5:5), empowering us to “will the good of the other” regardless of what “the other” may bring our way.

On the other hand, forgiveness, as we’ve said, is not unconditional. It’s a two-way street. God offers his forgiveness to all out of his unconditional love and, therefore, so must all Christians. But here’s the rub. Because forgiveness is dependent upon the other, it cannot actually take place until there are willing partners on both sides of the divide.

So, what do we do if we find ourselves in a situation like Robert’s?

The first step to loving and forgiving as God does is to recognize that we cannot do it apart from Christ. It is essential to meditate upon what Christ did for us on the cross and the fact that he loves us infinitely and forgives us over and over again. Ultimately, we have to get to the place where we acknowledge our powerlessness so that we can allow Christ to love and forgive in us and through us.

I recommended to Robert specifically that he ask God to help him to truly will the good for [the other person]—and a telling sign of whether this is so would be when he could sincerely pray to God for good to come to [the other person]—then he could rest assured that he is loving her as Christ commanded.

(Source: <https://www.catholic.com/magazine/online-edition/to-forgive-or-not-to-forgive-that-is-the-question>) Author: TIM STAPLES
Date: 10/27/2022

In Christ’s Peace,

OUR LADY OF LOURDES – SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

Weekly Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 5:30 pm	Bernard J. Mooney
SUNDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 7:30 am 9:30 am 11:30 am	People of the Parish Matilda O'Boyle & Josephine DeVincentis Mauroso Chiovaro
MONDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 8:30 am	Alfred Orlando
TUESDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER 8:30 am	Robert Toloso
WEDNESDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 8:30 am	Nubia Schneider
THURSDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 8:30 am	Marietta Balmores
FRIDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 8:30 am	Intention of Gregory Burns
SATURDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 5:30 pm	Hugo Russo
SUNDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER 7:30 am 9:30 am 11:30 am	People of the Parish Crystal Nzegwu (Special Intention) Rose Konvalinka (36th Ann.)

Church Calendar

SUN., 20 SEPTEMBER 7:30 am 9:30 am 9:30 – 11:30 am 9:30 – 11:45 am 10:30 am 11:30 am	Mass Mass GR. 6 Class (RECTORY) GR. 7-12 Class (OLLC) (HALL) Choir Rehearsal (LOFT) Mass
MON., 21 SEPTEMBER 8:30 am Miraculous Medal Novena following 8:30 am Mass on Monday. 5:30– 7: 00 pm	Daily Mass will be held Mon–Fri each Week in Church. GR. 1-5 Family Catechesis
THUR., 24 SEPTEMBER 6 – 8:00 pm	Deadline for Announcements for Oct. 4 th Bulletin. Call the Rectory- 973-325-0110. Choir Rehearsal (LOFT)
SAT., 26 SEPTEMBER 4– 8:00 pm 4:15 – 5:00 pm 5:30 pm	Knights Of Columbus Spaghetti Dinner (HALL) Confessions in Church Mass
SUN., 27 SEPTEMBER 7:30 am 9:30 am 9:30 – 11:45 am 10:30 am 11:30 am	Mass Mass Gr. 7-12 Class (OLLC) (HALL) Choir Rehearsal (LOFT) Mass

Bread and Wine for the week of Sept. 20th: Offering of Our Lady of Lourdes 8th Grade Class of 2005 in memory of SISTER JEAN RUPPEL.

Prayers needed

Mary Sue Brittle, James Christiano
Frances Diaby, Mary McGuiness
Antonio Matias, Marc Reyes,
Gregory Vistica

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



MINISTRY SCHEDULE	SEPTEMBER 26-27, 2026	
Mass	Lector	Eucharistic
5:30 pm Adult Choir	David Prather Melinda Prather	Eileen Reilly Judy Albore (C)
7:30 am	Patricia Saway	Sr. James Soon
9:30 am	Bill Talbot	Bill Talbot
11:30 am Children's Choir	Carmelita Dizon	Carmelita Dizon Wendy Sheyka (c)



Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace

The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace are hosting an information session on Saturday, October 3, at St. Michael Villa in Englewood Cliffs, NJ, for those who may be interested in becoming CSJP Associates.

Date: Saturday, October 3

Time: 10 am to Noon (lunch following)

**Location: St. Michael Villa Shalom Center,
Englewood Cliffs, NJ**

RSVP: Cristina Turino: cturino@csjp.org | 201-568-6348



THANK YOU, FATHER JIM CHERN

We are grateful to **Father Jim Chern** for his many years of priestly ministry at Our Lady of Lourdes, including his service as **Parochial Vicar from 1999–2006** and, more recently, as a weekend assistant.

Because of the continued and vibrant growth of his ministry at the **Newman Catholic Center at Montclair State University**, **Father Jim Chern** will not be able to join us for Sunday Mass as regularly as he has in the past, although we look forward to welcoming **Father Jim Chern** back from time to time.

We thank **Father Jim Chern** for his devoted service to our parish and pray for him, his colleagues and FOCUS missionaries, the students of Montclair State, and all college students served through his work as **Director of Campus Ministry for the Archdiocese of Newark**.

Mt. Saint Domenick Academy Open House



for girls in grades 6,7,8

OPEN HOUSE DATES:

Thursday, October 8 at 6:30pm

Sunday, October 25 at 1:00 pm

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If you suspect financial misconduct, use **Ethics Point**, 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.



OUR LADY OF LOURDES
West Orange, NJ

**ANNUAL MASS &
COMMUNION BREAKFAST**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2026



MASS
9:30 am - Church

BREAKFAST TO FOLLOW
10:30 am - Conner Hall

ALL ARE INVITED

COST \$25



Reservations: Abegail (Abhy) Gonzalez at 862-438-4135

Deadline for Reservations: September 25, 2026

Sponsored by the Rosary Altar Society

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