



PROCLAMATION

110th Parish Anniversary Our Lady of Lourdes Church

WHEREAS; **Our Lady of Lourdes Church** formed in 1914, as a separate parish from St. John's Church in Orange, NJ. For over a century, this West Orange Roman Catholic church has been a religious home to generations of parishioners.

WHEREAS; The name of **Our Lady of Lourdes** was chosen to honor the grotto in the town of Lourdes, France, where an apparition of the Virgin Mary appeared in 1858; and,


WHEREAS; While the church was under construction at the corner of Chestnut Street and Oxford Place, parishioners celebrated their first official mass on November 8, 1914. The cornerstone laying ceremony of the new **Our Lady of Lourdes Church** was on April 10, 1915; and their first mass in the newly completed church building took place on August 8, 1915; and,

WHEREAS; In 1924, three acres of land was purchased at the corner of Eagle Rock and Harrison Avenues for a parish school. This school opened on September 8, 1925; and,

WHEREAS; Inspired by a pilgrimage to Lourdes, France in 1928, Leonor Loree, a railroad tycoon and West Orange resident, financed the construction of a replica of the original Lourdes grotto. It still stands on the school grounds today; and,

WHEREAS; For many years, after a fire destroyed the first church building in 1945, the parish met in the school's church. In 1962, it was announced that Sunday mass would be moved to a new property to be built at One Eagle Rock Avenue. On May 16, 1964, the first mass was celebrated there and remains as the current-day **Our Lady of Lourdes Church**.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Susan McCartney, Mayor of the Township of West Orange, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim **November 10, 2024, as a day of celebration in honor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church**, and commend this outstanding parish for its invaluable contributions to the community. May their spiritual, social and educational work continue to inspire and uplift future generations.


Susan McCartney, Mayor

Adopted: November 10, 2024