



# OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH

One Eagle Rock Avenue, West Orange, New Jersey 07052

RECTORY/Parish Office 973.325.0110

[LOURDESWESTORANGE.ORG](http://LOURDESWESTORANGE.ORG)



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Sunday, December 31, 2023 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph



## 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](mailto:ollwonj@verizon.net)

Website: [lourdeswestorange.org](http://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](mailto:Priscillacastro@lourdeswestorange.org)

### Religious Education

#### **Sacrament of Confirmation (Grades 7-12)**

Mr. Paul Hirsch 973.325.0110

Email: [Confirmation.Class@lourdeswestorange.org](mailto:Confirmation.Class@lourdeswestorange.org)

### Religious Education

#### **Administrative Assistant**

Maggie Macias 973.325.0110 ext. 102

Email: [Maggie.macias@lourdeswestorange.org](mailto:Maggie.macias@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 1<sup>st</sup> 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  
**HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023**

**The Value of a Word.**

Do you take words, sentences and vocabulary for granted?

We send words. We delete words. For us, "talk" is cheap.

And, our "inexpensive" words/talk often come with an unlimited plan that we can cancel at any time with T-Mobile or Verizon.

In the life of the American author and activist, Helen Keller, we see a girl and woman who ultimately triumphed over a double-learning disabilities, in that she was both blind and deaf due to a childhood illness. Helen could neither see nor hear. Talk was not cheap to her.

What was troubling, then, for her and her parents is that Helen Keller had no language. She was an infant to whom no one has ever read or spoken. She was in the dark in terms of her eyes and she is on mute in terms of her ears. You can't flip a switch to turn on the screen or sound back on for her.

But, as you may know, Helen Keller learned to communicate even to converse.

In the famous play - "The Miracle Worker" - about her life, a teacher comes on the scene to instruct her, to build a vocabulary and there is one particularly famous scene.

**A word is worth a thousand pictures.**

The teacher - trying to get through to Helen without sound or sight - uses her sense of touch. She takes Helen to a water pump outside and lets the clear cold liquid flow over her hand while simultaneously drawing the letters into the palm of her hand.

It is a moment of great revelation that Helen now has a structure and intellect to connect a real experience, for her first word: W-A-T-E-R.

Or as one person wrote, revising the old saying: "For Helen, a word is worth a thousand pictures".

We have the original saying that images and photos and videos are very powerful, thus our phones and cameras and Instagram accounts are very active, and this means - in the original "a picture is worth a thousand words."

But, for Helen, the opposite is true: a word is worth a thousand pictures.

**God Gives His Word**

We read in the Gospel of John that "In the beginning was the Word and Word was with God and the Word was God." (John 1:1) Jesus is the Word made flesh, the incarnation of God's word. There is a particular word in this Holy Family Sunday Gospel which stands out in importance for both this Gospel and the entire Gospel: CONTRADICTION. That's a big, grown-up word, but it is being applied to this small infant child Jesus of whom we are told that he will be a "contradiction" or "sign of contradiction" to those around him. The biblical scholar, Dr. Kenneth Bailey wrote this about this Holy Family Gospel. This Gospel - read at "Christmas" time is a prediction for "Good Friday" and "Easter".

In this Gospel, Simeon refers to the sword which will pierce Mary's heart and that this contradiction will reveal the hearts of many. And, at Calvary on Good Friday, everything is in disarray, contradictory:

\_\_ Pontius Pilate, thinks Jesus is innocent, but condemns him to die.

\_\_ Peter, who has assertively identified Jesus as Messiah and personal friend, denies him three times.

\_\_ Priests/ Pharisees - though impressed with his miracles and teaching, bolster these charges against Jesus.

The life and ministry of Jesus exposes contradictions. It is our consolation and our call to believe in God, but that does not mean it is always easy or simple to believe, to trust.

**Giving My Word. Receiving A Word**

This is true also in human relationships, as well, and in promises we make.

What does it mean to give someone your word? It means that you are entrusting yourself, your heart to the other and that the other person is entrusting his or heart to you.

One day, I read a text from a friend I was to meet that day, though we were both delayed. I received the following message: "I'll be there in 19 minutes"

I was so impressed by the exact precision of the note. We laughed about this later because my friend simply meant to write "10" but accidentally typed "19".

I was focused on the "19" and its precision and this revealed something about my own desire for things to be just a particular way. The word was worth a thousand pictures ... of me.

**Catholic Sacraments and Words and Vows**

On the day of Baptism or the day of birth, parents and godparents say the word and say "I Do" to raise their children in the faith. Such vows also may be made at home or at the hospital.

That word is worth a thousand decisions, a thousand actions, a thousand pictures to come. Saying the word -- "I Do" at the altar in marriage/matrimony is worth a thousand pictures.

As Catholics and Christians and followers of his way, we also testify to the beauty of family life, not only in the commitments but also in the contradictions.

Of course, friendships are important in our life. And, spouses can consider each other to be friends. I value my friendships with my siblings, my brothers and sister.

But, there is something deeper and more significant than friendship between us. There is family which is even more important. And, family unites us even more because it pre-dates us. To use a popular term today, "family" is our pre-existing condition, and is a pre-existing creation.

The family existed even before we existed. And, even in a family relationship that we consider broken or incomplete, there is a reminder that we have bonds and connection and beauty that were given to us. We did not create these bonds. We did not create ourselves. In a similar way, we do not redeem or forgive only ourselves. We can apologize to each other, we can patch things up, but we really rely ultimately on God for forgiveness.

We need a gift - the gift of Jesus loving us to the end - giving up his life for us to know that every stage of life, we are loved, we matter. Sometimes, life is a contradiction. A word is worth a thousand pictures.

**Blessed Holy Family Sunday and Blessings in the New Year of 2024 to you and yours!**

In Christ's Peace,  
Father Jim Ferry



**SATURDAY, 30 DECEMBER**

5:30 pm Fred Rice

**SUNDAY, 31 DECEMBER New Year's Eve**

7:30 am People of the Parish  
 9:30 am People of the Parish  
 11:30 am People of the Parish  
 5:30 pm People of the Parish



**MONDAY, 1 JANUARY New Year's Day**

9:30 am People of the Parish

**TUESDAY, 2 JANUARY**

8:30 am Jesse Bruce Harper

**WEDNESDAY, 3 JANUARY**

8:30 am Rita DiBiasi (1st Ann.)

**THURSDAY, 4 JANUARY**

8:30 am Patricia A. Volpe

**FRIDAY, 5 JANUARY**

8:30 am Justina Nzegwu (Special Intention)

**SATURDAY, 6 JANUARY**

5:30 pm People of the Parish

**SUNDAY, 7 JANUARY**

7:30 am People of the Parish  
 9:30 am Catherine Parisi  
 11:30 am Michael C. Corcoran, Sr.

**SUNDAY, 31 DECEMBER New Year's Eve**



7:30 am Mass  
 9:30 am Mass  
 11:30 am Mass

5:30 pm New Year's Mass

**MONDAY, 1 JANUARY Solemnity of Mary**

9:30 am Mass

**WEDNESDAY, 3 JANUARY**

6:30—7:30 pm Fam. Cat. Grade 6 ONLY (Chapel)

**THURSDAY, 4 JANUARY**

10:00 am Deadline for News & Announcements for the Jan 14th Bulletin. Call the Rectory at 973-325-011.

6—8:00 pm Choir Practice (OLLC)

**SATURDAY, 6 JANUARY**

4—5:15 pm Epiphany Rehearsal (OLLC)  
 4:15—5:00 pm Confessions in Church  
 5:30 pm Mass in Church

**SUNDAY, 7 JANUARY**

7:30 am Mass  
 9:30 am Mass  
 11:30 am Mass  
 12:30—1:30 pm Epiphany Pageant



*A Christmas Blessing*

O God, whose Son was born in Bethlehem, on that wondrous night, lead us to that same place, where Mary laid her tiny child. As we look on in wonder and praise, make us welcome Him and all new life, and care for His handiwork; the earth, the sky and the sea. O God, bless us again in Your great love. We pray for this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE JAN 6 - JAN 7, 2023					
Mass	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers			
5:30 pm	Michael Lanfrank	Eileen Reilly Judy Albore (Choir)			
7:30 am	MaryEllen Chandler	Sister James Soon			
9:30 am	Carol Ford	Espie Cain Joe Petrillo (Choir)			
11:30 am	Wendy Sheyka	Paul Hirsch Carmelita Dizon (Choir)			



Janice Augustine  
 Joan Clarke  
 Keith Hari  
 Mary McGuiness  
 Joan Monik

Jacob Rivera  
 Jaxon Rivera  
 Pat Schoeler  
 Laura Splendoria

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



## Benedictine Sisters Elizabeth, NJ

### WINTERING WITH GOD

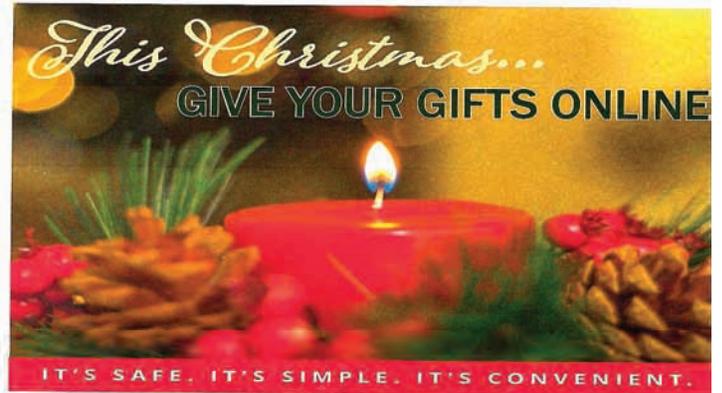
Retreat at St. Walburga Monastery \$25

Thursday - January 4, 2024

9:15 am to 12:30 pm

The time after Christmas and New Year can be an opportunity to quiet down and sink into our relationship with God. It's still cold and dark, but the warmth and light of Christ are always available. Come spend a few hours enjoying His presence in silence, in prayer, and shared discipleship.

Register at: <https://bensisnj.org/retreat-calendar-1>



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## Our Lady of the Lake School

Connecting on a Higher Level



**Sunday, January 28th from 1:00—3:00 pm**

Our Lady of the Lake School will host an **OPEN HOUSE** at the school for prospective families.

This is a fabulous opportunity to tour the school, classrooms and meet the outstanding teachers, Principal and students that have made Our Lady of the Lake School a two-time National Blue Ribbon School.

**Student Visitation Days Starting Wednesday January 31, 2024:** OLL School will also host multiple visitation days for pre-school and grade school children, the first visitation day for grade school students is **Wednesday, Jan 31, 2024**. Parents are welcome to contact the school for additional dates or for information for Pre-K.

Please **JOIN US!** Register to attend at [myoll.org/openhouse](http://myoll.org/openhouse).

*Celebrate*

## The Children's Epiphany Pageant

**Sunday, January 8**

Pageant Immediately following

Sunday 11:30 am Mass

## Epiphany Dress Rehearsal

Saturday, January 7

4:00 to 5:15 pm in Church

## YOUTH MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENT

In Partnership with

St. Joseph & St. Raphael Parishes

Meetings will be held 7:00—8:30 pm on:

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14 & 28, 2024

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024

At: Saint Joseph's Parish Center, 44 Benvenue Avenue, West Orange, NJ

All 7th through 12th Grade Students are invited to join their peers to actively participate in their parish and community.

## PARISH GIVING

FISCAL YEAR STARTING JULY 2023

WEEKLY GOAL \$ 6800

Collection\*: Dec 16—Dec 17 \$ 4406

Deficit: \$ 2394

\*Includes Online Giving Weekly Average Deposit



*For Your Stewardship of Time, Talent and Treasure.*

# “SOUPER BOWL”



The St. Vincent DePaul Society of OLL will be collecting cans of soup through the month of January to be delivered to our local food pantry to nourish and warm the less fortunate.



Please bring your donations of soup to the collection bins located at the entrances of the church.

Our Lady of Lourdes, 1 Eagle Rock Ave, West Orange, NJ 07052 973.325.0110

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