



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, August 23, 2026 – Twenty-first 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,

In the 19th century, and later in the 1990's, *Les Misérables* became quite the sensation, a French Revolution story of justice and heroism.

In a famous scene from *Les Misérables*, the silverware – all the knives, the forks, the spoons – are stolen by a visitor, Jean Valjean, to the parish rectory in a small town in France.

The victim of the crime is the local Catholic bishop/priest who welcomed Jean Valjean as a guest into the rectory for dinner and a night's rest. The bishop was actually warned not to feed Jean, not to take him in. He does so anyway.

Jean Valjean enjoys a delicious meal and then has a night's rest in a guest room. The next morning, the housekeeper is searching for the basket for the silverware. The bishop is working in his garden, outside the house and says...Oh, here it is. And he retrieved the basket from one of the flowerbeds.

The housekeeper is relieved at first. Then she asks, "But this is empty, where is the silver?"

"So, it's the silver you are worrying about, I cannot help you with that." Then, he reminds the housekeeper, "In the first place, was it really ours?"

When we think of possessions and property, we naturally think of ownership and rights. Making a donation out of love, we share... In our minds and in our bank accounts, we know what belongs to us. In our minds, we also know – by whom – we may have been offended or hurt or "trespassed against." We recognize trespassers on our front lawn. We recognize trespassers who offend us in other ways.

The Gospel is reminding us to forgive because **mercy** is a gift that we all share. It is not ours to hold on to ...but to give away.

The visitor and guest – Jean Valjean – is suspected from the beginning. He did not stick around for breakfast but left in the middle of the night. A short time later, that morning, the police haul him into the rectory. The silverware is in his knapsack.

At this point, the bishop says to him, "Why didn't you take the candlesticks, too? I told you to take it all." This, of course, leaves the housekeeper and the police dumbfounded.

Jean Valjean is also confused, but relieved. The bishop tells him, "Do not forget, do not ever forget, that you have promised me to use the money to make yourself an honest man." Hugo writes further: [Jean] Valjean, who did not recall having made any promise was silent.

It seems that another person made this promise for him.

This also reminds us that within **forgiveness** and **mercy** is always a challenge to the sinner – to you and to me – to convert ourselves to God's goodness. Forgiveness is a challenge not a license.

By word and example, promises are also made for us. Mothers and fathers not only register their children for school but also promise compliance, behavior, homework... Mothers, fathers, godmothers, godfathers – at baptism – promise – make a profession of faith – for their children.

In this regard, when we make a promise or commitment, we are also promising to set an example, to teach others by what we say and do.

In the Gospel this Sunday, Jesus speaks to Peter and the apostles about the forgiveness of sins: "Whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven, whatever you bind on earth, shall be bound in heaven." (Matthew 16:19)

Sometimes, we think of forgiveness in terms of a transaction, maybe similar to paying rent, or borrowing money. That is, I am forgiven of my debts as long as I pay everything back. I will own my home as long as I pay off the mortgage. Then, I will not have this burden on me.

Sin- and sinfulness – is also a burden.

However, isn't it true that you and I have been "forgiven" in certain instances, even when we realized only much later our faults and failings. Jean Valjean is on a journey toward forgiveness and mercy. But he is not yet ready to make a promise. Someone else has to make the promise for him. The person from whom he stole made the promise.

Jesus speaks about forgiveness as more than relief but rather as a relocation.

In the Gospel of John, we read: "In my father's house, there are many mansions. If not, I would have told you, because I go to prepare a place for you." (John 14:2)

Or, we might say that he makes the promise to us, a promise of mercy, even before we ask.

The journey of Valjean in *Les Misérables* unfolds in many episodes of relocation and rescue. You and I are called to recognize those times when we are lost, alone, in need of God's help, when we need not only to be forgiven but also to be taken back or relocated.

Or we might need to consider, to pray for, whom we might be called to forgive – take back – so that we can be the allies and apostles of our Savior extending mercy to others.

In Christ's Peace,

Father Jim Ferry

(Source: <https://ferryjam.blogspot.com/2017/08/taken-2017-08-27.html>)

OUR LADY OF LOURDES – AUGUST 23, 2026

Weekly Mass Intentions

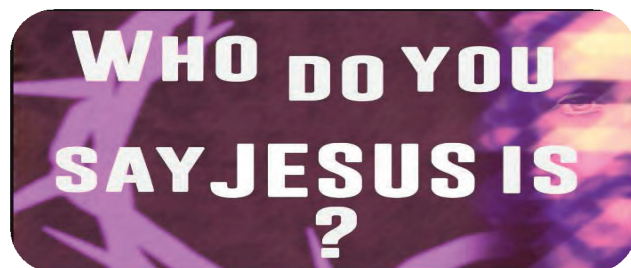
SATURDAY, 22 AUGUST 5:30 pm	Bernard J. Mooney
SUNDAY, 23 AUGUST 7:30 am 9:30 am 11:30 am	People of the Parish James E. Hanrahan Elizabeth Teklezgi & Tsegai Teklezgi
MONDAY, 24 AUGUST 8:30 am	Kathleen DiBiasi
TUESDAY, 25 AUGUST 8:30 am	Christ & Kit Wastie
WEDNESDAY, 26 AUGUST 8:30 am	Manuel Picazo
THURSDAY, 27 AUGUST 8:30 am	Paul Francis Donohue
FRIDAY, 28 AUGUST 8:30 am	Clair Benz
SATURDAY, 29 AUGUST 5:30 pm	Bernard J. Mooney
SUNDAY, 30 AUGUST 7:30 am 9:30 am 11:30 am	People of the Parish Robert Papale Jaroslav Konvalinka (27 th Ann.)

Church Calendar

SUNDAY, 23 AUGUST 7:30 am 9:30 am 11:30 am	Mass Mass Mass
MONDAY, 24 AUGUST 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, 27 AUG.	Deadline for Announcements For Sept. 6 th Bulletin. Call the Rectory- 973-325-0110.
SATURDAY, 29 AUGUST 4:15 – 5:00 pm 5:30 pm	Confessions in Church Mass
SUNDAY, 30 AUGUST 7:30 am 9:30 am 11:30 am	Mass Mass Mass



MINISTRY SCHEDULE	AUGUST 29-30, 2026	
Mass	Lector	Eucharistic Minister
5:30 pm	Andrew Novoa	Melinda Prather Judy Albore (c)
7:30 am	MaryEllen Chandler	Sister James Soon
9:30 am	Kathy Petrillo	Myrna Regino
11:30 am	Rachelle Brown	Wendy Sheyka



Prayers needed

Mary Sue Brittle, Frances Diaby,
Mary McGuinness 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.

SISTERS of CHARITY

Of SAINT ELIZABETH

July 16, 2026

Father James P. Ferry
Church of Our Lady of Lourdes
1 Eagle Rock Avenue
West Orange, NJ 07052-5039

Dear Father Ferry:

I hope this letter finds you well and that you are able to have some rest and relaxation during these summer months. Thank you for your donation of \$1,208.02 representing the 2026 generosity of the people of Our Lady of Lourdes to the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth. We are so grateful for your support.

We have much to be thankful for as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of our country. Those people, on whose shoulders we stand, especially our Sisters, have given us a rich legacy. We invite you to join us in prayer that we may continue to grow the legacy that was given to us. As Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth we delight in moving the mission of charity into the future."For all that has been, we give thanks. For all that is, we give thanks. For all that is yet to come, we give thanks."

Thank you, Blessings on you and your family. Know that you are remembered in the daily liturgy and prayers of our sisters.

Gratefully,
Sister Judy Mertz,
SC Donor Relations Coordinator

PARISH FLEA MARKET

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish
103 South Center St, Orange, NJ 07050



Saturday September 19th

Rain Date September 30th

10am—4pm

\$40 per Spot



To reserve your spot please call
the parish office at 973-674-2052 or
Josephine Guerriero at 973-420-8519

PARISH GIVING

FISCAL YEAR STARTING JULY 2025

GOAL:	\$6,800
COLLECTION*: Aug. 8-9, 2026:	\$4,014
Deficit	\$2,786

**Includes Online Giving Weekly Average/*

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REPORT FINANCIAL MISCONDUCT
CONFIDENTIALLY

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DON'T WAIT – REGISTER TODAY!

After July 31, 2026, registration increases to **\$150.**

FINAL REGISTRATION DEADLINE: AUGUST 12, 2026

VARIOUS OPTIONS TO PAY

- Pay Online
- Pay at the Rectory

NEED DOCUMENTS?
Need documents emailed or sent to you?
PLEASE CALL 973-325-0110

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS
9:00 AM – 2:30 PM
MONDAY – FRIDAY
or call for an appointment

Please register as soon as possible!

CLICK HERE TO GO TO REGISTRATION PAGE

**FINAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
REGISTRATION DEADLINE.
AUGUST 12, 2026**



Safe Environment Corner

Keeping Children Safe Away from Home

As children grow, parents may begin dropping them off for activities and returning later to pick them up. Before taking this step, families are encouraged to ask a few important safety questions:

- Are at least two adults present to supervise children at all times?
- Does the organization conduct background checks for adults who work with children?
- Does the organization provide appropriate training for adults who supervise children?
- Are there separate restroom facilities or clear restroom policies for adults and minors?
- Are isolated areas locked, restricted, or monitored?

Together, guided by our faith and our shared responsibility, we can help create safe and welcoming environments where every child is protected and cherished.

Anyone with knowledge of an act of sexual misconduct is asked to inform us so that we may take appropriate action to protect others and to provide support to victims of sexual abuse. Call the Coordinator for the Office of Accompaniment in the Archdiocesan Department for the Protection of the Faithful at 201-407-3256.

NEED A LAWYER? INJURED?



★ Call For A Free Legal Consultation ★



MARC J. BRENNER ESQ.



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