



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, September 13, 2026 - Twenty-fourth 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

The Value of Mercy

Matthew 18:21–35 — In the Season of September 11

1. What Is Something Worth?

In 2002, less than one year after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, a young man named Pat Tillman enlisted in the United States Army. Tillman was not an ordinary recruit. He was a professional football player for the Arizona Cardinals. He had success, financial security, and a promising NFL career before him. Yet after September 11, he made the extraordinary decision to leave professional football and serve his country. Whatever we may think about the decisions surrounding war and military service, Tillman's story raises a question that reaches beyond those circumstances:

What is something really worth?

We normally answer questions of value with numbers. What is the salary? What is the house worth? How much is in the bank? What will this cost me? But some of the most valuable things in life cannot be measured that way.

2. Peter Starts Counting

That brings us to this Sunday's Gospel. Peter approaches Jesus with what sounds like a very practical question: *"Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?"* Peter is counting. Perhaps seven sounds generous. Forgive me once, certainly. Twice—perhaps. Three times—that is getting difficult. Seven times? Surely that must be enough. But Jesus answers, *"I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times."* Jesus is not giving Peter a larger number to write in his accounting book. He is telling Peter to **stop keeping the account that way.**

3. A Different Kind of Accounting

Jesus then tells a parable about money. A servant owes his master an enormous debt—far beyond what he could reasonably repay. The master has mercy on him and forgives the debt. But then this same servant encounters someone who owes him a much smaller amount. Suddenly, he forgets the mercy he has just received. He demands repayment. That is the tragedy of the parable. The servant understands the **value of money**, but he has failed to understand the **value of mercy**. He knows what someone owes him. He has forgotten what has been forgiven him. And perhaps that can happen to us. We can keep careful accounts of what another person said, what someone did, how somebody disappointed us, how long it has been since someone apologized, or how many times we have already forgiven ourselves. Jesus invites us into a different kind of accounting.

4. The Currency of the Kingdom

When we travel to another country, we sometimes have to learn to think in a different currency. At first we are constantly converting everything back into dollars. Eventually, if we remain there long enough, we begin to understand the new currency on its own terms. Christian discipleship asks something similar of us. We are learning to live according to the values of the Kingdom of God. And in God's Kingdom, **mercy has tremendous value.** Forgiveness does not mean pretending that something did not hurt. It does not mean that injustice does not matter, that trust is automatically restored, or that appropriate boundaries are unnecessary. Forgiveness means that I refuse to allow another person's sin against me to become the permanent measure of that person's worth—or the permanent ruler of my own heart. Sometimes that requires crossing a difficult border: from resentment toward mercy, from keeping score toward letting go, from demanding repayment toward remembering how much God has forgiven me.

5. September 11 and What We Treasure

The anniversary of September 11 naturally brings back memories of terrible violence, enormous loss, and extraordinary sacrifice. It also reminds us how quickly things that seem permanent can change. In the years after September 11, Pat Tillman's story became one dramatic example of someone willing to walk away from money, status, and personal security because he believed something else was worth more. The Gospel asks us a different but related question:

What do I believe is worth more?

Is winning the argument worth more than reconciliation? Is holding onto resentment worth more than peace? Is keeping an account of another person's failures worth more than remembering God's mercy toward me? There are things more valuable than money. There are treasures that cannot be deposited in a bank. Mercy is one of them.

6. The Mercy We Have Received

At the heart of our faith stands Jesus Christ. He does not merely tell us to forgive us. He first shows us the mercy of God. We are the servants whose debt has been forgiven. Every time we pray the Our Father, we acknowledge this: *"Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us."* The Gospel therefore asks us not simply, **"How many times have I forgiven?"** It asks something deeper: **"How deeply have I recognized the mercy I have received?"** The more we recognize the value of God's mercy toward us, the more capable we become—with God's grace—of extending that mercy to others and living with true faith, hope, and charity. In a world that carefully calculates what everything costs and what everyone owes, Jesus teaches us another way to measure wealth.

The Kingdom of God has its own values. And the greatest of these is love.

In Christ's Peace,
Father Jim Ferry

OUR LADY OF LOURDES – SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

Weekly Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 5:30 pm	Bernard J. Mooney
SUNDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 7:30 am 9:30 am 11:30 am	People of the Parish Deceased Members of the Pflug & Napolitano Families Judit Barahona & Jacinta Cruz
MONDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 8:30 am	Lydia Michalowski
TUESDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 8:30 am	Robert Toloso
WEDNESDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 8:30 am	Nubia Schneider
THURSDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 8:30 am	Neil Albore
FRIDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 8:30 am	John Brennan
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

Altar Candles for the week of Sept. 13th : Offering of J. A.
Konvalinka In Memory of JAROSLAV & ROSE KONVALINKA.

Bread & Wine for the week of Sept.13th : Offering of J. A.
Konvalinka in memory of JAROSLAV & ROSE KONVALINKA..

Sanctuary Candles for the week of Sept.13th: Offering of J. A.
Konvalinka in memory of JAROSLAV & ROSE KONVALINKA..

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.

Church Calendar

SUN., 13 SEPTEMBER 7:30 am 9:30 am 10:30 am 11:30 am	Mass Mass Choir Rehearsal (LOFT) Mass "HAPPY GRANDPARENTS' DAY"
MON., 14 SEPTEMBER 8:30 am Miraculous Medal Novena following 8:30 am Mass on Monday. 6:30 pm	Daily Mass will be held Mon–Fri each Week in Church Parent + Student Mtg. (Gr. 7-12) (OLLC) Exaltation of the Holy Cross Day of Prayer (RCAN)
THUR., 17 SEPTEMBER 6 – 8:00 pm	Deadline for Announcements for Sept. 27 th Bulletin. Call the Rectory- 973-325-0110. Choir Rehearsal (LOFT)
SAT., 19 SEPTEMBER 3-5:30 pm 4:15 – 5:00 pm 5:30 pm	Family Catechesis (Gr 1-5) (HALL) Confessions in Church Mass
SUN., 20 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

MINISTRY SCHEDULE	SEPTEMBER 19-20, 2026	
Mass	Lector	Eucharistic Minister
5:30 pm	Pat Sigalas	Melinda Prather Judy Albore (c)
7:30 am	Mary Cassels	Patricia Saway
9:30 am	Kathy Petrillo	Joe Petrillo
11:30 am Choir	Jeryl Nalupta	Virginia Dimapilis 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



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October 18 at 11:00 am

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Sunday, October 4, 2026
Thursday, October 15, 2026
Wednesday, November 4, 2026

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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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