



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, October 4, 2026 - Twenty-seventh 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 Relics of Saint Bernadette: A Journey of Grace

On Wednesday, October 7, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish will welcome the relics of Saint Bernadette Soubirous as part of the 2026–2027 *Bernadette Journey of Grace*. This visit gives us an opportunity to learn why Catholics venerate relics and to reflect upon the life and witness of the young woman to whom the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared at Lourdes.

Why Do Catholics Venerate Relics?

A relic is a bodily remain of a saint or an object closely associated with that saint. From the earliest centuries of Christianity, the faithful have treated the remains of martyrs and saints with reverence. This practice reflects the natural respect we have for something connected with a person whom we love and admire. More importantly, it expresses our gratitude for what God accomplished in that person's life.

Catholics do not worship relics or saints. Adoration belongs to God alone. Veneration is a form of honor and respect that is clearly distinct from worship. When we venerate a relic, our attention does not stop at the physical object. The relic recalls a real person who followed Christ faithfully, and that person's life directs us toward God, the source of all holiness.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* recognizes the veneration of relics as one of the forms of Christian devotion that has developed around the Church's sacramental life. The Church also teaches that the examples of the saints instruct us and that their prayers support us. We ask the saints to intercede for us, just as we ask fellow Christians on earth to pray for us.

Relics also express our faith in the resurrection of the body. The human body is not merely a temporary shell of no lasting importance. Saint Paul teaches that

our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. Through their bodies, the saints prayed, worked, received the sacraments, cared for others, endured suffering, and served God. Their bodies were instruments of God's grace and are destined, like our own, to be raised on the last day.

A relic is not a magical object, nor does it possess power independent of God. Its purpose is to remind us of the saint's witness and lead us into prayer. Before the relics of Saint Bernadette, we may thank God for the faith that sustained her, ask for her intercession, and pray that her example will help us follow Christ more faithfully.

Who Was Saint Bernadette Soubirous?

Bernadette Soubirous was born in Lourdes, France, in 1844. Her family experienced severe poverty, eventually living in a single-room former jail known as *le cachot*, or "the dungeon." Bernadette suffered from poor health, received little formal education, and had no wealth or social influence.

On February 11, 1858, fourteen-year-old Bernadette went to gather firewood near the grotto of Massabielle. There she saw a beautiful young woman whom she initially called simply "the Lady." Between February and July of that year, Bernadette reported eighteen apparitions. During one of them, the Lady directed her to drink from a spring and wash in its water. On March 25, the Lady identified herself in Bernadette's local dialect: "I am the Immaculate Conception."

Bernadette was questioned repeatedly by civil and Church authorities. Although she faced skepticism, pressure, and public attention, she remained consistent in describing what she had experienced. She never claimed that the water itself possessed magical power, and she did not seek personal fame or financial benefit from the apparitions.

Bernadette later entered the Sisters of Charity and Christian Instruction at Nevers, where she lived a quiet life of prayer and service. She continued to experience serious illness and died in 1879 at the age of thirty-five. Pope Pius XI canonized her in 1933.

(Pastor's Column continued on Page 4)

OUR LADY OF LOURDES – OCTOBER 4, 2026

Weekly Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, 3 OCTOBER	
5:30 pm	Edgar O. Bury Jr.
SUNDAY, 4 OCTOBER	
7:30 am	People of the Parish
9:30 am	Deceased Members of the Rosary Altar Society
11:30 am	Kathleen DiBiasi
MONDAY, 5 OCTOBER	
8:30 am	Neil Albore
TUESDAY, 6 OCTOBER	
8:30 am	Ruth Lepage
WEDNESDAY, 7 OCTOBER	
8:30 am	Marion & Michael Green
THURSDAY, 8 OCTOBER	
8:30 am	Cynthia D. Buckingham
FRIDAY, 9 OCTOBER	
8:30 am	Sister Jean Ruppel
SATURDAY, 10 OCTOBER	
5:30 pm	Edgar Bury
SUNDAY, 11 OCTOBER	
7:30 am	People of the Parish
9:30 am	Janice Lombardi
11:30 am	Rose Konvalinka

Bread and Wine for the week of Oct. 4th: Offering from Joseph & Kathy Petrillo in memory of CONCETTA D'ARIES.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE	OCTOBER 10-11, 2026	
Mass	Lector	Eucharistic
5:30 pm	Michael Lanfrank	Eileen Reilly Judy Albore (c)
7:30 am	Mary Cassels	Lou Volpe
9:30 am Adult Choir	JoAnn Melhorn	Espie Cain
11:30 am	Rachelle Brown	Virginia Dimapilis Paul Hirsch (c)

Church Calendar

SUN., 4 OCTOBER	
7:30 am	Mass
9:00 am	Rosary Recitation (OLLC)
9:30 am	Mass, Rosary Altar Society
	Breakfast (HALL)
10:30 am	Choir Rehearsal (LOFT)
11:30 am	Mass
6:30 pm	Rosary, Grotto
MON., 5 OCTOBER	
8:30 am	Daily Mass will be held Mon-Fri each Week in Church.
Miraculous Medal	
Novena following 8:30 am	
Mass on Monday.	
5:30 pm	Family Catechesis (Gr. 1-5) (HALL)
6:30 pm	Rosary Grotto
WED., 7 OCTOBER	
	St. Bernadette Relics (OLLC)
7:30 am	Relics Arrive
8:30 am	Mass with Bishop Cruz
5:30 pm	Rosary
6:30 pm	Mass
8:30 pm	Closing of Church
THUR., 8 OCTOBER	
	Deadline for Announcements for Oct. 18 th Bulletin. Call the Rectory- 973-325-0110.
6 – 8:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal (LOFT)
6:30 pm	Rosary, Grotto
FRI., 9 OCTOBER	
1:30-3:30 pm	Soup Kitchen Set-up (HALL)
6:30 pm	Rosary Grotto
SAT., 10 OCTOBER	
9:00 - 12 pm	Soup Kitchen (HALL)
12 noon – 1:00 pm	PUBLIC SQUARE ROSARY RALLY
	Church Plaza
4:15 – 5:00 pm	Confessions in Church
5:30 pm	Mass
6:30 pm	Rosary, Grotto
SUN., 11 OCTOBER	
7:30 am	Mass
9:30 am	Mass
10:30 am	Choir Rehearsal (LOFT)
11:30 am	Mass
6:30 pm	Rosary, Grotto

Prayers needed

Mary Sue Brittle, James Christiano,
Frances Diaby, Mary McGuinness, Pete Markovic,
Antonio Matias, Marc Reyes, Andrea Santucci,
Gregory Vistica.

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

(Pastor's Column Continued from Page 2)

Bernadette's journey began amid poverty, illness, and uncertainty. Her story reminds us that holiness does not depend upon wealth, education, influence, or freedom from suffering. God's grace can work powerfully through a person whom the world might easily overlook.

The visit of her relics invites us to move beyond merely surviving life's difficulties. God desires to sustain us through prayer, the sacraments, and the care of the

Christian community. That grace also calls us toward sanctification – to grow in holiness, faithfulness, courage, humility and love.

As we welcome Saint Bernadette's relics, we remember a real human being whose life was transformed by God's grace. May her witness help us trust God in our own circumstances, receive the grace that sustains us, and continue faithfully on our own journey toward holiness.

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.

Saint Bernadette, pray for us.

Father Jim Ferry



HOW TO REPORT ABUSE

Archdiocese takes very seriously any and all allegations of sexual misconduct by members of the clergy, Religious and lay staff of the archdiocese. We encourage anyone with knowledge of an act of sexual misconduct to inform us immediately so that we may take appropriate action to protect others and provide support to victims of sexual abuse. Individuals who wish to report an allegation of sexual misconduct may do so by calling the Archdiocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection at 201-407-3256.

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1000 Strong Rosary for Life

Live via conference call

Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2026, at 7:00 pm

Please join the virtual **"1000 Strong Rosary for Life Conference Call"** on **Tuesday, October 13th at 7:00 pm** which is being organized by LIFENET. Join priests from throughout NJ to pray for the Protection of Babies in the Womb and in reparation for the sin of abortion. *Note: October 13th is the 109th anniversary of the 'Miracle of the Sun' at Fatima.* Our Lady wants us to pray the rosary! For more info: 973-497-4520.

Register at: lifeneteducation.org/1000strong

Call-in Number: 1-401-252-0031

Access Code: 759297 #

PARISH GIVING

FISCAL YEAR STARTING JULY 2026

GOAL: \$6,800

COLLECTION*: 9/19/26 -9/20/26: \$4,260

Deficit \$2,450

**Includes Online Giving Weekly Average Deposits*

REPORT FINANCIAL MISCONDUCT CONFIDENTIALLY

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.



Reliquary of
St. Bernadette
Soubirous

7:30 am Arrival of Reliquary & Statue.

8:30 am Mass, Bishop Manuel Cruz

6:30 pm Mass, Father Jim Ferry

8:30 pm Closing of Church

Please see yellow flyer for more information.

NEED A LAWYER? INJURED?



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