

OUR LADY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

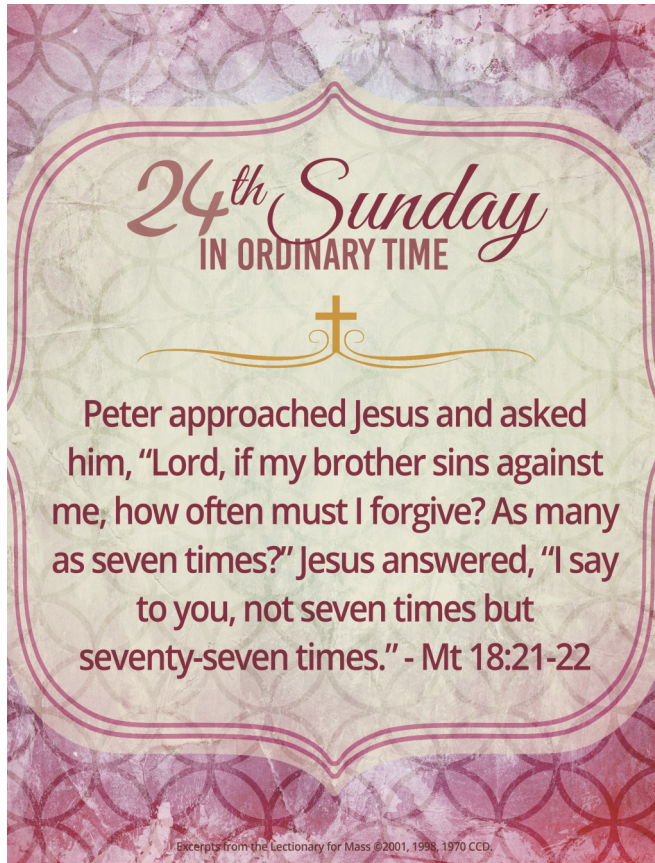
209 Woodcliff Avenue ~ Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677

Phone Number: 201.391.2826

www.motherofthechurch.org

Our Mission

To be a Parish Community where the Signs of Faith are given so that, seeing them, all can be led to Eternal Life.



TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

Parish Directory

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Director of Music

Music@motherofthechurch.org

Raquel Condon

Director of Religious Education

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Inga Nelson

Volunteer Receptionist

(Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday)

Inga@motherofthechurch.org

Maria Garcia

Volunteer Receptionist

(Thursday)

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Fr. Jason Mantich

Pastor

Ext. 201

Pastor@motherofthechurch.org

Fr. Michael Oasheim

Parochial Vicar

Ext. 201

Vicar@motherofthechurch.org

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Closed Friday

Parish Pastoral Council:

PastoralCouncil@motherofthechurch.org

Weekdays

Monday-Friday 8:30 am

Weekends

Saturday 5:30 pm,

8:00 pm (Neocatechumenal Way Eucharist)

Sunday 8:30 am & 10:30 am

Holy Days

See bulletin for schedule of Masses

Reconciliation

Saturday

(Sign up using link on parish website)

12:30 pm to 2:00 pm (Opus Dei Priest)

and

4:30 pm to 5:00 pm (OLMC Parish Priest)

(No sign up required. First come, first served.)

FROM POPE LEO XIV (FOR WORLD DAY OF GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY)



Dear brothers and sisters,

Through the prophet Isaiah, the Lord promises that he will never forget any of us. He assures us that he has engraved our faces on the palms of his hands (cf. Is 49:16) and that his love is greater than a mother's love for her child (cf. Is 49:15). The prophet gives us a glimpse of an intimate and intense dialogue in which God addresses, in familiar terms, each person individually and the people as a whole. Even today, we can read these words as referring to each of us, and everyone can hear that "I will never forget you" spoken directly to them.

These are words that fill us with comfort and hope. They are the answer to an agonizing feeling that troubles the heart: "The Lord has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me" (Is 49:14). How often in Sacred Scripture, especially in the Psalms, does prayer spring from the despair of those who feel that their lives are of no interest to anyone and are being neglected! The painful feeling of being forgotten is, unfortunately, shared by many people, and among them are quite a few elderly people.

God's love, which forgets no one, offers itself as an act of justice and a response to the anonymity in which human life all too often ends up lost. The lives of many elderly people, in particular, seem to be covered by a veil that blurs the features of their faces and shrouds them in oblivion. This is what happens in homes where loneliness reigns and also in those care facilities where each person's uniqueness risks being reduced to a bed number or an illness.

The celebration of the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly is an opportunity to rediscover that the Church is called to be a mother to all and that at any age it is always possible to recognize ourselves as sons and daughters of God. May this day, therefore, be an inspiration for everyone, especially the young, to revive the beautiful custom of visiting their grandparents, the elderly members of the family and even those who have no one to visit them. Bring them, through this message and your presence, the closeness and affection of the Pope. Ensure that the words of the prophet, "But I will never forget you," take the form of a tender and affectionate encounter. **"In an era that favors speed and fragmentation, the human person still yearns to receive care and recognition from attentive minds, kind words and hands capable of tenderness. The digital culture multiplies connections and offers new opportunities for interaction; yet, the human heart retains an irrevocable need for genuine closeness"** (Encyclical Letter, *Magnifica Humanitas*, 239).

The Church understands the suffering of her elderly members; she knows full well that they are all too often viewed through the lens of stereotypes and considered a burden; she is aware that a profit-driven economy weakens family ties; she knows that many elderly people are left behind by children who are forced to migrate or, in some cases, to fight in wars. For each of these reasons, she joyfully proclaims the Lord's promise: "But I will never forget you!"

It is a joy, at any age, but especially when we are no longer young, to discover, as John Paul I said, that we are the recipients "of undying love on the part of God. We know: he has always his eyes open on us, even when it seems to be dark. He is our father; even more he is our mother" (Angelus, 10 September 1978). Even if it does not come naturally to think this way, the truth is that even in old age we do not cease to be sons and daughters; therefore, the invitation to return to the arms of God — whose love is both paternal and maternal — remains worthwhile at any age.

For many, the discovery of God's tenderness takes place over the course of their lives, sometimes even in its final stages. **Indeed, unlike in the past, it is increasingly common to reach old age without having had a genuine experience of faith.** In such cases, old age — beginning with the questions that arise with greater urgency during this season of life — can become the right time to begin or resume a spiritual life. On this new journey, one can recognize that God, as Saint Augustine says, "is a mother because he cherishes, because he nourishes, because he nurses, because he protects" (Commentary on Psalm 27, II, 18). It is an awareness that helps us not to feel ashamed of the fragility that emerges and also to understand that we are always in need of one another and in need of attention and care. To God, who draws near to us and whom we learn to recognize in his tenderness, we can now turn with filial trust in prayer. It is never too late to begin turning to him. It can be a great gift for everyone.

Dear elderly men and women, Pope Francis spoke of you as a "new people" (Catechesis, 23 February 2022), since the number of older adults has never been so large in human history. It is, therefore, more important than ever to reflect with you, this "new people," on what our vocation might be when fragility — the human person's companion from birth — seems to take over. **I would like to say to you: do not be afraid of fragility! It is precisely this weakness that holds within itself a new potential that also illuminates the other stages of life. Indeed, when "we acknowledge our fragility, our hearts become open to supporting one another and to invoking the One who can grant what no human power can ensure: the profound reconciliation of hearts and, with it, true peace"** (Meeting with the Algerian community, Basilica of Our Lady of Africa, Algiers, 13 April 2026).

This is how we can live out our old age as Christians: "fragile" yet at the same time "called." A man and a woman can, in fact, be born anew in old age (cf. Jn 3:4-6) and exclaim, with the prophet: "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength" (Is 30:15). This strength can become an invitation not to resort to the ways of arrogance and power to ensure human coexistence, but to the ways of reconciliation and true peace. In this time, so harshly marked by the violence of war and social unrest, many wonder what the world in which their grandchildren will grow up will be like. I urge you, dear friends, to join me in praying earnestly that peace may soon come to the whole world.

Dear elderly brothers and sisters, I thank you for supporting me every day with your prayers, especially when you recite the Holy Rosary. I return this gratitude from the bottom of my heart and leave you with this prayer: may the Lord always renew us in faith, hope and love — He who never forgets us!

From the Vatican, 15 June 2026

LEO PP. XIV

SEPTEMBER IS THE MONTH OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday

5:30 pm

Sunday

8:30 am

10:30 am

Monday

8:30 am

Tuesday

8:30 am

Wednesday

8:30 am

Thursday

8:30 am

Friday

8:30 am

Saturday

5:30 pm

Sunday

8:30 am

10:30 am



September 12

The Most Holy Name of Mary
People of the Parish



September 13

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Grandparents' Day



Francis Dyer

Michael Studdt

September 14

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Anna Benante



September 15

Our Lady of Sorrows
Betsy Evans



September 16

Sts. Cornelius, Pope, & Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs
Mateo Scrivanich



September 17

St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop & Doctor of the Church; St. Hildegard of Bingen, Virgin & Doctor of the Church



Peggy Callahan

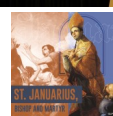
September 18

Robert Marketta



September 19

St. Januarius, Bishop and Martyr
Mary Ring



September 20

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Catechetical Sunday



Finn Watters

People of the Parish

Stewardship of Treasure

My Parish, My Family, My Responsibility

"For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's."

-Romans 14:8

This is the essence of stewardship – everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God. We aren't "owners" of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts that God has given us, especially our very own lives. Pray to God, daily, and ask Him how He is calling you to live the life that He intended for you.

Receipts from Last Week.....\$5,605.00
Catholic University of America.....\$600.00

For everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven."

-Qoh 3:11

"A time to be healed."

Parish sick list: Marie Barrett, Dino Caparoso, Rev. Bob Connor, Mary Cummings, Arlene Desposito, Ethel Dubrowski, Ed Evans, Trevor Giesberg, Ann Goodwin, Kathy Hedley, Pablo Ibarrola, Joachim Jung, Vivienne Knopp, Iry LaRegina, Genna Lepore, Julia Geraghty, Robert Libonati, Jessica Livingstone, John Mandile, Joyce Merlino, John Mullins, Carol Myack, David Plummer, James Ranaazgo, Danielle Rendon, Gail Roberts, Carol Schmidt, Jean Sember, Bro. Kevin Smith, John Vallely, Eric Vanderleif, Bryce Werner

"A time to mourn."

"A time for war and a time for peace."

Tyler Aiello, Ryan Brady, Lcpl. Joseph Ryan, Seamus Ryan
Amen.



World Day
for Grandparents
and the Elderly
2026

Prayer for the 6th World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

Holy Father, who watches over every person, watch over me too when I am elderly. You have revealed your name to me in Christ, and You were not discouraged by my frailties. You hold me tenderly in your hands, and You caress my lines. You will never forget me! Grant that I may not fear my weakness; help me learn to love it, just as You love it. Help me learn to listen to it, just as You listen to it. Help me embrace it, just as You have chosen it – You who, though all-powerful, clothed yourself in humility. May growing old strip away all our pride, and all division, so that we may, live these years, united in You. You will never forget us! Amen.



Start Your Marriage at the Altar with God

A "wedding" at a venue is not a valid sacrament. Start your married life with God and receive grace and Christ Himself as the 'third' person in your marriage through the Sacrament of Matrimony. In this sacrament, God's own divine life can be experienced and lived. Were you married only civilly by a mayor or justice of the peace and would now like to be married in the Catholic Church? Contact Fr. Jason or Fr. Michael for details.

Humanity, take a good look at yourself. Inside, you've got heaven and earth, and all of creation. You're a world - everything is hidden in you.

-St. Hildegard of Bingen

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL

FOOD | FUN | GAMES

Get ready to leap into the Fall with our Family Fall Festival - a fun-filled day of games, food, and community!

Sunday, September 27th, 2026
12 Noon - 3 PM

Join us as our guests! Please register so we can plan well. Registration takes place after the weekend Masses in the 'parking lot-side' lobby. When you register, you will get your ticket(s) that you **MUST** bring with you to enter the Festival on September 27 and receive your wristband(s) to access all the FUN! Join us on the planning committee to help make the festival an overwhelming success!



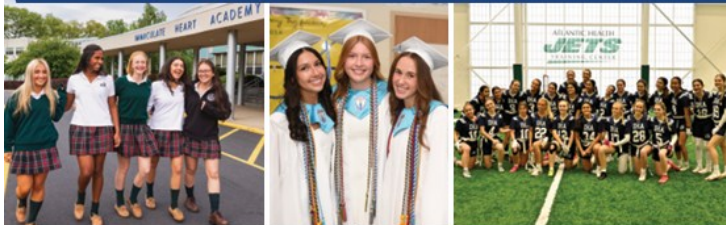
Electronic donations?
Please scan the QR code to use
our 'Parish Giving' service.



'There is no one who is without faults, and who is not in some way a burden to others, whether he is a superior or a subject, an old man or a young one, a scholar or a dunce.

-St. Robert Bellarmine

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Do you belong @theheart?

SAVE THE DATES FOR OUR FALL OPEN HOUSES:
October 18 at 11:00 AM • October 22 at 6:30 PM

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Township of Washington, NJ 07676
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ihanj.com



Divine Mercy Daily

Daily Reflections from the
Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska

Meditation:

Today, the Lord has been teaching me, once again, how I am to approach the Sacrament of Penance: **My daughter, just as you prepare in My presence, so also you make your confession before Me. The person of the priest is, for Me, only a screen. Never analyze what sort of a priest it is that I am making use of; open your soul in confession as you would to Me, and I will fill it with My light** (Diary, 1725).

My Prayer Response:

Thank You, Lord, for teaching St. Faustina how to make her confession before You. Help me to remember that the priest is only a screen. May I, too, make my confession before You, opening my soul to You that You may fill it with Your light.

**The words of Jesus appear in boldface type*

Share Divine Mercy Daily with your friends and family:
TheDivineMercy.org/dmdsignup

**Think not that you are thus
maintaining the Gospel of Christ
when you separate yourselves
from the flock of Christ.**

-St. Cyprian

Kid's Corner



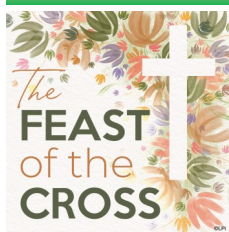
1. How many times did Jesus tell Peter to forgive his brother?
2. How much money did the first servant owe the king?
3. How much money did the second servant owe the first servant?
4. What did the king call his unforgiving servant?

5. What was the teaching of Jesus in today's Gospel?

1. Seventy-seven times. 2. A huge amount. 3. A small amount. 4. Wicked servant. 5. To forgive one's brother with all one's heart.

Answers:

SEPTEMBER IS THE MONTH OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On Monday, September 14, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. We are continually invited to look at this Cross not as a distant symbol or a historical memory, but as the living place where God has revealed His love to us and continues to do so today.

The Cross is simple and radical. The Cross is not, first of all, a moral demand or an example of patience. It is the great proclamation of the Kerygma: God has loved us while we were still sinners. On the Cross, the Father has shown that He does not reject the one who is lost, that He does not wait for us to become good before loving us. He has come to seek us precisely in our misery. St. Paul says it with force: “God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” The Cross is the revelation that God is love, and that this love reaches us when we are most unworthy.

The Cross is the place of our new birth. Just as in Baptism we were immersed in the death of Christ so that we might rise with Him, so every day the Lord continues to bring us back to that same Cross. There the old man, with his pretensions, his judgments, and his self-sufficiency, is crucified, and a new man begins to live, the man who knows he is loved and who can therefore love. This is why the Word of God and the celebration of the Eucharist always lead us again to the Cross: not to crush us, but to set us free.

The Cross is also the school of the Christian community. Only those who have accepted that they are forgiven can forgive. Only those who have discovered that they are loved in their poverty can welcome the brother without measuring him. The Cross builds the Church: it is the place where divisions fall, where mutual acceptance becomes possible, where the communion of saints begins to appear already on this earth.

This feast of the Exaltation reminds us that the Cross has been lifted up not as a sign of defeat, but as the throne of the King who reigns by giving His life. From the Cross flows the living water of the Spirit, the same Spirit who is at work in our community, making possible what is impossible for us: to love as we have been loved. As we celebrate this day, let us ask for the grace to keep our eyes fixed on the Crucified One. May we continue to open our hearts so that the Cross may no longer be a burden we fear, but the place where we discover, again and again, that we are infinitely loved.

Let us walk together, brothers and sisters, under the shadow of this Cross that saves us and that forms us into the image of the Son.

Peace, Fr. Jason



A Little Humor...

A bishop was astonished to hear little Mary say that a person must be very brave to go to church these days. “Why do you say that?” asked the bishop. “Well, I heard my uncle tell my aunt last Sunday that there was a canon in the pulpit, that the choir murdered the opening hymn and that the organist drowned the choir.”



St. Hildegard of Bingen

September 17

St. Hildegard of Bingen (1098–1179) was a remarkable German Benedictine nun, mystic, theologian, writer, composer, and spiritual leader. From childhood, she experienced visions that she understood as gifts from God. She eventually became abbess of the monasteries she founded and devoted her life to prayer, study, and proclaiming the Gospel. Hildegard wrote extensively about Scripture, creation, the human person, and the mysteries of God. She also composed beautiful sacred music and encouraged people to recognize God’s presence throughout creation. Her courage led her to correspond with popes, bishops, kings, and other leaders, offering spiritual counsel and calling the Church to greater faithfulness.



HOPE BEYOND THE CROSS

Healing Through Humble Faith

Join Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., for an evening of prayer and reflection as we bring before God our struggles, doubts, failures, and hopes.



As we gather in prayer we remember:

- Those burdened by failure, regret, or shame.
- Victims of injustice and suffering.
- Individuals and families seeking healing.
- All whose faith has been tested.

Monday, September 14, 2026

7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart

89 Ridge Street, Newark, NJ 07104

No registration required.
All are welcome.

Presented by the Department for the Protection of the Faithful of the Archdiocese of Newark
sect@rcan.org | www.rcan.org/protection-of-the-faithful

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

ANNUAL²⁰²⁶ APPEAL

Our Lady Mother of the Church has received \$37,344.00 in pledges for this year's Archdiocesan Annual Appeal from 66 donors and has achieved 109% of our Base Goal! Thank you to those parishioners who have made their gift to the 2026 Annual Appeal! Please be sure to honor your pledges. This year's time period for the Stretch Goal incentive built into the appeal has passed as of June 30, 2026.



If you would like to make a gift to the Annual Appeal, please visit www.rcan.org/sharing or scan the QR code. Your gift will truly make a difference. Thank you for your prayers and support.

We cannot live in a world that is not our own, in a world that is interpreted for us by others. An interpreted world is not a home. Part of the terror is to take back our own listening, to use our own voice, to see our own light.

-St. Hildegard of Bingen

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6:30PM-7:00PM: WORSHIP
7:00PM-9:00PM: CLASS
OUR LADY OF LOURDES
Roman Catholic Church
Father Jevi Hercules
Mountainside, New Jersey

FR. JEVİ HERCULES
ANNERTS BURGOS
JEFFREY BURGOS
NINETTE PETRUZZIELLO
YVONNE UBER
DON CARLSON

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encounterschool.org/newjersey

Heritage Fund

The Our Lady Mother of the Church Heritage Fund is a **restricted fund** created to complete projects and improvements in the parish. It is **restricted**, meaning that all donations will remain in the parish and cannot be used for any other purpose except for the named project donated to. Proposed projects are named below and as they are completed, it will be communicated here.

Proposed Project	Estimated Cost
Church Shingled Roof	\$150,000.00

Current Funding: \$76,807.19.

If you would like to donate to this project, please make checks payable to 'Our Lady Mother of the Church' with 'Heritage Fund - New Church Roof' in the memo line. Thank you for your support! May God give you 100-fold! Remember, He is never outdone in generosity!

Update 7/12/26: You might have noticed that the shingled roof replacement has been finished! See above to learn how to support this project!

Respect Life Corner

New Jersey
MARCHforLIFE
October 8, 2026

PRE-RALLY CONCERT 10 AM
RALLY 11 AM | MARCH 12 PM
THE STATE HOUSE ANNEX
145 West State St., Trenton, NJ 08608

NEW JERSEY
MARCH FOR LIFE

HOSTED BY:
MARCH FOR LIFE
New Jersey Right to Life