

OUR LADY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

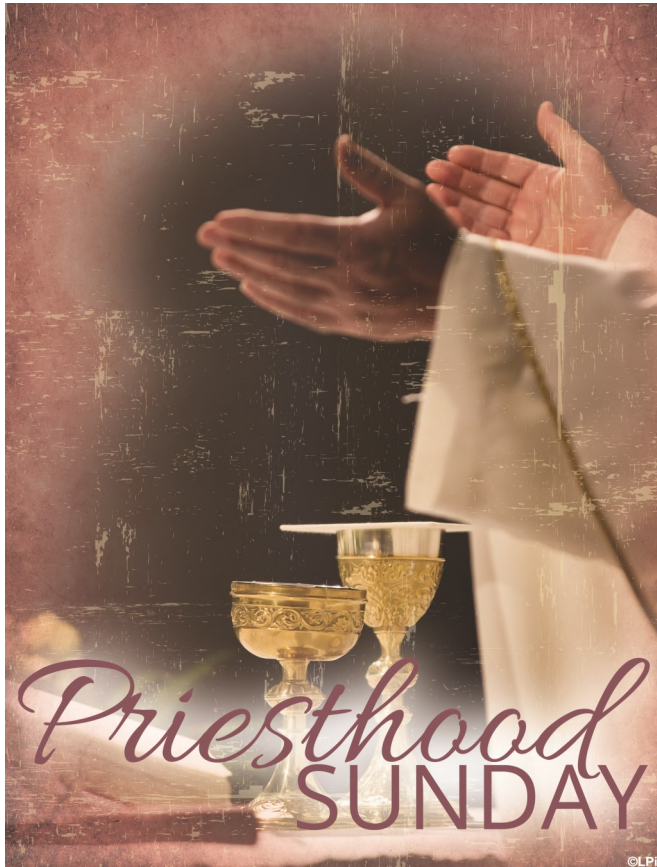
209 Woodcliff Avenue ~ Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677

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-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

Parish Directory

Barbara Ciannella

Director of Music

Music@motherofthechurch.org

Raquel Condon

Director of Religious Education

(201) 391-7400

FaithFormation@motherofthechurch.org

Inga Nelson

Volunteer Receptionist

(Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday)

Inga@motherofthechurch.org

Maria Garcia

Volunteer Receptionist

(Thursday)

Office@motherofthechurch.org

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 FR. JASON



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This week, on Monday, September 28th, the Church places before us St. Lawrence Ruiz and his companions. St. Lawrence was an ordinary man. A husband. A father of three. A calligrapher who once served as an altar boy and belonged to the Confraternity of the Holy Rosary. Nothing in his early life suggested that he would one day stand before the world as the first Filipino saint.

Yet the Lord had chosen him.

When a false accusation threatened his life in Manila, Lawrence fled and found himself on a ship bound for Japan with a small group of Dominican missionaries. He did not set out seeking martyrdom. He was simply trying to survive. But in Japan, the persecution of Christians was fierce. Arrested, imprisoned, and subjected to unspeakable tortures, Lawrence and his companions were offered the chance to renounce Christ and live.

They refused.

Hung upside down over a pit, with one arm left free so that a simple signal of apostasy would bring release, Lawrence remained faithful. In that darkness, filled with the Holy Spirit, he spoke the words that still resound today:

“I am a Catholic, and I wholeheartedly accept death for God. If I had a thousand lives, I would offer them all to Him.”

He died for Christ on or about September 28, 1637. His body was burned and the ashes scattered in the sea. But the Word he had received could not be destroyed.

We are continually reminded that the Christian life is not a theory or a set of rules. It is a following of the Crucified and Risen Lord. It is the daily decision to place our whole life at the disposal of Christ, just as Lawrence did. Baptism is not a past event; it is a living reality that asks of us the same radical ‘yes.’

Lawrence was not a priest or a religious. He was a layman, a man of the family, a man of the community. His fidelity shows us that holiness is possible in the ordinary circumstances of life - and that when the Cross comes, the grace given in the community and in the Word is enough to sustain us.

May the intercession of St. Lawrence Ruiz and his companions strengthen us in our journey. May we, too, learn to say with him: “If I had a thousand lives, I would offer them all to Him.”

Peace,

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



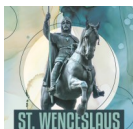
September 26

Sts. Cosmas & Damian, Martyrs
Dr. Michael Varhol



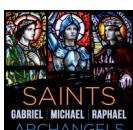
September 27

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Priesthood Sunday
People of the Parish
Francis Dyer



September 28

St. Wenceslaus, Martyr; St. Lawrence Ruiz & Companions, Martyrs
Mimi Averill



September 29

Sts. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels
Anthony Gasparovich



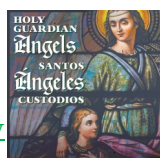
September 30

St. Jerome, Priest & Doctor of the Church
Mario Scopinich



October 1

St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin & Doctor of the Church
Mary Ann Bailey



October 2

The Holy Guardian Angels
Anselmo Bondulich

October 3

People of the Parish

October 4

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Respect Life Sunday
Jennifer Hartmann
Serenity Lynn

Stewardship of Treasure

My Parish, My Family, My Responsibility

“Do nothing out of selfishness; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves...”

-Philippians 2:3

Pride and ego are hard things to control. We see how others act or dress and think we are superior to them. We idolize our own self-image. But, if we truly believe everything is a gift from God, we recognize all the people that God has put in our lives as gifts! We are grateful for how they enrich our lives. Pray every day for the people in your life: your family, your friends and those who make you angry.

Receipts from Last Week.....\$5,142.00

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, Ivy LaRegina, Genna Lepore, Julia Geraghty, Robert Libonati, Jessica Livingstone, John Mandile, Joyce Merlino, John Mullins, Carol Myack, David Plummer, James Ranaizzo, 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.

FIND FREEDOM

Catholic in Recovery is a worldwide community of individuals seeking a solution to **addictions, compulsions, and unhealthy attachments** by integrating the Catholic faith into 12-step recovery.

JOIN a virtual meeting to begin your journey or strengthen your recovery. Resources also include CIR's Pathway to Recovery to support and guide you through the first 90 days of recovery.

www.catholicinrecovery.com



Electronic donations?

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



Begin now to be what you will be hereafter.

-St. Jerome

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Service. Scholarship. Spirituality. Sisterhood.



100% COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE (2026)
100% SISTERHOOD (FOREVER)

IHA is dedicated to empowering the next generation of leaders by challenging our impressive young women to develop their God-given talents for a future filled with endless possibilities. Find out why our extensive curriculum, artistic offerings, athletic teams, and Christian service programs are second to none.

Do you belong @theheart?

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

500 Van Emburgh Avenue
Township of Washington, NJ 07676
201.445.6800 @attheheart ImmaculateHeartAcademy
ihanj.com



BLESSING OF THE PETS

Sunday, October 4, 2026
2:00 p.m.

Our Lady Mother of the Church

**Please bring your well-behaved pets to
be blessed at our annual Blessing of
the Animals event.**

**Meet outside the Woodcliff Ave.
entrance.**



Divine Mercy Daily

Daily Reflections from the
Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska

Meditation:

Entrust everything to Me and do nothing on your own, and you will always have great freedom of spirit. No circumstances or events will ever be able to upset you. Set little store on what people say. Let everyone judge you as they like. Do not make excuses for yourself, it will do you no harm (Diary, 1685).

My Prayer Response:

Lord Jesus, help me to entrust every thing to You and do nothing on my own, so I will always have great freedom of spirit.

**The words of Jesus appear in boldface type*

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

May God forgive you, brother.

-St. Wenceslaus

Kid's Corner



1. What did the father ask both of his sons to do?
2. What did the first son say at first? What did he do later?
3. What did the second son say? What did he actually do?
4. Which son did what his father wanted? Why?
5. Jesus said tax collectors and people who had done wrong things were entering God's kingdom before the religious leaders. Why?

1. Go out and work in the vineyard that day. 2. He said "I will not," but afterward he changed his mind and went to work. 3. He said "Yes, sir," but he did not go to work in the vineyard. 4. The first son, because even though he said no at first, he later changed his mind and obeyed. 5. Because when John the Baptist came, the tax collectors and others believed him and changed their ways, but the religious leaders did not.

Answers

PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY



ARCHDIOCESE
of NEWARK
OFFICE FOR FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY



GOD CHOSE YOU FOR ME

A life-changing experience for married couples.

"What God has joined together, let no one separate." – Mark 10:9

WHY ATTEND?

- Rediscover your desire. Build a daily prayer life as a couple. Deepen your love.
- A NEW WAY TO PRAY**
Prayer will become a daily expression of love between you and your spouse – a way to invite God deeper into your relationship.
- A NEW WAY TO CONNECT**
Share, listen, and reflect together to deepen your emotional and spiritual connection.
- A NEW WAY TO ENCOUNTER GOD'S LOVE**
By seeing your marriage through the lens of faith, you will discover how your love reveals the presence of Christ in your everyday life.

Don't miss this transformative experience!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026

St. Mary Church
Parish Hall
91 Home Avenue
Rutherford, NJ 07070

9:30 AM to 4:30 PM
(with optional Mass at 5 PM)

\$75 per couple
(includes light morning refreshments, catered lunch, workbooks, and all supplies.)

Registration Deadline:
September 26, 2026

CLICK HERE OR SCAN THE QR CODE FOR DETAILS AND REGISTER TODAY!



A Little Humor...



A mother took her five-year-old son to Mass. When the collection basket came around, the mother dropped in a twenty dollar bill. The little boy watched intently, then looked up at his mom with wide eyes and whispered loudly, "Wow, Mom! Twenty dollars? That's way too much money to pay for a movie we've already seen!"

Parish Registration



A Parishioner is one who belongs to our parish community. As such, they are registered and actively participate in the life of the parish community by regularly attending Mass, joining ministries, and financially supporting the parish.

To obtain Sponsor Certificates / Letters of Good Standing for Baptism and Confirmation, please call the parish office. The person requesting such must be registered and be an active member of our Parish community. We request that you register so that we can serve you better.



Women's Retreat

Saturday, October 17, 2026, 9 AM – 2 PM
Catholic Women of Zion Chapter 3

St. Andrew Church
120 Washington Avenue,
Westwood, NJ 07675

This retreat is open to all women. The retreat includes Mass, prayer, music, speaker, sharing, and prayers for healing. Our very special guest speaker, Mrs. Gayle Scirocco, will share her "Continuing Journey of Faith and Healing." Registration is required no later than Tuesday, Oct. 13, through our website, www.cwoz.org. A donation of \$25 payable at the door includes a box lunch. To register by telephone, call 201-370-2577. Please leave your name and telephone number and indicate which lunch you would prefer: 1) Turkey/Provolone, 2) Ham/Swiss, 3) Grilled Chicken/Roasted Peppers, or 4) Grilled Veggies.

Jesus points out to me the only way which leads to Love's furnace – that way is self-surrender – it is the confidence of the little child who sleeps without fear in its father's arms.

–St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus



THE MERCY HOUSE

Who we are:
A ministry of the Archdiocese of Newark's Respect Life Office

Our locations:
20 Greenville Ave.
Jersey City, NJ 07305

620 Clinton Ave.
Newark, NJ 07108

249 Court Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07206

What we do:
Resource and referral center for families.
Offering the items listed here and more!

Upcoming Events:

Backpack giveaway: Jersey City – Aug 31 Newark – Sept 1 Elizabeth – Sept 2	Turkey giveaway: Newark – Nov 17 Elizabeth – Nov 18 Jersey City – Nov 19
Coat giveaway: Jersey City – Oct 26 Newark – Oct 27 Elizabeth – Oct 28	Christmas giveaway: Elizabeth – Dec 16 Jersey City – Dec 17 Newark – Dec 22

Items we need:

Food Pantry

- Pasta/Pasta Sauce/Diced tomatoes
- Canned Tuna/Chicken
- Deluxe Macaroni & Cheese
- Small bags of rice
- Corn
- Black beans
- Cereal/ Oatmeal/Shelf stable milk
- Pancake Mix and syrup
- Baking kit (cake mix, icing, oil)
- Fruit cups
- Snack bars
- Individual cookies and crackers
- Peanut butter and jelly

Baby Items

- Diapers/wipes
- Baby Toiletries
- Gently Used Baby Clothing and Equipment

Household Items

- Kitchenware
- Gently Used Bedding/Linens
- Seasonal Decorations

Personal Items

- Gently Used Clothing (seasonally appropriate)
- Toiletries
- Kotex pads
- Adult incontinence pads



ARCHDIOCESE
of NEWARK

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.



Bishop Michael Saporito Appointed Bishop of Metuchen

Pope Leo XIV has appointed Bishop Michael A. Saporito, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Newark, as Bishop of the Diocese of Metuchen. Please join Cardinal Tobin and the faithful of the Archdiocese of Newark in praying for Bishop Saporito and the people of Metuchen as they begin this new chapter together. Visit rcan.org for more.

Save the Date!

A Joyful Christmas Celebration

Friday, December 11, 2026 at 7:00 pm

Duo Pianos, Professional Singers, and a Choir

Sing-Along!

Mingle with wine and cheese afterwards!

Tickets on sale starting Nov. 7/8 after Mass and in the parish office!



Pro-Life Prayer

Dear God, Every life is beautiful, from the microscopic beginning to our final breath. Protect every life on its journey, every heart from small to large, strong to weak. Give us the grace to stand up for each other, and to stand next to each other. Amen.



Donate to the Tri-Boro Food Pantry

Don't forget, next weekend, the 1st Sunday of the month, you can bring items to the Church that will be donated to the Tri-Boro Food Pantry. Check their website to see items they are most in need of for October.

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: \$76,857.19.

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
MARCH for LIFE
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**