

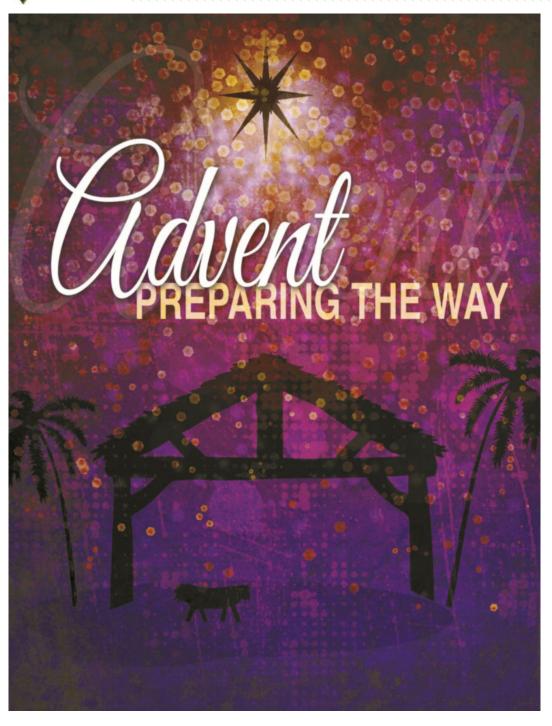
OUR LADY OF REFUGE, Orchard Lake MI

Today is The 1st Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

Mission Statement

Under the protection of Our Lady of Refuge and guided by the Holy Spirit, our parish family is dedicated to the propagation and deepening of our faith, rooted in the Sacraments, Sacred Scripture and Tradition of the Catholic Church. As stewards of the Father's gifts, we strive to reflect the love of Christ through the support of our parish and in our outreach and service to others.



| MASS TIMES | READINGS | MASS/PRAYER INTENTIONS Dec. 4–12, | 2023 |
|---|---|--|---|
| Day/Date/Time | Readings | Mass Intentions | Presider/Lector |
| Monday December 4 8:15am | Is 2:1-5 Mt 8:5-11 | We pray for Irene and Ed Bayma (deceased) requested by Connie Bayma | Bp. Hurley |
| Tuesday December 5 8:15am | ls 11:1-10 Lk 10:21-24 | We pray for Col. John Burt (living) requested by the Family | Fr. Witek |
| Wednesday December 6 8:15am | S 25:6-10a Mt 15:29-37 | We pray for Tom Empric (living) requested by Dan & Debbie Schneble We pray for Dan Schneble (living) requested by Dan & Debbie Schneble | Fr. Witek |
| Thursday December 7 No Mass | Is 26:1-6 Mt 7:21, 24-27 | | |
| Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Friday December 8 8:15am 7:00pm | Gn 3:9-15, 20 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Lk 1:26-38 | | 8:15am Fr. Witek 7:00pm Bp. Hurley D.Dickerson P. Seif |
| Saturday December 9 5:00pm | See Sunday Readings | We pray for Sam Hannawa (deceased) We pray for James & Amy Montgomery (deceased) requested by Celeste Montgomery We pray for Fawzi Shaya (deceased) requested by Shaya Family | Fr. Witek L. Oras E. Escobedo |
| Sunday December 10 Today is the 2nd. Sunday of Advent 8:00am 9:30am 11:30am | Is 40:1-5, 9-11 2 t 3:8-14 Mk 1:1-8 | 8:00am We pray for Paul Bishop (living) requested by Carol Bishop 9:30am We pray for Mary C. Currell (deceased) requested by John Currell We pray for Lucia Tran (deceased) requested by Stephanie Le We pray for Khiloud Yatooma (deceased) requested by the Zerki Family 11:30am We pray for Our Lady of Refuge | Fr. Buersmeyer |
| Monday December 11 8:15am | ls 35:1-10 Lk 5:17-26 | We pray for Richard C. Najor (deceased) We pray for Pat Patterson (deceased) requested by Connie Bayma | Fr. Witek |
| Tuesday December 12 8:15am | Zec 2:14-17 Lk 1:26-38 | We pray for Mary Margaret & Lou Bosco (living) requested by their Children | Bp. Hurley |



Notes from Bishop Hurley

Advent

This week we begin our celebration of season of Advent. It is a time of hope and expectation as we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Lord and His final coming in glory. Again this year the parish is making available "The Little Blue Book" which this year consists of six minute reflections on the Infancy narrative of St. Luke. These booklets prepared by the dio-

cese of Saginaw are based on the writings of Bishop Kenneth Untener. They are prepared seasonally and have been an inspiration for many. Each family is welcome to take a copy for Advent reflection and prayer. There is no charge or offering expected for these booklets.

I have mailed an Advent Christmas letter to all registered parishioners and have included the Advent/ Christmas schedule for your convenience. You will also find a copy of my letter as well as the schedule in this weeks bulletin.

This Friday is the feast of the Immaculate Conception, the patroness of the United States. It is also a holyday of obligation. Masses are at 8:15 am and 7:00 pm.

Mass Schedule:

You will note that with the multiple masses scheduled for Christmas we have not scheduled an 8:00 am Mass on Sunday, December 24 and December 31. It is also my understanding that this was the practice every Sunday during the recent pandemic.

All parishes in the Archdiocese have been asked to review their Mass schedules, and looking at Mass attendance and consider consolidation of the number of Masses offered in each parish where it is possible to do so.

Every year each parish is asked to count the number of people in attendance at each of the Sunday Masses on two Sundays in October and to review the need for those presently scheduled.

In October of each year all parishes are asked to do a Mass count on two weekends. For the past year these Mass counts at Our Lady of Refuge were done on:

| | October 14 | <u>1/15 </u> | and <u>October 21/22</u> | | | |
|--------|------------|--|--------------------------|------|-----|--|
| | 5:00 pm | 114 | 5:00 |) pm | 118 | |
| | 8:00 am | 119 | 8:00 | am (| 119 | |
| | 9:30 am | 194 | 9:30 am | | 217 | |
| | 11:30 am | 223 | 11:3 | 0 am | 223 | |
| Total: | 630 | | Total: | 728 | 3 | |

As you may know the seating capacity of the church is currently 700 per Mass. Presently and for some years the church is generally about half filled at any weekend Mass. From our records we know that these numbers have not changed significantly over the past number of years.

Effective December 24 we will discontinue the 8:00am Mass as part of our regular Sunday Mass schedule. While I realize this will represent an inconvenience for some, we will continue to have 3 weekend Masses (1 on Saturday and 2 on Sunday) which is consistent with the neighboring parishes we work with.

I am grateful for your understanding in this matter as you are in so many others.

Retirement fund for Religious: Each year there is an annual collection to assist religious communities (mostly women) meet the expenses of providing for the sisters who served in our schools and parishes years ago on minimum wages and no provisions for retirement. This collection is a way to thank the religious women and men who gave their lives to serve in our schools and parishes over the many years. The Church in the United States despite all it's weaknesses is still strong and vibrant. Much of this strength and vibrancy is because of the dedication and commitment of religious serving in our schools and institutions in the past. They now need our support in their old age. Their absence in our parishes and schools today is a great loss. Envelopes for this collection will be found in the pews and I invite your generosity. Please return your envelopes in the Sunday collection.

Wishing you God's every blessing, Bishop Walter A. Hurley

DIRECTORY OUR LADY OF REFUGE

3725 Erie Drive, Orchard Lake MI 48324Parish Office hours M-Th 9:00am— 5:00pm

Bishop Walter Hurley

WEEKEND MASSES Saturday 5:00pm Sunday 8:00, 9:30 & 11:30am

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE 8:15am Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION Saturday 3:30-4:30pm

BAPTISMS(By appointment)

MARRIAGES Six Months Notice By Appointment

PARISH REGISTRATION Contact Carol Bishop (248) 682-0920

PARISH STAFF

Dave Kennedy, Dir. Of Evangelization 248-418-7221 E-mail: dkennedy@olorcc.org

Lisa Marie Blanek, Worship 248-418-7212 E-mail: lblanek@olorcc.org

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Why Be Registered?

Are you registered at Our Lady of Refuge parish? Sometimes, people attend Mass at this parish for several years, but never officially register. Registering in a parish is a declaration of your desire to be part of a Catholic community and to make a commitment to the life of Our Lady of Refuge community.

Being a registered parishioner makes the process much easier when it is time for baptisms, Faith Formation registration, weddings, when asked to be a baptismal or Confirmation sponsor, and even funerals.

If you would like to register in the parish, please call Carol Bishop at (248) 682-0920. We welcome you to our parish family!



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Online Giving helps support our church by allowing you to make donations, payments, and pledges via your mobile phone, smart device, or computer.

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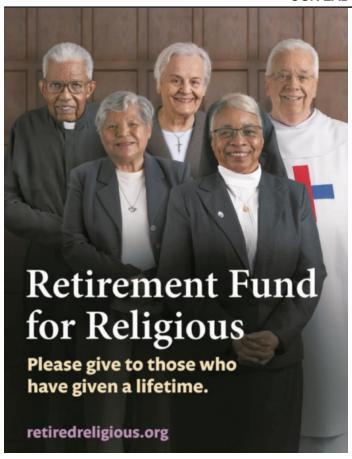
OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP

November 18/19, 2023

Offertory: \$8,904 Online Giving: \$3,262 Total: \$12,166

Weekly Budget: \$12,300

YTD Budgeted: \$258,300 YTD Actual: \$265,134 Over the Budget: \$6,834



Collection taken up on December 9/10

You can help. "Religious are blessed to serve," says Dominican Father Bertrand Ebben, age 90. Please donate to the Retirement Fund for Religious next week. Your gift will provide essential care for nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to serving others. Let us show our gratitude to these selfless individuals by giving generously.

Photo: Jim Judkis. ©2023 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Used with permission

WORSHIP

Lisa Marie Blanek 248.418.7212 ext. 1114 Iblanek@olorcc.org

Advent Wreath – Candle Lighting



We have a tradition here at Our Lady of Refuge Parish of having parishioners come forward to light our Advent Candles. Those involved will join the procession behind our

Altar Servers and go directly to our Advent Wreath where you will light the appropriate candle or candles for that Advent Mass.

There is a reservation sheet where you can sign up in advance for a Mass located on the podium in the narthex next to our processional cross. Thank you in advance for your participation! If you have any questions or concerns contact Lisa Marie at 248-418-7424 or lblanek@olorcc.org.

Immaculate Conception

This is the Patronal Feast Day of the United States of America, a Holy Day of Obligation! We will be celebrating this amazing day with our school children during the 8:15am Mass on Friday, December 8th and an evening Mass at 7 pm.

Our Holy Mother Mary, chosen by God, leads us into salvation by reversing the sin of Eve and guiding our nation in growing our relationship with her son, Jesus Christ. Everyone of us are called to celebrate together this Holy Day in the Mass of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Come and open your hearts and minds to the Word and all the blessings intended for you and your families throughout this Advent Season!



Advent /Christmas 2023

Dear parishioners and friends of Our Lady of Refuge Parish,

In the midst of this troubled world filled with poverty, homelessness, war, violence, and sometimes personal tragedies we begin the season of Advent. In a troubled world we are filled with hope as we look forward to our celebration and commemoration of the feast of the Birth of the Lord at Christmas and New Year of God's grace.

Advent is a time to look back in thanksgiving on the blessings and presence of the Lord in our lives and the life of our parish community. It is also a time to look forward with confident hope. In Advent we are invited to prepare ourselves for the celebration of the birth of Christ and His Second coming.

I want to thank you for your participation and support of Our Lady of Refuge Parish as well as the needs of those beyond our parish this past and previous years. We hope for your continued participation and support in the days to come. In my own name and on behalf of the parish staff, thank you so much.

On the reverse side of this letter you will find the times and dates for our Advent and Christmas celebrations with the hope that you will be able to join us in prayer in this season and in these days. Please note that with Christmas being on Monday we will have a slightly revised weekend schedule. The same will be true New Year's weekend.

It is my prayer for you and your families that you may have the gift of faith, the blessing of hope and the peace of the Lord at Christmas and always but especially in the days ahead looking forward to a future greater than any past.

Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year to all.

Sincerely yours in the Lord, Most Rev. Walter A. Hurley

Advent/Christmas Schedule 2023

Reconciliation:

Saturday 12/2 from 3:30-4:30 pm

Monday 12/4 (First Reconciliation) 7:00 pm

Tuesday 12/13 (Family of Parishes Service) 7:00 pm at Prince of Peace Parish

Saturday 12/16 from 3:30-4-30 pm

Tuesday 12/19 Communal Penance with individual Confessions 7pm

Saturday 12/23 and 12/30 No Reconciliation scheduled.

<u>Christmas Choir Concert</u> Sunday, December 17 In the Church at 4:00 pm

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

December 8.

Mass at 8:15 am and 7:00 pm

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday 12/23 5:00 pm Mass

Sunday 12/24 (No 8:00 am Mass) 9:30 am Mass 11:30 am Mass

Christmas Eve Masses

4:00 pm Mass 6:00 pm Mass 10:00 pm Mass (Pre Mass Christmas Music at 9:30)

Christmas Day Mass

10:00 a.m. Mass

December 30 5:00 pm

December 31 (No 8:00 am Mass) 9:30 Mass 11:30 Mass

New Year's Day Mass 10:00 am

Tim Smith 248-821-8443 Enables to the Contract of the Contra

As we start Advent the first reading from Isaiah laments our separation from God: Why do you let us wander, O LORD, from your ways, and harden our hearts so that we fear you not?

The Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 80) picks up this theme and ask God to remember and protect his people:

Once again, O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven, and see; take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted...

The musical setting has a desolate, barren feel. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face, and we shall be saved. You can listen to the setting of this Psalm at www.timothvrsmith.com



Featuring Our Lady of Refuge Music Ministry. Reception immediately after in the Social Hall. Bring your family and friends and come ring in the Christmas Season singing and hearing Advent and Christmas music from your Refuge Music Ministry.



EVANGELIZATION Dave Kennedy 248.418.7221 dkennedy@olorcc.org

Hello Everyone and Happy Advent!

This first week of Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical year and is a time of joyful anticipation, and spiritual preparation, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

This week we will be lighting the first Advent candle, known as the "Prophets Candle" or "Candle of Hope". The purple color of the candle, and the Advent season, is a representation of our penance and longing as we prepare for the Christmas celebration. This week the Church will focus on the theme of hope as we draw inspiration from the Old Testament prophecies that tell of our coming Messiah.

As we reset our Liturgical calendar for Advent, I invite you to engage in the beautiful prayers, scripture readings, and liturgical observances offered during this time of anticipation. To aid in this, the Little Blue Advent Books are available in the Narthex if you would like one. As we enter into this sacred time of waiting, we are reminded to cultivate a spirit of hope as we eagerly anticipate the fulfillment of God's promise and the arrival of the light of Christ in our lives. God bless.

Pray for Our Seminarians



Bryan García Phílosophy I St. Francís D'Assisi-St. Hedwig, Detroit

Advent Wreath

Question:

What's the story behind the Advent wreath?

Answer:

Each season in the liturgical calendar comes with its own local and regional rituals. During the Advent season, wreathes adorn church sanctuaries and family dining room tables. You may have said Advent wreath prayers in childhood or taken a turn lighting the candles. The Advent wreath is full of symbolism about Christ and his coming at Christmas. The wreath is made of evergreen boughs, reminding us that the life of grace doesn't falter with the changing seasons. It always remains fresh and new. Similarly, a circular wreath reminds us of the eternal, neverending nature of God's love.

Candles remind us that Christ is the light of the world, the One who "shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." We use four candles to represent each week of Advent. Traditionally they come in the liturgical colors of the season. Purple has historically represented penance and sacrifice. We see the same color for the season of Lent. On the third Sunday of Advent, however, we light a rose color. The priest will wear rose vestments at Mass. This is Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means "rejoice" in Latin. On the third Sunday of Advent, we're roughly halfway through the season. The Church chooses the midpoint to remind us to celebrate in the midst of our anticipation! Whatever the color and whatever the day, the Advent wreath is a beautiful practice to focus our attention on Christ's coming at Christmas.

©LPi



COFFEE AND DONUTS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10th

After All Masses

St. Nicholas visits at the 9:30 & 11:30am Times
And an
Advent Craft is provided for the kids



CHRISTIAN SERVICE Suzanne Barcewicz

248-682-4099

cs@olorcc.org

Giving Tree and Adopt a Family Combined

This year on our beautiful Giving Tree there will be a combination of Agencies and wishes from our Neighbors in Need.

The Agency tags will be on pink and purple tags and the Neighbors in Need will be on white tags.

Please consider choosing a white tag along with a pink or purple tag so that all of our local Neighbors are selected to receive a lovely gift from the tree.

White tags may be wrapped Pink and Purple tags are not!

<u>Deadline to return gifts extended to</u> December 10th.

Angel's Place Meals Needs you!

Angel's Place Meals are still happening. After 3 years of supporting Angel's Place every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We are asking for more sign-ups. Here are the details: There are 6 men and 2 staff members. They are very thankful for each and every meal that they receive. They have no dietary restrictions and they count on the meal for which has been signed up. Meals need to be delivered between 3-5 p.m. More details are on the sign-up genius page. Questions can be sent to Suzanne @ cs@olorcc.org

Sign up to bring a meal:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D49A8AB2BAAF58-angels or scan

https://signupgenius .com/#!/showSignU...





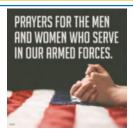
A look at the lovely baskets given out this year! Thank you to May & Bobby Hesano for the Turkeys. And the Christ family for the amazing pies!

Thank you also for the generous donations given through the Harvest Wagon! Many thanks to the Christian Service Commission especially Teresa Roose, Bronia Maiorano, Karen Trahay, Diane Lalicki, Michelle McCormick, Julie Llewellyn, Cora Armitage





Helen Purcell



Pray for the men and women who serve in our Armed Forces

"Dear Lord Jesus and Mary, Mother of God, hold all these brave souls in the palm of your hand; comfort them and their families. Send angels of protection, love and comfort to all the service men and women still at war, bring them home safely and comfort their families. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen."

Rev. Przemyslaw Nowak Army Chaplain

Clare Bizer **Coast Guard** Eugene Bizer **Coast Guard** Christopher Bowman Coast Guard Daniel Culbertson Navy Michelle Culliver Army Nora Dinverno Army Steven Dinverno Army Nicholas Harbaugh Marines Joshua Hartley Air Force Nova Howard Army Liam Lynch Army Gunnar Ottman **National Guard**

Please contact Cora Armitage at 248 736-6228 to add or remove a name.

- A. To add a person to the bulletin/board Military listing please provide:
 - 1. First and Last Name
 - 2. Current rank—Branch of Service
- B. As the contact for the service member (not for publication) please provide: 1 Your Name
 - 2 Your phone number or e-mail address
 - 3 A current address for the service member.



Saturday, November 21, 2023 Jeanette De Conick

Loving Mother of: Tony (Kim) De Conick, Tina (Tim) Jeter, Maria (Scott) King, and Julie (Dave) Helm.

Loving grandma to Phillip, Victor (deceased), Kendall, Kasey, Madison, Jessica, Elizabeth, Matthew, Jordyn, Michael, James, and David.

Her Funeral Mass was held on Saturday, November 25th.

Mass Celebrated by:

Rev. Dominic Macioce

Our Parish family extends its heartfelt sympathy and prayers to her Family and friends.

Our Lady of Refuge



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