



OUR LADY OF REFUGE, Orchard Lake MI

Today is The 4th Sunday of Advent

December 24, 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.



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD



"For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you
who is Christ and Lord." - Lk 2:11

MASS TIMES	READINGS	MASS/PRAYER INTENTIONS	Dec. 25, 2023–Jan. 2, 2024
Day/Date/Time	Readings	Mass Intentions	Presider/Lector
Monday December 25 10:00am	Is 9:1-6 Ti 2:11-14 Lk 2:1-14	We pray for Sabri Attisha & parents (deceased) We pray for Jim Majercik (deceased) requested by the Family We pray for Mary Helen Suciu (deceased) requested by Nick Suciu, Jr.	Fr. Jozwiak
Tuesday December 26 No Mass	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Mt 10:17-22		
Wednesday December 27 8:15am	1 Jn 1:1-4 Jn 20:1a, 2-8	We pray for Mary Barrood (deceased) requested by OLR Christian Service We pray for Lorraine Madlo (deceased) requested by Janet Boyk	Bp. Hurley
Thursday December 28 No Mass	1 Jn 1:5-2:2 Mt 2:13-18		
Friday December 29 8:15am	1 Jn 2:3-11 Lk 2:22-35	We pray for John C. Currell (deceased) requested by John Currell	Fr. Witek
Saturday December 30 5:00pm	See Sunday Readings	We pray for Sam Hannawa (deceased) We pray for Mimi & Geoffrey Sale requested by the Sale Family We pray for Fawzi Shaya (deceased) requested by the Shaya Family	Fr. Brooks P. Seif L. Oras
Sunday December 31 Today is The Holy Family 9:30am 11:30am	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 Cor 3:12-21 Lk 2:22-40	9:30am We pray for Sally Blaneck (deceased) requested by Janet Boyk We pray for Tony Dombrowski (deceased) requested by Allison Dombrowski We pray for Khiloud Yatooma (deceased) requested by the Zerki Family 11:30am We pray for Leo Camardese (deceased) requested by the Camardese Family We pray for Bill McMaster (deceased) requested by Diane McMaster We pray for Thomas R. Wagener (deceased) requested by the Family	9:30 Bp. Hurley J. Zubalik L. Henson 11:00am Fr. Sabadell L. Blaneck P. Gantz
Monday January 1 10:00am	Nm 6:22-27 Lk 2:16-21	We pray for Adela Sokolowski (deceased)	Bp. Hurley
Tuesday January 2 8:15am	1 Jn 2:22-28 Jn 1:19-28	We pray for Jeff Adrian (living)	



DIRECTORY
OUR LADY OF REFUGE

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

Parish Office 248-682-0920
Fax 248-682-3794
Web Site: www.olorcc.org
email: secretary@olorcc.org
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Bishop Walter Hurley

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 5:00pm
Sunday 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 Parish Secretary (248) 682-0920

PARISH STAFF

Carol Bishop, Parish Secretary
248-682-0920 ext. 1100
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SCHOOL (248) 682-3422

Lauri Hoffman, Principal
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Nancy Kretlin, School Secretary

Editor - Carol Bishop 682-0920

Copy Deadline **Tuesdays 12:00 noon**
rev 12/24/2023 Printed with soy ink

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!

**Pray for
Our Seminarians**



*Joseph Lennon
Theology I
Divine Child
Dearborn*



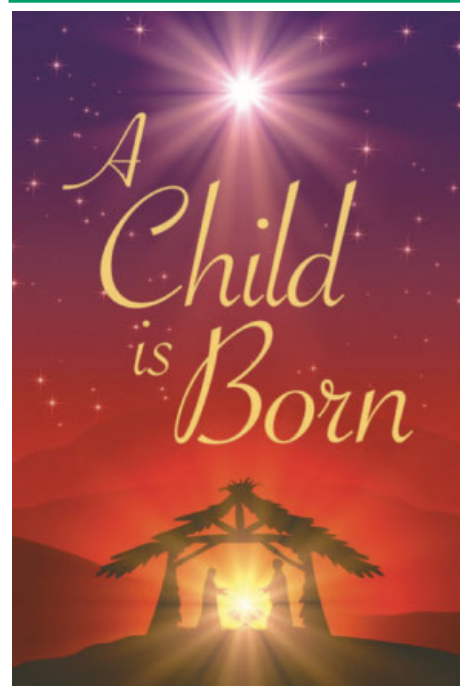
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"For unto us a child is born. Unto us a Son is given...And His name shall be called: Wonder Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

As we celebrate the feast of the Nativity of The Lord, I want in my own name and on behalf of the staff of Our Lady of Refuge to extend to all our good wishes for a Blessed Christmas and blessings in the New Year. It is a time when our hearts should be filled with gratitude that God walks with us as we journey in our lives.

The world is deeply troubled in so many ways and needs to hear the saving words of our God. In Jesus, God makes his dwelling place among us. There are so many people whose lives were taken away by war and violence during this past year. Let us keep them in prayer as well as those who mourn them. May individuals find the Christmas season to be particularly difficult because of various losses in their lives. Let us remember them as well.

Let us all continue to give thanks for the blessings we have received and strive to be the messengers of God's love to all.

Good wishes and Blessings in this Holy Season,
Bishop Walter A. Hurley



December 15, 2023

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Over the last couple of years, parishes across the Archdiocese of Detroit have come together in Families of Parishes to go on mission. As we continue forward with this transition, it has become clear that some adjustments are warranted to help parishes most effectively work together to unleash the Gospel.

I am writing today with a few such adjustments. To better align resources and considering the current and future needs of the parishes involved, Archbishop Vigneron has decided to make the following changes affecting the Northwest South Oakland 3, Northwest South Oakland 7, and Waters of Light Families of Parishes:

Northwest South Oakland 3

- ◆ St. Benedict Parish in Waterford will join Northwest South Oakland 3, currently consisting of Sacred Heart Parish in Auburn Hills, St. Damien of Molokai Parish in Pontiac, St. Hugo of the Hills Parish in Bloomfield Hills, and St. Thomas More Parish in Troy.
- ◆ Pursuant to the Covenant of the In Solidum team of priests, all priests will continue to serve primarily at their current parishes.
- ◆ Father Mark Brauer will continue to serve as Moderator of the expanded NWS Oakland 3 Family of Parishes.

Northwest South Oakland 7

Our Lady of Refuge Parish in Orchard Lake and Prince of Peace Parish in West Bloomfield will join NWS Oakland 7, currently consisting of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Farmington, St. Andrew Kim Parish in Northville, and St. Fabian Parish in Farmington Hills.

- ◆ Pursuant to the Covenant of the In Solidum team of priests, Father Derik Peterman will serve primarily at Our Lady of Refuge Parish beginning January 8, 2024, and continuing at least until new assignments begin on July 1, 2024. He currently serves primarily at Our Lady of Sorrows.
- ◆ All other priests will continue to serve primarily at their current parishes.
- ◆ Monsignor Timothy Hogan will continue to serve as Moderator of the expanded NWS Oakland 7 Family of Parishes.

Waters of Light

- ◆ The Waters of Light Family of Parish will no longer exist, given the transition of these parishes to other Families.

These decisions were made in consultation with the Teams of Priests serving all three Families and myself as Regional Moderator overseeing these parishes. The changes will be effective January 8, 2024.

It is important to note that each parish retains its own entity, with its own character and financial responsibilities. Families of Parishes were created to serve the needs of our parishes, priests, and faithful community and to respond to the call we heard at Synod 16 to become a missionary Archdiocese. At times, adjustments like these are necessary to ensure Families can continue to serve as effective instruments to help us unleash the Gospel.

Before closing, I would like to express my gratitude to Bishop Walter Hurley for his service as administrator of Our Lady of Refuge. I am also deeply grateful to the entire parish and school community for your patience, prayers, and understanding during what was, at times, a difficult time of transition.

I look forward to accompanying all of you through this next phase of transition and to witnessing the good fruit and blessings that will follow. Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for all you do in prayerful and practical support of your beloved parish community.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop Gerard Battersby
Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Suzanne Barcewicz

248-682-4099

cs@olorcc.org



Wow!!

What an Advent giving season we have had!

The generosity of our parish and school is abundant and the time talent and treasure of the Christian Service Commission goes above and beyond.

Let's take a look at what happened:

- ♦ *36 Thanksgiving Baskets*
- ♦ *10 Military Christmas cards with gift card*
- ♦ *17 Memorial Poinsettias & prayer shawls delivered*
- ♦ *63 Neighbors in Need (17 families) adopted*
- ♦ *475 Toys donated for Crossroads of Michigan from OLR parishioners, OLR School and Prince of Peace Parish. Hundreds of gifts wrapped- with a smile for overjoyed parents.*

Giving Tree Donations

- ♦ *Baldwin Soup Kitchen, Grace Centers of Hope, & Pope Francis Center =*
229 pr. of socks, 51 pr. men's underwear, 8 pr. thermal men's underwear, 10 pr. gloves, 10 hats, 10 scarves, 40 pr. women's underwear
- ♦ *Capuchin Soup Kitchen =*
\$1105.00
- ♦ *Image of God Pregnancy Center =*
Boppy Pillows, 4 baby monitors, 4 nursing covers/swaddles, 4 crib sheets, 11 sleepers, 4 infant snow suits, 7 hooded towels, 4 washcloths, 3 bath products, 2 books, 5 outfits, 31 onesies, 4 sweaters, 6 blankets, 3 hats.
- ♦ *Interfaith Caregivers =*
15 pr. socks, 25 various candy, 5 games, 4 decks of cards, 5 pair of slippers, 17 pair gloves, 15 hats, 1 lotion, Christmas décor.

- ♦ *Mary's Children =*
\$1085.00 in checks and gift cards.
- ♦ *Matchan Nutrition Center =*
\$1470.00
- ♦ *Mother & Unborn Baby Care =*
1,272 diapers, 92 onesies, 12 Shampoo & body wash, 17 baby books, 3 pack and plays, 1 baby blanket, 4 washcloths, 3 car seats, 2 baby booties, 1 stuffed animal, 1 car seat head support.
- ♦ *OLR Christian Service =*
\$2016 in checks and gift cards
- ♦ *SVDP =*
\$1140.00
- ♦ *SVDP Justice Institute =*
\$500.00 checks and giftcards. Also, 4 - 4X & 5X flannel shirts, 5- 4X & 5X warm winter coats, 4 pair of warm winter gloves, 1 hat.
- ♦ *Wee Care =*
2 car seats, 3 pack-n-plays, 261 diapers, 38 baby outfits, 8 crib sheets, 17 baby blankets, 3 baby wash, 3 baby lotion, 6 pacifiers, 5 teething/rattles, 9 packages of baby wipes, 10 sippy cups w/ lids.

25 Fleece blankets given to Children's Village and Crossroads of Michigan

40 Christmas Food Baskets and Toiletries, Paper Products and cleaning supplies packed and distributed

Hams & Turkeys for food baskets donated by The Hesano Family
Pies for the Holidays donated by the Christ Family!

Last but not least our Food Pantry opened its doors for weekly shopping for our neighbors in need. Dave Kennedy and 5 awesome seminarians were on hand to pray with our clients and even discovered Sacramental needs that are now being fulfilled.

GOD IS GOOD! ALL THE TIME!

We wish you a Merry Christmas full of joy & abundant blessings!

The Christian Service Commission

EVANGELIZATION

Dave Kennedy

248.418.7221

dkennedy@olorcc.org

As we approach the culmination of the Advent season, we are filled with anticipation and joy. On this Fourth Sunday of Advent at Our Lady of Refuge, we find ourselves on the threshold of the nativity, eagerly awaiting the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Our Advent wreath, now ablaze with the warm glow of all four candles, serves as a poignant symbol of the journey we have taken in preparing for the arrival of the messiah.

Today, we reflect on the virtue of love; the essence of God's ultimate gift to humanity. In Mary's "yes" to the angel Gabriel, we witness a profound example of love and obedience, setting the stage for the greatest story ever told.

Just as Mary's unconditional acceptance of God's plan brought forth the Light of the World, may our lives radiate that same warmth and love to those around us. May this Sunday be a reminder that, through love, we become vessels of God's grace, and our journey through Advent becomes a testament to the enduring power of the Divine love that will soon be born anew in our hearts. Merry Christmas and God Bless!

LITURGICAL MUSIC

Tim Smith

248-821-8443

tim@timothyrsmith.com



THANK YOU



I want to thank all of the dedicated people in our music ministry: Adult Choir, Contemporary Ensemble, cantors and instrumentalists. I also want to thank our great Tech Ministry people who manage the slides and livestreaming duties week after week. We appreciate all you do to enhance our liturgies at Refuge and I am honored to be working with you all.

Are you looking for a new endeavor in 2024? We are having a **Choir Open House Wednesday, January 17 at 7:00 PM**. Join us for a meet and greet and a sample rehearsal. We'll have snacks and conversation and then we'll sing. Come and see if this might be the very thing you've been looking for in the new year – no obligation.

Strike a blow for the Kingdom and stop by the church on Wednesday, January 17 at 7 PM!

Merry Christmas!
Tim Smith

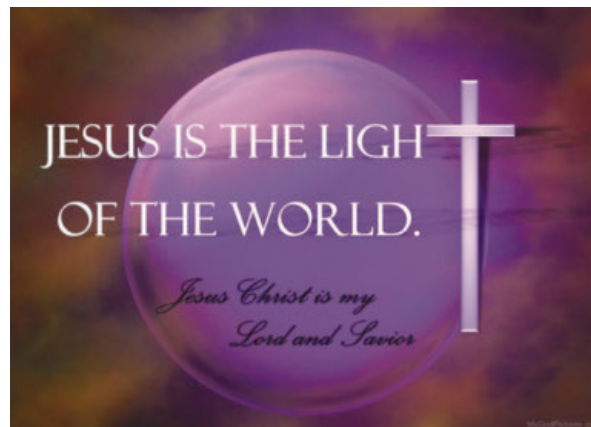


School Spotlight

Blessings of Christmas

With this Christmas celebration, we would like to recenter and refocus our sights on this most precious gift given from our Lord, Jesus. He is the light that we should keep in our hearts and remember to share the blessings that we are graced with to others. Every moment should be given to His glory and surround each other with the words given by Him in John 8, *"I am the light of the world!"*

But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, then we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of his Son Jesus cleanses us from all sin.



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WORSHIP

Lisa Marie BlaneK

248.418.7212 ext. 1114

lblank@olorcc.org

What are the 12 Days of Christmas?

I shared with a friend this week that I will not live long enough to learn all that our church offers in her Tradition, Feasts, Community of Saints, and so much more but I do love to learn about her!! We are blessed with a Christmas Season or Christmastide that begins on the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord celebrated on December 25th and continues through the Twelfth Night, Epiphany Eve - January 5th. Today our Feast Days are moved so we can celebrate them during our Sunday liturgies so in 2024 we will celebrate Epiphany on January 7th.

As we prepare for the coming of our Lord we are free in many respects to celebrate the Season of Christmas openly. It is a choice we all have even when some push back but we do not have to live in fear of instant death for proclaiming our Christianity. This is not the case around the world and it very much was not true when the Song, The Twelve Days of Christmas, was created. Symbols were used and words to express those beliefs in community that would not warrant condemnation and loss of life. Fr. Hal Stockert, Fishnet published an article explaining this song.

The songs gifts are hidden meanings to the teachings of the faith. The “true love” mentioned in the song doesn’t refer to an earthly suitor, it refers to God Himself. The “me” who receives the presents refers to every baptized person. The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In the song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge which feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings, much in memory of the expression of Christ’s sadness over the fate of Jerusalem: “Jerusalem! Jerusalem! How often would I have sheltered thee under my wings, as a hen does her chicks, but though wouldst not have it so ...” (There are two partridges on either side of the X and shepherd’s staff which symbolizes Jesus on the front door of our tabernacle.)

The other symbols mean the following:

2 Turtle Doves = The Old and New Testaments

3 French Hens = Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues

4 Calling Birds = the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists

5 Golden Rings = First Five Books of the Old Testament – the “Pentateuch”

6 Geese A-laying = the six days of creation

7 Swans A-swimming = the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit and the seven sacraments

8 Maids A-Milking = the eight beatitudes

9 Ladies Dancing = the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit

10 Lords A-leaping = the ten commandments

11 Pipers Piping = the eleven faithful apostles

12 Drummers Drumming = the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle’s Creed

May we all sing with expectant Joy in knowing our Lord, Jesus Christ, and truly cherish the many blessings and wonders that our faith and holy church bring forth every day!

Merry, Merry Christmas to you all, Lisa Marie!



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.

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Tony Kreucher

(248) 418-7242

re@olorcc.org

Merry Christmas!

The Christmas season in the church lasts for much more than just one day. It is such an important part of the church year, which began on the First Sunday of Advent, that there is an octave, or eight days, of Christmas that ends on the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God. This is also New Year's Day, so remember to say a Hail Mary while you watch the ball drop. Christmas is still not over, though! The Christmas season continues from the eight-day celebration of Christmas itself and it lasts either until Epiphany, or the Baptism of the Lord, or in older calendars until the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd, sometimes called Candlemas. (This is the day when candles are blessed, not when candles are used to bless us, which is the feast of St. Blaise, the next day.)

This Christmas season and octave of Christmas are the origin of the 12 Days of Christmas, with the evening before Epiphany known as Twelfth Night. So, keep your trees up, your lights on, your favorite carols playing, and the holiday cheer in your heart! We so often miss the Advent spiritual preparation because we're buying gifts, or preparing to host parties or traveling. Don't miss the restful and joyous celebration of Christmas by rushing to put everything away on St. Stephen's Day (December 26).

It really is the most wonderful time of the year, even if it doesn't always match the memories from our childhood. Seeing the excitement of the young people around us often helps to bring back that joy for us as well. I remember singing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus on Christmas Day in between opening presents after breakfast and getting ready for church and Grandma's house. At first, I thought it was silly because Happy Birthday isn't a Christmas song, but eventually I understood. Parents are the first teachers of their children. Please take a moment in this busy season to talk to your children about the birth of Jesus and the reason why you are celebrating. Share your memories with them and talk about your family traditions.

God bless us, every one.

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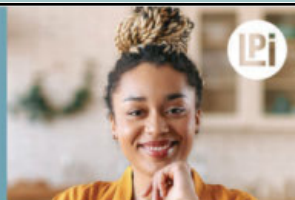
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