



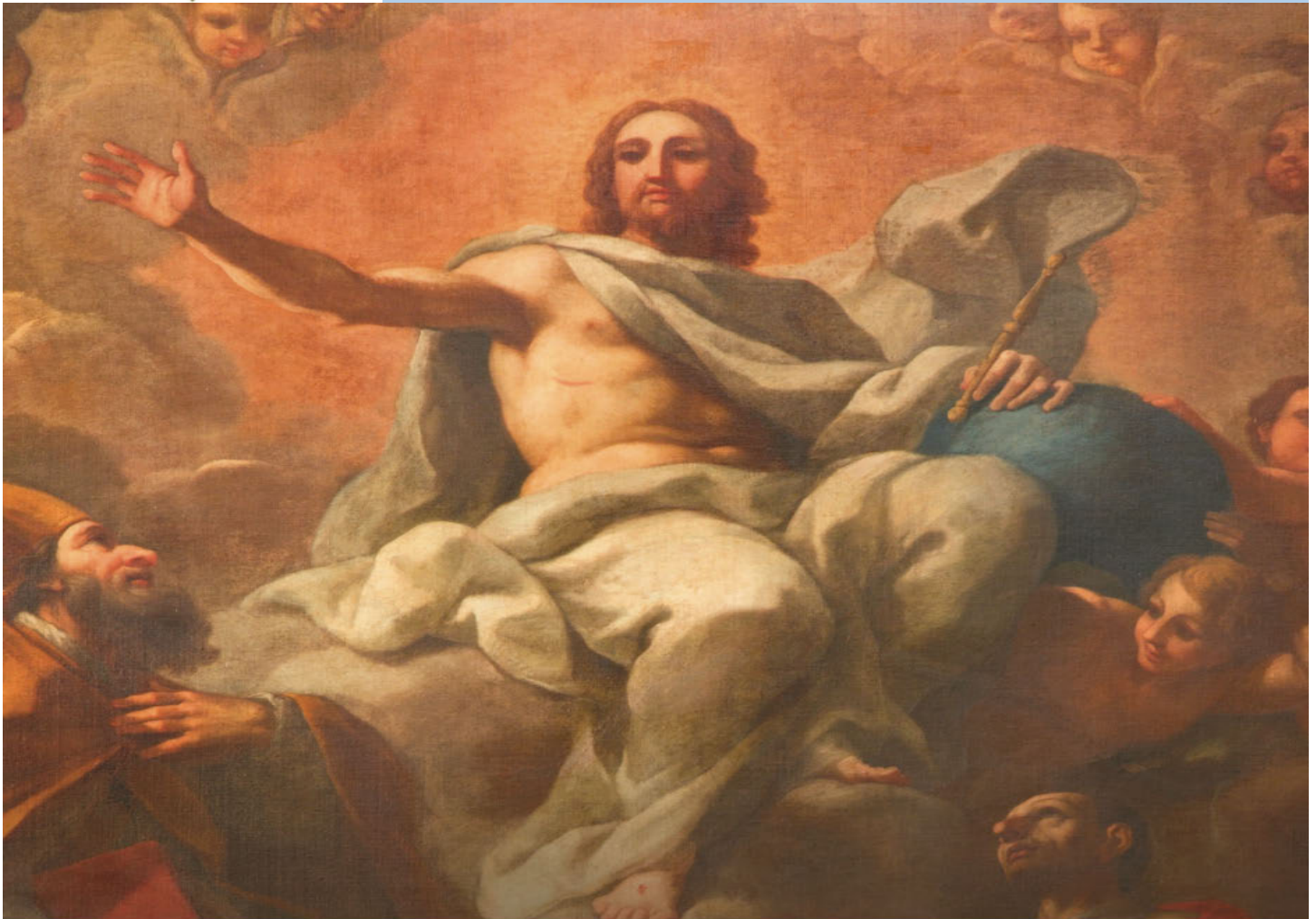
# OUR LADY OF REFUGE, Orchard Lake MI

Today is the First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

## *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.



## 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT



"Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." - Lk 21:27-28

# OUR LADY OF REFUGE

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

### WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES

#### **Readings for the week of December 1, 2024**

Sunday: Jer 33:14-16/Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 (1b)/1 Thes 3:12—4:2/  
Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/  
Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 (3)/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/  
Lk 3:1-6

#### **Observances for the week of December 1, 2024**

Sunday: 1st Sunday of Advent

Tuesday: St. Francis Xavier, Priest

Wednesday: St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Saturday: St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent

### PRIEST SCHEDULE

Mon 12/2: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh )

Tue 12/3: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)

Wed 12/4: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)

Fri 12/6: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)

Sat 12/7: 5:00pm (Fr. Suresh)

Sun 12/8: 9:30am (Fr. Suresh)  
11:30am (Fr. Suresh)

Mon 12/9: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)

Tue 12/10: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)

### CONFESSIONS:

**Saturday at 3:30pm**

### INTENTIONS

Monday 12/2 Darlene (Intentions) & Joe (+) Panian requested  
by Dar Panian

Tuesday 12/3 Michael Hughes (+) requested by Leigh &  
Theresa Dushane

Wednesday 12/4 All members of the Simon/Gornick family

Friday 12/6 All members of the Simon/Gornick family

Saturday 12/7 Our Lady of Refuge Parishioners  
Fawzi Shaya (+) requested by the Shaya family

Sunday 12/8 (9:30) Christopher John Suci (+) requested by Nick  
Suci Jr.  
All members of the Simon/Gornick family

(11:30) Judy LaFata (+) requested by the Joseph LaFata  
family  
Roy Scott (+) requested by Mary Scott

Monday 12/9 All members of the Simon/Gornick family

Tuesday 12/10 Mary C. Currell (+) requested by John Currell

### LECTOR SCHEDULE

#### Saturday 12/7:

**Suzanne Barcewicz  
Lucy Young**

#### Sunday 12/8:

**(9:30am)**

**Chrissy Forester  
Pat Riney**

**(11:30am)**

**Reese George  
Gabrielle Ansara**

# FR. SURESH, SAC

## MODERATOR OF THE FAMILY

248-682-0920 EXT. 1110

### ADVENT MESSAGE

Dear Our Lady of Refuge Families

Once again, we are in a preparation mode while journeying during this beautiful liturgical season of Advent, preparing not just for the many beautiful facets of the Christmas celebration but preparing for the Lord, Himself, in our hearts and in our homes. I pray that our valleys be filled, and our mountains and hills be leveled, our winding roads be made straight, and the rough ways of our lives be made smooth, so that the Messiah may rush into our lives unimpeded. And may we see the salvation of our God, for, indeed, the very name Jesus means "God Saves".



We prepare ourselves by rooting out the darkness in our lives. That is why we go to confession during Advent. We want to clean our spiritual house for company, Special Company, the Presence of the Lord as we await the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas and the Second Coming of Christ.

Many families offer special prayers during Advent. One special family tradition is the Advent Wreath which symbolizes the four weeks of Advent. Its circular shape represents eternity for it has no beginning or end. The four candles represent Hope, Peace, Love and Joy and one candle is lit each week with special prayers and reflections. We also prepare our children by teaching them the Christmas story, the real story of the birth of a Child in utter poverty, in a smelly stable. We tell them about the proclamation of the angels, the joy of the shepherds and the determination of the wise men. We prepare the world for its Savior by emphasizing the reason for the celebration.

As one of the two great Solemnities that we celebrate every year, this is a wonderful opportunity to invite family, relatives, and friends to join you in celebrating the Christmas Mass. It's also a wonderful occasion to see many friends and familiar faces whom you do not normally see at Mass. Welcome them warmly. Let them know that we are eagerly awaiting their return for there are many people who come back to a renewed practice of the faith after being welcomed at Christmas. Christmas indeed has a way of bringing back to Church many individuals and families who, for various reasons, have not been to Mass or the Sacraments for months or years. What a wonderful and grace-filled opportunity to put aside past differences and old habits and begin anew that prayerful relationship with the Lord and His Church community.

And so here is a One challenge: I ask you to invite One-person home to church before Christmas! Invite them to come for Mass, Confession, or one of our many programs for men, women, seniors, or children. Just ONE! Our hearts are created for communion with God, and sometimes it only takes a small invitation. Just ONE! And I would love to hear about the results, so please share those stories with me as they can inspire others.

Although everyone is struggling at this time of the year and season, I kindly ask you to prayerfully consider generously supporting Our Lady of Refuge with your Christmas (cont. on page 4)



**Staff**

**Family-Moderator**  
**Our Lady of Refuge**  
 Fr. Suresh Rajaian, SAC

**Family of Parishes and**  
**Priests in Solidum**

**Our Lady of Sorrows**  
 Very Rev. Canon Walter J. Ptak  
 Rev. Jim Livingston  
 Rev. Radoslaw Zablocki  
 Rev. Ryan Asher

**St. Fabian**  
 Msgr. Tim Hogan  
 Fr. Matthew Kurt  
 Fr. Raymond Arwady

**Prince of Peace**  
 Fr. Andrew Dawson

**St. Andrew Kim**  
 Rev. Seungsoo Oh

**Parish Offices**  
 3725 Erie Dr.  
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 (Office) 248.682.0920  
 (Fax) 248.682.3794  
 Website: [www.olorcc.org](http://www.olorcc.org)  
 Email: [secretary@olorcc.org](mailto:secretary@olorcc.org)

**Business Manager**  
 Eva Ashor

**Parish Secretary**  
 Artha Horowitz  
**Evangelical Charities**

Joellen Shortley  
**Worship**

Lisa Marie Blanek  
**Music**

Tim Smith  
**Dir. Of Rel. Ed.**  
 Tony Kreucher

**School**  
 Lauri Hoffman, Principal  
 248.682-3422  
 Principal: [lhoffman@olr-school.net](mailto:lhoffman@olr-school.net)  
 Website: [olr-school.net](http://olr-school.net)

contribution which is our most important collection of the year as it is exempted from Archdiocesan assessment. We need your kind support to make up for the shortfall in the regular Sunday collections and helps us to meet our obligations.

As we continue to move forward as a parish family, and now even more as we are connected to our Family of Parishes, let's pray for one another and be ever attentive to the virtue of humility and the call to conversion. Each person and family have a unique pilgrimage, a journey of faith that has highs and lows. As a community, bound by the Body and Blood of Christ that we share, we are called to support, offering words of encouragement and hope. We are surrounded by far too much hate and fear in the public rhetoric. Let's be the voice of the Lord "who came that we might have life, and have it more abundantly" (Jn. 10: 10). Let us keep each other in prayer and unite as a community in solidarity.

*Unto Us A  
Child is Born*

**Advent/Christmas Schedule 2024**

**Reconciliation:**

Saturday 12/7, 12/14 & 12/21 from 3:30—4:30 pm  
 Tuesday 12/10 at 6:30 @ St. Fabian, Farmington Hills  
 Tuesday, 12/17 from 6:00-7:00 @ Our Lady of Sorrows, Farmington Hills  
 Wednesday 12/18 from 6:00-8:00 @ Price of Peace, W. Bloomfield

**Christmas Choir Concert**—Sunday, December 15 @ 4:00 pm  
 in the Church with reception to follow in the Social Hall

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception**—December 9 (A Holy Day of Opportunity) Mass at 8:15am

**Christmas Eve Masses**

4:00 pm Mass—Family Choir & Children's Mass  
 10:00 pm Mass (Christmas Music preformed by the Choir starting @ 9:30 pm)

**Christmas Day Mass**

10:00 am Mass

**New Year's Day**

9:00 am Mass

**Parish Office Holiday Hours**

December 24th—Open until noon  
 December 25th —27th —Office closed  
 December 30th—Open until noon  
 December 31st—Office closed  
 January 1st—Office closed  
 Phone calls and emails will be monitored.

# WORSHIP

LISA MARIE BLANEK

248-682-0920 EXT. 1114

LBLANEK@OLORCC.ORG

## *Family of Parishes Advent Tea— Steeped in Jesus, the Christ*

*December 7, 6:15 PM St. Fabian Social Hall*

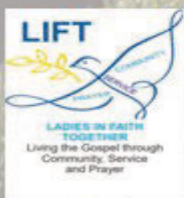
*Presented by LIFT*

All women, ages 18 to 102, are invited to join us for an evening of Advent reflection focusing on your relationship with Jesus. Like tea, we need to be steeped, taking the time to allow the Lord to enter in, to wait for the Lord.

We are looking for some women to decorate one of the tables with your China, and Advent or Christmas decor. We would also like to have a tea pot on every table. If you do not have one, we will provide them. If interested, please follow the signup genius link for more information.

Those of you who love to bake, please sign up to prepare a dessert for 10-15 people. Please follow the link for sign up genius. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4FAAAA23A0F94-advent>

For more information, please contact Peggy Aoun at [paoun@stfabian.org](mailto:paoun@stfabian.org) or 248-553-4610 ext. 254 or Lisa Marie at [lblank@olorcc.org](mailto:lblank@olorcc.org) or 248-418-7212



### What is Our Prayer Shawl Ministry?

First of all, all are welcome! We gather to create a variety of offerings using different gifts and talents. For those that know-how and enjoy knitting and crochet, we create lap blankets and prayer shawls. These prayer shawls are offered to our community at large and are available by simply asking via the phone, email or personally after all our Masses.

We also have a group that prep plastic bags by cutting strips that are tied together to create a ball of plastic yarn. This is used to construct a mat that homeless can use as a type of vapor barrier.

When do we meet? The first Wednesday of each month in the Social Hall from 9:30 – 11 am. Come and join in the fun. You may contact Lisa Marie with any questions or concerns – [lblank@olorcc.org](mailto:lblank@olorcc.org).





# LITURGICAL MUSIC

TIM SMITH

248-821-8443

TIM@TIMOTHYRSMITH.COM



**Mark your calendars! We will be having an Advent-Christmas Concert on Sunday December 15 at 4 PM in the church. Reception in the Social Hall will follow.**

Final Family Choir rehearsal this Wednesday 12/4/24 6-7 PM Rehearsal (Still time to join Christmas Family Choir, which will sing Christmas Eve 4 PM mass.)

Three simple steps to join:

1. Attend rehearsal on Wednesday 6-7 PM Rehearsal (or make arrangements with me)
2. Get your music:
  - a. Contact me for a CD and paper packet.
  - b. Contact me for a USB stick with audio tracks and pdf.  
(See me after mass - or contact me at tim@timothyrsmith.com - or text me at 248-821-8443)
  - c. Download pdf and audio tracks with the QR code.
3. See you Christmas Eve for 4 PM mass.



The idea is you listen to the music at home. Singing together as a family is a great activity and you have all the elements you need right here. You can download the tunes and see if its right for you. These are mainly Christmas Carols that you will know.

~~~~~

We begin the new liturgical year with the First Sunday of Advent. The season of Advent is anticipation on two levels. In the short run, Advent is a time of preparation for the Christmas season as we remember the birth of our Savior born of the virgin Mary. How do we prepare our hearts and our minds for the angels cry for peace on earth? In the longer view we turn our eyes to the final return of Christ as today's Gospel says, "...coming in a cloud with power and great glory."

Today's Psalm 25 fits both visions of Advent with a fundamental prayer, "To you, O Lord, I lift my soul." It is a spiritual exercise for me to turn my gaze away from my screens, my worries and my calendar and fix my eyes on the Lord – even if it's a few minutes at a time, "...As we wait with joyful hope for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

**Psalm 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14**

**R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.**

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;  
teach me your paths,  
Guide me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are God my savior,  
and for you I wait all the day.

**R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.**

Good and upright is the LORD;  
thus he shows sinners the way.  
He guides the humble to justice,  
and teaches the humble his way.

**R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.**

All the paths of the LORD are kindness and constancy  
toward those who keep his covenant and his decrees.  
The friendship of the LORD is with those who fear him,  
and his covenant, for their instruction.

Here is the QR code to audio of this  
Sunday's responsorial Psalm:



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

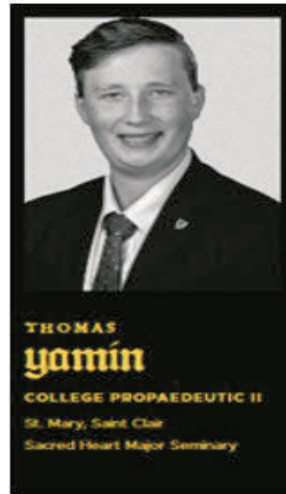
TONY KREUCHER  
248-682-0920 EXT. 1142  
RE@OLORCC.ORG

## MEET OUR SEMINARIANS



### Sacred Heart Minor Seminary

The harvest is plenty,  
The laborers are few.  
Pray for our seminarians.



Please pray that young people in today's culture will hear and respond to God's call. And do your part to encourage them to consider the priesthood and consecrated life!

## CSA Update: Help Us Reach Our Goal!

As we get closer to reaching our CSA target of \$120,000, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported this year's campaign. So far, 197 families have contributed, and we hope to hear from even more of you! Please help us cross the finish line!

We've secured a quote for \$18,550 to install the new electronic signage, which will replace the sign at the entrance of the church parking lot, near Commerce Road (see the rendering). The quote includes the necessary power and internet setup. With the anticipated CSA refund of \$9,493, we're already halfway to our goal, but we still need to raise approximately \$9,057 to complete the project.



This new signage will be invaluable in displaying mass times, upcoming events, and any special messages we want to share with you and the community.

Every donation, no matter the amount, helps us move closer to our goal. Your generosity is always greatly appreciated, and with your support, we can have this project completed soon.

Thank you for your continued support!

- Eva Ashor, Business Manager

# EVANGELICAL CHARITY

JOELLEN SHORTLEY

248-682-4099

ECC@OLORCC.ORG

## GIVING TREE

The Giving Tree will be up this weekend with tags to select gifts for nine different charitable ministries. We have 50 tags for toys for Crossroads and 24 tags for each of the other organizations. Please return unwrapped gifts for Crossroads by December 1, as Crossroads parents will be selecting gifts for their children on December 4. All other gifts are due by December 8.

This year, due to the prior vacancy in the Evangelical Charities position, we are primarily requesting gift cards and checks. The Christian Service Commission made this decision to ensure that our parish community can still support those in need while making it easier to distribute the donations. Next year, we will return to our usual giving routine. However, if you prefer to give a physical gift, we have one adopt-a-family as well as toys for Crossroads of Michigan. These tags can be found on the tree

Gifts would be appreciated for the following ministries:

**Abigayle Ministries** (Cradle/Manger) is a Christian non-profit organization that assists adult pregnant women and their children to Jesus Christ and equips them to be self-sufficient through its residential housing program.

**Capuchin Soup Kitchen** (Stable) is a Franciscan ministry in Detroit that feeds the hungry by inspiring minds and nourishing spirits.

**Christian Service Our Lady of Refuge** (Gift Box) supports our charitable outreach programs including our food pantry, funeral luncheons, bereavement support, military outreach and collaboration with St. Vincent DePaul for financial assistance to individuals and families.

**Crossroads of Michigan** (Stocking) provides warm meals and clothing to homeless individuals. We are providing toys for Crossroads families to select as Christmas presents for their children. **Gifts due December 1.** Please place **unwrapped gifts** under the Giving Tree.

**Grace Centers of Hope** (Dove) is a Christian organization committed to positively changing the lives of the unwanted, addicted, and homeless through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, personal accountability, life skills education, and work-related programs.

**Kids Empowered** (Star) on the Move teaches children the skills and strategies to manage emotions, deal with unfriendly friends, problem solve, and be assertive. They also provide food, clothing, baby and home essentials to families in need and assists with emergency housing.

**Mary's Children Family Center** (Angel) serves individuals with brain injuries and intellectual/developmental issues and their families by providing academic, social and recreational activities in a Christian environment in the community.

**Open Door Outreach Center** (Ornament) provides emergency food, clothing and referral information to people in need. It was started by St. Patrick's Church in White Lake.

**The Society of St Vincent DePaul Our Lady of Refuge Conference** (Heart) puts faith into action through person-to-person outreach to the needy in and around our community.

**Please remember that gifts for Crossroads are due on December 1. All other gifts are due by December 8. Thank you for your consideration and generosity.**



# OUR LADY OF REFUGE NEWS AND EVENTS

## Attention

We are excited to enhance our liturgical environment with fresh cut flowers each weekend. We invite you to contribute \$50.00 or donate a bunch of fresh flowers in memory of a loved one. Your generosity will be acknowledged in the bulletin with a note recognizing the person you're honoring.



To participate, please complete the form found on the shelf in the gathering space. Place it in an envelope and either drop it in the collection basket or deliver it to the Parish Office.

Thank you for your consideration and help.

**Christmas Flowers** - A nice way to remember or honor someone at Christmas and help make our church beautiful, in honor of Jesus' birthday, is with a donation to the Christmas altar flowers. Flower memorial envelopes can be found in your envelope packets. These can be returned to the collection basket or parish office. You may also contact the parish office to donate to this collection. All donations need to be submitted by **Wednesday, December 11th**, to be listed in the Christmas bulletin.



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

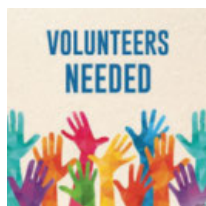
Happy Advent Parish Family!!

We are approaching our Christmas Season and need extra worship ministry helpers.

We are in need of extra Altar Servers, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Greeters and Ushers to help welcome our parish families and visitors.

Please consider signing up for these ministries in the sign-up book located on the podium in the Gathering Space.

May we all enjoy a profound and blessed Advent!!  
Ave, Lisa Marie



*Thank You for  
your generosity*

*Flowers for the week of  
December 1st have been  
graciously donated by  
an Anonymous donor  
in honor of Our Lady  
of Refuge Parishioners*

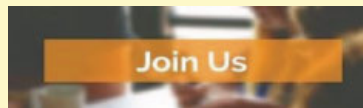


Want to be healthy? Do you play pickleball?

Join us at the new courts in the PAC. For more information please contact Cindy Safilian at [Pickleball@olorcc.org](mailto:Pickleball@olorcc.org)

*We are Pro-Life,  
Pro- Woman,  
Pro- Family!*

Do you have a passion for protecting the Unborn, the women who bore them & their families?



Come join parishioners to pray in front of the "womens clinic" in West Bloomfield @ 10:00am. The address is 6765 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. Park in the Stage Deli parking lot.

We will be praying the rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet on the first Saturday of every month.

Pray for the  
men and wom-  
en who serve in  
our Armed  
Forces

“Dear Lord Je-  
sus and Mary,  
Mother of God,  
hold all these  
brave souls in  
the palm of your  
hand; comfort  
them and their  
families. Send  
angels of protec-  
tion, love and  
comfort to all  
the service men  
and women still  
at war, bring  
them home safe-  
ly and comfort  
their families.  
We ask this  
through Christ  
Our Lord,  
Amen.”

Rev. P. 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



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

MSGR A.X.M. SHARPE  
Council #600




Our Lady of Refuge Catholic Church  
Orchard Lake, MI

## Coffee & Donuts

with

## St. Nicholas



### Sunday, Dec 8<sup>th</sup>

After each Sunday Mass in the Social Hall

Crafts provided for the kids



### Land of Peace

The weekend of December 7 and 8, our brothers and sisters representing the Land of Peace mission, a nonprofit organization, will be selling crucifixes, religious artwork, and rosaries— all made of olive wood, which is native to Israel and Bethlehem. Since tourism has greatly declined, Christian families in the Holy Land, who depend on tourists, have been severely affected. The goal of this mission is to help the poor and needy families in Bethlehem and Jerusalem. The sale of these goods will greatly benefit them and also give you the opportunity to own something authentic from the Holy Land. Please browse and consider purchasing some articles. It is for a good cause and will also aid in your personal devotion. Website: [www.landofpeace.org](http://www.landofpeace.org)





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ON GIVING TUESDAY

**December 3rd  
2024**

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