



# OUR LADY OF REFUGE, Orchard Lake MI

Today is the Second Sunday of Advent      December 8, 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.



## 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight his paths."*

- Lk 3:4

# OUR LADY OF REFUGE

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

### WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES

#### **Readings for the week of December 8, 2024**

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  
 Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/  
 Lk 1:26-38  
 Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14  
 Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30  
 Thursday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/  
 Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47  
 Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19  
 Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/  
 Mt 17:9a, 10-13  
 Next Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (6)/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

#### **Observances for the week of December 8, 2024**

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent  
 Monday: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
 Tuesday: Our Lady of Loreto  
 Wednesday: St. Damasus I, Pope  
 Thursday: Our Lady of Guadalupe  
 Friday: St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr  
 Saturday: St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church  
 Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent

### PRIEST SCHEDULE

**Mon 12/9: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh )**  
**Tue 12/10: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)**  
**Wed 12/11: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)**  
**Fri 12/13: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)**  
**Sat 12/14: 5:00pm (Fr. Suresh)**  
**Sun 12/15: 9:30am (Fr. Suresh)**  
**11:30am (Fr. Suresh)**  
**Mon 12/16: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)**  
**Tue 12/17: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)**

### CONFESSIONS:

**Saturday at 3:30pm**

### INTENTIONS

Monday 12/9 All members of the Simon/Gornick family  
 Tuesday 12/10 Mary C. Currell (+) requested by John Currell  
 Wednesday 12/11 All members of the Simon/Gornick family  
 Friday 12/13 Barrett Birch (Intentions) requested by his grandparents  
 Saturday 12/14 Lucia Tran (+) requested by the Stephanie Le & family  
 Deceased members of the Dziuba family requested by the Dziuba family  
 Sunday 12/15 (9:30) Our Lady of Refuge Parishioners  
 (11:30) William Hughes (+) requested by Leigh and Theresa Dushane  
 Monday 12/16 Fritzie Mager (+) requested by the money counters  
 Tuesday 12/17 Richard Najor (+) requested by Juliet Najor

### LECTOR & SLIDE PROJECTION SCHEDULE

#### Saturday 12/14:

**Corey McIsaac**  
**Maggie McIsaac**  
**Steve Barcewicz \***

#### Sunday 12/15:

**(9:30am)**

**Yianni Demo**  
**John Zubalik**

**(11:30am)**

**Reese George**  
**Gabrielle Ansara**

\* Slide Projection



FR. SURESH, SAC  
MODERATOR OF THE FAMILY  
248-682-0920 EXT. 1110

Advent II [C] Sunday

The Second Sunday of Advent challenges us to prepare a royal highway in our hearts so that we may receive Jesus as our saving God on Christmas. We should also be prepared for Christ's daily coming into our lives in the Holy Eucharist, in the Holy Bible, in everyone we encounter, and in the praying community. Finally, we are asked to be ready to meet Jesus as our Judge on His Second Coming, at the end of our lives and at the end of the world.

In the first reading, the prophet Baruch introduces Yahweh, the God of Israel, preparing the way for, and leading the Babylonian exiles to, Jerusalem. Hence, the prophet invites the weeping Jerusalem to rejoice and go to high places to watch the return of the exiles. Baruch's prophecy announces the return of the whole human race to God. During this Advent season, we, too, are asked to return to the Lord from our slavery to sin.

In the second reading, Paul advises the Philippians to prepare themselves for Christ's Second Coming by practicing Christian love and by leading pure and blameless lives.

John the Baptist, in today's Gospel, challenges the Jews to prepare their lives for receiving their long-awaited Messiah. They are to prepare a highway in their hearts for their Messiah by leveling the mountains of pride and the valleys of impurity, injustice, and neglect and straightening their crooked ways. They are to get ready by repenting of their sins, changing their lives, and expressing their repentance by receiving the baptism of repentance in River Jordan and living out the reforms they have promised.

Life messages: #1: We need to prepare our hearts and lives for Jesus our Savior to be reborn in us during this Christmas time. We have to fill in the "valleys" of our souls, formed from our shallow prayer life and a minimalist living out of our Faith. We have to straighten whatever crooked paths we've been walking, like involvement in some secret or habitual sins or in a sinful relationship. If we have been involved in some dishonest practices at work or at home, we are called to straighten them out and make restitution. If we have been harboring grudges or hatred, or failing to be reconciled with others, now is the time to clear away all the debris. As individuals, we might have to overcome deep-seated resentment, persistent fault-finding, unwillingness to forgive, dishonesty in our dealings with others, or a bullying attitude. And we all have to level the "mountains" of our pride and egocentrism by practicing the true humility of rendering humble service to others.

#2: We need to repent and seek forgiveness from God and those we have injured: John's message calls us to confront and confess our sins. We need to turn away from them in sincere repentance and receive God's forgiveness. Next, we need to forgive others who have offended us and ask forgiveness for our offenses. Jesus explicitly declares (Mt 6:14-15): "For if you forgive men their transgressions, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions. (Fr. Tony's Homilies)

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 Fr. Suresh Rajaian, SAC

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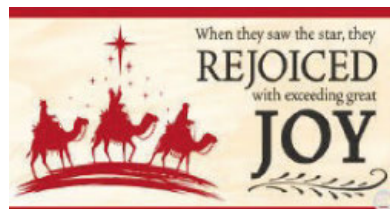
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Lauri Hoffman, Principal  
 248.682-3422

Principal: [lhoffman@olr-school.net](mailto:lhoffman@olr-school.net)  
 Website: [olr-school.net](http://olr-school.net)



It is not too soon to make your Christmas contribution to Our Lady of Refuge. The envelope for this once-a-year occasion is in your packet. It is worth noting that all Christmas donations are exempt from archdiocesan assessment, so your generosity is greatly appreciated.



*Can't find your personalized envelope?  
 You accidentally trashed it?*

No worries...just write **CHRISTMAS** on the memo line of your gift check or on the outside of whatever envelope you choose to use. Be sure to include your last name and we will look up your envelope number and post the gift to your "account."

You may also donate online by visiting our website at [www.olorcc.org](http://www.olorcc.org) or scanning the QR code. The prompts will guide you through the steps to donate to the Christmas collection. ~ *Thank you!* ~



**CONSIDER AN  
 END-OF-YEAR  
 CONTRIBUTION**

***NOW is the perfect time*** for requesting a QCD from your IRA.

- (1) Tax benefits for you
- (2) Tax benefits for Our Lady of Refuge

(The Parish Christmas collection is free of the AOD assessment.)

Obtaining the tax benefits of a Qualified Charitable Donation from an IRA has specific requirements: (a) minimum age of 70 1/2, (b) maximum dollar amount, (c) contribute to an eligible charity and (d) the IRA distribution must be payable to the charitable entity not the IRA owner.

Our Lady of Refuge is an eligible charity. Your financial support is always appreciated and needed to continue our Christian mission.

***\*\*Always consult with your tax advisor.\*\****

**Why Be Registered?**

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 the Parish Secretary at (248) 682-0920. We welcome you to our parish family!



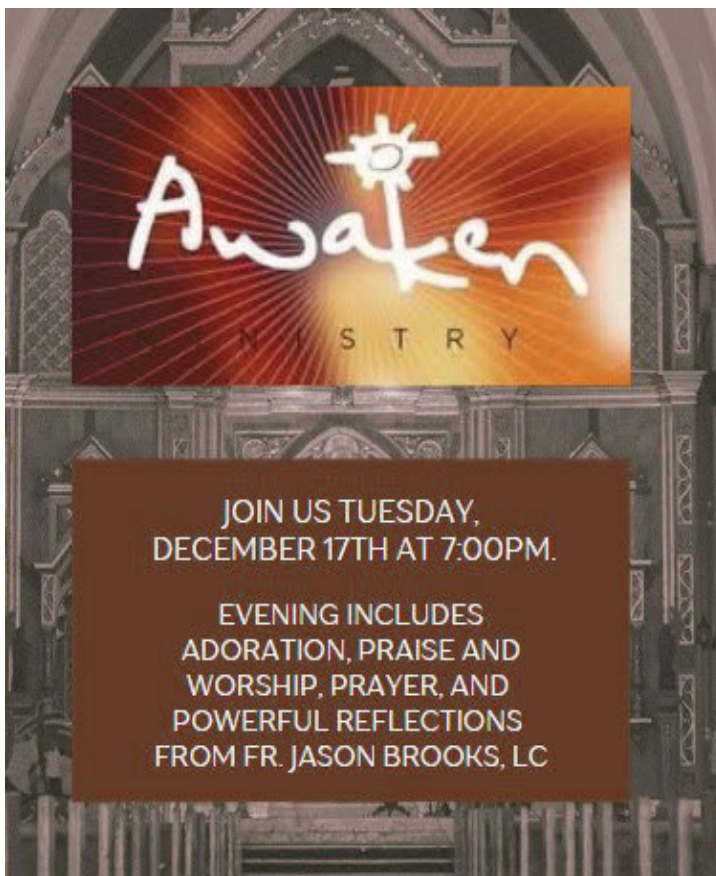
**WORSHIP**  
**LISA MARIE BLANEK**  
 248-682-0920 EXT. 1114  
 LBLANEK@OLORCC.ORG

### Immaculate Conception

This is the Patronal Feast Day of the United States of America, normally a Holy Day of Obligation. I enjoy Artha Horowitz's creatively inviting us to a Holy Day of Opportunity. We will be celebrating this amazing day with our school children during the 8:15 am Mass on Monday, December 9th. 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!

### Continuing Our Advent Challenge!

Father Suresh has challenged us this Advent! Do you know someone that is going to be alone this Advent Season? Many of us have lost a loved one that will alter our seasonal traditions. Perhaps this is the perfect opportunity for us to extend an invitation to Mass? The name of this weekend's candle in our Advent Wreath is Love. Let's share this beautiful light to someone this week and bring someone with us next weekend to celebrate the "Joy" of Advent.





# LITURGICAL MUSIC

TIM SMITH

248-821-8443

TIM@TIMOTHYRSMITH.COM

I will be retiring effective January 1, 2025. It has been an honor to be able to come back to my childhood parish where I started fifty years ago way back in 1974 as the overflow Mass organist. Those Masses took place in the basement of the performing arts building – now the school lunchroom. I was 14 years-old and I knew four tunes that played over and over for the first couple months until I could learn some more church songs.

We were the first house on the left on Arrowvale and our house shared a property line with Refuge. Us neighborhood kids inhabited the church grounds year-round. We played pickup baseball and football games and knew every inch of those sidewalks with our bikes. We did a lot of work as altar servers at Refuge daily and Sunday Masses, as well as at funerals and weddings... and we also made our fair share of mischief.

When they built the new church and put the pipe organ in, I was there every day hanging around the installers. Across the street I used to sneak into St. Mary's Chapel and play the organ in the middle of the night. That chapel was always unlocked.

Then I went to music school and worked in music ministry for all those years. Coming back to Our Lady of Refuge completed a circle for me. I am and have always been a son of Our Lady of Refuge. Thank you for allowing me to be back with you for these past couple years.

We have hired a wonderful new Music Director, Joanne Gorney, who will be starting on Jan 1. Actually, she's kind of already on the job because we are collaborating on the music direction for the Christmas Concert featuring the Adult Choir, Contemporary Ensemble, and three talented young ladies from OLR school: alumnus Sarina Sitto, and current OLR students Shiloh Brikho and Anabelle Shina. There will be a good mix of both congregational Christmas Carols and pieces that these dedicated musicians have prepared. Come meet Joanne and join us for the concert next Sunday Dec 15 at 4:00 PM in the church. There will be an afterglow in the Social Hall.

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



**Psalm 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6.**

**R. The Lord has done great things for us;  
we are filled with joy.**

When the LORD brought back the captives of Zion,  
we were like men dreaming.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with rejoicing.

**R. The Lord has done great things for us;  
we are filled with joy.**

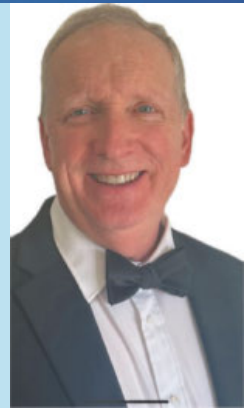
Then they said among the nations,  
"The LORD has done great things for them."  
The LORD has done great things for us;  
we are glad indeed.

**R. The Lord has done great things for us;  
we are filled with joy.**

Restore our fortunes, O LORD,  
like the torrents in the southern desert.  
Those who sow in tears  
shall reap rejoicing.

**R. The Lord has done great things for us;  
we are filled with joy.**

Although they go forth weeping,  
carrying the seed to be sown,  
They shall come back rejoicing,  
carrying their sheaves.



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

## MEET OUR SEMINARIANS



### 1<sup>st</sup> year in 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!

This year, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, falls on a Sunday and so the Solemnity was transferred in the Church's calendar to Monday, December 9. The Apostolic See recently clarified that, despite the longstanding practice in the United States of removing the obligation when December 8 is a Monday or a Saturday, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception remains a day of obligation. However, while December 9 is a Holy Day of Obligation this year, Archbishop Vigneron has dispensed the faithful of the Archdiocese of Detroit from the obligation. Other bishops in Michigan may have done the same.

Monday, December 9, remains a great solemnity to celebrate the Blessed Mother, the patroness of our country. The faithful are still encouraged to attend Mass on that day. The school students will be at Mass on December 9, not on December 11.

In the tradition of presenting popular music for Advent and Christmas, the Cathedral Cultural Series is inviting you to Christmas at the Cathedral, an afternoon of beautiful carols featuring the Cathedral Choir Academy, the Cathedral Schola, and Archdiocesan singers. The event is free and open to the public. Come and bring a friend.

WHEN: Sunday, December 15, 2024, 4:00 PM [approximately one hour]

WHERE: Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament, 9844 Woodward Ave, Detroit, MI.

Free parking in the lot behind the building.

ALSO: An Advent Artists' Market follows in the nearby gathering space.

# EVANGELICAL CHARITY

JOELLEN SHORTLEY

248-682-4099

ECC@OLORCC.ORG

## Giving Tree

Thank you to everyone who has taken a tag from the Giving Tree and returned the gift. There are still tags remaining on the tree. December 8 is the last day to return a gift. The agencies we supported will be so grateful to receive a special Christmas gift from us.

## Crossroads of Michigan

Thank you for your donations of toys to Crossroads of Michigan. On December 4th homeless families were treated to shopping for Christmas gifts for their families. Special thanks to Cindy Ciura and Dennis Hafley for all their hard work to help the Crossroad families have an enjoyable Christmas.

## Food Pantry

Thank you for continuing to make donations to our food pantry. Each week we receive several calls for food assistance and have many new families shopping in the pantry. We will be providing Christmas meals for 50 families, which is an increase from the 43 meals we provided for Thanksgiving. We would appreciate you considering donating the following foods for our holiday needs and colder weather needs:

Canned Sweet Potatoes/Yams

Canned Fruit or Applesauce

Large Can Chunky Soup

Pancake Mix

Cake or Brownie Mix

Diced Tomatoes

Canned Black Beans

Canned Mixed Vegetables, Peas, Spinach

Jar of Jelly

Can of Ravioli, Spaghetti, Chili, Stew

Large Bottle of Syrup

Frosting

Any type of canned Soup

Rice

## Pantry Volunteers

Please consider volunteering in the food pantry or help us with shopping for the fresh food we provide each week. We need additional volunteers to service the growing need for food in our community. The pantry is open for shopping on Wednesdays from 3:30- 6:30 p.m. For the holidays we will also be open on December 16 from noon-6:30 p.m. We stock the shelves and get ready for shopping on Tuesday afternoons. Please stop by when we are open on Wednesdays to see if you may be interested in helping us. The pantry is located off Erie Drive, behind the school, next to the gym. Please contact Joellen Shortley at [ecc@olorcc.org](mailto:ecc@olorcc.org) if you would like more information on how you can help.





# 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

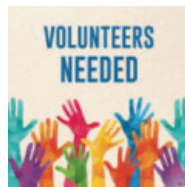
Happy Advent Parish Family!!

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 8th have been  
graciously donated by  
Mary Ann Scott  
in loving memory  
of Roy Scott

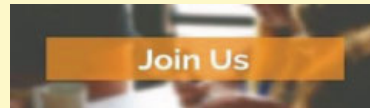


Want to be healthy? Do you play pickleball?

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  
Gunnar Ottman-National Guard



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

## JOIN US FOR THE ADVENT- CHRISTMAS CONCERT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 @ 4 PM

RECEPTION IN THE  
SOCIAL HALL WILL FOLLOW



*Unto Us A  
Child is Born*

### Advent/Christmas Schedule 2024

#### Reconciliation:

Saturday 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 start-  
ing @ 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



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