

OUR LADY OF REFUGE, Orchard Lake MI

Today is the Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 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.



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gio

John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." - Lk 3:16

OUR LADY OF REFUGE MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES

Readings for the week of December 15, 2024

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (6)/Phil 4:4-7/

Lk 3:10-18

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/

Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17

Wednesday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

Friday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

Saturday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/

Lk 1:39-45

Next Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/Heb 10:5-10/

Lk 1:39-45

Observances for the week of December 15, 2024

Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Saturday St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent

PRIEST SCHEDULE

Mon 12/16: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)

Tue 12/117: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)

Wed 12/18: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)

Fri 12/20: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)

Sat 12/21: 5:00pm (Fr. Suresh)

Sun 12/22: 9:30am (Fr. Suresh)

11:30am (Fr. Suresh)

Mon 12/23: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)

Tue 12/24: 4:00pm (Fr. Suresh)

10:00pm (Fr. Suresh)

Wed 12/25: 10:00am (Fr. Brooks)

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday at 3:30pm

INTENTIONS

Monday 12/16 Fritzie Mager (+) requested by the money counters

Tuesday 12/17 Richard Najor (+) requested by Juliet C. Najor

Wednesday 12/18 Salim Kasho M. Yaldo (+) requested by Basim &

Hana Shina

Friday 12/20 Mary Unitas (Intentions) requested by her sisters

Lourdes Del Rosario (+) requested by Melba Harris

Saturday 12/21 Wendi Nudell (+) requested by Julie Hallahan

Fawzi Shaya (+) requested by the Shaya family

Sunday 12/22 (9:30) Christopher John Suciu (+) requested by Nick Suciu Jr.

Homer McKune (+) requested by the McKune

Family

(11:30) Our Lady of Refuge Parishioners

Monday 12/23 Judy LaFata (+) requested by Toni Laiber

Tuesday 12/24 (4:00) Lillian Agostinelli (+) requested by her family Mary Helen Suciu (+) requested by Nick Suciu Jr.

(10:00) Steven Kutsick (+) requested by the Blanck family

Jim Majercik (+) requested by the Majercik family

Wednesday 12/25 Mary Helen Suciu (+) requested by Nick Suciu Jr.
Thomas R. Wagener (+) requested by the Wagner

Family

LECTOR & SLIDE PROJECTION SCHEDULE

Saturday 12/21:

Pat Seif Liz Oras Jon Neef *

Sunday 12/22:

<u>9:30am</u>

11:30am

Laney Henson Jim Whalen Dan Schneble* Grace Klimmek Sophia Bahu Pete Llewellyn*

Tuesday 12/24:

4:00pm 10:00pm

Elizabeth Ayar Bo Connie Ayar Li Jon Neef* Da

Bob Harper Lisa Blanek Dan Schneble*

Wednesday 12/25:

Amy Bachulis Liz Oras Jeff Ziegenfelder*

*Slide Projection

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

Advent III [C] Sunday

The central theme of today's readings is the command "Rejoice!" We are to do so mainly by realizing the presence of Jesus in our midst, by receiving Jesus into our lives through our repentance, by our renewal of life, and by our faithful doing of God's will. Today is called "Gaudete" Sunday because today's Mass begins with the opening antiphon, "Gaudete in Domino semper" ("Rejoice in the Lord always"). Today we light the rose-colored candle of the Advent wreath, and the priest may wear rose-colored vestments, to express our communal joy in the coming of Jesus as our Savior. We rejoice because a) we are celebrating the day of Christ's birth, b) we recognize Jesus' daily presence in our midst, and c) we wait for Christ's return in glory.

In today's first reading, the prophet Zephaniah encourages Jerusalem and Israel to shout out for the joy of their expected deliverance by the Lord. In today's Responsorial Psalm (Is 12:6), the prophet Isaiah gives the same instruction, "Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

St. Paul echoes this message of joy in the second reading, a letter written from imprisonment: "Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again, rejoice..."

In the Gospel today, John the Baptist explains the secret of Christian joy as our wholehearted commitment to God's Way by the doing of His will. John challenges people to generosity and a sense of fairness so that others may have reason to rejoice. According to John, happiness comes from doing our duties faithfully, doing good for others, and sharing our blessings with others in need. John's call to repentance is a call to joy and restoration. Repentance means a change in the purpose and direction of our lives. John tells the people to act with justice, charity, and honesty, letting their lives reflect their transformation. For us, that transformation occurs when Christ enters our lives, and we begin to live those lives in the ways Jesus teaches and John suggests.

Life Messages: 1) We are called to a change of life. First, we should examine our relationships with others. We need to mend ruptures, ease or relieve frictions, face family responsibilities, work honestly, and treat employees and employers justly. Our domestic and social lives must be put in order. We must abandon our selfish thirst for consumption and, instead, be filled with the expectation of Jesus' coming.

2) We need to remember that we, like John the Baptist, are Christ's precursors: Parents, teachers, and public servants act as Christ's precursors by repenting of their sins, reforming their lives, and bringing Christ into the lives of those entrusted to their care. Parents are expected to instill in their children a true Christian spirit and an appreciation for Christian values by their own lives and behavior. All public servants need to remember that they are God's instruments and that they are to lead the people they serve to the feet of Jesus, so that they, too, may know him personally and accept him as their Savior, Lord and Brother. (Fr. Tony's Homilies)

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. Rvan Asher

St. Fabian

Msgr. Tim Hogan Fr. Matthew Kurt Fr. Raymond Arwady

Prince of Peace

Fr. Andrew Dawson

St. Andrew Kim

Rev. Seungsoo Oh

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Tim Smith
Dir. Of Rel. Ed.

Tony Kreucher

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Lauri Hoffman, Principal 248.682-3422 Principal: lhoffman@olr-school.net Website: olr-school.net

CHRIST'

CHRISTMAS GIVING

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 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 <u>must</u> 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

Happy Advent Parish Family!!

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

We will need 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.



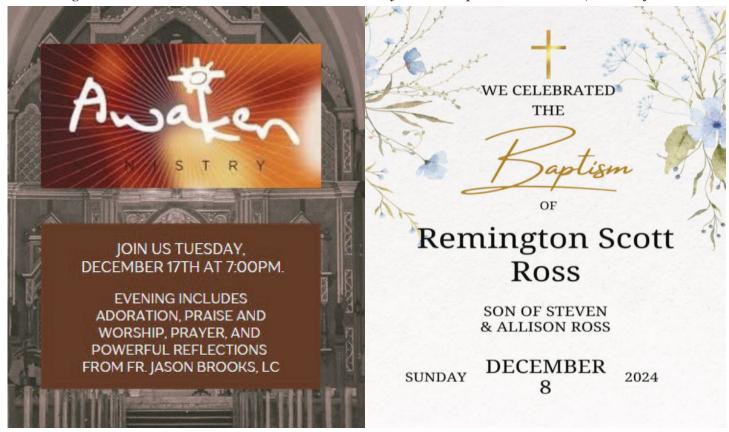
May we all enjoy a profound and blessed Advent!! ~ Lisa Marie

Continuing Our Advent Challenge!

How are you doing with Father Suresh's Advent challenge? You still have time to make a difference! Father Obloy shared with me the idea of JOY during Advent.

- J-Jesus Do something special for Jesus. Use your senses and be His hands, feet, ears, words, or touch.
- O Others Do something for someone that might be unexpected or simply smile.
- Y You Do something that will enhance your well being.

Don't forget too that we celebrate Christmas all the way to the Baptism of the Lord, January 12th.



LITURGICAL MUSIC

TIM SMITH 248-821-8443 TIM@TIMOTHYRSMITH.COM



JOIN US FOR THE ADVENT-CHRISTMAS CONCERT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 @ 4:00 RECEPTION IN THE SOCIAL HALL WILL FOLLOW



For as long as I have been in music ministry, I should be able to answer the question, "What is worship music, and why is it important?" So here goes...

When we gather to celebrate the Holy Liturgy we receive the presence of God in both the Word and the Eucharist. Each Liturgy is part of the seasonal cycle of the year. In Advent, we await with joyful hope, In Lent we, reflect and repent; in Easter we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ. The rhythm of these seasons is a cycle of solemnity and praise, celebration and lament – just like the seasons of our lives.

Music in worship is a vehicle to help us realize these different seasons. Music can take us through times of sorrow and regret, joy and exaltation. Music is a vehicle – it's a truck that can carry us through these vastly contrasting times of our lives. Whether we are dancing or mourning or reflecting, music can adapt to that mood and engage and connect us all in a shared ride.

Psalm 122 says, "God inhabits the praises of his people." So when we lift our voices in song to God, the Holy Spirit inhabits that song and is with us. God is with us in our song.

I love to play all kinds of music. Music has been with me through all the seasons of my life. But to me, Sacred Music, is just that – a profoundly important act of reaching out from the abyss to connect with God and connect with each other.

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



Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6.

R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

God indeed is my savior:

I am confident and unafraid.

My strength and my courage is the LORD,

and he has been my savior.

With joy you will draw water

at the fountain of salvation.

R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Give thanks to the LORD, acclaim his name; among the nations make known his deeds, proclaim how exalted is his name.

R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Sing praise to the LORD for his glorious achievement;

let this be known throughout all the earth. Shout with exultation, O city of Zion,

for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

In the Archdiocese of Detroit, throughout the coming Jubilee Year 2025, certain churches will serve as official sites of pilgrimage for the faithful in Southeast Michigan to visit. At these archdiocesan pilgrimage sites, the faithful will be able to pray the official prayer for Jubilee Year 2025 and spiritually unite themselves to all who will physically journey as pilgrims to Rome.

The 12 pilgrimage sites in the Archdiocese of Detroit will include: The Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Detroit, Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield, The Shrine of St. John Paul II in Orchard Lake, Basilica of Ste. Anne in Detroit, Blessed Solanus Casey Center in Detroit, National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica in Royal Oak, Our Lady of Fatima Shrine in Riverview, Our Lady of Hope Cemetery in Brownstown Township, Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Chapel (Madonna University) in Livonia, Shrine of Jesus the Divine Mercy in Clinton Township, St. Joseph Shrine in Detroit and Shrine of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Pontiac.

To learn more about the celebration of the Jubilee Year 2025: "Pilgrims of Hope" in the Archdiocese of Detroit, including a list of conditions for receiving an indulgence, visit aod.org/jubilee.

The Bible Summit is being hosted by the Catholic Biblical School of Michigan at Holy Family in Novi, Sunday, January 25th, 2025, 10:00am-4:15pm

Discover the richness of God's Word! Dive into the Bible with dynamic Catholic presenters at this one-day conference, as we celebrate Word of God Sunday. Choose from talks that reveal...

- modern leadership lessons from the Bible
- how to answer tough questions about seven day creation
- models of evangelization for a hostile culture
- scriptural insights for human sexuality.

Get answers to your tough questions during Bible Q&A with a panel of experts! Registration is \$35, including lunch. Registration deadline is January 16th; register online at cbsmich.org/biblesummit or call/text 586-438-3085.

The Living Nativity - The final rehearsal for the Living Nativity will be on Saturday, December 21st @ 11:00am in the church. Please contact Tony Kruecher at with any questions.





EVANGELICAL CHARITY

JOELLEN SHORTLEY 248-682-4099 ECC@OLORCC.ORG

Giving Tree

Thank you to everyone who donated a gift from the Giving Tree. There are still tags remaining on the tree. The Giving Tree is now located in the Social Hall. The deadline to return gifts has been extended until December 15. The agencies we supported will be so grateful to receive a special Christmas gift from us.

Crossroads of Michigan

Thanks to the generosity of Our Lady of Refuge parish and school, Prince of Peace and Our Lady of Sorrows, over 600 toys were distributed to families supported by Crossroads of Michigan. Special thanks to Cindy Ciura and Dennis Hafley for all their hard work to help the Crossroad families have an enjoyable Christmas. Thank you to everyone who purchased a gift and those who helped Cindy distribute the toys.

Food Pantry:

There is an urgent need for food in our community. With the increase in shoppers to our food pantry we are running out of many

food items. We would appreciate you considering donating the following foods for our weekly shopping needs:

Large Can Chunky Soup Can of Ravioli, Spaghetti, Chili, Stew

Diced Tomatoes Any type of canned Soup

Can of Fruit or Applesauce Jar of Jelly

Can of Sweet Potatoes/Yams Can of Mixed Vegetables, Peas, Spinach

Canned Black Beans Rice

Right to Life-Lifespan:

Thank you Julie Llewellyn for enabling us to purchase Christmas cards from Right to Life to benefit their many ministries. Thanks to Suzanne Barcewicz, Marilyn Schafer, Cora Armitage, Jan Mittelstaedt, Jim Schafer, and Liz Oras who helped sell cards after mass. Also thank you to everyone who purchased the cards.

Poinsettia Deliveries:

Thank you Stephanie Riney for ensuring our families who lost a loved one this year and had a funeral mass in our church, received a reminder of the continuing support from Our Lady of Refuge. Thank you to Marilyn Schafer, William Kroppe, Jane Hart and Liz Oras for delivering the poinsettias and cards.

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.

Thank You for your generosity

Flowers for the week of December 15th have been graciously donated by Stephanie Le in loving memory of Lucia Tran



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 on the first Saturday of every month.

OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP

(Fiscal Year: July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025)

December 7 & 8, 2024

Offertory: \$7,174 Online Giving: \$4,922 Total: \$12,096

Weekly Budget: \$13,530

YTD Budgeted: \$324,720 YTD Actual: \$275,828

Under Budget: (\$48,892)

2024 CSA update



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 Ind women still at war, bring them home safely 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.

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN AT OUR LADY OF REFUGE SCHOOL

You may now apply for the 2025-2026 school year. We are full in our preschool program.



248-682-3422

3750 Commerce Rd

www.olr-school.net







Advent/Christmas Schedule 2024

Reconciliation:

Saturday, 12/21 from 3:30—4:30 pm @ Our Lady of Refuge 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 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

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