



# OUR LADY OF REFUGE, Orchard Lake MI

Today is The Nativity of the Lord—Christmas December 25, 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.

“

**CHRIST IS BORN,  
GLORIFY HIM!**

”

- ST GREGORY NAZIANZEN



NOEL



# OUR LADY OF REFUGE

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

### WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES

#### Readings for the week of December 24, 2024

Tuesday: *Morning:* 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

Wednesday: *Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/ Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 *Night:* Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 (Lk 2:11)/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 *Dawn:* Is 62:11-12 /Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 *Day:* Is 52:7-10/ Heb 1:1-6/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Thursday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/ Mt 10:17-22

Friday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97: 1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Saturday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-18

Next Sunday: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 (see 5a)/ 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

#### Observances for the week of December 24, 2024

Tuesday: Christmas Eve

Wednesday: The Nativity of the Lord

Thursday: St. Stephen, First Martyr

Friday: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

Saturday: The Holy Innocents, martyrs

Sunday: The Holy Family

### PRIEST SCHEDULE

Tue 12/24: 4:00pm (Fr. Suresh)  
10:00pm (Fr. Suresh)

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

Fri 12/27: 8:15am (Fr. Witek)

Sat 12/28: 5:00pm (Fr. Witek)

Sun 12/29: 9:30am (Fr. Brooks)  
11:30am (Fr. Brooks)

Mon 12/30: 8:15am (Fr. Witek)

Tue 12/31: 8:15am (Fr. Witek)

Wed 1/1: 9:00am (Fr. Julius)

### CONFESSIONS:

Saturday at 3:30pm  
(Fr. Witek)

### INTENTIONS

Friday 12/27 Edward & Irene Bayma (+) requested by Connie Bayma  
Col. John W. Burt (+) requested by Anne & Edward Dziuba

Saturday 12/28 John R. Currell (+) requested by John Currell  
Don & Amy Montgomery (+) requested by Celeste Montgomery

Sunday 12/29 (9:30) Our Lady of Refuge Parishioners  
(11:30) Lorraine Madlo (+) requested by Janet Boyk

Monday 12/30 Bob Devine (Intentions) requested by his family

Tuesday 12/31 Michael G. Tucci (+) requested by Linda & Carl Godell  
William McMaster (+) requested by Diane McMaster

Wednesday 1/1 Thomas R. Wagener (+) requested by the Wagener Family

### LECTOR & SLIDE PROJECTION SCHEDULE

#### Saturday 12/28:

Paula Thibideau  
Elias Escobedo  
Amy Fountain\*

#### Sunday 12/29:

(9:30am)

Laney Henson  
Lisa Marie Blanck  
Jon Neef \*

(11:30am)

Vanessa Garmo  
BJ Kroppe

\* Slide Projection

# FR. SURESH, SAC

## MODERATOR OF THE FAMILY

248-682-0920 EXT. 1110

### What the Holy Fathers Say About Christmas

*As we celebrate Christ's birth, I invite you to reflect on a collection of quotes from the Holy Fathers about the meaning of Christmas. May these selections bring you to a renewed contemplation of the joyous miracle of the incarnation.*

#### Emmanuel, God with Us

“Populus, qui ambulabat in tenebris, vidit lucem magnam” – The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light’ (Is 9:1).

Every year we listen again to these words of the Prophet Isaiah in the moving context of the liturgical re-evocation of Christ's birth. Every year these words take on new meaning and cause us to relive the atmosphere of expectation and hope, of amazement and joy typical of Christmas.

To the people, oppressed and suffering, who walked in darkness, there appeared ‘a great light.’ A truly ‘great’ light indeed, because the light which radiates from the humility of the crib is the light of the new creation. If the first creation began with light (cf. Gen 1:3), how much more splendid and ‘great’ is the light which inaugurates the new creation: it is God himself made man!

Christmas is an event of light, it is the feast of light: in the Child of Bethlehem the primordial light once more shines in humanity's heaven and dissipates the clouds of sin. The radiance of God's definitive triumph appears on the horizon of history in order to offer a new future of hope to a pilgrim people.” – from Pope John Paul II's message on December 24, 2001

“The reading... we have just heard begins solemnly with the word ‘apparuit’ ‘there has appeared.’ This is a programmatic word, by which the Church seeks to express synthetically the essence of Christmas. Formerly, people had spoken of God and formed human images of him in all sorts of different ways. God himself had spoken in many and various ways to mankind (cf. Heb 1:1).

But now something new has happened: he has appeared. He has revealed himself. He has emerged from the inaccessible light in which he dwells. He himself has come into our midst. This was the great joy of Christmas for the early Church: God has appeared.” – from Pope Benedict XVI's message on December 24, 2011

#### What the Incarnation Means for Believers

“Christmas is a decisive event, an eternal fire that God has kindled in the world, and must not be confused with ephemeral things... Christmas must not be reduced to a merely sentimental or consumerist feast, full of gifts and good wishes but poor in Christian faith, and also poor in humanity. Therefore, it is necessary to curb a certain worldly mentality, incapable of grasping the incandescent core of our faith, which is this: ‘And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father’ (Jn 1:14). And this is the heart of Christmas; rather, it is the truth of Christmas, there is no other.” – from Pope Francis' message on December 23, 2020 (continued on pg. 4)



“The birth of Christ helps us to become aware of the value of human life, the life of every human being, from the first instant to natural death... Let us prepare ourselves, dear friends, to meet Jesus, the Emmanuel, God with us. Born in the poverty of Bethlehem, he wants to be the traveling companion of each one of us on our life’s journey. In this world, from the very moment when he decided to pitch his ‘tent,’ no one is a stranger.

It is true, we are all here in passing, but it is precisely Jesus who makes us feel at home on this earth, sanctified by his presence. He asks us, however, to make it a home in which all are welcome.

The surprising gift of Christmas is exactly this: Jesus came for each one of us and in him we have become brothers.” – from Pope Benedict XVI’s message on December 24, 2006

### Jesus is the Light of World

“[L]ook at the Child Jesus, who came into the world to bring God’s love, who makes all things new. With His birth, Jesus made Himself a bridge between God and mankind, reconciled earth and sky, and recomposed the whole human race in unity. And today He also asks you to be little ‘bridges’ where you live... Sometimes it is not easy, but if we are united with Jesus we can do it.” – from Pope Francis’ message on December 16, 2019

“The liturgy of Christmastide invites us to hasten joyously to the stable at Bethlehem to meet Jesus Christ, our Savior: ‘Come, faithful! Come, let us adore the Lord Jesus!’. Let us open the doors of our hearts to him, so that he will accompany us now and throughout the year that is about to begin... May the light of Christ, that shone upon humanity on Christmas Night, shine upon you and light your steps in the New Year.” – from Pope John Paul II’s message on December 29, 2004



### New Year’s Day — 9:00am 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.



## Christmas Flower Memorials

In loving memory of **Robert Alflen** requested by the Alflen family

In loving memory of the *deceased members of the Armitage Family* requested by Jeff & Cora Armitage

In loving memory of **Theodore Baer** requested by Sandra Baer

In loving memory of the *deceased members of the Bashí & Bahoura Families* requested by Bashí Family

In loving memory of the *deceased members of the Bayma Family* requested by Connie Bayma

In loving memory of the *deceased members of the Blaneč & Burt Families* requested by the Blaneč Family

In loving memory of the *deceased members of the Madlo & Kliczinski Families* requested by Janet Boyk

In loving memory of **Paul & Geraldine Budde** requested by the Budde Family

In loving memory of **Leo C. Camara** requested by Margaret Camara

In loving memory of **James Capicchioni** requested by the Capicchioni family

In loving memory of **Our Parents** requested by Pat & Mary Ellen Doman

In loving memory of **John & Dorothy Dushane, William & Mary Hughes, & Patrick & Patricia Martínez** requested by Leigh & Theresa Dushane

In loving memory of **Nancy Fowler** requested by the Fowler Family

In loving memory of the *deceased members of the Godell & Spanski Families* requested by Carl & Linda Godell

In loving memory of **Michael & Maggie Hesano, & Sabah Dallo** requested by the Hesano Family

In loving memory of **Bob Hewlett** requested by Kathy Hewlett

In loving memory of the *deceased members Howes & Berthet Families* requested by Mary Howes

In loving memory of the *deceased members of the Kandlaft Family* requested by the Kandlaft Family

In loving memory of **Chuck, Connie, Carla & Adam Koci** requested by Lud & Trudy Koci

In loving memory of **Helena Data** requested by Anna Mazur

In loving memory of the *deceased members of the Gould & Mienaltowski Families* requested by Chet & Sue Mienaltowski

In loving memory of the *deceased family & friends of Kirk & Debi Miller* requested by Kirk & Debi Miller

In loving memory of the *deceased family and friends of the Mirowski Family* requested by the Mirowski family

In loving memory of **James and Amy Montgomery** requested by Celeste Montgomery



## *Christmas Flower Memorials*

*In loving memory of Tobias & Julia Casab, Jack & Dorothy Najor, Richard C. Najor & the deceased members of the Casab Rueda Family requested by Juliet Najor*

*In loving memory of Julia Najor, George Kathawa & Catherine Jaboro requested by Jennifer Najor*

*In loving memory of Thomas, Debra, & Delilah Najor requested by Rosemary Najor*

*In loving memory of the deceased members of the Brackus Family requested by the Newman Family*

*In loving memory of the deceased members of the Pacis Family requested by the Pacis Family*

*In loving memory of the deceased members of the Palazzolo & Waddington Families requested by Dennis & Judy Palazzolo*

*In loving memory of Robert Pallisco requested by the Pallisco Family*

*In loving memory of the deceased members of the Dettloff & Pelton Families requested by the Pelton Family*

*In loving memory of Krys Anne Pesta requested by her loving parents Robert & Mary Pesta*

*In loving memory of Our Parents requested by Daniel & Beauty Piccirilli*

*In loving memory of Mark Purcell requested by the Purcell family.*

*In loving memory of Alexander & Bernice Raymond requested by Alexander Raymond Jr.*

*In loving memory of Emil & Melanie Semaan, David & Mary Barrood, & Melina Madi requested by Claude & Karen Semaan & family*

*In loving memory of Scott Seelig requested by Erin Seelig*

*In loving memory of the deceased members of the Shina Family requested by the Shina Family*

*In loving memory of Jackie Smerecki requested by the Smerecki Family*

*In loving memory of Adolph, Marilyn & David Speth requested by Suzanne Speth*

*In loving memory of the deceased members of the Struwe Family requested by Chris Struwe*

*In loving memory of Mary Helen and Christopher John Suciu requested by Nick Suciu Jr.*

*In loving memory of Robert Talbot requested by Gail Talbot*

*In loving memory of Walter Wojtys requested by the Tomczyk Family*

*In loving memory of Robert Trahey & Donna Cooley requested by Trahey Family*

*In loving memory of the deceased members of the Ureste Family requested by the Ureste Family*

*In loving memory of Thomas R. Wagener requested by Mary Jo Wagener*

*In loving memory of Joanne Wagner requested by Donald Wagner*

*In loving memory of Cathy White requested by the White Family*

*In loving memory of Henryke & Jadwiga Zemaajtis & Tadeusz Pyc requested by the Zemaajtis Family*



# LITURGICAL MUSIC

TIM SMITH

248-821-8443

TIM@TIMOTHYRSMITH.COM

Last Sunday, as I was pulling out of the church, I saw the new sign at the edge of the parking lot that said, “COME HOME.” That sparked some thoughts in me. Our Lady of Refuge is our home and the doors are open. At the welcome announcement at every mass I love hearing the phrase, “Consider making this parish your home.”

Maybe “COME HOME” means coming back to church – wherever you may be. Coming home for Christmas is an iconic American image in so many songs, books and movies. Stories of reunion, reconciliation, redemption... Today we remember the story of a Savior coming home to earth to reconcile and redeem creation.

May your house be blessed with love and peace and may Christ find a home in your life and in your heart. God bless us, everyone.

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

**Psalm 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13.**

**R. Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.**

Sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all you lands.  
Sing to the LORD; bless his name.

**R. Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.**

Announce his salvation, day after day.  
Tell his glory among the nations;  
among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.

**R. Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.**

Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice;  
let the sea and what fills it resound;  
let the plains be joyful and all that is in them!  
Then shall all the trees of the forest exult.

**R. Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.**

They shall exult before the LORD, for he comes;  
for he comes to rule the earth.  
He shall rule the world with justice  
and the peoples with his constancy.



**Livestreaming is back!**

We are again livestreaming  
9:30 AM Sunday Mass.  
Here is the QR code for the  
livestream link:



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

TONY KREUCHER

248-682-0920 EXT. 1142

RE@OLORCC.ORG

Merry Christmas to everyone! I would like to remind you of the events of the 2025 Jubilee, “Pilgrims of Hope”, that will soon begin.

The 2025 Jubilee will officially open on December 24, 2024 at 7pm, with the rite of Opening of the Holy Door of the Papal Basilica of St. Peter by Pope Francis, who will then preside over the celebration of the Night Mass of the Lord's Birth inside the Basilica. I have here an excerpt from Archbishop Vigneron's message to Catholics in the Detroit area.



“I would offer a word of encouragement to the faithful in the archdiocese to seek out a certain door in your parish church that can be a threshold for new hope. That particular door is, of course, the door to the confessional. As pilgrims of hope in this coming jubilee year, I pray that all Catholics will find hope by going or returning to the sacrament of penance. Confession is one of the greatest acts of hope a Catholic can make! It is entrusting yourself fully to God's divine mercy. God is always ready to forgive: Ask, seek, knock, and the door of his mercy will be opened to you (see Matt 7:7-8; Luke 11:9-10)! As I wrote in *Unleash the Gospel*, “[r]econciliation is an open doorway for return. No sin is unforgiveable, and through the sacrament the Father's embrace and a fresh start await” you. One place where Christian hope can guide us in this jubilee year is toward renewed trust and confidence in God's mercy in the sacrament of reconciliation...

By God's providence, the Jubilee Year 2025 coincides with the year of Eucharistic revival in the United States that is focused on mission. This coming year we might ask: How can we bring the good news of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist to those who hunger for him and to those who live without hope?”

## The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.



**Staff**

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

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 Rev. Jim Livingston  
 Rev. Radoslaw Zablocki  
 Rev. Ryan Asher

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

**Prince of Peace**

Fr. Andrew Dawson

**St. Andrew Kim**

Rev. Seungsoo Oh

**Parish Offices**

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 Email: [secretary@olorcc.org](mailto:secretary@olorcc.org)

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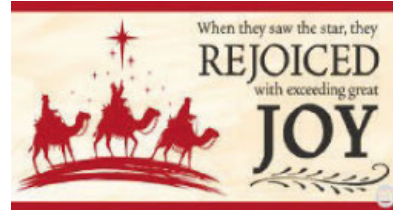
**School**

Lauri Hoffman, Principal  
 248.682-3422

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



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!



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.

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**Location:** Our Lady of Sorrows Family Center  
24040 Raphael, Farmington, MI 48336

**Register for the 11-week program:**

In person at the Come & See Event or  
by scanning below!



SCAN ME

**COME & SEE**  
*open house*  
**Tues, January 14th, 7-8 PM**  
Our Lady of Sorrows  
Family Center - St Mark Room  
(Bldg adjacent to school)  
*Questions? Email-*  
*[throughlifeschanges@gmail.com](mailto:throughlifeschanges@gmail.com)*



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