



# OUR LADY OF REFUGE, Orchard Lake MI

Today is The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph December 29, 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.



## THE HOLY FAMILY

He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man. - Lk 2:51-52

# OUR LADY OF REFUGE

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

### WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES

#### Readings for the week of December 29, 2024

Sunday:	1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 (see a)/ 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52
Monday:	1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40
Tuesday:	1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18
Wednesday:	Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3,5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
Thursday:	1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28
Friday:	1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97: 1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Saturday:	1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42
Next Sunday:	Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/ Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

#### Observances for the week of December 29, 2024

Sunday :	The Holy Family
Tuesday:	St. Sylvester I, Pope; New Year's Eve
Wednesday:	Mary, The Holy Mother of God, New Year's Day, World Day of Peace
Thursday:	Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church
Friday:	The Most Holy Name of Jesus
Saturday:	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
Sunday:	The Epiphany of the Lord

### PRIEST SCHEDULE

Mon 12/30	8:15am	(Fr. Witek)
Tue 12/31:	8:15am	(Fr. Witek)
Wed 1/1:	9:00am	(Fr. Julius)
Fri 1/3:	8:15am	(Fr. Tomy)
Sat 1/4:	5:00pm	(Fr. Witek)
Sun 1/5:	9:30am	(Fr. Brooks)
	11:30am	(Fr. Brooks)
Mon 1/6:	8:15am	(Fr. Witek)
Tue 1/7:	8:15am	(Fr. Witek)
Wed 1/8:	8:15am	(Fr. Wally)

### CONFESSIONS:

**Saturday at 3:30pm**  
**(Fr. Witek)**

### INTENTIONS

Monday 12/30	Bob Divine (Intentions) Tom Fowler Jr. (Intentions) requested by the Fowler family
Tuesday 12/31	Michael Tucci (+) requested by Linda & Carl Godell William McMaster (+) requested by Diane McMaster
Wednesday 1/1	Thomas R. Wagener (+) requested by the Wagener family
Friday 1/3	Salim Kasho M. Yaldo (+) requested by Juliet C. Najor Daniel Balcerek (+) requested by Dan & Debbie Schneble
Saturday 1/4	Leo Camara (+) requested by the Barcewicz family Don & Amy Montgomery (+) requested by Celeste Montgomery Fawzi Shaya (+) requested by the Shaya family
Sunday 1/5	(9:30) Ray & Ann Gedeon (+) requested by the Majercik family Debra DeFrenza (Intentions) requested by Chuck & Barbara Pelton (11:30) Our Lady of Refuge Parishioners The deceased grandparents of the Houbba family requested by Liama Houbba
Monday 1/6	Judy LaFata (+) requested by Toni Laiber
Tuesday 1/7	All member of the Joseph Merem family

### LECTOR & SLIDE PROJECTION SCHEDULE

#### Wednesday 1/1:

**Paula Thibideau**  
**Vanessa Garmo**  
**Jon Neef\***

#### Saturday 1/4:

**Ellias Escobedo**  
**Suzanne Barcewicz**

#### Sunday 1/5:

**(9:30am)**

**Amy Bachulis**  
**Yianni Demo**

**(11:30am)**

**Theresa Alzate**  
**Peggy Gantz**

\* Slide Projection

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

**Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

The biblical readings which we just heard presented us with the image of two families on pilgrimage to the house of God. Elkanah and Hannah bring their son Samuel to the Temple of Shiloh and consecrate him to the Lord (cf. 1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28). In the same way, Joseph and Mary, in the company of Jesus, go as pilgrims to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover (cf. Lk 2:41-52).

We often see pilgrims journeying to shrines and places dear to popular piety. These days, many of them are making their way to the Holy Door opened in all the cathedrals of the world and in many shrines. But the most beautiful thing which emerges from the word of God today is that the whole family goes on pilgrimage. Fathers, mothers and children together go to the house of the Lord, in order to sanctify the holy day with prayer. It is an important teaching, which is meant for our own families as well. Indeed, we could say that family life is a series of pilgrimages, both small and big.

For example, how comforting it is for us to reflect on Mary and Joseph teaching Jesus how to pray! This is a sort of pilgrimage, the pilgrimage of education in prayer. And it is comforting also to know that throughout the day they would pray together, and then go each Sabbath to the synagogue to listen to readings from the Law and the Prophets, and to praise the Lord with the assembly. Certainly, during their pilgrimage to Jerusalem, they prayed by singing the Psalm: "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!' Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem (122:1-2).

How important it is for our families to journey together towards a single goal! We know that we have a road to travel together; a road along which we encounter difficulties but also enjoy moments of joy and consolation. And on this pilgrimage of life we also share in moments of prayer. What can be more beautiful than for a father and mother to bless their children at the beginning and end of each day, to trace on their forehead the sign of the cross, as they did on the day of their baptism? Is this not the simplest prayer which parents can offer for their children? To bless them, that is, to entrust them to the Lord, just like Elkanah and Anna, Joseph and Mary, so that he can be their protection and support throughout the day. In the same way, it is important for families to join in a brief prayer before meals, in order to thank the Lord for these gifts and to learn how to share what we have received with those in greater need. These are all little gestures, yet they point to the great formative role played by the family in the pilgrimage of every day life.

At the end of that pilgrimage, Jesus returned to Nazareth and was obedient to his parents (cf. Lk 2:51). This image also contains a beautiful teaching about our families. A pilgrimage does not end when we arrive at our destination, but when we return home and resume our everyday lives, putting into practice the spiritual fruits of our experience. We know what Jesus did on that occasion. Instead of returning home with his family, he stayed in Jerusalem, in the Temple, causing great distress to Mary and Joseph who were unable to find him. For this little "escapade", Jesus probably had to beg forgiveness of his parents. The Gospel doesn't say this, but I believe that we can presume it. Mary's question, moreover, contains a certain reproach, revealing the concern and anguish which she and Joseph felt. Returning home, Jesus surely remained close to them, as a sign of his complete affection and obedience. Moments like these become part of the pilgrimage of each family; the Lord transforms the moments into opportunities to grow, to ask for and to receive forgiveness, to show love and obedience.

Let us not lose confidence in the family! It is beautiful when we can always open our hearts to one another, and hide nothing. Where there is love, there is also understanding and forgiveness. To all of you, dear families, I entrust this most important mission - the domestic pilgrimage of daily family life - which the world and the Church need, now more than ever. (Pope Francis)



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 248.682-3422  
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 Website: [olr-school.net](http://olr-school.net)

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

**SUPPORT OUR MINISTRIES**

Online Giving helps support our church by allowing you to make donations, payments, and pledges via your mobile phone, smart device, or computer.

You can scan the QR Code to set up your gift today or consider an additional gift via our Online Giving link on your smart device.



**OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP**  
 (Fiscal Year: July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025)

**December 16 & 17, 2024**

**Offertory: \$6,609**  
**Online Giving: \$4,096**  
**Total: \$10,705**

**Weekly Budget: \$13,530**

**YTD Budgeted: \$324,720**  
**YTD Actual: \$286,533**

**Under Budget: (\$38,188)**

# WORSHIP

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

**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!**

Very merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our volunteers that help to make our Sunday experiences so welcoming and beautiful! You have blessed us in abundance throughout this calendar year and we pray for your enthusiastic support in this new 2025! May you all have a holy, healthy and hope filled year! Our Lady of Refuge, pray for us! Jesus, our Lord and Savior, save the world!

Lord Jesus,

You did not come to earth simply to make an appearance,  
But to share our existence, to fulfill our desires.  
You wanted – and you still want – to live with us and for us.  
You love our world, this world that you entered at Christmas.  
Your manger reminds us of this.  
In your great mercy, you have come among us  
To remain with us forever.  
Let us pause in front of the manger,  
Where the mercy of God became flesh,  
Where the tenderness of God still speaks to us,  
Where he will soften our eyes, and above all, stir our hearts.

*Based on a speech delivered by Pope Francis to the donors of the Crib and the Christmas Tree in St. Peter's Square (December 18, 2015)*



# LITURGICAL MUSIC

TIM SMITH

248-821-8443

TIM@TIMOTHYRSMITH.COM

As I write my last article before departing for retirement, I am thinking of some of the former Our Lady of Refuge music directors who have had a profound impact upon the parish and upon my own development.

Somewhere around 1970 Joe Blattert was the music director. He played organ, piano, guitar, accordion and trumpet. He would play a tune on the organ in the back balcony and then come up to the front and play guitar. He was like a rock star to me. My brother Ray was one of his star guitar students. When Ray learned Classical Gas, I was sure he was going to be famous.

Shortly after Joe left, Rory Dewey came to Refuge. He had similar organ, piano, guitar skills as Joe with a side order of extra cool. Rory could slip seamlessly from organ to piano to guitar and from classical to contemporary. I kept in touch with both Joe and Rory over the years. They were generous with their time and are both accomplished musicians.

Then came Tom Sherer who gave me my first organ hymnal when I started playing in the overflow basement mass in 1974. Tom helped me sort out playing four-part hymns and was a good support in guiding me through my first masses in the church basement.

Sometime after Tom left, Sister Rose Irene came to Refuge and she stayed for almost ten years. She was a jewel of a mentor and music director. She was the first one to really build an adult choir that sang every Sunday. She always included me in AOD workshops downtown. She taught me to be mindful that our music is not an end in itself, but rather a means to a greater end of fostering prayerful worship. During my college summers she would take off for the mother house and I would play the summer masses at Refuge.

In the mid 80's Connie Skoski came and continued to build the Refuge music ministry – particularly the adult choir and cantors. She was beloved by the parish and music ministry. By this time I was music director at St. Mary of the Hills in Rochester. In 1991 she took a road trip with Fr. Strain and I to a National Pastoral Musicians (NPM) conference in Pittsburgh.

Next came Christopher Borowicz. Of all the music directors, Chris is the king of seniority. He put his mark on Refuge with almost 30 years of service. In addition to being a fine organist, he has total command of Bach's Well Tempered Clavier – two volumes of serious piano preludes and fugues for piano. Chris is a great accordionist and can play a slamming version of Maple Leaf Rag.

Anchoring the 11 Am "Folk Mass" for many decades was Michael Tokarz, Michael and Karen Brody, along with many other dedicated musicians. My wife Kim used to play this mass back in the mid 70's with Joe and Noreen Fisher while she was in high school.

David Hansen was music director at our cousin parish Prince of Peace from the 70's to the 20's. Dave is a dear friend and he taught me how to stay cool in tight situations. Dave has a mastery of both classical and contemporary idioms. I also want to give a shout to James Clark who has been a super sub over the past several years. (Continued on pg. 7)

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

TONY KREUCHER

248-682-0920 EXT. 1142

RE@OLORCC.ORG

Merry Christmas! Yes, I am one of “those people”, and proudly. I will continue to say Merry Christmas until the Feast of the Presentation on January 12, when the liturgical season of Christmas ends. Christmas is not about only the 24th or the 25th in the Church - there are eight days (an octave) of Christmas which ends with the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God on January 1st. Today, December 29, is the Feast of the Holy Family; which falls on the Sunday after Christmas every year. So, take time today to love and celebrate your own family - and don't worry about taking down your decorations! It's still Christmas time.

St. John Bosco Prayer Initiative - January 26-February 1, 2025

We thank you ahead of time for helping us reach the goal of engaging hundreds of intercessors to pray for youth and those who minister with them in the Archdiocese of Detroit. You can help us spread the word by inviting 50 people from your parish community and family! Learn more and sign up at [Boscoprayer.org](http://Boscoprayer.org).

(Continued from Tim's page) I'm sorry I don't have a complete list of OLR music directors – these are the ones I knew. Every one of these fine people has influenced my own development as a music minister. All these years later, on the cusp of 2025, I leave Our Lady of Refuge in the capable hands of Joanne Gorney who will carry on the fine tradition of Liturgical Music at Refuge.

At that NPM conference with Connie and Fr. Strain I learned that the primary music minister of the mass is not the director, the cantor, or the choir – it's the worshipping assembly. All this talk about music directors – we're just driving the bus.

This would be a great time to strike a blow for the Kingdom and join the choir. It's a like new semester and this time of transition offers an opportunity to establish a new path forward. It's a path that will find new routes but is also built upon the shoulders of all the music ministers - the congregation of Our Lady of Refuge - who have come before.

Thank you for all your support and encouragement. And a special thank you to my wonderful wife Kim. Being married to a church musician is a vocation of its own and Kim has been my rock.

Our Lady of Refuge, pray for us!

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





# EVANGELICAL CHARITY

JOELLEN SHORTLEY

248-682-4099

ECC@OLORCC.ORG

Thanks to the fabulous generosity of our parish and school and the many volunteer hours of our Christian Service Commission we provided the following to members of our community for the holidays:

## **Food and Toys**

44 Thanksgiving meals and 50 Christmas meals

Turkeys and hams donated by the Hesano family

Pies donated by the Christ family

Weekly shopping in the food pantry thanks to the food and monetary donations from OLR, Prince of Peace, St. Fabian and St. Owens and the leadership of Teresa Roose and our dedicated volunteers.

10 Families in need adopted for Christmas with many gifts provided. Thank you to the OLR Knights of Columbus for coordinating the gift giving and the shoppers who provided the gifts.

600 toys donated to Crossroads of Michigan from OLR parishioners, OLR school, Prince of Peace and Our Lady of Sorrows parishes. Gifts delivered to Crossroads and wrapped with a smile due to the hard work of Cindy Ciura and Dennis Hafley.

## **Giving Tree Donations**

Abigayle Ministries \$575.00

Capuchin Soup Kitchen \$1,175.00

Grace Centers of Hope \$1,195.00

Kids Empowered on the Move \$1,300.00 plus children's clothing and blankets

Matchan Nutrition Center \$575.00

Mary's Children Family Center \$1,575.00

OLR Christian Service \$1,720.00

OLR St. Vincent DePaul \$920.00

Open Door Outreach \$700.00



**God is abundantly good and takes care of those in need.**

**The Christian Services Committee wishes you a blessed Christmas and happy and healthy New Year!**



## PANTRY NEEDS

The food pantry at Our Lady of Refuge is available every Wednesday to support those in need. Kindly consider contributing some of the essential items listed below.

Your donations are truly appreciated.

## FOOD ITEMS

Canned Soup  
Baked Beans  
Peanut Butter  
Jelly  
Pasta  
Tomato/Pasta Sauce  
Canned Fruit  
Cans of Chili, Stew,  
Spaghettios  
Rice  
Mustard/Ketchup

## CARE ITEMS

Laundry Pods  
Liquid Dish Soap  
Toilet Bowl Cleaner  
Shampoo  
Conditioner  
Men's Deodorant  
Women's Deodorant  
Men's Body Wash  
Women's Body Wash  
Toothpaste  
Hand Soap

## Join Us



You are invited to join in praying the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet after daily Mass.

On Fridays, the Holy Hour prayers are offered as well.



# 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](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.\*\****



The Seven Sister Apostolate is a call to strengthen the Church by ensuring that a Holy Hour is prayed each day of the week for the sole intention of a specific priest or bishop. For more information, visit:  
[SevenSistersApostolate.org](http://SevenSistersApostolate.org)

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.

# APPLICATIONS

## NOW OPEN AT OUR LADY OF REFUGE SCHOOL

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**COME & SEE**  
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**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)

**Surviving Divorce** is a Catholic divorce  
healing program from Ascension Press.  
OLS is offering this video series and  
facilitator-led, 11-week divorce healing  
program to all individuals seeking post-  
divorce healing. Cost is \$65. **Begins: Tues,**  
**January 21st, 7-8:30 PM**

**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!



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