OUR LADY OF REFUGE, Orchard Lake MI

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 23, 2025

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.



7th Sunday

"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." - Lk 6:36

OUR LADY OF REFUGE MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES

Readings for the week of February 23, 2025

Sunday: 1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23/1 Cor 15:45-49/

Lk 6:27-38

Monday: Sir 1:1-10/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Mk 9:14-29

Tuesday: Sir 2:1-11/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40/Mk 9:30-37

Wednesday: Sir 4:11-19/Ps 119:165, 168, 171, 172, 174, 175/

Mk 9:38-40

Thursday: Sir 5:1-8/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mk 9:41-50

Friday: Sir 6:5-17/Ps 119:12, 16, 18, 27, 34, 35/Mk 10:1-12 Saturday: Sir 17:1-15/Ps 103:13-14, 15-16, 17-18/Mk 10:13-16

Next Sunday: Sir 27:4-7/Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16 (see 2a)/1 Cor 15:54-58/

Lk 6:39-45

Observances for the week of February 23, 2025

Sunday: 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Thursday: St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church

Next Sunday: 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

PRIEST SCHEDULE

Mon 2/:24 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)

Tue 2/25: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)

Wed 2/26: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)

Fri 2/28: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)

Sat 3/1: 5:00pm (Fr. Suresh)

Sun 3/2: 9:30am (Fr. Suresh)

11:30am (Fr. Suresh)

Mon 3/3: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)

Tue 3/4: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday at 3:30pm

INTENTIONS

Monday 2/24 Rose Jane Fowler (Intentions) requested by the

Fowler family

Tuesday 2/25 Jim Sarb (+) requested by Connie Bayma

Wednesday 2/26 Colleen Berger (+) requested by the Blanck family

Friday 2/28 Lillian Agostinelli (+) requested by Carol & Dennis

Lesnau

Royce Villa (+) requested by the Villa family

Saturday 3/1 Fawzi Shaya (+) requested by the Shaya family

Our Lady of Refuge Parishioners

Sunday 3/2 (9:30) Robert Pelkey (+) requested by Patricia Pollard

Christopher John Suciu (+) requested by Nick

Suciu, Jr.

(11:30) Leo Camara (+) requested by Margaret Camara

Betty McEndarffer (+) requested by the McEndarffer

family

Monday 3/3 Nibal Fram (Intentions) requested by Juliet Najor

Tuesday 3/4 Lamia Meskina (+) requested by Juliet Najor

LECTOR & SLIDE PROJECTION SCHEDULE

Saturday 3/:1

Suzanne Barcewicz Ellias Escobedo Anthony Salem*

Sunday 3/2:

(9:30am)

Shannon Klimmek Tadd Klimmek Jon Neef*

(11:30am)

Reese George Gabrielle Ansara Jeff Ziegenfelder*

*Slide Projection

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

The Seventh Sunday in Ordinary

Today's Scripture readings challenge us to make three types of correct choices in life. First, we are advised to choose the "golden rule" including loving our enemies and showing sensitivity to the feelings and needs of others. Second, we need to choose unconditional, agape love instead of envy, jealousy and hatred in our relationships with others. Third, we must choose graceful and merciful forgiveness instead of harboring revenge and planning retaliation.

Scripture lessons: The first reading shows us how David made the right choice, respecting God's anointed king by forgiving his offenses, while Saul continued to make the wrong choices, perpetuating his own misery in seeking his revenge. In the Responsorial Psalm, Ps 103, the Psalmist reminds us of the mercy of God and His compassion which we should practice in our choices.

In the second reading, St. Paul tells us how the "First Adam" made a wrong choice of disobedience, bringing death into the world, whereas Jesus, the "Second Adam," made the right choice of fulfilling his Father's saving plan for mankind by accepting acute suffering and a heinous death.

Today's Gospel (Luke 6:27-38) gives us Jesus' revolutionary moral teaching about correct choices in our human relationships, based on the necessity of our following the "Golden Rule" and our obligation to behave like the children of a loving, forgiving, merciful, and compassionate Heavenly Father. Our relationships in our communities become truly Christian when we follow the Golden Rule, "Do to others as you would have them do to you," as Jesus amplifies it, obeying the additional commands of radical Christian love we are to exercise as God's children (and Jesus' adopted brothers and sisters), "Love your enemies...Do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you and pray for those who maltreat you." Jesus orders us to love our enemies and to be merciful and compassionate to everyone as God our Father is loving, merciful, and compassionate. He concludes by instructing us to stop judging others and start forgiving all who offend us.

Life Messages: 1)We need to practice the Golden Rule in its full form: The Golden Rule asks us to do to others what we would like them do to us. If we obey, loving others and expressing that love by loving words and deeds, we will start receiving the same love from others in higher intensity. Further, if we want others to forgive our offenses, our words of criticism, and our thoughtless judgments against them, then we should start forgiving their offenses against us and start appreciating their good qualities while encouraging them and supporting them in their needs.

2) We need to pray for the strength to forgive. At every Mass we pray the "Our Father", asking God to forgive us as we forgive others. Our challenge is to overcome our natural inclination to hate family members, co-workers, neighbors and all who offend us. To meet that challenge, we need to ask God for the strength to forgive each other. We must forgive, because only forgiveness truly heals us. If we remember how God has forgiven us, it will help us forgive others. Let us start forgiving right now by curbing the sharp tongue of criticism, suppressing the revenge instinct, and bearing patiently the irritating behavior of a neighbor. (Fr. Tony's Homilies)

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

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Fr. Andrew Dawson

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Rev. Seungsoo Oh

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Tony Kreucher

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Lauri Hoffman, Principal 248.682-3422

Principal: lhoffman@olr-school.net Website: 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!

Contribution Statements

Due to the many changes in the tax code over the last several years, we will no longer be automatically mailing out contribution statements. However, they will be available upon request.



If you would like to receive a statement of your contributions to the parish for tax purposes or personal records, please visit our website using the QR code, contact the parish office at 248-682-0920, or email Artha Horowitz at secretary@olorcc.org. Thank you for your ongoing support and generosity!



Statements for the Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) will be generated separately by the Archdiocese of Detroit.

OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP

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

February 15 & 16, 2025

Offertory: \$4,735 Online Giving: \$3,468 Total: \$8,203

Weekly Budget: \$13,530

YTD Budgeted: \$460,020 YTD Actual: \$384,514

Under Budget: (\$75,507)

LITURGICAL MUSIC

JOANNE GORNEY 248-418-7240 MUSIC@OLORCC.ORG



SINGING WITH HEART: EVERY VOICE BELONGS

Have you ever caught yourself singing at Mass without really *thinking* about the words? Maybe you're just following the melody, or your mind drifts to your to-do list. But hymns aren't just filler—they're a form of prayer. And when we truly *pray* the words, our worship deepens.

Take our opening hymn I Come with Joy:

"I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free."

Pause—what if you really *prayed* those words? You're not just singing about some distant truth. You are *claiming* your identity as God's beloved child. That changes how you enter the liturgy, doesn't it?

Later, the hymn reminds us:

"The love that made us makes us one, and strangers now are friends."

The Eucharist isn't just about me and Jesus—it's about us. When we sing these words, we're asking God to unite us, to transform how we see one another.

Now, maybe you don't think you can sing. But contrary to belief, a choir isn't made of perfect voices. It's a mix of different voices—some strong, some soft. Alone, they may not stand out as beautiful, but together, they create something greater. That's exactly what happens when we sing as a congregation.

Think of why we ask Mary to intercede for us. I once heard that when we offer our simple prayers to God through Mary, it's like handing her a plain bowl—she adorns it and makes it worthy of a King. In the same way, when we lift our voices in song, God hears something beautiful—not because we sing perfectly, but because we sing with love.

WORSHIP

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

Stations of the Cross and Soup

At Our Lady of Refuge, we have a cherished tradition of praying the Stations of the Cross on Friday nights throughout Lent at 6:30 p.m. This practice is an opportunity for our community to come together in prayer and reflection during this sacred season. Our hosts which include those involved in our staff, commissions, and the Knights of Columbus will take turns hosting each Fridays Stations & Soup. The host's role is to ensure the evening runs smoothly, which includes arranging for a reader to lead the Stations of the Cross. In addition, a cross bearer and torch bearers are needed to participate in the procession and add a meaningful presence to the service.

Following the Stations, a simple supper is served in our Social Hall, fostering a sense of fellowship and nourishment for our parish family. The host is responsible for both setting up the meal and cleaning up afterward, ensuring that everything is in order. They also assist in coordinating the food offerings for the meal. As it is a time of fasting during Lent, the meal consists of simple, meatless dishes, such as soups, pasta, bread, and salads. We ask for the support of our parish family to help provide these meals. A signup sheet is available in the gathering space, and we encourage everyone to consider helping by providing a dish for one of the Friday night dinners. Your participation helps build a stronger, more connected community, and your contributions will be greatly appreciated by all who attend. Whether you contribute food, time, or both, your involvement makes a meaningful difference during this important time of year.

Meditation Booklets for Lent

During Lent, we often seek ways to deepen our spiritual practice and draw closer to God. For many of us, this can be a challenging time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. A meditation book can serve as a valuable tool during this season of reflection and penance. By offering daily meditations, prayers, and scripture readings, these books provide a structured way to reflect on Christ's passion and sacrifice. The quiet time spent in prayer and reflection with these books can help individuals build a deeper connection to their faith and prepare for the celebration of Easter.

This Lent, our parish will be providing a selection of meditation booklets to aid us on our journey. The first option is The Little Black Book, which reflects on Christ's life through the Passion narrative in the Gospel of John. The other option is The Word Among Us, which contains the Mass readings along with daily meditations. Starting on Ash Wednesday, these will be available in a basket in the gathering space.

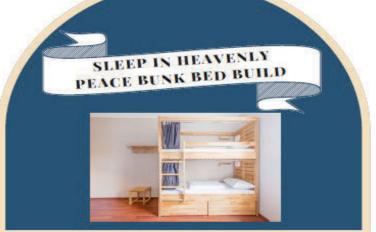
Lenten Trifold

We have prepared a trifold with various Lenten opportunities, available in the gathering space for you to take home. These resources are designed to help guide you through a meaningful season of reflection and growth. We pray that this Lenten journey brings you closer to God and leads to a life-changing experience! Please take one and consider how you might engage more deeply in the practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving this season.

EVANGELICAL CHARITY

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

OUR LADY OF REFUGE AND PRINCE OF PEACE





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SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

There is a wonderful opportunity for the men of the parish coming up in March, co-hosted by the Diocese of Lansing and the Archdiocese of Detroit: the IGNITE Catholic Men's Conference.

Gather in fellowship with hundreds of other men ages 14 and above to hear from dy-



namic speakers about How the Lord wants to IGNITE your spirit to live as a faithful Catholic in our post-Christian world.

This conference is not meant to simply ignite your Faith for a day, but to invite men across the diocese to build strong Christian communities in their homes, parishes, and workplaces that burn with zeal for the Lord.

Join us to connect with other Catholic men from around the state, hear from nationally renowned speakers, spend time in prayer and adoration, engage with exciting Catholic ministries, and celebrate Mass with Bishop Boyea! The event takes place on Saturday March 22, 2025 at the Fervin GameAbove Center in Ypsilanti, MI. Find more information and register online at michiganeme.org

For everyone in the parish, there are many good plans designed to guide and assist us as we enter into the penitential season of Lent in order to prepare for the glorious season of Easter.

EWTN has a free study on the 7 Last Words of Christ as well as Meditations through all of Lent - I have ebooks to share by email or I can print for anyone who requests them.

There is also a program called Cana 90 for married couples that has a free version, a print booklet for \$15, or an online fellowship program that may continue after Lent has ended.

Formed also offers a program called *How to Lent*. Access to the Formed website is available for free through the olorcc.org parish website under the Resources tab. Instructions for individual sign-up can be found there.

The religious education program will be holding our Lenten service project on March 10 in place of our regular meeting; we will still begin at 6pm. Parents whose children are in the program are encouraged to bring younger children and to stay with their whole family for dinner before the RE students start their work on filling Easter baskets, which will be donated to Great Centers of Hope in Pontiac.

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.

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 "women's 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.

Angel's Place Meals

Angel's Place supports individuals with developmental disabilities, particularly those with intellectual disabilities, who may require assistance with daily life demands and completing tasks typically expected for their age group. Located at 2809 Saddlewood Rd, West Bloomfield Township, we would greatly appreciate your consideration in bringing a meal for the residents. Whether it's a homemade dish or something simple like a Costco rotisserie chicken, salad, and dessert (they love desserts!), your contribution would mean a lot. Thus far in the month of October only one meal has been provided from OLR. Thank you for your support of this ministry.

To sign up to bring a meal either use the QR Code, the link on our website or the following website www.signupgenius.com/



Our next blood drive with the Red Cross is on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 in the Social Hall from 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Donating blood to someone in need is such a wonderful gift. Blood donations help accident and burn victims, heart surgery and transplant patients and those battling cancer. Please schedule an appointment today by visiting www.redcrossblood.org and entering sponsor code "OLRC." The Red Cross website is very informative if you are donating blood for the first time.



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 and 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
Shane Kelly—Air Force
Liam Lynch-Army



Gunnar Ottman-National Guard

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

Please Help! Many in our care need extra warmth this winter!

Please bring gently used or new items to the Ladies of Charity Clothes Closet and Food Pantry Drop off times:

Tuesdays 3PM-4:30PM & Thursday 10AM-11:30 AM or by special appointment

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 - Oversee Execution of Holiday Meal Events
- Food packers (2-3 hours per week)
- Clothes Closet (2-3 hour per week)

If you have questions or need additional information please contact us at: $\underline{\tt cefpccl@gmail.com}.$





John's gospel is full of imagery and insights that tell us who Jesus is and what it means to follow him who is "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). Come and see how each of these images also serves as an invitation to know Jesus better and to make him known to others.

About the Instructor: Fr. Brian Meldrum, STL, STD, teaches scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, where he also serves as the director of graduate pastoral formation and director of liturgy.

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