



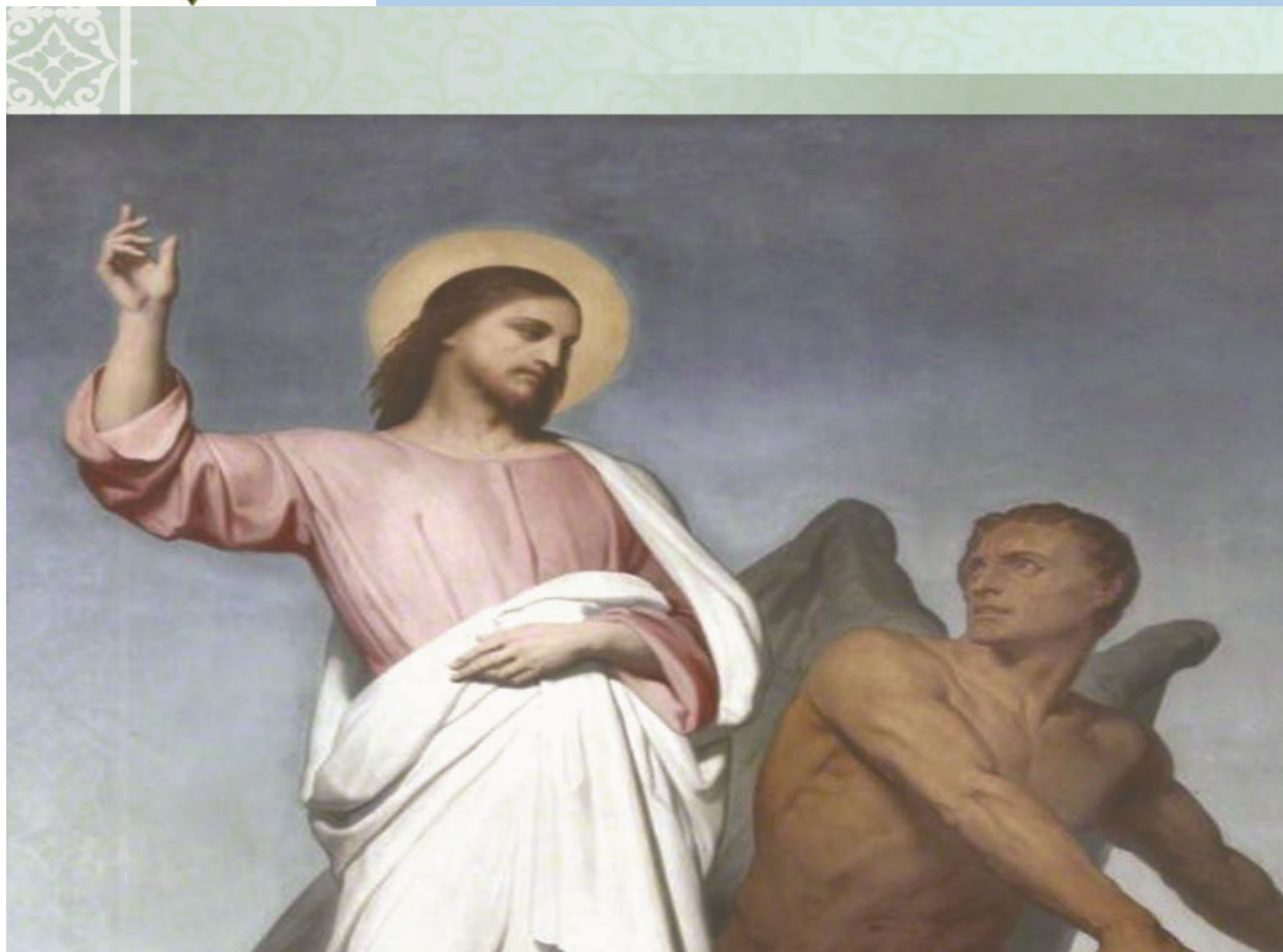
**OUR LADY OF REFUGE**, Orchard Lake MI

**Today is the First Sunday of Lent**

**March 9, 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.



*1st Sunday*  
O F L E N T

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil. - Lk 4:1-2a

# OUR LADY OF REFUGE

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

### WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES

#### **Readings for the week of March 9, 2025**

Sunday: Dt 26:4-10/Ps 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15 (see 5b)/  
Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/  
Mt 7:7-12

Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48

Next Sunday: Gn 15:5-12, 17-18/Ps 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14/  
Phil 3:17—4:1 or 3:20—4:1/Lk 9:28b-36

#### **Observances for the week of March 9, 2025**

Sunday : 1st Sunday of Lent; Daylight Saving Time begins

Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Lent

### PRIEST SCHEDULE

Mon 3/10 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)

Tue 3/11: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)

Wed 3/12: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)

Fri 3/14: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)

Sat 3/15: 5:00pm (Fr. Suresh)

Sun 3/16: 9:30am (Fr. Suresh)  
11:30am (Fr. Suresh)

Mon 3/17: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)

Tue 3/18: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)

### CONFESSIONS:

Saturday at 3:30pm

### INTENTIONS

Monday 3/10 Judy LaFata (+) requested by the Shibeen Courey family  
Mary Currell (+) requested by John Currell

Tuesday 3/11 Virginia Panian Brown (+) requested by Dar Panian  
Rita McKune (+) requested by the McKune family

Wednesday 3/12 Betty Majercik (+) requested by the Majercik family  
Anastacio Sta. Cruz (+) requested by his family

Friday 3/14 Faith Lee Fowler (Intentions) requested by the  
Fowler family

Saturday 3/15 Fawzi Shaya (+) requested by the Shaya Family  
Our Lady of Refuge Parishioners

Sunday 3/16 (9:30) Immad Daboul (+) requested by his family  
Linda McCormick (Intentions) requested by the  
Fowler family  
(11:30) Austin Ramirez (Intentions) requested by his family

Monday 3/17 Richard Najor (+) requested by Juliet Najor

Tuesday 3/18 Teo Natavio (+) requested by his friends  
Lamia & Frank Meskina (Intentions) requested by  
Juliet Najor

### LECTOR & SLIDE PROJECTION SCHEDULE

#### Saturday 3/15

Lucy Young  
Paula Thibideau  
Suzanne Barcewicz\*

#### Sunday 3/16

(9:30am)

Olivia Arafat  
Shannon Klimmek  
Steph Riney\*

(11:30am)

Lamya Kallabat  
Gabrielle Ansara  
Pete Llewellyn\*

\*Slide Projection

# FR. SURESH, SAC

## MODERATOR OF THE FAMILY

248-682-0920 EXT. 1110

### *An Acceptable Time: A Lenten Message from Archbishop Vigneron During the Jubilee of 2025*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation” (2 Cor 6:2). With the Apostle Paul’s words from the second reading for Ash Wednesday, we will begin the season of Lent in this Jubilee Year 2025. St. Paul’s words to the church at Corinth about an “acceptable time” echo our Lord’s own words in the synagogue at Nazareth and the prophet Isaiah’s words from centuries earlier. With these words I also began my message to the faithful last Advent on the Jubilee Year: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me ... to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord” (Luke 4:18–19; see also Isa 61:1–2). What do these words mean for the Church of Detroit living in the year 2025? What does it mean to say that this year and this time are somehow acceptable to the Lord?

First, our time of jubilee becomes an acceptable time because God provides us this time to accept his grace, his indescribable gift of mercy. In 2 Cor 6:1, just before the passage quoted above, St. Paul appeals to the Corinthians “not to receive the grace of God in vain.” To receive the grace of God fully, then, is to accept the full life of God, which he shares with us in the Paschal Mystery—that is, the dying and rising of Jesus Christ. Our participation in Christ’s Passion and Resurrection is what we prepare for during the coming season of Lent.

This Lent, in the spirit of the Jubilee Year, each of us can look for opportunities to die to self and live for God. What first comes to mind is the dying to self that occurs as we approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation, especially if we have been away from it for some time. It is true that sin brings us nothing but sorrow, but at the same time, sorrow for sin (or contrition) is a healing remedy. There is no sin so damaging that it cannot be forgiven by a humble and contrite confession; there is no wound so painful that it cannot be healed by the wounds of Jesus, the Divine Physician; there is no soul so lost that it cannot repent, turn back, seek God’s mercy, and be welcomed again into God’s household at the threshold of hope that is the confessional door. I invite all the faithful in the Archdiocese of Detroit to examine their consciences, identify places for conversion from patterns of sin, seek out a priest, and celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation during this Lenten season as a way to prepare more fully for the joys of Easter. Now is the time to accept the grace of God that is available to those who “ask, seek, and knock” (see Matt 7:7-8; Luke 11:9-10).

Second, our time of jubilee becomes an acceptable time because in this time Jesus accomplishes his work in us to make us acceptable to God. At every Mass, when the gifts are prepared on the altar, the priest invites the faithful to pray that his “sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.” To this, we respond: “May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.” Jesus’s self-offering to his Father is for our good and is made present every time the sacrifice of the Mass is offered. Christ’s self-gift is his complete offering to the Father, “the Sacrifice of perfect reconciliation” (Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation II), the only sacrifice acceptable to God to restore humanity to his friendship. But at the Mass, we do not passively observe how God reconciles us to himself in Christ Jesus; rather, in the liturgy, we are made partakers and active participants in Christ’s sacrifice. The priest prays that in the Eucharist Christ would also “make of us an eternal offering to you,” the Father (Eucharistic Prayer III); imperfect as we are, we become part of Jesus’s perfect self-offering. Many in the Archdiocese of Detroit are preparing to receive the Eucharist for the first time at the Easter Vigil or in the Easter season. These brothers and sisters of ours hunger for communion with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. (continued on page 5)



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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!

**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](mailto: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)**

**March 2 & 3, 2025**

**Offertory: \$9,649**  
**Online Giving: \$3,213**  
**Total: \$12,862**

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

**YTD Budgeted: \$487,080**

**YTD Actual: \$407,873**

**Under Budget: (\$79,208)**

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

TONY KREUCHER

248-682-0920 EXT. 1142

RE@OLORCC.ORG

Easter falls on such a late date this year that it felt like Lent would never arrive! I remember more than once in recent years that Ash Wednesday came before Valentine's Day. Yet here we are in March, having just celebrated Ash Wednesday and observing the First Sunday of Lent. Catholics all over the world use the season of Lent to prepare for the celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter. Please consider ways you and your family can prepare, whether through traditional methods of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, or in modern ways.

Also taking place this Sunday is the Rite of Election, which is part of the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults. Catechumens (those who have not been baptized) and Candidates (those who have been baptized) from parishes all over the Archdiocese attend Mass at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament to formally declare their intention to join the Catholic Church as they continue their preparation for the Easter Vigil where they will receive the Sacraments of Initiation.

Our parish religious education program will have its Lenten Service Project on Monday, March 10. The students will be filling Easter baskets to donate to Grace Centers of Hope. Parents in the religious education program are invited to stay with their entire family for dinner that evening.

## **Lenten Message continued**

We can join them in prayer this Lent that Jesus will increase our hunger and desire for him, too, so that in communion with the Eucharistic Lord, we might become a sacrifice acceptable to the Father.

Finally, our time of jubilee becomes an acceptable time because this is the time for us to accept more willingly the sacrifices and penances that we adopt in Lent and those that come our way in daily life. When we unite our sufferings to Jesus's sufferings on the Cross, he continues his saving work in us. This is why St. Paul tells the Corinthians that the "acceptable time" is also the "day of salvation" (see 2 Cor 6:2). This Lent, by abstaining from distractions (e.g., the use of smartphone apps or social media) or by forgoing certain food and drink (fasting), we demonstrate our dependence on God and our need for detachment and conversion from sin. Fasting increases our desire for God and empties us, so that God can fill us and sustain us with his grace. Many other works of mercy and penance—encouraged by the Church in the Jubilee Year for those seeking the plenary indulgence—also provide us with opportunities to sacrifice some of our time or preferences to minister to others: namely, visiting the sick, prisoners, the elderly, the disabled, those in need or difficulty, or those experiencing loneliness, hopelessness, or despair. We become pilgrims of hope in this Jubilee Year when we are compassionate, when we "suffer with" those with whom we share this pilgrim journey.

The hopeful pilgrim's journey traces the Lord's path to Calvary; yet that journey does not end with the Cross, but rather with the joy of the Easter sunrise, the joy of the empty tomb, and the joy of the gospel proclamation, "He is not here, but he has been raised" (Luke 24:6). This Lent, it is my prayer that you might accept both the Cross and the Resurrection in your life, as well as any particular sacrifice Jesus has called you to make so that you will be more closely united with his sacrifice. As the Church prays in one antiphon before Our Lady's Magnificat: "By your trusting acceptance of trials, you will gain your life, says the Lord" (see Luke 21:9).

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Allen H. Vigneron  
Emeritus Archbishop of Detroit and Apostolic Administrator

# LITURGICAL MUSIC

JOANNE GORNEY

248-418-7240

MUSIC@OLORCC.ORG



As Lent unfolds, Psalm 91 feels less like a distant scripture and more like a personal dialogue. The plea, "Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble," resonates deeply, mirroring my own hesitant steps into vulnerability. This season, a deliberate stripping away of distractions, lays bare my frailty, a stark reminder of my dependence.

The imagery of "dwelling in the shelter" and "abiding in the shadow" feels like an invitation, a gentle urging to seek refuge in God's quiet presence. In the midst of my spiritual wilderness, the promise of angelic protection whispers reassurance, a comforting reminder that I am not alone in this journey.

Lent is a testing ground, a space where faith is forged in the fires of uncertainty. Psalm 91 doesn't promise an escape from trials, but rather a steadfast presence within them. "Clinging to the Lord" becomes a tangible act, a desperate grasp for stability when the ground beneath me feels unsteady.

Yet, amidst the introspection and penitence, the psalm offers a glimmer of hope. "Salvation and joy" become a beacon, a reminder that this season, though challenging, ultimately points towards resurrection. It's a gentle nudge, a quiet assurance that even in the shadows of Lent, God's love remains an unwavering light, guiding me towards the promise of redemption.

## PSALM 91

**R: BE WITH ME, LORD,  
WHEN I AM IN TROUBLE,  
BE WITH ME, LORD, I PRAY.**

### 01.

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, Most High,  
who abide in the shadow of our God,  
Say to the Lord: "My refuge and fortress,  
the God in whom I trust."

### 02.

No evil shall befall you, no pain come near,  
for the angels stand close by your side,  
guarding you always and bearing you gently,  
watching over your life.

### 03.

Those who cling to the Lord live secure in God's love,  
lifted high, those who trust in God's name,  
call on the Lord who will never forsake you.  
God will bring you salvation and joy.



# WORSHIP

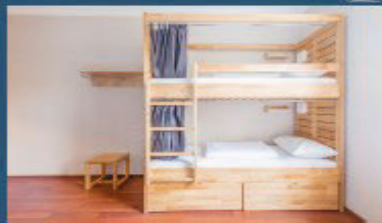
LISA MARIE BLANEK

248-682-0920 EXT. 1114

LBLANEK@OLORCC.ORG

OUR LADY OF REFUGE AND PRINCE OF PEACE

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PEACE BUNK BED BUILD



SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

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12 PM

**29  
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JOELLEN SHORTLEY, OFS

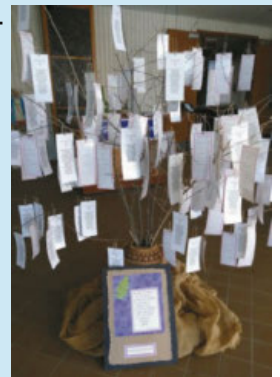
248-682-4099

ECC@OLORCC.ORG

During Lent we are encouraged to pray, fast and give alms. This Lent, our community will be participating in two outreach activities:

## GIVING TREE

Our Lenten giving tree donations will be supporting **Another Way Pregnancy Center** and **Wee Care Outreach Program**. Another Way Pregnancy Center (AWPC) exists so no woman or couple feels the need for abortion. Programs offered through their center focus on fetal development, ultrasounds, parenting, adoption resources, material support and opportunities for personal growth and restoration. AWPC strives to save the lives of unborn babies at risk of abortion by serving the women and men facing unplanned or difficult pregnancies. **Tag shapes are angels and crosses.** Wee Care provides infant clothing, blankets, diapers and so much more, on an emergency basis. This program provides material help to women and their babies when their needs cannot be met by other organizations or public agencies. **Tag shapes are hearts.** PLEASE TAKE ONE OR SEVERAL TAGS. PLEASE RETURN UNWRAPPED GIFTS WITH TAGS ON, BY MARCH 30.



## RICE BOWLS

CRS Rice Bowl as Catholic Relief Services celebrates 50 years of the program. CRS Rice Bowl started in Allentown, Pennsylvania, by parishioners to help families facing famine in The Sahel region of Africa. Shortly after, it was adopted by the United States bishops and made an official program of CRS.

At this very moment, millions of our most vulnerable sisters and brothers are facing life-threatening levels of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. At the root of this crisis is a perfect storm of poverty, climate change, conflict, and inequality. There is no one solution to breaking the cycle of hunger for every community around the world—but we can do our part through CRS Rice Bowl by answering Jesus' invitation to us to share bread for life with our sisters and brothers during Lent—so all may live with dignity.

We also help our local community through the program; this year, half of the collection will go to our parish food pantry and half will go to the Rice Bowl program. The pantry is providing 50 meals to families for Easter.

CRS Rice Bowl also provides resources for daily reflection throughout the liturgical season. Consider these suggestions in your family's Lenten plan:

- Use your CRS Rice Bowl and Lenten Calendar each day to guide your prayer, fasting and almsgiving.
- Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) to read weekly Stories of Hope and watch the accompanying videos.
- Use the CRS Rice Bowl recipes from [crsricebowl.org/recipe](http://crsricebowl.org/recipe) to prepare simple, meatless meals on the Fridays of Lent to eat in solidarity with our global family.

During this holy season, may your Lenten journey be a transformative and enriching experience as you put your faith into action for our sisters and brothers experiencing the greatest need. Rice bowls will be collected at the end of Lent. Thank you for participating in the Giving Tree and CRS Rice Bowl.



# 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.



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](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and entering sponsor code "OLRC." The Red Cross website is very informative if you are donating blood for the first time.

HOSANNA MINISTRY

## HEARTS FOR SISTERS GALA



**Date:** May 16, 2025

**Time:** 6PM

**Venue:** Villa Penna Banquet  
43985 Hayes Rd, Sterling Heights



Hosanna Ministry is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit supporting missionary religious sisters from persecuted countries. Through theological education, scholarships, and spiritual retreats, we equip them with knowledge and resources to continue evangelization and service in their home communities.



**JOIN US ON TUESDAY,  
MARCH 11TH AT 7:00PM**

**EVENING INCLUDES  
ADORATION, PRAISE AND  
WORSHIP, PRAYER, AND  
POWERFUL REFLECTIONS  
FROM FR. JASON BROOKS, LC**

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  
Shane Kelly-Air Force  
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## PANCAKE BREAKFAST



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Under 5: Free!

**Sunday, March 16th**  
**In the Social Hall after all Masses**

Proceeds support Our Lady of Refuge's  
American Heritage Girls Troop 1001

### 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.

### URGENT FOOD ITEMS

Macaroni & Cheese  
Pork & Beans  
Peanut Butter  
Jelly  
Canned Fruit  
Cans of Chili, Stew,  
Spaghettios  
Rice  
Mustard/Ketchup

### EASTER FOOD ITEMS

Dried Onion Rings  
Mini Marshmallows  
Coconut  
Walnuts  
Syrup  
Pancake Mix  
Cake Mix  
Jelly Beans  
\$20 Kroger, Aldi or  
Meijer Gift Card

### CARE ITEMS

Laundry Pods  
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Men's Body Wash  
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Men's Razors  
Women's Razors



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