

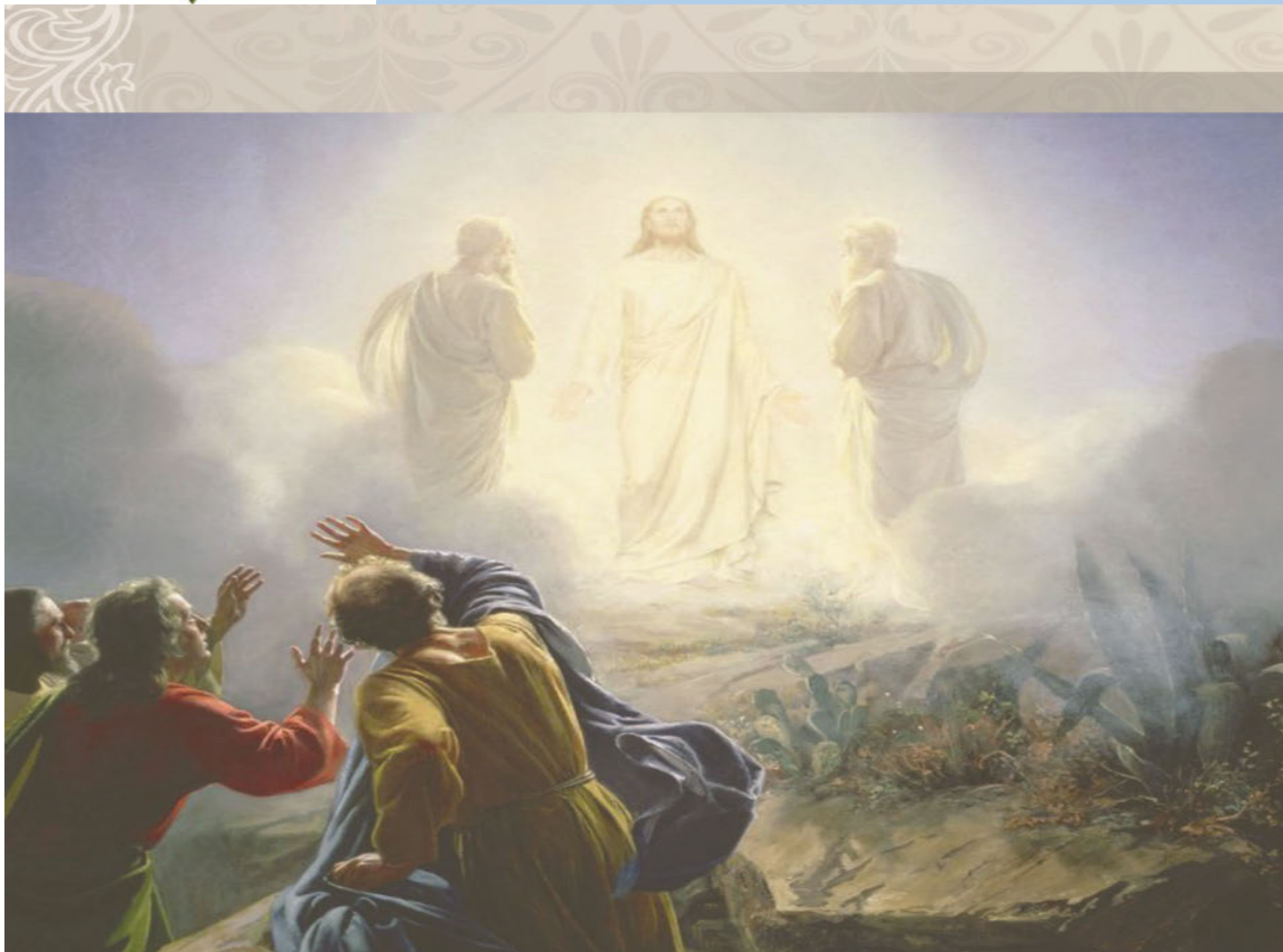


**OUR LADY OF REFUGE**, Orchard Lake MI

**Today is the Second Sunday in Lent     March 16, 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.



*2nd Sunday*  
O F L E N T

While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white. - Lk 9:29

# OUR LADY OF REFUGE

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

### WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES

#### Readings for the week of March 16, 2025

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

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/  
Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Thursday: Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21/  
Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12/  
Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Next Sunday: Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11 (8a)/1 Cor 10:1  
-6, 10-12/Lk 13:1-9 Scrutiny: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9  
(8)/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

#### Observances for the week of March 16, 2025

Sunday : 2nd Sunday of Lent

Monday: St. Patrick, Bishop [OM]; St. Patrick's Day

Tuesday: St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Wednesday: St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Lent

### PRIEST SCHEDULE

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

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

Wed 3/19: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)

Fri 3/21: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)

Sat 3/22: 5:00pm (Fr. Suresh)

Sun 3/23: 9:30am (Fr. Suresh)  
11:30am (Fr. Suresh)

Mon 3/24: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)

Tue 3/25: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)

### CONFESSIONS:

Saturday at 3:30pm

### INTENTIONS

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

Wednesday 3/19 Khiloud Yatooma (+) requested by the Zerki Family

Friday 3/21 Annie Devine (Intentions) requested by the Devine  
family  
Jim Sarb (+) requested by Connie Bayma

Saturday 3/22 Joe Panian (+) requested by Dar Panian

Sunday 3/23 (9:30) Elizabeth & Nick Suciu, Sr. (+) requested by Nick  
Suciu, Jr.  
Our Lady of Refuge Parishioners

(11:30) Leo Camardese (+) requested by his family  
Peter Torres (+) requested by his daughter

Monday 3/24 Jonas Willyard (Intentions) requested by the Divine  
family  
Pat Patterson (+) requested by Connie Bayma

Tuesday 3/25 Patricia McKay (+) requested by her friends

### LECTOR & SLIDE PROJECTION SCHEDULE

#### Saturday 3/22

Corey McIsaac  
Maggie McIsaac  
Amy Fountain\*

#### Sunday 3/23

(9:30am)

Laney Henson  
Chrissy Forester  
Suzanne Barcewicz\*

(11:30am)

Peggy Gantz  
Theresa Alzate  
Jeff Ziegenfelder\*

\*Slide Projection

# FR. SURESH, SAC

## MODERATOR OF THE FAMILY

248-682-0920 EXT. 1110

### The Second Sunday of Lent

The common theme of today's readings is metamorphosis or transformation. The readings invite us to work with the Holy Spirit to transform our lives by renewing them during Lent so that they radiate the glory and grace of the transfigured Lord to all around us by our Spirit-filled lives.

The first reading describes the transformation of Abram, a pagan patriarch, into a believer in the one God (Who would later "transform" Abram's name to Abraham), and the first covenant of God with Abraham's family as a reward for Abraham's Faith and obedience to God.

In the second reading, St. Paul argues that it is not observance of the Mosaic Law and circumcision that transforms people into Christians, and hence, that Gentiles need not become Jews to become Christians. St. Paul urges us to stand firm in our Faith and to live a life of discipleship with Jesus now, so that we may share in a glorious future later.

In the Transfiguration account in today's Gospel, Jesus is revealed as a glorious figure, superior to Moses and Elijah. The primary purpose of Jesus' Transfiguration was to allow Him to consult his Heavenly Father in order to ascertain His plan for His Son's suffering, death, and Resurrection. The secondary aim was to make Jesus' chosen disciples aware of his Divine glory, so that they might discard their worldly ambitions and dreams of a conquering political Messiah, and might be strengthened in their time of trial. On the mountain, Jesus is identified by the Heavenly Voice as the Son of God. Thus, the Transfiguration experience is a Christophany, that is, a manifestation or revelation of Who Jesus really IS. Describing Jesus' Transfiguration, the Gospel gives us a glimpse of the Heavenly glory awaiting those who do God's will by putting their trusting Faith in Him.

Life messages: 1) The "transfiguration" in the Holy Mass is the source of our strength: In each Holy Mass, the bread and wine we offer on the altar become "transfigured" or transformed (transubstantiated) into the living Body and Blood soul and Divinity of the crucified, risen, and glorified Jesus. Just as Jesus' Transfiguration was meant to strengthen the apostles in their time of trial, each Holy Mass should be our source of Heavenly strength against temptations, and for our Lenten renewal.

- 2) Each time we receive one of the Sacraments, we are transformed: For example, Baptism transforms us into sons and daughters of God and heirs of heaven. Confirmation makes us temples of the Holy Spirit and warriors of God. By the Sacrament of Reconciliation, God brings back the sinner to the path of holiness.
- 3) The Transfiguration of Jesus offers us a message of encouragement and hope: In moments of doubt and during our dark moments of despair and hopelessness, the thought of our own transfiguration in Heaven will help us to reach out to God and to listen to His consoling words to Jesus: "This is my beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased — listen to Him!" and so share the glory of His transfiguration.
- 4) We need "mountain-top experiences" in our lives: We share the mountain-top experience of Peter, James, and John when we spend extra time in prayer during Lent. Fasting for one day can help the body to store up spiritual energy. This spiritual energy can help us have thoughts that are far higher and nobler than our usual mundane thinking. (Fr. Tony's Homilies)



**Staff**

**Family-Moderator**  
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 Fr. Suresh Rajaian, SAC

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

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 Fr. Matthew Kurt  
 Fr. Raymond Arwady

**Prince of Peace**  
 Fr. Andrew Dawson

**St. Andrew Kim**  
 Rev. Seungsoo Oh

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**Evangelical Charities**  
 Joellen Shortley

**Worship**  
 Lisa Marie Blanek

**Music**  
 Joanne Gorney

**Dir. Of Rel. Ed.**  
 Tony Kreucher

**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)

**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!

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

**March 8 & 9, 2025**

**Offertory: \$8,548**  
**Online Giving: \$4,412**  
**Total: \$12,960**

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

**YTD Budgeted: \$500,610**  
**YTD Actual: \$420,832**

**Under Budget: (\$79,778)**

# WORSHIP

LISA MARIE BLANEK

248-682-0920 EXT. 1114

LBLANEK@OLORCC.ORG

*Congratulations*

to

*John Dunne*

&

*Rocio Padilla*

Who celebrated the Convalidation  
of their marriage on Saturday,  
March 8, 2025



WE CELEBRATED  
THE

*Baptism*

OF

**Anthony Steven  
Martinez**

SON OF STEVEN  
& MIRNA MARITNEZ

SUNDAY

**MARCH  
9**

2025

Melanie Naddow, a Director at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, orchestrated an incredible bowling event known as "Holy Rollers." Churches from all over our area were invited to compete in both semi-final and final roll-offs. The grand prize included a generous \$1,000 check from Lynch & Sons Funeral Homes, a year-long supply of Dutch Girl Donuts, and 365 bags of coffee courtesy of the Becharas family (their story is truly inspiring—check it out at <https://becharas.com/pages/our-history>).

The semi-final bowlers were treated to delicious pizza and salad, graciously sponsored by Shields Pizza. Public Funeral Car Service provided the pizza for the final roll-off. The open bar at both events was made possible by Santeiu Vault Company. The highest scorer from each event won a specialty liquor bottle from Off the Wagon Liquor Store, while the lowest scorer received a beautiful bouquet of flowers from Maple Lane Florist.

As an added bonus, members of the winning team received passes to Schvitz Detroit. And now, a big shout-out to our winning team: Bryan Mittelstaedt, Jon Neef, Greg Zawalski, Oscar Mittelstaedt, and Michael Blaneck.

Thank you, Team Our Lady of Refuge!





# LITURGICAL MUSIC

JOANNE GORNEY

248-418-7240

MUSIC@OLORCC.ORG



## Your Gifts, Our Worship: Join Us!

The church choir, a vibrant tapestry of voices and talents, is a testament to the dedication of the many members of the church. It's more than just singing; it's a community built on shared faith and a love for music. You might be surprised by the diverse roles that come together to create the beautiful sounds and experiences we share during worship.

Here's a glimpse into the people who make our choir and worship services possible:

- **Singers:** The heart of the choir, bringing their voices and passion to every performance.
- **Section Leaders:** Gifted individuals who guide their vocal sections, ensuring harmony and providing mentorship.
- **Cantors/Psalms:** Those who lead the congregation in song, particularly in the chanting of psalms and liturgical music, bringing a unique and powerful expression of scripture.
- **Instrumentalists:** Talented musicians who enhance our worship with their skills on various instruments.
- **Librarian:** The meticulous organizer who manages our music library, ensuring every singer and instrumentalist has the correct score.
- **Choir Secretary:** The behind-the-scenes hero who handles communication, attendance, and event planning.
- **Media Technicians:** The skilled individuals who ensure our music and spoken word reach every corner of the sanctuary, manage slide projection, and handle live streaming broadcasts, connecting our community both present and remote.

Perhaps you have a hidden talent you'd like to share? Do you have a passion for singing, a talent for organization, musical skill, or a skill in any of the technical areas listed? Our choir and worship services welcome individuals of all skill levels and backgrounds. Whether you're a seasoned musician, a tech enthusiast, or simply love to contribute, there's a place for you. Joining is a wonderful opportunity to deepen your connection to our church community, share your gifts, and contribute to the beauty and reach of our worship services. We invite you to consider how your unique talents might enrich our congregation. Come and be a part of the harmony and the connection!

# EVANGELICAL CHARITY

JOELLEN SHORTLEY, OFS

248-682-4099

ECC@OLORCC.ORG

We are continuing our Lenten outreach activities and our faith video program:

## GIVING TREE

Our Lenten giving tree donations will be supporting Another Way Pregnancy Center and Wee Care Outreach Program. These programs strive to save the lives of unborn babies at risk of abortion by serving the women and men facing unplanned or difficult pregnancies and to provide material help to women and their babies when their needs cannot be met by other organizations or public agencies. Please take one or several tags and return unwrapped gifts with tag on them by March 30th.

## RICE BOWLS

We hope those who were able to take rice bowls have started using them this past week to guide your prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Even if you did not take a rice bowl, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Rice Bowl provides resources for daily reflection throughout the liturgical season. Consider these suggestions in your family's Lenten plan:

- 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.

## BUNK BED BUILDING

We are building bunk beds with the parishioners of Prince of Peace in partnership with Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP), a nonprofit organization dedicated to building and delivering beds to children in need. SHP's mission is to address childhood bedlessness, which affects nearly 3% of the population.

The bed-building event will take place on March 29 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Livonia Public Works Building, located at 12973 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48150.

We would greatly appreciate donations to cover the cost of bed-building materials. Each bed costs approximately \$500 to make. If you'd like to make a donation, please write a check to Our Lady of Refuge with "bunk beds" in the note section. To volunteer, scan the QR code to sign up.



## FAITH PROGRAM

We are continuing our faith growth program, Metanoia. If you haven't joined us yet, we invite you to attend a session. Each video focuses on a different topic, followed by group discussions. We meet every Monday from March 17 through April 14, from 6:15 to 7:30 PM.

If you've missed a previous session or would like to watch one again, the videos are available on FORMED. If you haven't registered for FORMED yet, follow these steps to sign up and gain access to the videos. **Our parish provides all parishioners with a free subscription to FORMED.**

To access FORMED, go to <https://signup.formed.org>, enter our parish's zip code (48324), select "Our Lady of Refuge Parish," and complete your registration. Then, check your email for the link to start using the website.

That's it! You're all set. You can also download the free FORMED app for your phone by searching for "FORMED Catholic" in your app store..

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

TONY KREUCHER

248-682-0920 EXT. 1142

RE@OLORCC.ORG

On March 9, Kristina Tsao participated in the Rite of Election, led by Bishop Arturo Cepeda, at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament as part of her preparation to receive the sacraments and join the Catholic Church on the Easter Vigil.

There is a Live Session of Protecting God's Children happening on March 22nd at 9am at St. Patrick's Parish. Please encourage your fellow parishioners and school volunteers to sign up and attend this session. Register through the Virtus website, or reach out to me, Tony Kreucher - re@olorcc.org, and I can help you. Anyone involved in parish ministries - including parish staff - or volunteer work must have attended an in-person or live video session before beginning their activity, even if the role does not involve direct interaction with children. The initial certification lasts for three years, after which a shorter recorded session is required.



OLR parish member Dan Whalen will be ordained a transitional deacon on the morning of April 12. There will be a reception for him in the OLR Social hall after the regular 5pm vigil Mass, which will be the first where he is assisting. He is the first member of our parish to be ordained.

Students in the 5th grade and older are invited to volunteer to participate in a living portrayal of the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday in the afternoon. Several roles are needed for boys and for girls. Costumes will be provided. Similar to the younger students' living nativity, there will be no lines to learn, only poses. Rehearsals will be on Palm Sunday and Good Friday morning.

In April our Knights of Columbus council will be hosting a display in the social hall of Blessed Carlo Acutis and his work cataloging Eucharistic Miracles. Come and learn more about this contemporary young man who will soon be the first "Millennial" saint.

This summer's Vacation Bible School will run from July 14-17, 9am to 12pm. Students 4 years old through those who will have finished 5th grade are invited to attend. Teen assistants will be hand-picked this year.





# OUR LADY OF REFUGE NEWS AND EVENTS

## Easter Flowers

A thoughtful way to remember or honor someone this Easter, while helping to beautify our church in celebration of Jesus' Resurrection, is by making a donation to the Easter altar flowers.



Flower memorial envelopes are available in your envelope packets and can be returned either to the collection basket or the parish office. Alternatively, you may contact the parish office to make a donation.

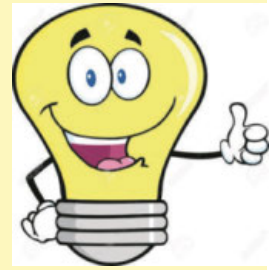
Please be sure to clearly print the names of those being memorialized. If you include a phone number, we will be able to contact you if we have any questions. For memorials honoring a living person, please add the word "living" after their name.

All memorials must be submitted by **Wednesday, April 9th** to be included in the Easter bulletin.

## Let There Be Light!

Dear Parishioners,

As many of you have noticed, the lighting in our worship space has been less than ideal—some lights are too bright, some are not working at all, and others flicker, causing discomfort. We are aware of these issues and have consulted with a lighting company to find a solution that won't break the bank.



The good news is we've received a proposal for new light fixtures that will fit into our existing fixtures, provide better fitted lights, and eliminate the harsh glare. We have 92 fixtures that need to be updated. The total cost for materials is \$1,259, with labor at \$5,520, bringing the entire project to \$6,779 – that's \$74 per light, including labor.

We're grateful to share that a generous parishioner has already donated \$1,200 toward this project (thank you, anonymous benefactor!). Now, we're reaching out to see if you'd be willing to help us improve our sanctuary by "buying a light." Donations can be mailed to the parish office or placed in the Offertory basket with a memo that reads: "Buy a Light."

We're so thankful for your ongoing support and generosity. May God bless you for your kindness!

With gratitude,

Eva Ashor, Business Manager

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



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.

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  
Harrison Lamar-Navy  
Liam Lynch-Army  
Gunnar Ottman-National Guard



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



Join us on Fridays  
for the 8:15am Mass  
followed by the  
Stations of the Cross



Join us for  
Stations & Soup  
Fridays during  
Lent @ 6:30pm

### 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  
Boxes of Tissues  
All Purpose Cleaner  
Toilet Bowl Cleaner  
Shampoo  
Conditioner  
Men's Deodorant  
Men's Body Wash  
Small Liquid Hand Soap  
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