



OUR LADY OF REFUGE, Orchard Lake MI

Today is the Forth Sunday in Lent March 30, 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.



4th Sunday O F L E N T

"He said to him, 'My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours.'" - Lk 15:31

OUR LADY OF REFUGE

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES

Readings for the week of March 30, 2025

Sunday: Jos 5:9a, 10-12/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 (9a)/2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32 Scrutiny: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (1)/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30

Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23/Jn 5:31-47

Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12/Jn 7:40-53

Next Sunday: Is 43:16-21/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 (3)/Phil 3:8-14/Jn 8:1-11
Scrutiny: Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (7)/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

Observances for the week of March 30, 2025

Sunday : 4th Sunday of Lent

Tuesday: April Fools' Day

Wednesday: St. Francis of Paola, Hermit

Friday: St. Isidore, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Saturday: St. Vincent Ferrer, Priest

Next Sunday: 5th Sunday of Lent

PRIEST SCHEDULE

Mon 3/31 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)

Tue 4/1: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)

Wed 4/2: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)

Fri 4/4: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)

Sat 4/5: 5:00pm (Fr. Suresh)

Sun 4/6: 9:30am (Fr. Suresh)
11:30am (Fr. Suresh)

Mon 4/7: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)

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

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday at 3:30pm

INTENTIONS

Monday 3/31 Nancy Fowler (+) requested by the Fowler Family

Tuesday 4/1 Patricia Martinez (+) requested by Leigh & Theresa Dushane

Wednesday 4/2 Maureen Alexandrowicz (+) requested by Joseph & Laura Salemi

Friday 4/4 Eric Devine (+) & the Devine family (Intentions) requested by Leigh & Theresa Dushane & family

Saturday 4/5 Fawzi Shaya (+) requested by the Shaya family
Our Lady of Refuge Parishioners

Sunday 4/6 (9:30) Eric Devine (+) requested by the Divine family
John McCarthy (+) requested by Nick Suciu Jr.

(11:30) Lilia Corpuz (+) requested by Fred Corpuz
Adelbina Milotta (+) requested by her family

Monday 4/7 Karen Frazier (Intentions) requested by the Fowler family

Tuesday 4/8 Catherine White (+) requested by her friends

LECTOR & SLIDE PROJECTION SCHEDULE

Saturday 4/5

Pat Seif
Liz Oras
Anthony Salem*

Sunday 4/6

(9:30am)

Jim Whalen
Alex Cintron
Steph Riney*

(11:30am)

Salenna Bahu
Selma Zara
Jon Neef*

*Slide Projection

FR. SURESH, SAC

MODERATOR OF THE FAMILY

248-682-0920 EXT. 1110

The Forth Sunday of Lent ~ Laetare Sunday

Traditionally, the Fourth Sunday of Lent is called Laetare Sunday (Rejoice Sunday). Anticipating Easter joy, today's readings invite us to rejoice by being reconciled with God through repentance and the confession of our sins and by celebrating our coming home to be with our loving and forgiving God.

In the first reading, the Chosen People of God are portrayed as celebrating, for the first time in their own land, the feast of their freedom, by using wheat that had grown in the Promised Land. In today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 34), a rejoicing Psalmist invites us, "Glorify the Lord with me; let us together extol His Name!" In the second reading, St. Paul invites the Corinthian Christian community to rejoice because Jesus has reconciled them with God by his suffering and death.

Today's Gospel celebrates the joy of the prodigal son on his "homecoming" where he discovers his father's forgiving and overflowing love. It is also the story of the joy of a loving and forgiving father who celebrates the return of his prodigal son by throwing a big party in his honor, a banquet celebrating the reconciliation of the son with his father, his family, his community, and his God. At the same time, in his self-righteous elder brother's angry reaction to the prodigal's return, Jesus invites us to avoid self-righteousness and self-justification by imitating the repentant younger brother. Let us admit the truth that we are an assembly of repentant, sinful people, who are now ready to receive God's forgiveness, to experience Jesus' Personal Presence in the Holy Eucharist as our loving and forgiving God and so to love and forgive each other making, generous and lasting peace.

Life messages: 1) Let us return to our Heavenly Father with repentant hearts: As prodigal children, we face spiritual famine all around us in the form of drug and alcohol abuse, fraud and theft in the workplace, murders, abortions and violence, pornography, premarital sex, marital infidelity, and priestly infidelity, as well as in hostility between and among people. All of these evils have proliferated because we have been squandering God's abundant blessings, not only in our country and in our families, but also in our personal lives. Hence, let us repent and return to our Heavenly Father's home.

2) Holy Mass enhances our "pass over," from a world of sin to a world of reconciliation. At every Mass, we come to our loving Heavenly Father's house as prodigal children acknowledging that we have sinned ("I confess to Almighty God"). In the Offertory, we give ourselves back to the Father, and this is the moment of our surrendering our sinful lives to God our Father. At the consecration, we hear God's invitation through Jesus: "... this is My Body, which will be given up for you... this is the chalice of My Blood ... which will be poured out for you..." (= "All I have is yours"). In Holy Communion, we participate in the banquet of reconciliation, thus restoring our full relationship with God and our fellow human beings. (Fr. Tony's Homilies)

Staff

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

Family of Parishes and
Priests in Solidum

Our Lady of Sorrows
 Very Rev. Canon Walter J. Ptak
 Rev. Jim Livingston
 Rev. Radoslaw Zablocki
 Rev. Ryan Asher

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

Prince of Peace
 Fr. Andrew Dawson

St. Andrew Kim
 Rev. Seungsoo Oh

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Parish Secretary
 Artha Horowitz

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
 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!

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)

March 22 & 23, 2025

Offertory: \$5,575
Online Giving: \$2,493
Total: \$8,068

Weekly Budget: \$13,530

YTD Budgeted: \$527,670
YTD Actual: \$438,528

Under Budget: (\$89,142)

WORSHIP

LISA MARIE BLANEK

248-682-0920 EXT. 1114

LBLANEK@OLORCC.ORG

Congratulations Leigh Dushane on your Urban Parish **Spirit Award** from the Detroit Catholic Pastoral Alliance and the Archdiocesan Cultural Ministry Office!

Leigh retired after 40 years at General Motors, where he served as the Director of Purchasing, and has since become the heart and soul of our worship liturgies. We are deeply grateful to his family for the sacrifices they've made, especially his beloved wife Theresa, with whom he is celebrating 45 years of marriage. Leigh is the proud father of John and Lauren, and the grandfather of 6-year-old Gianni. He is known for his honesty, humility, and unwavering devotion to his friends. His humility is evident in how he finds inspiration in the wisdom of his grandson.



Leigh currently serves in numerous roles within the church, including sacristan, adult altar server, usher, extraordinary minister of the Eucharist, and assistant for funeral liturgies. He is also an active member of our St. Vincent de Paul Conference, serves on the School Advisory Board, assists with tech for parish Bible Study programs, and he is one of our Adult Formation team leaders. Additionally, he heads our Money Counter teams.

Outside of his church commitments, Leigh enjoys spending time with friends, particularly at the "8:15 am breakfast club" at the Early Bird Café. He never misses an opportunity to play golf, even if it requires a plane ticket to get to the tee. Leigh is passionate about people and lives the Gospel every day. We are truly thankful for all he does for our community!

Lenten Resources

Reconciliation

Saturdays 3:30 p.m. to 4:40 p.m. @ Our Lady of Refuge

Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. @ St. Fabian

Fridays, 7:00 p.m. @ St. Fabian

Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. @ St. Fabian

Tuesday, April 8, 2025 Lenten Confessions 6:00 p.m. @ Prince of Peace

Tuesday, April 8, 2025 Lenten Confessions 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. @ Our Lady of Sorrows

Holy Week at Our Lady of Refuge

Holy Thursday—April 17th: Mass of the Lord's Supper @ 7:30 p.m. followed immediately by Adoration in the Social Hall until midnight

Good Friday—April 18th: Silent prayer @ noon, Liturgy of the Lord's Passion @ 1:00 p.m. followed by Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday—April 19th: Blessing of the Food Baskets in the Church @ 11:00 a.m.
Easter Vigil @ 8:00 p.m. (No 5:00 p.m. Mass)

Easter Sunday—April 21st: Masses at 9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

Stations of the Cross

Fridays after the 8:15 a.m. Mass

Fridays @ 6:30 p.m. followed by soup and fellowship in the Social Hall

LITURGICAL MUSIC

JOANNE GORNEY

248-418-7240

MUSIC@OLORCC.ORG



PSALM 34

**R: TASTE AND SEE THE
GOODNESS OF THE LORD.**

01.

I will bless the LORD at all times;
praise of him is always in my
mouth.
In the LORD my soul shall make its
boast;
the humble shall hear and be glad.

02.

Glorify the LORD with me;
together let us praise his name.
I sought the LORD, and he
answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free.

03.

Look toward him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This lowly one called; the LORD
heard,
and rescued him from all his
distress.

The psalmist begins with a resolute commitment to constant praise, acknowledging God's unwavering faithfulness in all circumstances. This consistent recognition of God's character flows naturally from a devoted heart.

The psalm also extends an invitation to collective worship, emphasizing the strength in shared faith and encouraging a unified expression of adoration. Uniting voices amplifies individual spiritual experiences and fosters mutual encouragement.

The psalmist then shares a personal account of seeking the Lord and finding solace and liberation from anxieties, highlighting a responsive relationship with God. Such personal experiences powerfully testify to God's active presence.

The passage further encourages focusing on the Divine, urging us to allow His grace to transform us and dispel discouragement, leading to inner peace.

Ultimately, Psalm 34 emphasizes the paramount importance of a personal relationship with God, particularly during Lent. It reminds us that He is our Savior, the ultimate source of our trust and hope. As those chosen and loved by Him, this season offers a unique opportunity to draw closer and, together, glorify the Lord.

EVANGELICAL CHARITY

JOELLEN SHORTLEY, OFS

248-682-4099

ECC@OLORCC.ORG

In the six months I have been in this position, I have been blessed to meet many amazing individuals who tirelessly give their time and talents to support Our Lady of Refuge. I am constantly impressed by the generosity and humility of our volunteers and donors. Today, I would like to recognize a few individuals, though there are many more who also deserve thanks.

A special thank you to Oscar Mittelstaedt and the Knights of Columbus for their ongoing support of our church and school. Their help comes in many forms, both big and small. We are especially grateful for their recent donation of \$1,000 to the food pantry. This donation will help us purchase 20 hams and other Easter food essentials. Additionally, Robert and May Hesano, two of our parishioners, will generously donate the other 30 hams. The Hesanos contribute to all three of our holiday meals, and we deeply appreciate their generosity.

The pantry's success would not be possible without the loving touch of Teresa Roose, who manages nearly every aspect of the pantry. We are truly grateful for Teresa's leadership, dedication, and countless hours of work. I would also like to thank all of our pantry volunteers, especially the new ones who have recently joined us. The pantry is able to continue serving families thanks to the generous contributions of Our Lady of Refuge parishioners. Your continued weekly donations make it possible for us to serve families in need, including many new individuals and families who are experiencing food insecurity.

A big thank you to Liz Oras for organizing the successful Red Cross Blood Drive on March 11. We look forward to the next one on July 22. Congratulations and thanks to Eric Biallas, a Knights of Columbus member, for reaching the milestone of donating 1,000 pints of blood during our March Blood Drive.

The Archdiocese of Detroit recently gave us the opportunity to honor two of our volunteers at a ceremony on Wednesday night at Sacred Heart Church in Detroit. We are especially grateful for the many wonderful contributions and services of Christian Service super volunteer Janice Mittelstaedt. While this summary highlights some of her dedication, it cannot fully capture the many remarkable things she does for us every day.

Janice Mittelstaedt and her family, joined our Lady of Refuge school and parish in 1995. She began working as a lunchroom supervisor at the school, and after her children graduated, she started teaching Religious Education and Vacation Bible School, roles she continues to this day. Janice served on the Parish Council for six years and currently serves on the Education and Christian Service Commissions. She is also the Lead Facilitator for Children's Liturgy of the Word. Always the first to volunteer, Jan's quite dedication makes a powerful impact, without seeking recognition.

We are incredibly grateful for all the contributions of our volunteers and look forward to welcoming even more parishioners to serve with us. If you haven't yet turned in the volunteer brochure distributed during mass last weekend, I encourage you to consider helping with one of our many ministries. With your help, we can provide even more outreach and service to those in need.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

TONY KREUCHER

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This week, I'd like to start by sharing something that I recently read about the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

I've spent many Lenten seasons believing I was praying, fasting, and giving so that I could do something for Jesus. The reality is that, instead, every Lent Jesus has desired to do something in me. The prayer practices, Lenten fasts, and extra almsgiving are only the methods by which I open myself up to this work Jesus is doing.

I fast from something so that I prevent any disordered attachments from forming that would keep me from loving Jesus well. In my fasting, I free up areas of my life where—in the absence of one thing—I can experience Christ more deeply. He wants to work in this fasting.

In my prayer, I encounter Jesus in a new way during Lent. By going to common Lenten prayers, like Stations of the Cross or a parish mission, I give Jesus opportunities to speak to me or, simply, to be with me. He wants to move in these encounters.

And when I give during Lent, whether through financial charity or serving others, I encounter Jesus within the space I create. He reminds me that he has given me the greatest gift, and as I receive, so I should give.

Lent was never about what we do for Jesus, but I've often made it that way. Instead, Lent is about the new thing that Jesus wishes to do in my life, and what I "do" is merely open up my heart to receive it.

In Jesus,

Joel Stepanek NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS
VICE PRESIDENT OF PROGRAMMING AND ADMINISTRATION

So often, when we choose to 'give up something for Lent', it becomes us testing our own willpower. How long can we go without this or that thing which we enjoy? Spoiler alert: it's pretty much always less than 40 days, even if we allow ourselves to indulge on Sunday. That's why I really like this perspective on the Lenten disciplines. Now, there's nothing wrong with testing our willpower, or building up our self-control; but is that really what Jesus is calling us to do? If all we're doing is strengthening our resolve, we're missing the point of Lent.

Instead of relying on ourselves to make a holy Lent, let us all try to rely on Jesus. Our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving should lead us to Jesus, be our way of seeking him in this penitential season. The things we do during Lent should open us to what Jesus wants to do for us and in us during Lent.

Last week, we celebrated the Solemnity of the Annunciation, when the angel Gabriel came to the Blessed Virgin Mary and told her that she would be the mother of God. I'm not expecting angels to appear to us - though if you do see one, I'd love to hear about it! But I am expecting God wants to tell us something, he has a message for every one of us. We need to be open to hearing him, we need to be quiet enough to give him the opportunity to come to us. God is a gentleman; he won't interrupt, he won't let himself in. He stands at the door and knocks. We may not be full of grace to respond, "Let it be done to me...", but may we have enough grace to listen and to give a response.

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.



**JOIN US ON TUESDAY,
APRIL 8TH AT 7:00PM**

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



Please join the
Our Lady of Refuge family
in celebrating the Ordination of
Daniel Whalen
to Transitional Deacon

Saturday April 12
5pm Mass
Reception will follow

Daniel is a graduate of Our Lady of
Refuge School and St. Mary Prep

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**

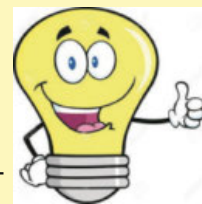


**Please contact Cora
Armitage at 248-736-6228
to add or remove a name.**

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

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

Canned Fruit
Peanut Butter
Jelly
Rice
Cereal
Diced Tomatoes
Large Cans of Hearty Soup
Macaroni & Cheese
Cans of Ravioli
Cans of Spaghetti & Meatballs

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

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