



**OUR LADY OF REFUGE**, Orchard Lake MI  
**Today is the Second Sunday of Easter    April 27, 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.



# OUR LADY OF REFUGE

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

### WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES

#### Readings for the week of April 27, 2025

Sunday: Acts 5:12-16/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 (1)/Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19/Jn 20:19-31  
 Monday: Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9/Jn 3:1-8  
 Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Jn 3:7b-15  
 Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 3:16-21  
 Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20/Jn 3:31-36  
 Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Jn 6:1-15  
 Saturday: 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Jn 14:6-14  
 Next Sunday: Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 (2a)/Rv 5:11-14/Jn 21:1-19 or 21:1-14

#### Observances for the week of April 27, 2025

Sunday : 2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)  
 Monday: St. Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr;  
 St. Louis Grignon de Montfort, Priest  
 Tuesday: St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church  
 Wednesday: St. Pius V, Pope  
 Thursday: St. Joseph the Worker; National Day of Prayer  
 Friday: St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church  
 Saturday: Sts. Philip and James, Apostles  
 Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Easter

### PRIEST SCHEDULE

Mon 4/28 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)  
 Tue 4/29: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)  
 Wed 4/30: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)  
 Fri 5/2: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)  
 Sat 5/3: 5:00pm (Fr. Suresh)  
 Sun 5/4: 9:30am (Fr. Suresh)  
 11:30am (Fr. Suresh)  
 Mon 5/5: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)  
 Tue 5/6: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)

### CONFESSIONS:

Saturday at 3:30pm

### INTENTIONS

Monday 4/28 Jack Callahan (+) requested by John Currell  
 Tuesday 4/29 Philip & Loretto Barrett (+) requested by Matthew Barrett  
 Wednesday 4/30 Michael Scott (+) requested by Mary & Tom Hassett  
 Friday 5/2 Doris Golting (+) requested by the Divine family  
 Saturday 5/3 Mary Larek (+) requested by the McKune family  
 Our Lady of Refuge Parishioner  
 Sunday 5/4 (9:30) Eleanor Rader (+) requested by Philip Rader  
 Thomas Culbertson (+) requested by the Wagener family  
 (11:30) Jim Majercik (+) requested by the Majercik family  
 Lacie Santia (+) requested by Denise Aleardi  
 Monday 5/5 Ellie Simchak (Intentions) requested by the parish family  
 Tuesday 5/6 Sally Zwicker (+) requested by her family

### LECTOR & SLIDE PROJECTION SCHEDULE

#### Saturday 5/3

Elias Escobedo  
 Suzanne Barcewicz  
 Anthony Salem\*

#### Sunday 5/4

(9:30am)

Amy Bachulis  
 Rudy Varela  
 Jon Neef\*

(11:30am)

Gabrielle Ansara  
 Reese George  
 Dan Schneble\*

\*Slide Projection

# FR. SURESH, SAC

## MODERATOR OF THE FAMILY

### 248-682-0920 EXT. 1110

#### Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

The readings for this Sunday are about God's mercy, the necessity for trusting Faith, and our need for the forgiveness of our sins. The opening prayer addresses the Father as "*God of everlasting Mercy.*" In the Responsorial Psalm (Ps 118), we repeat several times, "*His mercy endures forever!*" God revealed His mercy, first and foremost, in sending His only begotten Son to become our Savior and Lord through His suffering, death, and Resurrection. Divine Mercy is given to us also in each celebration of the Sacraments (all instituted to sanctify us), especially that of Reconciliation.

The first reading, taken from the Acts of the Apostles, explains how the Risen Lord continued to show His Divine Mercy to the sick through the healing and preaching ministry of the apostles in the early Church. The Faith of the apostles enabled them to minister to the people, giving them the Lord's healing love in "*signs and wonders.*" The second reading, taken from the Book of Revelation (given by Jesus to the Apostle John in exile on Patmos), was intended to comfort and bolster the Faith of persecuted Christians for all time. Today's selection assures us of the presence of the merciful Lord in our lives and encourages all of us to fight fear with Faith, and trepidation about the future with trust and Hope. Today's Gospel recalls Jesus' institution of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a Sacrament of Divine Mercy. The Risen Lord gave his apostles and their successors the power to forgive sins with the words, "*Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained*" (Jn 20:19-23). Presenting the doubting Thomas' famous profession of Faith, "*My Lord and my God,*" the Gospel illustrates how Jesus showed his mercy to the doubting apostle and emphasizes the importance of Faith.

**Life messages:** 1) We need to accept God's invitation to celebrate and practice mercy in our Christian lives: One way the Church celebrates God's mercy throughout the year is through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Finding time for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is another good way to receive and give thanks for Divine Mercy. But it is mainly through the corporal and spiritual works of mercy that we practice mercy in our daily lives and become eligible for God's merciful judgment.

2) Let us ask God for the Faith that culminates in self-surrender to God and that leads us to serve those we encounter with love. Living Faith enables us to see the risen Lord in everyone and gives us the willingness to render to each our loving service. The Fathers of the Church prescribe the following traditional means to grow in the living and dynamic faith of St. Thomas the Apostle: a) First, we must come to know Jesus personally and intimately by our daily and meditative reading of the Bible. b) Next, we must strengthen our Faith through our personal and community prayer. c) Third, we must share in the Divine Life of Jesus by frequenting the Sacraments of Reconciliation and receiving the Holy Eucharist. St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa) presents it this way: "*If we pray, we will believe; if we believe, we will love; if we love, we will serve. Only then we put our love of God into action.*" (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

**Parish Offices**  
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 Orchard Lake, Mi. 48324  
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**Business Manager**  
 Eva Ashor

**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](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)

**April 19 & 20, 2025**

**YTD Budgeted: \$560,370**

**YTD Actual: \$469,847**

**Under Budget: (\$68,867)**

*Thank you so much for your generous donations this Easter. Your support strengthens our parish community.*

# WORSHIP

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

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

**Alleluia!!** What an incredible Holy Week, Triduum, and Easter Sunday we've shared!

A heartfelt *thank you* to Father Suresh for leading us in such beautiful and meaningful liturgies. To our wonderful parish family—thank you for being present, for your joy, and for your prayerful participation.

Special thanks to Joanne and our amazing choir for lifting our hearts in song, and to our dedicated Ushers, Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Altar Servers, and Greeters—your service made each celebration truly special.

We're also deeply grateful to those who worked behind the scenes to transform our worship spaces throughout the week: Emily; Marge and her sister Joanne; Oscar and Jan; Stephanie; Patrick; Patch and Grace; Julie; Greg; Lucy and Elizabeth; Tony; Walt and Dianne—who crafted those stunning altar cones and leaves; Debi; Julie; Jon; Steve and Linda; Michael; Christina and Aaron. Your care and creativity made a beautiful difference!

Wishing everyone a joyful and grace-filled Easter Season—may we carry the Good News of the Gospel with us always. **Ave!!**

## **Congratulations Kristina "Therese" Tsao**

Kristina was joyfully received into the fullness of the Catholic Church, with Father Suresh beautifully affirming that her spiritual home is here at Our Lady of Refuge.

As she now enters the sacred period of mystagogy, may her journey be deeply inspiring. Through the gifts of the Holy Spirit she has received, may her faith continue to grow and bear abundant fruit in the years ahead.

Pictured from left to right -Christopher and Regina Borowicz (Godparents), Conor O'Leary, Kristina "Therese" Tsao, Pat Seif (Sponsor), Guoli Hu (mother)



# EVANGELICAL CHARITY

JOELLEN SHORTLEY, OFS

248-682-4099

ECC@OLORCC.ORG

## THANK YOU FOR HELPING US PROVIDE EASTER MEALS

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our parish and school community—and the many volunteer hours given by our Christian Service Commission and pantry volunteers—we were able to provide Easter meals to 50 families who shop at our pantry.

Because of your donations, each family received a special Easter meal that included ham, stuffing, ingredients for green bean casserole and ambrosia salad, mashed and scalloped potatoes, cranberry sauce, pancake mix and syrup, cake mix and frosting, corn muffin mix, and apple pie. We also shared Easter treats like jelly beans, chocolate crosses, and Peeps, along with our regular food pantry items.

Thank you for helping us bring the joy of Easter to so many families!

### **Special Thanks to:**

Robert and May Hesano for donating the majority of the hams.

Chuck and Melissa Christ for donating the pies

Our Lady of Refuge School for their Easter food drive collection

Parish members who provided food and monetary donations for Easter meals

Prince of Peace for their weekly donations to the pantry

St. Fabian Youth Group for a very generous donation

Teresa Roose and Julie Lewellyn for many hours of service to the pantry

All our pantry volunteers, who helped setup and provide Easter meals including: Brian Bartus  
Ruth Speth, Sue Speth, Liz Oras, Lana LaFortune, Mark Wegener, Anna Sleeman,  
Gary Lalicki, Debby Neff, Suzanne Barcewicz, Mercedes Mercado, Howie Scheer

Oscar and Jan Mittlestaedt, Matthew Barrett, Mark Maher, Cheryl and Eric Biallas for weekly help with the pantry, including Easter meals

Orchard Lake St. Mary's National Honor Society students



**Rice Bowls:** If you have not had a chance to turn in our rice bowls, we would appreciate receiving them as soon as possible.



# LITURGICAL MUSIC

JOANNE GORNEY

248-418-7240

MUSIC@OLORCC.ORG

## Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His love is everlasting

Psalm 118 is a psalm of triumph and thanksgiving, often sung during times of victory and celebration, especially during the Easter season. Verses 2-4 call on all of Israel, the house of Aaron, and all who fear the Lord to proclaim: "His mercy endures forever." This threefold repetition invites the entire people of God—clergy, laity, and all believers—to unite in one voice of praise. This recalls the communal nature of our faith, particularly in the liturgy where we together profess God's eternal mercy in the Gloria, the Eucharistic Prayer, and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. It reminds us that God's mercy is not fleeting, but everlasting and offered to all generations.

Verses 13-15 reflect a personal experience of suffering and divine rescue: "I was hard-pressed and was falling, but the Lord helped me." Many of us can relate to moments of spiritual, emotional, or physical struggle when we feel overwhelmed. Yet, in those moments, this psalm assures us that God is our strength, our courage, and our salvation. We are encouraged to turn to God in our trials, trusting that He will not abandon us. The "glad songs of victory" echo the joy of Easter, when Christ conquered death and opened the gates of salvation. We too are called to live as Easter people, full of joy even amid life's challenges, because we know the victory has already been won through Christ.

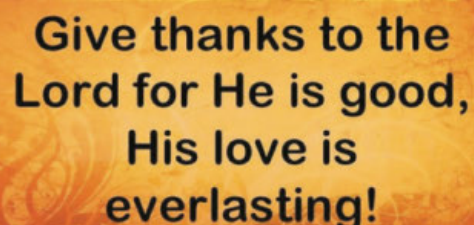
Verses 22-24 speak of the stone rejected by the builders becoming the cornerstone—a prophecy fulfilled in Jesus Christ. He, rejected by many, became the foundation of the Church and the source of our salvation. This verse is quoted multiple times in the New Testament and holds special meaning as we reflect on Christ as the cornerstone of our faith. His rejection and crucifixion, rather than being signs of failure, became the means of redemption. These verses challenge us to see how God can bring triumph out of rejection and grace from suffering.

Finally, the psalm culminates with a declaration of joy: "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." This verse is not just a poetic phrase but a call to rejoice daily in the gift of life and in the saving work of Christ. It is proclaimed with particular joy during the Easter season, but it applies to every day we are given. Let us, then, live with hearts full of thanksgiving, praising God for His enduring mercy, saving help, and the joy of His risen Son.

Let the house of Israel say,  
    "His mercy endures forever."  
Let the house of Aaron say,  
    "His mercy endures forever."  
Let those who fear the LORD say,  
    "His mercy endures forever."

The stone which the builders rejected  
    has become the cornerstone.  
By the LORD has this been done;  
    it is wonderful in our eyes.  
This is the day the LORD has made;  
    let us be glad and rejoice in it.

I was hard pressed and was falling,  
    but the LORD helped me.  
My strength and my courage is the LORD,  
    and he has been my savior.  
The joyful shout of victory  
    in the tents of the just:



**Give thanks to the  
Lord for He is good,  
His love is  
everlasting!**

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

TONY KREUCHER

248-682-0920 EXT. 1142

RE@OLORCC.ORG

Our religious education students did a fantastic job on Good Friday putting on a presentation of the Living Stations of the cross. Hopefully this will renew the tradition of the event, which the parish had put on every year when there was a large high school youth group.

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday, a feast instituted by Pope John Paul II in response to the visions of St. Maria Faustina Kowalska. The primary focus of the feast is Jesus' mercy to sinners, which people can obtain through their prayers for themselves or for others.

The Church all over the world also mourns Pope Francis, remembering his life and celebrating his contributions during his 12 years as pope. Parishes all over the diocese are holding masses for the repose of Pope Francis' soul.

There will be a conclave of the College of Cardinals in Rome to elect the next pope, starting a maximum of 15 days after the day of Pope Francis' death. All cardinals under 75 will travel to Rome to vote on the next pope - and possibly be elected themselves. Cardinals over 75 have been invited to attend and observe the conclave, but are not eligible to be elected nor can they vote in the elections.

Please pray for the Church during this time of transition, pray for the cardinals as they meet to elect a new successor of Peter, and pray for the man who will eventually be chosen.





# OUR LADY OF REFUGE

## NEWS AND EVENTS



**KNIGHTS  
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Here's how it works:

- Pick up a bottle in the gathering space the first weekend in May and fill it with coins, cash or a check made out to Mary's Mantle.
- Pray for expecting parents that they choose life for their child. (Bonus: learn about pregnancy resources in our area.)
- Return the bottle on the weekend of May 31/June 1.

**The Knights of Columbus are hosting a baby bottle drive to benefit Mary's Mantle!**



### *THANKS MOM FOR LIFE*

*During Mother's Day weekend we will be offering our mothers, grandmothers, stepmothers and Godmothers a beautiful carnation. Donations will be accepted for Right-to-Life Lifespan to support their work protecting the unborn.*



### 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.

### Attention

We are excited to enhance our liturgical environment with fresh-cut flowers each weekend and invite you to contribute \$50.00 or donate a bouquet of fresh flowers in memory of a loved one. Your generosity will be acknowledged in the bulletin with a note recognizing the person you are honoring.



To participate, please complete the form available on the shelf in the gathering space. Then, place the form in an envelope and either drop it in the collection basket or deliver it to the Parish Office.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

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.

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

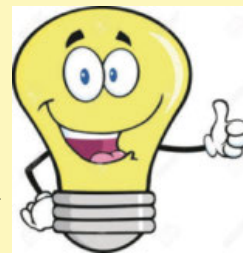


Please contact Cora  
Armitage at 248-736-6228  
to add or remove a name.

## 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.

### CARE ITEMS

Laundry Pods  
Boxes of Tissues  
All Purpose Cleaner  
Toilet Bowl Cleaner  
Shampoo  
Conditioner  
Women's Deodorant  
Men's Body Wash  
Small Liquid Hand Soap  
Men's & Women's Razors

### URGENT FOOD ITEMS

Beans—Baked & Garbanzo  
Pork & Beans  
Pasta Sauce  
Oatmeal Packets  
Jelly  
Canned Fruit & Canned Corn  
Cereal (no Cheerios)  
Large Cans of Hearty Soup  
Macaroni & Cheese  
Cans of Ravioli & Spaghetti  
Cans of Stew  
Ketchup



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