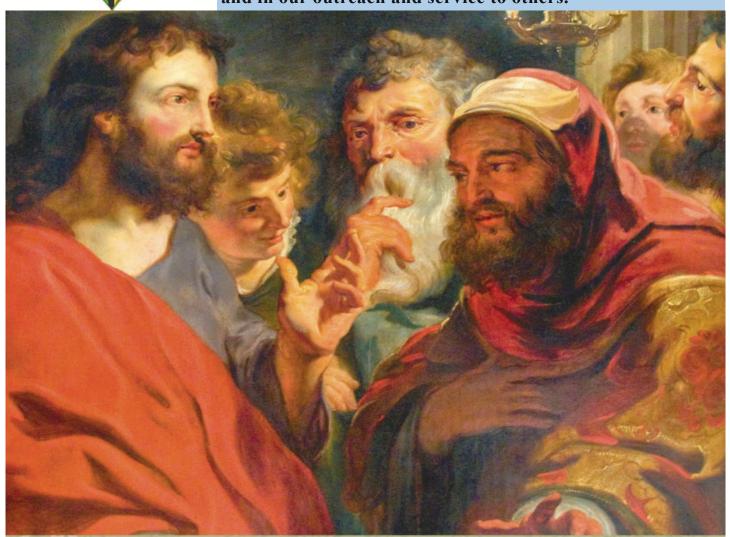


OUR LADY OF REFUGE, Orchard Lake MI Today is the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time August 24, 2025

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.



# 21st Sunday

[Jesus] answered them, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough." - Lk 13:24

# OUR LADY OF REFUGE MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

## **WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES**

## Readings for the week of August 24, 2025

Sunday: Is 66:18-21/Ps 117:1, 2 (Mk 16:15)/Heb 12:5-7, 11-13/

Lk 13:22-30

Monday: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/

Mt 23:13-22

Tuesday: 1 Thes 2:1-8/Ps 139:1-3, 4-6/Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday: 1 Thes 2:9-13/Ps 139:7-8, 9-10, 11-12ab/Mt 23:27-32

Thursday: 1 Thes 3:7-13/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5/Mt 24:42-51

Friday: 1 Thes 4:1-8 (429)/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 5-6, 10, 11-12/

Mk 6:17-29

Saturday: 1 Thes 4:9-11/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Mt 25:14-30 Next Sunday: Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 (1a)/

Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a/Lk 14:1, 7-14

## Observances for the week of August 24, 2025

Sunday: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday: St. Louis; St. Joseph Calasanz, Priest

Wednesday: St. Monica

Thursday: St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Friday: The Passion of St. John the Baptist Next Sunday: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

### PRIEST SCHEDULE

Mon 8/25: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)

Tue 8/26: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)

Wed 8/27: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)

Fri 8/29: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)

Sat 8/30: 5:00pm (Fr. Suresh)

Sun 8/31: 9:30am (Fr. Suresh)

11:30am (Fr. Suresh)

Mon 9/1: 9:00am (Fr. Suresh)

**Tue 9/2:** 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)

### **CONFESSIONS:**

Saturday at 3:30

### **INTENTIONS**

Monday 8/25 Tina Schultz (+) requested by the parish family
Tuesday 8/26 Judy LaFata (+) requested by the LaFata family

Wednesday 8/27 Thomas R. Wagener (+) requested by the Wagener

family

Friday 8/29 Tom Bayma (+) requested by Connie Bayma

Elizabeth Sans (+) requested by her children

Saturday 8/30 Don & Amy Montgomery (+) requested by Celeste

Montgomery

Paul H. McKune (+) requested by the McKune

family

Sunday 8/31 (9:30) Mary Helen Suciu (+) requested by Nick Suciu, Jr.

Mary Margaret Bosco (+) requested by Sylvia & Vince Cortina & Christine & Michael DiCarlo

(11:30) Adeeb Abbo (+) requested by the Abbo family

Our Lady of Refuge Parishioners

Monday 9/1 Judy Spicer (+) requested by the parish family

Tuesday 9/2 Myrtle Schmidt (+) requested by Hana Shina

## LECTOR & SLIDE PROJECTION SCHEDULE

### Saturday 8/30

Pat Seif Liz Oras Suzanne Barcewicz\*

## **Sunday 8/31**

(9:30am)

Jeff Armitage Cora Armitage Steve Barcewicz\*

(11:30am)

Peggy Gantz BJ Kroope Jeff Ziegenfelder\*

\*Slide Projection

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

## Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Introduction: As he continues his final journey to Jerusalem prepared for his suffering, and death, Jesus responds to a question asking how many will be saved by answering the unasked and more important questions, "How best does one enter into salvation and how urgent is it that one strive to enter now, before the Master closes the door?" Instead of asking how many will be saved, Jesus wants us to ask ourselves, "Am I prepared to be saved, choosing the narrow gate of sacrificial agape love and so loving others as Jesus loves them?"

In the first reading, Isaiah's prophecy speaks to the Babylonian exiles returning to Jerusalem after 47 years in captivity, especially to the younger members with their pagan wives, telling them that salvation is not a Jewish monopoly and that is why Yahweh welcomes the pagans also into Judaism. The prophet's great book ends as it



began, with a vision of all the peoples of the world streaming toward Jerusalem, acknowledging and praising the God of Israel. The Responsorial Psalm (Ps 117) refrain, "Go out to all the world and tell the Good News," reflects the mission of God's chosen people to be instruments of salvation to the whole world. In the second reading, exploring with his readers the consequences of Christian commitment, St. Paul explains that "the narrow gate" of Jesus means our acceptance of pain and suffering as the loving discipline God gives His children. In today's Gospel, Jesus clearly explains that anyone who follows him through the narrow gate of sacrificial service and sharing love will be saved. Jesus also admonishes his followers to concentrate on their own salvation by self-discipline rather than to worry about the salvation of others.

Catholic teaching on salvation: Salvation is a past, present, and future event. We were saved from the bondage of sin when we were baptized as children or adults. We are being saved at present, when we cooperate with God's grace by loving others as Jesus did, by sharing our blessings with the needy, and by getting reconciled with God daily, asking His forgiveness for our sins. We will be eternally saved when we hear the loving invitation from Jesus, the Judge, at the moment of our death and on the day of the Last Judgment, saying: "Good and faithful servant, you were faithful in little things enter into the joy of your Master."

**Life messages:** We need to cooperate with God's grace daily given to us: a) by choosing the narrow way and the narrow gate of self-control and self-discipline of our evil tendencies, evil habits, and addictions; b) by loving others, seeing the face of Jesus in them, and sharing our blessings with them sacrificially; c) by obtaining the daily Divine strength to practice self-control and sharing love through the guidance of the Holy Spirit in daily prayer, in Bible reading, and in reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist. (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

St. Fabian

Msgr. Tim Hogan Fr. Matthew Kurt

**Prince of Peace** 

Fr. Andrew Dawson

St. Andrew Kim

Rev. Seungsoo Oh

**Parish Offices** 

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Parish Secretary
Artha Horowitz

**Evangelical Charities**Joellen Shortley

Worship

Lisa Marie Blanek

Music

Joanne Gorney

Dir. Of Rel. Ed.

Stephanie Gordon

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!

# 2025 CSA update

Parish Target: \$120,000 Parish Target CSA Goal: \$86,216 **CSA Goal** \$86,216 YTD Pledged: \$ 64,626 YTD Pledges \$64,626 Goal Shortfall \$(21,590) Target Shortfall: \$(55,374) Registered OLR families: 767 Please donate today! Number of Pledges: 137 Participation rate: 18%

## **OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP**

(Fiscal Year: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026)

August 16 & 17, 2025

Offertory: \$9,086 Online Giving: \$3,503 Total: \$12,588

Weekly Budget: \$11,731

YTD Budgeted: \$82,117 YTD Actual: \$75,328

**Under Budget: (\$6,789)** 

## **WORSHIP**

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

## ANGEL'S PLACE

Angel's Place is dedicated to enriching the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities, particularly those with intellectual challenges, by providing the support they need to navigate daily life and achieve personal growth. Through compassionate care and encouragement, Angel's Place helps its residents reach their full potential in a nurturing, respectful environment.

On Friday, August 15, Our Lady of Refuge Catholic Church, in partnership with the Knights of Columbus Council 600, warmly welcomed Angels Place for a special Mass and celebratory banquet honoring their Miracle Softball League. Nearly 100 residents and staff attended the event, joining parishioners in a heartfelt celebration of faith, fellowship, and fun. Many church members volunteered their time to serve food, share conversations, and create a welcoming space for the guests.

The celebration served as a beautiful reminder of the joy that comes from embracing and uplifting every member of our community. It was truly a joyful event!











## **EVANGELICAL CHARITY**

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

## **Backpack Collection**

Thank you to everyone who donated backpacks and school supplies to the Oakland County Jail Outreach Ministry. This non-profit organization supports families who have a loved one in jail, as well as families who have been victims of crime. As one parishioner so beautifully said, "Children with a parent in jail deserve school supplies."

Thanks to your generosity, we collected 8 backpacks for high school students and 10 backpacks for children in kindergarten through second grade — all filled with supplies. In addition, we donated extra school supplies to help even more children prepare for the school year.



We're also grateful to the three parishioners who volunteered to help purchase school supplies for the children of two families who rely on our food pantry.

Your kindness and support are making a real difference in the lives of local children and families. Thank you!

**Food Pantry Needs Your Help:** Our Food Pantry is in urgent need of food. Over the summer, donations have dropped significantly, while the number of individuals and families relying on the pantry has increased. We are especially in need of both large and small cans of soup, cereal (excluding Cheerios), and rice.

If you have extra garden produce, we would be grateful for any fresh fruits or vegetables. Last summer, one of our parishioners generously donated a small amount of fresh vegetables each week, which made a real difference. Unfortunately, they were unable to do so this year. If you have extra corn, apples, or any other produce, please consider sharing it with the pantry.

Every donation, no matter how small, helps feed our neighbors. Please contact me if you're able to contribute fresh produce or if you have questions about what's needed most.

In addition, one of our pantry mothers recently asked for help purchasing school uniforms and shoes for her children. The children attend a tuition-free school, but they still need proper clothing to start the year with confidence. If you are able to help provide uniforms or school shoes, please get in touch.

Your continued generosity makes a meaningful impact on local families. Thank you for supporting our pantry and helping those in need.

#### **URGENT FOOD ITEMS**

Large & Regular Cans of Soup
Canned Fruit
Cereal (no Cheerios)
Canned Vegetables
Jelly
Breakfast/Granola Bars
Tuna
Rice
Pasta
Pasta Sauce
Beans—Black & Garbanzo
Dried Beans, Lentils & Peas

#### CARE ITEMS

Ketchup/Mustard

Shampoo Conditioner Women's & Men's Deodorant Women's & Men's Body Wash Toothbrushes All Purpose Cleaner Toilet Bowl Cleaner

## **LITURGICAL MUSIC**

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

# The Choir is Back This September!



Have you missed their voices at Mass?

Do not worry—our choir will return in September!

#### Rehearsals:

**Wednesdays** 

7:30-9:00 PM - Choir rehearsal

1 7:00-7:30 PM - Instrumentalists practice

If you love to sing or play an instrument, we warmly invite you to join us. Your gifts can help enrich the beauty of our liturgy.

• For more information or to join, please contact me.

We are offering a beautiful Boston Grand Piano (Model GP-178, Serial No. 115341), previously used in our church.

Boston grand pianos are designed by Steinway & Sons. They are built to Steinway's specifications but manufactured in Japan by Kawai, under Steinway's oversight.

\* Details:

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## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## STEPHANIE GORDON 248-682-0920 EXT. 1142 RE@OLORCC.ORG

## Children's Liturgy of the Word

is gearing up for a great year, starting September 7th!

During the 11:30am Mass, children between the ages of 4 and 7 will be invited to join one of our Catechists in the Social Hall to hear the Word of God proclaimed in a way that is tailored to their age group.

This is a great way to introduce your young children to Bible stories and to get them participating at Mass!

Interested in joining the Children's Liturgy team??

Please contact the Religious Education Department.

Resources provided and flexible scheduling!

It's not too late to register for Religious Education classes!



Scan here with your phone camera to register



Sessions begin on September 29th but registering early will help us get everything in order to make it a great year!

Questions?? Contact the Religious Education Office.

Stephanie Gordon

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Director
248.418.7242
reolorcc.org

Janet Boyk

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Secretary
248.682.6381
resecretaryolorcc.org

# OUR LADY OF REFUGE NEWS AND EVENTS

### Attention

We are excited to enhance our liturgical environment with freshcut 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.

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# BIBLE FOUNDATIONS



Wednesdays 6:30-8:30 pm
Our Lady of the Lakes,
Waterford

starting September 17th classes also offered fully online

get the **real** story from **real** teachers with **real** people

#### Learn More at an Info Night

Sun, Aug 24, 8-9pm (Online) | Aug 27, 7pm (OL Lakes) Tue, Sep 2, 8-9pm (Online)

web: cbsmich.org | call/text: 586-438-3085



#### OCIA is for adults who:

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- · Have never been baptized
- Have been baptized in another Christian faith and are interested in the Catholic Faith
- Are baptized Catholics who have not yet received the Sacraments of Confirmation
- Are married to a Catholic and attend Mass and would like to take the member of the Catholic Church
- Are Catholic but want to learn more about their Faith

Contact the Parish Office for more details – Phone 248-418-7212 or Email blanek@olorcc.org

> 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.

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
Nicholas Harbaugh-Marines
Shane Kelly-Air Force
Harrison Lamar-Navy
Gunnar Ottman-National Guard
Michael Pinto-Air Force
Jake Ramirez-Marines



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





Join over 200 people within 20 small groups that socialize, have snacks, watch a short video, and talk about how to live our faith in the real world. We have groups of all ages, meeting on all days of the week. Find the group that's right for you!



## Register Now thru September 12th.



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