



# OUR LADY OF REFUGE, Orchard Lake MI

Today is the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross September 14, 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.



## THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man." For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. - Jn 3:13, 17

# OUR LADY OF REFUGE

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

### WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES

#### Readings for the week of September 14, 2025

Sunday: Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38/Phil 2:6-11/  
Jn 3:13-17  
Monday: 1 Tm 2:1-8/Ps 28:2, 7, 8-9/Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35  
Tuesday: 1 Tm 3:1-13/Ps 101:1b-2ab, 2cd-3ab, 5, 6/Lk 7:11-17  
Wednesday: 1 Tm 3:14-16/Ps 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 7:31-35  
Thursday: 1 Tm 4:12-16/Ps 111:7-8, 9, 10/Lk 7:36-50  
Friday: 1 Tm 6:2c-12/Ps 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20/Lk 8:1-3  
Saturday: 1 Tm 6:13-16/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk 8:4-15  
Next Sunday: Am 8:4-7/Ps 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8 (see 1a, 7b)/1 Tm 2:1-8/  
Lk 16:1-13 or 16:10-13

#### Observances for the week of September 14, 2025

Sunday : The Exaltation of the Holy Cross  
Monday: Our Lady of Sorrows  
Tuesday: Sts. Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs  
Wednesday: St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church;  
St. Hildegard of Bingen, Virgin and Doctor of the Church  
Friday: St. Januarius, Bishop and Martyr  
Saturday: Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, Priest, and Paul Chŏng Ha-sang,  
and Companions, Martyrs [M]  
Next Sunday: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Catechetical Sunday

### PRIEST SCHEDULE

Mon 9/15: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)  
Tue 9/16: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)  
Wed 9/17: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)  
Fri 9/19: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)  
Sat 9/20: 5:00pm (Fr. Suresh)  
Sun 9/21: 9:30am (Fr. Suresh)  
11:30am (Fr. Suresh)  
Mon 9/22: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)  
Tue 9/23: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)

### CONFESSIONS:

Saturday at 3:30

### INTENTIONS

Monday 9/15 Eric Golting (Intentions) requested by the Divine family  
Tuesday 9/16 John R. Currell (+) requested by John Currell  
Wednesday 9/17 Jim (+) & Jean (Intentions) Majercik requested by the Majercik family  
Judy LaFata (+) requested by the LaFata family  
Friday 9/19 Richard Najor (+) requested by the Juliet Najor  
Saturday 9/20 Fawzi Shaya (+) requested by the Shaya family  
Brian & Kristen Fowler (Intentions) requested by the Fowler family  
Sunday 9/21 (9:30) Eileen & George McCarthy (+) requested by Nick Suci Jr.  
Robert Pelkey (+) requested by the Pelkey family  
(11:30) Our Lady of Refuge Parishioners  
Monday 9/22 Kevin Armbruster (Intentions) requested by Ana Armbruster  
Tuesday 9/23 Neil Meredith Sr. (+) requested by Gus & Sherry Pantelides

### LECTOR & SLIDE PROJECTION SCHEDULE

#### Saturday 9/20

Paula Thibideau  
Lucy Young  
Al Zara\*

#### Sunday 9/21

(9:30am)

Cora Armitage  
Jeff Armitage  
Amy Fountain\*

(11:30am)

Connie Ayar  
Elizabeth Ayar  
Jon Neef\*

\*Slide Projection



**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**  
 3725 Erie Dr.  
 Orchard Lake, Mi. 48324  
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 (Fax) 248.682.3794  
 Website: [www.olorcc.org](http://www.olorcc.org)  
 Email: [secretary@olorcc.org](mailto:secretary@olorcc.org)

**Business Manager**  
 Eva Ashor

**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](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!

**2025 CSA update**

**OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP**  
 (Fiscal Year: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026)

**September 7 & 8, 2025**

**Offertory: \$8,194**  
**Online Giving: \$4,143**  
**Total: \$12,337**

**Weekly Budget: \$11,731**

**YTD Budgeted: \$117,310**

**YTD Actual: \$105,673**

**Under Budget: (\$11,637)**

# PARISH PICNIC

We hope you were able to attend the parish picnic on September 7. God blessed us with a beautiful day, great attendance, plenty of food, fun activities, and an amazing group of volunteers. Thank you to all our parishioners and their families who spent time with us on Sunday afternoon.

A huge thank you to Liz Oras, who volunteered to spearhead the picnic. She worked tirelessly, along with her committee of Stephanie Riney, Oscar Mittelstaedt, Jim and Val Whalen, Mark Wagener, and Joellen Shortley. Many other volunteers spent the day working in the kitchen and outside. Special thanks to the Knights of Columbus for donating and cooking the hamburgers and hot dogs, and for providing beverages. Thank you to members of the Christian Service Commission who helped, as well as volunteers from Our Lady of Refuge School and Orchard Lake St. Mary's. We greatly appreciated all the delicious food donated by parishioners. As you can see from the pictures, it was a wonderful day. Thank you again, Liz!

— With Gratitude and Prayers, Fr. Suresh



Picnic Committee  
Stephanie Riney, Joellen Shortley  
Liz Oras, Mark Wagener, Oscar Mittelstaedt  
(not pictured Jim & Val Whalen)



# PARISH PICNIC



Continued on page 10



# WORSHIP

LISA MARIE BLANEK

248-682-0920 EXT. 1114

LBLANEK@OLORCC.ORG

## What does the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross celebrate?

According to the ORDO – Order of Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours and Celebration of the Eucharist, “This feast celebrates a double anniversary. In Jerusalem, Constantine erected a round church, the Anastasis, above the empty grave of Jesus, and a basilica, the Martyrium; in the square between the two churches, a shrine, Calvarium, marking the place of the crucifixion. Dedicated in 335, they were destroyed by the Persians in 614. The two churches were rebuilt by Patriarch Modestus of Jerusalem c. 626 but were later destroyed by the Muslims in 1009. The present church of the Holy Sepulcher, rebuilt by the Crusaders, was dedicated in 1149. Today also commemorates the discovery of the Lord’s cross by the empress, St. Helena (18 Aug.), in 320.

## What are the lessons of the feast of the exaltation of the cross?

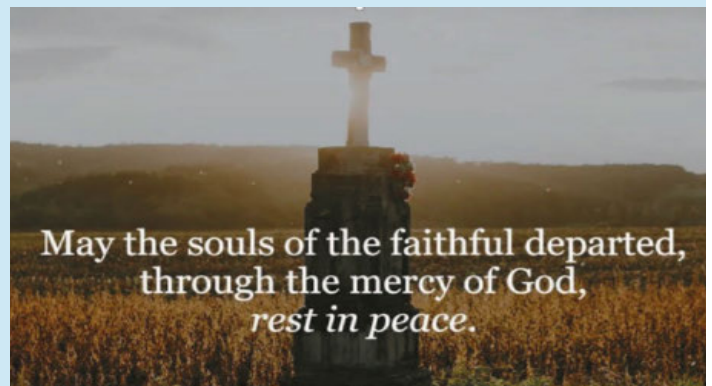
“The Cross, a cruel instrument of torture and death, is now the symbol of God's perfect love, further magnifying that love and showcasing God's infinite power to use the worst for the best: to use death to bring life and to transform the greatest act of cruelty ever known into the greatest act of mercy ever bestowed.” (posted from Archdiocese of Jaro)

## What visual images of the cross do you have?

The crucifix leads our procession at every Mass. The crucifix identifies us as Catholic when we wear it around our neck. Many of us place the crucifix on the walls of our homes often above thresholds. All of these are to remind us of the great love and mercy God bestowed on us.

## What follows the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross?

The Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows is a time when we remember seven particular sorrows that our Holy Mother suffered. These are: Simon’s prophecy at the presentation of Jesus in the temple; the flight into Egypt; the disappearance of the boy Jesus in Jerusalem; the road to Calvary; the crucifixion; the removal of Jesus from the cross; and His entombment.



**Born to Eternal Life**  
**Friday, September 5, 2025**  
**Edward Francis Cassidy**

**Loving husband of Linda (Najor) Cassidy**  
**Loving father of Sean, Deirdre,**  
**Edward Jr., & Delilah**

**His Funeral Mass was held on Monday, September 8th**  
**Mass Celebrated by: Fr. Daniel Cassidy**

**Our parish family extends its heartfelt sympathy**  
**and prayers to his family and friends.**

# LITURGICAL MUSIC

JOANNE GORNEY

248-418-7240

MUSIC@OLORCC.ORG

## A New Song in Our Hearts: The Mass of St. Ann

Over the past two weekends, you may have noticed a new and joyful sound filling our church as we introduced the **"Mass of St. Ann"**. This is a beautiful and contemporary musical setting for the liturgy, composed by the talented musician Ed Bolduc. It was chosen to inspire and encourage full, active participation from every person in our pews, helping us to collectively lift our voices in prayer and praise.

The **"Mass of St. Ann"** stands out for its vibrant, uplifting style, with a modern, guitar-driven sound that makes it both engaging and easy to learn. Ed Bolduc, who is also the editor of the popular hymnal *"Voices as One"*, has a deep understanding of music for worship. He specifically wrote this Mass to be a versatile setting that can be led by either a full contemporary band or simply a piano and guitar, making it adaptable for various liturgical moments. The music features rich, three-part vocal harmonies that are designed to support and strengthen the singing of the entire congregation.

As we journey together through the liturgical year, we will be using this new setting for all the key parts of the Mass. This includes the Gloria, the Holy, Holy, Holy, the Memorial Acclamations, the Great Amen, and the Lamb of God. We will be singing these parts right through the end of our liturgical year on November 23rd, the Solemnity of Christ the King.

This joyful setting is intended to help lift our spirits and fill us with hope as we approach the end of the liturgical year and look forward to the new year with the season of Advent. Just as the music builds our anticipation, the season of Advent prepares our hearts for the coming of Christ. Learning and singing this new Mass together is a wonderful opportunity for us to grow as a unified worshipping community and to deepen our shared spiritual experience.

We are so glad to bring this joyful addition to our worship, and we invite you to open your hearts and voices to this new song of praise. May it help us all to feel more connected to one another and to God.



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

STEPHANIE GORDON

248-682-0920 EXT. 1142

RE@OLORCC.ORG

The Religious Education department was represented at the parish picnic last weekend! We had a great time decorating pumpkins and introducing the Virtue Project topic for religious education classes to the parish attendees.

Thank you to our volunteers, Jan Mittelstaedt and Teresa Roose along with several others for organizing a lovely display of all things "Religious Ed".



## Catechetical Sunday is September 21st!

All catechists and teachers from our parish and school will be gathering for a special blessing and commissioning next weekend during the 9:30 Mass.

***Do you have a child in grade 1-8?***

Religious Education classes and Sacrament preparation begin on **September 29th** at **6:00pm** in the **social hall**.



**Please register today to  
ensure that your child won't miss out!**

**Stephanie Gordon**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Director

248.418.7242

re@olorcc.org

**Janet Boyk**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Secretary

248.682.6381

resecretary@olorcc.org



# OUR LADY OF REFUGE

## NEWS AND EVENTS

### 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.

*Thank You for  
your generosity*

*Flowers for the week of  
September 7<sup>th</sup> were  
graciously donated by  
the Bachulis family  
in loving memory of  
Marge Belle*



### 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



The Rescue Project seeks to proclaim the gospel in a compelling and attractive way over eight weeks in a small group format. All adults and teens are invited to join us in discovering the story. The adventure you were born for beckons!

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featuring  
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Join us on Thursdays  
evenings beginning  
on September 11<sup>th</sup> in  
the social hall  
Time: 6:30



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OCIA is for adults who:

- Are interested in learning about the Catholic Faith
- 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  
lblank@olorcc.org



# PARISH PICNIC

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**  
**Michael Pinto-Air Force**  
**Jake Ramirez-Marines**



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



## Food Pantry

Thank you for your increased support of the pantry over the past few weeks. We're in a better position now, especially thanks to two large food donations from Prince of Peace, who provided nearly 2,000 pounds of food this week.

We are still in need of:

- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Pasta & Pasta Sauce
- Breakfast/Granola Bars
- Ketchup & Mustard

And the listed personal care items.

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