



# OUR LADY OF REFUGE, Orchard Lake MI

Today is the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time November 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.



## 33<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"It will lead to your giving testimony. Remember, you are not to prepare your defense beforehand, for I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute." - Lk 21:13-15

# OUR LADY OF REFUGE

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

### WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES

#### **Readings for the week of November 16, 2025**

Sunday: Mal 3:19-20a/Ps 98:5-6, 7-8, 9 (see 9)/2 Thes 3:7-12/  
Lk 21:5-19

Monday: 1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63/Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 150,  
155, 158/Lk 18:35-43

Tuesday: 2 Mc 6:18-31/Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Lk 19:1-10

Wednesday: 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31/Ps 17:1bcd, 5-6, 8b and 15/Lk 19:11-28

Thursday: 1 Mc 2:15-29/Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15/Lk 19:41-44

Friday: 1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59/1 Chr 29:10bcd, 11abc, 11d-12a,  
12bcd/Lk 19:45-48

Saturday: 1 Mc 6:1-13/Ps 9:2-3, 4 and 6, 16 and 19/Lk 20:27-40

Next Sunday: 2 Sm 5:1-3/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5 (see 1)/Col 1:12-20/  
Lk 23:35-43

#### **Observances for the week of November 16, 2025**

Sunday: 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday: St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious

Tuesday: The Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts. Peter and Paul,  
Apostles; St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, Virgin

Friday: The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Saturday: St. Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr

Next Sunday: Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

### PRIEST SCHEDULE

**Mon 11/17: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)**

**Tue 11/18: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)**

**Wed 11/19: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)**

**Fri 11/21: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)**

**Sat 11/22: 5:00pm (Fr. Suresh)**

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

**Mon 11/24: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)**

**Tue 11/25: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)**

### CONFESSIONS:

**Saturday at 3:30**

### INTENTIONS

Monday 11/17 Pat Pelkey (+) requested by Terri & Doug Peirce  
Najiba Houbba (+) requested by Hana Yono

Tuesday 11/18 Jeanette DeConick (+) requested by the parish family  
Sabri Houbba (+) requested by Hana Yono

Wednesday 11/19 Colin Zerki (+) requested by the Zerki family  
William Hughes (+) requested by Leigh & Theresa  
Dushane  
Myrtle Schmidt (+) requested by the McKune family

Friday 11/21 Erik Willyard (Intentions) requested by the Devine  
family  
Irene Bayma (+) requested by Connie Bayma

Saturday 11/22 Fawzi Shaya (+) requested by the Shaya family  
Our Lady of Refuge Parishioners

Sunday 11/23 (9:30) Donovan Angela (Intentions) requested by Charlotte  
Gamble  
Mary Margaret Bosco (+) requested by Carolyn &  
Paul Wetzl

(11:30) Judy LaFata (+) requested by the LaFata family  
Francis Umeana (+) requested by Celestina Umeana  
& children

Monday 11/24 Hayat & Faraj Yono(+) requested by Hana Yono

Tuesday 11/25 Neil Meredith Sr. (+) requested by Gus & Sherry  
Pantelides

### LECTOR & SLIDE PROJECTOR SCHEDULE

#### Saturday 11/22

**Mary Bee  
Elias Escobedo  
Amy Fountain\***

#### Sunday 11/23

**(9:30am)**

**Jeff Armitage  
Cora Armitage  
Steph Riney\***

**(11:30am)**

**Olivia Arafat  
Peggy Gantz  
Suzanne Barcewicz\***

**\*Slide Projection**

# FR. SURESH, SAC

## MODERATOR OF THE FAMILY

248-682-0920 EXT. 1110



ARCHBISHOP OF DETROIT

November 15, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Since arriving in Detroit this past March, I have had the great joy of meeting many of you at parish celebrations, diocesan gatherings, Mass, and other liturgies. In every encounter, I have seen something truly beautiful. I have witnessed your deep love for Christ, your local parish, and our Archdiocese. I also have witnessed your intense desire to see the Church of Detroit flourish for generations to come.

Along with our many blessings, I have also heard the candid expression of your concerns and your understanding of the challenges we face now and into the future. Please know that I hear you and that I see these challenges, too. Many of our churches were built during a time of tremendous growth, when more than 1.5 million Catholics called this Archdiocese home. Today, our Catholic census is closer to 900,000, with a smaller number regularly attending Mass. We have been struggling to maintain buildings, ministries, and structures that were designed for a much larger Church. The situation that unfolded in the last 50 years has left us stretched—sometimes stretched too thinly to serve as well as we want. Moreover, as we struggle to care for buildings and parish structures where there are very few people, we are also seeking to ensure the presence of the Church as we follow the Catholic population in those areas where the Church is growing.

While I believe that our commitment to Christ and his Church means that we must face these challenges, I do not believe that this moment in time need be marked primarily by anxiety or despair. Rather, I believe the situation we are facing is one that holds real and blessed opportunities. I believe with all my heart that God is inviting us to reimagine parish life, priestly ministry, and our mission. I believe God is asking us to face our future with creativity and deeper faith and trust that if we ask Him, then He will show us the way toward building something vibrant, sustainable, and enduring into the future.

This is why I am inviting every Catholic in our Archdiocese to join me in a serious two-year process of Archdiocesan restructuring. It will be a journey of discernment that I believe we can accomplish only together—a time for us to chart the best path forward for each of our parish communities and regions. In such an endeavor, every voice matters, just as every prayer matters. The end result will affect each parish and community of our Archdiocese, so each of you has a part to play in shaping the future of our Church.

Continued on page 5

**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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 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)

**2025 CSA update**

Parish Target: \$120,000

CSA Goal: \$ 86,216

YTD Pledged: \$ 86,356

Goal Overage: \$ 140

Target Shortfall: \$(33,644)

Registered OLR families: 767

Number of Pledges: 191

Participation rate: 25%



**Hurray!**

**Hurray. hurray. hurray!**

**Hurray!**

We did it! Our parish has officially closed the gap and reached the CSA goal of **\$86,216** (and even a bit beyond)! Thanks to an incredible generosity of all 191 participating families, no withdrawal from savings will be needed this year.

Last year, your CSA gifts helped us exceed the goal by \$14,000 and install the beautiful electronic sign at our church entrance. This year, we have set our **Parish Target again at \$120,000**, hoping to raise extra funds for a much-needed project: **repairing and resurfacing the church parking lot approach from Commerce Road**. As you have surely noticed, this project has been completed without waiting for the CSA refund. The situation was urgent, and the safety of our parishioners and school families was our top priority, especially with the winter season fast approaching. This came at a cost of \$32,400. With help from the school community and their direct donations covering **\$7,400**, the parish funded the remaining **\$25,000**. Thank you to everyone who helped lighten that load!

Now that we've met our CSA goal, let's keep the momentum going! You may have noticed that our weekly offertory is running low (\$20K below budget) and we are not meeting our weekly needs. If you have been giving the same offertory amount over many years, please consider raising it a bit. Every little increase can make a big difference. Together, we can keep our parish thriving and our ministries growing.

**Thank you for your faith, generosity, and joyful stewardship!**

- Fr. Suresh

**OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP**

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

**November 8 & 9, 2025**

Offertory: \$5,791

Online Giving: \$3,758

Total: \$9,549

Weekly Budget: \$11,731

YTD Budgeted: \$222,889

YTD Actual: \$202,428

**Under Budget: (\$20,461)**

Continued from page 3

It is important to be honest about what this restructuring may bring. We know that we cannot maintain the same number of parish buildings that we have today. Some parish communities may see changes in how or where they gather, while others may be called to see church buildings closed—structures that have been dear to their hearts for generations. But just as there will be mourning over losses or changes in parish life, there likewise will be new blessings with enhanced locations, renewed communities, and the ability to redirect our efforts toward sharing the Gospel and making disciples. I believe that as we work to *right-size* the Archdiocese and reallocate our personnel and financial resources, the footprint of the Church's presence—her mission, her faith, and her people—will remain.

Our work will be guided primarily by three key pillars:

- **Vibrant parishes:** We want every parish to be a living heartbeat of faith, where people encounter Christ, grow in discipleship, and build real community.
- **Flourishing priests:** Our priests are at the heart of parish life. They must be supported and free to focus on what they do best: preaching the Gospel, celebrating the Sacraments, and caring for the faithful.
- **Mission ready:** By realigning our clergy and financial resources wisely, we will bring the joy of Christ to the next generation with energy and purpose. We will hand the next generation a Church that is vibrant, thriving, and alive in every way.

Next spring, each parish will host two listening sessions where you will have a chance to share your insights, hopes, and dreams for the future of your local parish and the Archdiocese. In the meantime, I ask for your prayers. Special prayer cards will be made available for this purpose at each parish. You can also access the prayer at [restructuring.aod.org](http://restructuring.aod.org), along with other resources related to this effort.

Additionally, every step of the restructuring will be covered in *Detroit Catholic*, the Archdiocese's free online news source. The best way to be kept up to date with how our restructuring unfolds is to sign up to get *Detroit Catholic* delivered to your email inbox either daily or weekly at [detroitcatholic.com/subscribe](http://detroitcatholic.com/subscribe).

Brothers and sisters, thank you for your generosity of time, prayer, talent, and faith. Together, and with God's grace, we will fashion a Church in this Archdiocese that is vibrant, flourishing, and fully alive in the mission of the Gospel.

May God bless you abundantly.



Most Reverend Edward J. Weisenburger  
Archbishop of Detroit

### AOD Restructuring Parish Key Leaders

Leigh Dushane  
Anne Dziuba  
Tadd Klimmek

Jan Mittelstaedt  
Jim Whalen  
Stephanie Gordon (Staff)

# WORSHIP

LISA MARIE BLANEK

248-682-0920 EXT. 1114

LBLANEK@OLORCC.ORG

## Thank You for Celebrating All Souls Day

We would like to thank all the families who attended our All Souls Day celebration. This Mass helps us remember our loved ones who have passed and the eternity they now share with God. As the names were read from our All Souls Board, members and friends of our community came forward and lit a candle in their honor. All of us have experienced some form of loss, and these solemn moments allowed us to reflect and thank God for the gift of life and for His promise of resurrection—for our neighbors and for ourselves.

## The Book of the Dead

Many of you have already entered the names of your loved ones who have passed since last November into these pages. This book will remain available for your use throughout the entire month. Please feel free to take a moment to read the names listed and offer a prayer for their journey into Heaven. What a privilege it is for us to assist in helping souls move from purgatory to Heaven. Ave!



JOIN US ON TUESDAY,  
NOVEMBER 18TH AT 7:00PM

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

# EVANGELICAL CHARITY

JOELLEN SHORTLEY, OFS

248-682-4099

ECC@OLORCC.ORG

## GIVING TREE

We would appreciate you considering participating in our Giving Tree outreach collection. The Giving Tree will be up this weekend with tags to select gifts for ten different charitable ministries. Please return all gifts with the tag attached. Please return unwrapped gifts for Crossroads by November 30, as Crossroads parents will be selecting gifts for their children on December 1. All other gifts are due by December 8.

### Gifts would be appreciated for the following ministries:

Pink: **Abigayle Ministries** is a Christian non-profit organization that assists adult pregnant women and their children to Jesus Christ and equips them to be self-sufficient through its residential housing program.

Gold: **Capuchin Soup Kitchen** is a Franciscan ministry in Detroit that feeds the hungry by inspiring minds and nourishing spirits.

Turquoise: **Christian Service Our Lady of Refuge** supports our charitable outreach programs including our food pantry, funeral luncheons, bereavement support, military outreach and collaboration with St. Vincent DePaul for financial assistance to individuals and families.

Red- **Crossroads of Michigan** provides warm meals and clothing to homeless individuals. We are providing toys for Crossroads families to select as Christmas presents for their children. **Gifts due November 30.** Please place **unwrapped gifts** under the Giving Tree.

Ivory: **Grace Centers of Hope** is a Christian organization committed to positively changing the lives of the unwanted, addicted, and homeless through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, personal accountability, life skills education, and work-related programs.

Light Green: **Kids Empowered on the Move** Provides food and cash assistance to help with rent, utilities and other needs. They provide clothing and other household supplies and foster literacy through a Book Buddy Program.

Light Teal: **Matchan Nutrition Center** is a catholic organization and a USDA-approved nutrition center affiliated with St. Vincent de Paul and located in downtown Pontiac. They provide hot meals, food staples and connections to resources to assist those in need.

Dark Blue: **Mary's Children Family Center** serves individuals with brain injuries and intellectual/developmental issues and their families by providing academic, social and recreational activities in a Christian environment in the community. non-profit

Lavender: **Open Door Outreach Center** provides emergency food, clothing and referral information to people in need. It was started by St. Patrick's Church in White Lake.

Grey- **The Society of St Vincent DePaul Our Lady of Refuge Conference** puts faith into action through person-to-person outreach to the needy in and around our community.

**Please remember that gifts for Crossroads are due on November 30. All other gifts are due by December 8. Thank you for your consideration and generosity.**

# LITURGICAL MUSIC

JOANNE GORNEY

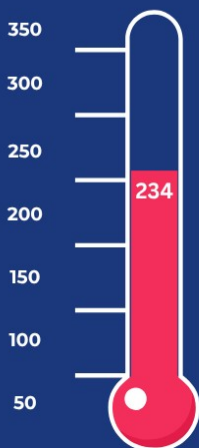
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## HYMNAL CAMPAIGN

✦ Thank you so much for your incredible generosity and support of our hymnal campaign! Your donations are deeply appreciated.

We are excited to announce that your personalized hymnal is now ready! We kindly invite you to arrive 30 minutes before Mass next weekend to pick up your hymnal and place it in your chosen pew before mass begins.



## *Psalm 98: The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice*

As the Church's year draws toward its close, the tone of our worship shifts gently from the ordinary to the eternal. This Sunday calls us to lift our eyes from the fleeting things of this world and look toward the everlasting kingdom of God. The psalm for today speaks of God's righteous rule and the joy of all creation before the coming of the Lord — a reminder that the end of time is not a moment to dread, but a promise to hope for. God's justice is not punishment, but restoration — the setting right of all things in love.

Our hymns this weekend echo that great promise. "The King Shall Come" paints a picture of light breaking through darkness — the dawn of Christ's glory transforming the weary world. "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" invites us to enter that holy stillness where heaven meets earth in the mystery of the Eucharist. "We Shall Rise Again" gives voice to our hope that even death will be conquered by life, that sorrow will yield to joy. And "Rejoice, the Lord Is King" sends us forth with hearts uplifted, proclaiming that Christ already reigns in our midst.

As the year winds down and the world around us grows colder and still, may our hearts be warmed by this hope: that the King who will come in glory is the same Lord who feeds us at His table, walks beside us in our struggles, and promises to raise us up on the last day.

## JOIN US FOR THE ADVENT-CHRISTMAS CONCERT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13 @ 3:30  
DETAILS TO FOLLOW

# OUR LADY OF REFUGE

## NEWS AND EVENTS

### Christmas Flowers

A thoughtful way to remember or honor someone this Christmas, while helping to beautify our church in celebration of Jesus' birth, is by making a donation to the Christmas 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 **Tuesday, December 16th** to be included in the Christmas bulletin.



How do we share our faith with others? Sharing our personal testimony is one technique of sharing the good news of the Gospel with others.

Join us for the **Personal Testimony Workshop** — a safe and supportive space to learn and practice this valuable skill. The workshop will be led by Lauryn (Coules) Cash

When: Thursday, November 20th  
Time: 6:30 pm  
Where: OLR Social Hall

RESTRUCTURING.AOD.ORG

## Prayer for Archdiocesan Restructuring

Come, Holy Spirit.

Make your presence known  
as we restructure the parishes and ministries  
of our archdiocese.

Be our light on the path we walk together.  
Help us hear your voice  
in the quiet of our own hearts,  
in the wisdom of others,  
and in the world around us.

We know you are with us  
in every step of the process.  
Give us clarity, understanding, and direction.  
In all things, help us share the light of your love. Amen.

Ste. Anne, pray for us.  
Blessed Solanus Casey, pray for us.  
Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us.



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  
Beanica Raymond - Army



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



## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER

Please Join Us On  
Saturday, December 13, 2025  
following the 5:00 PM Mass  
In the Social Hall

RSVP by November 26th  
at the Parish Office  
248-682-0920  
secretary@olorce.org



## PREPARE FOR JESUS with

# Waiting WELL

ADVENT with FR. MIKE SCHMITZ



Advent can often feel like a countdown to Christmas, a time of frantically getting ready for the holidays. In fact, this liturgical season is all about waiting—not for a short-lived celebration, but for a person.

Waiting doesn't need to be passive. It can be active preparation, a beautiful opportunity to open the door of your heart to welcome Jesus into every part of your life.

This Advent, join Fr. Mike Schmitz as he shows you how to invite Christ in and share in his lasting peace.

*Waiting Well* is a prayer journal designed to help you slow down for 10 to 15 minutes a day during the Advent season. Through Fr. Mike's daily reflections, you'll learn how to joyfully anticipate Christmas, so that when Christ comes, you're ready to meet him in the manger.

In addition to the *Waiting Well* journal, there is also a *Waiting Well* Advent program in the Ascension app. When you subscribe, you'll get exclusive daily videos in which Fr. Mike brings each journal reflection to life, deepening your experience.

Sign-ups will take place on the weekends of November 15–16 and November 22–23. Participants will complete a self-study, with the option to join one of the Small Group Meetings to enrich the experience.

The Small Groups will meet in the Social Hall on:

Tuesday mornings: December 2, 9, and 16, from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.

Thursday evenings: December 4, 11, and 18, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

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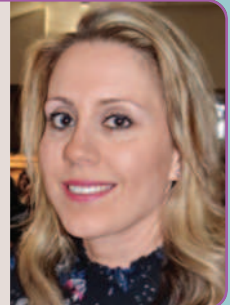
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