



# OUR LADY OF REFUGE, Orchard Lake MI

Today is the Second Sunday of Advent      December 7, 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.



• 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT •

# REPENT

# OUR LADY OF REFUGE

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

### WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES

**Readings for the week of December 7, 2025**

Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 (see 7)/Rom 15:4-9/  
Mt 3:1-12

Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/  
Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/  
Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/  
Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Next Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 (see Is 35:4)/  
Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

**Observances for the week of December 7, 2025**

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent

Monday: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Tuesday: St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

Wednesday: Our Lady of Loreto

Thursday: St. Damasus I, Pope

Friday: Our Lady of Guadalupe

Saturday: St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent

### PRIEST SCHEDULE

**Mon 12/8: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)**  
**7:00pm (Fr. Suresh)**

**Tue 12/9: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)**

**Wed 12/10: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)**

**Fri 12/12: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)**

**Sat 12/13: 5:00pm (Fr. Suresh)**

**Sun 12/14: 9:30am (Fr. Suresh)**  
**11:30am (Fr. Suresh)**

**Mon 12/15: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)**

**Tue 12/16: 8:15am (Fr. Suresh)**

### CONFESSIONS:

**Saturday at 3:30**

### INTENTIONS

Monday 12/8 (8:15) Ralph Shefferly (+) requested by the parish family  
(7:00) Roy Scott (+) requested by Mary Ann Scott

Tuesday 12/9 Bob & Pat Pelkey (+) requested by Terry & Doug Peirce

Wednesday 12/10 Paul Bishop (Intentions) requested by the Majercki family  
Mary Currell (+) requested by John Currell

Friday 12/12 For a soul in purgatory in most need of prayer requested by his friends

Saturday 12/13 John Truskowski (Intentions) requested by the Crawford family  
Rose Marie Winslow (+) requested by the Hall family

Sunday 12/14 (9:30) Lucia Tran (+) requested by Stephanie Le & family  
Our Lady of Refuge Parishioners  
(11:30) James Kowalczyk (+) requested by the Kowalczyk family

Monday 12/15 William Hughes (+) requested by Leigh & Theresa Dushane

Tuesday 12/16 Kevin Armbruster (Intentions) requested by Ana Armbruster

### LECTOR & SLIDE PROJECTOR SCHEDULE

#### Saturday 12/13

**Suzanne Barcewicz**  
**Pat Seif**  
**Steve Barcewicz\***

#### Sunday 12/14

**(9:30am)**

**Laney Henson**  
**Chrissy Forester**  
**Steph Riney\***

**(11:30am)**

**Reese George**  
**Gabrielle Ansara**  
**Jeff Ziegenfelder\***

\*Slide Projection

# FR. SURESH, SAC

## MODERATOR OF THE FAMILY

248-682-0920 EXT. 1110

### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

One of the aspects of our human nature is that we can see the flaws and deficiencies in other people. On the other hand, we usually fail to see the shortcomings in ourselves. It's so easy to see the faults and sins of others – while being completely unaware of our own! What is noteworthy, is that very often, we project our own, denied faults upon others when we judge and criticize them. We can see this in the political world around us which is in such disarray. Heads of state, political parties, and other groups often condemn their opponents. Yet, this can be for the same flaws that they deny in themselves. And today, all this rhetoric has escalated almost to the point of military hostility and warfare.

In the Gospel of Matthew, John the Baptist called for everyone to repent. The Lord God was about to make His appearance. And people needed to be prepared. John called them to acknowledge their sins – He called them to repentance and change. Because there was no other way to escape the wrath of God that was coming. John especially singled out the Pharisees and the Sadducees. They were wealthy – They were in leadership positions – They lived comfortable, insulated lives. But they had no care or concern for all the problems of ordinary people. Consequently, they needed to humble themselves, acknowledge their sins, and repent with everyone else. The One who was coming was searching for goodness and truth. This was a real generosity toward others – and sincere honesty about oneself. The baptism he would bring was the fire of God's cleansing grace, along with the wisdom and love of the Holy Spirit!

The passage from Isaiah speaks of Jesus, 7 centuries before his birth. Jesus would be filled with all the gifts of the Holy Spirit. His delight would be in the fear of the Lord. But this fear was not a paralyzing dread – Instead, it would be a profound sense of awe and reverence for God and for His divine majesty. This, certainly, was the way that Jesus lived his life. It continues to be a model for everyone of us to emulate and follow. Additionally, unlike ourselves and our leaders, Jesus would not judge by appearance or hearsay. He would judge the poor and the afflicted with justice. But the ruthless and hardhearted would be heart-struck by the words that he would speak for God! If everyone could live the Gospel path of Jesus, the world would be a different place – a better place. Isaiah writes of this in his description of the peace-filled kingdom of the entire Earth.

The wolf and the lamb – The leopard and the kid – The calf and the young lion – The cow and the bear – All in harmony with a child to guide them! All this symbolizes what would happen if everyone accepted what God wants for our lives and hearts! But, tragically, so many refuse. So many remain unchanged – So many can't admit the truth about themselves – So many resist radical conversion in their attitudes and beliefs – And so many even deny that God exists!

Brothers and Sisters, in 18 days we will especially remember when Salvation was born into our world. The Savior lived for God, his Father – He died so that he could bring us back with him to the Father.

***So, let us search our hearts and souls for the truth about ourselves – Let us discover and own up to whatever is still hidden or denied within us – And may we delight in the awe and majesty veiled in the Infant that will be born to us on Christmas Day!*** (Msgr. Russell G. Terra)

**Staff**

**Family-Moderator**  
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 Fr. Suresh Rajaian, SAC

**Family of Parishes and**  
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 Fr. Andrew Dawson

**St. Andrew Kim**  
 Rev. Seungsoo Oh

**Parish Offices**  
 3725 Erie Dr.  
 Orchard Lake, Mi. 48324  
 (Office) 248.682.0920  
 (Fax) 248.682.3794  
 Website: www.olorcc.org  
 Email: secretary@olorcc.org

**Business Manager**  
 Eva Ashor

**Parish Secretary**  
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**Evangelical Charities**  
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**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

**Now Is the Perfect Time to Make a QCD from Your IRA**

As we approach year-end, it's a wonderful moment to consider a **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)** from your IRA to support **Our Lady of Refuge**. A QCD offers meaningful tax advantages for you, and your gift directly benefits the parish—**including being free from the AOD assessment during the Christmas collection.**



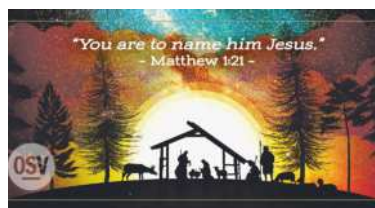
To receive the tax benefits of a QCD, please remember the following requirements:

- You must be **at least 70½ years old**
- There is an **annual maximum** amount you may contribute
- The gift must be made to an **eligible charity**
- The **distribution must be paid directly to the charity**, not to you as the IRA owner

If you are planning a QCD gift this year, please consider naming **Our Lady of Refuge** as your charitable recipient. Your generosity strengthens our parish and helps us continue our Christian mission with joy and gratitude.



It is not too soon to make your Christmas contribution to Our Lady of Refuge. The envelope for this once-a-year occasion is in your packet. It is worth noting that all Christmas donations are exempt from archdiocesan assessment, so your generosity is greatly appreciated.



*Can't find your personalized envelope? You accidentally trashed it?*

No worries...just write **CHRISTMAS** on the memo line of your gift check or on the outside of whatever envelope you choose to use. Be sure to include your last name and we will look up your envelope number and post the gift to your "account."

You may also donate online by visiting our website at [www.olorcc.org](http://www.olorcc.org) or scanning the QR code. The prompts will guide you through the steps to donate to the Christmas collection. *~ Thank you! ~*



**OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP**

**November 29 & 30, 2025**

**Offertory: \$6,143**  
**Online Giving: \$2,374**  
**Total: \$8,517**

**Under Budget: (\$20,724)**

# WORSHIP

LISA MARIE BLANEK

248-682-0920 EXT. 1114

[LBLANEK@OLORCC.ORG](mailto:LBLANEK@OLORCC.ORG)

## Immaculate Conception

This is the Patronal Feast Day of the United States of America and a Holy Day of Obligation. We will celebrate this special day with our schoolchildren at the 8:15 a.m. Mass on Monday, December 8, and we will also offer a 7:00 p.m. Mass. Our Holy Mother Mary, chosen by God, leads us into salvation by reversing the sin of Eve and guiding our nation in deepening our relationship with her Son, Jesus Christ. Each of us is called to celebrate this Holy Day together at the Mass of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Come and open your hearts and minds to the Word and to all the blessings intended for you and your families throughout this Advent Season!

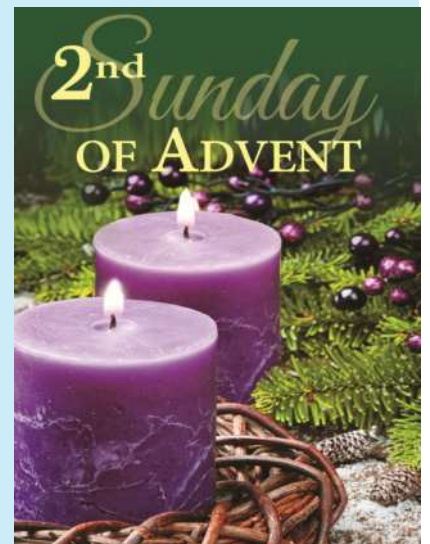


As we gather for this feast, we are reminded that Mary's Immaculate Conception is a sign of God's abundant grace at work in the world from the very beginning. Her "yes" to God becomes an invitation for each of us to respond with similar trust and openness. In honoring Mary, we recognize her as the perfect model of discipleship—one who listened deeply, followed faithfully, and embraced God's will with courage and love.

This celebration also offers us a moment to pause during the busyness of Advent and reflect on the purity, hope, and peace that Mary embodies. As we prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas as well as the end of time, her life encourages us to embrace holiness in our own daily choices. May this feast strengthen our resolve to seek God more intentionally, to care for one another with compassion, and to allow Mary to lead us ever closer to her Son.

## Happy Advent Parish Family!!

We are approaching the Christmas season and are in need of extra worship-ministry helpers. We are especially looking for additional Altar Servers, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Greeters, and Ushers to help welcome our parish families and visitors. Please consider signing up for any of these ministries in the sign-up book located on the podium in the Gathering Space. Your willingness to serve makes a meaningful difference in the prayerful beauty of our liturgies, and even a single Mass of service is a tremendous gift to the community. If you've never served before, this is a wonderful time to begin, and we are grateful for every person who steps forward. May we all enjoy a profound and blessed Advent! Ave!



# SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

## 8th Grade Legacy Project: Illuminating the Future of Our Lady of Refuge

The 8th grade class of 2025 at Our Lady of Refuge has left an indelible mark on their school community through their Legacy Project. This ambitious undertaking not only showcases the class's unity and dedication, but also contributes meaningfully to the school's infrastructure. The project's centerpiece is the funding of a brand-new school sign, installed in October and slated to be illuminated—symbolizing the light of knowledge and the class's lasting impact.

The success of the Legacy Project is a direct result of the collective efforts and commitment of the 8th grade parents and students. Their collaboration reflects a deep sense of pride and responsibility for the future of their school. The new school sign, made possible by this initiative, will have a profound impact on the entire school community. Not only will it enhance the school's exterior and boost curb appeal, but it will also serve as a source of pride for both current and future students.

Beyond its physical presence, the new sign represents a powerful message about the importance of leaving something meaningful behind. By investing in a project that will serve generations to come, the class of 2025 demonstrated what it means to give back and build a legacy rooted in service and school spirit. Their contribution serves as a reminder that even small acts of generosity can create lasting, positive change within a community.

The illuminated sign will be a particularly special addition, symbolizing the light of knowledge, faith, and unity that guides Our Lady of Refuge. The project sets a meaningful precedent for future classes, inspiring continued efforts to improve the school and encouraging community engagement.

The 8th grade Legacy Project for the 2025 school year is a shining example of what can be achieved through determination, cooperation, and a shared vision for the future. By funding the new school sign and its illumination, the class of 2025 ensures their legacy will be remembered for years to come. As the school community moves forward, the illuminated sign will stand as an enduring symbol of community, faith, and excellence at Our Lady of Refuge.



# LITURGICAL MUSIC

JOANNE GORNEY

248-418-7240

MUSIC@OLORCC.ORG

## 2nd Sunday of Advent



### PSALM 122: LET US GO REJOICING TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD.

O God, give your judgment to the king,  
to a king's son your justice,  
that he may judge your people in justice,  
and your poor in right judgment.

In his days shall justice flourish,  
and great peace all the moon is no more.

He shall rule from sea to sea,  
from the River to the bounds of the earth.

For he shall save the needy when they cry,  
the poor, and those who are helpless,  
He will have pity on the weak and the needy,  
and save the lives of the needy.

May his name endure forever,  
his name continue like the sun.  
Every tribe shall be blest in him,  
all nations shall call him blessed.

The second Sunday of Advent invites us to deepen our watchfulness and prepare our hearts more intentionally for the coming of Christ. The psalm this week reminds us of God's mercy and faithfulness, calling us to rejoice in the Lord who comes to bring salvation and justice. It encourages us to lift our hearts in hope, to prepare the way for the Lord, and to welcome Him with joyful expectation. Advent is a season of longing, reflection, and spiritual awakening – a time to pause in the midst of our busy lives and remember the true reason for our anticipation.

Our hymns this week beautifully capture and reflect the themes of the readings and psalm. "On Jordan's Bank" echoes John the Baptist's call to repentance and readiness, urging us to clear obstacles in our hearts and make a straight path for the Lord. "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord" mirrors the prophetic call to vigilance, conversion, and joyful preparation, reminding us that Advent is not passive waiting but active readiness. "A Voice Cries Out" captures the urgency of the messenger proclaiming God's coming, encouraging us to listen attentively to God's Word and respond with faith and devotion. Finally, "The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns" reflects the psalm's celebration of God's faithful rule, portraying Christ's arrival as the dawn of hope, peace, and light for the world.

As the Advent season is often filled with busyness – shopping, decorating, and preparing for celebrations – let us not forget to take time to truly reflect on what this season is about. These hymns offer more than music for worship; they are invitations to prayer and meditation. Feel free to continue singing and reflecting on them at home, letting their words and melodies shape your heart, inspire hope, and draw you closer to Christ.

Advent calls us to active waiting, to preparation, and to hope-filled anticipation. It reminds us that Christ's coming is near – not only at Christmas, but in our daily lives. By prayer, reflection, and joyful participation in the liturgy, we can ready our hearts and minds, allowing God's mercy and love to transform us and the world around us. This week, let us embrace the season's sacred rhythm and trust in the Lord who comes to bring light, justice, and everlasting peace.

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

STEPHANIE GORDON

248-682-0920 EXT. 1142

RE@OLORCC.ORG

December 24

4:00 pm

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS

**CHILDREN ARE WELCOME  
TO COME DRESSED AS  
ANGELS OR SHEPHERDS  
AND BE A PART OF THE  
LITURGY!**



# 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.

## Rising from the Ashes: Revival July 22, 2026

God is calling the Church of Detroit to renewal and revival. This is not just a catch phrase; it is a commissioning from the Lord and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Rising from the Ashes is a Eucharistic centered experience of prayer, teaching and praise to God. We will learn from four wonderful speakers, raise our voices in praise with wonderful musical artist encounter the full breath of the Church and witness to Christ in a Eucharistic procession.

To learn more about the revival, to order tickets and to become a sponsor go to [risingrevival.org](http://risingrevival.org)



*Thank You for your generosity*

*Flowers for the week of December 7<sup>th</sup> were graciously donated by Mary Ann Scott in loving memory of Roy Scott*



## Angel's Place Meals

Be an Angel and make a meal for the men at Maxwell home.

Details and Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0d49a8ab2baaf58-angels#/>



JOIN US ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9TH AT 7:00PM

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

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.

### Advent/Christmas Schedule 2025

#### Reconciliation:

Saturday 12/13 & 12/20 from 3:30—4:30 @ OLR  
 Tuesdays at 6:30 PM & Saturdays at 9:00 AM both with Adoration @ St. Fabian, Farmington Hills  
 Tuesday, 12/16 from 6:00-7:00 PM & Saturday 12/20 from 2:30-4:00 PM @ Our Lady of Sorrows, Farmington Hills  
 Thursday, 12/18 from 6:00-8:00 PM @ Prince of Peace, W. Bloomfield  
 Monday-Friday from 6:00 pm to 6:55 PM; Saturdays from 8:00 AM to 8:55 am @ Chapel of Our Lady, Orchard Lake

Feast of the Immaculate Conception—December 8 (A Holy Day of Obligation) Masses at 8:15 AM & 7:00 PM

#### Christmas Eve Masses

4:00 pm Mass—Children's Mass  
 10:00 pm Mass Christmas Music preformed by the Choir starting @ 9:45 pm)

#### Christmas Day Mass

10:00 am Mass

#### New Year's Day

9:00 am Mass

#### Parish Office Holiday Hours

Dec 24th—Open until noon  
 Dec 25th —26th —Office closed  
 Dec 29th—Open until 1:00  
 Dec 30th – Jan 2nd —Office closed  
 Phone calls and emails will be monitored.

### Holy Land Carvings

We are the Holy Land Carvings group, and we are proud to represent the Christian woodcarvers of Bethlehem. These artisans rely on tourism, but due to the war in Israel, they have lost their jobs and are unable to provide for their families.

Our goal is to sell beautiful hand-carved Olive Wood religious items, including Nativity Scenes, Crucifixes, Rosaries, Statues, Pictures of the Last Supper, and many other religious items, to Catholic Churches in the United States. By purchasing one of these exquisite items, you will be supporting the Christian families in the Holy Land and helping them provide for their families and maintain their jobs.



We invite you to take a moment to browse through the carvings that will be available on the weekend of **December 13 & 14** By supporting this project, you are making a significant contribution towards keeping the Christian community present in the Holy Land.

Please join us in this worthy cause and help us make a difference. We deeply appreciate your support and understanding in this crucial matter.

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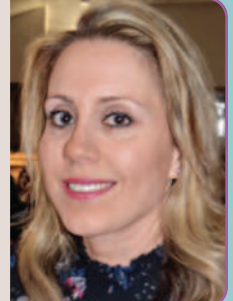


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