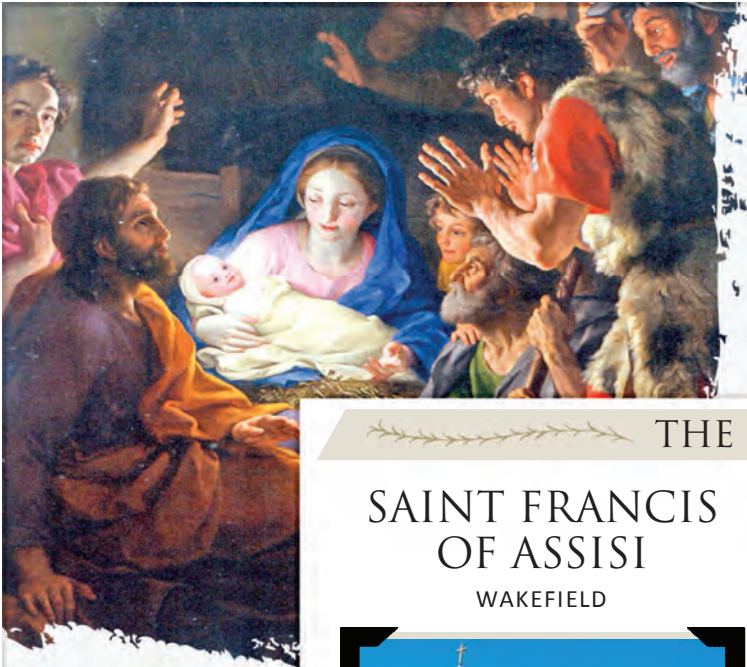


# THE NATIVITY *of the Lord*

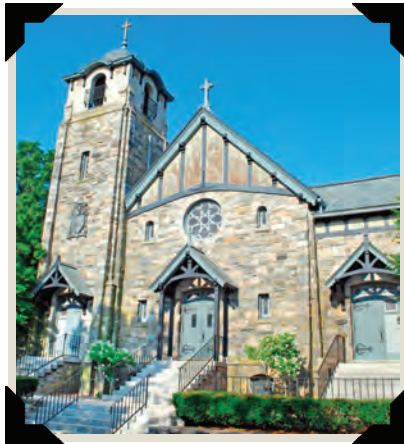


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MATUNUCK



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----- **Fax** -----  
401-783-9667

----- **Email** -----  
saintfrancis00@aol.com

----- **Web** -----  
stfranciswakefield.com

----- **Religious Ed. Office** -----  
401-792-8684

----- **Parish Cemetery** -----  
401-782-2711



But the angel  
said to them,  
“Do not be  
afraid. I bring  
you good news  
that will cause  
great joy for all  
the people.  
Today in the  
town of David a  
Savior has been  
born to you; he  
is the Messiah,  
the Lord. This will  
be a sign to you:  
You will find a  
baby wrapped in  
cloths and lying  
in a manger.”

—Luke 2:10-12

## Parish Staff

Father Albert D. Ranallo----- *Pastor*  
Father Nicholas P. Smith----- *Pastor Emeritus*  
Father Henry J. Bodah----- *Pastor Emeritus*  
Jacki Hunt----- *Administrative Assistant*

Barbette L. Cullen----- *Director of Religious Education*  
Robert J. Moniz----- *Cemetery Manager*  
----- *cemeteryoffice@aol.com*  
Robert J. Kelly----- *Parish Sexton*  
Peter Fiore----- *Director of Music Ministry*  
----- *musicdirector@stfranciswakefield.com*

## Masses

**SAINT FRANCIS CHURCH**  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday----- 7:00 am  
Saturday----- 4:30 pm  
Sunday----- 9:00 am and 11:00 am

**SAINT ROMUALD CHAPEL**  
Saturday----- 5:30 pm\*  
Sunday----- 8:00 am\* and 10:00 am  
\*Summer only (Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day Weekend)

**CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF RI/WASHINGTON  
COUNTY & ST. GABRIEL'S CALL.**  
Washington County Office / Contact: -----Melanie Monteiro  
----- 401-783-3149  
Tuesday----- 9:00 am to 2:00 pm  
**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY / Wakefield**  
401-871-8936

## Sacraments

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**  
Saturday at 3:30 - 4:00 pm in Saint Francis Church or by  
appointment.

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**  
First Sunday of each month.

**SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY**  
Please call the rectory at least one year in advance to speak  
with a priest. Due to the reduction in priests we can no  
longer accommodate Sunday weddings.

**SACRAMENT OF THE SICK**  
Please call the rectory.

*welcome*

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Friday From 9:00 am—12:30 pm

# THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

## St. Francis Mass Intentions



**Saturday, December 24**  
*(Christmas Eve)*

**4:30pm** †Dec. Members of the Pouliot & Gallucci Families  
*Requested by Family*

**10:00pm** †Joyce Shiels  
*Requested by family*

**Sunday, December 25**  
*(Christmas Day)*

**9:00am** †Kerri Bessette  
*Requested by Mom, Dad & Scott*

**11:00am** †Deceased Members of the Perpetual Mass Association

**Monday, December 26**

7:00am For the People

**Tuesday, December 27**

7:00am †Marie McGrath

*Requested by Eve Sweeney*

**Thursday, December 29**

7:00am †Dec. Members of the Flynn & Carney Families

*Requested by Kathleen & Jeff Carney*

**Friday, December 30**

7:00am †Sylvia DeLuca

*Requested by family*

**Saturday, December 31**

4:30pm †Karen Clark

*Requested by Family*

**Sunday, January 1**

9:00am †Johnson & Hawkins Families

*Requested by Family*

11:00am †Deceased Members of the Perpetual Mass Association

## St. Romuald Mass Intentions

**Saturday, December 24**  
*(Christmas Eve)*

**5:30pm** †Henry & Margherita Thayer & the Salerno Family

*Requested by Frances Thayer*

**Sunday, December 25**  
*(Christmas Day)*

**10:00am** †Mary Marchand  
(Anniversary Remembrance)

*Requested by Gerri & Al Marsocci*

**Sunday, January 1**

10:00am †Walter Thayer

*Requested by Jean Fenaughty*

*Today in the city of David a savior has been born  
for you who is Christ and Lord*



Merry Christmas! For most of us, this is a season of joy. A season of giving. A season of lights and color and sound. A season of blessings, of family, of rejoicing. A season of love. For some, it also includes a sad reminder of loved ones lost, or memories of better times.

This is the world into which Jesus came: One that is not perfect and is a mix of joy and sorrow, and where people experience wonderful moments and undergo great suffering. He came for all of this, and for all of us. Today is a feast in the Church – a solemnity. It reflects the immense gravity and importance of the Incarnation, including how it points to Jesus' entire life, death, and resurrection – the mysterious means by which he redeems us – and not just the unfettered joy of the birth of a Savior.

Many are concerned that the world has lost its focus when it comes to Christmas and that the idea that “Jesus is the reason for the season” has been moved to the sidelines or no longer has meaning. Many wonder if it has turned into a purely secular holiday where getting gifts signifies greed, and joy and hope have been replaced with stress and anxiety.

There is a certain amount of truth in these observations. It would be dishonest not to acknowledge the earthly materialism that creeps into the celebrations, and that at times tempts us. The greater truth, however, is that even if we don't acknowledge it, Jesus himself is always present. He is never “not there.” It is in his name we celebrate, whether the world says so explicitly or not: **Christmas!** He's there in the spirit of the season, in the giving of gifts, in the lights, the decorations, and in the time spent with family.

The Letter to the Hebrews says, *In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son.* The truth is, while the divine person of the Son ascended from the earth, since the moment of the Incarnation the Lord has never left us. In his name, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, we encounter Christ in word and sacrament – and in each other – and not just during this season. He dwells among and within us, always and everywhere. And whether at this time of year we rejoice or have sorrow, or a mixture of both, *he sustains all things by his mighty word.* He is Lord, and he loves us.

Jesus is the greatest gift we have ever received. God gave his only Son to walk among us and teach us the way to salvation. He is *the Word made flesh* – the promise fulfilled.



### Weekly Support

Budget envelopes used (136)	-	<b>December 18</b>	\$4,140.50
Loose Donations	-		\$ 2,352.00
Online Giving (# of donors-80)	-		\$2,877.00
<b>Total Budget</b>	-		<b>\$9,369.50</b>

### Second Collection (Ongoing Maintenance)

Budget envelopes used (91)	-	\$1,453.50
Loose Donations	-	\$ 568.00
Online Giving (# of donors-7)	-	\$ 113.00
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>\$2,134.50</b>

This week's second collection is the Christmas Collection.  
Next week's second collection is for the Solemnity of Mary.

**As always, thank you for your continued generosity.**

DECEMBER 25, 2022

SANCTUARY LAMP

This week's sanctuary lamp at St. Francis Church burns in memory of Rose & Ralph Calitri, Emery & Marion Bragdon & James Smith.



The work of our St. Francis of Assisi Conference of St. Vincent de Paul is supported by parish donations. Donation boxes are in the Church and Chapel; the parish online giving site has a SVDP option. Grocery store gift cards are welcome. Our Conference assists neighbors in need in our area and supports the Dinner Table Program providing free meals for pick up or delivery. Call 401-588-4192 if you or a neighbor could use cooked meals, available Wednesdays & Fridays, or if you would like to volunteer with the Dinner Table. To request financial aid, leave information on the Conference phone, 401-871-8936. New SVDP members are most welcome! There are several levels of participation and time commitments.



*Intention for Sunday, December 25 & January 1  
at 11:00am*

*The Deceased Members of the Perpetual  
Mass Association*

*John & Marie Champion*

*Yvonne Fanning*

*Paul F. & Susan Greene*

*Marilyn Maley*

*Edna Otto*

*Anthony & Kathleen Rose*

*Christopher Shafer*

*Daniel Shea*

*Laura Webb*



FAITH  
FORMATION  
(401) 792-8684

Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

**Merry Christmas!**  
*No classes this week*

**Pray:** Thank you, God, for all of the gifts I received this Christmas season. I am most thankful for the gifts of Jesus. Amen.

**Think:** How will you share the special news of Jesus' birth with other people? What present would you give to Baby Jesus?



**The Faith Formation Office  
will be closed through Janu-  
ary 2<sup>nd</sup>.**



# This Week

**Monday, December 26**

**NO ADORATION-OFFICES CLOSED**

**Thursday, December 29**

6-7:00pm Bible Study-Gospel of Mark (HBH)

6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Church)

**Friday, December 30**

5:00pm Festival of Lessons and Carols (Church)

*The Parish office will be closed beginning Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> through Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup>. We will reopen on Tuesday, December 27<sup>th</sup> for normal hours 9am to 4pm*



*A Festival of Lessons and Carols  
With Peter Fiore & Featuring Members of the  
South County Chamber Singers*

**Friday, December 30, 2022**

**5:00pm**

**St. Francis of Assisi Church**

**Free Admission**

*We would like to congratulate Kyle Altenbach & Katherine Gwozdz who were recently married at St. Francis Church. May God bless you!*



## SAVE THE DATE

**December 30:** Christmas Lessons & Carols w/ Peter Fiore (5:00pm)

**Month of January:** Baby Shower



The St. Francis of Assisi Social Outreach Committee (SOC) is sponsoring a Baby Shower during the month of January 2023 to assist St. Gabriel's Call. St. Gabriel's Call provides supportive services to women and families facing unexpected pregnancies. If you, or someone you know, is in need of baby items, please contact Melanie at the St. Francis Diocesan Office at 401-783-3149.



### Items needed:

Diapers (All sizes up to 6/XL)  
Warm Sleepers (0-24 months)  
Warm Children's Clothing (2T-4T, 5-6)  
Baby Wipes  
Bibs  
Infant Onesies  
Pacifiers  
Baby Blankets

Baby Bottles & Bottle Brushes  
(Cash donations are gratefully accepted: Checks to be made out to **Retreat House**)

Place donations in the collection baskets located in St. Francis Church and St. Romuald Chapel during the weekend of January 2023.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**



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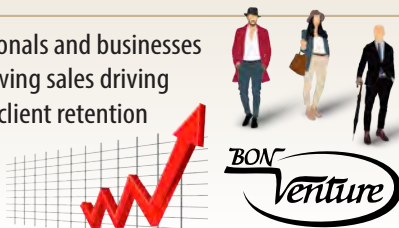


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