

THE START OF LENT



Ash Wednesday

*All come
from dust,
and to dust
all return.*

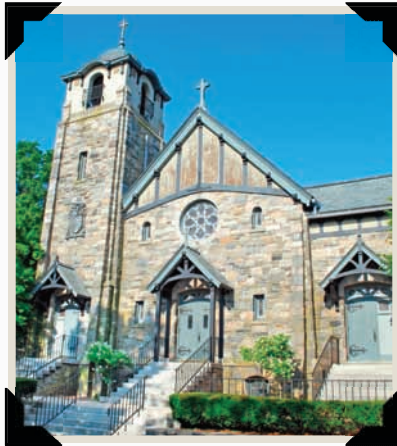


THE PARISH FAMILY OF

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SAINT
ROMUALD
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saintfrancis00@aol.com

Web
stfranciswakefield.com

Religious Ed. Office
401-792-8684

Parish Cemetery
401-782-2711



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 SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

St. Francis Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 18

4:30pm †Steven Hunt
Requested by Event Committee

Sunday, February 19

9:00am †Albert & Eileen Ranallo
11:00am †Henry P. Falcone
Requested by Anne & William Gibson

Monday, February 20

7:00am †Steven Hunt
Requested by Jean

Tuesday, February 21

7:00am †Francesco, Nunziata & Gloria Luongo
Requested by Jose & Venerina DaSilva



Ash Wednesday, February 22

7:00am †Steven Hunt
Requested by Rick & Liz Soltysiak
12Noon Liturgy of the Word with distribution of Ashes
6:30pm For the People

Thursday, February 23

7:00am †Rick Soltysiak
Requested by Jacki Hunt

Friday, February 24

7:00am †James F. Flynn
Requested by Kathleen & Jeff Carney

Saturday, February 25

4:30pm †Anna DeLuca
Requested by Family

Sunday, February 26

9:00am †Steven Hunt
Requested by Jeff & Kathleen Carney
11:00am †Deceased Members of the McGrath Family
Requested by Eve Sweeney

St. Romuald Mass Intentions

Sunday, February 19

10:00am †Dan Fenaughty
(Anniversary Remembrance)
Requested by Family

Sunday, February 26

10:00am †Elizabeth Tyrrell
Requested by Evelyn Luther

So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.



Today's Scriptures contain several challenges that deserve our attention as we grow in our identity as faithful disciples. Key among them must be the call to love our neighbor and to be perfect and holy as God is perfect and holy.

Taken from Matthew's Sermon on the Mount, today's Gospel demonstrates that this call is lived out in the events of our daily lives. In reading this Gospel, it is hard not to be reminded of *Les Misérables* by Victor Hugo. Early on in the story, Jean Valjean, the lovable scoundrel, is arrested for stealing silver from the house of the local bishop. What makes the crime so foolhardy is that Jean had been taken in by the bishop when others had rejected him because of his criminal background.

As he stands before the bishop, the inevitability of prison faces him. But there's a twist: The bishop doesn't condemn him; instead, he points out that Jean Valjean has forgotten to take the matching candlesticks. Of course, this is not what the police expected and, in the end, they have to release Jean. Unable to understand what has happened he remains silent, while the bishop quietly remarks: "Today I have bought your soul for God, use this treasure to become an honest and upright man." Clearly, the bishop is not preoccupied with the things of this world. His focus is on those in need, those he can help and serve. He sees the potential in Jean Valjean, not simply the past.

As Christians, we glimpse the very nature of God in Christ. He brings us the gifts of perfection, mercy, and holiness. To share in his life is to share in those gifts and to make a public statement that God's standards are our standards; his goals are our goals. Therefore, if he comes with these divine attributes, they should be part of our lives too. If we truly believe in the kingdom of God, then all that Jesus teaches should be visible in our lives.

As we move into Lent this week, our common task is to see if we really do reflect Christ's Gospel. Remember that holiness and mercy are not simply pious words that fade like incense or that come and go like a summer breeze. True holiness and mercy are witnessed in serving those in need – those who suffer or who need that extra help through the obstacles of life, having a true heart for all who find life burdensome, and seeing the potential in others rather than their past.

True holiness is more than just striving after a state of moral innocence or spiritual perfection. It begins there, but it cannot end there – it always has a practical side to it. It takes us above and beyond what is acceptable behavior for everyone else.

Jean Valjean wondered to himself where the saintly bishop learned his compassion and forgiveness. His answer was the Gospel – the word and example proclaimed by Christ. We know it too. And we give thanks for it.



Weekly Support	February 12
Budget envelopes used (118)	\$3,890.50
Loose Donations	\$4,039.00
Online Giving (# of donors-79)	\$2,807.00
Total Budget	\$10,736.50

Second Collection (Monthly)	
Budget envelopes used (83)	\$1,264.50
Loose Donations	\$244.00
Online Giving (# of donors-8)	\$174.00
Total	\$1,683.50

This week's second collection is for Ongoing Maintenance. There is no second collection next week.
As always, thank you for your continued generosity.

FEBRUARY 19, 2023

SANCTUARY LAMP



This week's sanctuary lamp at St. Francis Church burns in memory of Anna DeLuca.



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.

FAITH, FOOD, & FELLOWSHIP
Sign Up to Attend Alpha

In 2019 our parish hosted ALPHA: a series of interactive sessions exploring the basics of the Christian faith. The program is intended for everyone—including those questioning their faith or those simply searching for something to believe in. It's also a special opportunity for you to deepen your relationship with Christ alongside members of the St. Francis community.



We're hosting the program again! **Join us on Wednesday March 15th at 6:15pm** in the lower level of the church to attend our introductory session sharing faith, food, and fellowship.

Sign up by emailing: alpha@stfranciswakefield.com. For more information visit: stfranciswakefield.com/faith-formation/alpha/

Free and open to all! Tell a friend!



LENTEN MISSION: EUCHARISTIC
REVIVAL
March 27, 28 & 29

We will be presenting our Lenten Mission led by the Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth on March 27, 28 & 29 beginning at 6:30pm.

More information will follow in the coming weeks. Remember to mark your calendars.



FAITH
FORMATION
(401) 792-8684

Sunday, Feb. 19th begins school vacation—there will be **NO Faith Formation Classes**. Classes will resume on Sunday, Feb. 26th for Grades 1-6.

The Faith Formation Office is closed during school vacation.

Come Holy Spirit! On Saturday, February 4th we held our Confirmation Retreat titled: **“To the Heart”**. Through this retreat, candidates were inspired and challenged to a stronger commitment to a life of holiness and discipleship. Through teachings, personal testimonies, small group discussions, and Adoration, our candidates realized that Jesus is calling them to follow him with their whole heart and that living in a daily relationship with Jesus requires commitment.

It took a team of individuals giving of their time and sharing their gifts, to make this retreat a success. Thank you to Anna and Ray Selwyn, Chris Palmieri, Diane Rudegear, Maddie Williams, Owen Degan, Diane Castro, Nate Williams, Heather Clune, Eily Clossick, Brian Krafton, Kendra Pitkin, Jacqui Shardlow, Sue Williams and Phyllis Lefoley.

For our candidates who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, may they give witness to Christ by lives built on faith and love. Amen!

Tickets are now on sale for the annual Diocesan Faith Formation Convocation to be held Saturday, March 18 at Bryant University, Smithfield, RI. Tickets can be purchased by debit/credit card on the Convocation website:

faithformationconvocation.com

This Week

Monday, February 20

7:30-11:00am Adoration (Church)

6:30pm Men of St. Joseph (FGC)

Tuesday, February 21

7:00pm SVDP Meeting (HBH)

Thursday, February 16

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

6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Church)

The parish office is open 9am to 4pm Monday through Thursday and 9am to 12:30 on Friday.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT ST. FRANCIS CHURCH

Fridays at 7:00pm beginning February 24 through March 31; Good Friday, April 7 at 3:00pm

STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT ST. ROMUALD CHAPEL

Wednesdays at 12:30 beginning March 1 through April 5



LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

On each of the six Fridays of Lent from 5:30 to 6:30pm, a simple meatless meal of home made soup, bread and water will be prepared and offered to all. There is no charge for this Lenten supper but a basket will be available to receive free will donations. These donations will be given to our St. Vincent de Paul Conference for distribution to needy families in our area. So come and join us for soup on Fridays in Father Greenan Center! Bring a friend...it is a wonderful lead into Stations at 7.

SAVE THE DATE

- February 24:** Stations begin at Church on Fridays during Lent (7:00pm)
- March 1:** Stations begin at Chapel on Wednesdays during Lent (12:30)
- March 27-29:** Lenten Mission (6:30pm)

Diocesan Faith Formation Convocation Saturday, March 18, 2023

Bryant University, Smithfield, RI

All adults are invited to be refreshed in their faith. The day begins with Holy Mass at 8:30 AM celebrated by Bishop Richard Henning, our new Coadjutor Bishop of Providence. The schedule also includes dynamic speakers, exhibits, lunch, Confessions, and Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Advance ticket sales only. Purchase tickets and get more info at faithformationconvocation.com or call the Diocesan Office of Faith Formation at 401.278.4646. Don't miss out on this exciting day!



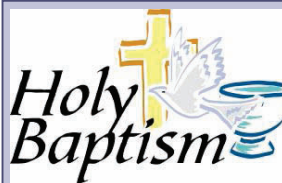
Make a gift now

CATHOLIC CHARITY APPEAL IN-PEW SOLICITATION

As you all know this year's Catholic Charity Appeal has begun. You have probably already received information regarding this Appeal directly from the Diocese.

Your sacrificial gift to the CCA multiplies God's love in our community. A gift to the Appeal immediately helps individuals and families struggling with food insecurity, homelessness, heating assistance and more. Your support also builds up key ministries and programs of the church in the areas of Evangelization, Faith Formation, Youth Ministry, Seminarian Education, Catholic School Tuition Assistance, and Life and Family Ministry, to name a few.

For those of you that have already donated or pledged we want to thank you for your support. *For those that have not already done so we will be having our in-pew solicitation at the Chapel next Sunday, February 26 and at the Church the weekend of March 4/5.*



Congratulations to the proud parents and godparents of Claire Catherine Smith who was baptized on February 5 by Fr. Ranallo.

Your parish family rejoices with you!



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