

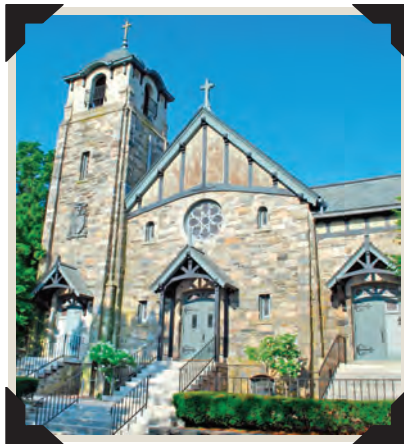
THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

THE PARISH FAMILY OF

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI
WAKEFIELD



SAINT ROMUALD
MATUNUCK



114 High Street
Wakefield, RI 02879

Phone 401-783-4411

Fax 401-783-9667

Email 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*
 Rev. Deacon John Dowd ----- *Deacon Assistant*
 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: ----- 401-783-3149
 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
 Third 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.

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

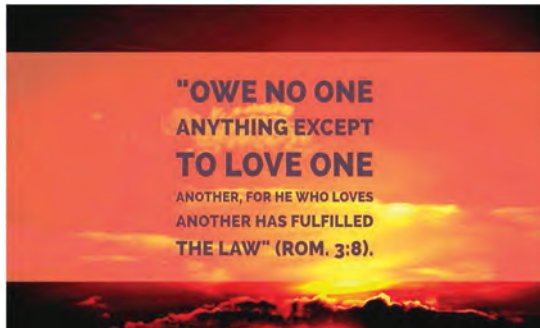
—John 3:17

welcome

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

THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

St. Francis Mass Intentions



Saturday, September 9

4:30pm †Marie & John Champion
Requested by Family

Sunday, September 10

9:00am †Steve Hunt
Requested by Ed & Diane Rudegear

11:00am †Anne Whaley

Requested by Ted Emmott

Monday, September 11

7:00am †John & Jean Dwyer
Requested by Family

Tuesday, September 12

7:00am †Tom Wichser
(1st Anniversary Remembrance)
Requested by Jim & Susan Meehan

Thursday, September 14

7:00am †For the deceased Members of the
Behie & O'Rourke Families

Friday, September 15

7:00am †Steve Hunt
Requested by Susan & Jim Meehan

Saturday, September 16

4:30pm †Louis & Amelia DiSalvo
Requested by Family

Sunday, September 17

9:00am †Hung Tran & Conan
Requested by Family
11:00am †Rick Soltysiak
Requested by Family

St. Romuald Mass Intentions

Sunday, September 10

10:00am †Louise Carey
Requested by Fran Fitzpatrick

Sunday, September 17

10:00am †Jane P. Grimley
Requested by her Father

Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another.

When learning a new sport, it is vital to know the rules. Basketball players cannot kick the ball, but they can pass it with their hands; soccer players cannot touch the ball with their hands, but they can use their feet to dribble and kick it; football players cannot cross the line of scrimmage until play begins, but they can move in certain directions beforehand. The rules are helpful, keeping athletes in line so the game can run smoothly, objectives can be met, and goals achieved.

Each of us has our own Christian "athletic" adventure of "running the race toward the prize of the eternal crown" as Saint Paul often analogizes (Cf., 1 Cor 9:24-25, 2 Tim 4:7, Phil 3:14). This is a lifelong route along a path of moral living, striving for holiness. There are waystations designed to nourish and hydrate us: Scripture, Church teaching, the sacraments, and prayer, to name a few. They elucidate for us how to avoid sin and how to do good. They are the rules of the game, *per se*.

This is helpful, for as obstinate humans, clear teaching often comes in handy. This is true especially for children, who need to be taught clear boundaries, often through clear delineation: "Do *not* steal toys"; "Do help your sister." Yet as we mature developmentally and especially in our spiritual lives, it is essential to understand the wider context and rationale behind the commandments we heard as children.

Jesus was raised learning all the precepts of the Jewish law – hundreds of commandments. As a faithful Jew, honoring the law was paramount for Jesus. So as we come upon him in today's Gospel, he is instructing his disciples on how to reprimand sinners. At first glance, it appears that Jesus is reinforcing a rule-based morality. After all, at the time of Jesus, the rules were clear and consequences for breaking them serious. Women, for instance, were stoned on the spot for committing adultery.

In this context, however, Jesus is proposing a more merciful way: Talk to the sinner directly, then bring a witness or two along, finally involve the Church if necessary. Jesus' goal is not simply to reprimand the sinner but to rebuild the broken relationship. The desire to correct stems from love, the manner of addressing it stems from and manifests love, and all of it is housed within the greater body of love – a community caring for and looking out for its members. The way of Jesus always promotes reconciliation and love.

Saint Paul, in today's second reading, takes a page directly from Jesus' teaching when he describes love as the *fulfillment of the law*. Paul tells the Roman Church that all the negative commandments – what one should not do – can be achieved by the positive directive to *love your neighbor as yourself*.

Jesus and Paul both knew that a healthy spirituality cannot be maintained by the mere avoidance of sin. God is offering us so much more, namely the pursuit of virtue and the abundant life that comes through love. We need look no further than the gifts of the cross and the Eucharist to see the extent to which Christ was willing to stretch to reconcile us by his love. May the same be true of us, guided by a positive understanding of morality that leads us into right relationship, with God and with one another.



Weekly Support

Budget envelopes used (137)	-	September 3
Loose Donations	-	\$5,466.50
Online Giving (# of donors-87)	-	\$2,098.00
Total Budget	-	\$4,216.00
		\$11,780.50

Second Collection (Monthly Collection)

Budget envelopes used (94)	-	\$1,714.50
Loose Donations	-	\$ 586.00
Online Giving (# of donors-11)	-	\$ 225.00
Total	-	\$2,525.50

There is no second collection this week. Next week's second collection is for the Priests' Retirement.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

SANCTUARY LAMP



This week's sanctuary lamp at St. Francis Church burns in memory of Joseph Turcotte.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

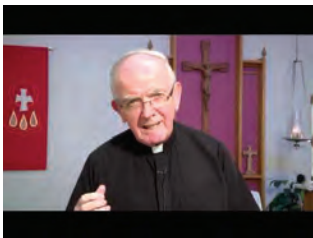


Blessing of the animals will take place Sunday, October 1 at noon by the statue of St. Francis of Assisi on the side of the church.



Bring your dogs, cats, hamsters, gerbils, birds, fish, ferrets, chickens, turtles, etc. for a special St. Francis blessing!

2023 Priest Retirement Funds: Next weekend, September 16 and 17



After decades of faithful service, many retired priests continue to serve where they are needed, while others require assisted living, or nursing home care. Since priests are paid a very modest wage, they cannot rely upon Social Security to make ends meet. No longer able to rely upon

parishes for basic living needs, senior priests depend on support from this fund. Your generosity will make a difference in the lives of many who have served faithfully for many years in ministry—some of whom continue to serve well after their 'retirement.' At Masses on September 17-18, our parish will join others throughout the Diocese in a special second collection in support of the Senior Priest Retirement Fund. The collection is also our way of saying "thank you" for that service. Please consider a generous donation in support of our senior priests. To learn how this fund benefits senior priests or to make an online donation, please visit www.srpriestri.com.

Thank you and God bless you for your generous support of this worthy endeavor!

Wildfire Relief: Help families recover from fires on the Island of Maui

As of Monday, August 21, at least 114 people have died and more than 800 people remain missing from fires that ravaged the Hawaiian island of Maui. Catholic Charities USA is actively providing lifesaving resources and relief on the ground.

If you wish to contribute to the relief effort, donations can be made online directly to CCUSA at the shortcut: <http://provd.io/maui> or scanning the QR code below. Monetary donations are the best resource and 100% of donations will go directly to disaster relief.



FAITH FORMATION
(401) 792-8684



SUNDAY FAITH FORMATION CLASSES BEGIN NEXT SUNDAY—CATECHETICAL SUNDAY

St Francis of Assisi will celebrate Catechetical Sunday at the 9:00AM Mass on Sept. 17th All catechists are invited to this Mass.

Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Those who the parish community has designated to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry. "Come to me all you who labor and are burdened"

Matthew 11:28

This year's theme reminds us of the invitation we receive from the Lord Jesus to follow Him and the promise that He doesn't want to add to our burdens; he wants to lighten them.

Our grade 1-6 families will meet after the 9am Mass in Fr. Greenan Hall for class assignments at 9:55. Dismissal will be in Fr. Greenan at 10:50.

This Week

Monday, September 11

7:30-11:00am Adoration (Church)
6:30pm Men of St. Joseph
6:30pm Event Committee Meeting (FGC)

Wednesday, September 13

10:30am Women's Prayer Group (FGC)
6:00pm Prayer Meeting (HBH)

Thursday, September 14

6-7:00pm Bible Study (FGC)
6:30pm Choir Practice (HBH)

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

In today's Gospel Jesus says, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." The cross of Jesus and the crosses of his members can evangelize us: the sick, who bear illness with courage; the grieving who hope against hope; the dying, who clearly trust in the Resurrection; the suffering of our poor brothers and sisters who are hungry and homeless, but who still trust in God's love. Take up his cross. Volunteer with the Society of St Vincent de Paul. See Christ in the face of the poor and bring the love of God to those who are in material or spiritual need. You'll grow spiritually and make friends.



Call 401- 871-8936 to learn more. If you are not able to commit full-time, part-time service is an option. Members can be away for a few weeks or months. You can still participate, help others, and make a difference for our neighbors in need.

BLESSING TO TAKE PLACE AT THE CEMETERY

NEXT SUNDAY, September 17th following the 11am Mass, Father Ranallo will be blessing our new gates, flagpole and shrubbery that have been installed at St. Francis cemetery. These wonderful additions to our cemetery were donated by three very generous and special people who wish to remain anonymous. We at St. Francis are so blessed to have such wonderful cemetery patrons who help us create a well maintained and holy cemetery where our loved ones can rest in eternal peace. Thank you to all who were involved in these endeavors, and we hope you can join us for this very special occasion.



SAVE THE DATE

- September 29:** Pasta Dinner (5-7:00pm)
October 1: Blessing of Animals (Noon-Church Parking Lot)
Month of October: Rosary at the Chapel week nights at 6:30pm
October 2, 3 & 4: St. Francis Triduum (6pm-Church)
October 13: Paint Night
October 21: Coat Distribution (9am-Noon)
November 18: Bazaar (9am-3pm)



WOMEN'S PRAYER/FAITH SHARING GROUP

We are excited to invite you to join a new women's prayer/faith sharing group *began September 6th*. We will meet *Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am in Fr. Greenan Center*. We have a wonderful community of Catholic women committed to fostering friendship, offering prayer and support for each other, and building a deeper relationship with Jesus.

This ministry is open to any woman representing various ages and stages of life. The facilitators are parishioners, like yourselves, looking to connect and grow with others and Christ-together, sharing our lives and faith journey.



Pasta Dinner:
Friday, September 29th
5:00—7:00 PM
Fr. Greenan Parish Center
Cost: \$15 Adults

\$10 Take-Out (does not include drink or dessert)
\$8 children (ages 6 to 12)
Children under 6, FREE

If you would like to help serve or help with clean-up please contact Jean at 783-1633 or Ellen at 789-7707.



Please be sure to return your raffle tickets either by placing them in the collection basket, send by mail or drop them off at the rectory. Donations for the baskets need to be returned no later than Monday, September 18.



Be sure to join us for this fun evening. What a wonderful way to support your parish. Come eat good food and enjoy good company!



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IRREPRESSIBLE

K.J. Alexander

To her, she's just another foster kid.
To them, she's the queen who will save them all.

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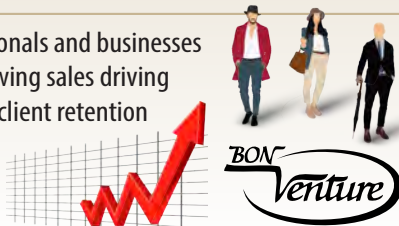
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