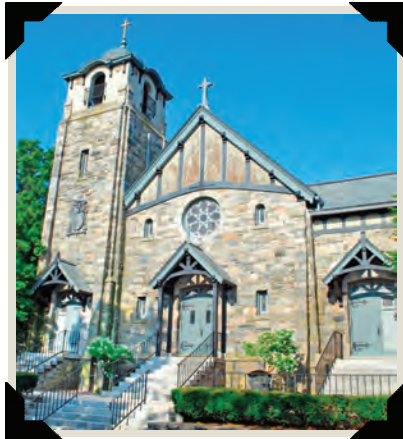


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Fax
401-783-9667

Email
saintfrancis00@aol.com

Web
stfranciswakefield.com

Religious Ed. Office
401-792-8684

Parish Cemetery
401-782-2711



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*

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)

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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.

“Advent is the time we are given to welcome the Lord who comes to encounter us, and also to verify our longing for God, to look forward and prepare ourselves for Christ’s return.”

— Pope Francis



welcome

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

Third Sunday
of ADVENT

Joy

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

St. Francis Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 16

4:30pm †Fred & Arlene Robinson & Jack Feeny

Requested by Family

Sunday, December 17

9:00am †Sarah & James Folcarelli

Requested by Family

11:00am †Peter Reusch

Requested by Family

Monday, December 18

7:00am †Rick Soltysiak

Requested by Family

Tuesday, December 19

7:00am †Peter Reusch

Requested by Family

Thursday, December 21

7:00am †James DeLuca, Sr.

Requested by Family

Friday, December 22

7:00am For the People

Saturday, December 23

4:30pm †Luke & Henrietta Pucella

Requested by Family

Sunday, December 24 (Sunday Obligation)

9:00am †David George Hedglen

Requested by St. Vincent DePaul Society

There will be NO 11am Mass today



**Christmas Eve Masses
Sunday, December 24**

4:30pm †Irene Sabo

Requested by Family

10:00pm †Joyce Shiels

Requested by Family

St. Romuald Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 17

10:00am †Martin Durkin

Requested by Family

Sunday, December 24 (Sunday Obligation)

10:00am †John Blair

Requested by Family

**Christmas Eve Mass
Sunday, December 24**

5:30pm †Martha & Blanche McElkenny

Requested by Family

We rejoice always because in Christ we have Good News.



Today we light the pink candle of joy for Gaudete Sunday, the Sunday of rejoicing. *Rejoice always*, Paul teaches in the second reading. *Always*, he says. Now today we may do so because Christmas is almost here, but rejoice *always*? Is this even possible? It is! Isaiah is overjoyed because the Spirit of the Lord is upon him and sends him to do good works such as healing, proclaiming liberty, and bringing the news of God's vindication to his people. Isaiah knows the Lord is with him and gives him great work to do.

In the responsorial psalm today, where the verses are actually from the Gospel of Luke, not the psalms themselves, Mary is full of joy because the Lord has looked upon her lowliness and done great things for her. She will be the mother of Christ and all generations will call her blessed. Like Isaiah, Mary knows the Lord is with her and gives her great meaning and purpose.

John seems to delight in his mission and purpose as he cries out: *Make straight the way of the Lord*. In dark days for his people, John testifies to Christ, the light, so that others may have hope and believe through him. Again, John lives out the purpose given to him and knows the Lord is at hand.

Isaiah, Mary, John, and Paul rejoice because they know the Lord is with them and working through them. They have Good News and they glory in sharing it. What is our good news to share? Perhaps like Isaiah we have good news about meaningful work or service we have been called to. Perhaps like Mary we have good news about the family or friends we have been blessed with. Or perhaps times are currently dark, but like John we have good news about a future filled with hope in Christ.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and in all circumstances give thanks, Paul teaches. We do not do so because our unceasing prayers are always answered, or because we are thankful for circumstances that are always in our favor. We do so because in Christ we always have Good News to share. It may not be as dramatic as the news we heard in today's readings, but it is personal and meaningful for us, because we know how the Lord has blessed us and given our lives meaning and purpose.

In the darkness of Advent and always, we look to the light of Christ and exult in the Good News we have in him. In our rejoicing we come to the Lord unceasingly with our needs, as we do now in our petitions. And we give thanks, as we do now in the Eucharist, for all of God's gifts, especially the gift of his Son.



Weekly Support

Budget envelopes used (124)	-	December 10
Loose Donations	-	\$4,415.00
Online Giving (# of donors-81)	-	\$ 975.00
Total Budget	-	\$3,121.00
		\$8,511.00

Second Collection (Retired Religious)

Budget envelopes used (92)	-	\$2,051.00
Loose Donations	-	\$ 466.00
Online Giving (# of donors-2)	-	\$ 60.00
Total	-	\$2,577.00

Immaculate Conception Collection: \$913.00

This week's second collection is for Ongoing Maintenance. There is no second collection next week. **Thank you for your continued generosity.**

DECEMBER 17, 2023

SANCTUARY LAMP



This week's sanctuary lamp at St. Francis Church burns in memory of R. & R. Calitri, J. Smith & M. & E. Bragdon.



FAITH FORMATION
(401) 792-8684



RCIA Inquiry Night
at St. Francis

If you know someone a spouse, relative, friend, neighbor who might be interested in becoming a Catholic, or is a Catholic but has not received all the sacraments of initiation, please let them know that our parish will be starting a Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

program. Please pass the word to anyone you know who may be interested in joining us.

We will be holding Inquiry Night this Tuesday, December 19, 2023, from 6pm to 7pm at Fr. Greenan Hall to provide an overview of the program and answer any questions.

RCIA classes will start in January. If anyone would like further information, please at contact Pat Lefoley plefoley1@cox.net or 401-339-3858. You may also call the parish office at 401-783-4411.



THE Giving Tree

GIVING TREE

The Giving Trees have now been placed in the Church and Chapel. Gift tags have also been placed on the trees.

The Giving Tree provides much needed support to our St. Vincent de Paul chapter here at St. Francis and to the Jonnycake Center which services local families providing basic necessities.

The gift cards need to be returned no later than this weekend, December 16/17. They can be placed in the collection baskets or left in the rectory. Please do not leave them by the trees. Thank you in advance.

Advent Lessons and Carols at Chesterton Academy of Our Lady of Hope

Chesterton Academy of Our Lady of Hope invites you to come celebrate the anticipation of Our Lord's incarnation! Hear the Chesterton student choir sing **The Festival of Lessons and Carols on Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 6:30pm** in the St. Francis Chapel at 610 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick RI. This beautiful and festive tradition began in the 19th century. Through scripture readings (or "lessons"), hymns, carols, and prayers, the Festival tells the story of the Fall, the Messianic promise, the Incarnation, and the Great Commission.

Sunday, December 17th

9:55-10:50am Grades 1-6 classes to attend the Christmas Pageant during class time.

All are invited to attend. Light refreshments will be served.



For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

Pray: Dear Jesus, show us how to teach others about you. Help us to be voices of faith. Amen.

Wednesday, December 20th

5:30-7:30pm Confirmation classes and G1 youth group are invited to the cookie baking night at FGC. Cookies will be delivered to our neighbors through the Peace Dale Dinner Table.

The Faith Formation Office will be closed for Christmas school vacation December 22nd through January 2nd.

This Week

Monday, December 18
7:30-11:00am Adoration (Church)
6:30pm Men of St. Joseph (↓FGC)

Tuesday, December 19
7:00pm SVD Meeting (HBH)
6-7:00pm RCIA Inquiry Night (FGC)

Wednesday, December 20
10:30am Women's Prayer (FGC) [check w/ group for next week]
6:00pm Prayer Meeting (HBH) [check w/ group for next week]

Thursday, December 21
6-7:00pm Bible Study (FGC)

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

Christmas office closing: The Parish office will be closed from December 20 through December 26.



Month of January: Baby Shower
February 14: Ash Wednesday
February 19-21: Lenten Mission w/ Deacon Art Miller (6:00pm each night)



PLANNING AHEAD
CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

As you may know, this year Christmas Eve falls on Sunday and Christmas falls on Monday; therefore, we would like for you to see the Mass schedule for planning purposes.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

SUNDAY MASS OBLIGATION

At the Church
4:30pm Saturday, December 23

9:00am Sunday, December 24
(Please note there will be only one Morning Mass at the Church on this day—there will be no 11am Mass)

At the Chapel
10:00am Sunday, December 24

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

CHRISTMAS EVE, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

At the Church
4:30pm Sunday, December 24
10:00pm Sunday, December 24

At the Chapel
5:30pm Sunday, December 24

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

CHRISTMAS DAY,
MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

At the Church
9:00am and 11am

At the Chapel
10:00am

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Jubilee Year of Mercy

THE CHAPLET OF THE DIVINE MERCY

(For private recitation on ordinary rosary beads)

Our Father ... , Hail Mary ... , The Apostles' Creed.

Then, on the **OUR FATHER BEADS** you will say the following words:

Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

On the **HAIL MARY BEADS** you will say the following words:

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion have mercy on us and on the whole world.

In conclusion **THREE TIMES** you will recite these words:

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

From the Diary of the Servant of God Sr. Faustina - Note Book I, p 197

IMPRIMATUR: + Joseph F. Maguire
November 17, 1979 Bishop of Springfield, Mass.



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