



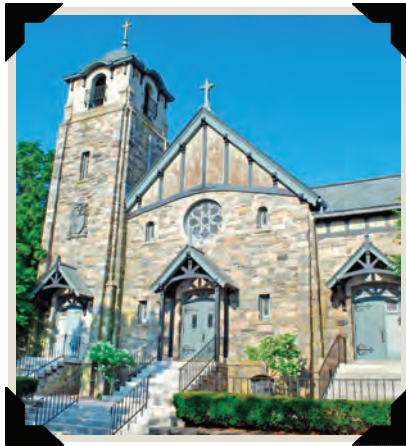
THE NATIVITY of the Lord

THE PARISH FAMILY OF

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI
WAKEFIELD



SAINT ROMUALD
MATUNUCK



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

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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

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.

welcome

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

St. Francis Mass Intentions

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

Christmas Day Monday, December 25

9:00am †Deceased Members of the Flynn
 & Carney Families
Requested by Family

11:00am †Kerri Bessette
Requested by Mom, Dad & Scott

Tuesday, December 26

7:00am †Kit Groves
Requested by Ann & Ollie

Thursday, December 28

7:00am †Rick Soltysiak
Requested by Family

Friday, December 29

7:00am †Sylvia DeLuca
Requested by Family

Saturday, December 30

4:30pm †Thomas Pullano
Requested by his Wife

Sunday, December 31

9:00am †Mr. & Mrs. Thu Chi Tran & John
 Thanh Ha

Requested by Family

11:00am †Karen Clark
 (Anniversary Remembrance)

Requested by Family

St. Romuald Mass Intentions

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

Christmas Day Monday, December 25

10:00am †Deceased Members of the
 Perpetual Mass Association

Sunday, December 31

10:00am †Mary Marchand
 (Anniversary Remembrance)

Requested by Al & Gerri Marsocci

*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has
 not overcome it.*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

In our first reading today, the prophet Isaiah uses a striking image to mark the moment when the Messiah comes: *How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings glad tidings.* There is such a contrast between grand mountains and humble feet. But it points to the nature of the joy of today, Christmas. Christ is born, and a tiny baby has come to bring salvation to God's people. He did not come to us in worldly glory, but rather he came into this world the same way we all do. But it is this baby that announces the beginning of a new birth for all of us.

How beautiful, indeed, are the feet of him who brings glad tidings, and all the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God. John, whose Gospel is the most theologically rich and complex, embodies this prophecy. To hear the prologue from John's Gospel, as we just did, is to be swept up into a majestic epic. Full of poetic splendor, it reveals the whole theological horizon of Jesus Christ, the God-man. Beginning with the very onset of creation, it describes what existed long before any of us were here and sets a stage that feels vast and immense – so much greater than us.

And yet, deep within its high Christology – the focus on Jesus as divine and pre-existent – its central image is something we can all closely relate to in our lives: light and darkness. No matter who we are or what we do, we all deeply know light and darkness. We have known the darkness of pain, grief, and suffering. Darkness is unsettling, unnerving, scary, and troubling. But we have also known the light of joy, glory, and new life. Light is calm, peaceful, comforting, and hopeful. Each of us has had intimate experiences of darkness as well as light.

The images of light and darkness are at the core of our faith. God's light has been revealed to us, and Jesus is born! We have experienced this light in so many ways in our lives, and it has undoubtedly shaped our faith. It has revealed to us who God is. Our readings today reflect on our ancestors and the times past. We can point to the light our ancestors have shared with us in our family stories, in the legacy they have left for us. Their example shines forth in us today. We can also look at the countless examples of light in the world today: the people who are there for us when we experience darkness; the people who work to bring hope to our world through acts of service and working for justice. Yes, Jesus' light is very much alive in the world today.

As we continue our Mass with the celebration of the Eucharist, we give thanks for the body of Christ. We celebrate that the Word was made flesh. We celebrate that the light shines in the darkness. We celebrate that the darkness has not overcome us. Jesus is born!



<u>Weekly Support</u>		<u>December 17</u>
Budget envelopes used (121)	-	\$4,697.50
Loose Donations	-	\$1,190.00
Online Giving (# of donors-76)	-	\$2,735.00
Total Budget	-	\$8,623.00
<u>Second Collection (Ongoing Maintenance)</u>		
Budget envelopes used (91)	-	\$1,387.50
Loose Donations	-	\$ 394.00
Online Giving (# of donors-8)	-	\$ 123.00
Total	-	\$1,904.50

There is no second collection this week or next week.
Thank you for your continued generosity.

DECEMBER 24, 2023



SANCTUARY LAMP

This week's sanctuary lamp at St. Francis Church burns in memory of Carl Cottle.

St. Vincent DePaul Society

The work of the St. Francis of Assisi Conference of St. Vincent de Paul is supported by parish donations. Donation boxes are in the Church and Chapel. There is a SVDP option on the parish online giving site.



If you need financial assistance or would like to volunteer, leave your contact information on the Conference phone, 401-871-8936.

New members are most welcome!



FAITH FORMATION
(401) 792-8684



FOOD DONATIONS FOR THE JONNYCAKE CENTER: JUST A FRIENDLY REMINDER

Please remember we are always in need of nonperishable food items (no glass or outdated items). Your donations may be placed in the baskets located at St. Francis or St. Romuald. These items will be donated to the Jonnycake Food Pantry in Peace Dale. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday, December 24th
No Classes Merry Christmas

Pray: Today, we remember Jesus' birth. Please be born in our hearts today, Lord. Amen.

The Faith Formation Office will be closed during school vacation.



FR. RANALLO, DEACON DOWD AND THE STAFF WANT TO WISH YOU ALL A VERY BLESSED CHRISTMAS!



Monday, December 25

NO ADORATION

Wednesday, December 27

6:00pm Prayer Meeting (HBH)

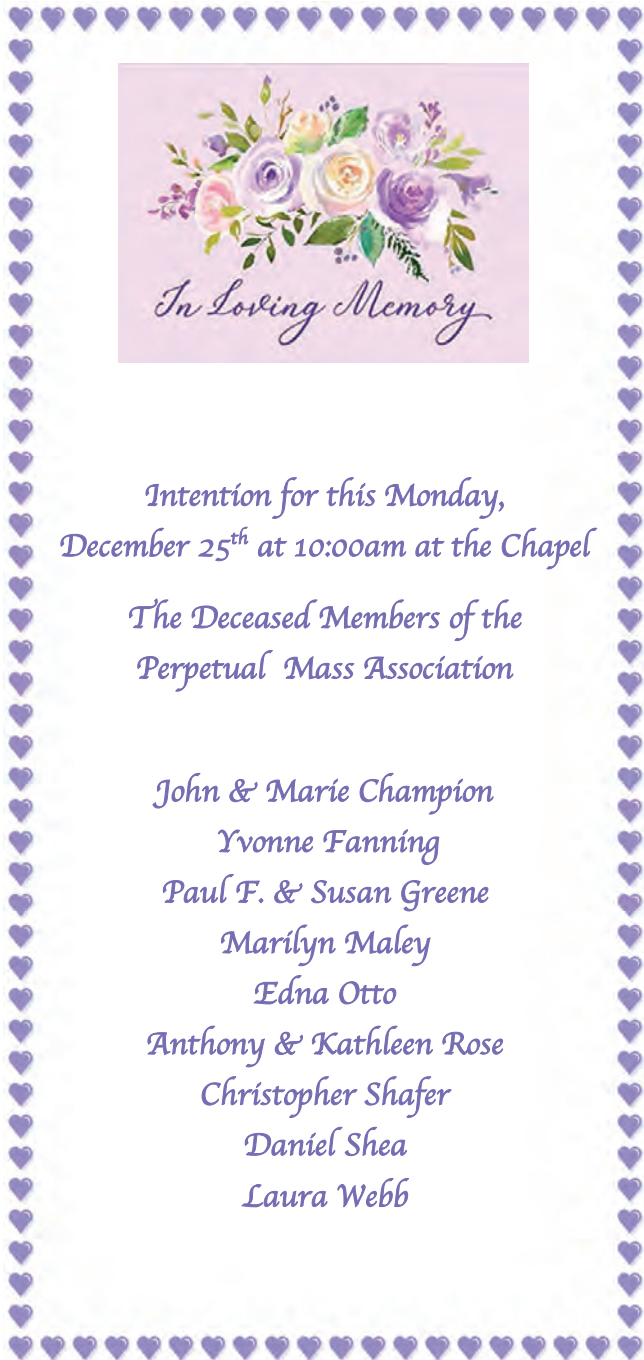
This Week

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)



*Intention for this Monday,
December 25th at 10:00am at the Chapel*

*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*



ROSARY REPAIRS

We have an anonymous volunteer who has offered to repair rosaries. If you have a rosary that you would like repaired please place the rosary in an envelope and place your name and phone number on the outside of the envelope so that when the repair is complete you can be notified. Please drop your envelope off at the rectory or place it in the black mailbox next to the rectory door.



We are glad that you are here with us this morning. Whether you moved here a while ago or are just here for a brief stay, we welcome you.

If you would like to become a part of this wonderful community, registering in the parish is an easy process. Please see Father Ranallo after Mass to inquire about registering. Again, welcome and God bless!

Baby Bottle Boomerang: Thank you from Rhode Island Right to Life

A heartfelt thank you to St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Fr. Ranallo, and all the generous parishioners, who raised \$2,520.81 in our recent Baby Bottle Boomerang. Your generosity helps us continue providing pregnancy tests and ultrasounds throughout Rhode Island in our Ancora Women's Mobile Care Center, and keeps the doors open at our Maternity Hope Chest to serve mothers who have courageously chosen LIFE but need a helping hand caring for their precious little ones, whether it be diapers and wipes, clothing and blankets, bassinets and strollers, and many other must have items. May the Good Lord bless you many times over for your generosity.

If you haven't yet been able to return your baby bottle, you may still send a contribution in the mail and save the bottle for next year.



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World Peace



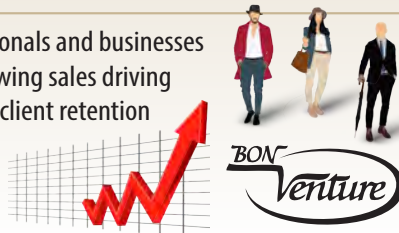
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Jubilee Year of Mercy

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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