

The
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

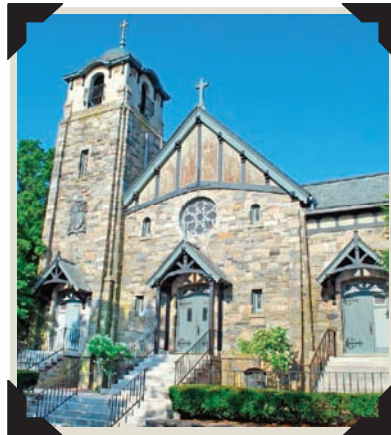


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 OF ASSISI**
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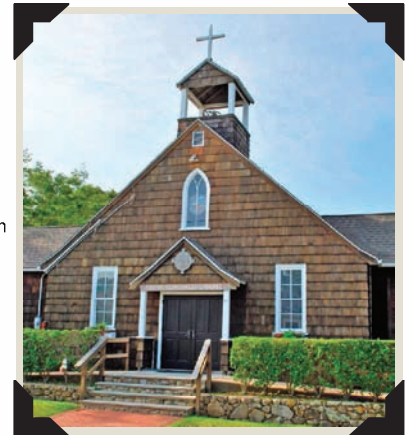
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 401-783-9667

----- **Email** -----
 office@stfranciswakefield.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*
 Christina Imondi----- *Office Manager*

Jamie Friel----- *Faith Formation Coordinator (Grades K-6)*
 Cheryl Xavier----- *Confirmation Coordinator*
 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.

*“My spirit
 has rejoiced
 in God my
 Saviour.”*

welcome

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 4:00 and Friday 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

St. Francis Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 7

4:30pm †The Arsenault Family
Requested by Diane & John

Sunday, December 8

9:00am †Steve Hunt
Requested by Family
11:00am †Michael Dufficy
(Birthday Remembrance)
Requested by Wife & Child

~~~~~  
**Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
**(Holy Day of Obligation)**

**Monday, December 9**

7:00am †Clara Latowski  
(Anniversary Remembrance)  
*Requested by Family*  
6:30pm †Samuel White  
*Requested by Kitchen of Hope*

**Tuesday, December 10**

7:00am †Donna Andrews  
*Requested by Joe & Ellen Schwab*

**Thursday, December 12**

7:00am †Tom McGair  
(Birthday Remembrance)  
*Requested by Jean McGair*

**Friday, December 13**

7:00am †Donna Andrews  
*Requested by Dana Hawkins*

**Saturday, December 14**

4:30pm †Bill Bailey  
*Requested by Ann Ollie*

**Sunday, December 15**

9:00am †Sarah & James Folcarelli  
*Requested by Family*  
11:00am †Rick Soltysiak  
*Requested by Family*

### St. Romuald Mass Intentions

**Sunday, December 8**

10:00am †Sue & Al Marchand  
(Anniversary Remembrance)  
*Requested by Al & Gerri Marsocci*

**Sunday, December 15**

10:00am †Martin Durkin  
*Requested by Family*

### *God's work is complete through Christ.*

In this season of preparation, of waiting in joyful hope, our readings invite us to heed the voice of John the Baptist: Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.

What do our preparations for Christmas usually include? Planning, buying gifts, cleaning, baking? There is much that can demand our attention at this time of year. In contrast to these many pressures and voices, the Church offers these words from John the Baptist, quoting the prophet Isaiah: Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth.

This echoes the command from our reading from Baruch, that every lofty mountain be made low, and that the age-old depths and gorges be filled to level ground.

What does this mean for us? How can we carry this Word into our lives? Well, it likely means some time spent in prayer and discernment. It means prioritizing listening to God's voice over some of the other pressures, tasks, and voices that can crowd in this time of year. If we can create some space for silence – for reflection and prayer – we might find God speaking into the questions raised by today's readings.

What mountains are keeping us from drawing nearer to God? What barriers are affecting our relationship with Christ? What valleys might be impeding our journey into the heart of the Divine? What wounds or fears might be keeping us from drawing close to his Sacred Heart?

This is the invitation of this sacred season: to pray with these questions. But, if that sounds overwhelming, take heart! This is not discernment intended to simply add to our already-too-long list of things to do. Remember, we are united to us. If you are tired or too busy, perhaps this is the valley or the mountain our Savior wants to cross to come to you. For, as Saint Paul reminds us in our second reading, the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.

How can we open space for Jesus to draw near to us today? How can we keep hopeful watch for him crossing mountains and valleys to be with us? As we prepare ourselves for the Eucharist, how can we open our hearts to God who is with us at this Mass?

This is the work of this holy season. This is our calling as we prepare for the joy of Christmas. May our God who crosses mountain and valley to draw near to us make us pure and blameless ... filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

### Parish Giving

| Weekly Support      | November 24       | December 1        |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Budget envelopes    | \$3,756.50        | \$4,424.50        |
| Loose Donations     | \$ 830.00         | \$1,036.00        |
| Online Giving       | \$2,652.00        | \$4,049.00        |
| <b>Total Budget</b> | <b>\$7,238.50</b> | <b>\$9,509.50</b> |

**Second Collection: Nov. 24 (Campaign for Human Development)**

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Budget envelopes | \$1,332.50        |
| Loose Donations  | \$ 531.00         |
| Online Giving    | \$ 85.00          |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>\$1,948.50</b> |

**Second Collection: December 1 (Monthly Collection)**

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Budget envelopes | \$1,441.50        |
| Loose Donations  | \$ 363.00         |
| Online Giving    | \$ 80.00          |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>\$1,884.50</b> |

This week's second collection is for the Retired Religious Fund.

Next week's second collection is for Ongoing Maintenance.  
**Thank you for your continued generosity.**

DECEMBER 8, 2024



**SANCTUARY LAMP**

This week's sanctuary lamp at St. Francis Church burns in memory of Michael Dufficy.

**WE HAVE A NEW EMAIL!**

Our office email has been changed to office@stfranciswakefield.com  
Please make note of this. Thank You and God Bless!



*Parish Advent Penance Service  
Prepare the Way of the Lord*

*December 10, 2024, at 6:00 pm  
St. Francis of Assisi Church*

*Come experience the Sacrament of  
Reconciliation!*

*Priests will be available!*

**TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS**

**RAFFLE—THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT!**

*Purchase a lovely Christmas card for Twelve  
Days of Christmas chances to win!*

*~Drawings Christmas through January 5<sup>th</sup>~*

*Christmas card recipients have 9 chances to win \$100  
and 3 chances to win \$500.*

*Christmas cards will be sold for \$25 after Masses at the  
Church and Chapel as well as at the parish office.*

*Don't miss out on this great gift idea  
while helping our parish!!*



**FAITH  
FORMATION  
(401) 792-8684**

**Faith Formation K-6**

**Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**

9:55-10:50 AM - Grades K-6 classes  
will meet in Fr. Greenan Center

**Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 AM Christmas Pageant  
Rehearsal in Fr. Greenan Center

**Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 AM Our Annual Christmas  
Pageant is scheduled during class time  
in Fr. Greenan Center. Refreshments  
to follow!



**Confirmation I and II**

**Wednesdays: 6:30pm-8:15pm (FGC)**

Upcoming classes:  
December 18

**Children's Liturgy Volunteers  
Needed at 9 AM Mass**

Children's Liturgy of the Word manifests the church's hospitality toward children as Christian believers who are called to grow in their faith through liturgical celebrations. This ministry is for children who have not yet received their First Holy Communion. Children's Liturgy of the Word will take place at Sunday 9am Mass, during the Liturgy of the Word. After the Introductory Rites, Father or Deacon will call the children to the front of the church for a blessing and dismissal. Volunteers then lead the children downstairs to Helen Bouchard Hall, and lead a child-friendly version of the Liturgy of the Word. The children are then brought back to Mass during the Offertory Hymn, so they can be with their families during the Eucharist. Contact Jamie Friel for more information.



**THE GIVING TREE**

The Social Outreach Committee is sponsoring our annual Giving Tree. Gift tags have been placed on the Advent trees in St. Francis Church and at St. Romuald Chapel.

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 the weekend of December 14/15.** 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!

## This Week

### Monday, December 9

7:30-10:00am Adoration (Church)  
6:30pm Men of St. Joseph (↓FGC)  
6:30pm Immaculate Conception Mass

### Tuesday, December 10

6:00pm Parish Advent Penance Service

### Wednesday, December 11

10:15 am Women's Prayer Group (FGC)  
6:00pm Prayer Meeting (HBH)

### Thursday, December 12

6:00 pm Bible Study (FGC)

### Sunday, December 15

10:00am Christmas Pageant (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 December 24<sup>th</sup> and December 25<sup>th</sup>.*

## PLANNING AHEAD CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

### *CHRISTMAS EVE* *TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24*

At the Church  
4:30pm  
10:00pm

At the Chapel  
5:30pm

### *CHRISTMAS DAY* *WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25*

At the Church  
10:00am

At the Chapel  
10:00am

## THANK YOU FROM THE SOCIAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE!

The Social outreach committee would like to offer thanks to our parish community who responded so generously to our recent food drive for the Jonnycake Center. As a parish we donated over 600 pounds of food to the Jonnycake Center to use for their holiday distribution to aid local families. We also received cash donations totaling over \$250. The Jonnycake Center is extremely grateful for the help we provide. Thank you again for continued generosity!

## SAVE THE DATE

**Month of January:** Baby Shower  
**March 5:** Ash Wednesday



## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COOKIE CELEBRATION!

We invite you to join the Kitchen of Hope Bakers with baking and assembling Christmas Cookie platters to be delivered with the KOH Christmas meal.

This is a FREE event. Relax and enjoy a glass of wine, crackers, cheese and light appetizers as we celebrate the spirit of Christmas!

Thursday, December 19th, 2025, 4:00pm-6:00pm  
Fr. Greenan Hall (Behind St. Francis of Assisi Church) 114 High Street, Wakefield, RI

Please text/call (619)335-6860 (DJ ) if you are planning on joining us and with the number of cookies you will be bringing.

## STEUBENVILLE RETREAT

Attention Youth of St. Francis of Assisi Parish! Get ready for an unforgettable experience at the **2025 Steubenville Youth Conference** at Franciscan University! From June 27-29, 2025, teens from across the country will gather for a weekend filled with powerful worship, inspiring talks, and deep encounters with Jesus Christ. This year's conference promises to ignite your faith like never before, with dynamic speakers, uplifting music, and opportunities for adoration and confession. Join hundreds of other young Catholics in a vibrant community where you can grow in your relationship with God and be empowered to live out your faith boldly. Don't miss out on this life-changing event that has transformed the hearts of countless teens—mark your calendars.

Attention Parish/Supporters! As with any Youth Conference, fundraising is an essential part of the preparation. Given that this conference will be in Steubenville, Ohio, we will be looking to raise financial support through, but not limited, to the following:

1. Generous donations from St. Francis of Assisi parishioners
2. Bake sales at both St. Francis of Assisi and St. Romuald Chapel
3. Car washes at St. Francis of Assisi
4. On-line "Virtual" fundraising (Popcorn Sales)

We sincerely thank you for your consideration in giving to this amazing cause that is transformative to our Catholic Youth. More to follow!



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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 ... , & e Apostles' Creed.*

*and n, 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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