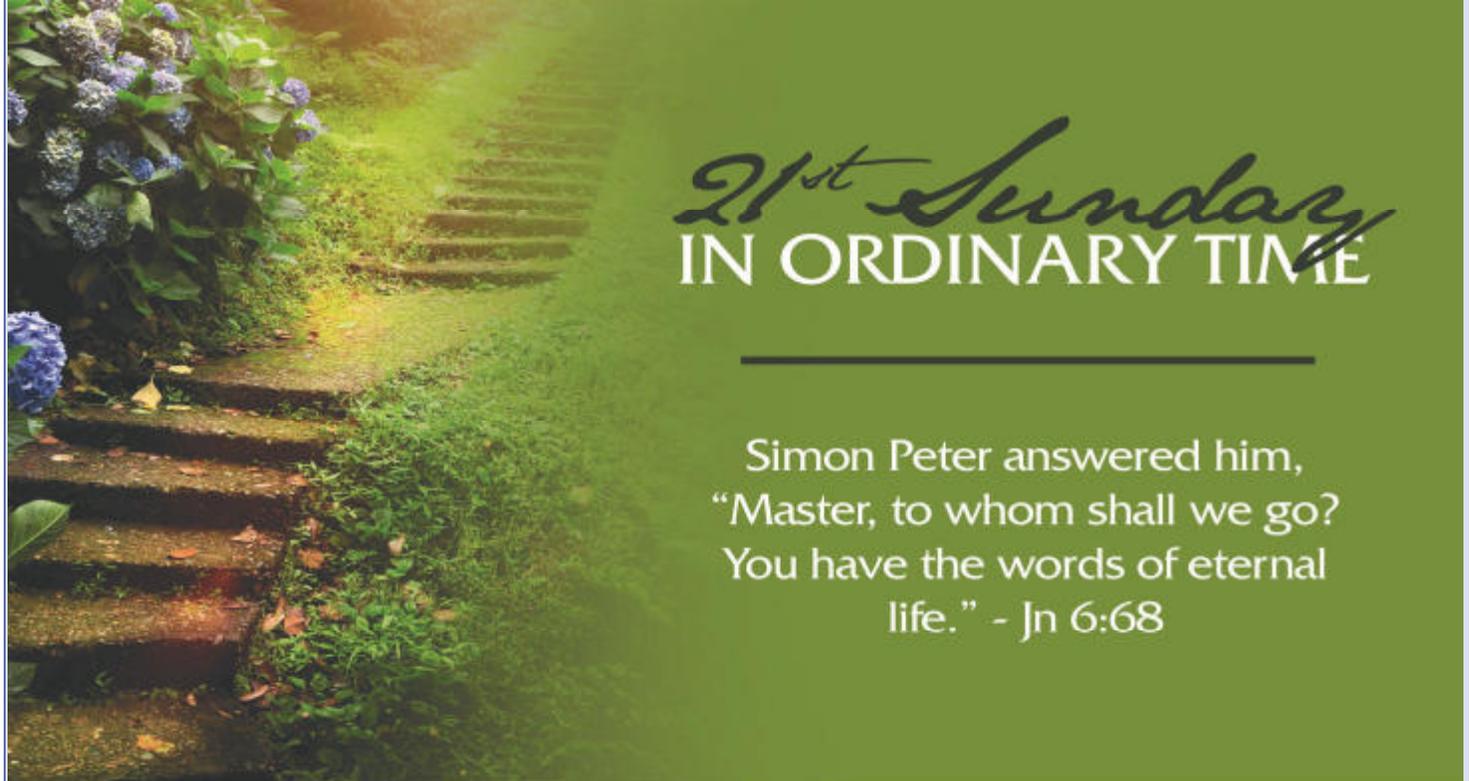


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Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

PASTORAL TEAM

Administrator: Rev. Thomas J. Reilly
Deacon: Joseph A. Cooley
Office Manager: Christine Breslow
Religious Education Coordinator: Anne Dooley
Maintenance: Joseph DiMauro
Music Director: Phyllis Bunnell
Cantors: Alison Creedon
Cory D'Arco
Julie Kron
Kellie Leavitt
Michelle Manzi-Grasso

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend: 4:30 PM Saturday
8:00 AM & 11:00 AM Sunday
Weekday: 9:00 AM Monday-Thursday
The Holy Rosary 8:25 AM Monday-Thursday
Eucharistic Adoration 9:30 AM -12:00 PM
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday
Confessions: 3:15-4:00 PM Saturday
Holy Days: 9:00 AM
Baptisms: 2nd Sunday/Month 12:30 PM
Marriage: Contact Pastor 6 months prior
Scripture Study: 10:00–11:00 AM Thursday

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

9:00 AM-1:00 PM Monday—Thursday

August 22, 2021



EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Submission as Stewardship

We aren't comfortable with the idea of submission. Our society champions equality, and rightly so — but it's a mistake to think that submission is at odds with equality. To submit ourselves fully, we must first be free. We must first be our own masters. God has granted us that freedom with the salvation He offers. We are no longer the slaves of sin. Now He asks us to be subordinate to one another, in the name of Christ.

What a completely uncomfortable task! What He's asking is for us to be subordinate to the person who irritates us the most. The person we really can't stand. The person who doesn't respect us or appreciate what we have to offer. The person we think we're smarter than, more talented than. The person we envy.

That's the real challenge of stewardship, isn't it? Subordination. Inconveniencing myself by giving of time, of money, of relationship. Putting the needs or wants of another above my own when they haven't done anything special to earn it.

I invite you to consider the cross — the most radical expression of submission, and of stewardship, that ever existed. If there was ever someone who deserved superiority, isn't it the God who let Himself be nailed to a tree, who gave so freely of His life, His body, His blood, His everything?

To look at him in his agony is to truly understand the beauty of submission — of laying down what you have for the good of the other.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



LIVE THE LITURGY INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Many people give their allegiance to something until it asks them to do something challenging or radical. Then, they find themselves rethinking whether they want to be associated with it. The same holds for God. Either we serve God, or we don't. There can be no lukewarm stance with regard to faith. If we are in, then faith in Jesus Christ asks us to do some difficult things: work in service of God's Kingdom, love our enemies, offer no resistance to injury, and trust that the Eucharist is in fact Jesus' very Body and Blood. For some, buying into these things may prove too difficult and a return to a life without them is preferred. But truth is truth and it can only be found in God. If we find it hard to accept it from the mouth of Christ, where else can we go to find it? The task before us is to commit to the truth even when it may be easier to pursue something else. Truth is always worth obtaining even when it is difficult. Jesus offers us the truth of life, a life that is found in his own flesh and blood and a life discipleship.



We are extending a warm welcome back to **Our Lady's Sodality of St. Florence and St. Joseph.**

New Night: Thursday

Date: September 9th

New Time: 6:00 PM St. Joseph's Church Hall

Please come and, of course, feel free to bring a friend. All are welcome! We are looking forward to seeing our members and meeting new ones.



21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Far be it from us to forsake the Lord for the service of other gods.” We struggle with our gods. They appear in the forms of things like money, power, prestige, popularity, privilege, and self-fulfillment. We like these “gods” because they make us feel good and ask very little of us in return. When we worship them, we worship ourselves. How can you go wrong with that? We buy into the illusion that if something can give us a comfortable life, free of want and need, then it is worth setting other things aside to pursue it. In essence, we sell our souls. Our struggle with “who is God” and to whom do we belong is a real one and one that can easily find us empty and experiencing disillusionment.

The devil tempted Jesus in the desert and promised him more. We are promised “more.” But in pursuing the more and the satisfying we lose track of the cost, and the cost is great. We sacrifice our very life in pursuit of something disguised as life. We sacrifice truth for something that only “feels” true. While the true and real God certainly promises us many things, many things are also required. It is not about the warm and secure feelings and self-absorption the world wants to provide, but of giving back. There can be no lukewarm stance with regard to faith. If we are in, then faith in Jesus Christ asks us to do some difficult things: work in service of God’s kingdom (not our own), love our enemies, offer no resistance to injury, that we must die to ourselves in order to find ourselves, and trust that Jesus truly gives us his flesh and blood to eat and drink. These are hard things to accept and even harder to put into practice. It is no wonder that many, who may be attracted to Jesus at first, walk away in pursuit of the more self-satisfying gods.

But truth is truth. If we cannot accept it from the lips of Jesus Christ, then where else will we find it? To whom can we go? There is only one source of truth and life, Jesus Christ. Jesus has the words of eternal life and if we do not go to him, then where else will we find this gift? But we must be faithful and buy into the whole package deal that requires sacrifice and fidelity. When we do, we find ourselves, through the Body and Blood of Christ, connected to the Source of all life and then intimately bound with our brothers and sisters. We all have to decide whether we want to stay or go and if we can accept what Jesus has to say. It’s a choice we all have to make.

August 22, 2021

Your Sacrificial Offering

Offertory— August 15, 2021: **\$2,186.00**



- Saturday 4:30 pm August 21st
Rev. H. Joseph Murphy 8th Anniversary Mass requested by St. Florence Parish
- Sunday 8:00 am August 22nd
Mass for the People of St. Florence
- 11:00 am **Andrea Gerace** 10th Anniversary Mass requested by her family
- Monday 9:00 am August 23rd
Mass of Thanksgiving requested by the Travano family—their prayers were answered
- Tuesday 9:00 am August 24th
Teri Hall Memorial Mass requested by her family and friends
- Saturday 4:30 pm August 28th
Alessandra Molinara 30th Anniversary Mass requested by her family

The suggested offering for all published Mass Intentions is \$20.00.

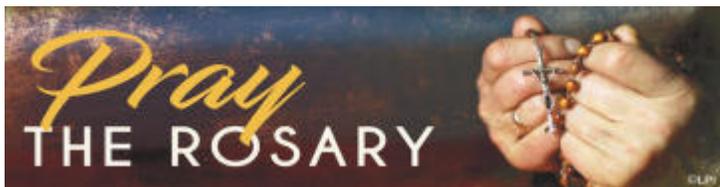


Mass Intention Cards and Healing Cards are available at the Rectory during normal business hours. The suggested offering is \$10.00 per card.



MINISTRY NEWS

As a reminder, all of our volunteers need to complete a **CORI Form** each year. If you are recently returning to a Parish Ministry, please contact our Business Office to check on the status of your CORI. There may be some volunteers who need to renew this year. Thank you.



Before celebrating Daily Mass, please join us at **8:25 am Monday-Thursday** to pray **The Holy Rosary**.



St. Florence Parish will celebrate **Eucharistic Adoration Monday, Tuesday & Thursday from 9:30 am—12:00 noon**. We are looking for parishioners to volunteer on Wednesday for one or two hours a week to adore the Lord in His Eucharistic Presence. Please contact the office if you are available.



Evening of Healing & Intercessory Prayer

Tuesday, August 24, 2021

St. Florence Parish, Wakefield

Celebrant: Father Thomas Reilly

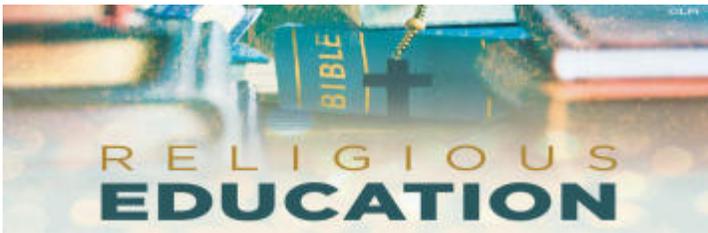
- 6:00 pm Adoration, Rosary & Confession until 6:45 pm
- 7:00 pm Holy Mass with Sacrament of the Sick
- 8:15 pm Opportunity for personal prayer



As a reminder, Sister Briega McKenna will be giving our parish mission on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, September 27th through the 29th. She will give a morning and evening presentation each of those days. She will be speaking at all the Masses on September 25th and 26th. We know you will really appreciate her. She is a very holy Sister, friendly and gracious. She is also a friend of Father Reilly. She will be joined by missionary priest, Father Pablo. Below is some background information for both Sister Briega and Father Pablo.

SISTER BRIEGA MCKENNA, O.S.C., was born in Ireland and entered the Sisters of St. Clare at the age of fifteen. Following her final vows and after suffering for more than three years with rheumatoid arthritis, she was transferred to her community in Tampa, Florida with the hope that the Florida sunshine would relieve her suffering. At the age of twenty-four, she was miraculously and instantaneously healed during the celebration of the Eucharist and some time later received, in prayer, the gift of healing for which she has become so widely known. In 1974, again during prayer, she was given a deep spiritual insight into the mystery of the call to priesthood. Since then, bishops and priests in many parts of the world have invited her to speak and minister at their retreats and conferences. Her Book, "Miracles Do Happen" has been translated into many languages throughout the world. Since 1985 Sister Briega has been ministering to priests in collaboration with Father Kevin Scallon, C.M. She is the 1988 recipient of the Poverello Award from the Franciscan University and the 2009 recipient of the Award for Outstanding Catholic Leadership from the Catholic Leadership Institute.

FR. PABLO ESCRIVA DE ROMANI was ordained in Madrid 2009. He studied Theology in the Faculty of San Damaso in Madrid, Spain. He worked predominantly with the youth in the parish of St. Teresa of Jesus in Madrid for several years. After that period, he went to Ukraine as a missionary, working with Bishop Jan Sobilo in the Shrine of Merciful God the Father, giving retreats and helping people from the war zone, pro-life missions with doctors, and spiritual exercises for priests. Fr. Pablo has been ministering at retreats as a missionary in different countries, including France, Mexico, Italy, Poland, Belarus, Switzerland, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Ethiopia, Dominican Republic, USA, Belgium, Lebanon, Holy Land, Guatemala, Chile, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Ukraine, and Costa Rica. He is now working as a diocesan missionary from Madrid in Costa Rica, residing with Bishop Javier Roman in the Diocese of Limon and helping in the indigenous zone, working with youth and giving spiritual exercises to priests. He is now beginning to restore a retreat house to receive priests willing to have a missionary experience and renew their priesthood. Additionally, Fr. Pablo has joined Sr. Briega in ministering to priests and at parish missions.



Registration for our **Religious Education Program** for the 2021-2022 school year is now open. St. Florence will again offer classes for Grades 1 through 10 starting this Fall.

As a reminder, if your child is entering the 10th Grade and is enrolled in a Catholic School, they will need to participate in our 10th Grade Program to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Please contact **Anne Dooley**, our Religious Education Coordinator, for a registration form or if you have any questions.



Happy August everyone! Please note, all **Summer Catch Up Religious Education Lessons** for all grades are **due by Monday, August 23rd**. If you have received a book and an alternative lesson plan in paper format, please drop off your completed binder and book by Monday, August 23rd, to the parish office. Thank you.



If you are interested in volunteering as a Catechist this Fall, please contact our office as soon as possible. We need to know who is available so we can plan our program accordingly. Thank you.



Due to the pandemic many of our families experienced financial challenges this past year. If you are interested in supporting our young families, we are accepting scholarship donations for our Fall Religious Education Program. Please contact the office for more information.



We live in a country that upholds the separation of Church and state. **What is the role of Catholics in society?**

The role of the Church in the world has taken different forms over time, but the theme is the same. Be disciples in it! As the lay faithful — that is, not vowed priest or religious — we are called to live and love in the circumstances of our daily lives. St. John Paul II wrote a document about the laity. In it he wrote, “In their situation in the world God manifests His plan and communicates to them their particular vocation of seeking the Kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and by ordering them according to the plan of God” (On the Lay Members of Christ’s Faithful, 15).

God wants us in the hospitals, the board rooms, the law offices, the food pantries, and the little league games! We are to engage in the affairs of the world. But when we’re there, we should live the plan of God. We need to respect those around us, engage in just business and legal practices, and love our children. We should care for the earth, use our money wisely, and get to know our neighbors. We must advocate for social policies that respect human dignity and human freedom. No matter our state in life, we are invited to build the kingdom of God!



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Confessions are heard on **Saturdays from 3:15 pm to 4:00 pm**. *“Recognizing our need for true peace, both with others and within our own selves, let us confess those ways we have distanced ourselves from God.”*

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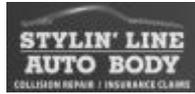
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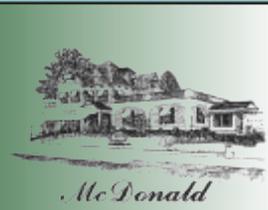
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