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**stflorenc@verizon.net**



## 23<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

And people brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment and begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him off by himself away from the crowd. He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!"  
—that is, "Be opened!"  
- Mk 7:32-34

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

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### PASTORAL TEAM

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

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

9:00 AM-1:00 PM Monday—Thursday

### 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  
**Adoration** 9:30 AM -12:00 PM  
Monday-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

### Our Church is Open for Prayer:

**Monday—Thursday** 8:00 AM—5:00 PM  
**Friday** 9:30 AM—5:00 PM  
**Saturday** 9:30 AM—6:00 PM  
**Sunday** 7:30 AM—6:00 PM

September 5, 2021



From the time we are born into this world until we die, our human radar picks up signals about how to respond to life. What we picked up on when we were very young carries an even greater power. The messages we receive and process tell us what we are “supposed” to do with our feelings, how to understand and cope with disappointment, anxiety, failure, death, illness, and what to expect out of life. As life unfolds for us, these radar messages kick in and resonate in us at very deep levels. Sometimes what we have learned is helpful and sometimes it is not. The stories we have been told, especially when we are young, about how life is best lived and how to negotiate its pain carry a heavy weight.

Life can be challenging and frightening. Sometimes, it really hurts to be a human being. It also can be quite unpredictable and, at times, unfair. We face our vulnerability and brokenness of all kinds: physical, emotional, and spiritual. It doesn’t take much for life to quickly fall apart. What we knew to be familiar and true is gone and something we relied upon, physically, emotionally, or spiritually, can be taken away. It is hard to confront our limitations and sit with our incompleteness. Often, life hurts us so much that we find ourselves sitting in a pool of sadness, not sure what we are supposed to do. It is particularly hard when the signals we have inherited tell us that we need to be successful in what we do, and we have to avoid life’s unfairness. We can feel like a failure, wondering what precisely we did to deserve this fate, or ruminate about what we did not do correctly. But it’s really not about us. We are part of a bigger picture and a much more fascinating story!

If we cease doing battle with life’s incompleteness and see ourselves, as God does, on a journey toward wholeness and completeness we can better accept our disappointments and stand firm. The prophets told us, and Jesus reassured us: Be strong! Fear not! Sometimes we have to update our stories and replace them with newer, more accurate ones. When we make God’s story our own and tune our radar into His voice, what we hear is all about restoration, healing, and rejuvenation! This is true even when we think we have hit rock bottom and can go no further. There is always hope. Remember the words of Julian of Norwich: God made us, God loves us, and God keeps us. Now, listen to God when He says, “be opened!” Be healed and allow your stories to change.

September 5, 2021

# Your Sacrificial Offering

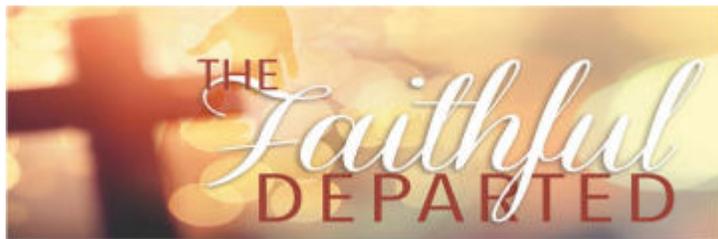
**Offertory— August 29, 2021:** \$3,392.00  
**Catholic Relief for Haiti:** \$1,340.00

Next weekend’s special collection supports our **Parish Capital Fund**. Our ushers will pass the baskets once. Donations for our Capital Fund should be placed in a pink envelope. Thank you for your continued generosity.



Saturday 4:30 pm	September 4th <b>Nancy Herron</b> Healing Prayers requested by her friend  <b>Ernest Caezza &amp; Milina Caezza</b> Memorial Mass requested by the family
Sunday 8:00 am	September 5th <b>Mass for the People of St. Florence</b>
11:00 am	<b>Albert Ethan</b> Memorial Mass requested by his family
Monday 9:00 am	September 6th <b>Arthur Rotondi</b> 6th Month Anniversary Mass requested by Karen Rotondi
Tuesday 9:00 am	September 7th <b>Bob Mallard</b> Healing Prayers requested by his friend
Wednesday 9:00 am	September 8th <b>Salvatore Gulla</b> Prayers for Good Health requested by his friend
Thursday 9:00 am	September 9th <b>All Priests and Religious Persons</b> requested by a parishioner

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



Dear Lord, Let us pray for the souls of **Michelina Roberts**, **John Egan**, and **Vincent Gorey** whose Funeral Masses were celebrated this past week. We the Parish of St. Florence offer our deepest condolences to their families and friends. May they rest in peace.

## Prayer REQUESTS

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



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.”*



## -CHOIR PRACTICE-

The **St. Florence Choir** rehearsals will resume on **Tuesday, September 14th, at 7:00 PM**. New Members are always welcome to join in this ministry. The choir sings at the 4:30 PM Mass on Saturdays and different Holy Days throughout the year. You do not have to have a beautiful voice to join the choir. Many ordinary voices can make a beautiful sound.



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.

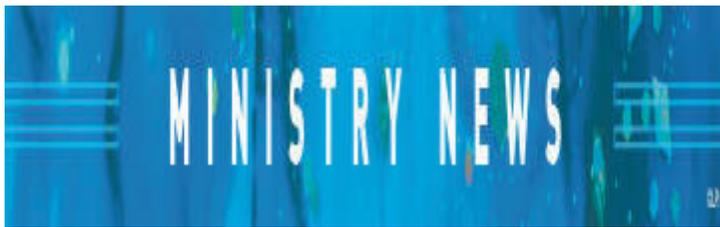


St. Florence is thankful for all our parishioners and their ongoing generosity. In addition to your weekly offering, there are many ways your family can support our Parish. Perhaps you would like to donate a monetary gift toward the **Bread & Wine**, **Altar Candles**, or **Altar Flowers** or our fundraising efforts for altar supplies and vestments. If you are interested in making a donation in your family's name, please contact the office.



We continue to collect gift cards and nonperishable food items for the **Wakefield Interfaith Food Pantry**. Gift cards may be dropped in our offertory collection baskets in an envelope marked "Food Pantry" and food items can be left in the front lobby of the church. The overwhelming support from our parishioners has been greatly appreciated by our neighbors in needs. Thank you.





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 through Thursday from 9:30 AM—12:00 PM**.



**40<sup>th</sup> Annual Lawn Party to Benefit Seminarians**

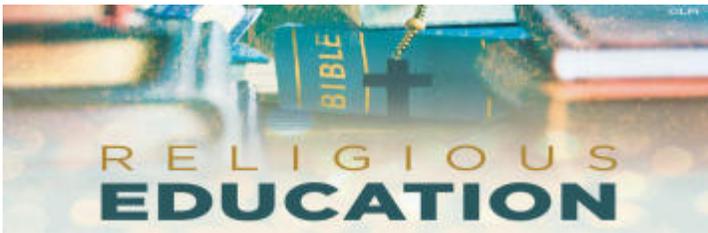
Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary in Weston is hosting its 40th Annual Lawn Party on **Wednesday, September 29th, at 6:00 PM**, on the grounds of the seminary. This premiere fundraising event is hosted by His Eminence, Seán Cardinal O’Malley, OFM Cap. The evening will include a reception and dinner with music. Located on Route 30 in Weston, the Seminary prepares second career candidates, men over the age of 30, for priesthood. The proceeds from the Lawn Party help to keep tuition costs affordable. For ticket information, please call the Pope St. John XXIII Development Office at 781-899-5500, or visit their website [www.psjns.edu](http://www.psjns.edu). You can make a difference and encourage the vocations of these men through your support of the Lawn Party.



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 is underway, and I am looking forward to meeting our Religious Education families this fall! We are working on our calendar which will include weekly classes for Grades 1 and 2 on Tuesday afternoons from 4:00 PM-5:00 PM, and twice-monthly meetings for Grades 6-10 on Sunday evenings from 6:00 PM-8:00 PM. Each of our Sunday evening gatherings will include a special teaching Mass which will focus on one aspect of the liturgy, to help our students grow in understanding of how we, as Catholics, worship.

Grades 3, 4, and 5 will be handled primarily by families at home, using the Finding God series by Loyola Press. However, I would like to provide a workshop once per month after the Saturday Vigil Mass. It will be geared towards our students in Grades 3-5 and their families. Together we will deepen our Catholic identity and develop a relationship with Our Blessed Mother, who will lead us closer to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Traditionally, the kick-off for Religious Education is Catechetical Sunday, which happens to be the Confirmation date for our students this year: September 19th. Please join us for Mass at 11:00 AM on the 19th and plan to stay for fellowship afterwards. We would like to take a photo of each of our Religious Education families so that we can learn your names and faces, and be praying for you throughout the year.

Please be sure to register for religious education, online at: <https://forms.gle/NGZmjXTfYbDDvHLi6> or by filling out a registration form at the Parish Office. We need an accurate head count for ordering textbooks, so please spread the word that classes are forming now!

#### **Important Dates:**

Sunday, September 12th 6:00 PM-7:30PM Confirmation Rehearsal in Church

Sunday, September 19th 11:00 AM Mass-Catechetical Sunday, fellowship afterwards

Tuesday, September 21st 4:00 PM-5:00 PM Class: Grades 1&2 in Church Hall (downstairs)

Sunday, September 26th 6:00 PM-8:00 PM Teaching Mass & Class: Grades 6-10 in Church & Hall

Saturday, October 2nd 4:30 PM-7:00 PM Vigil Mass & Grades 3-5 Family Workshop in Church & Hall

Questions regarding the religious education program can be directed to: [stflorencewakefield@gmail.com](mailto:stflorencewakefield@gmail.com)



Our **Confirmation Rehearsal** is scheduled for **Sunday, September 12th, at 6:00 PM—7:30 PM**. All Confirmands are required to attend with either their sponsor or parent. Please meet in the church promptly at 6:00 PM. Thank you.



On Sunday, August 29th, **Luke Almeida** received the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Please pray for Luke and his family as they continue their journey of faith.



We are looking for **one more catechist** for our First Grade Religious Education Program. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact our office as soon as possible. Thank you.



#### **Prayer for Our Students**

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for the gift of learning!

I want to grow closer to you in everything I do at school.

In math and science, help me to see your beautiful plan in the world. Help me to discover new stories and values as I read and write. In arts and music, help me to be creative. In sports, help me to treat my teammates and my opponents fairly. Help me to learn new skills in technology.

Jesus, you are the perfect teacher. Help me to listen with open ears, an open heart, and an open mind to all my teachers at school.

Help me to treat my classmates with care, kindness, and respect.

Thank you, Jesus, for school! Amen.

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