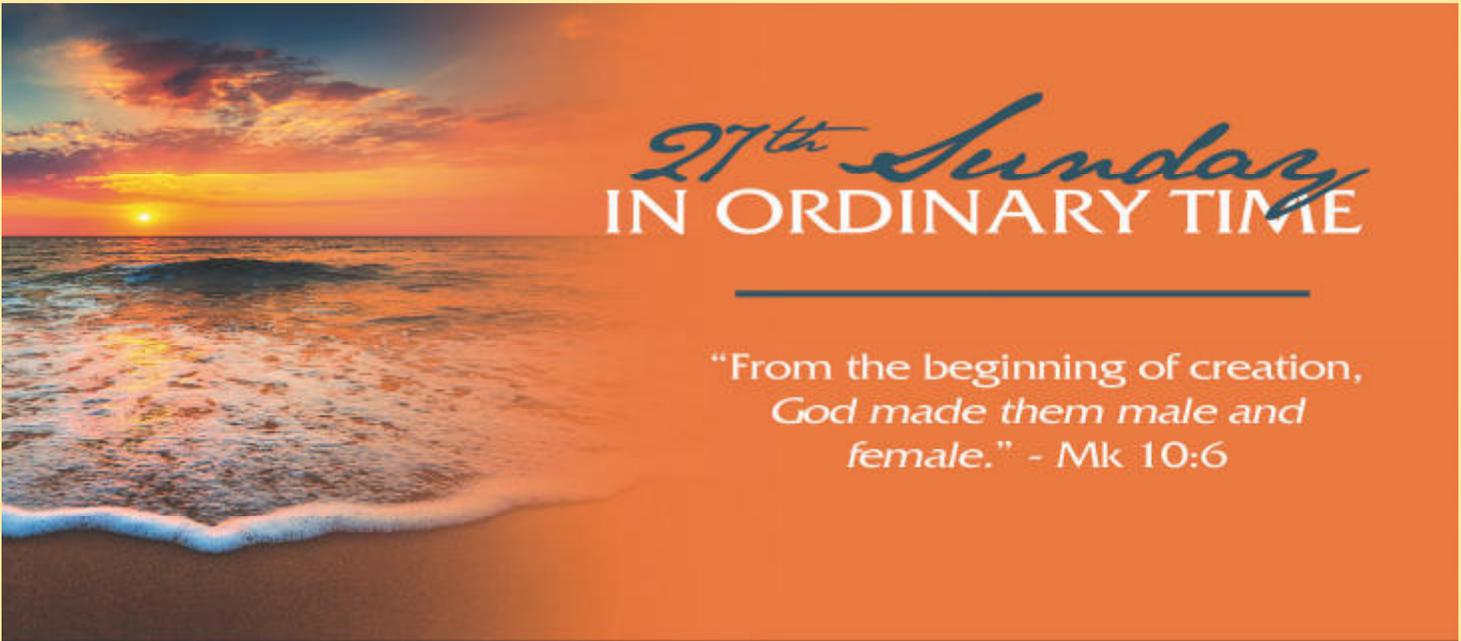


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*27<sup>th</sup> Sunday*  
IN ORDINARY TIME

“From the beginning of creation,  
God made them male and  
female.” - Mk 10:6

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

**PASTORAL TEAM**

**Administrator:** Rev. Thomas J. Reilly  
frreillystflorenc@gmail.com

**Deacon:** Rev. Mr. 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

**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  
4:00 PM—5:30 PM Wednesday

**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

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

9:00 AM-1:00 PM Monday—Thursday

October 3, 2021



## 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Archbishop Fulton Sheen said, “It takes three to make love, not two: you, your spouse, and God.” Apart from the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ, nothing speaks better of God’s incarnate love than marriage. God designed it this way. We place great value on love and rightly so. What we fail to realize, however, is that love, its very presence and place in our lives, is not simply part of the human package deal. Love comes from God. It is one of God’s greatest gifts to human beings. When we begin to realize that our very ability to love is sacred, it changes up how we see the essence of life, and purpose and sanctity of marriage.

God is love. It stands to reason then that if we follow the path of unconditional, self-emptying love we will then stumble upon God. It is precisely this intimate wedding of God with love that gives such eloquence and honor to the love between husband and wife. As a living sign of Christ’s love for the Church and for humanity, husbands and wives speak volumes of God’s unconditional incarnate love for all of his children! The Divine power that brings unity and life to marriage is so strong that once joined, it really cannot be separated.

Admittedly, marriage covenants can be extremely difficult to negotiate and, at times, very painful to experience. God’s perfect divinity always meets our broken and imperfect humanity. God is okay with this setup as he created it this way. Our loving is never as unconditional as God’s and often tainted by our own imperfections, needs, memories, hurts, sinfulness, and weakness. All of this baggage negatively impacts even the most well-intentioned marriages, causing them to be hurtful and empty. We are love works in progress. God can succeed in perfecting our love only if we keep our eyes fixed on him as the source of that love. That’s why marriage is always about three and not just two.

The Divine intimacy at the heart of marriage is what can make them celebrations of great union and happiness. Couples who are still madly in love with each other after many years, still looking at each other with that timeless twinkle in their eyes, best tell the story of God’s oneness with humanity. Honor, celebrate, and support those who have accepted a vocation to marriage. Living in a world that easily pulls relationships apart, may they find hope and inspiration from their faith companions who are on the same journey!

October 3, 2021

# Your Sacrificial Offering

Offertory— September 26, 2021:

\$2,710.00

This week’s second collection supports the **Holy Father “Peter’s Pence”** collection that provides funds for emergency and disaster relief; and **The Catholic University of America** that educates priests, lay people for ministry, and supports the Inner-City Parishes of the Archdiocese of Boston. Your generosity and prayers will assist the Holy Father and the various missionary efforts at home and abroad.



Saturday	October 2nd
4:30 pm	<b>Abel “Bill” Simmons</b> 4th Anniversary Mass requested by Laura White
	<b>Michelina Roberts</b> Month’s Mind requested by Maria Molettieri
Sunday	October 3rd
8:00 am	<b>Ronald &amp; Carole Catalano</b> Memorial Mass requested by their children
	11:00 am <b>Alison Mavilia</b> 6th Anniversary Mass requested by her family
Monday	October 4th
9:00 am	<b>Jonathan Reilly</b> 29th Anniversary Mass requested by his family
Tuesday	October 5th
9:00 am	<b>Mass for the People of St. Florence</b>
Wednesday	October 6th
9:00 am	<b>David Poliks</b> Memorial Mass requested by Joseph & Giulia DiMauro
Saturday	October 9th
4:30 pm	<b>Louis Perillo</b> Memorial Mass requested by his children
	The deceased members of the <b>Santoro, Surette &amp; Roberts Families</b> requested by Rose Surette

*Make your New Year's Eve special by having your Marriage Blessed in the presence of God*

If you are married, but not in the Catholic Church, you are invited to a

**Marriage Validation Ceremony**  
**Officiated by Bishop Mark O'Connell**  
**Friday, December 31 at 6:00 PM**  
**Saint Theresa Church, 63 Winter St., North Reading**

Celebrate the sanctity of marriage by ending 2021 in this wonderful way, and together look forward to the blessings of 2022.

During the wedding ceremony, each couple will say their vows separately before Bishop O'Connell and their two witnesses.

To get more information about how to register, please contact the Regional Bishop's Office at 978-531-1013 or northregion@rcab.org. There is no cost to the couple.

Since 2018 over 20 couples have participated in this joyous event.




### Does God Forgive Abortion?

*Can a person (the mother, father, or provider) ever be forgiven for an abortion?*

For people of faith, any conversation of human sinfulness should always lead us to reflect on God's loving mercy. Because God's mercy is greater than any sin, the Church is clear that even those involved in the sin of abortion can be reconciled with God and the Church. To help make this grace more available through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Pope Francis extended the permission to absolve someone of the sin of abortion to all priests in 2016.

Even with the grace and blessings of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the tragedy of abortion and the aftermath of abortion takes a toll on everyone involved. Ministries of outreach and support, such as Project Rachel, offer pastoral counseling, support groups, retreats, and other forms of care. As Christians, we are also called to help promote this healing and reconciliation in all its forms. To learn more, visit [www.hopeafterabortion.com](http://www.hopeafterabortion.com).



### RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

#### Therein lies the...rib

"If I were God..." is a dangerous way to start a sentence, but how many of us do this? Probably more regularly than we would like to admit. Even if we don't verbalize the sentiment, we likely think it from time to time. Most of us finish that statement with some genius, original idea for eradicating difficulty and pain from the world. *If I were God, I wouldn't let anyone go hungry. If I were God, all wealth would be equally distributed. If I were God, war wouldn't exist.*

I imagine that, when we think thoughts like these, God shakes His head and wonders why we don't look a little harder at the whole of His creation — because I can promise you, it's never lacking.

When Adam had a need for a companion, God used what was available: Adam's rib. Everything that He had put into place was already perfect, already complete. Woman was a new creation, but not a new species. Adam searched through all of creation to find the perfect mate, but God had tucked the answer inside of His creation all along.

I'm guilty of it as much as anyone else — looking to Heaven with a chip on my shoulder. "Why haven't you sent me what I need? I've been asking over and over again." But have I even thought to look inside of myself?

Where is the rib you are missing today? What are the opportunities God has set before you? What are the needs that He is ready to fulfill, if only you would stop wasting time lamenting all the solutions that don't fit the bill?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



We are in the process of forming a **Parish Pastoral Council**. We have asked members of St. Florence to serve on a Planning Committee. The Planning Committee will conduct a parish wide vote for 10 new members. Parishioners may nominate anyone who they feel would be a good fit for our Parish Pastoral Council.



SAVE THE DATE! On **Sunday, October 3rd, at 12:30 PM** you and your pets are invited to our side lawn for the annual Blessing of the Animals. This celebration is in honor of the feast day for St. Francis Assisi. Please contact the office to register and note all pets must be on a leash or in a crate.



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** and again on **Wednesday afternoon from 4:00 PM—5:30 PM**.



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

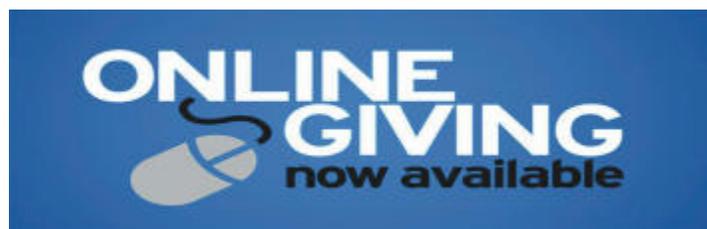


**I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD...**

The Sanctuary Tabernacle Lamp for the Month of October is dedicated to **Alison Mavilia** by her family.



Confessions are heard on **Saturdays from 3:15 PM to 4:00 PM**.



St. Florence Parish provides online giving through ParishSOFT as a convenient and secure way to make a one-time or recurring donation. To give online, visit

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/stf47b293>

You have the option to create a profile while on our giving page, which will give you the ability to log in at any time to view your prior online donations or make changes to any recurring gifts you may have scheduled. ParishSOFT ensures your donations and personal information are secure so you can give with confidence.



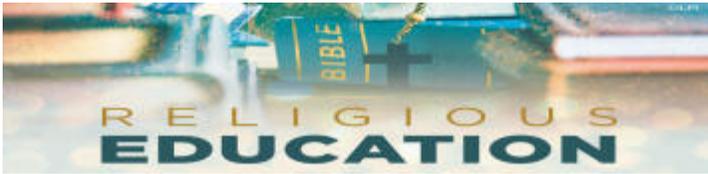
The holiday season is fast approaching and the **Wakefield Interfaith Food Pantry** has expressed their sincere thanks for the overwhelming support from our parishioners. We are collecting gift cards and nonperishable food items (stuffing, boxed rice, boxed potatoes, canned vegetables and fruit, cranberry sauce, quick bread mixes and canned white tuna in water). Gift cards may be dropped in our offertory collection baskets in an envelope marked "Food Pantry" and food items can be left in the red bin in the front lobby of the church. Thank you for your generosity and for your help to feed those in need.



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 are looking for Ushers for our **11:00 AM Sunday Mass**. If you regularly attend this Mass and are available to serve in this ministry, please contact our office.



Registration will remain open for one more week, until Friday, October 8th. We have met most of our religious education families and have ordered textbooks and Bibles. We are in good shape for a year of learning the Catholic Faith together!

**Our first Family Workshop for Grades 3-5 and those catching up to 2nd Grade will be held from 5:30-7:00 PM on Saturday, October 2nd in the Church Hall. Our theme is *The Victory at Lepanto and Our Lady of the Rosary*.**

Registered students will receive a Google invitation for this event, which takes place after the Saturday vigil Mass. You may bring the whole family! Please be sure to reply, so we can prepare accordingly. 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.

**Twice-monthly meetings for Grades 6-10 on Sundays from 6:00-8:00 PM will begin October 3rd.** 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. This week's theme is *thanksgiving*.

**Weekly classes for Grades 1 and 2 on Tuesdays from 4:00-5:00 PM will begin October 5th.** Please arrive 10 minutes early if your child missed the Meet & Greet event. We will hold an informational meeting for parents in the Church during our second class, October 12th.

**Please assist us by registering for religious education in two ways:** online at <https://forms.gle/NGZmjXTfYbDDvHLi6> AND by filling out a registration form at the Parish Office when you drop off your payment.

**Important Dates:**

**Saturday, October 2nd** 4:30-7:00 PM Vigil Mass & G3-5 Family Workshop in Church & Hall

**Sunday, October 3rd** 12:30 PM Blessing of the Animals in honor of the feast of St. Francis

**Sunday, October 3rd** 6:00-8:00 PM Grades 6-10 Teaching Mass and class in Church & Hall

**Tuesday, October 5th** 4:00-5:00 PM First Class for Grades 1 & 2 in Church Hall (downstairs)

**Sunday, October 17th** 6:00-8:00 PM Grades 6-10 Teaching Mass and class in Church & Hall

**Sunday, October 31st** 11:00 AM Mass All Saints Procession in Church. Children who dress up as a saint will receive a gift that will help them to grow in friendship with our friends in Heaven.

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



**Praying Hands: Prayers Answered!**

It has felt like Christmas this week at the parish office. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of the St. Florence community! Thank you for the outpouring of support for the religious education program. We hope to become a blessing to the parish as our students become involved in weekly worship and Christian Service projects that will benefit our faith family. We are still in need of donations to cover larger purchases such as Bibles, a laminator, A/V equipment, and a service cart for hospitality at special events. These items cost just over \$700. No donation is too small! May God bless you for sharing your resources with us.



We are looking for one more volunteer to assist with our youth program (Grades 6—10). If you are interested in volunteering, please contact our office as soon as possible.



The next meeting for **Our Lady's Sodality of St. Florence and St. Joseph** is **Thursday, October 7th, at 6:00 PM** in the Hall of St. Joseph's Church.

We are delighted to welcome Reverend Mr. Artie Rogers, Deacon to be our honored guest speaker. If you haven't already met Deacon Rogers, please come and enjoy meeting him!

It was great being able to gather again last month and wonderful to welcome new members.



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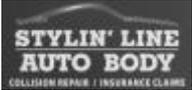
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