

ST. FLORENCE PARISH
47 BUTLER AVENUE, WAKEFIELD, MA 01880
PHONE: (781) 245-2711
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stflorenc@verizon.net



28th Sunday
IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus looked at them and said,
"For human beings it is
impossible, but not for God.
All things are possible for
God." - Mk 10:27

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
deacon.joe@housesofmercy.net

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
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

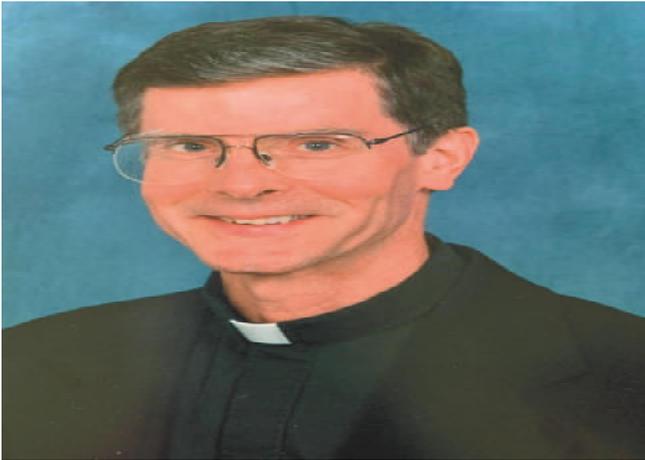
Scripture Study: 10:00—11:00 AM Thursday

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

*On Tuesdays the church will close at 3:45 PM while
Religious Education Classes are in session.*

October 10, 2021



Dear Friends in Christ,

Our Parish Mission with Fr. Pablo and Sister Briega was a great blessing for all of us! So many folks shared with me how their hearts and souls were touched! More than 1,200 persons attended. On Monday and Tuesday we had 5 priests who heard a total of 22 hours of Confessions! The Confession lines were long and continuous! We had 17 hours of Eucharistic Adoration for the 3 days! Many people came for Adoration!

On Tuesday, October 26th, Fr. Jurgen Lias, will lead our parish healing service. His theme will be the **Healing of Memories**. He is a great priest and a gifted healer with much experience. I will also be there. Hopefully, Deacon Joe as well!

We have a number of big events planned for the future. For example, on Tuesday, November 23, the Vatican Exhibit, **Treasures of the Church**, will be sponsored by our parish and St. Joseph's in Wakefield. It will be held at St. Joseph's Parish because we do not have the facilities to hold it here. It is a great exhibition of first class relics of the saints. Many great miracles have occurred in the presence of these relics!

In the very near future we will hold nominations to elect members for our Parish Pastoral Council (PPC). Please be thinking about who you would like to nominate. Prior to nomination, please confirm that your nominee is interested in participating on the Council. We will select 10 by picking their names out of the hat!

With all the building repairs over the last two years, and the closing of the church during the pandemic, we are experiencing financial challenges that I will share with you in the very near future. In brief, in order to end FY2022 in the black, we must increase the weekly offertory by at least \$1,500 each week. We will also have a Grand Annual Campaign, beginning this month, to raise additional offertory. Jesus expects the members of His Church to support it with prayers, good works, and financial assistance.

Jesus has sent Deacon Joe and his wife Ceci, Anne Dooley and her husband Peadar, and myself to this parish to build it up! With staff members Chris, Joe and Phyllis, and your support, we intend to do that!

You are all remembered in my Masses and prayers. Please pray for our parishioners!

Peace,

Fr. Tom



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. Please make certain those you nominate are interested and available to join this Council.

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

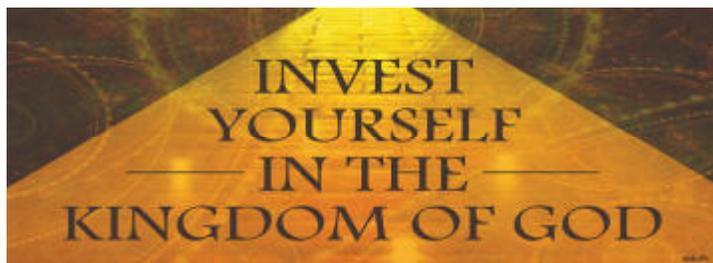
Celebrate the sanctity of marriage by ending 2021 in this wonderful way, and together look forward to the blessings of 2022.

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.





28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

If we are truly in love with God, then the basics are not going to be enough. That love is going to want to be expressed in going above and beyond, in leaving the comfortable and familiar, in stretching and growing, and in following a voice other than our own. St. Teresa of Calcutta rightly instructs us that for “love to be real, it must cost, it must hurt, it must empty us of self.” Being in love with God requires more than just checking the boxes of the commandments. It requires a sincere and unconditional self-investment. Desiring God with our whole heart, mind, and soul means that I must also desire a relationship with my neighbor with that same degree of fervor.

Biases and prejudices usually occur when people are kept at a distance and treated as objects. We cannot truly know our neighbors, especially if they are different than us, if we keep them in boxes and do not listen to their stories. When we open ourselves to listen to another person’s story, we begin to realize more how similar we are than dissimilar. Being overly attached to our possessions, ideologies, agendas, lifestyles, and personal needs are absolute barriers to achieving the type of personal investment love demands. This is why following Christ can be difficult. It is less a matter of intellect and more a matter of heart and soul. It requires that we transfer our treasure from an investment in tangible secular things and move it into the Kingdom of God. It is only the gift of wisdom and discernment that can help us decide what to do and how to do it.

Contemporaries of Jesus would know that a camel could not enter through the portal of a city weighed down with the baggage it was carrying. In order to enter, the baggage must be removed so that the animal could fit through the entry way. The same is true for us. We carry a lot of excessive baggage around with us that keeps us tethered to our past histories, wounds, myopic world views, prejudices, fears, and suspicions. To invest ourselves in the Kingdom of God, do God’s work and live out our love relationship with God, we need to shed the extra weight. While it may seem that a lot of that stuff is necessary, it really is not. We are much more than the things that we think define us and more secure than we think. The more there is to hold on to and the more that we carry with us, the harder it will be to leave it all behind. Many choose not to and walk away sad because they are not ready to trust.



Please note: Our Business Office will be closed on **Monday, October 11th** in recognition of Columbus Day.

October 10, 2021

Your Sacrificial Offering

Offertory— October 3, 2021: \$4,182.68
Holy Father Peter’s Pence: \$1,255.00

This week’s special collection supports our **Parish Capital Fund**. Contributions for the Capital Fund should be placed in a pink envelope.



Saturday October 9th
4:30 pm **Louis Perillo** Memorial Mass requested by his children

Socorso & Maria Santoro; Jim Surette; and John, Michelina, and John, Jr. Roberts Memorial Mass requested by Rose Surette

Sunday October 10th
8:00 am **Mass for the People of St. Florence**

11:00 am **Albert Ethan** Memorial Mass requested by his family

Wednesday October 13th
9:00 am **Maria Fatima Abreau** Birthday Prayers & Blessing

Saturday October 16th
4:30 pm **Anthony & Pauline Biancucci** Memorial Mass requested by Laura White



Dear Lord, Let us pray for the soul of **Peter May** whose funeral was the past week. We, the parish of St. Florence, offer deepest our condolences and prayers to his family and friends. May he rest in peace.



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**.



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.



We also need **Lectors** for our **Saturday 4:30 PM Mass, and Sunday 8:00 AM Mass**. If you are interested in sharing The Word of God, please contact our office. Training will be provided.



The next meeting for **Our Lady's Sodality of St. Florence and St. Joseph** is **Thursday, October 14th, 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.

Please enter the hall for our meeting by the back parking lot canopied door.



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>

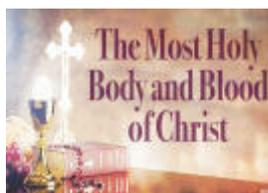
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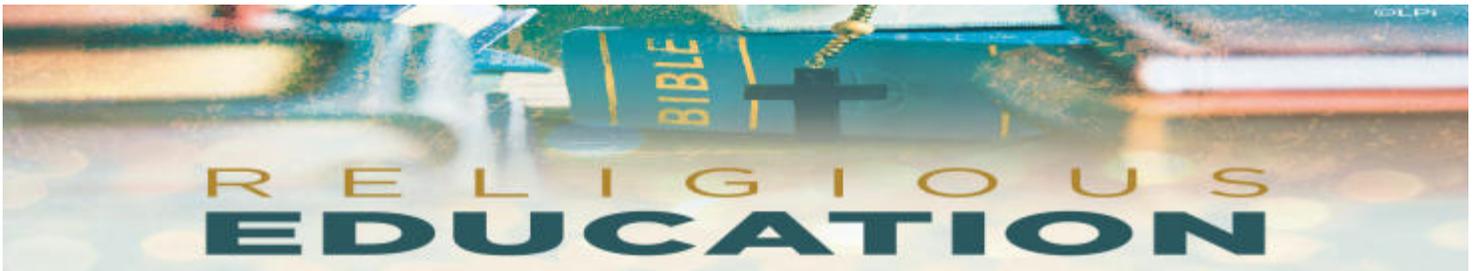
The holiday season is fast approaching and the **Wakefield Interfaith Food Pantry** has expressed their sincere thanks for the overwhelming support from our parishioners. We are collecting gift cards and nonperishable food items (stuffing, boxed rice, boxed potatoes, canned vegetables and fruit, cranberry 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.



This month's donation toward our Bread & Wine, Altar Candles, and Altar Flowers was made **In Memory of Harold J. Muise**.



Registration is now closed, and all classes have begun. Our first Family Workshop, Teaching Mass, and Grade 1 & 2 classes were a beautiful way to begin Religious Education at St. Florence. We are in good shape for a blessed year of learning the Catholic Faith together!

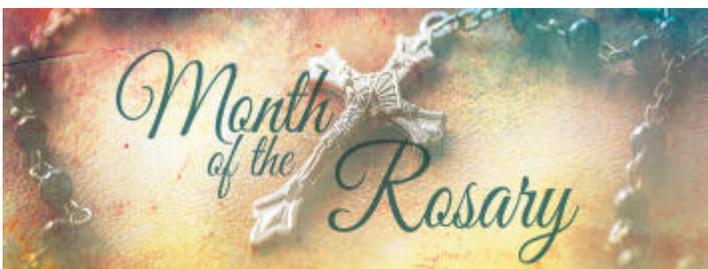
Grades 3-5 students who were unable to participate in our Family Workshop last weekend should contact the religious education office to arrange to meet staff and pick up a textbook for the homeschooling portion of the year. Please email us at stflorencewakefield@gmail.com.

Grades 6-10 will meet on the following dates (Sundays from 6:00 PM-8:00 PM):

10/17/21	6:00 PM
10/31/21	11:00 AM
11/07/21	6:00 PM
11/21/21	6:00 PM
12/05/21	6:00 PM
01/09/22	6:00 PM
01/23/22	6:00 PM
02/06/22	6:00 PM
02/20/22	6:00 PM
03/22 TBD	6:00 PM
04/03/22	6:00 PM
05/15/22	6:00 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. *Mass is considered to be an important part of the class, so please plan accordingly. Students may earn Christian Service credit by volunteering to be a lector, or by receiving training as an altar server during these liturgies. Please contact the religious education office to sign up. All are welcome to attend the Teaching Masses.*

Weekly classes for Grades 1 and 2 continue on Tuesdays from 4:00 PM-5:00 PM. Please arrive 5 minutes early and sign in with your child's catechist. We will hold an informational meeting for parents in the Church during our second class, October 12th, at 4:30 PM.



Important Dates:

Tuesday, October 12th 4:00 PM-5:00 PM Class for Grades 1 & 2 in Church Hall (downstairs)

Tuesday, October 12th 4:30 PM-5:00 PM Parent Meeting for Grades 1 & 2 in the Church

Sunday, October 17th 6:00 PM-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



Praying Hands- Prayers Answered!

It has felt like Christmas during the past 2 weeks 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, 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.



Children of all ages are invited to dress up as a favorite saint and process into the sanctuary with Fr. Tom as Mass begins at **11:00 AM on Sunday, October 31st**. Students in Grades 6-10 may earn Christian Service credits for participation, as they set a good example for their younger brothers and sisters in the faith. Please join us to make this a festive occasion at the Family Mass. **Arrive at 10:45 AM** to line up downstairs in the Hall, and receive a gift from the Parish.

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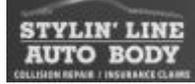
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