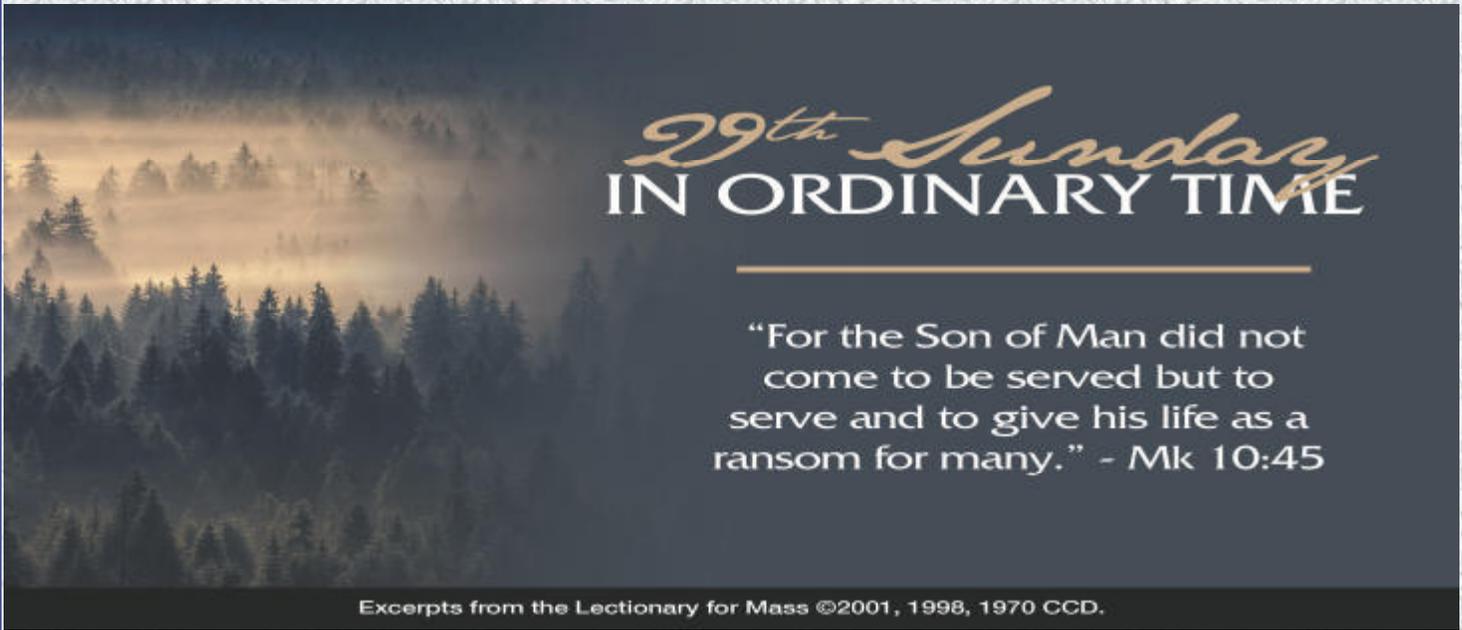


ST. FLORENCE PARISH
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FAX: (781) 245-4512
stflorenc@verizon.net



29th Sunday
IN ORDINARY TIME

“For the Son of Man did not
come to be served but to
serve and to give his life as a
ransom for many.” - Mk 10:45

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 17, 2021



29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“What do you wish me to do for you?” Whether we realize it, this is a question God is always asking. It’s an important question because the answer we provide will reveal a great deal about where our hearts lie. Our requests of God can often appear very noble and altruistic. They consist of requests for healing for someone in need of prayers, successful resolution of a personal conflict, assistance in overcoming a disease and myriad other desires for both ourselves and others. We are especially concerned about those we love and can easily find ourselves bringing their struggles to God for a hearing in our prayer.

Is that really all that prayer is about? The woman in today’s Gospel, having been put in her place by Jesus, was only looking out for the wellbeing of her sons. She was doing what mothers do, protecting and securing the livelihood of her children. But she was sadly mistaken, her request was not granted. We all make this same misguided mistake from time to time. The goal of prayer is not to convince God of the worthiness of our agenda or to gain a hearing. Sometimes we believe that the more we multiply our prayers or discover the right combination of supplications that we will receive more of God’s attention. That’s not how it works. Even though God desires to hear, know, and be an intimate part of what is on our minds, it goes much deeper.

What we need from God is a relationship. It’s a relationship that guides and immerses us in the very stuff of life and in the direction of the Gospel. This relationship sees God’s kingdom and agenda, not our own, as what is most important. It builds the strength of character necessary to bring God’s Gospel into a world that may not receive it with open arms. It may cause us discomfort and suffering. We are asked to heroically journey with God through suffering, hardship, ridicule, and even death! Ultimately, our desire from God must become our desire for God. It is only when this happens that the powerful words “thy will be done” will be found with sincerity and humility on our lips. Whatever God wishes becomes what we wish as we see this glorious union of wills. Our humble lives will then become powerful witnesses, and what happens to us in God’s eternal kingdom the result of his mercy. We become true servants and find ourselves discovering God’s definition of success. That definition has nothing at all to do with status, income, or privilege.

October 17, 2021

Your Sacrificial Offering

Offertory— October 10, 2021: \$2,954.00
 Parish Capital Fund: \$1,472.00

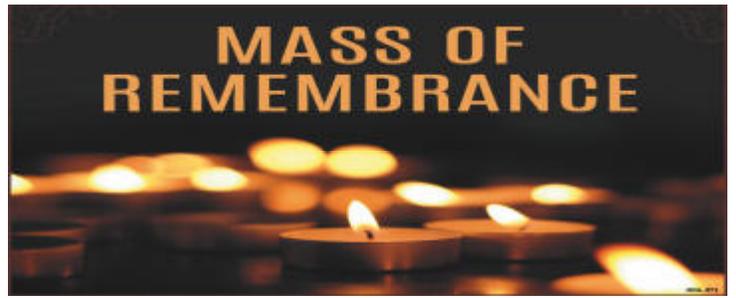
Next week’s second collection supports **Catholic World Missions**. By Baptism, all Catholics are called to participate in the mission of the Church and share their faith as missionaries. World Mission Sunday gathers support for the pastoral and evangelization programs and needs of more than 1,150 mission dioceses in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and remote regions of Latin America. The funds gathered on World Mission Sunday are distributed in the pope’s name by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith—Pontifical Mission Society.



- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Saturday
4:30 pm | October 16th
Anthony & Pauline Biancucci
Memorial Mass requested by
Laura White |
| Sunday
8:00 am | October 17th
Ralph Francesconi 2nd Anniversary
Mass requested by his family |
| 11:00 am | Palmira Santorelli 28th Anniversary
Mass requested by her family |
| | Grace R. Ciccirella Birthday
Remembrance requested by her family |
| Saturday
4:30 pm | October 23rd
Alberta Confalone Birthday
Remembrance Mass requested by
her family |



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



What's in it for me?

I think we've all been guilty of looking at a situation and wondering what's in it for us. It doesn't matter if it's a particular work assignment, someone at the parish asking for help with the mission trip bake sale, or your spouse asking if you'll take over the grocery shopping this week. Often, our first reaction to one of these requests is a heavy sigh and the thought: "If I do this, what will I get?"

Sometimes it surprises us to realize that the Apostles were no different. We tend to idolize these contemporaries of Christ as giants who walked with the Savior. But in reality, these individuals were merely human beings struggling to commit to the task of everyday stewardship.

In the Gospels, we see glimpses of them longing for praise and affirmation. We see them jockeying for positions of power within the group of twelve. We see them expect earthly rewards like honor and admiration. We see them acting a lot like us.

But in the end, we see them transformed by the grace of God. Like all the saints, their holiness stems from their commitment to their call. They stumble through, and as they stumble, they keep trusting God. They keep turning to Him. They keep asking for help. They don't give up just because they keep failing at it.

We are defined by what we give when we have no hope of being reimbursed, rewarded, or recognized. The Apostles understood this, eventually, and they gave accordingly. Most of them gave their very lives.

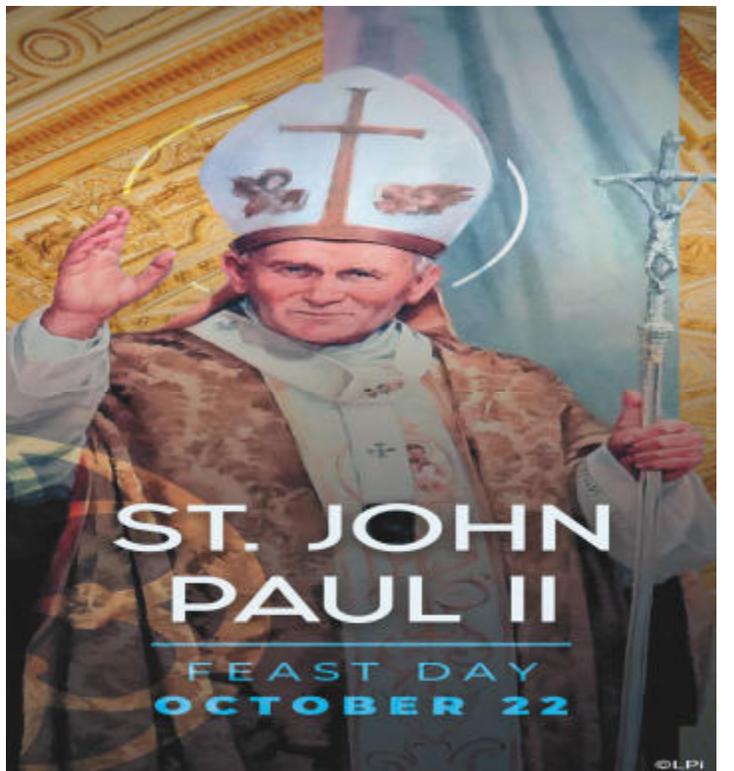
Remember, they're just like us. If they can do it, we can too.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

For all the parishioners of St. Florence who passed away this past year, we will honor those departed and celebrate a **Mass of Remembrance** on **Sunday, October 31st** at **11:00 AM**.



Earlier this month and in honor of St. Francis Assisi, Father Tom blessed many of our parishioners' loving pets at our **Annual Blessing of the Animals**. Pictured here is Father Tom, Giulia DiMauro and Islay, a wee 10 month old Scottish Terrier.



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.





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.



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.



Don't miss the amazing contemporary Country Gospel singer Patti Dahl of **Heartsong** this **Sunday, October 17th at 2:00 pm**, at St. Florence Parish. Admission is free and refreshments in fellowship immediately after in our church hall.



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.





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.

Important Dates:

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



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.



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.



This week we welcome and celebrate the newly baptized **Donovan Barry**, son of Christopher & Stephanie Barry; **Ellie Elizabeth Bordonaro**, daughter of Joseph & Annie Bordonaro; and **Lucille Elizabeth Pickett**, daughter of Mark & Emily Pickett. God bless our new brother and sisters in Christ.

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