Sunday Mass Schedule
Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 PM
Sunday Mass
7:30 AM
9:00 AM (Family Liturgy)
11:00 AM, 5:30 PM
Daily Mass Schedule
Monday - Friday Mass
6:45 AM, 9:00 AM
Saturday Mass 9:00 AM
Parish Holy Hour
Every Sunday: 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Confessions
Saturday 3:00 to 3:45 PM
or by appointment.

Pastoral Team
Fr. Ron Barker, Pastor
Merry Nordeen, Admin. Assistant
Rose Dittmer, Faith Formation
Anne Grant, Music Director
Maureen Miller, Parish Accountant
Mary Coles, Bulletin Editor
Alex Canto, Facilities Manager
Caleb, Parish Dog

Religious Education
Elizabeth Collins, Grade 1 - 2
Sharon Keith, Grades 3-8
Fr. Ron Barker, Grade 10
Carissa Scudieri, Youth Minister
Diane Murphy, Administration

Saint Joseph School
& Early Childhood Center
Dr. Joseph Sullivan, Principal
Alayne Flynn, Administrator
Phone: 781-245-2081
www.stjosephschoolwakefield.org

December 27, 2015
Dear Parishioners,

We are now in our last week of the year. This Sunday we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. This feast reminds us of the importance of family. This is the place where we learn how to live with others, how to receive and give love. It is in the family that we receive instruction of what is the important aspects of life. As Christian families, our faith is our priority and is to be handed down to our children. This is one aspect that we need to once again make an important part of families that have children. This was the activity of the early Christian church. There was no religious education program in the early Church. Children were taught the faith by their parents.

Parents were also to be examples of how to live their faith. As it is said, children set their watches by the clocks of their parents. This is our main approach to our religious education program. In Grades 3-6, we have parents come to be instructed in the faith and we have them teach their children the basics of our Christian faith. As is said in the baptism rite, parents are the first teachers of their children in the ways of faith. If you think of it, the old system was to have your children go to CCD one hour a week for 24 lessons. That comes to one day a year in religious instruction. Parents have their children every day of the year. So who really teaches them. If the faith is not lived in the house, then much is not accomplished by one hour a week. Parents are responsible for the religious education of their children. It is the most important duty for a child’s eternity is at stake. The most important thing for a parent is to see that their children are put on a path that will lead them to heaven. As a Church, we are to be there to help parents in their responsibility. If we can have the parents grow in a personal relationship with Jesus, then we have fulfilled our responsibility and the children are given an environment to grow in their relationship with Jesus.

Family life is under a lot of pressure and is in critical condition. We pray that the Holy Family pray for our families, to help us imitate them in our own families.

This Friday is New Year’s Day. It is the feast of Mary, Mother of God. This is a good feast to begin our new year for Mary is a good example of being a disciple of Jesus, her Son. She was a woman in love with God and in love of neighbor. She was a woman who said “yes” to God. She said “yes” to the will of God in her life. As we make new year resolutions, may we resolve to live more in the ways taught by Jesus. May we live in trust of God, obedient to His commands, love in our relationships and each day growing in our relationship with Jesus. May we live in trust of God, obedient to His commands, love in our relationships, and each day growing in our relationship with Jesus. May we live simply and acknowledge our many blessings. I do pray that this new year bring you the peace and love of Jesus and may He shepherd you in all of your needs. May the Lord also bring peace to the world and delivers us from all the evil that we see present in this world.

On New Year’s Eve, the Praise and Worship Group will gather for an 8 p.m. Mass. They invite the community to join them for the Mass and for food in the hall. The Mass will fulfill your holy day obligation.

God love you,
Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself.

Scriptural Teaching
An Inquisitive Walk through the Scripture

Dec 27, 2015

Holy Year of Mercy
December 8, 2015 to November 20, 2016
Immaculate Conception to Christ the King

"My thoughts now turn to the Mother of Mercy. May the sweetness of her countenance watch over us in this Holy Year, so that all of us may rediscover the joy of God’s tenderness. No one has penetrated the profound mystery of the incarnation like Mary. Her entire life was patterned after the presence of mercy made flesh. The Mother of the Crucified and Risen One has entered the sanctuary of divine mercy because she participated intimately in the mystery of His love.

Chosen to be the Mother of the Son of God, Mary, from the outset, was prepared by the love of God to be the Ark of the Covenant between God and man. She treasured divine mercy in her heart in perfect harmony with her Son Jesus. Her hymn of praise, sung at the threshold of the home of Elizabeth, was dedicated to the mercy of God which extends from “generation to generation” (Lk 1:50). We too were included in those prophetic words of the Virgin Mary. This will be a source of comfort and strength to us as we cross the threshold of the Holy Year to experience the fruits of divine mercy.” - Pope Francis

As we prepare to celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God and usher in our secular New Year, let us commend our Holy Year of Mercy to Mary so that we will be receptive to all the mercies the Lord provides.
ADULT FOCUS

Bereavement Community
Hear how our members have dealt with loss and learn strategies and activities that have helped others move back into the warm peace of the Lord. Meetings are held on first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in Our Lady’s Room. Please note time change to 7:00 p.m. Next meeting is on Tuesday, January 5, 2015.

Faith Sharing
Join us for insights and fellowship.
Mondays at 9:30 am in Our Lady’s Room
Meetings resume on Monday, January 11, 2016.
Tuesdays at noon. Call for confirmation.
Meetings resume on Tuesday, January 4, 2016.
Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. in St. Joseph’s Room.
Call for confirmation for meeting date.
Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. in Our Lady’s Room.

Knit, Purl, Pray
The Prayer Knitting Community meets on Tuesdays @ 9:30 a.m. in Our Lady’s Room. All are welcome.

Affirming Life Community
Heartbeat Pregnancy Center (781) 229-7887
A Women’s Concern Toll Free (866) 435-7292
Rachel’s Vineyard 877 HOPE 4 ME (877-467-3463)

Living With Chronic Illness Support Group
Support ministry for those experiencing chronic illness, cancer, or long term medical conditions from both visible or invisible illnesses. Caretakers of anyone who has a chronic illness are welcome.
Next meeting will be on January 13, 2016 in Our Lady’s Room at 7:30 p.m. in Our Lady’s Room.

Separated/Divorced Support Group
The Program on Separation and Divorce December meeting will not be held and will resume in January. Please call Rose 617-697-0888 for reservations.

St. Joseph Table
Serving healthful meals to those in need. The Second Friday and Fourth Wednesday each month. Schedules may change to accommodate certain holy days and holidays.

For more information on any of these programs, please call Rose at 617-697-0888 or email: rmdittom@aol.com.

Religious Education
Wishing all students and their families a very happy and blessed Christmas season and a wonderful New Year filled with the joy of Jesus’ love. See you in 2016!

Grade 1: Saturday, February 6, 2016
Grade 2: Thursday, January 7, 2016
Grade 3, 4, 5 & Grade 6 Homeschool: Sunday, January 24, 2016
Grade 6: Tuesday, January 5, 2016
Grade 7: Tuesday, January 5, 2016
Grade 8: Tuesday, January 5, 2016
Grade 9: Sunday, January 3, 2016

Need a little help with your everyday activities? Contact Our Christian Service Ministry.
If you are experiencing a difficult time and in need of some help or interested in joining this ministry, please call: Lucia Beaton at 781-820-6039.

SAINT JOSEPH SCHOOL NEWS
“21st Century Catholic Learning Community Based on Timeless Values.”
Quality, Faith-based, Personalized Instruction

Registrations for 2016-2017 School Year
Due to the number of early requests from new families for Saint Joseph School we have decided to begin enrolling children now for grades Pre-School through grade 8. For information or to schedule a visit or tour, please call 781-245-2081/781-245-0796 or visit our website www.stjosephschoolwakefield.org

We look forward to hearing from you!
Feast of Mary, Mother of God
Mass Schedule

New Year’s Eve, December 31, 2015
Vigil 4:00 p.m.

New Year’s Day, January 1, 2016
7:30 a.m.
9:00 a.m.
5:30 p.m.

Wakefield Interfaith Food Pantry
There are drop off baskets located in the foyer by the library for your donations of non-perishable food items to benefit the needy of our community. **This month the pantry is especially in need of brand name cereals.** Thank you for your continued generosity.

Need a little help with your everyday activities? **Contact Our Christian Service Ministry.**
If you are experiencing a difficult time and in need of some help or interested in joining this ministry, please call: Lucia Beaton at 781-820-6039.

St. Joseph Parish Expenses Paid
December 5, 2015 - December 21, 2015

<table>
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<th>Expense</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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OFFERTORY DECEMBER 19-20 $ 13,653
Please remember St. Joseph Parish in your will.

LITURGY CORNER

In the story of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac, we see God ever-present in the struggle, faithful to His covenantal promises. During periods of doubt and fear, the faith of Abraham and Sarah sustains them. With this family, we see the foreshadowing of the Holy Family that is to come - Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

Today's reading offers a prime example of the ideal family structure, one in which "honor" governs family ties. Children are clearly expected to obey and revere their parents, while parents are to support each other and exercise authority over their children with care.

From the Jewish perspective, living out proper family relations is not an end in itself. How one honors and respects parents has a direct impact on one's relationship with God. According to Sirach, when a child "honors" and "reveres" his father, especially in old age, various divine rewards come to the family.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREES

Thank you to our wonderful parishioners for the tremendous response to our Giving Trees! We were once again, overwhelmed with the tremendous response to this year's Giving Trees. The generosity of so many parishioners will enable hundreds of less fortunate individuals to have warm clothing and gifts under the tree as well as food on the table. We wish to thank the many volunteers who worked with our coordinator, Rose Finn. Much thanks to Janet Rivers, Lynn McCormack, Suzanne Hoffman and Pat Hardacker. This project could not have been accomplished without all of their dedication and hard work. We thank you for making the year 2015 a year filled with the blessings that made our work possible. God bless you and your kind and generous hearts.
Please pray for all those currently serving in the military and for all those deployed overseas especially Rory Connerty and Matthew MacKay.

Adoration Coverage Needed

We are especially in need of coverage on Tuesdays from 3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., and 4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., Wednesdays from 5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m., and Fridays from 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., and 7:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Please call the rectory to sign up.

Cenacle of the Marian Movement of Priests

St. Joseph Parish is answering Our Lady’s call. Please join us as we hold our monthly cenacle, on the 1st Saturday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in the chapel after the 9:00 a.m. Mass. We are asked to meet at least once a month, say a rosary together, pray special prayers for our Pope and read one or more of our Lady’s messages given to Fr. Gobbi. We also make an Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. We hope you can join us. If you have any questions, please contact: Sharon Keith (781) 245-5770.

OUR LADY’S SODALITY
OF ST. FLORENCE & ST. JOSEPH:

With very grateful hearts, Our Lady’s Sodality would like to thank the parishioners of St. Florence and St. Joseph Churches for their generosity in supporting our recent Bake & Raffle Sale. It was very successful thanks to your help. Our next scheduled meeting will be in March - weather permitting. Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

1060 AM Catholic Radio

2 p.m. David Anders/6 p.m. Catholic Answers. 1060 AM Catholic Radio or free mobile app at www.iCatholicRadio.com.

Scripture for the week of December 27, 2015

SUN Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52
Mon 1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Mt 2:13-18
Tue 1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35
Wed 1 Jn 2:12-17/Lk 2:36-40
Thu 1 Jn 2:18-21/Jn 1:1-18
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“Be a Servant”
Matthew 20:26

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“Feed My Sheep”
John 21:17

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