

21ST SUNDAY

IN ORDINARY TIME

“And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.” Matthew 16:18



St. Veronica Parish, a publication of
St. Malachy & St. Margaret Churches
August 23, 2026

"As a Roman Catholic faith community, we seek to follow the example of St. Veronica who carried the image of Christ always with her. Through fellowship, service and acts of mercy we walk as disciples in Christ's mission together seeking an ever-deeper relationship with God through prayer, education, sacraments, and the celebration of the Eucharist."

Dear Saint Veronica Parishioners,

In today's Gospel, Jesus asks his disciples what people are saying about his identity. The disciples point out that most people believe that Jesus is one of the many prophets of Israel. Then Jesus asks his disciples who they believe that he is. Simon Peter answers, identifying Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God. Jesus commends Simon Peter for this profession of faith, indicating that this insight has come from God. The same question is given to us. Who do you say that I am? I suspect that most all of us would answer the same as Simon Peter, that Jesus is the Christ. As His disciples here in Burlington, what is the next obvious question for us? What difference does that make for us? Are we willing to talk about what we believe in the workplace, school, or grocery store? If a stranger were to look at us, would they immediately know that we were followers of Christ by our actions or words? If someone were to ask you how your weekend was, would you share with them that you met and received Christ at Mass as part of your weekend or made an Act of Spiritual Communion while watching a TV or virtual Mass? A disciple is one who follows Christ. A disciple in mission is that same follower who actively talks about, shares, and lives a life of Christ. Are we that Disciple? In 1970, roughly 70% of self-identified Catholics went to Mass on a weekly basis. Now, about 16% of self-identified Catholics are at Mass on any given weekend. With numbers like that it is up to us who worship each week to share and talk about Jesus and invite others to a life of Christ.

School starts Next Week, August 31 with Freshmen Orientation beginning this Tuesday, August 25, here in Burlington. It is so hard to believe that the kids will be back to school. Where has the time gone? In your kindness, pray these prayers from *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers* on your own or with your children/grandchildren as they begin a new semester.

Prayers to Begin a School Year: *God of wisdom and might, we praise you for the wonder of our being, for mind, body and spirit. Be with our children as they begin a new school year. Bless them and their teachers and staff. Give the strength and grace as their bodies grow; wisdom and knowledge to their minds as they search for understanding; and peace and zeal to their hearts. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.* **Prayer for Students:** *Lord our God, in your wisdom and love you surround us with the mysteries of the universe. Send your spirit*

upon these students and fill them with your wisdom and blessings. Grant that they may devote themselves to their studies and draw ever closer to you, the source of all knowledge. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. **Prayer for Teachers:** *Lord God, your spirit of wisdom fills the earth and teaches us in your ways. Look upon these teachers. Let them strive to share their knowledge with gentle patience and endeavor always to bring the truth to eager minds. Grant that we may follow Jesus Christ, the way, the truth and the life, forever and ever. Amen.*

Regarding the recent signing of gravely immoral legislation by the Governor involving late term abortions, the Archdiocese has released the following statement:

The speed at which this legislation was passed in the final days of the legislative session, with little notice, does not diminish the fact that this measure is gravely immoral. The four bishops of Massachusetts reinforced this leading up to the final votes in both chambers by issuing a plea not to pass the legislation. In addition, the Massachusetts Catholic Conference wrote to every senator to make the case against passage of the bill. While this is a discouraging moment in the effort to protect the life of the unborn, we encourage all people of goodwill to work towards speaking out on the beauty and miracle of life. We continue to reaffirm the Church's call to its own community and to civil society to provide the resources to welcome and cherish the gift of life, as well as to accompany women and families who have known the pain of abortion. We will continue to work to uphold Catholic teaching prohibiting the direct attack on innocent human life from conception to the natural death. We welcome and join Pope Leo in his prayer intentions during this past July as he implored the Lord Jesus to help us love life as He does, "with tenderness, fidelity, and self-giving." We uphold his call, "May we proclaim, in words and action, that every human life is worth the total gift of ourselves."

Let us pray for each other. God bless,
Father Mahoney

"Welcome to St Veronica Parish. Here we are all invited to grow in our relationship with God and to know God's presence through faith, hope, love and ministry."

MASS Intentions

Saturday, August 22

9:00 am **St. Margaret**
Leo Scammon Anniversary
4:00 pm **St. Malachy**
George Drinkwater Birthday Memorial
4:30 pm **St. Margaret**
Bernard & Christine Arokiaraj
(25th Wedding Anniversary)
Mass for the Living

Sunday, August 23

8:00 am **St. Margaret**
Connie & Margaret Hanafin and Sons
and Don & Derek Dignan Memorial
10:00 am **St. Malachy**
Dianne Jenkins 14th Anniversary
& Robert "Uppie" Jenkins 7th Anniversary
12:00 pm **St. Margaret**
Edwin & Lillian Oley, Ryan Harrington
Denise Callahan & Herb Cunha Memorial

Monday, August 24

9:00 am **St. Malachy**
Jack Annese Birthday Memorial

Tuesday, August 25

9:00 am **St. Margaret**
Mass of Thanksgiving to St. Anthony

Wednesday, August 26

9:00 am **St. Malachy**
Dorothy Fraizer Memorial

Thursday, August 27

9:00 am **St. Margaret Church**

Friday, August 28

9:00 am **St. Malachy Church**
For All Parishioners' of St. Veronica Parish

Saturday, August 29

9:00 am **St. Margaret**
Rev. Mario Orrigo Memorial
4:00 pm **St. Malachy**
Jack McDonough 15th Anniversary
4:30 pm **St. Margaret**
Mary, Clarence, Dick & Christine Westberg
and Dick, Grace & Santo Patti Memorial

Sunday, August 30

8:00 am **St. Margaret**
Virginia Jeffries Mass for The Living
10:00 am **St. Malachy**
Helen & George Consolazio Memorial
12:00 pm **St. Margaret**
Maria Rabazzi Memorial



Funeral Masses were celebrated recently for
Dennis Delorey & Nancy Ferrick
Kindly include them and their families
in your prayers.
Thank you.

READINGS, SAINTS, OBSERVANCES 2026

SUNDAY Aug 23	Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time Is 22:19-23/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8/Rom 11:33-36/Mt 16:13-20
MONDAY Aug 24	Saint Bartholomew, Apostle Rv 21:9b-14/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18/Jn 1:45-51
TUESDAY Aug 25	Saint Louis; Saint Joseph Calasanz, Priest 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17/Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13/Mt 23:23-26
WEDNESDAY Aug 26	2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5/Mt 23:27-32
THURSDAY Aug 27	Saint Monica 1 Cor 1:1-9/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mt 24:42-51
FRIDAY Aug 28	Saint Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church 1 Cor 1:17-25/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11/Mt 25:1-13
SATURDAY Aug 29	The Passion of Saint John the Baptist 1 Cor 1:26-31/Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20-21/Mk 6:17-29
SUNDAY Aug 30	Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time Jer 20:7-9/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Rom 12:1-2/Mt 16:21-27

ST VERONICA PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Weekend of August 16, 2026
Envelopes & In Church: \$7,851
Online: \$3,424
TOTAL: \$11,275

Weekly Budget \$16,153
Income \$11,275
Deficit -\$4,878

Month to Date: \$39,729

Building Fund
Envelopes & In Church: \$360
Online: \$511
TOTAL: \$871

Archdiocese of Tororo
TOTAL: \$7,793

PROCEDURE FOR RECEIVING LOW GLUTEN EUCHARIST

Congregants requesting low gluten hosts are NO LONGER required to stop into the Sacristy before Mass. Instead, you are invited to come to the altar during the Lamb of God and are asked to stand on the opposite side of the altar from the Eucharistic Ministers to receive the low gluten eucharist before common distribution begins.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION HELP NEEDED

We are badly in need of parishioners willing to join our Eucharistic Adoration ministry. Adoration takes place once per month between 2 pm to 8 pm at St. Malachy's chapel.

We are looking for people willing to spend an hour with the Lord during that time period. We especially need help in the 7 - 8 pm time slot, but can use help in other time slots as well. It's not necessary to sign up every month. We could use your help even if it's only occasionally. If interested, please contact either Deacon Dick (deaconbilotta@stveronicaparish.org) or Cathy Rais (wwjcathy@gmail.com).

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

"Whatsoever you ask in my name, I will give you." ~Jn 14:14

THE PRAYER HOPE LINE: 781-273-HOPE (4673)

Are you or someone you know in need of a prayer? Do you know someone who is ill or perhaps suffering with an emotional problem? Give a call to the **Prayer Hope Line at 781-273-4673**.

When you call, listen to the prayer and then state your personal request, for example: 'Kindly pray for John who has cancer' or 'Pray for Mary who is having surgery', etc. Please do not leave full names or phone numbers on the Prayer Hope Line. Members of the Catholic parish communities in Burlington will be honored to include your intentions in their prayers.

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. (Colossians 4:2)

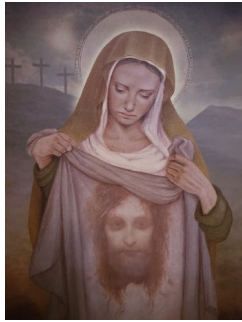
PRAYER SHAWLS AVAILABLE

Is there someone special you've been holding in prayer? Perhaps a friend facing illness or surgery, a parishioner who has lost a loved one, or a neighbor who is going through a difficult time or is home bound?

Our ministry knits and crochets beautiful shawls to be given to **anyone** who could use a special reminder of the warmth and comfort of God's love. Every shawl is unique and colorful, stitched with prayers and blessings for the future recipient with following prayer enclosed.

*"May the one who receives this shawl be
cradled in hope, kept in joy,
graced with peace, and wrapped in love."*

Please call either rectory if you have someone you would like to receive this beautiful gift.
(Donations appreciated.)



PRAYER TO SAINT VERONICA

O My Jesus, Saint Veronica served You on the way to Calvary by wiping Your beloved face with a towel on which Your sacred image then appeared. She protected this treasure, and whenever people touched it, they were miraculously healed. I ask her to pray for the growth of my ability to see Your sacred image in others, to recognize their hurts, to stop and join them on their difficult journeys, and to feel the same compassion for them as she did for You. Show me how to wipe their faces, serve their needs, and heal their wounds, reminding me that as I do this for them, I also do this for You. Saint Veronica, pray for me. Amen.

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME AT OUR HOSPICE HOUSE

Sawtelle Family Hospice House provides compassionate care and support in a warm, comfortable residential setting for individuals at the end of life. Volunteers play an invaluable role by assisting our staff and offering a comforting presence to patients and their families during a deeply meaningful time.

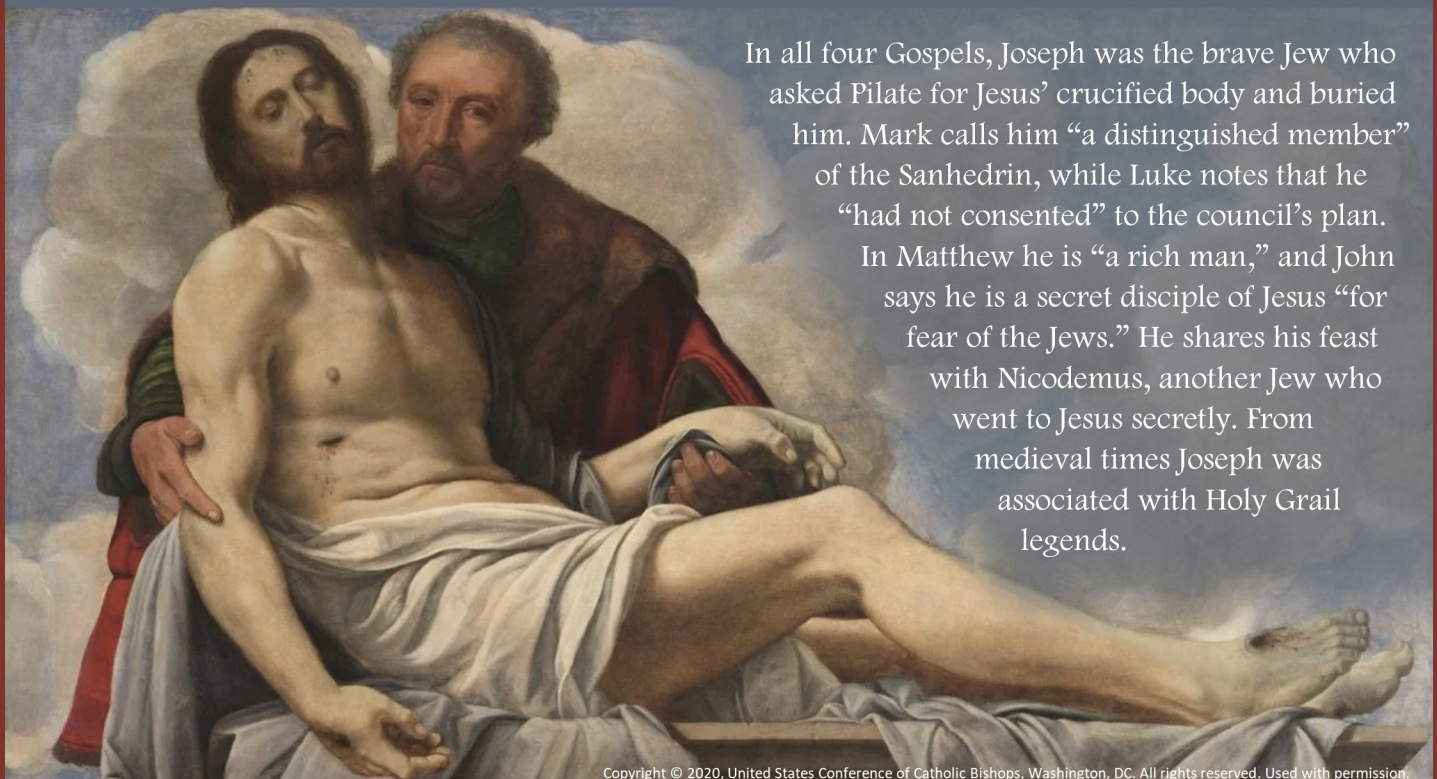
From the moment loved ones arrive, volunteers help create a welcoming environment by greeting visitors, offering refreshments, and providing a listening ear or friendly conversation. Behind the scenes, volunteers also support the home by baking, stocking groceries, watering plants, and helping with other tasks that make the house feel warm and inviting.

Whether offering a kind smile, a helping hand, or simply your presence, you can make a lasting difference in the lives of others.

Join our volunteer team and help make a difference! Please call or email Maureen Burge at (781)901-6561 or maureen.burge@athome.bilh.org for more information.

Saint Joseph of Arimathea

FIRST CENTURY
FEAST DAY: AUGUST 31



In all four Gospels, Joseph was the brave Jew who asked Pilate for Jesus' crucified body and buried him. Mark calls him "a distinguished member" of the Sanhedrin, while Luke notes that he "had not consented" to the council's plan. In Matthew he is "a rich man," and John says he is a secret disciple of Jesus "for fear of the Jews." He shares his feast with Nicodemus, another Jew who went to Jesus secretly. From medieval times Joseph was associated with Holy Grail legends.

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USCCB COMMITTEE ON PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES

WASHINGTON - Aug. 18, 2026 - The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Pro-Life Activities is inviting Catholics to join a focused effort of prayer and action to stop the spread of abortion pills. The initiative will take place August 18 through October 31, which includes the month-long commemoration of *Respect Life Month* observed each October by the Catholic Church in the United States.

"Every abortion involves the death of a child and harm to the mother," said Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, president of the USCCB, and Bishop Daniel E. Thomas, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Pro-Life Activities, in a joint invitation announcing the initiative. "Now with easier access to abortion pills, the abortion rate is tragically climbing, along with increased health risks."

In addition to invoking the intercession of *St. Joseph, Defender of Life* (respectlife.org/prayer-to-st-joseph), participants can learn about the danger of abortion pills which have become accessible through telehealth appointments and at pharmacies, leading to increased risks to women, and the abortion rate tragically climbing. Participants of the initiative are encouraged to share information about the dangers of abortion pills, and sign up to send messages to pharmacies, distributors, and pharmaceutical companies at *Respect Life Prayer and Action*. (respectlife.org).



CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING

All adult volunteers are required to complete Protecting God's Children (PGC), the child protection training program utilized by the Archdiocese of Boston. The training consists of videos and discussions about how to recognize indicators of abuse or grooming, how to create safe spaces for children and youth, and how to address concerns. It is a three-hour training session held in person at various locations throughout the Archdiocese. Sessions are run by trained facilitators and take place on various days and times throughout the year, including evenings and weekends. Most weeks there are between 5 and 15 sessions scheduled around the Archdiocese. With minor exceptions, sessions are open to everyone.

Go to www.VIRTUSonline.org. On the left of the page click on "First Time Registrant." Click on "Begin Registration." Select "Boston, MA (Archdiocese)" when asked to select your diocese. When asked if you have ever registered before, click "no". (If you have previously registered, call 617-746-5985 for help.) Complete the registration process. When asked for your specific location, select your specific parish or school. You can enter more than one. Once you have completed the registration process the system will guide you to a list of all the upcoming training sessions. Select the one that works for you. If the training is in a language other than English, it will be noted. Be careful not to select a training session that is in a language you cannot understand. All training sessions are 3 hours long, even if the registration website states otherwise.



TASTE AND SEE PROGRAM

Kids in Grades 1-8 can fill out a bright raffle card and put it in the white box (located near the scanners) for a chance to win a \$20 School House Ice Cream gift card. In this raffle everyone truly is a winner, because those at Mass have received the *sweetest* gift of all: Our Lord in the Eucharist.

2026-2027 Religious Education Registration

Religious Education Registration is now open for the 2026-2027 Academic Year. Please see our website to register. www.stveronicama.org

**Congratulations to Peyton Kenney, who
is our Taste and See winner for July!!
Enjoy your ice cream!**



BIBLE DETECTIVE

See what you can discover for yourself about the background to the readings.

THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET ISAIAH

Isaiah was one of the most famous of Israel's prophets. What do we know about him?

Can you find out who Shebna was? Why was God displeased with him?

When did Isaiah and Shebna live? Who was the king of Israel at the time?

What great enemy came against Jerusalem at about this time? See if you can find the story, and how Jerusalem was miraculously saved.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Jesus gave Simon Peter authority over his Church. Who has that authority today? Who has "the keys of Peter?"

FILL IN THE GAPS

The sentences below are missing key words. Can you find the correct ones? (They are all in today's readings.)

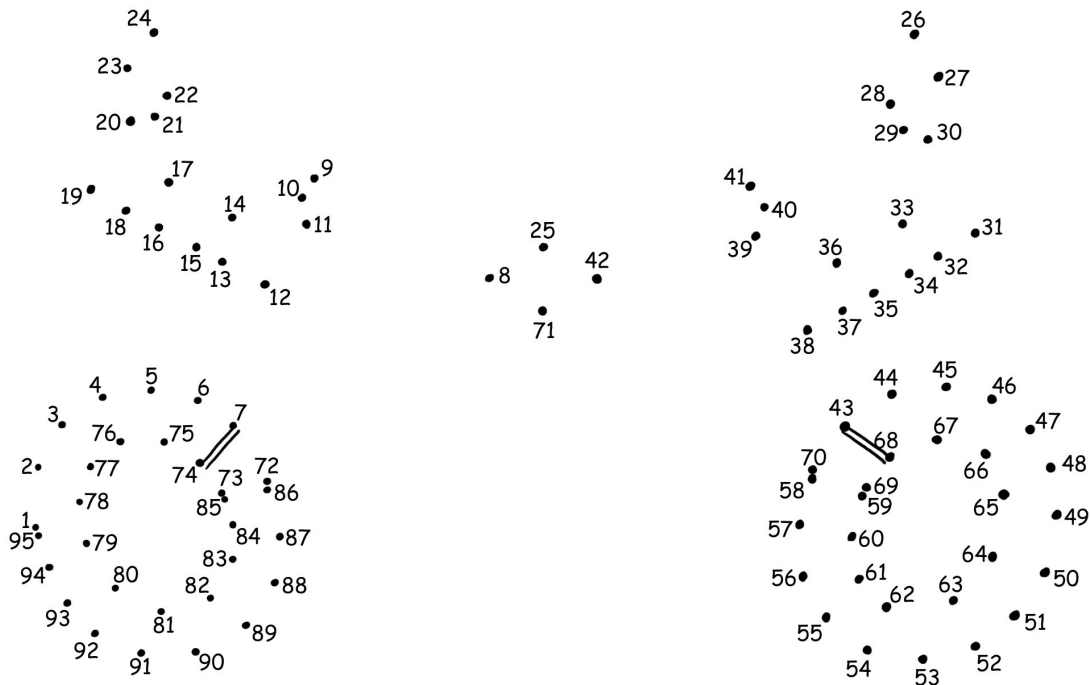
1. I will _____ you from your _____ and pull you down from your _____.
2. Lord, your _____ is _____; do not forsake the _____ of your hands.
3. How deep are the _____ and the _____ and the _____ of God!
4. No mere _____ has _____ this to you, but my heavenly _____.
5. I will _____ to you the _____ of the _____ of heaven.

ANSWERS

1. thrust, office, station 2. love, eternal, work
3. riches, wisdom, knowledge 4. man, revealed, Father
5. entrust, keys, kingdom

CONNECT THE DOTS

READING: MT 16, 13-20



David Tiedling

PARISH CLERGY

Rev. James M Mahoney	Pastor
Rev Thomas J. Stanton	Parochial Vicar
Deacon Dick Bilotta	Senior Deacon
Deacon Jack Minch	Deacon
Rev. Kingsley Chima Mbam	Weekend Assistant
Rev. Paul Sullivan	Weekend Assistant
Rev. John Rowan	Weekend Assistant
James Silva	Seminary Student
Father Stanislaus Ogu	Priest in Residence

(The Catholic Diocese of Okigwe in Imo State, Nigeria)

PARISH COUNCIL

Bernard Arokiaraj	Peter Dutton
Andrea Lamb	Rose Hackett
Cynthia McNamara	Diane Reale
Jim Shannon	

FINANCE COUNCIL

Marcia Aulenback	Joanne Mackey
William Corrigan	Scott Morency

PARISH STAFF

Kathleen Keady	Business Manager kkeady@stveronicaparish.org
Michelle Campbell	Office Administrator Bulletin Editor/Webmaster mcampbell@stveronicaparish.org
Carly Reidy	Administrative Assistant creidy@stveronicaparish.org
Chris McCollem	St. Malachy Receptionist cmccollem@stveronicaparish.org
Ann Pye	Bulletin/Facebook Editor & Webmaster apye@stveronicaparish.org
Camille Mainardi	Director of Grades 1 and 3-8 cmainardi@stveronicaparish.org
Lauren Lambert	Grade 2 Coordinator grade2@stveronicaparish.org
Joanne Mackey	Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12 highschoolreled@stveronicaparish.org
William M. Donahue	Director of Music (St. Margaret Church) wdonahue@stveronicaparish.org
Daniel Mainardi	Director of Music (St. Malachy Church) dmainardi@stveronicaparish.org
Gary Dew	Facilities Manager 781-221-0335

OCIA CLASSES contact Deacon Dick Bilotta at:
deaconbilotta@stveronicaparish.org

Saint Malachy Church

99 Bedford Street, Burlington, MA 01803

Tel: 781-272-5111

www.stveronicama.org

stveronica@stveronicaparish.org

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:30 am - 2:30 pm

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm

Sunday 10:00 am

Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 9:00 am

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
(CONFESSIONS)**

Friday: 6:00 - 7:00 pm (chapel)

Saint Margaret Church

111 Winn Street, Burlington, MA 01803

Tel: 781-272-3111

www.stveronicama.org

stveronica@stveronicaparish.org

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am; and 12:00 pm

Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday: 9:00 am

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
(CONFESSIONS)**

Saturday: 2:30 - 3:30 pm (lower church)

**THE PRAYER HOPE LINE:
781-273-HOPE (4673)**



**Like us on Facebook @
St. Veronica Parish!**

EMAIL LIST

If would like to receive St. Veronica emails please
send your name and email address to:

stveronica@stveronicaparish.org