

Our Lady of Good Counsel

111 Worcester Street West Boylston, Ma 01583



Welcome! We are a vibrant and diverse Roman Catholic community serving the West Boylston area. In the name of Christ, we welcome all who gather with us in worship and prayer. Though imperfect, we strive to be a community of open hearts, enlivened by the gospel, growing in faith, hope and love. Whether you are a visitor, traveler, new to the parish or in search of a spiritual home, feel free to introduce yourself after Mass. Your presence is a blessing to us all!



6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He said to him, "See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them." The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly. - Mk 1:44-45b

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCC

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LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Lord's Day Masses

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:30pm

Sunday Masses: 8:30am & 10:30am

Weekday Masses

**9:00am Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday**

Holy Day Masses

9:00am & 7:00pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

**Saturdays: 3:00-3:45pm
(in the sacristy)**

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesdays: 3:00-6:00pm

Website: www.goodcounselma.com

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Steven M. Labaire, Pastor

Martin W. Beck, Deacon

Scott Camilleri, Acolyte

Kevin O'Connell, Religious Education

Director

Terri King, Admin. Asst. & Rel. Education
Secretary

John Leslie, Organist & Choir Director

Rev. Adriano Lessa, in residence

Our Lady of Good Counsel

Parish Office (located in the Rectory)

Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:30 am-4:30 pm (except on civic holidays)

Parish Phone: 508-835-3606 Fax: 508-835-5456

PASTORAL CONTACTS:

Rev. Steven M. Labaire, Pastor

s.labaire@goodcounselma.com

Deacon Mick Beck

m.beck@goodcounselma.com

Kevin O'Connell, Director of Religious Education

k.oconnell@goodcounselma.com

Rel. Ed. Office: 508-835-6336

Terri King, Office Administrator

t.king@goodcounselma.com

John Leslie, Director of Music

j.leslie@goodcounselma.com

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM FOR CHILDREN-

Parents wishing to have their child baptized should contact the parish office. Prior to the actual celebration of the sacrament there is a catechesis for parents on the meaning of baptism and Christian parenting.

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION FOR ADULTS-

Adults seeking to be baptized as well as those already baptized (in both Catholic and non-Catholic communities) who seek to be confirmed and to receive Holy Communion, are invited to join with others in exploring our Catholic faith. Please contact the parish office.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE-

Couples intending to marry should contact the parish priest at least six months prior to the intended wedding date.

HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE SICK & HOMEBOUND-

We are eager to bring Holy Communion to those unable to come to church. The priest, deacon and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion will assure that the Eucharist is brought to homes of those wishing to receive it.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK-

Those experiencing serious illness should contact the parish office or speak with the parish priest as soon as possible.

PARISH PRAYER LINE-

Those who wish to have their personal intentions remembered in prayer are asked to contact Renate Isbell at 508.835.3286.



FEBRUARY 17th IS ASH WEDNESDAY: THE BEGINNING OF LENT

The season of Lent will commence on Ash Wednesday, February 17th. The schedule of Liturgies will be as follows:

9:00 am Mass & Imposition of Ashes

12 noon Liturgy of the Word & Imposition of Ashes

7:00 pm Liturgy of the Word & Imposition of Ashes

Due to the ongoing health emergency, the imposition of ashes will proceed without physical contact.

According to the liturgical directives promulgated by the Vatican, those receiving ashes will approach the priest or deacon, bow their heads and the ashes will be sprinkled on the head of each person in silence. This is the traditional custom in many European countries. This manner of distribution will be followed this year in our parish.

2020 PARISH CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

ATTENTION PARISHIONERS.... a print out of your contributions to OLGc may be secured by calling Terri at the parish office at 508-835-3606 or email her at terri@goodcounselma.org. You may pick it up, or at your request, she will mail it to you.

Please note: Parishioners who give electronically will receive their contribution statements from LPI "We Share" as they have the record of your 2020 contributions.

February 14, 2021



WE BEGIN THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT

The word “Lent” comes from the same root as the word “lengthen.” It’s an old English word for **springtime**, when daytime lengthens rapidly. The word gives us a clue as to what Lent is about. Lent is about a springtime and a renewal of life. However it is not so much about springtime in the external, natural world. Instead, Lent is a season of renewal and rebirth *within* individuals, relationships and communities. **Lent is the Church’s springtime.**

Lent lasts 40 days. In the ancient world, the number 40 evoked memories of past events: 40 days of rain during Noah’s flood; forty years of journeying toward the Promised Land; Jesus’ fasting of 40 days in the wilderness to prepare for his ministry. **The season of Lent is often compared to a journey.** That means that at the end of Lent, we expect to find ourselves somewhere different from where we started.

Three ancient practices are highlighted during the “church’s springtime.” We **fast** from food and certain practices to break our routines and test how life-giving they are. We **pray** in order to restore our strength and become more aware of the presence of God. We **embrace acts of charity** so as to learn more about what others are going through and contribute to the well-being of those in great need.

Lent challenges us to sort out and identify all that cheapens and demeans the quality of our relationships (sin). Lent dares to let go of the junk that gets in the way of loving as we should—an inner “spring cleaning.”

Though our observance of Lent, may Christ lead us to an Easter springtime of new life within all of us.

LENTEN FASTING

The Season of Lent will begin on **Ash Wednesday, February 17.** Together with prayer and works of charity, fasting and abstinence from certain foods are part of our Catholic Lenten practice. **Abstinence from meat is observed by Catholics fourteen (14) years of age and older on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays of Lent. Fasting is to be observed by all Catholics who are eighteen years (18) years of age but not yet fifty-nine (59) years of age on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday.**

Those who are bound to fast may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals may be taken, as necessary, but eating between meals is not permitted. Those with serious health conditions are not bound by the precept of fasting.

The Lenten precepts of fasting and abstinence are meant to invite us to eat more simply. Abstinence from meat implies subtracting the meat portion from our meal plate and eating less. To simply substitute shrimp for beef or salmon steaks for chicken violates the spirit of this Lenten practice. Rather, from the monies saved from simpler meals, we are asked to give to the poor and the hungry. Those following vegetarian and vegan diets can also subtract something from their plates and share of their saved resources with the less fortunate.

COLLECTION FOR PRIEST RETIREMENT

On Ash Wednesday, February 17, the parishes of our diocese will take up a collection to support the retired priests of our diocese. We currently have 50 retired priests. An additional 42 priests will reach the retirement age of 75 within the next nine years. Over the last two fiscal years, the costs of priest retirement, including housing, health insurance and monthly stipends have ranged from \$2.2- 2.6 million leading to significant annual shortfalls. Your support of the Ash Wednesday collection will help us meet our obligation to those priests who have faithfully served us and our families through the decades. The offering baskets will be located in the usual places near the church entrances. Thank you for your support.

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Mass Intentions

February 13, 2021 to February 21, 2021

Sat February 13

4:30pm Anniv 16: Jack Ryder
req. by the Ryder family

Sun February 14

8:30am MFP: Mass for the people
10:30am Mem: Deceased members of the
Falcone family
req. by Kim, Mike & Shae Fitzpatrick

Tues February 16

9:00am Mem: Mary Urquhart
req. by the Urquhart family

Thurs February 18

9:00am For the upholding of the dignity of
human life

Sat February 20

4:30pm Mem: Ken Michaud
req. by the OLG C Prayer Shawl Ministry

Sun February 21

8:30am MFP: Mass for the people
10:30am Month's Mind: Donna Johnson
req. by Terri & Dave King

UNDERSTANDING OUR LITURGY PART 3 THE CENTER AISLE

The center aisle of a church could be regarded as simply a place where people walk, a space where people get from *point A to point B*.

In the Catholic tradition the center aisle is much more than that. In fact, it is understood as representing *the journey of life*. Every day, every week, people experiencing a whole range of human emotions walk the aisle of the church. Some are in the depths of grief. Others are brimming with joy. Some are struggling with pain or an illness. Others are celebrating a new beginning. More than a few are seeking the strength to simply get through the day.

Moreover, so many milestones of life are enacted in the aisle of a church: baptisms, first communions, weddings, funerals. Is there a place in any town or city that experiences more of a range of human experience than the aisle of a church? Not many. Is there a place within which so many sacred moments of life take place? Probably not.

The center aisle of a church is sacred place. The footsteps of so many lives have "blessed" and sanctified this holy path.

Perhaps your ancestors, grandparents or parents walked the path of the center aisle, whether here or in another church. Their faith sustained them along the journey of life, through many seasons and different chapters. *As we walk this aisle to receive Holy Communion (or this week to begin Lent with the imposition of ashes) let's pray for the grace to grow in faith, hope and love as we walk the paths of our lives.*

Liturgical Roles

LORD'S DAY MASSES February 20 & 21, 2021

Sat February 20 4:30pm

Priest: Fr. Steven Labaire
Deacon: Mick Beck
Lector: Ria Garriepy
Acolyte: Barbara Mard

Sun February 21 8:30am

Priest: Fr. Steven Labaire
Deacon: Mick Beck
Lector: Wayne Tupper
Acolyte: Scott Camilleri

Sun February 21 10:30am

Priest: Fr. Steven Labaire
Lector: Harold Knapp
Acolytes: Scott Camilleri
Janet Knapp

PARTNERS IN CHARITY APPEAL

This February every member of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish is invited to support the work of the Catholic Community of Central MA made possible through this annual appeal. Our parish goal is \$58,000. Please complete your pledge envelope. The pledge envelopes are available in the pews and also will be mailed to all parish members. It is important for all of us to participate in order to support our mission as a diocese. Please be as generous as possible. If you have already made a gift to the 2021 Appeal we thank you. Your gift will help us in reaching our parish goal. You can also make your gift online at www.partners-charity.net. If you know how to send a text message, you can make a donation to Partners in Charity in seconds on your phone. Best yet, Our Lady of Good Counsel will receive credit. Text the word **donate84576**. Thank you!

FEBRUARY 14, 2021

WE JOIN IN PRAYER

+ We join our hearts in prayer to all those overwhelmed by anxiety and fear.

+ We pray for healing, respectful dialogue and unity in our nation.

+ We pray for physicians, nurses, health care providers, researchers, hospital chaplains, medical researchers and all who are on the front lines in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

+ We pray for those who provide essential services, especially police officers, firefighters and emergency help providers.

+ We pray for those facing economic and financial hardships.

+ We keep **Pope Francis' personal prayer intention for the month of February** in our hearts: **We pray for women who are the victims of violence. May they be protected and blessed with companions who will advocate their cause.**

+ That the upcoming season of Lent be a time of reconciliation and spiritual renewal.

+ We pray for our parishioners who are sick or recovering from injury, illness or surgery, especially, retired Deacon John Barton and Father Thirburse Millott.

+ We pray for those who have died, especially those who have died from the ongoing pandemic. May all the faithful departed find mercy and peace with God.

WEEKLY OFFERTORY

Week of Sunday February 7, 2021

Parish Offertory Income: \$4224.00

Electronic Giving Income: \$1072.00

Parish Expenses Paid: \$4669.17

So that we may maintain our parish finances during these challenging times, please consider, as you are able, mailing your offertory envelopes to: *Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 111 Worcester St., W. Boylston, MA 01583*. All contributions will be duly recorded as usual. Electronic giving assures your gift to the parish is always received. If the present realities inspire you to consider signing up for electronic giving, Terri King (508-835-3606) is most willing to assist. Thank you for your generosity to the parish.

Attorney Wayne P. Tupper



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