

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!



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

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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.



LENTEN FASTING

The Season of Lent has now begun.

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,

Lenten fasting invites us to discipline our appetites and to live more simply so that others might simply *live*.

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 21, 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.



UNDERSTANDING OUR LITURGY PART FOUR: THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Affixed to the walls of Catholic churches are fourteen images or sculptures depicting moments during the final day of Jesus’ earthly life. These images are called the **Stations of the Cross** or **The Way of the Cross** or **The Via Crucis**.

During the middle ages, Christians began to make pilgrimages to Jerusalem and to prayerfully retrace the path Jesus walked during the hours leading up to his crucifixion. Eventually, under the influence of the Franciscans, outdoor and indoor depictions of Jesus’ road to Calvary became popular. In this way Christians could retrace Jesus’ path while remaining in their own communities. The number of images varied for centuries. It was only in 1731 that the number of stations was set to fourteen. Hence, we can say that the Stations of the Cross, as we have them today are *only* about 300 years old. That’s relatively new for our 2,000 year old church!

Some people follow specific prayers while praying the Stations of the Cross. Other people simply gaze and contemplate the scene in Christ’s life being depicted. There is no rule to follow. The Stations can be prayed in many ways, whether alone or in a group.

One way is to gaze upon the image and prayerfully reflect upon how the scene is being lived out today and ask for the grace to do God’s will. So for example: Station One- Jesus is Condemned to Death, ask: *Who are people unjustly condemned in the world today? Can words or gossip “condemn” people to misunderstanding? How can I change this?* Or, Station Five- Simon helps Jesus Carry His Cross, ask: *Who in my life is carrying a heavy cross? How can I help with the burden?* Finally, Station 14- Jesus is Laid in the Tomb, ask: *Where are people entombed by anxiety, fear or hopelessness? Is God calling me to bring “new life” to these situations?*

This is simply one example of how the Way of the Cross might be prayed. Each of us can discover our own way. The heart of this devotion is to pray that Christ’s cross strengthen us to help others carry their crosses and by doing so find the strength to carry our own.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Mass Intentions

February 20, 2021 to February 28, 2021

Sat February 20

4:30pm Mem: Ken Michaud
req. by the OLGC 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

Tues February 23

9:00am For those who have died by war or violence

Wed February 24

9:00am Mem: Rita Kelly
req. by the estate of Frances Underwood

Sat February 27

4:30pm Mem: Joseph Beshai
req. by Daniel Harris & family

Sun February 28

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

WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES

Readings for the week of February 21, 2021

Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 10]/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15
Monday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6 [1]/Mt 16:13-19
Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19 [18b]/Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday: John 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 [19b]/Lk 11:29-32
Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 [3a]/Mt 7:7-12
Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 [3]/Mt 5:20-26
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 [1b]/Mt 5:43-48
Next Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 [9]/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

Observances for the week of February 21, 2021

Sunday: 1st Sunday of Lent
Monday: The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle
Tuesday: St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr
Wednesday:
Thursday:
Friday:
Saturday:
Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Lent

Liturgical Roles

LORD'S DAY MASSES February 27 & 28, 2021

Sat February 27 4:30pm

Priest: Fr. Steven Labaire
Lector: Phil Mallet
Acolytes: Scott Camilleri
Janine Gould

Sun February 28 8:30am

Priest: Fr. Steven Labaire
Deacon: Mick Beck
Lector: Barbara DuVarney
Acolyte: Jim Bruce

Sun February 28 10:30am

Priest: Fr. Steven Labaire
Deacon: Mick Beck
Lector: Vincent Vignaly
Acolyte: Scott Camilleri

PARTNERS IN CHARITY APPEAL UPDATE

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 \$58,600. **To date we have raised \$30,110.00 (51% of our goal).** Please complete your pledge envelope. The pledge envelopes are available in the pews and also have been 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 21, 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 this upcoming season of Lent be a time of reconciliation and spiritual renewal. We pray for all those preparing for the Easter Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.

+ 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 Raymond Turini, as well as 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 14, 2021

Parish Offertory Income: \$2906.00

Electronic Giving Income: \$1072.00

Parish Expenses Paid: \$3456.14

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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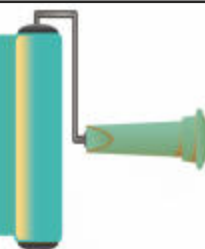
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