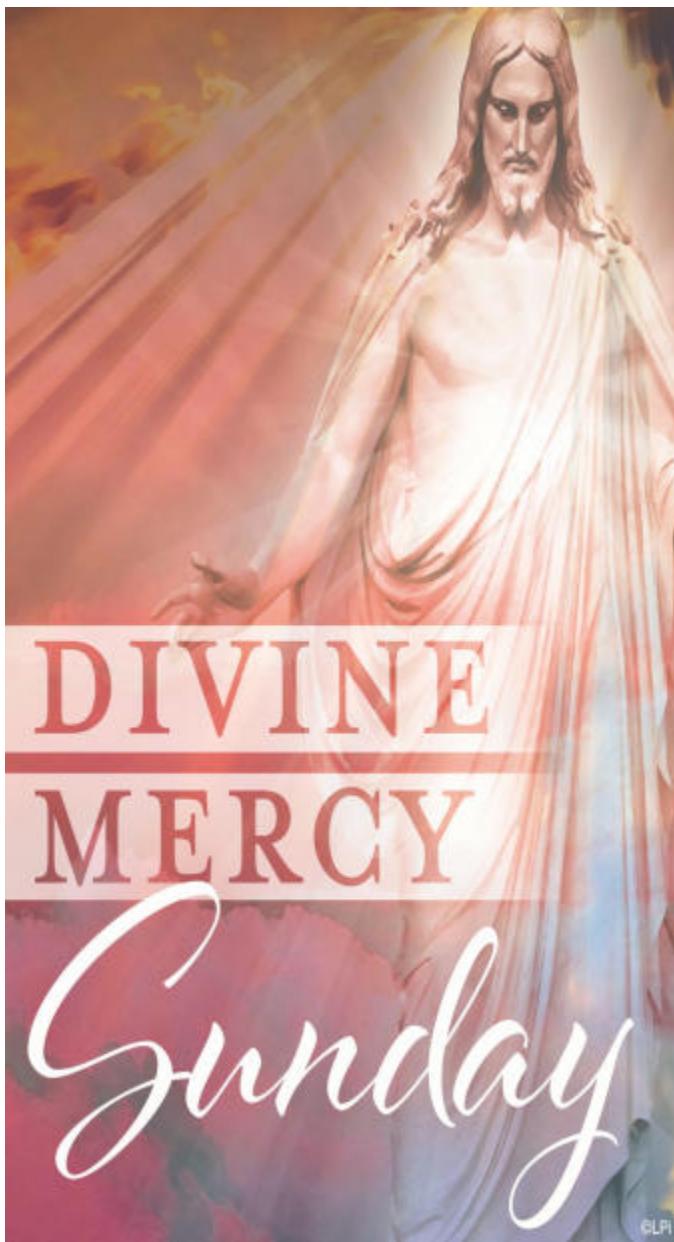


# *Our Lady of Good Counsel*

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](http://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](mailto:s.labaire@goodcounselma.com)

**Deacon Mick Beck**

[m.beck@goodcounselma.com](mailto:m.beck@goodcounselma.com)

**Kevin O'Connell, Director of Religious Education**

[k.oconnell@goodcounselma.com](mailto:k.oconnell@goodcounselma.com)

Rel. Ed. Office: 508-835-6336

**Terri King, Office Administrator**

[t.king@goodcounselma.com](mailto:t.king@goodcounselma.com)

**John Leslie, Director of Music**

[j.leslie@goodcounselma.com](mailto: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.

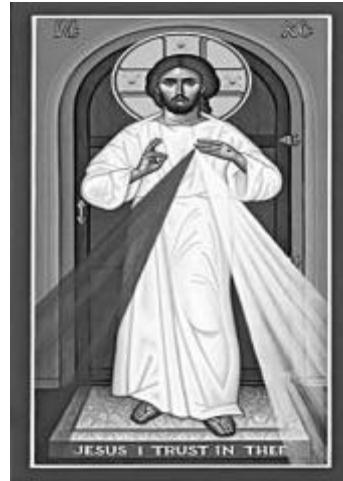
**HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE SICK & HOMEBOUND-** We are eager to bring Holy Communion to those unable to come to church. The priest, deacon and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion will assure that the Eucharist is brought to homes of those wishing to receive it.

**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.

## TODAY IS DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Today is the eighth and last day of the Octave of Easter, the Second Sunday of Easter, which bears the name Divine Mercy Sunday. You will notice that the scriptures readings and prayers of the Mass emphasize peace, reconciliation as gifts of the Risen Christ.



The title of Divine Mercy was given to this Sunday by Saint John Paul II in 2000 when he canonized Sister Faustina Kowalska. In a homily he had personally prepared just before his death and which was published posthumously, the Pope wrote, "To humanity, which at times seems to be lost and dominated by the power of evil, selfishness and fear, the Risen Lord offers the gift of a love that pardons, reconciles and opens the soul to hope. It is the power of this love that transforms hearts and bestows reconciliation to frayed relationships."

Having received the mercy of God, each of us is called to extend mercy to those who cross the path of our lives. This mercy is expressed through the **Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy**. They are as follows:

**Corporal Works of Mercy:** 1-Feed the hungry; 2-Give drink to the thirsty; 3-Shelter the homeless; 4-Shelter the homeless; 5-Visit the Sick; 6-Visit the imprisoned; 7-Bury the dead; 8-Give alms to the poor.

**Spiritual Works of Mercy:** 1-Counsel the doubtful; 2-Instruct the ignorant; 3-Admonish the sinner; 4-Comfort the sorrowful; 5-Forgive injuries; 6-Bear wrongs patiently; 7-Pray for the living and the dead.

In response to God's infinite mercy, our daily practice of these works of mercy helps to create a world that is more just and humane.



## UNDERSTANDING OUR LITURGY PART NINE: THE PASCHAL (EASTER) CANDLE

During the 50 Days of the Easter Season, the Paschal Candle stands prominently at the head of the center aisle, at the entrance to the sanctuary.

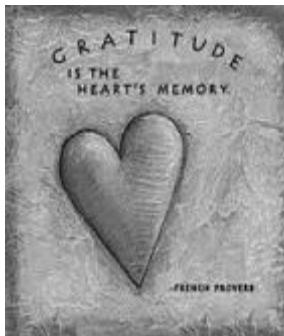
The Easter candle is prepared and blessed during the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night

when the church celebrates Christ's passing from death to life. Once lit, from the fire prepared outside the church, the candle is brought in procession into the church. The light of the Risen Christ illuminates the darkness of the night and enlightens the church.

You will notice that there is a **cross** on the Easter Candle. There are also **five nails** inserted into the wax. The cross represents the instrument of Christ's death. The nails represent the five wounds on Christ's crucified and risen body. Above and below the cross are the Greek letters **Alpha** and **Omega**. These are the first and the last letters of the Greek alphabet. Between these letters are the numerals of the current year—**2021**. The juxtaposition of these numerals and letters convey that the victory of Christ is eternal: "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end" (Rev 22:13).

At the conclusion of the Easter Season, after the final Mass of Pentecost Sunday, the Easter Candle is moved from the sanctuary to a place near the Baptismal font where it will be lit at every Baptism. It will also be placed next to the casket of the deceased during a funeral Mass. Hence, the candle will remind us that through Baptism we are called to share in Christ's victory, though a life of discipleship. With death of every Christian, we celebrate his or her passing to a new life—in the pattern of Christ himself.

Our Easter Candle eloquently (albeit silently) proclaims our Easter faith: This "pillar" of light towering over us, reminds us that "God's grace is taller than us, bigger than us, greater than us." The bright victory of the Risen Christ beckons each of us.



My dear fellow parishioners,  
It is with mixed emotions that I write this note to you today. It will be 25 years this June that I have served my fellow parishioners of Good Counsel in our Parish and Religious Education offices. It has been 25 years of profound blessings for me. I remember when Fr. Burke asked if I would consider moving from the Religious Education Office to the

Parish Office as if it was yesterday. With much fear and trepidation I agreed to make the move as I was unsure that I had all the necessary technical skills, but I would give it a try. Well, 25 years later here I am and with the grace of God I learned the necessary new skills and honed the skills I already possessed. I have had the honor and privilege of working with 4 wonderful, holy priests: Fr. John Burke, Fr. Kenneth Cardinale, Fr. Thirburse Millott, and presently Fr. Steven Labaire: all with very different personalities and very different expectations. Although this could be challenging to adjust to, I learned a lot from each of them and grew in my technical skills and spiritual life as well. Our Lady of Good Counsel is home to me literally as I was baptized, received my First Communion and Confirmation and was married here. God certainly is a God of surprises because I would have never fathomed in my wildest dreams that I would be ministering in the parish I grew up in. And I say ministering because I didn't consider my work here just another job. I felt honored and privileged to walk with parishioners in their happy and sad times as well. Just being there for someone to talk to or assist in preparing a special Mass or event brought me such joy. On the other hand, I have been ministered to by special faith-based friendships of many parishioners who have helped me grow in my faith and love of God.

But, I must move on as I have felt for some time that God was calling me to a new phase in my life. After much prayer and journaling, as well as consulting with my spiritual director, I have made the decision to retire on June 30<sup>th</sup>. This has been one of the hardest decisions I have had to make in my entire life because I truly, truly, love my ministry here and the beautiful people of Our Lady of Good Counsel. But, I know that life is a journey and I must be willing to let go and let God lead me where he wills so I can continue to grow and become the person he has created me to be. Where he is leading I have no idea, but I know I can trust him as he has shown me throughout my life that he only wants what is best for me. And I conclude with the lyrics of a very special hymn for me:

**"To God Be the Glory"**  
**How can I say thanks for the things you have done for me,**

**Things so undeserved yet you give to prove your love for me,**

**The voices of a million angels could not express my gratitude,**

**All that I am and ever hope to be, I owe it all to thee.**

All my love and prayers to my parish family,

*Terri*

# DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

## Mass Intentions

### April 10 to April 18, 2021

#### Sat April 10

4:30pm Anniv 13: Hunter Lohman  
req. by Margaret Lohman & family

#### Sun April 11

8:30am Mem: Kenneth Lovejoy  
Julius & Anna Ventura  
req. by the Lovejoy family

10:30am MFP: Mass for the people

#### Tues April 13

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

#### Wed April 14

9:00am Mem: Delia & Al Richards  
req. by Barbara Wyatt & family

#### Thurs April 15

9:00am Anniv 4: Frank Devillers  
req. by Annette Lynch & family

#### Sat April 17

4:30pm Mass of Thanksgiving for  
Margaret Lohman's 90th birthday  
req. by the Lohman family

#### Sun April 18

10:30am: MFP: Mass for the people

## SUMMER YOUTH VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE



Team registration is now open for the 2021 Worcester Diocese Summer Youth Volleyball League! The league is open to youth *currently* in grades 7-12. Our Lady of Good Counsel has had a team for a number of years and folks have had a lot fun playing.

The commitment would be Monday evenings from Mid June to early August and maybe a practice or two at the beginning...just to get to know each other! We play at St. Christopher's on West Boylston Street or St. Joseph's in Charlton.

This is a RECREATIONAL league. It is all about having fun and building community! Don't worry about skill level. The parish pays the registration fee for the team. The only cost a player is responsible for is \$10 for a shirt.

If you are interested, please reach out to Andrea Allen [andreapallen@aol.com](mailto:andreapallen@aol.com) or 413-478-3338.

## Liturgical Roles

### LORD'S DAY MASSES

#### April 17 & 18, 2021

#### Sat April 17 4:30pm

Priest: Fr. Steven Labaire  
Lector: Ria Garriepy  
Acolytes: Scott Camilleri  
Phil Mallet

#### Sun April 18 8:30am

Priest: Fr. Steven Labaire  
Deacon: Mick Beck  
Lector: David Hennessy  
Acolyte: Jim Bruce

#### Sun April 18 10:30am

Priest: Fr. Steven Labaire  
Lector: Anya Kelley  
Acolytes: Scott Camilleri  
Barbara Reynolds

## PARTNERS IN CHARITY APPEAL UPDATE

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 \$43,895.00 (75%) of our goal. We are in need of \$14,705.00 to reach 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](http://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. Text the word **donate84576**. Thank you!

# APRIL 11, 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 assure essential services, especially police officers, firefighters and emergency help providers.
- + We pray for those facing financial hardships.
- + Pope Francis' personal prayer intention for the month of April: We pray for those striving to uphold basic human rights under dictatorships, authoritative regimes and democracies in crisis.
- + We pray that the Easter Season be a time of spiritual renewal for our entire parish. We pray for Michael, Jacob and Diane who received the Easter Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.
- + 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 our departed brothers and sisters. May all the dead find mercy and peace with God.

## WEEKLY OFFERTORY Week of Sunday April 4, 2021

**Parish Offertory Income: \$4423.41**

**Easter Sunday Collection: \$1945.00**

**Electronic Giving Income: \$1072.00**

**Parish Expenses Paid: \$3995.78**

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



Call for an initial consultation.

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