“Do not swear at all... Let your “Yes” mean “Yes,” and your “No” mean “No.” Anything more is from the evil one.”

Matthew 5:34, 37
**Mission Statement**

Our Lady of Good Counsel is a diverse multicultural parish serving the Catholic community of Methuen and Lawrence. We are committed to building a community of faith intent upon God, in unity of mind and heart.

We are a family of believers, joined by our Baptism, and nurtured by the Eucharist. As children of God, we endeavor to bring the love of Christ to all we meet. We are committed to be the Body of Christ, rooted in the tradition of the Catholic Church. Together we worship and praise our God. Guided by prayer and the counsel of the Blessed Mother, we minister to the community through faith formation, fellowship, and service. With diligence, compassion, and love we endeavor to help others come to know and love Jesus. Empowered by grace, constant in our mission, we strive to be led by the Holy Spirit.

**Ellen Gallant Card Ministry**

Do you know of someone who is sick, going through difficult times, in the military, or may just need a little note of encouragement? Fill out the forms found in the church and chapel and drop them in the box labeled “The Ellen Gallant Card Ministry” or the weekly collection basket.

If you’d like to help make someone’s day by joining us in this ministry, contact Donna Fawcett @ donnafawcett71@comcast.net

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Our prayer shawl gatherings are the first Wednesday of the month at 1pm and 7pm in the parish office.

We welcome new folks at any time to join us in this beautiful simple ministry. We thank all who have donated yarn or money with which to purchase new yarn. Remember: Blessed Shawls, Lapghans & Baby Blankets are available in the parish office.

Thank you and God Bless! Questions? call the parish office.

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**Parish Staff:**

Very Rev. Christopher Casey, V.F.
Pastor — Ext 25
fatherchriscasey@gmail.com

Rev. Mr. Steven J. Murphy
Deacon—Ext 10
deaconstevej@aol.com

Mrs. Karen Miller
Business Manager — Ext 17
978-686-0728
OLGCBusiness@gmail.com

Mrs. Denise Mundry
Parish Office—Ext 10
978-686-3984
OLGCMethuen@gmail.com

Lori McLaughlin
Coordinator of Music Ministries
603-275-6486

Jimmy Massie
Facilities
978-697-4701
olgcfacilities@gmail.com

Religious Education
Ph: 978-686-3984
Fax: 978-686-8300

Mr. Mark Friedrich
Coordinator of Adult Faith Formation
OLGC Methuen@gmail.com

Mr. Mark Houle
Coordinator Grades K-8
OLGCMethuen@gmail.com

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**Mass Schedule:**

Church & Chapel are handicapped accessible (elevator in Church, ramp at Chapel)

Sat. 4 pm at St. Theresa Church
22 Plymouth St., Methuen, MA

Sun. 8 am at St. Theresa Church

Sun. 10:30 am at St. Augustine Chapel
128 Ames St., Lawrence, MA

Daily Mass: 7 am
Monday — Friday at St. Theresa Church

Reconciliation:
Saturdays, 2:45—3:30 pm at St. Theresa Church or anytime by appointment

Baptism:
Second Sunday of the month. Previous arrangements necessary

Marriage:
Arrangements must be made at least six months in advance

New Parishioners:
Welcome! Please come to the Parish Office to meet us and to register

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**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday to Thursday
8 am to 3 pm
Friday
8am to noon
Dear Parishioners,

The first line in our first reading from the Book of Sirach reads “If you choose you can keep the commandments, they will save you…” This provides us with an interesting point to ponder about our faith and obedience to God. So often when we are challenged or see others challenged by a teaching of the faith our reaction is to say “the teaching should change!” We often hear people criticize the Church for being outdated and out of touch with the people, holding on to ancient beliefs that no longer resonate with human society.

By the time of Jesus the Law had guided the Hebrew People for thousands of years. There were camps of people who wanted to soften the law and camps of people who insisted on rigorous following of it. Jesus was accused of being in both camps! Today as the Sermon on the Mount continues Jesus teaches us first that He is a strict adherent to the Law. Consider these words from The Sermon: “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven. I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.” But no sooner are these words said than Jesus teaches something new. Taking His first one for an example Jesus teaches that the law forbids killing, but that if you are angry you are guilty of sin.

What Jesus is teaching us is that our outward observance of the Law is not enough. We must train our hearts in the ways of God, allowing those principles in the Law to find a home in my life and in how I deal with others. There is an expression that captures the idea beautifully: Love inspires more than Law requires. The Law then understood from a Biblical standpoint is but the first step on the pathway to salvation, and just the beginning part of my journey with God.

The reading from Sirach continues “if you trust in God, you too shall live; he has set before you fire and water to whichever you choose, stretch forth your hand. Before man are life and death, good and evil, whichever he chooses shall be given him.” We are taught today that it is our free choice to follow God’s Law or to not, and that whichever choice we make carries consequences. The obedience that God calls us to is not one that restricts our freedom but rather one that helps us to realize freedom and joy in this life. Like the salt that Jesus likened His disciples to in last week’s section of the Sermon on the Mount, we see how this “enhanced” living of the Law in fact enhances our lives and the world around us.

Truly this is the path of peace. At times in our faith walk we travel it because we are being compliant with the Law and we do not want to sin. Ultimately though, when we come to understand God and His love for us, we begin to respond to Him with a deeper sense of obligation than obedience; this is the obligation of love. This is where Jesus was when He took up His Cross. This is where Jesus invites us to follow… not out of fear, obligation, or obedience, but rather out of love, and because of love, seeking the best and highest place for that love to be known. For Jesus that was atop a crucifix on a hill called Calvary. For us it is in the love that requires me to die to myself so that I can love you better. For us all it is the place we realize the truth that Love inspires more than Law requires.

God Bless, Fr. Chris
**Saturday, February 15**

4:00 pm  
John and Betty Powers ~ Requested by their family  
Leo and Eugenie Gaumond ~ Requested by Carol Smith  
Steve and Yvonne Smith ~ Requested by Carol Smith  
Peter Moschetto, Jr. ~ Requested by his family  
Ellen Giblin ~ Requested by Carol Smith  
Betty Lagasse ~ Requested by Jesse and Carol-Ann Ramirez  
Helen Gaudreau ~ 1st Anniversary ~ Requested by her family  
Chris Redman ~ Requested by Jesse and Carol-Ann Ramirez  
Susan Breen ~ Requested by Robert and Denise Mundry  
Noelline Lebel ~ Requested by her husband  
Franz Brugel, Sr. ~ Requested by Robert and Denise Mundry  
All living members of the Parish

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**Sunday, February 16**

8:00 am  
Joseph St. Cyr ~ Requested by Bob and Lorraine Johnson

10:30 am  
Madeleine Sutcliffe ~ Requested by Jules and Marcelle Larocque

**Monday, February 17 ~ President’s Day**

9:30 am  
Lillian Lalonde ~ 9th Anniversary ~ Requested by her family

**Tuesday, February 18**

7:00 am  
John Martell ~ Requested by George Martell

**Wednesday, February 19**

7:00 am  
Lois Buotte ~ Requested by Ed Lane

**Thursday, February 20**

7:00 am  

**Friday, February 21**

7:00 am  

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**Saturday, February 22**

4:00 pm  
John and Betty Powers ~ Requested by their family

**Sunday, February 23**

8:00 am  
Rosemary Vasquez ~ Requested by Frank and Terry Beauchesne  
Annette Koczet ~ 5th Anniversary ~ Requested by her daughter  
Marie Finnegan ~ Birthday Remembrance ~ Requested by her granddaughter  
All living members of the Parish

10:30 am  
Frank, Gerri and Joseph Hart ~ Requested by their family

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**MEMORIALS**  
**WEEK OF FEBRUARY 16, 2020**

- **Saturday, February 15**

- **Sunday, February 16**

- **Monday, February 17 ~ President’s Day**

- **Tuesday, February 18**

- **Wednesday, February 19**

- **Thursday, February 20**

- **Friday, February 21**

- **Saturday, February 22**

- **Sunday, February 23**

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**Altar Bread**  
In Memory of Bill Pekarski ~ 1st Anniversary  
Donated by Mary Gosselin

**Altar Wine**  
In Memory of Ann Gosselin ~ Birthday Remembrance  
Donated by Mary Gosselin

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**Weekend of**  
**Feb 22/23**  
**Eucharistic Ministers**  
**Lector**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Names</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>Ellen Curran or Sue Fink or Grace Fortuna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>Maureen Haley or Ed Lane or Norm Potts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Ron Bourgea or Mike Bradley or Angela DiZoglio</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Weekend of February 8/9, 2020

Total Offertory: $5,928.00
Maintenance: $122.00
Grand Annual to date: $2,250.00

Second Collection Next Weekend

Next week’s second collection will support the Church in those underdeveloped areas of the world. Catholic Relief Services, the Church in Africa and in Central and Eastern Europe and three important national Catholic missions: the Military Archdiocese, Home Missions, and the Black and Indian Missions.

Your generosity will help fund the spiritual, educational and humanitarian needs of the Church around the world.

Thank you for your support.

St. Vincent de Paul Society
Weekend of February 8/9, 2020
$157.00

In the Gospel Jesus says: “Whoever fulfills and teaches these commands shall be great in the kingdom of God.”

By your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul you indeed put your faith into action as you fulfill the commands of Jesus.

In a world at its worst,
We need a Church at its best.
For a world full of sin,
We need a Church full of holiness.
For a world that’s going down,
We need a Church that’s going up.
For a world filled with hell,
We need a Church filled with Heaven.
For a world that’s out of tune,
We need a Church that is in harmony.
For a world full of war,
We need a Church that’s full of peace.
For a world full of crime,
We need a Church that’s full of honesty.
For a world full of defeat,
We need a Church that’s full of victory.
For a world full of “bad news”,
We need a Church that’s full of “good news”.
For a world that believes in “playing”,
We need a Church committed to praying.
In a discouraged world,
We need an encouraged Church.

In Need of Prayer...

Jeannette Demers, Michael Culpon, Mary Jo Daigle, Ronald Begin, Pete Ramirez, George Henderson, Andrew Champy, David Champy, David Adams, Gary Stachulski, Douglas McKnight, William Luna, Aiden Sutliff, Ellen Villers, Chuck Edgerly, Alice Blow, Domenic Norcia, Judith Upham, Benjamin Melo, Ron Simonian, Art Munger, Brad Waters, Mary Conway, Elisabeth Hooper, Matt Kinsley, Bishop Todd Brown, Diane Castiglione, Fr. Paul Valley, SP, Noah Leary, Joseph Androwas, Cecile Townsend, Ronnie Crowe, Ray Boutselis, Ronald Mullen, LeAnn Hanson, Elaine Labrecque, Sheila Hunt, Reina Rodriguez, Jennifer Prugnarola, Nicholas Norcia, Donna Myers, Anita & Dottie Watson, Gary Dubois, Michael Donovan, Jaykub Parsons, Ava Gagnon, Tom McGuire, Judy Lacroix, Charlie Carrell, Mariana Rosato, Carrie McNiss, Sarah & Patrick Scanlon, Kristina Racitti, Robbyn Culpon, and all those on our Parish prayer line, and all the residents at Woodmill Nursing Home, Nevins Nursing Home, Mary-Immaculate Nursing Home, Berkeley Nursing Home and Methuen Village.

Those who have died: Theresa Kater, Roger Twomey, Lois Buotte, John LaMela

If you have a friend or loved one that you would like us to pray for, please call the parish office and leave the name. If you would like a name put back on the list, call the office. Thank You.

Prayer Requests for Priests

O Jesus, Eternal High Priest, live in (name a priest), act in him, speak in and through him. Think your thoughts in his mind, love through his heart. Give him your own dispositions and feelings. Teach, lead and guide him always. Correct, enlighten and expand his thoughts and behavior. Possess his soul; take over his entire personality and life.

February 15 Fr. John Ahern ~ February 16 Fr. Edmond Derosier ~ February 17 Fr. William Leonard ~ February 18 Fr. James Broderick ~ February 19 Fr. Paul Phinn ~ February 20 Fr. Michael Hobson ~ February 21 Fr. Peter Quinn
In Word & Deed

Sports fans can be a predictable group. When their team is winning, they never miss a game! They talk about how great the team is and buy jackets, caps, and anything with the team’s logo. But if the team is struggling or has a losing season, fans can be hard to find. The seats are empty and everyone is full of criticism and other ‘helpful’ suggestions. There is lots of blame to go around and everyone thinks they know exactly what needs to be done. Of course, there is always next season!

Jesus has quite a few fans, that is, until he says something that challenges those around Him. People listened to the prophets, teachers and preachers for years. The message was often very

“Do not swear at all...
Let your “Yes” mean “Yes,”
And your “No” mean “No.”
Anything more is from the evil one.”

Matthew 5:34,37

Lord,
teach me the way of your laws; I shall observe them with care.
Give me insight to observe your teaching, to keep it with all my heart.

Psalm 119:33-34
FAMILY LIFE:

TO WALK AS ONE

Valentine’s Day is a day to celebrate love and send cards and gifts as expressions of affection and devotion. It is a popular day for engagements, for new beginnings and renewal of long time relationships. It is a day of hope and a day of remembrance. It is a sentimental look at all that is good about love.

It might also be a time for us to reflect on our relationship with God, to ponder the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and to recommit ourselves to a life of holiness and faith. God offers us a share in His love, promising forgiveness, redemption, and new life. It is a Valentine that is more than a sentimental gesture; it is God’s creative power that restores us to grace.

This Valentine’s Day, think about how you can strengthen your relationship with God. Look for new ways to express your love. Focus on building bridges with others, reaching out to those from whom you are distant. Forgive faults and failings and start anew. Find ways to share the blessings of God with those who have lost hope. Love the unloving. Make the sacrifices necessary to be a channel of God’s love.

— Jim Gaffney
jim@stgeorgepublishing.com

We should strive to keep our hearts open to the sufferings and wretchedness of other people, and pray continually that God may grant us that spirit of compassion which is truly the Spirit of God.

St. Vincent de Paul

In Word & Deed

Discipleship is about loyalty, honesty and faithfulness. It is about perseverance and persistence. We are not fair-weather believers, nor are we easily distracted from our work. We have seen what the Lord can do and we take Him at His word. Do not worry about tough times or difficult moments. We play on a winning team!

— Jim Gaffney

Scripture Readings

Week of February 16, 2020

16 SUN Sir 15:15-20/1 Cor 2:6-10/Mt 5:17-37 or 5:20
17 Mon Jas 1:1-11/Mk 8:11-13
18 Tue Jas 1:12-18/Mk 8:14-21
19 Wed Jas 1:19-27/Mk 8:22-26
20 Thu Jas 2:1-9/Mk 8:27-33
21 Fri Jas 2:14-24, 26/Mk 8:34—9:1
22 Sat 1 Pt 5:1-4/Mt 16:13-19
23 SUN Lv 19:1-2, 17-18/1 Cor 3:16-23/Mt 5:38-48
C.S. Lewis Book Club: Lawrence, MA
2019-2020 Calendar
Facilitator: Rev. Andrew M. Beauregard, F.P.O.
Most First, Third and Fifth Mondays of the Month
St. Augustine Chapel
128 Ames Street, Lawrence, MA

Bi-Weekly Schedule

6:50pm Doors Open
7:00pm Opening Prayer/Introduction of the Evening topic
7:10pm Discussion of a work of C.S. Lewis (see below)
8:25pm Closing Prayer/Announcements

We will meet on the following Monday evenings listed, including state or national holidays. In the event of two or more inches of snow falling after 6:00pm, the evening is cancelled.

Please do the “assigned readings” before the evenings listed below and think about the readings ahead of time so that you can contribute something to the topic. Lewis’ style is simple, yet profound. What does he tell us about God, Jesus, our common humanity, prayer, the Christian life and life everlasting?

These are not technical talks; but a friendly atmosphere where we can freely contribute our insights. Prior knowledge of C.S. Lewis’ life or writings are not necessary—just an open heart seeking the truth in love. In most cases, all of the works can be found at your local library, perhaps even on line. You may decide to purchase the individual books at a local bookseller or on Amazon. Books will NOT be provide, so please come with your own copy. Thank you.

February 24 Mere Christianity (Book 4. 6-4.11)
March 9 The Lion, The Witch, And The Wardrobe
March 23 No Meeting—Fr. Andrew Away
March 30 The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe
April 13 No Meeting—Easter Week

Plan to attend the Seventh Annual Catholic Literature Conference on April 25, 2020 in Manchester, NH at St. Marie’s Parish. Tickets are $25.00/adult and $15.00/students

Prayer Shawl Ministry
Winter Weather Snow Policy

During the winter months, the Prayer Shawl Ministry Group will meet as usual on the first Wednesday of the month at 1pm and 7pm in the Parish Office

Due to potential inclement weather, please check with Anne Martel regarding the 7pm meetings!

The 1pm meetings will be cancelled when the Methuen Public Schools are closed for winter weather.

Help Feed The Poor
Won’t you donate food for the poor? Baskets are located in St. Theresa Church. Please leave non perishable items only.

All food items will be donated to Lazarus House.

“If you can’t feed a hundred people, then just feed one.”

~ St. Mother Teresa

Parish Winter/Snow Policy

Winter Weather Closings during weekdays: OLG Parish is closed when the Methuen Public Schools are closed for winter weather. If school is not in session we are closed if there is accumulating snow.

If we are closed there is no morning Mass and the office is closed for the day. We also announce our closures on WCVB TV Channel 5. If there is a delayed opening the Daily Mass is cancelled and the office will open late. Please always exercise caution when driving in winter weather! And avoid risking a fall whenever you can! We are blessed to have the Mass on TV on both Catholic TV and EWTN!

NOTE: We do not cancel Masses on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation unless there is a snow emergency or similar emergency. If we do, we will announce these on WCVB TV Channel 5.

Join me in praying for a gentle winter! Fr. Chris

Notre Dame Mission Volunteer
EDUCATING, PROVIDING OPPORTUNITY & BUILDING COMMUNITY through full-time volunteer SERVING 25 CITIES ACROSS THE U.S. and in Haiti

Notre Dame Mission Volunteers believe that education is the fundamental tool in the struggle of the poor for human dignity, self-esteem, and self-determination. We seek to build community among our members, as well as the people with whom we work by reaching out across culture and class.

“It has changed my life. I have met and built relationships with people I will carry with me for the rest of my life.”

~ 2017 NDA Member

Visit www.ndmva.org ~ Email: serve@ndmva.org or call 410-532-6864
Meet St. Paul and the Early Roman Christian Community

Would you like to meet the early Roman Christians? Come and see what St. Paul is up against. Journey with us as we discover how St. Paul deals with their pagan beliefs and customs.

Our discovery session will begin on Wednesday evening, February 19 at 6:00pm in the Parish Office. Invite a friend to journey with you. Fill out the form below and return it to the Parish Office by Monday, February 17.

All Are Welcome to Attend!

******************************************************************************

Name: ________________________________

Email: ________________________________

Phone: ________________________________

______________________ Wed. Evenings, 6:00-8:00 

Frank Audy

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Archdiocese of Boston
Women’s Vocation Discernment Day
Women Ages 18-35
February 22, 2020
9:00am - 5:00pm
St. Paul’s Parish, Harvard Square

Experience:
- Holy Mass
- Time of prayer
- “How do I know if God is calling me?”
- Witness Talks by Sisters
- Conversations with Sisters

For more information, please contact:

St. Germaine Santos | Delegate for Religious | 617-746-5637 | gsantos@rcab.org
Fr. Eric Cadin | Vocational Director | 617-746-5947 | ecadin@rcab.org
Fr. Michael Zimmerman | Assistant Vocation Director | 617-746-5969 | mzimmerman@rcab.org
Fr. Carlos D. Suarez | Assistant Vocation Director | 617-746-5987 | csuarez@rcab.org

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February 16, 2020  Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, Methuen ~ Lawrence  6th Sunday In Ordinary

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Lithuanian Independence Celebration

The Lithuanian American Council and the Knights of Lithuania, Council 78, will once again be holding its annual Lithuanian Independence Celebration on Sunday, February 16, 2020. It will begin with Mass at 10:30am celebrated by a priest from the Franciscan Monastery in Kennebunk, ME. Mass will be in the lower church of Corpus Christi Parish at Holy Rosary Church. It will be followed by a Lithuanian Sausage Dinner at Corpus Christi Parish Center, 34 Common St., Lawrence, MA. Musical entertainment will be provided after dinner.

The donation for the meal is $15.00. For further information and advanced tickets, please contact Dave Boucher at 978-337-3737 or Jonas Stundza at 978-685-4478.

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Are you decluttering???
Don’t throw away that “old jewelry” you never wear anymore!

Bring it to the Parish Office. We will be glad to have it for our 2020 Annual Christmas Fair

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With cold and flu season upon us, we ask that you take a few precautions this winter.

We will be distributing Holy Communion in one form only—we have temporarily suspended the reception of Holy Communion from the cup.

During the sign of peace, we ask that you just give a nod or a smile instead of a hug or handshake.

Hopefully this winter will not be a bad one for colds and the flu.

Let’s All Keep Healthy!!

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Click on the bulletins, find Our Lady of Good Counsel and sign up
You won’t find the word “grexly” in the dictionary—but like its Latin root “grex,” meaning “flock,” Grexly is a family shepherded by the shared commitment to reflect beauty, truth, and goodness. On [www.grexly.com](http://www.grexly.com) you’ll find free, high-quality podcasts that range in topic from mental health to popular culture to living the Faith. You can even pray on the go with audio versions of the Rosary, chaplets, and other Catholic prayers. We’ve got something for everyone, and we hope you’ll join us.

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www.CatholicCruisesandTours.com

“WHOEVER DOES NOT LOVE DOES NOT KNOW GOD, BECAUSE GOD IS LOVE.” 1 JOHN 4:18

Fr. John Unni
PASTOR
Saint Cecilia Parish, Boston
Associate Fire Chaplain
Boston Fire Department
BOARD MEMBER
Pine Street Inn

Healthier Priests. Stronger Communities.
The strength of our communities depends on the well-being of our priests who tirelessly serve others.

Please support our priests at clergytrust.org
Clergy Health and Retirement Trust is an independently managed trust for the care of active and senior priests in good standing.

Remember to say “Thank You!”
We extend our sincere appreciation to our sponsors, without whom this bulletin would not be possible.

“Jesus Wept.” John 11:35
Remember to say “Thank You!”

We extend our sincere appreciation to our sponsors, without whom this bulletin would not be possible.

A good man is looking for a kidney.

Looking for someone with Blood types: A+, A-, O+, O-

Please text or call Josh Goodman at 860-549-6215

Because of the increased demand among area Catholics, making cemetery plans for their family on a PRE-NEED basis, we have completed construction on the new Our Lady of Good Counsel Chapel Mausoleum addition.

Jim Jacobs will put you at ease, help you plan and bring you peace of mind.

To receive more information, contact Jim Jacobs at

CALL (978) 682-8181 TODAY

“God is Love” 1 John 4:8