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## CCB Parent Connector

The Catholic Community of Billerica

St. Andrew, St. Mary & St. Theresa Parishes



February 2017

Dear Parents,

Well, somehow we are now into the month of February and Valentine's Day is right around the corner. My mother always made Valentine's Day special by baking heart-shaped cupcakes or cookies, having red food and drink and giving us something festive to wear. My sisters and I would exchange small gifts as well, even if it were simply a homemade valentine with a handwritten coupon in it, or a pack of bubblegum. I grew up feeling that Valentine's Day was more about Love in general, rather than just a romantic love. And for that I am grateful. I carried on these traditions with my own family, and still to this day do something special on Valentine's Day to let them know I love them...and more importantly that God loves them!

February 14<sup>th</sup> is the day the Church still recognizes St. Valentine as a saint and martyr even though there are limited and varied legends about his life. One such legend is that St. Valentine secretly married couples so that husbands would not have to go off to war. Another, states that St. Valentine refused to sacrifice to pagan gods and was put in prison. While there he healed the blind daughter of his jailer. The day he was executed he left a note for the young girl and signed it from "Your Valentine."

In any case, Valentine's Day can be a reminder for us to appreciate our family, children, husbands, wives, mothers, fathers, friends, or anyone else that comes to mind or crosses our path. And a very beautiful day to reflect on the love that God has for each of us. I pray you experience Love this February 14th, and that it fills your heart with the joy of Christ.

## Something to reflect on during prayer this month...

Fall in Love – (Attributed to Fr. Pedro Arrupe, SJ (1907-1991))



Nothing is more practical than  
finding God, than  
falling in Love  
in a quite absolute, final way.  
What you are in love with,  
what seizes your imagination, will affect everything.  
It will decide  
what will get you out of bed in the morning,  
what you do with your evenings,  
how you spend your weekends,  
what you read, whom you know,  
what breaks your heart,  
and what amazes you with joy and gratitude.  
Fall in Love, stay in love,  
and it will decide everything.

What or who are you “in love” with?  
How would your life change if you were in love with Jesus?

### *God's Valentine to Us!*



*Do we live like we believe this?*



Join fellow members of the Catholic Community of Billerica on Fat Tuesday, February 28, for a Potluck Mardi Gras Celebration from 6:30 PM until 8 PM at St. Andrew's Fr. Wilson Hall. Bring your favorite main dish, side, or dessert (of course!) and enjoy good food, music, face painting and fellowship before transitioning together into the beautiful season of Lent with prayer. New this year will be a "photo booth" for all to use to take fun and festive photos of the evening! Come and take part in the "feast before the fast" - Mardi Gras beads and masks included! Please see the bulletin

next week for an RSVP form to fill out. If you are interested in helping out or have questions, email [Adrienne.cullen.ccb@gmail.com](mailto:Adrienne.cullen.ccb@gmail.com).

**Fun for all ages!!!**



### ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES - MARCH 1st

- 9 AM Mass (with Ashes) - St Mary Church
- Noon Mass (with Ashes) - St. Andrew Church
- 4 PM Service with Ashes - St. Mary
- 4 PM Service with Ashes - St. Andrew

7 PM Mass (with Ashes) - St. Theresa

*Please be sure to check the bulletin for upcoming events during Lent. You may also visit our website at [www.billericacatholic.org](http://www.billericacatholic.org).*

**AND NEVER FORGET....GOD LOVES YOU!**

