BOOKLET TO PRINT

Saint Leudinus Bodo of Toul

Life, prayer and novena

Feast day: September 11

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IN BRIEF

Saint Leudinus Bodo of Toul

Austrasian nobleman who became a monk at Laon, then bishop of Toul in the 7th century.

Feast day	September 11
Born	c. 625
Died	c. 673, Toul
Canonized	immemorial cult
Era	7th century

In this booklet

Life

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Novena to Saint Leudinus Bodo

Credits and sources

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LIFE

Saint Leudinus Bodo of Toul

Saint Leudinus Bodo, in Latin *Leudinus Bodo*, also called Saint Bodo or Saint Leudin, was a nobleman of Austrasia in the seventh century. Married, he left the world by agreement with his wife, became a monk at Laon, and was then chosen as bishop of Toul in Lorraine. He died around 673 and was buried in the crypt of Saint Mansuetus at Toul. His feast day is September 11. This page is an original composition inspired by his life.

Who was Saint Leudinus Bodo?

Leudinus Bodo belonged to a great family of the Frankish aristocracy of eastern Gaul, in the days when the mayor of the palace Grimoald dominated Austrasia. Early sources on his life are rare, and what we know comes mainly from the tradition of the Churches of Toul and Laon, and from the Vosges, where several foundations are credited to him. Historians debate his exact role in these foundations. Yet the outline of the tradition is clear: a married man, involved in the affairs of his time, who turned to the religious life and became a pastor.

Key dates

- **c. 625**: Born into a noble family of Austrasia, son of Gondoin and Saretrude, brother of Saint Salaberga.
- **Mid-7th century**: Marries Odila and holds responsibilities in the south of Austrasia.
- **After the mid-century**: Under the influence of Saint Valbert of Luxeuil and his sister Salaberga, he leaves the world with his wife; Odila enters the monastery of Saint John at Laon, and he enters the nearby monastery for men.

- **c. 665-669**: The clergy and people of Toul choose him as their bishop.
- **c. 669-673**: Serves as bishop of Toul; tradition credits him with founding the women's monastery of Bonmoutier in the Vosges.
- **c. 673**: Dies and is buried in the crypt of Saint Mansuetus at Toul.

A family of saints

Leudinus Bodo was the son of Gondoin and Saretrude. His elder sister, Salaberga, also lived married life before entering religion. She founded the monastery of Saint John at Laon, of which she was abbess, and she is honored as a saint on September 22. Her daughter, Saint Anstrude, succeeded her at the head of this abbey. The family, influential in Austrasia, had an important part in the religious life of Lorraine and Champagne in the seventh century.

A husband who leaves the world

Leudinus Bodo married Odila and lived with her in the world. Tradition says that the exhortations of Saint Valbert, abbot of Luxeuil and heir of Saint Columban, and the example of his sister Salaberga, led him to embrace the religious life. His wife made the same choice. Odila took the veil at the monastery of Saint John at Laon, and Bodo withdrew to the nearby monastery for men.

This shared choice of husband and wife, which we also find at the same period in Saint Vincent Madelgarius and Saint Waldetrudis, shows the strength of the monastic movement that came out of Luxeuil. It is not an abandonment of marriage, but a gift to God of everything that remained of their lives, decided together.

Bishop of Toul

In the monastery at Laon, Bodo gained such a reputation for holiness that the clergy and people of Toul chose him as their bishop. He was the seventeenth bishop of the diocese, successor to Eborinus and predecessor of Adeodatus. His time as bishop was short, about four or five years.

Tradition credits him with many foundations: a women's monastery in the Vosges, at the request of his daughter Teutberga, called *Bodonis monasterium* and now Bonmoutier, as well as churches and monasteries at Étival, in the Meurthe valley, and elsewhere. The monastery of Bonmoutier was later taken over by monks and gave rise to the abbey of Saint-Sauveur. Historians have noted that some of these foundations are hard to date and to attribute with certainty.

Devotion and iconography

At his death, around 673, Bodo was buried in the crypt of Saint Mansuetus, the first bishop of Toul. A large part of his relics was later kept by the abbey of Saint John at Laon. He is honored as a saint on September 11, at Toul and in the Vosges, especially at Étival, where he is venerated as founder. Sculptures show him as a bishop, with miter and crozier.

What can we learn from Saint Leudinus Bodo?

Leudinus Bodo lived several lives: that of a great lord, of a husband and father, of a monk, and then of a bishop. At each stage he sought God's will, letting himself be guided by others: an abbot, his sister, his wife, the people of Toul. He can accompany couples who are discerning together, those who experience a conversion in adulthood, and those who receive an unexpected responsibility.

Where to pray to Saint Leudinus Bodo

- **Toul** (Meurthe-et-Moselle): the Cathedral of Saint-Étienne, seat of his episcopate, and the memory of the abbey of Saint-Mansuy, where he was buried.
- **Étival-Clairefontaine** (Vosges): the former abbey church, in the heart of the district of which he is the traditional founder.
- **Laon** (Aisne): the city of the monastery of Saint John, where he became a monk and where his relics were kept.
- **Val-et-Châtillon** (Meurthe-et-Moselle): the site of Bonmoutier and the abbey of Saint-Sauveur.

To pray with him at home, you can use the prayer to Saint Leudinus Bodo or the novena to Saint Leudinus Bodo.

PRAYER

Prayer to Saint Leudinus Bodo for Couples and Families

Saint Leudinus Bodo, a nobleman of Austrasia, was married to Odila. By mutual agreement, the two spouses left the world for the religious life at Laon, and Bodo was later called to become bishop of Toul, where he died around 673. This prayer is an original composition inspired by his life; it is not an official liturgical text. It entrusts to him couples, families and those who seek God's will at a turning point in their lives.

Prayer to Saint Leudinus Bodo

Saint Bodo,
you knew power and wealth,
you loved your wife and raised a family,
then you heard God's call
through the voice of a holy abbot and the example of your sister.

With Odila, you gave everything back to the Lord.
In the silence of the monastery, you learned to pray,
and when the Church of Toul called you,
you accepted to become its shepherd.

Pray for couples:
may they seek God's will together.
Pray for families,
for those who are converted as adults,
and for those who receive a responsibility they did not expect.
Watch over Lorraine and the Vosges.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

When to pray to Saint Leudinus Bodo

- On his feast day, September 11.
- For a couple facing an important decision.
- For a brother, sister or loved one whose example has helped you.
- At a moment of conversion or a new start in faith.
- For the bishop and the diocese of Nancy-Toul.

A short prayer for discernment

> *Lord, what do you want of me today?*
> *Help me to listen to those you place on my path.*
> *Saint Bodo, pray for me. Amen.*

To prepare for his feast, you can pray the novena to Saint Leudinus Bodo from September 3 to September 11, and learn about the life of Saint Leudinus Bodo.

NOVENA

Novena to Saint Leudinus Bodo

This novena is an original composition by Saintspedia, inspired by the life of Saint Leudinus Bodo, an Austrasian nobleman who became a monk at Laon and then bishop of Toul in the seventh century. It is not an official liturgical text. To end it on his feast day, September 11, begin on September 3. You can also pray it at any time of year.

How to pray this novena

Each day, begin with the Sign of the Cross and present your intention to God. Read the meditation, say the prayer of the day, then an Our Father, a Hail Mary and a Glory Be. End with: "Saint Bodo, pray for us." The small act proposed each day helps you live the novena concretely.

Day 1: A great family

Bodo was born into a powerful family of Austrasia. He inherited property, connections and responsibilities. All this can become a trap or a means of serving.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for what I have received. Teach me to use it for you and for others.

Today: Thank God for three gifts you received from your family.

Day 2: Married love

Bodo married Odila and started a family. Their marriage would be the place where their answer to God matured. A couple's life is a path to heaven.

Prayer: Lord, bless married couples. May they love each other faithfully and help each other become saints.

Today: Pray for your spouse, or for a couple you know.

Day 3: A sister's example

Salaberga, Bodo's elder sister, left the world to found a monastery at Laon. Her example touched him. God often uses those close to us to call us.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for those who showed me the way by their lives. May I in turn be a witness for my own.

Today: Thank a brother, sister or friend for their example.

Day 4: An abbot's word

Saint Valbert, abbot of Luxeuil, urged Bodo to give himself to God. Bodo listened. He accepted being advised and shaken up.

Prayer: Lord, give me the humility to listen to advice, even when it unsettles me.

Today: Ask a wise person for advice on a question that concerns you.

Day 5: Deciding together

Bodo and Odila chose the religious life together. Neither imposed the decision on the other. Together they sought God's will.

Prayer: Lord, teach us to decide together, with respect and in prayer.

Today: Make a family decision by truly listening to everyone.

Day 6: Life in the monastery

At Laon, the great lord became a simple monk. He learned obedience, common prayer and work. It was there that his holiness matured.

Prayer: Lord, teach me simplicity and obedience. Make my taste for prayer grow.

Today: Pray an office, such as Vespers or Compline.

Day 7: Called by the people

The clergy and people of Toul chose Bodo as their bishop. He had not sought this office. He accepted it as a service.

Prayer: Lord, if you entrust me with a responsibility, help me to carry it out with humility.

Today: Gladly accept a service you are asked to do.

Day 8: Founding for others

Tradition says Bodo founded a women's monastery in the Vosges at the request of his daughter. He put his goods at the service of the prayer and vocation of others.

Prayer: Lord, help me to support the vocation of those I love, even when it takes them far from me.

Today: Support a religious community with a gift or a prayer.

Day 9: Resting beside Saint Mansuetus

Bodo died around 673 and rests in the crypt of Saint Mansuetus, the first bishop of Toul. He joins the long chain of pastors who carried the faith to Lorraine.

Prayer: Lord, keep me faithful to the end. Through the intercession of Saint Bodo, grant me the grace I ask in this novena, if it is your will.

Today: Pray for the departed members of your family.

Living the novena with Saint Leudinus Bodo

Saint Bodo is a saint of life's turning points. This novena can accompany a couple who are discerning, a person returning to the faith, a change of vocation or a new responsibility. It also invites us to give thanks for the loved ones whose example has helped us believe, as Salaberga did for her brother.

Closing prayer

> *Saint Leudinus Bodo,*
> *husband, monk and bishop of Toul,*
> *you listened to God's call at every stage of your life.*
> *Present to God the intention I have carried during these nine days.*
> *Obtain for me a docile heart, a faithful love*
> *and the courage to say yes when the Lord calls me.*
> *Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

You can also pray the prayer to Saint Leudinus Bodo at any time, and learn about the life of Saint Leudinus Bodo.

Credits and sources

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