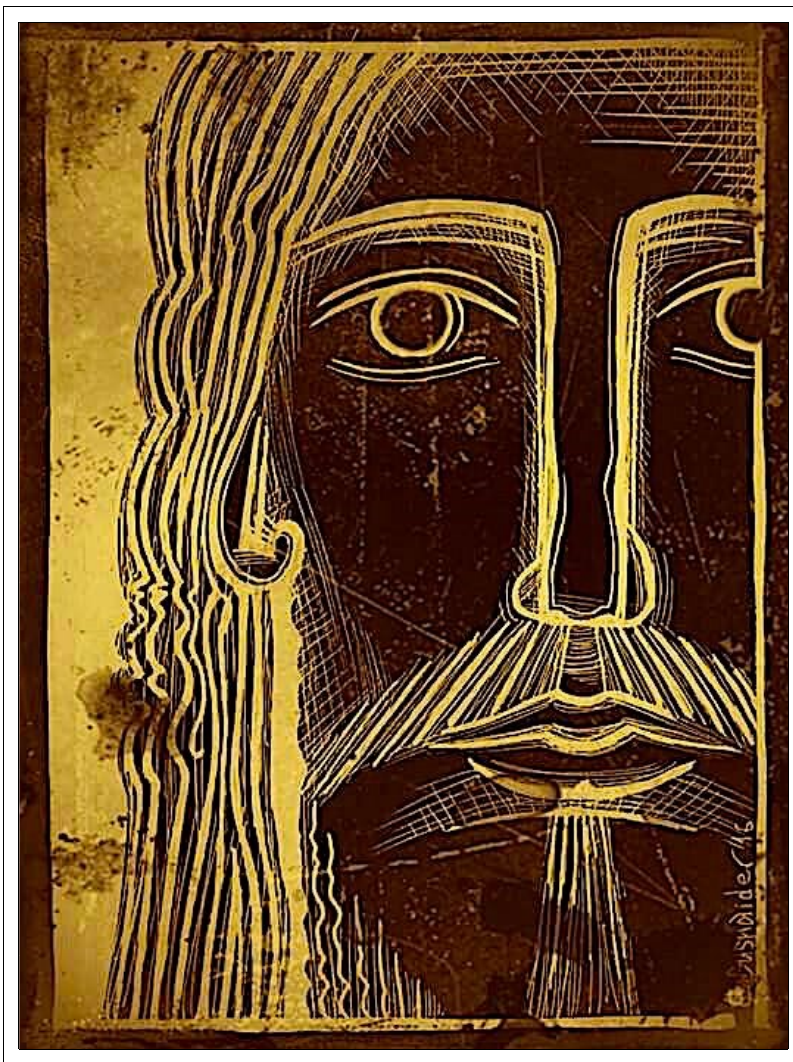


The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport

HOLY FAMILY PARISH & OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH

A Community United in Prayer, Fellowship, and Service
Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time · November 5, 2017



THE UNCOMFORTABLE GOSPEL?

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE — PAGE 3

The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport
Live the Gospel. Share God's Love. Rebuild the Church.

74 Pleasant Street · Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930
Phone: 978-281-4820 · Fax: 978-281-4964 · Email: office@ccgrounline.com · Website: ccgrounline.com
Office Hours: Monday through Friday 10:00am-4:00pm

HOLY SEASON OF ADVENT

Father Jim's Advent Scripture Study

THE MESSIAH: THE TEXTS BEHIND HANDEL'S MASTERPIECE
 BEGINS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH AT NOON — OUR LADY'S HALL

During the Holy Season of Advent, all adult parishioners, friends, and guests of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport are invited to join Father Jim for a weekly lunchtime scripture study based on the scriptural libretto of George Frideric Handel's "Messiah." On four consecutive Thursdays from November 30th through December 21st at 12:00pm in Our Lady's Hall, Father Jim will lead a one-hour discussion and reflection on the scripture passages used in Handel's beautiful operatic treatment of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In preparation for each week's session, participants will be asked to read from Douglas Connelly's book, "The Messiah: The Texts Behind Handel's Masterpiece." All participants are welcome to bring their own lunch and join us for as many sessions as possible. A donation of \$20.00 is requested from those who can afford it. Participants will be provided with a copy of the book, along with coffee, tea, or bottled water. If you would like to join us for this special scripture study series, please contact Father Jim at frjim@ccgrronline.com or 978-281-4820. Please join us! All are invited! All are welcome!

Advent Faith & Family Mass

A YOUTH FAITH FORMATION SPECIAL EVENT
 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2ND AT 4:00PM — SAINT ANN CHURCH

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus says: "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs (Matthew 19:14)." In response to the Lord's call, all children, parents, grandparents, godparents, and guardians are invited to join Father Jim for our Third Annual Advent Faith & Family Mass on Saturday, December 2nd at 4:00pm in Saint Ann Church. During Mass, Father Jim will offer a special homily about the Jesse Tree (see Isaiah 11:1-4) and a special blessing for all families and children. In addition, every child will receive a special gift.

Please save the dates for our other upcoming Faith & Family Masses: Saturday, January 6th at 4:00pm in Saint Ann Church; Sunday, February 18th at 11:45am in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church; and Saturday, May 12th at 4:00pm in Saint Ann Church. For more information about our Advent Faith & Family Mass, please see Father Jim or contact Betsy Works at bworks@ccgrronline.com or 978-281-4820. Let us reaffirm that Mass is our class! Jesus is our Teacher! Every child is a gift from God! And every family in our pews is a gift from God, too! Please spread the word among your family and friends! Please join us! All are invited! All are welcome!

Advent & Christmas Concert

AN ANNUAL HOLIDAY TRADITION
 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD AT 2:00PM — SAINT ANN CHURCH

All parishioners, friends, and guests of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport are invited to join Tom Misuraca, LuAnn Pallazola, and our adult and youth music ministries for our Thirteenth Annual Advent & Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 3rd at 2:00pm in Saint Ann Church. All of this year's musical selections have been chosen to help prepare our hearts to celebrate more fully the Holy Season of Advent and the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ at Christmas. As always, our adult and youth choirs will perform along with talented instrumentalists. In addition, members of our Brazilian Community will perform with us, too! For more information about this popular holiday tradition, please contact Tom Misuraca at tmisuraca@ccgrronline.com or 978-281-4820. Please join us as we share the gift of music! All are invited! All are welcome!

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

The Uncomfortable Gospel?

By Kathy Coffey

It may be a shift to read the Gospels and feel discomfort. While the words and actions of Jesus enlighten, they are no escape hatch. Conflict, tension, and frustration still plague believers. But we read the Gospels for one purpose: to know Jesus better — not for warm fuzzies, easy answers, or reinforcement of prejudices. Nor will we always encounter “Jesus, meek and mild.” He who threatened cozy assumptions of his contemporaries may have the same effect on us. If we rely on the wrong supports, like wealth, prestige, or religious rituals, he will challenge us, too. Jesus questioned many of the customs of his time, such as the subservient role of women and the authority of the Pharisees. In “Real Presence: The Work of Eucharist”, Nathan Mitchell writes: “It is hard to believe that Jesus was simply an early flower child who traipsed through the sunlit fields talking about lilies and love! Who would seek to arrest such a sap?”

We may be uncomfortable with the Gospel’s storytelling if we want just the facts. We might prefer a precise blueprint or spreadsheet to rambling, inconsistent stories. But if we compare the Bible to our own complex, difficult life stories, then we grow more comfortable with its mixed genres. We find links where the larger story of God intersects with our personal lives. So we reflect not only on Jesus’ and the Hebrews’ experience in the desert, but also on our own desert times. Wandering in the wilderness brings valuable insights that we do not learn in secure kitchens. As much as we enjoy the intriguing connections, storytelling has its shortcomings. It is unscientific, subject to interpretation, and sometimes wildly inaccurate. Two people who attended the same party might tell radically different accounts.

So, too, each Gospel writer has a different emphasis. Even within the Gospel of John, there are inconsistencies: “Jesus was deeply troubled (John 13:21)”, but in the next chapter, Jesus says: “Do not let your hearts be troubled (John 14:1).” Those who enjoy stories listen beneath the words. Their primary interest is the meaning stories give our experiences. We do not read the Gospels primarily for scientific accuracy or historical fact, but to follow Jesus better. We read through the lens of a human author who will sometimes shade, condense, or exaggerate. Sometimes we may also need to read biblical interpretation, but most important is our response. There’s an old saying: The Gospel gives the chapter headings, but we write the texts in our lives.

The Gospels have been misused to incite guilt. Some people may need that stern correction to luxuriating while others starve. But many hard-working people are simply trying to survive, raise families, and do their jobs while being as generous as possible with their time and treasure. They certainly do not need another guilt trip! What we may find harder than guilt is the Gospel’s insistence on how splendid we are. Jesus walked among the diseased, smelly, and sweaty, assured them that even in poverty, mourning, or persecution, they were blessed. Mired in our own problems, do we struggle with good news? Admittedly, the central message is hard to absorb. We, limited and flawed, are made in his divine image. Throughout the Gospels, the message recurs: you are not a slave. You are a friend and adopted child with an eternal inheritance — not condemned to futility or the finality of death. The implications could be uncomfortable. God chose us for a unique purpose and equips us to get it done. So, no whining or stalling! Get on with it!

About the Author: Kathy Coffey is the author of thirteen books and countless articles in publications like National Catholic Reporter, Saint Anthony Messenger, and America Magazine. In addition to being an award-winning writer, poet, and retreat director, she teaches at the University of Colorado and Regis Jesuit University. She is the mother of four children and a grandmother of four.

If you enjoyed this week’s message, check out:

BRINGING HOME THE WORD

A new edition is posted every Saturday at ccgrounline.com/news/

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP, AND SERVICE

WELCOME FATHER PETER MARSELEK MISSIONARY VISIT Weekend of November 4th – 5th

This weekend, Saturday, November 4th and Sunday, November 5th, the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport is blessed to welcome Father Peter Marselek of the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity (SOLT), who will celebrate all weekend Masses and preach about the good work of his missionary order. Serving in thirteen countries including the United States, SOLT Missionaries bring the hope and love of Jesus and Mary to people living in poverty. They serve the elderly, migrant workers, orphans, refugees, and people undergoing alcohol and drug rehabilitation.

In support of the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity, a second collection will be taken at all of our Masses this weekend of November 4th and November 5th at both Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish. Your generous support will be sincerely appreciated by all who are served by Father Peter and his community. For more information about SOLT and its good work around the world, please visit their website: solt.net. Welcome, Father Peter! May God bless you and your ministry!

MONTH OF ALL SOULS MASSES OF REMEMBRANCE For Families, Friends & Fellow Parishioners

During this Month of All Souls, the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport will celebrate Masses of Remembrance for those whose funerals were celebrated in our churches and have thus journeyed home to the Lord during the past year. Our first Mass of Remembrance was celebrated on Saturday, October 27th in Saint Ann Church. Additional Masses of Remembrance will be celebrated according to the following schedule:

Mass of Remembrance II

Sunday, November 12th at 11:45am
Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

Mass of Remembrance III

Sunday, November 19th at 10:00am
Saint Joachim Church

At each Mass of Remembrance, the names of our dearly departed loved ones, friends, and fellow parishioners will be read aloud. During the Month of All Souls, let us unite our hearts and voices in prayer for those we have lost during the past year. For more information about the Month of All Souls, please see Father Jim before or after Mass or contact him at frjim@ccgronline.com or 978-281-4820. Please join us! All are invited! All are welcome!

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH HOLY NAME SOCIETY Sunday, November 5th at 6:30pm

The Holy Name Society is a service organization of men which was founded to support our parish through volunteering and fundraising. Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 5th at 6:30pm in Our Lady's Hall. Dinner will be served. Annual dues of \$20 will be collected. For more information about the Holy Name Society and its good work in our parish, please contact Matt Parisi at mparisi101@gmail.com or leave a message at 978-281-4820. Please join us! All are invited! All are welcome!

OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH OUR LADY'S GUILD Monday, November 6th at 6:30pm

Since 1944, Our Lady's Guild has worked to build community among women of all ages in Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish through fundraising, good works, prayer, and social events. Our next monthly meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 6th at 6:30pm in Our Lady's Hall. For more information about Our Lady's Guild and its good work in our parish, please contact Beth Fosberry at jcbf33@yahoo.com or leave a message at 978-281-4820. Please join us! New members are always welcome!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE Friday, November 10th · 1:00pm-6:00pm

On Friday, November 10th from 1:00pm until 6:00pm in Our Lady of Good Voyage Hall, the Knights of Columbus (Council 215) and the Red Cross will sponsor a blood drive. If you feel called to participate in this most worthy cause, please register online at redcross.org or by phone at 1-800-RED-CROSS. For more information about the Knights of Columbus, please visit our website: kofc215.com. Thank you for your generous support!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 215 MEETING Tuesday, November 14 at 7:00pm

The Knights of Columbus (Council 215) is a fraternal and charitable organization of Catholic men that serves the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport. If you have twenty-four hours to volunteer for charity this year, we can transform that commitment into meaningful results for you, your family, and our communities. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 14th at 7:00pm in the parish center. For more information, please contact Mark Natti at grandknight@kofc215.com or 978-281-4820. New members are always welcome!

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

HOLY FAMILY PARISH HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S GUILD Monday, November 6th at 6:30pm

Established in 2005, the Holy Family Women's Guild brings together women of all ages and backgrounds in prayer, fellowship, and service to our parish and the community. Throughout the year, the Women's Guild hosts various fundraising events and social gatherings, including seasonal bake sales, the Strawberry Festival, and the Christmas Fair (see below).

The Guild's next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 6th at 6:30pm in Saint Ann Church Hall. Refreshments of apple crisp and autumn sangria will be served. During the meeting, we will collect donations and gifts to benefit our upcoming Christmas Fair, especially the Basket Wheel. All are encouraged to donate new items such as jewelry, games, puzzles, toys, coloring books, crayons, markers, paints, hats mittens, scarves, and gift certificates to the movies or your favorite local café or restaurant.

For more information about the Holy Family Women's Guild and its good work in our parish; or about how you and your family can help make this year's Holy Family Christmas Fair our most successful event ever, please contact Lydia Bertolino at bertolino4@msn.com or 978-281-4820. Please join us! All are invited! New members are always welcome!

HOLY FAMILY PARISH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAIR Saturday November 18th · 9:00am – 2:00pm

All are invited to join Holy Family Parish for our Annual Christmas Fair on Saturday, November 18th from 9:00am until 2:00pm in Saint Ann Church Hall. This year's fair will feature various tables, including homemade baked goods and cookies, Christmas decorations, Santa's Corner, Chinese Raffle, White Elephant Table, and our famous Basket Wheel (see below)! In addition, raffle tickets are now available for cash prizes, an Apple Watch, and a Red Sox Game Package.

We are very grateful for all donations to the Basket Wheel and to all of our other sale tables! We are especially grateful to Greely Funeral Home and Pike-Newhall Funeral Home for their donations of raffle prizes. The Christmas Fair Committee and the Holy Family Women's Guild are working overtime to make this year's fair another great success! So, please support this important parish fundraising event by joining us on Saturday, November 18th in Saint Ann Church Hall! For more information about volunteering at the Christmas Fair, please contact Lydia Bertolino at 978-281-4279 or bertolino4@msn.com. Please join us! All are invited! All are welcome!

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP, AND SERVICE



THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM Our Schedule for November 2017

The Sacrament of Baptism is the first of three Sacraments of Initiation in the Roman Catholic Church. The two other Sacraments of Initiation are Eucharist and Confirmation. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church: "Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism, we are freed from sin and reborn as children of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church, and made sharers in her mission (CCC 1213)."

During the month of November, the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism according to the following schedule:

Baptism Preparation Workshop
Sunday, November 5th at 11:00am
Saint Ann Church

Sacrament of Baptism
Sunday, November 12th at 1:00pm
Saint Ann Church

Sacrament of Baptism
Sunday, November 19th at 11:45am
Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

Sacrament of Baptism
Sunday, November 26th at 11:00am
Saint Joachim Church

This past month, the following children were baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit here in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport:

Jenavecia Barani
Elizabeth Fletcher
Emily Fletcher
Isabella Fletcher
Clara Grace
Ariana Marnoto
Rocco McGillivray
Avery Reid

If you would like to schedule your child's baptism, please contact Melissa Unis at office@ccgronline.com or 978-281-4820. Please pray for our newly baptized young disciples and their families! Congratulations to all! Learn more about the Sacraments of the Roman Catholic Church by visiting our website: ccgronline.com/sacraments!

OUR MASS INTENTIONS**NOVEMBER 4 – NOVEMBER 12, 2017**

Saturday, November 4	Vigil · 31st Sunday
4:00pm · Saint Ann	Gerolama Pallazola
6:00pm · OLGV	Francesco Taormina
Sunday, November 5	31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:00am · OLGV	Franco Casagrande
8:15am · Saint Ann	Deceased Members of the Legion of Mary
10:00am · Saint Joachim	Vincenza Cusumano
11:45am · OLGV	Helen & John Melanson
5:00pm · Saint Ann	Mass for the People
	31st Week in Ordinary Time
Monday, November 6 8:00am · OLGV	Joan Mason
Tuesday, November 7 8:00am · Saint Joachim	Communion Service
Wednesday, November 8 8:00am · OLGV	Jose & Maria DaSilva Vinagre
Thursday, November 9 8:00am · Saint Joachim	Communion Service
Friday, November 10 8:00am · OLGV	The Mistretta Family
Saturday, November 11 8:00am · Saint Ann	No Mass
Saturday, November 11	Vigil · 32nd Sunday
4:00pm · Saint Ann	Rosalia & Enzo Giambanco
6:00pm · OLGV	Eleanor Salah
Sunday, November 12	32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:00am · OLGV	The Wholley Family
8:15am · Saint Ann	Lillian Novello
10:00am · Saint Joachim	Angela & Nicolo Vitale
11:45am · OLGV	Mass of Remembrance
5:00pm · Saint Ann	Mass for the People

OUR WEEKLY OFFERINGS**HOLY FAMILY PARISH****Weekend of October 28th – October 29th**

Weekly Offerings	\$5,137.00
Electronic Donations	\$878.00
Total Offerings	\$6,015.00
Second Collection (Maintenance)	N/A
Saint Ann Church Restoration	\$223,329.00

Thank you for your generous support
of Holy Family Parish!

OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH**Weekend of October 28th – October 29th**

Weekly Offerings	\$2,965.00
Electronic Donations	\$80.00
Total Offerings	\$3,045.00
Grand Annual Collection	\$6,789.00

Thank you for your generous support
of Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish!

SANCTUARY GIFTS

At each of the churches in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport, sanctuary flowers, sanctuary candles, and altar gifts (hosts & wine) can be donated for a special intention or in memory of a departed loved one. The requested donation for flowers is \$250. The requested donation for altar gifts is \$175. And the requested donation for a sanctuary candle is \$25. This week, donations were offered for the following intentions:

In Memory of Andrew & Margaret Orlando
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of the Victims of Violence & Terrorism
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Joachim Church

In Memory of Pietro Cusenza
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Anthony Chapel

In Memory of Timothy Morgan
Sanctuary Candle · Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

In Memory of John Carrancho
Sanctuary Gifts · Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

For more information about donating sanctuary candles, flowers, or gifts for a special intention or in memory of a deceased friend or loved one, please contact Melissa Unis at office@ccgronline.com or 978-281-4820. Thank you for your generous support of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport at Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish! May God bless you and your family – now and always!