

The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport

HOLY FAMILY PARISH · OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH

A Community United in Prayer, Fellowship, and Service · All Are Welcome!
Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time · August 16, 2015



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The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport

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Please Join Us! All Are Welcome!

We welcome new parishioners to Gloucester & Rockport!

Please introduce yourself and contact the pastoral office to register as a parishioner!

Our Pastor's Message

HARD CHOICES AHEAD: REPAIRING & RESTORING SAINT ANN CHURCH

On Easter Sunday (April 5th), I shared with you what can only be called a “towering challenge” for the good and faithful people of Holy Family Parish. As many of you know, when I arrived here last summer, I was bombarded with comments and questions about a proposal to build an elevator in Saint Ann Church. At that time, the cost of this proposal was approximately one million dollars (and approximately forty percent of the funds would have been borrowed from the Archdiocese of Boston). There appeared to be much support for this project. However, after serving just a few weeks as your pastor, it became abundantly clear to me that there was also much concern and doubt about the proposed project. There were also many unanswered questions. How would we repay the loan or raise the additional funds necessary to complete the project? Are there more affordable ways to improve access to the church and its restrooms for our disabled and elderly fellow parishioners? And what might happen if we begin a major construction project by cutting into the side of a 125 year old church building?

Last fall, Michael Horgan (our buildings & facilities manager who is an experienced contractor with deep roots in our community) inspected every inch of Saint Ann Church with me and members of our pastoral team. What we found was both disturbing and disheartening. We discovered that the “virtue” of long-deferred maintenance has become the vice of deterioration and neglect throughout Saint Ann Church. The ceiling over the spot where the elevator would open into the church is cracked and crumbling. Archways and ceilings in the choir loft are crumbling and crashing to the floor to the point where we have prohibited all access to the choir loft and bell tower. The anchors, frames, pins, and sills that support both the large and small rose windows in the church have decayed to the point where they may need to be removed so that the structures that support them can be rebuilt. Likewise, the buttresses on the front of the church have deteriorated to the point where we fear that they are literally separating from the building. Both side entrances to the church are in desperate and obvious need of repair and refurbishment. And this to-do list does not include the long-overdue painting of the interior of the church or the long-overdue renovation of the parish hall (including the kitchen, bathrooms, and heating system).

Many of the problems described above have been caused by leaks in the bell tower that allow water to travel from the steeple, through the tower, and then into the space between the exterior masonry and interior plaster. These leaks are causing the tower, the east wall of the church, and the interior plaster in the choir loft and vestibule to deteriorate at an accelerated pace, causing damage to the front doors, walls, and woodwork of the church. This “towering challenge” is worsened by severe winters which cause water to freeze, expand, melt, and contract. Overall, this potentially ruinous situation is urgent and must be addressed now. In short, we have reached the point where major portions of our beautiful and historic church must be restored, not just repaired, for both safety and structural reasons. Again, this is no longer about maintaining and repairing our church; this is about restoring and saving it!

As I promised to you last fall, after consulting with our finance and pastoral councils, I commissioned an independent engineering firm to formally inspect our church building and report their findings. Needless to say, this first formal inspection revealed results almost identical to our informal inspections. So after consulting again with our finance council, I gave approval to contract CBI Consulting of Boston to again inspect the building in order to determine the estimated cost of repairing and restoring the east wall, windows, and tower of our church. This sixty-two page report is now posted on our website at ccgronline.com. A limited number of additional copies are also available at our pastoral offices. This second report divides the necessary repairs and restoration work into two phases that would cost at least \$542,500. Essentially, the report makes clear the long-term structural integrity of Saint Ann Church depends on our ability and commitment to completing this repair and restoration work in a timely manner.

Since receiving CBI Consulting's report in mid-May, I have asked many questions, consulted with Mike Horgan and other professionals about the conclusions of the report, and prayed a great deal about the difficult decisions that lie ahead for our parish. At this point, it seems abundantly clear to me that we cannot begin an expensive elevator project when the long-term structural integrity of our church is in doubt. Essentially, we must decide as a community whether to return the donations made to install the proposed elevator or to use those donations (with your support) to first repair, restore, and ultimately save Saint Ann Church for future generations; and then address accessibility to the church and its restrooms. I cannot make these hard choices alone, so I ask for your prayers, your advice, and finally your support in making a final decision that is just, right, and in the best long-term interests of our parish. Saint Ann, pray for us!

Peace and blessings to all,
Father Jim

In Case You Missed It...

OUR PASTOR'S MESSAGE MAKING DISCIPLES: THE FUTURE OF YOUTH FAITH FORMATION

Since becoming your pastor, I have been praying and thinking a great deal about youth faith formation, youth ministry, and sacramental preparation for children. In a bulletin message last month, I wrote about my research into how these ministries are accomplished in other collaboratives and parishes both in the Archdiocese of Boston and around the country. Since then, I have consulted with priests and pastors, experts in the field of youth faith formation and youth ministry, and fellow parishioners about the future of these programs in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport.

As a result of this research, I have reached two important conclusions about the future of children's catechesis. First, the traditional way of teaching our children and grandchildren about Christ and His Church (classroom model) may no longer be the best way of passing on our faith to the next generation. Second, a consensus is emerging in other collaboratives and large parishes that we should focus our energies and resources on sacramental preparation, good & family-friendly liturgies, lifelong faith formation, and by being bold, creative, and innovative about inviting and welcoming people of all ages and generations back to church.

After much prayer, consultation, and consideration, therefore, I have decided that beginning immediately, the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport will embark on a groundbreaking journey to reimagine, rebuild, and restructure our youth faith formation programs in both parishes and at all grade levels. During the coming school year (which we should consider a transitional year), we will focus almost exclusively on preparing young children for First Penance & Reconciliation and First Holy Communion (Grades 1-2); and on preparing teenagers for Confirmation (Grades 9-10). In the next couple of weeks, the parents of children and teenagers at those grade levels will be contacted by me and invited to enroll their sons and daughters in our program. The parents of children at other grade levels will be contacted later (early fall) about upcoming opportunities for children to learn about the beliefs, teachings, and traditions of the Catholic Church. But please be assured that the Sacraments of First Penance, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation will be celebrated as planned during the coming year at both Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish.

As you know, "Disciples in Mission" (the archdiocesan pastoral plan that created our collaborative) brought together our two historic parishes under the leadership of one pastor and one pastoral team. Here in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport, we now have one pastor, one pastoral office, one administrative assistant, one business manager, one facilities manager, one pastoral minister who coordinates care for the homebound and sick, one Associate Minister for Music, and one Associate Minister who assists me in countless ways and coordinates many of our adult faith formation programs. According to this plan, we should also have one lay minister to coordinate the youth faith formation programs in our two parishes. So again, after much prayer, consultation, and consideration, I have decided to restructure our youth faith formation programs and the leadership of those programs. Instead of having two programs and two directors of youth faith formation, we will have one collaborative program (for both parishes) and one Associate Minister for Youth Faith Formation.

Under the guidance and supervision of the pastor, the Associate Minister for Youth Faith Formation will be responsible for creating an innovative faith formation program that transcends the traditional classroom model and focuses on the following core components: sacramental preparation; catechetical programs for children in elementary and middle school; catechetical programs for parents and families; post-Confirmation youth ministry and service programs; and recruiting and training catechists and volunteers to share the faith with our young fellow parishioners. This position is now posted online at ccgronline.com/news; bostoncatholic.org; catholicjobs.com; and indeed.com. All qualified candidates from both within and beyond our parish communities are welcome to apply for this position.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus gives his disciples the "Great Commission" and says to them: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age (Matthew 28:20)." Ever mindful of the Lord's promise, let us renew our dedication to fulfill the "Great Commission" by celebrating the sacraments, by teaching our children and grandchildren, and by creating new generations of disciples that will pass on the beliefs and traditions of God's Church until the end of the age. Change is never easy. I truly understand and appreciate that these decisions will be difficult for many of our fellow parishioners to accept. In my heart, however, I am convinced that these decisions are in the long-term, best interests of our parishes. Thank you in advance for your patience and continued support. Let us continue to pray for each other and for our parishes!

Peace and blessings to all,
Father Jim

The Assumption of Mary

**SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
Saturday, August 15th · Saint Ann Church
Mass & Rosary Begin at 8:00am**

Widespread belief among God’s faithful people in the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, body and soul, into heaven upon her passing has been part of the Catholic Church’s tradition since the fifth century.

This year, because the solemnity falls on a Saturday, it is not a Holy Day of Obligation. Nevertheless, the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport will commemorate this special day with Mass at 8:00am in Saint Ann Church, followed by the Holy Rosary. Until then, let us join our hearts and voices in praying together with Our Blessed Mother in her own words:

Song of Mary Gospel of Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day, all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,
He has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.
Amen.

Prayer for the Assumption of Mary Liturgy of the Hours

Almighty God and Father,
you have taken the mother of your Son,
the blessed & immaculate Virgin Mary,
body and soul into the glory where you dwell.

Keep our hearts set on heaven

so that with her, we may share in your glory.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Saint Ann, pray for us! Saint Joachim, pray for us!

Our Lady of Good Voyage, pray for us!

Our Lady of the Assumption, pray for us!

Prayer, Fellowship & Service

**THE HOLY ROSARY
Monday through Saturday After Mass**

All are invited to join the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport every morning after Daily Mass as we pray the Holy Rosary. By praying the Rosary, we grow closer to our Risen Lord by meditating on the mysteries of his life, death, and resurrection; and we grow closer to our Blessed Mother by asking for her intercession for ourselves, our parish communities, and the whole world. For more information, please see Father Jim or a member of our pastoral team; or join us online at ccgronline.com/mass. Please join us! All are welcome!

**LEGION OF MARY
Tuesdays at 4:00pm · Holy Family Parish Center**

The Legion of Mary is an international fellowship of lay men & women who volunteer their time, talent, and prayer under the banner of the Blessed Virgin Mary by practicing the spiritual works of mercy in our parish communities. Their primary ministry is to visit and pray with the disabled, homebound, and sick. Every Tuesday at 4:00pm, the Legion of Mary gathers to pray the Rosary, share their faith experience, and participate in a period of faith formation under the guidance of a spiritual director. New members are always welcome! For more information, please contact Joan Foster at ajay7@verizon.net; Sue Demetri at sdemetri2000@yahoo.com; or leave a message by calling 978-281-4820. Please join us! All are welcome!

CATHOLIC CHARITIES NORTH Help Us Help Others!

Catholic Charities North provides basic needs assistance (food gift cards, utilities, and mortgage & rent) to needy families during these challenging economic times. Funds are also available to help our fishing community families with food, utilities, mortgage, and rental costs. If you can help us help others, please send your donation to:

Catholic Charities North
Attention: Sarah Gindel
60 Prospect Street

Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930

Please make all checks payable to Catholic Charities North and write “basic needs” in your check’s memo line. For more information or assistance, please contact Sarah Gindel at 978-283-3055 or sarah_gindel@ccab.org. Thank you for your ongoing generosity and support!

MORE NEWS & INFORMATION ONLINE

For more information about how you might offer your time & talent to our parish communities, please contact Father Jim or a member of our pastoral team; or visit our website at ccgronline.com/fellowship. All are welcome!

Coming Soon!

HOLY FAMILY WOMEN’S GUILD Christmas Fair Planning Meeting Monday, August 17th · 7:00pm

It may seem early, but the Holy Family Christmas Fair is coming soon! Our first planning meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 17th at 7:00pm in the Holy Family Parish Center. Our Christmas Fair is the biggest fundraiser of the year for Holy Family Parish! So, there is much to do to ensure this event’s continued success!

Everyone has a special talent! Let your talent shine at the Christmas Fair! All are invited to consider how their gifts and talents might contribute to making this our most successful Christmas Fair ever! For more information, please contact Janet Lucido at jml3485@aol.com or 978-526-1543.

HEARTSAVERS CPR COURSE Saturday, September 12th · Parish Center Two Classes Available! Space Is Limited!

Irene Kerr, a certified CPR instructor, longtime friend of our pastor, and member of the Assisi Project, has generously offered to teach the American Heart Association’s Heartsavers CPR Course to parishioners and friends of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport.

Upon completion, participants will receive a certification from the American Heart Association in CPR and other lifesaving techniques. Two courses are now available! A morning session will begin at 8:45am and conclude at 11:45am. An afternoon session will begin at 12:45pm and conclude at 3:45pm. Pick one!

The Heartsavers CPR Course is free but limited to just six participants per class session. If you would like to join us, please contact Cliff Garvey at cgarvey@ccgrounline.com or 978-281-4820. Please join us! All are welcome!

ADULT FAITH FORMATION Registration Now Underway!

If you are an adult (age 18 and over) and have not received one or more of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Penance & Reconciliation/Confession, Holy Eucharist, or Confirmation) in the Roman Catholic Church, then please consider joining us for our adult faith formation program which will meet on Sunday mornings after our 8:15am Mass beginning on Sunday, September 27th in Saint Ann Parish House.

If you would like to join us for this journey of faith and become part of a unique fellowship in preparation for the sacraments of God’s Church, please contact Cliff Garvey at cgarvey@ccgrounline.com or 978-281-4820. For more information and a registration form, please visit our website at ccgrounline.com/formation. Please join us! All are invited! All are welcome!

Holy Family Parish (Cevicos) Mission

HOLY FAMILY PARISH (CEVICOS) MISSION Upcoming Second Collection Weekend of August 22nd-23rd!

Who Are We?

The Holy Family Parish (Cevicos) Mission provides medical, dental, eye care, and other services for the people of the Town of Cevicos and surrounding villages (campos) in the Dominican Republic. The Mission started sixteen years ago at Saint Joachim Church (Holy Family Parish) when we joined with the Nuestra Senora Del Pilar in Cevicos and began working with the Dominican Sisters of Fatima of the Holy Rosary to provide needed medical assistance and other services to poor people in Cevicos.

What Do We Do?

Each year, we travel to Cevicos and hold three medical, dental, and/or eye clinics where doctors, dentists, optometrists, nurses, parishioners, and friends volunteer their time (and pay their own travel expenses) to provide much needed services. Since the Mission was founded, we have built a clinic, where we hold the medical, dental, and eye clinics and treat from 500-700 people per trip. This number includes our Elderly Home Visitation Program for those people who cannot travel to the clinic in Cevicos. In addition, we helped the Sisters build a Training Center where they train men and women in sewing, electrical, and plumbing skills. And we also provide scholarships for children who want to attend college (currently eight students); fund and help grow small businesses through our micro-finance program; and help with a home repair program (roofs, windows, etc.). Most importantly, during the past year, we paid for special medical cases including successful surgeries for two young burn victims at Shriners Hospital in Boston.

How Can You Help?

Next weekend (August 22-23), a second collection will be taken at Holy Family Parish for the Cevicos Mission. All donations (100%) will go directly to purchasing medicines, medical supplies, scholarships, micro-financing of small businesses, and related mission services. All checks should be made payable to Holy Family Parish Mission. Donation envelopes are also located at the entrances to both Saint Ann Church and Saint Joachim Church. Thank you in advance for your generous support!

Finally, most of our doctors, nurses, and volunteers have returned time and again to Cevicos because of their wonderful experience in helping the poor. For more information about being a part of the Holy Family Parish (Cevicos) Mission, please contact Phyllis (Smithers) Campbell at phyllis.smithers@gmail.com. For additional information, please visit our website at holyfamilycevicos.com or contact us at info@holyfamilycevicos.com.

Our Mass Intentions

AUGUST 15 – AUGUST 23, 2015

Saturday, August 15	Vigil · Twentieth Sunday
4:00pm · Saint Ann	Evelyn G. & Norman J. Authier
6:00pm · OLGV	Walter "Butch" Wilkins
Sunday, August 16	Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:00am · OLGV	Margaret E. Goodnow
8:15am · Saint Ann	Mary Alice Ricardo
10:00am · Saint Joachim	Patricia Abell
11:45am · OLGV	Frank & Marjorie Mitchell and Susan Bradley
5:00pm · Saint Ann	Mass for the People
	Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time
Monday, August 17 8:00am · OLGV	Sam & Jenny Scandalito
Tuesday, August 18 8:00am · Saint Joachim	Helen Dallao & Family and Antonia Kaminsky & Family
Wednesday, August 19 8:00am · OLGV	Robert G. Solomon
Thursday, August 20 8:00am · Saint Joachim	Katherine & Megan Whittey
Friday, August 21 8:00am · OLGV	Dominic & Catherine Ciolino
Saturday, August 22 8:00am · Saint Ann	Mass for the People
Saturday, August 22	Vigil · Twenty-First Sunday
4:00pm · Saint Ann	John Pino
6:00pm · OLGV	Rose Marie Saunders
Sunday, August 23	Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:00am · OLGV	George Medeiros
8:15am · Saint Ann	Josephine Quinn
10:00am · Saint Joachim	Agnes & Wendell Emerson
11:45am · OLGV	Francis Noyes, Richard Horak, and Virgilo Alviola
5:00pm · Saint Ann	Mass for the People

Our Weekly Gifts

HOLY FAMILY PARISH

Weekend of August 8th & August 9th

Weekly Offerings at Mass:	\$7,930.00
Miscellaneous Gifts:	\$180.00
Electronic Donations:	\$756.00
Total Offerings:	\$8,866.00
Second Collection:	\$4,295.00

Thank you for your generous support
of Holy Family Parish!

OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH

Weekend of August 8th & August 9th

Weekly Offerings at Mass:	\$3,816.00
Second Collection:	\$1,353.00
Grand Annual Collection:	\$12,876.00

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 lamps, and altar gifts (hosts and 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 lamp is \$25. This week, donations were offered for the following intentions:

In Memory of Khahil & Gebe Salah,
Jack & Evelyn Mann, Theresa Salah,
Pernell Kelly, and Eddie Salah
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Bessie Tortorici,
and Michael, Chico, and Joseph Marino
August Altar Gifts · Saint Ann Church

For more information about sanctuary gifts, please contact Melissa Unis at office@ccgronline.com or 978-281-4820. Thank you for your generous and ongoing support for Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish! May God bless you and your family!

BRINGING HOME THE WORD

Join us: ccgronline.com/news

Bringing Home the Word is a weekly resource for individuals & families that offers great ideas for prayer & reflection based on the Sunday scriptures. Every Saturday, a new issue is available at ccgronline.com/news/