

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!
First Sunday of Advent · November 29, 2015



Season of Hope, Year of Mercy

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The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport

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Pastoral Office: 74 Pleasant Street · Office Hours: Monday through Friday 10:00am-4:00pm

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!

Holy Season of Advent

ADVENT MASS FOR FAMILIES WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 5th-DECEMBER 6th

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 (Mt 19:14)." In response to the Lord's call, all parents, grandparents, godparents, and children are invited to join Father Jim for our "Advent Mass for Families" on either Saturday, December 5th at 4:00pm in Saint Ann Church or Sunday, December 6th at 11:45am in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church.

During Mass, Father Jim will offer a special homily about Saint Nicholas and a special blessing for all families and children. In addition, all children (under age 12) will receive a special gift from Father Jim in celebration of the Feast of Saint Nicholas. Let us reaffirm that Mass is our class! Jesus is our Teacher! Every child in our pews is a gift from God! Every family in our pews is a gift from God! So, please spread the word! Please join us! All are invited! All are welcome!

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CONCERT Sunday, December 6th · 2:00pm · Saint Ann Church

All parishioners, friends, and visitors of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport are invited to join the Holy Family Parish Music Ministry for its Eleventh Annual Advent & Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 6th at 2:00pm in Saint Ann Church.

As always, this year's musical selections have been chosen to help prepare our hearts to celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ at Christmas. Our Adult Choir and Youth Choir will perform with our team of talented instrumentalists. In addition, members of our Brazilian Community's music ministry will perform for us! So, please join us as we share the gift of music this holiday season! For more information, please contact Tom Misuraca at 978-281-4820 or tmis1@verizon.net. Please join us! All are welcome!

ADVENT MISSION & RETREAT "MERCY & DISCIPLESHIP" December 8th through December 10th

All are invited to join us for the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport's Advent Mission & Retreat from Tuesday, December 8th through Thursday, December 10th in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church. Each evening will begin with Evening Prayer & Mass at 7:00pm, followed by a reflection based on the theme of "Mercy & Discipleship."

Our guest celebrant and homilist will be Father Gary M. Gurtler, S.J. Father Gurtler is a member of the Society of Jesus, a graduate of Fordham University, and an Associate Professor of Philosophy at Boston College. For more information, please see Father Jim or contact Cliff Garvey at 978-281-4820 or cgarvey@ccgrounline.com. All are welcome!

News & Notes

SOLEMNITY of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION Holy Day of Obligation · Tuesday, December 8th

In honor of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Tuesday, December 8th, the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport will celebrate Masses according to the following schedule:

Monday, December 7th · Vigil Mass
Our Lady of Good Voyage Church · 4:00pm
Tuesday, December 8th · Holy Day Masses
Saint Joachim Church · 8:00am
Saint Ann Church · 12:00pm
Our Lady of Good Voyage Church · 7:00pm

Since late antiquity, the People of God have believed that the Blessed Virgin Mary was sinless & conceived immaculately in the womb of Saint Ann. However, this belief was not defined as doctrine until 1854. Since then, Our Lady has been named patron of many causes & nations, including the United States. So, please join us as we honor our Blessed Mother and beg her intercession for our families, our parishes & our country! All are welcome!

MADONNA DEL ROSARIO SOCIETY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION Saturday, December 5th · 12:00pm

The Madonna del Rosario Society will celebrate Christmas with a luncheon at the Gloucester House Restaurant on Saturday, December 5th. Our gathering will begin with a brief business meeting at noon, followed by our luncheon. After lunch, we have a raffle and bingo! Tickets for the lunch must be purchased by Monday, November 30th. For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact Grace at 978-281-1907 or Marie at 978-283-7820. Please join us! All are welcome!

MASS INTENTIONS BOOK Thursday, December 3rd · 10:00am — 2:00pm

The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport's Mass Intentions Book (January 2016 – June 2016) will be opened on Thursday, December 3rd from 10:00am until 2:00pm at our Pastoral Office (74 Pleasant Street). On that day, all parishioners are welcome to book one Sunday and one weekday Mass at Saint Ann Church, Saint Joachim Church, or Our Lady of Good Voyage Church. A donation of \$10 per Mass intention is requested.

Please note that on December 3rd, all Mass intentions must be booked in person. No email or phone requests will be accepted. Any remaining Masses can be booked on or after December 4th. If you have questions or need more information, please see Father Jim or contact Linda Rogers at lrogers@ccgrounline.com or 978-281-4820. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and generous support of our parishes.

Pastor's Notes

CONGRATULATIONS MARY ANN FITTRO BISHOP CHEVERUS MEDAL RECIPIENT

On behalf of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport, Father Jim congratulates Mary Ann Fittro who will receive the Bishop Cheverus Medal during a Solemn Vespers Service at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross this Sunday, November 29th at 3:00pm. All parishioners and friends are invited to attend!

For more than fifty years, Mary Ann has worked in Saint Ann Rectory where she serves as our cook and helps with laundry, maintaining our altar cloths, and other important chores that often go unnoticed by most parishioners. Mary Ann is a person of deep faith and prayer who works hard and gives witness to Christ's love for his people in all that she does and says.

The Bishop Cheverus Medal was created in 2008 to recognize exemplary service given in the name of the Lord by parish staff or volunteers. This award is often given in grateful appreciation for the unsung heroes of God's Church. In his letter announcing Mary Ann's award, Cardinal Seán wrote: "I have learned of your selfless dedication and commitment and your many contributions to advancing Christ's mission. We are blessed by your service to the Archdiocese and we are privileged to name you for this honor."

Please join Father Jim, our pastoral team, and all of our fellow parishioners in congratulating Mary Ann Fittro for receiving the Archdiocese of Boston's Bishop Cheverus Medal! Please thank her for all that she does with love and good cheer for our parish communities! And please pray for Mary Ann and her ministry! Mary Ann, may God bless you always!

SPECIAL MESSAGE OF THANKS TO SOME VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE

It is not possible to properly thank each and every parishioner who contributes their time, talent & treasure to making our parishes such special places to love and serve the Lord. Nevertheless, Father Jim wishes to thank some very special people for their dedication & hard work to both Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish:

Thanks to Our Lady's Guild and the Holy Name Society for their strong commitment & long hours in building fellowship & raising funds for Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish. This year, Our Lady's Guild and the Holy Name Society donated approximately \$30,000 to the parish.

Likewise, thanks to the Women's Guild at Holy Family Parish for making this year's Christmas Fair such a great success – raising approximately \$20,000 for the parish. The Guild's energy & enthusiasm for their work is both amazing & contagious! Peace, blessings, and thanks to all for a job well done! May God bless our volunteers!

Our Pastor's Message

SEASON OF HOPE, YEAR OF MERCY

Not long after becoming our Holy Father, Pope Francis (who is masterful at delivering one liners filled with timeless wisdom) tweeted: "Let the Church always be a place of mercy and hope, where everyone is welcomed, loved, and forgiven."

This week, the Church begins the Holy Season of Advent and our four-week journey of penance, prayer, and preparation for the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ at Christmas. And next week, on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (Tuesday, December 8th), the Church begins a Jubilee Year of Mercy. Let us prayerfully consider what these beginnings mean for us in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport.

First, Advent is a Season of Hope. Despite darker days and the coming of colder weather, Advent is the time of year when we wait expectantly for the bright light that dawns upon the world on Christmas morning. And despite an increasingly uncertain and violent world, Advent is the season of the year when we hope and pray for better days and more peaceful times.

During this Holy Season of Advent, let us pray and work together to live the Gospel, share God's love, and rebuild our Church – financially, physically, and spiritually. Let each one of us, according to our ability and means, give what we can and do what we can to reveal the beautiful light of Christ to our darkened winter world. If we can give our time, talent, or treasure, then let's do it! If we can give our humblest prayers, then let's do it!

Also, hope is not about daydreams, pipedreams, or fantasies of what could be or should be. Hope is about having faith in what we can and will accomplish together as a people united in prayer, fellowship, and service.

Second, the Jubilee Year of Mercy is a time for each one of us to open our hearts and minds to God's boundless capacity for love, friendship, and forgiveness. Above all things, God calls us to grow closer to Him – for his sake and for ours! And we grow closer to God by practicing what we preach: by reaching out to those who hunger for love and friendship; by welcoming new parishioners; and by building bridges over troubled waters in our families, with our friends and neighbors, and among our colleagues and co-workers.

During the coming Year of Mercy, the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport will offer a series of programs and events that invite all parishioners, friends, and visitors to learn about, experience & share God's merciful love. I hope and pray that you will walk with me during this blessed season of hope and this holy year of mercy.

Peace and blessings to all,
Father Jim

The Assisi Project

SATURDAY MORNING with SAINT FRANCIS Saturday, December 12th · Begins at 7:00am

All parishioners and friends of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport are invited to join us for "Saturday Morning with Saint Francis" in Saint Ann Church on Saturday, December 12th beginning at 7:00am.

As part of our community's journey through the Holy Season of Advent, we will begin with Morning Prayer & Benediction at 7:00am. At 8:00am, Father Jim will celebrate Mass. After Mass, Cliff Garvey will offer a reflection about Saint Francis and his love for the Christmas Season. Father Jim and Cliff will also lead us in praying the Franciscan Rosary (a seven decade version of the Rosary that focuses on joyful events in the life of our Blessed Mother).

After the Franciscan Rosary, all are welcome to join us for fellowship and faith sharing in Saint Ann Parish House. Coffee, tea, and light refreshments will be served. For more information, please contact Cliff Garvey at 978-281-4820 or cgarvey@ccgrronline.com. Please join us for all or part of this special morning of prayer and devotion! All are invited! All are welcome!

THE ASSISI PROJECT "THE FIRST FOLLOWER"

Sunday, December 13th · After Mass at 11:45am

Founded in 2007 by Father Jim and Cliff Garvey, the Assisi Project is an international fellowship of "Franciscans in Spirit" with friends and followers in the United States, Canada, Brazil, Italy, and Angola. We are dedicated to helping Christian believers of all ages to more faithfully live the Gospel of Christ in the spirit of Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi.

Approximately six times each year, we gather for Mass, a community meal, and a period of prayerful discussion and faith formation. Each year, we also sponsor a small group pilgrimage to Assisi and other opportunities for prayer and reflection in the Franciscan spiritual tradition.

Our next gathering is scheduled for Sunday, December 13th beginning with Mass at 11:45am in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church. After Mass, Cliff will offer a reflection entitled "The First Follower: How Bernard of Quintavalle Changed the World." After that, we will adjourn to Our Lady's Hall for a lunch prepared by those who recently traveled with Father Jim and Cliff to Assisi. If you would like to join us, please see Father Jim or contact Cliff Garvey at cgarvey@ccgrronline.com or 978-281-4820. All are invited! All are welcome! Please join us! Saint Francis of Assisi, pray for us! May the Lord give you peace!

ASSISI PROJECT ONLINE

Join us: assisiproject.com
Follow us on Twitter: @assisiproject

Upcoming Events

HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S GUILD AZOREAN RESTAURANT FUNDRAISER Thursday, December 3rd · 4:00pm-9:00pm

The Women's Guild at Holy Family Parish invites you to join them on Thursday, December 3rd for our Azorean Restaurant Fundraiser. Between 4:00pm and 9:00pm, the Azorean Restaurant will donate a portion of all dinner checks to Holy Family Parish. Please support our parish by inviting family and friends to enjoy delicious Portuguese cuisine with us! For more information, please contact Lydia Bertolino at bertolino4@msn.com. Please join us! All are welcome!

OUR LADY'S GUILD ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAIR Saturday, December 5th · 9:00am-1:00pm

All are welcome to join Our Lady's Guild for their Annual Christmas Fair on Saturday, December 5th from 9:00am until 1:00pm in the Parish Hall. Highlights include a fried dough breakfast, linguica & hot dog lunch, soft drinks, along with all the fixings!

Sale tables will include the general store, religious items, jewelry, cookie swap & fudge, Christmas decorations, plants, homemade sweetbread and other baked goods. In addition, we'll have a Mega Raffle Table featuring many wonderful items including a painting by Theresa Wonson!

Volunteers are needed to help set-up the parish hall on Friday, December 4th at 4:00pm! Donations are welcome! For more information, please contact Linda Galvin at 617-803-6050 or lingalv2010@gmail.com. Please join us! All are invited! All are welcome!

OUR LADY'S GUILD ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY Monday, December 14th · 6:30pm

Our Lady's Guild is hosting their Annual Christmas Party on Monday, December 14th at 6:30pm in the Parish Hall. Our meal will feature a hot buffet, dessert, and coffee. In addition, there will be a door prize, a 50-50 raffle, and entertainment provided by "The Original Mrs. Drinkwater Presents." If you wish to participate in our annual Christmas gift swap, please be sure to bring a wrapped (under \$10) gift! Please contact Barbara Devlin by December 8th to make a reservation. For more information about Our Lady's Guild and its good work on behalf of our parish, please contact Linda Galvin at lingalv2010@gmail.com or 617-803-6050. New members are always welcome! Please join us! All are welcome!

MORE NEWS & INFORMATION ONLINE!

Join us: ccgrronline.com/news
Follow us on Twitter: @ccgrronline

Saint Vincent de Paul Society News

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS GIVING TREES

Help Us Share the Gift of Christmas!

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society is sponsoring Holy Family Parish's Annual Christmas Giving Trees which help us share the gift of Christmas with those in need! The trees will be placed at the entrances of Saint Ann Church in Gloucester and Saint Joachim Church in Rockport. Each tree is decorated with colored stars that indicate a particular Christmas wish. If you can help fulfill this wish, please take a star. Each gift should be donated new, unused, and unwrapped; and returned with the original star to our parish office.

Our Christmas Giving Trees will remain at the entrances of both churches through Sunday, December 13th. All gifts should be returned to the parish office by Tuesday, December 15th at 12:00pm. Gifts will be distributed to families in need on Thursday, December 17th.

Thank you in advance for your generous support of our Annual Christmas Giving Trees! For more information, please contact Ethel Weeks at eweeks25@msn.com or leave a message at the parish office by calling 978-281-4820. May God bless us, everyone!

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY Help Us Help Others!

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society is an international organization dedicated to responding to any request from any person or family in need. Here on Cape Ann, we work from Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish to serve the poor and needy on Cape Ann.

Our "Clothes Closet" is open on Wednesday evenings from 6:00pm until 8:00pm; and on Saturday mornings from 10:00am until 12:00pm. In addition, our Food Pantry is stocked with non-perishable foods. Donation baskets are located at the entrances of our churches. The Food Pantry currently needs the following items:

Canned Chicken or Ham · Chicken or Tuna Helper
Mayonnaise · Instant Potatoes · Canned Stew
Pancake Mix & Maple Syrup · Chef Boyardee
Jelly & Crackers · Juice · Jarred Pasta Sauce

Donation envelopes are also located at the entrances of our churches and can be placed in the offertory basket or mailed to the parish center. Checks should be made payable to the Saint Vincent de Paul Society. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm in Saint Ann Church Hall. New members and volunteers are always welcome! For more information, please contact Annette Kennedy at 978-283-1268 or Harry Miller at 978-281-2701. For assistance, please contact the Saint Vincent de Paul Society Hotline at 978-281-8672. Thank you for your ongoing generosity!

Sacrament of Baptism

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM Schedule for the Month of December

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

Baptism Preparation Workshop
Sunday, December 6th at 1:00pm
Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

Sacrament of Baptism
Sunday, December 13th at 1:00pm
Saint Ann Church

Sacrament of Baptism
Sunday, December 20th at 1:00pm
Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

Sacrament of Baptism
Sunday, December 27th at 11:00am
Saint Joachim Church

Last month, the following children received the Sacrament of Baptism here in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport:

Christopher Amero · Finn Brigard
Lyla Cooney · Gavin Curcuru
Cooper Currier · Jacob D'Angelo
Isabella Horvath · Benjamin Lopes
Jackson Olson · Jamison Rodolosi
Emmia Tuinei · Braxton Westbrooks

If you would like to arrange for your child's baptism, please contact Melissa Unis at office@ccgrronline.com or 978-281-4820. If you are an adult who has not been baptized and would like to prepare for the Sacrament of Baptism in the Roman Catholic Church, please contact Cliff Garvey at cgarvey@ccgrronline.com or 978-281-4820.

Congratulations! Please pray for these recently baptized children, their parents, grandparents, and godparents! Thank you for your prayers! May God bless you!

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SACRAMENTS ON OUR WEBSITE!

Join us: ccgrronline.com/sacraments
Follow us on Twitter: @ccgrronline

Our Mass Intentions

NOVEMBER 28-DECEMBER 6, 2015

Saturday, November 28	Vigil · First Sunday of Advent
4:00pm · Saint Ann	Habeeb & Rose Sallah and Joseph & Rita Girard
6:00pm · OLGV	Francis Mitchell, Jr.
Sunday, November 29	First Sunday of Advent
7:00am · OLGV	Frank Ahearn
8:15am · Saint Ann	José Carlos & Isolina Matos
10:00am · Saint Joachim	Phyllis Toppan
11:45am · OLGV	Alfredo Silva
5:00pm · Saint Ann	Mass for the People
	First Week of Advent
Monday, November 30 8:00am · OLGV	Phyllis & Tony Rao and Margaret Destino
Tuesday, December 1 8:00am · Saint Joachim	Gary Thornton II Birthday Remembrance
Wednesday, December 2 8:00am · OLGV	Anthony Cilluffo & Dominic Viviano
Thursday, December 3 8:00am · Saint Joachim	Desiree Nicole Sheppard
Friday, December 4 8:00am · OLGV	Manuel Carreiro & Family
Saturday, December 5 8:00am · Saint Ann	Mass for the People
Saturday, December 5	Vigil · Second Sunday of Advent
4:00pm · Saint Ann	Ralph & Josephine Pratt, Cynthia Loiacano (Daughter), & Charles, Thomas & Seamus (Grandsons)
6:00pm · OLGV	Francis, Elizabeth & Peter Bruni
Sunday, December 6	Second Sunday of Advent
7:00am · OLGV	Norman Dulong, Jr.
8:15am · Saint Ann	Josephine Rallo
10:00am · Saint Joachim	Pietro Noto
11:45am · OLGV	Alfredo Silva
5:00pm · Saint Ann	Mass for the People

Our Weekly Gifts

HOLY FAMILY PARISH

Weekend of November 21st – November 22nd

Weekly Offerings at Mass	\$5,581.00
Miscellaneous Gifts	\$597.00
Electronic Donations	\$816.00
Total Offerings	\$6,994.00
Second Collection (Religious Women)	\$2,536.00
Grand Annual Collection	\$18,578.00

Thank you for your generous support
of Holy Family Parish!

OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH

Weekend of November 21st – November 22nd

Weekly Offerings at Mass	\$2,925.00
Second Collection (Religious Women)	\$1,364.00
Grand Annual Collection:	\$23,729.00

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 Cynthia Loiacano
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Alice & Arthur J. Balestraci, Jr.
and George R. Grant, Sr.
Sanctuary Candle · Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

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

For more information about donating sanctuary gifts in memory of a deceased friend or loved one, please contact Melissa Unis at office@ccgrounline.com or 978-281-4820. Thank you for your generous support!

BRINGING HOME THE WORD

Join us: ccgrounline.com/news

Bringing Home the Word is a weekly resource for prayer & reflection based on the Sunday Mass readings. A new edition is posted every week on our website. During the Holy Season of Advent, it's also being inserted into our weekly bulletin! May God bless you and your family!