

# The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport

HOLY FAMILY PARISH · OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH

A Community United in Prayer, Fellowship, and Service  
Third Sunday of Advent · December 13, 2015



## Jubilee Year of Mercy

Our Pastor's Message: Season of Love, Year of Mercy – Page 3

Mercy: The Essence of God – Page 2

Our Christmas Worship Schedule – Page 3

Youth Faith Formation News – Page 4

**The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport**  
**Please Join Us! All Are Welcome!**

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## Jubilee Year of Mercy December 2015—November 2016

### MERCY: THE ESSENCE OF GOD

*By Archbishop Rino Fisichella*

*President of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization*

On March 13, 2015, on the second anniversary of his election to the papal chair, Pope Francis announced an extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. This unexpected announcement caught everyone by surprise; yet the fact that he wanted a Jubilee Year dedicated to mercy shouldn't shock us. In fact, from his first Angelus on Sunday, March 17, 2013, his attention has been focused on mercy, which he defined right away as the "foundation of faith." Over the last two years, Pope Francis has made constant references to mercy, both in his actions and writings, culminating in the Bull of Indiction of the Jubilee Year, entitled "Misericordiae Vultus" or translated into English as the "Face of Mercy."

Mercy is indeed the heart of the Christian message and the very essence of God. Looking to Sacred Scripture, the Psalms stand out. They reflect the life of every man and woman: birth and death, the sufferings of sickness and the pain of abandonment, war and peace, solitude and the search for God. They are also more broadly a reflection of the cosmos, of the plight of Israel and salvation history. The Psalms are the voice of God that becomes the prayer of those who place themselves in his presence, knowing that they need his love. The Psalter expresses the grandeur of divine action with great clarity: "He pardons all your sins and heals all your ills. He redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with mercy and compassion (Psalm 103:3-4)."

The person of Jesus is the culmination and fulfillment of the Father's merciful action: "Everything in him speaks of mercy. Nothing in him is devoid of compassion (Misericordiae Vultus, 8). Pope Francis reminds us that mercy is not an abstract idea, but rather a person to encounter, a face to contemplate. It's precisely in fixing our gaze on Jesus and his face filled with mercy that we can begin to understand the Love of the Trinity. One way that Jesus manifests the Father's mercy is in his teachings. For example, in his parables, Jesus presents a God who is full of joy, especially when he forgives. Specifically, the Pope directs our attention to the parable of the lost sheep, the missing coin, and the forgiving father with his two sons (See Luke 15:1-22).

Over the course of history, mercy has been reflected and lived out in the lives of many saints who have made it their one aim in life, despite the difficult situations in which they found themselves in life. To these saints we must add the countless simple men and women whose "names are written in the book of life (Revelation 13:8)", who brought Christ's teaching to life through their daily faithfulness to the Gospel, putting various works of mercy into practice. The words of the Holy Father at the end of the Bull announcing the Year of Mercy (and their deep significance) come to mind: "Our prayer also extends to the saints and blessed ones who made divine mercy their mission in life (Misericordiae Vultus, 24)."

Pope Francis's invocation of an extraordinary Holy Year is a sign of the attention and witness that he offers daily to the Church and to the world. Now, that call is extended to everyone: "We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace. Our salvation depends on it. Mercy: the word reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. Mercy: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us. Mercy: the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life. Mercy: the bridge that connects God and his people, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness (Misericordiae Vultus, 2)."

The Jubilee Year of Mercy is an extraordinary occasion to give strength and vigor to that which makes up the ordinary life of the Church and of every Christian: living as a sign of God's nearness and his tenderness. It is an immense and demanding challenge, especially in the cultural context of our day, which is unfortunately characterized so often by violence and oppression. Pope Francis calls the Church's attention back to this, reminding her of her mission: "May the Church echo the word of God that resounds strong and clear as a message and a sign of pardon, strength, aid, and love. May she never tire of extending mercy; and be ever patient in offering compassion and comfort. May the Church become the voice of every man and woman, and repeat confidently without end: 'Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old (Psalm 25:6).'" Amen!

**The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport**

Holy Family Parish · Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish

*We invite you to join us for Holy Mass  
in celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ!*

**CHRISTMAS EVE  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24TH**

SAINT ANN CHURCH  
4PM & 6PM

OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE CHURCH  
4PM & MIDNIGHT

**CHRISTMAS DAY  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25TH**

SAINT ANN CHURCH  
8:15AM

SAINT JOACHIM CHURCH  
10:00AM

OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE CHURCH  
11:45AM

**PLEASE JOIN US! ALL ARE WELCOME!  
MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

**BRINGING HOME THE WORD**

Join us: [ccgronline.com/news](http://ccgronline.com/news)

Bringing Home the Word is a weekly resource for families and individuals that offers suggestions for prayer and 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. We hope you enjoy Bringing Home the Word this week and every week!

**CCGR PARISH COUNCILS MEETING  
Friday, December 18th · 6:30pm**

Father Jim will meet with the combined parish councils of both Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish on Friday, December 18th at 6:30pm in Our Lady's Parish Hall. All parishioners are welcome to join us! For more information, please contact Father Jim at 978-281-4820 or [frjim@ccgronline.com](mailto:frjim@ccgronline.com).

**Our Pastor's Message****SEASON OF LOVE, YEAR OF MERCY**

Earlier this week, Pope Francis opened the Holy Door at Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome and officially inaugurated the Jubilee Year of Mercy — a year-long celebration of God's love for us, his children, and a year-long invitation to experience the Lord's boundless mercy through prayer, worship, and the sacraments of the Church.

From the very beginning, Pope Francis has been focused on reminding the world that God is always reaching out to us with love and mercy; and that the Church must always reach out to the world with that same love and mercy — to all people, even those who do not share our faith or those who have fallen away from it. Indeed, Pope Francis has said: "God's mercy can make even the driest land become a garden, can restore life to dry bones...Let us be renewed by God's mercy, let us be loved by Jesus, let us enable the power of his love to transform our lives; and let us become agents of this mercy, channels through which God can water the earth, protect all creation, and make justice and peace flourish."

During Advent and the coming Christmas Season, each of us is called to share God's love and mercy in our families and workplaces, among our friends and neighbors, and in the midst of an increasingly frightful and turbulent world. We are called to reach out with love, not judgment, to those who have lost their way. Even those mired in the "driest land" of sin and despair can be renewed by God's love and mercy. We are called to call out with love, not judgement, to those with whom we disagree. Even those who carry the heavy cross of anger and hate can be relieved of their burden by God's love and mercy. And we are called to embrace with love, not judgment, those who have left us for whatever reason. Even those whose faith is as brittle as "dry bones" can and must be welcomed with open arms and hearts back into our families, our churches, and our communities.

This is our shared vocation! This is our shared ministry as children of God! We must become agents of God's love in a world so plagued by anger, despair, and suspicion! We must become channels of God's mercy in a world seemingly so threatened by fear, hatred, and violence. In his remarks beginning the Jubilee Year of Mercy, the Holy Father said: "Were sin the only thing that mattered, we would be the most desperate of creatures. But the promised triumph of Christ's love enfolds everything in the Father's mercy." Each of us has a part to play in this enfolding drama of God's endless love and mercy for all people everywhere. As Christmas approaches, let us pray for the grace to joyfully become agents of love and channels of mercy in our corner of this troubled world.

Peace and blessings to all,  
Father Jim

## Prayer, Fellowship & Service

### MEN'S FELLOWSHIP Saturday Mornings · 6:30am-8:00am

The Men's Fellowship meets every Saturday morning from 6:30am until 8:00am in the Parish Center (Saint Ann Church Campus). All are invited to join us for prayer, faith sharing, and mutual support as we work to deepen our faith and personal relationships with Jesus Christ. For more information, please contact Albie Mitchell at [albiemitchell@me.com](mailto:albiemitchell@me.com) or 978-879-3655. Please join us! New members are always 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@ccgonline.com](mailto:cgarvey@ccgonline.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!

### 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! 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](mailto:lingalv2010@gmail.com) or 617-803-6050. New members are always welcome! Please join us!

## Youth Faith Formation News

### PASTOR'S NOTE WELCOMING BETSY WORKS

Four months ago, I announced that the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport would embark on a groundbreaking journey to reimagine, rebuild and restructure our youth faith formation programs at all grade levels. Since that time, we have focused primarily on preparing students for the Sacraments of First Penance, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation. We chose an exciting and well-received new curriculum for our 100 first and second grade students: RCL Benzinger's acclaimed "Blessed Are We" program. Thanks to the good work of Pat Sears, Barry Kingston, and their team of volunteers at "New Spirit", we held a very successful evening of prayer and reflection for our 58 Confirmation students. And we celebrated an incredible weekend of Family Masses in October, emphasizing the timeless truth that Mass is our best class and Jesus is our best teacher. A good start!

Now, I am delighted to announce that Betsy Works is joining our pastoral team as Associate Minister for Youth Faith Formation. Betsy is a person of deep faith and prayer who attends Daily Mass, serves as a Lector and Eucharistic Minister at Our Lady of Good Voyage Church, and has become an active member of the Assisi Project. She is also a dedicated, talented, and experienced educator who has served as an elementary school teacher and reading specialist, a mentor for student teachers, and most recently as an advocate for students with learning disabilities. Betsy's experience, skills, and unique qualifications will be a true blessing to our program and to our students.

Since becoming your pastor eighteen months ago, I have come to know Betsy as a person of great compassion and commitment to her family, students, and parish. I look forward to working closely with her and our pastoral team in the coming months to create new and exciting ways to share the gift of faith with our youngest fellow parishioners. And I have full and absolute confidence in her ability to lead this important ministry.

Parishioners should know that we received many inquires and applications about this new position from applicants from both within and well beyond the Archdiocese of Boston. I am sincerely grateful to our fellow parishioners, Jennifer Dort, Rosa Ladd, and Bob Krause, for their good advice in helping me to reach this important decision. Their generous gifts of time and good counsel were invaluable. Betsy has already begun her new ministry this week and will be introduced at Masses during the coming weeks. On behalf of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport, I sincerely congratulate Betsy and warmly welcome her to our pastoral team!

Peace and blessings to all,  
Father Jim

## 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.

During the winter months, our "Clothes Closet" is open on Saturday mornings only from 10:00am until 1:00pm. 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!

## Prayer, Fellowship & Service

### THE HOLY ROSARY Every Morning After Daily Mass

All are invited to join us every morning after Daily Mass in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport as we pray the Holy Rosary. By praying the Rosary, we grow closer to our 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 parishes, and our world. All are welcome!

### SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY MR. & MRS. SECRET SANTA Saturday, December 19th · 10:00am-1:00pm

Once again this year, Mr. and Mrs. Secret Santa invite you to visit the Saint Vincent de Paul Society's Clothes Closet at Christmastime. We have a large assortment of clothing for the whole family! And we hope that there may be something for you as we share the blessing of generous giving during the holiday season! Come and browse in the Clothes Closet on Saturday, December 19th from 10:00am until 1:00pm. The Saint Vincent de Paul Society Clothes Closet is located on the basement level of Saint Ann School Building with an entrance from the school yard on Pleasant Street. For more information, please contact Helen Downey at 978-495-0337. Who is this Secret Santa? We will never tell! Merry Christmas!

### FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY YOUTH PAGEANT Saturday, January 2nd · 4:00pm Vigil Mass

During the Season of Christmas, the Catholic Church will celebrate the Solemnity Epiphany of the Lord during the weekend of January 2nd-3rd. Traditionally, the Epiphany commemorates the coming of the Magi from the East who pay homage to the newborn Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ. These wise men paid tribute to the Lord by bringing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

As part of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport's celebration of the Solemnity of the Epiphany, we invite the children of our parishes to participate in a dramatization of the coming of the Magi during the 4:00pm Vigil Mass on Saturday, January 2nd in Saint Ann Church. We are seeking children for the roles of angels, shepherds, the Magi, and the Holy Family.

If your child or grandchild would like to participate in this beautiful holiday tradition, please contact Sue Demetri at 978-239-5615 or sdemetri2000@yahoo.com. Please join us! All are invited! All are welcome!

### MORE NEWS & INFORMATION ONLINE!

Join us: [ccgronline.com](http://ccgronline.com)!  
Follow us on Twitter: @ccgronline!

## Our Mass Intentions

DECEMBER 12th – DECEMBER 20th, 2015

<b>Saturday, December 12</b>	<b>Vigil · Third Sunday of Advent</b>
4:00pm · Saint Ann	Antonio & Jennie Marino
6:00pm · OLGV	Special Intention Sage Cooke & Family
<b>Sunday, December 13</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>
7:00am · OLGV	Joseph & Edith Viator
8:15am · Saint Ann	Rosaria & Pietro Cannavo
10:00am · Saint Joachim	Angela A. Vitale
11:45am · OLGV	Rusell & Mary Dagle and Deceased Children
5:00pm · Saint Ann	Mass for the People
	<b>Third Week of Advent</b>
Monday, December 14 8:00am · OLGV	Deceased Members of the O'Neil Family
Tuesday, December 15 8:00am · Saint Joachim	Robert DeRosa
Wednesday, December 16 8:00am · OLGV	Herman Surrette
Thursday, December 17 8:00am · Saint Joachim	George Medeiros
Friday, December 18 8:00am · OLGV	Humberto Mota
Saturday, December 19 8:00am · Saint Ann	Anthony Militello
<b>Saturday, December 19</b>	<b>Vigil · Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>
4:00pm · Saint Ann	Rose Testaverde
6:00pm · OLGV	Giambanco, Ciluffo, and Romeo Families
<b>Sunday, December 20</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>
7:00am · OLGV	Clement & Charlotte Aikens & Family
8:15am · Saint Ann	Sis Rose
10:00am · Saint Joachim	Angelina (Loiacano) Strescino & Phyllis Toppan (Daughter)
11:45am · OLGV	Eleanor Bolcome
5:00pm · Saint Ann	Mass for the People

## Our Weekly Gifts

### HOLY FAMILY PARISH

#### Weekend of December 5th – December 6th

Weekly Offerings at Mass	\$6,031.00
Miscellaneous Gifts	\$1,211.00
Electronic Donations	\$1,023.00
Total Offerings	\$8,265.00
Second Collection (Christmas Flowers)	\$2,573.00
Grand Annual Collection	\$40,393.00

Thank you for your generous support  
of Holy Family Parish!

### OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH

#### Weekend of December 5th – December 6th

Weekly Offerings at Mass	\$3,218.00
Grand Annual Collection	\$23,754.00

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

### PARISH PAY

#### The Easy Way to Support Your Parish

Electronic giving is now available at both Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish. For more information, please contact Linda Rogerst at 978-281-4820 or lrogers@ccgronline.com. Thank you for your generous support of our parishes! May God bless you!

### 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 Antonio Brancalone  
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Lt. Col. Edward R. Ghidella  
and the Bendick Family  
Sanctuary Gifts · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Gerald O'Connor  
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Joachim Church

In Memory of Patrick R. Garvey  
Sanctuary Candle · 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@ccgronline.com or 978-281-4820. Thank you for your generous support!