

# The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport

HOLY FAMILY PARISH · OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH

---

A Community United in Prayer, Fellowship, and Service  
Fourth Sunday of Advent · December 20, 2015



## O Come, O Come Emmanuel!

**This Week's Message: Emmanuel, God With Us! – Page 2**

---

Our Christmas & New Year's Worship Schedule – Page 3

Year of Mercy: An Invitation to Experience God's Love & Mercy – Page 3

Youth Faith Formation News – Pages 4 & 5

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

Mail: 60 Prospect Street · Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930

Phone: 978-281-4820 · Fax: 978-281-4964 · Email: [office@ccgonline.com](mailto:office@ccgonline.com) · Online: [ccgonline.com](http://ccgonline.com)

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

## This Week's Message

### EMMANUEL, GOD WITH US!

*By Cliff Garvey · Associate Minister*

In the Gospel for the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass, Saint Matthew shares with us that Joseph is worried about taking Mary as his wife because she is pregnant. But an angel appears to Joseph in a dream, counsels him to be not afraid, and says: "For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins (Matthew 1:20-21)." The evangelist then quotes Isaiah the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call him Emmanuel, which means 'God with us' (Matthew 1:23)." In the end, Joseph follows the angel's good counsel and welcomes Mary into his home.

These days, we have so many high-tech ways of connecting with family, friends, and colleagues: e-mail, facebook, facetime, skype, snapchat, texting, and tweeting. Alas, each of these communication tools lacks something important. That something is intimacy. There seems to be less and less true intimacy, less and less personal interaction, and less real time spent together with friends and loved ones. There seem to be fewer and fewer real life encounters like sharing a family meal or a friendly mug up with a neighbor or co-worker. In our hearts, we know that these are and always will be the best ways to build strong and lasting relationships. God knows this, too. Throughout salvation history, God seeks intimate connections with his children. In the scriptures, we read about how God speaks to his people: beckoning, calling, and pleading with us to return to him and love him. And in the lives of the saints, we read about how God enters into intimate relationships with those holy men and women who experience profound conversions, make miracles, and lead lives of deepest faith and holiness.

Just last weekend, Pope Francis made reference in a homily to a passage from the Book of Zephaniah: "The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love (Zephaniah 3:17-18)." Pope Francis then said: "Yes, God loves us so much that he even rejoices and takes pleasure in us. He loves us with a gratuitous love, a love without limits, and without expecting anything in return. This merciful love is the most striking attribute of God." Again and again, century after century, God reaches out to us with great intimacy — in friendship, love, and mercy. God desires to be with each and every one of us — no matter who we are or where we find ourselves on the journey of faith.

Sadly, we often fail to respond. We break the commandments. We gossip. We treat each other with contempt and disrespect. We look for mistakes and shortcomings in others and exploit them for some benefit. We tear down rather than build up. We search for other gods and idols to worship like money or sex. We treat addicts and orphans, lonely people and sick people with judgment or neglect. We pollute our planet. But God is not discouraged. He continues to reach out. He continues to reach out to us with love and mercy and friendship and true intimacy. God offers us his hand, begs us to take it, and calls us to walk with him through the greenest pastures and the darkest valleys.

Matthew's Gospel on Christmas Eve and John's Gospel of Christmas Day remind us that God (creator of heaven and earth and master of the universe) sent his Only Son not to condemn us, not to judge us, but to love us, to walk with us, and to save us. At Christmas, we are called to celebrate God's decision to become one like us (except for sin). We celebrate Emmanuel, God with us, God's presence among us, God's coming in the form of a child born naked and poor in a stable. At Christmas, we can truly see God face to face in the eyes, smile, and miraculous beauty of a newborn child. By becoming Emmanuel, God with us, God comes to know us even more intimately than ever before. He truly knows and understands our hopes, fears, successes, failures, good works, and sins because He is Emmanuel, God with us.

On Christmas Day, God's great gift of intimacy, love, and mercy is not meant to be unwrapped, cooed over, then forgotten and placed on a shelf or in a drawer like so many other presents. Instead, God's gift of Himself is meant to be shared with those we love: spouses, children, grandchildren, godchildren, friends, neighbors, co-workers, fellow parishioners, strangers, and even people with different faith traditions. God's gifts of intimacy, love, and mercy are meant to be shared even with those we find it so difficult to love and forgive. Indeed, we are called to be ambassadors of God's love, bearers of God's mercy, and instruments of God's peace: today, tomorrow, and always.

In these final days before Christmas, let us pray for the greatest gift of Emmanuel, God with us. Let us pray for the courage to take God's hand and to walk with him. Let us pray for the grace to enter more deeply into a personal and intimate relationship with him. And let us pray for the spirit that helps us to share this greatest of gifts with others through acts of charity and words of encouragement, with open arms and open hearts. O Come, Emmanuel! Come, Lord Jesus!

May the Lord give you peace at Christmas and always!

Cliff

**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

**NEW YEAR'S EVE  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31ST**

OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE CHURCH  
4:00PM

**NEW YEAR'S DAY  
SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 1ST**

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!  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



**Jubilee Year of Mercy**

**PASTOR'S NOTE  
AN INVITATION TO EXPERIENCE  
GOD'S LOVE & MERCY**

In March 2015, Pope Francis announced that the Roman Catholic Church would celebrate a Jubilee Year of Mercy beginning on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (December 8, 2015) and concluding on the Feast of Christ the King (November 20, 2016). Last week, Pope Francis inaugurated the Jubilee Year of Mercy by opening the Holy Door at Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome. Overall, the theme of this extraordinary jubilee year is "Merciful Like the Father" and its primary focus is an ongoing invitation to all people to experience God's forgiveness, love, and mercy through prayer, worship, and the Sacraments of the Church.

The tradition of the jubilee year is rooted in the Old Testament Book of Leviticus (Lev 25:8-13). And in 1300, Pope Boniface VII convoked the first jubilee year in the Church's history and offered believers an opportunity for the universal forgiveness of sins. Since then, such holy or jubilee years have been celebrated every 25 or 50 years. The Catholic Church last celebrated a Jubilee Year in 2000 to mark the beginning of a new millennium. This Jubilee Year of Mercy is "extraordinary" because the Holy Father broke from tradition and announced it without advance notice or planning.

In the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport, we will celebrate the Jubilee Year of Mercy with special programs and events throughout the year. For example, our next "Mercy Friday" is scheduled for January 15th in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church. This vigil of prayer will begin at 12:00pm with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Daytime Prayer. At 3:00pm, we will pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet. From 5:00pm until 6:00pm, confessions will be heard. And at 6:30pm, we will conclude with Evening Prayer (with homily) and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

During the coming year, other programs will include opportunities for scripture study, group spiritual direction, mini-courses and retreats, all focused on offering our parishioners and friends an invitation to deepen their relationship with the Lord and to experience God's love and mercy in their own lives. All are encouraged to continue reading our bulletin and checking our website for upcoming opportunities to celebrate this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy! Finally, please continue to pray for me, for our pastoral team, and for all of our fellow parishioners in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport! Be assured of my prayers for you and your family! And may God bless us all with a Merry Christmas!

Peace and blessings to all,  
Father Jim

## Prayer, Fellowship & Service

### DAILY PRAYER RESOURCES ONLINE

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

Our website now includes a weekly schedule for praying the Liturgy of the Hours (along with links to praying it online). Our site also features links to Sharing the Word and Sunday Soundbites (which are 90 second reflections on the daily and weekend Mass readings). So, please join us online everyday for a few moments of prayer and reflection! Join us: [ccgronline.com/prayer](http://ccgronline.com/prayer)! All are welcome!

### HOLY NAME SOCIETY

**Sunday, January 3rd · 6:30pm · Our Lady's Hall**

The Holy Name Society of Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish is an organization of men which was founded to prayerfully support the parish through fundraising and volunteer service. The Holy Name Society meets on the first Sunday evening of each month in Our Lady's Parish Hall. Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 3rd at 6:30pm. For more information about the Holy Name Society and its good work in our parish, please contact Michael Horgan at 978-281-4820. Please join us! New members are always welcome!

### 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 all 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!

## Youth Faith Formation News

### PASTOR'S NOTE

**CALLING YOUNG DISCIPLES!**

As we begin to reimagine and rebuild our youth faith formation programs, it is important to remember that all children and teenagers are invited to participate in the life of our parishes: as altar servers, as players in our dramatization of the Epiphany, and as singers or instrumentalists in our Youth Choir. These are not just seasonal events but formative opportunities for children of all ages to gather in prayer, to learn about the teachings and traditions of the Church, and to live their faith in a true spirit of prayer, fellowship, and service. For more information about youth faith formation in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport, please see Fr. Jim or contact Betsy Works at [bworks@ccgronline.com](mailto:bworks@ccgronline.com) or 978-281-4820.

### 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 of the 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](mailto:sdemetri2000@yahoo.com). Please join us! All are invited! All are welcome!

### CCGR YOUTH CHOIR

**Tuesdays at 5:00pm · Saint Ann Church**

The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport Youth Choir meets for practice and rehearsal every Tuesday afternoon at 5:00pm in Saint Ann Church. The Youth Choir, along with an ensemble of talented young instrumentalists, sings every weekend during Mass at one of our three churches: Saint Ann Church, Saint Joachim Church, and Our Lady of Good Voyage Church.

The Youth Choir welcomes new members (ranging in age from kindergarten through eighth grade). Singing in the choir is a great way to make new friends and participate in the life of our parishes! For more information, please contact Patty Natti at [pnatti@comcast.net](mailto:pnatti@comcast.net) or leave a message by calling 978-281-4820. All are welcome!

## 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 inquiries 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

## Prayer, Fellowship & Service

### THE LEGION OF MARY Tuesdays at 4:00pm · Parish Center

Founded in Ireland in 1921, the Legion of Mary is an international fellowship of lay men and women who volunteer their time, talents, and prayers under the banner of the Blessed Virgin Mary by practicing the "spiritual works of mercy" in our parish communities. The Legion's primary apostolate is to visit and pray with our aged, disabled, homebound, and sick fellow parishioners.

Every Tuesday afternoon at 4:00pm, the Legion of Mary gathers in the Parish Center (Saint Ann Campus) to pray the Rosary, share their faith experiences, and participate in a period of faith formation under the guidance of their spiritual director. The Legion of Mary joyfully welcomes its two newest members:

Jean Madruga  
Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish  
and  
Elizabeth Unis Philips  
Holy Family Parish

For more information about the Legion of Mary, please contact Joan Foster at [ajay7@verizon.net](mailto:ajay7@verizon.net); Sue Demetri at [sdemetri2000@yahoo.com](mailto:sdemetri2000@yahoo.com); or leave a message by calling our pastoral office at 978-281-4820. Please join us! New members are always welcome!

### CATHOLIC CHARITIES NORTH BASIC NEEDS ASSISTANCE Help Us Help Others!

During these challenging economic times, Catholic Charities North provides basic needs assistance (grocery gift cards, utilities, and mortgage & rent) to families in need. Funds are also available to help our fishing community families with these same basic needs.

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 [sarah\\_gindel@ccb.org](mailto:sarah_gindel@ccb.org) or 978-283-3055. Thank you for your ongoing generosity and support!

### BRINGING HOME THE WORD Join us: [ccronline.com/news](http://ccronline.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!

## Our Mass Intentions

DECEMBER 19th – DECEMBER 27th, 2015

<b>Saturday, December 19</b>	<b>Vigil · Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>
4:00pm · Saint Ann	Rose Testaverde
6:00pm · OLGV	The Giambanco, Ciluffo and Romeo Families
<b>Sunday, December 20</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>
7:00am · OLGV	Clement & Charlotte Aikens and Family
8:15am · Saint Ann	Sis Rose
10:00am · Saint Joachim	Salvatore Loiacano, Angelina (Loiacano) Strescino & Phyllis Toppan (Daughter)
11:45am · OLGV	Eleanor Bolcome
5:00pm · Saint Ann	Mass for the People
	<b>Fourth Week of Advent</b>
Monday, December 21 8:00am · OLGV	Joseph P. Brancaleone
Tuesday, December 22 8:00am · Saint Joachim	Peter Trahan
Wednesday, December 23 8:00am · OLGV	Angelina & Garland Garrisi
Thursday, December 24 8:00am · Saint Joachim	Nancy Moura
December 24-December 25	Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Masses for the People
Saturday, December 26 8:00am · Saint Ann	Joseph & Frank Ciaramitaro and Sam Loiacano
<b>Saturday, December 26</b>	<b>Vigil · Feast of the Holy Family</b>
4:00pm · Saint Ann	Joseph P. Nicastro
6:00pm · OLGV	John, Margaret & Milton Camille
<b>Sunday, December 27</b>	<b>Feast of the Holy Family</b>
7:00am · OLGV	Joseph Scola, Jr.
8:15am · Saint Ann	Luigi DiMaria
10:00am · Saint Joachim	Grazia & Salvatore Storniolo
11:45am · OLGV	Corey McCollum
5:00pm · Saint Ann	Mass for the People

## Our Weekly Gifts

### HOLY FAMILY PARISH

#### Weekend of December 12th – December 13th

Weekly Offerings at Mass	\$6,269.00
Miscellaneous Gifts	\$827.00
Electronic Donations	\$1,023.00
Total Offerings	\$8,119.00
Grand Annual Collection	\$47,898.00

Thank you for your generous support of Holy Family Parish!

### OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH

#### Weekend of December 12th – December 13th

Weekly Offerings at Mass	\$2,988.00
Second Collection (Christmas Flowers)	\$1,465.00
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 Rogers at 978-281-4820 or lrogers@ccgonline.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 Salvatore & Grace Parisi  
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Maria Rentaria Lopez  
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Joachim Church

In Memory of Peter Feeny  
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@ccgonline.com or 978-281-4820. Thank you for your generous support!

### MORE NEWS & INFORMATION ONLINE

Join us: [ccgonline.com](http://ccgonline.com)