

The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport

HOLY FAMILY PARISH · OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH

A Community United in Prayer, Fellowship, and Service
Sunday of Divine Mercy · April 3, 2016



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

OUR PASTOR'S MESSAGE — PAGE 3

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

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DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY WITH POPE FRANCIS

A CELEBRATION OF GOD'S ENDLESS LOVE



ENVELOPED BY THE MERCY OF GOD

By Pope Francis

God's patience has to call forth in us the courage to return to him, however many mistakes and sins there may be in our lives. Jesus tells Thomas to put his hand in the wounds of his hands, feet, and side. We can also enter in the wounds of Jesus. We can actually touch him. This happens each time that we receive the sacraments with faith. In a fine homily, Saint Bernard said: "Through the wounds of Jesus, I can suck honey from the rock and oil from the flinty rock." I can taste and see the goodness of the Lord. It is there, in the wounds of Jesus, that we are truly secure; there we encounter the boundless love of his heart. Thomas understood this, too. Saint Bernard then asks: What can I count on? My own merits? No. He said: "My merit is God's mercy. I am by no means lacking merits as long as he is rich in mercy. If the mercies of the Lord are manifold, then I will also abound in merits." This is important: the courage to trust in Jesus's mercy, to trust in his patience, and to seek refuge always in the wounds of his love. Saint Bernard even states: "So what if my conscience gnaws at me for my many sins? Where sin abounds, there grace abounds even more."

Maybe someone among us thinks: my sin is too great. I am as far from God as the younger son in the gospel parable. My unbelief is like that of Thomas. I do not have the courage to go back, to believe that God will welcome me, or that he is waiting for me. But God is indeed waiting for you! He asks of you only the courage to go to him. In my ministry, I have heard many times: "Father, I have many sins." And I have always pleaded: "Do not be afraid. Go to him. He is waiting for you. He will take care of everything." We hear many offers from the world around us; but let us accept God's offer instead. His offer is a caress of love. For God, we are not numbers. We are important. Indeed, we are the most important thing to him — even if we are sinners, we are what is closest to His heart.

After his sin, Adam experiences shame. He feels naked. He senses the weight of what he has done. And yet God does not abandon him. If that moment of sin marks the beginning of Adam's exile from God, there is already a promise of return. God immediately asks: "Adam, where are you?" God seeks him out. Jesus took on our nakedness. He took upon himself the shame of Adam and the nakedness of his sin in order to wash away our sins. By his wounds, we have been healed. Remember what Saint Paul says: What shall I boast about if not my weakness and my poverty? In feeling my sinfulness and in looking at my sins, I can encounter God's mercy and love, go to him, and receive his forgiveness.

In my own life, I have often seen God's mercy and patience. I have also seen many people find the courage to enter the wounds of Jesus by saying to him: Lord, I am here. Accept my poverty. Hide my sin in your wounds. Wash it away with your blood. And I have always seen that God does just that: He accepts them, consoles them, cleanses them, and loves them. Brothers and sisters, let us be enveloped by the mercy of God. Let us trust in his patience which always gives us more time. Let us find courage to return to God's house, to dwell in his loving wounds, to allow ourselves to be loved by him and to encounter his mercy in the sacraments. By doing so, we will know his wonderful tenderness. We will feel his embrace. And we will become like him, more capable of mercy, patience, forgiveness, and love.

Excerpted from Pope Francis's Homily on Divine Mercy Sunday (2013)

ADULT & YOUTH FAITH FORMATION

ADULT FAITH FORMATION RITE of CHRISTIAN INITIATION for ADULTS Pastor's Message of Congratulations & Thanks

On behalf of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport, Father Jim wishes to congratulate and thank the following fellow parishioners who received the Sacraments of Initiation at last week's Easter Vigil Mass:

Jillian Benson · Alexandra Grace
Marjorie Grace · Heather Johnson
Pamela Tarantino · Margaret Wiberg

Since last fall, these six adults met regularly after Sunday Mass. They prayed and studied together. And they grew in appreciation for and knowledge of the teachings and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church. We congratulate them for their accomplishment and thank them for their sincere commitment to their faith formation.

In addition, Father Jim wishes to thank Cliff Garvey, our Associate Minister, for his dedication and hard work, and for serving as principal catechist and spiritual director for our catechists and catechumens. Together, we wish to express our sincere appreciation to Patricia Natti and Paul Makowski for their assistance and prayers without which this program may not have been possible.

If you are an adult (age 18 and over) and have not received the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, or Confirmation), please contact Cliff Garvey at 978-281-4820 or cgarvey@ccgrronline.com. Our next program will begin in the fall!

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION RITE of CHRISTIAN INITIATION for CHILDREN Begins Sunday, April 10th at 3:30pm

If you have a child or grandchild who has completed the second grade in school but has not received either the Sacraments of Baptism or First Holy Communion, we have a special program just for them!

Beginning next Sunday, April 10th, from 3:30pm until 4:45pm in the Parish Center (Saint Ann Campus), Betsy Works and a team of volunteers will lead an eight week program of preparation for our younger disciples who for one reason or another have not yet received the Sacraments of Initiation.

For a registration form or more information about this special youth faith formation program, please contact Betsy Works, Associate Minister of Youth Faith Formation, at bworks@ccgrronline.com or 978-281-4820. Please pray for all of our young disciples and their parents, grandparents, and godparents!

MORE ONLINE!
Join us: ccgrronline.com/formation

OUR PASTOR'S MESSAGE

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY A Celebration of God's Endless Love

On January 9, 1984, Time Magazine published a cover story entitled "Why Forgive?" about Pope John Paul II's meeting with Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turkish terrorist who attempted to assassinate him three years earlier. The cover featured a remarkable photograph of the pope with his arm around the shoulder of the assassin along with a caption that read: "The Pope Pardons the Gunman."

More than thirty years later, Saint John Paul II's sincere gesture of Christian love and mercy toward an assailant remains one of his great gifts to the People of God. No one doubted then and no one doubts now that John Paul II truly forgave Mehmet Ali Agca. In fact, after the attempted assassination, the pope wrote: "Pray for my brother Agca...whom I have sincerely forgiven." And in late 2015, Agca visited Saint Peter's Basilica and laid a bouquet of white roses at the tomb of the sainted pope.

Why forgive? Unlike Saint John Paul II, most of us have not been victims of violent crime. But each of us knows the sting of betrayal, gossip, and insult. Each of us knows the pain of lasting conflict or disagreement with family, friends, and colleagues. And each of us knows something about the sadness of a broken heart.

We may not be called back into relationship with those who hurt us, but like Saint John Paul II, we are called to reach out to those who hurt us. We are called to love them and pray for them. We are called to forgive them with our whole heart and soul. This is the true foundation of the Christian life: to imitate the Risen Lord and his saints through sacrificial acts of love and mercy.

This weekend throughout the world, the Catholic Church celebrates the Second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday. We rejoice again over the Resurrection of the Lord as he appears to his astonished disciples. And we reflect again on the Lord's boundless love for us: that he lived, suffered, died, and rose for our sake and for our eternal salvation. This is God's mercy made flesh and recognizable in the world for us, for all people, and for all time! Alleluia! Alleluia!

This Sunday, April 3rd, all parishioners and friends of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport are invited to join us for "Divine Mercy Sunday: A Celebration of God's Endless Love" from 2:00pm until 3:30pm in Saint Ann Church. Our celebration will include ninety minutes of Eucharistic Adoration, the Holy Rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and finally, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Please join us for all or part of this beautiful celebration! All are welcome!

Peace and blessings to all,
Father Jim

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

THE HOLY ROSARY

Monday Through Saturday After Daily Mass

All are invited to join us every morning immediately after our 8:00am 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 parishes, and our troubled world. For more information, please see Father Jim or a member of our pastoral team. Please join us!

HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S GUILD SPRING MUSIC CELEBRATION

Tuesday, April 5th · 7:00pm · Our Lady's Hall

Established in 2005, the Holy Family Women's Guild brings together women of all ages in prayer, fellowship, and service to the parish and wider community. Throughout the year, the Women's Guild hosts various fundraising events and social gatherings.

On Tuesday, April 5th beginning at 7:00pm (with a brief business meeting), the Women's Guild will host a Spring Music Celebration in Our Lady's Parish Hall featuring Alexandra Grace and Josh Cominelli. These exceptionally talented young parishioners are students at Gloucester High School and members of the Docksiders. In addition, they will both be attending Gordon College. All are welcome to join us for this wonderful way to welcome the spring season! Refreshments will be served. For more information about this special spring event, please contact Helen Downey at 978-283-7391.

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 both of our parish communities. The Legion's primary apostolate is to visit and pray with our aged, disabled, homebound, and sick fellow parishioners. In addition, members also serve in many other volunteer ministries in both Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish.

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

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION

HOLY FAMILY PARISH

OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH

Celebrations of First Holy Communion

The Holy Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith community's joy and the center of our life of prayer, fellowship, and service. This spring season, after almost one year of prayer, preparation, and study, sixty-two students in our youth faith formation program will receive the Body and Blood of the Risen Lord for the first time. As our annual celebrations of First Holy Communion approach, all parishioners are encouraged to be mindful of our upcoming schedule:

Saint Joachim Church

Sunday, April 3rd at 10:00am Mass

Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

Sunday, April 10th at 11:45am Mass

Saint Ann Church

Saturday, April 16th at 4:00pm Mass

Saint Ann Church

Sunday, April 17th at 8:15am Mass

For more information about youth faith formation in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport, please see Father Jim or contact Betsy Works at 978-281-4820 or bworks@ccgonline.com. As we make final preparations for First Holy Communion, please pray for all of our young disciples, their parents, families, and catechists! Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support!

SPRING VACATION CATHOLIC KIDS CAMP THE VATICAN EXPRESS

Begins Tuesday, April 19th at 8:00am

The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport is pleased to announce that all children (ages 5 through 11) are invited to participate in our first-ever Spring Vacation Catholic Kids Camp, entitled "The Vatican Express", from Tuesday, April 19th through Friday, April 22nd from 8:00am until 12:00pm at Our Lady of Good Voyage Church. During this exciting week of prayer and fellowship, children will learn about the traditions and treasures of the Vatican through active and engaged participation in games, music, skits, and easy-to-make crafts.

The tuition for this innovative youth faith formation program for children is just \$25 per child for the entire week! Scholarships are available to those who cannot afford tuition. Also, adults and older children (ages 12 and up) are still needed to join us as volunteers and will be much appreciated! For more information about our Spring Vacation Catholic Kids Camp: The Vatican Express, please contact Betsy Works at bworks@ccgonline.com or 978-281-4820. Please join us! All are welcome!

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

LIVING THE WORKS OF MERCY WITH POPE FRANCIS

Pope Francis has said that mercy is 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.” This Year of Mercy is an invitation for us to look sincerely into the eyes of those around us, to recognize their needs, and to act accordingly.

During the Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis has called us to rediscover these Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy as a way of living more deeply as disciples of Christ Jesus in the true spirit of the Gospel. Each month, Pope Francis asks us to pray for both a “universal” prayer intention and an “evangelization” prayer intention.

During this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis will also offer us “spiritual exercises” or ways of living out the Works of Mercy in communion with his monthly intentions, with fellow parishioners, and with believers throughout the world. The Holy Father’s monthly intentions & spiritual exercises will be printed in our bulletin and posted online at ccgronline.com/mercy.

April 2016

Universal Prayer Intention for Needy Families

We pray that small farmers will receive a just reward for their precious labor in growing & raising food for us.

Corporal Work of Mercy: Feed the Hungry

Buy products from local farmers;
support charitable organizations
that provide seed or animals to families in poor nations.

April 2016

Evangelization Prayer Intention for the Church in Africa

We pray that Christians in Africa may give witness to their faith in and love for the Christ Jesus.

We pray especially for the Church in Angola, that it may be an instrument of God’s peace.

Spiritual Works of Mercy: Pray for the Living & Dead

Spend an hour in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament for the Church in Africa and for those who have died as the result of violence and war on that continent.

As we celebrate the Jubilee Year of Mercy and live out the Works of Mercy under the Holy Father’s guidance, let us pray for the grace to live the Gospel, to share God’s love and mercy, and to build up the Church!

MORE ONLINE!

Join us: ccgronline.com/mercy

For more information about the Jubilee Year of Mercy, including easy-to-use guides for the Divine Mercy Chaplet and the Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation, all are encouraged to visit our website: ccgronline.com/mercy.

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

OUR LADY’S GUILD

Monday, April 4th · 6:30pm · Our Lady’s Hall

Since 1944, Our Lady’s Guild has worked to build community among women of all ages in Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish through prayer, good works, social activities, and fundraising events. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 4th at 6:30pm in Our Lady’s Parish Hall. After our business meeting, nominations for officers and members of our board of directors will be accepted. Nancy Rose and Sandra Sperry will serve as co-chairwomen of our meeting. For more information about becoming a member of Our Lady’s Guild, please contact Linda Galvin at lingalv2010@gmail.com or leave a message by calling 978-281-4820. Please join us!

HOLY FAMILY CEVICOS MISSION

Message of Thanks · Request for Prayers

The Holy Family Parish Cevicos Mission wishes to thank everyone for their generous donations during our recent collection. Your donations support the many programs of our mission and the purchase of medicines for our clinics. For the past seventeen years, the ongoing support of Holy Family Parish has sustained our mission program, and with your continued help, our programs will continue to serve God’s people in Cevicos.

Our next mission team leaves on April 30th to spend a week with the people of Cevicos in the Dominican Republic. Please pray for our missionaries; and know that we are always remembered in the prayers of the people of Cevicos and the sisters who work with them. Thank you again for saying ‘yes’ to Jesus’s call to serve the poor!

Founded in 2001 by Deacon William Kane, the Holy Family Cevicos Mission offers direct medical, financial, educational, and spiritual support to the poor families of the village of Cevicos in the Dominican Republic. The Mission offers donors and volunteers an opportunity to participate in rewarding service work by answering Christ’s call to love and serve the poor. For more information, please visit their website at holyfamilycevicos.com or contact us at info@holyfamilycevicos.com.

CAPE ANN CURSILLO COMMUNITY

Saturday, April 9th · Begins at 5:00pm

The Cape Ann Cursillo Community will host its next Ultreya-Potluck Supper on Saturday, April 9th in Saint John’s Parish Hall in Essex. Our supper will begin at 5:00pm; the Ultreya will follow at 6:00pm. Even if you have not lived a Cursillo spiritual experience, please join us! All are invited! All are welcome! For more information about the Cape Ann Cursillo Community, please contact Albie Mitchell at albiemitchell@me.com or 978-879-3655.

OUR MASS INTENTIONS**APRIL 2 - APRIL 10, 2016**

Saturday, April 2	Vigil · Sunday of Divine Mercy
4:00pm · Saint Ann	Elizabeth "Betty" Murphy
6:00pm · OLGV	Vincenza Cusumano
Sunday, April 3	Sunday of Divine Mercy
7:00am · OLGV	Colonel Donald McCarthy
8:15am · Saint Ann	Lieutenant James J. Geraghty
10:00am · Saint Joachim	First Holy Communion
11:45am · OLGV	John & Lilly Aiello and Family
5:00pm · Saint Ann	Mass for the People
	Second Week of Easter
Monday, April 4 8:00am · OLGV	Paul LeBlanc
Tuesday, April 5 8:00am · Saint Joachim	Kathryn Cantillon White
Wednesday, April 6 8:00am · OLGV	Harold Roberts
Thursday, April 7 8:00am · Saint Joachim	Mary Garvey
Friday, April 8 8:00am · OLGV	Reverend Robert Costello
Saturday, April 9 8:00am · Saint Ann	Paul & Sophie Brancaleone & Children
Saturday, April 9	Vigil · Third Sunday of Easter
4:00pm · Saint Ann	Isabella & Giovani Bonina
6:00pm · OLGV	John Madruga
Sunday, April 10	Third Sunday of Easter
7:00am · OLGV	Charlotte Aikens & Helen Korpi & Sons
8:15am · Saint Ann	Arthur Marshall
10:00am · Saint Joachim	William Waddleton
11:45am · OLGV	First Holy Communion
5:00pm · Saint Ann	Mass for the People

OUR WEEKLY OFFERINGS**HOLY FAMILY PARISH**
Weekend of March 26th - March 27th

Weekly Offerings at Mass	\$9,370.00
Electronic Donations	\$1,028.00
Total Offerings	\$10,398.00
Grand Annual Collection	\$77,921.00

Thank you for your generous support
of Holy Family Parish!

OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH
Weekend of March 26th - March 27th

Weekly Offerings at Mass	\$2,485.00
Electronic Donations	\$28.00
Total Offerings	\$2,513.00
Grand Annual Collection	\$30,029.00

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

Pastor's Note: Parishioners are reminded that all offerings at our Easter Vigil Mass and all Easter Sunday Masses benefit the Archdiocese of Boston's Clergy Retirement Fund. Your generosity ensures ongoing health care and support for our retired priests. Thank you! 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 & 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 Friends of San Giuseppe
Sanctuary Flowers · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Joan Curtin
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Mamma Dinka
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Joachim 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 of Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish!

ASSISI PROJECT ONLINE
"Saint Francis Sings of Seasons"

Join us: assisiproject.com!
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