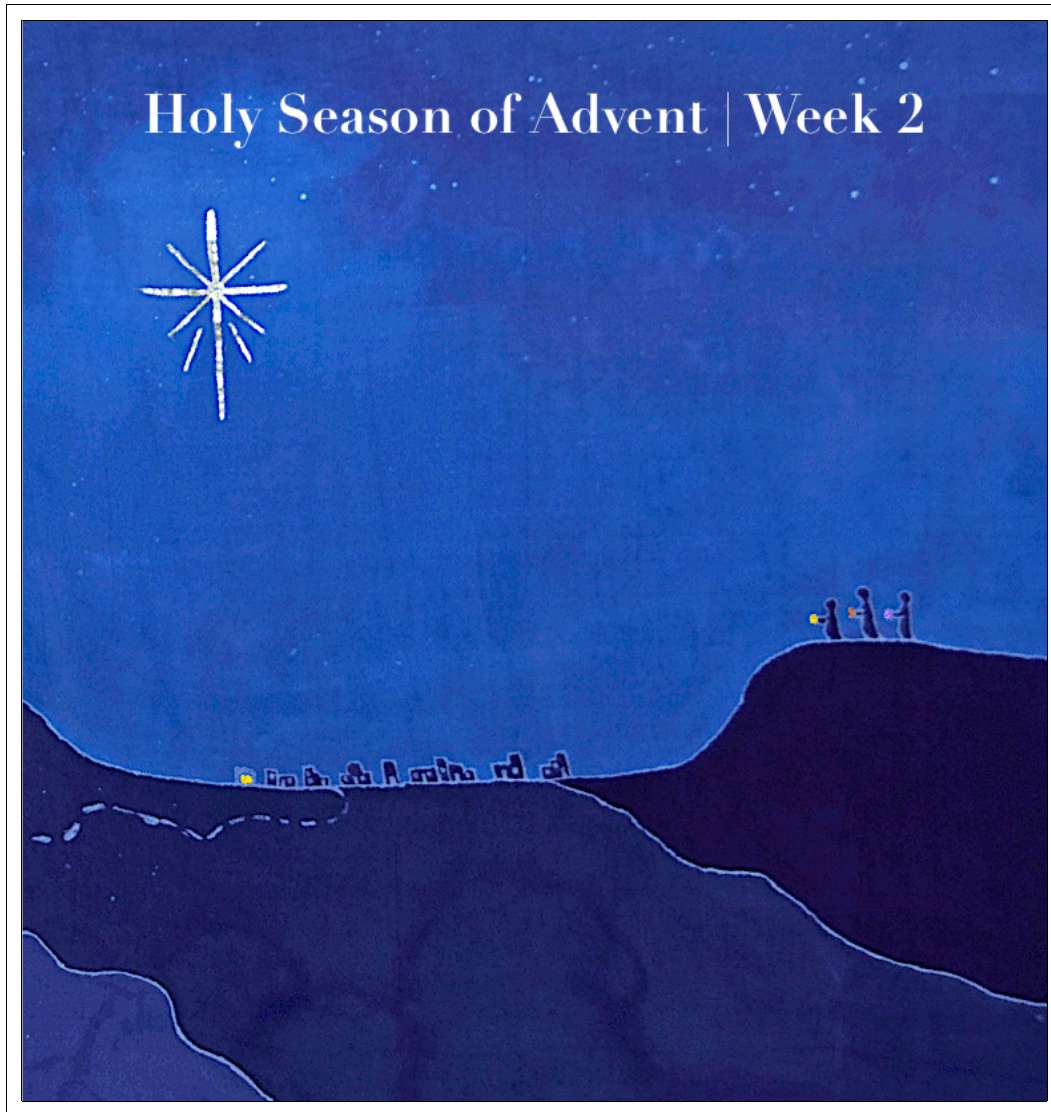


The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport

HOLY FAMILY PARISH & OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH

A Community United in Prayer, Fellowship, and Service
Second Sunday of Advent · December 4, 2016



ADVENT: A RADICAL WELCOME

OUR PASTOR'S MESSAGE — PAGE 3

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

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Office Hours: Monday through Friday 10:00am-4:00pm

HOLY SEASON OF ADVENT

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CONCERT This Sunday, December 4th at 2:00pm

All parishioners, friends, and guests of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport are invited to join Tom Misuraca, LuAnn Pallazola, and the Holy Family Parish Music Ministry for its Twelfth Annual Advent & Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 4th at 2:00pm in Saint Ann Church. All of this year's selections have been chosen to help prepare our hearts to celebrate more fully the Holy Season of Advent and the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ at Christmas. As always, both our adult and youth choirs will perform with talented instrumentalists. In addition, members of our Brazilian Community will perform with us, too! For more information, please contact Tom Misuraca at tmisuraca@ccgrounline.com or 978-281-4820. Please join us as we share the gift of music! All are invited! All are welcome!

ADVENT MISSION & RETREAT December 6th through December 8th

All parishioners, friends, and guests of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport are invited to join us for our Third Annual Advent Mission & Retreat from Tuesday, December 6th through Thursday, December 8th in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church. Each evening will begin with Evening Prayer & Mass at 7:00pm, followed by a reflection on the theme of "Journeying with Mary During Advent."

Our special guest and spiritual director for this year's Advent Mission & Retreat will be Sister Ellen Dabrieo, SND. Sister Ellen is a member of the Sisters of Notre Dame. For many years, she has served the Church in both parish ministry and as a missionary in Brazil. Sister Ellen currently serves as a hospital chaplain in Salem and as a lay minister to the Brazilian Community of Saint Thomas Church in Peabody. For more information, please see Father Jim before or after Mass; or contact Cliff Garvey at 978-281-4820 or cgarvey@ccgrounline.com. Please join us! All are invited! All are welcome!

ADVENT WISDOM *from* DIETRICH BONHOEFFER Our Advent Journey: Christ at the Door

Jesus stands at the door knocking (Rev 3:20). In total reality, he comes in the form of the beggar, of the dissolute human child in ragged clothes, asking for help. He confronts you in every person that you meet. As long as there are people, Christ will walk the earth as your neighbor, as the one through whom God calls you, speaks to you, makes demands on you. That is the great seriousness and great blessedness of the Advent message. Christ is standing at the door; he lives in the form of a human being among us. Do you want to close the door or open it?

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU! CONFESSIONS & EUCHARISTIC ADORATION Thursdays During Advent · Begins at 6:00pm

The Holy Season of Advent is a time for prayer, penance, and preparation; a time to make ready for the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ at Christmas. This Advent, all are invited to experience Christ's boundless love and mercy through the Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation (Confession) and through prayerful adoration of the Lord's Real Presence in the Blessed Sacrament. On three Thursday evenings during Advent (December 1st, December 15th, and December 22nd) from 6:00pm until 8:00pm, please join us for "The Light Is On For You!" at Saint Ann Church.

These special evenings of prayer will include Evening Prayer and Night Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours, Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, and an opportunity for all who feel called to participate in the Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation. For some, this may be a time for sacramental confession. For some it may be a time for silent prayer and reflection. And for some, it may be a time to begin or renew a life of faith. Wherever you are on your faith journey, please join us! All are invited! All are welcome! For more information, please see Father Jim before or after Mass; or contact him at frjim@ccgrounline.com or 978-281-4820.

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION ADVENT FAITH & FAMILY MASS Saturday, December 17th at 4:00pm

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 children, parents, grandparents, and godparents are invited to join Father Jim for our Second Annual Advent Faith & Family Mass on Saturday, December 17th at 4:00pm in Saint Ann Church.

During Mass, Father Jim will offer a special homily about Advent and a special blessing for all families and children. And every child (under age 18) will receive a special gift. In addition, please mark your calendars for our next Faith & Family Masses: Sunday, March 5th at 11:45am in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church; and Saturday, May 13th at 4:00pm in Saint Ann Church.

For more information about our Second Annual Advent Faith & Family Mass, please see Father Jim; or contact Betsy Works at bworks@ccgrounline.com or 978-281-4820. Let us reaffirm that Mass is our class! Jesus is our Teacher! Every child in our pews is a gift from God! And every family in our pews is a gift from God! Please spread the word to family and friends! All families are welcome!

OUR PASTOR'S MESSAGE

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT: A RADICAL WELCOME

This weekend at Mass, we read from Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans in which Paul encourages early Christians to pray together, worship together, strive for unity, and welcome all people into their communities of faith. He writes: "May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus, that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God (Romans 15: 5-7)." Two millennia later, we should note well that Paul's welcome is radical, unconditional, and includes all people, everywhere, no matter who they are, where they are, or what they may have done or believed in the past.

Since my seminary years, I have been deeply interested in the writings of Saint Paul. Once an infamous bigot, sinner, and persecutor of early Christian believers, Paul experienced a profound conversion and became one of the Risen Lord's most devoted, effective, and enthusiastic disciples. In his writings, Saint Paul breaks down the barriers between people, transcends doctrine, law, and ritual, and offers a hand of lasting friendship and welcome to all people, so that they might also experience what he experienced: conversion, grace, and salvation through Christ Jesus.

In recent weeks, I have been thinking a great deal about Saint Paul, Pope Francis, and their messages of mercy and inclusiveness; and their outreach to the poor, most especially the poor in spirit. I have been thinking about those among us, friends and family members, who might feel excluded from the beauty of our shared faith, the richness of our traditions, and the warmth of our parish life. When I became your pastor more than two years ago, one of my first decisions was to ensure that every announcement about every event or program in our parishes included this message: "All are welcome!" Since then, however, I have not fully explained what that means and to whom it applies. So, here goes!

Let's be clear. The celebration of Holy Mass is the source and summit of our community's joy and its life of prayer, fellowship, and service. All are welcome to join us for Mass and to participate in Holy Communion in accordance with a personal examination of conscience and the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. In this spirit, all are welcome means just that: "All are welcome!" So, whether you are a sinner or a saint, all are welcome! Whether you attend Mass every day, every week, or just every so often, all are welcome! Whether you know the difference between an Apostolic Letter and an Apostolic Exhortation, all are welcome! Whether you are healthy, living with a chronic illness, or suffering from a terminal illness, all are welcome! Whether you are fat or skinny or somewhere in between, all are welcome! Whether you are rich or poor or somewhere in between, all are welcome! Whether you are young or old or middle-aged like me, all are welcome! Whether you are single, married, or divorced, all are welcome! Whether you are straight, gay, or not so sure, all are welcome! Again and again and again, all are welcome means all are welcome!

Like Saint Paul and Pope Francis, Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945) was also blessed with the heart of a true pastor. Bonhoeffer was a Lutheran minister and theologian who spoke out against Adolph Hitler and Nazism; and he paid for it with his life. In a meditation for Advent written from prison, Bonhoeffer challenges us to engage in a radical welcome to all who seek comfort and consolation during dark times. He writes: "Jesus stands at the door knocking (Rev 3:20). In total reality, he comes in the form of the beggar, of the dissolute human child in ragged clothes, asking for help. He confronts you in every person that you meet. As long as there are people, Christ will walk the earth as your neighbor, as the one through whom God calls you, speaks to you, and makes demands on you. That is the great seriousness and great blessedness of the Advent message. Christ is standing at the door; he lives in the form of a human being among us. Do you want to close the door or open it?" This Advent and beyond, let us learn from Bonhoeffer, Pope Francis, and Saint Paul. Let us live the Gospel, share it with love, and rebuild the Church. Let us open wide the doors of our churches and our hearts! And let us exclaim with one voice for the glory of God, forever and always: "All are welcome!"

Peace and blessings to all for a blessed Advent,
Father Jim

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP, AND SERVICE

THE SOLEMNITY of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Holy Day of Obligation · Thursday, December 8th

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

Wednesday, December 7th · Vigil Mass
Our Lady of Good Voyage Church · 7:00pm

Thursday, 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 and conceived without original sin in the womb of her mother and our patroness, Saint Ann. This ancient belief was not defined as Church doctrine until 1854. Since then, Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception has been named patroness of many causes and nations, including the United States of America. So, please join us as we honor our Blessed Mother and beg her intercession for our families, our parishes, and our country. All are invited! All are welcome!

THE LEGION OF MARY Living the Corporal Works of Mercy

Each week, members of the Legion of Mary from both Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish reach out to our aged, disabled, homebound, and sick fellow parishioners. They visit people in their homes and apartments, hospitals, and nursing homes. They pray together, offer companionship, and share God's love and mercy with those who are so often lonely and forgotten. Last week, the Legion of Mary visited and prayed with more than 60 fellow parishioners!

Every Wednesday afternoon at 4:00pm, the Legion of Mary meets in our parish center (located beside Saint Ann Church) to pray the Rosary, share their faith experience, and participate in a period of formation under the guidance of their spiritual director. For more information about the Legion of Mary and its good work in our parishes, please contact Joan Foster at ajay7@verizon.net; Sue Demetri at sdemetri2000@yahoo.com; or leave a message at 978-281-4820. New members are always welcome! All are invited! Please join us!

MORE NEWS & INFORMATION ONLINE!

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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM Schedule for the Month of December 2016

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

Baptism Preparation Workshop
Sunday, December 4th at 11:00am
Saint Ann Church

Sacrament of Baptism
Sunday, December 11th at 1:00pm
Saint Ann Church

Sacrament of Baptism
Sunday, December 18th at 1:00pm
Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

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

Vito Calomo
Samuel Connolly
Olivia Curcuru
Giada D'Amico
Emily Fitzgerald
Adriana Giacalone
Lochlan Hyde
Ryan Johnston
Jesse Lopes
Una O'Neill
Sadie Palazzolo
Tyler Papows
Raegan Parady
Alexander Spencer
Alina Testaverde
Hayden Trupiano
Cole Williams
Lola Willard

If you would like to schedule your child's baptism, please contact Melissa Unis at office@ccgronline.com or 978-281-4820. Peace, blessings, and congratulations to all! Please pray for these recently baptized young disciples, their parents, grandparents, and godparents! Thank you!

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS GIVING TREES

Help Us Share the Blessings of Christmas!

This year, the Saint Vincent de Paul Society has once again sponsored the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport's Annual Christmas Giving Trees which help share the blessings of Christmas with local families in need. The Giving Trees were placed at the entrances of Saint Ann Church, Saint Joachim Church, and Our Lady of Good Voyage Church during the weekend of November 26–November 27th. 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 placed under the tree with the original star or delivered to our parish offices. The Christmas Giving Trees will remain at our church entrances through Sunday, December 11th. All gifts should be returned to our parish offices by Tuesday, December 13th at noon. Gifts will be wrapped and delivered to families in need on Thursday, December 15th. For more information, please contact Barbara Frontiero at 978-281-4820 or barbara.frontiero@gortons.com. Thank you in advance for your generous support of the Christmas Giving Trees! May God bless us, everyone!

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY MR. & MRS. SECRET SANTA

Saturday, December 17th · 9:00am – 1:00pm

Again this year, Mr. & Mrs. Secret Santa cordially invite you to 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, too, as we share the blessings of generous giving during this holiday season!

On Saturday, December 17th from 9:00am until 1:00pm, all are welcome to come and browse in the Clothes Closet in search of that special gift! Mr. & Mrs. Secret Santa will provide an extra outfit or much needed item for all friends who join us! The Saint Vincent de Paul Society's Clothes Closet is located on the basement level of Saint Ann School with an entrance from the school yard on Pleasant Street. Who is the Secret Santa? We'll never tell!

For more information about Mr. & Mrs. Secret Santa and the Clothes Closet, please contact Helen Downey at 978-495-0337 or helendowney@yahoo.com. If you or your family need assistance during this holiday season, please contact the Saint Vincent de Paul Society Hotline at 978-281-8672. New members and volunteers are always welcome! Thank you for your ongoing generous support of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society! Merry Christmas to all!

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP, AND SERVICE

MOTHER OF GRACE CLUB ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION Saturday, December 10th · 6:00pm

The Mother of Grace Club invites all parishioners, friends, and guests of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport to its Annual Christmas Celebration on Saturday, December 10th at the Gloucester House Restaurant. Our four-course dinner will begin at 6:00pm and will include a DJ and dancing! Tickets are \$45 each. For more information about the Mother of Grace Club or to reserve tickets for our celebration, please contact Gus at 978-559-6600; Katie at 978-281-0012; or Margherith at 978-281-0012. Please join us! All are welcome! Merry Christmas!

OUR LADY'S GUILD ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY Monday, December 12th · 6:30pm

Our Lady's Guild is hosting its Annual Christmas Party on Monday, December 12th beginning at 6:30pm in the Parish Hall. Our meal will feature a hot buffet, dessert, and coffee. In addition, we will have a door prize, 50-50 raffle, and entertainment provided by Alexandra Grace and Josh Cominelli. If you wish to participate in our annual Christmas gift swap, please bring a wrapped present (under \$10)! For more information about Our Lady's Guild and its good work in our parish or to reserve your seat at the party, please contact Linda Galvin at 617-803-6050 or lingalv2010@gmail.com. New members are always welcome! Please join us! Merry Christmas!

THE HOLY ROSARY Monday Through Saturday After Daily Mass!

All are invited to join the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport as we pray the Holy Rosary every morning immediately after our 8:00am Daily Mass. 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 powerful intercession for ourselves, our parishes, and our troubled world. Daily Mass is celebrated in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings at 8:00am; in Saint Joachim Church on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 8:00am; and in Saint Ann Church on Saturday mornings at 8:00am. For more information, please contact Father Jim at 978-281-4820 or frjim@ccgrounline.com. All are welcome!

THE ASSISI PROJECT Need Prayers?

The Assisi Project prays for those in need. If you would like us to pray for you or a special intention, please contact Cliff Garvey: cgarvey@ccgrounline.com!

OUR MASS INTENTIONS

DECEMBER 3 – DECEMBER 11, 2016

Saturday, December 3	Vigil · Second Sunday of Advent
4:00pm · Saint Ann	Rose Testaverde
6:00pm · OLGV	Antonio & Jennie Marino
Sunday, December 4	Second Sunday of Advent
7:00am · OLGV	Francis, Elizabeth & Peter Bruni
8:15am · Saint Ann	Sal Errante
10:00am · Saint Joachim	Gerald O'Connor
11:45am · OLGV	Maria Madalena Silva
4:00pm · Saint Ann	Mass for the People
	Second Week of Advent
Monday, December 5 8:00am · OLGV	Carol Ann Theken
Tuesday, December 6 8:00am · Saint Joachim	Carmelo Merenda
Wednesday, December 7 8:00am · OLGV	Gaetano & Ninfa Trupiano and Family
Thursday, December 8 8:00am · Saint Joachim	Herbert Hultin
Friday, December 9 8:00am · OLGV	Anna & Andy Smith
Saturday, December 10 8:00am · Saint Ann	Beth Ann Theken Bucknam
Saturday, December 10	Vigil · Third Sunday of Advent
4:00pm · Saint Ann	Pietro & Rosaria Cannavo
6:00pm · OLGV	Vincenzo Mannino & Stefano Adelfio
Sunday, December 11	Third Sunday of Advent
7:00am · OLGV	Herman J. Surrette
8:15am · Saint Ann	Giambanco, Cillufo & Theken Families
10:00am · Saint Joachim	Josephine Rallo
11:45am · OLGV	Eduardo Silva
5:00pm · Saint Ann	Mass for the People

OUR WEEKLY OFFERINGS**HOLY FAMILY PARISH****Weekend of November 26th – November 27th**

Weekly Offerings	\$6,643.00
Electronic Donations	\$878.00
Total Offerings	\$7,521.00
Second Collection (Retired Sisters)	\$2,631.00
Saint Ann Church Restoration	\$160,293.00

Thank you for your generous support
of Holy Family Parish!

OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH**Weekend of November 26th – November 27th**

Weekly Offerings	\$2,988.00
Electronic Donations	\$30.00
Total Offerings	\$3,018.00
Second Collection (Retired Sisters)	\$973.00
Grand Annual Collection	\$17,009.00

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 candle, 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 candle is \$25. This week, donations were offered for the following intentions:

In Memory of Millard & Marion Solomon
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Anthony Chapel

In Memory of Charles DeCoste
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of William Waddleton
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Joachim Church

In Memory of Kathleen Desilets
Sanctuary Candle · Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

In Memory of Lt. Col. Edward R. Ghidella
Sanctuary Gifts · Holy Family Parish

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 of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport at Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish!