

The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport

HOLY FAMILY PARISH & OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH

A Community United in Prayer, Fellowship, and Service
The First Sunday of Lent · March 5, 2017



FORGIVE AND BE FORGIVEN

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 LENT**STATION OF THE CROSS****Fridays During Lent**

The Stations of the Cross are one of the most enduring and moving devotions of the Roman Catholic Church. By uniting our prayers with the suffering of Christ through both word and imagery, we make a spiritual pilgrimage with our Lord on his way to the Holy Cross. During Lent, all are invited to join in praying the Stations of the Cross on six consecutive Fridays (March 3rd through April 7th) according to the following schedule: Fridays at 3:00pm in Saint Ann Church; and Fridays at 6:30pm in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church. Please note that Mass will be celebrated at 6:30pm before we pray the Stations of the Cross at Our Lady of Good Voyage Church. For more information about the Holy Season of Lent in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport, please visit our website: ccgronline.com; or contact Father Jim at frjim@ccgronline.com or 978-281-4820. Please join us! All are invited! All are welcome!

LENT MASS FOR FAMILIES**Sunday, March 5th at 11:45am**

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 a Lent Mass for Families on Sunday, March 5th at 11:45am in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church.

During Mass, Father Jim will offer a special homily about the Holy Season of Lent and a special blessing for all families and children. In addition, because Lent is a season for prayer, penance, and almsgiving, every child and their family will be asked to help us raise \$1,000 during Lent for the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, a service organization in our parishes that provides food and financial assistance to local families in need. During the Family Mass, each child (and any interested adult parishioner) will be given a "campaign can" to collect coins for this most worthy cause.

As our Lent Mass for Families approaches, let us reaffirm these basic principles of our youth faith formation programs: Mass is our class! Jesus is our teacher! And every family in our pews is a gift from God! For more information about our Lent Mass for Families, please see Father Jim or contact Betsy Works at 978-281-4820 or bworks@ccgronline.com. Please spread the word! All are invited! All are welcome!

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU!**Confessions & Eucharistic Adoration
Wednesday Evenings During Lent**

During the Holy Season of Lent, all Catholics are invited to experience Christ's love and mercy through the Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation (Confession). On Wednesday evenings during Lent (March 8th through April 12th), all are invited to join us for "The Light Is On For You!" from 6:00pm until 8:00pm at Our Lady of Good Voyage 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 two full hours of confessions for those who feel called to participate.

For some, this may be a time for sacramental reconciliation. 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 about the Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation, please visit our website: ccgronline.com; or contact Father Jim at 978-281-4820 or frjim@ccgronline.com. Please note that this program will be preempted on Wednesday, March 22nd for our Lent Mission & Retreat.

PASTOR'S SCRIPTURE STUDY**JESUS' LIFE-GIVING DEATH****Begins on Thursday, March 9th at Noon**

During the Holy Season of Lent, all parishioners, friends, and guests of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport are invited to join Father Jim for a weekly lunchtime scripture study based on the book, "Matthew 26-28: Jesus' Life-Giving Death" by Amy Wellborn. Every Thursday during Lent (March 9th through April 6th) in Our Lady's Hall, Father Jim will lead a one hour discussion and reflection on the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus that focuses on the Gospel of Matthew. Each weekly session will begin at noon.

All interested friends and fellow parishioners are welcome to bring their own lunch and join us for as many sessions as possible during the Holy Season of Lent. A donation of \$20.00 is requested from those who can afford it. Participants will be provided with a copy of the book, along with coffee, hot tea, or bottled water. If you would like to join us for this special scripture study series, please see Father Jim before or after Mass; or contact him at frjim@ccgronline.com or 978-281-4820. Please join us! All are invited! All are welcome!

OUR PASTOR'S MESSAGE

FORGIVE AND BE FORGIVEN

If you have ever been hurt, then you know how hard it is to forgive. If you have ever had your feelings hurt, your body broken, or your reputation savaged, then you know how hard it is to love, to let go, and to let bygones be bygones. Likewise, if you have ever been guilty of grave sin, then you know how hard it is to seek God's forgiveness. If you have ever been guilty of inflicting pain and suffering on a colleague, neighbor, or loved one, then you know how hard it is to ask for another chance, a clean slate, or an opportunity for redemption. To forgive and to be forgiven are among life's most difficult challenges. And yet, forgiveness and redemption are at the core of every Christian's life of discipleship.

The Holy Season of Lent is a time for prayer, penance, and almsgiving. It is a time to renew our relationship with God and the Church. It is a time to forgive those who have wronged us; and it is a time to seek forgiveness from those we have wronged. During Lent, we are called to give until it hurts, to love without counting the cost, and to be agents of God's boundless mercy in our homes, neighborhoods, parishes, and workplaces. This is the life of discipleship to which we are beckoned. This is the true life of the Christian.

To truly follow Christ is to follow his example of forgiveness. As he hung upon the Cross, suffering from a kind of torture that we can barely imagine, Jesus begged the Father to forgive his torturers. With his bloodied arms outstretched and nailed to the Cross, Jesus embraced the world with a love that is complete and eternal. It is a love that is offered to you, to me, and to every person (saint or sinner) who asks for it with an open and sincere heart. And it is a love that we are called to share with those we love and with those whom we find it hard to love. It is a love that we are called to share with those who love us and with those who hurt us. It is a love that is hard. It is a love that is good. It is a love that is true.

Ravensbruck is a small village approximately fifty miles north of Berlin, Germany. During the Second World War, a concentration camp for women was constructed there. Between 1939 and 1945, more than 130,000 women and girls were incarcerated at the camp. Approximately 40,000 were Polish; 26,000 were Jewish; 19,000 were Russian; 8,000 were French; 1,000 were Dutch; and the remaining prisoners were from other parts of Europe. According to historical accounts, more than 50,000 women and girls died of disease, starvation, or overwork at Ravensbruck. Thousands more were killed in gas chambers. Some sources claim that as many as 117,000 of the 130,000 prisoners were killed there during the war.

In the midst of these horrors, a word of forgiveness was written in the form of a prayer. It was composed by an unknown prisoner and placed beside the lifeless body of an unknown child. By some miracle of God's grace, this prayer survived the war and has been passed on throughout the years to remind us of the enduring power of forgiveness, love, and mercy in a world that can be cruel and unforgiving. It is a prayer to share time and again with those who suffer and who long to forgive and to be forgiven:

O Lord,
do not remember only the people of good will,
but remember also those of ill will.
Do not remember all the suffering that they have inflicted on us;
remember instead the fruits we have bought, thanks to our suffering:
our comradeship, our loyalty,
our humility, our courage, our generosity,
and the greatness of heart
which has grown out of all this;
and when they come to judgment,
let all the fruits we have borne be their forgiveness! Amen!

As Lent begins in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport, let us pray together for the courage to make peace with God and with each other. Let us pray for an unknown woman and an unknown child, and for all the victims of bigotry, persecution, and violence. Let us pray for an increase of peace, hope, and love in our world. And let us pray for the grace to forgive and be forgiven — now and always.

Peace and blessings to all,
Father Jim

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP, AND SERVICE

ONLINE RESOURCES FOR PRAYER

Join us: ccgronline.com/prayer/

Each day during Lent, all are invited to join us for a few moments of prayer and reflection at ccgronline.com/prayer. Our website features links to the Saint of the Day, Sharing the Word, and Sunday Soundbites, which are 90 second reflections based on the daily Mass readings and the lives of the saints. Our website also features an easy-to-use link for praying the Liturgy of the Hours online.

In addition, please join us every week for a new edition of Bringing Home the Word, a lectionary-based newsletter for individuals and families that offers suggestions for prayer and reflection based on the Sunday Mass readings. Each issue includes words of wisdom from Pope Francis, along with prayerful reflections about the scriptures, prayer and spirituality, and the lives of saints. Every Saturday, a new edition of Bringing Home the Word is posted on our website: ccgronline.com/news/ Please join us!

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 frjim@ccgronline.com or 978-281-4820. Please join us! All are welcome!

ASSISI PROJECT LENT RAFFLE PIETA HAND PAINTED ICON

Tickets Now Available!

Now through Easter Sunday, the Assisi Project is sponsoring a Lent Raffle for the beautiful hand painted icon of the "Pieta" which appears on the front cover of this week's newsletter. All proceeds from the Assisi Project's Lent Raffle will be donated to Our Lady's Grand Annual Collection. A donation of \$1.00 per ticket is requested. Tickets can be purchased after various daily and weekend Masses in Our Lady's Church; at our parish offices; and by contacting Cliff Garvey at cgarvey@ccgronline.com or 978-281-4820. The winner will be drawn on Easter Sunday, April 16th. Thank you for your generous support!

PASTOR'S NOTE

DEACON WILLIAM KANE'S RETIREMENT

Offering Our Deepest Thanks & Prayers

After more than twenty-six years of good and faithful service to God's Church, Deacon William Kane requested early retirement for health reasons. And after a period of prayer and deliberation, Cardinal Sean O'Malley has advised me that Deacon Kane's assignment has now ended and that he has been granted status as a "Senior Deacon" in the Archdiocese of Boston.

Since his ordination in 1990, Deacon Kane has served in parish ministry and as Director of Prison Ministry for the Archdiocese of Boston. In that capacity, he supervised the Catholic chaplains in the twenty-seven prisons and jails that are located throughout the Archdiocese. Deacon Kane also founded the Cevicos Mission which has brought more than 1,000 fellow parishioners and friends to love and serve God's poor in the Dominican Republic. And he served as chaplain and spiritual director for the Saint Vincent de Paul Society.

Since becoming pastor of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport almost three years ago, I have come to appreciate Deacon Kane's heartfelt faith, his sincere compassion for the poor, and his abiding love for God's people in our parishes and in the all too dark shadows of our jails and prisons.

Deacon Kane has a deep devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows who has offered him consolation during life's most unbearable moments of anguish and grief. By God's amazing grace, Deacon Kane's ordination was celebrated on the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows (September 13th). And so, let us give God great thanks and praise for the gift of Deacon Kane's vocation and his many years of faithful service to God's Church; and let us raise our hearts and voices in prayer:

Almighty God and Father,
when Jesus, your Son, was raised up on the Cross,
it was your will that Mary, his Mother,
should stand and suffer with him in her heart.

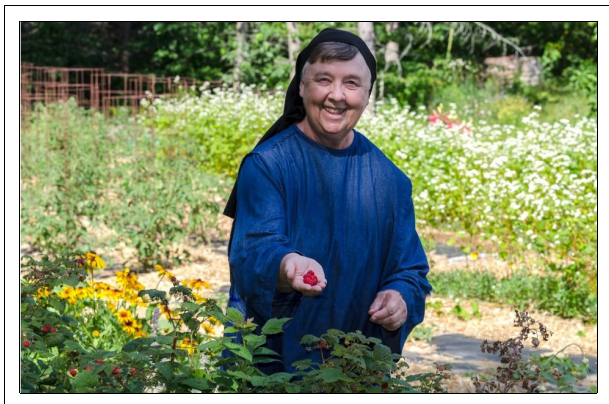
In union with Our Lady of Sorrows,
grant that the Church may share in the Passion of Christ,
and be brought to the glory of resurrection.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. Amen.

As he begins his retirement, please join me in praying for Deacon Kane, for his family, and for all who have been touched by his good work and kindness over the years. May God bless Deacon Kane for a job well done!

Peace and blessings to all,
Father Jim

LENT MISSION & RETREAT



SEASONS OF THE HEART with SISTER ELIZABETH WAGNER

OUR LENT MISSION & RETREAT March 22nd through March 24th at 7:00pm

All are invited to join us for the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport's Lent Mission & Retreat from Wednesday, March 22nd through Friday, March 24th at Our Lady of Good Voyage Church. Each evening will begin with Evening Prayer & Mass at 7:00pm. In addition, we will be blessed to welcome Sister Elizabeth Wagner as our special guest and spiritual director, who will lead us in prayer and reflection each evening after Mass.

Sister Elizabeth lives a contemplative life at Transfiguration Hermitage, which she founded in Windsor, Maine, as a semi-eremital community devoted to prayer and solitude according to the Rule of Saint Benedict. She is a hermit, award-winning writer, spiritual director, and retreat leader. Sister Elizabeth is also a formation director, gardener, and groundskeeper of the hermitage.

In addition to Sister Elizabeth's nightly reflections during the mission and retreat, she will sign copies of her book, "Seasons in My Garden." This captivating book intricately weaves insights from her own spiritual growth with the passing of the seasons. It offers readers spiritual guidance and an understanding that the patient tending of the soul will help us grow into a tranquil garden that God can use to reflect his glory. Copies of the book will be available for sale at \$16.95 per copy.

The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport's Lent Mission & Retreat is free but donations will be gratefully accepted during each evening's celebration of Mass. For more information, please contact Cliff Garvey at 978-281-4820 or cgarvey@ccgrronline.com. Please join us! All are invited! All are welcome!

LEARN MORE ABOUT LENT!

Join us: ccgrronline.com/lent/

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP, AND SERVICE

HOLY NAME SOCIETY

Sunday, March 5th at 6:30pm · Our Lady's Hall

The Holy Name Society of Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish is an organization of Catholic men which was founded to prayerfully support the parish through fundraising and volunteer service. Our next meeting is scheduled for this Sunday, March 5th at 6:30pm in Our Lady's Hall. For more information, please contact Mass Parisi at 978-281-4820 or mparisi101@gmail.com. The Holy Name Society always welcomes new members! Please join us!

OUR LADY'S GUILD

Communion Mass: Saturday, March 4th at 6:00pm
Meeting: Monday, March 6th at 6:30pm

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. All members and their families are reminded that our Annual Communion Mass is scheduled for Saturday, March 4th at 6:00pm in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church.

In addition, the Guild's next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 6th at 6:30pm in Our Lady's Hall. After regular business, nominations will be made for officers and board members. Pat Sholds and Pat McCarthy are co-chairwomen for the next meeting. Our Lady's Guild continues to accept donations for our "Cakeless Cake Sale." Donations can be mailed to Jean Madruga or brought to the next meeting. For more information about Our Lady's Guild and its good work in our parish, please contact Linda Galvin at lingalv2010@gmail.com or 978-281-4820. New members are always welcome! Please join us!

OUR LADY'S GUILD

PENNY SALE

Monday, March 13th at 7:00pm · Our Lady's Hall

All parishioners and friends of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport are invited to join Our Lady's Guild for a "Penny Sale" on Monday, March 13th at 7:00pm in Our Lady's Hall. As always, the "Penny Sale" will feature great prizes, a 50-50 raffle, delicious homemade sweet bread, along with other fresh food and snacks. Donations are being accepted at the our parish offices (located at 74 Pleasant Street in Gloucester). Co-chairpersons for this event are Julia Garcia and Mary Piscitello. For more information, please contact Linda Galvin at 617-803-6050 or lingalv2010@gmail.com. Please join us! All are invited! All are welcome!

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Find out! Join us: ccgrronline.com/fellowship/
Live the Gospel! Share God's Love! Rebuild the Church!

OUR MASS INTENTIONS**MARCH 4 – MARCH 12, 2017**

Saturday, March 4	Vigil · First Sunday of Lent
4:00pm · Saint Ann	Captain Stephen & Catherine Demetri and Family
6:00pm · OLGV	Mario & Maria Peritore
Sunday, March 5	First Sunday of Lent
7:00am · OLGV	John Batista Viviano
8:15am · Saint Ann	Giuseppe & Rosaria Cambria
10:00am · Saint Joachim	William A. Morrison, Sr. & Family
11:45am · OLGV	José & Julia Goulart and Sons
5:00pm · Saint Ann	Mass for the People
	First Week of Lent
Monday, March 6 8:00am · OLGV	Ann Lane
Tuesday, March 7 8:00am · Saint Joachim	Dana Parsons
Wednesday, March 8 8:00am · OLGV	Debra Burns
Thursday, March 9 8:00am · Saint Joachim	Deacon Richard W. Gindel
Friday, March 10 8:00am · OLGV	José & Isolina Matos
Saturday, March 11 8:00am · Saint Ann	Antoinette Vacarro
Saturday, March 11	Vigil · Second Sunday of Lent
4:00pm · Saint Ann	Lillian Morendo
6:00pm · OLGV	Justin Quinn
Sunday, March 12	Second Sunday of Lent
7:00am · OLGV	Colonel Donald J. McCarthy
8:15am · Saint Ann	Rosa Pereira
10:00am · Saint Joachim	James Contri and Jim & Mary Contri
11:45am · OLGV	Doris, Paul & Jeanette Murphy
5:00pm · Saint Ann	Mass for the People

OUR WEEKLY OFFERINGS**HOLY FAMILY PARISH****Weekend of February 25th – February 26th**

Weekly Offerings	\$6,122.00
Electronic Donations	\$878.00
Total Offerings	\$7,000.00
Second Collection	N/A
Saint Ann Church Restoration	\$205,230.00

Thank you for your generous support
of Holy Family Parish!

OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH**Weekend of February 25th – February 26th**

Weekly Offerings	\$2,905.00
Electronic Donations	\$30.00
Total Offerings	\$2,935.00
Second Collection	N/A
Grand Annual Collection	\$22,425.00

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 candles, 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 Nicholas Rano
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Patricia Scannell
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Joachim Church

In Memory of Georgia Forrest
Sanctuary Candle · Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

For more information about donating sanctuary candles, flowers, or gifts for a special intention or 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 the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport at Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish! May God bless you and your family – now and always!

MORE NEWS & INFORMATION ONLINE!

Join us: ccgonline.com!