

The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport

HOLY FAMILY PARISH & OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH

A Community United in Prayer, Fellowship, and Service
Feast of the Holy Family · December 31, 2017



HOLY FAMILY'S GRAND ANNUAL COLLECTION

OUR PASTOR'S MESSAGE — PAGE 3

The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport
Live the Gospel. Share God's Love. Rebuild the Church.

74 Pleasant Street · Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930
Phone: 978-281-4820 · Fax: 978-281-4964 · Email: office@ccgrounline.com · Website: ccgrounline.com
Office Hours: Monday through Friday 10:00am-4:00pm
Cover Art: "The Holy Family" by Jody Cole · jcolegons.com

SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

God's Beloved Children A Message from Pope Francis

God wants us to live as his sons and daughters. What is so surprising is that God accomplishes this through the smallness and vulnerability of a newborn child. He decides personally to draw near to us and in his flesh to embrace our flesh, in his weakness to embrace our weakness, and in his littleness to envelop our littleness.

In Christ, God did not put on a human mask. Instead, he became human and shared completely in our human condition. Far from remaining an idea or an abstract essence, he wanted to be close to all those who felt hurt, lost, demeaned, discouraged, frightened, and inconsolable. Close to all those who in their bodies carry the burden of separation and loneliness, so that sin, shame, hurt, despair, and exclusion would not have the final word in the lives of his sons and daughters.

The manger invites us to make this divine logic our own. It is not a logic centered on privilege, exemptions, or favors but on encounter and closeness. The manger invites us to break with the logic of exceptions for some and exclusion for others. God himself comes to shatter the chains of privilege that always cause exclusion, in order to introduce the caress of compassion that brings inclusion, that makes the dignity of each person shine forth, the dignity for which he or she was created. A child in swaddling clothes shows us the power of God who approaches us as a gift, an offering, a leaven and opportunity for creating a culture of encounter.

Let us rejoice over the coming of our Redeemer and share this joy with others, giving comfort and hope to the poor, the sick, and to people who are lonely and unhappy. Let us welcome the Lord who always comes and knocks at our door, knocks at our heart, in order to draw near to us. He invites us to recognize his footsteps among the brothers and sisters who pass beside us, especially the weakest and most needy. He helps us to hear God's voice in prayer and to serve God with compassion for our brothers and sisters, especially the weakest and most needy, so that we are prepared for our Christmas appointment; prepared with hearts ready to welcome Jesus (Source: Pope Francis: Open Your Heart, All Saints Press).

MERRY CHRISTMAS! HAPPY NEW YEAR!



OUR PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Holy Family Parish Grand Annual Collection Our Goal: \$75,000

Almost four years ago, the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport was established as a collaborative of two historic parishes: Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish. Although our parishes share a pastor and pastoral team, each parish remains financially independent; maintains its own bank accounts and accounting procedures; and continues to be solely responsible for its own expenses, building maintenance, and pastoral programs.

Holy Family Parish is blessed in so many ways! Our ministries and service organizations are faithfully reaching out to the poor, sick, and homebound. Our adult faith formation programs are leading countless parishioners to grow closer to the Risen Lord. Our youth faith formation programs are creating a new generation of young disciples who are excited about their faith and eager to learn more about the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church. Mass attendance is rising. And thanks to your generosity, our parish budget was balanced last year.

Despite this good news, Holy Family Parish faces some serious challenges. Electricity, heating, and snow removal costs are astronomical. Our parish buildings are old, require ongoing maintenance, and sometimes need urgent and expensive repairs. And weekly collections do not cover all of the costs associated with the necessary work of our parish. For this reason, I am asking you to help me raise \$75,000 for this year's Grand Annual Collection. This fundraising campaign is absolutely essential to our parish budget. It helps us balance our books by bridging the gap between our weekly contributions and our overall financial obligations which include salaries and benefits, insurance premiums, utility bills, snow plowing, and essential parish programs like adult and youth faith formation.

Each year, we ask all parishioners to contribute what they can to our Grand Annual Collection. Every contribution, whether it's \$10 or \$100, helps us to balance our budget for the fiscal year. And every penny raised goes directly to Holy Family Parish. Every registered parish family has been mailed an offertory envelope for the Grand Annual Collection. Please place your offering in the collection basket at Mass or mail it to me as soon as possible. Also, please keep in mind that all funds raised by this collection are dedicated to balancing our budget, not the ongoing restoration of Saint Ann Church, which also needs your support.

As Holy Family's Grand Annual Collection begins, please join me in praying that each of us, according to our means, will give generously to this all-important fundraising effort. Finally, on a more personal note, please pray for me and for our pastoral team as we struggle to cope with the sudden loss of our dear friend and colleague, Deacon Ray Wellbank. We miss him and we mourn for him, but we are joyfully confident that he prays for us among a choir of angels. May God bless you and your family. And may God bless all who live, work, and worship in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport. Merry Christmas!

Peace and blessings to all for a happy new year!

Father Jim

MAKING YOUNG DISCIPLES



THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM Our Schedule for January 2018

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

Baptism Preparation Workshop
Sunday, January 7th at 11:00am
Saint Ann Church

Sacrament of Baptism
Sunday, January 14th at 1:00pm
Saint Ann Church

Sacrament of Baptism
Sunday, January 21st at 1:00pm
Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

Sacrament of Baptism
Sunday, January 28th at 11:00am
Saint Joachim Church

Last month, the following children were baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit here in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport:

Jace Cunningham
Marley Cunningham
Roman Kearns
Daniel McDougall

If you would like to schedule your child's baptism, please contact Melissa Unis at office@ccgronline.com or 978-281-4820. Please pray for all of our newly baptized young disciples and their families! Congratulations to all! All parishioners and friends are encouraged to learn more about the Sacraments of the Roman Catholic Church by visiting our website: ccgronline.com/sacraments! Please join us! All are invited! All are welcome!

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP, AND SERVICE

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PAGEANT Saturday, January 6th at 4:00pm Mass

Each year, the Catholic Church celebrates the Season of Christmas from December 25th through the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on January 8th. During Christmas-time, we commemorate the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ; the choir of angels praising God in heaven; the call of the shepherds; and the adoration of the Magi with their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

As part of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport's celebration of the Christmas Season, we invite children from Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish to participate in our Youth Christmas Pageant on Saturday, January 6th at 4:00pm in Saint Ann Church. This dramatization of the Nativity of the Lord depends on the participation of young angels and shepherds, along with those interested in playing the roles of the Magi and the Holy Family.

If your child, grandchild, or godchild would like to participate in this wonderful holiday tradition, please contact Betsy Works at bworks@ccgronline.com; or Sue Demetri at sdemetri2000@yahoo.com. Betsy and Sue can also be reached by phone at 978-281-4820. Please join us! All are invited! All are welcome!

THE ASSISI PROJECT NEED PRAYERS?

Founded in 2007 by Father Jim and Cliff Garvey, the Assisi Project is a "Fellowship of Franciscans in Spirit" that seeks to live the Gospel of Christ through the inspiration and intercession of Saint Francis of Assisi. The Assisi Project always welcomes new members and meets on the last Saturday of every month beginning with Mass at 8:00am in Saint Ann Church. Our fellowship, ranging in age from 15 to 92, also pray for all who ask for our prayers. If you would like the Assisi Project to pray for you or your special intention, please see Cliff or contact him at 978-281-4820 or cgarvey@ccgronline.com.

PASTOR'S NOTE WINTER WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

For the latest information about weather related cancellations during the winter months in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport, please visit our website at ccgronline.com. Announcements will also be made on WBZ1030 and cbsboston.com. All parishioners should note that if the public schools are closed during the week due to inclement weather, then our weekday Mass and all adult and youth faith formation programs will be canceled on that day. Peace and blessings to all for a Merry Christmas and a very safe winter season! — Father Jim

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP, AND SERVICE

THE LEGION OF MARY

New Members Always Welcome!

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.

Each Wednesday afternoon at 4:00pm, the Legion of Mary meets in our parish center (located at 74 Pleasant Street in Gloucester) 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 parish communities, please contact Sue Demetri at 978-281-4820 or sdemetri2000@yahoo.com. Please join us! New members are always welcome!

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

New Members Always Welcome!

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. Our Clothes Closet is open on Saturdays from 10:00am until 1:00pm. Our Food Pantry is stocked with non-perishable foods. Donation baskets are located at the entrances of our churches. The Food Pantry needs the following items:

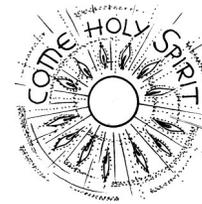
Canned Chicken, Ham, Stew, or Tuna
Crackers · Canned Juice · Chicken or Tuna Helper
Mayonnaise · Instant Potatoes · Hot & Cold Cereals
Canned Fruits & Vegetables · Apple Sauce
Pancake Mix & Maple Syrup · Chef Boyardee
Peanut Butter & Jelly · Jarred Pasta Sauce

Donation envelopes are located at the entrances of our churches and can be placed in the offertory basket or mailed to us. Checks should be made payable to the Saint Vincent de Paul Society. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00pm in Our Lady's Hall. The Saint Vincent de Paul Society warmly welcomes new members and volunteers! For more information, contact Barbara Frontiero at Barbara.Frontiero@gortons.com or Harry Miller at 978-281-2701. For assistance, please contact our Hotline at 978-281-8672. Thank you!

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

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

MAKING YOUNG DISCIPLES



THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Saturday, January 13th & Saturday, February 3rd

Along with Baptism and Holy Eucharist, Confirmation is one of the three Sacraments of Initiation in the Roman Catholic Church. The Sacrament of Confirmation completes the grace of Baptism through the outpouring of the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Courage, Knowledge, Reverence, Right Judgment, Understanding, Wisdom, and Wonder & Awe. These gifts seal or "confirm" the mystical union between the candidate and Christ Jesus and prepare them to actively participate in the prayer, worship, and apostolic ministry of the Catholic Church.

This year, forty-two high school students from both Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish have successfully completed the requirements of our Confirmation Preparation Program. During the past two years, they attended Mass together and completed a rigorous program of formation. In addition, they participated in the "New Spirit Evening of Reflection"; completed service projects; and prayed together as a community of young disciples. These students are now well-prepared to publicly renew their baptismal vows, profess their faith, and live as faithful and faith-filled Roman Catholics.

The Very Reverend Mark O'Connell, Auxiliary Bishop for the North Region of the Archdiocese of Boston will join us for our annual celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday, January 13th at 4:00pm in Saint Ann Church; and Saturday, February 3rd at 6:00pm in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church.

As always, the success of our youth faith formation program depends on volunteers. So, on behalf of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport, Father Jim gives God great thanks and praise for this year's dedicated and hardworking team of catechists: Peter Brau, Jennifer Dort, Mary Duran, and Doug Greenfield. Their generous gifts of time and talent have ensured that all of our candidates are ready to accept and embrace the Gifts of the Holy Spirit at their Confirmation. Thank you!

As we approach our celebrations of the Sacrament of Confirmation, please pray for them and for their parents, sponsors, and families. For more information about our youth faith formation programs, please contact Betsy Works at 978-281-4820 or bworks@ccgronline.com. Please join us! All are welcome!

OUR MASS INTENTIONS**DECEMBER 30, 2017 – JANUARY 7, 2018**

Saturday, December 30	Vigil · Feast of the Holy Family
4:00pm · Saint Ann	Joseph P. Nicastro
6:00pm · OLGV	Eugene & Manny Naves
Sunday, December 31	Feast of the Holy Family
7:00am · OLGV	Special Intention
8:15am · Saint Ann	John Orlando
10:00am · Saint Joachim	Angela A. Vitale
11:45am · OLGV	Alfredo Silva
5:00pm · Saint Ann	No Mass Scheduled
	Season of Christmas
Monday, January 1st 8:00am · OLGV	Joseph Burnham
Tuesday, January 2nd 8:00am · Saint Joachim	Claudette Gagnon
Wednesday, January 3rd 8:00am · OLGV	Debra Yaniko
Thursday, January 4th 8:00am · Saint Joachim	Faith Shaughnessy
Friday, January 5th 8:00am · OLGV	Rev. Mr. Raymond Wellbank
Saturday, January 6th 8:00am · Saint Ann	Maria dos Anjos Medeiros
Saturday, January 6th	Vigil · The Epiphany of the Lord
4:00pm · Saint Ann	Vincenzo Terranova
6:00pm · OLGV	Anthony & Elsie Marks
Sunday, January 7th	The Epiphany of the Lord
7:00am · OLGV	John Orlando
8:15am · Saint Ann	Julia Guarassi
10:00am · Saint Joachim	Helene Ayivor
11:45am · OLGV	Mr. & Mrs. Mercurio Orlando
5:00pm · Saint Ann	Mass for the People

OUR PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR**PASTOR'S NOTE****Peace & Blessings for a Happy New Year!**

Due to an early printing deadline, we are unable to post last weekend's offertory. Please remember that your weekly gift is much appreciated and enables us to do God's work in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport. Thank you for your generous support of both Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish. On behalf of our pastoral team, we wish you peace, blessings, and all good things for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! And we ask you to join with us in raising our hearts & voices in this prayer for the coming year:

Almighty God and Father,
a child is born for us, a son is given to us.
We are filled with the new light
by the coming of your Word among us.
May the light of faith
shine in all our thoughts, words, and actions.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. Amen!

We hope and pray that you and your family will join us again for Mass next week! Until then, Merry Christmas! Peace and blessings for a happy new year! — Father Jim

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 Matteo Russo
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Rev. Mr. Raymond Wellbank
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Joachim Church

In Memory of Joseph Burnham
Sanctuary Candle · Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

In Memory of Angelo Noto
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Anthony Chapel

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@ccgrronline.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!