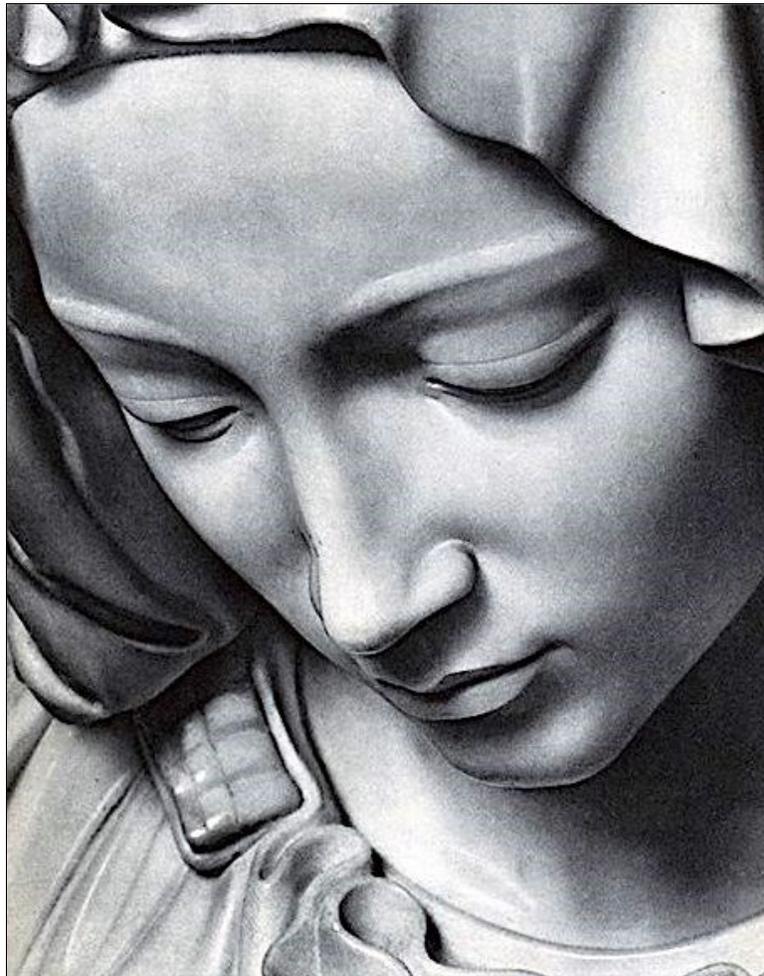


The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport

HOLY FAMILY PARISH & OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH

A Community United in Prayer, Fellowship, and Service
The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God · January 1, 2019



THE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE — PAGE 3

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

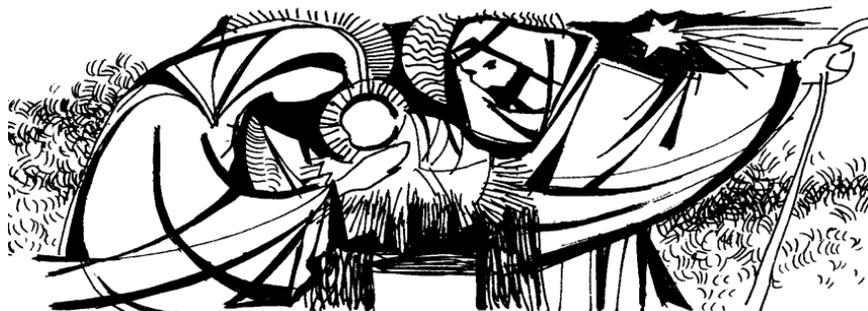
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Office Hours: Monday through Friday 10:00am-4:00pm

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

A Prayer for Charity

Dearest Mother Mary,
you lived for many years
in the little country town of Nazareth.
You had neighbors, good and bad.
You had occasion to talk about them to others,
and to listen to what others said about them.
But we know, Mary,
that in all of your conversations
with friends and neighbors,
you never committed any sins.
Dearest Mother Mary,
help us to realize
that there are no people who are so bad
that we cannot say something good about them.
Teach us to speak of the good things people do,
instead of the bad things.
And when we must speak of evil deeds,
let us condemn the deed, never the doer.
Your own Son died on the cross
to wipe away such deeds
and to save those who do them.
When conversations become hurtful,
help us to turn toward other subjects
with prudence and sensitivity.
Dearest Mother Mary,
you were always a good neighbor.
When the temptation to indulge
in the sin of gossip comes,
may the very thought of you help us.
You are the mother of divine love:
teach us to practice charity and kindness
in all of our interactions
with all people everywhere. Amen.

Source: The Rural Life Prayer Book



THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

The Gift of Forgiveness

BY FATHER WILLIAM H. SHANNON

Every day I say a prayer at least seven times which, if I truly thought about its full meaning, would scare me half to death. I say the Lord's Prayer through which I ask God to treat me the way I treat others. I suspect — even though I don't like to admit it — that I secretly hope that God will treat me much better than I treat others. I am not a nasty person; at least I don't think that I am. But there are times when I treat others rather shabbily, times when I find it hard to forgive. Oh, I can go through the external motions of being gingerly polite, but rancor may still be in my heart. So, let's admit it. It takes courage to say the Lord's Prayer.

In the Gospel of Matthew, we read: "If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions (Matthew 6:14-15). In this text, Jesus is blunt. If you forgive, God will forgive you. If you do not forgive, God will not forgive you. That's it. Forgive or else. What does Jesus mean by such strong words? First, let's be clear about what he doesn't mean. He doesn't mean that ours is a God of retaliation, a God who tells us, "I'll show you. If you don't forgive, I will get even. I won't forgive you either." Jesus reveals a God who loves us and continues to love us, no matter what we do. The point Jesus is making is more subtle. He is telling us that God, as much as God might want to do so, cannot forgive us if we do not forgive others. He is telling us that forgiveness cannot be received by an unforgiving heart.

Outside of my office window is a cement sidewalk. I think to myself: How nice it would be if I could look out and, instead of seeing slabs of concrete, encounter a colorful garden of lovely flowers growing in the middle of that space. I might even ask a friend with a green thumb to plant such flowers there for me. Alas, as much as he might want to please me, it is impossible for my friend to do so. The concrete is too hard to receive the roots of the flowers. Likewise, a hardened heart can be no more open to forgiveness than concrete is to flower seeds. We must have our hardened hearts softened and opened by God's grace so that God's loving forgiveness can flow into us, then through us to others.

Do you remember the story of the Israelites in the desert protesting to Moses that they have no water? God ordered Moses to strike a huge rock with his staff and, behold, water gushed forth in abundance. Early Church writers often prayed for the gift of tears that would open their hearts and enable them to receive God's loving forgiveness. In the Roman Missal, there is a beautiful "Mass for the Forgiveness of Sins" which is known more colloquially as the "Mass for the Gift of Tears." The opening prayer is strikingly beautiful: "Almighty and most gentle God, who brought forth from the rock a fountain of living water for your thirsty people, bring forth, we pray, from the kindness of our hearts, tears of sorrow, so that we may lament our sins and merit forgiveness from your mercy." The situation may well arise when this lovely prayer will prove helpful for any one of us.

About the Author: Father William Shannon is a retired priest of the Diocese of Honolulu, Hawaii. Now retired, Father Shannon is a former Capuchin Friar, parish priest, and diocesan director of seminarians. If you enjoyed this week's message, please check out "Bringing Home the Word!" A new edition is posted every weekend at ccgronline.com/news/

SHARING GOD'S LOVE



WELCOMING YOUNG DISCIPLES THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM OUR SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 2019

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:

Sacrament of Baptism
Sunday, January 13th at 1:00pm
Saint Ann Church

Sacrament of Baptism
Sunday, January 20th at 1:00pm
Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

Sacrament of Baptism
Sunday, January 27th at 10:00am Mass
Saint Joachim Church

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

Madalena Lewis
Giulia Maiorana
Elizabeth Rodolosi
Anthony Romeo
Henrik Verkade V

If you would like to schedule your child's baptism in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport, please contact Sheila McCarthy at smccarthy@ccgonline.com or 978-281-4820. Please pray for our newly baptized young disciples and for their parents, grandparents, godparents, and siblings! May God bless all families with good health, happiness, and much love! Congratulations to all!

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SACRAMENTS!

Join us: ccgonline.com/sacraments

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP, AND SERVICE

SPECIAL EVENT for FAMILIES ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT Saturday, January 5th at 4:00pm

Every year, the Catholic Church celebrates the Season of Christmas from December 25th through the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on January 13th. 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 5th 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 role 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@ccgonline.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!

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF FIRST PENANCE & RECONCILIATION Saturday, January 5th at 9:00am

As the new year begins, seventy-six of our youngest fellow parishioners from both Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish are preparing for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion in our youth faith formation program. On Saturday, January 5th at 9:00am in Saint Ann Church, our community of young disciples will continue their preparation by participating in the Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation (Confession) for the very first time.

First Penance is an important milestone on a child's journey of faith. It teaches them (and reminds all of us) about conscience, humility, forgiveness, and God's boundless gifts of love and mercy for each and every one of us. As preparations for First Holy Communion continue, please pray for all of our students and their families, and for all of our catechists and volunteers.

For more information about youth faith formation in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport, please contact Betsy Works at bworks@ccgonline.com or 978-281-4820. Please join us! All are invited! All are welcome! Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP, AND SERVICE

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS SCHEDULE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD Monday, December 31st & Tuesday, January 1st

All are invited to join the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport for Holy Mass as we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God on Monday, December 31st and Tuesday, January 1st. Our Masses will be celebrated according to the following schedule:

**Vigil · Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
New Year's Eve · Monday, December 31st**
Saint Ann Church at 4:00pm

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
New Year's Day · Tuesday, January 1st**
Saint Joachim Church at 8:00am
Our Lady of Good Voyage Church at 10:00am

All are reminded that the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God is a Holy Day of Obligation for Roman Catholics. It also commemorates the World Day of Peace throughout the world. For more information, please contact Father Jim at frjim@ccgronline.com or 978-281-4820. Please join us! All are invited! All are welcome! Happy New Year!

A SPECIAL MESSAGE OF THANKS TO SOME VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE

As the Christmas Season continues, let us join together in a prayer of heartfelt thanksgiving for the parishioners and pastoral team members who dedicated their time, talent, and treasure in helping us celebrate these holy days with a spirit of faith, hope, and love for the Lord. On behalf of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport, we thank Suzanne McLaughlin, Matt Maglio, Jane Russo, Lucy Sheehan, Lori Thorstensen, an anonymous elf, and a little dog for their good work in decorating our churches so beautifully for the holidays.

We also thank Barbara Frontiero, Carolyn Gillman, Mary Agnes Gillman, Barbara Maloney, and the members of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society for their hard work with this year's Christmas Giving Trees. In addition, we thank all adults and children who served as acolytes, greeters, lectors, ushers, and Eucharistic ministers at Mass, especially on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Last but not least, we sincerely thank Tom Misuraca, Luan Palazolla, Patty Natti, Alexandra Kirby, Kathleen Adams & our adult, youth, and Brazilian music ministers for giving us the gifts of beautiful music and song during the Advent and Christmas Seasons. 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

REBUILDING OUR CHURCH

TRIVIA NIGHT

BRAIN TEASING SPECIAL EVENT
TRIVIA NIGHT with FATHER JIM
SATURDAY, JANUARY 19TH AT 7:00PM

All parishioners, friends, and guests of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport are invited to join us for a brain-teasing, mind-blowing, and fast-paced special event: "Trivia Night with Father Jim" on Saturday, January 19th from 7:00pm until 10:00pm in Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish Hall. Throughout the evening, Father Jim (who is secretly a quiz master and aspiring game show host) will ask a series of questions on a wide array of topics ranging from music and sports, movies and television, books and history, religion and good, old-fashioned trivia.

Tickets are \$20 per person. Participants will be organized into teams of eight, so all are welcome to organize a team in advance or take your chances at the door! Tickets will be available at the door, in our parish office, or by contacting Father Jim. All are invited to bring food and snacks. Coffee, tea, bottled water, and soft drinks will be offered for sale (along with a cash bar). Father Jim promises cool prizes and raffles, too!

Don't miss this chance to impress your friends and neighbors with your knowledge of facts, figures, and trivia! Don't miss this chance to share a few laughs with family and fellow parishioners! Don't miss your chance to win a great prize! And don't miss this chance to raise some much needed funds for Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish! For more information, please contact Father Jim at 978-281-4820 or frjim@ccgronline.com. Please join us! All are invited! All are welcome! Merry Christmas!

PASTOR'S NOTE WINTER WEATHER CANCELLATIONS Join us: ccgronline.com!

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-AM and cbsboston.com. All parishioners should note that if public schools are closed on a particular weekday due to inclement weather, then our daily Mass and all adult and youth faith formation programs will be cancelled on that day, too. Peace and blessings to all for a safe winter season! — Father Jim

OUR MASS INTENTIONS**DECEMBER 29 – JANUARY 6, 2019**

Saturday, December 29	Vigil · Feast of the Holy Family
4:00pm · Saint Ann	Joseph P. Nicastro
6:00pm · OLGV	Mary Schmorrow Enos
Sunday, December 30	Feast of the Holy Family
7:00am · OLGV	Maria Padre
8:15am · Saint Ann	Captain Vito Ciaramitaro
10:00am · Saint Joachim	Martha Jane Coulbourn
11:45am · OLGV	Eugene & Manny Naves
5:00pm · Saint Ann	Healing of God's Family
	Christmas Season
Monday, December 31 8:00am · OLGV	Sam Loiacano
Tuesday, January 1 8:00am · Saint Joachim	Celestino Goulart
Wednesday, January 2 8:00am · OLGV	Reverend Patrick J. Kelly
Thursday, January 3 8:00am · Saint Joachim	John Loiacano
Friday, January 4 8:00am · OLGV	Alice Fenton
Saturday, January 5 8:00am · Saint Ann	Joan Spittle
Saturday, January 5	Vigil · Epiphany of the Lord
4:00pm · Saint Ann	Peter Feeney
6:00pm · OLGV	Anthony & Elsie Marks
Sunday, January 6	Epiphany of the Lord
7:00am · OLGV	John Barbosa
8:15am · Saint Ann	Giuseppa Balistreci
10:00am · Saint Joachim	James Carter, Sr.
11:45am · OLGV	Frank Santo
5:00pm · Saint Ann	Healing of God's Family

OUR WEEKLY GIFTS**PASTOR'S NOTE****Electronic Giving: Safe, Simple, Secure**

Due to an early printer's deadline, we are unable to post last weekend's collections. Please remember that your weekly gift is much appreciated, ensures the financial stability of our parishes, and empowers us to live the Gospel, share God's love, and rebuild the Church here in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport.

Another important component of our ongoing fundraising effort is the "We Share" electronic giving program which is now available at both Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish. It is safe, simple, and secure to make online donations to your home parish using a credit card, debit card, or electronic check. Donations can be made on a one-time or ongoing basis. And it takes just a few minutes to set up a personal account.

For more information about electronic giving, please see Father Jim before or after Mass; or contact Melissa Unis at 978-281-4820 or office@ccgronline.com. On behalf of Father Jim and every member of our pastoral team, thank you for your generous support of our parishes! Peace and blessings for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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. The requested donation for a sanctuary candle is \$25. This week, donations were offered for the following intentions:

In Memory of Louis Linquata
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Helen F. Taber
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Joachim Church

In Memory of Brien Kennedy
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Anthony Chapel

In Memory of Brian Tarr
Sanctuary Candle · Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

For more information about donating sanctuary candles, sanctuary flowers, or sanctuary gifts in memory of a deceased family member, friend, or loved one, please contact Melissa Unis at office@ccgronline.com or 978-281-4820. Thank you for your generous support!

ADULT FAITH FORMATION 2019

Learn more: ccgronline.com/formation
All are invited! All are welcome!