

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 9, 2018



SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

A SEASON OF GRACE

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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Cover Art: "Saint John the Baptist in the Wilderness" by Bartolome Esteban Murillo

PASTOR'S NOTES

Mass Intentions Book

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13TH - 11:00AM—1:00PM

The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport's Mass Intentions Book (January 2019 through June 2019) will be opened on Thursday, December 13th from 11:00am until 1:00pm in our parish office. On that day, all parishioners are welcome to book one Sunday Mass and one weekday Mass at Saint Ann Church, Saint Joachim Church, or Our Lady of Good Voyage Church. On that day, all Mass intentions must be booked in person. No email, fax, or phone requests will be accepted. No exceptions! All remaining Masses can be booked on or after Tuesday, December 18th. For more information, please contact Father Jim at frjim@ccgonline.com or 978-281-4820. Thank you for your cooperation and support! Peace and blessings to all! — Father Jim

Special Message of Thanks to Some Very Musical People

Each week, our parishes are blessed with the gift of beautiful music. Whether praying with us during the celebration of Mass, celebrating with us at weddings, grieving with us at funerals, or performing at special events throughout the year, our music ministers bless us by their dedication and good work. One of the special events is the Annual Advent & Christmas Concert. And last Sunday, nearly three hundred parishioners and friends of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport gathered in Saint Ann Church for this wonderful holiday tradition.

On behalf of a truly grateful community, our deepest thanks go to Tom Misuraca, LuAnn Pallazola, Patty Natti, Alexandra Kirby, and Kathleen Adams for directing our adult and youth ministries in a program of choral and instrumental music that prepared our hearts to welcome the Christ Child at Christmas. It was a beautiful performance! We also sincerely thank each and every member of our adult and youth music ministries for their ongoing gifts of time and talent. We thank God for the gift of music in our parishes! Peace and blessings to all! — Father Jim

Special Message of Thanks to Some Very Special People

It is not possible to thank each and every parishioner who contributes their time, talent, and treasure in order to make our parishes such special places to love and serve the Lord. Nevertheless, on behalf of all parishioners, we owe a debt of sincere gratitude to some very special people for their hard work and dedication to Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish.

First, we thank the members of Our Lady's Guild for their strong commitment and long hours in building fellowship and raising funds for Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish. Last weekend, the Guild's Annual Christmas Fair raised approximately \$6,300 for the parish. We also thank the Holy Name Society for raising more than \$3,000 at their annual Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway. Thanks to all Guild members, Holy Name members, sweetbread bakers, and volunteers!

Likewise, we thank the members of the Women's Guild at Holy Family Parish for making the Annual Christmas Fair such a great success. This year, the fair raised approximately \$20,000 for the parish. The Guild's energy and enthusiasm for their work is both amazing and infectious! So, whether you worship at Holy Family Parish or Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish, please offer a sincere prayer of thanksgiving for all our volunteers! Peace and blessings to all! — Father Jim

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

A Season of Grace

BY CLIFF GARVEY

Several years ago, Pope Francis said: "A Christmas without light is not Christmas. Let there be light in our souls and light in our hearts. Let there be forgiveness for others, which is light; let there be no hostility, which is darkness. Let there only be the beautiful light of Jesus." With these words, the Holy Father reminds us that Jesus is the embodiment (or incarnation) of God's grace. This grace can be understood as God's free gift of himself. And it has the power to bring us closer to the Lord and to each other. It has the power to transform our lives.

Likewise, Father Raniero Cantalamessa speaks about God's gift of grace in terms of the world's longing for peace. In an Advent retreat given to the papal household, he said: "If one could hear the loudest cry that is in the hearts of billions of people, one would hear, in all the languages of the world, only one word: peace!" At some level, all of us, in our heart of hearts, beg God for peace: peace in our families, workplaces, parishes, and hometowns. We pray for peace in our country and in our world. We long for peace in our lives as we face the everyday challenges and uncertainties that arise from addiction, divorce, finances, grief, and stress.

If we reflect honestly about our divided country, our wounded church, and our suffering world, then we might conclude that although we wish for peace, we sometimes do not work very hard at achieving it; and sometimes we do not work very hard at sharing it with others. For example, have you ever failed to turn around during the Sign of Peace at Mass? Have you ever offered a limp handshake or reluctant nod, even to people you have known for years? What would happen if we took the Sign of Peace more seriously? What would happen if we always turned around, if we walked across the aisle, if we sincerely and enthusiastically shared God's grace and peace? Let's try it! Let's try it this weekend!

Whatever happens, we should not think of God's grace and peace as "horizontal" gifts that are shared between nations, communities, or even people like us gathered at Mass or around the Christmas tree. Rather, God's gift of grace is "vertical." It is a gift between God and us as a community of faith; between God and us in our families, between God and you and me as individual disciples. It is a gift from heaven to earth. But we cannot hope to be instruments of God's peace if we have not accepted God's gift of grace into our lives with truly open hearts.

Pope Francis once said: "We cannot be messengers of the consolations of God if we do not first experience the joy of being consoled and loved by Him. This happens when we listen to the Word!" The Holy Father always tells us that we will never find God's grace in the gifts of the world: money, power, success, or sophistication. Instead, we find it through acts of love, mercy, and generosity. We find it in words of consolation, tenderness, and encouragement. We find God's grace in the scriptures. And we find it in a manger in Bethlehem. God's Word is alive! God's Word is the Child Jesus who will soon be born among us!

Here's the best part about this season of grace: God offers this gift to everyone! The light of Christmas burns brightly for all people: no matter who they are, no matter where they are, no matter what they have done. No heart is too dark. No mind is too dark. No past is too dark. No sin is too dark. No life is too dark to receive God's grace at Christmas. And so, as our Advent journey continues, let us open our whole lives to God's blessings of grace and peace; and let us strive to share those great gifts with the whole world!

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

A VIGIL OF PRAYER

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12TH · BEGINS AT 4:00PM

OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE CHURCH

On December 12, 1531, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Saint Juan Diego and assured him that his uncle would recover from a serious illness. The Virgin then told Juan Diego to gather roses in his cloak and present them to the local bishop. When the cloak was opened, the roses fell to the floor and miraculously revealed the famous image now known as Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Since the sixteenth century, God's faithful people have grown in reverence for the iconic image of Our Lady of Guadalupe and her basilica in Mexico City is the world's third most-visited pilgrimage site. And over time, the Church has grown in appreciation for this miraculous image of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In 1945, Pope Pius XII accorded her the titles of Empress of the Americas and Patroness of the Americas. In 1961, Pope John XXIII invoked her intercession as Mother of the Americas. And in 1966, Pope Paul VI gave her a Golden Rose, a special ornament that signifies a papal blessing or devotion.

In 2013, Pope Francis bestowed upon the sacred image a second Golden Rose upon which is engraved words in Latin that mean: "My Mother & My Hope." Pope Francis has said repeatedly that Our Lady of Guadalupe should be venerated as the mother of all people, especially all who suffer, all who feel excluded or worthless, and all who feel as though "they weep in vain."

Among those who weep in vain are the victims of bigotry, violence, and public policies that discriminate against the poor, the sick and refugees from around the world. We are called to stand with them as brothers and sisters in prayer and solidarity. In this spirit, the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport invites you and your family for a special Vigil of Prayer on Wednesday, December 12th, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church.

Our Vigil of Prayer will begin at 4:00pm with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and a Rosary for Peace & Healing in our divided country, our wounded church, and our troubled world. From 5:00pm until 6:30pm, along with silent adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Father Jim will hear confessions. We will conclude at 6:30pm with Evening Prayer and Benediction.

For more information about this special event, please see Father Jim before or after Mass; or contact him at 978-281-4820 or frjim@ccgronline.com. Please join us! All are invited! All are welcome! Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of the Americas, pray for us!

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP, AND SERVICE

BISHOP CHEVERUS MEDAL CONGRATULATIONS & THANKS TO JOAN FOSTER & HERBERT MORAIS

On behalf of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport, Father Jim congratulates Joan Foster of Holy Family Parish and Herbert Morais of Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish, who received the Bishop Cheverus Medal from Cardinal Sean O'Malley during a Solemn Vespers Service on Sunday, November 25th at Immaculate Conception Church in Malden.

For more than four decades, Joan Foster has faithfully served Holy Family Parish in a variety of ministries: both as catechist and coordinator of religious education programs; as a member of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, and as past president of the Legion of Mary. Joan continues to serve in the Legion of Mary by reaching out to our aged, disabled, and homebound fellow parishioners. She gave living witness to the Sacrament of Marriage by lovingly caring for her late husband, Robert Foster. Joan is much loved by her family, friends, and fellow parishioners, but most especially by her five children, eight grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Likewise, Herbert Morais has faithfully served Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish for many decades as both Sexton and Facilities Manager, as a past president of the Holy Name Society, and as a past imperator and longtime volunteer in organizing the Annual Crowning Feast of the Holy Spirit. Herbie continues to welcome parishioners and to serve as an usher at our 6:00pm Vigil Mass. Herbie is much loved by his family, friends, and fellow parishioners, but most especially by his wife, Maria, their two daughters, and four grandchildren.

The Bishop Cheverus Medal was created in 2008 to recognize distinguished service by lay ministers in their home parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Boston. The medal is often given in heartfelt appreciation for the unsung heroes of God's Holy Church. In a letter to one recent recipient, Cardinal Sean wrote: "I have learned of your selfless dedication and commitment and your many contributions to advancing Christ's mission. We are blessed by your service to the Archdiocese and we are privileged to name you for this honor."

Please join Father Jim, our pastoral team, and all who live, work, and worship in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport in congratulating Joan Foster and Herbert Morais for being chosen as among this year's recipients of the Bishop Cheverus Medal! Please thank Joan and Herbie for all that they do with love and good cheer for all of us! And please pray for them and their families! Peace and blessings to all!

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP, AND SERVICE

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. And our Food Pantry is stocked with non-perishable foods. Donation baskets are located at the entrances of our churches. The Food Pantry needs these items:

Assorted Canned Soups
Beef Stew · Chef Boyardee
Canned Tuna · Chicken & Tuna Helper
Chips, Cookies, Crackers, and Snacks
Instant Mashed Potatoes
Pancake Mix & Syrup
Pasta & Sauce · Ramen Noodles · Rice-a-Roni
Peanut Butter & Jelly

Donation envelopes are located at the entrances of our churches. Donations 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 4:00pm in Our Lady's Hall. The Saint Vincent de Paul Society warmly welcomes new members and volunteers! For more information, please contact Harry Miller at 978-281-2701 or Barbara Frontiero at Barbara.Frontiero@gortons.com. If you or your family needs our assistance, please contact us at 978-281-8672. Thank you for your generous support!

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS GIVING TREES Help Us Share the Gift of Christmas!

This year, the Saint Vincent de Paul Society will once again sponsor the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport's Christmas Giving Trees which share the Gift of Christmas with local families in need. During the weekend of November 24th–25th, the Giving Trees will be at the entrances of our three churches. Each tree will be decorated with stars that include a special Christmas wish. If you can fulfill this wish, please take a star!

Every donated gift should be new, unused, and unwrapped and placed under the tree or delivered to our parish office by Tuesday, December 11th. The Giving Trees will remain in our churches through Sunday, December 9th. For more information, please contact Barbara Frontiero at barbara.frontiero@gortons.com or 978-281-4820. Thank you in advance for your generous support! May God bless us, everyone!

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP, AND SERVICE

A CALL TO PRAYER FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE MOTHER OF THE AMERICAS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12TH

As we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, let us be mindful that she watches over us as Mother of the Americas and Mother of All Peoples. Since 2016, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has designated the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe as a day of prayer for all immigrants and refugees. In this spirit, let us pray together for her intercession for all families who long for a better life; and let us pray for peace and justice in our country and around the world.

Hail Mary, Lady of Peace,
we pray for peace in our world,
make us peacemakers.

Hail Mary, Friend of Common People,
unite us across economic lines;
let us together raise up the cause of the oppressed.

Hail Mary, Mother of the Americas,
help us to appreciate the cultures of all people
and to work for the common good of all.

Hail Mary, Mother of the Child Jesus,
we pray for all children who are victims
of war and hunger; let us stand up for them.

Hail Mary, Spouse of Joseph the Worker,
we pray for the rights of working people
all around the world;
may their dignity be always respected.

Hail Mary, Mother of All Generations,
inspire us to speak for the elderly
who lack good health care and shelter.

Hail Mary, Homeless Mother,
we pray for all people without homes;
let us be advocates for affordable housing.

Hail Mary, Mother of All Colors,
show us how to love all people
by challenging racism and discrimination.

Hail Mary, Mother of the World,
may we become global citizens,
working for justice and peace throughout the world.

Glory to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.
Amen.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us!
Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, pray for us!
Our Lady of Good Voyage, pray for us!

OUR MASS INTENTIONS**DECEMBER 8 – DECEMBER 16, 2018**

Saturday, December 8	Vigil · Second Sunday of Advent
4:00pm · Saint Ann	Angela Antonina Vitale
6:00pm · OLGV	The Lupo Family
Sunday, December 9	Second Sunday of Advent
7:00am · OLGV	The Bruni Family
8:15am · Saint Ann	Deacon Raymond Wellbank
10:00am · Saint Joachim	Salvatore Loiacano & Family
11:45am · OLGV	Pietro & Rosario Cannavo
5:00pm · Saint Ann	Vincenzo Terranova
	Second Week of Advent
Monday, December 10 8:00am · OLGV	Communion Service
Tuesday, December 11 8:00am · Saint Joachim	The Kaminsky Family
Wednesday, December 12 8:00am · OLGV	Donald Borge
Thursday, December 13 8:00am · Saint Joachim	Herbert Hultin
Friday, December 14 8:00am · OLGV	The Sears Family
Saturday, December 15 8:00am · Saint Ann	George Grace
Saturday, December 15	Vigil · Third Sunday of Advent
4:00pm · Saint Ann	Ronald Joseph
6:00pm · OLGV	Josephine M. Rallo
Sunday, December 16	Third Sunday of Advent
7:00am · OLGV	Herman J. Surette
8:15am · Saint Ann	John & Marion Cuff
10:00am · Saint Joachim	The Ramsden Family
11:45am · OLGV	José Goulart
5:00pm · Saint Ann	Matteo & Vincenza Cusumano

OUR WEEKLY GIFTS**HOLY FAMILY PARISH****Weekend of December 1st – December 2nd**

Weekly Offerings	\$5,868.00
Electronic Donations	\$878.00
Total Offerings	\$6,746.00
Second Collection (Flowers)	\$2,291.00

Thank you for your generous support
of Holy Family Parish!

OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH**Weekend of December 1st – December 2nd**

Weekly Offerings	\$2,922.00
Electronic Donations	\$80.00
Total Offerings	\$3,002.00
Second Collection (Flowers)	\$1,140.00

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

In Memory of Grace R. (Catania) Veerman
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Scott Waddleton
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Joachim Church

In Memory of the Langevin Family
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Anthony Chapel

In Memory of Matteo Cusumano
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!

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