

The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport

HOLY FAMILY PARISH & OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH

Live the Gospel. Share God's Love. Rebuild the Church.
The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ · December 25, 2019



WELCOME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS!

OUR PASTOR'S MESSAGE — PAGE 3

The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport
United in Prayer, Fellowship, and Service

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The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport

HOLY FAMILY PARISH & OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH

*We joyfully invite you and your family to join us for Holy Mass
in celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ at Christmas!*

CHRISTMAS EVE TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

SAINT ANN CHURCH AT 4:00PM

OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE CHURCH
AT 6:00PM & MIDNIGHT

CHRISTMAS DAY WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

SAINT ANN CHURCH AT 8:15AM

SAINT JOACHIM CHURCH AT 10:00AM

OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE CHURCH AT 11:45AM

SOLEMNTIY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD NEW YEAR'S EVE · TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31ST

SAINT ANN CHURCH AT 4:00PM

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD NEW YEAR'S DAY · WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1ST

OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE CHURCH AT 8:00AM

SAINT JOACHIM CHURCH AT 10:00AM

**PLEASE JOIN US! SPREAD THE WORD!
ALL ARE INVITED! ALL ARE WELCOME!
PEACE & BLESSINGS TO ALL!
MERRY CHRISTMAS! HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

OUR PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome Home for Christmas!

BY FATHER JIM

As Pope John XXIII opened the Second Vatican Council in 1962, he cried out: "I wish to throw open the windows of the Church so that we can see out and the people can see in!" Years later, in 1978, at the beginning of Pope John Paul II's long pontificate, he declared: "Do not be afraid! Let us open wide the doors!" Decades later, in 2013, Pope Francis prayed: "May the Church be the place of God's love and mercy, where everyone can feel themselves welcomed, loved, forgiven, and encouraged to live according to the good life of the Gospel. In order to make others feel welcomed, loved, and forgiven, we must open our doors so that all may enter and we must go out of those doors and proclaim the Gospel!"

In their own way and in their own time, these three popes gave witness to the need for the Roman Catholic Church to rebuild itself, renew itself, and reach out to those who are detached, distant, and feeling isolated from their brothers and sisters in faith. Now it is our turn! As Holy Family Parish, Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish, and the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport celebrate the Christmas Season, we remind our friends, families, fellow parishioners, and guests that we are a people united in prayer, fellowship, and service. Our mission is to live the Gospel of Christ, to share God's love and mercy, and to rebuild the Church in our small corner of the world.

In this spirit, the celebration of Holy Mass is the source and summit of our community's joy and the object of our shared worship. All are welcome to gather with us for Mass and to participate in Holy Communion in accordance with a personal examination of conscience and the teachings of the Catholic Church. At the same time, like Pope Francis, we believe that "the Eucharist is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak." It is long past time for us to throw open the windows, unlock the doors, reach out to those in need of solace, and shout from the rooftops: "All are welcome!"

Our doors are open to every saint and every sinner. Our doors are open to the rich and the poor, to the young and the old, and to everyone in between. Our doors are open to married couples, single men and women, to straight people and gay people, and to anyone who is trying to find their way in this long-suffering world. Our doors are open to every citizen and non-citizen and to all people of goodwill who seek to belong to a community of prayer. Our doors are open to healthy people and sick people and to all who long for the Lord's healing presence in their lives. Again and again and again, you and your family are welcome here – today, tomorrow, and always!

So, let us throw open our doors and windows! Let us open our arms and our hearts and our minds! Let us make room in the pew! Let us make room for the Poor Christ among us! Let us welcome the neighbor & the stranger! Let us cry out together with the angels of the heavenly host: "Welcome Home for Christmas!"

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



CALL TO PRAYER WILL YOU LET ME IN? A PRAYER FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Lord, you split no sky
when you were born among us.
And you rose not from the sea.
A star was seen in the heavens,
but only by those who looked.
A choir of angels was heard,
but only by those who listened.

Just the cry of a poor refugee,
turning to no one,
turning to everyone, saying:
"Will you let me in?"

And so, when every night is winter,
and every town is Bethlehem,
and every inn seems full,
and on every ear those words are heard:
"Will you let me in?"

May we have eyes to see the star.
May we have ears to hear the choir.
May we have hearts that finally speak:
"Yes! Yes! By all means, come in!
Come and stay with us!"

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! Amen!

Source: Catholic Relief Services

PASTOR'S NOTE WINTER WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

For the latest information about weather related cancellations during the coming winter months, please visit our website: ccgrounline.com. Announcements will also be made via WBZ1030 and cbsboston.com. All are reminded that if public schools are closed due to inclement weather on a particular day, then our weekday Mass and all parish programs (including all adult and youth faith formation programs) are canceled on that day, too. Peace and blessings to all for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Keep warm! Stay safe! – Father Jim

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

ANNUAL HOLIDAY TRADITION YOUTH CHRISTMAS PAGEANT Saturday, December 28th at 4:00pm

Each year, the Catholic Church celebrates the Season of Christmas from December 25th through the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord on January 5th. 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, December 28th 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 children interested in portraying the Magi and the Holy Family.

Being a part of this special holiday event is an excellent way for children to participate in the life of their home parish and learn about the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church. If your child, grandchild, or godchild would like to participate in this year's Christmas Pageant, please contact Betsy Works at 978-281-4820 or bworks@ccgrounline.com. Please join us! Spread the word! All are invited! All are welcome!

YOUTH CHOIR & MUSIC MINISTRY Tuesday Afternoons at 5:00pm

As parishes across the country reimagine their youth faith formation programs, it is important to remember that all children and teenagers are invited to fully participate in the life of our parishes as altar servers, volunteers, participants in our Christmas Pageant, or as members of our Youth Choir and Music Ministry. These programs are formative opportunities for children of all ages to gather in prayer, learn about the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church, make new friends, and live their faith in a spirit of prayer, fellowship, and service.

Our Youth Choir & Music Ministry meets for fellowship and rehearsal every Tuesday at 5:00pm in Saint Ann Church. The youth choir, along with an ensemble of talented young instrumentalists, performs every weekend. It's a great way to learn about music, make new friends, and participate in the life of our parish communities! New members ranging in age from elementary school through high school are welcome to join us! For more information, please contact Patty Natti at 978-281-4820 or pnatti@comcast.net. All are invited! All are welcome!

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

ONLINE RESOURCES FOR PRAYER

Join us: ccgronline.com/prayer/!

Each day, 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 meditations on the daily Mass readings and the lives of the saints. Our website also features an easy-to-use link for praying the Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer.

In addition, please join us every week for Bringing Home the Word, a weekly e-newsletter for families that offers helpful suggestions for prayer and reflection based on the Sunday Mass readings. Each issue includes words of wisdom from Pope Francis, along with contemporary thoughts on scripture, spirituality, and living a gospel life in the modern world. Every Saturday, a new edition is posted at ccgronline.com/news/. Please join us!

TRIVIA NIGHT 2 BRAIN TEASING SPECIAL EVENT Saturday, February 8th 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 "Trivia Night with Father Jim" on Saturday, February 8th from 7:00pm until 10:00pm in Our Lady's Hall. Throughout the evening, Father Jim (who secretly longs to be a game show host) will ask a series of questions on a wide array of topics including music and sports, movies and television, books and history, politics and religion!

Participants will be organized in teams of eight, so all are welcome to form a team in advance or take your chances at the door! Tickets are \$20 per person and are 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 also promises raffles with very cool prizes!

Don't miss this opportunity to impress your friends and fellow parishioners with your knowledge of facts, figures, and trivia! Don't miss this chance to share a few laughs! Don't miss the 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! Spread the word! All are invited! All are welcome! Merry Christmas!

MORE NEWS & INFORMATION ONLINE!

Join us: ccgronline.com/!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



A SPECIAL HOLIDAY EVENT MIRACLE AT THE MADDALENA SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28TH AT 8:00AM

On Saturday, December 28th, the Assisi Project will celebrate the Christmas Season with a special program called "Miracle at the Maddalena" during which we will share our recent experience of blessed happenings at the little chapel in Assisi that is dedicated to Saint Mary Magdalen, a holy place where Saint Francis and Saint Clare ministered to the sick more than eight centuries ago.

A miracle can be defined as a surprising event that cannot be explained by reason or science and is therefore considered the work of God or the saints. Translated from Latin, a miracle is a "sight to behold" or "object of wonder." Our "Miracle at the Maddalena" is a simple gift of prayers offered, prayers answered, promises made, and promises kept. It is a story of one poor sinner who felt called to confess his faith and profess private vows of prayer, service, and solitude in front of his friends.

All are invited to join us for this special event which begins with Mass at 8:00am in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church. After Mass, Father Jim and Cliff Garvey will share their experiences at the Maddalena Chapel in Assisi, Italy. Coffee and refreshments will be served. For more information, please see Father Jim or contact Cliff at 978-281-4820 or cgarvey@ccgronline.com. Please join us! All are invited! All are welcome! Merry Christmas!

THE ASSISI PROJECT Need Prayers?

Members of the Assisi Project range in age from 17 to 94; and we live in Holy Family Parish, Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish, throughout the Archdiocese of Boston, all across the United States, and also in Canada, Brazil, Italy, Spain, and Angola. Part of our work together is our prayer together. So, we pray each and every day for all who ask for our prayers all around the world. If you would like the Assisi Project to pray for you, your family, your special intention, or the soul of a deceased friend or loved one, please see Father Jim before or after any Mass; or contact Cliff at cgarvey@ccgronline.com or 978-281-4820. For more information about the Assisi Project and its good work in our parishes, please be sure to visit our website: assisiproject.com/! May the Lord give you peace!

OUR MASS INTENTIONS

DECEMBER 21 – DECEMBER 29, 2019

Saturday, December 21	Vigil · Fourth Sunday of Advent
4:00pm · Saint Ann	Pietro & Rosaria Cannavo
6:00pm · OLGV	Lois Libro & Family
Sunday, December 22	Fourth Sunday of Advent
7:00am · OLGV	Sam & Marge Rizzo
8:15am · Saint Ann	Joseph D. Brancalone
10:00am · Saint Joachim	Salvatore Loiacano & Family
11:45am · OLGV	Corey J. McCollum
5:00pm · Saint Ann	Healing of God's Family
	Advent & Christmas
Monday, December 23 8:00am · OLGV	José & Isolina Matos
Tuesday, December 24 8:00am · Saint Joachim	No Morning Mass
Wednesday, December 25	Christmas Day Schedule
Thursday, December 26 8:00am · Saint Joachim	Peter Feeney
Friday, December 27 8:00am · OLGV	Robert Jarvis
Saturday, December 28 8:00am · OLGV	Intentions of the Assisi Project
Saturday, December 28	Vigil · Feast of the Holy Family
4:00pm · Saint Ann	The Giambanco Family
6:00pm · OLGV	Vito & Francesco Ciaramitaro
Sunday, December 29	Feast of the Holy Family
7:00am · OLGV	Helen F. Taber
8:15am · Saint Ann	Joseph & Frank Ciaramitaro
10:00am · Saint Joachim	The Pratt Family
11:45am · OLGV	Joan Rocha
5:00pm · Saint Ann	Healing of God's Family

OUR WEEKLY GIFTS**HOLY FAMILY PARISH****Weekend of December 14th & December 15th**

Weekly Offerings	\$5,237.00
Electronic Offerings	\$878.00
Total Offerings	\$6,115.00
Second Collection (Maintenance)	\$4,752.00

Thank you for your generous support
of Holy Family Parish!

OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH**Weekend of December 14th & December 15th**

Weekly Offerings	\$2,590.00
Electronic Offerings	\$80.00
Total Offerings	\$2,670.00
Second Collection (Christmas Meals)	\$1,857.00

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 Jeremiah "Jerry" Nicastro
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Guilherme "Billy" Silva
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Joachim Church

In Memory of Anibal Senos
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Anthony Chapel

In Memory of Anthony "Tony" Testaverde
Sanctuary Candle · Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

For more information about donating sanctuary candles, flowers, or gifts in memory of a deceased family member, friend, or loved one, please contact our parish office at office@ccgrronline.com or 978-281-4820. Thank you!

THE POWER OF ONE

*"What if every person who comes to Mass at Christmas
comes back next weekend and brings a friend?
Just imagine what we could accomplish together!"*

Father Jim