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Live the Gospel. Share God's Love. Rebuild the Church.
The Solemnity of the Resurrection of the Lord · April 12, 2020



STILL THE DAY

OUR PASTOR'S MESSAGE — PAGE 3

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

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Cover Art: "Resurrection (Detail)" by Giotto

REJOICE AND BE GLAD!

New Springtime

BY FATHER JIM

Lord, how this Lent slipped by.
 It seemed like a cold February morning
 just a few hours ago.
 Now, the sun shines longer,
 the days are warmer.
 How I have suffered these winter months.
 How I have wished for the darkness
 hold me forever in its grasp.
 How I have forsaken the light
 by my actions, my thoughts, my moods.
 How I have yearned to say goodbye
 to what I thought was pain and despair.
 But now the flowers rise from the earth,
 blossoms come awake from their long sleep.
 Lord, you do not let darkness win.
 No, darkness always loses.
 Do I have that same chance as nature?
 Can I spring up again?

Lord, you have never let your touch
 be far from me, have you?
 You have stayed my hand these past months.
 You have me confront all that had choked me.
 You still love me,
 how hard that is to accept.
 The little snow,
 the ice in my soul melts and drips.
 The birds of the morning
 ring out your Easter praise.
 Let me join with them,
 let me give thanks
 for this new springtime in my life. Amen.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us!
 Saint Ann & Saint Joachim, pray for us!
 Saint Francis & Saint Anthony, pray for us!
 Saint Joseph & Saint Peter, pray for us!
 Our Lady of Good Voyage, pray for us!

LET'S PRAY TOGETHER!

EVER TOGETHER IN PRAYER

Join us: ccgronline.com/resources!

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OUR PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Still the Day!

BY FATHER JIM

In her beautiful book entitled *The New Stations of the Cross*, Megan McKenna writes: "There is darkness ahead, but now there is always another reality, no matter what we must face, no matter what people do to one another or to the earth. We are the people of God, the people of the resurrection, and the children of light...We must encourage one another in preaching, in poetry, in music and prayer, in the corporal works of mercy, and in the insistence on justice for all, beginning with the largest majority in the greatest need. We must dance it, crawl it, dig it out of the ground, empty the tombs and take down the bodies from the crosses with our bare hands. The power of love unto death, and life beyond death, has been given to us in Resurrection and in our baptisms."

Since becoming your pastor almost six years ago, it has become customary to use our Christmas and Easter messages as a way to remind guests, weekly church goers, and our fallen away brothers and sisters that all are welcome in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport. All are welcome to join us for prayer and worship no matter who they are, no matter where they're from, and no matter what they've done in their lives. But this year, because of the coronavirus pandemic, our church doors are closed and locked for now. Because we believe in the gifts of science and medicine, we follow the guidelines to stay at home, practice social distancing, and take extra precautions to protect the health and safety of our families, friends, and loved ones.

At the same time, we are a community united in prayer, fellowship, and service. We are a people dedicated to living the Gospel, sharing God's love, and rebuilding the Church. We are a family that cares deeply, gives generously, and looks out for the poor in fact and the poor in spirit. We feed the hungry, minister to the sick and homebound, and provide warm clothes for children and families in need. It is not our way to self-isolate, to close our doors, or to hide behind walls of perceived safety and security. It is not our way to pray alone, worship via the internet, or take comfort in a spiritual communion that sometimes seems to remind us of our fear, anxiety, and uncertainty about the future.

Nevertheless, we can reach out. We must reach out. Make a list of those you know who may live alone or need groceries. Check in on them. Find a way to have groceries delivered to them. Make a list of the friends, fellow parishioners, and pastoral team members that you miss seeing everyday or every week. Call them. Text them. Send them an email. Perhaps even write to them: "Just a note to remind how much you are loved and appreciated! I am praying for you! May God bless you at Easter and always!" Such small acts of generosity and kindness can do more than just brighten someone's day. They could save a life.

During this time of isolation and suffering, it is impossible to know what will happen next. It is impossible to know how long we will be kept apart. And yet, we are ever together in our prayers for each other, our love for each other, and our ability to share the Good News of the Risen Jesus with each other. So, whether you dance it, sing it, post it on social media, shout it from your front porch, or live it through some small act of charity, let us reach out and cry out with joy in our hearts: This is *still* the day the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad! Alleluia! Alleluia! Peace and blessings to all for a Happy Easter!

CALL TO PRAYER



THE CREATIVITY OF LOVE A Message from Pope Francis

Dear Friends,
in this time of difficulty and suffering,
I can imagine you and your families,
living an unusual life to avoid contagion.
I am thinking about the liveliness
of children and young people,
who cannot go out, attend school, or live their lives.
I have in my heart all the families,
especially those who have a loved one
who is sick or who are mourning
due to the coronavirus or other causes.
These days, I often think about
people who live alone,
and for whom it is more difficult
to face these moments.
Above all, I think of the elderly,
who are very dear to me...

It is a difficult time for everyone.
For many, very difficult.
The Pope knows this and,
with these words, he wants to tell you
of his closeness and affection.
Let us try, if we can,
to make the best use of this time:
let us be generous;
let us help those in need in our neighborhood;
let us look out for the lonely people,
perhaps by telephone or social networks;
let us pray to the Lord
for those who suffer in the world.
Even when we are isolated,
thought and spirit can go far
with the creativity of love.
This is what we need today:
the creativity of love....

Beside each other,
in love and patience,
we can prepare for better times...
Make a gesture of tenderness
toward those who suffer,
toward children, and toward the elderly.
Tell them that the Pope is close to them;
tell them to pray;
tell them that the Lord will deliver us.
Please pray for me! See you soon!

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

LITURGY OF THE HOURS Praying the Prayer of the Church

In his First Letter to the Thessalonians, Saint Paul writes: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you (1 Thes 5:16)." For centuries, Christians have puzzled over what it means to pray without ceasing. And it seems more important than ever to put this advice into action. One ancient practice offers us an answer: The Liturgy of the Hours.

Since the middle ages, the Church has used a daily practice of prayer called the Divine Office or Liturgy of the Hours to mark and sanctify the various hours or times of the day: morning, afternoon, evening, and night. It uses a four-week cycle of psalms, canticles, and scripture readings to draw us into a deep relationship with Christ and the Church by uniting us with the Lord and each other through prayers of petition, praise, and thanksgiving.

At ordination, our deacons and priests make solemn promises to pray with the Divine Office each and every day. However, the Liturgy of the Hours is not just for deacons, priests, and those consecrated to religious life. Countless lay men and women around the world, including several members of our pastoral team, make the Liturgy of the Hours the foundation of their daily prayer and worship. Indeed, in *Canticum Laudis*, the Apostolic Constitution of the Church, we read: "The purpose of the Divine Office is to sanctify the day and all human activity. The Divine Office is the prayer not only of the clergy but of the whole People of God."

During this extraordinary time, when we are not able to gather together, we can still pray together in a spiritual communion of potentially miraculous power. If you are interested in praying the Liturgy of the Hours, please visit ccgronline.com and click the link on our home page for a free and easy way to pray with Father Jim, members of our pastoral team, and priests, deacons, and religious communities all around the world!

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Father Jim at frjim@ccgronline.com or Cliff Garvey at cgarvey@ccgronline.com. Trust in God. Believe in science. Stay at home. Let's pray together; and let's pray for each other everyday! May God bless you and your family during this difficult time! Happy Easter!

JOIN US ON YOUTUBE!

PRAY with FATHER JIM EVERYDAY!

Watch! Click the link: ccgronline.com!
Even if we can't gather together,
we can still pray together!

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

ONLINE RESOURCES FOR PRAYER

Join us: ccgronline.com!

Each day, all parishioners and friends are invited to join us for a few moments of prayer and reflection by visiting our website: ccgronline.com. Our homepage features links to dozens of prayer resources including: 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). And thanks to the good folks at Boston College's C21 Center, our website also features links to God Pods (conversations about faith) and a Living Lent Devotional (daily prayers and reflections).

In addition, our website features an entire section of resources for families and children. Children of all ages (including adults) are invited to use the Drawing God printable template to share their prayer requests with Father Jim who will incorporate them into his prayers for us at Daily Mass. Those prayer requests can be placed through the mail slot at our parish office or emailed to him at frjim@ccgronline.com. Even though we can't gather together, we can still pray together! Join us everyday at ccgronline.com! Check it out! Ever together in prayer!

THE ASSISI PROJECT Need Prayers?

Founded in 2007 by Father Jim and Cliff Garvey during their first pilgrimage to Italy, the Assisi Project is a Fellowship of Franciscan in Spirit. Our mission is to help believers of all ages and backgrounds grow closer to Christ, to the Catholic Church, and to each other through the intercession, inspiration, and life example of Saint Francis and Saint Clare of Assisi.

Members of the Assisi Project range in age from 17 to 94 and live in Holy Family Parish, Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish, throughout the Archdiocese of Boston, all across the United States, Canada, Brazil, Italy, Spain, and Angola. Part of our work together is our prayer together. So we pray each 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 contact Cliff at 978-281-4820 or cgarvey@ccgronline.com.

During this time of pandemic, when we are encouraged to remain at home, all are invited to pray and reflect on the Gospel Life by visiting assisiproject.com and making use of the many resources on our website (including our Daily Prayers, Franciscan Rosary, Way of the Cross, and more than fifty reflections and stories about Saint Francis and Saint Clare). Come and pray with us online! May the Lord give you peace — at Easter and always!

CALL TO PRAYER



TRUST IN JESUS A Prayer During a Time of Pandemic

During a time of crisis, we may find ourselves struggling with fear and anxiety. This is a natural reaction. But in the Letter to the Philippians, Saint Paul reminds us to “have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God (Phil 4:6).” He then assures us that “the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (Phil 4:7).”

With steadfast prayer and thanksgiving, then, let us do our best to put our trust in the Lord. Let our actions reflect the trust and peace that can only be found in him. Stay close to Jesus and the Blessed Mother in prayer by asking that all who suffer from sickness and anxiety may find healing and peace. In this spirit, let us raise our hearts and voice in prayer to the Risen Christ:

Lord Jesus,
Good Shepherd and Divine Physician,
hear our prayers!
We implore your mercy
during this outbreak of disease and illness.

Guide our efforts
to prevent contagion
and to care for the most vulnerable.
Help all medical professionals and volunteers
who work to eradicate this spreading illness.

May our actions be marked
by your steadfast love and selfless service,
never by fear or panic.
Bestow your comfort and healing to the sick;
sustain and strengthen them by your grace.
May they know your closeness
as they carry the cross of illness.

May all who have been called from this life
come to worship you
with all the saints in heaven
as you give consolation and peace
to those who mourn.

We offer this prayer
through our Jesus Christ,
our Risen Lord and Merciful Savior.
Amen! Amen! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Adapted from Our Sunday Visitor

OUR MASS INTENTIONS

APRIL 11 – APRIL 19, 2020

Saturday, April 11	Vigil · Easter Sunday
Easter Vigil	Mass for the People
Sunday, April 12	Easter Sunday
Easter Sunday	Mass for the People
	Octave of Easter
Monday, April 13	Laurie & Helen Salerno
Tuesday, April 14	Paul LeBlanc
Wednesday, April 15	The Borge Family
Thursday, April 16	James Cadarette
Friday, April 17	All Souls in Purgatory
Saturday, April 18	Kevin Teixeira
Saturday, April 18	Vigil · Divine Mercy
4:00pm · Saint Ann	Philip Demetri
6:00pm · OLGV	Helen F. Taber
Sunday, April 19	Divine Mercy Sunday
7:00am · OLGV	Lottie Aikens
8:15am · Saint Ann	Ralph Martin, Sr.
10:00am · Saint Joachim	Michael & Connie Bolger
11:45am · OLGV	Theresa Wilkins
5:00pm · Saint Ann	Healing of God's Family

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OUR WEEKLY GIFTS**PASTOR'S NOTE****Your Generosity Matters More Than Ever!**

During this pandemic crisis, your weekly gifts are vitally important to the financial stability of both Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish. Our parishes depend solely on the generosity of our parishioners to pay our bills and make ends meet.

All are encouraged to mail their offering or give electronically. Our *We Share* program is a safe and easy way to make online donations to your home parish using a credit card, debit card, or electronic check. Now more than ever, we need your help and support!

If you have questions or need more information about supporting our parishes during this difficult time, please contact me at frjim@ccgrounline.com or 978-281-4820. Thank you for your generous support! Peace, prayers, and blessings for you and your family! — Father Jim

SANCTUARY GIFTS

At each of our churches in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport, sanctuary flowers, sanctuary candles, and sanctuary gifts (hosts & wine) can be donated for a special intention or in memory of a friend or loved one. The requested donation for sanctuary gifts is \$175. The requested donation for a sanctuary candle is \$25. This week, donations were offered for these intentions:

In Memory of Matteo & Vincenzo Cusumano
 Sanctuary Candle · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Laurie & Helen Salerno
 Sanctuary Candle · Saint Anthony Chapel

In Memory of Kevin Teixeira
 Sanctuary Candle · Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

In Memory of Alex & Tina Borge
 Sanctuary Gifts · Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

If you would like to donate a sanctuary candle or sanctuary gifts in memory of a deceased loved one, please contact us at office@ccgrounline.com or 978-281-4820. Thank you for your generous support! May God bless you!

WISDOM from POPE FRANCIS

"In the midst of isolation
 when we suffer from a lack of tenderness
 and chances to be together,
 and we experience the loss of so many things,
 let us once again listen
 to the proclamation that saves us:
 Jesus is risen! He lives by our side!"

Vatican City · March 27, 2020

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