

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.
Second Sunday of Advent · December 6, 2020



PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD!

OUR ADVENT JOURNEY WITH POPE FRANCIS

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

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ONLINE ADVENT RETREAT



The Franciscan Spirit for Advent & Christmas

LIVING THE GIFT WITH SAINT CHARLES BORROMEIO

WEEK 2 · JOIN US AT [ASSISIPROJECT.COM!](http://ASSISIPROJECT.COM)

Since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport's twin goals have been to do whatever we can to protect the health and safety of our parishioners and to provide free and high quality spiritual nourishment at ccgronline.com, assisiproject.com, and youtube.com. We are grateful for your kind words of support and encouragement for our efforts so far! Over the years, our Annual Advent Retreat has been among our most popular adult faith formation programs. Unfortunately, because of necessary restrictions on large gatherings, all of our in-person programs and ministries remain suspended. In our disappointment, we turned to Saint Francis of Assisi for advice and consolation:

Brother Francis,
 when the times were growing cold,
 God sent you into the world
 as a witness of His burning love
 for all people and all creation.
 Pray for us now,
 so that we may become
 instruments of peace and healing
 in our sick and suffering world.
 We make this prayer
 through the Holy Name of Christ Jesus,
 the Prince of Peace
 and our Merciful Savior. Amen.

This prayer inspires us to announce our first-ever Online Advent Retreat: The Franciscan Spirit for Advent & Christmas. For five consecutive weekends, from November 29th through December 27th, we will gather in a virtual but powerful spiritual communion by reflecting on the miracle of the Incarnation of the Christ Child at Christmas through some timeless voices of Franciscan Spirituality – Saint Francis and Saint Clare, Saint Charles Borromeo, Jacopone of Todi, and Thomas of Celano. Each weekend, Cliff Garvey will post a new audio reflection (approximately 10 minutes each) with a prayer for the coming week. In addition, as the days grow short and nights grow long, all are invited to join us online in praying the Assisi Project's Franciscan Night Prayer. Finally, on Sunday, December 27th, Father Jim will renew the Solemn Consecration of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, thus placing again both Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish under her powerful protection for the coming new year. Join us on retreat at [assisiproject.com!](http://assisiproject.com)

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

Prepare the Way of the Lord! Second Sunday of Advent

BY POPE FRANCIS

Last Sunday, we began Advent with the call to be vigilant. On this Second Sunday of Advent, the sacred liturgy show us the true meaning of this season of preparation for Christmas: It is a time to recognize the shortcomings in our lives, smooth out the roughness of pride, and make room for Jesus who will come soon. The Prophet Isaiah addresses [God's] people by proclaiming the end of the exile in Babylon and the return to Jerusalem. He says: "A voice cries out: In the desert, prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley will be lifted up, every mountain and hill will be made low (Isaiah 40:3-4)." The valleys to be lifted up represent all of the shortcomings in our behavior before God and all of our sins of omission. One shortcoming in our lives could be the fact that we do not pray or that we do not pray enough. Therefore, Advent is a favorable time to pray with greater intensity; and to reserve for the spiritual life the important place it deserves.

Another shortcoming could be a lack of charity for our neighbor, above all toward those most in need – not only of material help, but also spiritual help. We are called to be more attentive and much closer to the needs of others. In this way, like Saint John the Baptist, we can open highways of hope in the deserts of the barren hearts of so many people. Isaiah also exhorts us: "Every mountain and hill will be made low (Isaiah 40:4)." The mountains and hills that must be made low are pride, arrogance, and insolence. Where there is pride, where there is insolence, and where there is arrogance, the Lord cannot enter because the heart is so full of pride, insolence, and arrogance. For this reason, we must temper our pride. We must take on attitudes of meekness and humility, without reproach, so that we can listen, speak with humility and thus prepare for the coming of our Savior who is himself meek and humble of heart (Matthew 11:29).

Then we are asked to eliminate all of the obstacles that we set against our union with the Lord. Isaiah says: "The rugged land will become a plain and the rough country will be made a broad valley (Isaiah 40:4)" and "Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all flesh will see it together (Isaiah 40:5)." Such actions, however, must be performed with joy because they are designed to prepare us for the coming of Jesus. At home, when we await the visit of a loved one, we prepare everything with care and gladness. In the same way, we should prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord. We should await him each day with our full attention, so that we are filled with his grace when he arrives.

The Savior whom we await can transform our lives with his grace, with the power of the Holy Spirit, and with the power of love. In fact, the Holy Spirit infuses our hearts with God's love, the inexhaustible source of purification, freedom, and new life. The Virgin Mary fully lived this miraculous reality. She allowed herself to be 'baptized' by the Holy Spirit who inundated her with his power. She prepared for the coming of Christ with her whole heart and soul. May she help us to follow her example. May she guide our way to the coming of the Lord. I wish everyone a happy Sunday and a good Advent journey! Please do not forget to pray for me!

Francis

Angelus · Second Sunday of Advent · 2017

A SEASON OF PRAYER



A Daily Prayer for Advent

BY FATHER HENRI NOUWEN

Lord Jesus,
Master of both light and darkness,
send your Holy Spirit
upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do
seek quiet spaces
to hear your voice each day.

We who are anxious
over many things
look forward
to your coming among us.

We who are blessed
in so many ways
long for the complete joy
of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy
seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people,
walking in darkness,
yet seeking the light.

To you we say:
Come, Lord Jesus!

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.

Saint Ann, pray for us!
Saint Joachim, pray for us!
Saint Anthony, pray for us!
Saint Peter, pray for us!
Our Lady of Good Voyage, pray for us!

BRINGING HOME THE WORD

Free E-Newsletter for Home Prayer & Reflection
New Edition Posted Every Saturday
Join us: ccgrounline.com!
Let's pray together!

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

Pastor's Note

LET'S TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER!

Just three days before the coronavirus pandemic forced us to close our churches and suspend our programs and ministries, my family and a few dear friends gathered in Gloucester to commemorate my parents' 50th wedding anniversary. It was a bright and chilly late winter day. We celebrated Mass together, renewed their vows, enjoyed a delicious meal at a local restaurant, and reveled in the company of the people we love most.

Since that Sunday eight long months ago, our family has kept in touch, but we haven't really seen each other except from a distance. Like so many of you, I have not embraced my parents or hoisted my nieces and nephew into the air for far too long. But unlike so many of our brothers and sisters in our own communities and all around the world, my family, friends, and colleagues have been blessed with good health – so far.

Here in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport, we remain dedicated to doing whatever we can with the resources at our disposal to ensure the health and safety of our parishioners. To the best of our ability, we are following all of the guidelines recommended by the Archdiocese of Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. As your pastor, I remain awed and deeply grateful for your ongoing cooperation and support during these tough and troubled times.

As a community united in prayer, fellowship, and service, our challenge now is to remain alert and vigilant; to follow all of the protocols recommended by real experts; to pray for each other; and to take care of one another. If we make just a few small sacrifices during this Advent and Christmas Season, then if God wills it, we will be able to gather again sometime soon without masks, sanitizer, temperature checks, and social distancing.

Until then, I beg you to support your home parish, take good care of your family, and look out for your neighbors. I also invite you to take part in our Online Advent Retreat and to pray our Franciscan Night Prayer for the intention of God's mercy, healing, and protection for all who live, work, and worship in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport! Join us at assisiproject.com! Peace, blessings, and much love to all! – Father Jim

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

Saint Vincent de Paul Society Virtual Christmas Giving Tree

HELP US SHARE THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS!

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society is an international organization that is dedicated to responding to any request from any person or family in need. Here on Cape Ann, we work through Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish to serve the poor, the needy, and the newly unemployed. Even in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, our work continues!

This year, the Saint Vincent de Paul Society is sponsoring the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport's Virtual Christmas Giving Tree! Help us share the gift of Christmas with local families in need! Between now and December 8th, all fellow parishioners and friends are encouraged to purchase a gift card, bring it to Mass, deliver it to our parish office, or mail it to:

Saint Vincent de Paul Society
Virtual Christmas Giving Tree
74 Pleasant Street
Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930

These gift cards will be given to families who need our help in making this Christmas a better one for their children and grandchildren. For more information about the Saint Vincent de Paul Society and its good work in our parishes, please contact Harry Miller at 978-281-8672 or Barbara Frontiero at barbara.frontiero@gortons.com. If you or your family need our assistance, please call us at 978-281-8672. Thank you for your generous support!

Our Weekly Newsletter

PRINT IT! SHARE IT! REBUILD THE CHURCH!

We work hard to create a weekly newsletter that informs, inspires, and instructs our readers in our Christian life and about what's happening in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport. We are grateful for your positive feedback, but we need to your help to share God's love and rebuild the Church! During these unusual times, please share our newsletter with your family, friends, and neighbors. Print it! Share it! Give the Good News to someone you care about! If you need extra copies, please contact Cliff Garvey at cgarvey@ccgronline.com or 978-281-4820. Thank you for your support!

A SEASON FOR DISCIPLESHIP



Sacrament of Baptism

WELCOME YOUNG DISCIPLES!

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)."

The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport has resumed our celebrations of the Sacrament of Baptism in accordance with the health and safety guidelines of the Archdiocese of Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Baptisms will be celebrated by appointment only, one family at a time, and with seating limited to ten family members or guests.

During the month of November, Father Jim baptized the following children with holy water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:

Callie Elwell · Alexis Lafontant
Alex Leahy, Jr. · Phoenix Lewis
Cash Mortillaro · Maxwell Perry
Ace Pratt · Milo Rodriguez
Elena Titelbaum · Margaret Walsh

If you would like to schedule your child's baptism in either Holy Family Parish or Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish, please contact Sheila McCarthy-Durkin at 978-281-4820 or smccarthy@ccgronline.com. If you are an adult who has not received all of the Sacraments of Initiation, please contact Cliff Garvey at cgarvey@ccgronline.com. May God bless our newly baptized young disciples, along with their parents, godparents, grandparents, brothers and sisters, and extended families! Peace, blessings, and congratulations to all! Welcome to our family of faith!

OUR MASS INTENTIONS**December 5th – December 13th**

Saturday, December 5	Vigil · Second Sunday of Advent
4:00pm	Souls of the Faithful Departed
Sunday, December 6	Second Sunday of Advent
7:00am	Souls of the Faithful Departed
8:15am	Souls of the Faithful Departed
10:00am	Souls of the Faithful Departed
11:45am	Souls of the Faithful Departed
	Second Week of Advent
Tuesday, December 8	God's Mercy, Healing & Protection
Wednesday, December 9	God's Mercy, Healing & Protection
Thursday, December 10	God's Mercy, Healing & Protection
Friday, December 11	God's Mercy, Healing & Protection
Saturday, December 12	Vigil · Third Sunday of Advent
4:00pm	Souls of the Faithful Departed
Sunday, December 13	Third Sunday of Advent
7:00am	Souls of the Faithful Departed
8:15am	Souls of the Faithful Departed
10:00am	Souls of the Faithful Departed
11:45am	Souls of the Faithful Departed

OUR WEEKLY GIFTS**Sanctuary Candles & Gifts****REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES
& SUPPORTING OUR HOME PARISHES**

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

In Memory of Salvatore & Grazia Storniolo
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Maria Madalena Silva
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Joachim Church

In Memory of Deacon Raymond Wellbank
Sanctuary Gifts · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of the Bruni Family
Sanctuary Candle · Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

In Memory of Arlene Muise
Sanctuary Gifts · Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

In Memory of Maurice & Mary Landry
Sanctuary Candle · Chapel of the Archangels

Please note that Cardinal Seán has given permission for the creation of a Eucharistic Chapel in Our Lady of Good Voyage Rectory. The Chapel of the Archangels, dedicated to Saint Michael, Saint Gabriel, and Saint Raphael, is located on the ground floor of the rectory. You can see the sanctuary candle from the street. In addition to their better-known patronages, Michael is also venerated as a patron of the sick and suffering; Raphael is a patron of medical professionals; and Gabriel is a patron of priests. We all need their prayers and protection like never before!

If you would like to donate a sanctuary candle or sanctuary gifts in memory of a loved one at Saint Ann Church, Saint Joachim Church, Our Lady of Good Voyage Church, or the Chapel of the Archangels, please contact Father Jim at 978-281-4820 or frjim@ccgrounline.com. Thank you for your ongoing and generous support for Holy Family Parish, Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish, and the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport! May God bless you and your family!