

# The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport

HOLY FAMILY PARISH & OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH

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Live the Gospel. Share God's Love. Rebuild the Church.  
The Resurrection of the Lord · April 4, 2021



HAPPY EASTER! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!

**WE ARE BLESSED!**

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE — PAGE 3

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

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## A CALL TO PRAYER

### Break Open the Tomb!

#### A PRAYER FOR EASTER SUNDAY

Lord of Easter Promise,  
I live in the faith of the Resurrection,  
but such is the nature of my faith  
that so much of me remains entombed.

Break open the tomb!

Where I have buried my compassion,  
break open the tomb!

Where I have buried my sense of mercy,  
break open the tomb!

Where I have buried my humility,  
break open the tomb!

Where I have buried my humanity,  
break open the tomb!

Where I have buried my love for God,  
break open the tomb!

Where I have buried my sense of joy,  
break open the tomb!

Where I have buried my willingness to forgive,  
break open the tomb!

Lord, in you I have found a savior  
that no grave can withstand.  
Help me to roll away the stone  
and find the miracle of new life  
so that I may live more fully  
in your saving grace.

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.

*Source: Catholic Relief Services*

### PRAY MORE ONLINE!

#### ALWAYS TOGETHER IN PRAYER!

[ccgrounline.com/resources](http://ccgrounline.com/resources)

[assisiproject.com/resources](http://assisiproject.com/resources)

Happy Easter! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## OUR PASTOR'S MESSAGE

### We Are Blessed!

BY FATHER JIM

Since the limited re-opening of our churches last summer, our parishes have been celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism in small ceremonies. Families contact us, make an appointment, and we gather in one of our churches – just me, the child, his or her parents and godparents, and a few invited guests. On one hand, it remains sad that the whole community cannot gather together to welcome a newly baptized child into God's family. On the other hand, these intimate ceremonies seem more focused and more prayerful.

In recent weeks, it has occurred to me over and over again that it really does not matter whether a new disciple is baptized in a private ceremony or during a crowded Sunday Mass. The sacrament is the same. The effect is the same. In the Catechism of the Catholic Church, we read: "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)."

In this spirit, by virtue of our baptism, we are all God's children. We are all loved. We are all blessed. This love is eternal. This blessing is forever. Saints and sinners are blessed. Young and old are blessed. Rich and poor are blessed. Citizens and non-citizens are blessed. Healthy people and sick people are blessed. Married people and single people are blessed. Gay people and straight people are blessed. All people who try their best to live a good life in this long-suffering world are blessed! We are all blessed!

One scripture scholar explains baptism in this way: "Baptism alters our past, it also alters our future. A future leading no longer to death but to life: and a new relationship with God, through Christ's resurrection, is ours. We are members of a new race...What a joyful situation!" When we are bathed in the waters of baptism, we participate in the passion and death of Jesus. When we are lifted from those waters into the arms of our parents and godparents, we rise with Jesus into a new life. We rise into an everlasting life with the Lord (see Romans 6:3-11). We are all blessed, indeed!

Let's be clear. Nothing and no one can reverse the miracle of baptism. God's blessing is permanent. God's love is forever. No mistake can break the baptismal bond between God and his child. No sin, sickness, or shortcoming can cut the chain of divine love, mercy, and friendship that unites us with Jesus and his family of disciples through our baptism. No priest, no bishop, no self-righteous blogger, and no church bureaucracy can ever take it away from us. We are all very blessed, now and always!

Let's be clear about another thing. We are all called to love God and love our neighbor. We are all called to prayer and good works. We are all called to truth, beauty, and goodness. We are called to work hard, play by the rules, and take care of our selves, our families, and our common home. We can all do better. We should all be better. At the same time, we are all sinners. But because of our baptism, the Risen Jesus is there when we fail, when we fall short, and when we choose to do wrong. Jesus looks upon us with love. He reaches out to us in friendship. He offers us the gift of his mercy. He says to each one of us: "Arise! Rejoice and be glad! You are truly and forever blessed! Alleluia! Alleluia!"

## A CALL TO SHARE



### Holy Family Parish Grand Annual Collection – Phase 1

WINTER GOAL: \$32,500  
RAISED SO FAR: \$34,968 (107%)  
THANK YOU!

As spring begins, we look ahead with hope for brighter days; we count our blessings; and we confront our challenges. On the bright side, our churches are open (albeit with limited seating capacity and strict safety guidelines). Our young disciples and their parents are preparing for First Holy Communion. Babies are being baptized. Confessions are being heard. Funerals and weddings are being celebrated in small, intimate ceremonies. Our online ministry attracts almost 2,000 visitors every week. And technology helps us pray with the sick and suffering in ways that keep everyone safe.

But financially, times are tough. Regardless of how many parishioners can be welcomed into Saint Ann Church and Saint Joachim Church for Sunday Mass, our churches and parish buildings must be heated, insured, and maintained. Parking lots must be plowed. Sidewalks must be shoveled. Lawns must be mowed. The remaining members of our pastoral team, including me, must be paid. And we must be ready to resume our ministries and programs on day one when the pandemic passes.

Anyone who knows me knows that economy and thrift were taught to me at an early age. My parents worked day and night to provide for our family and make ends meet. Believe me, we continue to do whatever we can to control costs. But the short and long-term financial stability and pastoral viability of Holy Family Parish is in our hands alone. We are solely responsible for paying our own bills. The future of our beloved home parish depends entirely on parishioners like us. It's all up to us!

Each year, the Grand Annual Collection bridges the gap between our weekly gifts and the overall costs of parish operations. This year, we must raise \$65,000 by the end of the fiscal year. Our short-term winter goal was to raise \$32,500 by Easter Sunday. Because of your generous support, we have met and surpassed that goal by raising \$34,968 (107%). This is great news! Thank you! Now here's the hard part. We still need to raise \$30,032 by June 30th. If every parish family can share just \$46 (in addition to your weekly support) between now and then, we will reach our overall goal, achieve a balanced budget under extraordinary circumstances, and ensure the financial stability of our parish.

Donations can be made online, placed in the collection basket, dropped off at the rectory or parish office, or mailed to Holy Family Parish, 74 Pleasant Street, Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930. If you have questions or would like more information about how you and your family can support our parish, please contact Father Jim at [frjim@ccgrounline.com](mailto:frjim@ccgrounline.com) or 978-281-4820. My prayer is that all of us, according to our means, will contribute something to this important campaign. Thank you for your generous support for Holy Family! Happy Easter! Peace and blessings to all! – Father Jim

### WESHARE

Safe & Simple Electronic Giving  
Learn more: [ccgrounline.com](http://ccgrounline.com)!

## PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

### Saint Vincent de Paul Society

#### HELP US HELP OTHERS!

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 and the needy. Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, our food pantry and clothes closet remain closed. But our service to those in need continues! We need your support! Help us help others! Donations can be left at the parish office, dropped in the collection baskets at Sunday Mass or mailed to the following address:

Saint Vincent de Paul Society  
74 Pleasant Street  
Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930

For more information about the Saint Vincent de Paul Society and its good work in our parishes and hometowns, please contact Harry Miller at 978-281-8672 or Bob Weeks at svdpmember1@gmail.com. If you or your family needs assistance, please contact us at 978-281-8672. Thank you for your generous support for the Saint Vincent de Paul Society! May God bless you and your family during these difficult and uncertain times! Happy Easter! Alleluia! Alleluia!

### The Assisi Project

#### WE PRAY FOR YOU!

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

Members of the Assisi Project range in age from 13 to 95 and live in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport, throughout the Archdiocese of Boston, from coast to coast, and all around the world. We pray daily for those who ask for our prayers. If you would like us to pray for you or your special intention, please contact Cliff at 978-281-4820 or cgarvey@ccgronline.com. For more information about the Assisi Project and its good work in our parishes, please contact Cliff or join us online at assisiproject.com! May the Risen Lord give you peace! Happy Easter! Alleluia! Alleluia!

### We Share

#### SAFE & EASY ELECTRONIC GIVING

Electronic giving has become an essential component of parish support in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport; and it is available in both Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish. It is safe and easy to make online donations to your home parish using a credit card, debit card, or electronic check. You can also give to our church restorations funds, too! Donations can be made on an ongoing or one-time-only basis; and it takes just a few minutes to set up a secure personal account. During these difficult times, your home parish needs your support more than ever before! For more information or assistance with your account, please contact Father Jim at 978-281-4820 or frjim@ccgronline.com. Thank you for your generous support for our parishes! May God bless you and your family, now and always! Happy Easter! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## OUR MASS INTENTIONS

April 3rd – April 11th

<b>Saturday, April 3</b>	<b>Easter Vigil</b>
7:00pm Online	Souls of the Faithful Departed
<b>Sunday, April 4</b>	<b>Easter Sunday</b>
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
	<b>Octave of Easter</b>
Tuesday, April 6	God's Mercy, Healing & Protection
Wednesday, April 7	God's Mercy, Healing & Protection
Thursday, April 8	God's Mercy, Healing & Protection
Friday, April 9	God's Mercy, Healing & Protection
<b>Saturday, April 10</b>	<b>Vigil · Divine Mercy Sunday</b>
4:00pm	Souls of the Faithful Departed
<b>Sunday, April 11</b>	<b>Divine Mercy Sunday</b>
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 week of Sunday, April 4th, donations were offered for the following special intentions:

In Memory of William Rubino  
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Louis F. Linquata  
Sanctuary Gifts · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Humberto Mota  
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Joachim Church

In Memory of Nancy Moura  
Sanctuary Candle · Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

In Memory of José & Isolina Matos  
Sanctuary Gifts · Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

In Memory of the Hochmuth Family  
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!

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1 John 4:8

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