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HOLY FAMILY PARISH & OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH

Live the Gospel. Share God's Love. Rebuild the Church.
Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time · June 23, 2024



THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

A ROBIN'S SONG

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

Phone: 978-281-4820

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Website: ccgrounline.com

Cover Photo by Brother Patrick

CALL TO PRAYER

The Canticle of the Creatures

BY SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Most High, All-Powerful, Good Lord,
yours are the praises, the glory, the honor, and all blessing.
To you alone, Most High, do they belong,
and no human is worthy to mention your name.

Praise be to you, my Lord,
with all of your creatures, especially Brother Sun,
who is the day and through whom you give us light.
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor;
and he bears the likeness of you, Most High One.

Praise be to you, my Lord,
though Sister Moon and the stars in heaven,
you formed them clear and precious and beautiful.

Praise be to you, my Lord,
through Brother Wind, and through the air,
cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather,
through whom you give sustenance to your creatures.

Praise be to you, my Lord,
through Sister Water, who is very useful,
humble, precious, and chaste.

Praise be to you, my Lord,
through Brother Fire, through whom you light the night,
and he is beautiful, playful, robust, and strong.

Praise be to you, my Lord,
through our Sister Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us,
and produces fruits with colorful flowers and herbs.

Praise be to you, my Lord,
through those who forgive for your love,
and bear sickness and tribulation.
Blessed are those who endure in peace,
for by you, Most High, they will be crowned.

Praise be to you, my Lord,
through our Sister Bodily Death, from whom no one living can escape.
Woe to those who die in mortal sin.
Blessed are those whom death finds in your most holy will,
for the second death will do them no harm.

Praise and bless my Lord and give him thanks
and serve God with great humility.

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

A Robin's Song

BY BROTHER PATRICK

An old Christian legend tells of a robin who takes pity on the Crucified Christ and begins to gently pluck thorns from his sacred crown. In the process, the Lord's blood stains the bird's breast, thus causing all robins to turn red. Other legends see the robin as a symbol of joy, devotion, renewal, good fortune, and even a peaceful passing from this life. The robin is not, in fact, ever mentioned in the scriptures. And yet this common bird, which can nest happily almost anywhere, seems to sing of God's love and care for all creatures.

For the past few weeks, I have been blessed to know and love a family of robins that made their home in a large twig wreath on the side of a garden shed beside my hermitage in rural Maine. When I first saw the nest with its four bright blue eggs, I could think only of the mess that would soon be made. I also worried that the nest, which can be seen so clearly from the house, could also be spotted by any one of the passing predators that live in these parts.

Last weekend, I arrived home to find that the eggs had hatched. The chicks huddled so closely together that it was impossible to determine whether they were alive or not. But before I finished walking the dogs and unpacking the truck, Brother and Sister Robin were chirping loudly and watching me from a nearby oak tree. These devoted parents were protecting their little ones and could not care less about their landlord's curiosity. So with wonder and awe, I observed from a distance.

Since then, I have been an eyewitness to a series of small but breathtaking miracles. For example, who knew that my lawn and garden were home to so many worms?! Both of the robin parents are expert hunter-gatherers and they deliver worm after worm to the chicks, who wait with their open beaks pointed toward the heavens in eager anticipation of the next meal. In just one week, the baby robins have grown so much that they are now wrestling with each other for prime place in the nest!

A local bird expert says that robins can recognize humans by face, voice, routine, and bodily movements. When I leave the hermitage to walk the dogs, work in the garden, or just sit outside with a good book, I greet the robins with a poor impersonation of Saint Francis of Assisi. Brother and Sister Robin perch on either end of the house's roofline and watch in worried silence. If I am outside long enough, they begin to sing and go about their business. When I go back inside, they fly directly to the nest and dote on their chicks. They know me. I love knowing them. And together, God's creatures, both great and small, live together in mutual respect and admiration. Imagine that!

In another week or so, the little robins will jump the nest, spread their wings, and fly away. As someone who is not so good with goodbyes, I am already wistful about their leaving. I am already worried about their safety. I am already hoping that they will find mates who will want to build a nest and begin a family in the wreath on the shed. And I am already praying for the grace to remember these blissful and bittersweet moments that are such an unexpected blessing.

Eight hundred years ago, Saint Francis wrote the Canticum of the Creatures (see page two), a prayer of praise and thanksgiving to God for all created things. Oddly enough, Francis, who so famously preached to the birds, did not include them in his canticum. So, with deepest affection and humility, I add one simple verse: "Praise be to you, my Lord, for our brother and sister robins, who built a home for their family at the little hermitage on the hill. May you bless and protect these small ones who fill our lives with beautiful songs of love and peace. Amen! Amen!"

SAINT PETER'S FIESTA



Saint Peter's Novena An Annual Summer Tradition

BEGINS MONDAY, JUNE 17TH

In prayerful anticipation of the 97th Annual Saint Peter's Fiesta, all friends, neighbors, and fellow parishioners are invited to join us in praying the Nine Day Novena to Saint Peter from Monday, June 17th through Tuesday, June 25th at 7:00pm in the American Legion Hall, which is located at 8 Washington Street in Gloucester.

This beautiful summer tradition affords us a unique opportunity to offer our heartfelt prayers and petitions to Saint Peter, Apostle of the Apostles and Patron of Fishermen. For more information about this special event, please contact Joe Novello at 978-283-4367. Spread the word! Bring a friend! All are invited! All are welcome!

Saint Peter's Fiesta Outdoor Mass & Procession

SUNDAY, JUNE 30TH AT 10:00AM

Saint Peter's Fiesta begins on Wednesday, June 26th and runs through Sunday, June 30th. All are invited to join Father Jim and Bishop Mark O'Connell, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Boston for the annual outdoor celebration of Holy Mass on Sunday, June 30th at 10:00am in Saint Peter's Square in Gloucester.

After Mass, all are welcome to join us for the procession through the streets of our beloved city with Saint Peter! Trailers are available for groups, families, and individuals who wish to participate in the procession with a religious-themed float in celebration of Saint Peter's Fiesta. For more information, please contact Rose Aiello at 978-283-1664 or visit stpetersfiesta.org. Spread the word! Bring your family! All are invited! All are welcome!

SAINT PETER'S QUESTION

An Assisi Project Podcast
assisiproject.com/podcast

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

Saint Vincent de Paul Society

NOW MORE THAN EVER,
WE NEED YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

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. Help us help others! Donations can be pushed through the mail slot in the parish office, dropped in the collection basket at any Weekend Mass, or mailed to:

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

New members and volunteers are always welcome! 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 Robert Weeks at svdpmember1@gmail.com. If you or someone you know needs our help, please call 978-281-8672. Thank you for your generous support for the Saint Vincent de Paul Society! May God bless you!

Saint Vincent de Paul Society

ALL NEW CLOTHES CLOSET
OPEN SECOND, THIRD & FOURTH SATURDAYS

The all-new Saint Vincent de Paul Clothes Closet is now open for business in Saint Ann Church Hall on the second, third, and fourth Saturdays of every month from 9:00am until 12:00pm. All friends, neighbors, and fellow parishioners are welcome to drop by and check out the All New Clothes Closet by entering through the Pleasant Street doors of Saint Ann Church Hall.

Donations of gently worn clothing and shoes are now gratefully accepted during our regular hours and in the bin located in the Saint Ann School parking lot. Please note that we cannot accept donations of books, toys, or household items. For more information about the Saint Vincent de Paul Clothes Closet, please contact Bridget Nelligan at 781-572-4752 or Cathy Kyrouz at 978-290-1756. Thank you for your generous support

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

Our Weekly Gifts

WEEKEND OF JUNE 15TH & 16TH

Holy Family Parish

Offertory	\$5,880
Electronic	\$869
Total	\$6,749

Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish

Offertory	\$3,901
Electronic	\$501
Total	\$4,402

Grand Annual Collections

Holy Family	\$79,455 (106%)
Our Lady's	\$27,147 (101%)

Thank you for your generous support
for Holy Family Parish
& Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish!

We Share!

IT IS IN GIVING THAT WE RECEIVE.
PRAYER OF SAINT FRANCIS

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.

Donations can be made on a weekly, monthly, or one-time-only basis; and it takes just a few minutes to set up a secure personal account. In addition to the weekly offering, you can also give electronically to our church restoration funds which helps us plan for the repair and maintenance of our beloved and historic churches.

Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish always need your generous support! Please prayerfully consider enrolling in our electronic giving program! For more information about creating a new account or assistance with an existing account, please contact Father Jim at 978-281-4820 or frjim@ccgronline.com. Peace, blessings, and sincerest thanks to all!

THE ASSISI PROJECT



The Mother's Heart Our Lady of Mount Carmel

SATURDAY, JULY 6TH
BEGINS WITH MASS AT 8:00AM

For more than one hundred years, the stained glass windows in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church have inspired men and women of faith to reflect on the Blessed Virgin Mary under her various titles and patronages. Under her mantle, generations of good and hardworking people have found comfort, consolation, and the strength to carry on during challenging times.

Throughout this year, Father Jim, Brother Patrick, and the Assisi Project are focusing our prayers and reflections on the Blessed Mother as she is depicted in the windows of our beloved church. We will not focus so much on the art and architecture of the windows, but on the deep devotion and spirituality inspired by each image of Mary.

In this spirit, all are invited to join us for the Mother's Heart: A Morning of Prayer with Our Lady of Mount Carmel on Saturday, July 6th beginning with Mass at 8:00am in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church. After Mass, Father Jim will offer a brief reflection on Our Lady of Mount Carmel. We will also have plenty of time for questions, comments, and faith sharing.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel is the patron of the Carmelite Order. The first Carmelites were hermits who lived on Mount Carmel in the Holy Land during the 13th century. Since the 15th century, the devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel has been centered on a Brown Scapular which the Blessed Mother gave to Saint Simon Stock. Other beloved Carmelites include Saint John of the Cross, Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, and Saint Therese of Lisieux.

For more information about the Assisi Project and its good work in our parishes, please see Brother Patrick or contact him at 978-281-4820 or brpatrick@assisiproject.com. Save the date! Spread the word! Bring a friend! Please join us! All are invited! All are welcome! Our Lady of Mount Carmel, pray for us! May the Lord give you peace!

OUR MASS INTENTIONS

June 22nd – June 30th

Saturday, June 22	Vigil · 12th Sunday
4:00pm Saint Ann Church	Anthony Piraino
6:00pm Our Lady's Church	José Carlos & Isolina Matos
Sunday, June 23	12th Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:00am Our Lady's Church	Rose Stuart
8:15am Saint Ann Church	Josephine Taormina
10:00am Saint Joachim Church	Sally Costello
11:45am Our Lady's Church	Berta & Alfredo Silva
	Ordinary Time
June 26 at 5:30pm Our Lady's Church	Hilary Oliver
June 27 at 8:00am Saint Anthony Chapel	Sister Kathleen Murphy
June 28 at 8:00am Our Lady's Church	John & Lillian Andre
Saturday, June 22	Vigil · 13th Sunday
4:00pm Saint Ann Church	The Parisi Family
6:00pm Our Lady's Church	Cynthia Theiss
Sunday, June 23	13th Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:00am Our Lady's Church	Dana D'Amour
8:15am Saint Ann Church	Steve Demetri
10:00am Saint Joachim Church	Gayle Doherty
11:45am Our Lady's Church	Kyle Quinn

OUR WEEKLY MEMORIALS

**REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES
& SUPPORTING OUR HOME PARISHES**

Sanctuary Candles & Gifts

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, June 23rd, donations were offered for the following special intentions:

In Memory of Salvi Ciolino
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Salvatore Costanzo
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Joachim Church

In Memory of Hilary Oliver
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Anthony Chapel

In Memory of Francesco Napoli
Sanctuary Candle · Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

In Memory of Herman A. Bouchie
Sanctuary Gifts · Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

In Memory of Mary E. Sheldon
Sanctuary Candle · Chapel of the Archangels

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, sanctuary gifts, or sanctuary flowers in memory of a loved one in any of our churches or chapels in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport, please contact Melissa Joseph at office@ccgrounline.com or 978-281-4820. Thank you for your generous support! May God bless our departed brothers and sisters! Peace & blessings to all!

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Fr. Tom Nestor has served as pastor at the Collaborative Parishes of Resurrection and Saint Paul in Hingham for the past ten years, and previously served at St. Eulalia's in Winchester for 17 years. A Harvard graduate and native of West Roxbury, Fr. Nestor is known for fostering a sense of community wherever he goes.



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