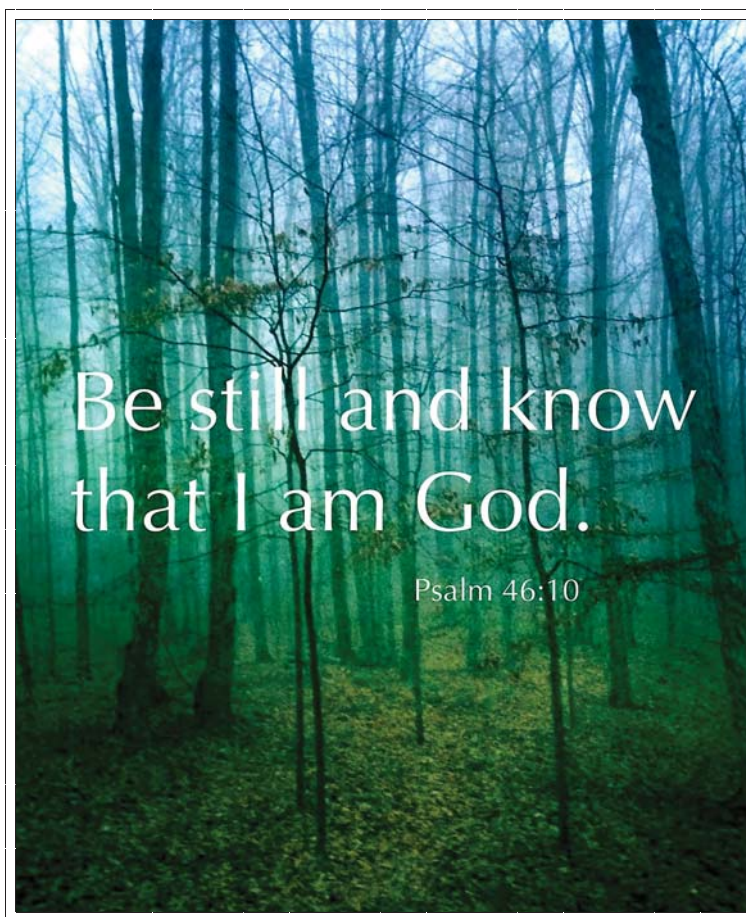


# The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport

HOLY FAMILY PARISH & OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH

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Live the Gospel. Share God's Love. Rebuild the Church.  
Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time · September 15, 2024



OUR PASTOR'S MESSAGE  
**THE REST OF OUR LIVES**

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

Phone: 978-281-4820

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## CALL TO PRAYER

### Rest & Silence in Scripture

#### LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

God rested (Genesis 2:3).

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

He restores my soul (Psalm 23: 1-3).

Be still and know that I am God (Psalm 46:10).

My soul rests in God alone,  
from whom comes my salvation (Psalm 62:1).

You who live in the shelter of the Most High,  
who abide in the shade of the Almighty,  
will say to the Lord, 'My refuge, my stronghold,  
my God in whom I trust' (Psalm 92:1-2).

Better is a handful with quiet  
than two handfuls with toil,  
and a chasing after the wind (Ecclesiastes 4:6).

Come to me, all you that are weary  
and are carrying heavy burdens,  
and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;  
for I am gentle and humble of heart,  
and you will find rest for your souls.

For my yoke is easy,  
my burden is light (Matthew 11:28-30).

Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves  
and rest a while (Mark 6:31).

A sabbath rest still remains for God's people;  
for those who enter God's rest also cease from their labors  
as God rested from his labors.

Let us therefore make every effort to enter that rest,  
so that no one may fall through the disobedience  
of our ancestors (Hebrews 4:9-11).

#### OUR DAILY PRAYERS

#### READ OR LISTEN EVERY DAY

Let's pray together!

An Assisi Project Podcast Series

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

## OUR PASTOR'S MESSAGE

### The Rest of Our Lives

ON RETREAT WITH 'A GOOD LIFE'

BY FATHER JIM

In last week's message, I explained that my recent retreat guided by Sister Elizabeth Wagner of Transfiguration Hermitage focused on the Rule of Saint Benedict, Robert Benson's *A Good Life*, and the challenge of finding a balance between prayer, rest, work, and community. As we all know, modern life is increasingly busy and noisy. Most Americans work an average of at least 225 days per year. Two-thirds of our days are work days. So our lives are clearly weighted toward work. This means that our lives can lack balance even before we begin to work toward balance!

I love my life and ministry. I love Gloucester and Rockport. And I love the people here. But as the pastor of two busy parishes, the days can be long and hectic. All too often, the work day begins at sunrise and lasts long past sunset. Believe me, I have no complaints. Some of the most moving and satisfying moments of my priesthood have occurred during "after hours" calls to a hospital or nursing home. Even so, by the end of a typical week of confessions, home visits, special events, administrative duties, and the celebration of Masses, I am sometimes very tired.

As parents and grandparents who care for your families and struggle to make ends meet, you already know about fatigue, busy schedules, and the struggle to find some balance in your lives. Robert Benson writes: "Time and attention are the currencies of our age. And most everything in our society – every organization, every institution, everyone with an 800 number and a website – is somewhere right now plotting to get as much of both as they can get." It is not just our friends, families, and colleagues who demand our attention. It is the technology that surrounds us day and night. The mental, visual, and auditory stimulation of radio, television, and the internet are often difficult to escape. It sometimes seems impossible to tune out and turn off.

If we want to find balance and live a good life, we must cultivate some silence, some stillness, and some solitude in our lives. If you are an extrovert like me, this does not mean that you should strive to become more introverted. It does not mean that you should, like Brother Patrick, live as a hermit in prayer, silence, and solitude. It simply means that we all should learn to take advantage of those precious moments that allow us to rest in the peace and soundless presence of our God. We should learn to rest in the loving quietness of our Creator. Five minutes. Ten minutes. Twenty minutes. Sixty minutes. Every day.

In *A Good Life*, Robert Benson warns of the primary obstacle to this kind of restorative rest. He writes: "If the way in which we live does not have some silence and solitude and stillness and rest, then there is only one person to blame in the end. There is only one person who can, in fact, get me to do less and not more, to stop moving and be still, to slow down instead of speed up. And I am that person." Our challenge, then, is to recognize our need for rest; to nurture our love for God during the quiet moments; and to be attentive for God's voice in the silence of our hearts. God is waiting for us. Are we listening?

*Father Jim's reflections on 'A Good Life' will continue next week with a focus on community.*

**SEASON OF CREATION****A Prayer for Our Common Home**

BY POPE FRANCIS

All powerful God,  
 you are present in the whole universe  
 and in the smallest of your creatures.  
 You embrace with tenderness all that exists.  
 Pour out upon us the power of your love,  
 so that we may protect life and beauty.  
 Fill us with your peace,  
 so that we may live  
 as brothers and sisters, harming no one.  
 O God of the poor,  
 help us to rescue the abandoned  
 and forgotten of this earth,  
 so precious in your eyes.  
 Bring healing to our lives,  
 so that we may protect the world  
 and not prey upon it;  
 so that we may sow beauty,  
 not pollution and destruction.  
 Touch the hearts of those  
 who look only for profit  
 at the expense of the poor and the earth.  
 Teach us to discover the worth  
 of every living thing,  
 to be filled with awe and contemplation,  
 to recognize that we are profoundly united  
 with every creature  
 as we journey toward your infinite light.  
 We thank you for being with us each day.  
 Encourage us in our struggle  
 for justice, love, and peace. Amen.

The Season of Creation (September 1st through October 4th) is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through prayer, reflection, and care for our common home. We join Pope Francis and Christians around the world in rededicating ourselves to loving God, loving neighbor, and loving and caring for the world around us. Saint Francis of Assisi, Patron of the Environment, pray for us, now and always!

**PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE**
**Youth Faith Formation**  
**First Holy Communion Preparation**

 FAMILY MASS & MEETING WITH PARENTS  
 SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND

The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport offers a creative and innovative way for children to prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation (Confession) and First Holy Communion (Eucharist). Our program is designed to prepare both children and their parents for the sacraments, encourage lifelong relationships with Jesus and the Catholic Church, and help each and every family grow together in prayer, fellowship, and service.

First, we focus on inviting families to attend one of our six weekend Masses. Second, all second grade students and their parents or guardians are asked to attend seven Young Disciples Workshops in Our Lady's School and seven Faith & Family Workshops in Our Lady's Church.

During our Young Disciples Workshops, the children will gather with Betsy Works and a team of dedicated catechists and volunteers. At our Faith & Family Workshops, Father Jim leads the whole family in sessions that focus on some important aspect of the sacraments and their relationship with the sacred scriptures.

At both workshops, the children and their parents will learn about the Bible, the Mass, the Eucharist, and the meaning of penance and reconciliation by reading children's literature and engaging in hands-on activities like arts and crafts, food and music, and prayer.

All students, beginning in the second grade, are invited to participate in our program. And all families with children eligible for our program are encouraged to attend a Family Mass & Meeting on Sunday, September 22nd beginning at 11:00am in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church. At this meeting, parents can complete a registration form and receive our complete schedule for the year.

If you have questions or need more information about youth faith formation in Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish, please contact Betsy Works at 978-281-4820 or [bworks@ccgrounline.com](mailto:bworks@ccgrounline.com). Please pray for our young disciples and their families! Peace and blessings to all! All are invited! All are welcome!

## PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

### Our Weekly Gifts

WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER 7TH & 8TH

#### Holy Family Parish

Offertory	\$6,063
Electronic	\$2,365
Total	\$8,428

#### Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish

Offertory	\$3,826
Electronic	\$669
Total	\$4,495

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

### Holy Family Women's Guild Fall Gathering

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH AT 6:00PM

Established in 2005, the Holy Family Women's Guild brings together women of all ages and backgrounds in prayer, fellowship, and service to our parish and community. As the change in seasons approaches, we are resuming a more regular schedule of meetings.

Our Fall Gathering will be held on Tuesday, September 24th at 6:00pm in Our Lady's Hall. Old and new members are invited and encouraged to join us! Our hope and prayer is for a new beginning that will inspire us to meet quarterly throughout the year! At our fall gathering, we will select officers and a fundraising committee – by asking members to serve in various roles. Refreshments will be provided.

For more information about the Holy Family Women's Guild and its good work in our parish, please contact Lydia Bertolino at 978-281-4279 or bertolino4@msn.com. Please join us! New members and volunteers are always welcome! Saint Ann, pray for us! Saint Joachim, pray for us! Holy Family, pray for us!

#### THE POPE VIDEO

LISTEN FOR THE CRY OF THE EARTH  
[ccgronline.com/resources](http://ccgronline.com/resources)

## SEASON OF CREATION



### Hope & Act with Creation

BY POPE FRANCIS

In our hopeful and persevering expectation of the glorious return of Jesus, the Holy Spirit keeps us, the community of believers, vigilant. He continually guides us and calls us to conversion and to a change in lifestyle in order to resist the degradation of our environment and to engagement in that social critique which is above all a witness to the real possibility of change.

This conversion entails leaving behind the arrogance of those who want to exercise dominion over others and nature itself, reducing the latter to an object to be manipulated; and instead embracing the humility of those who care for others and for all of creation.

When human beings claim to take God's place, they become their own worst enemies, for Adam's sin has tainted our fundamental relationships, namely with God, with ourselves, with each other, and with the universe. All of these relationships need to be integrally restored, saved, and put right. None of them can be overlooked, because if even one is lacking, everything else fails.

To hope and act with creation means above all to join forces and walk together with all men and women of good will. In this way, we can rethink, among other things, the question of human power, its meaning, and its limits. Our power has frenetically increased in a few decades. We have made impressive and awesome technological advances, but we have not realized that we have turned into highly dangerous beings, capable of threatening the lives of many beings and our own survival. Unchecked power creates monsters and then turns against us...

To hope and act with creation, then, means to live an incarnational faith, one that can enter into the suffering and hope-filled flesh of others, by sharing in the expectation of the bodily resurrection to which believers are predestined in Christ the Lord...In this way, our lives can become a song of love for God, for humanity, with and for creation, and find their fullness in holiness (9-1-24).

**OUR MASS INTENTIONS****September 14th – September 22nd**

<b>Saturday, September 14</b>	<b>Vigil · 24th Sunday</b>
4:00pm Saint Ann Church	Captain Antonino Romeo
6:00pm Our Lady's Church	Bobby Donfield
<b>Sunday, September 15</b>	<b>24th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
7:00am Our Lady's Church	Special Intention
8:15am Saint Ann Church	Rita Peritore
10:00am Saint Joachim Church	The Vitale Family
11:45am Our Lady's Church	Allerio Brancaleone
	<b>Ordinary Time</b>
September 18 at 5:30pm Our Lady's Church	Michael Stuart
September 19 at 8:00am Our Lady's Church	Special Intention
September 20 at 8:00am Our Lady's Church	Francine Kirley
<b>Saturday, September 21</b>	<b>Vigil · 25th Sunday</b>
4:00pm Saint Ann Church	Stefano Adelfio
6:00pm Our Lady's Church	Rosaria Aloï
<b>Sunday, September 22</b>	<b>25th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
7:00am Our Lady's Church	Donna M. Mineo
8:15am Saint Ann Church	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas V. Murphy, Sr.
10:00am Saint Joachim Church	Angelina Loiacano Strescino
11:45am Our Lady's Church	Ralph Pescatore

**OUR WEEKLY MEMORIALS****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, September 15th, donations were offered for the following special intentions:

In Memory of the Pratt Family  
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Thomas Pratt  
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Joachim Church

In Memory of Charles Pratt  
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Anthony Chapel

In Memory of Malia Pratt  
Sanctuary Candle · Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

For the Intentions of the Assisi Project  
Sanctuary Candle · Chapel of the Archangels

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](mailto: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!

**WORDS OF WISDOM  
FROM SAINT BENEDICT**

One must not be excitable, anxious,  
extreme, obstinate, jealous,  
or overly suspicious.  
Such people are never at rest.

There are times when good words  
are to be left unspoken out of esteem for silence.  
Diligently cultivate silence at all times,  
and especially at night.

*From the Rule of Saint Benedict of Nursia*

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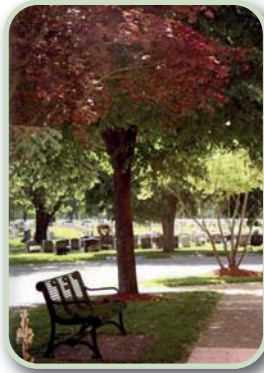
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