

# 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-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time • September 29, 2024



OUR PASTOR'S MESSAGE

## **THE WORK WE DO**

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

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## CALL TO PRAYER

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### Prayers for the Work We Do

#### HELP US TO USE OUR GIFTS

God of Love,  
 help us to use the gifts that you give us  
 for the people who need us.  
 Help us to see their needs,  
 and inspired by your Son,  
 help us to reach beyond ourselves  
 and beyond our institutions  
 to the very margins of society  
 and bring all things to you — the center.  
 May all we do be in preparation  
 to serve you more faithfully,  
 seeking you in the world  
 so that we are invited to create with you.  
 Send your Holy Spirit  
 to keep us aglow with a desire for justice.  
 Amen.

#### BEING PRESENT

Always-present God,  
 help me to be present  
 to all who need me.  
 Help me to be present  
 to those I know too well to actually see  
 and to those who are unseen strangers to me.  
 Give me the ability  
 to give witness to your loving gaze  
 when I see my world,  
 my family and my friends,  
 who are seen and loved  
 by you first.  
 Finally, may my availability  
 be marked by a desire  
 to be like your Son:  
 open to being sent,  
 open to being loved,  
 open to becoming love in the world.  
 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! Amen!

## OUR PASTOR'S MESSAGE

### The Work We Do

ON RETREAT WITH 'A GOOD LIFE'

BY FATHER JIM

In *A Good Life*, Robert Benson teaches us that the cornerstone of such a contented life consists of a balance between prayer, rest, work, and community. But in a society that prioritizes work, fitness, success, ambition, and activity, any kind of real balance is difficult. As Christians, we are also confronted with Saint Benedict's timeless admonition: "The Lord waits for us daily to translate into actions, as we should, his holy teachings." In this way, we face competing calls: the world's appeal to work hard and be successful versus the gospel's summons to good works through humble service.

In my family, work is important. My parents came to this country with almost nothing. By hard work, frugal living, and determination, my mom and dad were able to buy a house, raise three children, and plan for retirement. What drove them, however, was not a desire for wealth, prestige, or influence. What drove them was love for their children and the sacred duty to feed, clothe, and house me, my brother, and my sister. It was never about them. It was always about loving us.

During my recent retreat with Sister Elizabeth Wagner of Transfiguration Hermitage, we talked about the challenges associated with finding and maintaining balance in a busy life. We also talked about two haunting propositions in Robert Benson's *A Good Life*. First, he says: "Work never comes first." And second, he says: "When it comes to work, just as when it comes to prayer, humility is the thing that keeps us in balance." Benson explains that in a monastery, the abbot is both leader and servant. He or she has the responsibility to guide and shepherd the flock. He or she also has the responsibility to care for the weaker ones and to look for the lost sheep. The abbot must both lead and serve.

To be a good abbot, a good pastor, a good parent, a good grandparent, or a good boss means more than being an effective leader, organizer, or problem-solver. It requires more than hard work and perseverance. It requires prayer for ourselves and for those who depend on us. It requires an ability to balance our call to work with our need for rest. It requires self-care and an abiding concern for the common good. And it requires humility: the ability to take pride in our work without taking pride in ourselves; the ability to make the best use of our God-given abilities without being boastful or arrogant. Benson writes: "We are to see ourselves as servants above all else."

As a priest, it can be easy to lose the servant-leader balance in clerical clothes and fancy vestments. It can be easy to lose the servant-leader balance in the linguistic weeds of titles like "father" or "presider" or "principal celebrant." Whenever I find myself losing this balance, I remember that the laundry needs to be folded, the dishwasher needs to be emptied, or the large lawn at my house needs to be mowed. Completing these chores with a spirit of prayer and humility keeps me connected with reality, with the earth itself, and with our brothers and sisters who work so much harder than most of us ever will.

Robert Benson writes: "Perhaps we need to remember that the work we do is not actually the center of the universe. The work that we do — whatever it is, whatever hat we are wearing, however great or small it may seem to us or to anyone else at the time — is to be done in the service of the Center of the Universe." Our work, then, is not about making money or getting a promotion. It is about serving God and serving others. Most of all, it is about remembering the difference.

*Father Jim's reflections on 'A Good Life' are now archived at [ccgronline.com/resources](https://ccgronline.com/resources).*

*Follow us on Instagram for more timeless wisdom from Saint Benedict!*

**LIVING THE GOSPEL**



**Celebrating Saint Francis**

**OCTOBER 2ND THROUGH OCTOBER 5TH**

Cardinal Humberto Medeiros, Archbishop of Boston from 1970 until 1983, once wrote: “It is a long way from the cobbled streets of thirteenth century Assisi to the paved sidewalks of today’s Boston. Times have changed indeed. Technology has transformed our culture. Yet even in an era of scientific wonders, history has by no means worn out the need for the simple values of the beloved Saint Francis of Assisi. In many ways, they are truly needed now more than ever.”

In this spirit, all friends, neighbors, and fellow parishioners of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport are invited to join Father Jim and Brother Patrick for Celebrating Saint Francis, a four day commemoration of the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, from Wednesday, October 2nd through Saturday, October 5th. Here’s our upcoming schedule of special events:

**BROTHER PATRICK’S RENEWAL OF VOWS**

Celebration of Mass & Holy Hour  
 Wednesday, October 2nd at 5:30pm  
 Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

**THE TRANSITUS OF SAINT FRANCIS**

Evening Prayer & Holy Hour  
 Thursday, October 3rd at 6:00pm  
 Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

**THE FEAST OF SAINT FRANCIS**

Evening Prayer & Holy Hour  
 Friday, October 4th at 6:00pm  
 Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

**THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**

Saturday, October 5th at 2:00pm  
 Our Lady of Good Voyage Church  
 Rectory Parking Lot

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Save the dates! Please join us!  
 Saint Francis of Assisi, pray for us!

**PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE**

**Holy Family Women’s Guild  
 Christmas Fair Planning Meeting**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1ST AT 6:00PM**

Save the date! The Holy Family Christmas Fair is scheduled for Saturday, November 23rd! The fair is the biggest fundraising event of the year! As autumn begins, it is time to start our planning!

On Tuesday, October 1st at 6:00pm in Saint Ann Church Hall, all are invited to join the Holy Family Women’s Guild for our first Christmas Fair Planning Meeting. All friends and fellow parishioners are invited to join us in making this year’s fair our best ever! We are also asking for crafts, homemade baked goods, Christmas decorations, and baskets for the Spinning Wheel!

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 the wider community. For more information about how you can help with the Holy Family Christmas Fair, please contact Lydia Bertolino at bertolino4@msn.com or 978-271-4279. If you can help, but cannot attend the planning meeting, please contact Lydia! Please join us! New friends, members, and volunteers are always welcome!

**Our Lady’s Guild**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 7TH AT 6:30PM**

Since 1944, Our Lady’s Guild has worked to build community among women of all ages in Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish through prayer, good works, fundraising, and special events. The Guild’s next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 7th at 6:30pm in Our Lady’s Hall. Dinner is potluck! Bring a dish to share!

For more information about Our Lady’s Guild and its good work in our parish, please contact Beth Fosberry at jcbf33@yahoo.com or leave a message at 978-281-4820. Please join us! Bring a friend! New members and volunteers are always welcome!

**SCRIPTURE FOR LIFE**

**A WOMAN’S PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY GOSPEL**  
[ccgronline.com/resources](http://ccgronline.com/resources)

## PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

### Our Weekly Gifts

WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER 21ST & 22ND

#### Holy Family Parish

Offertory	\$4,851
Electronic	\$664
Total	\$5,515

#### Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish

Offertory	\$4,136
Electronic	\$326
Total	\$4,462

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

### We Share!

THE ONLY SAFE RULE IS TO GIVE  
MORE THAN WE CAN SPARE.  
C.S. LEWIS

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!

### PRAY AS YOU GO DAILY MEDITATIONS

SOMETHING NEW EVERY DAY!  
[ccgronline.com/resources](http://ccgronline.com/resources)

## SEASON OF CREATION



### The Mother's Heart Our Lady, Queen of Virgins

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5TH  
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 do 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, Queen of Virgins on Saturday, October 5th beginning with Mass at 8:00am in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church. After Mass, Brother Patrick will offer a brief reflection on the Blessed Mother's love for those who offer their lives in chaste service to Christ and the People of God.

The Holy Gospels teach us that Mary is the first among all the sons and daughters of Eve to embrace the call to live a chaste and virginal life. We also know that Saint Francis and Saint Clare of Assisi (among many other saints) regarded chastity in mind, body, and spirit as a key component of their humble labors in the Lord's vineyard.

For more information about the Assisi Project and its good work in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport and-or if you would like us to pray for you or your special intention, please contact Brother Patrick at 978-281-4820 or brpatrick@assisiproject.com. Save the date! Spread the word! Bring a friend! Please join us! All are welcome! Our Lady, Queen of Virgins, pray for us! May God bless you! May the Lord give you peace!

**OUR MASS INTENTIONS**

**September 28th – October 6th**

<b>Saturday, September 28</b>	<b>Vigil · 26th Sunday</b>
4:00pm Saint Ann Church	James Frontiero
6:00pm Our Lady's Church	Lisa Ann Joseph
<b>Sunday, September 29</b>	<b>26th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
7:00am Our Lady's Church	Special Intention
8:15am Saint Ann Church	Joseph Leon Bourgeois
10:00am Saint Joachim Church	Jean Russo
11:45am Our Lady's Church	Manuel I. Garcia
	<b>Ordinary Time</b>
October 2 at 5:30pm Our Lady's Church	Special Intention
October 3 at 8:00am Our Lady's Church	For Peace & Unity
October 4 at 8:00am Our Lady's Church	Frank & Frances Souza
<b>Saturday, October 5</b>	<b>Vigil · 27th Sunday</b>
4:00pm Saint Ann Church	Madonna del Rosario Society
6:00pm Our Lady's Church	Dana Muise II
<b>Sunday, October 6</b>	<b>27th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
7:00am Our Lady's Church	Kellianne Casimiro
8:15am Saint Ann Church	Madonna del Lume
10:00am Saint Joachim Church	Matthew Shallow
11:45am Our Lady's Church	Alex & Tina Borge

**OUR WEEKLY MEMORIALS**

**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 29th, donations were offered for the following special intentions:

In Memory of Brien Kennedy  
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Brien Kennedy  
Sanctuary Gifts · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Thomas Lupo, Sr.  
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Joachim Church

In Memory of Thomas Lupo III  
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Anthony Chapel

For the Intentions of the Assisi Project  
Sanctuary Candle · Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

For the Intentions of the Assisi Project  
Sanctuary Gifts · Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

In Memory of Glenn Morse  
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@ccgronline.com](mailto:office@ccgronline.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 FOR A GOOD LIFE**

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that are shaped and nurtured  
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that is prayed without ceasing.

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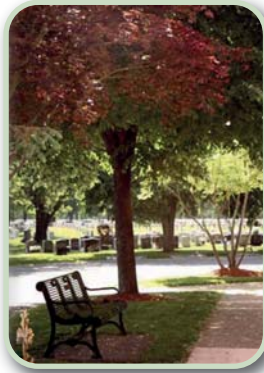
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