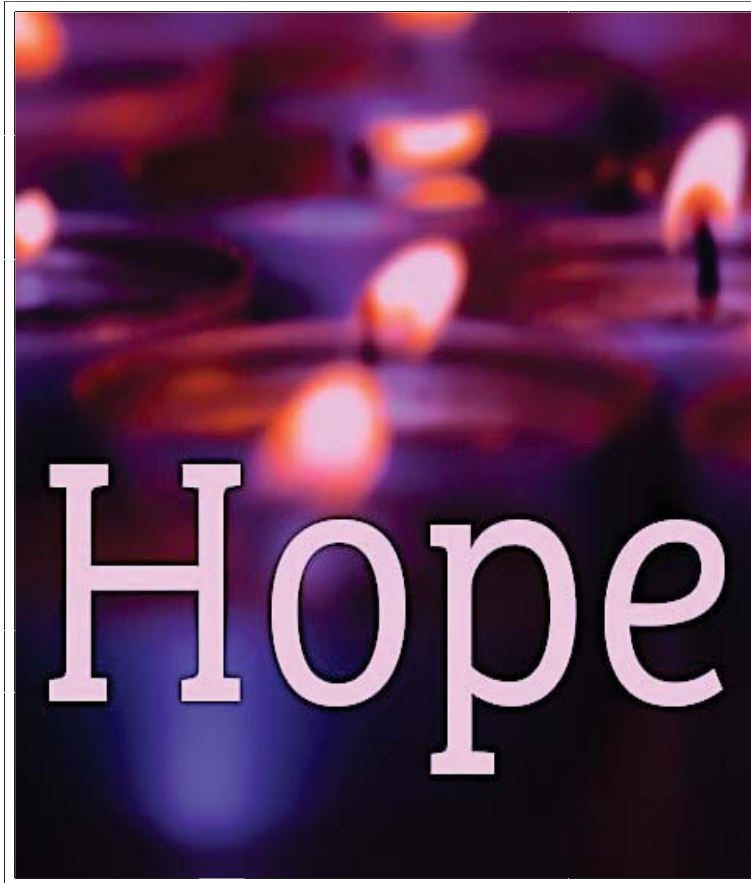


# The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport

HOLY FAMILY PARISH & OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH

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**Live the Gospel. Share God's Love. Rebuild the Church.**  
Third Sunday of Advent · December 15, 2024



THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE  
**OUR SECRET WEAPON**

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

Phone: 978-281-4820  
Email: [office@ccgrounline.com](mailto:office@ccgrounline.com)  
Website: [ccgrounline.com](http://ccgrounline.com)

## LIVING THE GOSPEL

### Saints for All Seasons Annual Mini-Retreat Series

RETURNS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

Now more than ever, we need to step back from the business and busyness of daily life and focus on our relationships with Jesus and those we are called to love. Unfortunately, few among us are able to leave behind home, work, and family for a real retreat from the responsibilities of the world. For this reason and for the third consecutive year, the Assisi Project is pleased to announce a special series of seasonal mini-retreats called Saints for All Seasons.

Throughout his long priestly ministry, Pope Francis has called people of all ages and backgrounds to learn about and pray with the saints. The Holy Father believes in his heart that the saints bring us closer to Christ, closer to the Church, and closer to each other. He says: "The saints are still here, not far from us; and their images [and relics] in our churches evoke the 'cloud of witnesses' that always surrounds us (cf. Hebrews 12:1)...The saints remind us that even in our lives, however weak and marked by sin, holiness can unfold (4-7-21)."

In this spirit of unfolding holiness, all are invited to join us in the next few months for a series of two-hour mini-retreats. These times of prayer, reflection, and adoration will focus on the lives of amazing holy men and women: Jacopane of Todi, Saint Margaret of Cortona, Blessed Giles of Assisi, Blessed John of LaVerna, and Our Lady of the Angels. Each mini-retreat will begin with the celebration of Holy Mass. After Mass, Father Jim and Brother Patrick will offer a reflection on the life and veneration of a saint whose life of holiness and love of neighbor has inspired men and women all around the world.

After each reflection, we will pray in silent adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and in veneration of the holy images of each saint of the day. We will conclude by praying the Holy Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Here's our schedule for the winter season:

#### JACOPANE OF TODI

Saturday, December 21st  
Begins with Mass at 8:00am  
Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

#### MARGARET OF CORTONA

Friday, February 21st  
Begins with Mass at 5:30pm  
Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

#### OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS

Saturday, March 22nd  
Begins with Mass at 8:00am  
Saint Anthony Chapel

We hope and pray that you and your family will be able to join us for all or even just part of this special series in celebration of the saints which was so popular last year! For more information, please contact Brother Patrick at [brpatrick@ccgronline.com](mailto:brpatrick@ccgronline.com) or 978-281-4820. Save the dates! Spread the word! Bring a friend! All are invited! All are welcome!

## THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

### Our Secret Weapon

BY BROTHER PATRICK

To hope is to believe in and pray for the future. To hope is to trust, desire, and expect that something good will happen eventually. To hope is to trust and believe in God's closeness, compassion, and tenderness toward us and the whole world. Come what may, to hope is to dream about a better and brighter tomorrow.

Indeed, to hope is to long for heaven, to reach for heaven, to set our sights on heaven in all that we think, say, and do. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that hope is born in the human heart which is blessed by God with an "aspiration to happiness (CCC 1818)" that culminates in our desire for eternal life and peace (CCC 1817).

Hope, however, is not just about being cheerful and having a positive attitude. It is about facing the future with confidence in God's mercy, God's goodness, and God's plan for our lives and eternal salvation. As Vaclav Havel (1936-2011) writes: "Hope is definitely not the same thing as optimism. It is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out (1986)." In this sense, hope is less about our happiness and more about making the best of our lives as they exist even during the hardest times.

During the coming Jubilee Year of Hope, which begins on Christmas Eve, Pope Francis calls us to become *Pilgrims of Hope*. He beckons us to be hopeful, to be peacemakers, and to be "weavers of goodness" in a sick, suffering, war-torn world. The Holy Father writes: "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given to us. We must help everyone gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, trusting heart, and prophetic vision. The forthcoming jubilee can contribute abundantly to the restoration of an atmosphere of hope and trust, and to the rebirth and renewal that we all so urgently desire (2-11-22)." Here again, hope is less about our happiness and more about working together for a better world.

In just a few weeks, an era of potentially dramatic political changes will begin in our country. Many people will rejoice at the changes. Many people will resist them. Either way, all of us must realize that no one is saved alone. We are all in the same boat. We are all brothers and sisters. We are all children of the Most High God. We are all obliged to love God and love each other. We are all charged with caring for the poor, the sick, and the left behind. We are all summoned, in the pope's words, to be anchored in hope; to be signs of hope in our community; and to offer words of hope to those in need. We are all bid to walk with the Church on this pilgrimage of hope.

In April 1945, just three days after the sudden death of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the new president spoke to a Joint Session of Congress. Still engaged in a long world war, President Harry S. Truman spoke against darkness, despair, and defeatism. He spoke instead about hope. He called it the "secret weapon" against the forces of aggression and oppression in the world. He said: "As long as hope remains, the spirit of man will never be crushed!" In our time, let us ask God for the grace, courage, and perseverance to kindle the fire of hope and to stoke that fire with our constant prayers and good works.

**CALL TO PRAYER**



**The Jubilee Prayer**

BY POPE FRANCIS

Father in heaven,  
 may the faith you have given us  
 in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
 and the flame of charity  
 enkindled in our hearts  
 by the Holy Spirit,  
 reawaken in us the blessed hope  
 for the coming of your kingdom.

May your grace transform us  
 into tireless cultivators  
 of the seeds of the gospel.

May those seeds transform from within  
 both humanity and the whole cosmos  
 in the sure expectation  
 of a new heaven and a new earth,  
 when with the powers of evil vanquished,  
 your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the jubilee  
 reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,  
 a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread  
 the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
 throughout the whole earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,  
 be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

**Our Lady's Guild  
 Annual Christmas Party**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16TH AT 6:30PM

Catered by the Causeway Restaurant  
 Bring a Dessert to Share!

RSVP by Saturday, December 14th at 12:00pm  
 Contact Celia Doucette at 978-281-2031  
 All are invited! All are welcome!

**PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE**

**Mass Intentions Book**

OPENS THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport's Mass Intentions Book will be opened on Thursday, December 19th from 9:00am until 10:30am in our parish office which is located at 74 Pleasant Street in Gloucester. On that day and time, parishioners will be welcome to book one Sunday Mass and one Weekday Mass at Saint Ann Church, Saint Joachim Church, or Our Lady of Good Voyage Church.

Please note that on Thursday, December 19th, all Mass intentions must be booked in person. No fax, mail, text, or telephone requests will be accepted. No exceptions. Any remaining daily and weekend Masses can be booked after January 1, 2025. For more information, please contact Father Jim at 978-281-4820 or frjim@ccgronline.com. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support! Peace and blessings to all!

**The Assisi Project**

WE ARE PRAYING FOR YOU!

Founded in 2007, the Assisi Project is a Fellowship of Franciscans in Spirit that is dedicated to helping believers of all ages more faithfully live the Gospel of Christ in the spirit of Saint Francis and Saint Clare of Assisi. Our members range in age from 16 to 100. We pray every day for all who have asked us for prayers. If you would like us to pray for you or your special intention, please contact Brother Patrick at brpatrick@assisiprojet.com or 978-281-4820. May God bless you! May the Lord give you peace!

**Winter Weather Advisory**

A PASTOR'S NOTE

The Season of Winter begins on Saturday, December 21st. For the latest information about weather related cancellations during the coming months, please visit our website: ccgronline.com. All are reminded that if public schools are closed due to inclement weather, all parish programs (including Mass) are canceled, too. Stay safe! Stay warm! Peace and blessings to all for a Merry Christmas! God bless us, everyone!

## PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

### Our Weekly Gifts

WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 7TH & 8TH

#### Holy Family Parish

Offertory	\$5,141
Electronic	\$2,365
Total	\$7,506

#### Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish

Offertory	\$3,147
Electronic	\$640
Total	\$3,787

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

### Special Message of Thanks to Some Very Musical People

#### A PASTOR'S NOTE

Our parishes are blessed with the gift of beautiful music! Whether praying with us during Mass, celebrating with us at weddings, grieving with us at funerals, or performing at special events throughout the year, our music ministers bless us by their talent, hard work, and dedication.

Two weekends ago, friends and fellow parishioners gathered in Saint Ann Church for the Annual Advent & Christmas Concert which is among our most cherished holiday traditions. It was a wonderful afternoon of choral and instrumental music that prepared our hearts to welcome the Christ Child at Christmas.

Our deepest thanks go to Tom Misuraca and LuAnn Palazola for directing our adult music ministry. We thank each and every member of the choir for their ongoing gifts of time and talent. And we thank all of our fellow parishioners who joined us for this year's concert!

All are reminded that ministries and programs like our adult choir are made possible by your generous support. Your weekly gifts are fuel that fires up the spirit in our parishes! If you missed the concert, you can watch it by clicking the link on our website: [ccgronline.com](http://ccgronline.com). Thank you! Peace and blessings to all for a Merry Christmas! God bless us, everyone!

## CALL TO WORSHIP



### The Christmas Season Our Worship Schedule

The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport joyfully invites you and your family to join us for Holy Mass in celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ at Christmas! Here's our upcoming schedule:

#### CHRISTMAS EVE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

Saint Ann Church at 4:00pm  
Our Lady of Good Voyage Church at 6:00pm  
Our Lady of Good Voyage Church at Midnight

#### CHRISTMAS DAY

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

Saint Ann Church at 8:15am  
Saint Joachim Church at 10:00am  
Our Lady of Good Voyage Church at 11:45am  
Note: No Mass at 5:30pm

#### CHRISTMAS MASS ON YOUTUBE

Available on Christmas Eve at 4:00pm

#### SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

#### NEW YEAR'S DAY

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1ST

Saint Ann Church at 8:15am  
Saint Joachim Church at 10:00am  
Our Lady of Good Voyage Church at 11:45am  
Note: No Mass at 5:30pm

All friends, neighbors, and fellow parishioners are advised that we are no longer welcome to park in the Shaw's parking lot near Saint Ann Church. Violators are being towed. Please plan accordingly. On behalf of our pastor, senior priests, and pastoral team, we wish you peace, good health, and every happiness at Christmas and throughout the coming new year! Now more than ever, let's pray together! Please join us! All are welcome!

**OUR MASS INTENTIONS**

**December 14th – December 22nd**

<b>Saturday, December 14</b>	<b>Vigil · Third Sunday of Advent</b>
4:00pm Saint Ann Church	Grazia & Salvatore Storniolo
6:00pm Our Lady's Church	Matteo & Vincenza Cusumano
<b>Sunday, December 15</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>
7:00am Our Lady's Church	William Rochford
8:15am Saint Ann Church	Sara Jean Tarr
10:00am Saint Joachim Church	Cedric Hill
11:45am Our Lady's Church	Charles & Mary Works
	<b>Season of Advent</b>
December 18 at 5:30pm Our Lady's Church	Alex & Tina Borge
December 19 at 8:00am Our Lady's Church	Dana D'Amour
December 20 at 8:00am Our Lady's Church	Joseph P. Taormina
<b>Saturday, December 21</b>	<b>Vigil · Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>
4:00pm Saint Ann Church	Joseph Nicastro
6:00pm Our Lady's Church	Pasquale Vitale
<b>Sunday, December 22</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>
7:00am Our Lady's Church	Special Intention
8:15am Saint Ann Church	Cedric Hill
10:00am Saint Joachim Church	Angie & Salvatore Loiacano
11:45am Our Lady's Church	Matteo & Vincenza Cusumano

**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, December 15th, donations were offered for the following special intentions:

In Memory of Brien Kennedy  
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Bill & Phyllis Toppan  
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Joachim Church

In Memory of Giuseppe & Lucia Groppo  
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Anthony Chapel

In Memory of Agnes Broderick  
Sanctuary Candle · Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

In Memory of Joseph V. Valeriani  
Sanctuary Gifts · 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@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 ADVENT  
FROM POPE FRANCIS**

A good program for Advent is to encounter Jesus coming in every brother and sister who needs us and to share with them what we can: time, listening, concrete assistance.

*Pope Francis  
Vatican City - December 2023*

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