

The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport

HOLY FAMILY PARISH & OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH

United in Prayer for Peace, Truth & Justice in Our World

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary · August 17, 2025



THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

THE WORLD AS IT SHOULD BE

The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport

United in Prayer, Fellowship, and Service

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CALL TO PRAYER

The Peace Prayer of Saint Francis

LET'S PRAY TOGETHER!

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
 Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
 Where there is injury, pardon.
 Where there is doubt, faith.
 Where there is despair, hope.
 Where there is darkness, light.
 Where there is sadness, joy.
 O Divine Master, grant that I may not
 so much seek to be consoled as to console,
 to be understood as to understand,
 to be loved as to love.
 For it is in giving that we receive,
 it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
 and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Inspired by the Peace Prayer of Saint Francis

LET'S PRAY TOGETHER!

Creator of all, make me a person of peace.
 Where there is oppression, let me bring equality.
 Where there is abuse, dignity.
 Where there is fragmentation, unity.
 Where there is exploitation, justice.
 Where there is conflict, resolution.
 Where there is discrimination, mutuality.
 Where there is violence, vision.
 Where there is powerlessness, power.
 Grant that I may not so much seek to compete, as to collaborate;
 to exclude as to include,
 to dominate as to complement.
 For it is in healing that we are healed.
 It is in reconciling that we are reconciled.
 It is in our common bond that we become whole. Amen.

SAINT MICHAEL'S LENT

WEEKLY RESOURCES FOR PRAYER & FASTING

Whether or not you are able to join
 Father Jim and Brother Patrick in prayer and fasting
 for peace, truth, and justice in our world,
 you can pray with them and for them
 by engaging with the resources posted each weekend
 at ccgronline.com.

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

The World As It Should Be

BY PAIGE BYRNE SHORTAL

The world changes and it is changing faster all the time. My husband and I like to make note of the things we say today that would make no sense to people just fifty years ago. For example: "I googled it." Or "You can read about it on Facebook." Or my husband's favorite: "I can't find my phone."

Some time ago, I read a note from my children's school that would have mystified my grandparents. It read: "We are asking you to provide a non-perishable snack to be stored in your child's homeroom in the event of a security lockdown." Security lockdown?

A few days later, I was talking with some other parents. One remarked that her son is still terrified of the school fire drill because he hates noise, but he does not have any trouble with the lockdown drill. I must have looked confused, so she elaborated. When the principal announces a "Code Red" over the speaker system, the teacher dims the lights and locks the door while the kids hurry into a closet. In rooms without a closet, there is a designated hiding place where they cannot be seen through the glass in the hallway door. The teacher then closes the blinds and joins the huddled kids until the "all clear" is sounded.

Maybe the world does not change nearly enough. Our elders endured their own version of 9-11 that they called Pearl Harbor. It was followed by another "war to end all wars." And they coped with their own economic meltdown that they called the "crash." It was followed by the Great Depression.

Today we prepare for terrorist attacks and send snacks for our children to eat in a closet. When I was in elementary school, we practiced "duck and cover" drills in the event of a nuclear attack. I realize now that I was not traumatized by those rehearsals because the adults in charge did a good job of maintaining a sense of normalcy.

We are made for peace and goodwill, and if we cannot have peace and goodwill, then we at least try to keep our children innocent and untroubled — even if it means making a game out of the unthinkable and providing a snack for the end of the world.

God promises to make all things new. As forecasted in the Book of Isaiah (25:8) and confirmed in the Book of Revelation, we are assured that God will wipe away every tear from our eyes and "there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain (Revelation 21:4)." Until then, we must be as much like God as possible: creating peace, feeding our little ones, and doing the best we can to make the world as it should be.

Paige Byrne Shortal is a contributor to Bringing Home the Word.

A new edition is posted every weekend at ccgronline.com/news.

LIVING THE GOSPEL



Fasting as Whole Body Prayer

BY BROTHER PATRICK

As everyone knows by now, Father Jim and I, along with some friends and fellow parishioners, have entered into the ancient season of prayer and fasting known as Saint Michael's Lent. We undertake this penitential season for the intention of an increase of peace, truth, and justice in our suffering world as articulated by Pope Leo XIV in the opening days of his papacy.

In a culture dominated by greed, self-interest, and self-gratification, it is sometimes difficult to discuss and promote the practice of fasting. In the book, *Fasting: The Ancient Practices*, Scott McKnight writes: "Urging folks today to fast is like urging them to milk their own cows — just as there are no cows in their backyards, so there is no body in their perception of spirituality."

McKnight explains that our personal spiritualities are all too often dominated by the intellect. The body is left out of the prayer process. But God did not create just our minds and imaginations. God created our bodies, too. God created us, body and soul, in his image and likeness. So, it is good, holy, and holistic to engage both our minds and our bodies in the discipline of prayer.

We see the connection between body, mind, and spirit as we genuflect and bless ourselves before the Holy Eucharist. We see this connection when we pray during Mass while kneeling, singing, sitting, and standing. We see this connection when we pray a chaplet or rosary with the help of a beaded prayer rope. We see this connection when we are inspired to offer some act of kindness that requires us to engage our strength and our senses.

In this way, fasting is our body's response to a sacred moment or grievous situation in the life of God's family. Through the act of fasting, however much we are able to do it, we unite our bodies and souls in prayer for a particular intention — not to change the world, but to unite ourselves with those who long for peace, truth, and justice. Now more than ever, let's pray and fast together!

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

OUR CLOTHES CLOSET
OPEN SECOND, THIRD & FOURTH SATURDAYS

The 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 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 AUGUST 9TH & 10TH****Holy Family Parish**

Offertory	\$5,167
Electronic	\$2,636
Total	\$7,803

Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish

Offertory	\$4,324
Electronic	\$553
Total	\$4,877

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

Pastor's Note**Welcome, Father Jude Friday!****WEEKEND OF AUGUST 23RD & 24TH**

During the weekend of August 23rd and 24th, the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport is blessed to welcome Father Jude Friday of the Archdiocese of Tororo in Uganda, who will preach about the good works of the Missionary Co-Operative Program and the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith is one of four mission societies in the Archdiocese of Boston. Its mission is to support priests, lay ministers, and religious orders in the work of missionary evangelization. Learn more at propfaithboston.org.

Father Jude will speak at all Masses on Saturday, August 23rd and Sunday, August 24th about his missionary work and about building spiritual communion between us and those whose daily lives may be very different from our country, customs, and culture.

In support of these ministries, Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish will take a special second collection next weekend. Your generous support is much appreciated! On behalf of our pastoral team and all fellow parishioners, we welcome Father Jude to Gloucester & Rockport! Peace and blessings! — Father Jim

SHARING GOD'S LOVE**Our Lady of Good Voyage
Summer Carillon Concerts****FRIDAY, AUGUST 22ND AT 6:30PM**

A popular summer tradition has returned to Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish and the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport! Our Summer Carillon Concerts continue on Friday, August 22nd at 6:30pm!

This year, Luann Pallazola, Cynthia Cafasso, and Thomas Dort have prepared programs that include patriotic melodies, popular hymns and songs, and classical and international music, along with selections especially for children!

Installed in 1922, the carillon at Our Lady of Good Voyage Church are the first toned bell set ever in the United States. The carillon's thirty-one bronze bells hang from a steel beam within the west tower. And our bells range in weight from 16 pounds to 3,000 pounds.

The carillon bells at Our Lady of Good Voyage Church were forged by the Taylor Foundry in Loughboro, England. In order to avoid the payment of a tariff upon their arrival in Gloucester, the church was declared a bonded warehouse by the Collector of Customs in Boston, who happened to be a friend of the local congressman. Soon after, a bill declaring them a "work of art" was passed by the United States Congress and signed into law by President Warren G. Harding.

Although our bells can be heard from blocks away, the sound is always best near the church. Once again this year, Our Lady's Guild will be selling snacks, cold drinks, and raffle tickets to support the parish.

Our Summer Carillon Concerts are an awesome opportunity for the whole family to gather and enjoy the gift of music with friends, neighbors, and fellow parishioners! Our final concert for the season is scheduled for Friday, August 29th at 6:30pm. For more information, please contact about this beloved summer tradition, Luann Pallazola at lpallazola@gmail.com or 978-281-4820. Save the dates! All are invited! All are welcome!

OUR MASS INTENTIONS

August 16 – August 24

Saturday, August 16	Vigil · Twentieth Sunday
4:00pm Saint Ann Church	Norman & Evelyn Authier
6:00pm Our Lady's Church	Joseph Ciaramitaro
Sunday, August 17	Twentieth Sunday
7:00am Our Lady's Church	David & Jared Knowlton
8:15am Saint Ann Church	Major George Coyle, Sr.
10:00am Saint Joachim Church	Leonardo Ferrara
11:45am Our Lady's Church	Tina Borge
Ordinary Time	
August 20 at 5:30pm Our Lady's Church	Elja Piscitello
August 21 at 8:00am Our Lady's Church	Joan Clays
August 22 at 8:00am Our Lady's Church	Terri Sanfilippo
Saturday, August 23	Vigil · Twenty-First Sunday
4:00pm Saint Ann Church	Pasquale Vitale
6:00pm Our Lady's Church	Cheryl Sullivan Bruno
Sunday, August 24	Twenty-First Sunday
7:00am Our Lady's Church	Stephen & Elinor Farricy
8:15am Saint Ann Church	Ignazio LoContro
10:00am Saint Joachim Church	Matthew & Josephine Shallow
11:45am Our Lady's Church	Albert Fong

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, August 17th, donations were offered for the following special intentions:

For All Rowers & Sailors
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Phillip Parisi
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Joachim Church

In Memory of Joseph Sullivan
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Anthony Chapel

In Memory of Tina Borge
Sanctuary Candle · Our Lady of Good Voyage

In Memory of Tina Borge
Sanctuary Gifts · Our Lady of Good Voyage

In Memory of Stella Lafferty
Sanctuary Flowers · Our Lady of Good Voyage

In Memory of Dorothea Comer
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 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 FATHER THOMAS RYAN

The tendency is to think
that God will love us if we change,
but God loves us so that we can change...
Penitential practices and disciplines [like fasting]
enable us to appropriate and make real in our lives
the freedom given through grace.

From 'The Sacred Art of Fasting' by Father Thomas Ryan

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