

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
Fourth Sunday of Advent · December 21, 2025



THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MY NAME DOES NOT MATTER

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

Phone: 978-281-4820

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THE ASSISI PROJECT



The Franciscan Virtues Fifty-Two Steps to Conversion

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3RD AT 8:00AM

The coming year marks two important anniversaries in the life of the Catholic Church. It is the 10th Anniversary of the Extraordinary Year of Mercy (2016) and the 800th Anniversary of the Transitus (Death) of Saint Francis of Assisi. As part of its ongoing mission to help us more faithfully live the Gospel of the Poor Christ in the spirit of Saint Francis and Saint Clare, the Assisi Project is going back to the basics, back to the life and good example of our patron saint and his first followers.

On the First Saturday of every month, the Assisi Project gathers for a two-hour mini-retreat that includes Holy Mass, a reflection by Father Jim or Brother Patrick, and a period of prayer and faith sharing. All are invited to join us on Saturday, January 3rd beginning at 8:00am in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church as we begin our reading and discussion of an amazing book called *Franciscan Virtues Through the Year: Fifty-Two Steps to Conversion*.

This beautiful but sometimes challenging little book includes fifty-two weekly short reflections on the virtues practiced by Saint Francis of Assisi and the saints and sinners who have tried to follow him during the past eight centuries. In January, for example, we will read and reflect on *Attentiveness, Confession, Courage, and Detachment*. At our monthly gatherings, we will focus on one of more of these compelling Franciscan virtues.

Founded in 2007 by Father Jim and Brother Patrick, the Assisi Project is a Fellowship of Franciscans in Spirit with friends and followers around the world. We are dedicated to helping believers of all ages more faithfully live the Good News in the spirit of Saint Francis and Saint Clare of Assisi. We are also dedicated to promoting a devotion to Pope Francis (1936-2025) as a patron of peace, mercy, and fraternity in our sick and suffering world.

For more information about the Assisi Project and its good work in our parishes and beyond, please contact Brother Patrick at 978-281-4820 or brpatrick@assisiproject.com. Please join us! Bring a friend! All are invited! All are welcome! Saint Francis of Assisi, pray for us! Saint Clare of Assisi, pray for us! Our Lady of the Angels, pray for us! Pope Francis, pray for us! May God bless you! May the Lord give you peace at Christmas and always!

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

This is our vocation:
to heal wounds, to bind what is broken,
and to bring home those who are lost.

Saint Francis of Assisi
Patron of Peace - Patron of the Poor
Patron of Animals – Patron of the Environment
1181-1226

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

My Name Does Not Matter

BY A CHILD WHO STILL BELIEVES

My name does not matter as much as my heart does.
I am a child who came here because my parents wanted me to live,
not just to breathe, but to live without fear.

They are not bad people.
They are a mother and father like you.
They took my hand and ran from men with guns,
from gangs who wanted to use my brother,
from hunger that never ended.
They crossed deserts and borders because love made them brave.
They dreamed that in America,
I could go to school, play outside,
and sleep at night without being afraid.

You may see papers and rules.
I see my father's hands: strong, blistered from working in the fields.
I see my mother's eyes: tired but full of hope.
They believe this country would welcome their work,
their dreams, and the love they carry for us.
They believed in the same promise
that once brought so many others here:
that all people are created equal,
that every child deserves a chance.

Now that dream is breaking.
My father could be taken away.
My mother cries quietly so we won't hear.
I ask you: if you have a daughter or a son,
could you imagine them crying for you the way I cry for mine?
Would you not do everything, anything, to keep them safe?

Please, see us not as strangers
but as family you have not yet met.
We do not want to harm your country.
We want to share in its hope.
We want to learn, to work hard, to give back.
My parents came here because they believed America
still had a heart big enough for all God's children.

Please, look into your own heart.
Remember that we, too, are made in God's image.
Remember that love is stronger than fear.

*Source: Father Gary and the Footprint Project
Learn More: stepupsspeakout.org*

CALL TO PRAYER



How It Happened
A Gospel Meditation for Christmas

BY BROTHER PATRICK

This is how it happened.
 A young woman and her fiancé
 learn that she will have a child,
 who was conceived by grace and miracle,
 by the hand of all creation.

By law and custom,
 the man, called Joseph, could be angry.

But he is good and holy:
 filled with faith, hope, and love.

Joseph's kindness is confirmed by an angel,
 who enters into his dreams:
 counsels courage, envisions an age of mercy,
 foretells a destiny of deliverance
 for all of God's children.

This child, soon to be a son, is God with us:
 of the Father, yet one of us.
 He is Jesus, Emmanuel,
 friend and brother, prophet and teacher,
 savior and redeemer.

This woman, Mary, gives life.
 This man, Joseph, gives life refuge.
 We, this people, now gives itself:
 to love, to mercy,
 to justice for the oppressed.

With them, brothers and sisters all,
 we make the journey:
 to Bethlehem, to a stable, to a manger,
 where the child is given us,
 where love is born anew, where love whispers:

Be not afraid.
 Be holy. Be loved. Be saved.
 Be one holy family.
 Peace and goodwill to all people in all places.
 Now and forever. Amen.

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 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! Merry Christmas!

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

Our Weekly Gifts

WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 13TH & 14TH

Holy Family Parish

Offertory	\$4,930
Electronic	\$1,724
Total	\$6,654

Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish

Offertory	\$2,647
Electronic	\$335
Total	\$2,982

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

The Assisi Project We're Praying for You!

INTERCESSORY PRAYER MINISTRY

Founded in 2007 by Father Jim and Brother Patrick, the Assisi Project is a Fellowship of Franciscan in Spirit with friends and followers around the world. We are dedicated to helping believers of all ages more faithfully live the Gospel of the Poor Christ through the inspiration of Saint Francis and Saint Clare of Assisi. We are now also dedicated to promoting Pope Francis (1936-2025) as a patron of peace, mercy, and fraternity in our world.

Members of the Assisi Project range in age from 17 to 101 years old. We pray every day for peace, for the poor, and for the persecuted in our midst. We also pray for all who ask for our prayers of intercession. If you would like our fellowship to pray for you, your family, or your special intention, please contact Brother Patrick at 978-281-4820 or brpatrick@assisiproject.com. Brothers and sisters all! May God bless you! May the Lord give you peace!

LET'S PRAY TOGETHER! ASSISI PROJECT ONLINE

Our Daily Prayer
A Franciscan Night Prayer
A Rosary for Peace
assisiproject.com

CALL TO PRAYER



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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

Saint Ann Church at 4:00pm

Our Lady of Good Voyage Church at 5:30pm
Our Lady of Good Voyage Church at Midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

Saint Ann Church at 8:15am

Saint Joachim Church at 10:00am
Our Lady of Good Voyage Church at 11:45am

CHRISTMAS MASS ON YOUTUBE

Available on Christmas Eve at 4:00pm

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
NEW YEAR'S EVE - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31ST

Our Lady of Good Voyage Church at 5:30pm

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
NEW YEAR'S DAY - THURSDAY, JANUARY 1ST

Saint Ann Church at 8:15am

Saint Joachim Church at 10:00am
Our Lady of Good Voyage Church at 11:45am

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! Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! Please join us! All are welcome!

OUR MASS INTENTIONS

OUR WEEKLY MEMORIALS

December 20 – December 28

Sanctuary Candles & Gifts

Saturday, December 20	Vigil · Fourth Sunday of Advent
4:00pm Saint Ann Church	Thomas & Charles Pratt
6:00pm Our Lady's Church	Louis & Helen Balestraci
Sunday, December 21	Fourth Sunday of Advent
7:00am Our Lady's Church	Enza Noto
8:15am Saint Ann Church	Matteo Loiacono
10:00am Saint Joachim Church	The Giambanco Family
11:45am Our Lady's Church	Alex & Tina Borge
	Christmas Season
December 24 Our Lady's Church	Mass for the People
December 25 Our Lady's Church	Mass for the People
December 26 at 8:00am Our Lady's Church	Nancy Ellen Uggerhold
Saturday, December 27	Vigil · Feast of the Holy Family
4:00pm Saint Ann Church	Joseph Nicastro
6:00pm Our Lady's Church	Patty Wall
Sunday, December 28	Feast of the Holy Family
7:00am Our Lady's Church	Jeremias & Maria Matos
8:15am Saint Ann Church	Salvatore & Patricia Garrisi
10:00am Saint Joachim Church	Rosa Lucido
11:45am Our Lady's Church	Julia & José Goulart

**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 21st, donations were offered for the following special intentions:

In Memory of Charles Pratt
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Angela Noto
Sanctuary Gifts · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Deacon William Kane
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Joachim Church

In Memory of Thomas Pratt
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Anthony Chapel

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

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

In Memory of Joseph P. Brancaleone
Sanctuary Candle · Chapel of the Archangels

In Memory of Ronald Joseph
Pope Francis Candle · Our Lady of Good Voyage

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 POPE LEO XIV

Let us disarm our words
and we will help disarm the world.

*Pope Leo XIV
Address to Journalists – May 12, 2025*

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