

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 in Ordinary Time · February 1, 2026



THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE **AN EMERGENCY NOVENA**

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

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Cover Art by Sarah Fuller - Etsy

JUBILEE OF SAINT FRANCIS



The Assisi Project Franciscan Virtues - Empathy

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH AT 8:00AM

This year marks the 800th Anniversary of the Life & Transitus of Saint Francis of Assisi. In commemoration of this important milestone, Pope Leo XIV has declared a Special Jubilee Year which has inspired us to focus many of our adult faith formation programs on the Poor Man of Assisi. In this spirit, the Assisi Project is going back to the basics, back to the life and good example of our patron saint and his first followers who live the Gospel in thought, word, and deed.

All friends, neighbors, and fellow parishioners of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport are invited to join us on Saturday, February 7th at 8:00am in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church for a two hour mini-retreat that includes Holy Mass, a reflection by Father Jim and Brother Patrick, and a period of prayer and faith sharing. We will continue our reading and discussion of an amazing book called Franciscan Virtues: Fifty-Two Steps to Conversion.

This beautiful but spiritually challenging little book contains a brief weekly meditation on the virtues practiced by Saint Francis of Assisi and the saints and sinners who have tried to follow in his footsteps during the past eight centuries. In recent weeks, we have been reading about the virtues of detachment, discernment, eagerness, and empathy. But our focus will be primarily on *empathy*.

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 and backgrounds more faithfully live the Good News of the Poor Christ 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 suffering world.

For more information about the Assisi Project and its good work in our parishes, please contact Brother Patrick at 978-281-4820 or brpatrick@assisiproject.com. Please join us! Bring a friend! All are welcome! May God bless you! May the Lord give you peace! 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!

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM SAINT FRANCIS

If you have men who will exclude
any of God's creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity,
then you will have men who will deal likewise
with their brothers and sisters.

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

An Emergency Novena

PRAYING WITH DOROTHY DAY

God of all peoples,
your heart aches for every person who suffers.

You are near to the brokenhearted
and close to those crushed by injustice.
We bring before you the violence of our times,
the fear that grips our communities,
and the despair that tempts us
to believe that nothing can change.

Through the prayer and witness of Dorothy Day,
stir us from passivity,
move us toward our suffering neighbors,
and teach us to love in ways
that change the world.

Dorothy Day, Servant of God,
you chose the way of radical love in a violent world.
You trusted that small acts of faithfulness
could reshape history.
You believed that every human life mattered.

Intercede now for us:
Pray that our nation may be healed of cruelty.
Pray that fear may not have the final word.
Pray that we may become builders of peace,
even when peace seems impossible.
Help us to live the Gospel with integrity,
to love without condition,
and to seek justice without ceasing.

God of Mercy,
receive the prayers that we place before you.
Hold close to those who are suffering.
Protect those who are in danger.
Strengthen those who labor for peace.
Remain with us in the days ahead.

Do not let our hearts grow hard or our hope grow thin.
Make us instruments of your compassion
in our wounded world.
Through Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

Servant of God, Dorothy Day, pray for us!
Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, pray for us!

Shared by the Sisters of Charity of New York

SHARING GOD'S LOVE**Saints for All Seasons****Friends of Francis - Jacoba of Settesoli****WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH AT 5:30PM**

All Christians are called to holiness. All Christians are called to be saints. A saint is a person who has lived a courageous and virtuous life; a life lived for God; a life lived for others; a life worthy to be imitated by others. Pope Leo XIV proclaims: "The lives of the saints teach us that it is possible to live passionately amidst the complexities of the present time without neglecting [Saint Paul's] mandate to 'shine like stars in the world.'"

This year, the Catholic Church celebrates the 800th Anniversary of the Life & Transitus of Saint Francis of Assisi (1226-2026). As part of our commemoration of this Jubilee Year, we look not just to Francis, but to the friends who knew him best: the holy men and women who sought to follow in his footsteps; the shining stars who sought to live the Gospel of Christ in thought, word, and deed.

In this spirit, all are invited to join Father Jim and Brother Patrick for our next Saints for All Seasons Mini-Retreat beginning with Holy Mass on Wednesday, February 4th at 5:30pm in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church. After Mass and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Brother Patrick will offer a reflection on Blessed Jacoba of Settesoli (1190-1273), one of the dearest friends and first followers of the Poor Man of Assisi.

Following our reflection, we will pray the Franciscan Rosary and Father Jim will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (for those who feel called to confession). This special evening of prayer and devotion will conclude with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and veneration of a relic of Saint Francis of Assisi.

For more information, please contact Brother Patrick at 978-281-4820 or brpatrick@ccgronline.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! May God bless you! May the Lord give you peace!

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE**Trivia Night with Father Jim**
A Brain Teasing Special Event**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST AT 6:30PM**

All friends, neighbors, and fellow parishioners of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport are invited to join us for a brain-teasing, mind-blowing, fast-paced Trivia Night with Father Jim on Saturday, February 21st from 6:30pm until 9:30pm in Our Lady's Hall.

Throughout the evening, Father Jim (who secretly longs to be game show host) will ask a series of challenging questions on a wide variety of topics that will include music and sports, books and history, movies and television, politics and religion!

Participants will be organized into teams of eight players each. All are encouraged to form a team or take your chance on joining the winning team at the door. Tickets are \$25 per person and are available at the parish office, at the door, or by contacting Father Jim, Beth Fosberry, or Lydia Bertolino. All are welcome to bring food and snacks. Coffee, tea, soft drinks, and bottled water will be offered for sale, along with a cash bar. Father Jim also promises several raffles with great prizes!

Don't miss this opportunity to impress your friends and fellow parishioners with your knowledge of facts, figures, and trivia! Don't miss this chance to share some laughter with friends and family! Don't miss out on winning a raffle prize! All proceeds will benefit Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish!

For more information about this exciting special event, please contact Father Jim at frjim@ccgronline.com; Beth Fosberry (OLGV) at jcbf33@yahoo.com; Lydia Bertolino (HFP) at lbgblosta1929@outlook.com; or call 978-281-4820. Save the date! Spread the word! Bring a friend! Please join us! All are invited! All are welcome!

FIRST FIRDAY HOLY HOUR**ROSARY & EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Featuring a Rosary for Solidarity

Friday, February 6th at 3:00pm

Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

All are welcome!

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

Our Weekly Gifts

WEEKEND OF JANUARY 24TH & 25TH

Holy Family Parish

Offertory	\$6,049
Electronic	\$1,066
Total	\$7,115

Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish

Offertory	\$2,989
Electronic	\$597
Total	\$3,586

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

The Bakeless Bake Sale Month of February

OUR LADY'S GUILD
& HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S GUILD

During the Month of February, Our Lady's Guild and the Holy Family Women's Guild are sponsoring a Bakeless Bake Sale! Why? Because now more than ever, our parishes need your support, especially in light of rising costs for gas, oil, and electricity! Every dollar makes a difference! Checks should be made payable to either Holy Family Parish or Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish. All donations (cash or check) can be placed in the collection basket; or mailed to the parish office:

The Bakeless Bake Sale
74 Pleasant Street
Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930

Our Lady's Guild and the Holy Family Women's Guild bring together women of all ages and backgrounds in prayer, fellowship, and service to our parishes and the wider community. New members and volunteers are always welcome! For more information about the guilds' good work in our home parishes, please contact Beth Fosberry at jcbf33@yahoo.com or Lydia Bertolino at lbgblost1929@outlook.com. As always, thank you for your generous support for the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport! May God bless you!

SHARING GOD'S LOVE



Sacrament of Confirmation

COME, HOLY SPIRIT!
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH AT 10:00AM

Along with Baptism and Eucharist, Confirmation is one of the three Sacraments of Initiation in the Roman Catholic Church. The Sacrament of Confirmation completes the grace of Baptism through the outpouring of the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Courage, Knowledge, Wisdom, Reverence, Right Judgment, Understanding, and Wonder & Awe of the Lord.

These powerful gifts seal or confirm the mystical union between Jesus and the candidates. These precious gifts also prepare the candidates to actively participate in the prayer, fellowship, and service of God's family in their home parish and beyond.

This year, sixty-four students from Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish have completed the requirements of our Confirmation Preparation Program. During the past two years, they prayed together, attended Mass together, and completed a rigorous journey of formation as a community of young disciples. They are now well-prepared to publicly renew their baptismal vows, profess their faith, and live as faithful and faith-filled Catholic Christians.

The Very Reverend Brian Flynn, Episcopal Vicar for the North Region of the Archdiocese of Boston, will join us as special guest celebrant and homilist for our final celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation for the year on Saturday, February 14th at 10:00am in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church. Welcome back to the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport, Father Brian!

As we make ready for this celebrations, please pray for all of our candidates, sponsors, parents, and catechists. In a special way, we pray in thanksgiving for Betsy Works, Associate Minister of Youth Faith Formation, for her hard work, dedication, and creative spirit. Peace, blessings, and congratulations to all! Come, Holy Spirit! Enkindle in us the fire of your love!

OUR MASS INTENTIONS**January 31 – February 8**

Saturday, January 31	Vigil · Fourth Sunday
4:00pm Saint Ann Church	Nicholas & Francis Parisi
6:00pm Our Lady's Church	Brooke Benham
Sunday, February 1	Fourth Sunday
7:00am Our Lady's Church	Carlos M. Goulart
8:15am Saint Ann Church	John Michalowicz
10:00am Saint Joachim Church	Lillian Sanfilippo
11:45am Our Lady's Church	Philip P. Cururu
	Ordinary Time
February 4 at 5:30pm Our Lady's Church	Alex & Tina Borge
February 5 at 8:00am Our Lady's Church	Alicia Padre
February 6 at 8:00am Our Lady's Church	Sister Catherine Horan
Saturday, February 7	Vigil · Fifth Sunday
4:00pm Saint Ann Church	Maria "Enza" Noto
6:00pm Our Lady's Church	Carlos Goulart
Sunday, February 8	Fifth Sunday
7:00am Our Lady's Church	Maria Isabel Vieira
8:15am Saint Ann Church	Michele Balistreri
10:00am Saint Joachim Church	Grazia & Domenico Taormina
11:45am Our Lady's Church	Manuel N. & Maria D. da Silva

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, February 1st, donations were offered for the following special intentions:

In Memory of Peter Russo
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Terri Sanfilippo
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Joachim Church

In Memory of Natalie Linquata
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Anthony Chapel

In Memory of Jean E. Testaverde
Sanctuary Candle · Our Lady of Good Voyage

In Memory of Eugene Killey
Sanctuary Candle · Chapel of the Archangels

In Memory of Maksym Chernyak
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 CARDINAL TOBIN

One way that we say 'no' is that we mourn.
We do not celebrate death, and what is worse,
we do not pretend it doesn't happen.
We say names. We pray for the dead.

We mourn for a world, a country,
that allows five year olds to be legally kidnapped
and protesters to be slaughtered.

*Cardinal Joseph Tobin - Archbishop of Newark
January 26, 2026*

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