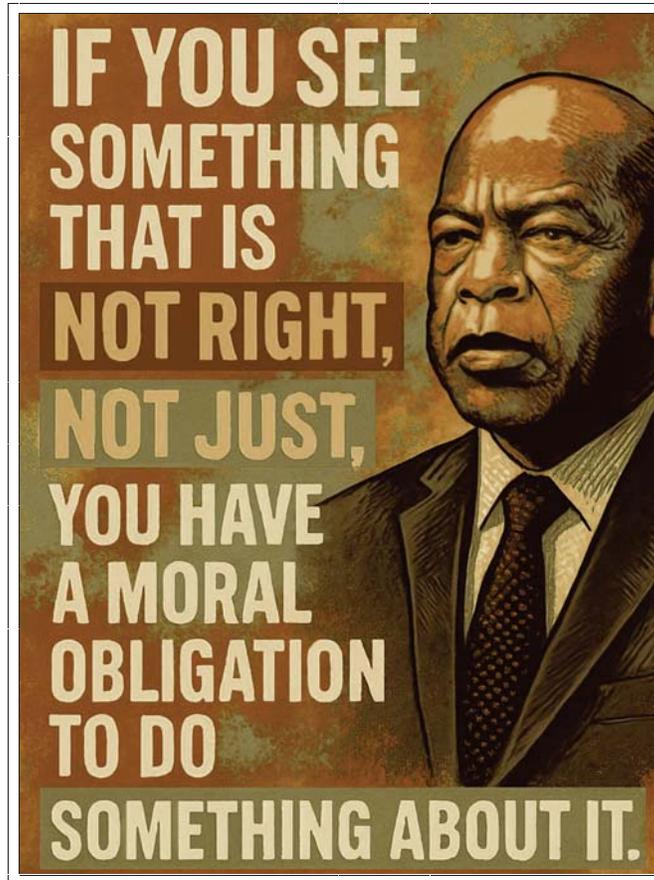


The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport

HOLY FAMILY PARISH & OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH

United in Prayer for Peace, Truth & Justice in Our World
First Sunday of Lent · February 22, 2026



THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE
MILES TO GO

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

Phone: 978-281-4820

Email: office@ccgrounline.com

Website: ccgrounline.com

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JUBILEE OF SAINT FRANCIS



The Assisi Project Franciscan Virtues - Example

SATURDAY, MARCH 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, March 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. During the month of March, we are reading about the virtues of encouragement, Eucharistic reverence, and evangelization. But our focus will be primarily on *example*.

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 OF ASSISI

When we hear or see people doing evil,
speaking evil, or blaspheming God,
we must say and do only what is good,
thereby praising God who is blessed forever.

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

Miles to Go

BY BROTHER PATRICK

I recently came across a book that was gifted to me many years ago but never read: *His Truth Is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope* by Jon Meacham. It is a biography of John Lewis (1940-2020). He was a longtime congressman, protégé of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968), a campaign advisor for Senator Robert F. Kennedy (1925-1968), and a close friend of President Barack Obama. John Lewis was also a pioneer in the civil rights movement and a prophetic voice for non-violence for nearly seven decades. In the context of these troubled times, reading about John Lewis, his life, and his good example has forever changed my life.

Popularized by Dr. King and Lewis, the so-called *Beloved Community* is a vision of society based on justice, equality, and unconditional love. It is a vision of society where hunger, poverty, racism, and violence are eliminated by a shared commitment to the common good. While reading *His Truth Is Marching On*, I was struck again and again by the similarities between the principles of the *Beloved Community* and the theologies of Pope Francis in *Fratelli Tutti* and Pope Leo XIV in *Dilexi Te*, both of which envision a world where love, peace, and social justice are not just goals but part of God's call to discipleship and his divine plan for all creation.

The deeply compelling epilogue of the book is titled: *Against the Rulers of Darkness*. In these pages, John Lewis is quoted extensively. For example, looking back on his long life, Lewis said: "Consider those two words: *Beloved Community*. 'Beloved' meaning not hateful, not violent, not uncaring, not unkind, and 'Community' meaning not separated, not polarized, not locked in struggle. The Beloved Community is an all-inclusive society based on simple justice, the values, the dignity, and the worth of every human being, and that is the Kingdom of God."

John Lewis was a person of deep faith. He was trained as a pastor and preacher. He believed deeply that human beings are broken beings in need of God's mercy. And yet, he also believed that when we say *Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done*, it is not a prayer just for the future. It is also a call to action for the present. It is not a prayer for perfection. Rather, it is a summons to create in our midst a tangible glimmer of paradise; a society built on shared commitments to democracy, human dignity, and the common good. It is a call to live the Golden Rule in real time, here and now.

John Lewis once said: "What can we do? We have to try, we have to seek, we have to speak up. America can be saved." As a preacher, politician, and prophet of peace and nonviolent protest, John Lewis understood that the path to "a more perfect union" requires faith, diligence, perseverance, and a willingness to suffer and sacrifice. He said: "We have miles to go, but that's what a journey is, that's what a march is: putting one foot in front of the other." I am not sure yet what this means for all of us. And as a diocesan hermit, called to prayer, silence, and solitude, I am not sure yet what this means for me personally. I have not yet found my march. I have not yet found my prophetic voice. But I have some ideas. So stay tuned.

CALL TO PRAYER



A Lenten Prayer to Saint Francis

BY POPE FRANCIS

O Saint Francis, wounded by love,
 crucified in body and spirit,
 we look to you,
 marked by the holy stigmata,
 to learn how to love the Lord Jesus
 and our brothers and sisters
 with your love, with your passion.

O Saint Francis,
 with you, it is easier to follow
 and to contemplate Christ, poor and crucified.
 Give us the freshness of your faith,
 the certainty of your hope,
 and the gentleness of your love.

O Saint Francis, intercede for us,
 so that it may be sweet for us
 to bear the burdens of this life,
 and may we experience in our trials
 the tenderness of the Father
 and the balm of the Holy Spirit.

O Saint Francis,
 may our wounds be healed
 by the Heart of Christ,
 to become, like you,
 witnesses of his mercy,
 which continues to heal and renew the lives
 of those who seek him with sincere hearts.

O Saint Francis,
 blessed to resemble the Crucified One,
 let your stigmata be for us
 and for the whole world
 radiant signs of life and resurrection,
 showing us new ways
 of peace and reconciliation. Amen.

Saint Francis of Assisi, pray for us!

assisiproject.com/prayer

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

**Youth Choir & Music Ministry
 Calling Young Disciples!**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH AT 5:30PM

All young disciples, boys and girls, ages 8 through 17, are invited to share their musical talents with our parishes! Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, February 25th at 5:30pm in Saint Ann Church! Being a part of our youth music ministry is a great way to make new friends and learn about the Lord! For more information, please contact Patty Natti at pnatti@comcast.net. Save the date! Spread the word! Please join us! All are welcome!

**Holy Family Women's Guild
 Saint Patrick's Day Celebration**

SATURDAY, MARCH 7TH AT 12:00PM

All friends, neighbors, and fellow parishioners of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport are invited to join the Holy Family Women's Guild for an early Saint Patrick's Day Luncheon on Saturday, March 7th at 12:00pm in Saint Ann Church Hall.

Our menu will include corned beef, cabbage, carrots, potatoes, and dessert. Lunch is free for all, but donations will be gratefully accepted. All current members, friends, and interested volunteers are encouraged to join us for a joyful afternoon of delicious food and fellowship.

Established in 2005, the Holy Family Women's Guild brings together women of all ages and background in prayer, fellowship, and service to our parish and the wider community. For more information, please contact Lydia Bertolino at lbbglosta1929@outlook.com or 978-281-4279. Spread the word! Bring a friend! All are welcome!

JOIN US ONLINE!

SOMETHING NEW EVERY WEEK!

- Sunday Mass with Father Jim
- Scripture for Life by Mary McGlone
- Pray As You Go Daily Meditations
- Catholic Women Preach
- Bringing Home the Word
- The Kids Bulletin
- ccgronline.com/resources

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

Our Weekly Gifts

WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 14TH & 15TH

Holy Family Parish

Offertory	\$4,980
Electronic	\$2,152
Total	\$7,132

Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish

Offertory	\$3,267
Electronic	\$984
Total	\$4,251

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 lbbglosta1929@outlook.com. As always, thank you for your generous support for the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport! May God bless you!

CALL TO PRAYER



Midweek Mercies

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH AT 5:30PM

Every Wednesday Evening, all are invited to join Father Jim for Midweek Mercies in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church. These evenings of prayer, sacrament, and adoration begin with Mass at 5:30pm. After Mass, Father Jim will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (those who feel called to confession). Also, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for an hour of silent prayer and adoration.

For some, this may be a time for sacramental penance and reconciliation. For others, it may be a period of quiet prayer and recollection. And for others, it may be an opportunity to begin or renew the spiritual journey. Confessions are also heard by appointment. For more information, please contact Father Jim at 978-281-4820 or frjim@ccgronline.com. Please join us! All are welcome!

The Way of the Cross

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH AT 12:00PM

For more than five hundred years, the Way of the Cross has been among the most beloved and moving devotions in the Catholic Church. By uniting our humble prayers with the Poor Christ in both words and images, we make a spiritual pilgrimage with the Lord as he experiences the Passion of the Holy Cross.

During Lent, all friends, neighbors, and fellow parishioners of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport are invited to join us in praying the Way of the Cross on Friday afternoons through April 3rd at 12:00pm in Saint Ann Church. For more information, please contact Father Jim at 978-281-4820 or frjim@ccgronline.com. Please join us! Bring a friend! All are welcome!

THE LITANY OF THE SACRED WOUNDS

SAINT CLARE'S TIMELESS DEVOTION

Also Evening Prayer & Eucharistic Adoration
Friday, February 27th at 3:00pm
Our Lady of Good Voyage Church
All are welcome!

OUR MASS INTENTIONS

February 21 – March 1

Saturday, February 21	Vigil · First Sunday of Lent
4:00pm Saint Ann Church	The Ciolino Family
6:00pm Our Lady’s Church	Helen Greely
Sunday, February 22	First Sunday of Lent
7:00am Our Lady’s Church	Pierre Pomerleau
8:15am Saint Ann Church	Dexter Murray, Jr.
10:00am Saint Joachim Church	Nancy Ciaraldi
11:45am Our Lady’s Church	Alex & Tina Borge
	Season of Lent
February 25 at 5:30pm Our Lady’s Church	Gloria Sears
February 26 at 8:00am Our Lady’s Church	David Brosnan
February 27 at 8:00am Our Lady’s Church	Michael Onnembo
Saturday, February 28	Vigil · Second Sunday of Lent
4:00pm Saint Ann Church	Anthony J. Bertolino
6:00pm Our Lady’s Church	The Alves Family
Sunday, March 1	Second Sunday of Lent
7:00am Our Lady’s Church	Ana Barbosa
8:15am Saint Ann Church	Giuseppa Sanfilippo
10:00am Saint Joachim Church	The Crew of the Lily Jean
11:45am Our Lady’s Church	Theodore “Ted” O’Neill

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, February 22nd, donations were offered for the following special intentions:

In Memory of Paul Frontiero
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of the Crew of the Lily Jean
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Joachim Church

In Memory of Daniel Kennedy
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Anthony Chapel

In Memory of Gloria Sears
Sanctuary Candle · Our Lady of Good Voyage

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

In Memory of Alex & Tina Borge
Sanctuary Candle · Chapel of the Archangels

In Memory of Marie Ange Blaise
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 JOHN LEWIS

We are one house. We are one family...
We have to find a way to live together.
We have to find a way to understand each other.
We have to find a way to make peace with each other.

*John Lewis (1940-2020)
Quoted in His Truth is Marching On*

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