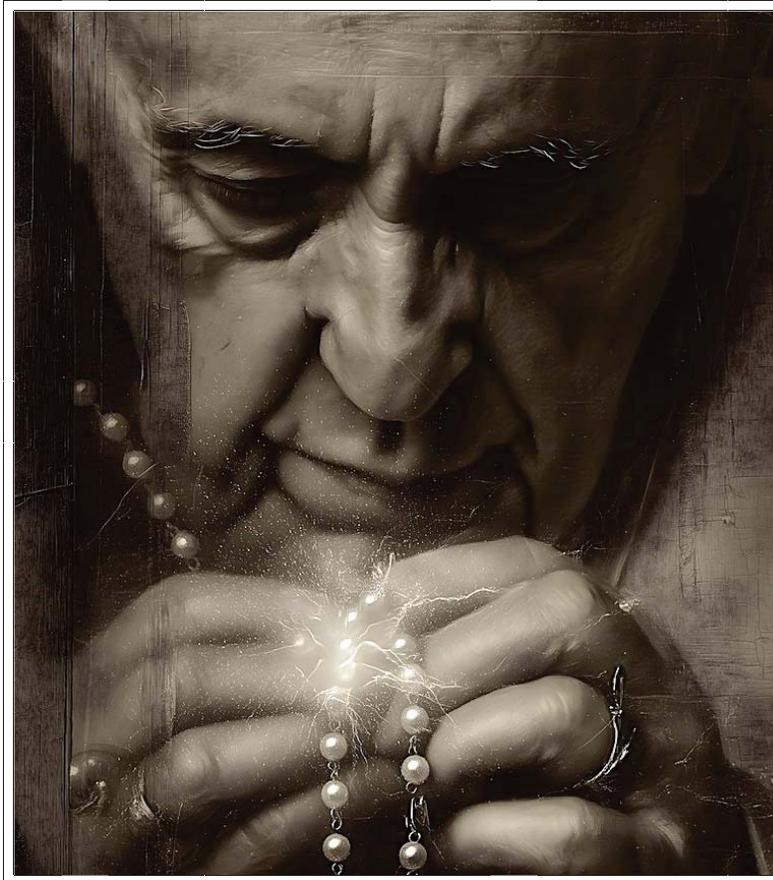


The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport

HOLY FAMILY PARISH & OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH

United in Prayer for Peace, Truth & Justice in Our World
Fourth Sunday of Lent · March 15, 2026



OUR PASTOR'S MESSAGE

LOVE & MERCY

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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CALL TO PRAYER



A Prayer for Peace

BY POPE LEO XIV

Following in the footsteps of his predecessor, Pope Leo XIV offers a special prayer intention each month and invites all believers and people of goodwill around the world to pray with him. In March, the Holy Father calls us to pray for peace and disarmament in our war-torn world. In spiritual communion with the pope, we pray:

Lord of Life,
 you shaped every human being in your image and likeness.
 We believe you created us for communion, not for war,
 for fraternity, not for destruction.

You who greeted your disciples by saying, "Peace be with you!",
 grant us the gift of your peace
 and the strength to make it a reality in history.
 Today we lift up our prayer for peace in the world,
 asking that nations renounce weapons
 and choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy.

Disarm our hearts of hatred, resentment, and indifference,
 so we may become instruments of reconciliation.
 Help us understand that true security
 does not come from control fueled by war,
 but from trust, justice, and solidarity among peoples.

Lord, enlighten the leaders of nations,
 so they may have courage to abandon projects of death, halt the arms race,
 and place the lives of the most vulnerable at the center.
 May the nuclear threat never again dictate the future of humanity.

Holy Spirit,
 make us faithful and creative builders of daily peace:
 in our hearts, our families, our cities, and our communities.

May every kind word,
 every gesture of reconciliation, and every choice for dialogue
 be seeds of a new world. Amen.

A ROSARY FOR PEACE
 WITH EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
 Thursday, March 19th at 5:30pm
 Our Lady's Church
 All are welcome!

A ROSARY FOR PEACE
 WITH EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
 Saturday, March 28th at 2:30pm
 Saint Ann Church
 All are welcome!

OUR PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Love & Mercy

BY FATHER JIM

As a spiritual exercise during Lent, I am reading a book called *On Love* by Pope Francis (1936-2025). It is a collection of brief passages from the late pope's homilies and speeches gathered during his long and inspiring reign as Bishop of Rome. Each day, I read two one-page passages. During the tenth anniversary of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy (2016), these readings remind me again and again, above all else, that Christians and disciples are called to love our God and love our neighbor.

The Holy Father's writings on love also remind me of the inseparable link between love and mercy. Throughout his long papacy, Pope Francis taught us that God is mercy; that God's mercy is boundless; and that God's mercy is ours for the asking through prayer, the reception of the Holy Eucharist in good conscience, and-or the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). In short, God is waiting for us with arms forever open in love and mercy. In *On Love*, Pope Francis offers a clear and compelling catechesis on the nature, meaning, and immensity of God's mercy. He writes:

The word *mercy* (misericordia) is composed of two words:

misery (miseria) and *heart* (cuore).

The word *heart* symbolizes the ability to love,
and the word *mercy* represents the love that reaches out
and embraces the misery of the human person.

It is love that takes our suffering as its own,
with a desire to free us from it.

With these words, the pope prompts us to remember that despite our faults and failures love endures. It is a love that is always longing for us. It is a love that is always ready to reconcile. It is a love that does not judge or condemn. It is love that is ever-present in our world, even in the midst of war, violence, and persecution. This love, of course, is the love that becomes flesh. It is the love that becomes incarnate in the life, passion, and resurrection of Jesus.

Jesus is the Just Judge. He is the Master of the Universe. He will come again to assess the souls of the living and the dead. At the same time, Jesus is born in order to walk among us, share in our human experiences, and so understand our vices and virtues. Jesus then embraces the Cross in order to feel what we feel and suffer what we suffer. Pope Francis writes: "Such is the depth of God's compassion and mercy: self-destruction in order to become a companion at the service of humanity." This kind of love is beyond our understanding. It simply takes our breath away.

Lent is a season for prayer, penance, and almsgiving. It is a season for devotions and sacraments. It is a season for fasting and good works. It is a season for renewal and new beginnings. It is a season for growing closer to Christ, closer to the Church, and closer to each other. But most of all, it is a season for immersing ourselves in the love and mercy of God. It is a season for remembering two simple but profound truths: *God is love. God is mercy.*

CALL TO HOLINESS



**Bernard of Quintavalle
Friends of Saint Francis 2026**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25TH
BEGINS WITH MASS 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 of imitation. Pope Leo XIV recently proclaimed: "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 (Philippians 2:15).'"

This year, the Catholic Church marks the 800th anniversary of the life and legacy of Saint Francis of Assisi (1226-2026). As part of our commemoration of this Special Jubilee Year, we look not just to Saint Francis, but also to the friends who knew him best, the holy men and women who followed in his footsteps, the shining stars who sought to live the Gospel 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, March 25th 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 Bernard of Quintavalle (1180-1241), an acclaimed lawyer who surrendered his riches to become the first follower of Saint Francis.

After our reflection, Father Jim will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (for those who feel called to confession) during a period of silent Eucharistic Adoration. This special evening of prayer and devotion will conclude with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

For more information about our *Saints for All Seasons Mini-Retreats*, please contact Brother Patrick at 978-281-4820 or brpatrick@ccgronline.com. Our upcoming schedule of mini-retreats is now posted at ccgronline.com/formation. Please join us! Bring a friend! All are invited! All are welcome! Blessed Bernard of Quintavalle, pray for us! Saint Francis of Assisi, pray for us!

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

The Way of the Cross

**A CONTEMPORARY INTERPRETATION WITH MUSIC
PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH AT 5:30PM**

During an Apostolic Journey to Poland in 2016, Pope Francis (1936-2025) said: "The Way of the Cross alone defeats sin, evil, and death, because it leads us to the radiant light of Christ's resurrection and opens the horizons of a new and fuller life. It is the way of hope, the way of the future. Those who take up the Way of the Cross with faith and generosity offer us hope and a bright future to all humanity."

In this spirit, all friends, neighbors, and fellow parishioners of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport are invited to join Father Jim for a Contemporary Way of the Cross on Sunday, March 29th at 5:30pm in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church. During this special event, we will combine traditional prayers and scriptures with music from various genres in order to grower closer to our Crucified Lord and Savior.

For more information, please contact Father Jim at 978-281-4820 or frjim@ccgronline.com. In the words of Saint Francis of Assisi: "We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you! By your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world!" Please join us! Bring a friend! Bring your family! Spread the word! All are invited! All are welcome!

MIDWEEK MERCIES

AN EVENING OF PRAYER & DEVOTION

Mass, Confessions & Eucharistic Adoration
Wednesday, March 18th at 5:30pm
Our Lady of Good Voyage Church
All are welcome!

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

THE TRADITIONAL LENTEN DEVOTION

Friday, March 20th at Noon
Saint Ann Church
All are welcome!

THE LITANY OF THE SACRED WOUNDS

INCLUDES CONFESSIONS & EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Friday, March 20th at 3:00PM
Our Lady of Good Voyage Church
All are welcome!

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

Our Weekly Gifts

WEEKEND OF MARCH 7TH & MARCH 8TH

Holy Family Parish

Offertory	\$5,327
Electronic	\$1,983
Total	\$7,310

Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish

Offertory	\$3,223
Electronic	\$997
Total	\$4,220

Winter Grand Annual Collections

Holy Family	\$34,447 (98%)
Our Lady's	\$24,715 (165%)

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

Solennita di San Giuseppe Celebrazione della Messa in Italiano

GIOVEDI 19 MARZO ALLE 8:00

For more than one thousand years, the Catholic Church has venerated Saint Joseph as patron of fathers, protector of families, and guardian of single mothers. He is also venerated as patron of carpenters, immigrants, laborers, those who doubt their faith, and those suffering from sickness. Last but not least, Saint Joseph is honored as patron and defender of the Universal Church.

This year, the Church commemorates the Solemnity of Saint Joseph on Thursday, March 19th. Here in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport, our devotion to Saint Joseph remains strong and vibrant.

In this spirit and as a way of celebrating the contributions of immigrants in our parishes and beyond, all are invited to join Father Jim for the Holy Rosary at 7:30am and Holy Mass in Italian (with a homily in English) at 8:00am on Thursday, March 19th in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church. Please join us! All are welcome!

**SAN GIUSEPPE, PREGA PER NOI!
SAINT JOSEPH, PRAY FOR US!**

CALL TO WORSHIP



Palm Sunday Faith & Family Mass A Youth Faith Formation Special Event

SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH AT 11:45AM

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus says: "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs (9:14)." In response to the Lord's call, all young disciples and their families are invited join Father Jim for our Holy Week Faith & Family Mass on Sunday, March 29th at 11:45am in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church.

During Mass, Father Jim will offer a special homily about Holy Week and how we can grow closer to Jesus through prayer, sacrifice, and good works. Every child who joins us will also receive a Palm Cross! In addition, please save these dates for our upcoming Faith & Family Masses:

EASTER FAITH & FAMILY MASS

Sunday, April 12th at 11:45am
Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

MOTHER'S DAY FAITH & FAMILY MASS

Saturday, May 9th at 4:00pm
Sain Ann Church

For more information about our youth faith formation programs in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport, please contact Betsy Works at 978-281-4820 or bworks@ccgronline.com. Mass is our class! Jesus is our teacher! Every family who joins us is a special blessing from God! All are invited! All are welcome! Always!

YOUTH CHOIR & MUSIC MINISTRY

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18TH

All young disciples, boys and girls, ages 8 through 17, are invited to share their musical talents with our parishes! Rehearsals continue on Wednesday, March 18th 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!

OUR MASS INTENTIONS

March 14 – March 22

Saturday, March 14	Vigil · Fourth Sunday of Lent
4:00pm Saint Ann Church	The Joseph Family
6:00pm Our Lady’s Church	Mary Voller
Sunday, March 15	Fourth Sunday of Lent
7:00am Our Lady’s Church	Claire Allen
8:15am Saint Ann Church	David Halverson
10:00am Saint Joachim Church	Angela Taormina
11:45am Our Lady’s Church	Vera Silveira
	Season of Lent
March 18 at 5:30pm Our Lady’s Church	Janet Pomerleau
March 19 at 8:00am Our Lady’s Church	The Ciolino Family
March 20 at 8:00am Our Lady’s Church	All Souls in Purgatory
Saturday, March 21	Vigil · Fifth Sunday of Lent
4:00pm Saint Ann Church	Paul Scuderi
6:00pm Our Lady’s Church	Ida Spinola
Sunday, March 22	Fifth Sunday of Lent
7:00am Our Lady’s Church	Lorena Valdez Sanchez
8:15am Saint Ann Church	Aaron & Jim Hart
10:00am Saint Joachim Church	James King
11:45am Our Lady’s Church	Salvatore Albano

OUR WEEKLY MEMORIALS

**REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES
& SUPPORTING OUR 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, March 15th, donations were offered for the following special intentions:

In Memory of José Gualberto Medeiros
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Lillian A. Welcome
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Joachim Church

In Memory of Peter Russo
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Anthony Chapel

In Memory of Claire Allen
Sanctuary Candle · Our Lady of Good Voyage

In Memory of Claire Allen
Sanctuary Gifts · Our Lady of Good Voyage

In Memory of Stephen Elwell, Sr.
Sanctuary Candle · Chapel of the Archangels

In Memory of Emmanuel Damas
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 FRANCIS

War is a sacrilege!
It wreaks havoc on what is most precious on earth:
human life,
the innocence of the little ones,
and the beauty of creation.

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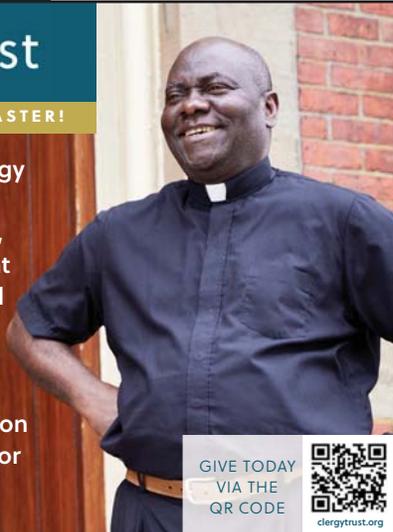
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