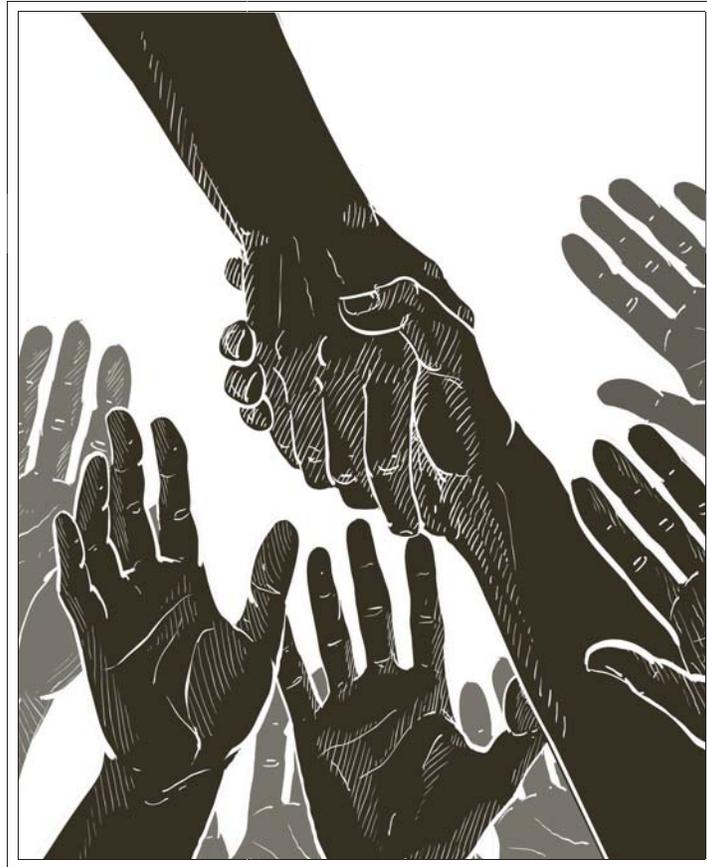


The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport

HOLY FAMILY PARISH & OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH

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



THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

THE BEST WAY TO COMPLAIN

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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SHARING GOD'S LOVE

Special Second Collection The Crisis in Lebanon

BY FATHER JIM

The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport can be proud of its rich ethnic and cultural heritage. All of our original church buildings were built and sustained by generations of hardworking immigrants and their families. Even today, Gloucester and Rockport are home to thriving communities rooted in the history and traditions of Brazil, Finland, Ireland, Lebanon, Portugal, Italy & Sicily, and countless other countries.

Last August, our parishes raised more than \$8,100 during a special second collection for Holy Family Parish in Gaza. In response, I received a personal letter from Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, who wrote: "We ask the maternal intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary to guide us in the way of peace."

In this spirit of peace and prayer, we feel called this weekend to take up a second collection in support of the Convent of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd in Lebanon. For more than a century, these good and holy sisters have been devoted to praying and caring for endangered children and vulnerable women in Lebanon.

As Brother Patrick points out in this week's message (see next page), the Good Shepherd Community now also provides food, clothing, housing, and basic medical care to families who arrive at their shelters with almost nothing due to the widening and escalating war against Iran. Every penny that we raise this weekend will go directly to the brave sisters who care for God's children at their two convents in Lebanon.

Lebanon is a blessed, beautiful, and wounded land. It is home to the highest concentration of Christians in the Middle East. It is the only Arab nation in the region that promotes religious freedom. And by some estimates, more than 80% of its people struggle to provide their families with daily necessities. It is my prayer that all each one of us will give what we can to this most worthy cause. Peace, blessings, and thanks to all!

A LITANY FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER!

For all families who live in fear
and for all who live under the rain of bombs:
may they find safe refuge.

For world leaders: may they stop the bombings
and choose dialog over destruction.

For the poor and vulnerable
who bear the heaviest burdens of war:
may their cries change hearts.

For a new dawn of peace, truth, and justice
founded on love, mercy,
and respect for every human life.

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

The Best Way to Complain

BY BROTHER PATRICK

All around us, we see the need for prayer and good works: war, abuse, addiction, corruption, cowardice, injustice, indifference, inequality, environmental degradation, and a rising tide of doubt, distrust, disbelief, and dishonesty. In addition, let's not forget about what Pope Francis often called an *economy of exclusion* that makes it harder for most of us to afford housing, health care, and even the basic necessities of life.

In the face of these challenges, we can continue to complain. We can continue to argue with one another. We can continue to post sarcastic messages on social media. We can always add another grain of sand to the ever growing mountain of anger and alienation in our world. Or we can do something productive. An old friend once said: "The best way to complain is to do something."

This could be the time to offer our loudest, harshest, and most heartfelt complaints by doing something constructive, something that helps others, something that contributes to the common good. But what? What can we do? First, perhaps now more than ever, we can pray together. We can pray for the poor, the persecuted, and the unjustly imprisoned. We can pray for children who are lost, hungry, or afraid of what tomorrow may bring. We can pray for our elders who are cold, sick, or dying alone in nursing homes and memory care centers. And in communion with Pope Leo XIV, we can pray for peace, truth, and justice in our war-torn world.

We can also complain through our good works. We can support our home parish. We can pick up litter on the street. We can volunteer with the Saint Vincent de Paul Society. We can donate to good causes that feed the poor and house the homeless. We can support groups like LUCE that offer guidance, legal advice, and protection to migrants, immigrants, and refugees. And we can look across the bridge and take stock of those in need on the other side of the planet.

Last week, I prayed for the soul of Father Pierre El Rahi, a priest who was killed during the Israeli bombings of Southern Lebanon. When his parishioners could not evacuate their village, Father Pierre stayed with them. He prayed with them, celebrated the sacraments for them, and counseled the sick, the wounded, and the dying. For his people, this courageous and compassionate pastor offered his whole life.

I also learned about the Community of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, a community of religious women near Beirut who provide food, clothing, housing, and basic medical care to families who arrive at their shelters with almost nothing. We can complain about the sacrilege of war by praying for peace and by supporting these holy sisters and their lifesaving ministries. Learn more about them on the previous page.

It is sometimes hard to know what to do, pray, or think. It is hard to know how to invest our time, talent, and treasure. It is hard to know whether to complain or actually do something. But in our hearts, we know that Christians are called to act. In this way, we affirm Pope Leo's advice that our prayer, fellowship, and service are safe in "the most secure and profitable bank" of all — the bank of faith, hope, and love.

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 grow 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 25th at 5:30pm
Our Lady of Good Voyage Church
All are welcome!

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

A TRADITIONAL LENTEN DEVOTION

Friday, March 27th at Noon
Saint Ann Church
All are welcome!

THE LITANY OF THE SACRED WOUNDS

INCLUDES CONFESSIONS & EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Friday, March 27th at 3:00PM
Our Lady of Good Voyage Church
All are welcome!

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

Our Weekly Gifts

WEEKEND OF MARCH 14TH & MARCH 15TH

Holy Family Parish

Offertory	\$5,031
Electronic	\$2,077
Total	\$7,108

Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish

Offertory	\$3,651
Electronic	\$984
Total	\$4,635

Winter Grand Annual Collections

Holy Family	\$38,377 (110%)
Our Lady's	\$34,150 (137%)

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

Our Lady's Guild Spring Yard Sale

FEATURING FRIED DOUGH & SWEET BREAD
SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH - BEGINS AT 9:00AM

All are invited to join Our Lady's Guild for a Spring Yard Sale on Saturday, March 28th from 9:00am until 12:00pm in Our Lady's Hall. Take a chance on a raffle! Browse our sale tables for unique treasures! Buy our famous fried dough and sweet bread! All proceeds will support Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish!

Since 1944, Our Lady's Guild has worked to build community among women of all ages and backgrounds in Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish through prayer, good works, fundraising, and social events. For more information about Our Lady's Guild, please contact Beth Fosberry at jcbf33@yahoo.com or 978-281-4820. Please join us! Bring a friend! Bring your family! All are welcome!

A ROSARY FOR PEACE

WITH EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

March 28th at 2:30pm
Saint Ann Church

All are invited! All are welcome!

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!

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!

Holy Family Women's Guild Palm Sunday Bake Sale

WEEKEND OF MARCH 28TH & 29TH

All friends, neighbors, and fellow parishioners of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport are invited to join the Holy Family Women's Guild for a Palm Sunday Bake Sale before and after all Masses in Saint Ann Church and Saint Joachim Church on Saturday, March 28th and Sunday, March 29th.

Our bake sale will feature delicious home-baked brownies, cupcakes, Italian cookies, and much more! All proceeds will support Holy Family Parish. If you can volunteer to bake or help sell our baked goods, please contact Lydia Bertolino at llbglosta1929@outlook.com or 978-281-4820. Thank you in advance for your generous support! Please join us! All are welcome!

OUR MASS INTENTIONS

March 21 – March 29

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
	Season of Lent
March 25 at 5:30pm Our Lady’s Church	Alex & Tina Borge
March 26 at 8:00am Our Lady’s Church	Special Intention
March 27 at 8:00am Our Lady’s Church	For Peace in Our World
Saturday, March 28	Vigil · Palm Sunday
4:00pm Saint Ann Church	Evan Reardon
6:00pm Our Lady’s Church	Maureen Cusumano
Sunday, March 29	Palm Sunday
7:00am Our Lady’s Church	Nancy Corrigan
8:15am Saint Ann Church	Angela Taormina
10:00am Saint Joachim Church	Bertha Maksimowicz & Family
11:45am Our Lady’s Church	Cindy Works

OUR WEEKLY MEMORIALS

Sanctuary Candles & Gifts

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

In Memory of Catherine Randazza
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of James King
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Joachim Church

In Memory of Billy Cunha
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Anthony Chapel

A Special Intention for Sage Cooke
Sanctuary Candle · Our Lady of Good Voyage

A Special Intention for Sage Cooke
Sanctuary Gifts · Our Lady of Good Voyage

A Special Intention for Sage Cooke
Sanctuary Candle · Chapel of the Archangels

In Memory of Father Pierre El Rahi
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

Some go so far as to invoke the name of God to justify the choices of death, but God cannot be enlisted by the forces of darkness. God comes instead to bestow his light, hope, and peace upon all humanity.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Rome - March 15, 2026

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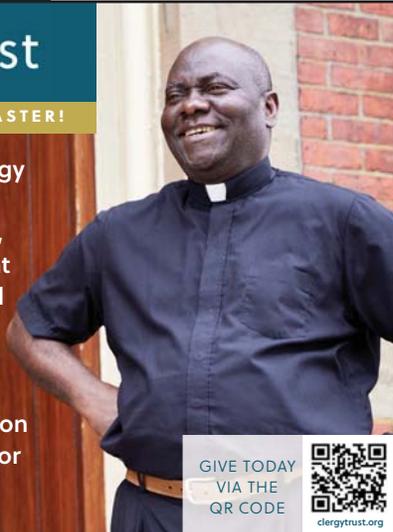
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