

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
Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion · March 29, 2026



OUR PASTOR'S MESSAGE

HARD QUESTIONS FOR HOLY WEEK

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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HOLY WEEK



Voice of a Martyr

SAINT OSCAR ROMERO

Easter is now the cry of victory!
 No one can quench the life that Christ has resurrected.
 Neither death, nor all the banners
 of death and hatred raised against Him
 and against His Church, can prevail!

He is the victorious one!
 Just as He will thrive in an unending Easter,
 so we must accompany Him
 in a Lent and Holy Week
 of cross, sacrifice, and martyrdom.
 As He said, blessed are they
 who are not scandalized by his cross.

**SAINT OSCAR ROMERO
 BISHOP & MARTYR**

Saint Oscar Romero was born in poverty in 1917 and died by violence in 1980. For just three years, he served as Archbishop of San Salvador in the nation named for our Lord and Savior. His pastoral plan was simple. Live the Gospel. Share God’s love and mercy. Serve the poor. Build up the Church. For his efforts, Archbishop Romero was criticized by some for not doing enough. He was vilified by others for saying too much.

Archbishop Romero was shot once through the heart while celebrating Mass on March 24, 1980. In his final homily, he said: “In the name of God and in the name of the suffering people whose cries rise to heaven more loudly each day, I implore you, I beg you, I order you in the name of God: Stop the repression!” And just moments before his assassination, he said: “One must not love oneself so much as to avoid getting involved in the risks of life that history demands of us.”

Saint Oscar Romero offered his life for peace, truth and justice. He offered his life for the poor, the persecuted, and the unjustly imprisoned in his crucified country. In 2015, he was declared a Martyr for the Gospel by Pope Francis; and he was canonized in 2016 by Pope Francis. Saint Oscar Romero is venerated both as patron of El Salvador and as a patron of all the Americas. His feast day is March 24th.

**SAINT OSCAR ROMERO
 VOICE OF A MARTYR**

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OUR PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Hard Questions for Holy Week

BY FATHER JIM

Holy Week is filled to overflowing with moments that can disturb our faith and our consciences. Holy Week draws us into the dramatic fulfillment of God's promises. Holy Week calls us to reflect and respond to those promises that God has made to his people, which are then accomplished through the teaching and suffering of Jesus. Holy Week raises questions that confound us in the same way that they confounded sinners in the scriptures: disciples, Sanhedrin, Pontius Pilate, and crowds that clamored for the Lord's crucifixion. In the end, Holy Week raises questions that call for our response:

What are you willing to give me?
 Surely it is not I, Lord?
 Could you not keep watch with me for one hour?
 Have you no answer?
 Aren't you, too, one of his disciples?
 What evil has he done?
 Why have you forsaken me?

Some of these difficult questions are answered. Some are left unanswered. Some call out evil. Some call for action. Some call for inaction. But all of them call us to prayer, discernment, and a deep and penetrating examination of conscience.

After the dictatorship ordered the murder of a close friend and fellow pastor, Archbishop Oscar Romero (1917-1980) experienced a profound conversion. He experienced a mystical kind of Holy Week. And he was prompted to confront the challenging questions raised by the Gospel narrative of the Lord's Passion. Archbishop Romero then said: "This is what the Church wants: to disturb people's consciences and to provoke a crisis in their lives. A Church that does not provoke, a Gospel that does not disturb, a word from God that does not irritate, a word from God that does not touch the concrete sin of the society in which it is proclaimed: What kind of Gospel is that?"

Saint Oscar Romero surely disturbed the consciences of his flock. He irritated, then infuriated, his country's government. His message, rooted in and inspired by the Gospel, called out the sins of injustice, indifference, poverty, oppression, and violence.

So, how did Saint Oscar Romero answer the hard questions of Holy Week? He remained a true and faithful disciple. He found the courage to call out the corruption and cruelty of government leaders. He stood in solidarity with the poor, the persecuted, and the unjustly imprisoned. He became willing to surrender his life for the sake of the Gospel. And he never betrayed the Lord but remained ever steadfast in prayer, fellowship, and service to Christ and his people.

How will we respond to the hard questions of Holy Week? Are our consciences troubled? Are we courageous enough to stand up and speak out against hatred and injustice? Are we ready to choose love and unity over anger and division? Are we ready to offer our lives for Jesus and his Gospel? As Holy Week begins, I am reminded again of words often repeated by Deacon Bill Kane: "May the Gospel of Christ disturb you!"

CALL TO PRAYER



**Divine Mercy Sunday
A Celebration of God's Love**

SATURDAY, APRIL 11TH AT 2:00PM

In 2000, Saint John Paul II (1920-2005) canonized Sister Faustina Kowalska (1905-1938) and designated the Second Sunday of Easter as the Feast of Divine Mercy. This devotion reflects a mystical message from Jesus that Sister Faustina shared with the world: "Humanity will never find peace until it turns with trust to Divine Mercy. This is the Easter gift that the Church receives from the Risen Christ and offers to all people."

In this spirit, all friends, neighbors, and fellow parishioners are invited to join Father Jim and the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport for a Celebration of Divine Mercy on Saturday, April 11th beginning at 2:00pm in Saint Ann Church.

Here's our schedule of prayer and worship: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 2:00pm; Holy Rosary at 2:15pm; Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:00pm; Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 3:20pm; and Holy Mass at 4:00pm.

A PRAYER FOR DIVINE MERCY

Eternal Father,
I offer you the Body and Blood,
Soul and Divinity
of your dearly Beloved Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ,
in atonement for our sins
and those of the whole world.
For the sake of his sorrowful Passion,
have mercy on us and on the whole world.
Holy God, Holy Mighty One,
Holy Immortal One,
have mercy on us and on the whole world.

We hope and pray that you and your family can join us for all or at least part of this special day of prayer, devotion, and adoration. For more information, please contact Father Jim at 978-281-4820 or frjim@ccgronline.com. Now more than ever, let's pray together! All are welcome!

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

**The Easter Triduum
April 2nd through April 5th**

ALL ARE WELCOME!

All friends, neighbors, and fellow parishioners of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport are invited to join us for the commemoration of Holy Week and the Easter Triduum!

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 2ND

Morning Prayer at 8:00am
Our Lady of Good Voyage Church
Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00pm
Saint Ann Church
Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Until 10:00pm
Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3RD

Morning Prayer at 8:00am
Our Lady of Good Voyage Church
Way of the Cross at 12:00pm
Saint Ann Church
Good Friday Services
Saint Joachim Church at 3:00pm
Our Lady of Good Voyage Church at 7:00pm

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH

Morning Prayer at 8:00am
Saint Ann Church
Easter Vigil Mass at 7:00pm
Saint Ann Church

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH

Regular Mass Schedule

EASTER MASS ON YOU TUBE

Available on April 4th at 7:00pm

*On behalf of Father Jim,
our Senior Priests, and our Pastoral Team,
may God bless us with peace during Holy Week!*

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

Our Weekly Gifts

WEEKEND OF MARCH 21ST & MARCH 22ND

Holy Family Parish

Offertory	\$4,920
Electronic	\$854
Total	\$5,774

Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish

Offertory	\$2,866
Electronic	\$688
Total	\$3,554

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

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 about this special Palm Sunday event, 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!

CALL TO WORSHIP



Easter Faith & Family Mass A Youth Faith Formation Special Event

SATURDAY, APRIL 12TH AT 11:45AM

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus says: "Let the little children come to me and do not stop them, because 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 to join Father Jim for our Easter Faith & Family Mass on Sunday, April 12th at 11:45am in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church.

During Mass, Father Jim will offer a special homily about the Risen Jesus and the Easter Season. Every child who attends will receive a special blessing from our pastor! In addition, please save these dates for our last two Faith & Family Masses for this school year:

MOTHER'S DAY FAITH & FAMILY MASS

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

HOLY SPIRIT FAITH & FAMILY MASS

Sunday, May 24th at 11:45am
Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

For more information about youth faith formation in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport, please contact Betsy Works at bworks@ccgronline.com or leave a message at 978-281-4820. 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, APRIL 1ST

All young disciples, boys and girls, ages 8 through 17, are invited to share their musical talents with our parishes! Rehearsals continue on Wednesday, April 1st 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 28th – April 5th

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
	Holy Week
April 1 at 5:30pm Our Lady's Church	All Souls in Purgatory
April 2 at 8:00am Our Lady's Church	Morning Prayer
April 3 at 8:00am Our Lady's Church	Morning Prayer
Saturday, April 4	Easter Vigil
8:00am Saint Ann Church	Morning Prayer
7:00pm Saint Ann Church	Mass for the People
Sunday, April 5	Easter Sunday
7:00am Our Lady's Church	Mary Lou Joseph
8:15am Saint Ann Church	Fern Hilliard
10:00am Saint Joachim Church	Regina Kane
11:45am Our Lady's Church	Michael Ferreer

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 29th, donations were offered for the following special intentions:

In Memory of Mary Lou Joseph
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Debbie Hochmuth
Sanctuary Gifts · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Nhon Nguyen
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Joachim Church

In Memory of Ida Spinola
Sanctuary Candle · Our Lady of Good Voyage

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

For A Special Intention
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 SAINT OSCAR ROMERO

Faith is what a child has
when its father puts out his hands
and says 'Jump!' and the child leaps into space
with the assurance that its father's hands
will not let it fall.

Saint Oscar Romero, Bishop & Martyr - May 21, 1978

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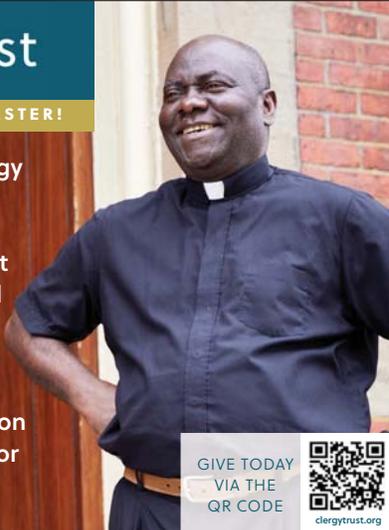


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