

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
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time · July 26, 2026**



THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

ALREADY A SAINT

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

Contact: 978-281-4820 or office@ccgronline.com

Website: ccgronline.com

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CALL TO PRAYER



A Prayer for Divine Favor

FOR THE INTERCESSION OF BLESSED STANLEY ROTHER

Blessed Stanley,
brother and shepherd,
you poured out your life in service
and you spilled your blood as a witness
to the faithfulness of God's love.

Those you loved so deeply
and served so completely
knew you to be their priest and pastor,
praying for them as their open door
to the presence of Christ.

Pray for us now
and intercede on our behalf,
as we ask you to walk with us
on our journey through life,
so that the redeeming presence of Jesus
may touch us now
and restore us to peace and wholeness.

During our time of need,
we ask that your prayers accompany us.
Echoed in your ministry and martyrdom,
may the mercy of Christ renew us,
and bring us the grace necessary
to heal our brokenness,
enlighten our darkness,
and restore the losses in our lives,
so that finally, we may be one with you
in praising God forever in heaven.

Glory to the Father,
to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now and will be forever. Amen.

Blessed Stanley Rother, pray for us!

*Blessed Stanley Rother
Priest & Martyr
Patron of Farmers & Missionaries
Feast Day - July 28th*

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

Already a Saint

BY BROTHER PATRICK

On Friday, July 24, 1981, Father Stanley Rother (1935-1981), known by his parish in Guatemala as Padre Francisco, was told that a government death squad wanted to kill him. He was warned to leave the mission parish where he had served for thirteen years. Padre Francisco's offenses were obvious to all. He practiced what he preached. He offered sanctuary to the oppressed. He buried and consoled the victims of violence. He ministered to the poor, the sick, and the elderly. He preached Christ's message of peace in the languages of the local people.

When told of the threats, Padre Francisco said simply: "I will not leave. I made a commitment to the people...I will not leave." As the hardworking son of an Oklahoma farmer, he then helped the Carmelite sisters decorate the parish church for the Feast of Saint James the Apostle. The Church was decorated with symbols of life and resurrection: white banners, fruits and vegetables, and a carpet of pine needles. Padre Francisco quietly told one of the nuns: "When they kill me, do not cry for me. Just light the paschal candle and put up the Easter banner."

On Sunday, July 26th, Padre Francisco preached an emotional farewell homily in the midst of an otherwise joyful celebration. He spoke honestly about the possibility of death: "I will not hide...I am not afraid of dying...If they kill me, praise be to God!" After Mass, he joined the sisters for a festive dinner. He surprised them with wine. He played cards with them. He joked and talked with them well into the night.

One day later, Padre Francisco celebrated the afternoon Mass. He then accompanied two of the sisters into the village to shop for groceries. When they noticed that the town square was almost empty, they hastened back to the parish. They arrived home to find a growing crowd of young men at the doors of the church. They begged for sanctuary because militias on both sides of the civil war were abducting their friends and brothers into forced military service.

On Tuesday, July 28th at 1:30am, three men wearing masks broke into the rectory. After a lifetime of physical labor, Padre Francisco was strong. He bravely defended himself, but he was no match for their knives and their guns. While being tortured, he did not cry out. Finally, Father Francisco was shot in the head. After his body was discovered, the sisters washed him, dressed him in white vestments, and covered his shoulders with a colorful Mayan shawl that was hand-woven by a grateful parishioner.

Many Masses were celebrated in the following days and weeks for Padre Francisco, but the first one in the local parish where he lived and died was prophetic. Throughout the liturgy, but especially at the moment of consecration, the villagers whispered again and again: "Padre Francisco, Padre Francisco, Padre Francisco!" In their eyes, he was already a saint. One of the nuns said: "Without a doubt, he is a saint. We always invoke his name."

In 2016, Pope Francis declared Padre Francisco a martyr. Nine months later, he was beatified in Oklahoma City by Cardinal Angelo Amato, who said: "He did not hate. He loved. He did not destroy. He built up. This is Blessed Stanley Rother's invitation to all of us." As we mourn our own tragedies, we pray for the grace, courage, and perseverance to embrace the call to live the Gospel, share God's love, and rebuild the Church. And we join the inspired chant: Padre Francisco, pray for us!

SHARE GOD'S LOVE



Praying with Our Patrons

SAINT ANN & SAINT JOACHIM

Saint Ann and Saint Joachim,
good and faithful parents
of the Blessed Virgin Mary
and grandparents of our Savior:

When our lives seem barren,
help us to trust in God's mercy.

When we are confused,
help us to find our way back to God.

When we are lost in the desert,
lead us to those God calls us to love.

When we are selfish,
teach us to cling only to what lasts.

When we are afraid,
inspire us to have faith
in God's plan for our lives.

When we are ashamed,
remind us that we are God's children.

When we sin,
bring us home to God's will.

God, our Father,
you gave Saint Ann and Saint Joachim
the privilege of being the parents
of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
mother of your incarnate Son.

May their prayers attain for us
the salvation that you promise
to all of your children.

We ask this through Christ Jesus,
our merciful redeemer, friend & brother. Amen.

*Saint Ann & Saint Joachim
Patrons of Grandparents
Feast Day - July 26th*

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

Our Online Community Something New Every Week!

BY FATHER JIM

Twelve years ago, I asked Brother Patrick to create new websites for the Assisi Project and the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport. Our websites initially attracted a few hundred visitors each week. During the pandemic, traffic more than doubled to approximately one thousand visitors each week. Six years later, visits to our online community have doubled again to approximately two thousand visitors every single week.

Needless to say, one small fellowship and one large collaborative cannot compare with WCVB or the Boston Globe. But we recently reached a combined milestone of more than 1.1 million visitors to our websites! The success of our online community is a testament to your ongoing interest, the rich content offered, and the user-friendly and welcoming atmosphere of our websites.

No ads. No sign-ins. All of our online resources are free, always available and we add something new and interesting every week! Here is a small sampling of the resources recently added or linked to our websites:

SCRIPTURE FOR LIFE

BY MARY MCGLONE

Weekly Reflections on the Sunday Scriptures
ccgrronline.com/resources

PRAY AS YOU GO

AUDIO SANCTUARY FROM BRITISH JESUITS

Daily Meditations on the Scriptures
ccgrronline.com/resources

A ROSARY FOR PEACE

PRAYING WITH POPE FRANCIS

For Peace, Truth & Justice
assisiproject.com/resources

THE FIRST FACT

PRAYING WITH POPE FRANCIS

An Assisi Project Podcast
assisiproject.com/resources

Thank you, Brother Patrick, for your ongoing stewardship of our online community. Thank you, one and all, for your ongoing support! Peace and blessings!

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE**Our Weekly Gifts****WEEKEND OF JULY 18TH & JULY 19TH****Holy Family Parish**

Offertory	\$5,279
Electronic	\$1,399
Total	\$6,678

Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish

Offertory	\$4,981
Electronic	\$723
Total	\$5,704

Grand Annual Collections

Holy Family	\$50,786 (102%)
Our Lady's	\$21,857 (109%)

We reached our goals!

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

We Share!

WHEN WE GIVE CHEERFULLY...EVERYONE IS BLESSED.
MAYA ANGELOU

Electronic giving has become an essential component of parish support in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport; and it is available in both Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish. It is safe and easy to make online donations to your home parish using a credit card, debit card, or electronic check.

Donations can be made on a weekly, monthly, or one-time-only basis; and it takes just a few minutes to set up a secure personal account. In addition to the weekly offering, you can also give electronically to our church restoration funds which helps us plan for the repair and maintenance of our beloved and historic churches, along with our parish buildings and grounds.

Now more than ever, Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish need your generous support! Please prayerfully consider enrolling in our electronic giving program! For more information, please contact Father Jim at 978-281-4820 or frjim@ccgronline.com. Every dollar makes a difference! Thank you!

SHARE GOD'S LOVE
Our Lady of Good Voyage
Summer Carillon Concerts

BEGINS FRIDAY, AUGUST 14TH AT 6:30PM

A popular summer tradition is returning to Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish and the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport! Our Summer Carillon Concerts begin on Friday, August 14th at 6:30pm!

This year, Luann Pallazola, Cynthia Cafasso, and Thomas Dort have prepared programs that include faith-filled hymns, patriotic melodies, and classical and international music, along with selections especially for children!

Installed in 1922, the carillon at Our Lady of Good Voyage Church is the first toned bell set ever in the United States. The carillon's thirty-one bronze bells hang from a steel beam within the west tower. And our bells range in weight from 16 pounds to 3,000 pounds.

The carillon bells at Our Lady of Good Voyage Church were forged by the Taylor Foundry in Loughboro, England. In order to avoid the payment of a tariff upon their arrival in Gloucester, the church was declared a warehouse by the Collector of Customs in Boston, who happened to be a friend of the local congressman. Soon after, a bill declaring them a "work of art" was passed by the United States Congress and signed into law by President Warren G. Harding.

Although our bells can be heard from blocks away, the sound is always best near the church. Once again this year, Our Lady's Guild will be selling snacks, cold drinks, and raffle tickets to support the parish.

Our Summer Carillon Concerts are an awesome opportunity for the whole family to enjoy the gift of music with friends, neighbors, and fellow parishioners! Additional concerts are scheduled for Friday, August 21st at 6:30pm; Friday, August 28th at 6:30pm; and Friday, September 4th at 6:30pm. For more information, please contact Luann Pallazola at lpallazola@gmail.com or 978-281-4820. Save the dates! Bring a friend! Bring your family! All are invited! All are welcome!

OUR MASS INTENTIONS

July 25th – August 2nd

Saturday, July 25	Vigil · 17th Sunday
4:00pm Saint Ann Church	The McKinley Family
6:00pm Our Lady's Church	Pasquale Vitale
Sunday, July 26	17th Sunday
7:00am Our Lady's Church	Phyllis Cefalo
8:15am Saint Ann Church	Charlie & Angela Ciaramitaro
10:00am Saint Joachim Church	Captain Salvatore & Sarina Barbara
11:45am Our Lady's Church	Rico Strescino
	Ordinary Time
July 29 at 5:30pm Our Lady's Church	Dolly Lesko
July 30 at 8:00am Our Lady's Church	Ellen Silveira
July 31 at 8:00am Our Lady's Church	All Souls in Purgatory
Saturday, August 1	Vigil · 18th Sunday
4:00pm Saint Ann Church	The Ciolino Family
6:00pm Our Lady's Church	Richard Devlin
Sunday, August 2	18th Sunday
7:00am Our Lady's Church	Onni & Helen Korpi
8:15am Saint Ann Church	James Montagnino
10:00am Saint Joachim Church	Pauline Scola
11:45am Our Lady's Church	Alex & Tina Borge

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, July 26th, donations were offered for the following special intentions:

In Memory of the Kane Family
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Edward & William Bunker
Sanctuary Gifts · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of the Warde Family
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Joachim Church

In Memory of Michael Pierce
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Anthony Chapel

In Memory of Salvatore Garofalo
Sanctuary Candle · Our Lady's Church

In Memory of Baby Benesh
Sanctuary Candle · Chapel of the Archangels

In Memory of Reverend Benjamin O. Madu
Pope Francis Candle · Our Lady's Church

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 Father Jim 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 MOTHER TERESA

It is easy to love the people far away.
It is not always easy to love those close to us...
Bring love into your home,
for this is where our love for each other begins.

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