

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
Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time · August 16, 2026



THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

NOT SO EASY

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



Evangelization in the City

BY POPE LEO XIV

Following in the footsteps of his beloved 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 August, the Holy Father calls us to pray for inspired evangelization in our cities, towns, and villages. In spiritual communion with the pope, we pray:

Lord Jesus, Good Shepherd,
you walk through our streets and squares,
enter tall buildings and humble neighborhoods,
and silently accompany millions
who seek meaning amid noise and haste.

You know, Lord, the heart of the city:
its lights and shadows, its noise and loneliness.

We know that cities are called
to be places of freedom and opportunity,
but they can also become spaces of anonymity and isolation.

That's why today we ask you for a renewed gaze,
able to discover in urban life
fertile ground for proclaiming your Gospel.

Give us a creative and deep faith,
that doesn't remain in words, but becomes flesh
through simple and loving gestures.

Make us a Church that goes forth, able to reach out
to the peripheries,
to console those who are lonely,
and to sow fraternity and connection
instead of giving in to indifference.

Lord, may our communities be open and welcoming homes,
places where hope is shared, where no one feels invisible,
and where the joy of your Gospel shines
in the hidden lives of so many brothers and sisters.

Make us your witnesses in the city,
bold and creative missionaries,
who proclaim your love with their lives:
a love capable of overcoming haste,
noise, and anonymity. Amen.

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

Not So Easy

BY KATHY COFFEY

You shall not steal (Exodus 20:15). We might think: “Whew! Got off easy on that one!” As law-abiding people, we do not shoplift, rob banks, pilfer office supplies, or skim from the collection basket. At last, this is one commandment that we are handily observing, right? Right, if we stick to the letter of the law. But the commandments are demanding, calling us beyond superficial observance. There are more forms of theft than we might recognize.

Let’s look first at homegrown forms of stealing, then at the larger picture of social justice. For example, we rob our families of hours together when we work overtime at jobs to buy more than necessities. The Church has long taught that people created by God are too precious to be merely a means of profit. Our birthright gifts as God’s children include dignity, security, and a divine transcendent love. So do we hoard lesser things?

We steal a person’s enthusiasm with negative comments. We quash plans that sound naïve, quell a child’s creativity, stifle the initiative of a new employee. Unfounded fears block imaginative solutions, and the inspiration of the spirit. Two forms of theft steal from the present: anxiety about the future or mulling over the past. Both rob the present of grace and potential.

The items in closets that do not fit or are not worn: these, too, are stolen from those who could be using them, who might actually be thrilled to have them. As Saint Basil reminds us: “The coat in your closet belongs to the naked. The shoes rotting in your basement belong to the barefoot.” Our talents and treasures belong to us but were given by God for the benefit of others. Here again, our model is Christ, who “became poor although he was rich, so that by his poverty you might become rich (2 Corinthians 8:9).”

A look through the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reveals the social dimension of this commandment: condemning the payment of unjust wages, bribes to legislators, breaking a contract, and poor quality work. In addition, discrimination against women, immigrants, and minorities and denying them access to gainful employment violates the Seventh Commandment.

How Las Vegas must tremble to hear these words: “The passion for gambling risks becoming an enslavement (CCC 2413).” We may cringe at the busloads of people pumping their savings into slot machines. So, too, people who lavish more money and attention on pets than some poor children receive are not exercising proper stewardship. The *Catechism* says: “One can love animals; one should not direct to them the affection due only to persons (CCC 2418).”

On a global scale, the arms race plunders the planet’s resources by substituting weapons for basic human needs. In his farewell address to the nation, President Dwight D. Eisenhower prophetically warned that the military-industrial complex could sap our country’s riches.

On a brighter note, many people are making efforts at reparation. Corporate pollution may steal clean air and water, but it is heartening to think of a youth group at Saint Edward the Confessor Parish in Richmond, Virginia. The kids sponsored a fast from every beverage except tap water. They then donated the money that would have been spent on soda and energy drinks to a project that provides clean water in Nicaragua. As Helen Keller said: “The world is full of suffering. It is full also of the overcoming of it.” Those who repay the thefts that occur in homes and society at large are honoring brilliantly the Seventh Commandment.

LIVE THE GOSPEL



Saint Michael's Lent Turning to God by Fasting

BY BROTHER PATRICK

In *Our Sunday Visitor's Catholic Encyclopedia*, fasting is defined as not eating, drinking, or engaging in some pleasurable activity for a period of time. In this book, we read: "It is by means of the fast that one stops what is automatic and waits upon God — the hunger pains acting like constant reminders to listen for the voice of God in personal and liturgical prayer, through conversations and events of the day, and in reading sacred scripture."

Of course, we know that some of us should not fast from food and drink because of age, illness, or disability. At the same time, each of us can fast from some activity that can separate us from God and neighbor: gossip, television, or social media. All of us can deny ourselves some small thing that takes our attention away from growing closer to Christ and closer to each other.

In the book, *Fasting: The Ancient Practices*, Scott McKnight explains that a fast is our way of recognizing and reacting to the increasingly harsh world around us. He writes: "Fasting is a response to a serious, grievous, or sacred moment...People fasted in the Bible in response to some grievous event in life — like death or the realization of sin when the nation was threatened."

These serious, grievous, and sacred moments are now all too common: wars, climate crises, rising prices, political divisions, countless threats to human life and dignity, cuts to health care and other essential services, cruelty toward immigrants and refugees, and a rising tide of anxiety, depression, and loneliness.

The point of fasting is not to solve problems or change the world. It is to remind ourselves of humanity's complete dependence on God for all good things; and to entrust our bodies, minds, and spirits into the loving and merciful arms of the Lord — who listens to our poor prayers, smiles upon our small sacrifices, and leads us toward treating each other with mutual love and respect.

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

Saint Vincent de Paul Society Call for Volunteers

HELP US HELP OTHERS!

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society is an international organization that is dedicated to responding to any request from any person or family in need. Here on Cape Ann, we work through the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport to serve the poor in our midst.

We are seeking new members to help us serve our brothers and sisters in need with dignity and compassion. Members of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society are honest, humble, and selfless workers in the vineyard of the Lord.

We call those who can help us help others! We call those who will listen to our brothers and sisters and respond to their needs. We call those who desire to grow in faith, hope, and love by seeing the Lord in the least among us.

We offer our services by responding to the needs of every person and every family that asks for our help. We also meet with both individuals and families in order to respond to their needs in God's style of closeness, compassion, and tenderness.

If you seek to live the Gospel, share God's love, and rebuild the Church, then please prayerfully consider becoming a member of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society. We meet once every month to reflect on our experiences and to be good stewards of your generous gifts.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 19th at 4:00pm in Our Lady's Hall. For more information about how you can share your gifts and talents with the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, please contact Marty Bolcome at 978-821-3499; Cindy Cafasso at 978-473-2312; or Robert Weeks at svdpmember1@gmail.com. Thank you for your generous support! May God bless you!

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

Go to the poor: you will find God.
The poor have much to teach you.
You have much to learn from them.

Saint Vincent de Paul (1581-1660)
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Patron of Volunteers

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE**Our Weekly Gifts**

WEEKEND OF AUGUST 8TH & 9TH

Holy Family Parish

Offertory	\$5,957
Electronic	\$1,782
Total	\$7,739

Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish

Offertory	\$3,608
Electronic	\$997
Total	\$4,605

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

The Assisi Project
Intercessory Prayer Ministry

IN CONSTANT PRAYER FOR YOU!

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. Our mission is to help believers of all ages more faithfully live the Gospel of the Poor Christ in the spirit of Saint Francis and Saint Clare of Assisi.

Members of the Assisi Project range in age from 18 to 102. Each of us serves our parishes in some way. But our most important contribution is prayer. So we pray each day for all who ask for our prayers. Last week, we prayed for 188 intentions! If you would like our fellowship to pray for you, or your special intention, please contact Brother Patrick at 978-281-4820 or brpatrick@assisiproject.com.

In communion with Pope Leo XIV and in solidarity with people of faith and goodwill everywhere, we also pray each day for peace, truth, and justice in our world; and for the poor, the persecuted, and the unjustly imprisoned. You can pray with us by visiting assisiproject.com! May God bless you! May the Lord give you peace!

THE FRANCISCAN VIRTUES

Humility Is Everything
An Assisi Project Podcast
assisiproject.com

SHARE GOD'S LOVE

Our Lady of Good Voyage
Summer Carillon Concerts

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21ST AT 6:30PM

A popular summer tradition has returned to Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish and the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport! Our Summer Carillon Concerts continue this Friday, August 21st 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 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! Please join us! All are invited! All are welcome!

OUR MASS INTENTIONS

August 15th – August 23rd

Saturday, August 15	Vigil · 20th Sunday
4:00pm Saint Ann Church	Evelyn & Norman Authier
6:00pm Our Lady's Church	Louis Balestraci
Sunday, August 16	20th Sunday
7:00am Our Lady's Church	Herman & Rose Surrette
8:15am Saint Ann Church	Conleigh Rose Sullivan
10:00am Saint Joachim Church	Sara Dignan
11:45am Our Lady's Church	Richard & Constance Horak
	Ordinary Time
August 19 at 5:30pm Our Lady's Church	Alex & Tina Borge
August 20 at 8:00am Our Lady's Church	Sheila Collins
August 21 at 8:00am Our Lady's Church	All Souls in Purgatory
Saturday, August 22	Vigil · 21st Sunday
4:00pm Saint Ann Church	Pasquale Vitale
6:00pm Our Lady's Church	John & Madonna Fleming
Sunday, August 23	21st Sunday
7:00am Our Lady's Church	Fernando Carreiro
8:15am Saint Ann Church	Stephen & Elinor Farricy
10:00am Saint Joachim Church	Josephine Shallow
11:45am Our Lady's Church	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, August 16th, donations were offered for the following special intentions:

In Memory of Conleigh Rose Sullivan
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Father Ronald Gariboldi
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Joachim Church

In Memory of Archbishop Francisco Viti
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Anthony Chapel

In Memory of Father Eugene Alves
Sanctuary Candle · Our Lady's Church

In Memory of Father Mark Noonan
Sanctuary Candle · Chapel of the Archangels

In Memory of Edwin Cornejo
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 SAINT CLARE OF ASSISI

We become what we love
and who we love shapes what we become.

If we love things, we become a thing.
If we love nothing, we become nothing.

This means that we are to become vessels
of God's compassionate love for others.

*Saint Clare of Assisi (1194-1253)
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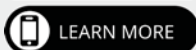
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