

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

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time • August 23, 2026



OUR PASTOR'S MESSAGE

THE SINGING TOWERS

The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport

United in Prayer, Fellowship, and Service

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

Website: ccgronline.com

Cover Art by Ernest David Roth

JUBILEE OF SAINT FRANCIS



The Assisi Project Franciscan Virtues - Loving Our Enemies

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH AT 8:00AM

This year marks the 800th anniversary of the life and death of Saint Francis of Assisi (1226-2026). In commemoration of this sacred milestone, Pope Leo XIV has declared a Special Jubilee Year which has inspired us to focus our adult faith formation programs on the Poor Man of Assisi. In this spirit, the Assisi Project is going back to the basics, back to the life and good example of our patron and his first followers to learn more about the virtues that can help us follow Saint Francis and live the Gospel of Christ in thought, word, and deed.

All friends, neighbors, and fellow parishioners of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport are invited to join us on Saturday, September 5th at 8:00am in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church for a two hour mini-retreat that includes Holy Mass, a reflection by Father Jim and Brother Patrick, along with a period of prayer and faith sharing. At this gathering, we will focus on the Franciscan virtue of *loving our enemies*.

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. We are dedicated to helping believers of all ages more faithfully live the Good News in the spirit of Saint Francis and Saint Clare of Assisi. We are also dedicated to promoting a devotion to Pope Francis (1936-2025) as a patron of peace, mercy, and fraternity in our troubled world.

You do not need to be a member of our fellowship to join us for this special morning of prayer and reflection! So, please join us! Bring a friend! If you would like us to pray for your special intention or if you would like more information about the Assisi Project and its good work in our parishes, please contact Brother Patrick at 978-281-4820 or brpatrick@assisiproject.com. Saint Francis of Assisi, pray for us! Saint Clare of Assisi, pray for us! Our Lady of the Angels, pray for us! Pope Francis, pray for us! All are invited! All are welcome!

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

The peace you proclaim with words
must dwell more abundantly in your hearts.
Do not provoke others to anger or give scandal.
Let your gentleness draw them to peace, goodness, and harmony.
This is our vocation:
to heal wounds, to bind what is broken,
and to bring home those who are lost.
And remember that many who may seem to be of the devil
may one day become disciples of Christ.

*Saint Francis of Assisi (1181-1226)
Founder of the Order of Friars Minor
Patron of Animals - Patron of the Environment*

OUR PASTOR'S MESSAGE

The Singing Towers

BY FATHER JIM

Almost twenty years ago, Brother Patrick and I embarked on our first ever trip to Rome and Assisi. Among the many blessings of that extraordinary pilgrimage was not just to see but to actually touch Pope Benedict XVI's hand as he passed by us on the way into the local cathedral. After that amazing moment, we climbed to the Rocca Maggiore, the ancient fortress that looms over Assisi on the steep slope of Mount Subasio. From there, we looked down upon the Basilica of Saint Francis, where the Holy Father was then celebrating an outdoor Mass for thousands of enthusiastic pilgrims. It was from this inspiring perch that we envisioned the ministry that soon would become the Assisi Project.

Ten years later, I was poking around an antique store in the little village of Nobleboro, Maine. In a bin with dozens of old prints and drawings was a one hundred year old etching by Ernest David Roth (1879-1964). It beautifully depicted the Basilica of Saint Francis as we had seen it years before. I did not buy it and still regret not doing so. But since then, on and off, I have looked for Roth's work at flea markets, antique malls, and used book and print shops.

Ernest David Roth was born in Germany and emigrated to New York City in 1884. In his youth, he clerked at a print shop where he discovered a love and talent for art. He studied at the New York School of Design and the National Academy of Design. Soon after becoming an American citizen in 1905, Roth embarked on the first of several long journeys across Europe. Before and after World War I, he visited France, Spain, and especially Italy. Several of his copper plate etchings were acquired by the renowned Uffizi Gallery in Florence.

Back in the United States, Ernest Roth became famous for his drawings and etchings of New York City, Philadelphia, and historic sites related to the lives of George and Martha Washington. At some point, he spent several summers here on Cape Ann. His lovely paintings of Rockport, Eastern Point, and Good Harbor Beach remind my untrained eye of impressionist paintings by Claude Monet (1840-1926).

Earlier this year, I found myself browsing online auction sites in search of information related to our churches here in Gloucester and Rockport. What I found was a ninety-seven year old magazine supplement of eight drawings of famous churches by none other than Ernest David Roth! These included the Peace Tower in Ottawa, Canada; Christ Church in Cranbrook, Michigan; Cleveland Tower in Princeton, New Jersey; Riverside Church in New York City; Mountain Lake Tower in Lake Wales, Florida; Saint Stephen Church in Cohasset, Massachusetts; and gracing the front cover of the booklet is Our Lady of Good Voyage Church!

Entitled *The Singing Towers*, these amazing drawings of different churches and spires from different faiths in different countries have one thing in common. Each of these singing towers contains a carillon — a set of bronze bells played with foot pedals and hand batons. Needless to say, I purchased this collection of prints not just as a keepsake, but as a reminder of the gratitude that we all share for our historic church and for our three talented and self-taught carillonners: Thomas Dort, Cynthia Cafasso, and Luann Palazolla. This week, let us pray in thanksgiving to God for our shared faith, for our beloved churches, and for the gift of beautiful music on a warm summer evening. Peace and blessings to all!

LIVE THE GOSPEL



Saint Michael's Lent Fasting as Whole Body Prayer

BY BROTHER PATRICK

As everyone knows by now, Father Jim and I, along with some friends and fellow parishioners, have entered into the ancient season of prayer and fasting known as Saint Michael's Lent. We undertake this penitential season in memory of Father Ben and for all who suffer from anxiety, depression, and-or loneliness.

In a culture dominated by greed, corruption, self-interest, and self-gratification, it is sometimes difficult to discuss and promote the practice of fasting. In the book, *Fasting: The Ancient Practices*, Scott McKnight writes: "Urging folks today to fast is like urging them to milk their own cows — just as there are no cows in their backyards, so there is no body in their perception of spirituality."

McKnight explains that our personal spiritualities are all too often dominated by the intellect. The body is left out of the prayer process. But God did not create just our minds and imaginations. God created our bodies, too. God created us, body and soul, in his image and likeness. So, it is good, holy, and holistic to engage both our minds and bodies in the discipline of prayer.

We see the connection between body, mind, and spirit as we genuflect and bless ourselves before the Holy Eucharist. We see this connection when we pray during Mass while kneeling, singing, sitting, and standing. We see this connection when we pray a chaplet or rosary with the help of a beaded prayer rope. We see this connection when we are inspired to offer some act of kindness that requires us to engage our strength and our senses.

In this way, fasting is our body's response to a sacred moment or grievous situation in the life of God's family. By fasting, however much we are able, we unite our bodies and souls in prayer for a particular intention. As Pope Francis once said: "Prayer and fasting are weapons of love that can change history." So now more than ever, let's pray and fast together!

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

Annual Mission Appeal Welcome, Father Sean!

AUGUST 29TH & 30TH

Next weekend, August 29th and August 30th, the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport is blessed to welcome Father Sean McGillicuddy, C.Ss.R. from the Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Boston. Father Sean has been a Redemptorist for forty years. He was a missionary in Brazil; and he also served parishes in Manhattan, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Brooklyn, and the Bronx.

Father Sean will talk with us about the good works of the Perpetual Help Project in Brazil. Inspired by the life and ministry of the late Father Patrick McGillicuddy, the Perpetual Help Project (which includes Redemptorists, lay people, and religious men and women) work with the poor and homeless in and around Curitiba, Brazil.

This ministry inspired the founding of Sarnelli College, a residence and fully accredited school for homeless adult men. The students are invited to live and study until they complete the equivalent of a high school education. After graduation, the men can continue studies at the University of Curitiba. Inspired by Father Pat, they formed a community in which the Lord is clearly present and active.

Over the years, the participants in this program have become valued members of local parishes and the wider community. They contribute to the well being of their friends, neighbors, and fellow parishioners by putting their new skills into practice and by living lives of deep faith, hope, and love.

At all weekend Masses, Father Sean will speak with us about his missionary work and about building a spiritual communion between our parishes, the Perpetual Help Project, and all those whose daily lives may be very different from our own culture and customs.

In support of these ministries, both Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish will ask for a second collection on August 29th and August 30th. Your generous support will be much appreciated. On behalf of our senior priests and pastoral team, we welcome Father Sean McGillicuddy to the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport! Peace, blessings, and sincere thanks to all! — Father Jim

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE**Our Weekly Gifts****WEEKEND OF AUGUST 15TH & 16TH****Holy Family Parish**

Offertory	\$5,561
Electronic	\$1,201
Total	\$6,762

Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish

Offertory	\$4,756
Electronic	\$705
Total	\$5,461

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

A Special Invitation

Diaconate Ordination of Peter Brau

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH

On Saturday, September 12th, our friend and fellow parishioner, Peter Brau, will be ordained as a permanent deacon at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston by Archbishop Richard Henning. This is a moment of prayer and celebration for all who live, work, and worship in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport.

All are invited to join Father Jim and members of our pastoral team in attending the ordination Mass at 10:00am. A bus will depart at 8:30am sharp from Our Lady of Good Voyage Church and return immediately afterward. The requested donation is \$25 per person. If you would like to reserve a seat on the bus, please contact Father Jim at 978-281-4820 or frjim@ccgronline.com by Monday, August 31st at 5:00pm.

For those unable to join us due to age, illness, or disability, Brother Patrick will lead Morning Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours and the Franciscan Rosary from 9:00am until 10:00am in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church. Everyone who joins us will also have an opportunity to venerate a relic of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

We hope and pray that you will be able to join us for this special morning of prayer and celebration for Peter Brau and his family! Peace and blessings to all!

SHARE GOD'S LOVE

Our Lady of Good Voyage

Summer Carillon Concerts

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28TH 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 28th 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! Our final concert of the season is scheduled for Friday, September 4th at 6:30pm. For more information, please contact Luann Pallazola at lpallazola@gmail.com or 978-281-4820. Save the date! Spread the word! Bring a friend! Bring your family! Please join us as we celebrate the gift of beautiful music! All are invited! All are welcome!

OUR MASS INTENTIONS

August 22nd – August 30th

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
	Ordinary Time
August 26 at 5:30pm Our Lady's Church	Ralph Hobbs, Jr.
August 27 at 8:00am Our Lady's Church	The Works Family
August 28 at 8:00am Our Lady's Church	The Cooke Family
Saturday, August 29	Vigil - 22nd Sunday
4:00pm Saint Ann Church	Joseph Ciaramitaro
6:00pm Our Lady's Church	Eugene "Tony" & Florence Ciluffo
Sunday, August 30	22nd Sunday
7:00am Our Lady's Church	Nancy Solmon
8:15am Saint Ann Church	Alfonso Paglia
10:00am Saint Joachim Church	Ida M. Chambers
11:45am Our Lady's Church	Ralph Pescatore

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, August 23rd, donations were offered for the following special intentions:

In Memory of Louis F. Linqata
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Louis F. Linqata
Sanctuary Gifts · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Antonio Porcaccini
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Joachim Church

In Memory of Donald G. Riley
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Anthony Chapel

In Memory of Elaine M. Kucharski
Sanctuary Candle · Our Lady's Church

In Memory of Fred Reynolds
Sanctuary Candle · Chapel of the Archangels

In Memory of Jose Chajon Raxon
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 ROSE OF LIMA

Apart from the cross,
there is no other ladder
by which we can get to heaven.

Saint Rose of Lima (1586-1617)
Patron of Florists & Gardeners
Patron of Sewers & Embroiderers
Patron of Peace in Families
Feast Day - August 23rd