

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-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time · September 13, 2026



SEASON OF CREATION **FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP**

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 - Season of Creation 2026 Logo

CALL TO PRAYER



For the Care of Water

BY POPE LEO XIV

Following in the footsteps of his beloved predecessor, Pope Leo XIV offers a prayer intention each month and invites all people of goodwill around the world to pray with him. This month, coinciding with the Season of Creation (September 1st through October 4th), the Holy Father calls us to pray for the care of water. In spiritual communion with the pope, we pray:

Lord of Life,
 you have given us the gift of water,
 source of fruitfulness, freshness, and hope.
 It quenches thirst, nourishes the earth, and heals wounds.
 We thank you, because it is also a symbol
 of your grace and love that renews us through Baptism.
 Today we ask you to teach us to safeguard it
 with gratitude, justice, and responsibility.
 Forgive us for turning it into a commodity,
 forgetting that it is a universal gift,
 a right without borders,
 meant for all of your children.
 We see with pain so many brothers and sisters
 who lack clean water,
 who walk for miles to find it,
 who become ill because of its scarcity.
 May your Spirit make us pilgrims of the essential,
 able to live with simplicity,
 denouncing waste and pollution,
 defending the right of every brother and sister
 to drink without fear and without inequality.
 May our care for water
 be a sign of love for the Creator
 and a commitment to the lives of the poor,
 educating new generations to value and protect
 the earth's resources. Amen.

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM POPE FRANCIS

Everything is connected.
 Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined
 to a sincere love for our fellow human beings
 and an unwavering commitment
 to resolving the problems of society.

Pope Francis - Laudato Si - Chapter 91

SEASON OF CREATION

Faithful Stewardship

BY JIM & SUSAN VOGT

Climate change is a hot topic these days. But what does it have to do with our shared faith? “Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that crawl on the earth...God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good...The Lord God then took the man and settled him in the Garden of Eden, to cultivate and care for it (Genesis 1:28, 1:31; 2:15).”

How are we to cultivate and care for the earth? Scripture cannot mean that everyone should become farmers. It does mean, however, that we all have a responsibility to care for our common home. This is easy to agree about in theory. After all, it feels wholesome to commit to caring for the earth. Being good stewards of creation is holy, natural, and reasonable. But it is not as easy as it sounds.

Consider the following: Many scientists identify using automobiles as the single most environmentally damaging consumer behavior. So Jim urged Susan to take the bus to work. He often rode it himself. After all, we live on a bus line, and it would be good for Susan’s soul. Jim explained that she could use the time to pray, read, and commune with those who lack transportation choices. But this quadrupled a twenty minute commute once transfers and waiting times were factored in.

Vegetable gardening is good stewardship. It provides fresh and healthy food. It saves money and trips to the store. It can be satisfying to the spirit, not to mention good exercise. Of course, this assumes that you don’t overdo it and need an appointment with a chiropractor as Susan once did. But what about those pesky critters that can consume the fruits of your hard work more quickly than we can delete email spam? Should we use pesticides on crops? Poison on moles? Or spend more on organic remedies? What if our kids will not eat the apples because they do not look as pretty as the ones in the grocery store?

There are plenty of conundrums for conscientious Christians who want to honor God’s creation by preserving and protecting it. In the end, many of us tire of the complexity and mixed messages, then throw up our hands, and murmur: “What difference does it make if we recycle a few bottles each week?” What each of us does, however, can make a difference. First, we should take personal responsibility for our actions. Whether it is refraining from lying, caring for those in need, or respecting the environment, our actions are the only ones we can control. We should start by responding consistently to God’s call to be faithful stewards of creation. In addition, there is the dimension of prophetic witness. Who knows when someone might see our small efforts at recycling and decide to do the same thing?

Then there is the reality that as members of the human community, we are not isolated beings dependent only on ourselves. Instead of asking *What difference will my actions make?*, we should be asking, *What difference would it make if we all took action?* What if everyone just threw their bottles into the trash? What if everyone recycled? The everyone test can help us discern more clearly. Perhaps we should revisit the maxim *What would Jesus do?* Was Jesus an environmentalist? Well, he walked a lot. He ate local and organic foods. He did not depend on electricity. Jesus did not have a choice. We do. Jesus sent us the Spirit to breathe new life into our souls and our troubled world. Let us not pollute the gift of creation lest it die on our watch — or on that of our children’s children.

*Jim & Susan Vogt are contributors to Bringing Home the Word.
A new edition is posted each weekend at ccgronline.com.*

LIVING THE GOSPEL



Saint Michael's Lent The Purest Form of Prayer

BY BROTHER PATRICK

Our observance of Saint Michael's Lent is now well underway! As the spiritual disciplines of daily prayer and fasting continue, friends and fellow parishioners are asking Father Jim and me about the challenge of abstaining from meat, sugar, caffeine, and alcohol; and finding the time to pray at particular times during a busy day.

Praying in this way is nothing new for us. We have been praying the Liturgy of the Hours for decades. However, remembering to offer the Angelus, Faster's Prayer (Psalm 77), and Prayer to Saint Michael has been more difficult than expected. In the end, it is not about keeping a rigid timetable. It is more about remembering that we offer these devotions in communion with Pope Leo who calls us to pray for peace, truth, and justice in our world.

In this spirit, Father Henri Nouwen (1932-1996) offers some good advice about praying during difficult times. He says: "To cry out to the God of life in the midst of darkness, to hold on to joy while walking in a valley of tears, to keep speaking of peace when sounds of war fill the air, that is what prayer is about. It is indeed a clinging to the Lord when all is being torn apart by greed, hatred, violence, and war...In its pure form, prayer is the divine breath of those whom the world tries to suffocate with terror. Prayer is the martyrdom of those who live."

For me, these may be among the most compelling words about prayer ever written. Needless to say, none of those praying and fasting with us are suffering in the way that so many of our brothers and sisters are suffering in this country and around the world.

Saint Michael's Lent is not about our piety or perseverance. It is about holding tight to the Cross in a troubled world. It is about entering into a spiritual communion with those suffering from anxiety, depression, and loneliness. And it is about paying tribute to Father Ben, whose sudden death has broken so many of our hearts.

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

Our Lady's Guild Celebrating Our 82nd Year Opening Supper

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH
BEGINS AT 6:30PM

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, social events, and exciting fundraising campaigns.

The Guild begins its 82nd year by inviting all friends, members, and volunteers to our Opening Supper on Monday, September 14th at 6:30pm in Our Lady's Hall. The requested donation is \$20 per person. Annual dues of \$20 will also be collected, fundraising ideas will be brainstormed, and our new schedule will be discussed. Please RSVP by contacting Cecelia Doucette at 978-281-2031.

For more information about Our Lady's Guild and its good work in our parish, please contact Beth Fosberry at jcbf33@yahoo.com or 978-281-4820. Save the date! Spread the word! Please join us! Bring a friend! New members and volunteers are always welcome!

Our Lady's Guild Celebrating Our 82nd Year Fall Yard Sale

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH
9:00AM UNTIL 12:00PM

All friends, neighbors, and fellow parishioners of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport are invited to join Our Lady's Guild for a Fall Yard Sale on Saturday, September 26th from 9:00am until 12:00pm in Our Lady's Hall. Our Fall Yard Sale will feature various sale tables for buying and browsing for bargains, along with numerous raffles with great prizes!

Muffins, coffee, and tea will be offered for sale. All proceeds will benefit Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish. For more information about Our Lady's Guild and its good work in our parish, please contact Beth Fosberry at jcbf33@yahoo.com or 978-281-4820. Save the date! Spread the word! Please join us! Bring a friend! New members and volunteers are always welcome!

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE**Our Weekly Gifts****WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER 5TH & 6TH****Holy Family Parish**

Offertory	\$8,314
Electronic	\$1,354
Total	\$9,668

Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish

Offertory	\$4,313
Electronic	\$674
Total	\$4,987

Special Collection**Holy Family Parish - Gaze**

Holy Family	\$4,632
Our Lady's	\$2,011
Total	\$6,643

Thank you for your generous support
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Thank you also for your generous support
for Holy Family Parish
& Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish!
May God bless you!
Peace and blessings to all!

Holy Family Women's Guild

Bakeless Bake Sale

MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

During September, the Holy Family Women's Guild is sponsoring a Bakeless Bake Sale! Why? Because now more than ever, our parish needs your support, especially in light of rising utility costs. Every small donation can make a big difference! Checks should be made payable to Holy Family Parish and mailed to the following address:

Lydia Bertolino
Holy Family Women's Guild
10 Orchard Street
Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930

For more information about the Holy Family Women's Guild and its good work in our parish, please contact Lydia at lbbglosta1929@outlook.com or 978-281-4820. Thank you for your generous support!

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

First Holy Communion

Family Mass & Workshop

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH AT 11:00AM

The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport offers a creative and innovative way for children to prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation (Confession) and First Holy Communion. Our program, called *Seeds of Faith*, is designed to prepare both second graders and their parents for the sacraments, encourage lifelong relationships with Jesus and the Catholic Church, and help every family grow in prayer, fellowship, and service.

First, our primary focus is to invite all families to attend one of our six Weekend Masses, especially our Faith & Family Masses throughout the school year. Second, all second grade students are asked to attend seven Young Disciples Workshops. Third, all children and parents are asked to attend seven Faith & Family Workshops.

During the Young Disciples Workshops in Our Lady's School, all students will gather with Betsy Works and our team of catechists. During our Faith & Family Workshops in Our Lady's Church, students and parents will meet together with Father Jim, Betsy, and our team.

Throughout *Seeds of Faith*, our young disciples will prepare for the sacraments by learning about the Mass, the Bible, reading faith-based children's literature, and engaging in hands-on activities with art, crafts, food, dance, music, and prayer.

All second graders and their parents (or guardians) are invited and encouraged to attend our Fall Faith Mass & Workshop on Sunday, September 20th beginning at 11:00am in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church. As always, Mass will begin at 11:45am.

For more information about youth faith formation in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport, please contact Betsy Works at bworks@ccgrronline.com or 978-281-4820. Every child and every family is a gift from God. So, please pray for all of our young disciples and their families! All are invited! All are welcome!

OUR MASS INTENTIONS

September 12th – September 20th

Saturday, September 12	Vigil - 24th Sunday
4:00pm Saint Ann Church	Anneliese Michel
6:00pm Our Lady's Church	The Palazzolo Family
Sunday, September 13	24th Sunday
7:00am Our Lady's Church	John & Mary Brosnan
8:15am Saint Ann Church	Grazia & Salvatore Storniolo
10:00am Saint Joachim Church	Father Benjamin Madu
11:45am Our Lady's Church	Manuel F. & Francisca G. Garcia
	Ordinary Time
September 16 at 5:30pm Our Lady's Church	Barbara Tulia
September 17 at 8:00am Our Lady's Church	All Souls in Purgatory
September 18 at 8:00am Our Lady's Church	Michael Stuart
Saturday, September 19	Vigil - 25th Sunday
4:00pm Saint Ann Church	The McCalla Family
6:00pm Our Lady's Church	Joseph & Elizabeth Arnold
Sunday, September 20	25th Sunday
7:00am Our Lady's Church	Kathryn Sykes
8:15am Saint Ann Church	Sal & Joanne Garofalo
10:00am Saint Joachim Church	Tom Garman
11:45am Our Lady's Church	Doreen Spinola

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, September 13th, donations were offered for the following special intentions:

For Gloucester High School Class of 1976
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Ann Church

For Gloucester High School Class of 1976
Sanctuary Gifts · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Bill Baker
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Joachim Church

In Memory of Barbara Cameron
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Anthony Chapel

In Memory of Anibal & Maria Senos
Sanctuary Candle · Our Lady's Church

For Gloucester High School Class of 1976
Sanctuary Candle · Chapel of the Archangels

In Memory of Prisciliano Ricano
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 FRANCIS

Praise be you, my Lord,
through our Sister Mother Earth,
who sustains and governs us,
who produces fruits
with colored flowers and herbs!

*Saint Francis of Assisi
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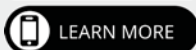


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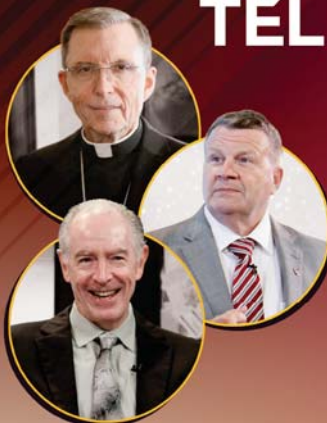


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