

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-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time · September 20, 2026



OUR PASTOR'S MESSAGE **REACHING FOR PADRE PIO**

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

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

Website: ccgrounline.com

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SAINTS FOR ALL SEASONS



Saint Pio of Pietrelcina Friends of Saint Francis 2026

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD

BEGINS WITH MASS AT 5:30PM

All Christians are called to holiness. All Christians are called to be saints. A saint is a person who has lived a courageous and virtuous life: a life lived for God, a life lived for others, a life worthy of imitation. Pope Leo XIV recently proclaimed: "The lives of the saints teach us that it is possible to live passionately amidst the complexities of the present time without neglecting [Saint Paul's] mandate to 'shine like stars in the world (Philippians 2:15).'"

This year, the Catholic Church marks the 800th anniversary of the life and legacy of Saint Francis of Assisi (1226-2026). As part of our commemoration of this Special Jubilee Year, we look not just to Saint Francis, but also to the friends who knew him best, the holy men and women who followed in his footsteps over the centuries, the shining stars who sought to live the Gospel in thought, word, and deed.

In this spirit, all are invited to join Father Jim and Brother Patrick for our next Saints for All Seasons Mini-Retreat beginning with Holy Mass on Wednesday, September 23rd at 5:30pm in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church. After Mass and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Brother Patrick will offer a reflection on Saint Pio of Pietrelcina (1887-1968), better known simply as Padre Pio, a Franciscan friar, who is most remembered for being blessed, like Saint Francis, with the stigmata — the five wounds of the Crucified Christ.

After our reflection, Father Jim will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (for those who feel called to confession) during a period of silent Eucharistic Adoration. This special evening of prayer and devotion will conclude with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. For more information about our *Saints for All Seasons Mini-Retreats*, please contact Brother Patrick at 978-281-4820 or brpatrick@ccgronline.com. Please join us! Bring a friend! All are invited! All are welcome! Saint Pio of Pietrelcina, pray for us! Saint Francis of Assisi, pray for us!

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM SAINT PIO OF PIETRELcina

Jesus, my breath and my life,
how I tremble today
as I lift you up in a mystery of love;
together with you,
may I be for the world way, truth, life,
and through you,
a holy priest and perfect victim.

*Saint Pio of Pietrelcina
Ordination Prayer Card (1910)
Feast Day - September 23rd*

OUR PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Reaching for Padre Pio

BY FATHER JIM

After being ordained to the priesthood twenty-three years ago, I was assigned as a parochial vicar to Saint Charles Borromeo Parish in Woburn. My first pastor was Father Timothy Shea. Ordained in 1961, Father Tim has lived a remarkable priesthood. He entered seminary before the Second Vatican Council, was ordained before it began, and has presided over Masses in Latin, English, Spanish, and Italian for more than six decades.

Father Tim is a raconteur — a born storyteller, a consummate spinner of yarns. More than once, his sense of humor has made archbishops blush. Some of Father Tim's most favorite stories come from his seminary years in Rome. At some point during the pontificate of Saint John XXIII, Father Tim and his classmates traveled to the village of San Giovanni Rotondo which is located near the heel of the boot of Italy. It was the home of the famous Padre Pio.

By this time, Padre Pio was an old man. Since being blessed with the stigmata in 1918, he had become famous throughout the world as a healer, mystic, and reader of souls. While this notoriety brought hundreds of thousands of pilgrims to San Giovanni Rotondo, it also created challenges and disruptions for the friary and local community. Because of the sainted friar's many gifts, people wanted to see him. They wanted to touch him. They wanted to get close to him. They wanted him to hear their confessions and offer spiritual guidance.

When Padre Pio entered the convent church to hear confessions or celebrate the liturgy, pilgrims and parishioners alike surrounded him. Some begged for a blessing. Some tore or used scissors to cut pieces from his habit to claim as relics. Some became so frenzied and persistent that bodyguards were eventually needed to protect the friar from the people he loved and served. Sometimes violent altercations erupted when an unknowing pilgrim mistakenly sat in a pew that "belonged" to one of Padre Pio's self-appointed disciples.

As Father Tim tells it, all of these things occurred on the day that he and his friends gathered for Mass in the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Grace at San Giovanni Rotondo. He loves to share how even the oldest widows were the most fanatical about getting closer to Padre Pio. He watched as security guards swatted them away before they could reach the aging friar who bore the wounds of the Crucified Christ on his feet, hands, and side.

Needless to say, we rarely see this kind of frenzied behavior in our churches. Nobody begs for locks of hair or squares of clothing from me, Father Bill, or Father Bruce — at least not yet! In our time, such behavior is more common among the fans of pop stars and politicians. It is also common among the rich and famous. Their appetites are insatiable. Their grasping at money, power, and privilege are seemingly uncontrollable and unquenchable.

A different kind fervor, however, is common in the gospels. Consider the suffering woman who reaches out to touch the hem of Jesus's cloak (Matthew 9:20-22). Consider the crowds in the Gospels of Luke (6:19) and Mark (6:56; 3:10) who push forward to be closer to the Lord when he heals the sick. In talking about his encounter with Padre Pio, Father Tim surely makes us laugh at the fanaticism. At the same time, he plants in our hearts an enduring truth. Our souls long to come closer to all that is good, true, and holy. It is this longing that inspires our devotion to the saints — especially Saint Padre Pio!

LIVING THE GOSPEL



Saint Michael's Lent The Spindle of Prayer

BY BROTHER PATRICK

In *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis (1936-2025) writes: "The Church urgently needs the deep breath of prayer (EG 262)." With these words, the late Holy Father reminds us that living and sharing the Good News of Jesus is not all about programs or credentials. It is instead about giving witness in thought, word, and action.

When Father Jim and I discerned a call to pray and fast again during Saint Michael's Lent, our goal was not to drag others into a period of ascetic practices. It was instead a call to pray holistically: body, mind, and spirit. And it was meant to raise awareness about those who suffer from anxiety, depression, and loneliness.

What we have learned again is clear and compelling. Without prayer, our fast would be a failure. Without prayer, our fast would be pointless. Think about a turntable (a.k.a record player). We place the record on the spindle (or center spoke). We adjust the speed, press play, and the record spins. We then place the needle on the record and we hear beautiful music.

Imagine what happens, however, if the spindle is removed. The sound of music is first warped, then the record spins off the turntable. This is a compelling metaphor for our lives without the spindle of prayer. Our lives become pure and utter chaos.

Pope Francis says: "What is needed is the ability to cultivate an interior space which can give a Christian meaning to commitment and activity. Without prolonged moments of adoration, of prayerful encounter with the word, or sincere conversation with the Lord, our work easily becomes meaningless; we lose energy as a result of weariness and difficulty, and our fervor dies (EG 262)."

In this spirit, please pray for all who have joined us in observing Saint Michael's Lent. Pray for all who live with anxiety, depression or loneliness. Please pray for the soul of Father Ben! Thank you! May God bless you!

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

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!

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 the coming winter and the increasing costs associated with heat and snow clearing.

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 lbbglost1929@outlook.com or 978-281-4820. New members and volunteers are always welcome and appreciated! Thank you for your generous support!

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

WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER 12TH & 13TH

Holy Family Parish

Offertory	\$6,169
Electronic	\$1,778
Total	\$7,947

Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish

Offertory	\$4,001
Electronic	\$604
Total	\$4,605

Holy Family Parish - Gaza

Holy Family	\$6,468
Our Lady's	\$2,011
Total	\$8,479

Thank you also 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!

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

Saint Michael's Lent
The Feast of the Archangels

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH

The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport's forty day observance of Saint Michael's Lent will conclude on the Feast of the Archangels, Tuesday, September 29th, in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church.

This special day of prayer and devotion will begin with Morning Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours at 8:00am, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. After Morning Prayer, the church will remain open all day for silent prayer and adoration. At 12:00pm, we will gather again for Daytime Prayer and a Rosary for Peace. We will conclude with Evening Prayer and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 5:30pm.

A PRAYER FOR THE FEAST OF THE ARCHANGELS

Most High God,
you gave us archangels to help us
during the pilgrimage of life.
Saint Michael is our protector.
We ask him to come to our assistance
and to protect us from every danger.
Saint Gabriel is a messenger of the Good News.
We ask him to help us hear your voice
and to teach us your truth.
Saint Raphael is a healer.
We ask him to pray for our healing
and for the healing of those we love.
Help us to embrace the verity of these angels
and their calling to care for us.
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.
Archangels, pray for us!

For more information about this special day of prayer, and devotion, please contact Father Jim at 978-281-4820 or frjim@ccgrronline.com. All are invited! All are welcome!

OUR MASS INTENTIONS

September 19th – September 27th

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
	Ordinary Time
September 23 at 5:30pm Our Lady's Church	Alex & Tina Borge
September 24 at 8:00am Our Lady's Church	Marie Berwanger
September 25 at 8:00am Our Lady's Church	Dorothy Melvin
Saturday, September 26	Vigil - 26th Sunday
4:00pm Saint Ann Church	The Unis Family
6:00pm Our Lady's Church	All Souls in Purgatory
Sunday, September 27	26th Sunday
7:00am Our Lady's Church	Joseph Sinagra
8:15am Saint Ann Church	Enza Taormina
10:00am Saint Joachim Church	Jean Russo
11:45am Our Lady's Church	Angelina Loiacano Strescino

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 20th, donations were offered for the following special intentions:

In Memory of Catherine "Nana" Sullivan
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Ann "Andi" Day
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Joachim Church

In Memory of Helen Downey
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Anthony Chapel

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

In Memory of Randall Loiacano
Sanctuary Candle · Chapel of the Archangels

In Memory of Lianying Wei
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

Lord, if we fail to forgive perfectly,
then help us to forgive perfectly,
so that we may truly love our enemies
out of love for you,
and may we pray fervently for them,
returning no evil for evil,
anxious only to serve everyone in you.

*Saint Francis of Assisi
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