

The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport

HOLY FAMILY PARISH & OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH

United in Celebrating the Jubilee of Saint Francis of Assisi · 1226-2026

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time · September 27, 2026



THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE **TO LOVE LIKE FRANCIS**

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

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

Website: ccgonline.com

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CALL TO PRAYER



For the Intercession of Saint Francis of Assisi

BY SAINT JOHN PAUL II

O Saint Francis,
 who received the wounds of Christ
 at Mount La Verna,
 the world longs for you,
 that icon of our crucified Lord.
 It has need of your heart,
 open always to God and to others;
 of your bare, wounded feet,
 of your pierced hands raised in supplication.
 It longs for your voice so frail
 yet forceful with the power of the Gospel.

O Saint Francis,
 help the people of our age
 to recognize the evil of sin
 and to seek purification from it in penance.
 Help us to become free
 from the structures of sin that oppress our world.
 Rekindle in the consciences of those in government
 an urgent need for peace between nations and peoples.
 Instill in our young people your freshness of life,
 that is so capable of withstanding
 the snares of the culture of death.

O Saint Francis,
 teach those injured by every type of evil
 the joys of being able to forgive.
 Teach those crucified
 by suffering, hunger, and war
 the joys of reopening the doors of hope. Amen.

POPE FRANCIS ON SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Some people want to know why
 I wished to be called Francis.
 For me, Francis of Assisi is the man of poverty.
 He is the man of peace.
 He is the man who loves and protects creation.

*Pope Francis
 March 18, 2013*

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

To Love Like Francis

BY BROTHER PATRICK

In the Gospel of Mark, a scribe asks Jesus: "Which is the first of all the commandments?" The Lord responds that the greatest of all is a twofold commandment: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength" and "You shall love your neighbor as yourself (Mark 12:28-31)."

In the *Early Rule*, Saint Francis of Assisi admonishes his followers to live the gospel. Like Jesus, Francis urges us to love God and to love others without counting costs; and with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. Francis reminds us that by creation, God has blessed us with these gifts of heart, mind, soul, and strength. According to Francis, we are called to use these gifts to love and praise God throughout our lives. We are called to employ "every effort, every emotion, every affection, every desire, and every wish" to fulfill the commandment to love (*Early Rule, Chapter 23*).

Of course, few among us are destined for sainthood. Most of us will fail in our mission to love God and neighbor from the core of our being, with every fiber of our being. For this reason, God shows his love and mercy through the prayers and sacraments of the Church. God shows his love through the kind words and good works of the holy men and women in our midst. And God shows us how to love through the lives of his saints — like Francis.

Saint Francis loved God. Francis loved Jesus. Francis loved them as much as any human being ever has or every could love their Creator and Redeemer. Perhaps like no other saint in history, Francis prayed that he might share in the life and passion of the Poor Christ. In prayer before the crucifix, Francis cried out: "O Lord, I beg of you two graces before I die: to experience personally in all possible fullness the pains of your bitter passion; and to feel for you the same love that moved you to sacrifice yourself for us (*Little Flowers*)."

In response to this and many more prayers like it, Francis was blessed with the stigmata, the five wounds of the Crucified Christ. We may shrink from such prayers to share *in all possible fullness* the pain and suffering of crucifixion. In our weakness, we may fear that such prayers might be answered! Nevertheless, we still can pray for the grace to share in some smaller way in the Lord's passion.

We can pray for the grace to love, praise, and honor God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. We can pray for the courage to love others, even those who may not love us. We can pray for the humility to forgive, even those who may not forgive us. We can pray for the patience to wage peace among our friends, families, and neighbors. We can pray for the generosity to put the needs of others before our own, even when our needs may be overlooked by those closest to us.

We may not be called to share in the Lord's passion like Saint Francis shared in it. But we are called to pray for the grace to grow closer to Christ Jesus. The price of such intimacy may involve some pain, some sacrifice, and some suffering. And so, from our broken and mended hearts, we pray with Saint Francis of Assisi: "Let us desire nothing else. Let us wish for nothing else. Let nothing else please us or cause us delight, except our Creator, our Redeemer, and our Savior, the one true God." Amen. Amen.

SHARE 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@ccgronline.com. All are invited! All are welcome!

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

Our Lady's Guild Celebrating Our 82nd Year Fall Meeting & Potluck Supper

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5TH
BEGINS AT 6:30PM

Since 1944, Our Lady's Guild has worked to build community among women of all ages in Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish through prayer, good works, fundraising, and social events. The Guild's next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 5th at 6:30pm in Our Lady's Hall.

Dinner is potluck! Bring a dish to share! All are encouraged to bring three \$1.00 scratch tickets so that we can play "Left, Right, Center" after dinner! For more information about Our Lady's Guild and its good work in our parish, please contact Beth Fosberry at 978-281-4820 or jcbff33@yahoo.com. New members 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

Founded in 2005, the Holy Family Women's Guild brings together women of all ages in prayer, fellowship, and service to our parish and beyond. For more information about the Holy Family Women's Guild and its good work, please contact Lydia at lbbglosta1929@outlook.com or 978-281-4820. New members and volunteers are always very welcome and much appreciated! Thank you for your generous support!

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

WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER 12TH & 13TH

Holy Family Parish

Offertory	\$5,318
Electronic	\$1,081
Total	\$6,399

Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish

Offertory	\$3,875
Electronic	\$453
Total	\$4,328

Holy Family Parish - Gaza

Holy Family	\$7,757
Our Lady's	\$2,011
Total	\$9,768

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

The Blessing of the Animals Celebrating Saint Francis of Assisi

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3RD
BEGINS AT 11:00AM**

Saint Francis of Assisi (1181-1226) is venerated around the world as the patron of animals and the environment. During his lifetime, Saint Francis is credited with countless miracles with many of those miracles involving animals. Whether taming a wolf or preaching to the birds, Saint Francis is regarded as friend and protector of pets and animals of all kinds for more than eight centuries.

In honor of the Feast and Jubilee of Saint Francis of Assisi, all friends, neighbors, and fellow parishioners of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport are invited to join Father Jim and Brother Patrick for the Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, October 3rd at 11:00am in Our Lady's Rectory Parking Lot.

All family-friendly pets are welcome, but should be leashed or secured in carriers. For more information, please contact Father Jim at frjim@ccgronline.com or 978-281-4820. Please join us! Bring your family! All are invited! All are welcome! Saint Francis of Assisi, pray for us!

LIVE THE GOSPEL

The Assisi Project Franciscan Virtues - Peacemaking

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3RD
BEGINS AT 8:00AM**

This year marks the 800th anniversary of the life and death of Saint Francis of Assisi (1226-2026). In celebration of this sacred milestone, Pope Leo XIV declared a Special Jubilee Year which has inspired the Assisi Project to go 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 in living the Gospel of the Poor 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, October 3rd beginning at 8:00am in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church for a two hour mini-retreat that includes Holy Mass, a Rosary for Peace, a reflection by Father Jim and Brother Patrick, and a period of faith sharing. At this gathering, we will focus on the Franciscan virtue of *peacemaking*.

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.

If you have a prayer request or if you would like more information about the Assisi Project and its good work in our parishes and beyond, please contact Brother Patrick at brpatrick@assisiproject.com or 978-281-4820. You do not need to be a member of the Assisi Project to join us for this special morning of prayer and devotion! So please join us! All are invited! All are welcome!

A ROSARY FOR PEACE
FEATURING PRAYERS BY POPE FRANCIS
assisiproject.com/resources

OUR MASS INTENTIONS

September 26th – October 4th

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
	Ordinary Time
September 30 at 5:30pm Our Lady's Church	Dorothy Williams
October 1 at 8:00am Our Lady's Church	All Souls in Purgatory
October 2 at 8:00am Our Lady's Church	The Cooke Family
Saturday, October 3	Vigil - Feast of Saint Francis
4:00pm Saint Ann Church	Madonna del Rosario Society
6:00pm Our Lady's Church	Kellianne Casimiro
Sunday, October 4	Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi
7:00am Our Lady's Church	Frank & Frances Souza
8:15am Saint Ann Church	Rose & Tony Bertolino
10:00am Saint Joachim Church	Matthew Shallow
11:45am Our Lady's Church	Alex & Tina Borge

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, September 27th, donations were offered for the following special intentions:

In Memory of Enza Taormina
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Ann Church

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

In Memory of the Davis Family
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Anthony Chapel

In Memory of the Alves Family
Sanctuary Candle · Our Lady's Church

Wedding of Conor McCarthy & Alesandra Paluzzi
Sanctuary Flowers · Our Lady's Church

In Memory of Justin Lowe
Sanctuary Candle · Chapel of the Archangels

In Memory of Denny Gonzalez
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 to you, my Lord,
by those who forgive one another by your love
and who bear sickness and trials.
Blessed are those who live in peace,
for they will be crowned by you!

*Saint Francis of Assisi
Feast Day - October 4th
Special Jubilee Year - 1226-2026*

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