

The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport

HOLY FAMILY PARISH & OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH

United in Prayer, Fellowship & Service

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time · October 25, 2026



THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

A STUMBLING BLOCK

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 REFLECTION

Remembering Blessed Maria Restituta

BY SAINT JOHN PAUL II

Sister Restituta Kafka was not yet an adult
when she expressed her intention to enter the convent.

Her parents were against it,
but the young girl remained faithful to her goal
of becoming a sister 'for the love of God and men.'
She wanted to serve the Lord especially in the poor and the sick.
She was accepted by the Franciscan Sisters of Charity
to fulfill her vocation in everyday hospital life,
which was often hard and monotonous.

A true nurse, she soon became an institution.
Her nursing warmth, ability, and determination
caused many to call her Sister Resoluta
instead of Sister Restituta.

Because of her courage and fearlessness,
she did not wish to be silent
even in the face of the Nazi regime.
Challenging the political authority's prohibitions,
Sister Restituta hung crucifixes in every hospital room.

On Ash Wednesday 1942,
she was taken away by the Gestapo.
In prison, her 'Lent' began.
It was to last for more than a year.
It ended with her execution.
Her last words passed on to us were these:
"I have lived for Christ. I want to die for Christ."

Looking at Blessed Sister Maria Restituta,
we can see what heights of inner maturity
to which a person can be led by the divine hand.
She risked her life for her witness to the Cross.
And she kept the Cross in her heart,
bearing witness to it again before her execution
when she asked the prison chaplain:
"Make the Sign of the Cross on my forehead."

Many things can be taken from us Christians.
But we will not let the Cross,
as a sign of our salvation, be taken from us.
We will not let it be removed from public life.
We will listen to the voice of conscience which says:
"We must obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29)."

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

A Stumbling Block

BY BROTHER PATRICK

In German, a *stolperstein* is an obstacle, hindrance, or stumbling block. It is a person, problem, or circumstance that causes difficulty or gets in the way. In this sense, there was nothing about her education, family history, or vocational training to suggest that Helene Kafka (1894-1943) would become a *stolperstein* for Adolph Hitler's reign of terror.

Born in 1894 in Czechia (then part of Austria-Hungary), Helene was the daughter of a shoemaker and homemaker. After the family moved to Vienna, she entered the workforce as a maid, then as a cashier for a tobacconist. Shortly before the outbreak of the First World War, Helene began nursing school at a municipal hospital. As a young nurse, Helene Kafka met and felt drawn to the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity. In 1914, she entered the order and was given the name Sister Maria Restituta. During the war, she became known for her skill, compassion, and dedication as a nurse.

When Adolph Hitler annexed Austria in 1938, Sister Maria Restituta was not afraid to speak truth to power. She called Hitler a "madman" and described herself as a "Viennese who will not remain silent." When the hospital built a new wing, she placed a crucifix in every room as a form of witness to God's grace in the midst of suffering and unspeakable cruelty. When the government ordered her to remove the crosses, she refused.

For a time, Sister Maria Restituta's value to the hospital trumped the Gestapo's desire to detain her. But on Ash Wednesday 1942, a doctor who was a fervent supporter of the Nazi cult, denounced her as a traitor. She was arrested for mocking the regime, hanging the crucifixes, and writing a humorous poem about the fuhrer. In prison, she diligently cared for her sick and tortured fellow inmates. One year after her arrest, the so-called People's Court, which was nothing more than a servile instrument of Nazi tyranny, offered her a deal: renounce your faith and save your life. Sister Maria Restituta refused again.

In one of her last letters from prison, Sister Maria Restituta wrote: "It does not matter how far we are separated from everything, no matter what is taken from us: the faith that we carry in our hearts is something that no one can take from us. In this way, we build an altar in our own hearts." Sister Maria Restituta was soon beheaded and buried in a mass grave. She was beatified by Pope John Paul II, who called her the "first virgin martyr of Vienna." Her feast day is celebrated there on October 29th.

Almost fifty years after her death, Gunter Demnig founded *The Stolperstein Project*, which is now the largest decentralized memorial in world history. It honors the courageous men and women from all backgrounds and religions who sacrificed their lives in opposition to the Nazi tyrannies of hatred, racism, deportation, euthanasia, and mass extermination.

The Stolperstein Project imbeds in the street a small copper plate with the name, date, and place of execution at the last voluntary address of the victim. So far, nearly 200,000 plates have been placed in nearly 2,000 communities all across Europe. Among these is one that honors a nun, nurse, and person of extraordinary faith, courage, and persistence. May the life and martyrdom of Blessed Maria Restituta inspire all of us to become stumbling blocks to the bigotry and injustice of these troubled times.

CALL TO WORSHIP



Month of All Souls Masses of Remembrance

BEGIN SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31ST

During November, the Month of All Souls, all are invited to join Father Jim and the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport as we celebrate Masses of Remembrance for family, friends, and fellow parishioners whose funerals were celebrated in our parishes during this year.

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE I

Saturday, October 31st at 4:00pm
Saint Ann Church

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE II

Sunday, November 1st at 11:45am
Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE III

Sunday, November 8th at 10:00am
Saint Joachim Church

A PRAYER FOR ALL SOULS

Loving God,
through the resurrection of Jesus,
you call us to eternal life and happiness.
During the Month of All Souls,
we remember our brothers and sisters
who have gone before us into heaven's glory.
May they share in the joy and blessing
that you promise to all who love you
and have faith in you.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
God forever and ever. Amen.

Please pray for our departed brothers and sisters! May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace! For more information about the Month of All Souls and our Annual Masses of Remembrance, please contact Father Jim at frjim@ccgronline.com or 978-281-4820. Please join us! All are invited! All are welcome!

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

The Assisi Project Franciscan Virtues - Trust in God

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH
BEGINS WITH MASS 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 declared a Special Jubilee Year which 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 beloved patron in order to learn more about the timeless 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, November 7th at 8:00am in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church for a two-hour mini-retreat that includes Mass, a reflection by Father Jim and Brother Patrick, along with a period of prayer and faith sharing. At this retreat, we will focus on *trusting in God*.

Founded in 2007, 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 and backgrounds 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 suffering world.

New members and friends are always welcome! So please join us! Bring a friend! Bring your family! For 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. May God bless you! May the Lord give you peace!

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM SAINT FRANCIS

With complete trust, let us beg alms
as pilgrims and strangers in this world,
serving the Lord in poverty and humility.

Saint Francis of Assisi
Learn more at assisiproject.com!

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE**Our Weekly Gifts****WEEKEND OF OCTOBER 17TH & 18TH****Holy Family Parish**

Offertory	\$4,513
Electronic	\$1,042
Total	\$5,555

Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish

Offertory	\$4,372
Electronic	\$649
Total	\$5,021

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

All Souls Day Celebration of Holy Mass

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND AT 8:00AM

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church, we read: "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven (CCC 1030)." This purification is purgatory, which is not a punishment but a cleansing of the soul through God's boundless love and mercy.

Since the eleventh century, Catholics have gathered for Holy Mass to pray for the souls of their friends and loved ones. In this spirit, all are invited to join Father Jim for Holy Mass on All Souls Day, Monday, November 2nd at 8:00am in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church. For more information, please contact Father Jim at 978-281-4820 or frjim@ccgronline.com. All are welcome!

OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAIRS

Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish
Saturday, November 14th
Our Lady's Hall 9:00am-1:00pm

Holy Family Parish
Saturday, November 21st
Saint Ann Church Hall 9:00am-2:00pm

CALL TO WORSHIP

All Saints Faith & Family Mass A Youth Faith Formation Special Event

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus says: "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs (Matthew 9:14)." In response to the Lord's call, all children, parents, grandparents, and godparents are invited to join Father Jim for our All Saints Faith & Family Mass on Sunday, November 1st at 11:45am in Our Lady's Church.

During Mass, Father Jim will offer a special homily for children about the celebration of Halloween and the Solemnity of All Saints. After Mass, all are invited to join us outside on the church lawn where our pastoral team and parish service organizations will offer treats to the kids! All parishioners, especially parents, grandparents, and their children are invited to wear costumes!

We believe that Mass is our class! We believe that Jesus is our teacher! And we believe that every family that joins us for Mass is a precious gift from God! So, please save these dates for our upcoming Faith & Family Masses which are an essential component of our youth faith formation programs:

CHRIST THE KING FAITH & FAMILY MASS

Sunday, November 22nd at 11:45am
Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

ADVENT FAITH & FAMILY MASS

Sunday, December 13th at 11:45am
Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

EPIPHANY FAITH & FAMILY MASS

Annual Christmas Pageant
Saturday, January 2nd at 4:00pm
Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

For more information about youth faith formation in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport, please contact Betsy Works at bworks@ccgronline.com or 978-281-4820. Please join us! All are invited! All are welcome!

OUR MASS INTENTIONS

October 24th – November 1st

Saturday, October 24	Vigil · 30th Sunday
4:00pm Saint Ann Church	Samuel Interrante
6:00pm Our Lady's Church	John W. Sperry
Sunday, October 25	30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:00am Our Lady's Church	The Bruni Family
8:15am Saint Ann Church	Frederick Reynolds, Jr.
10:00am Saint Joachim Church	The DeFriesse Family
11:45am Our Lady's Church	Frank Kelly
	Ordinary Time
October 28 at 5:30pm Our Lady's Church	For the Sick
October 29 at 8:00am Our Lady's Church	All Souls in Purgatory
October 30 at 8:00am Our Lady's Church	Jay & Rose Stuart
Saturday, October 31	Vigil · All Saints
4:00pm Saint Ann Church	Mass of Remembrance
6:00pm Our Lady's Church	For Pope Leo XIV
Sunday, November 1	Solemnity of All Saints
7:00am Our Lady's Church	Nancy Moura
8:15am Saint Ann Church	Anne-Marie Day
10:00am Saint Joachim Church	Bill & Phyllis Toppan
11:45am Our Lady's Church	Mass of Remembrance

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, October 25th, donations were offered for the following special intentions:

In Memory of Samuel Interrante
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Father Patrick J. O'Doherty
Sanctuary Gifts · Saint Ann Church

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

In Memory of Timothy Evans
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Anthony Chapel

In Memory of Peter Bruni
Sanctuary Candle · Our Lady's Church

In Memory of Francis & Elizabeth Bruni
Sanctuary Gifts · Our Lady's Church

In Memory of the Story Family
Sanctuary Candle · Chapel of the Archangels

In Memory of Emiliano Andrade-Covarrubias
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 JOHN PAUL II

Do not be afraid to insist on your rights.
Refuse a life based on lies and double thinking.
Do not be afraid to suffer with Christ.

*Saint Pope John Paul II (1920-2005)
Ordained to the Priesthood on November 1, 1946*

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