

The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport

HOLY FAMILY PARISH & OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH

A Community United in Prayer, Fellowship, and Service
The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God · January 1, 2017



THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD AND WORLD DAY OF PEACE

The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport
Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! All Are Welcome!

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THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD & WORLD DAY OF PEACE

NEW YEAR'S DAY · JANUARY 1, 2017

NON-VIOLENCE: THE WAY OF PEACE

The so-called “just war” tradition may be the Roman Catholic Church’s best-known contribution to the ongoing threat of violent conflict in our troubled world. This tradition developed as a way to reduce humankind’s recourse to war and to limit its humanitarian consequences. But the Church also offers another ancient tradition that is deeply rooted in the Gospel of Christ. Lesser known is the Catholic Church’s longstanding commitment to active non-violence and to building a “just peace” in our communities, country, and world. Gospel non-violence is not passive. Rather, it involves an active and strategic approach to conflict resolution, restorative justice, peace-making, and the protection of unarmed civilian populations. Seeking a just peace is not about justifying armed conflict. It is about preventing violence and war by addressing its causes, building relationships, and actively facilitating healing and reconciliation.

On January 1st, the Catholic Church around the world celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God and the Fiftieth World Day of Peace. In his annual New Year’s message, Pope Francis urges all families, faith communities, government leaders, and the international community of nations to practice creative non-violence and to build a just peace throughout the world. In response to the Holy Father’s call to peace, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) offers three ways that all of us can become peacemakers and actively participate in creating a true and lasting global peace: **ACT**, **LEARN**, and **PRAY**.

First, we can **ACT** by joining thousands of peacemakers who advocate for public policies that build peace at home and around the world. For more information, visit ccgonline.com/news; confrontglobalpoverty.org; and the USCCB’s Action Center at votervoice.net/usccb/home. Second, we can **LEARN** about creative non-violence and active peacemaking by reading the Holy Father’s New Year’s Message, the USCCB’s “The Harvest of Justice is Sown in Peace”, and other related documents which are all available online at ccgonline.com/news. Third, we can **PRAY** for peace in our families, parish, hometown, country, and world by using this prayer which was composed for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) by Therese Wilson-Favors, a longtime advocate for peace and non-violence.

A PRAYER FOR PEACE

O Lord our God, in your mercy and kindness,
no thought of ours is left unnoticed, no desire or concern ignored.
You have proven that blessings abound
when we fall on our knees in prayer,
and so we turn to you in our hour of need.
Surrounded by violence and cries for justice,
we hear your voice telling us what is required:
“Only to do justice and to love goodness,
and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8).”
Fill us with your mercy, so that we may be merciful to others.
Strip away pride, suspicion, and racism
so that we may seek peace and justice in our communities.
Strengthen our hearts so that they beat only to the rhythm of your holy will.
Flood our path with your light as we walk humbly
toward a future filled with encounter and unity.
Be with us, O Lord, in our efforts,
for only by the prompting of your grace can we progress toward virtue.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen!

Our Lady, Mother of God, pray for us!
Our Lady, Mother of Mercy, pray for us!
Our Lady, Queen of Peace, pray for us!

OUR PASTOR'S MESSAGE

TEN YEARS LATER

Ten years after our first visit to Assisi, Cliff Garvey and I are convinced that our journey there was equal parts accident and miracle. Our plan, on our first-ever pilgrimage to Italy, was to focus on visiting holy sites in Rome: the Sistine Chapel, the Catacombs, and the great basilicas of Saint Peter, Saint Mary Major, and Saint John Lateran. We visited those places but felt restless in Rome. Cliff disliked the noise and traffic. And I grew weary of the heat and humidity of midsummer in Italy's capital city. So, we ventured north by train to Assisi. We planned to stay a day or two, but just in case, we reserved rooms in a religious guest house for four nights. Upon our arrival in Assisi, I left Cliff at the curb and went in search of bus tickets or a taxi to take us up into the walled city of Assisi, hometown of Saint Francis, which is built into side of Mount Subasio. When I returned, Cliff was staring up at Assisi, seemingly mesmerized by its simple beauty. I asked: "What's wrong?" He replied: "I'm not leaving. I'm never leaving." And thus began a decade-long spiritual odyssey with Saint Francis and Saint Clare.

Just minutes after arriving in Assisi for the first time, we learned that Pope Benedict XVI would soon be there to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the conversion of Saint Francis. On the appointed day, we waited patiently for several hours in the hot sun for the pope's arrival. Suddenly, the cathedral bells rang, the pope-mobile appeared, and Pope Benedict, who the local people called the "little holy one", began a slow procession toward the church. While taking dozens of photographs, I lost track of Cliff, who had been standing between two elderly women along the rope line. When the Holy Father disappeared into the church, I turned and saw that Cliff had fallen to his knees. I asked again: "What's wrong?" He replied through tears: "I touched the pope!" In fact, Cliff had touched Pope Benedict's hand and the ring that symbolizes the pope's role as the Vicar of Christ on earth. It was a moment of pure grace and joy.

On that same day, Cliff and I decided that we wanted to bring the "Spirit of Assisi" back to our parish and to bring people from our parish back to Assisi so that they could experience that same spirit for themselves. The Assisi Project was born! During the past nine years, we have led pilgrimages to Assisi and to the Holy Land. We have led days of prayer, weekend retreats, and parish missions through the inspiration and intercession of Saint Francis and Saint Clare. And we have grown from a fellowship of two friends on pilgrimage to an international fellowship with active members, friends, and followers on five continents. At this point, approximately one-half of our active members are fellow parishioners here in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport.

During this tenth anniversary year, the Assisi Project will begin meeting on the last Saturday morning of every month for Mass, formation, and faith sharing. We plan to sponsor a Spring Day of Prayer & Reflection in May (in partnership with the Legion of Mary) and an Autumn Day of Prayer & Reflection (in celebration of the Feast of Saint Francis). We plan to sponsor another icon raffle this spring to benefit the good work of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society. We plan to host a series of "micro-retreats" at a hermitage in Maine for those seeking a weekend of peace, prayer, and silence. We plan to host a summer barbecue in July and an Advent & Christmas celebration in December. Best of all, we will announce plans next weekend for our 10th Annual Fall Pilgrimage to Assisi in November! All are invited and welcome to participate in these programs and events. And you need not travel to Assisi with us to be a part of the Assisi Project. You need only an open heart, a longing to live the Gospel, and a desire to grow closer to Christ Jesus by learning from the life and example of Saint Francis and Saint Clare of Assisi.

In addition to his ministry with the Assisi Project (and his other duties), I have asked Cliff to coordinate a series of seasonal adult faith formation programs during the coming year that will help us better understand the life and legacy of Saint Francis of Assisi, his influence on Pope Francis and the Catholic Church, and the Franciscan tradition of prayer and spirituality. At this point, Cliff has visited Assisi more than twenty times, lives a simple life as a "Franciscan in Spirit", and likes to say: "I live in the United States, but my heart beats in Assisi." So, we have much to look forward to during the coming year! For more information about the Assisi Project, please see me or contact Cliff at 978-281-4820 or cgarvey@ccgrounline.com.

Peace and blessings to all for a very Happy New Year!
Father Jim

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP, AND SERVICE

CAPE ANN CURSILLO COMMUNITY Saturday, January 7th at 5:00pm

The Cape Ann Cursillo Community is hosting its next Ultreya-Potluck Supper on Saturday, January 7th in Saint John the Baptist Church Hall at 52 Main Street in Essex. All are invited to join us for great food, good cheer, and fellowship! For more information, please contact Albie Mitchell at 978-879-3655 or albiemitchell@me.com. Please join us and bring a friend! All are invited! All are welcome! Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

THE ASSISI PROJECT TENTH ANNIVERSARY (2007-2017) Saturday, January 28th at 8:00am

Founded in 2007 by Father Jim and Cliff Garvey, the Assisi Project is an international fellowship of "Franciscans in Spirit" with friends and followers in the United States, Canada, Europe, and Africa. We are dedicated to helping adults of all ages to more faithfully live the Gospel of Christ in the spirit of Saint Francis and Saint Clare of Assisi. Beginning at 8:00am on January 28th, the Assisi Project will now meet on the last Saturday of each month in Saint Ann Church for Mass, formation, and fellowship.

If you are interested in growing closer to Christ Jesus and learning more about Saint Francis of Assisi, please prayerfully consider joining us! You do not need to travel with us to Assisi to be part of the Assisi Project! All are invited! All are welcome! For more information, please see Father Jim or contact Cliff Garvey at cgarvey@ccgrounline.com or at 978-281-4820. Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! May the Lord give you peace, now and always!

ADULT FAITH FORMATION RCIA & ADULT CONFIRMATION

If you are an adult (age 18 and over) and have not received the Sacraments of Baptism, First Penance & Reconciliation (Confession), First Eucharist, and/or Confirmation in the Roman Catholic Church, then please prayerfully consider joining our adult faith formation fellowship which will meet on Sundays after the 8:15am Mass beginning on January 29th in Saint Ann Parish House.

Over the course of the next four months, our program will meet regularly (for approximately one hour) to prepare interested adults for reception into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 15th. We will learn about the teachings and traditions of the Church and address the challenge of living a life of faith in the modern world. If you or someone you love would like to join us in preparing for the Sacraments of God's Holy Church, then please contact Cliff Garvey at cgarvey@ccgrounline.com or 978-281-4820. All are welcome! Merry Christmas!

GROWING YOUNG DISCIPLES

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM Schedule for the Month of January 2017

The Sacrament of Baptism is the first of three Sacraments of Initiation in the Roman Catholic Church. The two other Sacraments of Initiation are Eucharist and Confirmation. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church: "Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism, we are freed from sin and reborn as children of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church, and made sharers in her mission (CCC 1213)."

During the month of January, the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism according to the following schedule:

Baptism Preparation Workshop
Sunday, January 8th at 11:00am
Saint Ann Church

Sacrament of Baptism
Sunday, January 15th at 1:00pm
Saint Ann Church

Sacrament of Baptism
Sunday, January 22nd at 1:00pm
Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

Sacrament of Baptism
Sunday, January 29th at 11:00am
Saint Joachim Church

During the month of December, Carter Matthew Simpson received the Sacrament of Baptism here in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport.

If you would like to schedule your child's baptism, please contact Melissa Unis at office@ccgrounline.com or 978-281-4820. Peace, blessings, and congratulations to all! Please pray for our newly baptized young disciple, his parents, grandparents, and godparents! Thank you!

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION CONFIRMATION PREPARATION PROGRAM Registration Now Underway!

Beginning in the ninth grade, all high school students are invited to participate in our two-year program of preparation of the Sacrament of Confirmation. If your child is interested in preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport, please contact Betsy Works at 978-281-4820 or bworks@ccgrounline.com; or download a registration form at our website: ccgrounline.com/formation. The first year of our program begins on Sunday, February 5th. Registration is now underway! Please join us! All are invited! All are welcome! Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

GROWING YOUNG DISCIPLES

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Saturday, January 21st & Saturday, February 4th

Along with Baptism and Holy Eucharist, Confirmation is one of the three Sacraments of Initiation in the Roman Catholic Church. The Sacrament of Confirmation completes the grace of Baptism through an outpouring of the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Courage, Knowledge, Reverence, Right Judgment, Understanding, Wisdom, and Wonder & Awe. These gifts seal or “confirm” the mystical union between the candidates and Christ Jesus and prepare them to actively participate in the prayer, worship, and apostolic ministry of the Catholic Church.

This year, sixty-four high school students from both Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish have successfully completed the requirements of our Confirmation Preparation Program. During the past two years, they attended Mass and participated in formation. They participated in the “New Spirit Evening of Reflection.” They completed service projects. And they prayed together as a community of young disciples. These students are now well-prepared to publicly renew their Baptismal vows, profess their faith, and live as faithful and faith-filled Roman Catholics.

The Very Reverend Mark O’Connell, Auxiliary Bishop for the North Region of the Archdiocese of Boston will join us for our annual celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday, January 21st at 4:00pm in Saint Ann Church; and Saturday, February 4th at 6:00pm in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church.

As always, the success of our youth faith formation program depends on our volunteers. So, on behalf of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport, Father Jim gives God great thanks and praise for this year’s dedicated and hardworking team of catechists:

Michael Cimoszko · Jennifer Dort
Mary Duran · Doug Greenfield
Michael LaPenna · Kathy Roberts

Their generous gifts of time and talent have ensured that all of our candidates are ready to accept and embrace the Gifts of the Holy Spirit at their Confirmation! Thank you! As our candidates and catechists make final preparations for our celebrations of the Sacrament of Confirmation, please pray for them, their parents, sponsors, and families. May the Lord bless them and may the Holy Spirit guide them, now and always!

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

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP, AND SERVICE

OUR LADY’S GUILD

Monday, January 9th 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, social activities, and fundraising events. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 9th at 6:30pm in Our Lady’s Hall. After our business meeting, we will hold a silent auction. All members are reminded to bring their food and auction donations. Fatima Lourenço and Rose DeLima will serve as co-chairwomen. Beth Fosberry and Linda Galvin will organize the silent auction. For more information, please contact Linda Galvin at 978-281-4820 or lingalv2010@gmail.com. Please join us! New members are always welcome! Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

HOLY NAME SOCIETY PENNY SALE

Monday, January 16th at 7:00pm

All parishioners and friends of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport are invited to join the Holy Name Society of Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish for a “Penny Sale” on Monday, January 16th beginning at 7:00pm in Our Lady’s Hall. As always, the “Penny Sale” will feature great prizes, a 50-50 raffle, delicious homemade sweet bread, along with other homemade food and snacks. Donations will be gratefully accepted at our parish office (located at 74 Pleasant Street). For more information, please contact Matt Parisi at 978-281-4820 or mparisi101@gmail.com. Please join us! All are welcome! Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

THE LEGION OF MARY

New Members Always Welcome!

Each week, members of the Legion of Mary from both Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish reach out to our aged, disabled, homebound, and sick fellow parishioners. They visit people in their homes and apartments, hospitals, and nursing homes. They pray together, offer companionship, and share God’s love and mercy with those who are so often lonely and forgotten. Last week, the Legion of Mary visited and prayed with more than 60 fellow parishioners!

Every Wednesday at 4:00pm, the Legion of Mary meets in our parish center (located beside Saint Ann Church) to pray the Rosary, share their faith experience, and participate in a period of formation under the guidance of their spiritual director. For more information about the Legion of Mary and its good work in our parishes, please contact Joan Foster at ajay7@verizon.net; Sue Demetri at sdemetri2000@yahoo.com; or leave a message at 978-281-4820. New members are always welcome! All are invited! Please join us! Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

OUR MASS INTENTIONS**DECEMBER 31 – JANUARY 8, 2017**

Saturday, December 31	Vigil · Mary, Mother of God
4:00pm · Saint Ann	Joseph Barbagallo
6:00pm · OLGV	Vincenza Cusumano
Sunday, January 1	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
7:00am · OLGV	Alphonse Ajavon
8:15am · Saint Ann	Mateo Cusumano
10:00am · Saint Joachim	Michael E. Trainor
11:45am · OLGV	John Gregory DeCaro
5:00pm · Saint Ann	Mass for the People
	Season of Christmas
Monday, January 2 8:00am · OLGV	Matteo Russo
Tuesday, January 3 8:00am · Saint Joachim	Special Intention for Sage Cooke
Wednesday, January 4 8:00am · OLGV	Carol Ross
Thursday, January 5 8:00am · Saint Joachim	Communion Service
Friday, January 6 8:00am · OLGV	Communion Service
Saturday, January 7 8:00am · Saint Ann	Communion Service
Saturday, January 7	Vigil · The Epiphany of the Lord
4:00pm · Saint Ann	Joseph, Rose, and Larry Misuraca
6:00pm · OLGV	Fina Mocerri
Sunday, January 8	Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord
7:00am · OLGV	Helene Ayivor
8:15am · Saint Ann	Francesco DiMercurio
10:00am · Saint Joachim	Mary & Nina Simões
11:45am · OLGV	Captain Rosario Grillo
5:00pm · Saint Ann	Mass for the People

OUR WEEKLY OFFERINGS**PARISH PAY****Electronic Giving Now Offered at Both Parishes!**

Electronic giving is available at both Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish. At parishpay.com, it is easy, simple, and safe to make online donations to your home parish using a credit card, debit card, or electronic check. Donations can be made on a one-time-only or ongoing basis. And it takes just a few minutes to set up a secure personal account. So, please prayerfully consider supporting your parish by giving electronically!

For more information about electronic giving in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport, please visit parishpay.com or contact Father Jim at 978-281-4820 or frjim@ccgrronline.com. If you need any assistance with setting up an account, please contact Claire Murphy at 978-281-4820 or cmurphy@ccgrronline.com. Thank you for your generous and ongoing support of Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish! Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

SANCTUARY GIFTS

At each of the churches in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport, sanctuary flowers, sanctuary candles, and altar gifts (hosts & wine) can be donated for a special intention or in memory of a departed loved one. The requested donation for flowers is \$250. The requested donation for altar gifts is \$175. And the requested donation for a sanctuary candle is \$25. This week, donations were offered for the following intentions:

In Memory of Peter Feeney
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Anthony Chapel

In Memory of Michael Fraser
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Maria dos Anjos Medeiros
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Joachim Church

In Memory of Alice & Arthur J. Balestraci
Sanctuary Candle · Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

For more information about donating a sanctuary candle or sanctuary gifts in memory of a deceased friend or loved one, please contact Melissa Unis at 978-281-4820 or office@ccgrronline.com. Thank you for your generous support of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport at Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish! May God bless you and your family with a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

MORE NEWS & INFORMATION ONLINE!

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