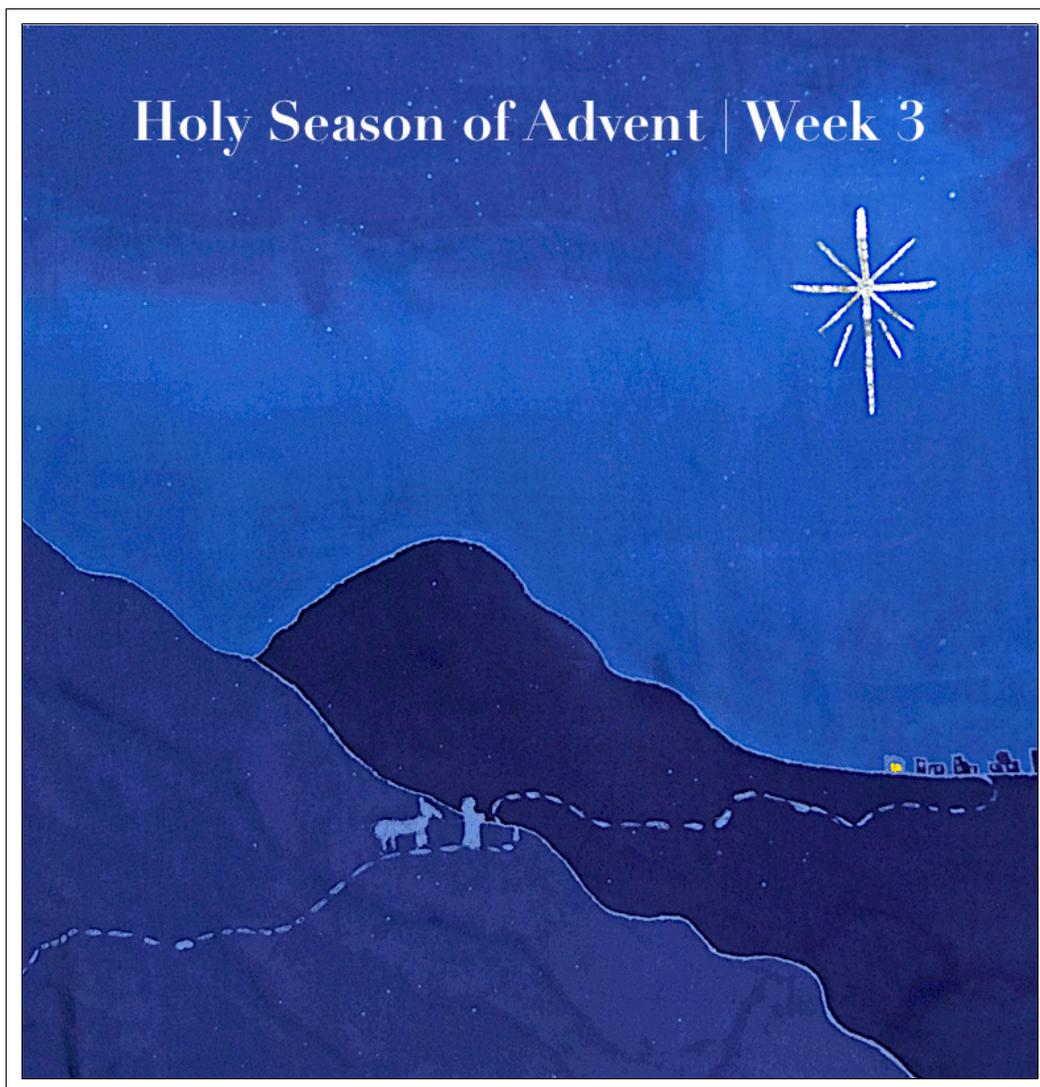


The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport

HOLY FAMILY PARISH & OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH

A Community United in Prayer, Fellowship, and Service
Third Sunday of Advent · December 11, 2016



ADVENT: A CALL TO JOY

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE — PAGE 3

The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport
Please Join Us! All Are Welcome!

74 Pleasant Street · Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930
Phone: 978-281-4820 · Fax: 978-281-4964 · Email: office@ccgrounline.com · Website: ccgrounline.com
Office Hours: Monday through Friday 10:00am-4:00pm

The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport
HOLY FAMILY PARISH & OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH

*We cordially invite you and your family to join us for the celebration of Holy Mass
in celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ!*

CHRISTMAS EVE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

SAINT ANN CHURCH
4PM & 6PM

OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE CHURCH
4PM & MIDNIGHT

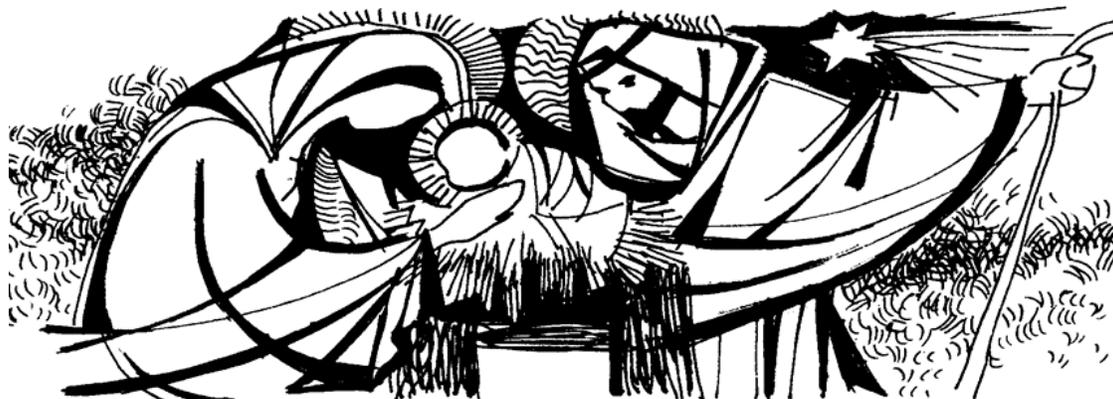
CHRISTMAS DAY
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

SAINT ANN CHURCH
8:15AM

SAINT JOACHIM CHURCH
10:00AM

OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE CHURCH
11:45AM

PLEASE JOIN US! ALL ARE INVITED! ALL ARE WELCOME!
PEACE & BLESSINGS TO ALL FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS!



THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT: A CALL TO JOY

By Cliff Garvey

The last year of the second millennium was the worst year of my life. In January 1999, after a long period of almost unimaginable suffering, my grandfather, John J. Garvey, Jr. passed away at the age of 87. Anyone who knows me well has heard me talk about my grandfather. Pop survived an orphanage, a world war, childhood poverty, and discrimination from those who refused to employ the son of an immigrant. But Pop lived a good life. He was honest and kind. He enjoyed simple pleasures. He meant the world to me. At the age of 86, while walking home from the market, Pop was hit by a car. Although he recovered quickly from the physical injuries, he never recovered from the emotional trauma of the accident. He soon suffered a series of strokes that caused blindness, paralysis, and eventually dementia. I said goodbye to my grandfather for the last time on Christmas Day. He died a few weeks later. I still miss him every single day.

At the time, I was working as a consultant for a large law firm in Portland, Maine. After my grandfather's funeral, I returned to work and was soon buried beneath a mountain of client demands and deadlines. And in walked Peter Feeney. Peter was one of our contractors. He had no time for grief or sadness. He had ambitions, ideas, and plans for the future. Peter was the youngest person ever elected a county commissioner in Maine; and he was already planning a run for the state legislature, and he envisioned a future campaign for governor. Peter's energy and sense of humor were infectious. Along with another close friend, Peter did not allow me to brood over my grandfather's death. Ballgames and concerts needed to be attended. Menus at new restaurants needed to be sampled. Work needed to be done. Between clients and work and friends like Peter, the fog of grief that had clouded the new year lifted. Life goes on. Or so I believed.

On the final work day before Christmas 1999, Peter joined me and a gathering of friends at a local pub in Portland's Old Port Exchange. We ate and drank and laughed and wished each other a Merry Christmas. We toasted the coming new year, the new century, and the new millennium. But on December 26th, Peter died of a heart attack. Laughing and full of life one moment, he was gone the next. Peter was just 26 years old. His death was an unspeakable shock to his family, friends, and colleagues. It seemed impossible then. It seems impossible now. I could not process Peter's death. I could not fathom how God could allow it to happen. Indeed, from my humble point of view, God had a lot of explaining to do. And then there was the timing. December 26th. I still cannot imagine how Peter's family copes with their grief. But for me, Christmas has never been the same. Falling leaves and cold winds lead to shorter days and longer nights. The world grows dark and the darkness reminds me again and again of that awful year that began with the death of my grandfather and ended with the death of my friend.

This year promised to be no different. Summer ended and autumn passed. Advent began. Christmas was just around the corner. The memories returned, along with the anger, grief, and sadness. Darkness loomed. But then, a moment of grace, a flicker of light. After an almost sleepless night, I realized that the sun rises. After a long winter, the spring blossoms. From despair comes hope. From death comes resurrection. From darkness comes light. From Advent comes Christmas. And from within a manger comes the brightest light of all. A Savior will be born to us! Suddenly, I now see my grandfather not as he was during that last Christmas goodbye, blind and paralyzed, but as a soul born into and out of the light. And I see my friend, not as the spirit of a life cut so short, but as a soul born into and out of that same light.

Christ is the light of the world! He is our sight in blindness, our light in the darkness. He dispels every shadow, enlightens every mind, and illumines every soul. He binds every wound, consoles every broken heart, and brings strength to the weak. He brings riches to the poor, welcomes the stranger, and lifts high all who are bowed low. He brings glad tidings to all who look to him with faith, hope, and love. And at Christmas, Christ will be born among us. He will live with us, walk with us, grieve with us, suffer with us, die with us, and rise with us.

As we begin the Third Week of Advent with Gaudete Sunday, we are called to rejoice in the coming of the true light of the world. We are called to rejoice in the coming birth of a savior who will love us without conditions or limits, who will keep faith with us come what may, who will abide with us from birth through death and beyond. Let us answer this call by praying for those who are lost in the darkness of addiction, grief, loneliness, pain, or poverty. Let us reach out to them in prayer, fellowship, and service. And let us pray that all people everywhere might experience that moment of grace that leads them from darkness into the glorious light of Christmas. Joy! Joy! Joy!

May the Lord give you peace and joy!
Cliff

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP, AND SERVICE

SPECIAL MESSAGE OF THANKS TO SOME VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE

It is not possible to thank each and every parishioner who contributes their time, talent, and treasure to making our parish communities such miraculous places to love and serve the Lord. Nevertheless, on behalf of all parishioners, Father Jim wishes to thank some very special people for their hard work and dedication to Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish.

First, let us thank the members of Our Lady's Guild for their strong commitment and long hours in building fellowship and raising funds for Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish. Last weekend, the Guild's Annual Christmas Fair raised more than \$7,500 for our parish. Thanks to all Guild members, sweetbread bakers, and volunteers!

Likewise, we thank the members of the Women's Guild at Holy Family Parish for making the Annual Christmas Fair such a huge success. This year, the fair raised approximately \$22,500 for our parish. The Guild's energy and enthusiasm for their work is both amazing and infectious! Peace, blessings, and thanks to all for a job well done! May God bless our volunteers and their families!

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU! CONFESSIONS & EUCHARISTIC ADORATION Thursdays During Advent · Begins at 6:00pm

The Holy Season of Advent is a time for prayer, penance, and preparation; a time to make ready for the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ at Christmas. This Advent, all are invited to experience Christ's boundless love and mercy through the Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation (Confession) and through prayerful adoration of the Lord's Real Presence in the Blessed Sacrament. On Thursday, December 15th and Thursday, December 22nd from 6:00pm until 8:00pm, all are invited to join us for "The Light Is On For You!" at Saint Ann Church.

These special evenings of prayer will include Evening Prayer and Night Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours, Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, and an opportunity for all who feel called to participate in the Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation. For some, this may be a time for sacramental confession. For some it may be a time for silent prayer and reflection. And for some, it may be a time to begin or renew a life of faith. Wherever you are on your faith journey, please join us! All are invited! All are welcome! For more information, please see Father Jim before or after Mass; or contact him at frjim@ccgrounline.com or 978-281-4820.

MORE NEWS & INFORMATION ONLINE!
Join us: ccgrounline.com!

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION ADVENT FAITH & FAMILY MASS Saturday, December 17th at 4:00pm

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 (Mt 19:14)." In response to the Lord's call, all children, parents, grandparents, and godparents are invited to join Father Jim for our Second Annual Advent Faith & Family Mass on Saturday, December 17th at 4:00pm in Saint Ann Church.

During Mass, Father Jim will offer a special homily about Advent and a special blessing for all families and children. And every child (under age 18) will receive a special gift. In addition, please mark your calendars for our next Faith & Family Masses: Sunday, March 5th at 11:45am in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church; and Saturday, May 13th at 4:00pm in Saint Ann Church.

For more information about our Second Annual Advent Faith & Family Mass, please see Father Jim; or contact Betsy Works at bworks@ccgrounline.com or 978-281-4820. Let us reaffirm that Mass is our class! Jesus is our Teacher! Every child in our pews is a gift from God! And every family in our pews is a gift from God! Please spread the word to family and friends! All families are welcome!

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION YOUTH CHRISTMAS PAGEANT Saturday, December 31st at 4:00pm Mass

Each year, the Roman Catholic Church celebrates the Season of Christmas from December 25th through the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord in January. During Christmas-time, we commemorate the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ; the choir of angels praising God in heaven; the call of the shepherds; and the adoration of the Magi with their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

As part of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport's celebration of the Season of Christmas, we invite the children of our parish communities (both Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish) to participate in our Youth Christmas Pageant during the 4:00pm Vigil Mass on Saturday, December 31st in Saint Ann Church. This annual dramatization of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ depends on the participation of young angels and shepherds, along with those interested in playing the role of the Magi and the Holy Family.

If your child, grandchild, or godchild would like to participate in this wonderful holiday tradition, please contact Betsy Works at bworks@ccgrounline.com; or Sue Demetri at sdemetri2000@yahoo.com. Both Betsy and Sue can also be reached by phone at 978-281-4820. Please join us! All are invited! All are welcome!

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS GIVING TREES

Help Us Share the Blessings of Christmas!

This year, the Saint Vincent de Paul Society will once again sponsor the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport's Annual Christmas Giving Trees which help share the blessings of Christmas with local families in need. The Giving Trees were placed at the entrances of Saint Ann Church, Saint Joachim Church, and Our Lady of Good Voyage Church during the weekend of November 26–November 27th. Each tree is decorated with colored stars that indicate a particular Christmas wish. If you can help fulfill this wish, please take a star!

Each gift should be donated new, unused, and unwrapped; and placed under the tree with the original star or delivered to our parish offices. The Christmas Giving Trees will remain at our church entrances through this Sunday, December 11th. All gifts should be returned to our parish offices by Tuesday, December 13th at noon. Gifts will be wrapped and delivered to families in need on Thursday, December 15th. For more information, please contact Barbara Frontiero at 978-281-4820 or barbara.frontiero@gortons.com. Thank you in advance for your generous support of the Christmas Giving Trees! May God bless us, everyone!

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY MR. & MRS. SECRET SANTA

Saturday, December 17th · 9:00am – 1:00pm

Again this year, Mr. & Mrs. Secret Santa cordially invite you to the Saint Vincent de Paul Society's Clothes Closet at Christmastime! We have a large assortment of clothing for the whole family! And we hope that there may be something for you, too, as we share the blessings of generous giving during this holiday season!

On Saturday, December 17th from 9:00am until 1:00pm, all are welcome to come and browse in the Clothes Closet in search of that special gift! Mr. & Mrs. Secret Santa will provide an extra outfit or much needed item for all friends who join us! The Saint Vincent de Paul Society's Clothes Closet is located on the basement level of Saint Ann School with an entrance from the school yard on Pleasant Street. Who is the Secret Santa? We'll never tell!

For more information about Mr. & Mrs. Secret Santa and the Clothes Closet, please contact Helen Downey at 978-495-0337 or helendowney@yahoo.com. If you or your family need assistance during this holiday season, please contact the Saint Vincent de Paul Society Hotline at 978-281-8672. New members and volunteers are always welcome! Thank you for your ongoing generous support of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society! Merry Christmas to all!

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP, AND SERVICE

THE ASSISI PROJECT ANNUAL ADVENT GATHERING Sunday, December 11th · Begins at 11:45am

All are invited to join the Assisi Project for its Ninth Annual Advent Gathering beginning with Mass at 11:45am in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church. After Mass, we will adjourn to Our Lady's Hall for a light lunch of homemade soup, bread, dessert, and fellowship. Finally, we'll share some exciting news about our tenth anniversary year as a fellowship of "Franciscans in Spirit."

Founded in 2007 by Father Jim and Cliff Garvey, the Assisi Project is an international fellowship of "Franciscans in Spirit" that works to help people grow closer to Christ through the example and spirituality of Saint Francis and Saint Clare of Assisi. Our fellowship also prays for people in need of consolation, healing, and guidance. If you would like us to pray for you or your special intention, please contact us! For more information about the Assisi Project, please see Father Jim; or contact Cliff Garvey at 978-281-4820 or cgarvey@ccgrronline.com. Please join us! All are invited! All are welcome! May the Lord give you peace during this Holy Season of Advent!

OUR LADY'S GUILD ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY Monday, December 12th · 6:30pm

Our Lady's Guild is hosting its Annual Christmas Party on Monday, December 12th beginning at 6:30pm in the Parish Hall. Our meal will feature a hot buffet, dessert, and coffee. In addition, we will have a door prize, 50-50 raffle, and entertainment provided by Alexandra Grace and Josh Cominelli. If you wish to participate in our annual Christmas gift swap, please bring a wrapped present (under \$10)! For more information about Our Lady's Guild and its good work in our parish or to reserve your seat at the Christmas Party, please contact Linda Galvin at 617-803-6050 or lingalv2010@gmail.com. New members are always welcome! Please join us! Merry Christmas!

ONLINE RESOURCES FOR PRAYER Join us: ccgrronline.com/prayer/!

Each day, all are invited to join us for a few moments of prayer and reflection at ccgrronline.com/prayer. Our website features links to the Saint of the Day, Sharing the Word, and Sunday Soundbites, which are ninety second reflections based on the daily Mass readings and the lives of the saints. Our website also features an easy-to-use link for praying the Liturgy of the Hours online. In addition, please join us every week for Bringing Home the Word, a lectionary-based newsletter for individuals and families. Every Saturday, a new edition is posted on our website at ccgrronline.com/news. Please join us! All are welcome!

OUR MASS INTENTIONS**DECEMBER 10 – DECEMBER 18, 2016**

Saturday, December 10	Vigil · Third Sunday of Advent
4:00pm · Saint Ann	Pietro & Rosaria Cannavo
6:00pm · OLGV	Vincenzo Mannino & Stefano Adelfio
Sunday, December 11	Third Sunday of Advent
7:00am · OLGV	Herman J. Surette
8:15am · Saint Ann	Giambanco, Cillufo & Theken Families
10:00am · Saint Joachim	Josephine Rallo
11:45am · OLGV	Eduardo Silva
5:00pm · Saint Ann	Mass for the People
	Third Week of Advent
Monday, December 12 8:00am · OLGV	Antonio, Angela & Salvatore Mistretta
Tuesday, December 13 8:00am · Saint Joachim	William & Eunice Smith
Wednesday, December 14 8:00am · OLGV	Carlo Cusenza
Thursday, December 15 8:00am · Saint Joachim	Joel Oliveira
Friday, December 16 8:00am · OLGV	Carol Ross
Saturday, December 17 8:00am · Saint Ann	Special Intention
Saturday, December 17	Vigil · Fourth Sunday of Advent
4:00pm · Saint Ann	Joseph P. Nicastro
6:00pm · OLGV	Cynthia Loiacano
Sunday, December 18	Fourth Sunday of Advent
7:00am · OLGV	Paul Frazier
8:15am · Saint Ann	Reverend Joseph LaRaia
10:00am · Saint Joachim	Salvatore & Angelina Loiacano
11:45am · OLGV	Antonio "Tony" & Mary Militello
5:00pm · Saint Ann	Mass for the People

OUR WEEKLY OFFERINGS**HOLY FAMILY PARISH**
Weekend of December 3rd – December 4th

Weekly Offerings	\$6,387.00
Electronic Donations	\$878.00
Total Offerings	\$7,265.00
Second Collection (Flowers)	\$2,967.00
Saint Ann Church Restoration	\$160,598.00

Thank you for your generous support
of Holy Family Parish!

OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH
Weekend of December 3rd – December 4th

Weekly Offerings	\$3,057.00
Electronic Donations	\$30.00
Total Offerings	\$3,087.00
Second Collection (Flowers)	\$1,448.00
Grand Annual Collection	\$16,999.00

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

SANCTUARY GIFTS

At each of the churches in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport, sanctuary flowers, sanctuary candle, 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 John & Mary Garvey
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Anthony Chapel

In Memory of Michael Fraser
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Guadalupe Renteria Lopez
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Joachim Church

In Memory of Margaret Myrvold
Sanctuary Candle · Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

In Memory of the Bendik Family
Sanctuary Gifts · Holy Family Parish

For more information about donating sanctuary gifts in memory of a deceased friend or loved one, please contact Melissa Unis at office@ccgonline.com or 978-281-4820. Thank you for your generous support of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport at Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish!