

The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport

HOLY FAMILY PARISH & OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH

A Community United in Prayer, Fellowship, and Service
Fourth Sunday of Advent · December 18, 2016



ADVENT: A CALL TO LOOK & LISTEN

OUR PASTOR'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

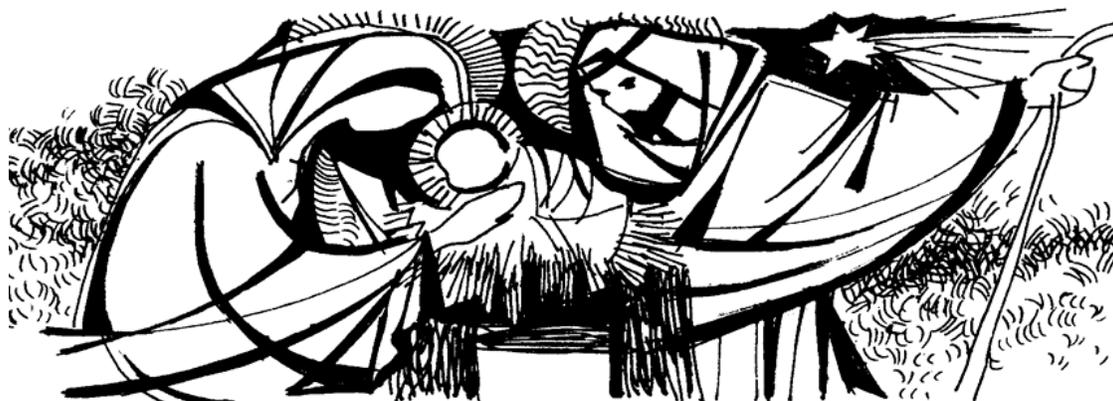
CHRISTMAS DAY
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

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!



OUR PASTOR'S MESSAGE

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT A CALL TO LOOK & LISTEN FOR THE LORD



Each of our weekly messages during this Holy Season of Advent has been based on a particular theme designed to help us prepare (both as individuals and as a community) for the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ at Christmas. During the first week of Advent, we considered the “new beginning” that Advent offers us to pause, breathe, and reflect on the mystery of God’s coming into the world as a poor child, born in a manger. During the second week of Advent, we reached out to those who feel alone or alienated from the Church; and we offered them a “radical welcome” to join us in living the Gospel, sharing God’s love, and rebuilding our parishes as vibrant centers of prayer, fellowship, and service. And during the third week of Advent, we responded to the Lord’s “call to joy” by finding Christ Jesus, our loving and merciful savior, the true light of the world, during the darkest season of the year and during the darkest times of our lives.

During this fourth and final week of Advent, we are challenged by the Sunday Mass readings to answer a “call to look and listen” for the Lord. In the first reading, Isaiah calls the people of Israel (and the people of Gloucester and Rockport) to discern, hear, and watch for the Lord, who will soon come into the world as the child of a virgin (Isaiah 7:10-14). In the responsorial psalm, we are called to seek, worship, and welcome into our midst the Lord, the King of Glory (Psalm 24). In the second reading, Saint Paul beckons us to follow in his footsteps as a disciple who is called by the Lord, listens with an open heart, and responds in obedience by living with faith, hope, and love (Romans 1:1-7). And finally, in the Sunday Gospel, we encounter Joseph, a simple but righteous man, who listens to the voice of God’s holy angel and heeds God’s call to discipleship by loving the Virgin Mary and the Christ Child (Matthew 1:18-24).

The Catholic Church does not just offer these readings on the Fourth Sunday of Advent to prepare us for the celebration of Christmas. Rather, these readings remind us that after the celebration of Christmas comes the long walk of faith. They fortify us for the difficult path of discipleship. And they strengthen us for the sometimes rocky road that commands us to love God and all those we meet along the way. Through these readings, we encounter the timeless call to welcome the Lord into our hearts and lives, and to share the Lord’s boundless love and mercy with our families, friends, neighbors, and co-workers.

As the days darken, the pace quickens, the final presents are purchased, and the final preparations are made for the coming feast. As Christmas approaches, let us pause, breathe, and reflect again on the wonder of this blessed season. Let us reach out with love to those who are lost and welcome them into our community of faith. Let us look for the light of Christ in the deepest shadows of our lives. Let us find joy in the love of family and friends. And let us pray for peace in our country and in our world, and for the courage to share God’s grace with others.

As the Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ draws near, please share our Christmas Mass Schedule by phone, e-mail, social media, or word-of-mouth. Please make ready to welcome new friends and visitors into our churches (and into our pews) with happy hearts and warm smiles. And as always, please be assured of my prayers for you, for your family, and for all who live, work, and worship in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport. May God bless you! Merry Christmas!

Peace and blessings to all,
Father Jim

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. At the Annual Christmas Fair, the Guild raised more than \$7,500 for our parish. Thanks to all Guild members, sweet bread 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 and through prayerful adoration of the Lord's Real Presence in the Blessed Sacrament. On Thursday, December 22nd from 6:00pm until 8:00pm, all are invited to join us for "The Light Is On For You!" in Saint Ann Church.

This special evening of prayer and devotion 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@ccgrronline.com or 978-281-4820; or visit our website: ccgrronline.com/sacraments.

MORE NEWS & INFORMATION ONLINE!

Join us: ccgrronline.com
Follow us on Twitter: [@ccgrronline](https://twitter.com/ccgrronline)!

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF FIRST PENANCE & RECONCILIATION

This year, 56 of our youngest fellow parishioners from both Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish are preparing for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. Last weekend, those young disciples participated in the Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation (Confession) for the first time. As preparations for First Holy Communion continue, please pray for all of our students and their families, and for all of our catechists and volunteers! For more information, please contact Betsy Works at bworks@ccgrronline.com or 978-281-4820.

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. During Christmastime, 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 roles 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@ccgrronline.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!

YOUTH CHOIR & MUSIC MINISTRY Tuesdays at 5:00pm · Saint Ann Church

The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport Youth Choir & Music Ministry meets for practice and rehearsal every Tuesday afternoon at 5:00pm in Saint Ann Church. The Youth Choir, along with an ensemble of talented young instrumentalists, sings every weekend during Mass at one of our three churches. Singing in the choir is a great way to make new friends and participate in the life of our parishes! For more information, please contact Patty Natti at pnatti@comcast.net or leave a message by calling 978-281-4820. Please join us! New members are always welcome!

PASTOR'S NOTE

CONGRATULATIONS DEACON RAY! BISHOP CHEVERUS MEDAL RECIPIENT

On behalf of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport, I wish to congratulate the Reverend Mr. Raymond Wellbank, Permanent Deacon, who received the Bishop Cheverus Medal from His Eminence, Cardinal Sean O'Malley, during a Solemn Vespers Service at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross on Sunday, December 4th.

Deacon Ray was born and raised in and around Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He graduated from West Chester University and DeSales University, where he earned degrees in Accounting and Finance. During his long business career, Deacon Ray worked as an accountant, controller, and property manager. During the final fourteen years of his career, he served as a fiscal analyst for the largest non-profit organization in Philadelphia.

Before joining us last year, Deacon Ray served for eight years as a Permanent Deacon in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. He and his wife, Patti, have been deeply involved in parish ministry for decades. They have served together as lectors, extraordinary ministers, and lead couple for marriage preparation classes. Ray and Patti have been married for thirty-two years, raised four children, and have six grandchildren. Since moving to Gloucester, they have been active as volunteers with the Holy Family Women's Guild and the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, along with their longstanding service as lectors and Eucharistic ministers.

On a personal note, Deacon Ray has been an enormous help to me during the past eighteen months. He visits and prays with the sick and homebound. He celebrates baptisms, funerals, and weddings. And he offers good advice and words of encouragement when they are needed most. Deacon Ray is a kind man, a hard worker, and a good friend. So, I was delighted to learn that the Very Reverend Mark O'Connell, Auxiliary Bishop for the North Region of the Archdiocese of Boston, nominated Deacon Ray for the Bishop Cheverus Medal.

The Bishop Cheverus Medal was created in 2008 to honor those humble servants in the Lord's vineyard whose lives are dedicated to ministry and service to the People of God and to the Church. Current and past recipients include lay ministers and volunteers, religious men and women, and deacons. On behalf of our pastoral team and all of our fellow parishioners, congratulations to Deacon Ray Wellbank for receiving the Archdiocese of Boston's Bishop Cheverus Medal! Please join me in thanking Deacon Ray and Patti for all they do for all of us! Please pray for them, for their family, and for their ministries!

Peace and blessings to all,
Father Jim

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP, AND SERVICE

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP Saturdays at 6:30am · Parish Center

The Men's Fellowship meets every Saturday morning from 6:30am until 8:00am in our Parish Center, which is located beside Saint Ann Church. New members are always welcome to join us for prayer, faith sharing, and mutual support as we work to deepen our personal relationships with Jesus Christ. For more information, please contact Al Mitchell at albiemitchell@me.com or 978-879-3655. Please join us! All are welcome!

THE HOLY ROSARY Monday Through Saturday After Daily Mass!

All are invited to join the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport as we pray the Holy Rosary every morning immediately after our 8:00am Daily Mass. By praying the Rosary, we grow closer to our Risen Lord by meditating on the mysteries of his life, death, and resurrection; and we grow closer to our Blessed Mother by asking for her powerful intercession for ourselves, our families and friends, our parishes, and our troubled world.

Daily Mass is celebrated in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings at 8:00am; in Saint Joachim Church on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 8:00am; and in Saint Ann Church on Saturday mornings at 8:00am. For more information, please contact Father Jim at frjim@ccgronline.com or 978-281-4820. Please join us! All are welcome!

THE LEGION OF MARY Wednesday Afternoons at 4:00pm

Founded in Ireland in 1921, the Legion of Mary is an international fellowship of lay men and women who volunteer their time, talents, and prayers under the banner of the Blessed Virgin Mary by practicing the spiritual works of mercy in both of our parish communities. The Legion's primary apostolate is to visit and pray with our aged, disabled, homebound, and sick fellow parishioners. Members also serve in many other volunteer ministries in both Holy Family Parish & Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish.

Every Wednesday afternoon at 4:00pm, the Legion of Mary gathers in the parish center, which is located beside Saint Ann Church, to pray the Rosary, share their faith experiences, and participate in a period of faith formation under the guidance of their spiritual director. For more information about the Legion of Mary and its good work in Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish, please contact Joan Foster at ajay7@verizon.net; Sue Demetri at sdemetri2000@yahoo.com; or leave a message by calling our pastoral office at 978-281-4820. Please join us! New members are always welcome!

OUR MASS INTENTIONS**DECEMBER 17 – DECEMBER 25, 2016**

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
	Fourth Week of Advent
Monday, December 19 8:00am · OLGV	Sam & Marge Rizzo
Tuesday, December 20 8:00am · Saint Joachim	Eleanor E. Lewis
Wednesday, December 21 8:00am · OLGV	Joseph P. Brancaleone
Thursday, December 22 8:00am · Saint Joachim	Anthony Militello
Friday, December 23 8:00am · OLGV	Antonio Jose "Toze" Rosa
Saturday, December 24 8:00am · Saint Ann	No Mass Scheduled
Saturday, December 24	Vigil · Christmas Eve
4pm & 6pm · Saint Ann	Mass for the People
6pm & Midnight · OLGV	Mass for the People
Sunday, December 25	Christmas Day
8:15am · Saint Ann	Mass for the People
10:00am · Saint Joachim	Mass for the People
11:45am · OLGV	Mass for the People

OUR WEEKLY OFFERINGS**HOLY FAMILY PARISH****Weekend of December 10th – December 11th**

Weekly Offerings	\$6,359.00
Electronic Donations	\$878.00
Total Offerings	\$7,237.00
Second Collection	-0-
Saint Ann Church Restoration	\$160,597.00

Thank you for your generous support
of Holy Family Parish!

OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH**Weekend of December 10th – December 11th**

Weekly Offerings	\$4,047.00
Electronic Donations	\$30.00
Total Offerings	\$4,077.00
Second Collection	-0-
Grand Annual Collection	\$16,989.00

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 Peter Feeney
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Anthony Chapel

In Memory of Louis Linquata
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Elizabeth "Betty" Hogan
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Joachim Church

In Memory of Corey McCollum
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 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! May God bless you and your family with a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!