

The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport

HOLY FAMILY PARISH & OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH

A Community United in Prayer, Fellowship, and Service
First Sunday of Advent · December 2, 2018



FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

A SEASON OF DISCOVERY

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE — PAGE 3

The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport
Live the Gospel. Share God's Love. Rebuild the Church.

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HOLY SEASON OF ADVENT

Advent Mission & Retreat

DISCERNMENT DAY BY DAY with SISTER ELIZABETH WAGNER
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5TH THROUGH FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7TH AT 7:00PM
OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE CHURCH

All parishioners, friends, and guests of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport are invited to join Father Jim and Sister Elizabeth Wagner for our “Advent Mission & Retreat: Discernment Day By Day” from Wednesday, December 5th through Friday, December 7th in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church. Each evening will begin with Mass at 7:00pm. We are blessed to welcome back Sister Elizabeth Wagner as our special guest and spiritual director, who will lead us in prayer and reflection each evening after Mass.

What is God’s will for our lives? How can we be sure? How do we make sound decisions? Questions like these can both tantalize and torment us throughout our lives! As we conclude our year-long focus on discernment, our three-night mission and retreat will seek to unfold some basic principles about good discernment; offer guidance about making everyday decisions; and share sound wisdom about making major life decisions. Sister Elizabeth will also be selling and signing copies of her best-selling book, “Seasons in My Garden”, along with homemade fruit cake, jam, and hot sauce.

Sister Elizabeth Wagner lives a contemplative life at Transfiguration Hermitage in Windsor, Maine, which she founded as a semi-eremital community devoted to work, prayer, and solitude in accordance with the ancient Rule of Saint Benedict. Sister Elizabeth is a hermit, award-winning author, spiritual director, and retreat leader. She is also the formation director, gardener, and groundskeeper of the hermitage. Our Advent Mission & Retreat is free but donations will be gratefully accepted during Mass to support our adult faith formation ministry. For more information, please contact Cliff Garvey at cgarvey@ccgrronline.com or 978-281-4820. Please join us! Spread the word! All are invited! All are welcome!

Pastor’s Note

ABOUT OUR WEEKLY ADVENT MESSAGES
DECEMBER 2ND, DECEMBER 9TH & DECEMBER 16TH

Each weekend in this newsletter, we work hard to offer our fellow parishioners a message that educates them about some aspect of Catholic teaching or tradition; informs them about some upcoming feast or big event in our parish communities; or inspires them to more faithfully live the Gospel, share God’s love, and rebuild our wounded Church. We are grateful for all the positive feedback that we receive about our newsletter and website.

In praying and thinking about this year’s weekly Advent messages, I remembered a parish mission and retreat that Cliff Garvey, our Associate Minister, preached several years ago at Saint Francis of Assisi Parish in Cambridge. I asked Cliff if he would be able and willing (on short notice) to turn those talks into reflections that could be shared in our weekly newsletter. Cliff agreed in exchange for lunch at his favorite restaurant! I hope that he enjoys his lunch and I pray that you will be inspired by these reflections which begin this week (see page 3). Peace and blessings to all during this Holy Season of Advent! – Father Jim

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

A Season of Discovery

BY CLIFF GARVEY

Advent is a season of prayer, penance, and preparation for the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ at Christmas. It is a season to pray and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. And it is a season that challenges us (in the midst of the hustle and bustle of the holidays) to pause, to be quiet (even for just a few moments), and to consider what is about to happen in our world when a poor child is born among us in a faraway place called Bethlehem.

Think of the greatest journey of your life. Perhaps it was your honeymoon. Perhaps it was a memorable vacation with family and friends. Perhaps it was a pilgrimage to some holy place. Perhaps it was leaving home and living on your own for the first time. Think about the new sites, new sounds, and new challenges. Think about the new joys, new experiences, and all of the life-changing memories. Now imagine that same great journey with a heart closed to love, new friends, and new experiences. Imagine that same great journey with a mind closed to new cultures and new ideas. Suddenly, your life's greatest journey loses its luster.

Now imagine a whole life with a closed heart and a closed mind. Imagine a whole life that is not changed or renewed or transformed each and every year by the Miracle of Christmas. Then imagine a whole world where everyone refuses to open their hearts and minds. Imagine a world where Mary says: "No, I am too young for such a big responsibility." Imagine a world where Joseph says: "No, I am not raising someone else's child." Imagine a world where the shepherds say: "No, we are too busy to follow a star." Imagine a world where the Magi say: "No, we are too rich and powerful to pay homage to a newborn king." Then imagine a world where people still say: "No, there is no room for you here."

During Advent, the Church does not offer bling or blinking lights. It offers a simple wreath and four candles. It offers the warmth of our humble efforts at prayer, fellowship, and service. And it offers us the opportunity to discover (or rediscover) the life-changing experience of Christ's birth at Christmas. This season of discovery reminds us that God intervenes into the darkness of human history. It reminds us that God humbles himself and is born among us as a poor child. This newborn child comes to save each and every one of us. This newborn child comes to save our long-suffering world. And here is the best part about this season of discovery: We don't have to go on a long journey. God comes to us!

God comes to us in the form of a child. God comes to us in the form of a child who is all love and all mercy, all friendship and all goodness, all patience and all kindness. God comes to us just as he came to Mary and Joseph, to the prophets and shepherds, to the Magi, to the apostles and first believers, and to all of the saints. God reaches out to us with an embrace of endless love, friendship, and mercy. He reaches out to each and everyone of us. All we have to do is reach back and welcome him into our lives with open hearts, open minds, and open arms.

During Advent, this season of discovery, let us pray for the courage to embark on a spiritual journey that leads to the blessed stable in Bethlehem. Let us pray for the grace to reflect on the true meaning of the season. Let us open our minds to the Christmas miracle that will soon occur in our midst. Let us prepare to welcome the Christ Child into our hearts. And let us prepare to reach back to God, who forever reaches out to us with his boundless love and mercy.

HOLY SEASON OF ADVENT



A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION
SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
 DECEMBER 7TH—DECEMBER 8TH

In honor of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday, December 8th, the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport invites you and your family and friends to join us for Mass according to the following schedule:

Friday, December 7th · Vigil Mass

Our Lady of Good Voyage Church at 7:00pm

Saturday, December 8th · Holy Day Masses

Our Lady of Good Voyage Church at 8:00am
 Saint Ann Church at 10:30am

Since late antiquity, the People of God have believed that the Blessed Virgin Mary was sinless and conceived immaculately in the womb of her mother, Saint Ann. This ancient devotion was not defined as church doctrine until 1854. Since then, Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception has been patroness of many causes and countries, including the United States of America. So, please join us as we honor our Blessed Mother and beg her powerful intercession for our divided country, our wounded church, and our suffering world. All are invited! All are welcome!

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
CHRISTMAS GIVING TREES
Help Us Share the Gift of Christmas!

This year, the Saint Vincent de Paul Society will once again sponsor the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport's Christmas Giving Trees which share the Gift of Christmas with local families in need. During the weekend of November 24th–25th, the Giving Trees will be at the entrances of our three churches. Each tree will be decorated with stars that include a special Christmas wish. If you can fulfill this wish, please take a star!

Every donated gift should be new, unused, and unwrapped and placed under the tree or delivered to our parish office by Tuesday, December 11th. The Giving Trees will remain in our churches through Sunday, December 9th. For more information, please contact Barbara Frontiero at barbara.frontiero@gortons.com or 978-281-4820. Thank you in advance for your generous support! May God bless us, everyone!

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP, AND SERVICE

BISHOP CHEVERUS MEDAL
CONGRATULATIONS & THANKS
TO JOAN FOSTER & HERBERT MORAIS

On behalf of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport, Father Jim congratulates Joan Foster of Holy Family Parish and Herbert Morais of Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish, who received the Bishop Cheverus Medal from Cardinal Sean O'Malley during a Solemn Vespers Service on Sunday, November 25th at Immaculate Conception Church in Malden.

For more than four decades, Joan Foster has faithfully served Holy Family Parish in a variety of ministries: both as catechist and coordinator of religious education programs; as a member of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, and as past president of the Legion of Mary. Joan continues to serve in the Legion of Mary by reaching out to our aged, disabled, and homebound fellow parishioners. She gave living witness to the Sacrament of Marriage by lovingly caring for her late husband, Robert Foster. Joan is much loved by her family, friends, and fellow parishioners, but most especially by her five children, eight grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Likewise, Herbert Morais has faithfully served Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish for many decades as both Sexton and Facilities Manager, as a past president of the Holy Name Society, and as a past imperator and longtime volunteer in organizing the Annual Crowning Feast of the Holy Spirit. Herbie continues to welcome parishioners and to serve as an usher at our 6:00pm Vigil Mass. Herbie is much loved by his family, friends, and fellow parishioners, but most especially by his wife, Maria, their two daughters, and four grandchildren.

The Bishop Cheverus Medal was created in 2008 to recognize distinguished service by lay ministers in their home parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Boston. The medal is often given in heartfelt appreciation for the unsung heroes of God's Holy Church. In a letter to one recent recipient, Cardinal Sean wrote: "I have learned of your selfless dedication and commitment and your many contributions to advancing Christ's mission. We are blessed by your service to the Archdiocese and we are privileged to name you for this honor."

Please join Father Jim, our pastoral team, and all who live, work, and worship in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport in congratulating Joan Foster and Herbert Morais for being chosen as among this year's recipients of the Bishop Cheverus Medal! Please thank Joan and Herbie for all that they do with love and good cheer for all of us! And please pray for them and their families! Peace and blessings to all!

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP, AND SERVICE

A VIGIL OF PRAYER FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE Wednesday, December 12th · Begins at 4:00pm Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

On December 12, 1531, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Saint Juan Diego and assured him that his uncle would recover from a serious illness. The Virgin then told Juan Diego to gather roses in his cloak and present them to the local bishop. When the cloak was opened, the roses fell to the floor and miraculously revealed the famous image now known as Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Since the sixteenth century, God's faithful people have grown in reverence for the iconic image of Our Lady of Guadalupe and her basilica in Mexico City is the world's third most-visited pilgrimage site. And over time, the Church has grown in appreciation for this miraculous image of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In 1945, Pope Pius XII accorded her the titles of Empress of the Americas and Patroness of the Americas. In 1961, Pope John XXIII invoked her intercession as Mother of the Americas. And in 1966, Pope Paul VI gave her a Golden Rose, a special ornament that signifies a papal blessing or devotion.

In 2013, Pope Francis bestowed upon the sacred image a second Golden Rose upon which is engraved words in Latin that mean: "My Mother & My Hope." Pope Francis has said repeatedly that Our Lady of Guadalupe should be venerated as the mother of all people, especially all who suffer, all who feel excluded or worthless, and all who feel as though "they weep in vain."

Among those who weep in vain are the victims of bigotry, violence, and public policies that discriminate against the poor, the sick and refugees from around the world. We are called to stand with them as brothers and sisters in prayer and solidarity. In this spirit, the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport invites you and your family for a special Vigil of Prayer on Wednesday, December 12th, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, in Our Lady of Good Voyage Church.

Our Vigil of Prayer will begin at 4:00pm with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and a Rosary for Peace & Healing in our divided country, our wounded church, and our troubled world. From 5:00pm until 6:30pm, along with silent adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Father Jim will hear confessions. We will conclude at 6:30pm with Evening Prayer and Benediction.

For more information about this special event, please see Father Jim before or after Mass; or contact him at 978-281-4820 or frjim@ccgrronline.com. Please join us! All are invited! All are welcome! Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of the Americas, pray for us!

HOLY SEASON OF ADVENT



WELCOMING YOUNG DISCIPLES THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM OUR SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2018

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

Sacrament of Baptism
Sunday, December 9th at 1:00pm
Saint Ann Church

Sacrament of Baptism
Sunday, December 16th at 1:00pm
Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

Sacrament of Baptism
Sunday, December 23rd at 10:00am
Saint Joachim Church

The following children were recently baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit here in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport:

Reese Balbo · Amelia Blair
Aria D'Angelo · Brody Doyle
Aliana Guzman · Angel Guzman
Edward Maher · Cora Opris
Eleanor Robertson · Vaeda-Mae Sauve
Benjamin Tarantino · Caroline Tokarz
Nafanua Tuinei · Daniel Vazzoler

If you would like to schedule your child's baptism in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport, please contact Melissa Unis at office@ccgrronline.com or 978-281-4820. Please pray for our newly baptized young disciples and for their parents, grandparents, godparents, and siblings! May God bless all families with good health, happiness, and much love! Congratulations to all!

OUR MASS INTENTIONS

DECEMBER 1 – DECEMBER 9, 2018

Saturday, December 1	Vigil · First Sunday of Advent
4:00pm · Saint Ann	Rose Testaverde
6:00pm · OLGV	Eleanor Salah
Sunday, December 2	First Sunday of Advent
7:00am · OLGV	Norman J. DuLong, Jr.
8:15am · Saint Ann	The Maggiore Family
10:00am · Saint Joachim	William & Regina Kane's 50th Wedding Anniversary
11:45am · OLGV	Maria Madalena Silva
5:00pm · Saint Ann	For the Healing of God's Family
	First Week of Advent
Monday, December 3 8:00am · OLGV	Carol & Beth Ann Theken
Tuesday, December 4 8:00am · Saint Joachim	Christina Cathleen Caturano
Wednesday, December 5 8:00am · OLGV	Anthony Souza
Thursday, December 6 8:00am · Saint Joachim	George Jamides
Friday, December 7 8:00am · OLGV	Philip E. Perry
Saturday, December 8 8:00am · OLGV	Thomas & Lario Randazza
Saturday, December 8	Vigil · Second Sunday of Advent
4:00pm · Saint Ann	Angela Antonina Vitale
6:00pm · OLGV	The Lupo Family
Sunday, December 9	Second Sunday of Advent
7:00am · OLGV	The Bruni Family
8:15am · Saint Ann	Deacon Raymond Wellbank
10:00am · Saint Joachim	Salvatore Loiacano & Family
11:45am · OLGV	Pietro & Rosario Cannavo
5:00pm · Saint Ann	Vincenzo Terranova

OUR WEEKLY GIFTS

HOLY FAMILY PARISH

Weekend of November 24th – November 25th

Weekly Offerings	\$6,274.00
Electronic Donations	\$878.00
Total Offerings	\$7,152.00
Second Collection (Retired Nuns)	\$2,062.00

Thank you for your generous support
of Holy Family Parish!

OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH

Weekend of November 24th – November 25th

Weekly Offerings	\$2,580.00
Electronic Donations	\$80.00
Total Offerings	\$2,660.00
Second Collection (Retired Nuns)	\$607.00

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 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. The requested donation for a sanctuary candle is \$25. This week, donations were offered for the following intentions:

In Memory of Joseph P. Parisi
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Antonio & Allerio Brancalone
Sanctuary Gifts · Saint Ann Church

In Memory of Phyllis Toppan
Sanctuary Candle · Saint Joachim Church

In Memory of the Aiello Family
Sanctuary Candle · Our Lady of Good Voyage Church

For more information about donating sanctuary candles, sanctuary flowers, or sanctuary gifts in memory of a deceased family member, friend, or loved one, please contact Melissa Unis at office@ccgronline.com or 978-281-4820. Thank you for your generous support!

OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH
HOLY NAME SOCIETY

Sunday, December 2nd at 6:30pm · Our Lady's Hall
Please join us! New members always welcome!