

# **The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport**

HOLY FAMILY PARISH & OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE PARISH



## **OUR PASTORAL PLAN 2017-2019**

LIVE THE GOSPEL. SHARE GOD'S LOVE. REBUILD THE CHURCH.

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**The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport**

Our Pastoral Offices

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## The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport

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Holy Family Parish & Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish  
60 Prospect Street · Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930 · Phone: 978-281-4820

His Eminence Seán Cardinal O'Malley  
Archbishop of Boston  
66 Brooks Drive  
Braintree, Massachusetts 02184

December 25, 2016

Dear Cardinal Seán,

On behalf of our pastoral plan team, I present you with great joy the Pastoral Plan for the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport (2017-2019).

As you know, the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport was established in 2014 as a collaborative of two historic parishes: Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish. Our worship sites include Saint Ann Church in Gloucester, Saint Anthony Chapel in Gloucester, Saint Joachim Church in Rockport, and Our Lady of Good Voyage Church in Gloucester. Our parishes are lively communities of faith that pray each day to be united in prayer, fellowship, and service.

Our pastoral plan represents the culmination of more than two years of prayerful discernment, discussion, and research among a diverse group of parishioners from both parishes. Members of our pastoral plan team do not represent particular interests, ministries, or organizations within our parishes. Rather, they represent the broad spectrum of unique life experiences and voices within the Catholic Church. Our team includes a newly baptized single woman, a single man, a single mother, a widow, a grandfather, a young father with children, a mother whose young adult children are not fully practicing their faith, a divorced and remarried Catholic woman, and a retired elementary school teacher who serves as our new director of faith formation.

These dedicated individuals have given generously of their time and talent to draft a pastoral plan that will enable our parishes to increasingly become spirit-filled "schools of prayer" and dynamic centers of the New Evangelization. Our pastoral plan is deeply rooted in Disciples in Mission and seeks to vigorously fulfill our vision to live the Gospel, share God's love, and rebuild the Church in Gloucester, Rockport, and beyond.

On your behalf, I wish to sincerely thank the members of our pastoral plan team: Andrea Ando, Peter Brau, Cliff Garvey, Thomas Misuraca, Ann Marie Noble, Jane Russo, Lori Thorstensen, Margaret Wiberg, and Betsy Works. In addition, our team wishes to thank Denise Ehlen of the Catholic Leadership Institute for her guidance, good friendship, and great advice during the past two years. As a pastor, I could not have hoped for a more positive and supportive group of parishioners with which to work on this very important project. If you have questions or need any additional information, please feel welcome to contact me at 978-281-4820 or [frjim@ccgronline.com](mailto:frjim@ccgronline.com).

With prayers and best wishes for the coming new year, I am

Most sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend James M. Achadinha, Pastor  
Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport

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**OUR PASTORAL PLAN 2017-2019**

*Kneeling before the image of the Crucified Christ,  
Francis was filled with great fervor and consolation.  
While his tear-filled eyes were gazing at the Lord's Cross,  
he heard a voice coming from the Cross, telling him three times:  
"Francis, go and rebuild my Church!"*

*Life of Saint Francis of Assisi by Saint Bonaventure*

**Our Purpose**

Established in 2014, the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport is a collaborative of two historic parishes: Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish. Working together as a Roman Catholic community united in prayer, fellowship, and service, we are committed to living the Gospel of Christ, sharing God's love and mercy with all people, and rebuilding the Church in Gloucester & Rockport.

**Our Values: Prayer, Fellowship, and Service**

**I. Prayer**

Our faith teaches us that God loves us and offers his bountiful grace, guidance, and mercy to every person. Therefore, our prayer is built upon a shared faith and common goal to grow closer to Jesus Christ who is our merciful redeemer, friend, and brother. We demonstrate our commitment to Christian prayer in the following ways:

- We seek to deepen our relationship with Christ by opening our hearts and minds to God's vocation for us as individuals, fellow parishioners, and parish communities.
- We support each other by sharing our faith with compassion, hospitality, and love.
- We nurture our community's life of faith through vibrant liturgy, intercessory prayer, and faith formation programs that educate, encourage, and inspire people of all ages to grow in faith, hope, and love for God and for each other.

**II. Fellowship**

Our faith teaches us that we are brothers and sisters in Christ. Therefore, our fellowship is built upon the foundation of a shared faith and a common goal to love God and one another. We demonstrate our commitment to Christian fellowship in the following ways:

- We welcome all parishioners, friends, and visitors regardless of who they are or where they are on their faith journey.
- We faithfully celebrate the sacraments in communion with each other and with the Roman Catholic Church around the world.

- We share the teachings and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church through ministries, organizations, and faith formation programs that enlighten, build community, and reach out to those who hunger for God's love and mercy.

### **III. Service**

Our faith teaches us that we are called to love and serve the Lord and one another. Therefore, our service is built upon a shared commitment to creating a community of faith based on compassion, generosity, and mutual assistance. We demonstrate our commitment to Christian service in the following ways:

- We share our time, talent, and treasure with our parishes.
- We reach out to those who are lonely, poor, or forgotten through ministries that provide both material assistance and spiritual consolation.
- We reach out to those who are poor in spirit by praying for them, supporting them, and welcoming them unconditionally into our parishes.

### **Our Vision**

- Live the Gospel.  
Share God's Love.  
Rebuild the Church.

### **Our Priorities**

Inspired by our purpose, values, and vision; and called to action by Pope Francis, Cardinal Seán, and Disciples in Mission, the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport is committed to creating a culture of discipleship, stewardship, and vocations in both Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish. During the next three years, our pastor, pastoral team, and fellow parishioners will focus our prayers and energies on three priorities (and their associated goals) in order to fulfill our vision of living the Gospel, sharing God's love, and rebuilding the Catholic Church in Gloucester and Rockport. These three broad priorities are:

- Discipleship (Adult & Youth Faith Formation)
- Stewardship (Building Restoration & Fundraising)
- Vocations to Diocesan Priesthood

As a community of disciples united in prayer, fellowship, and service dedicated to living the gospel, we seek to create a vibrant culture that calls, forms, and commissions disciples to live the Gospel, share God's love and mercy, and rebuild the Catholic Church in our parishes (both spiritually and temporally). The primary responsibility for achieving our goals will rest with our pastor, pastoral team, and organized ministries.

## I. Discipleship Goals

*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age (Matthew 28:20).*

*We can only share what we have received. In preparing to evangelize, we are called to conversion, which means to continually receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ individually and as a Church. The Good News nurtures us, makes us grow, and renews us in holiness as God's people. Conversion is ongoing in the hearts of believers and it consists in knowing not just about Jesus, but in actually knowing Jesus (Cardinal Seán O'Malley, *A New Pentecost: Inviting All to Follow Jesus*).*

In *A New Pentecost: Inviting All to Follow Jesus*, Cardinal Seán wrote: "We evangelize so that people can know the purpose for which they were made and so that as many as possible will be brought to Christ and ultimately, through Christ's saving love, to the eternal presence of God in heaven (DIM, 18)." In this spirit, the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport, will seek to create a culture in our parishes where parishioners of all ages can come to know Christ Jesus more deeply, to experience his love and mercy more fully, and to learn about the teachings and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church in new and innovative ways.

We see spiritual and faith formation as a lifelong process. As such, our parishes will become schools of prayer in which each parishioner can find resources, programs, and pastoral services that can help them grow in relationship with Christ and grow in prayer, fellowship, and service. In order to create this culture of prayer and discipleship, the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport seek to achieve the following goals:

### A. Create a Strategy for Adult Faith Formation

- **Adult Spiritual & Faith Formation**

Currently, the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport offers annual programs to prepare adults for the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation). In addition, all parishioners are invited to participate annually in an Advent Mission & Retreat, Lent Mission & Retreat, and week-long Summer Evening Retreat. During the next three years, we will create a strategy that builds on these successful programs by offering at least two additional adult faith formation programs each year. These programs may include a Marian Day of Prayer & Reflection (in partnership with the Legion of Mary) and a Fall Day of Prayer & Reflection (in partnership with the Assisi Project). Based on available resources, other programs may include a pastor's bible study, book study groups, and guest speaker series.

- **Spiritual Direction Ministry**

Our pastor and one lay spiritual director currently serve the needs of both parishes. In order to better serve the needs of our parishioners, we will recruit at least two parishioners to undergo a formal process of training and certification as spiritual directors by 2019. When this process is completed, our team of spiritual directors will offer opportunities for both individual and group spiritual direction in both of our parishes.

- **Saint Ann House of Prayer**

Saint Ann Parish House is currently used only for offices and small group meetings. During the first year of implementation, we will work with the Archdiocese of Boston to study the feasibility of transforming this historic building into a self-sufficient "House of Prayer" for individual spiritual direction, small group spiritual direction, and directed or self-directed retreats under the supervision of a spiritual director. At this point, our vision calls for silent, hermitage-style retreats. For a designated donation, each retreatant will be provided with meals, a private room, and bath. The house can currently accommodate three retreatants and a spiritual director. With possible repairs and renovations, the house could potentially accommodate six retreatants and a spiritual director.

## **B. Create a Strategy for Youth Faith Formation**

In 2015, the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport embarked on a multi-year journey to reimagine, rebuild, and restructure all of our youth faith formation programs at both Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish. Our aim is to call, grow, and nurture young disciples. We will seek to engage them in new and creative ways, teach them to pray, and help them to build lifelong personal relationships with Jesus Christ, with God's Church, and with their brothers and sisters in faith. In order to fulfill our mission, we seek to achieve the following goals:

- **Mass Is Our Class! Jesus Is Our Teacher!**

We believe that much of what a child should know about Christ and the Christian life can be learned from a lifelong devotion to the Eucharist and from regular Mass attendance. We will welcome every family into our churches with open arms and open hearts. We believe that Mass is our class and that Jesus is our teacher. And we joyfully thank God for every family that joins us in search of the Lord's friendship, love, and mercy. During the coming year, we will continue to invite and encourage all parish families to dedicate one hour each week to their child's religious education – by joining us for Mass!

Every weekend, the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport offers seven opportunities for families to attend Mass. In addition, our pastor will personally invite families with children to attend a seasonal Faith & Family Mass, which will include a homily, music, and special gift prepared especially for parents and children. We also will make best use of our newsletter, website, social media, and person-to-person evangelization to encourage and invite all families with children to join us for Mass.

- **Preparing Children for the Sacraments**

After much prayer, research, and consultation with parents and catechetical professionals from around the country, we learned that the traditional way of teaching our children and grandchildren about Christ and his Church (classroom model) is no longer an effective way of sharing the faith or forming young disciples. Therefore, beginning this year, second grade students and their parents will be invited to join us for Mass and to participate in two ninety-minute Faith & Family Workshops in preparation for First Penance; and to join us for Mass and three ninety-minute Faith & Family Workshops in preparation for First Holy Communion.

Likewise, all high school students (beginning in ninth grade) will be invited to participate in a two-year program of formation in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. During the first year, our students will attend Mass together and participate in a series of interactive workshops. During the second year, our students will attend Mass together and participate in a second series of workshops and a four-hour evening of reflection designed to help them grow in prayer, fellowship, and service; to prepare them to receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit; and to jumpstart their lives as faithful and faith-filled young adult disciples.

Overall, we will continue to reimagine, restructure, and rebuild our youth sacramental preparation programs during the next three years. During the first year of our pastoral plan implementation, we will also offer four sixteen-hour Catholic Kids Camps for younger children (ages 5 through 11) during school vacations. These Catholic Kids Camps will use interactive and multi-sensory learning; and will help our youngest fellow parishioners grow in faith and discipleship with Christ, with Christ's Church, and with other young disciples.

- **Calling Young Disciples**

Since our overall goal is to call, grow, and nurture young disciples, we will create and promote opportunities for them to participate more fully in the life of our parishes. Currently, the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport invites children of all ages to participate in our Youth Choir & Music Ministry. However, we do not have an organized ministry to call and train our young fellow parishioners as altar servers or hospitality ministers. These activities are real and important ministries and faith formation opportunities that enable children of all ages to gather for worship; to learn about the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church; and to live their faith in a true spirit of prayer, fellowship, and service.

During the first year of implementation of our pastoral plan, we will create a program to call and train young disciples to serve at Mass. During the second year of implementation, we will create a program to call and train young disciples to serve as hospitality ministers. And during the third year of implementation, we will consider other ways that children of all ages can serve their home parish as young disciples.

In addition, in order to help our middle and high school students grow in prayer, fellowship, and service, we will work to create a youth service and mentoring ministry that invites them to participate in one (or more) of our many ministries and service organizations (i.e. Legion of Mary and Saint Vincent de Paul Society). During each of the next three years, we will partner with our adult ministries to develop a youth service and mentoring program so that all young disciples have real opportunities to live the Gospel, share God's love, and rebuild the Church under the supervision of some of our most dedicated and faith-filled adult parishioners.

## II. Stewardship Goals

*For it is in giving that we receive... (Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi)*

*As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace (1 Peter 4:10).*

As fellow disciples, our pastor, pastoral team, and all parishioners are entrusted by canon law with both the spiritual and temporal goods of God's Church. These temporal goods include our churches and church buildings and all physical property for which Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage are directly and financially responsible.

Our churches and parish buildings shelter our efforts to grow in prayer, fellowship, and service; and they enable us to live the Gospel and share God's love with all who live, work, and worship in our parishes. The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport has an obligation to maintain, repair, and restore these structures. Maintaining these spaces is a basic and essential component of our discipleship. In order to create a culture of stewardship in our parishes, the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport will seek to achieve the following goals:

### A. Create a Comprehensive Buildings Plan

- **Buildings Inventory & Maintenance Plan**

The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport at Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish is currently responsible for maintaining eleven buildings (all of which are at least 100 years old). During the first year of implementation of our pastoral plan, our pastor, pastoral team, and parish finance councils will assess the current condition of all parish buildings and grounds; prioritize potential repair and/or restoration projects; and consider the costs and benefits associated with each project.

- **Buildings Best Use Plan**

During the second year of implementation of our pastoral plan, our pastor, pastoral team, parish finance councils, and collaborative council will work with our various ministries and organizations to evaluate the current and potential future use of all parish buildings and prepare a long-term "best use" plan.

### B. Create a Comprehensive Development Strategy

- **Traditional Development**

The work of the new evangelization requires resources. In order to be effective stewards of the temporal goods of the Church, to ensure the long-term financial stability of our parishes, and to realize our vision of being faithful and faith-filled disciples, the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport must effectively communicate the financial goals and needs of our two historic parishes.

During the first year of our pastoral plan implementation, our pastor, pastoral team, and parish finance councils will create a development strategy to improve traditional fundraising programs by focusing on effective communication and education, electronic giving, estate planning, and



establishing a metric (or specific amount of suggested giving) based on individual and family resources and the financial needs of our parishes.

- **Creative Development**

In addition, during the first two years of implementation of our pastoral plan, our pastor, pastoral team, and parish finance councils will identify and investigate creative and innovative ways to enhance and expand sources of revenue for our parishes and their pastoral ministries. These sources may include on-site electronic giving, foundation grants, and gifts in kind from local businesses or service providers.

Our overall goal will be to create a culture in our parishes that promotes and encourages good stewardship with a threefold focus on repairing and restoring our parish buildings; capitalizing on existing development strategies; and exploring creative ways to ensure the long-term financial stability of both Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish.

### **III. Vocations Goals**

*He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Matthew 4:19)*

*No vocation is born of itself or lives for itself. A vocation flows from the heart of God and blossoms in the good soil of faithful people, in the experience of fraternal love. Did not Jesus say: 'By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another?'* (Pope Francis, World Day of Prayer for Vocations 2014).

Cardinal Seán has called all parishes in the Archdiocese of Boston to create a culture of vocation discernment with primary focus on vocations to the diocesan priesthood. Disciples in Mission states that parishes should emphasize prayer, identify potential candidates for seminary formation, and mentor those candidates to acknowledge and embrace their vocations (DIM, 10). In this spirit, the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport (CCGR) will promote and encourage vocations to the diocesan priesthood by working to achieve the following goals:

#### **A. Create Strategy to Pray for Vocations to Diocesan Priesthood**

- Pray regularly as a community for vocations to diocesan priesthood. Opportunities to pray for vocations may include: First Saturday Prayer Vigil for Vocations (Eucharistic Adoration & Rosary); Evening Prayer for Vocations (with Homily) on feast days related to the diocesan priesthood (i.e. Corpus Christi, Christ the King, Saint John Vianney, Saint Vincent de Paul, and Saint John Paul II). If possible, we will invite a seminarian or transitional deacon to assist at these events.
- Make best use of parish communication tools (weekly newsletter, website and social media, and announcements from the altar) to provide resources for vocation discernment. These resources may include prayers for discernment, seminary brochures & catalogs, and other materials provided by the vocation office and/or other organizations.

#### **B. Create Strategy to Promote Vocation Discernment to Diocesan Priesthood**

- Incorporate catechesis on vocation discernment in our adult & youth faith formation programs. This catechesis may include recruiting, training, and formation of altar servers; witness talks and faith sharing sessions with seminarians; and creation of a scholarship fund for local seminarians.
- Make best use of parish communication tools (weekly newsletter, website and social media, and announcements from the altar) to promote RCAB vocation discernment programs, including the Cardinal's Retreat, Saint Andrew's Dinners, and other events sponsored by the archdiocesan vocations team.

Our overall goal will be to create a culture in our parishes that promotes and encourages vocation discernment with a special focus on vocations to the diocesan priesthood. The responsibility for achieving this goal will rest with the pastor, pastoral team, and selected volunteers.

## **Conclusion**

In "Communities of Salt and Light: Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish", the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) writes: "The parish is where the Church lives. Parishes are communities of prayer, action, and hope. They are where the gospel is proclaimed and celebrated, where believers are formed and sent to renew the earth. Parishes are the home of the Christian community; they are the heart of the Church." In this spirit, we believe that Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish are the heart and soul of Christ's Church in Gloucester and Rockport. We believe that this pastoral plan is deeply rooted in rich soil of "Disciples in Mission." And we believe that it will serve as our compass and guide as we strive to realize our vision to "Live the Gospel! Share God's Love! And Rebuild the Church!"

## **Pastoral Plan Team**

Reverend James M. Achadinha, Pastor

Ms. Andrea Ando

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