

4th Sunday of Lent

Repentance. Envy. Joy. Hope. Have you felt these human emotions? Today's Gospel offers a rich story, one we can all find our place in. As we reflect on our own spiritual lives this Lenten season, it can be helpful to imagine ourselves in the story of the Prodigal Son.

"I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers." The younger son has sinned greatly, betraying his father's trust and squandering his money in sin. Yet the parable turns on his deep repentance and humble return to his father. Is there any area of your life you have been wandering from God or you've squandered good gifts? This Lent, return to the sacrament of Confession! God, a merciful Father, waits for you there.

"While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him." The father in the parable sees his son's selfishness, perhaps even suspects what he might do, but gives him the inheritance anyway. After his son's departure, the father waits with hope for his son's eventual return. Has someone you love left the Church, made poor decisions, or abused your trust? This Lent is a time to let go of bitterness and to live in hope. Prepare your heart to be merciful!

Not all in the parable invite the mercy of God into their hearts. The self-righteous older brother dishonors his father with his pettiness. "My son, you are here with me always, everything I have is yours." Do you covet what others have? Do you feel as if you've been taken advantage of or that your work goes unseen? This Lent is a time to grow in gratitude. Take a close look at the blessings in our life that you might be missing.

We are all called to repentance. Open your heart to God's personal invitation to growth!

Sunday Collection

For Sunday's March 23/24 collection see next week's bulletin.

Stations of the Cross Every Week During Lent

Thursdays	St. Cecilia	7pm
Fridays	St. Francis	7pm (Italian/English)
Fridays	St. Nicholas	7pm (Spanish)

4º Domingo de la Cuaresma

"Padre, he pecado contra Dios y ante ti. Ya no merezco ser llamado hijo tuyo." (Lucas 15:21). En esta parábola se encuentra la misericordia de Dios en abundancia, sin límites, para aquel hijo arrepentido. El Evangelio nos narra: "Pero el Padre dijo a sus servidores: ¡Rápido! Traigan el mejor vestido y pónganselo. Colóqueme un anillo en el dedo y traigan calzado para sus pies. Traigan el ternero gordo y mátenlo; comamos y hagamos fiesta?". (Lucas 15:22-23). Jesús no tiene límites; recibe a todas las personas, a nadie le da con la puerta en las narices, como decimos comúnmente. El se abre totalmente al que lo busca; tal como lo hace el Padre al hijo pródigo.

El Padre es modelo de misericordia y perdón. Sabe reconciliar y después del abrazo de bienvenida llega la fiesta a lo grande para el hijo. El Papa Francisco, nos recuerda que "Jesús no describe a un padre ofendido y resentido, un padre que, por ejemplo, dice al hijo: 'me las pagaras, ¡eh!'; no, el padre lo abraza, lo espera con amor. Al contrario, la única cosa que el padre tiene en su corazón es que este hijo este ante él sano y salvo y esto lo hace feliz y hace fiesta". Y el papa agrega. "En cualquier situación de la vida, no debo olvidar que no dejaré jamás de ser hijo de Dios, ser hijo de un Padre que me ama y espera mi regreso. Incluso en las situaciones más feas de la vida, Dios me espera, Dios quiere abrazarme, Dios me espera." (11 de mayo 2016).

DMP Holy Week Schedule 2019

On **Holy Thursday, April 18, at 7:30pm** we will celebrate our parish **Mass of the Lord's Supper** at St. Cecilia.

On **Good Friday, April 19, at 1:00pm** we will conduct the **Stations of the Cross** throughout the streets of our parish, beginning at St. Cecilia to St. Nicholas and ending at St. Francis of Paola.

After the **Station of the Cross at 3:00pm** we will have the Good Friday Service of the Lord's Passion at St. Francis of Paola.

On **Good Friday, at 7:00pm** the **Service of the Lord's Passion** in Spanish will be held at St. Nicholas Church.

On **Holy Saturday, April 20, at 8:00pm** the **Easter Vigil Mass** will be celebrated at St. Nicholas

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

A Message from Fr. Tom

As we look ahead toward the celebration of Easter at the end of Lent—where Jesus Christ, the Son of God becomes our Passover sacrifice—we hear in our first reading that Jewish people celebrate their first Passover after having finally returned to the Promised Land. This is a moment of reconciliation, a theme so important for us in today's Gospel. The entire community of Israel is reconciled to God after more than 400 years of slavery in Egypt and a forty year period of purification in the desert. They are reconciled to God. They celebrate as they finally return home. We should see our 40 days of Lent as our participation in this historical event and saving action of God.

In the Gospel parable of the prodigal son there too is a celebration of reconciliation—a son who once was lost and estranged from his father and family—finally returns home. We learn of the relationship between two brothers and their experience which reveals to them a deeper understanding of their father. We understand the father of the parable as representing God our eternal father. In the two brothers we find misguided attitudes both religious and non-religious toward God the Father in our own time.

The younger brother desires freedom and ability to pursue his desires as he understands them. This freedom—separated from the father—leads the younger brother to poverty and misfortune. He acknowledges his faults—at least in terms of them winning back a place for himself as a lowly servant. The embrace that he receives upon returning home transcends his expectations and reveals to him a deeper understanding of the father—and perhaps human freedom as well. The older brother—like so many of us—believes that our good deeds should earn us merit and favor with the father. We can all relate to the consciousness out of which he operates. And so conversely, bad deeds or disloyalty merit punishment and rejection. If we read the Gospel closely, we should see that the older brother is not capable of reflecting upon his own faults—he exaggerates the faults of his brother and claims for himself absolute loyalty to the father; forgetting that just a moment before he refused his father's invitation to reconcile with his brother. This parable is an endless source of reflection for us. We should recognize ourselves in the relationships that the parable gives us. May this Gospel lead us to deeper levels of self-reflection and acceptance of God as a loving and compassionate father.

Fr. Tom

JOIN US ON SATURDAY, APRIL 6

Honor the First Saturday Devotion

in Honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Please join us for the celebration of Mass on Saturday, April 6th:

- Attend Mass that Saturday (7:45am/8:30am/5:00pm)
- Pray the Rosary
- Go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation within one week of that date
- Reflect for 15 minutes on one of the mysteries of the Rosary

Support St. Nicholas Church

Bake Sale & Flea Market

Join us this Sunday, March 31st, 2019

10 am – 1 pm

Monsignor Vetro Parish Hall

26 Olive Street, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Cookies! Coffee! Cake! Toys, Housewares, Clothes & More!

EVENING HOLY HOUR

During Lent, we will be offering our evening Holy Hour from 9 pm to 10 pm Monday through Thursday, at St. Francis of Paola Church, instead of St. Cecilia's Chapel.

Why Catholic—A Journey Through the Catechism of the Catholic Church

Join Fr. Tom on Wednesdays during Lent/St. Francis Rectory Dining Room

We will be taking a pause from our regularly scheduled Bible Study on Wednesday evenings to participate in the "Why Catholic?" program and explore the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The class will be conducted in English and meet for one hour from 7:45pm to 8:45pm. Please contact Amelia Castro after the St. Nicholas Spanish Mass for more information on the Spanish language track. Following are the dates for the program conducted in English in St. Francis Rectory:

Wednesday, April 3 rd	7:45 pm to 8:45 pm
Wednesday, April 10 th	7:45 pm to 8:45 pm
Wednesday, April 17 th	7:45 pm to 8:45 pm

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

**Gifts of Love—Emergency Food Pantry
At Divine Mercy Parish**

For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome...” (Matt. 25:35-36)

Holy God, Heavenly Father, this Lent we pray for our brothers and sisters most in need, as we offer our sacrifices to help continue Your saving work in our community and around the world. Amen.

Specific items needed: canned vegetables
Food Pantry Coordinators and volunteers

**St. Francis of Paola Church
Memorial Gifts – March 31, 2019**

ST. JOSEPH CANDLES

Antonio Arlistico by Family
Antonio Arlistico by Family

**Divine Mercy Parish
Resurrection Garden 2019**

A cross in the Resurrection Garden reminds us of the everlasting life that Christ has promised us. If you have lost someone, a Resurrection Garden tribute is a prayerful reminder that your loved one waits for you in heaven. This Easter let the Resurrection Garden tribute cross stand as a testament to the life your loved one lived.

Three (3) Gardens will be erected—One at each Church.

Cost is \$25.00 per cross. Please make all checks payable to: St. Anthony Society. Each cross ordered by April 7th will be personalized in the Garden, and listed in the bulletin.

Palm Crosses will also be made available for purchase after the Masses during the weekend of April 6th, and 7th, at **ALL** churches for personal use at the price of \$10.00 per cross. Crosses will also be available for purchase at the Parish Office through Wednesday, April 10, 2019.

RECONCILIATION MONDAY

On this special day, Monday - April 15, 2019, all the parishes of our dioceses will offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation, from **3:00 PM to 9:00 PM** in preparation for the holy days of the Paschal Triduum.

**Mass Intentions for the Week
St. Francis of Paola Church**

Saturday, March 30, 2019

5:00pm Annette Ferreri by Children & Grandchildren

Sunday, March 31, 2019

8:00am Colonoe Sepe by Ada Maestrini
11:30am Joel Fields by Fr. Tom
John Saboda by Perez Family
Holy Trinity for Conversion of Sinners by Ramona Espinal

Monday, April 1, 2019

7:45am Donato D’Agosto by Mr. & Mrs. Cono Mazza & Family

Tuesday April 2, 2019

7:45am Mary & Lawrence Frasca by Family

Wednesday, April 3, 2019

7:45am Patrick Solomita by Marie & Dom Perrotto

Thursday, April 4, 2019

7:45am Bettina Giudice by Children

Friday, April 5, 2019

7:45am Linda Anacrelico by Santaromita Family

Saturday, April 6, 2019

7:45am Jr. Tafagno by Fred Naccari & Mom Jeanne
5:00pm For the People of Divine Mercy Parish

Sunday, April 7, 2019

8:00am Terry Dinny & Rudy Paul by Paul Family
11:30am Louis DeMarino by DeMarino Family

**J.S. Bach with the
International Street Cannibals**

Please join us for an all Bach Concert on **April 6th** after the 5 pm Mass. The Concert will feature Soprano Christiana Cole singing with the ISC. The program includes the Orchestral Suite No. 2 in B Minor and Cantata No. 82 “Ich Habe Genug.”

Please take a flyer from the Church entrance, invite friends, and find us on Facebook, @dmpconcertseries. Experiencing Bach’s music is a wonderful way to enter into the last few weeks of Lent.

MARCH 31, 2019

Mass Intentions for the Week
St. Nicholas Church

Sunday, March 31, 2019

10:30am Open Intention

Wednesday, April 3, 2019

7:00pm Frances Franchino by Gaetana Livornese

Sunday, April 7, 2019

10:30am Open Intention

Pray For the Sick:

Rae Pacifico, Frank Grutza, Gennaro Adamo, Wanda Zadwarny, Carmella Caiafa, Maryann Piccora, Roseann Frank, Remi Schandel, Fawziy Ali, Betty Gifford, Anthony Scala, Theresa Scala, Bob Cohen, Raymond Lopez, Sara Chang, Lenny Currie, Bob Hershlag, Jackie Elasser, Jacqueline Mengel, Joe Bavuso, Anthony Porcelli, Carmine Giglio

Pray For the Recently Deceased:

Joseph Anthony D'Alto, Marie Gallishaw

St. Theresa Guild

The next meeting of the St. Theresa Guild will take place on Thursday, April 11, at 7:30 pm in the St. Francis of Paola rectory basement. The theme is Easter. New members are always welcome.

Please join in prayer following the 5 pm mass on Saturday, April 6, 2019 at St. Francis of Paola Church. We will assemble in the front left pews.

Mass Book 2019

The second half of the Mass Book (July to December 2019), will open on Wednesday, April 24th for intentions. Mass stipend is \$15.00 for a weekday Mass and \$20.00 for a Saturday 5 pm Mass and our Sunday Masses. Rectory is open from 9 am to 8 pm Monday to Friday and 9 am to 5 pm on Saturday.

Rosary Society Meetings

The next meeting of the Rosary Society will be April 10, at 7 PM, in St. Cecilia's Auditorium. All are welcome.

Nocturnal Adoration

Join us for Nocturnal Adoration on Saturday, April 6th, at 8:00 PM in St. Cecilia's Chapel. All are welcomed.

Mass Intentions for the Week
St. Cecilia Church

Sunday, March 31, 2019

9:30am Mary Cappiello (Happy Birthday)

Antonio Arlistico by Family

7:00pm For the People of Divine Mercy Parish

Monday, April 1, 2019

8:30am Ramon Valderrama

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

8:30am Ben Brancato

Wednesday, April 3, 2019

8:30am Ruth Russell

Thursday, April 4, 2019

8:30am Marie Serpe by Laura Flola

Friday, April 5, 2019 – FIRST FRIDAY

8:30am Purgatorial Society

Saturday, April 6, 2019

8:30am John Porcelli by Dennis Torre / Sonia Rivera

Sunday, April 7, 2019

9:30am Rosary Society

Ed & Jo Collins

Eamon & Ray McGinn

Loretta Rabito

Frank Giaime

7:00pm Open Intention

St. Cecilia's Memorial Gifts March 31, 2019

BREAD & WINE

Ruth Russell by Joann & Bob

Mothers and Fathers Days Dance

Sunday – May 19, 2019

With live Music, Hot Food, Raffles and 50/50
St. Nicholas Church's Monsignor Vetro Parish Hall
Keep checking the bulletin for more details.

The Saint Theresa Guild Presents

"European Masquerade"

Saturday, May 18, 2019 at 6:15 pm

Food, Wine, Dessert, Live Entertainment & Fabulous Prizes! Saint Francis of Paola Auditorium, 200 Woodpoint Road. \$35.00 per person. Tickets are available at the rectory or by calling Marie Perrotto (718-389-1073) or Annette Marino (646-361-8467) arm718-@aol.com.

END OF BULLETIN
ANY TEXT OR GRAPHICS ENTERED ON THIS PAGE
WILL NOT APPEAR IN THE PRINTED BULLETIN

CHURCH NAME: **Divine Mercy Parish**

CHURCH CITY: **Brooklyn, NY**

ROUTING CODE: **Y**

RUN NUMBER: **13**

FILENAME: **04-0284.53b**

PHONE NUMBER: **718-389-0010**

FAX NUMBER: **718-389-5090**

EDITOR/ CONTACT: **Maryann**

CURRENT FORMAT: EBSWUE

Comments:

RECENT PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES

Divine Mercy Parish is deeply grateful to Captain Williams Glynn and representatives of the 94th Precinct who took the time to speak at a few concerning public safety issues. The old adage applies—If you see something, say something. Following is some information about reporting criminal or suspicious activity.

Call 911—Emergencies

Call 311—Quality of Life Issues

P.O. Andrea Haro

Office: (718) 383-3879

Cell: (929) 371-4355

Andrea.Haro@nypd.org

Also note that a local community meeting is held on the first Wednesday of each month with local police to receive your input at 155 Milton Street, Brooklyn, NY 11222 at 7pm

CTKK Summer Camp

CK Kids is proud to announce their partnership with Queen of the Rosary to offer a convenient summer camp opportunity! Christ the King has over 25 years of summer camp experience and is now offering transportation from the Queen of the Rosary campus.

July 5th August 12th, for Boys and Girls, ages 5 to 14. \$300 per week. Transportation to and from Queen of the Rosary and lunch are included.

For more information: WWW.CTKNT.ORG, or 718-366-7454 68-02 Metropolitan Ave., Middle Village NY., 11379