

3rd Sunday of Lent

"There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it [he] found none." We live in a results-driven society. It can be easy to put pressure on ourselves to succeed. If we're not keeping up with the perceived "good life" of those around us, we feel anxious and disappointed. Some of the Gospel stories about fruitfulness can seem to play out in this fashion. "For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down." The message seems to be clear. Abide in God and bear fruit! Stand apart from God and be barren. But what happens when we're trying, but the growth we wanted doesn't seem to be coming our way? What if it feels like life just isn't bearing fruit?

This Sunday, Jesus gives us a sign of hope. "[The gardener] said to him in reply, 'Sir, leave it for this year also ? it may bear fruit in the future.'" How quick we can be to judge! Perhaps you started out Lent with high hopes and big ideas for getting closer to God. Maybe things haven't gone exactly like you thought. It can be easy to lose patience with our failures or slow growth. We shouldn't be too quick to assume that God has given up on us. He hasn't.

The same ideas apply to those around us. Perhaps we're the planter of the fig tree. We expect a certain amount of growth from someone in our life, and they just aren't measuring up. Let today's Gospel be a gentle nudge for mercy. As Lent continues to unfold, be patient with yourself and those around you. Wait for God to provide the growth.

Sunday Collection

Sunday's Collection March 16/17, 2019 was \$3,417.00.

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.

3er Domingo de la Cuaresma

Cuántas veces hemos escuchado estas frases tan trilladas de personas que se encuentran en diferentes circunstancias. Puede ser entre matrimonios, o de hijos a sus padres, o de alumnos a sus maestros: "Por favor dame una segunda oportunidad, déjenme tratar otra vez, permíteme hacerlo una vez más". Reflexionemos en la higuera de la parábola por la cual el viñador abogo para que no fuera cortada. "Señor, déjala un año más y mientras tanto cavaré alrededor y le echaré abono. Puede ser que así de fruto en adelante y, si no, la cortas." (Lucas 13:8-9). Un año más; que corto tiempo, pero sí, es muy valioso para arreglar la tierra y ponerle abono. Los agricultores y jardineros lo entienden muy bien; ellos saben que importante es el cambio total de tierra para que las raíces tomen fuerza.

La parábola que Jesús pone de ejemplo con la higuera es clave para que en este tercer Domingo de Cuaresma quede claro que se trata de la conversión del corazón. Dios nos da el tiempo suficiente para el arrepentimiento. ¡Una Cuaresma más! No perdamos el tiempo; acerquémonos al Sacramento de la Reconciliación. Es tiempo de dejar la falsedad, el egoísmo la flojera. La vida diaria ofrece muchas oportunidades de cambio y de aprendizaje. No importa la edad ni la condición, Dios nos espera con sus brazos abiertos. Imagina ese abrazo de Dios que tanto necesitas ahora. Esta Cuaresma, Dios está cuidando y poniendo abono en nuestra vida. ¿Qué frutos puedes dar por medio del arrepentimiento? ¿Que estas dispuesto ha hacer de nuevo para vivir menos tensionado?

Readings for the week of March 24, 2019	
Sunday:	Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11 [8a]/1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/Lk 13:1-9
Monday:	Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8, 8b-9, 10, 11 [8a, 9a]/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday:	Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [6a]/Mt 18:21-35
Wednesday:	Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20 [12a]/Mt 5:17-19
Thursday:	Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/Lk 11:14-23
Friday:	Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17 [cf. 11 and 9a]/Mk 12:28-34
Saturday:	Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab [cf. Hos 6:6]/Lk 18:9-14

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

A Message from Fr. Tom

The Gospel of this Third Sunday of Lent has the disciples questioning Jesus over finding God's judgement played out in human events and in the ever present reality of suffering and misfortune. It is one of those big questions in life that remains very close to the bone for all of us. That is to say, no matter how long we have lived or struggled with these questions, they remain challenging and relevant. They upset us in our comfort and presumptions about how we believe things should work in the world. I believe this struggle is a necessary pathway for us to finding our God and a deeper and more authentic faith. These pressing issues we hold so dear to us are however for Jesus only the point of departure to a deeper faith. They are like so many other incidents in the Gospels where people start out by asking Jesus about one issue and—unexpectedly—he leads them to another issue more relevant and essential for our salvation. For example, the leaders question Jesus over marriage and divorce and he leads them to an affirmation about the Resurrection of the dead. People come to Jesus seeking relief from physical suffering and Jesus affirms his divinity and authority to forgive sins. Today, the issue most essential for us is not the attribution of suffering and punishment by God but rather the urgency *for all of us* towards repentance. That is conversion and the turning away from our sins. This is the difficult work of Lent. Remaining close to the church and receiving the graces of the Sacraments will help us. Throughout Lent, we must not lose sight of the purpose of our penitential practices. It is not that we all have long faces during Lent and nothing more. But rather, repentance and conversion help us to bear fruit—fruit that will last for eternal life.

Fr. Tom

Honor the First Saturday Devotion in Honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Early bird reminder—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

Pray for our students

who will be receiving Confirmation on Friday, March 29th at our Parish Church of St. Cecilia

Receive Our Parish Bulletin Electronically

Would you like to receive our parish bulletin electronically days before everyone else? Then log on to “Parishesonline.com” to register. In a few simple steps you can receive our parish bulletin and more easily stay on top of parish events and other important parish information.

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, March 27 th	7:45pm to 8:45pm
Wednesday, April 3 rd	7:45pm to 8:45pm
Wednesday, April 10 th	7:45pm to 8:45pm
Wednesday, April 17 th	7:45pm to 8:45pm

Stations of the Cross Every Week During Lent

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

Annual Catholic Appeal 2019

Goal	\$35,578.00
Pledged	\$ 3,435.00
Paid In	\$ 2,615.00
Total Pledges	12
As of March 11, 2019	

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

THIRD 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)

In the Christian sense, fasting is much more than abstinence from food, Fasting is always closely associated with love and sharing. Much more than a virtue to be practiced, it is a theological responsibility for every and all Christ’s followers.

Item needed this week: **Condiments- all types**
Food Pantry Coordinators and volunteers

**St. Francis of Paola Church
Memorial Gifts – March 24, 2019**

BREAD & WINE

Marie Bavuso by Jean Falabella

ST. JOSEPH CANDLES

Shirley Cubellis by Aimee Rizzo

SANCTUARY LAMP

Louis Anolfo by Children & Grandchildren

BLESSED MOTHER CANDLES

Cantelmi Family by Teresa Kukura

Cantelmi Family by Teresa Kukura

10 Days

Holy Land Pilgrimage

The Catholic Tour LLC

November 13, 2019

Price \$2,198.00 per person

For more information call; Our Lady of the Angelus Rectory at 718-897-4444.

**NYC Department
of Education**

Class available: English As a Second Language

John Ericsson MS 126

424 Leonard St. (Graham Ave./ Bayard St.)

For more information please visit or call

424 Leonard Street: TEL: 718-384-5028 or 718-

388-5585, OACE7@SCHOOLS.NYC.GOV.

Must be 21 & over without HS Equivalency

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

Saturday, March 23, 2019

5:00pm Penny Farco by the St. Theresa Guild

Sunday, March 24, 2019

8:00am Louis Anolfo by Wife

11:30am Giuseppe, Raffaella, Salvatore Tulumello
by Son and Family

Monday, March 25, 2019

7:45am Deceased Members of the Annunciation
Society

Tuesday, March 26, 2019

7:45am Michael Naccari (Good Health)
by Mom Jeanne

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

7:45am Shirley Cubellis by Aimee Rizzo

Thursday, March 28, 2019

7:45am Patrick Solomita by Lucille Montana

Friday, March 29, 2019

7:45am The Pacifico Family by Children

Saturday, March 30, 2019

7:45am Maria Scala by Rosa

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

Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, May 18, 2019 at 11:00 am

St. Thomas Aquinas Church

1550 Hendrickson Street

Brooklyn, New York 11234

Registration Fee: \$35.00 per person.

All couples who have celebrated their marriage in the Catholic Church are invited.

Special recognitions will be given to couples who are celebrating their 25th, 50th, and 75th Anniversary.

To register: Contact the Parish Office at 718-387-0256.

MARCH 24, 2019

**Mass Intentions for the Week
St. Nicholas Church**

Sunday, March 24, 2019

10:30am Open Intention

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

7:00pm Giovanni Feola by Laura Feola

Sunday, March 31, 2019

10:30am Open Intention

Pray For the Sick:

Joe Bavuso, Anthony Porcelli, Carmine Giglio, Cathy Chang, Eleanor Heck, Angela Mauceri, Janet Gonzalez, Rae Pacifico, Sr. Paul Maria Filippelli, C.S.J., 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

Pray For the Recently Deceased:

Aida Luz Lopez, Daniel Distasi, Cherubino Giganti, Theresa Testa, Angela Scannapieco, Joseph Anthony D'Alto

**NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE FOR
EVENING HOLY HOUR**

9pm to 10pm

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

**Morning Prayer Before Morning Masses
at 7:45am & 8:30am**

Please join the priests of our parish for Morning Prayer weekdays during Lent. We will begin our prayer 15 or 20 minutes prior to the start of Mass. Please join us.

CELEBRATING MASS

During Lent, the 10:30 am, 11:30 am, and 7 pm Masses will once again be celebrated "ad orientem", that is facing east, as a way of helping us be spiritually oriented with the Lord who goes to the cross to suffer and die for us. Please do not hesitate to inquire with our priests if you wish for more information on this liturgical gesture.

**Mass Intentions for the Week
St. Cecilia Church**

Sunday, March 24, 2019

9:30am Susan Gernert
Lucy D'Onofrio
Joseph Walls
7:00pm Open Intention

Monday, March 25, 2019

8:30am Arthur Knapp, Jr.

Tuesday, March 26, 2019

8:30am Thelma Korcky (16 Anniversary)

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

8:30am For the Unborn

Thursday, March 28, 2019

8:30am McCauley Family

Friday, March 29, 2019

8:30am Carlos Linares

Saturday, March 30, 2019

8:30am Angela Scannapieco by Dennis Torre & Sonia Rivera

Sunday, March 31, 2019

9:30am Mary Cappiello (Happy Birthday)
Antonio Arlistico by Family
7:00pm For the People

Reconciliation Monday

4/15/19

Confessions: 3 pm – 9 pm at all Churches

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday – May 19, 2019

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

Community Meeting

A local community meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 3rd, with local police to receive your input at 155 Milton Street, Brooklyn, NY 11222 at 7pm.

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

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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