

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Using the best seeds doesn't always guarantee the best plants. An older Italian gentleman straight from Italy gave me these amazing tomato seeds that he claimed produced the best tomatoes ever grown. Without doubt, the fruit he shared with me was a testament to that fact. These tomatoes were amazing! I couldn't wait until the next growing season to plant these seeds and harvest my own tomatoes. The whole experiment ended up a failure. I did everything the gentleman said, but my fruit didn't even come close. What happened? At first I was perplexed, then some years later the light dawned. The problem wasn't the seeds, it was the soil!

You cannot sow seeds in any old place and in a haphazard way and expect them to be at their best. It doesn't work that way. Planting the seeds is the easiest part. Preparing the soil is the challenge. Tilling, mulching, enriching, and building up the nutrients are all required for good fruit. Then after the seeds are planted, more care is required in order to maintain that healthy, nutrient rich environment for those seeds to sprout, grow, and flourish. God happily sows the seeds of his Word. What do we do with them?

If we expect to be a passive bystander and have good fruit magically grow, we are mistaken. Bearing the good fruit of God's Word requires preparation and work. We have to cultivate the soil of our lives so that those seeds can find a proper home. This one thing alone takes a great deal of patience, time, and effort. What kind of preparation have we put into our lives so that we can be a recipient of God's seed? It takes a great deal of soul-searching and ego-checking to properly prepare. God is the ever faithful and persistent sower. If the seeds do not bear fruit the first time, God will come back time and time again, giving it another try.

If we have created a suitable bed for sowing, then once the seed is sown, we must properly maintain them. What is our maintenance plan for the seeds of God's Word? We need not only a source for water but a watering schedule. We need to weed, aerate the soil, nurture the young plants, protect them, and provide proper nutrients. What does our spiritual maintenance plan look like? If we have done all things well, imagine what the seeds of God's Word could produce in us!

15° Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

Las palabras de Isaías en la lectura de este domingo anticipan la bondad y abundancia de Dios en la parábola del sembrador pronunciada en los labios de Jesús. “Como baja la lluvia y la nieve de los cielos y no vuelven allá sin haber empapado la tierra, sin haberla fecundado y haberla hecho germinar, para que dé la simiente para el sembrador el pan para comer, así será la palabra que salga de mi boca. No volverá a mí con las manos vacías, sino después de haber hecho lo que yo quería, y haber llevado a cabo lo que le encargue. (Isaías 55:10-11).

Cada vez que asistimos a Misa y cada vez que leemos la palabra de Dios en casa y en familia Dios abre el corazón de quien la escucha, y si está preparado, el terreno germina y los frutos brotan en abundancia de justicia y amor. Dios espera corazones con esperanza y llenos de fe y gratitud. El Evangelio nos narra que mucha gente estuvo alrededor de Jesús cuando él explicó esta parábola. ¿Qué fue lo que ellos escucharon? Escucharon hablar de un sembrador, de la semilla, de cómo cae la semilla en la tierra, y del cuidado que se debe tener para que dé fruto. ¿Cómo cuida a mi familia para que crezca en compasión y amor de unos para con los otros? ¿Qué tipo de abono y cuidado le doy a mi esposa, esposo e hijos? Este es un reto, el saber trabajar la tierra de cada corazón. En resumen, lo que Dios desea de nosotros es que demos fruto en abundancia.

Readings for the week of July 12, 2020

Sunday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14 [Lk 8:8]/Rom 8:18-23/Mt 13:1-23 or 13:1-9

Monday: Is 1:10-17/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23 [23b]/Mt 10:34—11:1

Tuesday: Is 7:1-9/Ps 48:2-3a, 3b-4, 5-6, 7-8 [cf. 9d]/Mt 11:20-24

Wednesday: Is 10:5-7, 13b-16/Ps 94:5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 14-15 [14a]/Mt 11:25-27

Thursday: Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19/Ps 102:13-14ab and 15, 16-18, 19-21 [20b]/Mt 11:28-30

Friday: Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8/Is 38:10, 11, 12abcd, 16 [cf. 17b]/Mt 12:1-8

Saturday: Mi 2:1-5/Ps 10:1-2, 3-4, 7-8, 14 [12b]/Mt 12:14-21

Next Sunday: Wis 12:13, 16-19/Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16 [5a]/Rom 8:26-27/Mt 13:24-43 or 13:24-30

A Message from Fr. Tom

An important aspect of Matthew's Gospel is the teaching authority and ministry of Jesus. We know Matthew's Gospel contains more words of Jesus than any other Gospel. Like any good teacher, Jesus tries many ways to reach his audience. If he does not reach us by word and example—then he teaches us by parables. Parables present profound truths set in the experience of ordinary life. And so, for us, for the next three Sundays, Jesus will teach us with parables about the nature of the Kingdom of Heaven. Today we are given the 'Parable of the Sower.' The key lesson for us today is the power of God's word. It is effective in bringing forward results—that is fruit—from each one of us—if only it is received properly.

Today, we confront the many ways in which our own attitudes and lack of faith may impede the power of God's Word at work in us. Clearly the message from our Gospel is that problems occur not with God's promises but the ways in which we receive God's Word. The parable indicates the many specific problems that hinder/block the actions of God's Spirit in our lives. It is never about any one thing. The lessons of the parable:

Our faith can be stolen;
Our faith can wither from lack of roots;
Our faith is easily choked by its surroundings;
Our faith can bring forth a remarkable result!!!

What is necessary? Two things: (1) a deeper faith—which means trusting in God and his promises, and (2) the willingness to act upon those promises—His Word. The action of the human will is fundamental for Evangelist Matthew. Faith and action are always closely related. Our faith is sharpened on the whetstone of practice. This relationship between faith and action seems to be something underappreciated in our own day. People in our day seem content for religion to be an eccentric habit—practiced by people who have a 'flair' for religious experiences. How wrong! How sad! How easy it is to dismiss religion in this frame of mind. God gives his Divine life to us. It is a precious gift. And as we are recipients of this great gift, we need to know how to care for it and make it grow. Not unlike a gardener with a plot of land. Lord by the grace offered to us—help us to be the good earth that brings forth a harvest pleasing to you.

Fr. Tom

AN IMPORTANT UPDATE REGARDING THE RE-OPENING OF DMP CHURCHES MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2020—Daily Masses began SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2020—Sunday Masses began

**We will adhere to the normal Daily & Sunday
Schedule**

**St. Francis of Paola Church is Open from
7am to 3pm Weekdays**

**St. Cecilia Chapel is Open from 7:30am to 10pm
Weekdays**

I am very happy to finally begin celebrating Masses in our churches. This past week went very well and Mass attendance—especially for the holiday weekend—was higher than expected. From my brief discussions with people this past weekend, in general, people felt secure in our churches and that we did a responsible job in preparing our churches for social distancing. Thank you to Frank Marino, Rachael Pichard and Maryann Arlia for your help in making this possible!!!

Stage Four is the last step in the normalization of our church life. This is the celebration of First Holy Communion and Confirmations for both our youth and adults. No date has been set for this stage—STAY TUNED!

PLEASE NOTE FOR THE CELEBRATION OF ALL MASSES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

- There will be no entrance procession.
- The music ministry will be limited to the organist and cantor using social distancing.
- No missals, hymnals or worship aids will be available during Mass.
- There will be no exchange of peace
- No holding of hands during the Our Father

July through December

The 2020 Mass Book, July through December, is opened. We will take mass requests over the phone, by e-mail and US mail. Masses are limited to 2 weekend masses and 3 weekday masses. Sat. & Sun. Masses are \$20.00 and weekday masses are \$15.00.

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**St. Francis of Paola Church
Memorial Gifts – July 12, 2020**

BREAD & WINE

Gennaro Adamo by Annette & John D’Arienzo

ST. JOSEPH CANDLES

Joseph Greenberg by Annette & John D’Arienzo

Joseph Greenberg by Annette & John D’Arienzo

BLESSED MOTHER CANDLES

Carmela Vassalotti by Tina Carannante

Carmela Vassalotti by Tina Carannante

Church Cleanliness

The two spaces that are open daily are St. Francis of Paola Church and St. Cecilia Chapel. We are keeping to a regular schedule of sanitizing these spaces several times each day. I am asking parishioners not to touch any statues or other items that might potentially transmit the Corona Virus. Please be assured we continue a vigilant schedule of cleaning. Our full-time staff are now back in the rectory and we are marshalling our forces to keep the churches sanitized and safe for your worship.

**Sign-up for “Give Central” from your
Mobile Phone**

Enrollment is safe and a contactless option for supporting our parish. We appreciate your continued support during this challenging time. From your mobile phone, text to our text-to-engage number: **718-841-0256**. You can text the word **SUNDAY** to make an offertory gift. You can text the word **QUICK** to sign up for email news, to join the parish, or make a prayer request. Or you can scan below QR codes with your phone’s camera to do the same:

<p>OFFERTORY DONATION</p> 	<p>QUICK CONTACT UPDATE</p> 
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**Mass Intentions for the Week
St. Francis of Paola Church**

Saturday, July 11, 2020

5:00pm Open Intention

Sunday, July 12, 2020

8:00am Open Intention

11:30am Rosemary Clementi by Loretta & Frank
Pizza

Monday, July 13, 2020

7:45am Open Intention

Tuesday, July 14, 2020

7:45am Rae Yasiello 5th Anniversary in Heaven

Wednesday, July 15, 2020

7:45am Open Intention

Thursday, July 16, 2020

7:45am Open Intention

10:30am OLMC Fraternal Society

Friday, July 17, 2020

7:45 am Open Intention

Saturday, July 18, 2020

7:45am Open Intention

5:00pm Noreen Vonzwehl by Danielle Minnella
& Abbey Vonzwehl

Sunday, July 19, 2020

8:00am Open Intention

11:30am For the People of Divine Mercy Parish

Important Information/Links

- **For more information about our parish**— check out our parish website: www.divinemercury-brooklyn.org
- No date has been set for the rescheduled celebration of Confirmation
- No date has been set for the rescheduled celebration of First Holy Communion

Our Next Bible Study Via Zoom Covering Matthew’s Gospel/Chapter 11 will be Wednesday evening, July 15, at 7:30pm Via Zoom. Contact Fr. Tom at ‘fathertom@dmbk.org’ for more details.

JULY 12, 2020

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

Sunday, July 12, 2020

10:30am For the People of Divine Mercy Parish
Alberto Rivera
Jose Miguel del Valle

Wednesday, July 15, 2020

7:00pm Open Intention

Sunday, July 19, 2020

10:30am Jose Espinal
Janet Espinal
Jose Juriel Espinal

Pray for the Recently Deceased

Theresa La Trace, Dominick Brancato, Dolores Lindner, Michael Summers, Irene Doxey, Josephine Viola

Please pray for the sick

Munoz Family, Tortora – Washack Family, Patricia Baumbach, John Sierra, Jessica Sierra, Valarie Bruno, Pamela Stemberg, Dominick D’Amato

Parishesonline.com

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.

Role of Ushers and Ministers of Hospitality

As you may know, I have taken steps to acknowledge and encourage the Ministry of Usher here in Divine Mercy Parish. How easy it is to forget their contribution to the life of our parish. Their service is needed now more than ever. God Bless and protect our ushers!! As we start to offer public Masses and services again—the authority of our ushers must be respected and followed. I thank you in advance for the courtesy shown to these dedicated men and women of our parish.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

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

Sunday, July 12, 2020

9:30am Andy Washack: Good Health
7:00pm Open Intention

Monday, July 13, 2020

8:30am Rev. James Krische: Living Intention

Tuesday, July 14, 2020

8:30am Open Intention

Wednesday, July 15, 2020

8:30am Deborah Gelski

Thursday, July 16, 2020

8:30am Delores Mulcahey

Friday, July 17, 2020

8:30am Open Intention

Saturday, July 18, 2020

8:30am In Honor of St. Anthony

Sunday, July 19, 2020

9:30am Anthony L. Del Vicario Anniversary
7:00pm Open Intention

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We are glad to announce that the registrations for our Religious Education Program, for the year 2020-2021, **has OPENED.** The Faith Formation office hours are 8am to 3pm. An Online Registration is available on our parish website.

Given the uncertainty of the times, a **blended learning model for religious education** has been approved by the Diocese of Brooklyn and is the **recommended** format moving forward. This model allows religious education to be done in both an in-class and at-home setting depending on the circumstances. It also addresses the fact that the parent/guardian is the primary educator and formator of their children in the Faith.

For more information please contact Wanda Marty, Director of Faith Formation at 347-521-0068 or send us an email to faithformation@dmbk.org

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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:

Lay Baptismal Ministry

We are looking for couples to begin a Lay Baptismal Ministry here in Divine Mercy. The couples will be trained to facilitate Pre Baptismal preparation and post baptismal encounters for families who are seeking the sacrament of baptism or have recently baptized in our parish Community. Please contact our parish office to register. The Pastor, Priests and Baptismal Ministry will work together as partners in this important endeavor.

Receive Our Parish Bulletin Electronically

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Spiritual Communion Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you.

Never permit me to be separated from you.
