

## 2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God." John the Baptist had an important message to impart. He was called by God to prepare the people of Israel to recognize Jesus' true identity. In a sense, he helped establish credibility for Christ by confirming that he was in fact the Messiah. Jesus didn't just have to claim it on his own; John also "testified" to the fact. We, of course, also benefit from the witness of John the Baptist recorded for us in the Gospels. And we have additional witnesses from the rest of the people throughout the Gospels who knew and recognized Jesus as the Son of God. But we also have the benefit of two thousand years of Church history! We have countless testimonies of saints and believers throughout the centuries who have known Jesus in their own lives and acted accordingly.

This raises two questions. First, are we willing to believe these testimonies from those who have gone before us? Consider how much credence we give to the experiences and the stories of our forefathers and foremothers in the faith--whether they are blood relatives or members of the larger communion of saints. Sometimes these personal accounts of coming to know the Lord are much more powerful than any "proof" or intellectual proposal about Christianity. They do require a degree of faith and trust, but they nonetheless provide us with real evidence about the impact of being close to Christ.

Secondly, let us consider whether or not we are willing to give testimony to who Christ is to us? It's one thing to believe in Jesus; it's another thing to share that faith with others. But like John the Baptist, we are called to share the truth so that others may come to believe.

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### Sunday Collection

The Sunday Collection for January 7/8, 2017 was \$3,370.00.

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### St. Cecilia's Seniors

The St. Cecilia's Seniors of DMP (the over 50 Club) meets every Thursday at 12:30pm in St. Cecilia Auditorium, 26 North Henry Street. Come and enjoy companionship, bingo, coffee and cake.

New Members welcome.

## 2º DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO

Seguimos haciendo camino con Jesús, nuestra vocación de cristianos nos sigue llamando cada domingo a responder con nuestros hechos a una forma de vida nueva y si por alguna razón no hacemos ministerio en las parroquias sí debemos de ser conscientes que el llamado a la santidad es para todos. El Evangelio de hoy es un testimonio de lo que Juan Bautista sabía sobre Jesús. "Este es el Cordero de Dios, el que quita el pecado del mundo" (Jn 1, 29). Él nos revela el cómo se debe de relacionar la persona con Cristo. Se va del conocimiento al testimonio. Jesús crece y Juan se hace pequeño dejándolo actuar en su vida. La sorpresa de este Evangelio va también en la figura del Padre que enaltece a su Hijo que nos salva por medio del Espíritu Santo que mora en nosotros por el bautismo.

¿Cómo vivir este misterio de la presencia de Dios en nuestra vida? ¿Cómo ser santos en medio de la violencia en que vivimos? Les aseguro que Juan Bautista también tuvo muchas dificultades para entender lo que Dios quería de su vida. Pero su secreto fue el asirse a Jesús en una relación íntima hasta dar la vida por él y por el Reino de Dios. Como Juan, simplemente, debemos de abrir nuestros ojos y reconocer y responder a las oportunidades de hacer el ministerio de Jesús, es decir, la cruz de cada día. ¡Gastando nuestra vida por los demás! Nuestro testimonio cuenta, los esfuerzos valen ya sea en la familia, la universidad o el trabajo. Jesús sigue siendo el Cordero de Dios que nos acompaña en nuestras luchas y continúa revelando a nosotros su misterio del Reino de paz y amor.

### Readings for the Week of January 15, 2017

Sunday:	Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34
Monday:	Heb 5:1-10/Ps 110/Mk 2:18-22
Tuesday:	Heb 6:10-20/Ps 111/Mk 2:23-28
Wednesday:	Heb 7:1-3, 15-17/Ps 110/Mk 3:1-6
Thursday:	Heb 7:25--8:6/Ps 40/Mk 3:7-12
Friday:	Heb :6-13/Ps 85/Mk 3:13-19
Saturday:	Heb 9:2-3, 11-14/Ps 47/Mk 3:20-21
Next Sunday:	Is 8:23--9:3/Ps 27/1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### A Message from Fr. Tom

Not too long ago I heard about the tragic death of a well-known actor who appeared in a series of films which glorified highly risky behavior in powerful sports cars or street cars. He died doing the very thing his movies celebrated—driving recklessly at high speed. People in law enforcement tell us that hundreds of young people in America die or are horribly maimed each year trying to emulate the lifestyle and behavior depicted in these movies—movies for which this actor became famous and wealthy. Cars fly through the air as if they had wings and nary an innocent bystander is killed!! No one in the media coverage that I read made note of this disconnect. As you might expect all we got were the usual tearful words of a life *'taken'* too soon.

What can we learn from all of this? Matthew's Gospel uses often the word righteousness. What is righteousness Biblically speaking? I believe this means that our will is integrated with God's will. We are free—but we recognize a bigger picture at work in our lives; something with which our lives have to be in sync in order to live an authentic life. We—in the church—often speak of 'Baptismal promises.' This means that the life of grace offered by the church gives us the strength to live authentic lives in which the outside matches what's happening on the inside.

### Married Couples Retreat

Our parish will sponsor a retreat for married couples the last weekend of March 2017 during Lent. The dates are Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington, L.I. The retreat will have two language tracks—English & Spanish led by Deacons John Warren (English) and Elkin Tamayo (Spanish). There is space for 23 couples and the cost for the entire weekend is \$110.00 per couple. Please call the rectory office to reserve your space.

### Generations of Faith

It has been one year since we introduced the Generations of Faith Campaign to our parish. I am very pleased to say that we made our pledge goal of \$375,000.00, and exceeded it by about \$25,000.00. Of particular note is that at this point, thirty five percent (35%) of our pledges have been fulfilled. I am told this is a very good place to be. Of the many work projects that were mentioned as part of this pledge drive; Divine Mercy Parish has completed every one of them in all three of our churches.

With all the good news there are some areas where we can still make progress. There are still some people that have not made any contribution to the pledge they made during last year's campaign. We have approximately 600 registered families in the parish, but only 135 have made pledges. Please do what you can in the coming days to continue to fulfill your pledge or make one if you have not already done so. It is my hope that every family or person who attends Mass here regularly would find the generosity to make a pledge. If you cannot make a pledge, I ask that you continue to pray for the success of this campaign. Blessed New Year and thank you.

### Help with Snow Removal

Our parish is looking for persons willing to be on call to help shovel snow when the emergency arises. The parish will pay for your service to the church. If interested, please call the rectory office and we will fill you in on the compensation offered. Thanks.

Fr. Tom

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### Join the St. Anthony Society for "Carnevale Dinner"

Fat Tuesday, February 28, 2017 -- 6 to 9 PM

In the St. Francis of Paola Auditorium

Tickets are \$25 and will be available starting January 10<sup>th</sup>, in the Rectory. Limited number of tickets

available. This event will sell out again. Don't wait!

For more information please contact Christina Scotti  
(718-782-3881).

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### Ladies Movie Night

Join us on Sunday, January 15, at 5:30pm in the St. Francis of Paola Rectory Basement. We'll be showing the musical romantic comedy "Mamma Mia" based on the Broadway play of the same name. Refreshments will be served and we will have a 50/50 raffle. This movie is rated PG-13: parents urged to be cautious as some material may be inappropriate for pre-teenagers.

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### New York City Universal Pre-K

Queens of the Rosary Catholic Academy—our affiliated school—would like to remind all members of the parish community that the application period for New York City's Universal Pre-K begins January 17.

Queen of the Rosary participates in the UPK program and invites you to select their school for your child. Please feel free to call the school for more information or to schedule a tour.

2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**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)*

**Here am I Lord; I come to do your will. (Ps.40:2)**

As we reflect on the words of Psalm 40 we pray for the strength and courage to reach out to help those who are in need of understanding, compassion and assistance in daily living. As a faith community, let us stand together before our Lord and Savior and declare our commitment to do His will.

Specific item needed this week: **Canned meats (stew, hash, etc.)**

Food Pantry Coordinator & Volunteers

**St. Francis of Paola Church  
Memorial Gifts – January 15, 2017**

**ST. JOSEPH CANDLES**

Daniel Ullmann by Marie & Joe Bavuso

Daniel Ullmann by Marie & Joe Bavuso

**Affordable Housing**

Applications are now being accepted for affordable housing at 325 Kent Apts, 325 Kent Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11249

Address to obtain paper applications:

325 Kent Apts.

243 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Box 425

New York, New York 10016

We encourage interested persons to apply online at

[www.nyc.gov/housingconnect](http://www.nyc.gov/housingconnect).

Please remember that online applications must be submitted by the deadline date and that the applications received after this deadline date will not be considered. Deadline date is January 30, 2017.

**Thank You**

The Rosary Society wishes to thank all our parishioners for their extraordinary generosity in supporting our recent **Christmas Giving Tree**. Your kindness provided 208 gifts for the 22 HIV-POSITIVE orphaned children and adolescents living at Incarnation Children’s Services. Be assured that your donations brightened their lives and helped to remind them how special they are.

Best wishes for a peaceful and blessed New Year!

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

**Saturday, January 14, 2017**

5:00pm

Sara Porcelli

by Anthony Porcelli & Family

**Sunday, January 15, 2017**

8:00am

For the People of Divine Mercy Parish

11:30am

Giovanna DeSarno by Marie Sepe

**Monday, January 16, 2017**

7:45am

Open Intention

**Tuesday, January 17, 2017**

7:45am

Garavuso Family by Daughter

**Wednesday, January 18, 2017**

7:45am

Saveria & Raffaele DeSarno

by Mr. & Mrs. A. DeSarno

**Thursday, January 19, 2017**

7:45am

Tina De Mieri by Imperato Family

**Friday, January 20, 2017**

7:45am

In Honor St. Sebastian by Frasca Family

**Saturday, January 21, 2017**

7:45am

Open Intention

5:00pm

Anthony & Jennie Torre

by Torre Family

**Sunday, January 22, 2017**

8:00am

Gloria Sekac by Marie Carrella

11:30am

Gerard Cirone by Margaret Pizzulli

**Maturing in God / St. Joseph Retreat Center**

January 19<sup>th</sup> – 1pm to 3pm / \$20 per session

*Aging... The opportunity of a lifetime-* developed by Richard P. Johnson, PH.D. is a short course in living agelessly in 12 powerful lessons. (This program will be given over a 2 year period) Each session will help you tap the wisdom and grace that comes with learning from the Master Teacher. You’ll discover the keys to maturing in the way God intended; changing your attitudes, seeking love everywhere, accepting your true self, letting go of anger, forgiving yourself and others, delighting in connectedness, living in the now, celebrating faith, giving of yourself, making your feelings work, finding deep meaning and balancing your life, everything you need to develop your “spiritual vitality”. Each session stands alone. For more information: St. Joseph Retreat Center Tel 718-720-1097 or website: sjretreatcenter.org.

JANUARY 15, 2017

## Mass Intentions for the Week St. Nicholas Church

### Sunday, January 15, 2017

10:30am Nilda Morales by Margarita Quinones  
12:45pm Olga Elliott by Olga Navarro & Family

### Sunday, January 22, 2017

10:30am In Thanksgiving by Josephine Elizee  
12:45pm Vincent Visto by Carreiras Family

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### Pray For the Sick

Seymour Sarrel, Charline Vine, Anne Sansilippo, Arthur Weber, Rae Pacifico, Diane James, Frank Cremato, Pam Curcio, Jennifer, Craig Washack, Patricia Clarke, Elizabeth Lucivero, Wanda Zadwarny, Carmella Caiafa, Maureen Conlon, Sister Rose Ellen McCann C.S.J., Raul Carreiras, Christina Giron, Patrick Del Vicario

### Pray for Our Recently Deceased

Theresa Prevete, Alvin Cox, John Walsh, Nora Goff, Patricia Krieger, Louise M. Cyrus, Michael J. Piro, Nicholas La Veglia

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### Silent Meditation Group

All are welcome in Divine Mercy Parish's Silent Meditation Group. Our silent prayer is based on the teaching and writing of Benedictine Monk, John Main. We will meet in St. Cecilia's Chapel on Herbert Street, every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday evening after 7:00pm Mass, from 8:00pm until 8:30pm. The next date: January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017.

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### Prayer and Healing

Do you know someone who is carrying the grief of a past abortion? There is help and hope available and the pain and sorrow of abortion need not endure for a lifetime. Call the Sisters of Life at (866) 575-0075 (toll free) or email [hopeandhealing@sistersoflife.org](mailto:hopeandhealing@sistersoflife.org). All calls are confidential.

For additional tri-state retreats and information see Lumina Hope and Healing after abortion [www.postabortionhelp.org](http://www.postabortionhelp.org) or email [Lumina@postabortionhelp.org](mailto:Lumina@postabortionhelp.org).

Days and Prayer and Healing for Men – for more information or to register for men please call Lumina at 877-586-4621 or [Lumina@postabortionhelp.org](mailto:Lumina@postabortionhelp.org).

## Mass Intentions for the Week St. Cecilia Church

### Sunday, January 15, 2017

9:30am Barney & Angie Cavallo  
Lucy & Peter La Veglia  
Caliendo Family  
Thomas Petrowski  
7:00pm Open Intention

### Monday, January 16, 2017

8:30am Open Intention

### Tuesday, January 17, 2017

8:30am Open Intention

### Wednesday, January 18, 2017

8:30am Angelo Camacho

### Thursday, January 19, 2017

8:30am Open Intention

### Friday, January 20, 2017

8:30am Open Intention

### Saturday, January 21, 2017

8:30am Rose Pelletier

### Sunday, January 22, 2017

9:30am For the People of Divine Mercy Parish  
7:00pm Open Intention

## St. Cecilia Church

### Memorial Gifts – January 15, 2017

#### BREAD & WINE

John, Lillian, John, Rose Marie Young by Lori Sefcik

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### Parish Office

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, January 16, 2017 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

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### St. Vincent De Paul Gives Back

The St. Vincent De Paul Society will give back to our church \$50/\$100 per vehicle for each car, truck or van, running or not that you would like to dispose of. Call 718-491-2525 for more information.

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### Masses

The Mass Book for 2017 is opened. Call or visit our Parish office, 219 Conselyea Street to reserve a Mass.

**END OF BULLETIN**  
**ANY TEXT OR GRAPHICS ENTERED ON THIS PAGE**  
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CHURCH NAME: **Divine Mercy Parish**

CHURCH CITY: **Brooklyn, NY**

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FILENAME: **04-0284.53b**

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

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

EDITOR/ CONTACT: **Maryann**

CURRENT FORMAT: **EBSWUE**

Comments:

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**Available On-line** You can locate Divine Mercy Parish in Brooklyn, New York on-line at [www.seekandfind.com](http://www.seekandfind.com) and sign up to receive via email notification our weekly parish bulletin. Stay up to date on all parish events and activities—even if you are away for the weekend—sign up today

### **Memorial Gifts At Divine Mercy Parish**

Bread & Wine      Sanctuary Lamp      Tabernacle Candles      Altar Candles      Blessed Mother Candles      St. Joseph Candles      Memorial Gifts are a wonderful way to honor and remember your loved ones. Please come to the Rectory (or call) for information on available dates.      Also available are Tree of Life Leaves and Blessed Mother Yearly Candles (this candle is lit for a year). All memorials can be In Honor Of or Remembrance Of a family member or friend.

### **A Diocesan Lenten Pilgrimage To Catholic Cuba**

Join Bishop Octavio Cisneros as Spiritual Director, March 24-31, 2017 on a Celestial Cruise, with visits to Our Lady of Cobre, Havana, Punta Frances, Cienfuegas. Call 1-800-CATHOLIC X 208 for more info.