

5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"You are the light of the world." Speaking to his followers, Jesus tells them of the influence they are meant to have. Like the seasoning that gives food its flavor, they are to be "the salt of the earth" and like a lamp on a lampstand that "gives light to all in the house." Clearly, their influence on the people around them is meant to be positive and substantial. But what is the source of this irreplaceable influence?

Elsewhere in the Gospels, Jesus declares that HE is "the light of the world" (cf. Jn 8:12). So when he tells his disciples that "your light must shine before others," he is speaking about the light that comes from following him, from believing in him, from living their lives for him and with him. The light of Christ brightens the world, showing us the truth and meaning of our existence. And to the extent that we have that light in our hearts, it naturally spreads out to impact those around us.

So, today we must ask ourselves whether or not we are shining the way we are meant to as Christians. Do we brighten up our families, our workplaces, our neighborhoods, and our parishes? Are people encouraged, inspired, edified, and supported by our presence? Do we bring the kind of flavor that enriches life with a taste of the authentic truth, beauty, and goodness that comes from God alone? Or have we become a bit bland, like salt that "loses its taste" or light that is hidden "under a bushel basket"? It's important to be on guard against any tendency to let our faith be reduced to a mere routine or ritual. Rather, when we nurture our faith to be a living force that defines us and our actions, it will be a source of joy and renewal not only for us, but for the whole world.

Sunday Collection

The Sunday Collection for January 28/29, 2017 was \$3,762.00.

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

5º DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO

En la liturgia de este domingo veremos como Jesús usa sal y luz para describir las cualidades de los discípulos. A la vez debemos de observar que este Evangelio usa dos metáforas con importancia positiva y negativa. Por un lado la sal da sabor pero si se vuelve insípida ya no sirve para nada. La luz es para alumbrar y debe estar en lo alto, sin embargo, si se la tapa con un cajón de nada sirve. Lo que Jesús quiere decir es que los discípulos deben cuidar y preservar la misión encomendada por él. La recomendación es que los que trabajen para anunciar el Reino deben ser fieles a la palabra con acciones donde brille la presencia de Dios en cada una de sus actos. Se necesita luz y sabor en el ministerio: "Brille la luz de ustedes ante los hombres" (Mt 5, 16).

Es decir, no se vale decir que se hace todo bien y cumplimos los mandamientos, que asistimos a Misa y rezamos las oraciones, si no lo probamos con hechos. Seguir a Jesús en su misterio de morir y resucitar no es para gente débil. Cada día, entonces, nosotros tenemos que escoger entre dos cosas. El ser discípulos efectivos o mediocres. Al participar en los ministerios parroquiales cualquiera que sea y hacerlo con todo el corazón para el bien de otras personas es ser sal y luz. Ser excelentes padres de familia, buenos estudiantes y trabajadores donde brille el amor de Dios es ser sal y luz. Así que pudiera mencionar cientos de frases; sé que cada uno tiene su responsabilidad en esta metáfora que Jesús nos enseña hoy.

Beginning Experience

The loss of a spouse through death, divorce or separation is one of life's most traumatic experiences; often resulting in feelings of loneliness and grief. When those feelings remain, it can be overwhelming and hard to move forward.

The Beginning Experience weekend is a grace filled time to focus on you, to feel understood by peers and experience a sense of peace and a renewed hope for the future.

The next weekend is on Long Island at the Montfort Spiritual Center, Bay Shore on February 24th—26th, 2017. For information and reservations, call MARY at (516-) 413-6209 or JEAN at (631) 903-0973, JIM at (718) 474-3779 or JOHN at (516) 822-0635.

A Message from Fr. Tom

The context of the Gospel today is that Jesus has just begun the Sermon on the Mount. He sets the conditions by which one may participate in the salvific plan of God and enter into the kingdom. These conditions proclaimed by Jesus are known as the Beatitudes. "Blessed are the poor, the meek, those who mourn, and who hunger and thirst for righteousness." Then Jesus speaks the words we hear in today's Gospel: You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world.

Perhaps we forget that first initial taste or desire—the salt—that attracted us to follow Jesus. Perhaps we do not consciously turn off the light, but are content that our light remains hidden. The danger for us is that we nullify or negate the power of God at work within us. Take some time today to reflect upon what gifts God has given you and how you may let those gifts be salt and light for others.

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. 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. Some people have not made any payment to the pledge they made during last year's campaign. We ask you to consider starting your payments now. Please make your pledge payable to *Catholic Foundation for Brooklyn and Queens*, and send to: Generations of Faith Campaign Office, P.O. Box 7356, Berlin, CT 06037. And make your check out to Catholic Foundation for Brooklyn and Queens.

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. I ask that you continue to pray for the success of this campaign.

Assistance w/Immigration Concerns

We have several handouts on our vestibule tables in both English and Spanish offering assistance for those affected by the recent changes in immigration policy. There will also be a meeting sponsored by the Legal Aid Society on Thursday, February 9th in Manhattan where you may seek help in person. Please take a handout for further details.

Play Dates for Small Children

There will be a meeting for anyone interested in bringing their child to a play date held on our parish property. The meeting will take place on Tuesday morning, February 7th at 10am in St. Francis of Paola Auditorium. We will discuss times, locations and format and collaborate with your suggestions to offer a beneficial program.

Join the St. Anthony Society for "Carnevale Dinner"

Fat Tuesday, February 28th, 2017 -- 6 to 9 PM
In the St. Francis of Paola Auditorium
Tickets are \$25.00

Limited number of tickets available. This event will sell out again. Don't wait! For more information please contact the rectory or Christina Scotti (718-782-3881).

Married Couples Retreat

Our parish will sponsor a retreat for married couples the last weekend of March during Lent. The dates are Friday, March 24th to Sunday, March 26th 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.

The Vicariate of Black Catholic Concerns Diocese of Brooklyn/Queens & The Rockville Centre Office of Multicultural Diversity

Invites you to their, Black History Month Mass of Thanksgiving, Sun., Feb. 19th, 2017 at 4:30pm to be held at the Immaculate Conception Center, 7200 Douglaston Pkwy, Douglaston NY. For more information please contact Elreta Fowler, 718-774-3806

5TH 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)

Our Holy Father Pope Francis wants a Church that is poor for the sake of the poor. We need each and every one of us, to embrace such a mission. That is the mission of every Christian because that is the mission of Jesus Church.

When we serve the poor by supporting our parish pantry or serving at the neighboring homeless shelter, it is an act of faith. It is an act of the parish coming together because Christ is there within us ministering to those who are less fortunate, and, more important, He is present in them because it is with them, not us, that Jesus identifies most.

Specific item needed this week: **Condiments- mayonnaise, mustard, catsup**

Food Pantry Coordinator & Volunteers

St. Francis of Paola Church

Memorial Gifts – February 5, 2017

BREAD & WINE

Domenick D’Alto by Annette Marino-Dariento

SAINT JOSPEH CANDLES

Erminio Fiore by Children

Erminio Fiore by Children

Divine Mercy Parish Choir

The Parish Choir will be meeting regularly in the St. Francis of Paola Choir Loft after the Saturday 5PM Mass. Rehearsal is open to anybody who wishes to sing with us. No prior singing background is required. Please speak to our Director of Music, Justin Fields, for more details.

Rosary Society of DMP

The next meeting of the Rosary Society will take place this Wednesday, February 8th at 7:30pm in the basement of St. Cecilia’ Rectory. Enter through the garage area on Monitor Street and down the stairs. New members welcome.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

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

Saturday, February 4, 2017

5:00pm Frances Tizzio by Family

Sunday, February 5, 2017

8:00am Joseph & Pauline Beneventin
by Marie & Dom Perrotto

11:30am For the People of Divine Mercy Parish

Monday, February 6, 2017

7:45am Maria Goconda by Ada Maestrini

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

7:45am Carol Fagan
by Carmelo & Diana Altadonna

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

7:45am Lucy & Fred Cox by Family

Thursday, February 9, 2017

7:45am Erminio Fiore by Children

Friday, February 10, 2017

7:45am Charles Vecchione
by daughter Diane & Sal

Saturday, February 11, 2017

7:45am Domenico Antonio Babino by
Franchesco Filimino Babino & Family

5:00pm Mannetta Family by Virginia Mannetta

Sunday, February 12, 2017

8:00am Antonio DeSarno by Marie Sepe

11:30am Bobbe Angiolletti by Family

Saint Theresa Guild

The next meeting of the St. Theresa Guild will take place this Thursday, February 9th, 2017 at 7:30pm in the St. Francis of Paola rectory basement.

Please bring a Valentine themed raffle gift.

Youth Service Event

This Sunday, February 5th, all young people are invited to a service project at St. Nicholas Church from 1:15 - 3:15pm. If your child needs service hours, this is the perfect event for him/her!

Please have lunch beforehand.

Hope to see you there!!

FEBRUARY 5, 2017

Mass Intentions for the Week

St. Nicholas Church

Sunday, February 5, 2017

10:30am Paulette Menard Family by Paulette
12:45pm Paul Pallotta
by Richey's Wine & Liquors

Sunday, February 12, 2017

10:30am For Divine Mercy by Paulette Family
Nancy & Patricio Quizhpe
by Leon Quizhpe
Osualdo Bautista by Leon Quizhpe
Fe Evangelista by Family
Nena Acosta by Family
12:45pm For the People of Divine Mercy Parish

Pray For the Sick

Wanda Zadwarny, Carmella Caiafa, Maureen Conlon, Sister Rose Ellen McCann C.S.J., Raul Carreiras, Christina Giron, Patrick Del Vicario, Dora Lo Gosso, John Porcelli, Nancy & Vinny Gonzalas, Marti Latterman, Rae Pacifico, David Pelletier, Richard Schloop, Frank Cremato, Nicolet Latore, Maddox Moises, Bob Petruzzo, Louis Clappi, Patraicia Clarke, Martha Pulgarin, Sister Helen Schmidt, I.N.J. Ben Brancato, Marion & Florence De Gruccio

Pray for Our Recently Deceased

Louise M. Cyrus, Michael J. Piro, Nicholas La Veglia, Kathleen Egan, Andy Gonzales

Youth After School Program

Our Parish's after school program started Friday February 3rd. All young people in grades 4-12 (ages 10-18) are welcome to participate! The program will meet in the St. Francis Rectory Basement (219 Conselyea St.) from 2:30-6:00pm for a brief time of prayer and reflection, followed by focused study time, and lastly time for socializing.

Youth Retreat Opportunity

All high schoolers and young adults, ages 15-30 are invited to attend Youth 2000's retreat *Face 2 Face*. This three day retreat, February 17, 18 and 19 will be at St. Mark's Church in Sheepshead Bay. This Eucharist-centered retreat is not to be missed, and there is a suggested donation of \$35!

For more information about these, and for registration, call the parish office (718)-387-0256 or email Lauren at youth@dmbk.org.

Mass Intentions for the Week

St. Cecilia Church

Sunday, February 5, 2017

9:30am Tessie & Julia Caliendo
Fred Lovero
Rosary Society
Kenny Tenzycki
In Thanksgiving by Josephine Elizee
Bill & Jere Horne
7:00pm For those who have no one to pray for them

Monday, February 6, 2017

8:30am Ben Brancato: Speedy Recovery

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

8:30am Vincent & Mary Loquercio

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

8:30am Open Intention

Thursday, February 9, 2017

8:30am Robert Fisher

Friday, February 10, 2017

8:30am Ann & Joann Sabatino

Saturday, February 11, 2017

8:30am Open Intention

Sunday, February 12, 2017

9:30am Jo & Ed Collins
Eamon & Ray McGinn
Thomas Petrowski
Kenny Tenzycki
Maria L. Rodriguez
7:00pm For those who have no one to pray for them

Ladies Movie Night

Join us on Sunday, February 12, at 5:30pm in the St. Francis of Paola Rectory Basement. We'll be showing the romantic comedy "Only You" starring Marisa Tomei (as a woman whose search for her soul mate leads her to Italy where she meets her destiny) and Robert Downey Jr. This movie was filmed on location in Italy and the scenes are just beautiful. Refreshments will be served and we will have a 50/50 raffle. This movie is rated PG for some mild sensuality and language.

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Comments:

Available On-line You can locate Divine Mercy Parish in Brooklyn, New York on-line at 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.

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.