

1st SUNDAY OF LENT

"He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry." And no surprise! That's an incredibly long time to fast. Undoubtedly Jesus' physical and emotional strength would have been extremely weak after enduring such a marathon of abstinence. And isn't it interesting that the "tempter" should choose to appear at this particular moment? When bread must have sounded better than ever, the devil comes and tests Jesus, saying, "Command that these stones become loaves of bread."

How hard it must have been to resist! Surely, Jesus could have caved in. He could have shown the devil his power and had a bite to eat while he was at it but he didn't. Instead, Jesus relied upon the word of God, and battled the devil by holding fast to the truth. "One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God."

What an excellent model this provides for us. We too face temptation of various kinds and degrees. As the first reading from Genesis reminds us, the "cunning" serpent has been slithering around humanity from the beginning of time. Even when we have all that we need, the devil makes us want more, or want different, than what we have. Today's Gospel calls Satan "the tempter" for good reason. He tempts us to break God's law as Adam and Eve did when they ate from the tree "in the middle of the garden." But Jesus shows us the right response by battling the devil with the truth of God's word. Whatever temptations might beset us, there is power in clinging to the truths that we find in Scripture. In our moments of trial, may we have the strength to claim these truths as our own and, like Jesus, defeat the deceit of the devil.

Sunday Collection

The Sunday Collection for February 25 & 26, 2017 was \$ 3,606.00.

National Italian Apostolate

Lenten Day of Prayer March 18, 2017

Immaculate Conception Center, Douglaston Parkway
Presented by Father Giacomo Sgroi of the Diocese of Monreale, in Sicily. Spiritual Conferences, Mass, Lenten Devotions.

The day of prayer begins at 10am with arrival and registration at 9:30am. The cost of the day is \$20 and includes hot lunch. Contact the Rectory if interested.

1er DOMINGO DE CUARESMA

Cada año en el primer domingo de Cuaresma escuchamos la misma historia de las tentaciones de Jesús en el desierto. Quizá pensamos qué rápido pasó el año, ¡ya es Cuaresma otra vez! Hoy simplemente nos concretamos en lo que en sí es la tentación. Pero, esta vez, es bueno reflexionar en los métodos que hemos estado usando para no caer en las tentaciones que cada día nos encontramos en la vida. El Evangelio nos dice que "Jesús fue conducido por el Espíritu al desierto para ser tentado por el demonio. Pasó cuarenta días y cuarenta noches sin comer y, al final, tuvo hambre" (Mt 4, 1).

Las tentaciones son esencialmente un incentivo para poner nuestros deseos y necesidades primero, dando hincapié a no ver las necesidades de los demás. ¿Entonces? El significado de resistir a la tentación es dar oportunidad a resistir al egoísmo, falta de humildad y sinceridad que es de lo que realmente están llenos los actos de nuestra vida. Como Jesús, para decir no a las malas influencias de la sociedad de hoy debemos de rodearnos de la misericordia de Dios. Preguntémonos, pues, ¿a que realmente resisto yo? ¿Pongo a Dios primero en mi vida para darme fuerza a decir no a la tentación? Recordemos que las tentaciones llegan cuando la persona se encuentra en un estado de vulnerabilidad. Jesús sintió hambre, fue retado como Hijo de Dios e invitado a adorar al mal. La clave, pues, para rechazar el mal es aceptar que solamente con la protección de Dios se tiene la fuerza para decir no a la tentación. Acudamos al sacramento de la reconciliación para recibir la gracia de Dios en esta Cuaresma que da comienzo.

Rosary Society of DMP

The next meeting of the Rosary Society will take place on Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at 7:30pm in the rectory basement of St. Cecilia. Please enter through the garage area on Monitor Street and down the stairs. New members are always welcome.

Youth After School Program

Our Parish's After School Program has started. 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.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Lent is for Listening

Our mission as a Catholic parish is to help people encounter Christ in their lives. This is called “Evangelization.” The principal tool of evangelization is listening—not talking. Following the direction of Pope Francis, I wish to embark on a Lenten effort for Evangelization which requires your participation. This involves the whole parish. It is easier than you might think.

I am asking that you invite 5 or 6 people to your home for a one hour meeting with myself. Invite only people who you know have not gone to church in a long time, who might be confused about Church teachings, or who are generally uncomfortable with religion in their lives. No food, no drink, no coffee please—just people!

It is not my goal to convince people of anything or argue with anybody. I just want to listen. I can listen in English, Spanish, and I have a basic working knowledge of Italian. So language is not a problem. All you have to do is call the office to arrange for a visit and invite people to your house.

Needless to say, managing three churches and 13 buildings is not easy. But I believe so strongly in this that I am willing to do whatever it takes to make this work and to make myself available to YOU! Obviously, I cannot do this alone. Please call the rectory office to participate at (718) 387-0256.

God Bless you this Lent.

Fr. Tom

Stations of the Cross Every Week

Thursday's	St. Cecilia	12:30pm
Friday's	St. Francis	7pm (Italian/English)
Friday's	St. Nicholas	7pm (Spanish)

St. Theresa Guild

The next meeting of the St. Theresa Guild will take place on Thursday, March 9, 2017, at 7pm in the St. Francis of Paola rectory basement. Please note the earlier start time which will allow us to serve refreshments and have a brief business meeting immediately followed by the movie “**Risen**” (at approximately 7:30pm). No raffles will be sold this evening. New members are always welcome.

Daylight Savings Time

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 12, please remember to move your clocks forward 1 hour the night before.

A Message from Fr. Tom

The temptations of Jesus in the desert are one of the most powerful experiences in the life of Jesus. They are an endless source of reflection for all of us. This Gospel invites us to focus on two key themes that will help us during this time of Lent. They are:

- The meaning and value of freedom.
- The importance of service in the Kingdom.

One of the hardest lessons of the Christian life to learn and to accept is that we are loved by God even in those moments of desolation when we are empty. The fast of 40 days teaches us that Jesus holds to his identity as the beloved son who does the Father's will and is fortified by this relationship while at the same time being empty—needy—desperately hungry. Help us Lord this Lent to imitate the fidelity of Jesus who emptied himself so that our lives may become filled with a deeper understanding of the Father's love when we find ourselves in those moments of emptiness and temptation.

Lenten Regulations

The Holy Season of Lent has begun – the forty days of preparation before Easter Sunday. Please note the following regulations:

Abstinence — all the faithful who have reached 14 years of age are required to abstain totally from meat on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent.

Fasting — all the faithful between the ages of 18 and 59 inclusive are bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This practice involves limiting oneself to a single full meal and avoiding food between meals. Light sustenance may also be taken on two other occasions during the day.

Almsgiving — the bishops of the United States have recommended abstinence from meat as a penance for all Fridays of the year. Individuals may substitute for that tradition some other practice of self-denial. Acts of charity are an essential act for all Christians during the year, but most especially during Lent.

Penance & Eucharist — the faithful are encouraged to celebrate the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Penance frequently during the Lenten Season. Reconciliation Monday this year is on Monday, April 10. All of our Churches will be open from 3pm to 9pm offering the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

FIRST 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)

We welcome the Lenten season with this prayer: Father, we stand on the doorstep of spring and the promise of new energy. Direct our hearts and efforts toward a real and active participation in the season of Lent by serving those in the greatest need. Guide us through this time to the joy of Easter. Amen.

Dear friends, your generosity in supporting our pantry has a very positive effect on many in our community. We are humbly grateful for the good work that you do in His name.

Specific items needed this week: **Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate**

Food Pantry Coordinator & Volunteers

St. Francis of Paola Church

Memorial Gifts – March 5, 2017

BREAD & WINE

Charlie Vecchione by Teresa Puccio & Family

ARISE Together in Christ

Interested in sharing how God is working in your life within the context of everyday experiences, Scripture & Catholic Tradition?

Then join one of our **ARISE** faith-sharing groups for **Lent:**

- Wednesday Group meets 7:30 - 9:00pm
- Thursday Group meets 8:00 – 9:30pm
- Friday Group meets 7:00 – 8:30pm

Additional Spanish-speaking ARISE groups will also be available.

ARISE groups are now meeting, but there's still time to sign-up! **So please sign-up today:**

- Complete the sign-up card located on the table in the back of the churches and return it to the rectory

OR

- Call one of our ARISE parish team coordinators:

Dennis Torre – for ARISE in English 718-644-8036

Amelia Castro – for ARISE in Spanish 347-787-4059

Please pray for spiritual renewal and the success of ARISE!

Mass Intentions for the Week St. Francis of Paola Church

Saturday, March 4, 2017

5:00pm For The People of Divine Mercy Parish

Sunday, March 5, 2017

8:00am Rocco Cimino

by Maria Cimino & Family

11:30am Charles Vecchione by daughter Diane

Monday, March 6, 2017

7:45am Infantino Family by Rita DeMartino

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

7:45am Pacifico Family by Children

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

7:45am Saverio DeStefano by Wife & Children

Thursday, March 9, 2017

7:45am Salvatore Avalone

by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Stallone

Friday, March 10, 2017

7:45am Tom Lorenzo by Lorenzo Family

Saturday, March 11, 2017

7:45am Giuditta DiCiero by Perez Family

5:00pm Priscilla (Pat) Lorenzo
by Lorenzo Family

Sunday, March 12, 2017

8:00am For The People of Divine Mercy Parish

11:30am San Sabino

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.

Religious Education Time & Talent

Nicholas H. - shared toys with his friends

Jadeyn M. - spent time praying for the sick

Antonio A. - helped his mom set-up for fundraiser

Rosario G. - spent time praying to the Lord

MARCH 5, 2017

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

Sunday, March 5, 2017

10:30am Ramona Aridia Almonte
Marcos Gabriel Perez
12:45pm Antoinette Giuliano
by Dennis Torre & Sonia Rivera

Sunday, March 12, 2017

10:30am For The Holy Souls in Purgatory
12:45pm Dominick D'Alto
by Mr. & Mrs. J. Baldassarre

Pray For the Sick

Please remember in your prayers those who are ill

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, Patricia Clarke, Martha Pulgarin, Sister Helen Schmidt I.N.J., Ben Brancato, Marion & Florence De Gruccio, Wanda Zadwarny, Carmella Caiafa, Luann Rizzo, Margaret Cosentino, Rosa Ramos

Pray for Our Recently Deceased

Eleanor Socci, Anna Rufrano, Kathleen Fromich

**Notice from the Office of
Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio**

Abstaining from meat on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent is one of the penitential practices required of all the faithful who have attained the age of fourteen. This year, the Feast of St. Patrick, March 17, 2017, falls on a Friday in Lent. Given the parades and many celebrations that occur on this day and in view of the fact that it is the patronal feast of our neighbors in the Archdiocese of New York, in accord with the norm of law, I hereby grant to all Catholics of the Diocese of Brooklyn as well as all present here that day, a dispensation from abstinence from meat and meat products. I strongly encourage all who make use of this dispensation to engage in another sacrificial or charitable act that day.

Young Families – Play Dates

Tuesday & Thursday at St. Francis Auditorium - time 10am to 12pm and Wednesday at St. Cecilia's Auditorium - time 10am to 12pm. All children are welcome.

Any questions email: youth@dmbk.org.

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

Sunday, March 5, 2017

9:30am Jo & Ed Collins
Eamon & Ray McGinn
Tom Sabatino
Mary Florimonte
Frank Florimonte Jr.
The Rosary Society
7:00pm Henry K. Kotlinski

Monday, March 6, 2017

8:30am Anna Rufrano

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

8:30am Roger Kobel

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

8:30am Thanksgiving for St. Joseph

Thursday, March 9, 2017

8:30am Nicholas La Veglia

Friday, March 10, 2017

8:30am Carolyn Sekac Sices by Laurie Farrell

Saturday, March 11, 2017

8:30am Sr. Catherine Atkins C.S.J.

Sunday, March 12, 2017

9:30am Connie & Pat Lomuto
Christine Pizzo
Frank & Tessie Ricci
Michael & Anna San Pietro
Frank & Maria Christina San Pietro
Barney & Angie Cavallo
Maureen Pastina
7:00pm Open Intention

Ladies Movie Night

Join us on Sunday, March 12, at 5:30pm in the St. Francis of Paola Rectory Basement. We'll be showing the 1963 classic musical comedy "Bye Bye Birdie" starring Dick Van Dyke and Ann Margaret. Refreshments will be served and we will have a 50/50 raffle. This movie was rated G in 1963 but would likely have earned a PG rating by today's standards.

Divine Mercy Parish Choir

The Parish Choir will be meeting regularly in the St. Francis of Paola Choir Loft after the Saturday 5pm Mass.

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ANY TEXT OR GRAPHICS ENTERED ON THIS PAGE
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CURRENT FORMAT: EBSWUE

Comments:

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.

Registration for Camp Veritas

Camp Veritas Mount Saint Mary's College
Newburg, New York, July 16 – 22, 2017
Camp Veritas Camp Lakota, Wurtsboro, New York
August 13 – 19, 2017

Camp Veritas is a one week sleep away pilgrimage experience for teens going into the 7th grade through 12th grade. The schedule is play-and-pray with a full immersion in the Catholic Faith through sacraments and activities. Come get to know other kids your age and experience a week of sports, activities, prayer, and fun! This week of faith and fun is probably the most beneficial gift you could give your teen. Register at CampVeritas.com via the "Camp-in-touch" portal before April 1, for the early bird rate. Any question contact Lauren at youth@dmbk.org or the Rectory at 718-387-0256.