

2nd Sunday of Advent

"In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar...and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee...and Lysanias was tetrach of..." Did you need to pinch yourself awake during the first few lines of this Sunday's Gospel? John the Baptist received quite a prelude today as Luke described the religious and political leadership of the time period. Scripture is divinely inspired, and we believe that everything that made it into the Bible is there for a reason. These lines remind us of an important truth. The Christmas story isn't a fairy tale or nursery rhyme. It's not a parable we say to give meaning to the holiday. At Christmas, God's presence is made tangible in a precise moment in time. The birth of Christ is a historical event. As precursor to Jesus' preaching, the ministry of John the Baptist is also a historical event.

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." John's call to repentance and the forgiveness of sins happened in a particular time and place. But that does not mean it is limited to first century Palestine! God continues to move in our daily lives. What we hear in today's Gospel - and what we anticipate at Christmas - occurs in our daily lives. God works in concrete ways in time and space. He did that 2,000 years ago, and He continues to do so today!

This Sunday, examine your own Christmas preparations. Is there anything you need to repent of before the Christmas season? Are there low points in your life, valleys to "be filled" by the love of God? Are their mountainous obstacles in your spiritual life? How can they be "made low"? Are you making decisions that have moved you away from God? This Advent season is the time for them to "be made straight and ? made smooth." Prepare the way in your heart for Christ today!

Sunday Collection

Sunday Collection for Dec. 1 & 2, 2018 was \$3,168.00.

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Planning on coming to Midnight Mass? Join us 45 minutes before Mass at 11:15 PM at St. Cecilia's for a Festival of Lessons and Carols performed by the Divine Mercy Parish Choir. The Festival of Lessons and Carols is a great way to prayerfully prepare for the coming of the Christmas season. We hope to see you there.

2o Domingo de Adviento

Adviento es vivir en la esperanza y en la escucha, siempre viendo hacia el futuro estando seguros de que Dios nunca abandona a su pueblo. Camine con Él y lo orientará hasta que sea libre y goce de esa libertad comprometiéndose con la justicia y el temor de Dios. Volver a Dios, dejar el pecado estar abiertos a sus sorpresas. Dejarse seducir por la bondad del recién nacido que viene. En nuestro tiempo difícilmente, percibimos experiencias de bondad de encuentro con el otro porque nos ha faltado el don de escuchar.

Este es el tiempo de detenernos, de levantar la cabeza, de enderezar lo torcido tal como san Juan bautista lo grita en el desierto. "Preparen el camino del Señor, enderecen sus senderos. Las quebradas serán rellenadas y los montes y los cerros allanados. Lo torcido será enderezado, y serán suavizadas las asperezas de los caminos. Todo mortal entonces verá la salvación de Dios" (Lucas 3:4-6). Es decir que tenemos que tener la apertura de ver esa salvación de Dios en los inmigrantes, loa refugiados, las familias separadas y tanta situación de incertidumbre en que se vive. Existe mucho por hacer, por enderezar, por aplanar y por cultivar. Fijémonos en San Juan Bautista que nos invita a dejar lo viejo y aceptar lo nuevo. Todo esto puede suceder si el ser humano se hace presente en Jesús. No nos hagamos los sordos. El Evangelio de hoy nos grita y nos reta a ver que la salvación llega por la escucha? ¿a quién escuchas tú? ¿Qué atención le pones al escuchar un consejo? Estamos conectados siempre con el celular en la mano. Pero, aun así, se vive en la sordera y la lejanía de escucha entre las personas. Solo la línea de Dios no está ocupada. ¡Escúchalo!

Readings for the week of December 9, 2018

Sunday:	Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6
Monday:	Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday:	Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13 [Is 40:10ab]/Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday:	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 [15:9d]/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Thursday:	Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15
Friday:	Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday:	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A Message from Fr. Tom

A few years ago an article in the local papers covered the story about a man who was a meat inspector for a packing company in one of the Midwestern States. As you know, the threat of mad cow disease or E-coli bacteria is a serious one in that industry. This man was responsible for reporting any breakdown in safety and sanitary regulations. Well, he discovered that some cows were exhibiting symptoms of mad cow disease and reported it to the company. (So far no case of mad cow disease has officially been reported in the U.S.) Through the promptings of this man, the company corrected its practices, and recalled its products before anyone could be affected. Perhaps untold lives were saved. However, the company never admitted that there was any serious problem. The inspector who did his job responsibly was subsequently fired. Some excuse was found to dismiss him shortly after the recall. The article was about the courage of a man to do the right thing—to speak the truth—to stand up and do what is right—and experience the consequences of his just actions.

His story relates well to the life and ministry of John the Baptist. John is the last in the long line of prophetic voices in the history of Israel who called the people and the nation to reform their lives. Sin is what makes us sick. His is “a voice of one crying out in the desert,” urging us to “prepare the way of the Lord and make straight his paths.” John is calling us today to reform our lives—to safeguard something much greater than any perishable food supply. John warns about the danger of sin which separates us from God and makes us all unhappy. May God grant that on the day of Christ—Judgment Day—we may be found pure and blameless filled with the fruit of righteousness which is good works. May we never lack the moral courage to address our faults so that we may pave the way for our God.

Fr. Tom

Christmas Album by our Cantor Christiana Cole

Our Cantor Christiana Cole recorded a Christmas album this year called "A Cozy Christmas with Christiana Cole." The price is \$10.00 and contains a mix of eight sacred and popular favorites, including The Christmas Song, In the Bleak Midwinter, Santa Baby, Night of Silence, and The Prayer. They make great stocking stuffers!! Please speak with Christiana after Mass to purchase a copy.

First Concert of the Divine Mercy Parish Concert Series

The Divine Mercy parish Concert Series is happy to announce that our first concert of our inaugural season is just weeks away. Come listen to the Andrea Domenici Trio as they play jazz standards and some jazzy arrangement of your favorite Christmas music. The concert is on Friday, December 14th, at 7:00 pm at our Parish Church of St. Francis of Paola. Find more details on Facebook, @dmpconcertseries.

Christmas Tree Lighting

St. Cecilia, December 16th, after the 7pm Mass
St. Francis, December 15th, after the 5pm Mass

Introduction to the Gospel of Luke— Bible Study with Fr. Tom

Please join Father Tom for an introduction to the Gospel of Luke. The Gospel of Luke will accompany our coming Liturgical Year which began on the First Sunday of Advent. The introductory course will use the Collegeville Study Guide and will meet one more Tuesday night from 7:30 to 8:30 pm in St. Francis of Paola Rectory Dining Room. Our course will continue to meet in 2019. Please sign up by calling (718) 387-0256. Cost is \$15.00 for guide book we will use throughout the year.

Tuesday, December 18th

Christmas Giving Tree at DMP

The Rosary Society is sponsoring a Christmas Giving Tree. The recipient this year is the St. Clare Home for Woman. Please take a candy cane off the tree and purchase a gift card from the business listed on it.

Return your gift card by placing it in the Sunday collection basket or give it to a member of the Rosary Society. Deadline is December 17, 2018.

Also collecting, hats, gloves, scarves and socks for the homeless.

Advent Reconciliation Monday

Please mark in your calendars, Monday, December 17th is Advent Reconciliation Monday. All three of our churches will be open in the afternoon and evening so that you may take part in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GIFTS OF LOVE EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY AT DIVINE MERCY PARISH

ALL ARE WELCOME

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)

Sincere thanks to all of our parishioners for their continued generosity and most especially during this holiday time.

Specific items needed: Christmas Holiday fixings
Food Pantry Coordinator

St. Francis of Paola Church Memorial Gifts – December 9, 2018

BREAD & WINE

Salvatore Livornese by Annette Marino

TABERNACLE CANDLES

James Puccio Birthday in Heaven by Teresa Puccio & Family

James Puccio Birthday in Heaven by Teresa Puccio & Family

ALTAR CANDLES

Vincent Puccio Happy Birthday in Heaven by Teresa Puccio & Family

Vincent Puccio Happy Birthday in Heaven by Teresa Puccio & Family

BLESSED MOTHER CANDLES

Salino & Panarese Family by Marie

Congratulations

The following student from our parish have merited recognition for commendable academic performance during their first quarter of the current school year at St. Francis Preparatory School. These students have received an average of 90% or above to achieve Honor Roll status.

Amy Sthefani Paredesgonzales
Khloe Adrianna Romero

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

Mass Intentions for the Week St. Francis of Paola Church

Saturday, December 8, 2018

5:00pm In Honor of the Immaculate Conception
by Medici Family

Sunday, December 9, 2018

8:00am Ralph Daniele by Family
11:30am Angelo Tellone by daughter Grace &
wife Maria

Monday, December 10, 2018, 2018

7:45am Pierina Silvis by Family

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

7:45am Rina Romano by Family

Wednesday, December 12, 2018

7:45am Felicia Nicodemo by Marie & Dom
Perrotto

Thursday, December 13, 2018

7:45am Carmine Morelli

Friday, December 14, 2018

7:45am Saint Lucia by Raffaella Morena

Saturday, December 15, 2018

7:45am Anthony Bettina Giudice by Children
5:00pm Salvatoare Livornese by wife Gaetana

Sunday, December 16, 2018

8:00am For the People of Divine Mercy
11:30am Angelina & Ben Tizzio by Family

St. Theresa Guild

The next meeting of the St. Theresa Guild will take place on Thursday, December 13, 2018 at 7:30pm in the St. Francis of Paola rectory basement. Meeting theme will be Christmas.

The Manger In Our Churches

The manger in our churches will remain on display until the Presentation of the Lord—Saturday, February 2nd, 2019. Remember the celebration at this time of year is not meant only for one day—December 25th and then it's off to New Year's Eve Parties, planning the Super Bowl Party and St. Valentine's Day. Advent helps us to keep our minds on God throughout these coming weeks and months.

DECEMBER 9, 2018

Mass Intentions for the Week

St. Nicholas Church

Sunday, December 9, 2018

10:30am Virgilia Arauz by Amelia Castro & Family
Isabel R. Gonzalez by Amelia Castro & Fam.
La Familia Carrasquillo de Hermina
Carrasquillo

Wednesday, December 12, 2018

7:00pm Open Intention

Sunday, December 16, 2018

10:30am Open Intention

Pray For the Sick: Jackie Elsasser, Christopher Floria, Paula Scala, John Colasanti, Lucy Corbisiero, Eliot Roldan, Rae Pacifico, Dolores Mulcahey, Jamie Castro, Theresa Scala, Eleanor Heck, John Porcelli, Anthony DeSena, Anthony Porcelli, Rose Cecilia Deluca, Louis Charles Deluca

Pray For the Recently Deceased,
Antoinette Cardillo, Denise Vatovec, Michael Dede, Susan Gernert

Annual Student Art Contest

Keep Christ in Christmas

The Tablet, in collaboration with the Archbishop John Hughes Council of the Knights of Columbus, invites youth to express their faith through art by participating in this year's Christmas art Contest.

Theme

**KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS
DEUT 10:17-19**

For more information call 718-517-3101 or
menaje@desalesmedia.org.

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

Mass Schedule at DMP

Monday, Dec. 24th 5pm Mass St. Francis of Paola
Monday, Dec. 24th Midnight Mass St. Cecilia
Tuesday, Dec. 25th 8:00am St. Francis of Paola
Tuesday, Dec. 25th 9:30am St. Cecilia
Tuesday, Dec. 25th 10:30am St. Nicholas
Tuesday, Dec. 25th 11:30am St. Francis of Paola
No 7:00pm Mass at St. Cecilia on December 25th

Mass Intentions for the Week

St. Cecilia Church

Sunday, December 9, 2018

9:30am Rocco & Cirone by Family
Trinity James
Carlos Linares: Living Intention
7:00pm For the People of Divine Mercy Parish

Monday, December 10, 2018

8:30am George Regnaiere

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

8:30am Paulette Menard by Paulette Menard & Family

Wednesday, December 12, 2018

8:30am Rev. James Krische: Living Intention

Thursday, December 13, 2018

8:30am Timothy McErlean

Friday, December 14, 2018

8:30am Marie Ferzola

Saturday, December 15, 2018

8:30am Salvatore Lilvornese by daughter
Angela Federico

Sunday, December 16, 2018

9:30am Jo & Ed Collins
Eamon & Ray McGinn
Marie Ferzola
Joseph Malkowski
Domingo Rodriguez
7:00pm Rhiannon Riess

St. Cecilia Church

Memorial Gifts December 9, 2018

Bread & Wine

In Memory of Timothy McErlean
Donated by Mom & Dad

Having a Tough Day

Turn to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament

St. Cecilia Chapel: Open 7:00am to 3:00pm
Monday—Friday
St. Cecilia Chapel: Open 9:00pm to 10:00pm
Monday—Thursday
St. Francis of Paola Church: Open 7:00am to 3:30pm
Monday—Friday

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CHURCH NAME: **Divine Mercy Parish**

CHURCH CITY: **Brooklyn, NY**

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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