

3rd Sunday of Advent

In Christianity, we hear often about the "Good News." We might often associate it with Jesus' compassion to the poor, his healings and miracles, and the salvation he won for us. In today's Gospel, we read of John the Baptist. "Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people." Yet as we examine the rest of the reading, we see examples of John's preaching. If you have two cloaks, give one away. Don't cheat others out of their money, extort, or lie. And, of course, the warning that the Messiah is on the move and "his winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Merry Christmas?

Not only do John's listeners enjoy his message, but they seem to think he might be the awaited Messiah! To understand today's Gospel, it's important to understand the Jewish people. For most of their history, God's chosen people had been under someone else's heel. They were slaves in Egypt. Their kingdoms were ravaged first by the Assyrians, then the Babylonians. Now they were under the yoke of the Roman Empire. Familiar with being strangers in a strange land, welcoming the stranger, caring for the vulnerable, and enacting justice was incredibly important to them as a people. While John's words may seem odd or strong to our modern ears, this call to justice was welcome, even if it was directed at the hearer.

The truth is, no one is exempt from John's call to repentance. We all have further to go in the Christian life. We can all grow in virtue and love our neighbors more generously. The Church gives us the Advent season to examine our own hearts. Did any of John's warnings resonate with you? That could be a great thing to bring to Jesus this week!

Sunday Collection

Sunday Collection will appear in next week's bulletin.

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.

3o Domingo de Adviento

La salvación que Dios anuncia en este tercer domingo de Adviento trae consigo una profunda alegría. Las lecturas de hoy son clave para profundizar en lo que es la alegría de Dios. Es el domingo de alegría. En latín, "Gaudete," cuyo significado es "alégrese". El profeta Sofonías lo dice así: ¡Grita de gozo, oh hija de Sión,... Regocíjate y que tu corazón esté de fiesta! (Sofonías 3:14). San Pablo lo describe con inmenso gozo de la siguiente manera: "Estén siempre alegres en el Señor; se los repito, estén alegres y tengan buen trato con todos" (Filipenses 4:4). La repetición que hace Pablo hace énfasis en esa alegría que da la paz de Dios, a pesar de los acontecimientos contrarios a lo que vivimos.

¿A dónde debo llevar la alegría que Dios me da? ¿Cómo podemos recuperar la alegría en este Adviento tan comercializado? El Evangelio nos da la respuesta; el Bautista exhorta a la conversión, y sin esa conversión, no puede existir la alegría que es el fruto de las buenas obras. Todos debemos de compartir con los más necesitados: ropa, comida y nuestros bienes, pero, sobre todo, dar la bienvenida al extranjero y al refugiado. ¡Ahora es el tiempo! Ayúdanos Señor a abrir nuestros corazones a las necesidades de otros. Cambia nuestros corazones de piedra por unos más humanos. Que con tu gracia sepamos hacer lo que está bien. Martin Luther King decía: "Siempre es el momento apropiado para hacer lo que es correcto". ¡Ven Señor, ayúdanos a dar alegría y esperanza en todo momento!

Readings for the week of December 16, 2018

Sunday:	Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18
Monday:	Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17
Tuesday:	Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25
Wednesday:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25
Thursday:	Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38
Friday:	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45
Saturday:	1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56
Next Sunday:	Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A Message from Fr. Tom

Third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday. This title comes from the initial words of our second reading in Latin—*Gaudete in Domino semper*. Rejoice in the Lord Always. For this reason the Advent Candle and the celebrants vestment is Rose colored. Despite the somber readings we have heard over the past two weeks calling us to reform and repentance; Advent should be a time of joy because our Lord draws near. The focus of our attention is not on us but on the one who brings us the Good News and the reason for the season. These are easy words to say but oftentimes difficult to experience. It is an established fact that the suicide rate increases during this time of year when many people can feel particularly alone amidst all the various celebrations and social gatherings around them.

What to do? How can we as Christians respond to this stark reality? First, the oft used words of rejoicing and joy are to be distinguished from personal happiness with our given situation in life. The foundation of Christian joy is found in the saving acts of God through his Son Jesus Christ. For this reason, it is good to shake up or vary the way we celebrate Advent and Christmas and the New Year in ways that help us to be more aware of the focus on the sacred nature of this time of year.

I'll give you a personal example—one New Year's Eve shortly after I arrived here at Divine Mercy Parish and after all our Mass celebrations and obligations were over, I invited Fr. Gabriel to join me to attend a concert of Sacred Music in the city. Afterwards we celebrated Mass with the Sisters of Life at Midnight in a small church in the city. It was a hectic evening, a tiring one, but a very memorable and beautiful one. We spent time together as friends and priests and joined together with some new people united by our faith. Look for these opportunities at this time of year. Break the cycle of habits that can so easily "atomize" our lives.

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. Times: 4pm to 9pm.

THIRD 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)

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continued generous support of this important ministry. Please be assured that every dollar donated and every item of food that you donate is a special gift to many of our needy neighbors. With gratitude, love and peace during this advent season.

Specific items needed: Christmas Holiday fixings
Food Pantry Coordinator

St. Francis of Paola Church Memorial Gifts – December 16, 2018

BREAD & WINE

James Puccio by Teresa Puccio & Family

Memorial Gifts (Bread & Wine, Sanctuary Lamp, Tabernacle Candles, Altar Candles, Blessed Mother Candles and St. Joseph Candles) are a wonderful way to honor and remember your loved ones. Please come to the Rectory (or call) for more information and available dates.

Advent: Mindful Waiting

We started on December 1, 2018

Williamsburg's Green Door Gallery (Skillman and Humboldt Streets) has been transformed into an Advent Calendar, with one new piece of art being installed each day culminating on December 23rd, when the last pieces will be installed.

The Gallery is opened one hour each day
from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

There will be a gathering with all the artists on Sunday, January 6, 2019 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

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

Mass Intentions for the Week St. Francis of Paola Church

Saturday, December 15, 2018

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

Monday, December 17, 2018, 2018

7:45am Carmela Ferrante by Marion Nappi

Tuesday, December 18, 2018

7:45am Long Family by Antoinette & James Long

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

7:45am Giovann Pasquarielli by daughter Ada Maestrini

Thursday, December 20, 2018

7:45am Deceased Members of the Donnanduono Family by Antoinette & James Long

Friday, December 21, 2018

7:45am Marianna & Marco Ricardo & Anna Maria DeSarno by Family

Saturday, December 22, 2018

7:45am Angelina Phyllis by Ada Maestrini

5:00pm Rose Greco by Marguerite Caccavale

Sunday, December 23, 2018

8:00am Florence & Anthony Giglio by daughter Carlotta

11:30am Antonio Arlistico by Children

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Take Home An Extra Bulletin And Give It To A Friend

DECEMBER 16, 2018

Mass Intentions for the Week St. Nicholas Church

Sunday, December 16, 2018

10:30am Our Lady of Guadalupe

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

7:00pm Open Intention

Sunday, December 23, 2018

10:30am Virgin del Cisne by Family Garces
Barbecho

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, Wanda Sadwarny, Maryann Picora, Carmella Caiafa, RoseAnn Frank, Remi Schandel

Pray For the Recently Deceased, Denise Vatovec, Michael Dede, Susan Gernert, Jean Joan Orsino

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

Congratulations

The following students 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

The Mass Book

The Mass Book for 2019 is open for intentions from January to June. Come to 219 Conselyea St. to book your Masses.

Mass Intentions for the Week St. Cecilia Church

Sunday, December 16, 2018

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

Monday, December 17, 2018

8:30am Joseph Malkowski

Tuesday, December 18, 2018

8:30am Jane Jablonski

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

8:30am Patrick Del Vicario

Thursday, December 20, 2018

8:30am Fr. Kaare Osorio

Friday, December 21, 2018

8:30am Deceased Members of the DeGruccio
And Scaturico Families

Saturday, December 22, 2018

8:30am Onome Ezema & Unborn Child by
Angela

Sunday, December 23, 2018

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

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.

Diocesan Lenten Pilgrimage To The Holy Land

Bishop Neil Tiedemann, Spiritual Director
Msgr. Kieran Harrington, Chaplain
March 7 – 15, 2019

For a Brochure Prestige Worldwide Tours
1-866-293-0982 or Samantha@pwwtours.com

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

END OF BULLETIN
ANY TEXT OR GRAPHICS ENTERED ON THIS PAGE
WILL NOT APPEAR IN THE PRINTED BULLETIN

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EDITOR/ CONTACT: **Maryann**

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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