

4th Sunday of Advent

Here we are, mere days from Christmas, and we hear a Gospel anticipating the birth of another child. Mary has received word that her cousin Elizabeth is with child. Pregnant as she is, Mary "set out and traveled to the hill country in haste." She has recently received the greatest news of her life - that she is to be mother to the Messiah by the power of the Holy Spirit - but her concern is for her cousin in need. Through God's grace, Elizabeth turns it into an opportunity to honor the coming Christ. "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Yet Mary's example of selflessness should inspire us.

As Christmas draws near, there is plenty of goodness to anticipate for many of us. We'll reunite with family and friends, uphold time-honored traditions, swap stories old and new, exchange gifts, and welcome Jesus at the Christmas liturgy. These are wonderful things! Of course, they probably all come with their own to-do list. Shop for last-minute gifts, pick up recipe ingredients, ready the guest room, or pack your own bags. Mary probably had things to do as well. She had a lot to consider, for one thing. How do you plan to tell your parents you're pregnant, but no man was involved? When Joseph finds out, who will care for the practical needs of you and your child? Into what may have been a chaos of questions, Mary receives news that someone is in need. She goes immediately.

In these final days before Christmas, stay watchful and awake! You never know when God might invite you to welcome, hospitality, and compassion. It might be tempting to reject the opportunity for your own needs. Follow the example of Mary! If God is providing you an opportunity to love, He will provide the means to accomplish all your other tasks. This Christmas season, may you too hear, "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

Sunday Collection

Sunday Collection for Dec. 8/9, 2018 was \$2,516.00.

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.

4o Domingo de Adviento

"Cuando María tiene noticia de la maternidad de su prima Isabel, ya anciana y estéril, se pone en camino. No por falta de fe en la profecía ni por dudar del anuncio, ni por dudar de los signos que le fueron dados, sino llena de alegría para cumplir un servicio entrañable. En la prontitud de la alegría, María se dirige hacia las montañas. Llena de Dios ¿podía no ir de prisa hacia las alturas? Los cálculos lentos no corresponden a la gracia del Espíritu Santo" (San Ambrosio). Este breve resumen que San Ambrosio nos da en su reflexión sobre la Visitación nos prepara para saber acoger las sorpresas de Dios, referente al servicio generoso que se debe tener hacia el que lo necesita.

Salga al encuentro del otro, como nos lo dice el Papa Francisco, "Salida de la Iglesia-que habla de los pobres hacia una Iglesia-que va a los pobres, conversa con ellos, los abraza y los defiende". Dios sale hacia las montañas de Judá y con alegría las dos mujeres se abrazan. El saludo de Isabel lleno del Espíritu Santo resuena en sus entrañas y al momento el niño saltó de alegría. "¡Dichosa tú por haber creído que se cumplirían las promesas del Señor!" (Lucas 1:45). María e Isabel son testigos del amor de Dios en el mundo. "Bendito el fruto de tu vientre" (Lucas 1:42). El Himno Litúrgico del Tiempo de Adviento es una oración hermosa que nos ayuda durante la semana a esperar al Mesías. "Ya la tierra reclama su fruto y de bodas se anuncia alegría, el Señor que en los cielos moraba se hizo carne en la Virgen Maria." ¿Está tu corazón listo para recibir al Señor?

Readings for the week of December 23, 2018

Sunday:	Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-18 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45
Monday:	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79
Tuesday:	Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Midnight:	Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
Dawn:	Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
Day:	Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14
Wednesday:	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22
Thursday:	1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Friday:	1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18
Saturday:	1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A Message from Fr. Tom

The theme of this fourth and final Sunday of Advent can be summed up simply that God can work great things from something small and hidden. And, that small and hidden reality is going to be at work in our lives. And we—too—are going to bring forth life in Jesus' name—just the way Mary and Elizabeth did. Every Christian is called like Mary to make a holy journey in this life. The seed of life—that is our faith—has been planted in us. This seed—like the mustard seed of the Gospel parables—might seem small and insubstantial compared with the realities around us. Yet, something small and unlikely has the power to bring life and hope to our hearts—how do a few, simple, kind words change how we face the days troubles—consider the good advice we received from an unlikely source that put us on to a better job, meeting our spouse or a life-long friend? It is our responsibility to ponder the beauty and mystery of life. Let us recognize the signs of divine life at work in our lives as it was in the first disciple Mary, and imitate her journey of faith. **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.

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

Solemnity of Mary at DMP Mass Schedule

Monday, December 31st: 7:00pm Vigil \ St. Francis
Tuesday, January 1st Solemnity of Mary
7:45am St. Francis of Paola
8:30am St. Cecilia
10:30am St. Nicholas

Christmas Message from Fr. Tom

For our young children Christmas is a time of wonder. Coming together with family members, being recognized, appreciated and receiving gifts are certainly a wonderful part of this time of year. But, our young people must learn that this celebration is only the beginning of the story of Jesus Christ, Son of God. There would come a time when the supreme sacrifice would be offered by him. This would be his very life that is offered for us. The wood of the manger is never far from the wood of the cross. And so, it is a time to remember—especially for our youth—that the Lord comes to us and offers himself sacrificially—first as a vulnerable child. It is a time to remember that Christmas is more than about receiving gifts, but also offering.

For our adults here today, our task might be harder. We have seen it all before. Can we welcome such a celebration with new eyes? Or perhaps are we overburdened by an increasingly secular society and the demands this holiday places upon us. We are all too happy when it is over. Perhaps too this can be a time to put aside the burdens, hurts, betrayals, or disappointments of the year. The innocent child Jesus comes for you too—is calling to you too—to help you to discover or recover your humanity. Christ calls us to retrieve or rediscover a humanity suffocated by an often brutal world. Now is a time to go recommit ourselves to the truth that sets us free and first came to us as an infant born into a hostile world.

Merry Christmas Feliz Navidad – Buon Natale

Rev. Thomas F. Vassalotti
Rev. Rafael Perez Deacon Carlos ValderRama
Rev. Andrew Varano Rev. Alexandre Morard
Rev. Paul Anel

Having a Tough Day! Pray!
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

FOURTH 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, As we celebrate the wondrous birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, please continue to keep our neighbors in your thoughts and prayers.

Wishing you a wonderful Christmas filled with the warmth of God’s love and the joy of togetherness.
Food Pantry Coordinator

St. Francis of Paola Church

Memorial Gifts – December 23, 2018

BREAD & WINE

Ingeborg McCarrol by Annette Marino D’Arienzo

ST. JOSEPH CANDLES

Martin Bavuso by Marie & Joseph Bavuso

Antonio Arlistico by Children

TABERNACLE CANDLES

Anastasio Vavladelis by Melissa

Anastasio Vavladelis by Melissa

ALTAR CANDLES

Antonio Arlistico by Children

BLESSED MOTHER CANDLES

Florence & Anthony Giglio by daughter Carlotta

Florence & Anthony Giglio by daughter Carlotta

Catholic Charities

Bishop DiMarzio invites all to join him in this year’s Annual Catholic Charities Collection. The collection takes place at all Christmas Masses. Please return the special Catholic Charities envelope from your envelope packet with your gift. If you did not receive a printed envelope, we ask you to use a Catholic Charities envelope available in the Church or your own blank envelope marked for “Catholic Charities”. Bishop Di Marzio urges all to join in sharing God’s love with families and children in need by giving generously to this year’s Catholic Charities Christmas collection.

The Wednesday Prayer Group that meets in St. Cecilia’s Chapel on Wednesday from 3pm to 4pm will not meet for the months of January and February 2019.

St. Francis of Paola Church

Saturday, December 22, 2018

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

Monday, December 24, 2018-Christmas Eve

7:45am Dominick & Lena Perrotto by Marie

5:00pm Christmas Intentions

Tuesday, December 25, 2018-Christmas Day

8:00am Gianpiero Bartolotta Christmas in Heaven by Mom and Family

11:30am Christmas Intentions

Wednesday, December 26, 2018

7:45am Pasqualina Lombardi 1st Anniversary in Heaven by Family

Thursday, December 27, 2018

7:45am Fortunato Aliperti by Wife & Children

Friday, December 28, 2018

7:45am Lou De Angelis

Saturday, December 29, 2018

7:45am Piero Maestrini by wife Ada Maestrini

5:00pm Theresa Scotti by Dennis Torre & Sonia Rivera

Sunday, December 30, 2018

8:00am Susan Gernert

11:30am Antonio Arlistico by Children

Sofia Ramirez by Family

S. Nicola by Mary Martino & Family

Green Door Gallery

January 5, 2019

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.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

DECEMBER 23, 2018

Mass Intentions for the Week

St. Nicholas Church

Sunday, December 23, 2018

10:30am Virgin del Cisne by Family Garces Barbecho

Tuesday, December 25, 2018-Christmas Day

10:30am Christmas Intentions

Wednesday, December 26, 2018

7:00pm Open Intention

Sunday, December 30, 2018

10:30am For the People of Divine Mercy Parish

Pray For the Sick: Christopher Floria, 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, Anthony Scala

Pray For the Recently Deceased, Michael Dede, Susan Gernert, Jean Joan Orsino, Maria Canalini

Receive Our Parish Bulletin Electronically

Would you like to receive our parish bulletin electronically days before everyone else? Then log on to "Parishesonline.com" to register. In a few simple steps you can receive our parish bulletin and more easily stay on top of parish events and other important parish information.

Bulletin Advertising Opportunity Available

Brigitte Stieglitz from LPI (our bulletin company) will be in our parish office (219 Conselyea St.) on December 26, 27, 28, 2018 working on securing new ads for the advertisements section of our bulletin. We need your help. Please consider purchasing an ad. If you would like to run an ad or would like more information please call Brigitte. You can reach Brigitte directly at 917-434-4833 or via e-mail bsitiegltz@4lpi.com.

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 23, 2018

9:30am For the People of Divine Mercy Parish
7:00pm Msgr. Fursey O'Toole

Monday, December 24, 2018-Christmas Eve

8:30am Susan Gernert
12 Midnight Christmas Intentions

Tuesday, December 25, 2018-Christmas Day

9:30am Marie Louise Courant

Wednesday, December 26, 2018

8:30am Fortunato Aliperti by Wife

Thursday, December 27, 2018

8:30am Agnes Riccio

Friday, December 28, 2018

8:30am Susan Gernert

Saturday, December 29, 2018

8:30am Susan Gernert

Sunday, December 30, 2018

9:30am Anthony DelVicario (Birthday)
Leonard Gifford
Marie Ferzola
Rev. James Krische: Living Intention
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.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

St. Cecilia Church – December 26, 2018
Daniel Malkowski & Jacqueline Palomo

Calling All Angels & Shepherds

If you will be at St. Francis Church for the 5:00pm Mass on Christmas Eve & would like your child to participate as an angel or shepherd during the reading of the Gospel, (no speaking parts-for all ages) please contact Angela 327-521-0068.

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

CHURCH NAME: **Divine Mercy Parish**

CHURCH CITY: **Brooklyn, NY**

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FILENAME: **04-0284.53b**

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

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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