

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

The Holy Family

"After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers." As we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family, this Gospel exposes us to a strange tension. While this family is one we can look to for an example, they are not quite the same family unit as everyone else. There is an otherness to Jesus, something profound. And yet, perhaps on second thought, are our families so different?

When Mary and Joseph encountered Jesus in the temple, "they were astonished." But at what? Mary's response is surprised. They're not astonished that Jesus is preaching in a place for respected teachers. They're not astonished that their son has captured the attention of the wisest men of the time period. They're astonished at his seemingly disobedient behavior! "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." All our children have an "otherness" about them, something that makes them unique and different. They are distinctly not "me." What will our own children become? What temple will they wander off to? Who will they astound?

Sunday Collection

Sunday Collection for Dec. 15/16, 2018 was \$3,453.
The Collection for Dec. 22/23 will appear in next week's bulletin as this bulletin is being typed in advance due to the holidays.

Catholic Charities

Bishop DiMarzio and the staff of Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens along with those served by Catholic Charities send their sincerest thanks to the parishioners of Divine Mercy Parish for their generous contributions to the Christmas Collection for Catholic Charities. Your gifts enable Catholic Charities to continue to work with the children and families of our diocese who are in need.

If you missed the special collection, your donation is still urgently needed to help Catholic Charities continue our critical work.

Donations may be mailed to: Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens, Attn: Development & Communications, 191 Joralemon Street, 12th floor, Brooklyn, New York 11201

La Sagrada Familia

Hoy, la Liturgia celebra la Fiesta de la Sagrada Familia. Es el Domingo que sigue la Navidad. La lectura del Evangelio nos narra la verdadera historia sobre la familia de Jesús en aquel tiempo. En nuestros tiempos las familias también tienen su propia historia y realidad. El Papa Francisco nos ayuda a ver esa realidad. Nos dice que la familia es para toda la vida: "Un largo viaje que no es por partes, que dura toda la vida, y necesitan la ayuda de Jesús para caminar juntos, con confianza, para acogerse, uno al otro cada día, y perdonarse cada día, y esto es importante en las familias, saber perdonarse. Porque todos nosotros tenemos defectos. ¡Todos! Y a veces hacemos cosas que no son buenas, hacen mal a los demás. Tener el coraje de pedir perdón cuando en la familia nos equivocamos". (10 Reflexiones sobre la familia).

Nada que separe a la familia es aceptable, ninguna ley en el mundo debe ser impuesta para este caso. La separación de la familia no ayuda a la construcción fundamental de la persona. Ahí, en el hogar, es donde se crece, se apoya y se comunica el amor. Sin embargo, vivimos en una sociedad de caducidad, lo estable cansa y aburre. Nos decimos, "Ya es viejo debo cambiarlo." Así pasa muchas veces que las familias se cambian fácilmente. Uno deja a su pareja sin importarse por los hijos ni por el hogar. La familia de Nazaret es el ejemplo a seguir, reunámonos alrededor de la Eucaristía con ese propósito de compartir el pan, de invitar a Dios como centro del corazón que es el hogar. ¿Quién y qué predomina en tu familia?

Christmas Album by 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.

You are Welcome

If you are a first time visitor, a longtime parishioner
Or coming back for the holidays,

Please know that the community of Divine Mercy
Parish is very happy you are here.

*May His Light and Love
Surround you during this sacred time.*

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

A Message for the Solemnity of the Holy Family

There is no more important feast to celebrate in the church calendar than that of the celebration of the Holy Family. It gets to the heart of what is so important and necessary in the life of faith—family life. Sadly so many families while presenting their children for Baptism and religious instruction in our parish do not take the trouble to practice the Catholic Christian faith in any serious manner. What to do? What is necessary? Practice the faith you profess with your lips with your children or grandchildren!!! Not too long ago an Evangelical Protestant Sociologist David Hunter Thompson came out with a book studying the phenomenon all too depressingly familiar to us today. That is that more than 80% of our young people leave the practice of the Christian faith in which they were raised (both Protestant & Catholic) between the ages of 14 and 23—many of them never to return. On a positive note, his study also reveals the essential steps that are necessary to change this disastrous outcome: (1) Parents & children practice their faith together Sanctifying the Sabbath on Sundays; (2) children are taught to pray and understand that God is truly present in those moments; (3) Study of the Bible and/or taking seriously the Scriptural basis of the Christian faith; (4) Active community life in and around the church community; (5) Absent the good faith and example of parents, other mature adults step into the breach to give children authentic and credible Christian witness. As more and more disasters befall our church and the apostasy of so many adult Catholics in clerical and public life is all too familiar to us—please remember these words of mine. One final point—absent these aforementioned five elements—it takes 200 Baptisms to produce 1 practicing Catholic. And, we wonder why our beautiful churches are so empty?? **Fr. Tom**

Solemnity of Mary at DMP Mass Schedule

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

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

A New Year's Day Message

Today, throughout the world most cultures celebrate New Year's Day. However—the Catholic Church organizes its own calendar differently (like the Jewish and Chinese peoples). Last Sunday we celebrated the birth of Jesus. Today—as we take our first steps into the New Year—the church asks us to recall the maternal vocation of Mary as the mother of Jesus and the Mother of God. Millions of Protestant or Evangelical Christians do not join in our celebration of Mary today. This is not because these Christians do not acknowledge Mary as physically giving birth to Jesus in the flesh on Christmas Day. But rather, they believe the divinity of Jesus can come into the world *only* through the agency of God and not any normal person—even when that person is recognized for their exemplary obedience to God's will. This was a point of controversy going back to the earliest days of the church and was settled at the council of Ephesus in (A.D. 431). A prominent bishop acknowledged Mary as the "*Christotokos*" (Birth Giver of Christ), but not the "*Theotokos*" (Birth Giver of God). The affirmation of Mary as "*Theotokos*," meant that Jesus' divine nature came into the world through Mary.

Admittedly, the finer points of this theological and philosophical debate may not be our cup of tea, but the consequences of this declaration of enormous importance that I believe help us to agree with its conclusion. What does this declaration and celebration mean for us?? Simply put—*Jesus cannot be divided*. And therefore—all of us—who are made in the image and likeness of God *cannot be divided either*. Our human and religious/spiritual natures go together. We need the flesh and bone of a community to form us, to help us when we are in trouble and to call us into accountability as members of that community. Yet we also need to be reminded that all of us as individuals are unrepeatable moments—each person is a unique thought of God—we are loved into being, we are necessary and chosen by God. If any one of us is missing from the heavenly celebration—the joy of heaven would be less complete because God wills us and wants us to be there with Him. Help us to take these first steps of the New Year mindful of the greatness to which we are called.

Fr. Tom

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

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**GIFTS OF LOVE EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY
AT DIVINE MERCY PARISH**

ALL ARE WELCOME

With the start of a new year, our work at Divine Mercy Parish begins again. It is your support of our food pantry that brings peace and sweet music to the hearts of our neighbors. Thank you!

In the Holy Family's presence may you find joy, hope and abiding peace throughout the New Year.

Food Pantry Volunteers

St. Francis of Paola Church

Memorial Gifts – December 30, 2018

BREAD & WINE

Florence & Anthony Giglio by daughter Carlotta

ST. JOSEPH CANDLES

Antonio Arlistico by Children

Antonio Arlistico by Children

BLESSED MOTHER CANDLES

Ralph Panarese by wife Marie

In Memory of the Dazzo Family by Amelia Petagna

**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.

Faith "Tune Up" with Father Tom

Join Father Tom on Monday January 31st, at 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm in St. Francis Rectory basement to learn or relearn about what we believe as Catholics. Bring a friend or a family member.

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

Mass Intentions for the Week

St. Francis of Paola Church

Saturday, December 29, 2018

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

Monday, December 31, 2018

7:45am John Libretto

7:00pm Vigil: New Years

Tuesday, January 1, 2019

Mary Mother of God

8:00am Open Intention

Wednesday, January 2, 2019

7:45am Scarlette Rose Rodriguez by Grandma Maria

Thursday, January 3, 2019

7:45am Open Intention

Friday, January 4, 2019

7:45am Carmine Donnanduono by sisters

Antoinette & Rose

Saturday, January 5, 2019

7:45am Sofia Friscioni by daughter

5:00pm For the People of Divine Mercy Parish

Sunday, January 6, 2019

8:00am Open Intention

11:30am Open Intention

Green Door Gallery

January 6, 2019

Williamsburg's Green Door Gallery (Skillman and Humboldt St.) invites you to A Group Show gathering with Artists on Sunday, January 6th, 2019, 3:00pm to 5:00pm. All are invited. Bring a friend.

Nocturnal Adoration

Join us for Nocturnal Adoration, Saturday, January 5, 2019, in St. Cecilia's Chapel, 84 Herbert Street at 8:00pm.

DECEMBER 30, 2018

Mass Intentions for the Week

St. Nicholas Church

Sunday, December 30, 2018

10:30am for the People of Divine Mercy Parish

Tuesday, January 1, 2019

Mary Mother of God

10:30am Open Intention

Wednesday, January 2, 2018

7:00pm Open Intention

Sunday, January 6, 2018

10:30am Open Intention

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

Susan Gernert, Jean Joan Orsino, Maria Canalini,, Carlos Linares

BLOOD DRIVE

SUNDAY, January 13, 2019

8:00 to 2:00pm

St. Francis of Paola Auditorium

Only 2% of our eligible population donates blood.

Your donation can save 3 lives!.

NYBC Eligibility Line 1-800-688-0900

www.nybloodcenter.org

www.mydonoradvantage.com

Mass Intentions for the Week

St. Cecilia Church

Sunday, December 30, 2018

9:30am Anthony Del Vicario (Birthday)

Leonard Gifford

Marie Ferzola

Rev. James Krische: Living Intention

7:00pm Jose Xavier Olivo

Monday, December 31, 2018

8:30am Susan Gernert

Tuesday, January 1, 2019

Mary Mother of God

9:30am Alphonsus Korke

Wednesday, January 2, 2019

8:30am Open Intention

Thursday, January 3, 2019

8:30am Open Intention

Friday, January 4, 2019 – FIRST FRIDAY

8:30am Purgatorial Society

Saturday, January 5, 2019

8:30am Open Intention

Sunday, January 6, 2019

9:30am James Corless by the Dittus Family

Rosary Society

Susan Gernert

Ed Jo Collins

Eamon & Ray McGinn

Rev. James Krische: Living Intention

7:00pm Open Intention

St. Cecilia's Church -Memorial Gifts

Bread & Wine

Susan Gernert donated by Ann Goodman

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

Remember / Honor the First Saturday Devotion to the Mother of God

Attend Mass on that day

Go to the Sacrament of Confession

Pray the Rosary

Reflect for 15 minutes on one of the mysteries of the Rosary.

Bulletin Ad Sponsors. Help Still Needed

Brigitte Stieglitz from LPI, our bulletin publisher, was with us this past week securing advertisers for our bulletin. We would like to thank all of the advertisers who have generously committed to the Bulletin for this year! We still have space available and humbly ask that you consider advertising your business or remembering a loved one in our weekly bulletin.

If you would like to advertise in the weekly bulletin please contact Briditte at 917-434-4833, or via e mail to bstieglitz@4lpi.com. Thank you.

**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