

1st Sunday of Advent

“I’m never getting enough rest! How can I possibly be ‘asleep’?” In a world of jam-packed schedules and high anxiety levels, physical rest may be hard to come by. Yet relentless pursuit of our to-do lists and social calendars may keep our minds off of the things that really matter. Jesus knows all too well a pattern of busy, harried ignorance. “In those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage ... they did not know until the flood came and carried them all away ... two men will be out in the field ... two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left.” When it comes to the spiritual life, we can be at work or at relaxation and still be spiritually asleep.

Each year, we are called back to remember the essential things. God comes to save His people. He becomes flesh to dwell among us. Supernatural light pierces the world’s darkness and our own. Advent wakes us up. “Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.” Every Advent, we prepare to celebrate Christ’s first coming at Christmas, and we anticipate his second coming at the end of time.

“At an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.” There’s another hour, too, both known and unknown. It’s the present moment. Whether it’s a lazy Saturday morning or a major business proposal, whether it’s attending a kindergarten play or an elderly relative’s bedside, at every moment the Lord wants to enter into our hearts. This Advent, let’s pray for the grace to stay alert. Christ is coming soon.

Collection: Nov. 16/17, 2019 was \$3,122.00.

Collection for Nov. 23/24, 2019 will appear in next week’s bulletin.

Feast of St. Nicholas

Join us this Sunday (December 8, 2019) as we celebrate the Feast Day of St. Nicholas, following the 10:30 am Mass in Msgr. Vetro Parish Hall, Olive Street, (between Powers and Devoe).

Lots of Food! Drinks and Fun!

DJ, Photo Booth, Crafts for the kids and Raffle prizes.

Mass Book 2020

The Mass Book for 2020, January to June, is open for intentions. Parish Office is open Monday to Friday, 9 am to 8 pm and Saturday 9 am to 5 pm.

1er Domingo de Adviento

El tiempo de Adviento tiene dos características: es a la vez un tiempo de preparación para la solemnidad de la Navidad en que se conmemora la primera venida del Hijo de Dios entre los hombres y un tiempo en el cual, mediante esta celebración, el ánimo se dirige a esperar la segunda venida de Cristo al fin de los tiempos. Por estos dos motivos, el Adviento se presenta como un tiempo de piadosa y alegre esperanza. El tiempo de Adviento comienza con las primeras vísperas del domingo que cae el 30 de noviembre, o lo más próximo a ese día, y concluye antes de las primeras vísperas de Navidad. Los domingos de este tiempo se llaman: primer, segundo, tercer y cuarto domingo de Adviento (Normas Universales sobre el año litúrgico números 39,40,41).

Hoy comenzamos un nuevo tiempo de lecturas y reflexiones, es lo que se llama el ciclo “A”. Escucharemos el Evangelio de San Mateo. La principal característica de las lecturas es estar vigilantes, atentos para no perder la ruta que es Jesucristo. Vivir atentos significa darse cuenta de los signos de los tiempos presentes. ¿Qué se vive actualmente? Jesús nos recuerda hoy que el tiempo no es del reloj, sino de la gracia y acción de Dios en la vida del ser humano. Podemos planear todo bajo calendario, pero cuando Dios llama hay que responder. San Pablo exhorta, “Desechemos, pues, las obras de las tinieblas y revistámonos con las armas de la luz.” Por lo tanto, Adviento es decir con amor, esperanza y total sinceridad de corazón: ¡Ven, Señor Jesús!

Readings for the week of December 1, 2019

Sunday:	Is 2:1-5/ Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 1]/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44
Monday:	Is 4:2-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday:	Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 [cf. 7]/Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday:	Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37
Thursday:	Is 26:1-6/Ps 118: 1 and 8-9. 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday:	Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31
Saturday:	Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
Next Sunday:	Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 19 [cf. 7]/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

A Message from Fr. Tom

Advent marks the beginning of a new liturgical year. Matthew's Gospel will accompany us during our journey through the readings at Sunday Mass during the next twelve months. Like the Season of Lent, we wear the color purple and light the purple Advent candle. And so, Advent is a penitential season—similar to Lent but different. Advent is a time to reflect upon our sins and need for purification that looks forward to the end times. This urgent anticipation helps us to make ready for that day when we will all stand before the Lord God and give an account of our lives. So, in short, the next few weeks of Advent will emphasize this message. We need to be alert and attentive to the signs of the coming of the Lord.

Christmas Blues—while this time of year is joyful for many of us as we look forward to the celebration of Christmas—our Savior's birth—and the many happy memories associated with this Solemnity, as adults, we know that this time of year can be hard for many of us. Loved ones separated by distance or death; merchants contacting us, and our children who don't. What to do?? Make time for God in your lives. Come to church early. Take advantage of our evening Holy Hour from 9 pm to 10 pm—which I hope to begin soon at St. Francis of Paola as well and continue at St. Cecilia. Take proactive steps to reclaim the Christmas celebration from our secular society. As I have advised in the past, consider exchanging some gifts on the Feast of the Epiphany rather than on Christmas Day. It lengthens out the celebration and recovers the tradition when gifts were actually exchanged. It provides relief from the enormous pressures put upon us on Christmas Day. This recalls the Visitation of the Magi. God Bless you and stay close to Jesus at this time.

Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio

We need to pray for and support our Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio and for all those affected by the sexual abuse crisis in our church. It is hard for me to believe this allegation in the light of how open, proactive and strong he has been as a leader in addressing this issue. Whatever the outcome, Jesus is with his people and with his church; we will survive this difficult period by God's grace and our faith and prayers.

Active Participation and the Traditional Mass

A common objection which many voice concerning the traditional Latin mass, is that the priest is the only one doing anything, and that the people are all just passive

spectators. Pure passivity is something which never serves us in the spiritual life. Full, active and conscious participation in the mass on the part of all the faithful was something which the Second Vatican Council's document on the sacred liturgy reemphasized and encouraged. However, it is important to clarify what such participation looks like in its fullest sense. More than mere external action, participation in the liturgy is as much a matter of the heart and mind as it is the body. On the outside, one can be singing, sitting and kneeling and even listening, while the inner-world can be far from the sacred actions of the altar. The very nature of the liturgy demands both dimensions of ourselves. The traditional mass provides a unique way to rediscover full, active and conscious participation in the liturgy.

Between the silence, the Latin language and the priest's physical orientation towards Christ in the tabernacle, the bar of entry might seem rather high for those who are attending this mass for the first time. Yet, in a paradoxical way, it's very foreignness demands that the faithful make an effort to enter into it in a way which is at one and the same time personal and also intentional. With the aid of translations, the faithful can follow along with the prayers of the priest and allow themselves to be touched and moved in silence. You might be surprised to know that many who attend this mass regularly, simply choose to let their hearts and minds (inspired by the words and actions before them) be drawn by the Lord who leads them to a place of prayer. In this way, there is ample freedom in the traditional mass to "follow along" with the priest or to simply opt for your own way of prayerful devotion. In the realm of the physical, the old mass features much kneeling, genuflections (such as at the Creed and at the Last Gospel at the end of mass), head bows at the name of "Jesus", signs of the cross done by the priest and made over the people and kneeling for the reception of communion on the tongue at the altar rail. These are strong reminders of the incarnational reality of our faith which hits home in unexpected ways throughout the course of the mass as the physical discipline of participation comes into contact with the spiritual.

Many people in recent time have found a new spiritual home for themselves in attending the traditional Latin Mass, but for others, it is simply not their "cup of tea" and that is okay. The beauty of our Catholic faith is that its many liturgical rites are able to receive the entire body of Christ. Even if it might be an "acquired taste" at first, give the traditional mass an opportunity to touch and inspire you in a way which perhaps you would have not thought possible.

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**Gifts of Love—Emergency Food Pantry
At Divine Mercy Parish**

Dear Friends: We are grateful and most appreciative for your generous support every week, and most especially during this season of “Thanks-giving” a perfect time to pause, slow the pace, count blessings and feel gratitude for the abundance in our lives...family, friends, plentiful food and shelter, and to remember those who have gone before us and all we hold dear in the silence of our hearts.

Specific items needed Christmas Holiday Fixings
Food Pantry Coordinator and Volunteers

**St. Francis of Paola Church
Memorial Gifts – December 1, 2019**

BREAD & WINE

James Puccio by Teresa Puccio & Family

BLESSED MOTHER CANDLES

Thank you Jesus Christ for my Mother’s health and Virgin Mary for answering my prayer by Rosamaria Suarez Vargas

Thank you Jesus Christ for my Mother’s health and Virgin Mary for answering my prayer by Rosamaria Suarez Vargas

Advent Day of Reconciliation

Monday, December 16th, 3 pm to 9 pm

Monday, December 16th, is the Advent Day of Reconciliation in our diocese. The Church of St. Francis of Paola will be open on Monday, December 16th from 3 pm to 9 pm and staffed by a priest to hear your Confession. Please invite Jesus in and take advantage of this opportunity to celebrate our Savior’s offer of mercy in this Sacrament. **Fr. Tom**

Futures in Education Presents

Spirit of Christmas Concert

Featuring THE IRISH TENORS

Tuesday, December 17th, 2019 at 8 pm

Beacon Theatre

For more info call 718-965-7394

Nocturnal Adoration: All are invited to attend the monthly Nocturnal Adoration on Sat., Dec. 7, 2019, in the Chapel at St. Cecilia, 84 Herbert St., at 8 pm.

**Mass Intentions for the Week
St. Francis of Paola Church**

Saturday, November 30, 2019

7:45am For All Souls by Giusseppe Vertuccio
5:00pm Margie Sullivan by St. Theresa Guild

Sunday, December 1, 2019

8:00am For The People of Divine Mercy Parish
11:30am Angelo Tellone by wife Maria and daughter Grace

Monday, December 2, 2019

7:45am Eleanor Mongonia

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

7:45am John San Pietro by Scotti Family

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

7:45am Antoinette & Ernest Vitolo by Family

Thursday, December 5, 2019

7:45am Ralph Daniele by Family

Friday, December 6, 2019

7:45am Rita Navarro by Mr. & Mrs. Francesco D’Arrigo & Family

Saturday, December 7, 2019

7:45am Rose Salvato by Children
5:00pm Immaculate Conception by Medici Family

Sunday, December 8, 2019

8:00am Tony & Angie Cagegia by Children
11:30am Immacolata Baglivo by Family

**DMP MEMORIAL CHRISTMAS
Trees & Wreaths**

Remember your loved ones during the Christmas Season with a personalized Christmas Tree or Wreath which will be placed in our Parish Gardens.

Trees and Wreaths will remain lit throughout the Christmas Season.

Keep checking the bulletin or the tables in back of Church for more information.

St. Theresa Guild

The next meeting of the St. Theresa Guild will be on Thursday, December 12, 2019 at 7:30 pm in St. Francis of Paola Rectory Basement. Raffle theme is Christmas. New members are welcome.

DECEMBER 1, 2019

Mass Intentions for the Week St. Nicholas Church

Sunday, December 1, 2019

10:30am Open Intention

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

7:00pm St. Nicholas Feast

Sunday, December 8, 2019

10:30am Paulette Menara by Menara Family

Pray For the Sick: Dorothy Madigan, Joseph A. Leist

Pray For the Recently Deceased:

Salvatore Spinosa, Marie Custodio, Fay Carbone, Janice Angelicola, Pasquale Amato, Barry J. Crisciullo, RoseAnn Quintara, Josephine Beneventin

Receive Our 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.

Seminarian Christmas Gift Card Program

We ask for your participation in a new archdiocesan program to make this Christmas brighter for all our Seminarians, it is called "Seminarian Christmas Gift Program 2019." All you have to do is select an envelope from the table in the back of Church.

Your generosity in helping the Seminarians to meet their everyday expenses that occur is a great sign of support for their generous response to God's call. Returned envelopes are to be deposited in the weekly **Sunday collection basket by December 15, 2019.**

*All instructions for the givers
are included in the envelope that you select.*

Wednesday Prayer Group at St. Cecilia's

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

Mass Intentions for the Week St. Cecilia Church

Sunday, December 1, 2019

9:30am Anthony Diaz (5th Birthday in Heaven)

Rosary Society

Lori Sefcik: Good Health

7:00pm Antonio, Pasqualina & Tino

Lombardi by Family

Monday, December 2, 2019

8:30am Joseph & Mary Zerilli

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

8:30am Frances Brogan

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

8:30am DeGruccio Family

Thursday, December 5, 2019

8:30am Patrick Del Vicario (Anniversary)

Friday, December 6, 2019 – FIRST FRIDAY

8:30am Purgatorial Society

Saturday, December 7, 2019

8:30am Frank Giudice by Barbara Giudice

Sunday, December 8, 2019

9:30am For The People of Divine Mercy Parish

7:00pm In Thanksgiving to St. Pius V

Rosary Society of Divine Mercy Parish

The next meeting for the Rosary Society is Wed., Dec. 4, 2019 in the St. Cecilia's Aud., located at 24 North Henry Street, at 7:00 pm. New members welcome.

Jubilee Year Indulgence at Brooklyn Visitation Monastery

Pope Francis has announced a Jubilee Year in honor of the 100th Anniversary of the canonization of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, who is known as the "Messenger of the Sacred Heart."

Catholics can gain a plenary indulgence by visiting a Visitation Monastery Chapel between now and Oct. 17, 2020. You are invited to do this by coming on certain dates to Visitation Monastery at 8902 Ridge Blvd. Brooklyn. For more information

www.brooklynvisitationmonastery.org/jubilee

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

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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

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