

## 2nd Sunday of Advent

What does it mean to be worthy? There are a few different ways to approach this question. Today's Gospel highlights two: the way of the Pharisees and the way of John the Baptist. Our faith values good works and discipleship. Perhaps, then, we "earn" our worth by adhering to the right doctrines and following the right pious practice. The Pharisees thought they were worthy. Due to their religious pedigree and proper procedures, they were self-satisfied. John the Baptist's words to them are strong. "Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.'" Of course, Jesus (and John) don't omit the responsibility for moral behavior. John gives the Pharisees quite a strong warning in that regard. "Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance ... every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

It's a question of attitude. Of disposition. It's a matter of the heart. If anyone would be worthy in this scenario, it's John the Baptist. Jesus himself will name him the greatest of prophets and a great man. John, however, recognizes his own lowly place in the grand scheme of things. "The one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals." The Pharisees take pride in being "better" than others. John embraces humility in Christ being "better" than him. We don't self-generate our own worthiness. We receive it as a gift from God.

In a few short weeks, we'll celebrate the birth of Christ. Bishop Ven. Fulton Sheen wrote about the Nativity in his "Life of Christ": "Because [Jesus] was born in a cave, all who wish to see Him must stoop. To stoop is the mark of humility. The proud refuse to stoop and, therefore, they miss divinity." God invites us to prepare our hearts this Advent. When you consider your own life, where are you looking for your worth? This Christmas, are you prepared to stoop.

---

**Collection:** Nov. 30/Dec. 1, 2019 will appear in next week's bulletin.

---

### Advent Day of Reconciliation

**Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 3 pm to 9 pm**

Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, is the Advent Day of Reconciliation in our diocese. The Church of St. Francis of Paola will be open on Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 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**

## 2º Domingo de Adviento

Vamos caminando poco a poco rumbo a la Navidad; el Adviento abre un camino nuevo dando oportunidad a una conversión sincera girando el corazón hacia Dios. El protagonista de este domingo y el que viene es Juan Bautista. Con su mensaje, exhorta a la sociedad de hoy a reencontrar el camino y esperar con esperanza cristiana, que es a la vez jubilosa pero exigente en el cambio radical de acciones que destruyen el espíritu de esta temporada. Muchas compras y prisas sin sentido hacen olvidar lo importante del mensaje: "Una voz clama en el desierto: Preparen el camino del Señor, enderecen sus senderos." Significa abrir el corazón a la luz del mensaje. Un corazón sencillo que perdona y experimenta la conversión en pequeños detalles como: una palabra de amor a su familia, aceptar a la persona que no cae bien, o simplemente quitar la cara aburrída de siempre.

"Ya el hacha está puesta a la raíz de los árboles, y todo árbol que no de fruto, será cortado y arrojado al fuego." Mas claro el mensaje no puede estar. La presencia salvadora se presenta en este Adviento invitando a hacer obras buenas, preparando y arreglando lo que esta chueco o, como se dice, dejar de hacer tranzas. El Adviento implica ser valientes para hacer el bien. ¿Qué estás dispuesto a cambiar? ¿Qué se debe de enderezar? Recuerda, Isaías lo describe así: "Habitará el lobo con el cordero, la pantera se echará con el cabrito, el novillo y el león pacerán juntos y un muchachito los apacentará." El llamado sigue, ¿que respondes?

### Readings for the week of December 8, 2019

Sunday:	Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 19 [cf. 7]/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12
Monday:	Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday:	Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday:	Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30
Thursday:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25
Friday:	Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday:	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday:	Is 35:1-6a, 10/ Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 [Is 35:4]/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### A Message from Fr. Tom

We continue our Advent journey. The fundamental theme for us during this season is the longing and expectation for the Second Coming of Jesus. This time demands that we make ready and prepare ourselves to welcome our God and King who first entered in the world as a weak and vulnerable baby. John the Baptist says; "The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him." And then the prophet goes from there to give us the content of that spirit. That is to say, the signs that help us to know God is present. When we possess the spirit of the Lord, we are open to and capable of accepting the virtues of our faith. We urgently need to make those virtues present to the world. Our shorthand for this—if we remember our Confirmation—are the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Those gifts Isaiah lays out for us. They are the spirit of wisdom, understanding, and the spirit of counsel, strength, knowledge and the fear of the Lord. We give evidence of our relationship with God when these virtues are at work within us and produce fruit.

Another way of saying this is: the responsibility is always before us to accept the Christian life as an opportunity to produce good fruit in response to what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. What are these fruits you may ask? We need not imagine ourselves doing great tasks or heroic deeds. Rather the simple daily acts of fidelity to Christ and his church—kindness, generosity, the affection we show in the unseen works of charity.

### Thank You to Anthony & John Ricco & Broadway Stages

Once again the Ricco Brothers and Broadway Stages made possible another wonderful charitable work by our parish providing generous Thanksgiving Day meals for over 20 families. Many volunteers came on Thanksgiving Day morning to help. These volunteers personally made the deliveries to our homebound and opened up bonds of relation with them. May God Bless you all and reward you for your good work.

### Support for 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. The timing of its release seems to me highly suspicious. The accusation against our Bishop was made while he was in Rome meeting with the Pope and came shortly after the conclusion of his investigation in the Diocese

of Buffalo. Whatever the outcome may be—we owe him our prayers. Let us remember Jesus is with his faithful people and with his church; we will survive this difficult period by God's grace and our faith and prayers.

---

### DMP MEMORIAL CHRISTMAS

Remember your loved ones during the Christmas Season with a personalized Christmas Tree or Wreath which will be placed in our parish garden located at St. Francis of Paola Church. Trees and Wreaths will remain lit throughout the Christmas Season.

Memorial Tree \$60.00 / Memorial Wreath \$30.00.

**Deadline is December 8, 2019**

For more information contact the Parish Office.

#### Christmas Tree Lighting

St. Cecilia, Sun., December 15<sup>th</sup>, after the 7pm Mass  
St. Francis, Sat., December 14<sup>th</sup>, after the 5pm Mass

---

### Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

#### Mass Schedule at DMP

Tues., Dec. 24 <sup>th</sup>	5pm St. Francis of Paola
Tues., Dec. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Midnight Mass St. Nicholas
Wed., Dec. 25 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am St. Francis of Paola
Wed., Dec. 25 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am St. Cecilia
Wed., Dec. 25 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am St. Nicholas
Wed., Dec. 25 <sup>th</sup>	11:30am St. Francis of Paola
No 7:00pm Mass at St. Nicholas on Wed. Dec. 25 <sup>th</sup>	

---

### Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend

"Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." Work to ensure your marriage bears good fruit by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekend is Sept 18-20, 2020 in Huntington, NY. For more information, call Chuck & MaryJane Young at 877-697-9963 or visit them at <https://bq-wwme.org/>

---

### Online Training for Lectors

Have you thought about becoming more active in your parish? Are you a lector who wants to learn more about the Scriptures? Give back this holiday season and sign-up for a new online training program, offered in English and Spanish! Through an instructional video and short quizzes, deepen your connection to this ministry and earn your certification in as little as two hours. Sign up at [nyliturgy.teachable.com](http://nyliturgy.teachable.com)

## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

For Thanksgiving 2019, our food pantry distributed grocery bags filled with holiday food to 110 individuals representing 503 family members!

A sincere “Thank You!” to all of our wonderful parishioners who consistently and generously donate food and funds each week, and especially during the holiday season.

We also wish to offer very special thanks to the following for:

- \* the generous donation of grocery items from the Knights of Columbus Don Bosco Council 4960, Joe Martino and Hess Miller Funeral Home.
- \* the time, energy and continuing support of our loyal hard-working volunteers: Andrea Acevedo, Michele Chesnicka, Lucile Kluisza, Jodi McGinn, Jonathan Perez, Lou Pastina and Kathy, Ray and Anthony Rychalski.

Finally, we thank God for the good and holy persons in our parish who quietly live each day as caring, helpful and inspiring persons in service to one another.

Specific items needed: Coffee, Tea/Hot Chocolate  
Food Pantry Coordinator

---

### St. Francis of Paola Church Memorial Gifts – December 8, 2019

#### BREAD & WINE

Salvatore Livornese by Annette Marino

#### ST. JOSEPH CANDLES

Josephine Strocchia by Anna & Joe Fusco

John Strocchia by Anna & Joe Fusco

#### ALTAR CANDLES

Indris Ericka Itriano by Annette Marino

Indris Ericka Itriano by Annette Marino

#### BLESSED MOTHER CANDLES

Immacolata Baglivo by granddaughter Tina

Joseph A. Beneventin, Jr. by Teresa Puccio

---

### 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. Francis of Paola Church

#### Saturday, December 7, 2019

5:00pm Immaculate Conception by Medici Family

#### Sunday, December 8, 2019

8:00am Tony & Angie Cagedia by Children

11:30am Immacolata Baglivo by Family

#### Monday, December 9, 2019

7:45am Ralph Panarese by Wife

#### Tuesday, December 10, 2019

7:45am St. Lucy by Raffaella Morena

#### Wednesday, December 11, 2019

7:45am Long Family by Antoinette & James Long

#### Thursday, December 12, 2019

7:45am Joseph Beneventin 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday by sister Marie

#### Friday, December 13, 2019

7:45am Linda Anacrelco by Family

#### Saturday, December 14, 2019

7:45am Pacifico Family by Children

5:00pm Salvatore Livornese by wife Gaetana

#### Sunday, December 15, 2019

8:00am Anthony & Bettina Giudice by Children

11:30am Angelina & Ben Tizio by Family

---

### 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.  
\$10.00 donation per person includes hot catered food,  
drinks, and dessert.  
For tickets contact Ivette 917-446-9581, Beatriz 347-  
617-4127 or Rina 646-584-3340.

---

### 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 8, 2019

**Mass Intentions for the Week  
St. Nicholas Church**

**Sunday, December 8, 2019**

10:30am Paulette Menara by Menara Family

**Wednesday, December 11, 2019**

7:00pm Open Intention

**Sunday, December 15, 2019**

10:30am For The People of Divine Mercy Parish

---

**Pray For the Sick:** Dorothy Madigan, Marlena Ferone-Washack

**Pray For the Recently Deceased:**

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

---

**Concert with Grammy Nominated Jazz  
Organist, Brian Charette**

Our next concert in the DMP Concert Series features Grammy nominated organist Brian Charette and his duo Kurrent, played on our recently restore Hammond B3 Organ. This drum, synth, and organ ensemble will play original compositions and jazzy arrangements of Christmas favorites. Best of all, it is completely free. These concerts are wonderful ways to invite friends into the parish community. The concert will be at the Msgr. Vetro Center on Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm More information can be found at [current.eventrite.com](http://current.eventrite.com)

---

**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.*

**Mass Intentions for the Week  
St. Cecilia Church**

**Sunday, December 8, 2019**

9:30am For The People of Divine Mercy Parish  
7:00pm In Thanksgiving to St. Pius V

**Monday, December 9, 2019**

8:30am Antonio De Sarno by Daughter

**Tuesday, December 10, 2019**

8:30am George Regnaiere

**Wednesday, December 11, 2019**

8:30am Rita Amadeo by Barbara Giudice

**Thursday, December 12, 2019**

8:30am Rev. James Krische: Living Intention

**Friday, December 13 2019**

8:30am McCauley Family

**Saturday, December 14, 2019**

8:30am President Donald Trump & the People of the United States

**Sunday, December 15, 2019**

9:30am Angie & Barney Cavallo  
Lucy & Pete LaVeglia  
Lupe Di Donno  
Lucy Leone  
Trudyanne (Cookie) Tropiano  
7:00pm In Thanksgiving to St. Pius X

---

**St. Cecilia Church  
Memorial Gifts – December 8, 2019**

**BREAD & WINE**

In Honor of the 118<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Solemn Consecration of St. Cecilia Church

---

**St. Nicholas Raffle Winners**

1<sup>st</sup> #76 St. Nicholas Church  
2<sup>nd</sup> #40 Victor Sandoval  
3<sup>rd</sup> #58 Gina  
4<sup>th</sup> #22 Alma Sandoval

Thank you to Suzette Donato for her contribution of \$250.00.

---

**PRAY FOR VOCATIONS**

**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**

ROUTING CODE: **Y**

RUN NUMBER: **13**

FILENAME: **04-0284.53b**

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

FAX NUMBER: **718-389-5090**

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 94<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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

---

### **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.