

4th Sunday of Advent

Each Advent season, we prepare to welcome Jesus into the inns and stables of our hearts. But Jesus' coming wasn't welcomed by everyone with choirs of angels. For St. Joseph, the first coming of Jesus was a bit more complicated. "When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit." For Joseph, opening his heart (and home) to Jesus meant, at best, appearing to all the world like a man who had impregnated his wife out of wedlock. At worst, he appeared a cuckold, raising the child of another man. God doesn't always appear the way we expect.

For some of us, the birth of Christ is a bit relationally complicated. Perhaps over the past few months, a loved one has died. This Christmas, you're taking it upon yourself to keep up the traditions and hold the family together. Welcoming Jesus means welcoming grief. Perhaps it's a difficult relative (or two or three) and it's all you can do to bite your tongue and swallow your pride while they're under your roof. Welcoming Jesus means welcoming strife, discord, and tension.

Yet "do not be afraid," the angel says. Do not be afraid. Why? Because we celebrate the birth of "Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" Before Jesus' earthly ministry would begin, Jesus would lose his father, Joseph. God is with us in our grief. Wherever Jesus went, he stirred up controversy and faced down challenging personalities. God is with us in our stress. The trick is, like Joseph, to allow supernatural grace to prevail. Joseph was a good man, filled with natural virtue in that he didn't want to "expose [Mary] to shame." Yet he was prepared to "divorce her quietly" all the same. Our natural abilities only take us so far. Where is receiving Jesus complicated this Christmas season? Are you relying on your own strength to get you through, or are you truly ready to accept the grace of Emmanuel, God with us?

Collection: For Dec. 7/8/2019 \$3,085.00.

Memorial Gifts - Divine Mercy Parish

Memorial Gifts are a wonderful way to honor and remember your loved ones. Please come to the Rectory (or call) for information and available dates.

The following Memorial Gifts are available for the week:

Bread & Wine	Sanctuary Lamp
Altar Candles	Blessed Mother Candles
St. Joseph Candles	

4º Domingo de Adviento

El cuarto Domingo de Adviento prácticamente nos pone ya a las puertas de la Navidad, estemos listos o no. En unos días, celebraremos el nacimiento de nuestro Salvador. La figura importante en este domingo es María que ha concebido por obra del Espíritu Santo y pone al mundo al Emmanuel, Dios-con-nosotros. El Evangelio nos narra la duda de José, disipada por el ángel que Dios envía a él en sueños. "José, hijo de David, no dudes en recibir en tu casa a María, tu esposa, porque ella ha concebido por obra del Espíritu Santo. Dará a luz un hijo y tú le pondrás el nombre de Jesús, porque el salvará a su pueblo de sus pecados." ¿Cuántas dudas existen aún en la sociedad sobre el Nacimiento del Mesías?

"En Navidad Dios se nos dona todo donando a su Hijo, el Único, que es toda su alegría. Y sólo con el corazón de María, la humilde y pobre hija de Sión, convertida en Madre del Hijo del Altísimo, es posible exultar y alegrarse por el gran don de Dios y por su imprevisible sorpresa. Que Ella nos ayude a percibir el asombro — estos tres asombros: el otro, la historia y la Iglesia— por el nacimiento de Jesús, el don de los dones, el regalo inmerecido que nos trae la salvación. El encuentro con Jesús nos hará también sentir a nosotros este gran asombro. Pero no podemos tener este asombro, no podemos encontrar a Jesús, si no lo encontramos en los demás, en la historia y en la Iglesia." (Papa Francisco).

Readings for the week of December 22, 2019

Sunday: Is 7:10-14/ Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

Monday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79

Wednesday: 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

Thursday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22

Friday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Saturday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/ Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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 Rev. Pedro Angucho-Lopez
Deacon Carlos Valderrama Rev. Andrew Verano
Deacon Nestor Martinez

Christmas Lessons & Carols before Midnight Mass

The Divine Mercy Parish Choir invites you to come to St. Nicholas Church at 11:15 pm on Christmas Eve for a short concert of lessons and carols prior to Midnight Mass.

It is a wonderful way to spiritually transition from the Season of Advent to the Season of Christmas. We look forward to seeing you there.

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

Mass Schedule at DMP

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

Solemnity of Mary at DMP Mass Schedule

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

Transfiguration Men's Shelter

We have completed our fall week at the Transfiguration men's shelter and would like to thank everyone who participated in providing and serving hot meals for those who may not have had one otherwise.

We have been assigned our 2020 winter week for the Transfiguration Men's Shelter. The dates we will be needing assistance are:

Sunday, January 19, 2020 through
Saturday, January 25, 2020

If you can help us by providing a complete hot meal for 35 men consisting of salad, entrée, dessert and beverage, or if you are unable to provide the food but would like to help by serving, we can always use a helping hand.

Please contact Angela Scotti @ 718-782-3881 or the Parish Office @ 718-387-0256. Please be assured whether you do this personally, with your family, group or organization your kindness and generosity is always greatly appreciated.

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

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

“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 joy of togetherness.

Food Pantry Coordinator

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

Saturday, December 21, 2019

5:00pm Dominick & Lena Perrotto by Marie & Dom Perrotto

Sunday, December 22, 2019

8:00am Antonio Navarro by Daughter, Husband and Family

11:30am For the People of Divine Mercy Parish

Monday, December 23, 2019

7:45am Frank Allocca by Fr. Tom

Tuesday, December 24, 2019-Christmas Eve

7:45am Florence & Anthony Giglio by Children

5:00pm Christmas Intentions

Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2019- Christmas Day

7:45am Christmas Intentions

Thursday, December 26, 2019

7:45am Fortunato Aliperti by Wife & Children

Friday, December 27, 2019

7:45am Gianpiero Bartolotta Holiday in Heaven by Mom & Family

Saturday, December 28, 2019

7:45am Matthew & Natalie Baialardo by Matty

5:00pm Andrea Catalanotti by Rosemary Clementi

Sunday, December 29, 2019

8:00am Joseph DeMartino by Rita, Joseph & Lorraine

11:30am Giuseppina Arlistico by Children
Marion & Michael Basile by daughter
Elizabeth

Antoniaetta Barbieri by Elena Gagliardi

The Mass Book for 2020 is open for intentions from January to June. Come to 219 Conselyea St. to book your Masses.

Parish Bulletin

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.

St. Francis of Paola Church

Memorial Gifts – December 22, 2019

BREAD & WINE

Florence & Anthony Giglio by daughter, Carlotta

ST. JOSEPH CANDLES

Florence & Anthony Giglio by granddaughter Melissa Veronica

Antonio Navaro by Daughter, Son In Law and Grandchildren

ALTAR CANDLES

Ralph Panarese by Wife & Family

Ralph Panarese by Wife & Family

BLESSED MOTHER CANDLES

Florence & Anthony Giglio by Children

Florence & Anthony Giglio by Children

Pro Life march in Washington D.C.

Friday, January 24th, 2020

If you are interested in attending the march in Washington, on Friday, January 24th which is to protest the 47th Anniversary of the legalization of abortion in our country, please call the parish office and express your interest and desire to participate. We will collaborate with other parishes in the diocese to charter busses to make our presence felt. Please participate.

**Diocese of Brooklyn Vocation Office
Jeremiah Project**

High School & College Discernment Group

January 24 – 25, 2020

For more information call: 718-827-2454

DECEMBER 22, 2019

Mass Intentions for the Week

St. Nicholas Church

Sunday, December 22, 2019

10:30am Carmelo del Cid
Maria Celeste Martinez

Tuesday, December 24, 2019-Christmas Eve

12 Midnight Christmas Intentions

Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2019- Christmas Day

10:30 am Christmas Intentions
No 7:00 PM Mass this Day

Sunday, December 29, 2019

10:30am Pasquale Amato by Dennis Torre &
Sonia Rivera

Pray For the Sick: Dorothy Madigan, Marlena Ferone-Washack, Patricia Clarke, Lori Sefcik, Trish Randall, Anthony Delio

Pray For the Recently Deceased:
Rita DeMartino, James Sullivan, Michael Younghese

**Women – Need a Few Days
Alone with God**

Why are we so distracted from the important things in life? How can we regain the inner peace we need to carry on as holy women in our vocation? Come apart and spend some time in the enclosure of the Sisters of the Brooklyn Visitation Monastery and share their daily life of prayer, enriching yourself in the presence of God. The retreat area can accommodate a maximum of four women for a private retreat for a week, weekend, or day of recollection. See the EWTN interview of Fr. Mitch Pacwa, S.J. and one of our sisters, “The Purpose of a Retreat with the Visitation Sisters” at <http://bit.ly/359HIm9>. Contact the Brooklyn Visitation Monastery, 8902 Ridge Blvd., Brooklyn, N.Y. VAMonastery@aol.com or call 718-745-5151

Congratulations: We congratulate the following students from our parish community who have received academic accomplishments at Msgr. McClancy Memorial High School, for the first quarter.

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Vincent Gangone | Principal List |
| Joseph Nitti | Principal List |
| Genna Sgrizzi | Principal List |
| Antonio Cipriano | First Honors |
| Julia Costa | First Honors |

Mass Intentions for the Week

St. Cecilia Church

Sunday, December 22, 2019

9:30am Antonio Arlistico by Children
Jo & Ed Collins
Eamon & Ray McGinn
7:00pm Venerable Pius XII

Monday, December 23, 2019

8:30am Eleanor Mongonia

Tuesday, December 24, 2019

8:30am DeGruccio & Scaturico Family

Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2019-Christmas Day

8:30am Christmas Intentions

Thursday, December 26, 2019

8:30am McCauley Family

Friday, December 27, 2019

8:30am Agnes Riccio

Saturday, December 28, 2019

8:30am Donna Kukura by Dennis Torre & Sonia Rivera

Sunday, December 29, 2019

9:30am Leonard Gifford
Kenny Calderon
Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio: Living Intention
Donald Trump: Living Intention
Deepest Gratitude Pope St. Paul VI
7:00pm For the People of Divine Mercy Parish

**Request for Prayers
For Fr. Krische and Our Service Men &
Women Overseas
and The Priests who Serve Them**

Our Soldiers and Families serve across the nation and the globe. Their work is hazardous and puts them on the cutting edge of technology and weaponry. Many are in stressful situations at work and at home, as the rigors of serving mount during the holidays. Please pray that God will protect and nurture their military family!

The Parish Office will be closed Wednesday, December 25, 2019 - Christmas Day

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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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 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

Receive Our Parish Bulletin **Electronically**

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