

The Holy Family

“Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you.” 725 kilometers. That’s the distance on modern roads from Bethlehem to Cairo. Assuming one covered 40km a day on foot — ambitious for two young parents and their infant son — the journey would take well over two weeks. Of course, the Holy Family didn’t have modern roads. They would travel through wilderness, fear bandits, run low on water, and cross the vast Sinai Peninsula in a reverse of their forefathers in Exodus. Here, in struggle and sacrifice, are the beginnings of the forging of the Holy Family.

“Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod.” Large Jewish communities existed in most major cities of the ancient Mediterranean world, after the collapse of their kingdoms chronicled in the Old Testament, and Joseph could likely find work as a carpenter. All the same, today’s Gospel reminds us that the first formational years of Jesus as a babe-in-arms were spent in a strange land. The members of the Holy Family were foreigners, outsiders, immigrants.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. God took on our humanity. He is in solidarity with our own trials and difficulties. On the feast of the Holy Family, we honor the special place of the family within society. We are invited, too, to recall those families who share in the struggles of the Holy Family in a particular way. We pray for immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees. We pray for all parents who sacrifice their own well-being and comfort so their children may have a better life.

Sunday Collection for December 14/5, 2019 was \$2,637.00

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.

Bread & Wine	Sanctuary Lamp
Altar Candles	Blessed Mother Candles

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

La Sagrada Familia

Seguimos en Navidad y hoy la Liturgia hace hincapié en la importancia de la familia. La familia siempre ha sido vivero de esperanza y alegría por el amor de los esposos y el cuidado que deben brindar a sus hijos. La familia, es una pequeña comunidad que inicia en la oración y vocación cristiana. Es desde ahí que la semilla nace para el sacerdocio, la vida religiosa, matrimonio y los hombres y mujeres laicos comprometidos que sirven a la Iglesia y en la sociedad. Los consejos que se dan en las lecturas de hoy son luz que debe iluminar el hogar y debemos practicarlos durante el año. El libro de Sirácide dice así: “El Señor honra al padre en los hijos y respalda la autoridad de la madre sobre la prole.” San Pablo lo resume de la siguiente manera: “Que en sus corazones reine la paz de Cristo, esa paz a la que han sido llamados, como miembros de un solo cuerpo.” En el Evangelio se ve el cómo actúa José y María para proteger a su hijo: “Levántate, toma al niño y a su madre, y huye a Egipto.”

Consejos del Papa Francisco para la familia: "A los recién casados les doy siempre este consejo: 'Reñid lo que queráis. Si vuelan los platos, dejadlos. Pero nunca acabéis el día sin hacer las paces. ¡Nunca!' "Para hacer las paces no hace falta llamar a Naciones Unidas, que venga a casa a hacer la paz. Basta un gesto pequeño, una caricia: 'Bueno, adiós, hasta mañana'. Y mañana se comienza de nuevo". ¿Qué te anima de estos consejos? ¿Qué harás por tu familia actualmente?

Readings for the week of December 29, 2019

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
Monday:	1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40
Tuesday:	1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18
Wednesday:	Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
Thursday:	1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 1:19-28
Friday:	1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6 [3cd]/Jn 1:29-34
Saturday:	1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9 [3cd]/Jn 1:35-42
Next	Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

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

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

The Mass Book for 2020 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

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

**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)

This ponderous holiday time has been made more so because of your continued generosity and kindness in supporting our parish ministry to the needy.

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

Special Items needed: **Canned Fruit**
Food Pantry Coordinator

**St. Francis of Paola Church
Memorial Gifts – December 29, 2019**

BREAD & WINE

Thank you Jesus Christ for my mother’s good health and Virgin Mary for answering by prayers, by Rosamaria Suarez-Vargas

ALTAR CANDLES

Fay Carbone by Frank Marino
Fay Carbone by Frank Marino

BLESSED MOTHER CANDLES

Karen Gaston by Frank Marino
Karen Gaston by Frank Marino

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.

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

Saturday, December 28, 2019

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

Monday, December 30, 2019

7:45am Vilella Family by Children

Tuesday, December 31, 2019-

7:45am Florence & Anthony Giglio by Children

Wednesday, January 1, 2020

Mary Mother of God

7:45am Pasquale Amato by Iginos & Giovanna Falce

Thursday, January 2, 2020

7:45am Ralph Varano by Anthony Purcelli

Friday, January 3, 2020

7:45am Rita DeMartino by Vomero Family

Saturday, January 4, 2020

7:45am Amelia Petagna: Living Intention

5:00pm For the People of Divine Mercy Parish

Sunday, January 5, 2020

8:00am Open Intention

11:30am Rita DeMartino by Anthony D’Angelo

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!

Save the Date: St. Anthony’s “Carnevale”
February 25, 2020

DECEMBER 29, 2019

Mass Intentions for the Week

St. Nicholas Church

Sunday, December 29, 2019

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

Wednesday, January 2, 2020

Mary Mother of God

10:30 am Open Intention
No 7:00 pm Mass this Day

Sunday, January 5, 2020

10:30am Pasquale Amato by Pasko Family

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, Agnes Sullivan

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

Are You Registered

As a Member of the Parish

Start the New Year by completing a membership form. The form can be found in the back of Church. Fill it out and submit it to the Parish Office by either dropping it off in the collection basket on Sunday, or by mailing it in.

Mass Intentions for the Week

St. Cecilia Church

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

Monday, December 30, 2019

8:30am Anthony L. DelVicario (Birthday)

Tuesday, December 31, 2019

8:30am Eleanor Mongonia

Wednesday, January 1, 2020

Mary Mother of God

8:30am Al Korky

Thursday, January 2, 2020

8:30am James Bernacchio by Mr. & Mrs. Cono DePaola

Friday, January 3, 2020 – First Friday

8:30am Purgatorial Society

Saturday, January 4, 2020

8:30am Josephine Beneventin

Sunday, January 5, 2020

9:30am Rose Del Vicario (Anniversary)
Janice Angelicola
Deepest Gratitude Pople St. Paul VI
7:00pm Msgr. Edward McGoldrick

Nocturnal Adoration

Join us for Nocturnal Adoration on Sat. Jan. 4, 2020 in St. Cecilia's Chapel, 84 Herbert Street, at 8:00 pm. All are invited.

Religious Education Up-Dates

January 11: Confirmation Workshop 3-5 pm at St. Francis of Paola basement
January 16: Confirmation Parents Meeting 7 pm at St. Francis of Paola basement

Classes will resume on January 5th, 2020 at 9:30 am for St. Francis of Paola site.

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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

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.