

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

People are not property. We cannot exchange them at will or simply use them for our own designs and purposes. What does the word “commitment” mean to you? We can begin to understand its meaning by looking at some synonyms: dedication, devotion, allegiance, loyalty, faithfulness, fidelity, and bond. Commitment is primarily about relationship, and Jesus is all about relationships. How our lives affect others, how we treat our brothers and sisters, how we resolve conflict, and how we view the vows of marriage. Jesus’ teachings on obeying the commandments, murder, reconciliation, marriage, divorce, and adultery all stem from the sacredness of commitment. All of this has a God connection.

We can easily see one another as interchangeable and dispensable. We treat so much of our lives this way. What works today may not be what I want tomorrow. We search and search for the right thing only to find our hearts still restless in the end. Is real happiness achievable this side of the grave? Sometimes we expect too much out of others and want our relationships to fill a hole that we must figure out how to fill ourselves. Any seasoned married couple will tell you that their love for one another changes as time passes. Even though the understanding of romance changes as life changes, the dedication, devotion, allegiance, loyalty, faithfulness, and fidelity all remain and even deepen.

Some relationships can be hurtful, and God does not want us to live with abuse or pain. Also, how a relationship develops is sometimes out of our control, and we become the victim of someone else’s decision. But we can’t be self-focused in our relationships and see them exclusively as self-fulfilling ends. We are companions on life’s journey with varying depths of relationships being enjoyed by all who are with us along the way. We have the freedom to choose. God asks us to do so wisely, with right judgment and thinking.

Sunday Collection: for Feb. 8/9, 2020 will appear in next week’s bulletin.

ISC Bach Concert

Saturday, February 15, 2020

Please join us this weekend for the next concert in the DMP Concert Series. Renowned group ISC will play a program featuring two Bach cantatas and other Baroque favorites. This wonderful program is refreshing for the soul and mind. This concert is a great way to invite others into the life of our parish community. The concert will take place this Saturday, February 15th at St. Francis of Paola directly after the 5 PM Mass.

6º Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

Ninguna ley divina o humana puede cubrir las decisiones correctas que debemos de tomar en nuestra jornada de vida y en la comunidad. Es preciso tomar decisiones que comprometan al bien común y al ejercicio de la justicia. Recordemos en términos bíblicos, justicia es ejercer la misericordia de Dios en los que nos rodean. Tanto la Primera Lectura como el Evangelio marcan el punto de lo que más se necesita para actuar con rectitud, “Confianza plena en Dios.” Escoger lo correcto ayuda a profundizar en el corazón humano lo que Dios pide a cada uno. Decidir por las cosas buenas en la vida es cosa de todos los días. La Primera lectura del Eclesiástico dice así: “Si tú quieres, puedes observar los mandamientos; está en tus manos el ser fiel. Ante ti puso el fuego y el agua; extiende la mano a lo que prefieras. Delante de los hombres están la vida y la muerte; a cada uno se le dará lo que ha elegido.” (Eclesiástico 5:14-17)

En el Evangelio, Jesús urge que escuchemos la Ley de Dios y la llevemos a plenitud. En los cuatro ejemplos se habla de la rectitud de vida que es encontrada en los mandamientos. Cada día se encuentra la persona en la dicotomía de elegir entre lo que es bueno y lo que no es. Escuchemos a Jesús que reta a hacer decisiones que lleven a hacer crecer el Reino de Dios. Bien sabemos que solo obrando rectamente se logra este objetivo. La clave es la siguiente: “Digan si cuando es sí, y no cuando es no; cualquier otra cosa que se le añada, viene del demonio.” (Mateo 5:37)

Readings for the week of February 16, 2020

Sunday:	Sir 15:15-20/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34 [1b]/1 Cor 2:6-10/Mt 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37
Monday:	Jas 1:1-11/Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76 [77a]/Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday:	Jas 1:12-18/Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19 [12a]/Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday:	Jas 1:19-27/Ps 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5 [1b]/Mk 8:22-26
Thursday:	Jas 2:1-9/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [7a]/Mk 8:27-33
Friday:	Jas 2:14-24, 26/Ps 112:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. 1b]/Mk 8:34—9:1
Saturday:	1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6 [1]/Mt 16:13-19
Next	Sunday: Lv 19:1-2, 17-18/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13 [8a]/1 Cor 3:16-23/Mt 5:38-48

Message from Fr. Tom

It is helpful to remember the setting of the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus speaks to a Jewish audience. As Jews, they preserved their identity by maintaining the strict demands of the Mosaic Law. This impacted obligations regarding ritual purity, the foods they ate, and the people with whom they associated. It was *very* demanding. In this context, Jesus speaks the words of the Gospel to us. Jesus extends or reinterprets the Mosaic Law and emphasizes the necessity to act upon our religious beliefs. He does not overturn the Law but brings it to fulfillment. On our part, the reception of this message requires wisdom—and not merely being content with a slavish fulfillment of minutiae of the Law.

Since the 1960's there has been a very critical gaze upon the teaching of the Catholic Church. This critical gaze came NOT from the church's opponents but from within the church itself. It is a fault-line we still find today in the church. At that time, many people wondered if by the light of modern developments that the Catholic Church's teaching on major issues—particularly those impacting family life and human sexuality—needed to be re-evaluated and indeed changed. The problem is—and this is particularly true for my generation that came to age in the post-1960's, post Vatican II period—we witnessed in the last 50 years a near total collapse of our moral and religious foundations within the church. The Catholic Church seems to be running on fumes. By every conceivable measure the Catholic Church is in serious decline—Churches closing or merged, mass attendance down from 70% to 20% or even lower in some areas (e.g., Brooklyn)—Sacramental initiation and marriages down—50% of Catholics no longer believe in the true Presence.

Today's Gospel concerns itself with the Law and its fulfillment and in particular regarding anger, adultery, divorce and the taking of oaths. Yet, the message seems to apply to this radical reevaluation—Jesus does not abolish or overturn the basic demands but rather wants us to take them to heart and internalize these demands. The person who is wise takes to heart the message of the Law. The person who is wise is a person who recognizes the truth—even if—their faith may be very weak. Such a person will be better off than the person who claims to have faith in God, but is unable to recognize the truth.

Fr. Tom

Stations of the Cross

7:00 PM Tri - Lingual

Friday	Feb. 28	St. Cecilia
Friday	March 6	St. Francis of Paola
Friday	March 13	St. Nicholas
Friday	March 20	St. Cecilia
Friday	March 27	St. Francis of Paola
Friday	April 3	St. Nicholas

Pro-Life Support

Two weeks ago we had the 47th Annual Pro-Life Rally in Washington, D.C. Hundreds of thousands participate each year during the height of winter. Predictably there was just about zero mainstream media coverage. How might we be able to help? Consider a donation to one of these grass roots, local groups that do wonderful work in giving women in crisis pregnancy options and hope instead of abortion:

The Bridge to Life, Inc. 147-32 Sanford Avenue Flushing, N.Y. 11355 (718) 463-1810	Pregnancy Help, Inc. 229 West 14 th Street New York, N.Y. 10011 (212) 243-0970
Life Center of New York 6802 Fifth Avenue Brooklyn, N.Y. 11220 (718) 748-4992	Good Counsel P.O. Box 6068 Hoboken, N.J. 07030 (201) 795-0637
Helpers of God's Precious Infants Precious Blood Monastery 5300 Fort Hamilton Pkway. Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219 (718) 853-2789	Sisters of Life 38 Montebello Rd. Suffern, N.Y. 11901 (845) 357-5347

2020 – Lent

Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020

7:45am	Mass at St. Francis of Paola
8:30am	Mass at St. Cecilia (Main Church)
11:00am	Mass at St. Nicholas with QRCA
1:30pm	Service w/Ashes at Jennings Hall
3:00pm	Service w/Ashes at St. Francis
7:00pm	Mass w/Ashes St. St. Cecilia
7:00pm	Mass w/Ashes at St. Nicholas (Spanish)

Parish Office

The Parish office will be closed on Mon., Feb. 17, 2020 in observance of Presidents' Day.

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**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)

Please be assured that our needy neighbors appreciate the love that comes from the food they receive through your support of our pantry.

Special Items needed: **Canned meats (stew, hash, etc.)**
Food Pantry Coordinator

**St. Francis of Paola Church
Memorial Gifts – February 16, 2020**

BREAD & WINE

Joseph & Sam Rocco by Teresa Puccio & Family

SAINT JOSEPH CANDLES

Fay Parrino by Anna & Joe Fusco

150th Anniversary of St. Cecilia’s

St. Cecilia’s Church will be celebrating her 150th Anniversary next year. Committees are being formed. All persons interested in participating should call the parish office and leave their contact information.

**Day of Prayer and Reflection for
Liturgical Ministers**

Saturday, March 7, 2020 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

St. Joseph’s Seminary, Yonkers

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors, Ushers and Parish Musicians are invited to gather together to reflect on the meaning of the Easter Triduum and discover its deep meaning for their lives, their ministry and their parish communities.

This day of prayer and reflection will include presentations by Dr. Donna Eschenauer, associate dean and associate professor of pastoral theology at St. Joseph's Seminary, and author of "A Journey Through the Three Days: Theological Reflections on the Paschal Triduum."

Registration Fee: \$30 (includes lunch) register at:
nyliturgy.org/dayofprayer

More information: liturgy@archny.org or 914-968-6200, x8177

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

Saturday, February 15, 2020

5:00pm For the People of Divine Mercy Parish

Sunday, February 16, 2020

8:00am Claudio Facchini by Family

11:30am Salvatore Bifulco by Santina De Sarno & Family

Monday, February 17, 2020

7:45am Yadira Aybar by Mom

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

7:45am Rita De Martino by Josephine & Dominick Siano

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

7:45am Linda Anacrelico by Santaromita Family

Thursday, February 20, 2020

7:45am Raffaella Fonti by Fr. Tom

Friday, February 21, 2020

7:45am Frances De Stefano by Marie & Dom Perrotto

Saturday, February 22, 2020

7:45am Rose Marie Ippolito

5:00pm Karen Garton by Family

Sunday, February 23, 2020

8:00am For the People of Divine Mercy Parish

11:30am Anthony Giglio, 50th Anniv. In Heaven by Family

Aida Lopez by Daughter & Grandchildren

**Portraits of Immigrants: Unknown
Faces, Untold Stories**

The Diocese of Brooklyn’s very own Green Door Gallery at St. Francis of Paola invites you to New York Artist/Writer Betsy Ashton’s powerful exhibition of portraits and stories of immigrants and refugees designed to counter fear and hate with kindness, truth and understanding.

Opened: Weekends Feb. 14th – March 8th

Fridays: 6 PM – 8 PM

Saturdays & Sundays: 12 PM – 5 PM

www.portraitsofimmigrants.com

FEBRUARY 16, 2020

Mass Intentions for the Week

St. Nicholas Church

Sunday, February 16, 2020

10:30am Sr. Rose Winifred O'Neill, O.P. by
Janet Cadogan
Roberto Ramirez

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

7:00pm Open Intention

Sunday, February 23, 2020

10:30am Open Intention

Pray For the Sick

Patricia Clarke, Trish Randall, Marie Salvato, Caroline Bark, Henrietta Craine, Ralph Pastina

Pray For the Recently Deceased

Rose De Angelis, Brigid Brugaletta, Laura Vayda

Regulations for Lent

ABSTINENCE: The faithful who have reached 14 years of age are required to abstain totally from meat on ASH WEDNESDAY & GOOD FRIDAY and the FRIDAYS of Lent.

FASTING: All the faithful between the ages of 18 and 59 are bound to fast on ASH WEDNESDAY & GOOD FRIDAY. This practice involves limiting oneself to a single full meal and avoiding food between meals. If need be two lighter meals may be taken.

PENANCE & EUCHARIST: The faithful are encouraged to receive the Eucharist and participate in the Sacrament of Penance frequently, especially during Lent.

Young Adult Lenten Bible Study

Beginning Sunday, March 1st, and on each of the Sundays in Lent, there will be a Bible Study immediately preceding the Traditional Latin Mass at the Rectory of St. Cecilia's (84 Herbert St.) from 5:30-6:30pm. Those who participate are also invited to fellowship after the Mass.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

2/23/2020 Regular Classes & Family Day at
12:30 pm in St. Francis of Paola
Auditorium

Mass Intentions for the Week

St. Cecilia Church

Sunday, February 16, 2020

9:30am Josephine Beneventin
Deborah Gelski
Maria Louisa Rodriguez by Family
Domingo Rodriguez by Maria
Rodriguez & Family
Marge Formato: Living Intention 94th
Birthday
7:00pm Nicholas Farina

Monday, February 17, 2020

8:30am Romana Giuliani

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

8:30am Cono & Frances DeGrucio

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

8:30am Deborah Gelski

Thursday, February 20, 2020

8:30am Annette De Florio

Friday, February 21, 2020

8:30am Robert Pangretic

Saturday, February 22, 2020

8:30am Corona Dambrosio by Maria Sepe

Sunday, February 23, 2020

9:30am Janice Angelicola
James Orff
Lou Pastina: Living Intention 92nd
Birthday
7:00pm Philip & Rose Hofmann

Entering Canaan Day of Prayer & Healing February 29, 2020

For women suffering because of a past abortion.

"I could never have believed that God's forgiveness was possible during the decades that I spent in post abortion shame and isolation. Entering Canaan was almost a miraculous experience for me."

Brooklyn, N.Y. Director: Msgr. Andrew Vaccari
For confidential reservations call Lumina 877-586-4621
or email lumina@postabortionhelp.org.

Pray for Vocations

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ANY TEXT OR GRAPHICS ENTERED ON THIS PAGE
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CHURCH NAME: **Divine Mercy Parish**

CHURCH CITY: **Brooklyn, NY**

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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 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.