

# 1st Sunday of Lent

Life can easily spin us out of control. While there are so many wonderful opportunities before us, we can also get easily distracted and exhausted. There is always something to do, respond to, or check. The clutter of our lives can take us off course, and the best remedy for getting back on track is the experience of the desert. Here we can face our demons square on, resist them, and get back on course. We desperately need the season of Lent. This simple time of year forces us into greater awareness and grounds us in what is good and true.

What weighs you down and keeps you trapped? Maybe you are trying to do too much and please too many people. It could be that your fragile self-image is always pushing you to prove yourself and find success. Anxiety and worry, ultimately due to a lack of faith, can quickly tempt you with despair. It could be that you are listening to too many voices and allowing all of the negativity that is present erode the genuine goodness in your heart and in all of God's creation. Or maybe you struggle too much with fear. Perhaps so much so that you are far too preoccupied with your own agenda and goals and left with little psychological or spiritual room to consider and respond to the plight of your neighbor. Do anger, bitterness, stubbornness, and hatred have homes in your heart? How about greed, gluttony, pride, apathy, or lust?

For many, their passions and what can be found on the internet are their downfall, and they are robbed of their inner life and freedom. What is it, specifically, that tempts you away from a childlike trust in God? Define this and use the next few weeks to allow God to chart you a course away from them. Silence, being alone, grace, honesty, struggle, tears, and dryness are all found in the desert. You will also find God and your true self in this holy place. Ready to go?

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**Sunday Collection:** Feb. 15/16, 2020 was \$3,357.00 and Feb. 22/23, 2020 was \$3,178.00.

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## Digital Keyboard

A "Williams Symphony Digital Keyboard" is being donated by Divine Mercy Parish. The pedal unit does not work, but it is otherwise in good shape. Available for pick up from 219 Conselyea St. Contact the Parish Office if interested.

# 1er Domingo de la Cuaresma

Hoy es el Primer Domingo de Cuaresma. Cuaresma significa cuarenta días y es el tiempo donde se prepara la fiesta más importante del año, "La Pascua". La Cuaresma nos recuerda el periodo de preparación para un verdadero encuentro con Dios. La Cuaresma nos invita al arrepentimiento y a la conversión. Es un tiempo sagrado para orar, dar limosna y ayunar. La Cuaresma dio inicio el 26 de febrero y termina hasta el Jueves Santo, antes de la Misa de la Cena del Señor. La Oración colectiva nos ayuda a ver con claridad el propósito de la Cuaresma: "Concédenos, Dios todopoderoso, que, por las prácticas anuales del sacramento cuaresmal, progreseemos en el conocimiento del misterio de Cristo y traduzcamos su efecto en una conducta irreprochable."

Santos y perfectos, nos recomendaba el Señor Jesús el domingo pasado. ¿Lo recuerdan? Pues, ahora es el tiempo de practicar constantemente el vencer a las tentaciones que se presentan en el vivir cotidiano. La tentación es una gran oportunidad para vencer el mal y persistir siempre en hacer el bien. El desierto es el lugar preferido de Jesús para fortalecerse en el Espíritu del Padre. ¿A qué desierto entraremos? ¿Qué descubriremos en él? ¿A quién encontraremos? Ahora es la oportunidad de retirar el mal que hay en nuestra vida con las mismas palabras con que Jesús al final de este Evangelio rechaza al demonio, "Aléjate, Satanás, porque dice la escritura: Adorarás al Señor tu Dios, y a Él sólo servirás." (Mateo 4:10). Con Jesús, vayamos al desierto y preparémonos para las pruebas. ¡Señor que tu misericordia nos acompañe en esta Cuaresma que comienza!

## Readings for the week of March 1, 2020

Sunday:	Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17 [cf. 3a]/Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11
Monday:	Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 [Jn 6:63b]/Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday:	Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19 [18b]/Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday:	Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 [19b]/Lk 11:29-32
Thursday:	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 [3a]/Mt 7:7-12
Friday:	Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 [3]/Mt 5:20-26
Saturday:	Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 [1b]/Mt 5:43-48

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

### Message from Fr. Tom

The temptations of Jesus in the desert are one of the most powerful experiences in the life of Jesus. There are two other persons in the Bible who undertook 40 days of fasting: Moses on Mt. Sinai as he received the Commandments (Exodus 24:28); and the Prophet Elijah as he fled the murderous wrath of King Ahab and Jezebel as he sought to purify Israel of idolatry (I Kings 19: 7, 8). These experiences should be endless sources of reflection for us. Fasting helps to draw us closer to God.

Speaking personally, one of the hardest parts of Lent for me is fasting. There are three marks or penitential practices associated with Lent. They are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Fasting for me is always the hardest to embrace. It places stress on my days which are typically filled with activity, problem solving and conflict resolution. Fasting raises the following questions. Do I really trust God as a loving Father in times of privation? Do I value placing God first above all things? This includes offering up to God my own deeply ingrained presumptions about what activity or work I believe is pleasing to our God. Do I emphasize productivity and efficiency over allowing myself to be humbled? What place does atonement have in my spiritual life? Fasting on whatever level—spiritual or physical—is a way of removing from our lives those things or attitudes that might separate or block God’s action in our lives. Lord God, by your grace help us to enter into a Lent that confidently seeks your presence through the penitential acts of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

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### Can Anybody Say Amen?

This was the title of a documentary film about Gospel music a few decades ago. It also applies to us in our Sunday worship. When you receive the Body of Christ from the priest at each Mass—the correct response—the ONLY response—is “Amen.” Many people in DMP are neglecting this important obligation of our worship. Often, the priests of DMP are met with either silence or “thank you.” The Eucharist is a gift of God and not from the priest who merely cooperates with God’s desire to share himself with you in this Sacrament. When you come forward to receive Jesus—please respond with a firm “Amen.” Thank you for bearing this in mind.

### Stations of the Cross

#### 7:00 PM Tri - Lingual

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

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### Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> /First Saturday of the Month Marian Devotion

I encourage you to take advantage of the First Saturday Devotion. Mary the mother of Jesus invites us to make the following four (4) spiritual exercises on the first Saturday of five consecutive months:

- Attend Mass on the First Saturday of the Month
- Pray the five decades of the Rosary on that Saturday
- Reflect for 15 Minutes on one of the Mysteries of the Rosary on that Saturday
- Go to Confession within 7 days prior or after the First Saturday

Please attend Mass on that day. For the person who makes this devotion to Mary for five (5) consecutive Saturdays the mother of Jesus promises us that she will be with that person at the hour of death with all the graces necessary for salvation. What a deal!

Finally, become a member of the Nocturnal Adoration Society here in DMP. Attend Nocturnal Adoration on the First Saturday of every month in St. Cecilia’s Chapel. Next date is March 7, 2020.

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### CCD Calendar Dates

3/7/20	CATECHIST RETREAT at SFP, 9am - 1pm
3/17/20:	First Communion Parents Meeting, 7pm SFB
3/21/20	Confirmation Retreat ICC, 9am-3pm
4/18/20	First Communion Retreat/ site VETRO, 8:30am—12 noon

NO Confirmation workshop scheduled for March due to the Retreats.

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### Adoration

Adoration at St. Cecilia’s Chapel Monday—Thursday 9 PM to 10 PM.

Adoration at St. Francis of Paola Monday 11 AM to 1 PM.

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

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

We welcome the Lenten season with this prayer: Father, we stand on the doorstep of spring and the promise of new energy. Direct our heart and efforts toward a real and active participation in the season of Lent by serving those in the greatest need. Guide us through this time to the joy of Easter. Amen

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

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### St. Francis of Paola Church Memorial Gifts – March 1, 2020

#### BREAD & WINE

Teresa Kukura by Amelia Petagna

#### SAINT JOSEPH CANDLES

Anthony Potestivo by Anna & Joe Fusco

#### SANCTUARY LAMP

Charles Vecchione by Teresa Puccio & Family

#### BLESSED MOTHER CANDLES

Teresa Kukura by Amelia Petagna

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### St. Theresa Guild

The next meeting of the St. Theresa Guild will take place on Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 7 pm in the St. Francis of Paola rectory basement. Please note the earlier start time which will allow us to recite prayers and have a brief business meeting immediately followed by the 2019 movie “Unplanned” (at approximately 7:30 pm). No raffles will be sold this evening. New Members are always welcome.

Please join in prayer following the 5 pm Mass on Saturday, March 7, 2020, at St. Francis of Paola Church. We will assemble in the front left pews.

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### 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.

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

#### Saturday, February 29, 2020

5:00pm Jeanne Scaringella by Medici Family

#### Sunday, March 1, 2020

8:00am Salvatore Bifulco by Wife & Children

11:30am Angela Scannapieco by Fr. Tom

#### Monday, March 2, 2020

7:45am Open Intention

#### Tuesday, March 3, 2020

7:45am Czesiawa Konefal

#### Wednesday, March 4, 2020

7:45am Open Intention

#### Thursday, March 5, 2020

7:45am Violet Stewart & Family

#### Friday, March 6, 2020

7:45am Priscilla (Pat) Lorenzo by Lorenzo Family

#### Saturday, March 7, 2020

7:45am Michael Ralph Voglio by Grace & Maria Tellone

5:00pm Rocco Cimino by Family

#### Sunday, March 8, 2020

8:00am Giuseppe Lanzieri by Evelyn Volin

11:30am San Sabino Society

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### Giornata di Preghiera – Quaresima 2020

Il 21 marzo al Centro Immacolata Concezione  
Douglaston, Queens

Arrivo e registrazione 9:30 am—Conferenza Spirituale  
10 am—Via Crucis 11 am—Pranzo 12 pm—  
Conferenza Spirituale 1 pm—S. Rosario 2 pm  
S. Messa 2:30 pm celebrate da

S.E. Nicholas DiMarzio

\$25 pranzo compreso

IMPORTANTE: Chiamara a 718-649-0324 per  
registrazione.

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### 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Cecilia’s

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

MARCH 1, 2020

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

**Sunday, March 1, 2020**

10:30am Marisa Munoz by Scotti Family  
Laura Vayda by Sonia Rivera & Dennis Torre

**Wednesday, March 4, 2020**

7:00pm Reinoso & Rosario Families

**Sunday, March 8, 2020**

10:30am For the People of Divine Mercy Parish

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**Pray For the Sick**

Patricia Clarke, Trish Randall, Marie Salvato, Caroline Bark, Henrietta Craine, Ralph Pastena, Connie Liest, Patrick Hogan, Charlotte Heslin, Thomas Elsasser

**Pray For the Recently Deceased**

Brigid Brugaletta, Laura Vayda, Marisa Munoz, Teresa Kukura, Carmela Costello

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**Lay Baptismal Ministry**

We are looking for couples to begin a Lay Baptismal Ministry here in Divine Mercy. The couples will be trained to facilitate Pre Baptismal preparation and post baptismal encounters for families who are seeking the sacrament of baptism or have recently baptized in our parish Community. Please contact our parish office to register. The Pastor, Priests and Baptismal Ministry will work together as partners in this important endeavor.

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**Msgr. McClancy Memorial HS**

We congratulate the following individuals from our parish community who have received academic accomplishments for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter at Monsignor McClancy Memorial High School.

***Principal List***

Antonio Cipriano  
Vincent Gangone  
Joseph Nitti

***First Honors***

Julia Costa  
Genna Sgrizzi

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**PRAY FOR VOCATIONS**

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

**Sunday, March 1, 2020**

9:30am For the People of Divine Mercy  
7:00pm Carmela Hawkins: Good Health

**Monday, March 2, 2020**

8:30am Arthur Knapp, Sr.

**Tuesday, March 3, 2020**

8:30am Sal & Sara De Gruccio

**Wednesday, March 4, 2020**

8:30am Deborah Gelski

**Thursday, March 5, 2020**

8:30am Nancy Lopipero: Good Health

**Friday, March 6, 2020—First Friday**

8:30am Purgatorial Society

**Saturday, March 7, 2020**

8:30am Czeslawa Konefal

**Sunday, March 8, 2020**

9:30am Virginia Flanagan  
Arthur Knapp  
Rosary Society  
Francesco, Mary & Frank Florimonte  
7:00pm Carl & Angelina Battista by Carl Battista

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**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. 14<sup>th</sup> – March 8<sup>th</sup>

Fridays: 6 PM – 8 PM

Saturdays & Sundays: 12 PM – 5 PM

[www.portraitsofimmigrants.com](http://www.portraitsofimmigrants.com)

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**Rosary Society**

The Rosary Society has cancelled their monthly meeting for the month of March. Next meeting is April 8, 2020.

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

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EDITOR/ CONTACT: **Maryann**

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**Comments:**

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### **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

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### **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.