

Church of St. Theresa

A Caring Community Reaching Out To One Another in Christ

2855 St. Theresa Avenue, Bronx, New York

NOVEMBER 22, 2015

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday at 5:00pm,
Sunday at 7:30am, 9:00am(Italian),
10:30am(Family Mass) 12:15pm ,
1:30PM(Spanish) & 5:00pm

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday thru Saturday 8:00am & 9:00am

DEVOTIONS

Miraculous Medal & St. Theresa
Novenas after Monday morning Masses
St. Anthony Novena after Tuesday
morning Masses.

Thursday 12 Noon Mass
& Eucharistic Adoration

Exposition & Benediction of the
Blessed Sacrament
First Friday 7:30pm to 8:30pm followed
by silent adoration. until 9:00pm.

CONFESSION

Saturdays from 4:00pm to 5:00pm
and by appointment

BAPTISMS

Baptisms take place most Sundays
after the 1:30pm Mass.

We ask parents to attend the Baptism
preparation meeting. Register at the
Rectory for the meeting. The date of
the Baptism will be discussed at the
Baptism meeting.

MARRIAGES

Call the Rectory at least six months in
advance of the wedding date to make an
appointment with parish clergy.



Let us give thanks



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Rev. Msgr. Thomas Derivan, Pastor

Rev. Joseph Ligory, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Thomas D'Angelo, In Residence
Msgr. Neil Graham, Retired, In Residence
Rev. Robert Imbelli, Weekend Associate
Deacon Anthony P. Cassaneto

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Dr. Liya Petrides, Music Director

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FROM THE DESK OF FATHER DERIVAN:

Today is the final Sunday of the church's Year of Grace. As you will remember, unlike our regular calendar year which runs from January to December, our Church Year is different. The Church Year begins with the First Sunday of Advent which we will observe next week at Mass, our four weeks of preparation for Christmas. And it ends with our celebration today, the Feast of Christ the King. The Church Year reminds us that the Lord Jesus who came on the first Christmas as a little child will return in glory as King of all the universe. Each year the Church invites us to go from Advent to Christmas, to Lent and to Easter, and finally to the Feast of Christ the King, reminding us that Jesus is the center of every year, Jesus is the center of every life.

"Are you a king?" that is the question Pontius Pilate asked Jesus in the gospel today. The scene comes from Good Friday. The Lord Jesus has been arrested, mocked, scourged and then brought by the leaders of Jerusalem before the Roman governor Pilate. The enemies of Jesus want him to be sent to the Cross. And why? The leaders of Jerusalem tell Pilate that Jesus has made himself a King. Pilate could have laughed to himself. Here is this preacher from Galilee, beaten, suffering rejected by His own people. How could this man possibly be a king? And yet something fascinated Pilate about Jesus. Perhaps His quiet dignity, even amid suffering. And so perhaps out of curiosity more than anything else, Pilate asks that famous question, "Are you a king?" And certainly Pilate was not ready for Jesus' answer, "You say I am king. Those are the words of a king speaking, not a king as Pilate and everyone else understood the word "king." No, Jesus proclaims Himself the king of truth, the king who invites every person of truth to hear His voice.

Pilate's mistake was that he asked the wrong question. "Are you a king?" Jesus is not a king. He is the king, the king of truth, the king of life. He is not what the world thinks a king should be. He is not just another king of earthly power. His power, His kingship is so very different and so very beautiful. Listen to the words of our retired Pope Benedict writing about the power of Christ the King. The Pope writes,

"What does this 'power' of Jesus Christ the King consist of? It is not the power of the kings or the great people of this world; it is the divine power to give eternal life, to liberate from evil, to defeat the dominion of death. It is the power of Love that can draw good from evil, that can melt a hardened heart, bring peace amid the harshest conflict and kindle hope in the thickest darkness. Christ came 'to bear witness to the truth' as he declared to Pilate: whoever accepts his witness serves beneath his banner. Therefore each person must ask: Who do I want to follow? God or the Evil One? The truth or falsehood? Choosing Christ does not guarantee success according to the world's criteria, but choosing Christ assures the peace and joy that he alone can give us."

This is the king whom we choose, the king whom we serve, the king whose life we share—Christ the King who assures us the peace and joy that He alone can give. We must remember that not just on this Christ the King Sunday. We must remember that every Sunday and every day of life. Amid all the distractions of this world, despite all things and people that claim our allegiance, we serve Christ the only King, the King of truth and life. This past Friday we celebrated the feast of Blessed Miguel Pro. Blessed Miguel was a young Jesuit priest who served the people of his native Mexico during the vicious anti-Catholic persecution of the 1920's. During those years, the government tried its best to stamp our Catholicism from the land of Mexico, so devoted to Our Lady of Guadalupe. Brave priests like Blessed Miguel went under disguise and went from village to village, offering Mass, administering the sacraments, and helping their people to remain strong in faith. Blessed Miguel had great devotion to Christ the King. In fact, the motto he adopted and the motto of the Church in Mexico was this, "Long live Christ the King." Blessed Miguel was finally captured and sentenced to death by a firing squad. As he prepared for his martyrdom, he held his crucifix in one hand and his rosary in the other and his final words were, "Long live Christ the King."

May we learn from Blessed Miguel Pro. May we learn that Jesus and Jesus alone is our King, the King of truth, the King of life. May we live each day as servants of the Kingly Christ. And may we proclaim in our lives those beautiful words, "Long live Christ the King."



ST. THERESA FEAST COMMITTEE

This summer our Parish will be celebrating our 20th Annual Street Festival. Fr. Derivan and the Feast Committee want it to be a wonderful celebration of our Parish and Community. To do that They need your ideas and help. For that reason they are inviting you to attend a meeting on Tuesday, December 1st at 7:30PM in the large Rectory meeting room. Please make every effort to Attend this meeting.



The St. Vincent de Paul Society is beginning to collect usable winter coats. Now that the weather is getting colder as we move toward the winter months, these coats will be distributed to those in need. Donations of winter coats may be left in the box in the vestibule of the church. Help us put the passage of St. Matthew's Gospel into practice, "I was naked, you gave me your coat." Matthew 25:36



**NOVEMBER 23
BLESSED MIGUEL PRO**

The story of Padre Miguel Pro, 20th century martyr, is remarkable because of his love and faith in Christ the King.

The Mexican revolution that began in 1910 was especially hostile to the church. In 1926 the government prohibited public church services and ordered clergy arrested. To carry out pastoral duties, clergy, such as Pro, had to go underground. For instance, he disguised himself as a mechanic in order to preach to a group of taxi drivers.

Padre Pro's life was one of cheerfulness. He once promised to cheer up any long-faced saints he found in heaven by performing the Mexican hat dance. In November 1927, Pro and his brothers became the scapegoat for an assassination attempt on the Mexican president general. Government authorities linked the Pro brothers to the attempt through a car that had belonged to one of the brothers. Even with solid alibis, Padre Pro and his brothers were captured and sentenced to death without a trial.

On November 23 Padre Pro was led to the firing squad. One of the arresting police officers tearfully begged Pro to forgive him for what he had done. Placing his arm around the policeman's shoulders, Pro said, "You not only have my forgiveness, you also have my thanks." He told the members of the firing squad, "May God forgive you all." Within earshot of the firing squad a man was shouting that he had in his hands a stay of execution to save the Pro brothers. As his last request 36 year old Pro asked to be able to pray. He knelt silently on the hard ground near a bullet-riddled wall. Standing up, he was offered a blindfold but refused. He suddenly outstretched his arms in the form of a cross and shouted "¡Viva Cristo Rey!!" "Long live Christ the King!" Shots rang out from the firing squad and Padre Pro fell to the ground. Newspaper reporters and photographers had been invited to the execution. Authorities hoped they would portray members of the church as cowards. Instead of making a mockery of the church, photos of Pro's execution testified to his heroism.

The distribution and even the possession of the photos were made a criminal act. Padre Pro serves as an example of a person of faith, courage and ingenuity. He entrusted his life to his sovereign Lord, and was thus enabled to be fearless in the face of intolerance, violence and death. His life is proof that we can find great strength and courage, great love and lasting hope in Christ the King.



THE GIVING TREE

The Giving tree is our parish opportunity for sharing during this Christmas season. The tree will have angel gift tags hanging on it and will be located at the Altar of St. Joseph. The gifts are collected for the needy. We ask you to remove a gift tag, purchase the item (new items only) and return it **UNWRAPPED with the gift tag on it and place it under the tree. The tree will be up next week. All gifts must be in by December 13, 2015.**

A PRAYER FOR THE FAMILIES OF AMERICA

Pope John Paul II

We thank you, Lord Jesus, because the Gospel of the Father's love, with which you came to save the world, has been proclaimed far and wide in America as a gift of the Holy Spirit that fills us with gladness.

We thank you for the gift of your Life, which you have given us by loving us to the end: Your Life makes us children of God, brothers and sisters to each other. Increase, O Lord, our faith and our love for you, present in all the tabernacles of the continent.

Grant us to be faithful witnesses to your Resurrection for the younger generation of Americans, so that, in knowing you, they may follow you and find in you their peace and joy. Only then will they know that they are brothers and sisters of all God's children scattered throughout the world.

You who, in becoming man, chose to belong to a human family, teach families the virtues which filled with light the family home of Nazareth.

May families always be united, as you and the Father are one, and may they be living witnesses to love, justice and solidarity; make them schools of respect, forgiveness and mutual help, so that the world may believe; help them to be the source of vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life, and all the other forms of firm Christian commitment.

Protect your Church and the Successor of Peter, to whom you, Good Shepherd, have entrusted the task of feeding your flock. Grant that the church in America may flourish and grow richer in the fruits of holiness.

Teach us to love your Mother, Mary, as you loved her. Give us strength to proclaim your word with courage in the work of the new evangelization, so that the world may know new hope. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of America, pray for us!

Welcome

WELCOME HOME, DEACON HARTLEY BANCROFT III!

Deacon Hartley Bancroft, who served here at St. Theresa's as a seminarian several summers ago, was ordained as a deacon at the beginning of this month. The Rector of the Seminary has appointed him to assist as a deacon in our parish until his ordination to the priesthood in May. Deacon Bancroft will begin his diaconal service in our parish next weekend. He will assist us with preaching at Mass, distributing Holy Communion, baptizing and other forms of service to our parish.

We are happy to welcome Deacon Hartley back home to our Parish. We have been blessed with the seminarians and deacons who have assisted here at St. Theresa's and we know that this will be a fruitful time both for Deacon Hartley and for us. Again, welcome home, Deacon Hartley!



**THE RECTORY OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH THANKSGIVING DAY!**

THANKSGIVING DAY:

Thursday is Thanksgiving Day, as we join in thanking God for All His blessings to our country, our families and ourselves. In the words of the old hymn, "*We gather together to sing the Lord's praises.*"

Here at St. Theresa's Parish, our main Mass for the observance of this special day in on **Wednesday, Thanksgiving Eve, November 25th at 7:00PM.** We invite you to come as a family to "sing the Lord's praises."

Our Masses on Thanksgiving Day itself are at 8:00AM and 9:00AM. There is no 12 Noon Mass on Thanksgiving Day.

We invite you to bring canned food for the needy on Wednesday evening or Thursday morning. Baskets for these are in the vestibule of the church.

WHEN IS YOUR THANKSGIVING DAY?

A Thanksgiving Day Article by Audrey Carli

Have you ever wondered how thanksgiving Day Came to be? The exact date of the first colonial Thanksgiving is unknown. But a letter written December 11, 1621, by Edward Winslow to a friend in England describes what we know as the Pilgrims' first Thanksgiving in Plymouth Colony, Massachusetts. Governor William Bradford wrote in his history *Of Plymouth Plantation* that some of his men had sailed to Massachusetts Bay to trade with the Indians. When they returned, the harvest was made; and though they had lost about half of their original group, and sickness, starvation and death had been their lot, they were grateful for the food they did harvest through the help of God. They were thankful, too, for the Indians' friendship, donation of seed for Indian corn and gifts of wild game. They gave thanks for the good fishing, which added to their food. After counting all their blessings, the Pilgrims, Chief Massasoit and 90 Indians joined in a three-day Thanksgiving feast of Indian corn, barley, waterfowl, wild turkey, cod and bass fish and five deer. There is no record that this first Thanksgiving was officially called a Thanksgiving Day. But the settlers did name July 30, 1623, to be a special Thanksgiving Day because of their gratitude for the rain that ended a long drought. After that, there were no special Thanksgiving dates, but the New England colonies celebrated their thankfulness after each harvest. Later, the state governors kept Thanksgiving in existence by their proclamations. When more than 200 years passed and still no national patriotic holiday was proclaimed as Thanksgiving, Sarah Josepha Hale, the editor of a woman's magazine, *Godey's Lady's Book*, began her campaign in 1846 to get a national Thanksgiving date. She persistently wrote editorials in her magazine and letters to influential statesmen and others. President Abraham Lincoln paid attention to Sara Hale's campaign, and on October 3, 1863, he proclaimed the last Thursday in November as the national Thanksgiving Day. It remained that way until 1939 when President Franklin Delano Roosevelt felt the last Thursday in November was too near Christmas. So he proclaimed Thanksgiving to be on the third Thursday of each November. But many states preferred a later date. So in a joint resolution of Congress in 1941, the official Thanksgiving Day was made the fourth Thursday of November. Even though Thanksgiving days since 1621 have been on dates set by others, there has been a special day each year to give thanks for blessings.



THANKSGIVING

All that I have, all that I am, I have received from God. To Him all the praise, to Him the glory, to Him thanksgiving. Thank you, my God, for the gift of LIFE, both earthly life and heavenly life. Thank you for raising me to supernatural level of your adopted son and brother of your divine son, Jesus Christ, and through Him and in Him, brother of all men, regardless of race, color or religion. Thank you for the gift of creation: for the earth, the sea, the sun, the moon and the stars. Thank you for that beautiful universe-vegetation, flowers, and its fruits-for the animals; for the millions of living creatures which make this world beautiful and sustain us and makes us glad. Thank you, more importantly, for your redeeming work. For your divine forgiveness; for the incarnation of your divine Son, who through his passion, death and resurrection fulfilled this work of Redemption. Thank you, Father, for sending the Holy Spirit to console, to give life to and sanctify the Church: Mystical Body of your Divine Son, Jesus. Thank you for the sacraments. Thank you for the Eucharist: for staying with us in body, soul and divinity and making yourself for us: sacrifice and sacrament, mystery of love and unity. Thank you for giving us Mary. Mother of the Church, mother of all men. Thank you for the Christian education you gave me through my parents and teachers. Through them I received baptism and faith, hope and love which you planted in my soul and they cultivated through prayers and good examples. Finally, thank you for all your graces; for so many beautiful things and so many good persons that you, merciful Father, have put on my way while passing through this world towards my eternal home. My God! How great you are! Thank you for noticing me in my smallness. To you, holy Father, good Father, all glory, praise and thanks.

May today and every day of my life be days of THANKSGIVING. May today and every day of my life be days of Thanksgiving, in union with Mary, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Thanks be to God for all that His grace has done for us, for all that has been given us, and for all that Christ has won for us. Lord, you bless our lives on earth with the things we truly need; help us share what you have blessed us with when there is plenty in our hand and help us trust in you to carry us when there is little to be had.

We are thankful for our families, Lord, and we entrust them to you: strengthen them and guide them that they may always enjoy your protection. Accept, O God, the gifts and talents that have graced our lives so much, may we lay them at your service as a living sacrifice of praise.

But above all, Father, we want you to receive our praise on high for the gift of salvation that flows from you Son's cross; we believe that it will heal us and make us whole once again. Grant that healing grace to us and to all the world, so that we might sing your praises together as one family in our heavenly home. We join this prayer of thanksgiving to the perfect thanks offered you by Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. Amen.





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Food Pantry
Donations Needed

Food is now being collected for our Food Pantry. The pantry is in need of items for Thanksgiving. We are asking for items such as stuffing mix, canned vegetables, cranberry sauce, gravy, tomato sauce, pasta, plus everyday items such as coffee, rice, tuna fish, cake mixes, frosting, canned or boxed juices, and other non-perishable items. **NO GLASS JARS PLEASE!** These items will be passed on to needy families in our parish and community. God bless you for your kindness.

REMINDER – If you have a Sunday Mass offered for a loved one and are present at the Mass and would like to bring up the Offertory Gifts to the Altar, please let one of the ushers know before the Mass begins.



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Christmas Tree Lighting and Auction, Tuesday, December 1st at 7:00PM. Admission is free! Please join us as we ring in the Christmas season and gather to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas as a unified order and celebrate the family aspect of our council! Holiday refreshments will be served. There may even be a special visitor coming for the children! Also we will be sponsoring our Annual Toys for Tots Drive from now through December 11th. We are looking for new, unwrapped toys for boys and girls of all ages. Thank you for all your help!

The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organization, dedicated to providing charitable services, promoting Catholic education and actively defending Catholicism. The Guiding Star Council located at the address above, is actively recruiting interested Catholic men to help serve the local community and assist in the council's numerous charitable efforts and fundraising. If you are interested or have any further inquiries, please contact Joe DeSalvo at 347-495-0554 or at



Wedding Banns

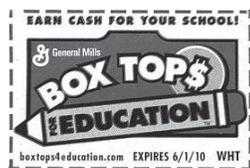
2ND TIME: Louis Lopiano & Christina Amangual



THIS WEEK'S ALTAR BREAD IS IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
MARGARET FORTE
LOVE, AUNT JO, JO & BRITTNEY



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED
MEMBER OF OUR PARISH AND HIS FAMILY
STEFANO ESPOSITO



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Help Us Raise Money with Little or no Effort:

We are collecting Box Tops for Education. If you cut the box tops off your items and bring them to church on Sunday just leave them in the sacristy and we will make sure we get them. For each box top collected we receive 10 cents.

ARE YOU A REGISTERED PARISHIONER

All new or unregistered parishioners are asked to please register by phone or in person at the Rectory or fill out the information below. Many items of importance will be mailed home in the course of the year.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE# _____

CELL# _____

E-MAIL _____

PLEASE RETURN TO THE RECTORY OFFICE.



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 21, 2015

5:00PM Susan Greco

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 22, 2015

7:30AM Marty Cervellione

9:00AM John Pagnotta

10:30AM Maria Zottola

12:15PM Al & Mary Orico

1:30PM The Parishioners of St. Theresa

5:00PM Luigi, Rosina & Louis Porco

MONDAY NOVEMBER 23, 2015

8:00AM Marty Cervellione

9:00AM Dominic Scarano

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 24, 2015

8:00AM Miranda & Mannino Family

9:00AM Anthony Costello

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 25, 2015

8:00AM Carmine Marro

9:00AM Mario Taddeo

7:30PM Thanksgiving Vigil

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 26, 2015

8:00AM Yolanda Ciarmella

9:00AM Louis Russo

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 27, 2015

8:00AM Pasquale Montrone

9:00AM Nunzio Santangelo

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 28, 2015

8:00AM Joseph Antico

9:00AM Marianna Cusumano

5:00PM Anthony, Fay, Tony & Jeannie Landi

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 29, 2015

7:30AM The Parishioners of St. Theresa Parish

9:00AM Nunzio Santangelo

10:30AM Georgiana Rogalewski

12:15PM Margaret & John Davey

1:30PM Rafaela Arias

5:00PM Anthony Marcellino

PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH:

Phyllis Caruso, Benedetta LoCicero, Peter Corbo, Maryann DiBattista, Daley Gribbon, Sean Howell, William Keenan, Frank Maiorana, Maryann Maiorana, Diane Martino, Joe Martino, Theresa Martino, Tina Maskara, Vincent Mastrogiovanni, Jeannete Montalbano, Isabelle O'Brien, Marie Russillo, Toni Spahr, Florence Valentine, Irene Vesely.

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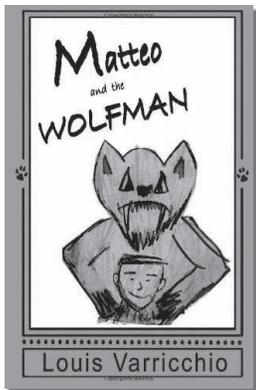
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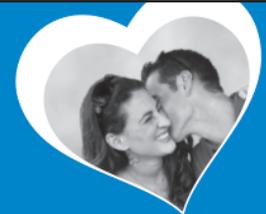
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