

Church of St. Theresa

A Caring Community Reaching Out To One Another in Christ

2855 St. Theresa Avenue, Bronx, New York

NOVEMBER 29, 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

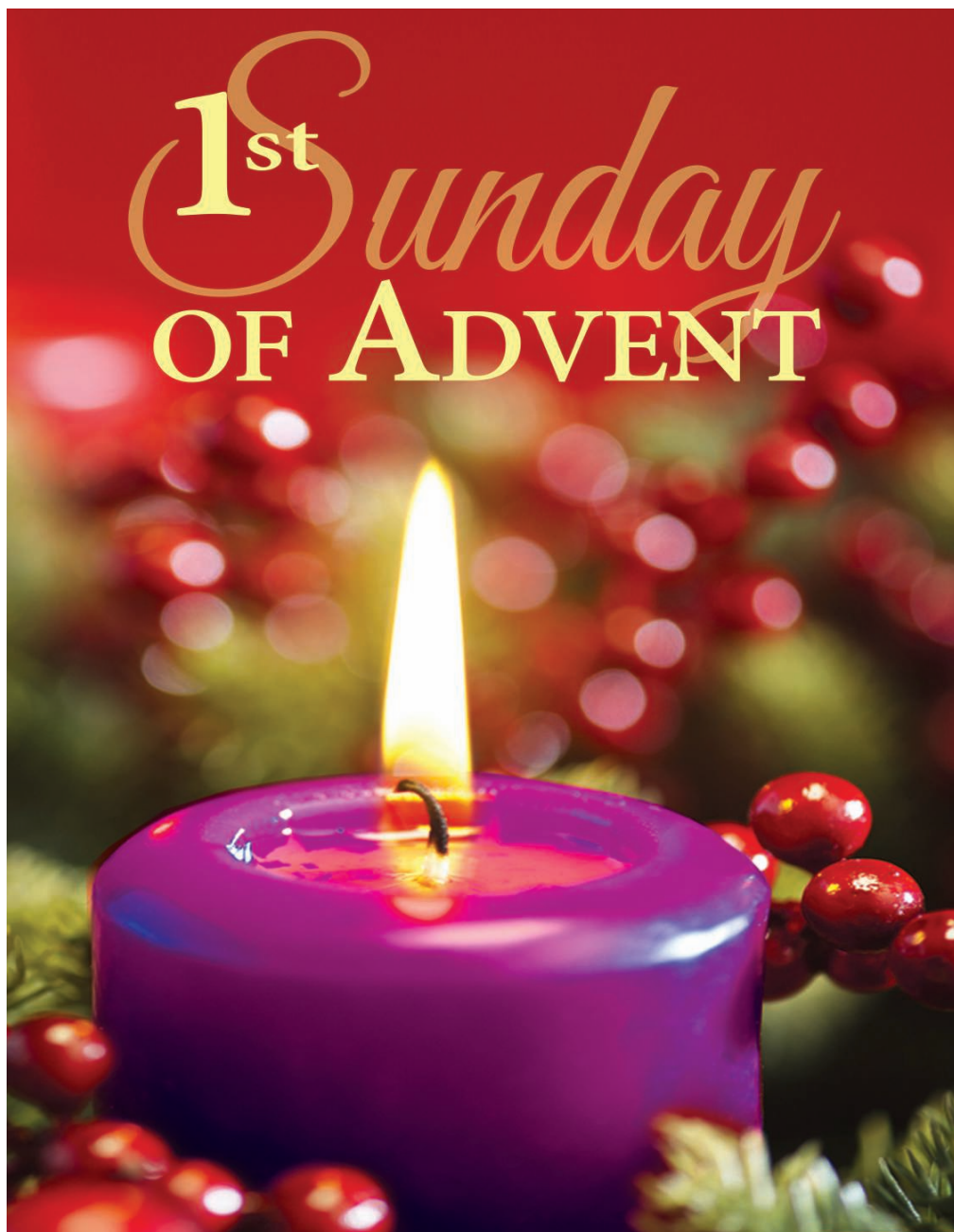
BAPTISMS

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.



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

Mrs. Josephine Fanelli, Principal
Mrs. Marie McCarrick, Dir. of Religious Education
Dr. Liya Petrides, Music Director

RECTORY: 718-892-1900/1901
FAX: 718-892-1146

WEBSITE: www.sttheresachurchbronx.org
E-MAIL: rectorystc@aol.com

SCHOOL: 718-792-3688
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: 718-792-8434

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

It is hard to believe that Advent is here. We come to Church today and we see Advent. We see the purple vestments worn by the priests and the purple coverings of the altar. We know that purple in the Church is worn in times of preparing, waiting, getting ready. We see the Advent Wreath with its four candles, reminding us of the four weeks of this holy season, four weeks of preparing for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Yes, we see Advent here today and, in the words of the banner before the altar, we pray, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel," that beautiful word which means, "God with us."

How shall we observe this Advent? What will make it different for us this year than in years past? Let me make a simple suggestion. There were many people who were part of the first Advent. Some were ready and some were not. Some, like Our Blessed Mother Mary and her beloved husband St. Joseph, were ready for Advent. They were ready to go on a journey, a journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, a journey of bringing the Lord Jesus into the world. Think of the others who were ready for Advent. Shepherds in Bethlehem were watching their flocks by night, but perhaps in the weeks before the first Christmas, something told them to be ready for the great things that were to come. But then there were many other people who were not ready for the first Advent. There were the citizens of Bethlehem who failed to see that the holy couple who came to their town seeking a place to stay would be the ones who would bring the Christ into the world. There was King Herod in his palace—he was not ready for Advent, far from it. His heart was hardened by his earthly power and he was certainly not ready to welcome a Newborn King. In the first Advent, there were two kinds of people—those who were ready for Jesus and those who were not. It is still the same today. The world has not changed so very much since that first Advent. Some people could care less about Advent, concerned only about themselves. But some people are ready—for Advent, ready for Christmas, ready for Christ.

I have left out deliberately three persons who were ready in these first Advent weeks. They certainly were ready, so much so that they had to travel long and far. We hear about them all during Advent. The gospel calls them Magi, Wise Men, men learned in the science of the heavens, but men whose hearts were opened to God. Five years ago, shortly after his election as Pope, our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI visited his homeland of Germany and specifically visited the Shrine of the Magi in Cologne. There the Holy Father spoke beautifully to thousands of young people who had made the journey for World Youth Day. And the Pope spoke about the Magi. Pope Benedict pointed to the Magi as models for us all to follow. Listen to his words, "According to tradition, the names of the Magi were Melchior, Gaspar and Balthasar. The Gospel tells of the question which burned in their hearts, 'Where is the Infant King of the Jews?' It was in order to search for Him that they set out on the long journey to Jerusalem. This was why they withstood hardships and sacrifices and never yielded to discouragement or the temptation to give up and go home. They chose to press forward to the very end.

I mentioned a suggestion for this Advent to make this Advent special and different. The suggestion is this: every day of this Advent, let us think of the Magi. How much we can learn from the Magi and from their journey to find the Newborn King. Let me mention three things which we can learn from them. First, they knew whom they were seeking, the Infant King. We must know whom we are seeking during this Advent not commercialism, not material gifts; no, we are seeking Jesus Christ and we must keep Him at the forefront of our minds during these four weeks. Second, the Magi did not give in to discouragement. Their journey was long and hard, but they persevered in their goal. So it must be for us. We must persevere during these four weeks, not being discouraged, not turning back to our old ways. We must travel onward to find the Infant Lord. And third, we must not try to do Advent alone. The simple fact is that the Magi did not travel separately; they traveled together. So must we. We must travel this Advent with our family, with parents and grandparents helping their children to focus on Jesus during Advent, not on other distractions. We must travel with our other family, our parish, by taking part in Mass and our other Advent Services, getting ready together for the Newborn King.

The suggestion is simple: think of the Magi during each of these days of Advent. Let the Magi be your Advent friends. Let them help you on your journey. The Gospel does not tell us what happened to the Magi after they found the Infant King. Maybe that is the Lord's way of telling us that we must be the modern-day Magi, all of us together. May we all accept that Advent challenge. May we travel with the kings and may we too reach our goal—the goal which is the Christmas manger, the birth-place of Jesus Christ the Lord.



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 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.

THE LITURGICAL YEAR:

The Church's Annual Unfolding of the Mysteries of our Redemption – Each year the Church unfolds the mysteries of our salvation by recalling the great events in the life of Christ. This Church calendar revolves around the two major cycles of Christmas and Easter, together with their proper seasons of preparation and reflection.

The Christmas Cycle begins the Sunday closest to St. Andrew's feast on November 30th. During the four weeks of Advent we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth; but we also look forward to His second coming at the end of time.

Since the fourth century, Christmas has been celebrated on December 25th. The Christmas season ends with the feast of the Baptism of Our Lord, the Sunday after January 6th.

The Easter Cycle lasts much longer than the Christmas Cycle. It begins on Ash Wednesday and continues through Lent, then Passion Week, Easter and Eastertide.

The forty days of Lent remain a period of increased prayer and penance for the universal Church. Catechumens are taken through several stages of Christian initiation; the faithful also renew themselves through fasting and recollection of their baptismal vows.

The Easter Triduum of the passion and resurrection of Christ is the high point of the entire liturgical year. Beginning with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, it reaches its high point in the Easter Vigil, the "mother of all vigils," and closes with evening prayer on Easter Sunday.

Eastertide, the fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost, is considered one feast day—The Great Sunday. Our Lord's Ascension is celebrated on the fortieth day after Easter. Weekdays are spent in preparation for the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

The weeks which fall between the two major cycles are called Ordinary Time, a season when we give grateful thanks to God for the growth of the Church and the work of the Spirit.

COLOR OF THE SEASONS: Over the centuries liturgical colors have become identified with seasons of the Church year. Purple (violet) is a symbol of penance and preparation. It is used during the seasons of Advent and Lent. Red vestments are worn for Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Pentecost, and for feast days of the apostles and martyrs. It is a sign of love and sacrifice. White is worn throughout the seasons of Christmas and Easter, for feasts of Our Lord not connected with His Passion, and for feasts of Our Blessed Mother. Green is worn during Ordinary Time which usually runs from mid June to the end of November.

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WELCOMING CHRIST IN ONE ANOTHER

Every family experiences challenging times. Parish families are no different. We all know of Catholics separated from the Church by some hurt they experienced. Advent is a time to prepare for and welcome the Prince of Peace, our time to learn to be peacemakers.

Christmas and family are inextricably linked. Every greeting card, television special and holiday movie reinforces this theme. We recall the perilous journey of the Holy Family to Bethlehem. We think about our own families, arriving from near and far. We consider our parish family as we gather to await the coming of Christ. When one of us is unable to join in these family occasions, we suffer in their absence.

Wounds of the heart, we know, are not easily healed. What we can do during this holy season of Advent is make our parish a place of hospitality, where all feel welcomed. We can begin in our homes, in traffic or at the mall with small acts of kindness: a smile, a compliment, helping with packages or letting the other driver go first. Think of each act as a small prayer that can be included in our seasonal prayers of preparation.

By the time Advent is over, we pray that we have become ambassadors of peace and joy in our homes, our communities and our parishes. As the pews fill on Christmas Day, our message to those newcomers and old-timers will be: We are better with you among us. Welcome home for Christmas.



THE ADVENT WREATH

You will notice in our church the Advent Wreath near the altar. Perhaps you have a similar one in your home. The Advent Wreath comes from an old German tradition. The four candles represent the four weeks of Lent, three purple (the color of preparing) and one pink, lit on the Third Sunday of Advent because our preparation is also mixed with the whiteness of our anticipated joy at Christmas. The evergreen branches of the wreath, arranged in a circle, remind us of the circle of God's love which, like the circle, continually goes around. As we light each candle at Sunday Mass, resolve that you will do some act of charity during the week ahead, your gift in preparation for the coming of Our Lord at Christmas. May the Advent Wreath help you to make this Advent the best one of your life.

PETITION BOOK

Have you noticed our Petition Book in the vestibule of the Church? Every Saturday before the 5:00PM Mass, the petitions entered into the book for that week are brought up to the altar of the Blessed Mother, where they remain for all the weekend Masses. Please pray for these intentions.





**DECEMBER 3
ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
(1506-1552)**

Jesus asked, "What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" (Matthew 16:26a). The words were repeated to a young teacher of philosophy who had a highly promising career in academics, with success and a life of prestige and honor before him.

Francis Xavier, 24 at the time, and living and teaching in Paris, did not heed these words at once. They came from a good friend, Ignatius of Loyola, whose tireless persuasion finally won the young man to Christ. Francis then made the spiritual exercises under the direction of Ignatius, and in 1534 joined his little community (the infant Society of Jesus). Together at Montmartre they vowed poverty, chastity and apostolic service according to the directions of the pope.

From Venice, where he was ordained a priest in 1537, Francis Xavier went on to Lisbon and from there sailed to the East Indies, landing at Goa, on the west coast of India. For the next 10 years he labored to bring the faith to such widely scattered peoples as the Hindus, the Malaysians and the Japanese. He spent much of that time in India, and served as provincial of the newly established Jesuit province of India.

Wherever he went, he lived with the poorest people, sharing their food and rough accommodations. He spent countless hours ministering to the sick and the poor, particularly to lepers. Very often he had no time to sleep or even to say his breviary but, as we know from his letters, he was filled always with joy. Francis went through the islands of Malaysia, then up to Japan. He learned enough Japanese to preach to simple folk, to instruct and to baptize, and to establish missions for those who were to follow him. From Japan he had dreams of going to China, but this plan was never realized. Before reaching the mainland he died. His remains are enshrined in the Church of Good Jesus in Goa.

All of us are called to "go and preach to all nations" (see Matthew 28:19). Our preaching is not necessarily on distant shores but to our families, our children, our husband or wife, our coworkers. And we are called to preach not with words, but by our everyday lives. Only by sacrifice, the giving up of all selfish gain, could Francis Xavier be free to bear the Good News to the world. Sacrifice is leaving yourself behind at times for a greater good, the good of prayer, the good of helping someone in need, the good of just listening to another. The greatest gift we have is our time. Francis gave his to others.

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.



St Vincent de Paul Society

good works



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

CHILD PROTECTION

Anyone who needs to report an alleged incident of sexual abuse of a minor by a priest, deacon, religious, or lay person serving in The Archdiocese of New York is asked to contact Sr. Eileen Clifford, O.P. at 212-371-1000 ext 2949 or Deacon George J. Coppola at 917-861-1762. Both may also be reached via e-mail at victimassistance@archny.org. Information can also be found on the Archdiocesan website, www.archny.org. In keeping with the Archdiocesan policy regarding sexual abuse of minors, this information is provided to ensure that our children remain safe and secure.

Cualquier persona que necesite reportar algún incidente de abuso sexual de un menor por un sacerdote, diacono, religioso/a, o laico sirviendo en la Arquidiócesis de Nueva York, se le pide que por favor contacte Hermana Eileen Clifford, O.P. al 212-371-1000 extensión 2949 o Deacon George Coppola at 917-861-1762. Ambos también pueden ser contactados vía correo electrónico: victimassistance@archny.org. Para más información pueden visitar la página en la red de la Arquidiócesis: www.archny.org. De acuerdo con las mormas de la Arquidiócesis respecto al abuso sexual de menores, esta información se prove para asegurar que nuestros niños permanezcan seguros.

Thank You

We are grateful to Bonavita Key Food for contributing 45 turkeys to us to distribute at Thanksgiving time. We were also able to assist Father Richard Marrano's parish, St. Rose of Lima in Manhattan, through their generosity. Also our St. Vincent de Paul Society was able to distribute the canned food given by our parishioners to those in need. Thanks to all for sharing Thanksgiving with those who need our help.

Thanks also to our Altar Society for their recent Flea Market. From the proceeds the Altar Society was able to purchase a new Advent altar cloth which you see in church today. Thanks to these ladies for all their faithful service.

HOMEBOUND – If any member of your family or if any of your neighbors are "Homebound" and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please call the Rectory so that a Priest or Eucharistic Minister might visit them.



**DECEMBER 1
ST. EDMUND CAMPION
(C.1540-1581)**

Persecution in England after the Reformation called forth many Catholic martyrs. Most heroic of those who died under Queen Elizabeth I was Edmund Campion, called by his enemies “the seditious Jesuit.”

Edmund’s father was a London bookseller. The parents had left the Catholic Church when Queen Elizabeth re-established Anglicanism, so Edmund became Protestant. The brilliance of his mind was evident from childhood. As a boy he had been selected to give a speech of welcome to Queen Mary Tudor in 1553.

Thirteen years later he was chosen to give an oration of welcome to Queen Elizabeth when she visited Oxford. Leading figures, including Queen Elizabeth, were interested in the potentialities of this young Oxford scholar. William Cecil, Elizabeth’s counselor, did not hesitate to call him “a diamond of England. A born leader, Campion was the most notable figure of his day at the University. He exercised there a magnetic influence comparable to that of John Henry Newman three centuries later. The Anglican bishop of Cloucester persuaded Edmund to take the oath of Supremacy to the Queen and receive the Anglican order of deacon. But Campion’s studies thereafter convinced him that the Anglican Church was invalid. Falling under suspicion as pro-papist, he went to Dublin to assist in the foundation of a university. In 1571, when Pope St. Pius V’s excommunication of Elizabeth made people like himself ever more subject to prosecution, Campion fled to Belgium. At Douay he was reconciled to the Catholic Church, and ordained a sub-deacon. Then he went to Rome and joined the Society of Jesus. He was ordained a Catholic priest in Prague, Bohemia, in 1578.

In 1579 the general of the Jesuits began to send English Jesuits back to Britain to carry on a secret apostolate. The first two chosen for this dangerous mission were Fathers Robert Persons and Edmund Campion. Persons entered England disguised as a returning soldier. Campion came later, posing as a jewel merchant, accompanied by Jesuit Brother Ralph Emerson as his “servant”. Not all Catholics welcomed them. They feared that the trio came with some political purpose. The priests had to reassure them that their mission was “only apostolical-without any pretense in knowledge of matters of state.”

The British government quickly learned of their arrival, so they had to move out into the provinces. To the government also, Fr. Edmund asserted that their presence in England was spiritual, not political. He did this in a leaflet “challenge to the Privy Council,” which soon became known as “Campion’s Brag.” In 1581 he was able to print and distribute “Decem Rationes” (“Ten Reasons”), a leaflet addressed to Protestants to persuade them to return to the Catholic faith. Campion, now all the more prominent-and hated-by his enemies, led a life of joyful adventure, going about on his mission often only a step ahead of the police. The success of his religious contacts was great, so the hardships were worth it. He wrote to his superior in Rome: “I am in apparel to myself very ridiculous; I often change it and my name also.” He knew he could not escape forever, but as he said, “Fear itself hath taken away all fear.”

On Sunday, July 16, 1681, after he had celebrated Mass in a private house, a traitor in the congregation called the police. Campion was arrested and tortured within an inch of his life, but he did not break down. Government leaders, including, it is said, Queen Elizabeth herself, tried another tack. They would give him high positions in the Church of England if he would give up his Catholicism. Campion’s sister also tried to persuade him to recant. Edmund rejected this ploy, too. The court finally tried him and all other Catholic missionaries on the charge of fomenting rebellion. Even the packed jury didn’t really believe the verdict of guilty. Before sentence, Fr. Campion said to his judge: “In condemning me—you condemn all your own ancestors. To be condemned with these old lights...is both gladness and glory to us.”

On December 1, 1681 Campion and three others were hanged in London. At the scaffold, he publicly prayed “for your queen and my queen, unto whom I wish a long reign with all prosperity. As he was later beheaded, disemboweled and quartered, some of his blood splashed on Henry Walpole, a young gentleman in the front row. Walpole subsequently became a Jesuit and was martyred in 1595. This is one example of the great spiritual influence of Campion, the “diamond of England.”

Walpole and Campion were canonized together in 1970.

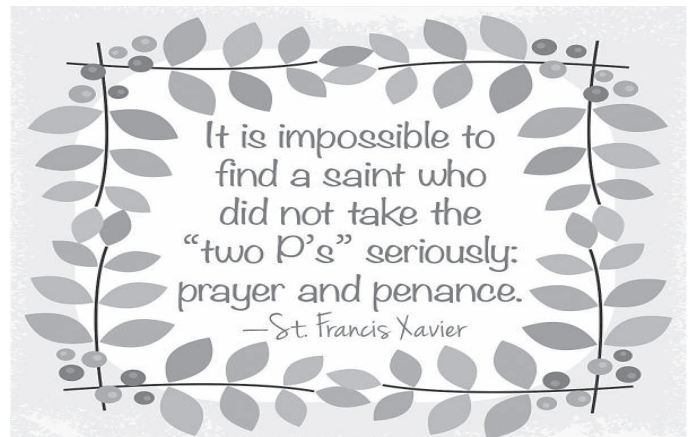
--Father Robert F. McNamara



Food is now being collected for our Food Pantry. The pantry is in need of items for Christmas. We are asking for items such as 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.

Thank you to all who have donated to our Pantry. God Bless you and your families.





3RD TIME: Louis Lopiano & Christina Amangual
1ST TIME: Almed Attia & Nikki Scalera



THIS WEEK'S ALTAR BREAD IS IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
REV. JOHN MERCER



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED
MEMBER OF OUR PARISH AND HER FAMILY
MARY ABBATIello

Please continue to share the peace and joy of our faith with others especially this time of the year. There are so many that are in the need of Jesus. Can you be for all of us a living sign to all our parishioners and neighbors, and tell them for us "we need them and love them". Someone may hear and accept the invitation from you and return home to worship the Lord with us. So please invite a friend, relative, or neighbor to come with you to Church next Sunday. God will do the rest. Let us share our treasure of faith with others.

CONFESSIONS are heard every Saturday from 4:00PM-5:00PM or by appointment in the Rectory.

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 or 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 28, 2015

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

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 29, 2015

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

9:00AM Nunzio Santangelo

10:30AM Georgiana Rogalewski

12:15PM Margaret & John Davey

1:30PM Rafaela Arias

5:00PM Anthony Marcellino

MONDAY NOVEMBER 30, 2015

8:00AM Rosemarie Zeccola

9:00AM Marty Cervellione

TUESDAY DECEMBER 1, 2015

8:00AM Domenico, Maria, Clino DiRusso & Family

9:00AM Mary Theresa Laccetti

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 2, 2015

8:00AM Luigi Porco

9:00AM Vincent & Florence Calderella

THURSDAY DECEMBER 3, 2015

8:00AM Mary Poidomani

9:00AM Rev. Don Michele Perrino

12:00PM Richard Torrellas

FRIDAY DECEMBER 4, 2015

8:00AM Adelino (Sonny) Loreto

9:00AM Angela & Joyce Napolitano & Family

SATURDAY DECEMBER 5, 2015

8:00AM Carmen Pacheco

9:00AM Theresa O'Brien

5:00PM Frank DiPolo (Anniversary)

SUNDAY DECEMBER 6, 2015

7:30AM The Parishioners of St. Theresa Parish

9:00AM Simone Dilluvio

10:30AM Patricia Warne

12:15PM Angelina Gagliardi

1:30PM The Parishioners of St. Theresa Parish

5:00PM Michael Rocco

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 Mastrogiiovanni, Jeannete Montalbano, Isabelle O'Brien, Marie Russillo, Toni Spahr, Florence Valentine, Irene Vesely.



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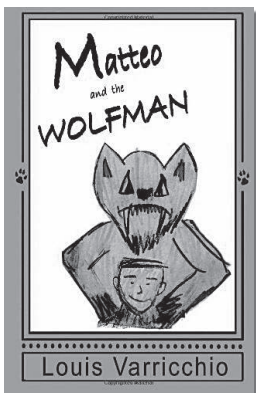


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