

Church of St. Theresa

A Caring Community Reaching Out To One Another in Christ

2855 St. Theresa Avenue, Bronx, New York

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.



The Holy Family

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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
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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: 718-792-8434

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER DERIVAN:

Today is a beautiful feast, the Feast of the Holy Family. It is very much a Christmas feast since it reminds us of the three main persons of the first Christmas, Mary, Joseph and the Lord Jesus. We could say that Christmas itself is a celebration of the Holy Family; Christmas, after all, is a celebration of the most important feature of family life, the birth of a child. We could say that every Mass every Sunday is a celebration of the Holy Family as we ask for the help of Mary and Joseph and of course the Lord Jesus to guide our lives. Why then a special feast of the Holy Family today?

Let us remember what this feast is and what it is not. It is not just a nostalgic remembrance of Bethlehem, of the silent night when Jesus was born. The Holy Family, like every family, had its silent nights and its noisy days, its times of peace and its times of danger and pain and loss. Right before our altar is the scene of the Holy Family at Bethlehem. But as we look at it, let us remember that shortly thereafter St. Joseph would be told by an angel in a dream to get up and take Mary and the infant and flee to Egypt because King Herod intended to kill the Child. Let us remember that shortly after Jesus was born, other little babies, the Holy Innocents, would be killed by the soldiers of King Herod. Let us remember that Joseph and Mary and the Infant Son of God had to live as immigrants in a foreign land, away from their families, away from their homeland. In the current debate about immigration, hopefully all Christians remember that Jesus, Mary and Joseph were immigrants too. Let us remember that the Holy Family had their other hardships. In the gospel today, Mary and Joseph think they have lost Jesus and every parent can identify with the pain that must have gone through their hearts. As we remember these things, we realize what this Feast is not. It is not a fairy-tale, romantic, unreal picture of the Holy Family, who faced no troubles or hardships. Quite the contrary, this Feast celebrates the true family of Jesus, with its joys and sorrows, its Magi and its Herod, its Bethlehem and its Egypt.

What then is the feast? It is a celebration of who the Holy Family is and who we are. The Holy Family is Mary, Joseph and Jesus now, not just a remembrance of long ago. This Feast reminds us that we have the help of Our Blessed Mother to guide our families, to guide our children, to guide each one of us. We have the powerful intercession of St. Joseph, patron of fathers, patron of children, patron of the sick, patron of the Universal church, patron of a happy death—St. Joseph should be someone we turn to every day. And of course, we have the grace of the Lord Jesus, not the child of long ago, but the Risen Lord whom we receive today, the Lord who strengthens our every moment, the Lord who guides us to the house of His Father and to eternal life. This Feast reminds us of who that Holy Family is, but also reminds us of who we are. We are the Holy family of Jesus, right now. Pope Benedict has written this about the meaning of the birth of Jesus for us, “God stoops to meet us. He comes close to us and in turn brings us closer to one another. He makes us one great family in the universal communion of the Church. Truly those who believe are never alone. God comes to meet us. Let us go out to meet God and thus meet one another.” And the Pope adds a special request addressed to all of us, “To the extent we can, let us make sure that not one of God’s children ever feels alone.”

That is what this Feast is all about. It is the Lord’s reminder that we are joined as His family, the family of the Church. We are never alone—the Church is always with us. Even in our darkest moments, even when we feel most alone, the Church is there to help us. Christ’s family never forgets its own.

Let us take Pope Benedict’s request seriously. In his words, ‘let us make sure that not one of God’s children feels alone.’ Let us welcome every person in Christ’s name. There are no strangers here, only members of the family who need to help one another feel that way. Do not be afraid to invite your friends and neighbors here. They are welcome. They belong here just as you do. Soon we celebrate a New Year. Make this New Year’s resolution—that you will help one person to come to our Church. May you welcome them to the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. May you welcome them to your family, the family of Christ’s Church.

Father Thomas B. Derivan

CHILDREN

Learn What they Live

If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn. If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight.

If a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy. If a child lives with shame, he learns to feel guilty.

If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient. If a child lives with encouragement, he learns confidence.

If a child lives with praise, he learns to appreciate. If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice.

If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith. If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself.

If a child lives with acceptance and friendship, he learns to find love in the world.

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.

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

THANKS FOR THE GIVING TREE

We are grateful to all who gave gifts for our Giving Tree. The gifts have been distributed to various charities, including Hope For Us (a program helping sickle cell anemia children), AHRC (our local program for special needs persons), Hour children (a program helping children of needy families) and a shelter helping the homeless. Thank you to Mrs. Carmela Greco, to all who helped with this beautiful project. Thank you for sharing your Christmas with those in need.



**POPE FRANCIS'
ADVICE TO FAMILIES**

Imagine three expressions written above the doorway of your family. The expressions are: “may I?”, “thank you”, and “pardon me”. Indeed, these expressions open up the way to living well in your family, to living in peace. They are simple expressions, but not so simple to put into practice! They hold much power: the power to keep home life intact even when tested with a thousand problems. But if they are absent, little holes can start to crack open and the whole thing may even collapse.

Let’s look at these expressions: the first expression is, “may I?”. When we take care to ask for something kindly, we help to strengthen the common life that undergirds marriage and the family. Entering into the life of another, even when that person already has a part to play in our life, demands the sensitivity of a non-invasive attitude which renews trust and respect. Indeed, the deeper and more intimate love is, the more it calls for respect for the other’s freedom and the ability to wait until the other opens the door to his or her heart. At this point, we can remember the words of Jesus in the Book of Revelation: “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me” (3:20). Even the Lord asks permission to enter!

Let us not forget that. Before doing anything in your family, ask: “Do you mind if I do this? Would you like me to do this?” This way of asking is well-mannered indeed, but it is also full of love. This does so much good for families.

The second expression is “thank you”. Sometimes we have to wonder if we are turning into a civilization of bad manners and bad words, as if this were a sign of self-liberation. It’s not uncommon to hear these bad words publicly. Kindness and the ability to say “thank you” are often considered a sign of weakness and raise the suspicion of others. This tendency is encountered even within the nucleus of the family. Gratitude, however, stands at the very core of the faith of the believer. A Christian who does not know how to thank has lost the very “language” of God. This is terrible! Let’s not forget Jesus’ question after he heals the ten lepers and only one of them returns to thank Him (Luke 17:18). I remember once listening to a very wise, old person; very simple, but with that uncommon wisdom of life and piety: “Gratitude is a plant that grows only in the soil of noble souls”. That nobility of soul, that grace of God in the soul compels us to say “thank you” with gratitude. It is the flower of a noble soul. This really is something beautiful.

The third expression is “pardon me”. Granted, it’s not always easy to say, but it is so necessary. Whenever it is lacking, the little cracks begin to open up – even when we don’t want them to – and they can even become enormous sinkholes. It’s hardly insignificant that in the “Our Father” that Jesus teaches us – a prayer that sums up all of life’s essential questions - we find this expression: “Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us” (Matt 6:16). To acknowledge that we have fallen short, to be desirous of returning that which has been taken away - respect, sincerity, love these make us worthy of pardon. This is how we heal the infection. If we are not able to forgive ourselves, then we are no longer able to forgive period. A house in which the words “I’m sorry” are never uttered begins to lack air, and the flood waters begin to choke those who live inside. So many wounds, so many scrapes and bruises are the result of a lack of these precious words: “I am sorry”. Marital life is so often torn apart by fights ... the “plates will even start flying”, but let me give you a word of advice: never finish the day without making peace with one another. Listen to me carefully: did you fight with your wife or husband? Kids - did you fight with your parents? Did you seriously argue? That’s not a good thing, but it’s not really that which is the problem: the problem arises only if this feeling hangs over into the next day. So if you’ve fought, do not let the day end without making peace with your family. And how am I going to make peace? By getting down on my knees? No! Just by a small gesture, a little something, and harmony within your family will be restored. Just a little caress, no words necessary. But don’t let the sun go down on your family without having made your peace. Do you understand me? It’s not easy, but you have to do it. It will help to make life so much more beautiful.

So these three key expressions for family life are really simple words; so simple that perhaps they even bring a smile to our face. But when we forget them, it’s no laughing matter, right? Perhaps we overlook our good manners too often. May the Lord help us to put them back where they belong: in our hearts, in our homes, and in our civic life.

These are the words that truly enter into the love of a family. May 13, 2015

Prayer of Pope Francis for the Jubilee

Lord Jesus Christ,

You have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him. Show us your face and we will be saved.

Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money;

the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal; and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.

Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman: “If you knew the gift of God!”

You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified.

You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy, you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen

A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER FROM YOUR PRIESTS AND DEACONS:

Dear Lord, you sent your Son to bring us newness of life. As we end this old year and begin a New Year, we pray that you will help us to live in that "newness of life" that Jesus continually bring us.

Help us to appreciate each New Year, each new day, each new moment as a time of your grace. Let us not waste any day of this New Year with foolish pursuits, with resentments and grudges, with so much looking back that we fail to look ahead and see you right there before us, waiting for our love.

Help us to remember that this New Year is not ours, but yours—your gift to us your people. Help us to give back this year to you filled with our faith, hope and love.

Help us to proclaim your love to others in this New Year, to invite them to our church, to encourage them in faith. Let us remember that our faith must always be shared, not just kept to ourselves.

Help us to be in this New Year what you want us to be always— your family, your church. Help us to give glory to you by the way we pray, the way we worship, the way we serve, the way we love.

We make this prayer, for ourselves, for all the members of our parish, and for all your people, through Our Lord Jesus Christ in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

May God bless you and your families for a holy and healthy New Year. You are always in our prayers.

Father Thomas B. Derivan	Father Joseph Ligory
Father Robert Imbelli	Msgr. Neil Graham
Father Thomas D'Angelo	
Salesian Fathers John Serio, Bill Ferruzzi, and Abraham Feliciano S.D.B.	
Deacon Anthony Cassaneto	Deacon Hartley Bancroft



Prayer for the Beginning of the New Year

Blessed are you, Lord our God,
ruler of all the ages, maker of times and seasons,
from all eternity you have called us to be your people,
and to sing your praises at all times.

Bless us in our work and prayer.
Grant that our lives may give you glory
in our words, our witness and our worship.
Through the intercession of Mary and all the saints,
Bless us with your bounty,

Preserve us in peace, safety and health.
We give praise to you, almighty God,
through Jesus Christ, our brother and savior,
In the communion of your Holy spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen

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.



**MASSES FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE
AND
NEW YEAR'S DAY**

Friday, New Year's Day, is the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God. We begin the New Year asking for God's blessing through the intercession of Mary our Mother. **January 1** is a holyday of obligation.

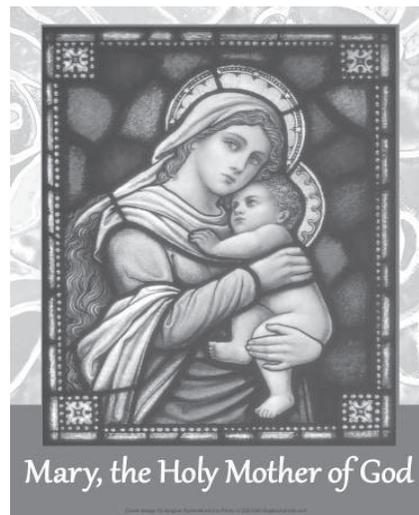
Our schedule of Masses is as follows:

New Year's Eve, Thursday, December 31st—Vigil Mass
At 5:00PM (which suffices for the holyday obligation)

New Year's Day, Friday, January 1st—Masses follow
Our regular Sunday schedule—7:30AM, 9:00AM (Italian),
10:30Am (Family), 12:15PM, 1:30PM (Spanish) and 5:00PM

Please pass this information to the attention of neighbors and friends.

**JANUARY 1, 2016
SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**



Mary, the Holy Mother of God



FOSTERING VOCATIONS IN THE FAMILY
St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus had a mom and dad who “got it”

Blessed Louis and Zélie Martin are the parents of 9 children, though only five daughters survived early childhood. All five daughters went on to become religious sisters, the most well-known being St. Therese of the Child Jesus, “The Little Flower.”

Though it may be tempting to dismiss the example of these heroic parents as “pie in the sky,” anyone who has studied their lives knows that they are brilliant examples for modern parents, teachers, mentors, or anyone who has influence in the lives of young people. They were down-to-earth people who experienced the same struggles in life as all of us—and possibly more than many.

Louis and Zélie were both devoted Catholics who put God first in everything, from their families and work to their social lives. They both ran successful, if demanding, small businesses. Louis was a watchmaker and jeweler and Zélie was a fine lace maker. They loved their children dearly and maintained a very close family life.

Prayer and the sacraments were of great importance. The family prayed and read scripture together daily, and the older children would often accompany their parents to daily Mass. St. Therese remembers wanting to receive our Lord in holy communion at an early age because she wanted to be united to Him. What excellent work her parents did to help their children know God at the earliest ages!

Because of their devotion to God and the Church, the Martins made frequent donations to the local convents. Louis loved to fish, and he would often give his catch to the sisters, delivering it personally with one or more of his daughters. On these visits, the sisters would spend time with the family, which helped to stir up the desire for religious life in the Martin sisters.

The “vocations work” of Louis and Zélie can be summed up simply as devout Christian living. We see very little in their lives of active promotion of the religious life, and yet all five daughters went on to become religious sisters. It appears that they had very little need to “talk up” vocations with their children, as their lived faith and frequent contact with religious sisters provided enough impetus.

What does this mean for us? First, we have to put things into context: our times are certainly different, and the visibility of religious and priests in public life is not nearly as prominent as it was in late, 19th-century France. Also, though public faith had been largely destroyed by the French revolutions earlier in the century, most people probably had a much closer familiarity with the Church than many of our young people do today.

But these things don’t change the fact that, for the Martin sisters and every Catholic youth, one of the best means of promoting vocations is to have good relationships with people who live our Catholic faith devoutly, especially providing an example of prayer and good works. This is one of the most essential elements for good discernment—and it is much easier to attract youth to give themselves to God’s service by example than by “talking up” vocations.

Certainly, many means are useful and effective for promoting vocations, even if they may not be essential. But it’s a simple fact that the majority of religious and priests say that a very strong factor in their discernment was the good example of faithful Catholics living their own vocations.

In your own life, how can you live joyful faith and service to God more, so that you can be the example our young people need to encourage them to live the vocations to which God is calling them?

JOIN US

**What better way to celebrate the start
Of the New Year than to join us for a**

Parish Breakfast
on Sunday, January 10, 2016
in the school cafeteria
after the 10:30AM Mass.

\$2.00 for Adults
\$1:00 Children
Children under 3 are FREE
RSVP by January 5

Reservations and money can be returned to the Rectory or School Office



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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 DECEMBER 26, 2015

5:00PM Carmela, Benjamin & Albert Gregoria

SUNDAY DECEMBER 27, 2015

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa
9:00AM Angelo & Abbondanza DelGrosso
10:30AM Sylvia Conte
12:15PM Richard Lent
1:30PM Maria Hernandez & Milton Anton
5:00PM Catherine Sbano

MONDAY DECEMBER 28, 2015

8:00AM Simone Dilluvio
9:00AM Anthony Marcellino

TUESDAY DECEMBER 29, 2015

8:00AM Vincent Bottari
9:00AM Anthony Marcellino

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 30, 2015

8:00AM Giuseppe Gallo, Maria Rosa Lupoi,
Francesco & Domenico Lopresti
9:00AM Anthony Pagnotta

THURSDAY DECEMBER 31, 2015

8:00AM Elizabeth McCarthy
9:00AM Luke Turrisi
5:00PM Gurreri Salustri & Sansalone Family

FRIDAY JANUARY 1, 2016

7:30AM New Years Intention
9:00AM Renato Martire
10:30AM Huldah Gordon
12:15PM Nicholas DeGennaro
1:30PM New Years Intention
5:00PM New Years Intention

SATURDAY JANUARY 2, 2016

8:00AM Louisa DiNato
9:00AM Francis Quirolla
5:00PM Doloros DeJesus

SUNDAY JANUARY 3, 2016

7:30AM Mary Dallaspezia
9:00AM Sonny Loreto
10:30AM John Marro
12:15PM Richard Lent
1:30PM The Parishioners of St. Theresa Parish
5:00PM Pasquale Chiodi

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, Bina Trerotola, Florence Valentine,
Nicholas Vasti (Margie's Brother), Irene Vesely.

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Matteo and the WOLFMAN

Louis Varricchio

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Louis Varricchio, Author & Parishioner

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