

# 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.



*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*  
*Deacon Hartley Bancroft*

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FAX: 718-892-1146

WEBSITE: [www.sttheresachurchbronx.org](http://www.sttheresachurchbronx.org)  
E-MAIL: [rectorystc@aol.com](mailto:rectorystc@aol.com)

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

**FROM THE DESK OF FR. DERIVAN:**

St. Paul tells us in the reading today, "As the body is one with its many parts, all one body, so it is with Christ. We are Christ's Body, Individually parts of it." It is a beautiful image which St. Paul uses, the image of our human body. God has made our bodies with each part performing its function, the major organs like brain and heart and lungs, and then the many little parts, tissues and cells, which help our bodies to live. And St. Paul uses that image for the Church. Christ is the head of the Body of the Church; we are baptized into His Body and are like the different organs and cells that compose this human body of ours. Not everyone has the same function—not all are apostles or prophets or teachers, or we should add, not all are the Pope or the bishops or priests or religious sisters and brothers. Most are good-living, faithful lay men and women who have, in God's eyes, as beautiful a function as that of Pope or cardinals. Your function is to live your faith in such a way as to bring Christ to others, by prayer, by good example, by letting your faith shine in your family, in your places of business, in the truthfulness of your living, in the simple kindness that you show each day. The late Pope Pius XII, now called Venerable Pope Pius, called this mystery "the Mystical Body of Christ." We are joined mystically, spiritually with one another; we are joined mystically, spiritually, through the Body of Christ. The good that one person does affects the whole Body, the Church. Pope Pius drew from this a wonderful conclusion. He wrote, "Because Christ the Head holds such an eminent position, one must not think that He does not require the help of the Body. Yes, the faithful need the help of the Divine Redeemer, for He has said: "Without me you can do nothing." Yet this, also, must be held, marvelous though it may seem: Christ has need of His members." Simply put, Christ needs us. He needs us to be His heart and His hands and His feet to our brothers and sisters in the Mystical Body. Christ needs you.

Usually when we think about Christ needing His people, we think of great achievements. This week we will celebrate the feast of the great St. Thomas Aquinas, whose writings have inspired the Church for eight hundred years. We could say that Christ needed St. Thomas and his marvelous writings to help the Church. But most of the things the Lord wants from us His people are far more simple. They are the things we do in His name for others, perhaps unseen by anyone else. They are the acts of kindness and charity that must be so pleasing to the Heart of Christ. I want to share with you a beautiful letter sent to one of the children in our school. It was sent by a lady who is helping that child's parents out in her school. The girl and the lady have never met in person, but for the past two years they have written letter upon letter to one another. The lady has become an adoptive grandmother to the little girl. The last letter that the lady sent was beautiful, but I have to tell you it is hard to hear. The girl had written to her about Christmas and the lady sent this letter in reply. Let me share part of it with you. The lady wrote:

"What a beautiful letter you sent me for Christmas! I enjoyed every word. Like you, my children always sang "Happy Birthday" to Jesus. Christmas is such a beautiful time. Let us keep Christ in Christmas. Without Him there would be no Christmas at all. I have sad news for you. My doctor just told me that I have a serious illness and that I will be going to heaven soon. I am not in any pain and I look forward to seeing Jesus and all my loved ones who are with Him now. I am not afraid. Jesus loves us so much and He told us that, when we die and go to heaven, we will be very happy with Him forever. I will pray for you. Please pray for me.

I do not know that good woman. But I do know that she knows what St. Paul is teaching us today, namely that we are all joined in the Body of Christ and that the good that we do helps every other person in the Church. Let us never forget that lesson. And let us remember in our Mass today that good lady who knows more than all the theologians and teachers of the Church. May she and we be ready to join the Lord Jesus when He calls us home, home to Our Father's house forever.



**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK SCHEDULE 2016**  
**January 31 - February 5, 2016**  
**Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service**  
**Sunday:** January 31st - 10:30AM Mass  
12:00 - 2:00PM Open House



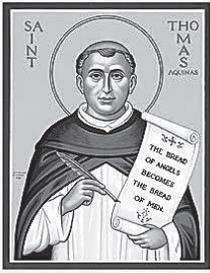
**Monday:** Parent/Grandparent Appreciation Day  
Parents and Grandparents are invited into school to see the children in their Classroom setting from 1:00 - 2:00PM and then join us for coffee/tea in the cafeteria until dismissal.

**Tuesday:** Sports Jersey Day - wear your favorite sports team T-shirt or Jersey to school with your favorite pair of Jeans or sweats.

**Wednesday:** Student Appreciation Day - Crazy Hat and Sock Day!

**Thursday:** Random Act of Kindness Day

**Friday:** School Mass at 9:00AM - Teacher/Staff Appreciation Day



## ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

St. Thomas Aquinas was one of the greatest teachers of all time. Born at Roccasecca near the Benedictine Abbey of Monte Cassino in Italy, his father was the Count of Aquino. After his fifth birthday, Thomas was sent to school at the Abbey of Monte Cassino. His family hoped that he would choose the Benedictine way of life and perhaps someday even become the abbot of the great monastery.

At that time there was a great struggle going on between the Pope and Emperor Frederick II. When Frederick sent troops to occupy Monte Cassino as a fortress, the monks, of course, were put out of the abbey, and Thomas was sent to Naples to study. While at the University of Naples, Thomas joined the Dominicans. His family was very upset by his decision. They considered it unthinkable that their son of noble birth should join a group that had no monasteries or wealth and that begged for their food.

When the Dominicans sent Thomas to Paris for his novitiate, his mother sent a message to her oldest son, Rinaldo, to bring Thomas back. Rinaldo did and Thomas was forced to stay at home. However, after some time his mother realized that she could not make him change his mind. He then went to Paris and later to Cologne in Germany to study with St. Albert the Great. The rest of his life was given to teaching, preaching, study and especially to writing.

Thomas was a brilliant student. His memory and his power to concentrate were extraordinary, and supposedly he never forgot anything that he read. Students who wrote while Thomas dictated said that he could dictate to three or even four secretaries on different subjects at the same time. His writings have influenced and still influence the theologians in the Church. It was said of him that his wonderful learning was due more to the depth of his prayer than to his own genius.

Thomas taught at several of the great universities of the time. He was also in charge of the house of studies for the Dominican Order in Rome. Many works were written by Thomas during these years. He had the great gift of being able to organize and to write clearly. The *Summa Theologica*, his last and greatest work, gives a magnificent summary of Catholic theology.

Pope Gregory X asked Thomas to come to a Church council at Lyons, but he died on the way there. His whole life had been devoted to the search for and the defense of truth. The truths which Thomas wrote about were the realities by which he lived.

*St. Thomas Aquinas was born about 1225 and died in 1274. His feast day is celebrated on January 28.*

**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.

### ADORO TE DEVOTE:

Humbly we adore thee, Christ Redeemer King;  
Thou art Lord of heaven, thou to whom we sing.  
God, the Mighty, thou hast come, bearing gifts of grace;  
Son of Adam still thou art: Savior to our race.

Jesus, Lord we thank thee for this wondrous Bread;  
In our land thou dwellest, by thee we are fed.  
We who share this Mystery in thee are made one:  
Every act we offer thee in thy Name is done.

Thou who died to save us lives now as our Light:  
Though our eyes are blinded, yet our Faith gives sight.  
Christ, do thou be merciful, Lamb for sinners slain,  
We in grief confess our guilt: cleanse our souls of stain.

Christ, our God and Brother, hear our humble plea:  
By this holy banquet keep us joined to thee.  
Make us one in loving thee, one in mind and heart,  
Till in heaven we are thine, nevermore to part.

Hail, thou Word Incarnate, born from Mary's womb;  
Hail thou Strength immortal, risen from the tomb.  
Share with us thy victory, Savior ever blest:  
Live more fully in our hearts; be our constant Guest.

Faith alone reveals here Bread of paradise;  
Faith alone may witness Jesus' sacrifice.  
Therefore, Lord, as once of old Thomas gained his sight,  
Now increase our feeble faith: shed thy healing light.

Christ, at his Last Supper, breaking bread, decreed:  
"This, my Body, take and eat" - heavenly Food indeed!  
Then he blessed the cup of wine - "Take ye this" he said:  
"Drink the chalice of my Blood, soon for sinners shed."

Now with glad thanksgiving, praise Christ glorified,  
He in us is present, we in him abide.  
Members of his Body, we in him are One;  
Hail this sacred Union, heaven on earth begun!

Written by St. Thomas Aquinas

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## THE FLOODGATES OPENING

The Year of Mercy  
By Sister Mary Margaret Hope, S.V.

Imagine that Pope Francis opened up the Vatican museum and began distributing the priceless artifacts and treasures of the Church to anyone who came to the door of St. Peter's Basilica. How quickly do you suppose the line would form in Roam? On December 8th, Pope Francis used the keys entrusted to him as the successor of Peter to open the floodgates of Heaven and let the true treasure of the Church, Divine Mercy, overflow.

Since the time of Moses, the Lord asked that a special year of Jubilee be observed every 50 years, when all slaves were released, debts were erased, and inheritances restored. The church has continued this tradition through the Holy Years, the last of which was held in the year 2000. But this year, Pope Francis has called an extraordinary Jubilee. The Holy Doors at St. Peter Basilica were opened on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 2015, and remain open until the Feast of Christ the King on November 20, 2016. Anyone who passes through these Doors, or other Holy Doors designated in special Churches and Cathedrals in every diocese throughout the world, will receive an extraordinary grace, a special encounter with God's Mercy. Mercy is the "the supreme act by which God comes to meet us... The bridge that connects God and man" (Misericordiae Vultus, #2). When we receive mercy, we receive so much more than pardon for our sins. Although Mercy is always available to anyone who asks, the Church is the "trustee and dispenser of God's mercy" (MV, #11). This Year is the opportune time for those who have been away from the Sacrament of Reconciliation to return, or to approach it more regularly. It is a time to invite others to come with us to the fountain of God's mercy.



In this year of Mercy, we are called not only to receive mercy, but to learn how to "be merciful as your heavenly Father is merciful" (Lk 6:36), to release from our hearts the resentments and grudges we carry, to take the initiative to heal estrangements among family members or friends. Pope Francis has declared that every single time that we perform one of the spiritual and corporal acts of mercy this year, we will receive the Indulgence of the Year of Mercy, which we can apply to ourselves or to a soul in need.

In this Year of Mercy, let us be full of gratitude for the unmerited, superabundance of God's love for us, which is revealed to us in the mystery of Divine Mercy.

(From the Sisters of Life)

## LIVING THE SPIRIT OF GRATITUDE

### 6 Ways to Love Gratitude

#### 1) Keep Your Eyes Fixed on God:

Nothing stifles the spirit of gratitude more than navel-gazing and self-reliance. Look to God in faith in all your needs. Lean on His strength to meet challenges that arise. Pray for the grace and patience to receive life as a gift rather than seeking to control or possess it.

#### 2) Live the Reflective life:

Find a quiet spot to reflect for ten minutes at the end of each day. Ask the Lord to help you see where He was present and how He was at work in your life. Reflection enables us to be more attentive to God's presence and open ourselves to the gifts of each day.

#### 3) Make it a Habit:

Make it a point each day to count your blessings and express your gratitude - write blessings down in a journal, recount them in your mind as you drive home from work, or share them when you are with family and friends.

#### 4) Tap Your Memory - Especially on Rough Days:

If life is just tough or you find yourself getting stuck in the spirit of disdain or ingratitude, recall moments in the past when you were touched by the graces and wonders of God. Remember when you were sustained by grace. From these memories inform the present and reestablish your faith and thanksgiving.

#### 5) Take Time for Prayer:

Prayer draws us into relationship with God. As we spend time with the Lord we come to know His great love for us and His promise to be with us always. The more we come to know Him, the more we will grow to trust Him in all the circumstances of our lives and experience His Provident care in all things.

#### 6) Live in the Truth:

Gratitude isn't about being superficially positive or overlooking the difficulties in life. Rather, gratitude flows from living out the greatest truth - the reality that we are beloved children of a God, a Father who eagerly works to draw us into the fullness of life. Trusting this reality allows us to live gratitude, whatever our circumstances may be.

From the Sisters of Life

### SPIRITUAL RETREAT/RETIRO ESPIRITUAL

St. Raymond's Church Lower Chapel  
Experiencing a Year Of Mercy Thru Our Blessed Mother Mary  
Saturday, January 30, 2016 - 2:00 - 5:00PM  
Hosted by The Legion of Mary

Retiro Espiritual en Iglesia San Ramon Capilla De Abajo  
Año de la Misericordia a Través de Nuestra Santa Madre Marie  
El Sábado 30 de enero de 2016  
Desde 2:00—5:00PM  
Hospiciado por - Legion De Maria  
Pres. "Nuestra Señore Del Santo Rosario



## ST. ANGELA MERICI

St. Angela Merici was born in Desenzano, a town on the shores of Lake Garda in Italy. When she was still a child her father died. Within a short time, her mother and sister died also, so Angela went to stay with an uncle in the neighboring town of Salo.

At Salo, Angela came to know the Franciscans. She joined the Third Order which enabled her to wear the habit of the Franciscan Order but to remain in her own home. This group was dedicated to works of charity. Their day was devoted to prayer, visiting the sick and dying, and helping those in need. Each member had a director who would guide that person in his or her life of prayer.

After joining the Third Order, Angela went back to her family home in Desenzano. She took over the management of the property and gave catechism lessons to the children who lived in the towns in the lake area. Several women, influenced by her example, also began to give instructions to the children.

Angela was invited to do similar work in Brescia. In 1494 there was war between Germany and France. Northern Italy became the battlefield for the two countries. The poor city of Brescia was first occupied by one country, then by the other. The city had no peace. The leading families in the cities took sides and made war on each other. Angela often tried to make peace between these families. Because she was successful, she was called upon to settle many of the feuds among the noble families.

Angela longed to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. She wanted to make the pilgrimage with the prayer that God would show her how she should serve Him. The journey was a difficult one, traveling on horseback, on foot, and by ship. In Venice Angela and her friends joined a larger group of pilgrims. There is a legend that when she reached the island of Crete, she became blind. Her friends wanted to return home, but Angela insisted on continuing the pilgrimage and visiting the shrines, even though she was not able to see them. The legend tells, too, that on the way back, in the same place where she lost her sight, Angela's sight was restored as she knelt in prayer before the crucifix.

Upon her return, she resumed her work at Brescia and, when the war drove her out, at Cremona. When many women and young girls wanted to work with Angela, she began to think of forming a society whose work would be the Christian education of young women. She organized a small group of young women to help her with the catechism teaching. Their number increased quickly, and Angela gave the name "The Company of St. Ursula" to the group. The members continued to live at home; they had no habit and took no formal vows. The women were to place themselves under a spiritual director and to always have the approval of the bishop for their work. Angela wrote a rule for the women to follow. The rule had no specific laws; it simply detailed Angela's way of loving God by prayer, fasting, good works, and simplicity of life. She continued to direct the group until her death four years later.

During this time Angela also wrote her testament, a gift to be given to her group after her death. The testament was a summary of her instructions to The Company of St. Ursula during her life. It encouraged the group to love God always and said that they could bring peace to people only if they had in themselves the spirit of love.

After Angela's death the group developed in many ways. Their care for the Christian instruction of the young unmarried girls of Brescia later developed into schools throughout northern Italy and France.

Angela's company was different from other religious groups of her time. Her sisters were not to be enclosed. Their work was to be with the family, education young women to be Christian wives and mothers. Changing the family would change the society. The Company of St. Ursula developed in other ways after her death. The sisters became responsible for the total education of young girls and not only for their Christian instruction. Schools were started in many of the towns throughout northern Italy and France. Gradually, the group became more like the other Orders of the time. They took formal vows and lived together in community. St. Angela had said to them: "If according to times and needs you should be obliged to make new rules and change certain things, do it with prudence and good advice."

*St. Angela Merici was born in 1474 and died in 1540. Her feast day is celebrated on January 27.*

### ATTENTION—ALUMNI AND FORMER PARISHIONERS!

We are in the process of updating our list of alumni of St. Theresa's School and former parishioners of our parish. We want them to know about the good things that are going on at our parish and our school.

We ask you to contact family members or friends to ask them to help us update our list. They may do so in any of the following ways:

- Filling out the form and sending it to the Rectory (or asking you to drop it by);
- Calling the Rectory to update the information
- E-mailing the information found below.

Thank you for your help with this.

### UPDATE OF INFORMATION FOR ALUMNI & FORMER PARISHIONERS

Name \_\_\_\_\_

If alumnus, year \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_



THIS WEEK'S ALTAR BREAD IS IN LOVING MEMORY  
OF  
SAL BRUNO  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
LOVE, MOM, DAD, HELEN, TOMMY & ELLA



THE SANCTUARY LAMP BURNING NEAR THE  
TABERNACLE THIS WEEK IS IN LOVING MEMORY  
OF  
BENEDETTA LOCICERO  
LOVE, JERRY & KATHY TARTARONE

**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.

**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 JANUARY 23, 2016**

5:00PM Joseph Tubiolo

**SUNDAY JANUARY 24, 2016**

7:30AM The Parishioners of St. Theresa Parish

9:00AM Nick Gagliano

10:30AM Anella Giuliano

12:15PM Benedetta Salanitro

1:30PM Rosario Melgar

5:00PM Margaret Perna

**MONDAY JANUARY 25, 2016**

8:00AM Ginny Greehan

9:00AM Susan Mustich

**TUESDAY JANUARY 26, 2016**

8:00AM Felicia Serpico

9:00AM Louis Pucca

**WEDNESDAY JANUARY 27, 2016**

8:00AM Mary Poidomani

9:00AM Taryn Zingaro-Fisher

**THURSDAY JANUARY 28, 2016**

8:00AM Stephen Baez

9:00AM Giuseppe & Giovanna Tierrano

12:00PM Bonsanti Matteo

**FRIDAY JANUARY 29, 2016**

8:00AM Lorraine Scribano

9:00AM Luigi Fata

**SATURDAY JANUARY 30, 2016**

8:00AM Michael McCord

9:00AM Lucy Costello

5:00PM Silvano Venier Jr.

**SUNDAY JANUARY 31, 2016**

7:30AM The Parishioners of St. Theresa Parish

9:00AM Carmelina Frangella

10:30AM Lillian Jusino

12:15PM Grace Silvestri

1:30PM The Parishioners of St. Theresa Parish

5:00PM Huldah Gordon

**PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH:**

Phyllis Caruso, Peter Corbo, Maryann DiBattista, Gilda Greco, 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, Joan Ricci, Marie Russillo, Toni Spahr, Bina Trerotola, Florence Valentine, Nicholas Vasti (Margie's Brother), Irene Vesely.



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