

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
E-MAIL: rectorystc@aol.com

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

FROM THE DESK OF FR. DERIVAN:

Very often at a wedding, the bridal couple chooses the Scripture readings for their ceremony. And almost every couple selects the reading we hear in the Mass today, the beautiful words of St. Paul, the most beautiful poem of love ever written. Of course St. Paul is not writing about Hollywood's idea of love, which is here today and quickly gone tomorrow. No, St. Paul has something different in mind, or shall we say Someone different. And the Someone and the something is Jesus and the Cross. There is the love St. Paul is telling us about—a love that brought the Son of God to die for us on the Cross. That is love. "Love is patient," just as Jesus was patient with us sinners. "Love is kind," just as Jesus showed us the greatest kindness in forgiving our sins. "Love does not brood over injuries," even as the Lord Jesus did not brood over our sins. "Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things," even as the Lord Jesus bore our sins and endured the suffering of the Cross for all. And most of all, St. Paul says, "love never fails"—and he must have been thinking of the Cross of Jesus as he wrote those powerful words. Love never fails, even as Jesus' love never failed as He loved us to the end, dying for us on the Cross.

We could say, dear friends, that the story of our Christian lives is the story of our living out these words of St. Paul. This reading, as I mentioned, is especially meaningful to bridal couples. But it does not just belong to them. It belongs to every Christian, to every one of us. This is the blueprint of how we are to live the same love that Jesus showed us on the Cross. Another great saint, St. John of the Cross, wrote, "In the evening of our lives, we shall be examined in love." When the evening of our life comes, when our day arrives of going to Our Father's House, He will not ask us how many possessions we have had or how much fame we have enjoyed. He will ask us how much love we have lived. He will ask us how we have lived these words of love which we hear today. Think of everything St. Paul says and make it a question we ask ourselves. "Love is patient, love is kind, love is not jealous or pompous, rude or selfish." Have I been patient? Have I been kind, even when that is hard. Have I tried to root out all that is selfish and rude and pompous? Have I rejoiced in the truth? Have I borne all things, believed all things, hoped all things, endured all things, have I done that for others even as Jesus did that for me? And have I really believed, as St. Paul says, that "love never fails?" Have I lived Jesus' command to love one another even as He has loved us?"

I tell married couples that they do well to go over this reading from St. Paul frequently during the years of their marriage, to make sure that they are living up to those blessed words, words read on their wedding day, but words that must guide them every day. That advice is intended not only for married persons, but for everyone of us, for priests and religious, for the older and younger, for the married and the single, for the best of persons and for the person, like all of us, who is a sinner trying to be a saint. Every Christian does well to read these words again and again and ask himself or herself, "Am I living up to these words? Am I living the love Jesus wants me to live?"

Today we celebrate the feast of a saint who knew these words and lived them so well. His name is St. John Bosco. He came from a poor family, but his mother Margarita taught them that being poor in material things was not so important; being rich in love of God and neighbor was most important. He heard God's call to the priesthood and he heard a special call from the Lord to devote his life to the service of young people. He saw the need in his home city of Turin in Italy to take in poor orphans who were left on the street. He started a school, trained his young people in trades, and most importantly instructed them to be good Catholics, to have the love of God and neighbor in their hearts. With the encouragement of the Pope, St. John Bosco established a religious order, the Salesian Fathers, who have carried on his wonderful work even today. Don Bosco, as people called him, had a simple way of looking at life. He believed that love should pervade everything a young person does—studying, working, playing, just growing up. Don Bosco taught his young people that "love never fails." May we learn from this great saint of loving. May we have that same way of looking at life as he did. May we never let our love fail, remembering always that "in the evening of our lives, we too will be examined in love."

Father Thomas B. Derivan



THE 2016 CARDINAL'S APPEAL BEGINS

The 2016 Cardinal's Appeal is now beginning in our Archdiocese. You will be receiving or have already received a letter from Cardinal Dolan asking your help once again in this year's Appeal.

Your offering in the Appeal will help the Church to continue to serve others in Christ's name. In making your Appeal offering, you are being the Lord's faithful people, helping the Church's programs of service to others. Your Appeal offering, for instance, helps young women who are pregnant to find help in Rosalie Hall right here in The Bronx. The wonderful staff at Rosalie Hall has helped countless hundreds of young women to avoid making the tragic mistake of having an abortion. Your Appeal offering helps Rosalie Hall to help these young women. Thank you for being "a guardian angel" for them.

If you have not received your Appeal envelope in the mail, there are envelopes available in the vestibule of the church. We are asking each parishioner to make a special effort in supporting the Appeal this year, helping us to reach our goal of \$65,000. With your help, we shall do so. Thank you for your help to the Archdiocese and, of course, to our parish. Please keep the success of the Appeal in your prayers.

Father Thomas B. Derivan



**JANUARY 31
ST. JOHN BOSCO
(1815-1888)**

John Bosco’s theory of education could well be used in today’s schools. It was a preventive system, rejecting corporal punishment and placing students in surroundings removed from the likelihood of committing sin. He advocated frequent reception of the sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion. He combined catechetical training and fatherly guidance, seeking to unite the spiritual life with one’s work, study and play.

Encouraged during his youth to become a priest so he could work with young boys, John was ordained in 1841. His service to young people started when he met a poor orphan and instructed him in preparation for receiving Holy Communion. He then gathered young apprentices and taught them catechism.

After serving as chaplain in a hospice for working girls, John opened the Oratory of St. Francis de Sales for boys. Several wealthy and powerful patrons contributed money, enabling him to provide two workshops for the boys, shoemaking and tailoring.

By 1856, the institution had grown to 150 boys and had added a printing press for publication of religious and catechetical pamphlets. His interest in vocational education and publishing justify him as patron of young apprentices and Catholic publishers.

John’s preaching fame spread and by 1850 he had trained his own helpers because of difficulties in retaining young priests. In 1854 he and his followers informally banded together under Francis de Sales.

With Pope Pius IX’s encouragement, John gathered 17 men and founded the Salesians in 1859. Their activity concentrated on education and mission work. Later, he organized a group of Salesian Sisters to assist girls.

John Bosco educated the whole person— body and soul united. He believed that Christ’s love and our faith in that love should pervade everything we do—work, study, play. For John Bosco, being a Christian was a full-time effort, not a once-a-week, Mass-on-Sunday experience. It is searching and finding God and Jesus in everything we do, letting their love lead us. Yet, John realized the importance of job-training and the self-worth and pride that comes with talent and ability so he trained his students in the trade crafts, too.

“Every education teaches a philosophy; if not by dogma then by suggestion, by implication, by atmosphere. Every part of that education has a connection with every other part. If it does not all combine to convey some general view of life, it is not education at all” (G.K. Chesterton, *The Common Man*).

OPEN HOUSE

Cardinal Hayes High School
650 Grand Concourse
Bronx, NY 10451

Cardinal Hayes will be hosting an Open House on Saturday, February 6, 2016 from 10:00AM to 1:00PM. All 6th, 7th and 8th grade students and their parents/guardians are invited.

For more information visit our website at: Cardinalhayes.org or call 718-292-6100 ext. 187.

FROM POPE JOHN PAUL II’S LETTER ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF ST. JOHN BOSCO

I am well aware, worthy educators, of the difficulties you meet with and of the disappointments you experience at times. Do not be discouraged as you follow the privileged way of love that is education. Be strengthened by the inexhaustible patience of God towards humanity, the unfailing exercise of fatherhood revealed in the mission of Christ, teacher and shepherd, and in the presence of the Holy Spirit, sent to transform the world.

The powerful though hidden efficacy of the Spirit is directed to bringing about the maturity of humanity on the model of Christ. He is the animator of the birth of the new man and the new world (cf. Rom. 8:4-5). In this way, your educational labors will be seen to be a ministry of collaboration with God and will certainly be fruitful.

St. John Bosco used to say that education is a “matter of the heart” and that one must “open a way for God in the boy’s heart not only in church but also in the classroom and workshop”. It is precisely in the human heart that the Spirit of truth is made present as consoler and transformer: he unceasingly enters the history of the world from the heart of man. And as I wrote in the encyclical *Dominum et Vivificantem*, also the “the way of the Church passes through the heart of man.” Indeed, she is “the heart of humanity” with her heart which embraces all human hearts she implores from the Holy Spirit ‘the righteousness, the peace and the joy of the Spirit’ in which, in the words of St. Paul, consists the Kingdom of God.” By your work, dear educators, you are sharing in a wondrous manner in the motherly function of the Church.

Keep always before you Mary most Holy, the most lofty collaborator of the Holy Spirit, who was docile to his inspirations and so became the Mother of Christ and Mother of the Church. She continues through the centuries “to be a maternal presence as is shown by Christ’s words spoken from the Cross: ‘Woman, behold your son’; ‘Behold your mother’. Never take your gaze off Mary; listen to her when she says: “Do what Jesus tells you” (Jn 2,5). Pray to her too that the Lord may continue to raise up generous souls who can say yes to his vocational call. To her I entrust you, and with you the whole world of youth, that being attracted, animated and guided by her, they may be able to attain through the mediation of your educative work, the stature of new men for a new world: the world of Christ, Master and Lord.

Pope John Paul II, January 1988



The next meeting of the Feast Committee will be held on Tuesday, February 9th at 7:30PM in the rectory meeting room. This will be the annual Pre-Lenten get-together. Not only will we be reviewing some important feast information but the night will also be filled with lots of goodies to eat.

This year will be our 20th event. Our feast committee wants it to be a special one. To do so they need the support of many of our parishioners like yourself.

Your thoughts, ideas, and help are the things that are necessary to make our 20th Annual Feast one that our parishioners and friends will remember for a long time.

Please attend this special meeting to see how you can help.



ST. BLASE

It is the custom on the feast of St. Blaise to have the blessing of throats. The priest holds two crossed candles at the throat of the person and prays: "Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from all ailments of the throat and from every other evil. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

This blessing does not mean one will never again have a sore throat. Rather, it is a prayer that members of the Church make for each other. It reminds us that good health is a blessing and that we should pray for one another.

This blessing, begun in the sixteenth century, has its origin in the legend that St. Blaise once saved a small boy from choking to death on a fishbone caught in his throat. At Blaise's command, the child coughed up the bone and was able to breathe once again.

Most of what is known about Blaise has come to us through legend because there was nothing written down about him when he was alive. It is believed that he was the bishop of Sebaste in Armenia in the late third century. Because the persecution of the Christians still continued, Blaise's friends hid him in a cave so that he would not be put to death. There he lived as a hermit in silence and prayer. One story relates that Blaise made friends with all the wild animals. A group of hunters accidentally discovered Blaise's cave and found him kneeling in prayer, with the wolves, lions, and bears all clustered around him, patiently waiting for him to finish. The hunters dragged Blaise off to prison. When he refused to worship the false gods, he was put to death.

It is not known when St. Blaise was born but he is thought to have died about the year 316.

His feast day is celebrated on February 3.

FEAST OF ST. BLASÉ

This Wednesday, February 3, is the Feast of St. Blasé, bishop and martyr. The custom for many centuries has been to bless throats on the feast of St. Blasé because on his way to be martyred, he delivered a boy who was choking from a fishbone. The prayer for the blessing of throats expresses this devotion: Through the intercession of St. Blasé, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from sickness of throat and every other sickness in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. **In our church, throats will be blessed after Masses at: 8:00AM and 9:00AM and at Prayer Services at 3:00PM & 7:00PM.**

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.



POPE JOHN PAUL II

Oh Jesus, our Good Shepherd, bless all our parishes with numerous priests, deacons, men and women in religious life, consecrated laity and missionaries, according to the needs of the entire world, which You love and wish to save. We especially entrust our community to You; grant us the spirit of the first Christians, so that we may be a cenacle of prayer, in loving acceptance of the Holy Spirit and His gifts. Assist our pastors and all who live a consecrated life. Guide the steps of those who have responded generously to Your call and are preparing to receive holy orders or to profess the evangelical counsels. Look with love on so many well disposed young people and call them to follow You. Help them to understand that in You alone can they attain to complete fulfillment. To this end we call on the powerful intercession of Mary, Mother and Model of all vocations. We beseech you to sustain our faith with the certainty that the Father will grant what You have commanded us to ask. Amen



PRESENTATION OF THE LORD
FEBRUARY 2

One of the earliest feasts of the Church, dating back to the fourth century, is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, recalling that day, 40 days after Christmas, when the Infant Jesus was presented by His holy parents Mary and Joseph in the temple of Jerusalem, following the command of the law of Moses that every male shall be consecrated to the Lord and that a sacrifice of two turtledoves or two young pigeons be offered to the Lord.

This feast has been observed as a feast of light. The prophet Simeon holds the Infant Jesus in his arms and proclaims Him "a Light of revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel." At the beginning of the eighth century, Pope Sergius inaugurated a candlelight procession; at the end of the same century the blessing and distribution of candles which continues to this day became part of the celebration, giving the feast its popular name: Candlemas.

Referring to this feast, Blessed Pope Paul VI said, "Christ himself says, 'I am the light of the world.' And we are the light, we ourselves, if we receive it from Him...But how do we receive it, how do we make it shine?. The candle tells us: by burning, and being consumed in the burning. A spark of fire, a ray of love, and inevitable immolation are celebrated over that pure, straight candle, as, pouring forth its gift of light, it exhausts itself in silent sacrifice."



POPE FRANCIS—REFLECTION ON THE YEAR OF MERCY

During this year we will reflect on our Holy Father's words proclaiming the special Year of Mercy. This should help us appreciate the beauty of this message of the mercy and forgiveness that always comes from Jesus Our Lord. This section emphasizes the Christian understanding of the mercy of God.

The Pope writes:

“Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy. These words might well sum up the mystery of the Christian faith. Mercy has become living and visible in Jesus of Nazareth, reaching its culmination in him. The Father, “rich in mercy” (*Eph 2:4*), after having revealed his name to Moses as “a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness” (*Ex 34:6*), has never ceased to show, in various ways throughout history, his divine nature. In the “fullness of time” (*Gal 4:4*), when everything had been arranged according to his plan of salvation, he sent his only Son into the world, born of the Virgin Mary, to reveal his love for us in a definitive way. Whoever sees Jesus sees the Father (cf. *Jn 14:9*). Jesus of Nazareth, by his words, his actions, and his entire person reveals the mercy of God.

We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace. Our salvation depends on it. Mercy: the word reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. Mercy: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us. Mercy: the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life. Mercy: the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness.

At times we are called to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father's action in our lives. For this reason I have proclaimed an *Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy* as a special time for the Church, a time when the witness of believers might grow stronger and more effective.”



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK: This week throughout our Archdiocese we celebrate Catholic Schools Week, a week of remembering the blessing of Catholic schools and thanking God for all of those who make our schools possible—teachers, parents, and parishioners who help our school by their prayers and their support. As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week, we might ask this question:

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It is a school which celebrates the diversity of ethnic backgrounds of our children, while emphasizing that we are one in God's love.

It is a school which is a “second home” for our children, many of whom are here from the Breakfast Program before school to 5:30PM in the After School Program.

It is a school where each child is challenged to learn and not to settle for “second best.”

It is a school that keeps our children busy, with studies, with sports, and with other after-school activities.

It is a school where children always can find someone to help.

It is a school which celebrates the richness of our Catholic tradition, but welcomes children of all faiths, encouraging them to worship the Lord each week and to pray each day.

It is a school that wants the best for each child and which tries to provide the best in academic work, recreation, technology, and socialization. Our focus is to help our children prepare to be the citizens of tomorrow. This is what St. Theresa's School is all about.



1ST TIME: Christopher Pace & Angela Picone

MANY THANKS

We are most grateful to all our wonderful parishioners who have sacrificed so generously by increasing their weekly Sunday Contributions. Please know that your weekly increase is for the betterment of St. Theresa Parish, for the building up and improvement of our parish. We are most grateful to all of you who have helped to make a difference in our community. Please continue to help us in order to keep St. Theresa Parish the vital, growing parish that it is.

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.

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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 JANUARY 30, 2016

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

MONDAY FEBRUARY 1, 2016

8:00AM Maria Principe

9:00AM Lucy Costello

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 2, 2016

8:00AM Susan T. Monte

9:00AM Maria Iemma

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 3, 2016

8:00AM Vincenzo Frangella

9:00AM Santo & Natalina Tierrano

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2016

8:00AM Anthony Morello

9:00AM Giovanni Assalone

12:00PM Severino Conte

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 5, 2016

8:00AM Michael McCord

9:00AM Maria Iemma

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2016

8:00AM Donald DiLorenzo

9:00AM Luvigji Frani

5:00PM Phil Polito & Misuraca Family

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 7, 2016

7:30AM The Parishioners of St. Theresa Parish

9:00AM Salvatore DiFranco

10:30AM Barba Family

12:15PM Linda Picariello-Schrizzo

1:30PM The Parishioners of St. Theresa Parish

5:00PM Lena & Anthony Rubuano

PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH:

Phyllis Caruso, 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, William Scanno, Toni Spahr, Bina Trerotola, Florence Valentine, Nicholas Vasti (Margie’s Brother), Irene Vesely.



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