

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

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 DESK OF FATHER DERIVAN:

The first reading of our Mass today speaks of the great man of God, Moses. You know the story. Moses, son of a Hebrew family, had been rescued from the waters of the Nile River by the daughter of the Pharaoh of Egypt. All Hebrew boys were to be put to death, but miraculously Moses was saved. The princess raised him as her own son. He grew up to know power and prestige as a prince of Egypt. But then one day he was shocked by the harsh treatment which the Egyptians gave to the Hebrews whom they treated as slaves. Moses defended one of the Hebrew slaves from his Egyptian taskmaster and in the process the Egyptian was killed. Moses fled from Egypt, now realizing that he was not really an Egyptian, but rather a Hebrew like all the others. And then, as he reached Mount Horeb in the desert, Moses saw something that would change his life and would change the life of all the Hebrews. In the reading we hear Moses saw a burning bush on that mountain, a bush ablaze with fire but not consumed by the flames. And as Moses approached that burning bush, perhaps out of curiosity, but perhaps also out of a beginning faith, Moses heard those words from God Himself, "Remove your sandals for the place on which you stand is holy ground." Then would follow God's call to Moses, the revelation of His Holy Name, His commission to Moses to deliver His people from Egypt, the giving of the Ten Commandments and the Covenant, Moses leading God's People from Egypt to the Promised Land. But all of that began because Moses found the presence of God on holy ground.

The Church gives us this reading today and invites us to reflect on "the holy ground." What is our holy ground today? We do not have a burning bush on Mount Horeb where we can experience the presence of God. But we have our holy ground nonetheless. We have our places where the Lord reveals Himself to us. Let me mention three holy ground which we do well to consider during Lent.

What is our holy ground? Where do we meet God Himself? Look at The Crucifix the holy ground for us Christians is the holy ground of the Cross of Jesus. We think of the Cross again and again during Lent. And why? Because the Cross is the holy ground where the Lord Jesus speaks to us of His tremendous love. The late Archbishop Sheen said that the greatest book ever written was not the Bible, but the Cross. A person needs to know how to read to understand the words of the Bible; you do not have to be able to read a word to understand the Cross, to see God's love poured out there for you and for me. The Cross is our holy ground where we come to Jesus to ask for His forgiveness and mercy. He never turns us away. He welcomes us to the holy ground of His Cross. During Lent, come to that holy ground, come to the Cross, come to Jesus' merciful love.

And again we ask what is the holy ground for us Christians? Is there any doubt that our holy ground is the tabernacle, this holy place where Jesus is in Holy Communion? Sometimes we do not realize how blessed we are to have Jesus truly present here in the tabernacle of our church. He is here right before us, not a symbol of Him, not a memory of Him, but he is here in His Sacred Body in Holy Communion. Even Moses did not have as great a privilege as we have every time we come into a Catholic Church. The vision of the burning bush for Moses was just for a few moments. Lent is our invitation from the Lord to remember His presence in the tabernacle in church every day. He is here waiting for you love. He invites us to love Him in this Holy Eucharist, the Body of Christ. Every time we gaze on the tabernacle, we are already experiencing on earth a little bit of heaven where we shall see God face to face always.

And we ask again: what is our holy ground? Where do we meet God today, even as Moses did long ago? Lent is a time of charity, of giving up what we have and giving to others in need. Our holy ground is the ground where our neighbor is in need, whether that need is food or clothing or understanding or simple care. And during this special Holy Year of Mercy, proclaimed as such by Pope Francis, our holy ground is wherever we show God's mercy to others, doing the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, remembering, as Pope Francis says that the whole Christian message is summarized in the words he uses at the opening of his apostolic letter on the Holy Year, "Jesus Christ is the face of His Father's mercy." Our holy ground is where we help others to know the mercy of God.

Dear friends, Lent is our time of serving the Lord on the holy ground, the ground of the Cross, the ground of the Holy Eucharist, the ground of our neighbor's need. Like Moses, we stand on God's holy ground. He does not ask us to remove our sandals; instead He invites us to remove our doubts, to remove our blindness, to remove our lack of faith. He invites us to an ever greater faith and an ever greater love. May we serve God on His holy ground here on earth and one day may we see Him on a holier ground, the ground of heaven.

Father Thomas B. Derivan



2016 ST. THERESA FEAST

The next meeting of the Feast Committee will be held on Tuesday, March 8th at 7:30PM in the rectory meeting room. This year will be our 20th event. Our Feast is a celebration of the amazing people who make up St. Theresa and the surrounding community. It is a coming-together of individuals working together for a common good.

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.

DESIGN THE FEAST T-SHIRT CONTEST

We are in the middle of our "Design the T-Shirt Contest".

We remind all 4th thru 8th grade students to get those drawings in. There are flyers in the back of the church to remind you what needs to be done. A prize will be given to the winner and that child will be recognized in his/her school or religious education class. Drawings must be in before Friday March 18th and can be returned to the rectory, the school office or the religious education office. The winner will receive a night at the feast for his or her family—\$100.00 in ride tickets and \$100.00 in cash that can be used on games and food. Parents and grandparents, talk to the children about getting involved with this contest. It's a nice prize and we are going to have a lot of fun with this. Drawings need to in by March 18th.



MARCH 3
ST. KATHARINE DREXEL

Katharine Drexel († 1955) was the daughter of a wealthy Philadelphia banker. Sacraments and prayer anchored the family’s life. Emma, her stepmother, fed the poor from their country home three days a week—Katharine’s own school of charity.

As a young woman, Katharine traveled to Europe. Praying at Saint Mark’s Basilica in Venice, Italy, before a statue of the Virgin, she heard, “Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give” (Mt. 10:8). At first, Katharine did not know what this meant. On her next trip, to the American West, Katharine saw the squalor of the Native Americans who had been exiled from their ancestral homes. She felt moved to pledge some of her immense fortune to create missions for them. When she went to Rome to ask Pope Leo XIII to send missionaries, he suggested that she become one herself. Another trip out West to visit Chief Red Cloud confirmed her calling. In 1891, she founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament to serve Native Americans and the recently emancipated slaves.

Many schools and missions sprang up. Katharine founded Xavier University in New Orleans. Then, in 1935, she suffered a severe heart attack. For the last twenty years of her life, Katharine supported the work with her ardent prayer.

Because of her lifelong dedication to her faith and her selfless service to the oppressed, Pope John Paul II canonized her on October 1, 2000 to become only the second recognized American-born saint.

ST. THERESA’S ALTAR SOCIETY LENTEN MISSION:

St. Theresa’s Altar Society will host a Lenten Mission on the theme of the Year of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis. The Mission will take place as follows:

- Monday, March 7—Mass at 7:00PM
- Tuesday, March 8—Mass at 7:00PM
- Wednesday, March 9—Mass at 6:00PM followed by Stations of the Cross

All are invited to join in this Mission as we pray for a greater appreciation of the mercy of God.

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.



MARCH 4
ST. CASIMIR
(1458-1483)

Casimir, born of kings and in line (third among 13 children) to be a king himself, was filled with exceptional values and learning by a great teacher, John Dlugosz. Even his critics could not say that his conscientious objection indicated softness. Even as a teenager, Casimir lived a highly disciplined, even severe life, sleeping on the ground, spending a great part of the night in prayer and dedicating himself to lifelong celibacy.

When nobles in Hungary became dissatisfied with their king, they prevailed upon Casimir’s father, the king of Poland, to send his son to take over the country. Casimir obeyed his father, as many young men over the centuries have obeyed their government. The army he was supposed to lead was clearly outnumbered by the “enemy”; some of his troops were deserting because they were not paid. At the advice of his officers, Casimir decided to return home.

His father was irked at the failure of his plans, and confined his 15-year-old son for three months. The lad made up his mind never again to become involved in the wars of his day, and no amount of persuasion could change his mind. He returned to prayer and study, maintaining his decision to remain celibate even under pressure to marry the emperor’s daughter.

He reigned briefly as king of Poland during his father’s absence. He died of lung trouble at 23 while visiting Lithuania, of which he was also Grand Duke. He was buried in Vilnius, Lithuania. He is the patron saint of Lithuania, Poland and Russia.

For many years Poland and Lithuania faded into the gray prison on the other side of the Iron Curtain. Despite repression, the Poles and Lithuanians remained firm in the faith which has become synonymous with their name. Their youthful patron reminds us: Peace is not won by war; sometimes a comfortable peace is not even won by virtue, but Christ’s peace can penetrate every government repression of religion.

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.

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.



LENT AT ST. THERESA’S CHURCH

Sunday Masses—7:30AM, 9:00AM (Italian), 10:30AM (Family), 12:15PM, 1:30PM (Spanish) and 5:00PM.

Weekday Masses—8:00AM and 9:00AM
Wednesday at 6:00PM with Stations of the Cross.
Thursday at 12 Noon with Adoration and Stations.

Confessions—Every Saturday from 4:00PM to 5:00PM
Special Lenten Reconciliation Monday, March 21st
with confessions from 3:00PM to 9:00PM

Stations of the Cross—Wednesdays after the 6:00PM Mass
Thursdays after the 12 Noon Mass
“Living Stations of the Cross”
Wednesday, March 23 at 7:00PM

Scripture Class with Fr. Joseph—Wednesdays at 7:30PM in
the Rectory.

Eucharistic Devotion—Thursdays after the 12 Noon Mass
First Fridays, Holy Hour from 7:30 to 8:30PM

Lenten Family Night—Friday, March 18—7:00PM

Fast and Abstinence—Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are
days of fast and abstinence.
All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.

Fasting limits a person to one full meal and two lighter meals for
those from ages 18-59. Abstinence means no meat is allowed for
those 14 and older. Reasons of health or work can be excused, in
which case some other form of sacrifice should be substituted
(acts of charity, additional prayers, etc.)

PRAYER FOR LENT

DEAR GOD, just as the rains from heaven prepare the lands to
flourish, we know that your blessings are bestowed upon us.
In this season of preparation, help us grow closer to you as we
make time for prayer, solitude and reflection. Make ready our
ears to hear your loving call amidst the stressful and hurried days
that make up the storms of our life.

Loving Father, we know that we do not face such days alone;
your divine strength is our unfailing aid as we await the joy of the
Easter Season.

Amen.

PROVIDENCE REST STUDY GROUP FOR GIRLS

The Sisters at Providence Rest are planning a study group for
girls 13 years of age and older to study the Scripture and to
discuss vocations to the religious life. For more information
Contact Sister Catherine at 718-514-8566.

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.

WEDNESDAY LENTEN MASS:

Each Wednesday during Lent, we will have a special evening
Mass at 6:00PM. This is followed by Stations of the Cross
and concludes with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.
Hopefully this time will be helpful to parishioners coming home
from work. Parents of children in our CCD classes may wish to
come early for this Mass and Stations. **Please note:** Stations this
year are on Wednesdays, not Fridays.

We will also have Stations of the Cross on Thursdays after the
12:00PM Mass with Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction.
Come to adore Our Lord.

FOOD PANTRY

Food is now being collected for our Food Pantry.
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.**

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

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 _____

POPE FRANCIS—REFLECTION ON THE YEAR OF MERCY

During Lent 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 explains the theme of the Holy Hear: **"Merciful Like the Father."**

"The Church is commissioned to announce the mercy of God, the beating heart of the Gospel, which in its own way must penetrate the heart and mind of every person. The Spouse of Christ must pattern her behavior after the Son of God who went out to everyone without exception. In the present day, as the Church is charged with the task of the new evangelization, the theme of mercy needs to be proposed again and again with new enthusiasm and renewed pastoral action. It is absolutely essential for the Church and for the credibility of her message that she herself live and testify to mercy. Her language and her gestures must transmit mercy, so as to touch the hearts of all people and inspire them once more to find the road that leads to the Father.

The Church's first truth is the love of Christ. The Church makes herself a servant of this love and mediates it to all people: a love that forgives and expresses itself in the gift of oneself. Consequently, wherever the Church is present, the mercy of the Father must be evident. In our parishes, communities, associations and movements, in a word, wherever there are Christians, everyone should find an oasis of mercy.

We want to live this Jubilee Year in light of the Lord's words: *Merciful like the Father*. The Evangelist reminds us of the teaching of Jesus who says, "Be merciful just as your Father is merciful" (*Lk 6:36*). It is a program of life as demanding as it is rich with joy and peace. Jesus's command is directed to anyone willing to listen to his voice (cf. *Lk 6:27*). In order to be capable of mercy, therefore, we must first of all dispose ourselves to listen to the Word of God. This means rediscovering the value of silence in order to meditate on the Word that comes to us. In this way, it will be possible to contemplate God's mercy and adopt it as our lifestyle.

The practice of *pilgrimage* has a special place in the Holy Year, because it represents the journey each of us makes in this life. Life itself is a pilgrimage, and the human being is a *viator*, a pilgrim travelling along the road, making his way to the desired destination. Similarly, to reach the Holy Door in Rome or in any other place in the world, everyone, each according to his or her ability, will have to make a pilgrimage. This will be a sign that mercy is also a goal to reach and requires dedication and sacrifice. May pilgrimage be an impetus to conversion: by crossing the threshold of the Holy Door, we will find the strength to embrace God's mercy and dedicate ourselves to being merciful with others as the Father has been with us.

The Lord Jesus shows us the steps of the pilgrimage to attain our goal: "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back" (*Lk 6:37-38*). The Lord asks us above all *not to judge* and *not to condemn*. If anyone wishes to avoid God's judgment, he should not make himself the judge of his brother or sister. Human beings, whenever they judge, look no farther than the surface, whereas the Father looks into the very depths of the soul. How much harm words do when they are motivated by feelings of jealousy and envy! To speak ill of others puts them in a bad light, undermines their reputation and leaves them prey to the whims of gossip. To refrain from judgment and condemnation means, in a positive sense, to know how to accept the good in every person and to spare him any suffering that might be caused by our partial judgment, our presumption to know everything about him. But this is still not sufficient to express mercy. Jesus asks us also to *forgive* and to *give*. To be instruments of mercy because it was we who first received mercy from God. To be generous with others, knowing that God showers his goodness upon us with immense generosity."

THE 2016 CARDINAL'S APPEAL CONTINUES:

For many years, the parishioners of St. Theresa's Parish have contributed faithfully to the Cardinal's Annual Appeal. As you well know, the purpose of the Appeal is to help support the pastoral, social and educational programs of the Archdiocese of New York. Without your help, the vast network of social services provided by the Archdiocese simply could not happen.

The Cardinal's Appeal is a demonstration of our faith. Particularly during this year which has been proclaimed the **Year of Mercy** by Pope Francis, we are called to demonstrate our faith by showing the mercy of Jesus to others. One way of showing God's mercy is by tending to the needs of the less fortunate among us. Each year, the Cardinal's Appeal provides funds to support our sisters and brothers through hardships at every stage in life. When you help them through the Appeal, you are being **"merciful like the Father,"** which is the Pope's theme for this special year.

If you have not made your Appeal offering, we respectfully ask that you do so, either by sending your Appeal envelope directly to the Appeal Office or by dropping it at the Rectory or placing it in the Sunday collection. Thank you for your generous help.

ANNUNCIATION-OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Annunciation-Our Lady of Fatima Parish proudly presents: "The Seven Last Words of Christ" by Theodore Dubois. The concert will take place Sunday, March 13th at 3PM

Annunciation Church.
470 Westchester Avenue
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For more information call 914-779-7345. Admission is free. All are welcome.



ST. THERESA SCHOOL

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

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1ST TIME: Angel Rosa & Erica Martinez



THE SANCTUARY LAMP BURNING NEAR THE TABERNACLE THIS WEEK IS IN LOVING MEMORY OF BETTY LOCICERO FROM, BETTY & TONY LARDO



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED MEMBER OF OUR PARISH AND HER FAMILY ANNA LOPARINO



THIS WEEK'S ALTAR BREAD IS IN LOVING MEMORY OF IN LOVING MEMORY OF ROBERT LOWRY ON HIS 60TH BIRTHDAY LOVE, MOM & AUNT BINA

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 FEBRUARY 27, 2016

5:00PM Huldah Gordon

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 28, 2016

7:30AM The Parishioners of St. Theresa Parish

9:00AM Assunta, Pasquale, Rosina, Rafael, Francesco & Luigi Porco

10:30AM Michelle Gonud

12:15PM Janet Pergola

1:30PM The Parishioners of St. Theresa Parish

5:00PM Thomas Kichinski

MONDAY FEBRUARY 29, 2016

8:00AM Gloria R. Duffy

9:00AM Severino Conte

TUESDAY MARCH 1, 2016

8:00AM Bridget Murray

9:00AM Dominick Terrasi

WEDNESDAY MARCH 2, 2016

8:00AM Antoinette, Richard & Ricky Gillespie

9:00AM Mary & Alfred Zombo

6:00PM Special Intention

THURSDAY MARCH 3, 2016

8:00AM Vito Gentile

9:00AM Severino Conte

NOON Benedetta Locicero

FRIDAY MARCH 4, 2016

8:00AM Maria Teresa Tricari

9:00AM Angela, Nicola & Sebastiano LaVerghetta

SATURDAY MARCH 5, 2016

8:00AM Sigsimondo & Rosa Cipollone

9:00AM Guido Bertorelli

5:00PM James & Helen Traynor

SUNDAY MARCH 6, 2016

7:30AM The Parishioners of St. Theresa Parish

9:00AM Santangelo Family

10:30AM Pietro Carovillano

12:15PM Richard Lent

1:30PM The Parishioners of St. Theresa Parish

5:00PM Giuseppe Faleri

PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH:

Phyllis Caruso, Peter Corbo, Maryann DiBattista, Marie DiPolo, Daley Gribbon, Angelo Guerra, Sean Howell, William Keenan, Sal Lanza, Frank Maiorana, Maryann Maiorana, Diane Martino, Joe Martino, Theresa Martino, Tina Maskara, Vincent Mastrogiovanni, Jeannete Montalbano, Isabelle O'Brien, Joan Ricci, Marie Russillo, William Scanno, Toni Spahr, Bina Trerotola, Florence Valentine, Nicholas Vasti (Margie's Brother), Irene Vesely.

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