

# 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](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 FATHER DERIVAN:**

The scene of the gospel today is the Last Supper. The Lord Jesus had just observed the Passover with His apostles. But during that meal, He had done something so different, so strange, so wonderful. He had taken the bread of the Passover meal and said those sacred words, "This is my Body which will be given up for you." And He took the cup of wine, again the drink of the Passover, and said, "This is the chalice of my Blood which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins." In that holy moment, the world was changed. The Lord Jesus gave His apostles and us His very self in Holy Communion. He gave us bread that is no longer Bread, wine that is no longer wine. He gave us His Body and Blood to be our spiritual food, to be our life. Since that Last Supper night two thousand years ago, the Church through her priests has followed Jesus' command, "Do this in memory of me." That happens in our church and in every church throughout the world. It happens every time we come to Sunday Mass and, for those who are able to come, to daily Mass. And it will keep on happening until the Lord comes again and brings us all home to His Kingdom.

But right after Our Lord gave us Holy Communion at the Last Supper, He gave us something else. He gave us a new commandment, "Love one another as I have loved you." In the very place where He gave us His Body and Blood, He gave us His new commandment, the commandment of loving one another. Our retired Pope Benedict XVI gave us a beautiful insight on these words of Our Lord. Pope Benedict wrote:

"Jesus speaks of a 'new commandment'. But what is new about it? In the Old Testament, God had already given the commandment of love; but this commandment has become new now because Jesus makes a very important addition to it: *"As I have loved you, so you also must love one another"*. What is new is precisely this *"loving as Jesus loved."* All our loving is preceded by his love and refers to his love. It fits into his love and is achieved precisely through his love. Jesus gave himself to us as a model and source of love, a boundless, universal love. In giving us the new commandment, Jesus asks us to live his own love always."

To live the new commandment, to love as Jesus loved, even to loving us by dying on the Cross, is at times so very hard. Pope Benedict said, "Clearly, with our own strength alone we are weak and limited. In us there is always a resistance to love. However, the Lord promised us that he would be present in our lives, making us capable of this generous, total love that can overcome all obstacles, even those in our own hearts. If we are united to Christ, we can truly love in this way. Loving others as Jesus loved us is only possible with that power which is communicated to us in the relationship with him, especially in the Holy Eucharist."

Remember Jesus gave us the commandment of love just after He gave us the Holy Eucharist. It was as if He were saying, "I know it will be hard for you to love one another, so I will give you my very self to be your food and strength, to help you love one another as I have loved you."

We live in a world of great selfishness. We live in a world where people are tempted to think of self first and others last. That is not the way of Jesus. One reason why we come to Mass each week is to hear the voice of Jesus, the voice of the Good Shepherd, amid all the other voices that we hear in the world. Certainly another reason why the Church wants us to come to weekly Mass is so that we can have the strength, the strength of Holy Communion, to help us love one another as Jesus has loved us. We come here to be reminded that, amid all of the selfishness of the world, we are people of love and we are people of the Holy Eucharist. We come here to remember that the Eucharist and our loving on one another go hand in hand.

In a few weeks, on May 14th, many of our children will receive Our Lord in their First Holy Communion. Their parents and grandparents will smile with pride as these children receive Our Lord for the first time. Pray for them. Pray that they will always draw their strength from the Holy Eucharist. Pray that all of us will have the joy and the amazement of these little ones as they receive Holy Communion for the first time. And pray that Holy Communion will help us all, little children and all of us here, to obey the commandment, "Love one another as I have loved you."

Father Thomas B. Derivan



Our Altar Society will be hosting a Flea Market on Sunday, May 22, 2016. New and gently used items are requested and may be brought to the Rectory marked "Flea Market".

Thank you for your help.



**ST. ANTHONY NOVENA**

The St. Anthony Novena is held every Tuesday at 7:00PM. Come join the other devotees for the 13 week Novena as they petition, praise and thank God for all the blessings received through the intercession of St. Anthony.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CONFIRMATION CLASS:**

This Friday afternoon at 4:30PM, Bishop Gerald Walsh, Auxiliary Bishop of New York, will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to young people from our school and our CCD Program. We congratulate these young people who accept the commitment to be full-fledged members of the Church. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide them in their confirmed Christian lives.

We are grateful for all who have assisted in the preparation of these young people for Confirmation:

Mrs. Josephine Fanelli, our school principal; Mrs. Marie McCarrick, Director of Religious Education; Mrs. Maria DePalma, St. Theresa School 7th Grade homeroom and religion teacher; and CCD catechists Mrs. Debbie Zottola-Addario and Ms. Jillian Baumann. And of course, many thanks to the parents and sponsors of these young people for helping them to reach this milestone in their Catholic lives.



**Members of our Confirmation Class are:**

Joselyn Barada  
Danae Cruz  
Taylor Ferrante  
Ashley Guerrero  
Imarah Lapice  
Mya Muñoz  
Alessia Petrosino  
Alexis Troiano  
Elizabeth Zerafa

Julissa Bedford  
Kaitlyn DelGrosso  
Cianna Geni  
Angela Ignarra  
Valentina Menta  
Atziry Pacheco  
Alexa Rivera  
Isabella Vasquez  
Chloe Zerbo

Katelin Caban  
Alisa Doohan  
Brianna Giuliano  
Elise Jardinado  
Madisyn Muñoz  
Lianna Peña  
Cynthia Simmons  
Miranda Zanon

Cristian Caraballo  
Misael De la Cruz  
Angel Guerrero  
Lorenzo Jennison  
Juan Lazaro  
Austin Martinez  
Kenny Paredes  
Daniel Román  
Edrick Torres

Mark Cubi  
Damian Dusaj  
James Harkins  
James Kovacs  
Ricardo Lizano  
Jesse Mendoza  
Kyle Paredes  
Thomas Shanley  
Vincent Vecchiarello

Vilson Dekaj  
Brandon Fitzmaurice  
Antonio Iannacito  
Christopher Lawton  
Frankie Lubelli  
John Navarra  
Francesk Pillumaj  
Robert Smajlaj  
Keanon Velez



**APRIL 25  
ST. PEDRO DE SAN JOSE BETANCUR  
(1626-1667)**

Central America can claim its first saint with the canonization of Pedro de Betancur by Pope John Paul II in Guatemala City. Known as the “St. Francis of the Americas,” Pedro de Betancur is the first saint to have worked and died in Guatemala.

Calling the new saint an “outstanding example” of Christian mercy, the Holy Father noted that St. Pedro practiced mercy “heroically with the lowliest and the most deprived.” Speaking to the estimated 500,000 Guatemalans in attendance, the Holy Father spoke of the social ills that plague the country today and of the need for change.

“Let us think of the children and young people who are homeless or deprived of an education; of abandoned women with their many needs; of the hordes of social outcasts who live in the cities; of the victims of organized crime, of prostitution or of drugs; of the sick who are neglected and the elderly who live loneliness,” he said in his homily during the three-hour liturgy.

Pedro very much wanted to become a priest, but God had other plans for the young man born into a poor family on Tenerife in the Canary Islands. Pedro was a shepherd until age 24, when he began to make his way to Guatemala, hoping to connect with a relative engaged in government service there. By the time he reached Havana, he was out of money. After working there to earn more, he got to Guatemala City the following year. When he arrived he was so destitute that he joined the bread line which the Franciscans had established.

Soon, Pedro enrolled in the local Jesuit college in hopes of studying for the priesthood. No matter how hard he tried, however, he could not master the material; he withdrew from school. In 1655 he joined the Secular Franciscan Order. Three years later he opened a hospital for the convalescent poor; a shelter for the homeless and a school for the poor soon followed. Not wanting to neglect the rich of Guatemala City, Pedro began walking through their part of town ringing a bell and inviting them to repent.

Other men came to share in Pedro’s work. Soon they became the Bethlehemite Congregation, which went on to earn official papal approval after Pedro’s death.

He is sometimes credited with originating the Christmas Eve posadas procession in which people representing Mary and Joseph seek a night’s lodging from their neighbors. The Custom soon spread to Mexico and other Central American countries.





**THE STORY OF OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL  
(SKODRA), PATRONESS OF ALBANIA**

Devotion to the Mother of Good Counsel is associated with the story of a miraculous icon. The sacred image is found in a church in Genazzano, a beautiful town thirty miles south-east of Rome. The church dedicated to the Mother of Good Counsel was built there in the fourth century. In 1356 the church was given over to the Augustinians. Restoration started in 1467, when a widow, Petruccia, sold all her belongings to help finance the project. However, funds ran out before the task was completed.

That same year, all the residents of Genazzano heard a beautiful melody coming from heaven. As they looked up, they saw a white, shining cloud that descended on the church of the Mother of Good Counsel. The cloud gradually vanished, revealing a beautiful painting of Our Lady tenderly holding her Divine Son in her arms. Immediately, Mary began to cure the sick and grant countless graces.

The news spread throughout the country. Two Albanians from Scutari appeared in the town with a curious tale. They had fled from their homeland to escape the invading Turks. Before fleeing, they had stopped in the church and had seen how the icon of Our Lady, wrapped in a white cloud, lifted off the wall on which it had hung for two centuries. They followed the picture until they could see the towers of Rome, when it suddenly disappeared. The mysterious icon of Genazzano was identical to the one in the church in Scutari.

The amazing news reached Rome. Pope Paul II sent two bishops to investigate the story. The prelates reported that 171 miracles were recorded in the months following the icon's appearance. The pope's commission also found that there was an empty space on the church wall at Scutari. An icon that had been venerated there for centuries was, indeed, missing.

The image was painted on a sheet of plaster so thin that it would have been impossible for any human hand to remove it without damage. It had survived the subsequent centuries through the tumult of several earthquakes and withstood the bombing during World War II. Several altars were destroyed, walls caved in, and the roof was crushed. The icon, only yards away from the explosion, remained intact.

In 1753, Pope Benedict XIV established the Pious Union of Our Lady of Good Counsel to promote devotion to Mary under this title. Pope Leo XIII added the title Mother of Good Counsel to the Litany of Loreto. Pope Pius XIII dedicated his term of office to Our Lady of Good Counsel. And Pope John XXIII visited her shrine to pray for the success of the Second Vatican Council. Our Lady of Good Counsel is revered by Albanian Catholics as their special patroness under the title of Our Lady of Skodra. Her feast day is observed on April 26th.

The icon at Genazzano is about a foot wide and eighteen inches high. It depicts a mother figure that is half turned toward her son and half toward the viewer, reflecting Mary's concern for both Jesus and his Church.

If Our Blessed Mother is willing to ask her Son to work miracles to let us know of her motherly concern, Our Lady of Good Counsel is certainly willing to speak words of advice and instruction to help us over the hurdles of our daily lives.

Our Lady of Good Counsel, pray for us!



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

Next weekend the Knights of Columbus will be in front of church selling raffle tickets for the Calvary Hospital Annual Charity Drive, which will take place on May 27, 2016.

We are always happy to have the Knights here and to support their charitable work. Your help to them is greatly appreciated.

**ST. THERESA SCHOOL**

**Help Us Raise Money with Little or no Effort:**

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.

**HOLY FAMILY CHURCH**

**2158 Watson Avenue  
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Let's celebrate Holy Family Church's

25th Anniversary Card Party

Saturday, April 30th at 6:30PM

Dinner will be served at 7:00pm

Door prizes, linens, office supplies, Kitchen accessories, Dinner & Broadway tickets, DVD's, microwave, luggage, bedroom & bathroom ensembles, bike/helmet, cosmetic baskets, TV, food baskets, money trees and many more Great Prizes!

50-50 Raffle

Tickets and Chance Books available in Rectory

First Prize: \$1000.00

Second Prize: \$300.00

Third Prize: \$200.00

Mechler Hall

2158 Watson Avenue (off Castle Hill Avenue)

718-863-9157

Tickets: \$20.00 per person



**THANK YOU** - The Feast Committee would like to thank those children that participated in our Design the T-Shirt contest as well as those adults that nominated children for the Feast scholarship program. Those winners will be introduced in the weeks ahead at one of our 10:30 Masses.

**VOLUNTEERS** - We have started to sign up volunteers for our Feast. Please consider spending some time helping us with things like selling ride and raffle tickets, escorting the statue of St. Theresa during the procession, working some of our games and booths, acting as security personnel, dealing in our casino, and much, much more. Whatever you feel comfortable doing we have need for you. Volunteer sign-up forms can be found in the back of the Church. Fill it out and drop it in the collection basket over the next few weeks. Sign-up a friend as well and work side by side. However much time you can give will be greatly appreciated. We are asking that all volunteers sign up early this year. This is our 20th Feast. We are planning for it to be something special. The more volunteers we know of the more great things we can plan for.

**GRAND RAFFLE** - As part of our feast we will once again hold our **Grand Raffle**.

**Grand Prize - 2016 Mercedes Benz GLA250 SUV or \$30,000.00**  
**2nd Prize - Seven Night Cruise for Two out of New York or \$1,500.00**  
**3rd Prize - \$500.00**

Raffle tickets have been recently mailed to your home. If you are not on the Parish mailing list pick them up at the rectory during the week.

Yes they are \$100 each but the prizes are amazing and this raffle is very important to the finances of our parish. Even the early bird drawing prize is terrific - a summer for four at the VIP Club in New Rochelle, and 3 additional tickets for the Grand Prize drawing. Take the raffle tickets to work or a family gathering and get 4 or 5 people to share in the cost of a ticket. Great prizes and sensational odds. In recent years we have sold about 700 tickets.

Starting on the weekend of April 30th fellow parishioners will be in front of the church handing them out, accepting your stubs and answering any questions you may have. Please do your best to network at least one raffle ticket. We all know that if we try we can get it done.

**CORPORATE SPONSORS** - There is a program associated with our feast where businesses can get involved and help as well. It's called our Corporate Sponsor Program. A tax deductible donation will get a business or store advertising & recognition during our feast. For additional information call the rectory weekdays at 718-892-1900.

**MEETING** - There will be a meeting of the Feast Committee on Tuesday, May 3rd beginning at 7:30PM in the rectory meeting room. These meeting are open to all parishioners and residents of community. If you would like to see how this committee operates, get involved with the planning, or help out in any way please feel free to stop by. **All are Welcome.!**



Couples celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary anytime during 2016 are invited to attend the Annual Golden Wedding Jubilee Mass with Cardinal Dolan at the Cathedral of St. Patrick, Saturday, June 25th at 1:30PM or Sunday, June 26th at 2:00PM. Pre-registration is required. Please contact the Rectory for registration. The closing date to register for the Mass is Tuesday, May 24th, 2016. This event is sponsored by the Family Life †Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of New York.

### 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.

**PRESTON HIGH SCHOOL**  
**Reach for Excellence Program**  
**For girls entering 7th and 8th grades**  
**July 5—July 29, 2016 8:30AM - 3:00PM for 4 weeks**

Reach for Excellence is for rising 7th and 8th grade girls who want to sharpen their common core skills in reading, writing and math while working in a small group environment. The morning session consists of classes which may include Writing, Math, Scientific Experiments, Law/Government, Art and Language/Culture Appreciation. The afternoon session will have the girls participate in various career oriented workshops such as Forensic Science, Mock Trial, Video Production and Art. Program fee includes TACHS prep book, supplies, lunch And metro card.

Fall T.A.C.H.S. Prep - September 17th - October 29th  
 7 Saturdays before the exam

For more information about our early bird or multiple program discounts call Christina Fragale at 718-863-9134 ext.132  
 Of [cfragale@prestonhs.org](mailto:cfragale@prestonhs.org). [www.prestonhs.org](http://www.prestonhs.org)





THIS WEEK'S ALTAR BREAD IS IN LOVING MEMORY  
OF  
IRMA ORRICO  
LOVE, FRANK & FAMILY



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED  
MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH AND THEIR FAMILIES  
NICHOLAS DeGENNARO  
&  
JOSEPHINE LAUDANTE

#### SCHOOL SPONSORSHIPS

We are making this appeal to parishioners (past and present), alumni and friends of St. Theresa's Parish. We are having a School Sponsorship Program in our school. In this, the sponsor offers to help pay a needy student's tuition in whole or in part. Students are selected by the pastor and the principal particularly because of some unforeseen circumstance that has happened to the family where the child would otherwise not be able to continue in our school. The sponsorship makes it possible for a child to continue to benefit from a good Catholic education at St. Theresa's School. Recipients are chosen by the principal and the pastor according to need.

We ask you to consider becoming a School Sponsor.

Full Sponsorship is \$5,100 and partial is \$2,550.

If you are interested, please contact our principal Mrs. Fanelli at 718-792-3668 or Father Derivan at 718-892-1900 or drop into our School Office.

Your sponsorship makes a difference!

#### 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 APRIL 23, 2016

5:00PM Giuseppe DiBartolo

#### SUNDAY APRIL 24, 2016

7:30AM The Parishioners of St. Theresa Parish

9:00AM Fred Gaci

10:30AM Maria Zottola & John Marino

12:15PM Irma Orrico

1:30PM Rafael Rivera

5:00PM Margaret Perna, Joseph Perna & Carmelo Fiametta

#### MONDAY APRIL 25, 2016

8:00AM Gaetano Cusumano

9:00AM Angie Occhicone

#### TUESDAY APRIL 26, 2016

8:00AM Luigi Fata

9:00AM Anthony Pagnotta

#### WEDNESDAY APRIL 27, 2016

8:00AM Frank DeSimone

9:00AM Benedetta LoCicero

#### THURSDAY APRIL 28, 2016

8:00AM Rocco DiFranco

9:00AM Rosalie Rosconi

12:00PM Filippo Restifo

#### FRIDAY APRIL 29, 2016

8:00AM Dominick Terrasi

9:00AM Marko Djurpeovic

#### SATURDAY APRIL 30, 2016

8:00AM Rosalia Morello

9:00AM Frank Giunta

5:00PM Mary Sabatello & Sr. Grace Sabatello

#### SUNDAY MAY 1, 2016

7:30AM Madeline Benza

9:00AM Anella Giuliano

10:30AM Francesca Giaquinta

12:15PM Maria Gaetano

1:30PM The Parishioners of St. Theresa Parish

5:00PM Derek Gomez

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

Phyllis Caruso, Peter Corbo, 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 Mastrogiorganni, Jeannete Montalbano, Isabelle O'Brien, Joan Ricci, Marie Russillo, William Scanno, Toni Spahr, Bina Trerotola, Florence Valentine, Nicholas Vasti, Irene Vesely.

**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.



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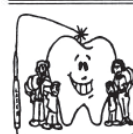
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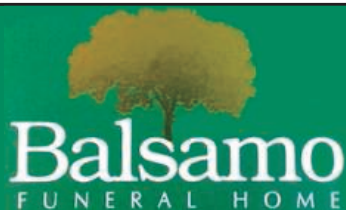
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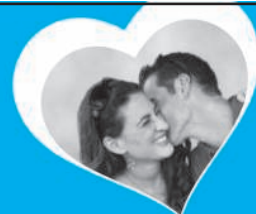
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