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, Spanish Mass*
Rev. Robert Imbelli, *Weekend Associate*
Deacon Anthony P. Cassaneto

Mrs. Josephine Fanelli, *Principal*
Mrs. Marie McCarrick, *Dir. of Religious Education*

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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 FATHER DERIVAN

Our gospel today speaks of the power of prayer. Our Lord uses the surprising example of a widow bothering an unjust judge, asking him for a verdict to her advantage. And the judge renders that verdict, not because of his sympathy for the widow, but because he wants the widow to stop bothering him. Our Lord uses this story to teach us the power of prayer. God wants us to be like the widow in the gospel story. God wants us to "bother" Him with our prayers. He wants us to keep praying to Him, to "pester" Him, and, as the gospel says "to call out to Him day and night."

The temptation, of course, is that we only "bother" God when we need something for ourselves, our well-being, our health, our safety. But we must expand our outlook in praying. We must pray for others, our families, our loved-ones, our neighbors and co-workers and indeed all people who need the benefit of our prayers. Certainly we must pray for an end to senseless violence and terrorism, at home and throughout the world. We are all shocked at the stories of violence and terrorism, that we hear about so often. What can we do? How can we help to stem the path of violence that sadly so many people have followed? Of course the answer is prayer. Prayer is our best defense against evil and prayer is our most powerful remedy to cure the evil of violence. We must "bother" God with our prayer that hearts will be touched, that people will turn away from violence, that misguided people will see that terrorism is not the answer to their grievances, whatever they may be. Perhaps your prayers will touch some person who is bent on violence at this very moment.

Our Holy Father Pope Francis speaks often about the power of prayer. Some time ago Pope Francis reminded us that prayer works miracles and prevents the hardening of the heart. Prayer is powerful. The Pope recalled the story of a man in Buenos Aires whose 9-year-old-daughter was dying in the hospital. He said he spent the night at the shrine of the Virgin of Lujan clinging to the gate and praying for the grace of healing. The next morning, when he returned to the hospital, his daughter was healed."

But prayer does not simply work physical miracles. Often it does not. Often God answers our prayers by giving a spiritual miracle, a miracle within, a miracle of the heart. Pope Francis says, "Prayer works miracles; it works miracles for Christians, whether they be faithful laypeople, priests, bishops who have lost compassion. The prayers of the faithful change the Church: it's not us popes, bishops, priests or nuns who carry the Church forward, but Saints. Saints are those who dare to believe that God is the Lord and that He can do everything." And when the Pope speaks of the saints here, he is speaking about us. We are called to be like the saints who believed, as the Pope says, that "God is the Lord and that He can do everything." That must be our attitude of prayer—complete trust in the Lord who loves us His children. The Lord continues to work miracles of the heart. And if we believe that, just as the saints did, then we are on our way to becoming saints too.

Every day let us make our intention to pray for an end to violence. Make that your special prayer. "Bother" God with your prayer for an end to violence and terrorism. In doing so, you may be helping to bring about a miracle of the heart too.

Father Thomas B. Derivan

A Prayer for Victims of Violence

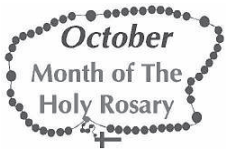
Almighty and Ever-Loving God, in you we place our trust and hope.
Violence and cruelty can have no part with you.
You guide everything with wisdom and love.
Hear the prayers we offer for those who have been hurt or lost their lives in attacks of any kind.
May the love and the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ bless and console us.
May your love gently wipe the tears from our eyes and remove the fear from our heart.
Look also with favor upon the families and friends who mourn the victims and
comfort those who are in grief and despair.
Console them in the hope all who trust in you will find peace and rest in your eternal Kingdom.
Bless them with your presence and surround us all with your love.
By the wisdom of our leaders and integrity of those around us, may harmony be restored and justice be served.
Allow our leaders to strive for what is right and just.
Grant that peace, the fruit of justice and charity, may reign in every family and nation throughout the world.
We ask this through the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ Our Lord.
Amen

SAVE THE DATE
LADIES NIGHT OUT!
WALK ON THE WILD SIDE BINGO
St. Theresa School Fundraiser
Friday - November 4, 2016
7:00PM
St. Theresa School Gym
2872 St. Theresa Avenue

CHILDREN'S HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

We invite children from Grade 5 and below to join us for our Children's Halloween Carnival which will be held in our gym (entrance on Mayflower Avenue) on Saturday, October 29th from 1:00PM to 2:30PM.

Admission: $1.00. Join us for some Halloween fun, games and a "photo opportunity." Wear your costumes.



MONTH OF OCTOBER, MONTH OF THE ROSARY:

In 2002 St. John Paul II issued a special Apostolic Letter on importance of the Rosary. We do well to recall St. John Paul's words during the month of October which is the month of the Rosary. Today's section reflects on:

THE ROSARY HELPS US TO SEE CHRIST WITH MARY

To recite the Rosary is nothing other than to *contemplate with Mary the face of Christ*. The contemplation of Christ has an *incomparable model* in Mary. In a unique way the face of the Son belongs to Mary. It was in her womb that Christ was formed, receiving from her a human resemblance which points to an even greater spiritual closeness. No one has ever devoted himself to the contemplation of the face of Christ as faithfully as Mary. The eyes of her heart already turned to him at the Annunciation, when she conceived him by the power of the Holy Spirit. In the months that followed she began to sense his presence and to picture his features. When at last she gave birth to him in Bethlehem, her eyes were able to gaze tenderly on the face of her Son, as she "wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger" (Lk 2:7).

Thereafter Mary's gaze, ever filled with adoration and wonder, would never leave him. At times it would be a *questioning look*, as in the episode of the finding in the Temple: "Son, why have you treated us so?" (Lk 2:48); it would always be a *penetrating gaze*, one capable of deeply understanding Jesus, even to the point of perceiving his hidden feelings and anticipating his decisions, as at Cana (cf. Jn 2:5). At other times it would be a *look of sorrow*, especially beneath the Cross, where her vision would still be that of a mother giving birth, for Mary not only shared the passion and death of her Son, she also received the new son given to her in the Beloved Disciple (cf. Jn 19:26-27). On the morning of Easter hers would be *a gaze radiant with the joy of the Resurrection*, and finally, on the day of Pentecost, *a gaze afire* with the outpouring of the Spirit (cf. Acts 1:14).

Mary lived with her eyes fixed on Christ, treasuring his every word: "She kept all these things, pondering them in her heart" (Lk 2:19; cf. 2:51). The memories of Jesus, impressed upon her heart, were always with her, leading her to reflect on the various moments of her life at her Son's side. In a way those memories were to be the "rosary" which she recited uninterruptedly throughout her earthly life.

OCTOBER 16TH
ST. MARGARET MARY

Margaret Mary lived in the seventeenth century. She is the famous French nun to whom Jesus showed his Sacred Heart. As a child, she was a happy little girl who loved the nuns at school. But when she was eleven, she became very sick. It was four years before she was well again. Her father had died, and an aunt had moved into their home. This aunt and her husband made Margaret Mary and her mother suffer very much. Almost every day, the teenager would hide in the garden to cry and pray. What hurt her most was seeing her mother get hurt.

Yet Margaret Mary grew to love good times. A few years later, she was considering marriage. Her mother wanted her to marry and so did her relatives. They were worried about her, especially when she brought beggar children into the garden to try to teach them. Margaret Mary hesitated a while, neither marrying nor entering the convent. At last she decided on the convent.

She joined the Visitation sisters and was a kind, humble sister. Often she made others impatient since she was slow and clumsy. But she was dear to Jesus. He began to appear to St. Margaret Mary to show her how much he loves us all. Jesus wanted her to spread devotion to His Sacred Heart. It was a very hard thing to do. Many people thought Margaret Mary had not really seen Jesus at all. Some were angry with her for trying to spread the new devotion. This brought her great suffering. Yet she did her best to carry out the Lord's wish. Jesus blessed her hard work and pain. Today, this wonderful devotion to the Sacred Heart is practiced all over the world.

Our Lord made great promises to St. Margaret Mary for those who are devoted to his most Sacred Heart. Some of these promises are: "I will comfort them in all their afflictions. I will establish peace in their homes. I will bestow abundant blessings on all their undertakings. I will bless every place where a picture of my Heart shall be displayed and honored." The greatest promise Jesus made is this: "My divine Heart shall be the safe refuge in the last moment to all those who receive Holy Communion on the First Friday for nine months in a row." We can ask St. Margaret Mary to help us understand the importance of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Daily Act of Self-Offering

Lord Jesus Christ, in union with that divine intention with which you offered on earth your praises to God through your Sacred Heart, and now continue to offer them in all places in the Sacrament of the Eucharist, and will do so to the end of the world, I most willingly offer you throughout this entire day, without the smallest exception, all my intentions and thoughts, all my affections and desires, all my words and actions, in imitation of the most pure heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary ever immaculate.

OUR RIGHTS AND DUTIES AS CITIZENS:
During the next few weeks we will present here the statements of the United States Catholic Bishops regarding our responsibilities as American citizens. These are the issues we should keep in mind as we prepare for one of our most important responsibilities, the right to vote. Their statement is entitled "The Challenge of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship."

"If indeed 'the just ordering of society and of the state is a central responsibility of politics,' the Church 'cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice.' So writes Pope Francis, quoting Pope Benedict XVI.

Our nation faces many political challenges that demand well-informed moral choices:

The ongoing destruction of a million innocent human lives each year by abortion

Physician-assisted suicide

The redefinition of marriage

The excessive consumption of material goods and the destruction of natural resources, harming the environment as well as the poor

Deadly attacks on Christians and other religious minorities throughout the world

Efforts to narrow the definition and exercise of religious freedom

Economic policies that fail to prioritize the needs of poor people, at home and abroad

A broken immigration system and a worldwide refugee crisis. Wars, terror, and violence that threaten every aspect of human life and dignity.

As Catholics, we are part of a community with profound teachings that help us consider challenges in public life, contribute to greater justice and peace for all people, and evaluate policy positions, party platforms, and candidates; promises and actions in light of the Gospel in order to help build a better world.

Why Does the Church Teach About Issues Affecting Public Policy?

The Church's obligation to participate in shaping the moral character of society is a requirement of our faith, a part of the mission given to us by Jesus Christ. As people of both faith and reason, Catholics are called to bring truth to political life and to practice Christ's commandment to "love one another" (Jn 13:34).

The U.S Constitution protects the right of individual believers and religious bodies to proclaim and live out their faith without government interference, favoritism, or discrimination. Civil law should recognize and protect the Church's right and responsibility to participate in society without abandoning its moral convictions. Our nation's tradition of pluralism is enhanced, not threatened, when religious groups and people of faith bring their convictions into public life. The Catholic community brings to political dialogue a consistent moral framework and broad experience serving those in need.

Who in the Church Should Participate in Political Life?

In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. As Catholics, we should be guided more by our moral convictions than by our attachment to any political party or interest group. In today's environment, Catholics may feel politically disenfranchised, sensing that no party and few candidates fully share our comprehensive commitment to human life and dignity. This should not discourage us. On the contrary, it makes our obligation to act all the more urgent. Catholic lay women and men need to act on the Church's moral principles and become more involved: running for office, working within political parties, and communicating concerns to elected officials. Even those who cannot vote should raise their voices on matters that affect their lives and the common good. Faithful citizenship is an ongoing responsibility, not just an election year duty.

THE URSULINE SCHOOL

The Ursuline School, an independent, private, Catholic college preparatory school for girls in grades 6-12 located in New Rochelle, NY cordially invites prospective students and their families to attend our Open House, Saturday, October 29, 2016, 12:30 to 3:30PM. Explore our campus, meet our students and speak with our dedicated faculty and administration. Please visit our website Ursulineenewrochelle.org for more information and to RSVP for our Open House or call the Ursuline Admissions office 914-500-6212 for more information.

Preston High School's
First Haunted Mansion Tour
When: October 22, 2016
Where: Preston High School—2780 Schurz Avenue
Bronx, NY 10465
Time: 6:00PM to 10:00PM
Haunted House tours and Activities include:
Bounce Maze, Face-Painting, Pumpkin Decorating, and Much More! All are encouraged to come in Costume!
Phshaunedmansiontour.evenbrite.com
Haunted Tour & Festivities: $15
Festivities Only: $5
Current Preston Students: $10

OCTOBER 19TH
ST. ISAAC JOGUES, JEAN DE BRÉBEUF
(1607-1646) (1593-1649)
AND COMPANIONS

Isaac Jogues and his companions were the first martyrs of the North American continent officially recognized by the Church. As a young Jesuit, Isaac Jogues, a man of learning and culture, taught literature in France. He gave up that career to work among the Huron Indians in the New World, and in 1636 he and his companions, under the leadership of Jean de Brébeuf, arrived in Quebec. The Hurons were constantly warred upon by the Iroquois, and in a few years Father Jogues was captured by the Iroquois and imprisoned for 13 months. His letters and journals tell how he and his companions were led from village to village, how they were beaten, tortured and forced to watch as their Huron converts were mangled and killed.

An unexpected chance for escape came to Isaac Jogues through the Dutch, and he returned to France, bearing the marks of his sufferings. Several fingers had been cut, chewed or burnt off. Pope Urban VIII gave him permission to offer Mass with his mutilated hands: "It would be shameful that a martyr of Christ not be allowed to drink the Blood of Christ." Welcomed home as a hero, Father Jogues might have sat back, thanked God for his safe return and died peacefully in his homeland. But his zeal led him back once more to the fulfillment of his dreams. In a few months he sailed for his missions among the Hurons. In 1646 he and Jean de Lalande, who had offered his services to the missioners, set out for Iroquois country in the belief that a recently signed peace treaty would be observed. They were captured by a Mohawk war party, and on October 18 Father Jogues was tomahawked and beheaded. Jean de Lalande was killed the next day at Ossernenon, a village near Albany, New York.

The first of the Jesuit missionaries to be martyred was René Goupil who, with Lalande, had offered his services as an oblate. He was tortured along with Isaac Jogues in 1642, and was tomahawked for having made the Sign of the Cross on the brow of some children.

Jean de Brebeuf was a French Jesuit who came to Canada at the age of 32 and labored there for 24 years. He went back to France when the English captured Quebec in 1629 and expelled the Jesuits, but returned to his missions four years later.

Although medicine men blamed the Jesuits for a smallpox epidemic among the Hurons, Jean remained with them. He composed catechisms and a dictionary in Huron, and saw 7,000 converted before his death. He was captured by the Iroquois and died after four hours of extreme torture at Sainte Marie, near Georgian Bay, Canada.

Father Anthony Daniel, working among Hurons who were gradually becoming Christian, was killed by Iroquois on July 4, 1648. His body was thrown into his chapel, which was set on fire. Gabriel Lalemant had taken a fourth vow—to sacrifice his life for the Native Americans. He was horribly tortured to death along with Father Brébeuf.

Father Charles Garnier was shot to death as he baptized children and catechumens during an Iroquois attack. Father Noel Chabanel was killed before he could answer his recall to France. He had found it exceedingly hard to adapt to mission life. He could not learn the language, the food and life of the Indians revolted him, plus he suffered spiritual dryness during his whole stay in Canada. Yet he made a vow to remain until death in his mission. These eight Jesuit martyrs of North America were canonized in 1930.

"My confidence is placed in God who does not need our help for accomplishing his designs. Our single endeavor should be to give ourselves to the work and to be faithful to him, and not to spoil his work by our shortcomings" (from a letter of Isaac Jogues to a Jesuit friend in France, September 12, 1646, a month before he died).

NAMING A NEWBORN CATHOLIC

Giving a name to a newborn child is one of the most significant things that parents will do for their baby. Parents have many influences on them when they have to make their choice. Sometimes a child just has to have a particular name. You could read the Gospel of St. Luke, Chapter 1, and see how John and Jesus got their names.

Whether it is divine inspiration of family tradition or personal liking or some combination of all those that makes us choose a name, parents-to-be should review all the possibilities for finding great names for their child, including doing some research in the Bible and in the list of saints of the Church. Looking in the Bible for a great person to name your child after is a very traditional practice for Christians of all denominations. Even more familiar for Catholics is the practice of naming your child after one of the saints. In fact, that was once a requirement for Baptism. The requirement has now been relaxed, but the purpose is still recommended. In fact, if the name of a saint has been chosen, that name is included in the baptismal rite during the litany of the saints.

It you do not know many saints' names, you can find some very good biographies of saints in Catholic bookstores. A saint is one of the most famous and admired members of our Church, a person who did something great with his or her life, a person who lives now in heaven and can intercede with God for us. Many Catholic people have been happy to place their child under the special patronage of that saint, and to hope that their child will grow into that kind of great person whose character, courage, and faith have been officially applauded by the people of the Church.

Naming a child is a big responsibility. Raising a child in faith, hope and charity is an even bigger one. It is reasonable that parents should want any advantage that the name and example of a holy person can give their child.

(From Franciscan Missionary Associates)

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

Wedding Banns

3RD **TIME:** Seamus Lawton & Katherine McDonald

THIS WEEK'S ALTAR BREAD IS IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
VINCENT MASTROGIOVANNI
FROM, NINA FIRRINCILI

THE SANCTUARY LAMP BURNING NEAR THE TABERNACLE THIS WEEK IS IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
SAL GRECO
LOVE, CARMELA & YOUR CHILDREN

Please continue to share the peace and joy of our faith with others . 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.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY OCTOBER 15, 2016
5:00PM Sal Greco

SUNDAY OCTOBER 16, 2016
7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa Church
9:00AM Carmine Fusco
10:30AM John Gallagher
12:15PM Irma Orrico
1:30PM Jorge Ortiz
5:00PM John Gallagher

MONDAY OCTOBER 17, 2016
8:00AM Louisa Falciano
9:00AM Ann Nutini

TUESDAY OCTOBER 18, 2016
8:00AM Arcangelo & Giovanna Frangella
9:00AM Marilyn Bianco

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 19, 2016
8:00AM Jerry Basciano
9:00AM Marie Morgan & Family

THURSDAY OCTOBER 20, 2016
8:00AM Theresa Sorrentino
9:00AM Lucien Zanano
12:00PM Carlos Estrella

FRIDAY OCTOBER 21, 2016
8:00AM Peter Sacchitello
9:00AM Mike Nardone

SATURDAY OCTOBER 22, 2016
8:00AM Vincent Mastrogiovanni
9:00AM Parishioners of St. Theresa
5:00PM James Murphy

SUNDAY OCTOBER 23, 2016
7:30AM The Parishioners of St. Theresa Parish
9:00AM MaryAnn DiBattista
10:30AM Bendetta LoCicero
12:15PM Antonio Cipollone
1:30PM Pedro Jaime Fret
5:00PM Michael & Filomena Pagnotta

PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH:
Phyllis Amitrano, Nancy Cardone, Joseph Cina, Phyllis Caruso, Peter Corbo, Marie DiPolo, Daley Gribbon, Sean Howell, William Keenan, Sal Lanza, Frank Maiorana, Maryann Maiorana, Diane Martino, Joe Martino, Theresa Martino, Tina Maskara, Jeannete Montalbano, Isabelle O'Brien, Joan Ricci, Elizabeth Rivera, Marie Russillo, William Scanno, Mario Simeone, Toni Spahr, Bina Trerotola, Florence Valentine, Nicholas Vasti , Irene Vesely.

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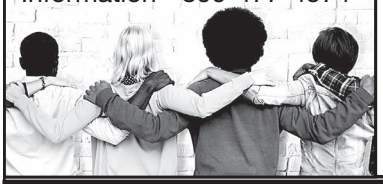

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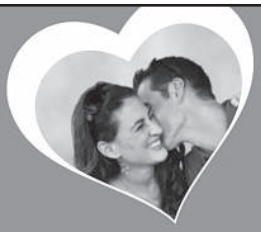

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