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

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

RECTORY: 718-892-1900/1901

Deacon Anthony P. Cassaneto

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: NATIONAL ORGAN DONOR SABBATH TODAY:

This weekend we join with faith-communities throughout our country in observing National Donor Sabbath. As you will read in the statements from Pope St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI printed below, the Catholic Church supports and encourages organ and tissue donation. The Church sees this as a beautiful act of charity in helping some person who can benefit from our organs or tissues after our death. Our late Cardinal Archbishop, Edward Cardinal Egan, said, "To be an organ donor enables life to continue and in a very real way promotes the 'culture of life....The donation of organs, in a morally acceptable manner, at the end of life offers the gift of health and life to those who are most vulnerable and who, at times, are without hope. It is one of the many pro-life positions an individual can choose in order to foster a culture that values life in our world."

Simply put, to become an organ donor is to affirm life. Please consider becoming an organ donor today. You may obtain information about becoming an organ donor, by contacting the New York Organ Donor Network at www.donatelifeny.org. A booklet about this is available today in the vestibule of the church. You should inform your family and doctor of your decision to be an organ donor. You may also declare your wish to become and organ donor on your driver's license or on your voter's registration form. You should include this information on your health care proxy form.

May the Lord bless you as you consider being an organ donor and thereby giving to others the gift of life.

Father Thomas B. Derivan

The Church's Teaching on Organ Donation:

"Organ donation is a peculiar form of witness to charity. In a period like ours, often marked by various forms of selfishness, it is ever more urgent to understand how the logic of free giving is vital to a correct conception of life. Indeed, a responsibility of love and charity exists that commits one to make of their own life a gift to others, if one truly wishes to fulfill oneself. As the Lord Jesus has taught us, only whoever gives his own life can save it (cf. Lk 9:24).

- Pope Benedict XVI, November 2008 Address at a conference entitled, "A Gift for Life. Considerations on Organ Donation."

"The act of love, which is expressed with the gift of one's own vital organs, is a genuine testament of charity that knows how to look beyond death so that life always wins. The recipient should be aware of the value of this gesture that one receives, of a gift that goes beyond the therapeutic benefit. What they receive is a testament of love, and it should give rise to a response equally generous, and in this way grows the culture of gift and gratitude.

--Pope Benedict XVI, November 2008 from the same address.

"There is an everyday heroism, made up of gestures and sharing, big or small, which build up an authentic culture of life. A particularly praiseworthy example of such gestures is the donation of organs in a morally acceptable manner."

-- Pope St. John Paul II, Evangelium Vitae



Next week's collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) needs your help.

CCHD was founded to break the cycle of poverty in the United States by funding organizations that help individuals help themselves. With a tradition of improving education, housing situations, and community economic development, CCHD continues to make a positive impact in communities nationwide. Your contribution will defend human dignity and reach out to those living on the margins.

Please give to the CCFHD Collection.



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.



BIRCH FAMILY SERVICES

We are happy to welcome our new neighbors, Birch Family Services, who are renting our former convent across from the church at 2885 St. Theresa Avenue.

Birch is a well-known agency which services special needs children. This program, known as the Pelham Bay Early Childhood Center, is especially for Pre-Kindergarten children. There will be an OPEN HOUSE at the new Birch facility next Sunday, November 20th from 10:30AM to 1:00PM. We invite you to drop by after Mass next Sunday to see the fine work that is already in progress, to meet the staff, and to learn more about the many services Birch has to offer. For further information, please call (646) 975-2700.

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POPE FRANCIS ON BECOMING A SAINT:

During this month of November we experience in a special way the reality of the communion of saints, our great family that consists of all members of the church, both those of us who are still pilgrims on earth, and the immense multitude of those who have already left and gone to Heaven. We are all united, and this is called the "communion of saints", meaning the community of all baptized people.

The Book of Revelation refers to an essential characteristic of saints, saying: they are *people who belong totally to God.* They are presented as an immense multitude of "chosen ones", dressed in white and marked with the "seal of God" (cf. 7:2-4, 9-14). Through this last detail, with allegorical language, it is emphasized that the saints belong to God fully and exclusively, and that they are his property. What does it means to bear the seal of God in one's very life and person? The Apostle John again tells us: it means that in Jesus Christ we have truly become children of God (cf. 1Jn 3: 1-3).

Are we conscious of this great gift? We are all children of God! Do we remember that in Baptism we received the "seal" of our Heavenly Father, and that we became his children? To put it simply: we bear God's surname, our surname is God, because we are the children of God. Here lies the root of the vocation to holiness! The saints whom we remember are those who lived in the grace of their Baptism, those who kept the "seal" intact, behaving as children of God, seeking to emulate Jesus; and now they have reached the goal, because they finally "see God as he is." A second characteristic of the saints is that they are examples to emulate. Let us note: not only those who are canonized, but the saints "next door", so to speak, those who, by the grace of God, strive to practice the Gospel in their everyday lives. Among these saints we also find perhaps someone in our family or among friends and acquaintances. We must be grateful for them, and above all we must be grateful to God who has given them to us, putting them close to us as living and contagious examples of the way to live and die in fidelity to the Lord Jesus and his Gospel. How many good people have we met and do we know, about whom we say: "this person is a saint!" We say it, it comes to us spontaneously. These are the saints next door, those who are not canonized but who live with us.

Imitating their gestures of love and mercy is a bit like perpetuating their presence in this world. These gestures are indeed the only ones that can withstand the destruction of death: an act of tenderness, generous aid, time spent listening, a visit, a kind word, a smile.... In our eyes these gestures might seem insignificant, but in the eyes of God they are eternal, because love and compassion are stronger than death. May the Virgin Mary, Queen of All Saints, help us to trust more in the grace of God, and to walk with enthusiasm along the path of holiness. Let us offer our dearl eparted, in the intimate hope of finding each other one day, all together, in the glorious communion of heaven. Pope Francis, Angelus Address, November 1, 2015

DEDICATION OF ST. JOHN LATERAN







NOVEMBER 16 MARGARET OF SCOTLAND Wife and Mother (1050? - 1093)

Margaret of Scotland was a truly liberated woman in the sense that she was free to be herself. For her, that meant freedom to love God and serve others. Not Scottish by birth, Margaret was the daughter of Princess Agatha of Hungary and the Anglo-Saxon Prince Edward Atheling. She spent much of her youth in the court of her great-uncle, the English king, Edward the Confessor. Her family fled from William the Conqueror and was shipwrecked off the cost of Scotland. King Malcolm befriended them and was captivated by the beautiful, gracious Margaret. They were married at the castle of Dunfermline in 1070.

Malcolm was good-hearted, but rough and uncultured, as was his country. Because of Malcolm's love for Margaret, she was able to soften his temper, polish his manners and help him become a virtuous king. He left all domestic affairs to her and often consulted her in state matters

Margaret tried to improve her adopted country by promoting the arts and education. For religious reform, she instigated synods and was present for the discussions that tried to correct religious abuses among priests and laypeople, such as simony, usury and incestuous marriages. With her husband, she founded several churches. Margaret was not only a queen, but a mother. She and Malcolm had six sons and two daughters. Margaret personally supervised their religious instruction and other studies.

Although she was very much caught up in the affairs of the house-hold and country, she remained detached from the world. Her private life was austere. She had certain times for prayer and reading Scripture. She ate sparingly and slept little in order to have time for devotions. She and Malcolm kept two Lents, one before Easter and one before Christmas. During these times she always rose at midnight for Mass. On the way home, she would wash the feet of six poor persons and give them alms. She was always surrounded by beggars in public and never refused them. It is recorded that she never sat down to eat without first feeding nine orphans and twenty-four adults.

In 1093, King William Rufus made a surprise attack on Alnwick castle. King Malcolm and his oldest son, Edward, were killed. Margaret, already on her deathbed, died four days after her husband.

COMMENT: There are two ways to be charitable: the "clean way" and the "messy way." The "clean way" is to give money or clothing to organizations that serve the poor. The "messy way" is dirtying your own hands in personal service to the poor. Margaret's outstanding virtue was her love of the poor. Although very generous with material gifts, Margaret also visited the sick and nursed them with her own hands. She and her husband served orphans and the poor on their knees during Advent and Lent. Christ, she was charitable the "messy way."

"When [Margaret] spoke, her conversations was seasoned with the salt of wisdom. When she was silent, her silence was filled with good thoughts. So thoroughly did her outward bearing correspond with the staidness of her character that it seemed as if she has been born the pattern of a virtuous life" (Turgot, Saint Margaret's confessor).

TODAY--SECOND COLLECTION FOR THE SALESIAN MISSION IN NICARAGUA:

As announced last weekend, this Saturday evening and Sunday at all of our Masses we will have a special second collection to assist the Salesian Mission in Nicaragua. The Salesian Fathers and Brothers are assisting the people in that Central America country which is the second poorest in the Western Hemisphere. We are happy to help the missions of the Salesian Fathers who faithfully serve us at St. Theresa's by offering Mass here each Sunday. We appreciate your help in the special mission collection today.

CONCLUSION OF THE YEAR OF MERCY:

The special Jubilee Year of Mercy, instituted by our Holy Father Pope Francis, will conclude next Sunday. We remind ourselves of the message of the Year of Mercy. The Pope has reminded us that "Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy" and that we are all called to be "merciful like the Father: (which was the theme of this special year, as seen on the banner at the entrance of the church).

In giving us this Year of Mercy, Pope Francis said: "I present, therefore, this Extraordinary Jubilee year dedicated to living out in our daily lives the mercy which the Father constantly extends to all of us. In this Jubilee Year, let us allow God to surprise us. He never tires of casting open the doors of his heart and of repeating that he loves us and wants to share his love with us. The Church feels the urgent need to proclaim God's mercy. Her life is authentic and credible only when she becomes a convincing herald of mercy. She knows that her primary task, especially at a moment full of great hopes and signs of contradiction, is to introduce everyone to the great mystery of God's mercy by contemplating the face of Christ. The Church is called above all to be a credible witness to mercy, professing it an living it as the core of the revelation of Jesus Christ. From the heart of the Trinity, from the depths of the mystery of God, the great river of mercy wells up and overflows unceasingly. It is a spring that will never run dry, no matter how many people draw from it. Every time someone is in need, he or she can approach it,

because the mercy of God never ends. The profundity of the mystery surrounding it is as inexhaustible as the richness which springs up from it."

This year has been a great opportunity for many persons to come home to the Lord's mercy. Often in confession a person has mentioned to the priest that what brought him or her back to confession and the practice of the faith has been the Holy Father's words on God's mercy.

Even though the Year of Mercy comes to a close next Sunday on the Feast of Christ the King, remember that we are always called, as the Pope says, to be "messengers of mercy," helping others to come home to Christ. You may be the means of grace to bring someone home to the Church. Your good example, your kindness and your assurance to another person that Christ extends mercy to all might be the vehicles of God's grace. Welcome that opportunity. Ask for the Lord's help always to be a "messenger of mercy."

It is good for us to remember Pope Francis' words at the end of his message proclaiming the year of Mercy: "In this Jubilee year, may the Church echo the word of God that resounds strong and clear as a message and a sign of pardon, strength, aid, and love. May she never tire of extending mercy, and be ever patient in offering compassion and comfort. May the Church become the voice of every man and woman, and repeat confidently without end, 'Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old' (Ps 25:6).

Those are words to remember not just for one special year, but always.

PRAYER OF POPE FRANCIS FOR THE JUBILEE

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees him. Show us your face and we will be saved.

Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money;

the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things;

made Peter weep after his betrayal; and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.

Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman:

"If you knew the gift of God!"

You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all

by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified.

You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy, you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy spirit for ever and ever. Amen.



Thank you to all who came to support our school and parish at the Ladies Night Out Bingo! It was a great success because of you! We will have another event in the Spring.

Our School held a dress down day in October for the American Cancer Society and over \$1000 was raised. Thank you to all the families who contributed.

We are collecting Box Tops for Education if you would like to help us, just clip them off the products and place in an envelope, you can place them in the collection basket on Sunday or drop off in the Rectory. Every box top is worth ten cents.

Tuition for a family can be very stressful. We have many families that are experiencing financial hardship due to illness and some due to job loss.

If you would like to make a tax free donation to St. Theresa School contact Fr. Derivan 718-892-1900 or Mrs. Fanelli 718-792-3688 FYI Tuition for one child is currently \$5200 per year if you are registered in our Parish.



ST. FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI MOTHER CABRINI: A SAINT OF OUR TIMES

Today, we would style her a "Get-It-Done" type. A fitting description of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini. Born Maria Francesca in 1850 to a farming couple in Lodigiano, Italy, she was orphaned at 18 years of age. And it was at that point that she desired to become a religious, but was turned down by two congregations.

Later she would found the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, a congregation devoted to the education of young women. Despite overcoming great obstacles in founding the congregation, Mother Cabrini lived to see her apostolate number more than 50 hospitals, schools, orphanages, convents, and other agencies. She died on December 22, 1917, in Chicago.

It was the plight of the burgeoning Italian immigrant population which drew Mother Cabrini to New York City in 1889, coming at the Request of Pope Leo XIII. An educator by profession, this enterprising religious woman saw the need to bring her congregation's ministry to the poor and destitute, especially the immigrants. Convincing the Archbishop to let her stay, she became a United States citizen in 1909. For over 20 years, Mother Cabrini traveled extensively, while her congregation took root in many parts of the USA, as well as in South and Central America.

Perhaps her own experience as the daughter of farmers and later, as an orphan, allowed Mother Cabrini to connect so readily with the immigrant population. At first, she and her sisters ministered to the Italian men and women and their families. She founded homes for the poor, schools, and put an emphasis on adult education - a woman ahead of her time. In later years, her congregation would bring the compassion of Christ to people from all over the world.

Only 29 years after her death, she was canonized by Pope Pius XII in 1946, and then, just four years later, he named her patroness of immigrants.

Our Church is still concerned with ministry to immigrants. Now they come largely from Mexico, Latin America, and Asia. And they no longer gather exclusively in large cities like New York alone. Many move to smaller cities and towns, but their needs remain the same: education, often with language a big priority; and attention to spiritual needs, the foundation of secure life in any culture.

Though some of us can not take part in outreach ministries, each of us can pray that God's work be done, especially among people who so need His care and love.



NOVEMBER 18 ST. ROSE PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE (1769-1852)

Born in Grenoble, France, of a family that was among the new rich, Philippine learned political skills from her father and a love of the poor from her mother. The dominant feature of her temperament was a strong and dauntless will, which became the material—and the battlefield—of her holiness. She entered the convent at 19 without telling her parents and remained despite their opposition. As the French Revolution broke, the convent was closed, and she began taking care of the poor and sick, opened a school for street urchins and risked her life helping priests in the underground.

When the situation cooled, she personally rented her old convent, now a shambles, and tried to revive its religious life. The spirit was gone, and soon there were only four nuns left. They joined the infant Society of the Sacred Heart, whose young superior, St. Madeleine Sophie Barat, would be her lifelong friend. In a short time Philippine was a superior and supervisor of the novitiate and a school. But her ambition, since hearing tales of missionary work in Louisiana as a little girl, was to go to America and work among the Indians. At 49, she thought this would be her work. With four nuns, she spent 11 weeks at sea en route to New Orleans, and seven weeks more on the Mississippi to St. Louis. She then met one of the many disappointments of her life. The bishop had no place for them to live and work among Native Americans. Instead, he sent her to what she sadly called "the remotest village in the U.S.," St. Charles, Missouri. With characteristic drive and courage, she founded the first free school for girls west of the Mississippi.

It was a mistake. Though she was as hardy as any of the pioneer women in the wagons rolling west, cold and hunger drove them out—to Florissant, Missouri, where she founded the first Catholic Indian school, adding others in the territory. "In her first decade in America Mother Duchesne suffered practically every hardship the frontier had to offer, except the threat of Indian massacre—poor lodging, shortages of food, drinking water, fuel and money, forest fires and blazing chimneys, the vagaries of the Missouri climate, cramped living quarters and the privation of all privacy, and the crude manners of children reared in rough surroundings and with only the slightest training in courtesy" (Louis E. Callan, R.S.C.J., Philippine Duchesne).

Finally, at 72, in poor health and retired, she got her lifelong wish. A mission was founded at Sugar Creek, Kansas, among the Potawatomi. She was taken along. Though she could not learn their language, they soon named her "Woman-Who-Prays-Always." While others taught, she prayed. Legend has it that Native American children sneaked behind her as she knelt and sprinkled bits of paper on her habit, and came back hours later to find them undisturbed. She died in 1852 at the age of 83.

Divine grace channeled her iron will and determination into humility and selflessness, and to a desire not to be made superior. Still, even saints can get involved in silly situations. In an argument with her over a minor change in the sanctuary, a priest threatened to remove her tabernacle. She patiently let herself be criticized by younger nuns for not being progressive enough. Through it all, 31 years, she followed to the line of a dauntless love and an unshakable observance of her religious vows.

"We cultivate a very small field for Christ, but we love it, knowing that God does not require great achievements but a heart that holds back nothing for self....He who has Jesus has everything."



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH AND THEIR FAMILIES ANITA SAVASTA & ELEANOR ADDESSIO



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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.



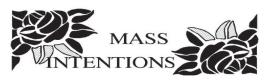
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PETITION BOOK

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.



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 12, 2016

5:00PM Pjeter Vuksani

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 13, 2016

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa Church

9:00AM Fernicola Family 10:30AM Catherine Spano 12:15PM Michael Ionello

1:30PM Parishioners of St. Theresa Church

5:00PM John Pagnotta

MONDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2016

8:00AM Stefano Esposito 9:00AM Marina Corbellini

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 15, 2016

8:00AM Dolores Vitale & Heckman Family

9:00AM Franco DiBernardi

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 16, 2016

8:00AM Christopher Arneth

9:00AM Michael & Bonnie O'Reilly

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2016

8:00AM Federico Perruzza 9:00AM Michael McCord 12:00PM Luisa Falciano

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 18, 2016

8:00AM Frances Cafiero 9:00AM Giorgio V. Zeolla

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2016

8:00AM Peter Serpico, Seraphina & Salvatore Cavacale

9:00AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

5:00PM Carmela, Benjamin & Albert Gregoria

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20, 2016

7:30AM The Parishioners of St. Theresa Parish

9:00AM Gaetano Cusumano

10:30AM Maureen & Mark Pozzuto

12:15PM Lena Gaetano

1:30PM The Parishioners of St. Theresa Parish

5:00PM Doda Ljucovic

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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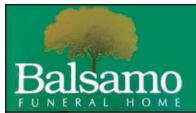
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