

Church of St. Theresa

A Caring Community Reaching Out To One Another in Christ

2855 St. Theresa Avenue, Bronx,

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
Rev. Charles Szivos, Parochial Vicar

Mrs. Josephine Fanelli, Principal
Mrs. Marie McCarrick, Dir. of Religious Education
Helena Kim, Dir. Of Music

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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

CHURCH OF ST. THERESA, BRONX

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER DERIVAN

In just a few days we will begin the Holy Season of Lent. This Wednesday of course is Ash Wednesday and we will do in this church what priests and people in every church throughout the world will do, we will receive the blessed ashes and be signed with the sign of the Cross on our foreheads with the words, “Repent and believe in the gospel.”

What will Lent of this year mean for each of us? Will it be any different than past Lents or will it be something deeper, something more important for our Christian living? Lent is our time of thinking about what it means to be a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, a Christian. I suggest that there is something for us to think about and to pray about during each of the days of Lent. Lord, what does it mean to be a Christian? Just a week after Ash Wednesday, we celebrate the feast of Saints Perpetua and Felicity, two of the second—century martyrs of the Church who died for their faith under the Roman persecution. Perpetua was a young noblewoman probably twenty-two years of age. Her slave was Felicity. Both were young mothers, Perpetua giving birth to her child shortly before her arrest, Felicity having her baby while in prison. Both were condemned to death for the faith. Shortly before the martyrdom, Perpetua’s father tried to change her mind, to make her deny her Christian faith. Let me share with you the words she wrote in prison awaiting her execution.

“While we were still under arrest (she said) my father out of love for me was trying to persuade me and shake my resolution. ‘Father,’ said I, ‘do you see this vase here?’ ‘Yes, I do’, said he. And I told him: ‘could it be called by any other name than what it is?’ And he said: ‘No.’ “Well, so too I cannot be called anything other than what I am, a Christian.”

What a tremendous testimony of this brave woman’s faith—“Can I be called anything other than what I am, a Christian?” Dear friends, I suggest that St. Perpetua’s words would be good ones for us to reflect on during Lent. Our gospel gives us Our Lord’s words today, “You cannot serve two masters, God and mammon, the word that means all worldly things.” We cannot be the servants of both. We cannot say, “Yes, Lord, I believe in you,” and at the same time neglect Him or not follow His commandments. To put it in the terms that St. Perpetua used, we are either Christians or we are not. And Lent is precisely the time for us to reflect on what it means to be a true Christian, a true member of the Church, a true follower of the Lord Jesus Christ.

How do we do that practically? Let me make a few suggestions. First, what does it mean to be a true Christian? It means that we are people of prayer and Lent is precisely the Lord’s challenge to us to be people of greater prayer, prayer at home, prayer here in church if possible at daily Mass. During Lent ask God’s help to be people of greater prayer.

Second, what does it mean to be a Christian? It means that we willingly give up something or give something to others, particularly the poor of the world. We call that sacrifice and sacrifice shows whether we are true Christians or not, whether we are ready to give up what God has given us and to share what we have with those in need. Your help to the missions, your support of the Cardinal’s Appeal, your charity to all who are part of our lives every day, these things show whether we are ready to give up what we have to serve others.

And then the third mission for Lent: to be people of penance. Penance, of course, means being sorry for our sins. It means looking at our lives and seeing where we fall short as Christians and where we receive mercy from the Lord Himself. Let this Lent help you to serve God as our Master, not the fading things of this world. Are we really true Christians, doing penance for our own sins and the sins of this world?

Prayer, sacrifice and penance—those are the three pillars of Lent and on this Sunday before Lent begins, we should resolve to work on all three—to be people of stronger prayer, greater sacrifice and true penance. Let us make this Lent a holy time, perhaps the best Lent of our lives. And during Lent may we say the words of St. Perpetua: “Can I be anything other than what I am, a true Christian.”

Father Thomas B. Derivan



THE CARDINAL’S APPEAL 2017: A SPECIAL SACRIFICE FOR LENT

The 2017 Cardinal’s Appeal is now underway in our parish and throughout the Archdiocese. The Appeal, as you know, is the major Fund-Raising effort of the Archdiocese to support the pastoral, educational and social programs of the Church of New York. Your help in the Appeal will certainly be thankfully received by Cardinal Dolan as he continues to serve all of us in our Archdiocese.

This Wednesday, which is Ash Wednesday, we begin the Holy Season of Lent, our special time of prayer, sacrifice and penance. One special way of making your Lenten sacrifice is to help the Appeal. You may choose to give up something for Lent. Use whatever money you would have spent on that item to help the Appeal. In that way, you are helping to serve the “least of Christ’s brethren,” joining your sacrifice with His.

You either have received or will receive a special letter from Cardinal Dolan about the Appeal. Your Appeal offering may be placed in the regular collection on Sunday at Mass, brought to the Rectory, or sent directly to the Appeal Office. Please pray for the success of the Appeal, in our parish and throughout our Archdiocese.





By Father Charles Yost

"Lent is a time of profound truth which brings conversion, restores hope, and by putting everything back in its proper place, brings peace and optimism," wrote John Paul II.

During Lent we are often reminded in our Mass prayers and readings of the need for repentance and renewal. The repentance envisioned is a change of mind and heart, to the extent that we need it, to become more holy, more Christ-like, in our attitudes and life.

Just as at times we need to change direction in our careers and our life endeavors, so in the spiritual realm we need to examine and evaluate our status and perhaps make a change of direction. Sometimes it will have to be a complete or radical turning about.

One of the great needs of humankind today is to return to a religious sense. There is a great need to return to God.

Our concern is largely for the material, the secular, the here and now. Such concern is, of course, necessary because God does expect us to take care of ourselves in this life to the extent that we are able and to provide for those who depend on us for material support and sustenance. However, if that is our only concern, to the detriment of our spiritual good, then we stand in need of correction or conversion. A repentance is needed.

Repentance, such as it is preached to us during Lent, is not simply a matter of avoiding sin. Hopefully we all do that to the best of our ability.

True repentance or conversion means doing good, letting our faith bear fruit in a harvest of charitable deeds.

Prayer, self-discipline, acts of mercy are the recommended means of making ourselves ready for eternity NOW. **Make Lent a time of truth. Let it bring hope and peace.**

ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE:

Ashes will be distributed at our Masses at 8:00AM, 9:00AM and 12:00Noon and at an evening Mass at 7:30PM. Ashes will also be distributed at a Prayer Service at 3:00PM.

The prayer used by the priest in giving the ashes follows two forms:

- (1) Repent and believe in the Gospel and
- (2) Remember, you are dust and to dust you will return.

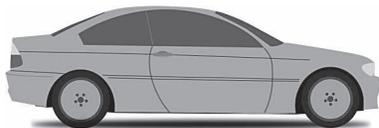
How often we have received ashes on Ash Wednesday! Probably we were brought as children and taught by our parents that the ashes were made from the palm of the previous Palm Sunday. More importantly, we were taught that the ashes were a holy symbol, a symbol of the fact that God made us out of nothing and also a symbol of our determination during Lent to remove from our lives any things that might separate us from Almighty God.

How important it is for us to take the ashes seriously. It is not enough to receive the ashes and then forget about their meaning. In a sense, the ashes go with us for the next forty days. Even though they physically are no longer on our foreheads, the ashes are spiritually with us throughout Lent as a reminder that we are to "turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel." Ash Wednesday is a beginning, not an end. It is the beginning of this Holy Lenten season which will lead us to the glory of Easter. Wear the ashes proudly - they proclaim your faith. But even more learn the message of the ashes and keep that message in your mind and heart during all the days of Lent.

WEDNESDAY LENTEN MASS:

Each Wednesday, beginning next Wednesday, March 8th, we will have a special evening Mass at 6:00PM. This will be followed by Stations of the Cross and will conclude with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Hopefully this time will be helpful to parishioners coming home from work. Parents who bring their children to our Wednesday 7:00PM CCD classes may wish to come early for this Mass and Stations.

We also have Stations of the Cross on Thursday after the 12:00PM Mass with Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction.



ATTENTION DRIVERS!!

We will be hosting the New York Defensive Driving Class at St. Theresa's Rectory Meeting Room on Saturday, March 18th from 10:00AM to 4:00PM. This course reduces up to 4 points on you driver's license and will lower your auto liability and collision insurance premiums by 10% for three years. The cost of this course is only \$49. To enroll, please call Chris Morea at 718-824-9698 or visit the Morea Agency located at: 2964 Middletown Road, Bronx, NY 10461.

Register now, seating is limited!

FEAST MEETING



We are making preparations for our annual St. Theresa Feast. There will be a meeting next Tuesday, March 7th at 7:30PM in the Rectory Meeting Room for all who are interested in helping with the Feast. We welcome your ideas and suggestions.



MASS INTENTIONS:

Announced Mass intentions are still available for 2017. You may drop into the Rectory or call 718-892-1900 for arrangements, but we advise you to do so soon so that you will be able to have the date you desire.

Intentions for 2018 will be made in the near future and will be announced here in our bulletin.

LENT AT ST. THERESA'S CHURCH

Ash Wednesday, March 1 - Ashes given at Masses at 8:00AM, 9:00AM and 12:00 Noon and 7:30PM and at a Prayer Service at 3:00PM.

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
 (beginning next Wednesday, March 8)
 Thursday at 12:00Noon with Adoration & Stations

Confessions - Every Saturday from 4:00 to 5:00PM
 Special Lenten Reconciliation
 Monday, April 10 with confessions from 3:00 to 9:00PM

Stations of the Cross - Wednesdays after the 6:00PM Mass
 Thursdays after the 12Noon Mass
 "Living Stations of the Cross" Wednesday, April 5th at 7:00PM

Lenten Family Night - Friday, March 31st at 7:00PM

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

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

Fast and Abstinence - Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence. However Cardinal Dolan has dispensed us from the fast on March 17th, The Feast of St. Patrick.

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 excuse, in which case some other form of sacrifice should be substituted (acts of charity, additional prayers, etc.

50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Couples celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary anytime during 2017 are invited to attend the Annual Golden Wedding Jubilee Mass with Cardinal Dolan at the Cathedral of St. Patrick Sunday, June 11th at 2:00PM. Pre-registration is required. Please contact your parish for registration. **The closing date to register for the Mass is Friday, May 12th, 2017.** This event is sponsored by the Family † Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of New York.

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St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

The members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society would like to thank everyone who has generously donated food to our food pantry. Donations of boxed or canned foods may be brought to the baskets in the church vestibule any day before or after Mass.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is a charitable, Catholic organization dedicated to serving those in need. If you would like to contact us on behalf of yourself or someone you know who may benefit from our ministry, please feel free to call the rectory, or to contact us through our email address, stcsvdpronx@gmail.com. All calls and information are kept in the strictest confidence.

The next meeting of the St. Vincent de Paul Society will be Saturday, March 25, 2017 at 11:00AM at the rectory meeting room. Anyone interested in joining the Society is invited to attend.



Box Tops for Education: St. Theresa School is always collecting Box Tops for Education. Please collect them for us, it costs you nothing and we collect 10 cents for each box top! Drop them in the offertory basket or bring to the school office.

Registration for the 2017-2018 School year is now open. We have seats available in many grades Pre-K 3 to Grade 7. We offer an excellent environment for children to learn. We offer Pre-K for All (UPK) which is an online application through the DOE.

Call for an appointment and come tour our school. 718-792-3688, Miss Kathy our secretary will be more than happy to answer any and all of your questions.

Scholarships are available for children in Pre-K going to Kindergarten and new enrolled students from Public School.

St. Theresa School is looking for volunteers-perhaps you have some free time during the day between 11:20AM-1:00PM? Would you like to teach children to knit? Play Chess? Or Pray the Rosary? We can always use volunteers, but it is a Commitment for at least once a week. Call the school and speak to Mrs. Fanelli our principal 718-792-3688.



HANDICAP ENTRANCE TO THE CHURCH

The side entrance to the Church on Pilgrim Avenue will be open every Sunday for anyone who is handicapped or in a wheelchair. Also this same entrance will be opened every weekday until 9:30AM.

HOW DID THE STATIONS BEGIN?

By Father William Saunders

Since Lent is a penitential season of preparation for Easter, the Stations of the Cross, which follow the path of Christ from Pontius Pilate's praetorium to Christ's tomb have been a popular devotion in parishes. In the 16th century, this pathway was officially entitled the "Visa Dolorosa" (Sorrowful Way) or simply Way of the Cross or Stations of the Cross.

This devotion has evolved over time. Tradition holds that our Blessed Mother visited daily the scenes of Our Lord's passion. After Constantine legalized Christianity in the year 312, this pathway was marked with its important stations. St. Jerome (342-420), living in Bethlehem during the later part of his life, attested to the crowds of pilgrims from various countries who visited those holy places and followed the Way of the Cross.

The devotion continued to grow in popularity. In the fifth century, an interest developed in the Church to "reproduce" the holy places in other areas so pilgrims who could not actually travel to the Holy Land could do so in a devotional, spiritual way in their hearts.

At the end of the 17th century, the erection of stations in churches became more popular. In 1686, Pope Innocent XI, realizing that few people could travel to the Holy Land, granted the right to erect stations in all of their churches and that the same indulgences would be given those who practiced this devotion as if on an actual pilgrimage.

Pope Clement XII permitted stations to be created in all churches and fixed the number at 14. To date, there are 14 traditional stations: Pilate condemns Christ to death; Jesus carries the cross; the first fall; Jesus meets His Blessed Mother; Simon of Cyrene helps to carry the cross; Veronica wipes the face of Jesus; the second fall; Jesus speaks to the women of Jerusalem; the third fall; Jesus is stripped of His garments; Jesus is nailed to the cross; Jesus dies on the cross; Jesus is taken down from the cross; and Jesus is laid in the tomb.

Because of the intrinsic relationship between the passion and death of our Lord with His resurrection, several of the devotional booklets now include a 15th station, which commemorates the Resurrection. A plenary indulgence is granted for those who piously exercise the Way of the Cross, actually moving from station to station where they are legitimately erected and while meditating on the passion and death of Our Lord. Those who cannot visit a church or cannot walk from station to station may gain the same indulgence by piously reading and meditating on the passion and death of Our Lord for one-half hour. The continued importance of the stations in the devotional life of Catholics is attested by both Pope Paul VI, who approved a Gospel-based version of the stations in 1975, and Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI who wrote their own prayers for the Stations of the Cross.

A REFLECTION FROM POPE FRANCIS AS WE PREPARE FOR LENT:

At the center of this Sunday's Liturgy we find one of the most reassuring truths: Divine Providence. The Prophet Isaiah presents it as the image of maternal love full of tenderness, and thus says: "Can a woman forget her child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even if these may forget, yet I will not forget you" (49:15). How beautiful is this! God does not forget us, not one of us! Everyone by name and surname. He loves us and doesn't forget. What a beautiful thought... This invitation to trust in God finds a parallel on a page of Matthew's Gospel: "Look at the birds of the air", Jesus says, "they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them... Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these" (Mt 6:26, 28-29).

However, thinking of the many people who live in precarious conditions, or even in a poverty offensive to their dignity, these words of Jesus could seem abstract, if not illusory. But actually they are relevant, now more than ever! They remind us that you cannot serve two masters: God and wealth. As long as everyone seeks to accumulate for themselves, there will never be justice. We must take heed of this! As long as everyone seeks to accumulate for themselves, there will be no justice. Instead, by entrusting ourselves to God's providence, and seeking his Kingdom together, no one will lack the necessary means to live with dignity.

A heart troubled by the desire for possessions is a heart full of desire for possessions, but empty of God. That is why Jesus frequently warned the rich, because they greatly risk placing their security in the goods of this world, and security, the final security, is in God. In a heart possessed by wealth, there isn't much room for faith: everything is involved with wealth, there is no room for faith. If, however, one gives God his rightful place, that is first place, then his love leads one to share even one's wealth, to set it at the service of projects of solidarity and development, as so many examples demonstrate, even recent ones, in the history of the Church. And like this God's Providence comes through our service to others, our sharing with others. If each of us accumulates not for ourselves alone but for the service of others, in this case, in this act of solidarity, the Providence of God is made visible. If, however, one accumulates only for oneself, what will happen when one is called by God? No one can take his riches with him, because - as you know - the shroud has no pockets! It is better to share, for we can take with us to Heaven only what we have shared with others.

The road that Jesus points out can seem a little unrealistic with respect to the common mindset and to problems due to the economic crisis; but, if we think about it, this road leads us back to the right scale of values. He says: "Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?" (Mt 6:25). In order to ensure that no one lacks bread, water, clothing, a home, work, health, we need to recognize that all people are children of the Father who is in Heaven and, therefore, brothers among us, and that we must act accordingly. The way to peace is fraternity - this going together, sharing things with one another.

Pope Francis, Angelus Address, March 2, 2014





1ST TIME: Julio Beltron & Kimberly Maldonado



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH AND THEIR FAMILIES VERA POZZUOLI, JOSEPH SALDIVERI, WILMA REMENY & JOSEPH LOMBARDO



ST. THERESA'S UPCOMING EVENTS

- Saturday, February 25th - St. Theresa Fashion Show 7:00PM to 10:00PM - Gymnasium
• Sunday, February 26th - Scout Mass - 10:30AM
• Saturday, March 4th - Altar Society Day of Recollection 10:00AM to 3:00PM Rectory Meeting Room. Guest speakers the Sisters of Life.
• Free-Style Night - Music of the 80's Saturday, March 11th - 7:00PM to 11:00PM in the Gymnasium
• Ladies Bingo Night - Friday, April 28, 2017

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 25, 2017

5:00PM Angelina, Salvatore & Sarah Masi

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2017

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa Church

9:00AM Casey Frisina

10:30AM Fred Carlantone

12:15PM Antonio Scassera & Rosa Santoro

1:30PM Special Intention

5:00PM Clino & Enrico DiRusso & Chris & Luisa Civitillo

MONDAY FEBRUARY 27, 2017

8:00AM Mary Cea

9:00AM Concettina Carrocetto

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 28, 2017

8:00AM Jaime Fret

9:00AM Benedetta Limongelli

WEDNESDAY MARCH 1, 2017

8:00AM Vincent Cartelli

9:00AM Diane Argentina

12:00PM Huldah Gordon

7:30PM Mary Cea

THURSDAY MARCH 2, 2017

8:00AM Special Intention

9:00AM Mary & Alfred Zombo

12:00PM Holy Souls in Purgatory

FRIDAY MARCH 3, 2017

8:00AM Micaela & Luiga Iacobuono

9:00AM Galdino DeVito & Family

SATURDAY MARCH 4, 2017

8:00AM Frank Bollotino

9:00AM Angela, Nicola & Sebastiano LaVerghetta

5:00PM Flora Pisano

SUNDAY MARCH 5, 2017

7:30AM Vito Gentile

9:00AM Sabatino & Marianna Melisi

10:30AM Rosina Gentile

12:15PM Giovanni Porco

1:30PM Special Intention

5:00PM Parishioners of St. Theresa

PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH:

Phyllis Amitrano, Maryann Cale Bannan, Ralph Barbaro, Tricia Brown, Nancy Cardone, Elaine Reiss Cina, 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, Marie Russillo, Mario Simeone, Toni Spahr, Bina Trerotola, Florence Valentine, Nicholas Vasti, Irene Vesely.

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

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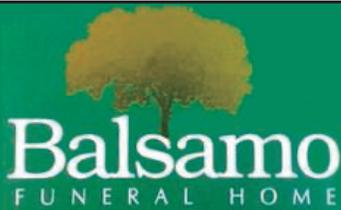
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