

# 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 6:00pm

## **CONFESSION**

Saturdays from 4:00pm to 5:00pm  
and by appointment

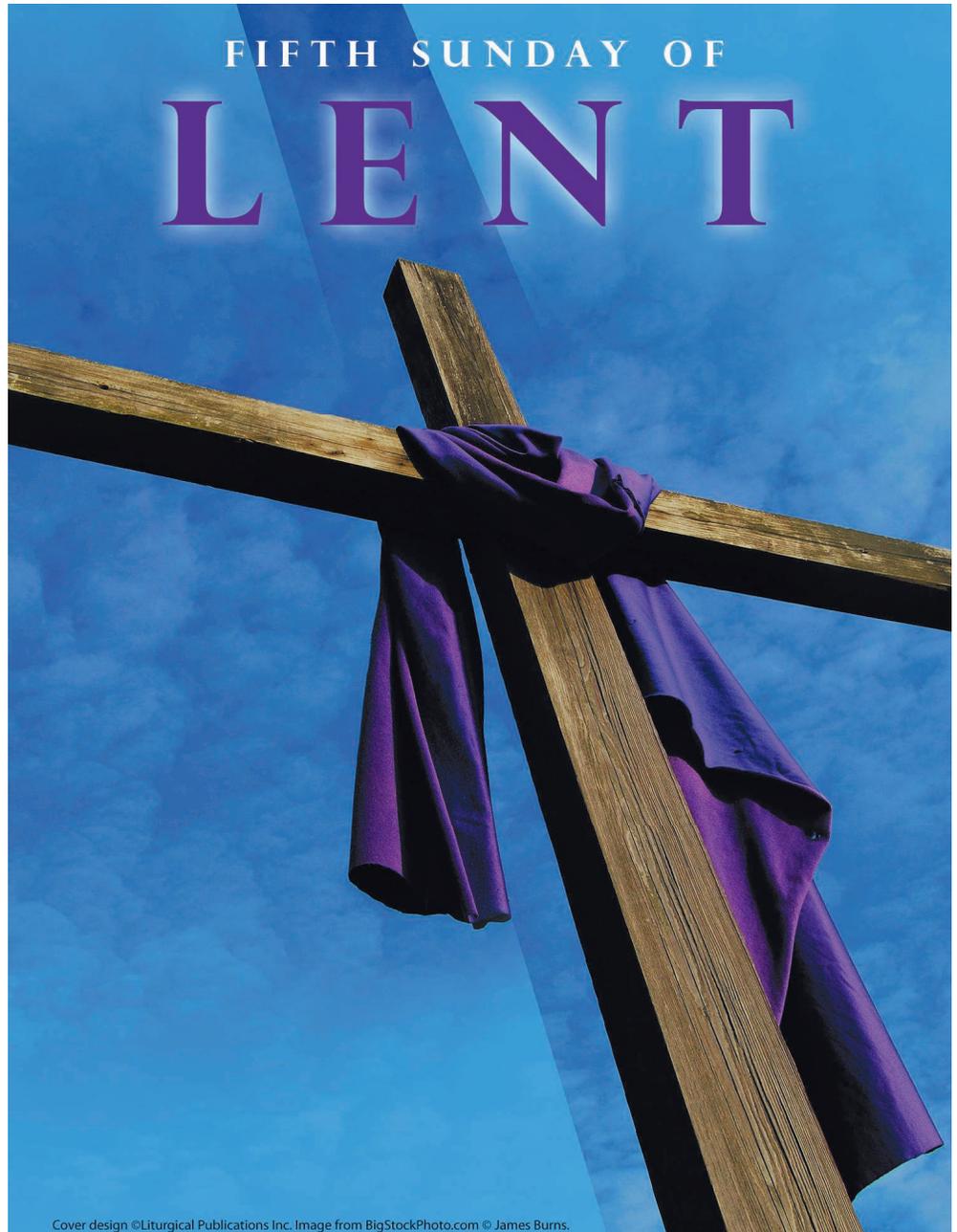
## **BAPTISMS**

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.



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## CHURCH OF ST. THERESA, BRONX

### FROM THE DESK OF FATHER DERIVAN

Our gospel today gives us a strange scene. It is a scene that happened not too long before the first Holy Week. The gospel says, "Some Greeks came to worship at the Passover feast." We do not know who they were, but they were obviously people who had a message for Jesus, something important to tell Him. And so they go to Philip, one of the apostles. He had a Greek name and perhaps these Greek men felt he would help them. And he did. He went and told Andrew and together they approached Jesus. What message did the Greeks have for the Lord Jesus? The gospel does not say. It just gives us Jesus' response, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat. But if it dies, it produces much fruit." And from that answer, perhaps we can imagine the purpose of the Greeks' visit. Perhaps they wanted to see Jesus because they saw what was going on in Jerusalem. They saw the leaders of Jerusalem plotting to arrest Jesus and even to put Him to death. And now these Greeks want to offer Him an escape. "Come with us to our homeland," they may have said. "You will be safe there. You can preach and teach in Athens. You can live a long life like our Greek philosophers of old. Come stay with us." In a sense, they were tempting Jesus. Avoid what lies ahead. Avoid suffering. Avoid the Cross. Put aside your mission, the mission of dying to save the world. The evil one, the devil had tried to tempt Jesus when He began His public ministry; now these good people try to tempt Him even as the Cross approaches.

And the Lord sees their good intention, but He rejects their offer. He will not flee to Athens. He will not be just a philosopher, a teacher. No, He will be what He was sent to this earth to be—the Savior of the world. He will do His Father's will. He will accept what He calls His "hour," the hour when He will be glorified by dying on the Cross. He will be the grain of wheat that falls into the earth and dies. And by dying He will bear great fruit. He will open heaven's gates. He will destroy the power of sin and death. And He will save you and me. And He concludes with that beautiful sentence, looking ahead to the Cross, "When I am lifted up from the earth, when I am lifted on the Cross, I will draw everyone to myself."

What a remarkable scene and what a beautiful preparation for us for the great events that will take place in one week's time. The Lord Jesus is telling us to be ready for the Cross, that just as he did not run away from that Cross, neither must we. We must be ready for the Cross in our life, whatever that might be. Far from running away, we are invited by the Lord Jesus to embrace that Cross and make it an offering of love. So many people carry a Cross. We all do. For some it is the Cross of physical suffering, either their own or someone else's. How many people do we know who are taking care of loved ones, day in and day out, not thinking of themselves, but just helping that loved one to carry his or her Cross? How many people do we know who are raising a child alone, bearing the Cross of being a single parent and bearing it so well? How many people have a loved one in another country, perhaps in danger's way, and are praying for that person's safety every day? Everyone has a Cross. And the Lord Jesus is telling us in today's gospel and He will be telling us during Holy Week, "Do not run away from the Cross. Carry it, but let me carry it with you." The Lord is telling you, as He told those Greeks, that you are like the grain of wheat that dies to self and bears great fruit. And if you at times, as we all do, have weak moments in bearing your Cross, if you wonder whether it is really worth it, then just look at the crucifix and the Lord will tell you just how valuable your cross is. Just look at the crucifix and let Jesus tell you that He will help you to bear your cross with love. He will not leave you to bear your cross alone. He who bore the Cross of the world will help you to bear your cross in life.

Many years ago a dear priest-friend of mine, Msgr. Owen McEnaney, wrote a children's poem about the Cross of Jesus. As with most children's things, it is very appropriate for all of us. Let it be our prayer as we reflect on the Cross of Jesus and prepare for Holy Week. It is called "Christ and Tommy."

### "CHRIST AND TOMMY" Father Owen J. McEnaney



A little boy went into Church  
And up the aisle he waked,  
He knelt down at the alter rail  
to the Crucifix he talked:  
"Say, do You really love me, God?  
My mother says you do,  
then, how much do You love me, God  
if what she says is true?  
Do you love me more than a penny's worth?  
Or more than a dollar could buy?  
Could it be a hundred dollars worth?  
I guess that's going too high."  
The little fellow listened then,

He wanted to hear God's voice.  
and God just had to answer him,  
He had no other choice.  
"Oh, yes I love you, Tommy boy,  
What your Mother says is true;  
and more than all the world's great wealth  
is the love I have for you.  
And, you know, I'd like to reach My Hands  
And clasp you up to Me,  
But I can't—because of love for you  
they're nailed to this cross-shaped tree.  
So never forget I love you, boy.  
May I ask on thing of you?  
Because I love you, Tommy lad,  
Won't you try to love Me, too?"

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

### LENT AT ST. THERESA'S CHURCH

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

**Weekday Masses**—8AM and 9AM

Wednesday 6pm Mass which will followed by the Living Stations at 7:00PM

Thursday at 12PM with Adoration and Stations

**Confessions**—Every Saturday from 4PM to 5PM

Special Lenten Reconciliation Monday, March 26  
with confessions from 3PM to 9PM

**Stations of the Cross**—Wednesdays after the 6PM Mass,

Thursdays after the 12Noon Mass

Wednesday, March 21 at 7PM—"Living Stations of the Cross"

Friday at 7:30PM—Spanish Mass & Stations

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

**Eucharistic Devotion**—Thursdays after the 12Noon Mass

First Fridays, Holy Hour from 6:00PM to 7:00PM

**Fast and Abstinence**—Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. All Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence. Fasting limits a person to one full meal and two lighter meals for those from ages 18-59. Abstinence means no meat is allowed for those 14 and older. Reasons of health or work can excuse, in which case some other form of sacrifice should be substituted (acts of charity, additional prayers, etc)

### LENTEN RECONCILIATION MONDAY, IS NEXT MONDAY, MARCH 26TH

Next Monday, March 26th, is Lenten Reconciliation Monday throughout our Archdiocese. At the request of Cardinal Dolan, every church will have the opportunity for confession next Monday from 3:00PM to 9:00PM. Priests will be available in our church during those hours for Confession.

If you know someone who has been away from Confession or you have been hesitant about coming to Confession yourself, this is a beautiful opportunity to do so. Let us always remember that the Lord Jesus, our Good Shepherd, is waiting for each of us with His forgiving love.

Outside of the confessionals next Monday, you will find material that will help you prepare for confession. If you are a little unclear about how to go to Confession, do not worry. Use one of the prayer cards that will be available. Remember, the priest is there to help you. Remember even more, Jesus is there to forgive you.

Please bring this information to the attention of family members, neighbors and friends. Invite them to **"Come home for Easter."**

### MANY THANKS

We are most grateful to all our wonderful parishioners who have sacrificed so generously by increasing their weekly Sunday Contributions. Please know that your weekly increase is for the betterment of St. Theresa Parish, for the building up and improvement of our parish. We are most grateful to all of you who have helped to make a difference in our community. Please continue to help us in order to keep St. Theresa Parish the vital, growing parish that it is.



**MARCH 23**  
**SAINT TURIBIUS OF MOGROVEJO**  
**(1538-1606)**

Together with Rose of Lima, Turibius is the first known saint of the New World, serving the Lord in Peru, South America, for 26 years.

Born in Spain and educated for the law, he became so brilliant a scholar that he was made professor of law at the University of Salamanca and eventually became chief judge of the Inquisition at Granada. He succeeded too well. But he was not sharp enough a lawyer to prevent a surprising sequence of events.

When the archdiocese of Lima in Peru required a new leader, Turibius was chosen to fill the post: He was the one person with the strength of character and holiness of spirit to heal the scandals that had infected that area. He cited all the canons that forbade giving laymen ecclesiastical dignities, but he was overruled. Turibius was ordained priest and bishop and sent to Peru, where he found Colonialism at its worst. The Spanish conquerors were guilty of every sort of oppression of the native population. Abuses among the clergy were flagrant, and he devoted his energies and suffering to this area first.

He began the long and arduous visitation of an immense archdiocese, studying the language, staying two or three days in each place, often with neither bed nor food. Turibius confessed every morning to his chaplain, and celebrated Mass with intense fervor. Among those to whom he gave the Sacrament of Confirmation was the future Saint Rose of Lima, and possibly the future St. Martin de Porres. After 1590, he had the help of another great missionary, Francis Solanus, now also a saint.

Though very poor his people were sensitive, dreading to accept public charity from others. Turibius solved the problem by helping them anonymously. The Lord indeed writes straight with crooked lines. Against his will, and from the unlikely springboard of an Inquisition tribunal, this man became the Christ-like shepherd of a poor and oppressed people. God gave him the gift of loving others as they needed it.



**ST. JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF MARY  
MARCH 19TH  
PATRON OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH  
AND A HAPPY DEATH**

St. Joseph, the pure spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and foster-father of our Blessed Lord, was descended from the royal house of David. He is the “just man” of the New Testament, the lowly village carpenter of Nazareth, who among all men of the world was the one chosen by God to be the husband and protector of the Virgin Mother of Jesus Christ, God Incarnate. To his faithful, loving care was entrusted the childhood and youth of the Redeemer of the world.

After the Mother of God, not one of the children of men was ever so gifted and adorned with natural and supernatural virtues as was St. Joseph, her spouse. In purity of heart, in chastity of life, in humility, patience, fortitude, gentleness, and manliness of character, he reveals to us the perfect type and model of the true Christian.

Poor and obscure in this world’s possessions and honors, St. Joseph was rich in grace and merit, and eminent before God in the nobility and beauty of holiness. Because St. Joseph was the representative of the Eternal Father on earth, the divinely appointed head of the Holy Family, which was the beginning of the great Family of God, the Church of Christ, on December 8, 1870, Pope Pius IX, solemnly proclaimed the foster-father of Jesus as Patron of the Universal Church, and from that time his feast has been celebrated on March 19th as one of high rank. In some places it is observed as a Holyday of Obligation.

Devotion to St. Joseph, fervent in the East from the early ages, has in later times spread and increased in such a marvelous way that in our day the Catholics of all nations vie with one another in honoring him. Besides the feast of March 19th there is another feast, that of St. Joseph the Worker, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary (May 1). Promulgated in 1955, it replaced the older “Solemnity of St. Joseph” which had been celebrated since 1847—first as the “Patronage of St. Joseph” on the third Sunday after Easter and after 1913 as the “Solemnity of St. Joseph” on the Wednesday before the third Sunday after Easter. John XXIII inserted the name of St. Joseph in the Roman Canon or Eucharistic Prayer I.

From his throne of glory in heaven, St. Joseph watches over and protects the Church Militant, and no one who calls on him in need ever calls in vain. He is the model of a perfect Christian life and the patron of a happy death. His patronage extends over the Mystical Body of Christ, over the Christian family, the Christian school, and all individuals who in their need appeal to his charity and powerful intercession, especially in the hour of death; for he who, when dying, received the affectionate ministry of his foster-Son, Jesus, and his Virgin spouse, Mary, may well be trusted to obtain for us the mercy of God and the grace of a peaceful and holy death.

**PRAYER** Almighty God, You entrusted to the faithful care of Joseph the beginnings of the mysteries of our salvation. Through his intercession may Your Church always be faithful in her service so that Your designs will be fulfilled. Amen.



**THE GREATNESS  
OF  
ST. JOSEPH**

There are special reasons why the blessed Joseph should be explicitly named Patron of the Church and why the Church should in turn expect much from his patronage and guardianship. For he, indeed, was the husband of Mary and the father, as was supposed, of Jesus Christ. From these arise all his dignity, grace, holiness, and glory.

The dignity of the Mother of God is certainly so sublime that nothing can surpass it, but nonetheless, since the bond of marriage existed between Joseph and the Blessed Virgin, there can be no doubt that more than any other person he approached that super eminent dignity by which the Mother of God is raised far above all created natures. For marriage is the closest possible union and relationship whereby each spouse mutually participates in the goods of the other. Consequently, if God gave Joseph as husband to the Virgin, he assuredly gave him not only as a companion of life, a guarantor of her virginity, and the guardian of her honor, but also as a sharer in her exalted dignity by reason of the conjugal tie itself.

Like wise, Joseph alone stands out in dignity because he was the guardian of the Son of God by the divine appointment, and in the opinion of others was his father. As a consequence the Word of God was modestly obedient to Joseph, was attentive to his commands, and paid him every honor that children should render their parents.

By Pope Leo XIII

**DISCIPLESHIP:  
Becoming More Like  
CHRIST**

*Local Parish Mission  
Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday,  
April 16, 17 and 18  
At St. Frances de Chantal Church  
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*Each evening at 7:00PM*

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St. Clare of Assisi  
St. Benedict  
St. Theresa  
St. Anthony (Commonwealth Avenue)  
Preached by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal  
More about this Mission will follow in the weeks ahead.  
Plan now to come!*



**LADIES NIGHT BINGO  
FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2018  
ST. THERESA SCHOOL GYM  
MORE INFORMATION IN WEEKS TO COME**

## REFLECTION OF POPE FRANCIS FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

On this Fifth Sunday of Lent, John the Evangelist draws our attention with a curious detail: some “Greeks”, of the Jewish religion, who have come to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, turn to Philip and say to him: “We wish to see Jesus” (Jn 12:21). There are many people in the holy city, where Jesus has come for the last time, there are many people. There are the little ones and the simple ones, who have warmly welcomed the Prophet of Nazareth, recognizing Him as the Messenger of the Lord. There are the High Priests and the leaders of the people, who want to eliminate Him because they consider him a heretic and dangerous. There are also people, like those “Greeks”, who are curious to see Him and to know more about his person and about the works He has performed, the last of which - the resurrection of Lazarus - has caused quite a stir.

“We wish to see Jesus”: these words, like so many others in the Gospels, go beyond this particular episode and express something universal; they reveal a desire that passes through the ages and cultures, a desire present in the heart of so many people who have heard of Christ, but have not yet encountered him. “I wish to see Jesus”, thus He feels the heart of these people.

Responding indirectly, in a prophetic way, to that request to be able to see Him, Jesus pronounces a prophecy that reveals his identity and shows the path to know Him truly: “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified” (Jn 12:23). It is the hour of the Cross! It is the time for the defeat of Satan, prince of evil, and of the definitive triumph of the merciful love of God. Christ declares that He will be “lifted up from the earth” (v. 32), an expression with a twofold meaning: “lifted” because He is crucified, and “lifted” because He is exalted by the Father in the Resurrection, to draw everyone to Him and to reconcile mankind with God and among themselves. The hour of the Cross, the darkest in history, is also the source of salvation for those who believe in Him.

Continuing in his prophecy of the imminent Passover, Jesus uses a simple and suggestive image, that of the “grain of wheat” that, once fallen into the earth, dies in order to bear fruit (cf. v. 24). In this image we find another aspect of the Cross of Christ: that of fruitfulness. The death of Jesus, in fact, is an inexhaustible source of new life, because it carries within itself the regenerative strength of God’s love. Immersed in this love through Baptism, Christians can become “grains of wheat” and bear much fruit if they, like Jesus, “lose their life” out of love for God and brothers and sisters (cf. v. 25).

For this reason, to those who, today too, “wish to see Jesus”, to those who are searching for the face of God; to those who received catechesis when they were little and then developed it no further and perhaps have lost their faith; to so many who have not yet encountered Jesus personally...; to all these people we can offer three things: the Gospel, the Crucifix and the witness of our faith, poor but sincere. The Gospel: there we can encounter Jesus, listen to Him, know Him, The Crucifix: the sign of the love of Jesus who gave Himself for us. And then a faith that is expressed in simple gestures of fraternal charity. But mainly in the coherence of life, between what we say and what we do. Coherence between our faith and our life, between our words and our actions: Gospel, Crucifix, Witness.

Angelus Message, March 22, 2015

## PRAYERS FOR THE FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

**Sunday** My loving Lord, it’s so hard to love the world sometimes and to love it the way Jesus did seems impossible. Help me to be inspired by his love and guided by his example. Most of all, I want to accept that I can’t do it alone, and that trying is an arrogance of self-centeredness. I need you, dear God, to give me support in this journey. Show me how to unlock my heart so that I am less selfish. Let me be less fearful of the pain and darkness that will be transformed by you into Easter joy.

**Monday** God of love, I know that you are the source of all that is good and graced in my life. Help me to move from the life of sin to which I so often cling, into the new life of grace you offer me. You know what I need to prepare for your kingdom. Bless me with those gifts.

**Tuesday** Loving God, You have heard my complaints, my impatience. Sometimes I become frightened when I move away from you. Guide my heart back to you. Help me to think beyond my own wants and to desire only to do your will. Thank you for the many blessings in my life and for the ways I feel your presence.

**Wednesday** Loving Creator, I know in your great love for me, you see the deep sorrow in my heart. Hear my prayers which are offered with such trust in you. Be with me in both mind and heart as I renew my life in your spirit.

**Thursday** Lord, all I want is to be faithful to you in my life, but so often I fail. Free me from my many sins and guide me to the life I will share with you. I wait for your promise to be fulfilled with great hope in my heart and your praise on my lips.

**Friday** Most forgiving Lord, again and again you welcome me back into your loving arms. Grant me freedom from the heavy burdens of sin that weigh me down and keep me so far from you.

**Saturday** Loving God, Your eternal watchfulness keeps me safe from harm. I am filled with a great happiness when I feel your endless love for me. Thank you for your care for me, one of your children. I ask you to protect from harm those who will soon be your children, joined in the joy of your church. Please continue to pour out your blessings on all of us who have been given the life - giving waters of baptism.

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

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THIS WEEK'S ALTAR BREAD IS IN LOVING MEMORY  
OF  
RALPH BARBARO  
FROM, JOE & MARYANN MAIORANA



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED  
MEMBER OF OUR PARISH AND HER FAMILY  
ROSE DESANCTIS, ALICE MATERASSO,  
ALICE DELAROSA, JOSEPH A. ZITO, SARAH NOSCHESI  
PETER BASTONE, MAUREEN SULLIVAN,  
LANE R. METRO & RALPH GIULIANO



**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.

**HOMEBOUND**

If any member of your family or if any of your neighbors are "Homebound" and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please call the Rectory so that a Priest or Eucharistic Minister might visit them.

**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 MARCH 17, 2018**

5:00PM Monica Solano

**SUNDAY MARCH 18, 2018**

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

9:00AM Filomena Carovillano

10:30AM Anthony & Angelina Ferrantino

12:15PM Victoria Corso

1:30PM Special Intention

5:00PM John McClafferty

**MONDAY MARCH 19, 2018**

8:00AM Gioia Fallo

9:00AM Santangelo Family

**TUESDAY MARCH 20, 2018**

8:00AM Anthony Fata

9:00AM Cirino & Felicia Sanfilippo

**WEDNESDAY MARCH 21, 2018**

8:00AM Domenico Gravina

9:00AM Marie Sansalone

6:00PM Marie Sansalone

**THURSDAY MARCH 22, 2018**

8:00AM Pietro & Carmelo Merenda

9:00AM Bettina Cortese

12NOON Giuseppe Salerno

**FRIDAY MARCH 23, 2018**

8:00AM John & Lilliana Oroschi

9:00AM Rachel & Pasquale Vertullo & Angelina Naclerio

**SATURDAY MARCH 24, 2018**

8:00AM Veronica DellVecchio

9:00AM Carillo & Ierano Families

5:00PM Luke Turrisi

**SUNDAY MARCH 25, 2018**

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

9:00AM Filippo LaFranco

10:30AM Michael Wolovich

12:15PM Concetta Previtera

1:30PM Rosalba Gomez

5:00PM Dorina DiLullo

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

Phyllis Amitrano, Maryann Cale Bannan, Linda Barbaro,  
Nancy Cardone, Elaine Reiss Cina, Joseph Cina,  
Phyllis Caruso, Marie DiPolo, Thomas Egan,  
Daley Gribbon, Ita Griffin, Sean Howell, William Keenan,  
Sal Lanza, Frank Maiorana, Maryann Maiorana,  
Diane Martino, Joe Martino, Theresa Martino,  
Isabelle O'Brien, Frank Oricco, Marie Russillo,  
Camille Siciliano, Mario Simeone,  
Toni Spahr, Florence Valentine, Dean Valentine,  
Nicholas Vasti, Frank Vertullo, Irene Vesely.

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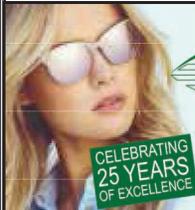
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