

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.

ST. THERESA'S FAMILY IS OUR FAMILY
"ST. THERESA STRONG"



Rev. Msgr. Thomas Derivan, Pastor

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Rev. Edmundo Gomez, Retired,
Rev. Robert Imbelli, Weekend Associate
Rev. Charles Szivos, Parochial Vicar

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

RECTORY: 718-892-1900/1901
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

Our gospel today gives us one of the most human stories about Jesus and His apostles. The apostles, of course, later on would become great saints. But that was later on. Here in this gospel, as the apostles walk with Jesus through Galilee, they fall into a very human trap. It is one that we must all be careful of. And the trap is the trap of wanting to be first, wanting to be most important, wanting to be Number One. The gospel says, "They had been discussing among themselves who was the greatest." Here they are, with the Son of God right in front of them, and behind His back, they are arguing about who was the greatest among them, forgetting that the greatest of all was Jesus right in front of them. The Lord could have scolded them, could have reprimanded them harshly. But He did not. He used this occasion, as He always did, to teach a lesson, "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." And to make the point clear, he put His arms around a child and pronounced those beautiful words, "Whoever receives a child like this in my name receives me." The Lord was saying to His apostles, "Do you really want to be the greatest? Then be the greatest of servants. Serve one another, serve all my Father's children."

When we think of it, the Lord was telling His apostles how to become saints. For a saint is a person who knows that Christ is the greatest, the most important, and that our dignity lies in serving one another in His name, serving all of the children of God. Today we celebrate the feast of a saint who certainly lived that message and taught it to the rest of the world. He is very much our modern-day saint, if for no other reason than the fact that he died only fifty years ago on this day, September 23, 1968. His name in the catalogue of the saints is St. Pio of Pietrelcina, the town in Italy where he was born in 1887. But the world knows him by a simpler name, St. Padre Pio. His picture is here in the back of our church. His parents were poor, but their faith was rich. Their young son felt God's call to the priesthood, entered the Capuchin Order, and was ordained at the age of twenty-three. Even from his earliest years, people saw him as a holy man, a man of deep, solid prayer. About eight years after his priestly ordination, on September 20, 1918, he was praying fervently before a crucifix, making his thanksgiving after celebrating Mass. Suddenly the marks of the wounds of Jesus, called the stigmata, were given to him, in his hands, feet and side. He bore these wounds for the rest of his life. He was obviously a very holy man, yet he considered himself only a humble servant of the Lord and the Lord's people. He put himself at their disposal, hearing countless confessions, establishing a hospital for the care of the poor, giving advice to the countless people who came to him. He never thought of himself. He thought only of the needs of others and he realized that the Lord was using him to help them. Praying and serving others was his life. In fact, when he was canonized in the year 2002, Pope John Paul II said of Padre Pio, "Prayer and charity—this is the most concrete synthesis of Padre Pio's teaching."

Do we want to be the greatest, to be the most important in God's eyes? Then let us learn from Padre Pio. Let us be the greatest not in world's ways, but the greatest in prayer and the greatest in charity. Padre Pio was the greatest in prayer because he truly interceded before God for all of the many people who asked for his prayers. And he was the greatest in charity: just as Jesus welcomed the little child, so too Padre Pio welcomed every person who needed his help, seeing that person as a child of God.

We are invited by the Lord today to do the same. We must be the greatest in prayer. One of his friends said, "What we admire the most in Padre Pio is his habitual union with God." That is what prayer is—not just words, but our being in union with God in our thoughts, in our words, in our actions, in our whole life, offering to the Lord everything we do during every day. That is true prayer. And we must be the greatest in charity, seeing in family, in our fellow workers, in our neighbors, in our friends, and even in strangers, seeing in all of them the Lord who invites us to serve Him in them. If we do that, if we are people of great prayer and great service, then we are not only on our way to being the greatest in Christ's eyes. We are on our way to become His saints.

I must share with you a complaint that I have. In many pictures and statues, St. Padre Pio is depicted as a very severe man. He was not that way at all. In fact the picture or icon of him in the rear of our church depicts him with a warm and loving smile. That reflected the inner joy that he had and that he shared with the world, the inner joy of knowing that he was doing what God wanted, praying and serving. May we do the same. May we find our joy in prayer and in serving our brothers and sisters, for in doing so we are serving Jesus Christ Our Lord.

Father Thomas B. Derivan

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.

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POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II'S PRAYER TO ST. PADRE PIO

Humble and beloved Padre Pio, teach us humility of heart and help us to pray without ceasing, certain that God knows what we need even before we ask Him. Obtain for us the eyes of faith that will be able to recognize right away in the poor and suffering, the face of Jesus. Sustain us in the hour of the combat and of the trial and, if we fall, make us experience the joy of the sacrament of forgiveness. Grant us your tender devotion to Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother. Accompany us on our earthly pilgrimage toward the blessed homeland, where we hope to arrive in order to contemplate forever the glory of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

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



SEPTEMBER 23
ST. PADRE PIO OF PIETRELCINA
(1887-1968)

Francesco Forgone was born on May 25, 1887 in Pietrelcina, a small town in Southern Italy, to Guiseppa and Grazio Forgone. He was given the name Francisco, in honor of St. Francis of Assisi.

Francisco at an early age was very devoted and felt drawn to the priesthood. At the age of fifteen he entered the Capuchin Friars. In 1902, he received his habit. Then, in 1910, Francisco was ordained to priesthood and would be known as Padre Pio.

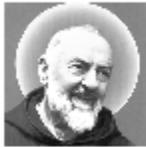
On September 20, 1918, he received the visible wounds of Christ's crucifixion. Padre Pio was the first priest in the history of the Church to receive the stigmata. Padre Pio bore the stigmata for fifty years until his death. The blood from his stigmata gave off a scent of perfume. He also had the gift of bilocation. Padre Pio's life was filled with ineffable sufferings, physical and spiritual. Padre Pio's had a very deep union with God and his burning love for the Blessed Eucharist and our Blessed Lady. He continually prayed the Rosary. He also had great love and devotion to his Guardian Angel.

Padre Pio had the ability to read hearts and many people flocked to him for confession. He heard confessions ten or twelve hours a day. Padre Pio used the confessional to bring both sinners and devout souls closer to God. Many more people received his saintly and spiritual guidance through correspondence.

Worn out by over a half century of intense suffering and constant apostolic activity in San Giovanni Rotondo, he was called to his heavenly reward on September 23, 1968.

On May 2, 1999 Pope John Paul II declared Padre Pio Blessed and on June 16, 2002 he declared Padre Pio a Saint.

A PRAYER OF ST. PADRE PIO



May Jesus comfort you in all you afflictions.
May He sustain you in dangers,
watch over you always with His grace,
and indicate the safe path
that leads to eternal salvation.
And may He render you always dearer to His Divine Heart
and always more worthy of Paradise.

Amen

St. Pio of Pietrelcina

"Pray, hope, and don't worry. Worry is useless.
God is merciful and will hear your prayer." - Padre Pio



MEMORIAL FOR FATHER CHARLES

Many people have asked about how to memorialize our dear Father Charles, who, you know, suffered from diabetes. We think it would be very appropriate for any people who wish to do so to make a contribution to the American Diabetes Association.

Checks may be made out to St. Theresa Church with the notation "American Diabetes Association" and we will send it to the Association on your behalf.

ST. BENEDICT'S CHURCH
2969 Otis Avenue
Bronx, NY 10465

Bereavement Support Group begins Saturday, October 6th through Saturday, December 1st from 11:00AM to 12:30PM in the Convent.

If interested, please call the rectory at 718-828-3403, Ext 101.



SAVE THE DATE

St. Theresa School Fundraiser

Friday-November 2, 2018 @ 7:00PM

St. Theresa School Gym * 2872 St. Theresa Avenue

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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.

A PRAYER OF ST. PADRE PIO AFTER COMMUNION

Stay with me, Lord, for it is necessary to have You present so that I do not forget You. You know how easily I abandon You.

Stay with me Lord, because I am weak, and I need Your strength, so that I may not fall so often

Stay with me Lord, for You are my life, and without You, I am without fervor.

Stay with me Lord, for You are my light, and without You, I am in darkness.

Stay with me Lord, to show me Your will.

Stay with me Lord, so that I hear Your voice and follow You.

Stay with me Lord, for I desire to love you very much, and always be in Your Company.

Stay with Me Lord, if You wish me to be faithful to You.

Stay with me Lord, for as poor as my soul is, I want it to be a place of consolation for You, a nest of Love.

Stay with me, Jesus, for it is getting late, and the day is coming to a close, and life passes; death, judgment, eternity approach. It is necessary to renew my strength, so that I will not stop along the way and for that, I need You. It is getting late and death approaches. I fear the darkness, the temptations, the dryness, the cross, the sorrows. O how I need You, my Jesus, in this night of exile.

Stay with me tonight, Jesus. In life with all its dangers, I need You.

Let me recognize You as Your disciples did at the breaking of bread, so that the Eucharistic Communion be the light which disperses the darkness, the force which sustains me, the unique joy of my heart.

Stay with me Lord, because at the hour of my death, I want to remain united to you, if not by Communion, at least by grace and love.

Stay with me Jesus, I do not ask for divine consolation because I do not merit it, but the gift of Your presence, oh yes, I ask this of You.

Stay with me Lord, for it is You alone I look for, Your Love, Your Grace, Your Will, Your Heart, Your Spirit, because I love You and ask no other reward but to love You more and more.

With a firm love, I will love You with all my heart while on earth and continue to love You perfectly during all eternity. Amen

TODAY IS VOLUNTEER SUNDAY

Today is Volunteer Sunday with the opportunity to sign up for our various parish societies and activities. We ask you to consider joining one or more of our programs including following:

- St. Vincent de Paul Society to assist in our various projects to help those in need.
- Home School Association for parents of our school children.
- Altar Society to assist with church ceremonies.
- Pro Life Society to encourage respect for life especially for the unborn.
- Italian Society (Montevirgine) to encourage devotion to Our Blessed Mother.
- RCIA Program - adult class to prepare for the sacraments.
- Hispanic Society to encourage Spanish devotion and celebrations.
- Church Ministries to enlist participation as ushers, choir members, readers at Mass and Eucharistic Ministers
- Cubs Scouts, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts

We hope that you will seriously consider joining these activities. Tables are available for sign up in front of the Church this Saturday evening and Sunday.



POPE FRANCIS' REFLECTION ON THIS SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Jesus asks his disciples an apparently indiscreet question: "What were you discussing along the way?" It is a question which he could also ask each of us today: "What do you talk about every day?" "What are your aspirations?" The Gospel tells us that the disciples "did not answer because on the way they had been arguing about who was the most important." They were ashamed to tell Jesus what they were talking about. Like the disciples then, today we too can be caught up in these same arguments: who is the most important?

Jesus does not press the question. He does not force them to tell him what they were talking about on the way. But the question lingers, not only in the minds of the disciples, but also in their hearts. Who is the most important? This is a life-long question to which, at different times, we must give an answer. We cannot escape the question; it is written on our hearts. The history of humanity has been marked by the answer we give to this question.

Jesus is not afraid of people's questions; he is not afraid of our humanity or the different things we are looking for. On the contrary, he knows the depths of the human heart, and, as a good teacher, he is always ready to encourage and support us. As usual, he takes up our searching, our aspirations, and he gives them a new horizon. As usual, he somehow finds the answer which can pose a new challenge, setting aside the "right answer," the standard replies we are expected to give. As usual, Jesus sets before us the "logic" of love. A mindset, an approach to life, which is capable of being lived out by all, because it is meant for all.

Who is the most important? Jesus is straightforward in his reply: "Whoever wishes to be the first - the most important - among you must be the last of all, and the servant of all." Whatever wishes to be great must serve others, not be served by others.

This is the great paradox of Jesus. The disciples were arguing about who would have the highest place, who would be chosen for privileges - who would be above the common law, the general norm, in order to stand out in the quest for superiority over others. Who would climb the ladder most quickly to take the jobs which carry certain benefits.

Jesus upsets their "logic", their mindset, simply by telling them that life is lived authentically in a concrete commitment to our neighbor. That is, by serving.

The call to serve involves something special, to which we must be attentive. Serving means caring for others in their vulnerability. Caring for the vulnerable of our families, our society, our people. Theirs are the suffering, fragile and downcast faces which Jesus tells us specifically to look at and which he asks us to love. With a love which takes shape in our actions and decisions. With a love which finds expression in whatever tasks we, as citizens, are called to perform. It is people of flesh and blood, people with individual lives and stories, and with all their frailty, that Jesus asks us to protect, to care for and to serve. Being a Christian entails promoting the dignity of our brothers and sisters, fighting for it, living for it. That is why Christians are constantly called to set aside their own wishes and desires, their pursuit of power, before the concrete gaze of those who are most vulnerable.

September 20, 2015

TRIDUUM IN HONOR OF ST. THERESA



We will have triduum (three days) of Masses honoring our holy Patroness, St. Theresa of the Infant Jesus, next week on Monday (the Feast of St. Theresa), Tuesday and Wednesday, October 1st, 2nd and 3rd at 7:30PM each evening. Each evening you will have the opportunity to be blessed with the relic of St. Theresa which has been given to our church and then to venerate it individually. We invite all, particularly families, to come to Mass each evening to celebrate our love for St. Theresa who has been called "the greatest saint of modern times."



ST. THERESA 27TH ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19TH

AT
MARINA DEL REY

MORE INFORMATION WILL FOLLOW

OPEN HOUSE REGIS HIGH SCHOOL 55 East 84th Street New York, NY 10028 212-288-1100—Ext 2057

Regis High School is an all-scholarship Jesuit secondary school for Catholic boys has an Open House for students and their parents, on Thursday, October 4th, from 5:30-8:30PM. For additional information, please write, e-mail or call: Eric DiMichele, director of Admissions at the number above.

OPEN HOUSE FORDHAM PREPARATORY SCHOOL 441 East Fordham Road Bronx, NY 10458 718-584-8367

Sunday, October 28, 2018 from 1:00 to 4:00PM

Registration in advance is required

Visit: fordhamprep.org/admissions

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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.



III James Lane & Karen Lawton
 II Anthony Ferrantino & Angelina Malave



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED
 MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH AND THEIR FAMILY
 OUR BELOVED FR. CHARLES SZIVOS
 &
 MICHAEL CELENTANO



THIS WEEK'S ALTAR BREAD IS IN LOVING MEMORY
 OF
 FRANK MASI
 LOVE, SALLY & ANGELA



THE FLOWERS IN FRONT OF THE ALTAR THIS WEEK
 IN MEMORY
 OF
 ANN & ANTHONY COPPINI
 LOVE, MARIA & ANTHONY

CCD (Religion Class) REGISTRATION)

(Religion Classes for children who attend public school)

Applications are now being accepted for classes which begin in September 2018.

Sunday classes: Grades 1, 2, 3 and Communion Class

Wednesday evening classes: Grades 4, 5, 6, 7 (Confirmation Class)

HOW TO APPLY

- Pick up an application in the Rectory Office
- Download applications from the St. Theresa Church website: www.sttheresachurchbronx.org

SACRAMENT CLASSES FOR CHILDREN

- Students must complete 2 consecutive years of CCD classes to be eligible to receive sacraments.
- Elementary school children who have not been baptized must attend CCD prior to receiving Baptism.

For additional information contact Mrs. McCarrick, CCD Coordinator, at sainttheresa.religioused@gmail.com



SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2018

5:00PM Frank Masi

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 2018

7:30AM Terence Lorino—FDNY
 9:00AM Parishioners of St. Theresa
 10:30AM Nicholas Iuliano
 12:15PM Joseph Antico
 1:30PM Myrna & Ricardo Anton
 5:00PM Josephine Crusco

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2018

8:00AM Father Charles Szivos
 9:00AM Evelina Orrico

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2018

8:00AM Monica Marie Sanchez
 9:00AM Ded Nikoll Shotoj

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 26, 2018

8:00AM Timothy Donovan
 9:00AM Elizabeth Loschen

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 2018

8:00AM Rev. Tom D'Angelo
 9:00AM Theresa & Arthur Rusch
 12NOON Edward Esposito

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 28, 2018

8:00AM Olimpia Rinaldi
 9:00AM Maren Guraj

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 29, 2018

8:00AM Filippo & Nicoletta Gatti
 9:00AM Ralph Bockino
 5:00PM Carillo & Ierano Families

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa
 9:00AM Michele Parisi
 10:30AM Giuseppe Arcuri
 12:15PM Lillian DeFigola
 1:30PM Msgr. Neil Graham
 5:00PM Alton Frank Brown

PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH:

Phyllis Amitrano, Maryann Cale Bannan, Linda Barbaro, Lori Brown, Nancy Cardone, Elaine Reiss Cina, Joseph Cina, Phyllis Caruso, Marie DiPolo, Thomas Egan, Frank Ferrara, Rita Ferrara, 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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