

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

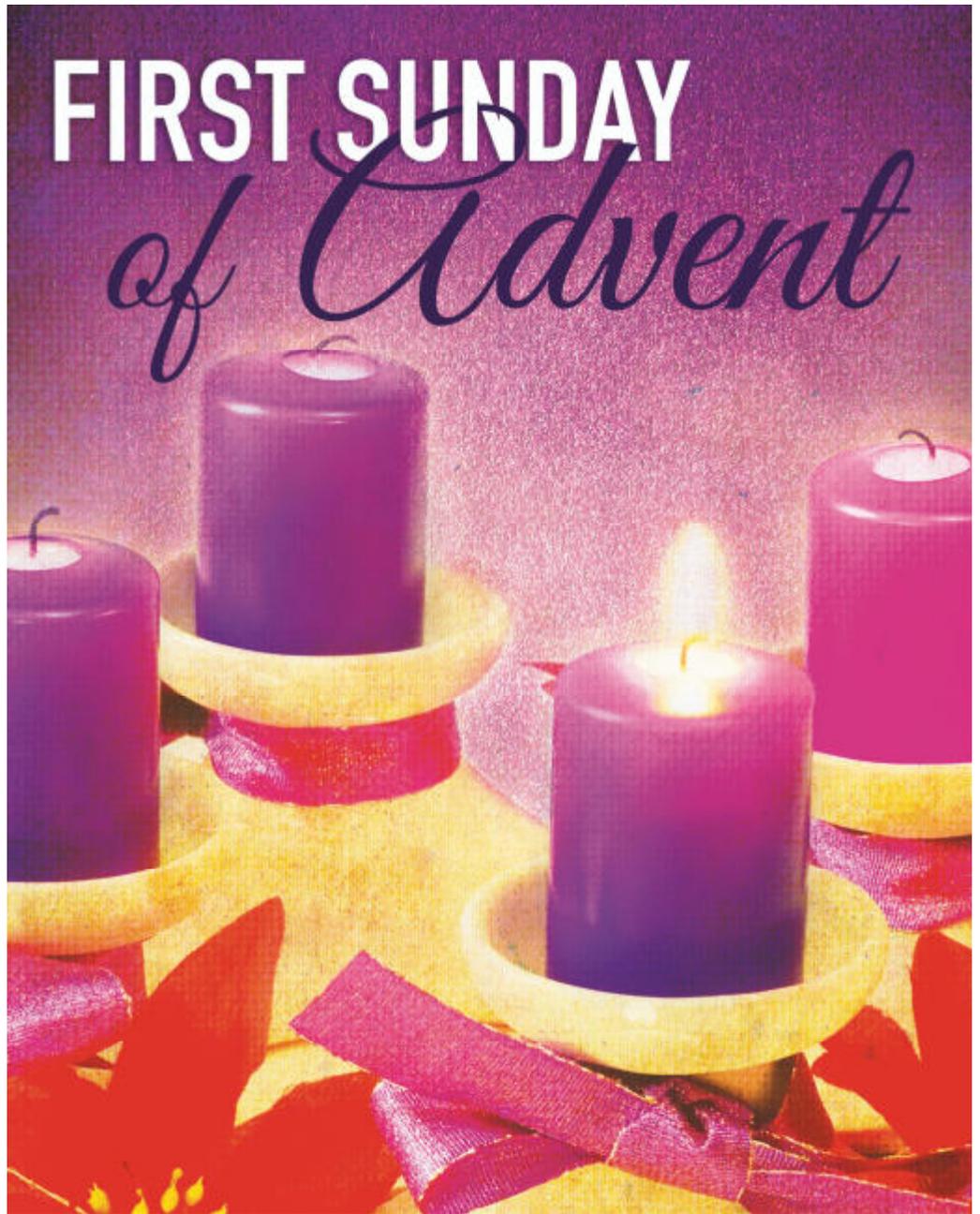
Baptisms take place most Sundays
after the 1:30pm Mass.

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.



Rev. Msgr. Thomas Derivan, Pastor

Rev. Joseph Ligory, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Edmundo Gomez, Retired,
Rev. Robert Imbelli, Weekend Associate
Deacon John Figueroa

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

As we come to Mass today, we see something different. We see the purple vestments that the priest wears and the purple on the altar cloth. Purple in the Church is the color of waiting, preparing and getting ready. And that is what today is all about. For today is the beginning of Advent, shall we say—our four weeks of purple, our four weeks of preparing for the coming of Our Lord at Christmas.

In fact, everything else you see in church today reminds us to prepare, to get ready for Christmas—the wreaths hung above the altar, the Giving Tree here to the side, the Advent Wreath with its four candles, one for each of the weeks of Advent. And perhaps you noticed as you entered the church today our manger scene. It too speaks of waiting, preparing. It is a reminder to us, as the gospel says today, to be vigilant, to be on the alert, for the Lord is near.

Some people say that we should not put up the Christmas decorations and the Christmas crib until right before Christmas itself. I must admit that I see things differently. Symbols remind us of important things. I think it is good for us to see how close Christmas is. Every time we come to church in the Advent days and light each candle, ask yourself whether you are making your soul brighter and brighter for the coming of Jesus. Look at the Christmas wreaths, an old symbol of the love of God Himself whose love has no beginning and no end like the circle of the wreath, and ask yourself if you are letting God's love grow in your heart during these Advent days.

And, every time you come to church or pass by, look at the manger. Ask yourself are you like Mary and Joseph, watchful, ready, waiting for the coming of the Savior of the world. Ask yourself are you making of your soul a living manger in which to welcome Christ the Newborn King. I encourage you to put up your manger at home for the same reason. Put it in a place where everyone in the family and indeed everyone who visits your home can see that your home is like the stable of Bethlehem, ready to welcome the Lord Jesus Christ. Our stores and shopping malls have long since put up their Christmas decorations, reminding us that there are only just so many shopping days before Christmas. Again some people criticize them to doing that. But I think we can take a lesson from them, to decorate our souls in these Advent days, not to lose time to make our souls fitting places of welcome for the Savior of the world.

Three years ago at the Church of the Holy Child Jesus in Queens, the pastor there asked his workmen to put up the manger in the church. One night a young mother came into that church and, unknown to any else, quietly placed her newborn child there, a safe haven for the baby who she believed she could not raise. Perhaps seeing the manger made her think about finding a safe place for her child. As the pastor of the church said, "She found in this manger, the empty place where Jesus will be in a few weeks, as a home for her son." I am sure that good pastor must have thanked the Lord that night that the Lord had inspired him to put up the manger to welcome two new babies—the baby born two thousand years ago and the baby born that very day.

One of the parishioners of that church said of the mother, "Placing the baby in the manger where Jesus is born, she wanted him to be close to Christ." Is that not what Advent is all about—placing ourselves close to Jesus, close to Him born long ago, close to Him who will come at the end of time, close to Him who always wants to come close to our hearts in prayer and in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass? May this be a holy Advent for you. May you make of your home and your heart a place of welcome for Jesus. May this Advent help you to remain ever closer to Him

Father Thomas B. Derivan

Advent

ORIGINS OF ADVENT

Advent began sometime after the 4th century as a time of preparation for Epiphany—not in anticipation of Christmas. Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of Christ by remembering the visit of the Magi and the baptism of Jesus. At this time new Christians were baptized and received into the faith, and so the early Church instituted a 40-day period of fasting and repentance.

Later, in the 6th century, Pope St. Gregory the Great was the first to associate this season of Advent with the coming of Christ. Originally it was not the coming of the Christ-child that was anticipated, but rather, the second coming of Christ.

By the Middle Ages the Church had extended the celebration of Advent to the familiar format we know today. The early weeks are rich with the prophecies of Isaiah, reminding us to wait and prepare for the coming Messiah. Later, the pace quickens and we focus more directly on the events leading up to Jesus' birth.

THE THREE ARRIVALS OF CHRIST

Jesus Comes in Human History — Our celebration of Christmas focuses on the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. The Christmas crèche at home or in the church, Christmas pageants and liturgies all help us recall the moment Jesus was born as a human being to live his destiny as the Son of God and our redeemer.

Jesus Comes in Our Hearts — Alive and among us through the Holy Spirit, Jesus continually reaches out to us. Advent renews our desire for the daily coming of Jesus as we recall the story of our salvation and look forward to the coming of the kingdom. We "wait in joyful hope," as the Eucharistic liturgy says, for the coming of that kingdom.

Jesus Comes in Glory — The haunting melody and refrains of *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* serve to remind us of our longing for the completion of Christ's reign at the end of time. This season gives special meaning to the phrase from the Lord's Prayer, "thy kingdom come."

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



ADVENT *Welcoming Christ in One Another*

Every family experiences challenging times. Parish families are no different. We all know of Catholics separated from the Church by some hurt they experienced. Advent is a time to prepare for and welcome the Prince of Peace, our time to learn to be peacemakers.

Christmas and family are inextricably linked. Every greeting card, television special and holiday movie reinforces this theme. We recall the perilous journey of the Holy Family to Bethlehem. We think about our own families, arriving from near and far. We consider our parish family as we gather to await the coming of Christ. When one of us is unable to join in these family occasions, we suffer in their absence.

Wounds of the heart, we know, are not easily healed. What we can do during this holy season of Advent is make our parish a place of hospitality, where all feel welcomed. We can begin in our homes, in traffic or at the stores with small acts of kindness: a smile, a compliment, helping with packages or letting the other driver go first. Think of each act as a small prayer that can be included in our seasonal prayers of preparation.

By the time Advent is over, we pray that we have become ambassadors of peace and joy in our homes, our communities and our parishes. As the pews fill on Christmas Day, our message to those newcomers and old-timers will be: We need you. We love you. We are better with you among us. Welcome home for Christmas.

BLESSING OF AN ADVENT WREATH



The use of the Advent Wreath is a traditional practice which has found its place in the Church as well as in the home. The blessing of an Advent Wreath takes place on the First Sunday of Advent or on the evening before the First Sunday of Advent.

Customarily the Advent Wreath is constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which are inserted four candles. According to tradition, three candles are violet and the fourth is rose.

The candles represent the four weeks of Advent, and the number of candles lighted each week corresponds to the number of the current week of Advent. The rose candle is lighted on the Third Sunday of Advent, also known as Gaudete Sunday.

When the blessing of the Advent Wreath is celebrated in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another member of the family.

Lord our God,
we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:
he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,
he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,
he is the Savior of every nation.

Lord God,
let your blessing come upon us
as we light the candles of this wreath.
May the wreath and its light
be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.
May he come quickly and not delay.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

SPECIAL ADVENT CELEBRATIONS AT ST. THERESA'S

During Advent this year, our parish will have a special **ADVENT CELEBRATIONS** on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, December 17th, 18th and 19th.

On Monday and Tuesday evenings, December 17th and 18th, at 7:00PM we will have **ADVENT EVENINGS OF REFLECTION**, delivered by Father Luke Leighton CFR with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. We encourage you to make this a "little retreat" to spiritually prepare for Christmas. Father Luke will be preaching at our Masses on December 15th-16th to help us prepare for these Advent evenings.

On Monday, December 17th we will also have our **ADVENT RECONCILIATION MONDAY**, with the opportunity of confessions from 3:00PM to 9:00PM. Cardinal Dolan has asked all churches to have these extended hours for confession to help us prepare for Christmas.

On Wednesday, December 19th at 7:00PM, we will have the **SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS** to prepare for Christmas in a service of Scripture Readings, Christmas Carols, and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Come and join us as we spiritually prepare for Christmas, remembering, in the old saying, that "**Jesus is the reason for the season.**"

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

DECEMBER 2, 2018

UNDERSTANDING
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



In Mary, the ordinary life of a human being was transformed by grace from the first moments of her existence. Mary played a crucial role in salvation history, and sometimes the various aspects of that role seem to overlap. For example, many people notice that the Mass readings for the feast of the Immaculate Conception (December 8) include Luke's Gospel of the Annunciation. This reading tells of Jesus' conception through the power of the Holy Spirit, but is also seen as evidence of the purity of Mary's soul and the unity of her will with the will of God. The Virgin Birth of Jesus and the Immaculate Conception are clearly related, but they are not the same event.

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION is the doctrine that Mary, conceived in the normal way through an act of love by her mother and father, was preserved from original sin and its effects from the first moment of her existence. This special grace was conferred on her through the grace of God in anticipation of the Redemption. This doctrine is celebrated on December 8.

VIRGIN BIRTH came about because Jesus was conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35). The Annunciation of the Lord is celebrated on March 25.

MOTHER OF GOD is Mary's title because Jesus, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, became fully human when, as we say in the Creed, "he was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and was born of the Virgin Mary." We celebrate the Incarnation on Christmas and Mary's motherhood eight days later on January 1, the Feast of Mary, Mother of God.

(Reprinted from All Saints Press)

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



This Saturday, December 8th, is the Feast on the Immaculate Conception of Our Blessed Mother Mary when we remember that she was conceived without sin. It is a holyday of obligation. Our country is under the special patronage of the Immaculate Conception.

Our Masses on Saturday will be at 8:00AM, 9:00AM and 12 Noon.

There will be a Vigil Mass for the Feast of Friday at 7:00PM.

The evening Mass on Saturday at 5:00PM is the Mass for the Second Sunday of Advent, not for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

PROVIDENCE REST
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December 15th, 2018 from 10:00AM-4:00PM

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THE GIVING TREE



Our parish observes the beautiful custom of the Giving Tree. Beginning this weekend and throughout Advent the tree is placed near the statue of St. Joseph with angel ornament tags on the back of which there is a request for toys or other items. Gifts will be distributed in the name of St. Theresa Parish to the following charities:

- **HOPE FOR US** - a program started by Bronx college students to help children (particularly those affected by sickle cell anemia) who are in hospitals or other social service programs.
- **HOPE CHILDREN** - a program to help children in needy families and neighborhoods to enjoy Christmas presents.
- **DOMINICAN SISTERS OF SPARKILL** - to assist retired sisters in their infirmary. The Sparkill Sisters faithfully started our school and staffed it for many years.
- **AHRC** - our local program on Mayflower Avenue which serves individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Please take one of the "Angel tags" and then bring your unwrapped gift next week to Mass or the rectory during the week. This can be a beautiful Advent project for the whole family. All gifts must be brought by December 16th.

**ST. NICHOLAS BLESSING PRAYER
DECEMBER 6TH**



St. Nicholas, holy patron of children, Bishop of the East, we invite you to come among us and to grant us your holy blessing.

Help us in this busy, busy season not to miss the miracle of the coming of Emmanuel in the days of preparation as well as on the feast itself. Help us not to be blind to the gifts of getting ready.

Protect us from insincerity. May every greeting we send be signed with love, friendship and prayer. May our greetings, so written, be fun to open and treasures to keep.

Kind St. Nicholas, protect us from shopper's fatigue. Show us how to take delight in the marketplace, now transformed in beauty, lights and music.

Save us all from anxiety over what to give so that we may concentrate on how to give.

Stand by the stepladder as we decorate our homes and trees and lives. May our decorations not be mute but rather singing symbols, sacred signs of the evergreen coming of the Lord of Life.

Help us to remember that mistletoe, holly and all other ornaments of the season, were sacred signs to ancient believers.

But, most of all, jolly saint of toys and sweets, help us stay youthful, humorous, playful and dream-filled as we prepare together for the coming of Christ with Advent longing.

St. Nicholas, pray for us. Amen.

**FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
NEXT WEDNESDAY**



Next Wednesday, December 12th is the Feast of the appearance of Our Blessed Mother at Guadalupe in Mexico. Our Lady of Guadalupe was proclaimed by Pope St. John Paul II as the "Mother of the Americas."

We will have the following observances of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12th:

- We will have Las Manaitas, early morning greeting of Our Lady, and the Rosary in church at 5:00AM. The prayers will be in Spanish.
- Morning Mass in Spanish will be celebrated at 6:45AM.
- Our regular English Masses for the feastday will be at 8:00AM and 9:00AM.
- On Wednesday evening at 7:30PM we will have the solemn Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The Image (or picture) of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be placed next to the altar beginning next Saturday evening. You are invited to bring flowers and place them there as a symbol of your love for Our Lady.

**Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of the Americas,
pray for us.**



**DECEMBER 1
BLESSED CHARLES DE FOUCAULD
(1858 - 1916)**

Born into an aristocratic family in Strasbourg, France, Charles was orphaned at the age of 6, raised by his devout grandfather, rejected the Catholic faith as a teenager, and joined the French army. Inheriting a great deal of money from his grandfather, Charles went to Algeria with his regiment. When he was refused permission to make a scientific exploration of nearby Morocco, he resigned from the service. With the help of a Jewish rabbi, Charles disguised himself as a Jew and in 1883, began a one-year exploration that he recorded in a book that was well received.

Inspired by the Jews and Muslims whom he met, Charles resumed the practice of his Catholic faith when he returned to France in 1886. He joined a Trappist monastery in Ardeche, France, and later transferred to one in Akbes, Syria. Leaving the monastery in 1897, Charles worked as gardener and sacristan for the Poor Clare nuns in Nazareth and later in Jerusalem. In 1901, he returned to France and was ordained a priest. Later that year Charles journeyed to Beni-Abbes, Morocco, intending to found a monastic religious community in North Africa that offered hospitality to Christians, Muslims, Jews, or people with no religion. He lived a peaceful, hidden life but attracted no companions.

A former army comrade invited him to live among the Tuareg people in Algeria. Charles learned their language enough to write a Tuareg-French and French-Tuareg dictionary, and to translate the Gospels into Tuareg. In early 1909, he visited France and established an association of laypeople who pledged to live by the Gospels. In 1915, Charles wrote to a friend, "The love of God, the love for one's neighbor...All religion is found there...How to get to that point? Not in a day since it is perfection itself: it is the goal we must always aim for, which we must unceasingly try to reach and that we will only attain in heaven." The outbreak of World War I led to attacks on the French in Algeria. Seized in a raid by another tribe, Charles and two French soldiers coming to visit him were shot to death on December 1, 1916. He was beatified on November 13, 2005.

The life of Charles de Foucauld was eventually centered on God and was animated by prayer and humble service, which he hoped would draw Muslims to Christ. Those who are inspired by his example, no matter where they live, seek to live their faith humbly yet with deep religious conviction.

PRAYER FOR ADVENT

Lord Jesus, stir up my heart this Advent with a lively desire for your coming. Though I am tempted to settle for the illusions of happiness, strengthen me to seek the real thing in you. Amid the sometimes frantic pace of preparation for Christmas, give me a joyful sense of your Presence. When I am faced with the darkness of suffering and death, remind me that you were born because we desperately needed a Savior and that we have your promise of eternal life.
Amen.



THIS WEEK'S ALTAR BREAD IS IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
SYLVESTER ZOTTOLA
LOVE, THE MAROTTA FAMILY



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED
MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH AND THEIR FAMILIES
ROSE LAZZARI & ANTONIA GRECO



THE SANCTUARY LAMP BURNING NEAR THE
TABERNACLE THIS WEEK IS IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
JOSEPH ROMEO
LOVE, MARIE, CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN



THE FLOWERS IN FRONT OF THE ALTAR THIS WEEK
IN MEMORY
OF
SYLVESTER ZOTTOLA
LOVE, FRANCA & ROSANNA BASTONE

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 DECEMBER 1, 2018

5:00PM James McCready

SUNDAY DECEMBER 2, 2018

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

9:00AM Fillippo LaFranca

10:30AM Anthony Paruolo

12:15PM Eileen Maskara

1:30PM Juan Antonio Jimenez & Lorenza Nepomuceno

5:00PM Mary Ellen Burgos

MONDAY DECEMBER 3, 2018

8:00AM Mary Poidomani

9:00AM Giovanni Reda

TUESDAY DECEMBER 4, 2018

8:00AM Sylvester Zottola

9:00AM Angela, Joyce, Luigi, Nick & Giovina Napolitano

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 5, 2018

8:00AM Vincent & Antoinette Vignola

9:00AM Antoinette & Giovanni Russo

THURSDAY DECEMBER 6, 2018

8:00AM Robert J. Cisneros

9:00AM Juanita Hernandez

12NOON Lane Robert Metro

FRIDAY DECEMBER 7, 2018

8:00AM John (Smitty) Smith

9:00AM Michele Muccio

7:00PM Monica Sanchez

SATURDAY DECEMBER 8, 2018

8:00AM Antonio Ignarra

9:00AM Nicola Stancati

12NOON Fr. Charles Szivos

5:00PM Ralph Bockino

SUNDAY DECEMBER 9, 2018

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

9:00AM Francesco Ausanio

10:30AM Terence Larino

12:15PM Michael Rocco

1:30PM Francisca Gonzalez

5:00PM Frank Dipolo (Anniversary)

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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