

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

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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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:

Last week when we came to Mass, we heard the gospel of Jesus preaching in Nazareth. He gave the people a message, namely that God's call knows no boundaries, that God was not just calling the people of Israel, He was calling the whole world to faith. And the reaction—the people react violently. The gospel says, "They led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, intending to hurl him over the cliff. But Jesus passed through their midst and walked away." Jesus walked into their lives and these people refused to welcome Him. And so, in some of the saddest words of the gospel, Jesus walked away. The invitation was given, but it was rejected. Jesus came to these people and they refused Him. And so He had to walk away.

But today's gospel is different. Again Jesus walks into people's lives, particularly the life of Peter the fisherman. Strong, mighty Peter, a man who probably listened to no one, now listens to this preacher from Nazareth who tells him what to do. "Pull out from shore. Put your net down for a catch" The amazing thing is that Peter listened. The citizens of Nazareth whom we heard about last week listened for a moment and then reacted violently to Jesus' words. Peter listens and keeps listening as Jesus speaks. He listens and He obeys. "Master, we have worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets." And all the rest follows—the great catch of fish, Peter's acknowledgement of his sinfulness, Jesus' call to him to come and follow. The invitation is given, and this time it is welcomed. Jesus came last week to people who rejected Him and tried to hurl Him from the cliff; Jesus comes this week to Peter who welcomes Him as Master and is ready to follow.

Dear friends, it is the same today as it was two thousands years ago. Jesus comes into people's lives—they react one way or the other. Shall we say, they react like last week's people or like this week's Peter. They either reject Jesus and try to put Him out of their lives or they welcome Jesus and are ready to follow Him.

But we ask why. Why do some people listen and obey and some do not. Of course, that answer rests deep within each person's soul. Many people reject Jesus because their lives are too busy, busy too much with themselves, too busy for the call of God. Many people, for one reason or another, reject Jesus because of some bad experience in life, a moment of tragedy when they felt God was not there or, in a different sense, a bad experience with someone in the Church that has turned them off. Yes, those are reasons why people reject Jesus. But I do not think they are the main reason why people do not listen and follow. I think the main reason is precisely what St. Peter says when the great catch of fish happens and Peter realizes that He is in the presence of God, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." Why do people reject Jesus? Because they feel they are just sinners and how can God possibly want them. They did this or that in their past life. They repented of it, long ago, but the burden, the guilt is still with them. How can God possibly want them? Perhaps, dear friends, that is why Jesus called Peter. He called him for us, to show us that sinners can become saints, that fishermen can become Popes, that sinful Peter can become saved. "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." Jesus must have looked at Peter at that moment. Maybe Peter read His eyes, "Everyone is a sinner, Peter. That is why I am here. Everyone needs to be saved. I am here as Savior of the world. You do not have to depart from me, Peter, and I will never depart from you."

Dear friends, how important it is for us to remember this gospel's message. Jesus calls sinners to follow Him. And how important it is for us to share that message with others, to be the "catchers of men and women," as St. Peter was called to be. So many people need you to help them come to Christ. Your good example, your patient words, your prayers for others, whether they are family members or friends or co-workers—these things might be the edge of difference between a person walking away from Jesus and a person coming home to His love. Never be afraid to say that we are a Church of sinners. We are, all of us. That is the point. We are sinners, saved by Jesus. We are sinners, called to be saints. We are sinners who can say, "Depart from me, Lord, I am a sinful man or woman." We are sinners who hear Jesus' words, "I will never depart from you. Come and follow me."

Father Thomas B. Derivan

POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II'S PRAYERS FOR VOCATIONS

Holy and provident Father, You are the Lord of the vineyard and the harvest and You give each a just reward for their work. In your design of love You call men and women to work with You for the salvation of the world. We thank You for Jesus Christ, your living word, who has redeemed us from our sins and is among us to assist us in our poverty. Guide the flock to which You have promised possession of the kingdom. Send new workers into your harvest and set in the hearts of pastors faithfulness to your plan of salvation, perseverance in their vocation and holiness of life.

Christ Jesus, who on the shores of the Sea of Galilee called the Apostles and made them the foundation of the Church and bearers of your Gospel, in our day, sustain your people on its journey. Give courage to those whom You call to follow You in the priesthood and the consecrated life, so that they may enrich God's field with wisdom of your Word. Make them docile instruments of your love in everyday service of their brothers and sisters.

Spirit of holiness, who pour out your gifts on all believers and, especially, on those called to be Christ's ministers, help young people to discover the beauty of the divine call. Teach them the true way of prayer, which is nourished by the Word of God. Help them to read the signs of the times, so as to be faithful interpreters of your Gospel and bearers of salvation.

Mary, Virgin who listened and Virgin of the Word of God made flesh in your womb, help us to be open to the Word of the Lord, so that, having been welcomed and meditated upon, it may grow in our hearts. Help us to live like You the beatitudes of believers and to dedicate ourselves with unceasing charity to evangelizing all those who seek your Son. Grant that we may serve every person, becoming servants of the Word we have heard, so that remaining faithful to it we may find our happiness in living it.

Amen.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

From the United States Catholic Bishops Conference

Loving God, you call all who believe in you to grow perfect in love by following in the footsteps of Christ your Son.

Call from among us more men and women to serve you.

By their way of life, may they provide a convincing sign of your Kingdom for the Church and the whole world.

Gracious and loving God, help the men and women of our parish to hear the call to serve in our Archdiocese. Our needs are great and our people thirst for your presence.

Open the hearts of many, raise up faithful servants of the Gospel, dedicated, holy priests, sisters, brothers and deacons, who will spend themselves for your people and their needs.

Bless those who are serving now with courage and perseverance. Grant that many will be inspired by their example and faith.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



FEBRUARY 14
STS. CYRIL & METHODIUS, Bishops
Patrons of the Unity of the
Eastern & Western Churches

The two brothers, Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Apostles of the Slavs, were born in Thessalonica, 826 and 827, and educated at Constantinople. After St. Cyril had preached in southern Russia, they were sent by the Patriarch St. Ignatius as missionaries to the Bulgarians, whom they soon converted to Christianity (861-865). Then they extended their work into Moravia and Dalmatia.

When the saintly brothers came to Rome to render an account of their mission, they were consecrated Bishops by Pope Hadrian II. St. Cyril died in Rome in 869, leaving St. Methodius to continue the apostolate alone, which he did with success in Moravia, Bohemia, Poland, and the neighboring countries. To him is attributed the Slav alphabet, into which tongue he translated Holy Scripture. He died in Moravia about the year 885, worn out by his heroic labors and long struggles with enemies that never ceased to antagonize him. The relics of the two brothers are venerated in the church of St. Clement in Rome.

PRAYER Merciful God, You have enlightened the Slavonic nations by the teaching of the brothers Cyril and Methodius. Help us to assimilate the teachings of Your doctrine and perfect us as a people united in the true Faith and its expansion
Amen.



FEBRUARY 14
ST. VALENTINE, Priest & Martyr
Patron of Greetings

St. Valentine, a Roman priest, together with St. Marius and his family, assisted the martyrs who suffered during the reign of Emperor Claudius II in the 3rd century. Being apprehended, he was sent to the Prefect of Rome, who commanded that he be beaten with clubs and afterward beheaded. He suffered martyrdom about the year 270.

The custom of sending valentines on this day is the revival of an ancient pagan practice, which consisted in boys drawing the names of girls in honor of their goddess, Februata Juno, on February 15. To abolish this practice names of Saints were substituted on billets drawn upon this day.

PRAYER God of power and mercy, through Your help St. Valentine has overcome the tortures of his passion. Help us who celebrate his triumph to remain victorious over the wiles of our enemies. Amen

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.



FEBRUARY 15
ST. CLAUDE DE LA COLOMBIERE
Priest

Born in 1641, St. Claude entered the Society of Jesus in Lyons, France, and gained wide spread fame as an orator and educator in Paris. He had great devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and, on a visit to the Visitation convent in Paray-le-Monial met St. Margaret Mary Alacoque and learned of the visions she had been privileged to receive. He spent eighteen months in the Paray-le-Monial acting as her spiritual director and encouraging her to spread the devotion as she had been commanded by our Lord.

Father Claude himself became a zealous apostle of the devotion to the Sacred Heart, regarding it as the means of revitalizing the Faith among the people. He continued to promote the devotion when he was sent to London to preach to the Duchess of York, and succeeded in converting the Duke of York as well as other Protestants. Because of the intense hostility against Catholics at the time, his efforts earned a death sentence.

Father Claude received a commutation of his death sentence and returned to France in ill health. He died at Paray-le-Monial in 1682. He was beatified in 1929 by Pope Pius XI and canonized on May 31, 1992, by Pope John Paul II.

PRAYER Lord, our God, You spoke to St. Claude in the

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

FEBRUARY 11TH
OUR LADY OF LOURDES



On December 8, 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception in the apostolic constitution *Ineffabilis Deus*. A little more than three years later, on February 11, 1858, a young lady appeared to Bernadette Soubirous. This began a series of visions. During the apparition on March 25th, the lady identified herself with the words: "I am the Immaculate Conception."

Bernadette was a sickly child of poor parents. Their practice of the Catholic faith was scarcely more than lukewarm. Bernadette could pray the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Creed. She also knew the prayer of the Miraculous Medal: "O Mary conceived without sin."

During interrogations Bernadette gave an account of what she saw. It was "something white in the shape of a girl." She used the word *aquero*, a dialect term meaning "this thing." It was a "a pretty young girl with a rosary over her arm." Her white robe was encircled by a blue girdle. She wore a white veil. There was a yellow rose on each foot. A rosary was in her hand. Bernadette was also impressed by the fact that the lady did not use the informal form of address (*tu*), but the polite form (*vous*). The humble virgin appeared to a humble girl and treated her with dignity.

Through that humble girl, Mary revitalized and continues to revitalize the faith of millions of people. People began to flock to Lourdes from other parts of France and from all over the world. In 1862 Church authorities confirmed the authenticity of the apparitions and authorized the cult of Our Lady of Lourdes for the diocese. The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes became worldwide in 1907.

Lourdes has become a place of pilgrimage and healing, but even more of faith. Church authorities have recognized over 60 miraculous cures, although there have probably been many more. To people of faith this is not surprising. It is a continuation of Jesus' healing miracles—now performed at the intercession of his mother.

Some would say that the greater miracles are hidden. Many who visit Lourdes return home with renewed faith and a readiness to serve God in their needy brothers and sisters. There still may be people who doubt the apparitions of Lourdes. Perhaps the best that can be said to them are the words that introduce the film *Song of Bernadette*: "For those who believe in God, no explanation is necessary. For those who do not believe, no explanation is possible."

"Lo! Mary is exempt from stain of sin, Proclaims the Pontiff high; and earth applauding celebrates with joy Her triumph, far and high. Unto a lowly timid maid she shows Her form in beauty fair, and the Immaculate Conception truth Her sacred lips declare."
(Unattributed hymn from the Roman Breviary)

PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES

O Mother of mercy, health of the sick, refuge of sinners, comforter of the afflicted, you know my wants, my troubles, my sufferings. Look with mercy on me. By appearing at the Grotto of Lourdes, you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary, where you dispense your favors. Many of those who suffer have been cured of their infirmities, both physical and spiritual. I come, therefore with complete confidence to implore your intercession.

O loving Mother, if it is God's will, grant my requests. In gratitude for your favors, I will endeavor to imitate your virtues, that I may one day share in your glory

Amen

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.

SPECIAL COLLECTION LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

The Little Sisters of the Poor will be at our parish on Saturday and Sunday February 23rd and 24th, 2019 to take up a collection for their Home for Aged Poor in the Bronx. The Little Sisters welcome the needy aged into their homes where they find security, friendship and the assurance of loving care. They are grateful for all of our support for their work.

PETITION BOOK: Have you noticed our Petition Book in the vestibule of the Church? Every Saturday before the 5:00PM Mass, the petitions entered into the book for that week are brought up to the altar of the Blessed Mother, where they remain for all the weekend Masses. Please pray for these intentions. Please put only the names of the sick and deceased on this list.



MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS FOR THIS SUNDAY

This Sunday's Gospel tells us of the call of Jesus' first disciples. The event takes place in the context of everyday life: there are several fishermen on the shore of the lake of Galilee, who, after working all night and catching nothing, are washing and arranging their nets. Jesus gets into one of the boats, that of Simon, called Peter, whom he asks to put out a little from the shore, and he starts to preach the Word of God to the crowd of people who had gathered. When he is finished speaking, he tells them to put out into the deep and cast the nets. Simon had previously met Jesus and felt the prodigious power of his word. "I will let down the nets" (v. 5). And this faith of his did not disappoint: indeed, the nets filled with so many fish that they nearly broke. Facing this extraordinary event, the fishermen are greatly astonished. Simon Peter throws himself at Jesus' feet, saying "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord" (v. 8). That prodigious sign convinces him that Jesus is not only a formidable master whose word is true and powerful, but he is the Lord, he is the manifestation of God. For Peter this close presence brings about a strong sense of his own pettiness and unworthiness. From a human point of view, he thinks that there should be distance between the sinner and the Holy One. In truth, his very condition as a sinner

requires that the Lord not distance Himself from him, in the same way that a doctor cannot distance himself from those who are sick.

Jesus' response to Simon Peter is reassuring and decisive: "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." Once again the fisherman of Galilee, placing his trust in this word, leaves everything and follows the one who has become his Lord and Master. Simon's workmates, James and John, do the same. This is the logic that guides Jesus' mission and the mission of the Church: go in search, "fish" for men and women, not to proselytize, but to restore full dignity and freedom to all, through the forgiveness of sins. This is the essential point of Christianity: to spread the free and regenerative love of God, with a welcoming and merciful attitude toward everyone, so that each person can encounter God's tenderness and have the fullness of life. Here, in a particular way, I think of confessors: they are the first who must give the Father's mercy, following Jesus' example, as did Padre Pio.

Today's Gospel challenges us: do we know how to truly trust in the Word of the Lord? Or do we let ourselves become discouraged by our failures? We are called to comfort those who feel they are sinners, unworthy before the Lord, defeated by their mistakes, by speaking to them the very words of Jesus; "Do not be afraid. The Father's mercy is greater than your sins! It is greater, do not be afraid!" May the Virgin Mary help us to ever better understand that being disciples means placing our feet in the footsteps left by the Master: they are the footprints of divine grace that restore life for all.



A PRAYER FOR WORLD MARRIAGE DAY 2019

Lord,

In your great wisdom you created marriage for our good. "Two are better than one, because we will have a good return for our labor. If either of us falls down, one can help the other up. If the two of us lie down together, we'll find warmth and comfort we could never find alone. When we're threatened by trouble or enemies, the two of us can find strength and power side by side. As you knit our lives together in Christ, our cord of three strands will remain unbroken." (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

Make us one in every way. Let us share our work to build a life that lasts. When one of us stumbles over sorrow and trouble, may we offer reassurance and a helping hand. Make our marriage a place of joy and intimacy in a cold and lonely world. Give us strength no matter what we face. Amen.



KIDS HEAVENLY HUMOR

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The reception, however, was excellent.**

**I gave my girlfriend a cannoli for Valentine's Day.
When she asked why, I said, "I cannoli be happy when I'm
with you."**





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THE FLOWERS IN FRONT OF THE ALTAR THIS WEEK
IN MEMORY
OF
SAL GRECO
LOVE, CARMELA & FAMILY



Food Pantry
Donations Needed

Food is now being collected for our Food Pantry.

Our food pantry is in need of replenishing we are asking for items such as soups, canned vegetables, tomato sauce, pasta, rice, peanut butter, jelly, tuna fish, canned or boxed juices or any other non-perishable items. We can also use coffee, cake mixes and frostings, jello and puddings.

NO GLASS JARS PLEASE!

These items will be passed on to needy families in our parish and community. God bless you for your kindness.

**Thank you to all who have donated to our Pantry.
God bless you and your families.**

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.

PETITION BOOK

Have you noticed our Petition Book in the vestibule of the Church? Every Saturday before the 5:00PM Mass, the petitions entered into the book for that week are brought up to the altar of the Blessed Mother, where they remain for all the weekend Masses. Please pray for these intentions.



SATURDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2019

5:00PM Fay, Anthony, Tony & Jeanie Landi

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2019

7:30AM Luke Turrisi

9:00AM Carmela & Amedeo DiGiorgio

10:30AM Maria Antolino

12:15PM Sal Greco & Catherine Donovan

1:30PM Maria Espinal, Gladys & Orlando DeJesus

5:00PM John Alejandro

MONDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2019

8:00AM Giovanni & Pasqua DelVecchio

9:00AM Vincenzo Fernicola

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2019

8:00AM Edwin Lopez

9:00AM Benedetta & Filadelfio Marino

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2019

8:00AM Helen Virga Carlo

9:00AM Boye Galioto

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2019

8:00AM Sal Greco & Catherine Donovan

9:00AM Sylvester Zottola

12NOON Alfred W. Monaco

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2019

8:00AM Lek & Tom Lazri

9:00AM Rosa, Luigi, Damiano & Luigina Greco

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2018

8:00AM Mary Cea

9:00AM Maria Bruno

5:00PM Angelina, Salvatore & Sarah Masi

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 17, 2019

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa Parish

9:00AM Adelfo Casiano

10:30AM Sal Zottola

12:15PM Marilyn Taibi

1:30PM Msgr. Neil Graham

5:00PM Vevette Samuels

PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH:

Phyllis Amitrano, Maryann Cale Bannan, Eileen Buckley,
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 Petillo, Marie Russillo, Camille Siciliano,
Mario Simeone, Toni Spahr, Florence Valentine,
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