

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

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

Ten days of Lent have come and gone. Here we are celebrating the Mass of the Second Sunday of Lent. Each Sunday or Saturday evening when we come to Mass, we should ask ourselves: Where has this past week of Lent brought me in my faith? Have I used this week well? Through my prayer, sacrifice and penance, has Lent brought me not only closer to Easter, but more importantly closer to Christ?

The gospels of the Sunday Masses teach us the important lessons of Lent. Last week, we heard the gospel of the temptation of Jesus in the desert. We learned the importance of withstanding temptation, even as the Lord Jesus did. Today we hear this gospel of the Transfiguration of our Lord on Mount Tabor, when for the briefest of moments He shined with all His glory as God's Son before His three chosen apostles. Where is our Lenten lesson in this gospel? At first it seems as if this gospel has nothing to do with Lent—there is nothing here about temptation, about sacrifice, about penance. It seems as if this is a preview of the Resurrection when Jesus shined in His Risen glory. That is true. But what Lenten lesson is Jesus giving us? Notice a very important fact. Moses and Elijah, St. Luke says, appeared to Jesus and “spoke of His departure which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.” His departure, or as another translation puts it, His “passage.” What is Jesus' passage, which He is about to accomplish at Jerusalem? Why do Elijah and Moses come to strengthen Jesus as he readies Himself to this passage? The answer, dear friends, is the Cross. Jesus was preparing to make His passage from life to death to new life, carrying that Cross for all of us. That is why He came to this earth. That is why He was born in Bethlehem, that is why He preached His gospel, that is why He allowed Himself to be delivered into the hands of His enemies, that is why He laid down His life for us, to make His great passage from death to life and to bring us on that passage with Him. Is there anything more beautiful to say? The Cross says it all. When we look at the Cross, we see our crucified Lord, making it possible for us to pass from death to life.

Is there anything more important? Someone has said that the most important question that Christianity answers is the question of death. We fear death. We try not to talk about it. We feel uncomfortable when people speak about death to us. Jesus came to this earth to answer the question of death. And His answer is this: Death is the door to life. In effect, Jesus says, “My death opened heaven's gates. There is nothing more to fear. Death means coming home to me.” Perhaps that is why Our Lord was transfigured before His apostles. Jesus is saying, “One day you will be with me shining in glory in my Father's house. You will be with me, even as Moses and Elijah were and are. We will talk, as they did. We will be together in glory and that joy will never end.” The Transfiguration lasted for the briefest of moments. Heaven—your heaven—will last forever.”

We Catholics should talk more about heaven. Some time ago, a parishioner gave me beautiful book, entitled “A Travel Guide to Heaven.” It challenges us to think about what the Scripture says and to see heaven as the new world that the Lord has prepared for us, not a cloud-like existence, but a new life even more real than this one, where we will enjoy eternity in the presence of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and all our loved ones, in an eternity of joy. That book challenges us to keep our focus on heaven. The reason why we are here on this earth is to prepare for our passage from death to new life. We are bound for heaven. We have Jesus' word of assurance that He died on the Cross to bring us home to heaven.

We must be ready. Jesus in today's gospel was ready for His cross, His passage, His opening of the gates of heaven. We must be ready every day, with our ticket for heaven in hand. That ticket is our faith, a faith truly lived in love and service of God and neighbor. I remember a dear parishioner, who has since gone to her reward, saying to me something that we should all be able to say, “I am ready to go home to God.” What faith that dear woman had! Please God, we all have the same faith, the same trust, the same confidence that Jesus will bring us home. May every day of Lent, every day that we live bring us one step closer on our passage, our journey to the most important destination of all, the only destination that really counts—the Kingdom of eternal life.

Father Thomas B. Derivan

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR SACRIFICES

The best penance for Lent is that which makes our daily routines a conscious act of sacrifice to God. It is an annual discussion around some houses and Catholic school classrooms, how do we truly grow in Christ this Lent? There are some simple ideas out there that can make a difference. How about instead of giving something up, taking something on like 40 days of an act of kindness toward someone, especially someone with whom you don't always get along. Or 40 days of learning about a subject that broadens your world and makes you a more empathetic Christian. Look up Adoration times at your parish and others in your area; make time to be with the Lord in prayer at Adoration. Here's one, how about getting a cross for your apartment or home? This will be a constant reminder of the sacrifices Jesus made for us. If daily Mass is not something that can fit in your schedule, try daily meditations. Who can't spare 10 minutes in the morning or evening to commune and focus on what this season is truly about?

When you think about your life it is easy to get caught up in the idea that you are sacrificing, making your own coffee instead of buying it, giving up a television show or chocolates. But so many of us really don't know the sacrifice others make. Sacrifice means literally “making holy.” Our missionaries sacrifice everything to devote their lives to bringing the Word of God to those who have nothing. So making do with the small and great pleasures of our life with gratitude to God, and putting up joyfully with the pains of daily existence, especially the small ones, is a way to make Lent spiritually fruitful when borne out of love for God. Matthew reminds us the sacrifice is not one that should be a visible badge of honor:

“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you” (Matt. 6:16-18).

It is with joy that we bear our crosses, not just during Lent but during the whole of our lives. We know what awaits us, what God has planned. God made us in his image and likeness and it is our responsibility to grow in his love and deepen our faith to become what He knows we can be.

(From Franciscan Mission Associates)

SECOND 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 5PM

Weekday Masses—8AM and 9AM

Wednesday at 6PM with Stations of the Cross
Thursday at 12PM with Adoration and Stations

Confessions—Every Saturday from 4PM to 5PM

Special Lenten Reconciliation Monday, April 15th
with confessions from 3PM to 9PM

Stations of the Cross—Wednesdays after the 6PM Mass
Thursdays after the 12Noon Mass

"Living Stations of the Cross" Wednesday, April 17th at 7PM

Local Parishes Lenten Mission—sponsored by the parishes of
St. Theresa, St. Frances de Chantal, St. Benedict,
St. Francis Xavier, St. Clare, Holy Cross and St. Anthony.
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, April 9,10 and 11th—7PM
at St. Frances de Chantal Church

Lenten Family Night—Friday, April 12th at 7PM

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

Eucharistic Devotion—Thursdays after the 12PM Mass
First Fridays, Holy Hour from 6PM to 7PM

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.)



Little Sisters of the Poor
Jeanne Jugan Residence
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A Thank You from the Little Sisters of the Poor.

Thank you for welcoming the Little Sisters of the Poor to St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Church last weekend to accept donations for our mission of caring for the elderly poor. Your kindness, hospitality & warm welcome were greatly appreciated.

The parishioners of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Parish were once again very generous to us. The total amount of the donations received at the door of the church amounted to \$2493.00 and will be used for the care of our Residents.

The Little Sisters and our Residents remember you and the parishioners of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Parish in our prayers.

May God bless you and keep you in His loving care.

Sincerely,
Sr. Jane, Isp
Collecting Sister



MARCH 17TH
ST. PATRICK

It is believed that St. Patrick was born in fifth-century Britain to Roman parents. When he was sixteen, he was captured by pirates and taken to Ireland. There he was sold as a slave. His owner sent him to tend his flocks on the mountains. Patrick had very little food and clothing. Yet he took good care of the animals in rain, snow and ice. Patrick was so lonely on the hillside that he turned often in prayer to Jesus and his Mother Mary. His life was hard and unfair. However, Patrick's trust in God grew stronger all the time.

Later, when he escaped from Ireland, he studied to become a priest. But Patrick always felt that he had to go back to Ireland to bring that pagan land to Christ. At last his wish came true. He became a priest and then a bishop. It was while St. Celestine I was pope that Patrick went back to Ireland. How happy he was to bring the Good News of the true God to the people who once had held him a slave.

Right from the start, Patrick suffered much. His relatives and friends wanted him to quit before the pagan Irish killed him. Yet the saint kept on preaching about Jesus. He traveled from one village to another. He seldom rested, and he performed great penances for those people whom he so loved. Before he died, the whole nation was Christian.

Despite such great success, St. Patrick never grew proud. He called himself a poor sinner and gave all the praises to God. Patrick died in 461. Many missionaries are laboring today to bring the Good News to our world just as Patrick did. We can pray and make sacrifices that their hard work will lead many people to belief in and love for Jesus.

This year the feast of St. Patrick will be celebrated on Monday, March 18th because March 17th falls on a Sunday during Lent.



PRAYER OF ST. PATRICK



As I arise today,
may the strength of God pilot me,
the power of God uphold me,
the wisdom of God guide me.
May the eye of God look before me,
the ear of God hear me,
the word of God speak for me.
May the hand of God protect me,
the way of God lie before me,
the shield of God defend me,
the host of God save me.
May Christ shield me today.
Christ with me, Christ before me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit,
Christ when I stand,
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.
Amen



REFLECTIONS FOR LENT: During Lent we present these beautiful reflections on the Sunday gospel written by Passionist Father Victor Hoagland. May they help in our journey of Lent.

Joy at the Transfiguration- -Second Sunday of Lent

Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good that we are here; let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” Luke 9:33
Peter was excited, perhaps beyond any excitement he had experienced before. In fact, to say he was excited is most certainly an understatement. It may be more appropriate to say that he was overwhelmed! Why was this the case? Because he had just been given a very small glimpse of the glory and splendor of God!

This is the Transfiguration. Jesus took Peter, James and John and they went up a high mountain together. These three Apostles had no idea what was coming. Most likely while on the way they were complaining interiorly, wondering why they had to go up the mountain. But the mountain is a symbol of our upward journey to Heaven. It takes focus and drive, commitment and resolve to go there, and it’s an elevated place, a place away from the ordinary occurrences of life.

So they were on this difficult climb up the mountain and suddenly they stopped in shock and awe. They saw before their eyes Jesus changed in a glorious way, His clothing being whiter than any white they had ever seen. And Moses and Elijah, the great Law-giver and great Prophet, were there before them conversing with Jesus.

And what was going on in Peter’s head? What was he experiencing? He was experiencing a small glimpse of the glory and splendor of God. Jesus, who up until this moment had kept His divinity veiled, lifted the veil ever so slightly. And with the lifting of that veil, His divinity shone through brighter than anything this world could ever contain. And Peter, James and John did not know what to think. But Peter cried out that he wanted to build three tents, one for Jesus, one for Moses and one for Elijah! For within that momentary experience, he experienced the desire to remain there forever.

So why did Jesus give these Apostles this very brief experience of His glory? Because they would need that taste of His goodness for the road ahead. They would need to forever remember what their final destiny was. They would need to hold this experience close as they endured the many crosses and sufferings ahead. And they would use this experience to remind themselves that whatever they had to endure on the journey up the mountain of life is worth it. Because on the summit is a glory so great that no hardship they would have to endure would ever prove to be too big.

God wants to give that message to us through them. He wants us to ponder this experience they had and He wants us to try to enter into it so that we too can willingly press on during the journey.

Reflect, today, at the beginning of Lent, on the glory of God that makes the crosses we endure all worth it. Take advantage of this experience of Peter, James and John and try to make their experience your own. Be consoled by God’s glory and never forget that this is the ultimate promise He gives to all who press on.

Lord, may I be consoled by Your glory and splendor. May I believe in this glory and keep it ever in my mind as I press on through the hardships and challenges I face. You travel the road ahead of me and You will lead me on my journey if I only trust in You. Jesus, I do trust You!



**MARCH 19TH
SAINT JOSEPH
Married Layman († 1st century)**

Saint Joseph, the foster father of our Lord, was proclaimed the Guardian of the Universal Church by Pope Pius IX in 1870. His patronage extends to countries, religious orders, and laborers. He is especially invoked by fathers of families and pregnant women. He is the saint for those who struggle with hesitation.

In Matthew, we read how Joseph, having discovered his betrothed to be unexpectedly pregnant, decides for a discreet divorce. But then the angel Gabriel appears, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins” (Mt 1:20-21). And Joseph’s response is immediate: “he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home” (Mt 1:24).

Saint John Paul II sees Joseph’s prompt response as the fruit of a deep inner life, paralleling in a certain way Mary’s own Yes. Joseph is “the first to be placed by God on the path of Mary’s pilgrimage of faith.”

Saint Teresa of Avila underscores Joseph’s quick response to our prayers. “I have never known anyone who was truly devoted to him and honored him by particular services who did not advance greatly in virtue, for he helps in a special way those souls who recommend themselves to him.”

Merciful Father, through the intercession of Saint Joseph, preserve me from paralyzing indecision. Make me prompt and courageous in answering your call.

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.



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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: We continue our reflections on the Stations of the Cross, written by Father Benedict Groeschel

The Fifth Station Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross



We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

There are moments in life when things are so bitter that we don't even want any help, when those who would come to comfort us are sent away, when we turn in on ourselves and say we'd rather suffer all alone, we'd rather be in pain all alone. "Don't come near me!" Frequently we say that to those who are most dear to us, and we hurt them because they would like to help us carry our cross. Not so with Jesus Christ. An unwilling man, one constrained by the Roman soldiers carries his cross. And in his complete humility, the all-powerful Son of God lets someone help Omnipotence. He does not dismiss Simon. He does not chase him away, but rather humbly and gently he allows him, this unknown man, probably unwilling, to help him. We would do better in our lives to let others help us.

We would be generous and more open. We would recognize that we need others' help. We would humbly ask for it and graciously be thankful for it. And sometimes we learn that what good we have done has been purchased by the prayers of others.

It is a great part of spiritual growth to know about the help of others, to welcome it, to be grateful for it, to graciously accept it and to sometimes pay it back by being a help to others.

O Lord Jesus Christ, you humbly give help and you humbly accept the help of another. O Omnipotence who grows tired, O Mighty and Strong One who is relieved by another's labor, give me the grace to recognize the times you come to help me through others and give me the graciousness to ask for and accept that help. May I never be too proud to take the hand held out to me.

The Sixth Station Veronica Wipes The Face Of Jesus



We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

The Son of God, true and eternal loveliness itself, does not shrink from being ugly, from being the despised and poor servant that the prophets speak of as one rejected, as a leper. But Veronica is able to see the beauty of his face. We must ask ourselves, "When is it that we see that face?" We need to remind ourselves often that the face of Jesus Christ looks out at us from many faces. His hidden face is to be seen many times in the street. The best of Christians can become insensitive to that face. There is always the question, "Is it the face of Christ or the face of a thief?" "Is it the face of Christ or is it the face of a charlatan?" Take my advice. Don't be afraid to be cheated. You are going to be cheated sometimes if you look for the face of Christ. Don't be a fool. But you can be a fool in either direction and I'd rather err in the right direction.

I don't give away my own money because I don't have any. I give away other people's money so I have to be careful. I don't like to give other people's money away in foolish causes, but very likely some of what I've given away has been to the unworthy. I've been cheated and lied to many times.

But sometimes behind that face is another face. Sometimes looking at me through those strange and often distorted eyes, looking at me through the confusion and sickness of many decades, in that utterly unrecognizable face, looking at me from those bloodshot eyes, are the eyes of the Son of God.

O Christ our Lord, break our hearts by your holy face, and look at us when you are ugly and disfigured and alone and frightened and crazy. Look at us, O Christ, and break our hearts in half and grant that we may never pass you by.



FEAST VOLUNTEERS MEETING THIS TUESDAY

Our annual Feast is only a few months away. For several months we have been planning it, taking into account the suggestions made to us by our Feast Committee and our parishioners. The Feast is a true "family event" and we need your help to make it so. The Feast this year will be held from Wednesday, June 19th through Sunday, June 23rd. This will be the 23rd annual Feast.

We hope you can help the Feast by becoming a Feast volunteer. We invite you to our next Feast Volunteers Meeting this Tuesday, March 19th in the school and CCD parents are welcome to attend. We encourage all ministries, societies and organizations of our Parish to have at least one member in attendance at this meeting.





THE SANCTUARY LAMP BURNING NEAR THE
TABERNACLE THIS WEEK IS IN LOVING MEMORY
MICHELE MUCCIO
1ST ANNIVERSARY IN HEAVEN
LOVE, THE ZOTTOLA & ADDARIO FAMILY



THIS WEEK'S ALTAR BREAD IS IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
JONI LOMBARDI
LOVE, THE LANZA FAMILY



THE FLOWERS IN FRONT OF THE ALTAR THIS WEEK
IN MEMORY
OF
MICHELE MUCCIO
1ST ANNIVERSARY IN HEAVEN
THE ZOTTOLA & ADDARIO FAMILY



ST. ANTHONY NOVENA

The St. Anthony Novena is celebrated each Tuesday, beginning this Tuesday, March 19th, at 6:00PM. This consists of prayers to St. Anthony and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. We invite you to come as we ask for the intercession of St. Anthony for ourselves, our families and our parish. You will have the opportunity to venerate the relic of St. Anthony after the Novena.

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.

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



SATURDAY MARCH 16, 2019

5:00PM Charles, Mary & Fr. Charles Szivos

SUNDAY MARCH 17, 2019

7:30AM John Sweeney
9:00AM Marie Sansalone
10:30AM Michele Muccio (1st Anniversary in Heaven)
12:15PM Anthony Rubuano
1:30PM Parishioners of St. Theresa
5:00PM John & Lilliana Oroshi

MONDAY MARCH 18, 2019

8:00AM Benny Scalisi
9:00AM Giuseppe & Giuseppina Ausanio

TUESDAY MARCH 19, 2019

8:00AM Didema Fuentes
9:00AM Giuseppe Salerno

WEDNESDAY MARCH 20, 2019

8:00AM Anthony Fata
9:00AM Santangelo Family

THURSDAY MARCH 21, 2019

8:00AM Esther Espino Martinez
9:00AM Cirino & Felicia Sanfilippo
12NOON Mary Kitz

FRIDAY MARCH 22, 2019

8:00AM Margaret Laterza
9:00AM Dolores Garcia

SATURDAY MARCH 23, 2019

8:00AM Bettina Anastasi
9:00AM Rachel & Pasquale Vertullo & Angelina Naclerio
5:00PM Pietro & Carmelo Merenda

SUNDAY MARCH 24, 2019

7:30AM Fr. Joseph & Msgr. Derivan
9:00AM Parishioners of St. Theresa
10:30AM Michael Wolovich
12:15PM Adelfo Casiano
1:30PM In Thanksgiving to God
5:00PM Betty Alfano

PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH:

Phyllis Amitrano, Maryann Cale Bannan, Eileen Buckley,
Nancy Cardone, Elaine Reiss Cina, Joseph Cina,
Phyllis Caruso, Pasqua Del Prete, 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, Patrick & Jimmy McCoy,
Isabelle O'Brien, Frank Oricco, Marie Petillo, Marie Russillo,
Camille Siciliano, Mario Simeone, Toni Spahr,
Florence Valentine, Dean Valentine, Nicholas Vasti,
Frank Vertullo, Irene Vesely.

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