

# 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

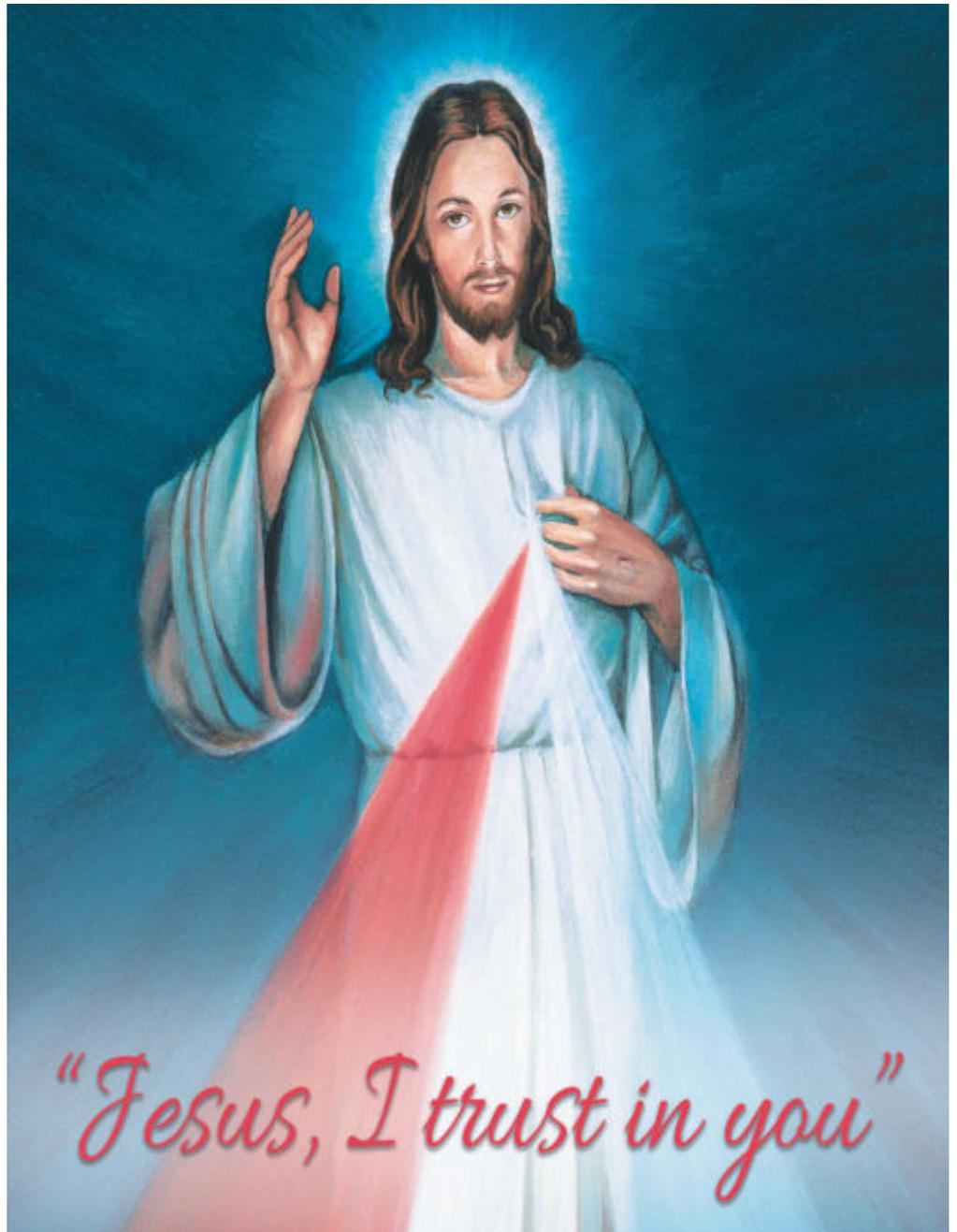
Saturdays from 4:00pm to 5:00pm  
and by appointment

## 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](http://www.sttheresachurchbronx.org)  
E-MAIL: [rectorystc@aol.com](mailto:rectorystc@aol.com)

SCHOOL: 718-792-3688  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: 718-792-8434

## CHURCH OF ST. THERESA, BRONX

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### FROM THE DESK OF FATHER DERIVAN

History has not been kind to St. Thomas the Apostle. Unfortunately so. Later on, after Pentecost, Thomas would become a great missionary, preaching the gospel even in India where he died a martyr's death. But unfortunately St. Thomas has been called "the doubter," "the doubting Thomas." Let me come to his defense today since I am proud to bear his name.

On the first Easter Sunday, all of the apostles were huddled in the Upper Room, the room of the Last Supper, all except Thomas. We do not know where he was, perhaps just wanting to be alone to mourn the loss of his beloved Jesus. Thomas was not in the room on that Easter morning when suddenly the Lord Jesus, risen from the dead, appeared before them, showed Himself to be alive, and saying those beautiful words, "Peace be with you." Sometime later, Thomas returned to that room, to hear the other apostles say they had seen the Lord. And Thomas did not want to be deceived. He did not want to get his hopes up too high, lest they be smashed down again as they were on Good Friday. He may have thought that his brother apostles were deceiving themselves, having a dream or a hallucination. "Unless I see that it is Jesus with the wounds in His hands and feet, I will not believe." Thomas wanted what we all want—he wanted to see Jesus. And the Lord granted his request on this Sunday after Easter. We call it Divine Mercy Sunday because on this day the merciful Jesus showed His mercy and love for St. Thomas. "Look, Thomas, touch my hands and my side. See that it is I. Do not doubt any more. Now you can believe." And Thomas, the gospel says, fell at the knees of Jesus. He made the greatest act of faith that we will find in the gospel, "Jesus, my Lord and my God." Yes, he was the doubter or, better still, the hesitator, but then Thomas became the believer, believing in the risen Jesus whom he called "my Lord and my God."

On this day, the Risen Jesus did not show resentment, anger, disappointment with St. Thomas and the others. He showed them what they needed, what the world needs, what we need. He showed them mercy. He showed them that He is Mercy itself. And that is what we celebrate today. Eighty years ago Our Lord appeared to a humble Polish religious sister, Sister (now St.) Faustina Kowalska. He told her that mankind needs to come to the fount of His mercy. He asked her to guide the leaders of the Church to institute a special "Feast of Mercy" on this Sunday after Easter, showing her and us that the same mercy shown to St. Thomas is shown to everyone who comes to Him, with whatever sins, with whatever regrets, with whatever doubts. He is ready to wash all of that away on this Feast of Divine Mercy. He told St. Faustina, "I am Love and Mercy itself. My heart overflows with great mercy for souls and especially for poor sinners. It is for them that Blood and water flowed from my heart, as from a fountain overflowing with mercy. Let no soul fear to draw near to me. My mercy is greater than your sins and those of the entire world." Our Lord directed St. Faustina to have a picture of Himself and His Divine Mercy painted. A copy of that picture is in our church. Our Lord called this painting "the vessel with which people are to keep coming for graces to the fountain of mercy." And He instructed that the picture have the words on it, "Jesus, I trust in you." The picture shows Jesus' heart open in mercy to all of us, with two rays of light—one red, the other white—shining from His wounded heart. He said, "The two rays denote Blood and Water—the pale ray for the Water which makes souls righteous, the red ray for the Blood which is the life of souls. These rays issued from my heart opened by a lance on the cross." They are the rays of Jesus' unbounded love and mercy for all of us.

Pope Francis says, that "Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy." When we see Jesus, we see mercy. Our Lord asked St. Faustina to become His messenger of mercy. Pope Francis has asked all of us to do the same to be "messengers of mercy" to those who need to know that Jesus' mercy is shown to them too. It is not enough for us just to celebrate the Divine Mercy here for ourselves—we already know the Mercy of Jesus. But there are so many others who do not, so many who need to know that Christ's Mercy is meant for them too. Just before Easter, we had the special Reconciliation Monday with extended hours in this church and every church for confessions. Many people came, many of them away from the practice of the faith for a long time. And invariably when I asked what helped them to come to confession after many years, they said some good person—family member, friend, co-worker—encouraged them to come home to the mercy of Jesus. Dear friends, be the messengers of mercy, as the Lord asked St. Faustina to be and now as Pope Francis asks us all to be. Help to bring that person home to Jesus Christ.

Father Thomas B. Derivan

### SPECIAL THANKS FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

We thank all who have made our celebration of Holy Week and Easter so beautiful: of course our priests, Father Joseph, Father Imbelli, Father Gomez and Deacon John Figueroa; our Altar Society and ladies' committee for the beautiful decoration of the sanctuary; our ushers, Eucharistic Ministers and lectors, and our many Altar Servers. And, of course, we want to extend special thanks to our organist and Director of Music, Ms. Nadia Papayani for providing us with such beautiful music. We thank our Leader of Song Donna Liello and our Children's Choir Director Gina Gentile. We are grateful to all who participated in giving praise to God through song not only during Holy Week and Easter, but every Sunday, namely the members of our three choirs: Adult Choir (at 12:15PM Mass), Children's Choir (at 10:30AM Family Mass) and Spanish choir (at 1:30PM Spanish Mass). And most of all thank you, our faithful parishioners, for participating so beautifully and reverently in all our Holy Week services and making Easter such a beautiful celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord. May the Risen Lord continue to guide you and give you his Easter grace now and always.

Father Thomas B. Derivan

### DIVINE MERCY HOLY HOUR TODAY

On this Sunday, the Feast of Divine Mercy, there will be a Holy Hour in church from 3:30PM to 4:30PM. The ceremony will include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, prayers to the Divine Mercy, and Benediction. Come and join us as we turn to the Divine Mercy today.

## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER— DIVINE MERCY

### Prayer of Entrustment to The Divine Mercy

*Give thanks to the Lord for He is Good for His Mercy endures forever! (Ps. 136)*

O Lord, our God,  
we place all our TRUST in You,  
because You are mercy itself.  
We repent of our sins and turn to You for mercy.  
We trust You to provide for our every need, according to  
Your will.  
Help us to forgive others as You forgive us.  
We promise to be merciful by our deeds, words and prayers.  
Though we have fears because of human weakness,  
we rely on Your infinite goodness and mercy.  
We entrust to Your mercy our very lives,  
our present situation and our uncertain future.  
We entrust to You the future of our planet, our Church, our  
nations, our families, and all our needs.  
With loud cries we implore Your mercy on us and the whole  
world.  
Look upon us created in Your image and likeness.  
Form us in the Heart of Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit  
into living images of mercy.  
May all come to know the depth of Your mercy and sing the  
praises of your mercy forever. Amen  
National Shrine of Divine Mercy



### DEEDS OF MERCY

Our Lord's words: "I demand from you deeds of mercy, which are to arise out of love for Me. You are to show mercy to your neighbors always and everywhere. You must not shrink from this or try to excuse or absolve yourself from it. I am giving you three ways of exercising mercy toward your neighbor: the first—by deed, the second—by word, the third—by prayer. In these three degrees is contained the fullness of mercy, and it is an unquestionable proof of love for Me. By this means a soul glorifies and pays reverence to My mercy" (Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska, 742).

"...Write this for the many souls who are often worried because they do not have the material means with which to carry out an act of mercy. Yet spiritual mercy, which requires neither permission or storehouses, is much more meritorious and is within the grasp of every soul. If a soul does not exercise mercy somehow or other, it will not obtain My mercy on the day of judgement. Oh, if only souls knew how to gather eternal treasure for themselves they would not be judged, for they would forestall My judgement with their mercy" (Diary, 1317).

### PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

"Anyone who needs to report an alleged incident of sexual abuse of a minor by a priest, deacon, religious or lay person serving in the Archdiocese of New York is asked to contact Sister Eileen Clifford OP at 646-794-2949 or [victimsassistance@archny.org](mailto:victimsassistance@archny.org). Information can also be found on the archdiocesan website [www.archny.org](http://www.archny.org). In keeping with archdiocesan policy regarding sexual abuse of minors, this information is provided to ensure that our children remain safe and secure."

"Cualquier persona que necesite repórtar algún incidente de abuso sexual de un menor por un sacerdote, diacono, religioso/a, o laic sirviendo en la Arquidiócesis de Nueva York, se le pide que por favor contacte a la Hermana Eileen Clifford, O.P. al 646-794-2949. Ella también pueden ser contactada via correo electrónica: [victimsassistance@archny.org](mailto:victimsassistance@archny.org). Para más información pueden visitar la página en le red del la Arquidiócesis: [www.archny.org](http://www.archny.org). De acuerdo con las normas de la Arquidiócesis respeto al abuso sexual de menores, esta infromación se prove para asegurar que nuestros niños permanezcan seguros."



### ST. THERESA SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

**Friday, May 10, 2019 at 7:00PM**  
**Annual Bingo and Tricky Tray Event**  
**\$30.00 for Bongo Games**  
**Tricky Trays, 50/50, & Birthday Raffle**  
**will be sold on the night of the event.**  
**Tickets available at the Rectory!! Reserve your table.**

A MESSAGE FROM POPE FRANCIS FOR THIS SUNDAY

In today's Gospel, we hear, over and over, the word "see". The disciples rejoiced when they *saw* the Lord (Jn 20:20). They tell Thomas: "We have seen the Lord." But the Gospel does not describe *how* they saw him; it does not describe the risen Jesus. It simply mentions one detail: "He showed them his hands and his side." It is as if the Gospel wants to tell us that, *that* is how the disciples recognized Jesus: through his wounds. The same thing happened to Thomas. He too wanted to see "the mark of the nails on his hands" and after *seeing*, he believed.

Despite his lack of faith, we should be grateful to Thomas, because he was not content to hear from others that Jesus was alive, or merely to see him in the flesh. He wanted to see *inside*, to touch with his hand the Lord's wounds, the signs of his love. The Gospel calls Thomas Didymus (meaning the *Twin*, and in this he is truly our twin brother. Because for us too, it isn't enough to know that God exists. A God who is risen but remains distant does not fill our lives; an aloof God does not attract us, however just and holy he may be. No, we too need to "see God", to touch him with our hands and to know that he is risen, and risen for us.

How can we see him? Like the disciples: through his wounds. Gazing upon those wounds, the disciples understood the depth of his love. They understood that he had forgiven them, even though some had denied him and abandoned him. To enter into Jesus' wounds is to contemplate the boundless love flowing from his heart. This is the way. It is to realize that his heart beats for me, for you, for each one of us. Dear brothers and sisters, we can consider ourselves Christians, call ourselves Christians and speak about the many beautiful values of faith, but, like the disciples, we need to see Jesus *by touching his love*. Only thus can we go to the heart of the faith and, like the disciples, find peace and joy (cf. vv. 19-20) beyond all doubt.

Thomas, after seeing the Lord's wounds, cried out: "My Lord and my God!" I would like to reflect on the adjective that Thomas repeats: *my*. It is a possessive adjective. When we think about it, it might seem inappropriate to use it of God. How can God be *mine*? How can I make the Almighty *mine*? The truth is, by saying *my*, we do not profane God, but honor his mercy. Because God wished to "become ours". As in a love story we tell him: "You became man for me, you died and rose *for me* and thus you are not only God; you are *my God*, you are *my life*. In you I have found the love that I was looking for, and much more than I could ever have imagined".

God takes no offence at being "ours", because love demands confidence, mercy demands trust. From the depths of Thomas's heart he says: "My Lord and my God!" As today we enter, through Christ's wounds, into the mystery of God, we come to realize that mercy is not simply one of his qualities among others, but the very beating of his heart. Then, like Thomas, we no longer live as disciples, uncertain, devout but wavering. We too fall in love with the Lord! We must not be afraid of these words: to fall in love with the Lord.

Divine Mercy Sunday, April 8, 2018



**SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE:  
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER, APRIL 28, 2019  
By Father Ronald Patrick Raab, CSC**

Thomas the Apostle holds a beautiful reminder for my priesthood. Within the liturgy, in all three years of readings on the Second Sunday of Easter, we listen to Thomas reaching out to the Risen Christ to touch his wounds. I preached on this text my first day of priesthood in 1983. Thomas has taken me by the hand ever since so that I may not be afraid of the wounds of redemption on the Body of Christ, so that I may touch and believe as he did.

Thomas holds a singular place in the hearts of people who desire to see Jesus. He touched the scars, those wounds of redemption, the places on Jesus' body where both pain and love reside. Thomas' touch opens new doors for us from the setting among the original disciples, who cuddled up to fear because they thought death would also strike them.

Thomas' hand in Jesus' side not only opened the doors of that upper room, it opened the doors of our own often fear-filled lives. This simple action of reaching out to the wounds of Christ shows us how to see for ourselves the redeeming love of Jesus in our day. We reach out to those whose bodies are ill, broken, and lonely. We reach out in faith to lives that are shattered by prejudice, slander, and unkindness. We reach out to people who have lost everything in storms, floods, and fires. We reach out to see in our own lives how mercy and kindness flow from the love of Jesus Christ for the weak and unlovable.

Thomas is at the heart of Divine Mercy Sunday, well beyond his feast day of July 3rd. His eyes experienced what we all desire to see for our own lives, that Jesus' suffering and our suffering have meaning. This painting reveals to us that we are all partakers in mercy and love through the sacraments. Our baptismal waters are our connection to Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection. The Eucharist continues to feed us with the profound mercy and tenderness that comes from Jesus' Real Presence.

Jesus invites us beyond fear, especially in this Easter season. Thomas models for us the fact that fear and love often reside in our hearts at the same time. We strive to touch the deep wounds of the Body of Christ here on earth, our own deep personal poverties, our enduring hungers, our overwhelming adversities, and our enduring abilities to rise up with courage and mercy.

**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.

**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.



**APRIL 30  
SAINT PIUS V  
(1504-1572)**

This is the pope whose job it was to implement the historic Council of Trent. If we think popes had difficulties in implementing Vatican Council II, Pius V had even greater problems after Trent four centuries earlier.

During his papacy (1566-1572), Pius V was faced with the almost overwhelming responsibility of getting a shattered and scattered Church back on its feet. The family of God had been shaken by corruption, by the Reformation, by the constant threat of Turkish invasion, and by the bloody bickering of the young nation-states. In 1545, a previous pope convened the Council of Trent in an attempt to deal with all these pressing problems. Off and on over 18 years, the Fathers of the Church discussed, condemned, affirmed, and decided upon a course of action. The Council closed in 1563.

Pius V was elected in 1566 and was charged with the task of implementing the sweeping reforms called for by the Council. He ordered the founding of seminaries for the proper training of priests. He published a new missal, a new breviary, a new catechism and established the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine classes for the young. Pius zealously enforced legislation against abuses in the Church. He patiently served the sick and the poor by building hospitals, providing food for the hungry, and giving money customarily used for the papal banquets to poor Roman converts. His decision to keep wearing his Dominican habit led to the custom of the pope wearing a white cassock.

In striving to reform both Church and state, Pius encountered vehement opposition from England's Queen Elizabeth and the Roman Emperor Maximilian II. Problems in France and in the Netherlands also hindered Pius's hopes for a Europe united against the Turks. Only at the last minute was he able to organize a fleet which won a decisive victory in the Gulf of Lepanto, off Greece, on October 7, 1571.

Pius's ceaseless papal quest for a renewal of the Church was grounded in his personal life as a Dominican friar. He spent long hours with his God in prayer, fasted rigorously, deprived himself of many customary papal luxuries, and faithfully observed the spirit of the Dominican Rule that he had professed.

Pope St. Pius V long ago and Pope St. Paul VI in our own time through their personal lives and in their actions as popes, both led the family of God in the process of interiorizing and implementing the new birth called for by the Spirit in major Councils. With zeal and patience, Pius and Paul pursued the changes urged by the Council Fathers. Like Pius and Paul, we too are called to constant change of heart and life.



**May 1  
ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER  
SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

In an address to the Catholic Association of Italian Workers, May 1, 1955 Pope Pius XII proclaimed May 1 (May Day) the feast day of St. Joseph the Worker. He thus imparted special religious significance to an observance that had been strictly secular—the proper feast of labor throughout the world—and one that had been used by the enemies of the Church to further their evil designs.

Henceforth, May Day is to be “a day of rejoicing for the concrete and progressive triumph of the Christian ideals of the great family of labor. Acclaimed in this way by Christian workers and having received as it were a Christian Baptism, the First of May, far from being a stimulus for discord, hate, and violence, is and will be a recurring invitation to modern society to accomplish that which is still lacking for social peace.”

Thus, the humble carpenter of Nazareth, who was the support and guardian of the Divine Child and His Virgin Mother on earth, is now honored above all other men as the personification of the dignity of the manual laborer and the provident guardian of the worker's family.

**PRAYER** *Lord God, You have created all things, and imposed on us the necessity of work. Grant that, following St. Joseph's example, and under his protection, we may accomplish the works You give us and obtain the rewards You promise. Amen*



**ST. ANTHONY NOVENA**

The St. Anthony Novena is celebrated each Tuesday, 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.



**MAY CROWNING CEREMONY NEXT SUNDAY**

A tradition in the Church has been the crowning of the statue of Our Blessed Mother during May, which (along with October) is Mary's month. We will crown the statue of Our Lady at the 10:30AM Family Mass next Sunday. The children who will receive First Holy Communion this Saturday will participate in this ceremony as they receive their “second Holy Communion.” **After the Mass we invite you to a gathering in the school cafeteria.**



THE SANCTUARY LAMP BURNING NEAR THE  
TABERNACLE THIS WEEK IS IN LOVING MEMORY  
DOMINIC SCARANO  
15 YEARS IN HEAVEN  
ALWAYS IN OUR HEARTS  
LOVE, JOSEPHINE, JO, PHIL & FAMILY



THIS WEEK'S ALTAR BREAD IS IN LOVING MEMORY  
OF  
BETTY ALFANO  
LOVE, DEBBIE ZOTTOLA & FAMILY



THE FLOWERS IN FRONT OF THE ALTAR THIS WEEK  
IN LOVING MEMORY  
OF  
IRMA ORRICO  
LOVE, FRANK & FAMILY



**THIS YEAR'S BEAUTIFUL PASCHAL CANDLE  
IS IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
FATHER CHARLES SZIVOS  
YOU ARE TRULY MISSED  
FOREVER A PRIEST  
LOVE, CAROL DELUCA & FRANK ROSCONI**



**SATURDAY APRIL 27, 2019**

5:00PM Sal & Maria Zottola

**SUNDAY APRIL 28, 2019**

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

9:00AM Filippo Restifo (6th Anniversary)

10:30AM Mary Sabatello, Sr. Grace Sabatello  
& Frances Ackerly

12:15PM Irma Orrico

1:30PM Rosalba Gomez

5:00PM Mario Sementilli

**MONDAY APRIL 29, 2019**

8:00AM Fr. Tom D'Angelo

9:00AM Ciro Difranc

**TUESDAY APRIL 30, 2019**

8:00AM Richard, Antoinette & Ricky Gillespie

9:00AM Audrey Vacca

**WEDNESDAY MAY 1, 2019**

8:00AM Jose Rodriguez

9:00AM Carmela Pisciotta

**THURSDAY MAY 2, 2019**

8:00AM Gloria V. Torres

9:00AM Joseph Davy & Mamie Brohm

12NOON Ida Celentano

**FRIDAY MAY 3, 2019**

8:00AM Marilyn Taibi

9:00AM Benita Zingaro

**SATURDAY MAY 4, 2019**

8:00AM Mary Cea

9:00AM Benedetta Belitto

5:00PM Marie Gaetano

**SUNDAY MAY 5, 2019**

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

9:00AM Benedetta Bellito

10:30AM Francesca Giaquinta

12:15PM Ann Nutini

1:30PM Carmen G. Torrellas

5:00PM Theresa Vitacco

**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 Orizzo, Marie Petillo, Joseph Pisano,  
Marie Russillo, Camille Siciliano, Mario Simeone, Toni Spahr,  
Florence Valentine, Dean Valentine, Nicholas Vasti,  
Frank Vertullo, Irene Vesely.

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