

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

CHURCH OF ST. THERESA, BRONX

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER DERIVAN

During these weeks after Easter we have been listening in the gospel to Our Lord's words to His apostles at the Last Supper. He was preparing them for what was ahead, His suffering, His death and His resurrection. His words are precious words, His final instructions to the apostles and to us about how to live our lives after He ascended into heaven, the feast we celebrate this Thursday, Ascension Thursday. And today's passage gives us these words, "Whoever loves me will keep my word and my Father will love him and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him." If we love Him, we will remain true to His word and He will dwell within us.

I wonder who Our Lord was thinking of as He said those words. Of course He was thinking of the apostles to whom these words were directed. And in a larger sense He was thinking of all of those who would be His followers, all of those throughout the ages who would keep His word and open their hearts as a dwelling place for Him. He was thinking of all of us. But perhaps Our Lord was thinking of someone else, some ones else, people who had already loved Him by keeping His word and opening their hearts to be a dwelling place for Him. It is natural for people to think back on those who had especially touched their lives. I am sure that we do that, thinking back and thanking God for parents and grandparents, friends and neighbors, teachers and priests, who have touched our lives and brought us closer to God. And so did Jesus. On the night before He died, He thought of the most important person to Him in the world, the most special, the person who above all others welcomed God's word in love and open her heart to be a dwelling place for Him. And of course that is Our Blessed Mother Mary.

Think of those words of Jesus at the Last Supper which we hear today. "Whoever loves me will keep my word." Is there anyone who did that more than Mary? From the moment the Angel Gabriel came to her, she welcomed God's word. "I am the servant of the Lord," she said. "Let it be done to me according to your word." And from that moment on she kept living God's word. She was always ready to do God's will, in good times and in bad, in the joy of Christmas and in the pain of Calvary. And then think of those other words of Jesus which we have heard. "My Father will love Him and we will come to Him and make our dwelling with him." Mary made herself the dwelling place of God. St. Augustine says the greatest dignity of Mary is not that she is the Mother of the Son of God. Her greatest dignity is that she is the first of believers, the first to have faith in Jesus her Son. He says that before she bore Jesus in her womb, she bore Jesus in her heart, in her mind, in her life. If we want to have Jesus within us, then turn to Mary. She knows us, her children. She will help us to make a dwelling place for her Son.

But I think Our Lord was thinking of another person as He said these words, another person who kept God's word and made a dwelling place for the Son of God in his life. He is not on the same level of holiness as Mary. But he certainly comes next. For there was no person dearer to Jesus after His Mother than that good and just man, His foster father, St. Joseph. Earlier this month we honored St. Joseph as the model of the working person. We remember that Joseph was a carpenter who offered his work to the Lord. And we remember that Joseph was always ready to hear God's word, to welcome that word even when it was hard, and to make a dwelling place for Jesus in his heart. Joseph was not Jesus' father. But to Joseph that did not matter. Joseph loved Jesus as his Lord and Joseph loved Jesus as his son.

We will never be able to love Jesus as much as Mary and Joseph did. But we must try our best. Our own St. Theresa said, "I want to love Jesus more than He has ever been loved before." An incredible statement—but something we should all strive for. May we try each day, with the help of Mary and Joseph, to love Jesus more than He has ever been loved before.

Father Thomas B. Derivan

MEMORIAL DAY THIS MONDAY

Monday is our national observance of Memorial Day. Formerly called Decoration Day because it was the day of placing flags on the graves of Civil War casualties, Memorial Day is our opportunity to pray for those who have served our country, particularly those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. It is also our opportunity to remember the young men and women who are currently serving our country in the Armed Forces. We thank them for their service to our country and to our freedom. Let us also remember our disabled veterans who have given so much to keep our country "the land of the free and the home of the brave."



GOD BLESS *The Red, White and Blue*

*Dear Lord I've fought for freedom for many nights and days
it's now on bended knee I come to you, these words please hear me pray.*

*For all my friends and patriots who never said a word
just raised their hand and gave a nod when they were asked to serve.*

*Please honor them and hold them, Your love keep them from harm
may they find some peace tonight in Your loving arms.*

*For all who love this country and stood up so brave and true,
it's only for her rights we fight. God bless the red, white and blue.*

Amen

(from Disabled American Veterans)

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



ST. THERESA ITALIAN AMERICAN FAMILY FEAST UPDATE

WE CONTINUE TO PREPARE FOR THE 2019 ST. THERESA ITALIAN-AMERICAN FAMILY FEAST:

Our annual Feast is only a few weeks away. The Feast this year will be held from Wednesday, June 19th through Sunday, June 23rd. This will be the 23rd annual Feast.

ADVANCE RIDE TICKETS

We are selling advance ride tickets for our feast at a tremendous discount. \$25.00 buys 40 advance ride tickets. These Advance Ride Tickets are available in the bookstore after the weekend Masses, in the rectory weekdays from 9:00AM to 4:30PM, and on our parish website using a debit or credit card.

THE FEAST RAFFLE

A main feature of the Feast is the **Grand Raffle**. Raffle tickets are available at the rectory and also at the information tables in the vestibule of the church on Saturday evening and Sunday after the Masses. Raffle returns may be brought to the rectory or to the information table after our weekend Masses. Please pass the word about our **Grand Raffle** to neighbors and friends. Invite them either to buy a ticket themselves or to “network” with others in buying a ticket. The ticket price is \$100 and our prizes (to be drawn on Sunday, June 23rd at 9:00PM) are as follows:

First Prize- -\$25,000
Second Prize- -\$5,000
Third Prize- -\$1,000

We hope that you and your neighbors will show your support for the Feast this year by buying a Raffle ticket. We depend on your generous help.

We remind you that our **Early Bird Drawing** for the Raffle will be held on Sunday, June 9th after the 10:30AM Mass. The Early Bird winner will receive \$300 and three additional tickets for the raffle.

FEAST VOLUNTEERS MEETING THIS WEDNESDAY:

We hope you can help the Feast by becoming a Feast volunteer. We invite you to our next Feast Volunteers Meeting this Wednesday, May 29th in the rectory meeting room, beginning at 7:00PM. As always, all parishioners and school and CCD parents are welcome to attend. We hope you can be there.

We thank all who are helping to prepare for the Feast and all who have volunteered or who will be volunteering to help. Remember—**WE NEED YOU!!**

CARDINAL DOLAN’S MASS FOR GRADUATES



His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan will celebrate Mass for the Graduating Classes of the Catholic schools of the East and North Bronx here in our church on Ascension Thursday, May 30 at 10:00AM. We are honored that our church was chosen for the celebration of this Mass. May the Lord bless all the graduates of our schools and keep them close to Himself in the years ahead.

A MEMORIAL DAY PRAYER

By the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops



Heavenly Father, on this Memorial Day, we pray for those who courageously laid down their lives for the cause of freedom. May the example of their sacrifice inspire in us the selfless love of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Bless the families of our fallen troops, and fill their homes and their lives with your strength and peace. In union with people of goodwill of every nation, embolden us to answer the call to work for peace and justice and, thus, seek and end to violence and conflict around the globe. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS FOR THIS SUNDAY

Today's Gospel takes us back to the Upper Room. During the Last Supper, before confronting his passion and death on the cross, Jesus promises the Apostles the gift of the Holy Spirit, who will have the task of teaching and recalling Jesus' words to the community of disciples. Jesus says, "The Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you." Teach and recall. This is what the Holy Spirit does in our hearts.

At the moment in which he is about to return to the Father, Jesus foretells of the coming of the Spirit who will first teach the disciples to understand the Gospel ever more fully, in order to welcome it in their existence and to render it living and operative by their witness. While he is about to entrust to the Apostles - which in fact means "envoys" - the mission of taking the Gospel to all the world, Jesus promises that they will not be alone. The Holy Spirit, the counselor, will be with them, and will be beside them. Moreover, He will be within them, to protect and support them. Jesus returns to the Father but continues to accompany and teach his disciples through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The second aspect of the Holy Spirit's mission consists in helping the Apostles to remember Jesus' words. The Spirit has the task of reawakening the memory, recalling Jesus' words. The Spirit will recall Jesus' teachings in the various concrete circumstances of life, so that they may be put into practice. That is precisely what still happens today in the Church, guided by the light and the power of the Holy Spirit, so that he may bring to everyone the gift of salvation, which is the love and mercy of God.

We are not alone: Jesus is close to us, among us, within us! His new presence in history happens through the gift of the Holy Spirit, through whom it is possible to instill a living relationship with Him, the Crucified and Risen One. The Spirit, flowing within us through the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, acts in our life. He guides us in the way to think, to act, to distinguish between what is good and what is bad; he helps us to practice the charity of Jesus, his giving of himself to others, especially to the most needy. We are not alone! The sign of the presence of the Holy Spirit is also the peace that Jesus gives to his disciples: "My peace I give to you." It is different from what mankind hopes for or tries to achieve. The peace of Jesus flows from victory over sin, over selfishness which impedes us from loving one another as brothers and sisters. It is a gift of God and a sign of his presence. Each disciple called today to follow Jesus carrying the cross, receives within himself or herself the peace of the Crucified and Risen One in the certainty of his victory and in expectation of his coming in glory.

Regina Coeli Address, May 1, 2016

THE 'HABIT' OF PRAYER

"Just trust Christ," said St. Clare of Assisi, as a frightening crisis developed. Yes, she agreed, this was one of those times to pray as if life depended on it. And no, searching out a prayer book or a formal prayer from memory would not do.

Clare reminded the Sisters that prayer is simply being present to God - who is always present to us. Prayer is as necessary to our lives as the air we breathe. Our responsibility is to humbly accept God's gift of prayer - and put it into practice.

As Clare's words resounded despite her illness, the Poor Clares let go of their fear ... prayed, and discovered a near miracle: Suddenly the invading army turned and left the region.

That is quite the lesson for three little words. And yes, quite the 'teacher.' The spring season is a time for taking inventory - a very good time to look over our spiritual life, beginning with personal prayer: Are we still praying as we did in childhood?

- Do we make time to be with God whether claiming prayer time by marking the calendar or arriving quarter-hour early for prayer before Sunday Mass?
- Do we pray with the Church - that is, look to the Gospel and the Readings at Sunday Mass? God is also powerfully present to us in the Liturgy of the Word itself a kind of *Listening Prayer*. Let the words touch your heart and soul. Read them again at home. You may want to keep a notebook for these passages - a surprising dividend when you look again in another season, another year.
- Do you pray without realizing it? Likely so. Perhaps as you take that 'good health' run or exercise walk or stand in the endless lines we so often encounter or even washing dishes or mowing the lawn. Keep offering these things as you pray to God!

As recounted by Sister Angeluccia of Spoleto - a contemporary of the Poor Clare founders, St. Clare did not pray solely when in danger or when seeking miracles. With Clare, profoundly aware of God's presence and love, anything could prompt joyful and grateful prayer. Sisters going on errands for the monastery were to pray in celebration of the beauty and wonder of God's Creation. As a matter of fact, Sister Angeluccia emphasized, Mother Clare "**cautioned them to praise God whenever they had the chance to see beautiful trees, blooming and gorgeous ... to meet people and other creatures ... always to praise God in all and from all creatures.**"

Quite the Prayer Professor, Mother Clare.

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.

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.



**MAY 27TH
ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY
Bishop († 604)**

Augustine was the among the forty monks sent to evangelize the pagan English by Pope Saint Gregory the Great in 596. So daunting was this mission that the monks almost gave up in France, discouraged by reports of the hostilities they were likely to face. When a group of them returned to Gregory for guidance, Gregory made Augustine their leader, and bade them carry on. Arriving in Kent, on the Isle of Thanet, Augustine successfully baptized King Ethelbert in short order. A flood of conversions followed.

Augustine, the “Apostle to the English,” became the first Bishop of Canterbury. He founded the sees of London and Rochester, and established the Monastery of Saints Peter and Paul.

Among his evangelizing efforts, Augustine introduced the practice of the Ember Days to England. Pagan Romans gathered three times a year to call down the gods’ protection—on the seeding (December), the harvest (June), and the vintage (September). Christians had embraced these observances and purified their purpose. A fourth celebration was added after Ash Wednesday, to coincide with the beginning of spring. At each Embertide, lasting three days, prayers of thanksgiving were offered and extra assistance was given to the poor. The Ember Days were days when priests were ordained. Until 1966, they were observed as fast days.

Eternal Father, through the intercession of Saint Augustine of Canterbury, deepen my gratitude for the bounty of the earth.

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

PRAYER FOR THE ARMED SERVICES



O God, almighty and most gracious, we acknowledge your dominion on earth and in the heavens, and the infinite love manifested in your relationship with all people. As the Creator you have made the world and invited us to share in its development; as the Redeemer, you saved the world an invited us to participate in its salvation.

Give to the men and women of the Armed Services the wisdom and courage to so live and sacrifice that, with justice maintained and true liberty safeguarded, all people everywhere may be possessed of that peace which you alone can give.

As they are called to engage in dangerous missions, be with them, their constant support and their ultimate goal. May they know your continuous care and protection as they give of themselves that others may know security and peace. Amen.

Our Lady Queen of Peace

Pray for us.

From: *Prayers for Today* by Terence Cardinal Cooke

ASCENSION THURSDAY—MASS SCHEDULE

This Thursday, May 30th, is Ascension Thursday when Our Lord returned to His Father in heaven. It is a holyday of obligation. We will have a change of schedule for the holyday. Cardinal Dolan will be coming to celebrate Mass for the 8th Grade students in the East Bronx at 10AM in our church. This will necessitate a change in our parish Mass schedule. Therefore our Ascension Thursday schedule will be as follows:

Wednesday, May 29th—7:30PM Mass
Thursday, May 30th—8:00AM Mass
NO 9:00AM MASS
1:00pm Mass (instead of 12 Noon)
7:30PM Mass

RENEW AND REBUILD CAMPAIGN—COMMITMENT WEEKEND



This weekend we are once again distributing information about our Renew and Rebuild Campaign.

You will notice today in church that our new kneelers have been installed in the benches of the church. This was made possible by the parishioners who have already contributed to the Renew and Rebuild Campaign. The original kneelers were in disrepair and we hope you are pleased with the new ones.

As you know we have other projects to complete for our church. Your generosity in making a pledge for the Campaign will make those improvements possible.

Please take home the pledge form that you will receive today. If you wish you may fill it out before you leave church today. It is not necessary to make a payment at this time; reminders will be sent to you by the Renew and Rebuild Office.

We are asking every parishioner and every family to take part in this Campaign. We hope you will be able to do so. Thank you for helping to keep “**St. Theresa Strong!**”



I Dominick Ionta & Deborah Polykarpous



SATURDAY MAY 25, 2019

5:00PM Sylvester & Maria Zottola

SUNDAY MAY 26, 2019

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

9:00AM Assunta & Luigi Miniaci

10:30AM Sylvester Zottola

12:15PM Anna Daniele Riccardi

1:30PM Anibel Lopez

5:00PM Hilda Maldonado

MONDAY MAY 27, 2019

8:00AM Edward Lopez Jr.

9:00AM Marie Clark

TUESDAY MAY 28, 2019

8:00AM Vincent Janniello

9:00AM Mary Dimitratos

WEDNESDAY MAY 29, 2019

8:00AM Michele, Luigia, Giovanni & Angela Iacobuono

9:00AM Christopher DeVino

7:30PM Amin Hilario

THURSDAY MAY 30, 2019

8:00AM Jane E. Serio

10:00AM School Mass

1:00PM Marilyn Taibi

7:30PM Ralph Bockino

FRIDAY MAY 31, 2019

8:00AM Mary Cea

9:00AM John Deans

SATURDAY JUNE 1, 2019

8:00AM Gabriella Donovan

9:00AM Luke Turrisi

5:00PM Ida DeGennaro

SUNDAY JUNE 2, 2019

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

9:00AM Marie Sansalone

10:30AM Maria & Giovanni Cala

12:15PM Betty Bonifacio

1:30PM Rosalba Gomez

5:00PM Deceased Members of DeJohn, Remy & Ferrara Families



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH AND THEIR FAMILIES
DAVID GANCI & FRANCES CORRADO-CAPPA



THE SANCTUARY LAMP BURNING NEAR THE TABERNACLE THIS WEEK IS IN LOVING MEMORY OF
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THIS WEEK'S ALTAR BREAD IS IN LOVING MEMORY OF
FRANK & CARLO PORCO
FROM, THE ZOTTOLA & ADDARIO FAMILY



THE FLOWERS IN FRONT OF THE ALTAR THIS WEEK IN LOVING MEMORY OF
JOHN J. DEANS
LOVE, YOUR CHILDREN



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.

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

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