

# 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*

*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](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

### FROM THE DESK OF FATHER DERIVAN:

#### FATHER CHARLES' FIRST ANNIVERSARY

Today we give thanks to God for our dear Father Charles. *Our dear Father Charles.* Is that not the point? For so many people, for all of us here in this parish and in all the places where he served, he was simply "our Father Charles."

One of the greatest blessings of my life happened when he was ordained in 1999 and was assigned to St. Helena Parish where Father Joseph, Father Gomez and I were blessed to have him working with us for the first five years of his priesthood. When he was ordained, our late beloved John Cardinal O'Connor (for whom Father Charles had great affection) wrote this, "I pray God will richly bless you and the people who are entrusted to your service." He certainly fulfilled those words. From his first day with us, he was "our Father Charles," dearly loved by the people he served. When I mentioned to Cardinal Dolan (who was always so solicitous for Father Charles' health) that he was dearly loved here at St. Theresa's, the Cardinal said this beautiful remark, "He was dearly loved wherever he served." I think he learned to be the person he was from his dear parents Charles and Mary. Like a good mother, when he was thinking about the priesthood, Mary gave him the soundest advice any mother could give, "Only become a priest if you will be a good priest." He certainly listened to his mother because he truly was a good and faithful priest. I must share this story with you about the first Sunday he offered Mass at St. Helena's. It was June 6th, D-Day, 1999. His father, a World War II veteran, was in a wheelchair. I welcomed him to our church particularly on that day since he had proudly served in the D-Day invasion in Normandy. And then I welcomed his dear mother Mary. I said to her, "Mrs. Szivos, thank you for giving us your son as a priest." Now Mary Szivos was quite strong and outspoken in her opinions. I must admit I was not prepared for what came next. After I greeted her, she grabbed my shirt and pointed her finger at me and said words I will never forget, "You be good to my son." And all I could say was, "Yes, m'am." What I did not know on that day was how good this young priest would be to us. All he ever wanted was to be a parish priest. The one who saw that in him was my good friend and the good friend of so many here, Father Herbert D'Argenio, who previously served here in this parish and who then was pastor of Father Charles' church, St. Lucy's. Father D'Argenio told me about this young man in his parish whom he was encouraging to prepare for the priesthood. And the words that Father D'Argenio used of him were the words of Jesus in the gospel, the words the Lord spoke about St. Nathaniel at their first meeting, "Behold a man in whom there is no guile." There was no guile in Father Charles, no deceit, no falsehood, no pride, no hypocrisy. He was just a priest, just a priest and that says enough. He knew his weakness as we all should. But he knew who he was from the moment of ordination—a priest forever. He was a priest serving us on earth for nineteen wonderful years. Now he is our priest serving us in heaven." Be assured he will.

So many beautiful things have been said about him since his sudden passing a year ago. Some of the best remarks came from teenagers. One of them said to me, "Father Charles was like a representative of Jesus." He certainly was and how blessed we were to have him bring Jesus more and more into our lives. Another youngster said, "Father Charles was like family." How true—he made everyone feel that they belonged to him. But my favorite remark came from a youngster who said to me not once but many times, "Father Charles is the nice priest." (I often wondered if he was the nice priest, what did that make me?) But he was the nice priest. At first that could sound very simplistic. But it was not. He radiated niceness and niceness meant goodness, the goodness that shined on his face and lived in his heart. He was the nice priest who touched our hearts and made us better, all of us. Cardinal O'Connor used to say to newly ordained priests, "Be kind to your people." Father Charles was kindness personified, a kindness that reflected the love of Jesus Himself. We will never forget the nice priest.

Today we celebrate not his death, but his life. Today we celebrate with joy and not with sadness. When he died a year ago, I mentioned to the children at our school an old saying, "Don't be sad that something is over; be glad that it happened." Let us be glad that Father Charles happened for us all. And like his friend St. Theresa, may he spend his heaven doing good on earth for us all.

Thank you, Father Charles, the "nice priest."

Father Thomas B. Derivan

A memorial plaque will be dedicated too Father Charles at the 10:30AM Family Mass today.

#### MASSSES OF WEDNESDAY IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE WORLD TRADE CENTER TRAGEDY



As we observe the 18th anniversary of the World Trade Center tragedy of September 11, 2001, our Masses on Wednesday will be at 8:00AM and 9:00AM and a special evening Mass at 7:00PM. We encourage you to come to pray and to remember.



SAVE THE DATE

NOVEMBER 1, 2019  
LADIES NIGHT FALL BINGO  
ST. THERESA SCHOOL GYM  
STARTS AT 7:00PM



## MARY'S BIRTHDAY: SEPTEMBER 8TH

Popularly known as "Our Lady's Birthday," the Feast of Mary's Nativity is celebrated on September 8th. That is exactly nine months to the day of the Solemn Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8th. No accident, because the feasts are closely related. Here is how and why:

The great Holy Day of December 8th marks God's unique gift to Mary. In view of her role in God's plan to be mother of the Redeemer, Christ's mission as Redeemer applied to Mary, even before her birth. She would enter the world, full of grace.

As *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* makes note, the early Fathers of the Eastern Church saluted Mary, the Mother of God as "the All-Holy." They believed that Mary remained "free of every personal sin her whole life long." And that is what Pope Pius IX taught when he proclaimed the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception in 1854.

*"The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception... preserved immune from all stain of original sin."*

This gift came, the Pope explained, via "a singular grace and privilege of Almighty God, and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race."

Now, then, we can "fast forward" in time, but backwards on the calendar, to September 8th; marking the celebration of Mary's Birth. A wonderful and joyful feast, for Mary's birth in this world sets into motion God's long-awaited promise of the Redeemer, the Messiah.

All that would be needed is the free decision of the young woman whom we meet in the Gospel account. She is described as "a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary." (Luke 1:26-27). The mighty and fearsome Archangel Gabriel salutes her. "Hail, Mary, full of grace... Blessed are you among women."

"Let it be done to me as you say," Mary replied, after she had questioned God's messenger, opening her life to God's will. All the young woman's natural fears were snuffed out by Mary's faith. Likewise, by her experience of the presence of the Loving God, a singular grace Mary experienced long before she could remember how or why. So Mary's joyful heart welcomed God's invitation... and God's plan of Salvation, could be set in motion, at last.

Tradition tells us that Mary was born in Jerusalem. Her father was called Joachim, and her mother, Anne. In the 12th Century, Christians who researched Mary's childhood built the Church of St. Anne to mark the childhood home of the Mother of God. That beautiful church became a favorite of pilgrims, then and now. A reminder of Mary's unique destiny from that day of her birth to her role in Heaven, even today.

This Feast of Mary's Nativity, kept today on September 8th and celebrated years before the 7th Century dawned, invites our prayer today. Pray that we can keep our eyes and heart centered on Mary's Son, our Lord and Savior, just as His Holy Mother did.

(From Franciscan Mission Associates)



## SEPTEMBER 8TH BIRTH OF MARY

The Church has celebrated Mary's birth since at least the sixth century. A September birth was chosen because the Eastern Church begins its liturgical year with September. The September 8th date helped determine the date for the feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8th (nine months earlier).

Scripture does not give an account of Mary's birth. However, the apocryphal Protoevangelium of James fills in the gap. This work has no historical value, but it does reflect the development of Christian piety. According to this account, Ann and Joachim are infertile but pray for a child. They receive the promise of a child that will advance God's plan of salvation for the world. Such a story (like many biblical counterparts) stresses the special presence of God in Mary's life from the beginning.

St. Augustine connects Mary's birth with Jesus' saving work. He tells the earth to rejoice and shine forth in the light of her birth. "She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley." The opening prayer at Mass speaks of the birth of Mary's Son as the dawn of our salvation and asks for an increase of peace.

We can see every human birth as a call for new hope in the world. The love of two human beings has joined with God in his creative work. The loving parents have shown hope in a world filled with travail. The new child has the potential to be a channel of God's love and peace to the world.

This is all true in a magnificent way in Mary. If Jesus is the perfect expression of God's love, Mary is the foreshadowing of that love. If Jesus has brought the fullness of salvation, Mary is its dawning.

Birthday celebrations bring happiness to the celebrant as well as to family and friends. Next to the birth of Jesus, Mary's birth offers the greatest possible happiness to the world. Each time we celebrate her birth, we can confidently hope for an increase of peace in our hearts and in the world at large.

*"Today the barren Anna claps her hands for joy, the earth radiates with light, kings sing their happiness, priests enjoy every blessing, the entire universe rejoices, for she who is queen and the Father's immaculate bride buds forth from the stem of Jesse"*

### 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.

SEPTEMBER 8, 2019

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER DERIVAN II: REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

This Wednesday, we will observe the 18th anniversary of the World Trade Center tragedy of September 11, 2001. We join with all Americans in prayer for the victims and their families; for the first responders, many of whom are suffering from the effects of that day; and, of course, for our country that we will remain true to our belief in freedom and justice, no matter what opposition we may face or threats we may have to endure. September 11th is not just the day of a tragedy; it is our celebration of *"America the Beautiful."*

The occasion of the anniversary of the World Trade Center tragedy should be a day of deep prayer for all of us. And why? Because your prayers are strong. Our Lord promises us that where two or three are gathered in His name, He will be with them. We have His word for that. The greatest weapon that we have against violence and terrorism is the one we have available to us at every moment, namely prayer itself. Do not underestimate the power of prayer to change hearts and to change the world. Pray for our country, that we will remember how precious freedom is and how precious America is. Pray for those brave people who keep our country safe. Pray for the countless police officers, firefighters, emergency personnel who put their lives on the line each day to keep us safe. But also pray that those who turn to terrorism and violence will have a change of heart and will realize that the taking of life can never be justified, whether it is the life of innocent workers in the Trade Center or the life of an innocent baby in his mother's womb. Pray not only today but every day that our children will never again have to witness what we all witnessed eighteen years ago.

After another scene of terror, a century and a half ago, President Abraham Lincoln, stood on the battlefield of Gettysburg, where so many lives were lost. Mr. Lincoln paid honor to those who died for their country. But he also challenged his people, in his words, "to here highly resolve that these honored dead shall not have died in vain." We resolve to make our lives better, our families better, our city and country and world better. Let us pray and work together, always remembering that when we do so, we are not alone. We have Jesus' promise, "Do not be afraid. I am with you always until the end of time.

Father Thomas B. Derivan

PRAYER OF HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI AT GROUND ZERO

Sunday, 20 April 2008



O God of love, compassion, and healing, look on us, people of many different faiths and traditions, who gather to remember the scene of incredible violence and pain.

We ask you in your goodness to give eternal light and peace to all who died there: the heroic first-responders: our fire fighters, police officers, emergency service workers along with all the innocent men and women who were victims of this tragedy simply because their work or service brought them there on September 11, 2001.

God of peace, bring your peace to our violent world: peace in the hearts of all men and women and peace among the nations of the earth. Turn to your way of love those whose hearts and minds are consumed with hatred.

God of understanding, overwhelmed by the magnitude of this tragedy, we seek your light and guidance as we confront such terrible events. Grant that those whose lives were spared may live so that the lives lost here may not have been lost in vain. Comfort and console us, strengthen us in hope, and give us the wisdom and courage to work tirelessly for a world where true peace and love reign among nations and in the hearts of all.

THEY ARE NOT FORGOTTEN



At the rising of the Sun and at its going down, **They Are Not Forgotten.**

At the blowing of the wind and the chill of the Winter, **They Are Not Forgotten.**

At the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of Spring, **They Are Not Forgotten.**

At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of Summer, **They Are Not Forgotten.**

At the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of Autumn, **They Are Not Forgotten.**

At the beginning of the year and when it ends, **They Are Not Forgotten.**

When we are weary and in need of strength, **They Are Not Forgotten.**

When we are lost and sick of heart, **They Are Not Forgotten.**

When we have joy we crave to share, **They Are Not Forgotten.**

When we have decisions that are difficult to make, **They Are Not Forgotten.**

When we have achievements that are based on theirs, **They Are Not Forgotten.**

As long as we live, they too will live for they are now a part of us.

**They Are Not Forgotten.**



## SEPTEMBER 14TH TRIUMPH OF THE CROSS

Early in the fourth century St. Helena, mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, went to Jerusalem in search of the holy places of Christ's life. She razed the Temple of Aphrodite, which tradition held was built over the Savior's tomb, and her son built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher over the Savior's tomb. During the excavation, workers found three crosses. Legend has it that the one on which Jesus died was identified when its touch healed a dying woman.

The cross immediately became an object of veneration. At a Good Friday celebration in Jerusalem toward the end of the fourth century, according to an eyewitness, the wood was taken out of its silver container and placed on a table together with the inscription Pilate ordered placed above Jesus' head: Then "all the people pass through one by one; all of them bow down, touching the cross and the inscription, first with their foreheads, then with their eyes; and, after kissing the cross, they move on."

To this day the Eastern Churches, Catholic and Orthodox alike, celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on the September anniversary of the basilica's dedication. The feast entered the Western calendar in the seventh century after Emperor Heraclius recovered the cross from the Persians, who had carried it off in 614, 15 years earlier. According to the story, the emperor intended to carry the cross back into Jerusalem himself, but was unable to move forward until he took off his imperial garb and became a barefoot pilgrim. The cross is today the universal image of Christian belief. Countless generations of artists have turned it into a thing of beauty to be carried in procession or worn as jewelry. To the eyes of the first Christians, it had no beauty. It stood outside too many city walls, decorated only with decaying corpses, as a threat to anyone who defied Rome's authority—including the heretic sect which refused sacrifice to Roman gods. Although believers spoke of the cross as the instrument of salvation, it seldom appeared in Christian art unless disguised as an anchor or the Chi-Rho until after Constantine's edict of toleration.

"How splendid the cross of Christ! It brings life, not death; light, not darkness; Paradise, not its loss. It is the wood on which the Lord, like a great warrior, was wounded in hands and feet and side, but healed thereby our wounds. A tree has destroyed us, a tree now brought us life."



### FLU SHOTS AVAILABLE NEXT SUNDAY

Once again this year Rite Aid Pharmacy will have flu shots available here at St. Theresa's School next Sunday, September 15th from 10:00AM to 2:00PM. Flu shots will be available in the school cafeteria. Please bring insurance information.



## ST. HELENA AND THE TRUE CROSS

Saint Helena is distinguished in history as the woman led by God to find the True Cross of Jesus Christ's crucifixion. This is attested to by the early church with such formidable sources as St. Ambrose, St. John Chrysostom, St. Paulinus of Nola and others.

St. Helena, born in 255AD in Bythnia, part of modern day Turkey, was the wife of the Roman Emperor, Constantius Chlorus. She was the mother of Constantine the Great, proclaimed Roman Emperor at the death of his father, Chlorus, in 306AD. Although a pagan, Constantine was greatly influenced by Christianity and by the Christian faith of St. Helena. Consequently, he turned to the God of the Christians in a desperate prayer for victory when his rule over the empire was seriously threatened by the vastly superior military force of Maxentius. At the battle of the Milvian Bridge, in a suburb of Rome, in 312AD, he was given a startling sign of victory. He saw a flaming cross in the sky. Beneath the cross were the words, "*In hoc signo vinces*" - "In this sign you will conquer." Conquer he did and the empire was saved. Soon after, with a sense of gratitude, Constantine planned to build a basilica in Jerusalem venerating the cross and sepulchre of Jesus.

St. Helena at the age of 80 went to Jerusalem to supervise the work. She found that the sacred place of the crucifixion and resurrection had been desecrated by the Romans who had filled the area with rubble, erecting a temple to Venus and a statue of Jupiter. Seized with a burning desire to find the True Cross, St. Helena ordered the temple and statue demolished and excavations made in the pile of rubble. Three crosses were found together with some nails and a sign inscribed in Hebrew, Greek and Latin, "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews." The sign, however, was found separated from the crosses. There was the question as to which was the true Cross. Bishop Macarius of Jerusalem suggested the applications of each cross to an incurably ill woman. The application of the first two failed. The third was successful. She was instantly cured. Thus, the True Cross was identified by a divine sign.

Msgr. Philip Mulcahy

### SUMMER SUNDAY CONTRIBUTIONS

We are always grateful for your generous support of our parish particularly through the weekly collection at Sunday Mass. During the summer, of course, many parishioners have been traveling and attending Mass at other churches. If you have not been here for Mass on Sundays during the summer, please consider "making up" for your Sunday contributions, either by putting envelopes for the Sundays you were not here in the collection next Sunday or by placing your contribution for Sundays you were not here in an envelope marked "Summer Contributions," so that we can keep a proper record. Our expenses during the summer remain the same as during the rest of the year. Thank you for your generous help in meeting those expenses and keeping "St. Theresa Strong."





II Ryan Wirging & Alexandra Casablanca  
II Christopher Landi & Alina Sheglov



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED  
MEMBER OF OUR PARISH AND HIS FAMILY  
WILLIAM O'DWYER



THIS WEEK'S ALTAR BREAD IS IN LOVING MEMORY  
OF  
ANNA TARTARONE  
LOVE, JOSEPHINE FANELLI & FAMILY



THE FLOWERS IN FRONT OF THE ALTAR THIS WEEK  
IN MEMORY  
OF  
FR. CHARLES SZIVOS  
1ST ANNIVERSARY IN HEAVEN  
LOVE, MARGIE

#### 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.



#### We are in need of Food 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, c canned or boxed juices or any other non-perishable items. We can also use coffee, cake mixes and frostings, Jello and puddings and crackers.

#### 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.**



#### SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 2019

5:00PM Bella Delaney

#### SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 2019

7:30AM John & Annie Sweeney

9:00AM Maria Rosa Gentile

10:30AM Alfio DiLeo

12:15PM Janet DeFrancis

1:30PM Rosalba Gomez

5:00PM Parishioners of St. Theresa

#### MONDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 2019

8:00AM Timothy & Ruth Stewart

9:00AM Dilullo Family

#### TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 10, 2019

8:00AM Luis Alfredo Velez Sr.

9:00AM John Ruggerio

#### WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

8:00AM Nicoletta Maria Giannakopoulos

9:00AM Antonio & Pasqua Palumbo

7:00PM John Gallagher & Victims of 9/11/2001

#### THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2019

8:00AM Aida Rios

9:00AM Vincenzo Fernicola

12NOON Roberta Palomba

#### FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 2019

8:00AM Mary Cea

9:00AM Helen Virgintino

#### SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2019

8:00AM Regina Martucci

9:00AM Dorothy Ferrante

5:00PM Hegarty & Tracey Families

#### SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 2019

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

9:00AM Marie Sansalone

10:30AM Sal & Maria Zottola

12:15PM Bob DeGennaro

1:30PM Susan

5:00PM Vito Manginelli

#### PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH:

Phyllis Amitrano, Maryann Cale Bannan, Kenny Brisco, 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, Frances Regine, Marie Russillo, Camille Siciliano, Mario Simeone, Toni Spahr, Florence Valentine, Dean Valentine, Nicholas Vasti, Frank Vertullo, Irene Vesely.

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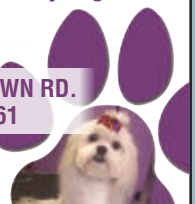


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