

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
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

Jesus says many things to us in the gospel today. He reminds us that we must be trustworthy, not like the unjust steward in the gospel. He reminds us that we cannot serve two masters—God and mammon, a word which means the things of this world, money, power, prestige and fame. But for a few moments I ask you to reflect on the opening words of the gospel today and they are these: “A rich man had a steward who was reported to him for squandering his property.” If you remember, the same word was used in the gospel last Sunday, the story of the prodigal son who squandered his father’s money and his own inheritance. Our Lord warns us about squandering, wasting, squandering what we have, wasting what He has given to us. Jesus wants us never to waste our time on foolish things, but rather to give our time to loving Him and one another.

If there was ever a saint who never wasted God’s love and who spent his whole life loving God and God’s people, it was certainly a saint whose feast we celebrate tomorrow. We have placed his picture in the rear of church (along with the picture of St. Mother Teresa). He is one of the most beloved saints of the Church. He is officially called St. Pio of Pietrelcina, after his place of birth. But most people call him by a different name. They call him affectionately by the simple name St. Padre Pio. He was born in 1887 and his original name was Francesco Forgione. When he was a teenager one day he heard Jesus speaking to him from the tabernacle in his church. He joined the Capuchin friars at the age of 15 and was given the name Pio. He studied to become a priest because he did not want to waste what God gave him; he wanted to give Himself completely to loving God and God’s people. People then called him Padre Pio. On September 20, 1918, one hundred and one years ago, as he was praying, Padre Pio was given a very unusual gift. He was given the stigmata, the wounds of Jesus in his hands and feet and side. He bore those wounds for fifty years, for the rest of his life.

People came to him from everywhere because they knew he was close to God. A young priest in Poland asked the Padre to pray for a sick woman and that woman was cured. The priest who requested Padre Pio’s prayers would one day become Pope St. John Paul II who later on declared him a saint. People honored him and loved him as a living saint. What made Padre Pio a saint was that he bore those wounds in love of God and His people. The holy padre was far from rich in the world’s sense—he was just a poor Franciscan friar. And yet he was rich in the things of God, rich in love of Christ Crucified, rich in his love for God’s people. He never wasted God’s love. He filled his life with love of God and service of others.

We should all know about St. Padre Pio. But even more than that, we should come to know him through our prayers and devotion. He should be our special friend in heaven. May St. Padre Pio help us all. May he help us not to waste God’s love. May he help us to serve our only Master, Jesus the Lord.



SEPTEMBER 23
ST. PIO OF PIETRELCINA, Priest

Born in 1887 in the small village of Pietrelcina in the south of Italy, Francesco Forgione joined the Order of Franciscan Capuchins at the age of fifteen and took the name Pio. He was ordained seven years later and assigned to the monastery of San Giovanni Rotondo in his village.

For fifty years, Padre Pio, as he came to be known, was a much sought after spiritual advisor, confessor, and intercessor whose life was devoted to the Eucharist and prayer. People came from all over the world to see him celebrate Mass and ask for his help.

On September 20, 1918, Padre Pio received the Stigmata, the wounds of Christ in his body. He was to carry these wounds for the next fifty years. Many Church officials and doctors examined his wounds. Some of them thought that he might be faking his wounds. However, after examining him, almost all were convinced that his Stigmata was truly from God.

Padre Pio would especially suffer while he was celebrating Holy Mass each day. It was as if he were experiencing just what Jesus did on the Cross. Like Jesus, he would lose much blood from his wounds. He would always offer up these sufferings for the salvation of the world.

Padre Pio ate very little and slept even less. All his time was devoted to prayer and meditation and serving God’s people, especially hearing their confessions and offering spiritual advice. Late in his life, Padre Pio was able to open a “House To Relieve Suffering” that would take care of not only the people’s physical needs but also their spiritual needs.

After an entire life lived for God, doing good works and even miracles, Padre Pio died on September 23, 1968. So many people believed that Padre Pio was a Saint that by the next year the Capuchin friars asked the Church to consider canonizing him. Over the next several years all of the friar’s writings and actions were examined, and by 1983 the official process was in work.

Padre Pio was beatified in 1999 by Pope John Paul II and canonized in 2002 by the same Pontiff.

PRAYER God, through a singular grace You enabled Your Priest St. Pio to participate in the Cross of Your Son and through his ministry You renewed the wonders of Your mercy. Grant that by his intercession we may be continually united with Christ’s Passion and reach the glory of His Resurrection. Amen.

THE HOME FRONT

By Diana Dudoit Raiche

The adage “monkey-see-monkey-do” fits children and youth well. Many a parent has been horrified to see one of their children imitating some of their less flattering remarks and behaviors. Children mirror our behavior because they spend so much time watching the adults in their lives, who seem to be all-knowing and all-powerful. As they get older, youth copy each other’s dress, language and behaviors and that of adults with star-power.

It does not take a genius to realize that youth learn by mimicking what they see and hear. Without reserve or censure at first, because they have not yet developed a moral compass to guide them in life, young children just do what we do and say what we say because to them life is a series of discoveries. They absorb information beyond their ability to understand and play back behavior without regard to context because they do not know better. As long as children will be children, parents will have to be adults if children are to receive the kind of spiritual training they need, for all learning starts in the home.

What makes home, home?

The family is the first community a child experiences. Wherever the family is, there is the home: the symbol of love and security. That lesson became very real to me when our family moved, and our oldest child was about five years old. For several days, toys and clothes disappeared into boxes. Furniture was whisked out the door. Everything was topsy-turvy. This particular move was only across town, from a rental house to our very first home. But this was already our sixth move, her fourth, and we had already figured out that all moves are messy, disorienting and exhausting.

We shielded her and our nine-month-old from as much of the confusion as possible. When we finally got back together and went through the front door, with a great sense of relief, our oldest proclaimed, “Yep, it’s home! There’s our stuff.” What made home, home for her was having us together with our belongings. Finding a favorite doll or the crucifix that went next to the light switch was to make home, home again.

Domestic church

Long before the Church began calling home the domestic church, many parents instinctively knew what that concept meant. Home is the first place a child learns about love. In the home, a child learns to experience trust and distrust, needs gratification or neglect, peace or panic, gentleness or rage.

Original experiences at home shape a child’s character and leave indelible impressions. The Church emphasizes the domestic church to highlight that parents are the first and most important teachers in faith. A child who learns to obey the laws of the home understands what it means to obey the laws of God.

A child who learns to pray at a tender age grows up understanding that prayer, talking to and listening to an almighty, all-powerful and all-loving God, is what grown-ups do. Children love to do what we do. It engenders identity and a sense of belonging.

Christian initiation of children and the domestic church

When a baby is baptized, one assumes that the parents will raise the child in the faith. When an older child enters the catechumenate, the home may or may not be the ideal domestic church. It is important to ask these older children basic questions. Do you ever ask about God? Do you ever call upon the name of God in prayer? Do you pray with your family? Have you been to church to pray with the larger faith family? Have you ever asked question about heaven or where people go when they die?

If their curiosity is not suppressed, children are natural theologians, unafraid to ask the big questions of life. The answers they first receive on the home-front shape their religious imaginations for better or worse. These answers can become stepping-stones or stumbling blocks to future faith development.

Religious educators, Catholic schools, and pastors cannot do what only parents can: create a God-centered home where behavior is guided by godly living, where there is continuity between faith at home, faith at church, and faith in everyday life. Church is not where we go to get faith; it is where we go to praise God for the gift of faith - a gift shared with us first by parents at home.



All Seniors are invited to join local AARP chapter 5174. We meet the second Wednesday of the month at Knights of Columbus at Ampere Avenue. All you need is your national AARP membership card.

If you have any questions regarding membership call Joe Maiorana at 718-792-0602 . Looking forward to seeing you.



AARP CHAPTER 5174 is sponsoring a trip to Mohegan Sun Casino on Thursday, October 17, 2019.

Price \$40.00—Casino returns \$15.00 in Free Play
\$15.00 in Food

If you are interested please call Joe Maiorana at 718-792-0602.



SAVE THE DATE

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

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR HURRICANE VICTIMS
The second collection this weekend will be for the hurricane victims in the Bahamas. Proceeds will be sent to the St. Vincent de Paul Society in the Bahamas. Thank you for your generosity to those who have suffered so much.



SEPTEMBER 27
ST. VINCENT de PAUL
(1580?-1660)

The deathbed confession of a dying servant opened Vincent's eyes to the crying spiritual needs of the peasantry of France. This seems to have been a crucial moment in the life of the man from a small farm in Gascony, France, who had become a priest with little more ambition than to have a comfortable life.

It was the Countess de Gondi (whose servant he had helped) who persuaded her husband to endow and support a group of able and zealous missionaries who would work among poor tenant farmers and country people in general. Vincent was too humble to accept leadership at first, but after working for some time in Paris among imprisoned galley-slaves, he returned to be the leader of what is now known as the Congregation of the Mission, or the Vincentians. These priests, with vows of poverty, chastity, obedience and stability, were to devote themselves entirely to the people in smaller towns and villages.

Later, Vincent established confraternities of charity for the spiritual and physical relief of the poor and sick of each parish. From these, with the help of St. Louise de Marillac, came the Daughters of Charity, "whose convent is the sickroom, whose chapel is the parish church, whose cloister is the streets of the city." He organized the rich women of Paris to collect funds for his missionary projects, founded several hospitals, collected relief funds for the victims of war and ransomed over 1,200 galley slaves from North Africa. He was zealous in conducting retreats for clergy at a time when there was great laxity, abuse and ignorance among them. He was a pioneer in clerical training and was instrumental in establishing seminaries.

Most remarkably, Vincent was by temperament a very irascible person—even his friends admitted it. He said that except for the grace of God he would have been "hard and repulsive, rough and cross." But he became a tender and affectionate man, very sensitive to the needs of others.

Pope Leo XIII made him the patron of all charitable societies. Outstanding among these, of course, is the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, founded in 1833 by his admirer Blessed Frédéric Ozanam (September 7).

The Church is for all God's children, rich and poor, peasants and scholars, the sophisticated and the simple. But obviously the greatest concern of the Church must be for those who need the most help—those made helpless by sickness, poverty, ignorance or cruelty. Vincent de Paul is a particularly appropriate patron for all Christians today, when hunger has become starvation, and the high living of the rich stands in more and more glaring contrast to the physical and moral degradation in which many of God's children are forced to live.

"Strive to live content in the midst of those things that cause your discontent. Free your mind from all that troubles you, God will take care of things. You will be unable to make haste in this [choice] without, so to speak, grieving the heart of God, because he sees that you do not honor him sufficiently with holy trust. Trust in him, I beg you, and you will have the fulfillment of what your heart desires" (St. Vincent de Paul, *Letters*).

THIS SUNDAY IS VOLUNTEER SUNDAY - This Sunday is Volunteer Sunday for our parish. You are encouraged to take part in our various parish societies and activities to help keep us, as our motto says, "St. Theresa Strong."

We ask you to consider joining one or more of our programs including the following"

- St. Vincent de Paul Society to assist in our various projects to help those in need.
- Home School Association for parents of our school children.
- * CCD Program to instruct public school children in our faith.
- Altar Society to assist with church ceremonies.
- * Pro Life Society to encourage respect for life especially for the unborn.
- Italian Society (Montevirgine) to encourage devotion to Our Blessed Mother.
- RCIA Program adult class to prepare for the sacraments
- Hispanic Society to encourage Spanish devotion and celebrations.
- Church Ministries to enlist participation as ushers, choir members, readers at Mass and Eucharistic Ministers.
- * Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

We hope that you will seriously consider joining these activities. Tables will be available for sign up in the vestibule of the Church next Saturday evening and Sunday after our Masses.

MESSAGE OF OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS FOR THIS SUNDAY

Today, Jesus invites us to reflect on two opposing ways of life: the way of the world and that of the Gospel - the worldly spirit is not the spirit of Jesus - and He does so by recounting the parable of the unfaithful and corrupt steward, who is praised by Jesus, despite his dishonesty. We must point out immediately that this administrator is not presented as a model to follow, but as an example of deceitfulness. This man is accused of mismanaging his master's affairs, and before being removed, astutely he tries to ingratiate himself with the debtors, condoning part of their debt so as to ensure himself a future. Commenting on this behavior, Jesus observes: "For the sons of this world are wiser in their own generation than the sons of light".

We are called to respond to this worldly astuteness with Christian astuteness, which is a gift of the Holy Spirit. This is a matter of departing from the worldly spirit and values, which the devil really favors, in order to live according to the Gospel. How is worldliness manifested? Worldliness is manifested by attitudes of corruption, deception, subjugation, and it constitutes the most ill-chosen road, the road of sin, because one leads you to the other! It's like a chain, even if it is generally the easiest road to travel. Instead, the spirit of the Gospel requires a serious lifestyle - serious but joyful, full of joy! - serious and challenging, marked by honesty, fairness, respect for others and their dignity, and a sense of duty. And this is Christian astuteness!

The journey of life necessarily involves a choice between two roads: between honesty and dishonesty, between fidelity and infidelity, between selfishness and altruism, between good and evil. You cannot waver between one and the other, because they move on different and conflicting forms of logic. The prophet Elijah said to the people of Israel that went on these two roads: "You are limping with both feet!" (cf. 1 Kings 18:21). It's a fine image. It is important to decide which direction to take and then, once you have chosen the right one, to walk it with enthusiasm and determination, trusting in God's grace and the support of His Spirit. The conclusion of the Gospel passage is powerful and categorical: "No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other."

With this teaching, Jesus today urges us to make a clear choice between Him and the worldly spirit, between the logic of corruption, of the abuse of power and greed, and that of righteousness, meekness and sharing. Some people conduct themselves with corruption as they do with drugs: they think they can use it and stop when they want. It starts out small: a tip here, a bribe over there.... And between this and that, one's freedom is slowly lost. Corruption is also habit-forming, and generates poverty, exploitation, and suffering. How many victims there are in the world today! How many victims of this widespread corruption. But when we try to follow the Gospel logic of integrity, clarity in intentions and in behavior, of fraternity, we become artisans of justice and we open horizons of hope for humanity. In gratuitousness and by giving of ourselves to our brothers and sisters, we serve the right master: God.

May the Virgin Mary help us to choose at every opportunity and at all costs, the right way, even finding the courage to go against the tide, in order to follow Jesus and his Gospel. September 18, 2016

PADRE PIO'S PRAYER TO ACCEPT GOD'S WILL



SEPTEMBER SONG - A WORD OF PRAISE

Do you ever think of prayer as a means of praising God? Yet, that is what happens when we offer a prayer of thanksgiving for a favor received or when we say: "Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit!" So do we at once give meaningful praise to God and acknowledge the glory of our Creator, the Creator of the world and all things in it.

Imagine what a glorious accomplishment it is, and was, and ever will be: to have created the universe - - everything! Our God did just that! And we, of all the creatures that inhabit the earth, are able to praise Him for it, are able to give glory to God together with the angels and saints. We are able to praise God for all that He has done. What a concept - - the created praising the Creator.

St. Francis of Assisi was so enraptured by the thought of giving back to God, of praising the Almighty for what He had brought into being, that he composed his Canticle of the Sun a hymn of praise to the Creator. And we all are aware of how he exhorted all creatures, the moon, the sun, the stars, all animals, every celestial body - and all existence itself - - to praise the Lord, to give Him glory, and in every way possible reflect that glory.

Make this September a canticle of praise to God: an acknowledgment of His glory. Make this September a prayer of praise to the Almighty, a song, a tribute to the Trinity. Make this September a time to strive to reflect His glory by being ever mindful and thankful that we have been made a part of that glory - that we have been created as vessels destined forever to reflect that glory in Heaven... Praise be to God for all His gifts - especially Himself.

(From Franciscan Missionary Associates)

Lord, God of my heart, You alone know and see all my troubles. You alone are aware that all my distress springs from my fear of losing You, of offending You, from my fear of not loving You as much as I should love and desire to love You.

If You, to whom everything is present and who alone can see the future, know that it is for Your greater glory and for my salvation that I should remain in this state, then let it be so. I don't want to escape from it. Give me the strength to fight and to obtain the prize due to strong souls. Amen.

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POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II'S PRAYER TO ST. PADRE PIO

Humble and beloved Padre Pio, teach us humility of heart and help us to pray without ceasing, certain that God knows what we need even before we ask Him.

Obtain for us eyes of faith that will be able to recognize right away in the poor and suffering, the face of Jesus.

Sustain us in the hour of the combat and of the trial and, if we fall, make us experience the joy of the sacrament of forgiveness.

Grant us your tender devotion to Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother.

Accompany us on our earthly pilgrimage toward the blessed homeland, where we hope to arrive in order to contemplate forever the glory of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



II Peter Ivezaj & Teresa Selca



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH AND THEIR FAMILIES MARY G. BAUER, ARTHUR PARKER, ENRIQUE ROMEN, ZACH REYES, JOHANNA DECOLA & THERESA MARIA CAMMAROTO



THIS WEEK'S ALTAR BREAD IS IN LOVING MEMORY OF IDA VAZQUEZ LOVE, THE ZERAFI FAMILY



THE SANCTUARY LAMP BURNING NEAR THE TABERNACLE THIS WEEK IS IN LOVING MEMORY OF IDA VAZQUEZ LOVE, INES MASTROGIOVANNI



THE FLOWERS IN FRONT OF THE ALTAR THIS WEEK IN MEMORY OF IDA VAZQUEZ LOVE, THE ZERAFI FAMILY

ST. THERESA SCHOOL

Help Us Raise Money with Little or no Effort:

We are collecting Box Tops for Education. If you cut the box tops off your items and bring them to church on Sunday just leave them in the sacristy and we will make sure we get them. For each box top collected we receive 10 cents.



Eventually the Box Tops program will become digital-only. Participating brands are starting to change their packaging from a traditional Box Tops clip to the new Box Top label. If you see this label, use the new Box Tops app to scan your receipt. Box Tops are still worth 10¢ each for your school. The app will find participating products purchased at any store and instantly add cash to your school's earnings online.

- SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2019
5:00PM Frank Masi (20th Anniversary)
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2019
7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa
9:00AM Anthony & Lucy Costello
10:30AM Henry Philip Farley
12:15PM Mirna & Ricardo Anton
1:30PM Zenaida Rodriguez
5:00PM Charles Donoghue
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 2019
8:00AM Frank Orrico
9:00AM Lisa Gonzalezs
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2019
8:00AM Charles Donoghue
9:00AM Joseph Antico
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2019
8:00AM Anna Tartarone
9:00AM Frank Orrico
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 26, 2019
8:00AM Timothy Donovan
9:00AM Joan Lombardi
12NOON Biase & Rosina Barone
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 2019
8:00AM Henry Smith
9:00AM Jeryl Ann Jacobi
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 28, 2019
8:00AM Gregory & Barbara E. Fortini
9:00AM Marion Fallo
5:00PM Frances Masi Cafiero
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 29, 2019
7:30AM Helen Virgintino
9:00AM Irma & Frank Orrico
10:30AM Nicholas Iuliano
12:15PM Sal Zottola
1:30PM Parishioners of St. Theresa
5:00PM Theresa Cafaro Antonio

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 Orrico, 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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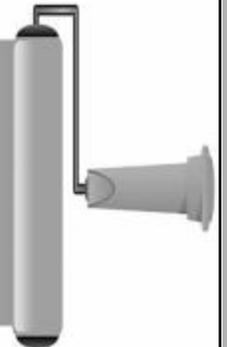
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