

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

November is the Church's particular month of praying for all who have died. November began with All Saints Day, as we honored all those who are with God in the happiness of heaven. But it is immediately followed by All Souls Day, November 2, when we remembered all of those who have died. As we say in the Eucharistic Prayer of the Mass, "Remember our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection and all who have died in your mercy. Welcome them into the light of your face." During this month in a special way, the Church invites us to pray for all of those, as the prayer says, "who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection." We particularly pray for the souls in purgatory who need our prayers so that they can be admitted to heaven. Your prayers for the faithful departed are so important. When you go to heaven, you will be greeted by those departed persons whom you helped to go to heaven by your prayers and sacrifices. They will thank you for your prayers for them and for all the faithful departed.

All of us want to know what heaven will be like. Our gospel today gives us a story about life after death. But it is not a good story. It was, shall we say, a "trick story." The Sadducees (who did not believe in the resurrection) wants to trick Jesus by asking a question about this deceased woman, whose wife she will be. And the Lord knows their hearts. He does not give them an answer. In effect He is saying, "If you do not believe in life after death, in the resurrection that is to come, it makes no sense for me to talk with you about it." What the Lord does tell them is this: heaven is being with the Lord. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the great patriarchs of the Jewish people, had died centuries before, yet the Lord is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, for even though they died, they live with Him forever. He is the Lord of the living. The Lord is challenging them to open their hearts to the great promise of eternal life. He did that for the Sadducees long ago. And He does the same for us today.

Why are we Catholics? Why do we follow the Commandments? Why do we live a good and faithful life? There are many good answers to those question, "Because we believe this is what God wants us to do." "Because this is what we learned from our families." "Because we want goodness in our lives." But certainly one very basic to those questions, "Why are we Catholics... Why do we follow the Commandments... Why do we live good and faithful lives" is this: we want to go to heaven. We want to be with the Lord in happiness, to see Him, as St. John promises, face to face. And what the Lord is saying in the gospel today is this, "This is all you need to know. You do not need to know all about heaven, what heaven is like, what you will do. All you need to know is that you will be with me. That is enough." And it is. We will have all eternity to find our what heaven is like. Right now, we set our minds on the goal, the goal of reaching heaven. We run the race of life and we aim to win the prize of life forever.

Our belief in eternal life, in life after our time on earth, is certainly one of the most treasured beliefs of our Christian faith. We know, as the Scripture says, that we do not have on this earth a lasting city, for we are called to be citizens of heaven. How blessed we are to have that beautiful understanding of life forever! There is a beautiful story told about the first missionaries who brought the gospel to England. The missionaries entered the great hall of the king and spoke about eternal life. Some of the king's nobles objected, wanting to expel these missionaries, even put them to death. But one nobleman spoke up and said this, "O King, while we have been sitting here, a little bird flew through a window of your great hall and was for a few moments warmed by your fire and then flew out the window on the other side into the darkness unknown. We are like that little bird. We fly through the window of birth; for a short while, we are warmed by the fire of this life and then we fly through death into the darkness unknown. If these men can tell us about that darkness unknown, I for one want to listen to them." And the king listened and Christianity came to that land. Those people learned what we have learned, that for Christians, death is not a darkness unknown. It is not darkness at all. For death means going to the door of eternal life, not into darkness, but into the light, the light of Jesus Christ Our Lord.

Father Thomas B. Derivan

NATIONAL DONOR SUNDAY

Today is observed throughout our country as NATIONAL DONOR SUNDAY.

We join with our fellow Americans of all faiths in recognizing the importance of being an organ donor. The Church has long supported organ and tissue donation as a genuine act of love. Our late beloved Pope St. John Paul II wrote in his encyclical *The Gospel of Life*, "One way of nurturing a genuine Culture of Life is the donation of organs, performed in an ethically acceptable manner, with a view to offering life itself to the sick who sometimes have no other hope." A person's gift of organs upon his or her death may literally give sight to those whose vision is impaired. It may provide a vital organ for a person who otherwise would die. It is certainly a "gift of life." Our retired Pope Benedict XVI himself is a registered organ donor. If you wish to become an organ donor, you may register with the New York State Department of Health to ensure that your wishes will be honored upon death. A sample is available in the church vestibule with a pamphlet entitled "Organ and Tissue Donation: A Catholic Perspective." You may also do so on your driver's license and voter registration. You may consult www.SaveLivesNewYork.org.

God bless you for considering the opportunity to be a "giver of life."

HANDICAP ENTRANCE TO THE CHURCH



VETERANS DAY
WE HONOR YOUR SACRIFICE



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.

PURGATORY



Purgatory is where the Love of God tempers the Justice of God, for there God pardons because he has time to retouch these souls with his cross, to recut them with the chisel of suffering, that they might fit into the great spiritual edifice of the heavenly Jerusalem, to plunge them into that purifying place where they might wash their stained baptismal robes to be fit to enter into the spotless purity of heaven; to resurrect them like the phoenix of old from the ashes of their own sufferings so that, like wounded eagles healed by the magic touch of God's cleansing flames, they might mount heavenward to the city of the pure, where Christ is King and Mary is Queen, for, regardless of how trivial the fault, God does not pardon without tears, and there are not tears in heaven.

On the other hand, purgatory is a place not only where the Love of God tempers the Justice of God, but where the love of man may temper the injustice of man. I believe that most men and women are quite unconscious of the injustice, the ingratitude, and the thanklessness of their lives until the cold hand of death is laid upon one that they love. It is then, and only then, that they realize (and, oh, with what regret!) the haunting poverty of their love and kindness....

Purgatory is a place where the Love of God tempers the Justice of God, but also where the love of man tempers the injustice of man, for it enables hearts who are left behind to break the barriers of time and death, to convert unspoken words into prayers, unburned incense into sacrifice, unoffered flowers into alms, and undone acts of kindness into help for eternal life.

Take away purgatory and how bitter would be our grief for our unkindnesses and how piercing our sorrow for our forgetfulness... But if there be a purgatory, then immediately the bowed head gives way to a bent knee, the moment of silence to a moment of prayer, and the fading wreath to the abiding offering of the sacrifice of that great Hero of heroes, Christ.

Purgatory, then, enables us to atone for our ingratitude because through our prayers, mortifications, and sacrifices, it makes it possible to bring joy and consolation to the ones we love. Love is stronger than death and hence there should be love for those who have gone before us. We are the offspring of their life, the gathered fruit of their labor, the solicitude of their hearts.

Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

THE MEANING OF BLESSEDNESS

How easy it is, in times of ease, for us to become dependent on our routines, on the established order of our day-to-day existence, to carry us along. We begin to take things for granted, to rely on ourselves and on our own resources, to "settle in" in this world and look to it for our support. We all too easily come to equate being comfortable with a sense of well-being, to seek our comfort solely in the sense of being comfortable. Friends and possessions surround us, one day is followed by the next, good health and happiness for the most part are ours. We don't have to desire much of the things of this world - to be enamored of riches, for example, or greedy or avaricious - in order to have gained this sense of comfort and well-being, to trust in them as our support and to take God for granted. It is the status quo that we rely on, that carries us from day to day, and somehow we begin to lose sight of the fact that under all these things and behind all these things it is God who supports and sustains us. We go along, taking for granted that tomorrow will be very much like today, comfortable in the world we have created for ourselves, secure in the established order we have learned to live with, however imperfect it may be, and give little thought to God at all.

Somehow, then, God must contrive to break through those routines of ours and remind us once again, like Israel, that we are ultimately dependent only upon him, that he has made us and destined us for life with him through all eternity, that the things of this world and this world itself are not our lasting city, that his we are and that we must look to him and turn to him in everything. Then it is, perhaps, that he must allow our whole world to be turned upside down in order to remind us it is not our permanent abode or final destiny, to bring us to our senses and restore our sense of values, to turn our thoughts once more to him - even if at first our thoughts are questioning and full of Reproaches. Then it is that he must remind us again, with terrible clarity, that he meant exactly what he said in those seemingly simple words of the Sermon on the Mount: "Do not be anxious about what you shall eat, or what you shall wear, or where you shall sleep, but seek first the kingdom of God and his justice."

Father Walter J. Ciszek, S.J.



SAVE THE DATE
ST. THERSA PARISH
WINE GLASS PAINTING PARTY!!

December 6th at 7:00PM in School Cafeteria
\$35.00 includes 2 wine glasses to paint and supplies!
SEATING IS LIMITED

MANY THANKS

We are most grateful to all our wonderful parishioners who have sacrificed so generously by increasing their weekly Sunday Contributions. Please know that your weekly increase is for the betterment of St. Theresa Parish, for the building up and improvement of our parish. We are most grateful to all of you who have helped to make a difference in our community. Please continue to help us in order to keep St. Theresa Parish the vital, growing parish that it is.



NOVEMBER 10, 2019

ORIGIN OF VETERANS DAY



Veterans Day is held in honor of all those who served in the United States Armed Forces. This is different from Memorial Day which honors those who died while serving. It is celebrated on November 11 or the nearest workday.

Many people fly a US flag on this day to show their patriotism and support for the armed services. At 11:00AM a moment of silence is observed to remember those who served.

It was at 11:00AM on November 11, 1918 that a temporary peace, or armistice, was signed and the fighting during World War I came to an end. A year later President Woodrow Wilson announced that November 11th would be called Armistice Day in the United States.

In 1938 Armistice Day became a national federal holiday. It was a day dedicated to world peace and held in honor of the veterans of World War I.

In 1954 Congress decided to change the day to Veteran's Day. This was because they wanted to honor the veterans of all wars including World War II and the Korean War.

There were a few more changes to the day. In 1968 the day was moved to the fourth Monday of November. However, it was later changed back to November 11th in 1978 by President Gerald Ford.

We invite you to come to Mass this Monday, especially remembering our veterans.

A PRAYER FOR VETERANS



Dear Lord,

Today we honor our veterans, worthy men and women who gave their best when they were called upon to serve and protect their country.

We pray that you will bless them for their unselfish service in the continual struggle to preserve our freedoms, our safety, and our country's heritage, for all of us.

Bless them abundantly for the hardships they faced, for the sacrifices they made for their many different contributions to America's victories over tyranny and oppression

On this Veterans Day, in a special way we respect them, we thank them, we honor them, we are proud of them. We pray that you will watch over these special people and bless them with peace and happiness. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen

By Joanna Fuchs



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.



**NOVEMBER 10TH
ST. LEO THE GREAT,
POPE**

Only two popes in history have been given the title “the Great.” Pope Leo is one of them. Leo was born in Tuscany in Italy around the year 400 and served as an advisor and diplomat for two popes. He was still a deacon when he was elected pope. Pope Leo was the first pope to call himself the successor to St. Peter.

Pope Leo was responsible for important changes in the Church year. He added new feasts and placed greater importance on the celebration of Christmas. He replaced pagan holidays with Christian celebrations and began the practice of fasting during certain Church seasons.

Heresies, or false teachings, were another area of concern for Pope Leo. He wrote letters to the bishops to help them better understand the true teachings of the Church that have come down to us from the Apostles; he gave sermons correcting false teachings, and he even called an important Church meeting to deal with confusion caused by false teachings. Leo the Great is also responsible for helping people understand the meaning of the Incarnation, God becoming man in Jesus. For his great gift of teaching, Pope Leo has been given the title of Doctor of the Church.

Pope Leo was also a peacemaker. He personally convinced the Huns to turn back from their planned invasion of Rome. Although the warring tribe called the Vandals did invade Rome, Leo was able to keep them from burning and looting the city.

Leo is best known for being a good shepherd and pastor for all the people of the Church, from the bishops to the poor who begged for food on the streets of Rome. He reached out to the poor and neglected people of the world and urged the bishops to do the same. His homilies helped people know how to live their faith because they were full of practical advice.

He died around November 10th in the year 461.

A PRAYER FOR VETERANS DAY

God of mercy we ask for blessings on all those who have served their country in the armed forces. We ask for healing for the veterans who have been wounded, in body and soul, in conflicts around the globe.

We pray especially for the young men and women, in the thousands, who have come home from Iraq and Afghanistan with injured bodies and traumatized spirits. Bring solace to them, O Lord. May we pray for them when they cannot pray.

Have mercy on all our veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Bring peace to their hearts and peace to the regions they fought in. Bless all the soldiers who served in non-combatative posts. May their calling to serve continue in their lives in many positive ways.

Give us all here present today creative vision to see a world that, growing weary with fighting, moves to affirming the life of every human being and so moves beyond war.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.
Jesus, I trust in You!

(Archdiocese of Detroit)



**NOVEMBER 13TH
ST. FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI
PATRONESS OF IMMIGRANTS
1850-1917**

As the first citizen of the United States to be declared a Saint, Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini is honored in many places throughout the U.S., perhaps none more so than here in New York, at the Mother Cabrini Shrine.

Mother Cabrini, a native of Italy, was the Foundress of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart. This order was a major support for Italian immigrants to the U.S., most of whom were Catholic. Although she originally had hoped to go to the Far East, she ended up emigrating to the U.S. in 1889 at the suggestion of the Pope Leo XIII.

Mother Cabrini organized catechism and education classes for the Italian immigrants in New York City as well as providing for the needs of the many orphans. At this time, Italian immigrants faced discrimination even from fellow Catholics, those such as the Irish who got there before them. And, of course, the Italians did not speak English as did the Irish so it was easy to take advantage of these new immigrants.

Despite the uphill task she faced, she was able to establish schools and orphanages, and eventually she made 23 trans-Atlantic voyages (although she was afraid of the water) and opened schools, hospitals and orphanages throughout the world.

She became a naturalized citizen of the U.S. in 1909 and died in Chicago on December 22, 1917 in one of the hospitals she had helped establish. In 1946, she was canonized a saint by Pope Pius XII in recognition of her holiness and service to mankind and was named Patroness of Immigrants in 1950. Today the Missionary Sisters, their lay collaborators and volunteers work as teachers, nurses, social workers, administrators and members of institutional boards of trustees. They can be found on six continents and 15 countries throughout the world - wherever there is need.

Mother Cabrini is buried at her shrine in Washington Heights. For information about visiting, contact the Shrine Office at 212-923-3536.

WINTER COATS AVAILABLE



We thank our parishioners who have donated coats in the recent Winter Coat Drive sponsored by the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Coats will be available to those who need one next weekend on Saturday, November 16th from 11:00AM to 2:00PM and on Sunday, November 17th from 11:00AM to 2:30PM in the Rectory Meeting Room.

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

In Loving Memory

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED
MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH AND THEIR FAMILIES
IRMA MELISI & JOSEPH E. VOLPE



THIS WEEK'S ALTAR BREAD IS IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
FRANK MASI
LOVE, SALLY & ANGELA

THANK YOU FOR THE BAHAMA RELIEF EFFORT

Once again our parishioners were most generous in the recovery effort from the hurricane in The Bahamas. Over \$1000 was sent to the St. Vincent de Paul Disaster Relief fund there to assist families who have lost so much.

God bless you for your help to those who have suffered so much.

**LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR
JEANNE JUGAN RESIDENCE
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The Little Sisters of the Poor are having a Turkey and Ham Drop to benefit the elderly Residents at the Jeanne Jugan Residence. They will be happy to accept your donations at the front door. All size Turkeys and Hams are gratefully accepted! (Spiral Hams are especially enjoyed!) If you need more information please call Sr. Jane at 718-440-5969

**CARE & PREPARE:
END OF LIFE EDUCATION DAY**



Learn practical steps for navigating end of life decisions for yourself and for your loved ones. This free and dynamic workshop will give you the tools to access quality care, protect your loved ones and understand Church teachings on end of life. Join us on Saturday, November 23, 10:00AM-Noon at St. Ann's Church in Yonkers (854 Midland Ave.).



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9, 2019

5:00PM Sebastiano Licari

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 10, 2019

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

9:00AM Parisi Family

10:30AM Sebastain Meraglia

12:15PM Anthony Messina

1:30PM Msgr. Neil Graham

5:00PM Special Intention

MONDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2019

8:00AM Christopher Vitale

9:00AM Francine LoParrino

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 12, 2019

8:00AM Frank Orrico

9:00AM Anthony D'Abbraccio

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 13, 2019

8:00AM Zerbo Family

9:00AM Zoila Gerardina

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2019

8:00AM Mary Boettcher

9:00AM Theresa Flynn & Lynn Mattel

12NOON Thomas Waldron

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 15, 2019

8:00AM LePore Family

9:00AM Salvatore & Anna Cernaro

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16, 2019

8:00AM Noreen Daly

9:00AM Michael & Bonnie O'Reilly

5:00PM Lena Gaetano

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2019

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

9:00AM The Barris Family

10:30AM Lorraine Danza

12:15PM The Tonchuk Family

1:30PM Ana Lydia Rios

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, 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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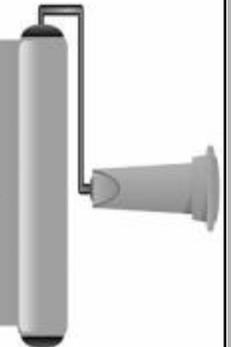
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