

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

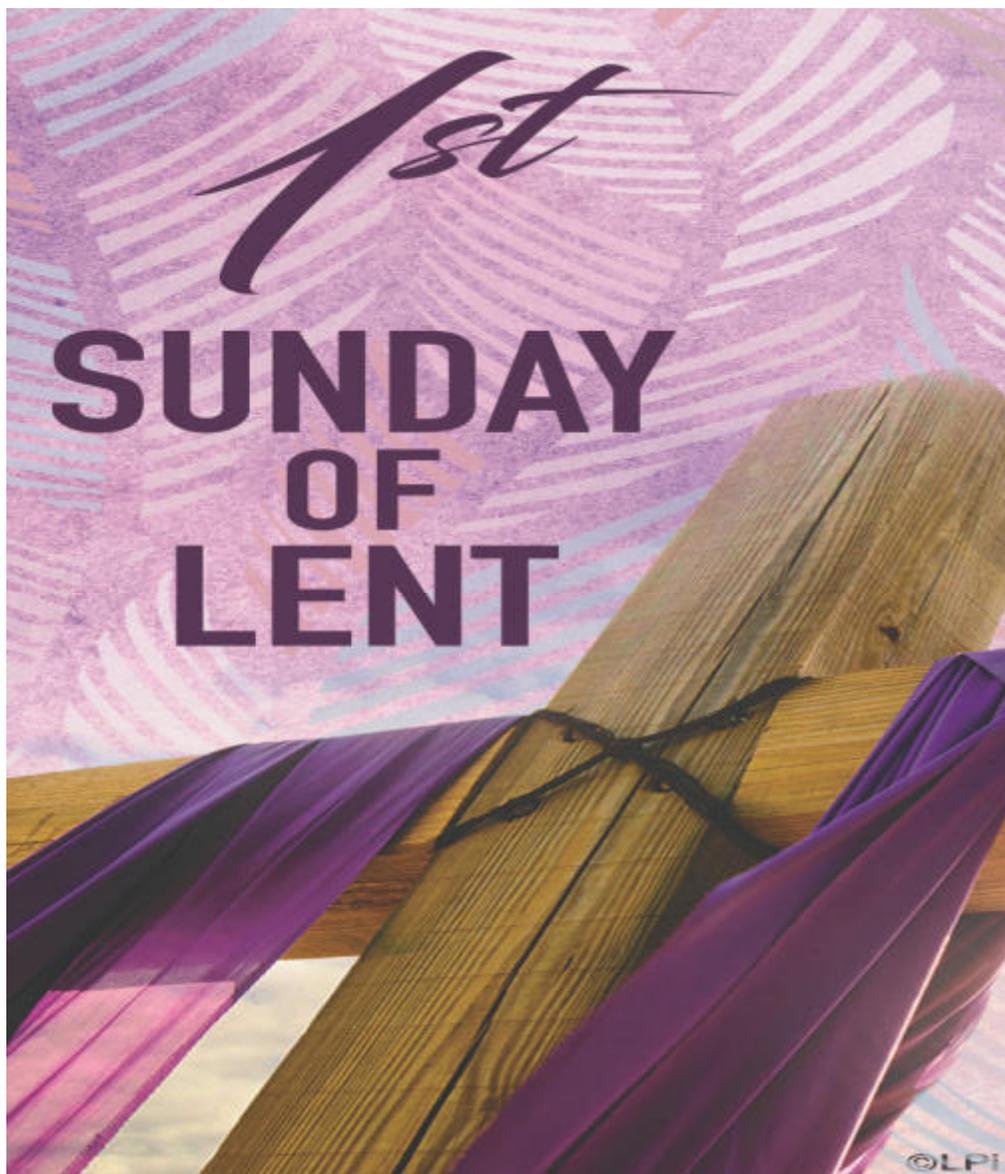
BAPTISMS

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

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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

There are two scenes that we hear about today as we celebrate this First Sunday of Lent. The first is a garden; the second is a desert. The first is the story of Adam and Eve giving into temptation; the second is the story of the Lord Jesus conquering Satan's temptation. The first is the story of sin winning out; the second is very different. It is the story of Jesus conquering sin and showing us how to conquer sin too. The first story ultimately would end with the death of Adam and Eve; the second story never ends, for the Lord Jesus shows us how to conquer sin and live forever.

Dear friends, these two stories—first the story from the Book of Genesis about Adam and Eve giving into Satan's temptation, the second, the story from St. Matthew's gospel, the story of Jesus fasting for forty days and battling Satan all the way—these two stories are so appropriate as we begin the season of Lent. It is as if the Church is asking us: Which story is yours? Is it the first, the story of the garden of Eden, the story where Adam and Eve were given everything by God, but they wanted more, the story of sin and ultimately the story of death. The Church is asking us: Is this your story? For so many people, it is. Their lives are filled with wanting more, more possessions, more power, more fame. How successful Satan is in tempting us to want more, to be like God, even though we know we are not. The story of the garden of Eden and the fall of Adam and Eve is one of the most familiar stories of the Bible. And every time we read it, every time we hear it, it is as if God were asking us: Is this your story? Are you giving into Satan's temptation? Are you wanting more, are you wanting to be like God?

But then the Church gives us the second story, the story of Jesus battling Satan, battling temptation, battling sin. And the Church asks us again: Is this your story? Are you joining Jesus in the battle against sin? Are you overcoming the temptation of pride, of greed, of disobedience—all of those things that Adam and Eve gave into? The Church is asking us: Are you strong, strong enough to battle sin, strong enough to conquer temptation, strong enough to follow the Lord Jesus Christ?

Dear friends, this is what Lent is all about. It is the Church asking us, it is God asking us: Which story is yours, who do you follow Adam and Eve or Jesus? Do you give into sin or do you fight sin, in your own life and in the society in which we live? Our retired Pope Benedict reminded us that Lent is a spiritual battle to oppose evil in the world, in each one of us and around us." He said, "Lent means looking evil in the face and renewing our decision to face evil together with Christ." That is so important for us to keep in mind during Lent: we must look evil in the face and we must face evil together with Christ, even as He did in the desert. Of course that means battling sin and evil in our own personal lives, removing the things that should not be there. Lent is our invitation to look at ourselves, to face what we need to face and to improve as Christians.

But Lent is more. It is not just facing evil in our own lives. It is facing evil in the world, the reality of abortion, the abuse of children, the erosion of family values, the cheapening of the sanctity of life. We must battle sin around us. We may not be able to completely overcome these evils, but we can try and that trying is pleasing to Almighty God. Several years ago a young mother whom I knew lost her son Londell to a senseless shooting, a case of mistaken identity. Londell was not yet eighteen years of age, a senior in high school, getting ready for college. He had his whole life ahead of him when tragically another youngster like him ended his precious life. Londell's mother Joann, of course, had to bear her personal sorrow, but the Lord gave her the strength to go beyond her sorrow, to join in the fight against senseless violence, to join other mothers who have lost children like Londell. Joann is living out what Pope Benedict spoke about. She is facing evil with Christ. There is no doubt in her mind: first, this is what God wants her to do; and second, God will give her the strength to do it.

Pope Francis calls Lent "the time of saying no." In the desert the Lord Jesus said no to temptation. Lent is our time to say no to sin in our own lives and, like Joann, for us to say no to evil around us. We must be ready to look evil in the face, ready to battle sin. It is a tough battle, but we are not alone. We have Jesus on our side and He will show us the way to victory. He will show us the way to eternal life.

Father Thomas B. Derivan

WEDNESDAY LENTEN MASS

Each Wednesday, beginning this Wednesday, March 4th, we will have a special evening Mass at 6:00PM. This will be followed by Stations of the Cross. Hopefully this time will be helpful to parishioners coming home from work. Parents who bring their children to our Wednesday 7:00PM CCD classes may wish to come early for this Mass and Stations.

We also have Stations of the Cross on Thursdays after the 12:00Noon Mass with Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction.



SAVE THE DATE

Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Dedication of the "New" St. Theresa Church

Sunday, May 17, 2020

Mass at 12:15PM

Tour of our school and memorabilia display to follow

Dinner in the school auditorium will be served for those who wish to attend. This includes dinner and the special Anniversary book. Tickets are available at the rectory at the price of \$50.00 per person. Or you may call 718-892-1900 for more information.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

MARY'S WAY OF THE CROSS:

The following reflections on the Stations of the Cross were written by Father Richard Furey, C.Ss.R. These beautiful reflections see the Stations through the eyes of Our Blessed Mother, the first person to make the Stations of the Cross with Jesus her Son.

FIRST STATION - Jesus Is Condemned To Die

It was early Friday morning when I saw my son. That was the first glimpse I had of him since they took him away. His bruised and bleeding skin sent a sword of pain deep into my heart and tears down my cheeks. Then Pilate, from his chair of judgment, asked the crowd why they wanted my son executed. All around me they shouted, "Crucify him!" I wanted to plead with them to stop, but I knew this had to be. So I stood by and cried silently.

Lord Jesus, it is hard for me to imagine the anguish your mother felt at your condemnation. But what about today, when I hold a grudge...? "Crucify him!" When I judge others...? "Crucify him!" Doesn't this bring tears of anguish to both you and your mother? Forgive me, Jesus.

SECOND STATION - Jesus Takes His Cross

Regaining a little strength, I walked with the crowds to the entrance of the square. A door flew open and my son stumbled out, the guards laughing behind him. Two men dragged over a heavy wooden cross and dropped it on his shoulders. Then they shoved him down the road. My pain for him was unbearable. I wanted to take the cross from him and carry it myself. But I knew this had to be, so I walked on silently.

Lord Jesus, I beg you to forgive me for the many times I have added more weight to your cross by closing my eyes to the pain and loneliness of my neighbor. Forgive me for gossiping about others and for always trying to find excuses to avoid certain people who wish to talk with me. Help me to be like Mary, always seeking to lighten the crosses of others. Forgive me, Jesus.

THIRD STATION - Jesus Falls The First Time

I followed close behind my son as he stumbled toward Calvary. Nothing had ever hurt me more than to see him in such pain. I saw the cross digging into his shoulders. My heart dropped when I saw him fall face to the ground, the heavy cross landing squarely on his back. For a moment I thought my beloved son was dead. Now my whole body began to tremble. Then the guards kicked him. He rose slowly and began to walk again, yet they still whipped him. I wanted to protect him with my own body. But, I knew this had to be, so I walked on and wept silently.

Lord, how often have I seen you fall, and unlike Mary, have left you there without concern? How often have I seen people make mistakes and laughed at them? How often do I find myself getting angry when someone does things differently than I? Mary offered you her support through your entire passion. Help me to do the same for you by the support I give to others. Lord, have mercy on me.

PRAYER FOR LENT



Dear God, just as the rains from heaven prepare the lands to flourish, we know that your blessings are bestowed upon us. In this season of preparation, help us grow closer to you as we make time for prayer, solitude and reflection. Make ready our ears to hear your loving call amidst the stressful and hurried days that make up the storms of our life. Loving Father, we know that we do not face such days alone; your divine strength is our unflinching aid as we await the joy of the Easter Season.

Amen.

THE CARDINAL'S APPEAL 2020 A SPECIAL SACRIFICE FOR LENT

The 2020 Cardinal's Appeal is now underway in our Parish and throughout the Archdiocese. The Appeal, as you know, is the major fundraising effort of the Archdiocese to support the pastoral, educational and social programs of the Church of New York. Your help in the Appeal will certainly be thankfully received by Cardinal Dolan as he continues to serve all of us in our Archdiocese.

This Wednesday, which is Ash Wednesday, we begin the Holy Season of Lent, our special time of prayer, sacrifice and penance. One special way of making your Lenten sacrifice is to help the Appeal. You may choose to give up something for Lent. Use whatever money you would have spent on that item to help the Appeal. In that way, you are helping to serve the "least of Christ's brethren," joining your sacrifice with His.

You either have received or will receive a special letter from Cardinal Dolan about the Appeal. Your Appeal offering may be placed in the regular collection on Sunday at Mass, brought to the Rectory, or sent directly to the Appeal Office. Please pray for the success of the Appeal, in our parish and throughout our Archdiocese.

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.



MARCH 1, 2020

REFLECTIONS FOR THE 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT - THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

The temptations of Jesus in the desert probably reveal his human side as much as any other gospel story.

Though scripture says he was “like us in all things except sin.” we tend to see Jesus unlike us: a miracle worker, an assured teacher, a master of circumstances, someone above it all.

But look at him in the desert, weary, vulnerable, struggling for footing in a dangerous land. Was much of his life really like that? Think of the demands people made on him. The blind man shouting from the roadside, the paralytic lowered from the roof, the woman pleading for her daughter were just some of the many who pressed their cares on him at every turn. Did he tire of it all?

Is the Evil One’s first suggestion, that he turn stones into bread, a lifelong temptation Jesus had to lay down this everyday burden, the burden of doing good, and rest?

“Lord, art thou weary? Is the work the Father trusted to thy care, his ruined temple to restore; beyond thy mortal strength to bear? Is thy omnipotence indeed too sorely pressed in this our need? Lord, art thou weary?” - Janet Erskine Stuart

And what of the other temptations in the desert? Think how pressured he was by the political and religious establishments of his day to conform to their standard and be quiet. Just go along, they said, and you have a place with us, even a place of honor. Jesus called those powerful people “children of the devil.” Yet was he tempted to conform and go along just the same?

Even his own disciples were his temptors. Listen to their advice to him: “Leave this place and go up to Judea, so that your followers will see the things you are doing. No one hides what he is doing if he is well known. Since you are doing these things, let the whole world know about you.” (Jn 7:3-5)

Why waste time here in out-of-the-way Galilee? Use your spectacular power, they told him. You can be a world-wide success. He must have responded to them as he responded once to Peter: “Get behind me, Satan.”

The desert temptations must have been temptations Jesus faced everyday. If they are, how like us he is: tempted to give up under our daily burdens, tempted to compromise and follow the crowd, tempted to seek some extraordinary power rather than the quiet power found in ordinary life. Can we be like him? Tempted, but still victorious? Will he not deliver us?

Lord Jesus, we would rather see you strong than hungry and weak. Forty days alone, no miracles, no eager crowds, no friendly space to buoy you up, no companion but the Evil One. This is not the Jordan where the Father said: “Here is my Son, listen to him.” And the Spirit, like a dove, watched you every step. Here alone, you are a weary man, tired by the daily strain, at the limits of your strength.

Where would we learn this story, but from you? And did you speak of a lifetime more than forty days? Were your days like ours?

“Turn these stones into bread.” Were there days like desert stones, when you walked in waterless places, and grew weary doing good?

“All these kingdoms will be yours, if...” Were there days when promises looked better broken right and truth only unreal dreams; and life secure somewhere else?

“Throw yourself down...” Were there days when the journey step by step, simple words and simple deeds, hardly seemed to make a difference? By the mystery of your temptation in the desert, Lord Jesus, have mercy on us.

By Father Victor Hoagland, C.P.

LENT AT ST. THERESA’S CHURCH

Sunday Masses—7:30AM, 9:00AM(Italian), 10:30AM(Family), 12:15PM, 1:30PM(Spanish) and 5:00PM

Weekday Masses—8:00AM and 9AM

Wednesday at 6:00PM with Stations of the Cross (beginning this Wednesday, March 4th)

Thursday at 12Noon with Adoration and Stations

Confessions—Every Saturday from 4:00PM to 5:00PM

Special Lenten Reconciliation Monday, April 6th

with confessions from 3:00PM to 9:00PM

Stations of the Cross—Wednesdays after the 6:00PM Mass

Thursdays after the 12Noon Mass

“Living Stations of the Cross—Wednesday, April 8th at 7:00PM

Scripture Class with Fr. Joseph—Wednesday at 7:30PM in the Rectory

Eucharistic Devotion—Thursdays after the 12Noon Mass, First Fridays—Holy Hour from 6:00 to 7:00PM

Fast and Abstinence—Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.

Fasting limits a person to one full meal and two lighter meals for those from ages 18-59.

Abstinence means no meat is allowed for those 14 and older. Reasons of health or work can excuse, in which case some other form of sacrifice should be substituted (acts of charity, additional prayer, etc.)



MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS FOR THIS SUNDAY

In this First Sunday of Lent, the Gospel introduces us to the journey toward Easter, revealing Jesus as he remains in the desert for 40 days, subjected to the temptations of the devil. This episode takes place at a precise moment in Jesus' life: immediately after his Baptism in the River Jordan and prior to his public ministry. He has just received the solemn investiture: the Spirit of God has descended upon him, the heavenly Father has declared him "my beloved Son." Jesus is now ready to begin his mission; and as this mission has a declared enemy, namely, Satan, He confronts him straight away, "up close." The devil plays precisely on the title "Son of God" in order to deter Jesus from the fulfillment of his mission: "If you are the Son of God" and proposes that He perform miraculous acts - to be a "magician" - such as transforming stones into bread so as to satiate his hunger, and throwing himself down from the temple wall so as to be saved by the angels. These two temptations are followed by the third: to worship him, the devil, so as to have dominion over the world.

Through this three-fold temptation, Satan wants to divert Jesus from the way of obedience and humiliation - because he knows that in this way, on this path, evil will be conquered - and to lead Him down the false shortcut to success and glory. But the devil's poisonous arrows are "blocked" by Jesus with the shield of God's Word, which expresses the will of the Father. Jesus does not speak a word of his own: He responds only with the Word of God. Thus the Son, filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, comes out of the desert victorious.

During the 40 days of Lent, as Christians we are invited to follow in Jesus' footsteps and face the spiritual battle with the Evil One with the strength of the Word of God. Not with our words: they are worthless. The Word of God: this has the strength to defeat Satan. For this reason, it is important to be familiar with the Bible: read it often, meditate on it, assimilate it. The Bible contains the Word of God, which is always timely and effective. Someone has asked: what would happen were we to treat the Bible as we treat our mobile phone? Were we to always carry it with us, or at least a small, pocket-sized Gospel, what would happen? Were we to turn back when we forget it: you forget your mobile phone— 'Oh! I don't have it, I'm going back to look for it'; were we to open it several times a day; were we to read God's messages contained in the Bible as we read telephone messages, what would happen? Clearly the comparison is paradoxical, but it calls for reflection. Indeed, if we had God's Word always in our heart, no temptation could separate us from God, and no obstacle could divert us from the path of good; we would know how to defeat the daily temptations of the evil that is within us and outside us; we would be more capable of living a life renewed according to the Spirit, welcoming and loving our brothers and sisters, especially the weakest and neediest, and also our enemies.

May the Virgin Mary, perfect icon of obedience to God and of unconditional trust in his will, sustain us on the Lenten journey, that we may set ourselves to listen docilely to the Word of God in order to achieve a true conversion of heart.



MARCH 5
ST. JOHN JOSEPH OF THE CROSS,
Priest

St. John Joseph of the Cross was born in 1654 on the island of Ischia, near Naples. In his sixteenth year he entered the Franciscan Order of the Strictest Observance, or Reform of St. Peter of Alcantara. Such was the edification he gave in his Order that within three years after his profession he was sent to found a monastery in Piedmont. He became a priest out of obedience, and obtained, as it seemed, an inspired knowledge of Moral Theology.

With his superiors' permission John built another monastery and drew up rules for that community, which were confirmed by the Holy See. He afterward became master of novices. Some time later he was made provincial of the province of Naples, erected in the beginning of the 18th century by Pope Clement XI.

The Saint succeeded in instilling in the hearts of his subjects the double spirit of contemplation and penance bequeathed to his Reform by St. Peter of Alcantara.

St. John Joseph exemplified the most sublime virtues, especially humility and religious discipline. He also possessed numerous gifts in the supernatural order, such as those of prophecy and miracles. Finally, consumed by labors for the glory of God, he was called to his reward. Stricken with apoplexy, he died an octogenarian in his monastery at Naples, March 5, 1734, and was canonized in 1839 by Pope Gregory XVI.

PRAYER God, You inspired St. John Joseph to strive for perfect charity and so attain Your Kingdom at the end of his pilgrimage on earth. Strengthen us through his intercession that we may advance rejoicing in the way of love. Amen.

LOCAL PARISHES LENTEN EVENTS

For the past few years, our local East Bronx parishes have joined together particularly during Lent in offering programs to help all our parishioners prepare for Easter.

This year we will join our other local parishes (St. Benedict, St. Frances de Chantal, St. Francis Xavier, St. Clare, Our Lady of the Assumption, and Holy Cross) in two special events to be held at St. Frances de Chantal Church—190 Hollywood Avenue in Throggs Neck. Please consider coming to them:

- **THURSDAY, MARCH 12TH @ 7PM**—An Evening of Recollection in English given by Fr. Charles Mangano and his sister Laurie Mangano, as seen on EWTN and Catholic Faith Network, including prayer, preaching and music.
- **THURSDAY, MARCH 26TH @ 7PM**—An evening of prayer and recollection by Fr. Joseph Espaillat in Spanish.

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED STATES
SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, INC.**

Here is a thank you letter from the National Council of
St. Vincent de Paul's Society.

Dear Brother and Sister Vincentians,

On behalf of the National Council Society of St. Vincent de Paul, we would like to thank you for your contribution of \$2,400.00 to the Society's domestic Disaster Relief Fund to provide disaster relief services to those affected by the hurricane in Puerto Rico.

More than 5,000 families have already contacted the St. Vincent de Paul Puerto Rico Council for emergency assistance. Disaster Services will work with FEMA on long-term disaster relief.

Your gift plays a critical role in helping people put their lives back together in the wake of this tragedy. Your thoughtfulness in helping us to be financially prepared to meet the needs of victims without delay is most appreciated.

In the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul & Blessed Frédéric Ozanam,
Thank you so much!

Dave Barringer
Chief Executive Officer

ATTENTION DRIVERS!



We will be hosting the New York Defensive Driving Class at St. Theresa's Rectory Meeting Room on Saturday, March 28th From 10:00AM to 4:00PM. This course reduces up to 4 points on your driver's license and will lower your auto liability and collision insurance premiums by 10% for three years. The cost of this course is only \$49. To enroll, please call Chris Morea At 718-824-9698 or visit the Morea Agency located at 2964 Middletown Road, Bronx, NY 10461. Register now, seating is limited.

ARE YOU A REGISTERED PARISHIONER

All new or unregistered parishioners are asked to please register by phone or in person at the Rectory or fill out the information below. Many items of importance will be mailed home in the course of the year.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE# _____

CELL# _____

E-MAIL _____

PLEASE RETURN TO THE RECTORY OFFICE.



SATURDAY FEBRUARY 29, 2020

5:00PM Anthony Rubustello

SUNDAY MARCH 1, 2020

7:30AM Vincent Cartelli

9:00AM Marie Sansalone

10:30AM Francine Regine

12:15PM Lil McGill

1:30PM Miguel & Angel Gonzalez

5:00PM Rose Mancini

MONDAY MARCH 2, 2020

8:00AM Mark A. Varrichio

9:00AM Joyce Mazzarella

TUESDAY MARCH 3, 2020

8:00AM Frances Olivieri

9:00AM Louis DiChiara

WEDNESDAY MARCH 4, 2020

8:00AM Charles & Mary Szivos

9:00AM Mary & Alfred Zombo

THURSDAY MARCH 5, 2020

8:00AM Leonard Sheridan

9:00AM Dr. Phil Bonnano

12NOON Angela, Nicola & Sebastiano LaVerghetta

FRIDAY MARCH 6, 2020

8:00AM Mary Cea

9:00AM Frank DiGiannantonio

SATURDAY MARCH 7, 2020

8:00AM Fr. Tom D'Angelo

9:00AM Frances Paterna

5:00PM Nicoletta Ferrara

SUNDAY MARCH 8, 2020

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

9:00AM Maria Rosa Gentile

10:30AM Alba Rosa Caro

12:15PM Luke Turrisi

1:30PM Luis Medina

5:00PM Nancee Madio

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

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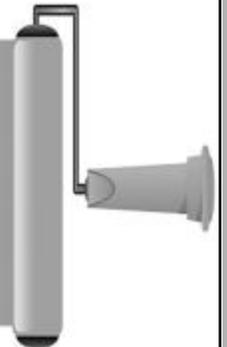
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