

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

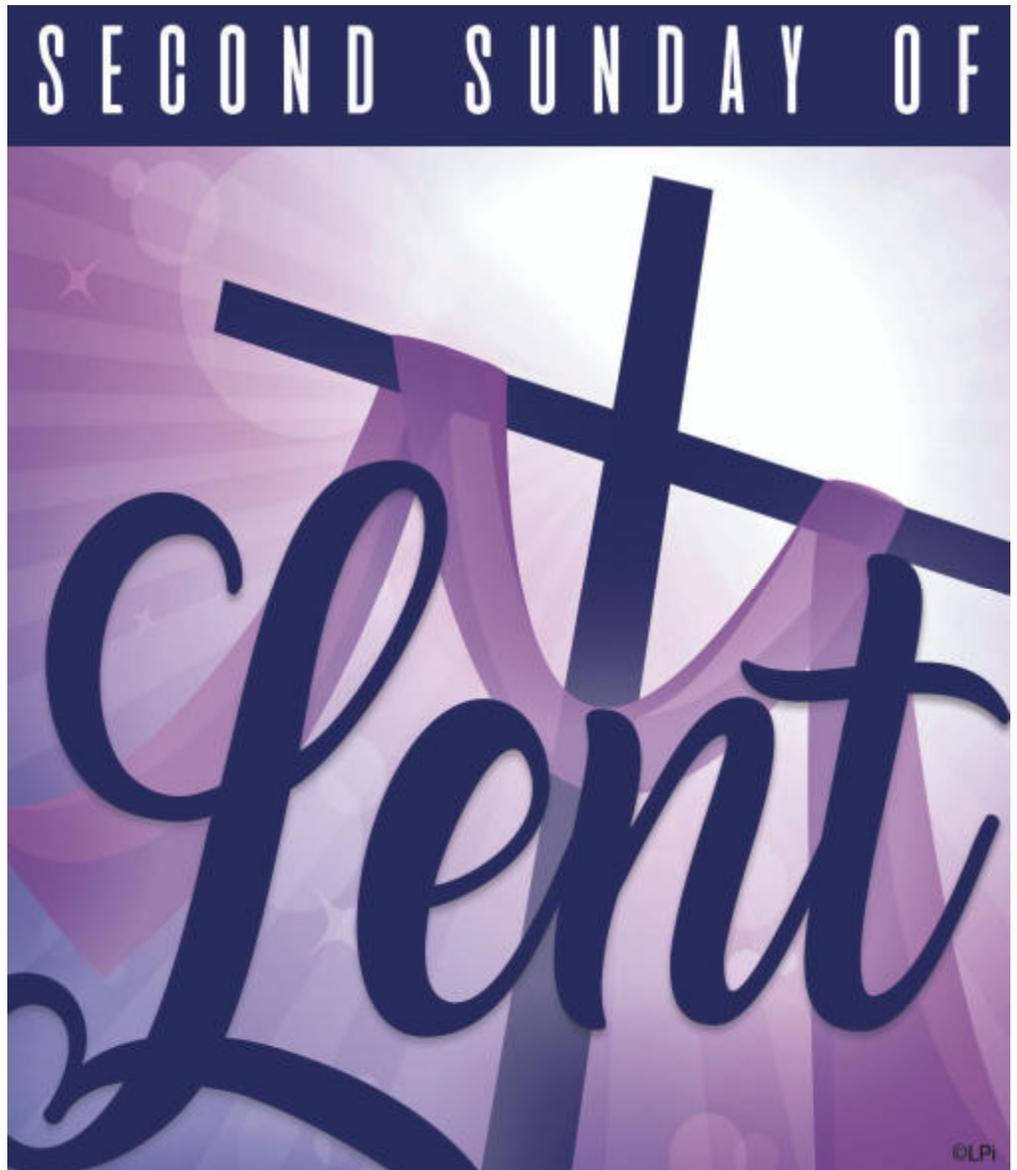
BAPTISMS

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.

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CHURCH OF ST. THERESA, BRONX

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER DERIVAN

Most of the time, two thousand years ago when Our Lord Jesus was physically on this earth, He seemed just like everyone else. Most of the time. But not in the scene we hear about in the gospel today. We call it the Transfiguration. For the briefest of moments, three apostles, Peter, James and John saw the Lord Jesus shining in glory as He is in heaven, His face shining in light, His clothing brilliant white. It is almost as if these three human beings were able to step into heaven and see the glory of the Son of God. But that was only for a brief moment. Next moment they saw Jesus as he normally was, the Jesus whom they knew and loved, the Jesus who had called them to follow Him. What a dramatic moment! These apostles were privileged to see what no other human beings had ever seen, the transfigured glory of the Son of God. But that is not all that happened on the holy mountain on the Transfiguration day. Not only did the apostles see, they also heard. They saw Jesus in glory and they heard the voice of God the Father, "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him." God the Father was confirming Jesus as His beloved Son so that there would be no doubt or confusion. And He was telling these apostles always to listen to Him.

We would think that, after this experience, all would be clear for the apostles. We would think that they would have no doubts, no fear because they had seen the glory of God. But the point is: all was not clear. These same apostles would have their doubts. They still had their fears, and when the time came for the Lord to be brought to the Cross, all of them except John would run and hide. The seeing was not enough. The hearing of the Father's voice was not enough. God had much more work to do with His apostles. It was not until He sent His Holy Spirit on them at Pentecost that their doubts and their fears would be wiped away. Only then did they have the faith and the courage to listen to Him even to the point of death for the Lord whom they loved.

The message of the gospel for us on this Second Sunday of Lent is simply this: we must let the Lord help us to listen more and more to Him. We must not let our doubts, our confusion, our fear overcome us. We must have the courage to listen to Jesus and follow Him. We do not have the same privilege that the three apostles had—we do not see Jesus shining in glory. But we do have our faith and, in a very real sense, that is more important. Our faith helps us to see Jesus not just for a brief moment, but all the time. Lent is our reminder to see Jesus more and more—to see Him in prayer, to see Him in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass that we celebrate and in Holy Communion where we are blessed to receive Himself, and to see Him in one another, in our family, in our friends and neighbors and indeed everyone who crosses our lives. And Lent is our time of trying to listen to Jesus more and more, to give Him time to speak to us. Sometimes we think that when we pray, we must do all the talking. Prayer is not so much our talking as it is our listening to the voice of God.

We must let God do the talking and then we can listen to Him. Next week we will celebrate the feast of St. Patrick, patron of immigrants, patron of Ireland and patron of the Archdiocese of New York. Patrick as a young man, as he wrote later, was an ignorant sinner, far from God. But then at the age of 16 he was captured by slave traders and sold as a slave in Ireland. And there, tending the sheep, Patrick learned to pray and to listen to God. Later on he said, "I did not know the true God. But then the Lord opened my heart. He had pity on my misery, on my youth, on my ignorance. He watched over me and guarded me as a father does his son." And there in his slavery, Patrick learned to pray. He wrote, "Each day I herded the flocks and often during the day I prayed. The love of God grew in me and my spirit was stirred." Patrick learned to listen to God. With that, his whole life was changed. He never had an experience as the three apostles had, seeing Jesus in glory. But he learned to see Jesus in prayer, in the silence of his heart. And he invites us to do the same. If we do one thing for Lent, let us resolve to give God more time to speak to us and not be afraid to listen to Him. May we learn from St. Patrick. May we hear the Father speaking to us and saying "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him."

Father Thomas B. Derivan

WEDNESDAY LENTEN MASS:

Each Wednesday during Lent, we will have a special evening Mass at 6:00PM. This will be followed by Stations of the Cross and will conclude with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Hopefully this time will be helpful to parishioners coming home from work. Parents of children in our CCD classes may wish to come early for this Mass and Stations.

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

Come to adore Our Lord.



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PRAYER FOR LENT



Loving God, as the season of Lent unfolds, you call us to return again and again. As you invite us to reflect on your love made visible in the person of Jesus, align our lives more closely with You through prayer, fasting and generous giving. Bless our desire to accompany Jesus suffering here and now in the crucified people of our world. With your grace, may we live Lent fully and move with transformed hearts into the abundant life of Easter morning.
AMEN.

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

SECOND 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.

FOURTH STATION—Jesus Meets His Grieving Mother

I had managed to break through the crowd and was walking side by side with my son. I called to him through the shouting voices. He stopped. Our eyes met, mine full of tears of anguish, his full of pain and confusion. I felt helpless; then his eyes said to me, "Courage! There is a purpose for this." As he stumbled on, I knew he was right. So I followed and prayed silently.

Lord Jesus, forgive me the many times our eyes met and I turned mine away. Forgive me the times things did not go my way and I let everyone know about it. Forgive me the times I brooded over little inconveniences or became discouraged and did not heed your call to courage! Yes, Lord, our eyes have met many times, but fruitlessly.

FIFTH STATION—Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross

I could now see almost complete helplessness on the face of my son as he tried to carry his heavy load. Each step looked as if it would be his last. I felt his every pain in my heart and I wanted the whole thing to end. Then I noticed some commotion near Jesus. The guards had pulled a protesting man from the crowd. They forced him to pick up the back of the cross to help lighten my son's load. He asked the guards why this had to be. I knew, and so followed silently.

Lord Jesus, I have many times refused to help you. I have been a selfish person who has often questioned your word. Don't let me remain like Simon, but help me to be like your mother, Mary, who always silently followed and obeyed.

SIXTH STATION—Veronica Wipes The Face Of Jesus

As I continued close by Jesus, a woman pushed past the guards, took off her veil and began to wipe my son's sweating, bloody face. The guards immediately pulled her back. Her face seemed to say, "Why are you doing this to him?" I knew, so I walked on in faith, silently.

Lord, this woman gave you the best she could. On the other hand, I have wanted to take more than I give. So many opportunities arise everyday for me to give to you by giving to others—but I pass them by. My savior, never let me ask why again, but help me to give all I have to you.

ATTENTION—ALUMNI AND FORMER PARISHIONERS!

As we prepare for the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the new St. Theresa church on May 17th, we are trying to contact alumni of St. Theresa's School and former parishioners of our parish. We want them to know about this celebration and about the good things that are going on at our parish and our school.

We ask you to contact family members or friends to ask them to help us update our list. They may do so in any of the following ways:

- Filling out the form and sending it to the Rectory (or asking you to drop it by for them)
- Calling the Rectory to update the information
- E-mailing the information found below
- * Entering this information on our Facebook page: [St. Theresa Parish \(Official\)](#)

Thank you for your help with this.

UPDATE OF INFORMATION FOR ALUMNI & FROMER PARISHIONERS

NAME _____

IF ALUMNUS, YEAR _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

COMMENTS OF OTHER INFORMATION:

MARCH 8, 2020

REFLECTIONS FOR THE 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT—THE TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS

The glorious transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain before his disciples came after he predicted his suffering and death and told his followers they must follow him.

Undoubtedly they found his sayings hard to hear. He had to go to Jerusalem, endure great suffering and be put to death, Jesus told them, adding “Anyone who wishes to be a follower of mine must renounce self, take up his cross and follow me.” Peter, as usual reacting for the others, protested “Heaven forbid! No, Lord, this shall never happen to you.” Most likely he was also thinking: “Nor should it happen to me either.”

Yet are we less disturbed to hear about carrying a cross and losing our life? In answer to his disciples’ misgivings, Jesus took Peter, James and John up a high mountain and was transfigured before them. They saw his face shining like the sun and his garments brilliant white. They were filled with awe as they realized his glory was also theirs, a glory not only to be experienced in his future kingdom, but also here on earth.

The New Testament Letters of Peter, influenced by Peter’s experience, promise we will share God’s glory even now, in this present life. Even now, the dark places here and now can shine if we hold them up to the light of faith. (2 Peter 1:16-19). It is not God’s will that the Cross burden us too much.

Even now, Jesus reveals his glory to us wayfarers, that we may rejoice. Even now, we can see intimations of God’s glory in our earthly lives, brief encounters, transitory moments, transfigurations of a lesser kind, as Jesus leads us to the mountain to see his glory. Lord Jesus, lead me to that mountain place of stronger light and surer sound where I may see your glory.

The mountain pilgrims climb, up steep valley paths, their clothes covered with everyday dust, and tired in their bones. The mountain of truth: “Come, let us climb the Lord’s mountain to the house of the God of Jacob, where God instructs us in his ways that we may walk in his paths.” The lovely mountain where lowly sparrows feast, and one day outshines thousands elsewhere because you are there, my God.

The mountain close by, within, that I climb everyday; the holy ground I stand on now. Light and truth, bright as blinding snow, whom Peter, James and John saw, “Lead me on, and bring me to your holy mountain, to your dwelling place.

by Fr. Victor Hoagland, C.P



MARCH 7TH
STS. PERPETUA & FELICITY
Martyrs

Sts. Perpetua and Felicity and the friends who died with them at Carthage are in a special class among the primitive Martyrs since we possess authentic detailed records that give us a vivid picture of their experiences and personalities. There is a diary of St. Perpetua herself, a page by another martyr, and a concluding account by a first-hand witness who is thought to have been Tertullian.

St. Perpetua was a twenty-two-year-old noble lady of Carthage with a baby son and St. Felicity was a married slave who was pregnant. They were arrested under the anti-Christians, Saturninus, Secundulus, and Revocatus. All had been converted by a layman, Saturus, who joined them voluntarily in the dungeon in which they were imprisoned for refusing to sacrifice to the gods.

St. Perpetua yielded her nursing child to her pagan father but remained firm in her Faith in spite of his pleas. St. Felicity gave birth to a child in prison and also remained steadfast in the Faith when the child was taken from her.

The Martyrs were condemned to death and mauled by beasts in the amphitheater before finally being beheaded in the year 203. So shaken was the executioner by St. Perpetua’s commanding aristocratic appearance that she herself had to guide his blade to her neck.

Their martyrdom became known throughout the Church—St. Augustine preached in their honor at least three times. St. Perpetua is mentioned in the Roman Canon or Eucharistic Prayer I, but the Felicity mentioned with her is probably the Roman Martyr of 162.

Prayer God, inspired by Your love, Sts. Perpetua and Felicity were able to disregard persecution and overcome the torment of death. Aided by their prayers, may we make constant progress in our love for You. Amen.

ST. ANTHONY NOVENA



Beginning next Tuesday, March 17, and extending for thirteen Tuesdays, we will celebrate the Novena to St. Anthony of Padua at 6:00PM. This will consist of prayers to St. Anthony and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. We invite you to come as we ask for the intercession of St. Anthony for ourselves, our families and our parish. You will have the opportunity to venerate the relic of St. Anthony after the Novena.

DEVOTION TO THE DIVINE MERCY:



A beautiful devotion for Lent is devotion to the Divine Mercy of Jesus, recalling Our Lord’s revelation to St. Faustina asking for all the world to remember His mercy that is available for all. Leaflets about the Divine Mercy are available in the vestibule of the church today for your use. The annual Divine Mercy Conference will be held at Cardinal Spellman High School on Saturday, April 25th from 9AM to 5:30PM. For information and registration, please contact TheDivineMercy.org/Bronx or call 1-800-462-7426.

THIS YEAR, A SPECIAL CELEBRATION



Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Theresa Parish:

Over ninety years ago in 1927, St. Theresa Parish was established by Monsignor Felitti. How blessed our parish has been since those humble beginnings! How much has changed in the world and right here in our community since the day when our parish was established! Our parish has celebrated wonderful times, but it has also faced hard times, but the determination of our parishioners continued and grew, even when the tragic fire destroyed the old church in 1965. If anything, the determination of St. Theresa's parishioners grew stronger. Those parishioners—some of you among them—built our beautiful new church which stands forth in our community as a testimony of our faith and our determination, in the words of our parish motto, to keep **“St. Theresa Strong!”**

Our current church (known to our older parishioners as “the new church”) was dedicated on May 17, 1970. This year we celebrate the **50th Anniversary of our current church**. We give thanks to God for the blessings that He has given to our parishioners during those fifty blessed years. When the old church burned down, Monsignor Ponsiglione pledged to rebuild St. Theresa's Church and to make it a fitting place for the worship of Almighty God. I am sure that you will agree that Monsignor accomplished that task. Our current church is a tribute to Monsignor Ponsiglione's vision and to his determination to keep **“St. Theresa Strong.”**

We will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the dedication of “the new church” on Sunday, May 17, 2020. We will mark that “50th birthday” of the new church with Mass at 12:15PM, followed by a tour of our school and a display of memorabilia which will be placed in the school lobby. Afterwards, for those who wish to attend, there will be an “Anniversary dinner” in the auditorium. Tickets are sold at the rectory—\$50 per person, \$450 for table of 10.

Please save the date—**May 17th**—and pass the word on to former parishioners and friends and family members. We want to make that day a true celebration of the life of St. Theresa's Parish, past, present and future.

The theme of our Anniversary celebration will be:

“Fifty Years of Grace in Christ in Our New Church.”

May the Lord continue to guide our parish. Every time we come to our church, let us remember those who sacrificed so much to make it possible. And may we do our best to keep “St. Theresa Strong!”

God bless you!
Father Thomas B. Derivan

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

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.)





PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED
MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH AND THEIR FAMILIES
WILLIAM GUND & ANN LUCANIA

**TODAY IS APPEAL SUNDAY FOR
THE CARDINAL'S APPEAL 2020**



As you know, the **2020 Cardinal's Appeal** has been underway in our parish and throughout the Archdiocese. Today is the **special Appeal Sunday**. In the benches of the church you will find cards on which you can indicate your Appeal pledge. It is not necessary for you to place an offering today—the Appeal card represents your pledge and notices will be sent to you by the Appeal Office.

Our aim this year is to ask every parishioner and every family to make an Appeal offering. We ask you to make the special sacrifice of making your Appeal offering. We ask every person to help us reach our goal of \$72,500. Let your Appeal offering be part of your Lenten sacrifice this year. Your sacrifice in the Appeal will represent your love for the Lord Jesus and for the “least of His brethren.”

The Appeal Sunday cards may be handed into an usher or brought or sent to the Rectory. You may also wish to consult the material on our parish website.

Please pray for the success of the Appeal, in our parish and throughout our Archdiocese.

Prayer for the Cardinal's Appeal

TEACH SERVE SANCTIFY

Heavenly Father, you called your Church to fulfill Christ's commission to teach, serve, and sanctify, and to make disciples of all nations. Bestow on us the grace, O God, necessary to live out this great mission across the archdiocese, at our parishes and in our homes. Enlighten, by your Holy Spirit, all who are called to teach. May they come to know you more deeply as the source of all truth and share your Gospel with joy. Inspire us all, by the Life of your Son, to serve others. May we follow His example and minister to the suffering, the lonely, and the needy in our midst with patience, courage, and love. Illuminate, by the light of your glory, all of the baptized whose calling it is to sanctify, by making your Presence known in the world. May our lives always bear witness to your everlasting love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CardinalsAppeal.org



SATURDAY MARCH 7, 2020

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

MONDAY MARCH 9, 2020

8:00AM Vevette Samuels

9:00AM Raffaella Cirillo

TUESDAY MARCH 10, 2020

8:00AM Msgr. Neil Graham

9:00AM Mary Donati

WEDNESDAY MARCH 11, 2020

8:00AM Czeslaw Borys

9:00AM Pietro & Antoinetta Carovillano

6:00PM Dario Diplan

THURSDAY MRCH 12, 2020

8:00AM Edward Fucci

9:00AM Mary Cea

12NOON Juanita Rios

FRIDAY MARCH 13, 2020

8:00AM Huldah Gordon

9:00AM Fr. Tom D'Angelo

SATURDAY MARCH 14, 2020

8:00AM Salvatore DiFranco

9:00AM Robert Masi

5:00PM Anthony Rubustello

SUNDAY MARCH 15, 2020

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

9:00AM Gloria Cabada

10:30AM Michele Muccio

12:15PM Richard Halloway

1:30PM Guillermo Chirimos

5:00PM Marie Sansalone

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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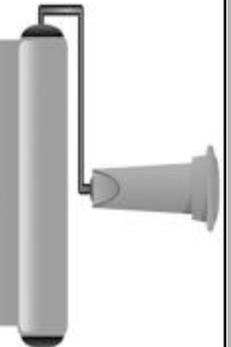
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