

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

CONFESION

Saturdays from 4:00pm to 5:00pm
and by appointment

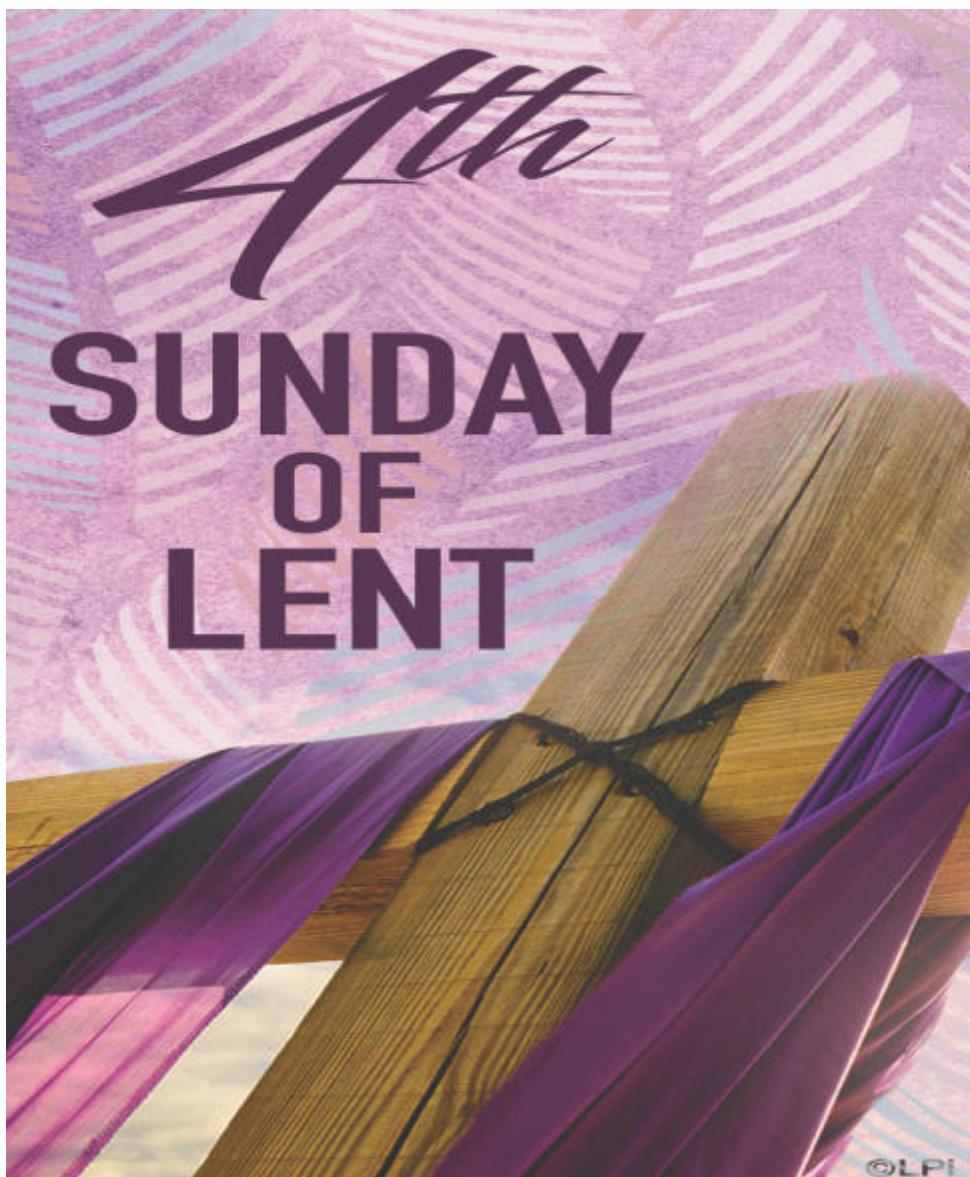
BAPTISMS

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
Deacon, John Figueroa*

*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

When we read the gospels, we meet many wonderful people of faith. Of course we meet Our Blessed Mother Mary—there was no greater person of faith than she. We meet St. Joseph, the faithful foster father of Jesus; St. John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus to come, and so many others, all people of great faith. But then there are other people of faith in the gospels whose names we do not even know, but we should feel very close to them too. Last week we met the Samaritan woman who came to the well looking for water, but instead found Jesus and put her faith in Him. And today we meet another great person of faith. Like the woman of last week, we do not even know his name. He is just called “a man blind from birth.” This man should be our Lenten friend, helping us on our journey of Lent towards Easter. Let me mention three lessons that we can learn from our Lenten friend who was once blind, but now could see.

The very simple fact is that the man is blind, blind from birth. And the gospel says very simply, “As Jesus was passing by, He met this man.” The Lord told him to wash and immediately he was cured. He was able to see for the first time in his life. Can you imagine that? One of the greatest gifts that God has given us is the gift of sight. We should thank Him every day for our eyes, for the ability to see. You can imagine the joy in this man’s heart as he saw his family for the first time, the people who cared for him, the people who loved him. The lesson is this: we see the people who love us every day. But how often do we thank them? How often do we thank our parents who do everything for us? How often do we thank our grandparents? Pope Francis says that he thanks God every day for his grandparents who taught him what faith and God and Church are all about. How often do we thank our teachers, our friends, our neighbors—and even our brothers and sisters? It is one thing to see—it is another thing to thank those whom we see. Make that your aim for the rest of Lent: to thank the people who are most important to you and to thank God for putting them into your life.

And then a second lesson from the man in the gospel: the man is not afraid to tell other people what God has done for him. Even when people tell lies and make excuses, saying he was not really blind, even when they were saying that Jesus is a sinner because He does not agree with them, still the cured man does not hesitate to tell people how good Jesus has been to him. He says, “One thing I know—I was blind and now I see.” And the lesson is this: we must never be afraid to tell people what God has done for us. Do not hesitate to tell people how much God means to you. Remember—you are always giving other people a message. They see how important God is to you. And hopefully they start thinking about how good God has been to them.

And one final lesson from the cured blind man: the blind man sees who Jesus is, the light of the world. And the other people, even though they can physically see, do not open their hearts to the light of Jesus. The lesson is this: we must all make Jesus more and more the light of our lives. Jesus brightens up our lives, even when we are having problems or troubles. He gives us the light and the strength to go on. Our children will learn that. The older people can tell us how hard life would be if they did not have the light of Jesus to get them through, how hard life would be without their faith. Our Lord will never let you down. He is always passing by, as He did that day for the blind man. He is passing by us every day and hopefully we open our eyes to see Him.

Today the priest wears the rose-colored vestments. The Church is telling us that we are already at the mid-point of Lent and the Church is asking us how well we have been using Lent this year. In the next few weeks, learn the lessons of the cured blind man: thanking God for the people who are good to you; telling people how much Jesus means to you; and letting Jesus be more and more the light of your life. Remember, Jesus is always passing by. May we always open our eyes to see Him.

Father Thomas B . Derivan

SPECIAL INFORMATION FOR OUR PARISHIONERS:

- The Archdiocese has cancelled all Masses until further notice.
- In place of this, prayers will be recited here in our church each weekday at 8:00AM and 9:00AM each day. On Saturday evening and Sunday, prayers will be offered at the times when Masses would have been celebrated.
- The church will remain open each day until 5:00PM for your own private prayer.
- The scheduled Tuesday Novena to St. Anthony and Wednesday, Thursday and Friday Stations of the Cross will not be held publicly. You may pray these devotions privately and prayer sheets will be available here in church.

We regret these drastic measure, but we want to cooperate in the effort to stop the spreading of this virus. Please pray for all of those affected by it and for the medical personnel who are so valiantly helping those in need of medical care.

HANDICAP ENTRANCE TO THE CHURCH

The side entrance to the Church on Pilgrim Avenue will be open every Sunday for anyone who is handicapped or in a wheelchair. Also this same entrance will be opened every weekday until 9:30AM.

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FOURTH 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.

TENTH STATION - Jesus Is Stripped Of His Garments

With my son finally relieved of the weight of the cross, I thought he would have a chance to rest. But the guards immediately started to rip his clothes off his blood-clotted skin. The sight of my son in such pain was unbearable. Yet, since I knew this had to be, I stood by and cried silently.

Lord, in my own way I too have stripped you. I have taken away the good name of another by foolish talk, and have stripped people of human dignity by my prejudice. Jesus, there are so many ways I have offended you through the hurt I have caused others. Help me to see you in all people.

ELEVENTH STATION - Jesus Is Nailed To The Cross

As they threw Jesus on the cross, he willingly allowed himself to be nailed. As they punctured his hands and his feet I felt the pain in my heart. Then they lifted up the cross. There he was, my son, whom I love so much, being scorned as he struggled for the last few moments of earthly life. But I knew this had to be, so I stood by and prayed silently.

Lord, what pain you endured for me. And what pain your mother went through, seeing her only son die for love of me! Yet, both you and she are ready to forgive me as soon as I repent of my sin. Help me, Lord, to turn away from my sinfulness.

TWELFTH STATION - Jesus Dies On The Cross

What greater pain is there for a mother than to see her son die right before her eyes! I, who had brought this savior into the world and watched him grow, stood helplessly beneath his cross as he lowered his head and died. His earthly anguish was finished, but mine was greater than ever. Yet, this had to be and I had to accept it, so I stood by and I mourned silently.

My Jesus, have mercy on me for what my sins have done to you and to others. I thank you for your great act of love. You have said that true love is laying down your life for your friends. Let me always be your friend. Teach me to live my life for others, and not fail you again.

A PRAYER AMID AN EPICEMIC **By Kerry Weber, America Magazine**

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages "curing every disease and illness." At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your protection and peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

Jesus Christ, heal us. Amen.



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

MARCH 22, 2020

OUR CONFIRMATION CLASS



The following young people from our school and our CCD Program have been preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation. May the Holy Spirit guide them as they prepare for this beautiful sacrament. The actual ceremony of Confirmation will be forth coming. We as you to pray for them.

We are grateful for all who have assisted in the preparation of these young people for Confirmation: Mrs. Marie McCarrick, Director of Religious Education and Coordinator of our Sacramental Program; Mrs. Josephine Fanelli, our school principal; Mrs. Maria DePalma, St. Theresa School, 7th Grade homeroom and religion teacher; and CCD catechist Mrs. Debbie Zottola-Addario. And, of course, many thanks to the parents and sponsors of these young people for helping them to reach this milestone in their Catholic lives.

Members of our Confirmation Class are:

Brianna Cecilia Aguilera
Diego Michael Albarracin
Ashley Rose Almazo Villanueva
Justin Sebastian Amalvert
Kylie Catherine Anzelde
Giada Anastasia Anzelino
Isabella Rosa Bayon
Kailani Mary Benevides Andrisani
Anthony Giovanni Bondi
Antonio Pio Bruno
Paolo Pio Bueti
Edwin Michael Cantres
Sage Francis Cerino
Lorcan Francis Coen
Erin Anne Crowe
Anthony Joseph D'Abbraccio
Natalie Michaela Drewes
Sebastian Luke Dukaj
Nicholas Michael Ferrante
Julie Angela Fumai
Alyssa Elizabeth Fusco
Grace Giovanna Giacinto
Gabriella Madeleine Gierum
Victoria Catherine Giuliano
Samantha Providencia Grace
Damien Pio Hegarty
Sophia Anne Jimenez

Arby Anthoni Kodra
Andrea Anthony Kola
Georgia Teresa Kolaj
Bryanna Grace Kurys
Viviana Catherine Loci
Joseph Francis Lomanaco
Heidy Cecilia Manchia
Olivia Cecilia Maskara
Ambra Teresa Matanaj
Kristi Anthony Matanaj
Ciara Barbara Medina
Julian Luigi Mendoza
Keyla Elizabeth Morel
Karen Mariana Naula
Angel Paul Otero
Grace Serafina Ottaviano
Alessia Abigail Pace-Palancia
Marco Xavier Palumbo
Anthony Paul Patterson
Jayden Sebastian Piparo
Rafael Raphael Roman
Brandon Francis Romeo
Dominique Rose Ruisi
Isabella Cecilia Scuoppo
Zavier Juan Suero
Angela Teresa Troshani
Nicholas Michael Valerio
Gjergji Nicholas Vucaj

THE MIDDLE OF LENT—THE ROSE-COLORED VESTMENTS: There are only two times in the Church's year when the priest wears rose-colored vestments at Mass. One is on the Third Sunday of Advent, the midpoint of our preparation for Christmas. The other is today, the Fourth Sunday of Lent, the midpoint of our Lenten preparation for Easter.

The rose-colored vestments are a visible reminder of two things. First, we know that already we are anticipating the joy of Easter. The purple of our waiting and preparing is mixed with the whiteness of our Easter joy to give us the rose color of the vestments. While Easter is still a few weeks away, we know that we already have the Risen Jesus with us, in His Word, in His Eucharist, in His Church. We know, as He promised that "*I am with you always even until the end of time.*"

But the rose-colored vestments remind us of a second thing. They are the Church's visible "stop sign" for us to reflect on how well we are living up to the spirit of Lent, how well we are following our Lenten practices and resolutions, how we are really changing our lives and coming closer to the Lord Jesus who died for us on the Cross and rose to newness of life. Maybe we can say that Lent has truly changed us. Maybe this Lent has been a time when we returned to the sacraments. Maybe we have truly tried during this Lent to give up things that have overtaken us, smoking, drinking too much, wasting time, overeating. Maybe this Lent has been a time when I have realized that I do not need as much as I thought I did and I have shared what I have with others who are needy, either materially or spiritually. If this is so, the rose-colored vestments are the Church's reminder to keep on going, not to stop doing these Lenten activities because they are so pleasing to Almighty God.

But, on the other hand, I may have to admit that I have not done much for Lent. Ash Wednesday brought good intentions to my heart, but I have become distracted and I have not really used the first three weeks of Lent well. Let the rose color of the vestments remind you that you still have time. Begin today. Begin this very moment. Give up something. Give something to God and to others. Change what needs to be changed. Make the last three weeks of Lent your special time of offering your time, your prayer, your Penance, your acts of mercy to the Lord who died for love of you. How pleased Our Lord will be even if you start Lent today.

May this Lent be truly a time of grace for you and your family. Pray that many souls will come home to the Lord during this holy time.

MEDITATIONS AND PRAYERS FOR THE FOURTH WEEK OF LENT
By Father Victor Hoagland, C.P. John 9:1-41

This is a dramatic gospel, not only because of the miracle, but also because of the heated exchanges and the clear dialogue that follow it.

Besides Jesus and his disciples, the blind man himself, his parents and neighbors and a divided group of Pharisees all interact vigorously in the story.

Unlike others, this blind man did not approach Jesus. Rather Jesus approached him. And remarkably, the miracle did not just restore the man's sight. Blind from birth, he never before had the power to see. Could he represent those who can do nothing for themselves? Nothing at all, except wait for the power of God?

At the sight of the woebegone beggar, Jesus' disciples wondered: did he do something to deserve it? Some sin he or his parents had committed? No, Jesus replied. "He was born blind so that God's power might be displayed in curing him."

It was Jesus' message always: God's power belongs to the poor. Scarcely using that power for himself, he brought Good News to them. God's power-healing, restoring, creating-belonged to the blind man and others like him. And so he spent himself for them.

So too he advised his disciples "to carry on while daylight lasts the work of him who sent me." You must not pass by the poor or only speculate about them. Work for their good so that the power of God may come upon them and the power of God will come upon you too, for the poor will bless you with a blessing found nowhere else.

O Jesus, light of the world, why were you born, and why did you die in such obscurity? Bethlehem was hardly a shining place, the stable hardly a burning stand for Light come into the world. Was not Calvary too an ending place for life and light? And would not a cross in the afternoon sky, turn all eyes away?

Blind man, did your eyes turn away too? Or were you so accustomed to the dark as to see what others could not see?

For once, it was not long ago, Someone seeing you all in darkness touched your eyes and told you to wash until you saw God's glory



MARCH 24TH
ST. CATHERINE OF SWEDEN, Virgin
Invoked against Miscarriages

St. Catherine was the daughter of Ulfo Gudmarsson, Prince of Nericia, Sweden, and of St. Bridget. She was educated at the direction of the Abbess of the convent. When she had reached the age of thirteen, her father gave her in marriage to Egard, a young German nobleman of great virtue. However, by her prayers and discourses the holy virgin persuaded her husband to join with her in making a mutual vow of perpetual chastity, thereby forgoing their lawful marital rights for the love of God. Thus they encouraged each other to mortification, prayer, and works of charity.

After the death of her father, St. Catherine joined her mother, St. Bridget, in a pilgrimage to Rome in 1349, out of devotion to the Passion of Christ and to the relics of the Roman Martyrs. In 1373, St. Bridget died at Rome and St. Catherine returned to Sweden with her mother's body.

In 1375, the Saint returned to Rome to promote her mother's canonization and to obtain the confirmation of the Brigittines or Order of St. Savior. She died as the Abbess of Vadzstena, Sweden, on March 24, 1381.

During the last twenty-five years of her life, St. Catherine lived in mortification and penance. Frequently she purified her soul from sin by the Sacrament of Penance. She was canonized in 1484 by Pope Pius II.

The Order of St. Savior or the Brigittines, founded by St. Catherine of Sweden, was approved by Urban V and affiliated to the Augustinians. This Order has for its purpose literary work, especially the translation of religious writings.

PRAYER Lord God, You showered heavenly gifts on St. Catherine the Virgin. Help us to imitate her virtues during our earthly life and enjoy eternal happiness with her in heaven. Amen

**OUR CLEBRATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE "NEW" ST. THERESA CHURCH
MAY 17TH, 2020**

On May 17, 1970, the "new" St. Theresa Church was dedicated by Terence Cardinal Cooke. It replaced the beloved "old" St. Theresa's Church which was destroyed by fire on February 7, 1965. The "new" church is a tribute to the vision of Monsignor Mario Ponsiglione and to the devotion of St. Theresa's parishioners who loved their parish.

This year is the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the "new" Church. We will mark that anniversary with a special celebration on **Sunday, May 17th**:

- Mass of Thanksgiving - 12:15PM
- Tour of St. Theresa School and memorabilia display
- For those who wish to attend there will be a dinner in our auditorium. Tickets are available at the rectory at the cost of \$50 per person or you can call 718-892-1900 for more information.

We hope you will join us on this festive occasion, as we give thanks to the Lord for "St. Theresa Strong."



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED
MEMBER OF OUR PARISH AND HER FAMILY
ANGELINA NEGLIA, JOHN REILLY, VITO MECCA,
NORMA CINTRON & DIANE M. VINCIGUERRA

**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.

We are now in 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 have chosen 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.

Your Appeal offering may be brought to the Rectory, or sent directly to the Appeal Office. Additional Appeal envelopes are in the vestibule of the church.

Please pray for the success of the Appeal, in our parish. With your generous help we shall again reach our goal in the Appeal this year.

PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN MARY FOR PROTECTION



O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Our Lady of New York, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us:

For He took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas - we who are put to the test - and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Amen.



SATURDAY MARCH 21, 2020

5:00PM Frank Vito

SUNDAY MARCH 22, 2020

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

9:00AM Marie Sansalone

10:30AM Raymond Tucciarone

12:15PM Joseph Romeo

1:30PM Special Intention

5:00PM Mary & Charles Szivos

MONDAY MARCH 23, 2020

8:00AM John Reilly

9:00AM Mary Cea

TUESDAY MARCH 24, 2020

8:00AM Laura Glowacki

9:00AM John Reilly

WEDNESDAY MARCH 25, 2020

8:00AM John Reilly

9:00AM William Gund

6:00PM Marie Sansalone

THURSDAY MARCH 26, 2020

8:00AM John Reilly

9:00AM Ann Lucania

12NOON Michele DelVecchio

FRIDAY MARCH 27, 2020

8:00AM Pasquale Marro

9:00AM Gabriella Donovan

SATURDAY MARCH 28, 2020

8:00AM Anadelia Castrello

9:00AM Filadelfio & Benedetta Marino

5:00PM Lidio DiCristofaro

SUNDAY MARCH 29, 2020

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

9:00AM Marie Sansalone

10:30AM Maria Assunta Reda

12:15PM Irma Orrico

1:30PM Rosalba Gomez

5:00PM Dorina DiLullo

PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH:

Phyllis Amitrano, Maryann Cale Bannan, Nancy Cardone, Elaine Reiss Cina, Joseph Cina, Phyllis Caruso, 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, Isabelle O'Brien, Frank Oricco, Camille Siciliano, Mario Simeone, Toni Spahr, Florence Valentine, Dean Valentine, Nicholas Vasti, Frank Vertullo, Irene Vesely.

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