

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.

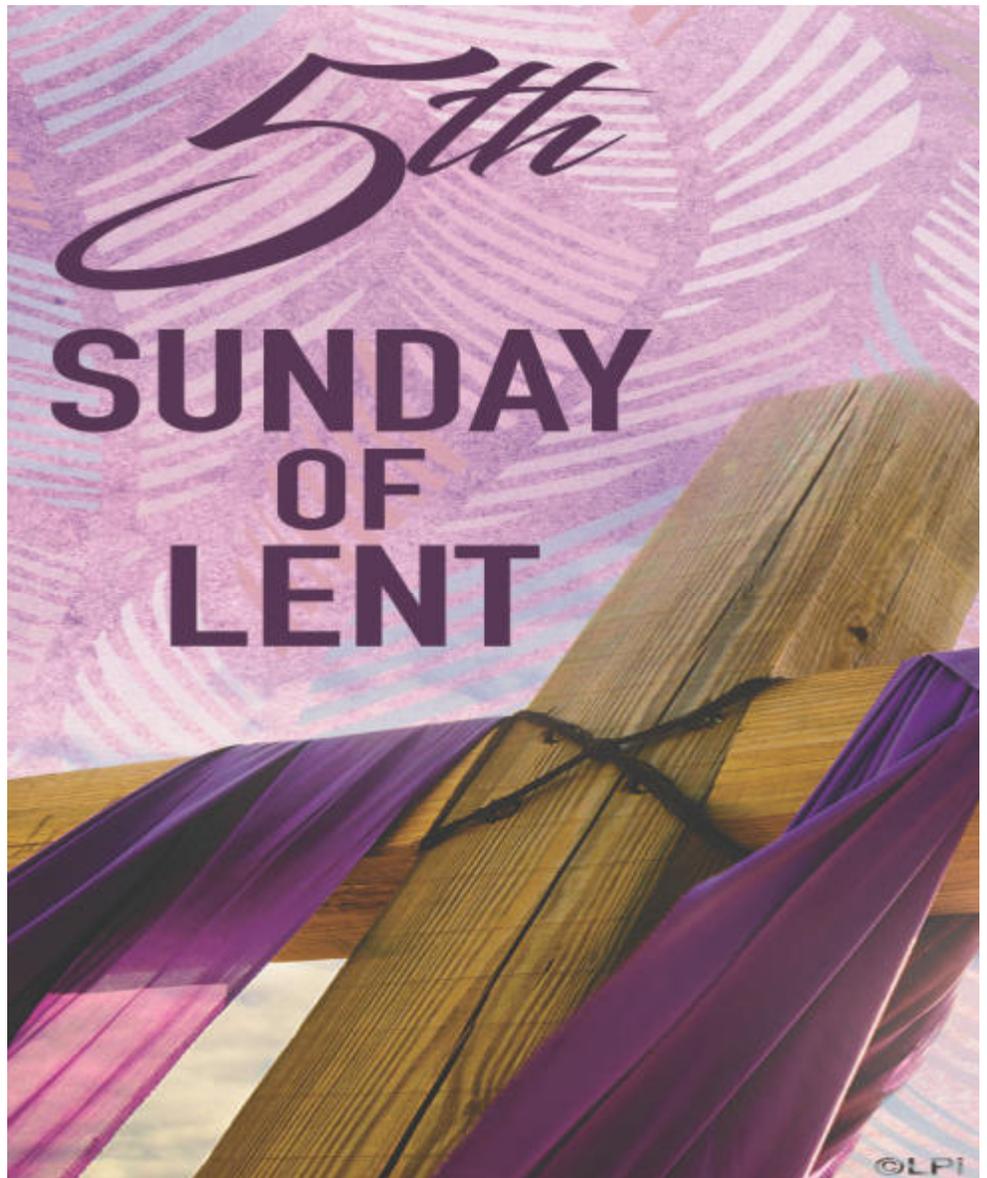
We ask parents to attend the Baptism
preparation meeting. Register at the
Rectory for the meeting.

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
Deacon, John Figueroa*

*Mrs. Josephine Fanelli, Principal
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Nadia Papayani, Dir. of Music*

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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

Once again today we have a long gospel, a beautiful one, a powerful one. Remember for the last two weeks we listened to long gospels, one about the Samaritan woman at the well and the other about the cure of the man born blind. For both of them, we do not know their names. But we do know the name of the man in today's gospel, Lazarus, a dear friend of Jesus whom we hear about often in the gospels, the brother of Martha and Mary, the man at whose home in Bethany Our Lord used to come and rest. But today's gospel is not just a story about Lazarus and the Lord's love for him. It is much more. It is a story about a miracle, the miracle of the Lord raising Lazarus from the dead. And, as with every story of a miracle, Our Lord is teaching us a lesson, a Lesson which we do well to listen to as we spend these last days of Lent.

What is the lesson? The lesson is found in two commands of Jesus in the gospel: the first command is in the words of Jesus when He says to Lazarus, "Come out." And the second command is found in the words that Jesus says to the people around the risen Lazarus, "Untie him and let him go."

First, the words to the dead Lazarus in the tomb, "Lazarus, come out." Notice the Lord calls him by name. He always calls us by name. We are not just nameless people as far as the Lord is concerned. He knows us, better than we know ourselves. And He calls us out, not out of the burial tomb as He did for Lazarus, but He calls us out of those things that may constitute tomb for us. Maybe our tomb is the tomb of fear, fear of the future, fear of the way things are going in our personal lives. The Lord says to us, "Come out of the tomb of fear." Maybe our tomb is the tomb of suffering, physical sickness of ourselves or someone we love. The Lord is saying to us "Come out of that tomb. Realize that I am here with you and I will be with you always." Maybe our tomb is our worry about how things are going in the world around us, the threat of terrorism and violence, the loss of family values, the loss of the awareness of God in our society today. The Lord is saying to us, "Come out of that fear. Realize that I have conquered sin and death. Realize that somehow I will bring good out of everything, even the darkest of moments." "Come out," Jesus says. Lazarus obeyed those words. The Lord invites us to do the same.

And then the second command is found in the words that Jesus says to the risen Lazarus, "Untie him and let him go." Specifically the Lord was telling the people to untie the burial wrappings that surrounded the body of Lazarus when he was buried. But the Lord is commanding us to untie something more important. He wants us to untie anything that gets in the way of our following Him. During Lent hopefully we have been working on that "untying," freely ourselves of those faults or habits that we may have fallen into, resentment, rash judgment, impatience, lack of charity, lack of concern for others. The Lord invites us in these last days of Lent to untie ourselves of these things so that we can walk freely in His path, following Him more faithfully than ever.

The Lord has different ways of untying us and telling us to come forth. Three years ago we had a surprise visitor. Cardinal Ernest Troshani Simoni from Albania briefly stopped by our church to offer Mass, visiting relatives in our city. The Cardinal is 91 years old. For twenty eight of those years he suffered imprisonment, torture and forced labor under Albania's brutal Communist rulers for refusing to renounce his Catholic faith. He was freed in 1981 but had to continue preaching secretly until the Communist regime fell in 1990. Pope Francis made him a new cardinal and when the Pope met him, the Pope said, "Today I touched a martyr." Certainly Cardinal Somoni's experience was similar to that of Lazarus. The Lord called him forth from the tomb of his Communist imprisonment and the Lord set him free. But through this living martyr, the Lord said in another sense "Untie him and let him go." for through the example and the prayers of this good cardinal, the Albanian people were untied from their Communist oppression and were set free.

We do not have the same experience as Cardinal Simoni. And yet the Lord works in us in the same way, telling us to come forth, untying us of anything separating us from him. Like Lazarus, we are called to receive new life from the Lord. During Lent and always, may we be ready to open our hearts to receive that new life in Him.

Father Thomas B. Derivan

PRAYER FOR THE CARDINAL'S APPEAL TEACH SERVE SANCTIFY

Heavenly Father, you called you 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

PRAYERS FOR LENT

Jesus, teach me to see with your eyes, to live life as you lived, to understand life as you understood it. Give me a new perception of others, close and far, seen always as brothers and sisters in you to be respected and loved. Amen

—Pope Francis

Eternal God,
The refuge of all your children,
In our weakness, you are our strength,
In our darkness, you are our light,
In our sorrow, you are our comfort.
May we always live in your presence,
And serve you in our daily lives;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

—St. Boniface

FIFTH 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.

THIRTEENTH STATION - Jesus Is Taken From The Cross

The crowd had gone; the noise had stopped. I stood quietly with one of Jesus' friends and looked up at the dead body of our savior, my son. Then two men took the body from the cross and placed it in my arms. A deep sorrow engulfed my being. Yet, I also felt deep joy. Life had ended cruelly for my son, but it had also brought life to all of us. I knew this had to be, and I prayed silently.

Lord, your passion has ended. Yet, it still goes on whenever I choose sin over you. I have done my part in your crucifixion and now, my savior, I beg your forgiveness with all my heart. Help me to live a life worthy of you and your mother.

FOURTEENTH STATION - Jesus Is Placed In The Tomb

We brought Jesus' body to a tomb and I arranged it there myself, silently weeping, silently rejoicing. I took one more look at my loving son, and then walked out. They closed the tomb and before I left, I thought, I knew this had to be—it had to be for you! I would wait in faith silently.

Yes, my Lord, this had to be because you love me, and for no other reason. All you ask is that I live a good life. You never said such a life would be easy. I am willing to leave sin behind and live for you alone, in my brothers and sisters.

FIFTEENTH STATION - Jesus Is Raised From The Dead

I could only be most grateful for the sacrifice of my son for us. Yet, what emptiness I felt trying to live without him whom I loved so! But, only two days later that emptiness was filled beyond belief - he had risen! Our savior had opened the doors to a new life. That is the way it had to be - because his undying love for you would not stop at anything less. I could rejoice forever, but not in silence. My Savior, thank you! Thank you for such endless love that helps me to rise out of my own sinfulness. I will try again to live a better life. Help me to always remember that love. Mary, mother of our risen Savior, teach me to be like you, and in my love for others, love him in return.

RAISING LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD Meditations And Prayers For The Fifth Week Of Lent By Father Victor Hoagland, C.P. (John 11:1-43)

The blind man sees, Lazarus lives. John's Gospel links these two figures closely because of the gifts they receive from the Word of God, Jesus Christ. "In him was life, and that life was the light of all people." Jn. 1:4. Light touched the blind man, as the Word of God enlightened his spirit along with the gift of physical sight, and he believed in Jesus.

And Life came to the tomb of Lazarus, as Jesus, "the resurrection and the life," raised him from the dead.

More is known about Lazarus than the nameless blind man. Most likely from an influential family, he and his sisters, Martha and Mary, were friends of Jesus, whom they welcomed to their home in the village of Bethany, a little under two miles from Jerusalem. There Jesus often stayed when visiting the Holy City.

Jesus was not there, however, when Lazarus died some days before the Passover. Threatened by Jerusalem's authorities, he had left the area, traveling down the ancient road to Jericho, then to the safety of Transjordan where John had baptized.

Once he heard the news of Lazarus' death he returned up the same road to be with his friends. John's account describes a typical Jewish burial. Wrapped in linen strips, Lazarus' body was buried the same day he died; his tomb a cave, sealed with a stone, outside the village. His sisters, Martha and Mary then began the customary 30 days of mourning at home, receiving the condolences of their friends and neighbors.

By the time Jesus arrived, Lazarus was dead four days, the point the rabbis claimed no trace of the soul remained in the body. Decomposition had set in.

Hearing that Jesus was coming up the road, the two sisters left their home to express their grief. "And Jesus wept." Then, deeply moved, he went to the tomb and ordered the stone removed. Looking up to heaven, Jesus prayed to his Father and in a loud voice cried, "Lazarus, come out." "The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with linen bandages, his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said, 'Loose him; let him go.'

The raising of Lazarus, which John's gospel places immediately before Jesus' passion and death, made the Jerusalem authorities finally decide to put Christ to death. It is an irony like others the evangelist makes. Jesus, bringing life, is put to death and placed in a tomb.

His death and resurrection are life-giving, the Church's faith proclaims. Dying and rising from the dead, he brings hope of eternal life to all who, like Lazarus, must die. That hope is realized in the sacrament of Baptism: "Are you not aware that we who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Through baptism into his death we were buried with him, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. If we have been united with him through likeness to his death, so shall we be through a like resurrection." (Rom 6:3-5)

Lazarus was only a sign of what the Savior of the world, the Resurrection and the Life, would do for all humanity.

Lord, like the traveler lifting the fallen one on the Jericho road, healing all his wounds, you went to Lazarus' tomb, and would not let him die but loosed the bonds of death, so great was your love for him.

Savior, we believe you weep at every death, and pray at every tomb, for all the dead whose faith is known to you alone.

Like Lazarus, call us your friends, stay in our company, share what we have, come to our aid when we call and grant us eternal life.



APRIL 1st
ST. HUGH, BISHOP OF GRENOBLE

St. Hugh was born at Chateauneuf, in the territory of Valence in Dauphine in 1053, and from the cradle he appeared to be a child of benediction. He embraced the ecclesiastical state, and accepted a canonry in the cathedral of Valence. His virtues rendered him the ornament of that church. Hugh, Bishop of Die, later Archbishop of Lyons and Cardinal Legate of the Holy See, was so pleased with him that he took him into his own household and employed him in numerous affairs of importance.

At a Council held at Avignon in 1080, the Saint was forced to accept the See of Grenoble, which had fallen into a deplorable condition. The legate took St. Hugh with him to Rome, where he received episcopal consecration at the hands of Pope Gregory VII. Returning home, the new Bishop at once began to labor hard for the reformation of his diocese, and soon had the satisfaction of beholding a wonderful change for the better, effected through his zeal.

After two years, presuming the permission of the Holy See, St. Hugh privately resigned his Bishopric and entered the novitiate of the Benedictine Order of Cluny; but the Pope commanded him to resume his pastoral charge. It was to St. Hugh that St. Bruno and his six companions addressed themselves in their design of forsaking the world, and the holy Bishop directed them to the desert of Chartreuse, where they founded the Carthusian Order. The long and penitential life of St. Hugh came to a close April 1, 1132, after a lingering illness, and he was canonized in 1134 by Pope Innocent II.

PRAYER God, Light and Shepherd of souls, You established St. Hugh as Bishop in Your Church to feed Your flock by his word and form it by his example. Help us through his intercession to keep the Faith he taught by his word and follow the way he showed by his example. Amen.



APRIL 2nd
ST. FRANCIS OF PAOLA, Hermit
Patron of Mariners

St. Francis was born about the year 1416, at Paola, a small city in Calabria. His parents were very poor, but virtuous. He learned to read in the Franciscan convent at St. Mark's, a town in the same province. After spending a year with the Franciscans, he took up his abode in solitude about half a mile from Paola in 1432.

Before the Saint was twenty, two others joined him to share in his devout exercises. The neighbors built them three cells and a chapel, in which a priest from the parish church said Mass for them. This is looked upon as the beginning of the Order of Minims, the foundation of which is placed in 1436.

The Order was confirmed by a bull of Sixtus IV in 1474, with St. Francis as Superior General. The first monastery had been built in 1454 and was followed by several others. In 1482, he went to France by command of Sixtus IV, at the request of Louis XI, whose entire conversion he effected before the latter's death in 1483. St. Francis, now established his Order in France, and Charles VIII and Louis XII became its special benefactors.

When his long life of penance was drawing to a close, St. Francis spent the last three months in his cell to prepare for death and eternity. He fell sick on Palm Sunday, 1507, and died shortly thereafter at ninety-one years of age. He was canonized in 1519 by Pope Leo X.

PRAYER God, the exultation of the humble, You raised St. Francis to the glory of Your Saints. Through his merits and example, grant that we may happily obtain the rewards promised to the humble. Amen.



APRIL 3rd
ST. RICHARD, Bishop

Born in 1197 at the Manor of Wiche near Worcester, England, St. Richard, like so many other Saints, exhibited a great inclination to virtue from his childhood, spending his time in pious exercises or in study, while he showed himself averse to the ordinary amusements of his age. His greatest pleasure was to render service to others.

Richard went to Paris to continue his studies, and together with two chosen friends lived an austere life. On his return to England he took the degree of Master of Arts at Oxford and then went to Bologna, in Italy, to devote himself to the study of Canon Law. Finally, St. Edmund, Archbishop of Canterbury, summoned Richard to accompany him to France, Richard was ordained to the priesthood.

Elevated to the Episcopal See of Chichester, Richard overcame many obstacles. As soon as he enjoyed sufficient liberty of action, he applied himself with all possible zeal to the government of his church. His firmness in maintaining ecclesiastical discipline and his charity to the poor commanded great admiration. He suffered much for two years at the hands of King Henry III.

The Pope commissioned Richard to preach a crusade against the Saracens. In fulfilling this mission he fell sick of a fever, which was the forerunner of his death in 1235. He was canonized in 1262 by Pope Urban IV.

PRAYER God, You made St. Richard an outstanding exemplar of Divine love and the Faith that conquers the world, and added him to the roll of saintly pastors. Grant by his intercession that we may persevere in Faith and love and become sharers of his glory. Amen.

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Theresa's Parish,

I do not think there is anything sadder, both for us priests and for you our people, than not to be able to join with our people at Mass in our church. In our church Mass is offered privately every day without a congregation, but of course it is not the same. If anything, the current crisis has made us appreciate the Mass more and more. And it makes us appreciate our parish, the beauty of our church, the warmth of the people who come to celebrate Mass, the joy of praising God in prayer and beautiful music, and greeting one another as brothers and sisters in the Lord. By God's good grace and by the valiant efforts of so many people—doctors, nurses, medical personnel, scientists and researchers and all of those who are helping us take necessary precautions—we will be “back in business” soon.

I want to acquaint you with some necessary changes and also some important information:

1. As I mentioned above and as you well know, while it is so sad that we cannot attend Mass in our parish, it makes us appreciate the Mass more and more. When finally we are able to attend Mass again in church, hopefully we will carry with us that longing for the Mass that we have now in these difficult times.

2. Our parish website features the **daily Mass** in our church and also the recitation of a decade of the rosary. We suggest that you listen to the Mass when you can, particularly on Sunday. You may also wish to go the section marked “**A Decade of the Rosary**” as you end each day.

Our parish website is: [www. sttheresachurchbronx.org](http://www.sttheresachurchbronx.org).

3. Our church will be open for **private prayer** throughout the day from 6:30AM to 5:00PM.

4. We will not be able to have our **Lenten devotions** in church. This includes Stations of the Cross, Novena to St. Anthony and Holy Hour. We suggest that you say these devotions privately. Prayer sheets will be available in church.

5. **St. Theresa's School**, like all Catholic and public schools, will be closed until at least April 20. The teachers have prepared online lessons, using a program called *google classroom* so that the children can continue their education every day. Parents should arrange for a specific schedule for the children to do their assignments. They should stick to this schedule every day and do all the assignments. Also all after-school events have been cancelled.

6. We will not be able to have parish meetings and other gatherings until further notice. We will examine the situation regarding our planned **May 17 celebration of the dedication of the “new” St. Theresa Church** and we will keep you informed.

7. **The Sacrament of Confirmation**, planned for March 27, will be postponed until further notice. Bishop Walsh will determine a new date for Confirmation for us.

8. We will consult with the Cardinal's Office about the celebration of the **Holy Week** ceremonies. Obviously these will be changed. We will livestream the Holy Week ceremonies and the celebration of Easter on our website. We will keep you informed about exact information for Holy Week.

9. Since many parents are home with their children at this time, one good thing is to recover “**family time**.” This should include having meals together, talking about things in each person's life, sharing memories of the past, as well as praying together as a family. This can be a difficult time for the family, but with proper planning it can become a special time of being—and praying—together.

10. You will be receiving a mailing from our office regarding our upcoming **Grand Raffle**. Because of the crisis, our Raffle, usually held at our Feast, will take in a new form. More information will be given in the weeks ahead.

11. Of course during this difficult time, we depend, as always, on **your generous support of our church**. We are grateful to the many parishioners who brought or sent their weekly church envelopes for last Sunday. May I ask all our parishioners to continue to do so. Envelopes may be brought to the rectory, placed in the collection boxes by the altar in church or sent to: St. Theresa's Rectory, 2855 St. Theresa Avenue, Bronx, N.Y. 10461.

I hope this information is helpful. Above all pray for one another. May Our Lord help us to keep “**St. Theresa Strong**.”

God bless you!
Father Thomas B. Derivan

MASS INTENTIONS

During this time when public Mass is not able to be celebrated, the priests are offering private Mass for those who have arranged for announced Masses for loved ones. We are trying to do this, as far as possible, on the actual date that was arranged. In some cases these Masses have been moved to a later date. This information is available in the rectory.



THE SANCTUARY LAMP BURNING NEAR THE
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OF
ANNA LUCANIA
LOVE, JOHN & JOSEPHINE FANELLI & FAMILY



THIS WEEK'S ALTAR BREAD IS IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
ANNA LUCANIA
LOVE, JOHN & JOSEPHINE FANELLI & FAMILY



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ANGEL COLON

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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.

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.

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.

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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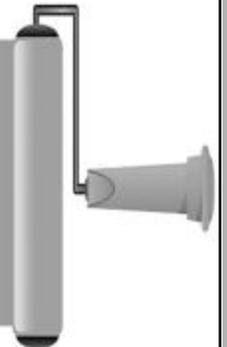
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