

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

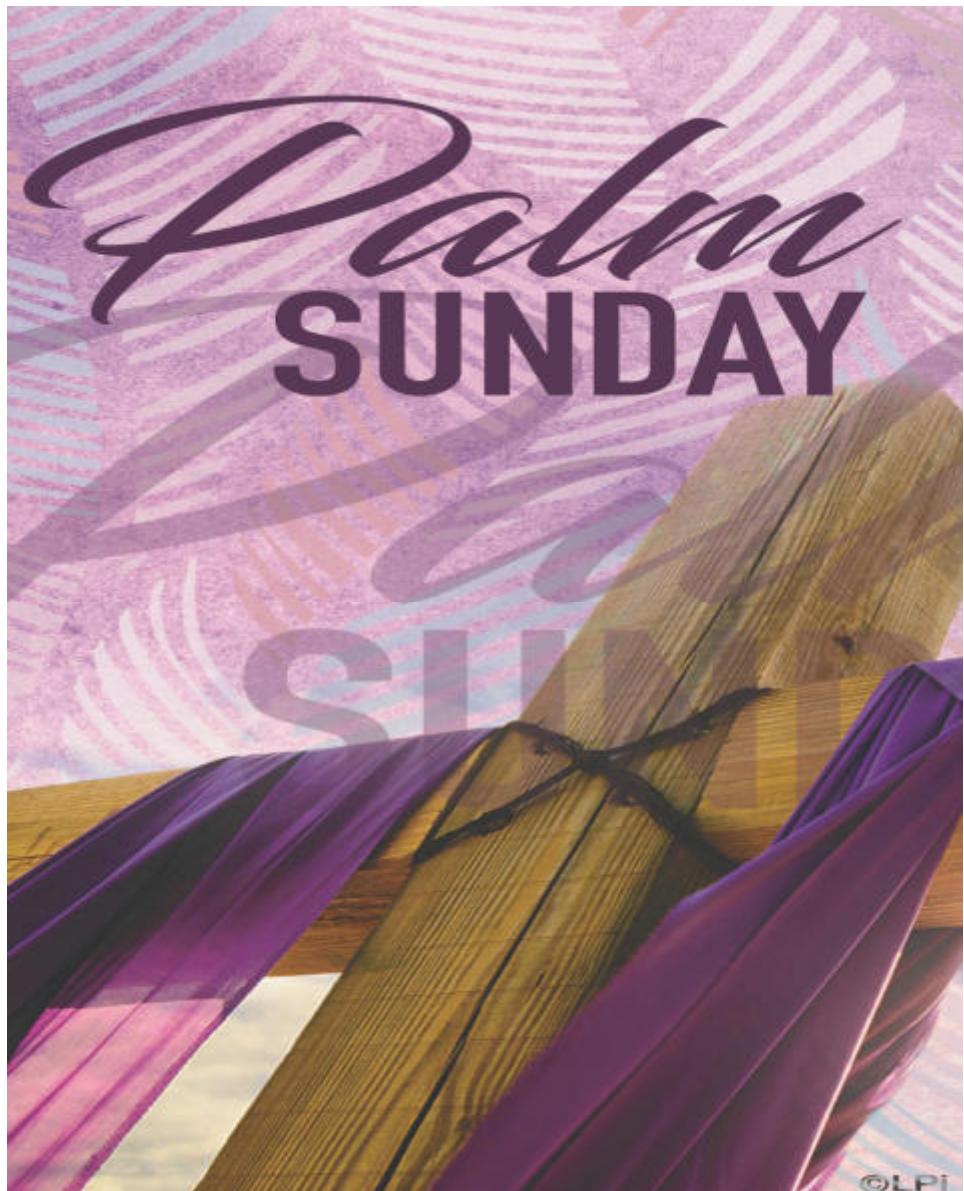
BAPTISMS

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*

*Mrs. Josephine Fanelli, Principal
Mrs. Marie McCarrick, Dir. of Religious Education
Nadia Papayani, Dir. of Music*

**RECTORY: 718-892-1900/1901
FAX: 718-892-1146**

**WEBSITE: www.sttheresachurchbronx.org
E-MAIL: rectorystc@aol.com**

**SCHOOL: 718-792-3688
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: 718-792-8434**

CHURCH OF ST. THERESA, BRONX

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER DERIVAN A MESSAGE FOR PALM SUNDAY:

I often tell the children the story of a boy in his religion class. The teacher asked a good question, "How much does God love us?" The children gave good answers, "God loves me just like my parents" and "God loves me more than I can even think.". But one boy raised his hand and said, "I know how much God loves us." And he stretched out his arms. The teacher asked how did he know that. And the boy pointed to Jesus on the cross with His arms outstretched in love and said, "See, how much God loves us."

Today is the beginning of Holy Week. We could truly call it "the week of God's love." St. John put it so beautifully, "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son so that no one may be lost but that we might have eternal life." God the Father loved the world so much that He gave His Son Jesus to us and Jesus loved us so much that He gave His life for us on the Cross. During this Holy Week, think of Jesus on the Cross. He is saying to us, "This is how much I love you."

He is saying "I love you" today on Palm Sunday. The palm reminds us of the people of Jerusalem waiving their palm branches and saying that Jesus was their King. The palm reminds us that Jesus is our King, the King of our hearts and the King of love.

Then the next big day of this week—Holy Thursday when Jesus showed us His tremendous love by giving us His very Self in Holy Communion. Other people can give us gifts of love. But only Jesus can give Himself to us as the greatest gift of love. Every time we receive Holy Communion, it is as if we were back at the Last Supper on the first Holy Thursday with Jesus saying to us, "This is my Body...This is my Blood. This is how much I love you."

And then Friday of this week. We call it Good Friday because that is the day when Jesus brought goodness back to us, dying on the Cross to free us from sin and death. Good Friday is the day of the Cross. Every time you look at the Cross, Jesus is saying to you, "This is how much I love you."

And then Holy Saturday. Our Mass on Holy Saturday is called the Easter Vigil. The church is in darkness and then a special candle is lighted to show that the light of Jesus conquers the darkness. And that light of His love is greater than all the darkness of the world. And that is what Easter is all about, God loving us so much that He rose from the dead to bring us new life.

Get ready for this Holy Week. Get ready to hear again the story of Jesus' tremendous love. Make your best effort to take part in these great days, being with Jesus who loves you. Like that little boy, may these special days help us all to say, "I know how much God loves me."

Father Thomas B. Derivan

UPDATES TO ITEMS REGARDING OUR CHURCH DURING THIS CRISIS TIME

1. Following the directives of the Archdiocese, we will not be able to celebrate Mass or other devotions publicly in church at this time. Private Mass is offered here each day.
2. The church is open for private prayer on weekdays from 7AM to 10AM and on Sundays from 7AM to 12PM.
3. We will continue to present the daily and Sunday Mass on our parish website: www.sttheresachurchbronx.org. This will include the celebration of Holy Week. Holy Thursday Mass, the Good Friday Liturgy, the Easter Vigil Mass (simplified) and the Easter Sunday Mass will be broadcast on that site. We are grateful for the many positive remarks we have received from parishioners who are viewing the daily Mass, the Stations of the Cross, the Message for Children and the Decade of the Rosary.
4. Again following the directives of the Archdiocese, our Rectory workers will be working from their homes. The Rectory will not be open. For information or other assistance, please call 718-892-1900.
5. We are grateful to the parishioners who are continuing to support the church during this difficult time. Envelopes may be dropped off at the rectory (a slot for this is on the front door) or mailed. You may also wish to use the automated service "Parish Giving" which you will find on our website.
6. We encourage the children to continue doing their schoolwork on google classroom. This applies both to children in our school and in public schools. It is important to continue learning even though this is a difficult time. We encourage children in our school and CCD Program to vies the section "Message for our Children" on our website which is presented every Monday. It is important for our children to continue growing in their faith.
7. Let us all continue to pray for those afflicted by the virus and especially for the doctors, nurses, medical personnel, researchers and scientists who are working valiantly to care for the sick and to find proper treatment and a cure. God bless them for all they are doing!

Holy Week, which begins this Sunday, is the time when we remember that the Lord Jesus, through His Cross and Resurrection, brought us new life. May the Lord bring new life to all of us at this difficult time. As we pray for the end of this crisis, may we frequently say the prayer of the Divine Mercy devotion, "Jesus, I put my trust in you."

Father Thomas B. Derivan

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.



PALM SUNDAY PASSION OF THE LORD

REFLECTIONS FOR LENT: During Lent we present these beautiful reflections on the Sunday gospel written by Passionist Father Victor Hoagland. May they help in our journey of Lent.

A SHOCKING CONTRAST! Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

"Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come! Hosanna in the highest!" Mark 11:9.

In today's Liturgy we face quite a contrast of experiences and emotions. We begin our celebration listening to the story of Jesus being welcomed into Jerusalem with great joy and exultation! "Hosanna!" they cried out. "Hosanna in the Highest!" Jesus was treated as He should have been treated. People were excited to see Him and there was much excitement.

But this excitement quickly turned to shock and horror as we enter more deeply into today's readings. The Gospel culminates with Jesus hanging on the Cross crying out "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And with that, "Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last." At that moment the entire congregation kneels in silence as we ponder the reality of Christ's death.

How things can change in one short week. What happened to all the people who were shouting and praising Him as He entered into Jerusalem? How could they allow Him to enter into this Crucifixion and death?

The deepest answer to this question is one that we may not expect. The answer is that the Father willed it. The Father willed, by His permissive will, that so many would turn on Him, abandon Him and allow Him to be crucified. This is so very important to understand.

At any time during that first Holy Week, Jesus could have exercised His divine power and refused to embrace His Cross. But He didn't. Instead, He willingly walked through this week anticipating and embracing the suffering and refection He received. And He didn't do so begrudgingly or even with regret. He embraced this week willingly, choosing it as His own will.

Why would He do such a thing? Why would He choose suffering and death? Because in the Father's perfect wisdom, this suffering and death was for a greater purpose. God chose to confound the wisdom of the world by using His own suffering and Crucifixion as the perfect means of our holiness. In this act, He transformed the greatest evil into the greatest good. Now, as a result of our faith in this act, the crucifix hangs centrally in our churches and in our homes as a constant reminder that not even the greatest of evils can overcome the power, wisdom and love of God. God is more powerful than death itself and God has the final victory even when all seems lost.

Let this week give you divine hope. So often we can be tempted toward discouragement and, even worse, we can be tempted toward despair. But all is not lost for us either. Nothing can ultimately steal away our joy unless we let it. No hardship, no burden and no cross can conquer us if we remain steadfast in Christ Jesus letting Him transform all we endure in life by His glorious embrace of His own Cross.

Reflect, today, upon the contrast of emotions from Palm Sunday through Good Friday. Ponder the fear, confusion and despair that many would have had as they saw Jesus murdered. Reflect, also, upon this being a diving act by which the Father permitted this grave suffering so as to use it for the greatest good ever known. The Lord gave His life freely and calls you to do the same. Reflect upon the cross in your life. Know that the Lord can use this for good, bringing forth an abundance of mercy through your free embrace as you offer it to Him as a willing sacrifice. Blessed Holy Week! Put your eyes upon the Lord's Cross as well as your own.

Lord, when I am tempted to despair, give me hope. Help me to see your presence in all things, even in those things that are most troubling to me. May this Holy Week transform my darkest moments and weakness as I surrender all to You, my God. Jesus, I trust in You.

OUR CELEBRATION OF THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF THE "NEW" CHURCH



As you know, we had planned to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the dedication of the "new" St. Theresa church on Sunday, May 17th. This was the date fifty years ago when Cardinal Cooke dedicated the new church building which was built, through the great efforts of Monsignor Mario Ponsiglione and his devoted parishioners, after the tragic fire of February, 1965.

Unfortunately, because of the current coronavirus epidemic, we must postpone this celebration. We will plan a new date when the Archdiocese allows us to do so. We thank those who have already purchased tickets to the dinner scheduled for that day and we will inform them directly about the new date.

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Inspirational Thought

"Sometimes the best thing you can do is not think, not wonder, not imagine, not obsess. Just breathe and have faith that everything will work out for the best." — Unknown

APRIL 5, 2020

A LETTER FROM CARDINAL DOLAN

Dear Family of the Archdiocese of New York:

The coronavirus has attacked not only our city, state, nation, and world, but also our daily lives as we experience social isolation and quarantine. We pray with and for one another.

Like all families and households, the Archdiocese of New York has been adapting to these new protocols to ensure we can continue to practice the faith with our archdiocesan family. While public Masses at our churches have been cancelled during this crisis, our priests continue to celebrate Mass every day. Even though they are celebrated without any congregation present, many pastors have begun to livestream their Masses on Facebook and YouTube, and our churches are open for individuals to pray. You can also participate in the celebration of the Eucharist at Saint Patrick's Cathedral which is livestreamed on the St. Patrick's Cathedral (www.saintpatrickscathedral.org/live) and broadcast on radio on The Catholic channel of Sirius XM (channel 129).

Our daily lives have been altered in so many ways by the impact of this virus. Illness, job loss, school closings, movies, Broadway, restaurants, sports all shuttered - the list goes on! For us Catholics, not being able to attend Mass at our parish church is a real loss, particularly during this holy season of Lent. All of this leads to a sense of fear and uncertainty.

Although some of the visible work of the Church - like public worship and the sacraments - seems to have been "put on hold" during this crisis, the work of the Church in prayer, charity, and health care remains active and vibrant! Even more, the invisible work at the heart of the Church's mission continues. God's mercy and grace are just as abundant as ever, and our prayers and supplications are always heard!

As Jesus told us, "Fear is useless. What is needed is trust." Trust in the God who created us, who loves us completely, and invites us to trust in Him!

Nothing is more important than the health and well-being of our people, soul, mind, and body. Please know that the archdiocese's healthcare agency, Arch Care has established a 24-hour hotline to assist with any aspect of the coronavirus. If you have questions or other health-related concerns, call their hotline at 877-239-1998. If you are experiencing other challenges, our Catholic Charities stands ready to lend assistance wherever possible. Do not hesitate to call them at 888-744-7900.

Just like you and your family, the parishes of the archdiocese are suffering from this crisis as well. Now, perhaps more than at any time in recent history, your parish and the archdiocese need your help. It can't survive without you. Now that our public Masses have been cancelled for an undetermined period of time, I am appealing to you to support your parish by continuing to share your gift of Sunday offertory. These funds are critical for the continued operation of your parish at this unprecedented moment in time. Please continue, at a minimum, with your current level of support. One easy way to do so is through your parish's online giving provider (Parish Giving). This can be accessed through the parish's website (www.sttheresachurchbronx.org).

Also let me add that we need your loyalty to the Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal and Renew and Rebuild more than ever! Thank you for reading this somber letter, and know that I regret having to bring more uncertainty and worry during this already unsettled time. But you have told me that you appreciate honesty and transparency.

Yet, our most appropriate response is faith and confidence, along with charity to others.

With renewed gratitude for all that you do for our Catholic family, and prayerful best wishes for a blessed Lent, I am,

Faithfully in Christ
Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York



APRIL 7th
ST. JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE, Priest
Patron of Teachers

Founder of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, St. John Baptist de la Salle is called the father of modern pedagogy. After completing his education he desired to enter priesthood. He was ordained in 1678 and received his Doctorate in Theology in 1680.

Observing that the poor of his day were grossly neglected as far as their education was concerned, St. John became the first to set up training colleges for teachers who would instruct the poor. Thus began the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, whose first novitiate was founded at Vaugirard in 1691. St. John exhorted its members to have a father's love for their pupils, be ready to devote all their time and energies to them, and be as concerned to save them from wickedness as to dispel their ignorance.

In 1695, John drew up the Rule for his Brothers (which he later revised in 1705) and also wrote The Conduct of Christian Schools, which set forth his pedagogical system. He died on April 7, 1719, and was canonized on May 24, 1900, by Pope Leo XIII.

PRAAYER God our Father, You chose St. John Baptist de la Salle as an educator of Christian youth. Give Your Church good teachers today, who will dedicate themselves to instructing young people in human and Christian disciplines. Amen.





HOLY WEEK THIS YEAR

We always look forward to Holy Week as the highlight of the Church's Year, the week in which the Lord Jesus, by His Cross and Resurrection, brought us new life. But of course Holy Week this year is very different. It seems that we will not be able publicly to celebrate the Masses and other ceremonies of Holy Week because of the coronavirus epidemic. But nonetheless we should try to do our best to pray Holy Week at home. You can follow the liturgies of these days on our website: www.sttheresachurchbronx.org. Above all, prayerfully think of the meaning of these days of Holy Week and ask the Lord to help you to grow in your faith:

PALM SUNDAY, the day when the Lord Jesus entered Jerusalem as the people waved palm branches acclaiming Jesus as their King. Let the palm which we can pick up in front of church remind you that Jesus is indeed your King, a King who conquers sin and death, a King who will help us to get through the current crisis.

HOLY THURSDAY, the night of the Last Supper when the Lord gave us Holy Communion, taking the bread and wine of the Passover meal and changing them in to His Body and Blood. Unite yourself to the presence of Our Lord in Holy Communion in the tabernacle of the church. Tell the Lord how you long to receive Holy Communion again as soon as that is possible. Sometimes we do not appreciate things until we are not able to have them. In this difficult time, appreciate the mystery of Holy Communion more than ever before. Also at the Last Supper, the Lord Jesus gave us two other gifts, the Sacrament of the Priesthood (Holy Orders) and the example of service as He washed the feet of the apostles. On this Holy Thursday, pray for our priests and know that we are united with you in prayer. And pray also for those who are serving others as Jesus did, washing His apostles feet—pray for doctors and nurses and medical personnel and all other people who are serving all of us at this trying time.

GOOD FRIDAY, the day of the Cross. Good Friday is the day on which we should look at the Cross of Jesus, perhaps the Crucifix in your home, and spend time thanking the Lord Jesus for dying for us on that Cross to take away our sins. You may want to pray the Stations of the Cross (which you will find on our website) to remember the Lord Jesus carrying the Cross for us. Pray especially for those who are carrying the Cross of sickness during this epidemic.

THE EASTER VIGIL AND EASTER SUNDAY, the day of the Resurrection. How much we will miss the Easter Vigil liturgy when the Easter Candle is lit and our individual candles are lit, reminding us that the light of the Risen Christ spreads to every heart. How much we will miss listening to the Easter gospel and hearing the words the angel spoke to Mary Magdalene and the other faithful Women, "He has been raised just as He said." How much we will miss the welcoming of new members to our church as they receive Baptism, Holy Communion and Confirmation and as we are blessed with the Easter water, reminding us of our own baptism. And of course how much we will miss receiving Holy Communion remembering that the Risen Jesus come to our hearts. Yes, we will miss being in church for these ceremonies, but let us remember that the Risen Jesus is always with us and let us give our Easter praise to Him.

Even though this is a difficult time, let it be a prayerful time. Do not let this week go by. Do not lose Holy Week. May this Holy Week help us to come closer to Jesus Our Lord. A blessed Holy Week to you all!



APRIL 8TH
ST. JULIA BILLIART, Virgin

Born in 1751 at Cuvilly, France, St. Julia gave evidence from her earliest years of exceptional traits of intelligence and devotion. By the age of fourteen, she had already taken a vow of chastity and was working to support her family which had become impoverished.

Suddenly, in 1773, the Saint's whole life was changed. She witnessed the attempted assassination of her father and the shock left her largely paralyzed. Undaunted, St. Julia continued her deeply spiritual life, and strenuously fought against the Reign of Terror initiated by the Jacobins during the French Revolution. When calm was restored, this holy woman founded the Institute of the Sisters of Notre Dame in collaboration with Frances Blin, Viscountess of Gezaincourt, and Father Joseph Varin, of the "Fathers of the Faith" (a group standing in for the suppressed Society of Jesus). Her society had for its purpose the teaching and the salvation of the children of the poor.

In 1804, St. Julia was suddenly cured of her paralysis (which she had endured for twenty-two years) at the end of a mission given by Father Enfantin of the Fathers of the Faith. She was now able to consolidate and extend the new Institute as well as to give her personal assistance to the missions conducted by the Fathers.

After Father Varin's departure from Amiens, St. Julia had to struggle hard to preserve the distinctively modern character of her Institute. Her success can be seen in the modern cast of the Institute, which has spread throughout the world. After having spent herself in the service of God, St. Julia died on April 8, 1816, and was canonized in 1970 by Pope Paul VI.

PRAYER Lord, our God, grant that Your faithful spouse, St. Julia, may kindle in us the flame of Divine love that she enkindled in other virgins for the everlasting glory of Your Church. Amen.

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.



THIS WEEK'S ALTAR BREAD IS IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
ANN LUCANIA
LOVE, JOE & MARYANN MAIORANA

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 Gibbon, 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.

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.

THE CARDINAL'S APPEAL2020: A HOLY WEEK SACRIFICE



The 2020 Cardinal's Appeal is now underway in our parish and throughout the Archdiocese. The Appeal, as you know, is the major fund-raising 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 come now to Holy Week, our special time of recalling the sacrifice of Our Lord to take away our sins. Let your Appeal offering be your sacrifice which you unite with the Cross of Our Lord. Make your offering not only a financial gift, but a spiritual gift to the Lord who died for us.

Your Appeal offering may be mailed to us or put in the mail slot of the Rectory door or you can send it directly to the Appeal Office. You may pick up additional Appeal envelopes 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.

“Hosanna to the Son of David;
blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord;
hosanna in the highest.”

*And when he entered Jerusalem the whole city was shaken and asked,
“Who is this?” And the crowds replied, “This is Jesus the prophet,
from Nazareth in Galilee.” — Mt 21:9-11*

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