

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
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Rev. Msgr. Thomas Derivan, Pastor

Rev. Joseph Ligory, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Edmundo Gomez, Retired,
Rev. Robert Imbelli, Weekend Associate

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

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FAX: 718-892-1146

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E-MAIL: rectorystc@aol.com

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

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER DERIVAN

One of my favorite people in the gospel stories is the woman we hear about today. We do not even know her name. All we know is three things about her: first, she was the mother-in-law of Simon Peter; second, she was severely sick with a fever; and third the Lord Jesus came to her, took her by the hand, and cured her. I said that is all we know about her. But not quite. We know what she does after her cure. The gospel simply says, “The fever left her and she waited on them.” She experiences the mercy and love of Jesus and then she goes back to what she was always doing, taking care of her family, doing the job of being a good housewife and mother, doing the simple things that were pleasing to Almighty God.

I said that this woman is one of my favorite people in the gospel because she was a simple person. She was not a learned teacher, a renowned scholar, a great speaker. She just was who she was—a simple, ordinary person. I think she stands for the countless people who are like her, people like you here, people who simply do their job, people who simply love their families and, like her, wait on them, people who simply live their lives in a way pleasing to God. The word “simple” is a very important word for us to think about. We must be simple people. Pope Francis has said something very beautiful and very important: “God is not known through grand ideas and extensive study. Rather He is known through the littleness of a humble and trusting heart.” Only simple people can appreciate God’s gifts. Only simple people can let God in and let their selfishness out. Only simple people, like the woman in the gospel, know how much God has done for them and then are ready to thank Him by “waiting” on others.

If there was ever a person who was truly simple of heart, a person who, as Pope Francis says, had the “littleness of a humble and trusting heart,” it was one of our more recent “blesseds,” Solanus Casey. Barney Casey (his original name) grew up in Wisconsin. He worked various jobs, as a hospital orderly, a streetcar operator and a prison guard. But he felt God wanted more from him. He heard God’s call to the priesthood, but he encountered many difficulties especially because of his lack of formal education. But he would not give up. He wanted to serve God as a priest. When he entered the Capuchins, he was given the name Solanus. He was allowed to be ordained as a priest, but because of his academic troubles, he was not allowed to preach at Mass or hear confessions. All he could do was the simple task that his religious superiors gave to him, simply answering the door of his monastery. But his simplicity, which is another name for his holiness, shined forth, so much so that people came to him to ask for prayers, to seek his advice, and even at times for his miraculous healing. For a time he served right here in our own Archdiocese for fourteen years in the Capuchin monastery, Sacred Heart, in Yonkers. He gave no sermons, wrote no books, was known only by the persons whose lives he touched and yet, from the day he died, people said that he was a saint. On November 17, 2018, he was declared Blessed Solanus Casey and, please God, one day he will be declared our latest American saint, all because he was a simple man.

God loves simple people, like the woman in the gospel and like Blessed Solanus. For only simple people can be full of God, not full of themselves. If we want to be like the gospel woman and like Blessed Solanus, we must be simple people too, simply serving God each day by loving our families, putting our trust in the Lord who loves us and wants us to love one another. Blessed Solanus’ last words were these: “I give my soul to Jesus Christ.” But those words do not simply apply to his death. Those words summarize his whole life. Simplicity means giving your soul to Jesus. That was the way Blessed Solanus lived his life. Please God it is the way we live our life too.

May Blessed Solanus Casey help us to have the wonderful simplicity that he had. And may we say with him every day, “I give my soul to Jesus Christ.”

Father Thomas B. Derivan



OUR LADY OF LOURDES

FEASTDAY—FEBRUARY 11

On December 8, 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, affirming that Mary was conceived without sin. A little more than three years later, on February 11, 1858 at Lourdes in France, a young lady appeared to Bernadette Soubirous, a 14-year old peasant girl. This began a series of visions. During the apparition on March 25, the lady identified herself with the words: “I am the Immaculate Conception.”

Bernadette was a sickly child of poor parents. Their practice of the Catholic faith was scarcely more than lukewarm. Bernadette could pray the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Creed. She also knew the prayer of the Miraculous Medal: “O Mary conceived without sin.”

During interrogations Bernadette gave an account of what she saw. It was “something white in the shape of a girl.” She used the word *aquero*, a dialect term meaning “this thing.” It was “a pretty young girl with a rosary over her arm.” Her white robe was encircled by a blue girdle. She wore a white veil. There was a yellow rose on each foot. A rosary was in her hand. Bernadette was also impressed by the fact that the lady did not use the informal form of address (*tu*), but the polite form (*vous*). The humble virgin appeared to a humble girl and treated her with dignity.

Through that humble girl, Mary revitalized and continues to revitalize the faith of millions of people. People began to flock to Lourdes from other parts of France and from all over the world. In 1862 Church authorities confirmed the authenticity of the apparitions and authorized the cult of Our Lady of Lourdes for the diocese. The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes became worldwide in 1907. Pope Francis has declared February 11, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, as the World Day of the Sick.

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK



This Thursday, February 11 is World Day of the Sick, an observation started by Pope John Paul II as a way for believers to offer prayers for those suffering from illnesses. The day coincides with the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes. The World Day of the Sick provides an invitation to all of us to pray for God’s healing grace for those who are suffering in body, mind or spirit. Praying for the sick is one of the corporal works of mercy and it should take priority in our daily prayers. This is particularly true during this pandemic time when so many people have suffered so much from the virus.

If anything, this pandemic and the tragic loss of so many lives in our own country and throughout the world remind us of something we must never forget: the dignity of all human life. Pope Francis writes, “Let us remember that life is sacred and belongs to God; hence it is inviolable and no one can claim the right to dispose of it freely. Life must be welcomed, protected, respected and served from its beginning to its end: both human reason and faith in God, the author of life, require this.” The Pope calls us all to have a “culture of care” for others, particularly the sick and the suffering. To care for the sick, whether through actual assistance or through fervent prayer, itself proclaims our commitment to be part of “the culture of care.”

On this World Day of the Sick we should particularly pray for doctors, nurses, EMT’s, health-care professionals and so many others who are caring for the sick, many of them during this pandemic time at risk for their own health. The Pope reminds us, “A key role in this effort to offer rest and renewal to our sick brothers and sisters is played by healthcare workers: physicians, nurses, medical and administrative professionals, assistants and volunteers. Thanks to their expertise, they can make patients feel the presence of Christ who consoles and cares for the sick, and heals every hurt. Yet they too are men and women with their own frailties and even illnesses.” Your prayers for your doctors and other health-care workers are so important. We pray for them every Sunday at Mass. Do not hesitate to tell them of your prayers and our prayers for them.

The World Day of the Sick takes place on the Feast of Our Blessed Mother Mary’s apparition to St. Bernadette at Lourdes in France in 1858. Since then countless millions of people have prayed at Lourdes for Our Blessed Mother’s help for those who are sick. May Our Blessed Mother Mary, who is called Health of the Sick, continue to help all who are sick and suffering. May she help us always to have a “culture of care” for them.

MESSAGE FROM CARDINAL DOLAN:

Dear Friends in the Lord,

Peter’s Pence (the annual collection for the Holy Father) which supports the good works of the Pope, is an opportunity for the Church around the world to stand in solidarity with victims of war, natural disaster and oppression in their time of need.

Your generosity in the second collection (called Peter’s Pence) next weekend will help the Holy Father to fulfill his prayer that the Church will reach out with acts of mercy. Each day hurting people approach the Pope for help. I ask your generous help in the second collection next weekend.

My gratitude for your generosity and my prayerful best wishes as we prepare for the Lenten season.

Faithfully in Christ,
Timothy Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York

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



FEBRUARY 11
ST. PEDRO DE JESUS MALDONAD LUCERO
Priest and Martyr († 1937)

Pedro came from the Diocese of Chihuahua in Mexico, where violent persecutions of the Church began in his youth. In 1918, Pedro had to go to El Paso, Texas to be ordained. As soon as he could, he returned to Chihuahua where he was assigned to the parish of Santa Isabel. He joined the newly-founded Knights of Columbus, promoted Marian devotion, catechized children, and led the parish in nighttime adoration. Violence against the Church continued, and more than once Pedro was arrested, beaten, and imprisoned.

In 1936, Pedro was forced to return to El Paso, but he could not be long kept from his people. Despite his ill health, he returned the following year. He was visiting a neighboring village when a fire broke out at the school, and the authorities pinned it on him. They seized him and forced him to walk barefoot back to Santa Isabel.

There, they beat him brutally, fracturing his skull and lacerating his body. Yet Pedro was not abandoned. He had prayed for the grace of final Communion, and, at the height of his torments, one of the soldiers found the pyx he had in his pocket, removed the host, and shoved it into Pedro’s mouth: “Eat this, this is your final Communion!” Soon afterward, Pedro was brought to the local hospital, where he died. He was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2000.

Merciful Father, through the intercession of Saint Pedro de Jesus Maldonado Lucero, be present to me in my moment of greatest need.



MESSAGE OF OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS FOR THIS SUNDAY

This Sunday's Gospel reading continues the narrative of Jesus' day in Capernaum, on a Saturday, the Jewish weekly holy day (cf. Mk 1:21-39). This time the Evangelist Mark highlights the relationship between Jesus' healing work and the awakening of faith in the people he meets. Indeed, with the healing signs that he performs on all types of sick people, the Lord wants to arouse faith as a response.

Jesus' day in Capernaum begins with the healing of Peter's mother-in-law and ends with the scene of a crowd of townspeople who gathered outside the house where he was staying, to bring all the sick people to him. Marked by physical suffering and by spiritual wretchedness, the crowd comprises, so to speak, "the living environment" in which Jesus' mission, made up of healing and comforting words and actions, takes place. Jesus did not come to bring salvation in a laboratory; he does not preach from a laboratory, detached from people. He is in the midst of the crowd! In the midst of the people! Just think that most of Jesus' public ministry took place on the streets, among the people; to preach the Gospel, to heal physical and spiritual wounds. This crowd of which the Gospel often speaks is a humanity marked by suffering, toil and problems. It is to this poor humanity that Jesus' powerful, liberating and renewing action is directed. That Saturday ends in this way, in the midst of the crowd until late in the evening. And what does Jesus do after that?

Before dawn the next day, he goes out of the town's gates unseen and withdraws to a secluded place to pray. Jesus prays. In this way, he removes even himself and his mission from a "triumphalist" view which misunderstands the meaning of miracles and of his charismatic power. Miracles, in fact, are "signs" which encourage faith as a response; signs which are always accompanied by words that enlighten; and, taken together, the signs and words arouse faith and conversion through the divine power of Christ's grace.

The conclusion of today's passage indicates that Jesus' proclamation of the Kingdom of God finds its most rightful place on the streets. To the disciples who look for him in order to bring him back to the town — the disciples went to find him where he was praying and they wanted to bring him back to the town — what does Jesus answer? "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also." This was the journey of the Son of God and this will be the journey of his disciples. And it must be the journey of each Christian. The street, as the place for the Good News of the Gospel, places the mission of the Church under the sign of "going forth", of journeying, under the sign of "movement", and never of idleness.

May the Virgin Mary help us to be open to the voice of the Holy Spirit which propels the Church to increasingly "pitch her tent" among the people, in order to bring to everyone the healing word of Jesus, the physician of souls and bodies.

February 4, 2018



FEBRUARY 8
SAINT JOSEPHINE BAKHITA
(† 1947)

Around the year 1876, a seven-year-old Sudanese girl was abducted from her home near Darfur. She was so frightened that she forgot her name. The men who kidnapped her called her Bakhita, "the lucky one." They sold her into slavery.

Over a dozen years, Bakhita, had numerous cruel owners. One beat her daily. Another "tattooed" her by cutting her flesh with a razor blade and pressing salt into the wounds. She did not know how to pray, yet her heart inclined toward heaven. When Bakhita was sold to an Italian, she came to know kindness. After she was sold to another family in Italy she came to know the Master who was the source of kindness. At the age of twenty-one she became a catechumen. She received the sacraments of initiation, becoming Josephine. Afterward she was often seen kissing the baptismal font: "Here I became a child of God."

Josephine joined the Canossian sisters, among whom she worked for almost fifty years as a cook, laundress, and porter. For a time, the sisters sent Josephine to other convents to tell her story. Her listeners often reacted with deep sadness. But Josephine had long since passed beyond such concern. "People often say to me, 'My poor woman! My poor woman!' I am not poor, because I belong to the Master and I live in his house. The 'poor' are those who are not completely his."

Father in heaven, through the intercession of Saint Josephine Bakhita, let me never forget you who made me. Make me completely yours.



FEBRUARY 9
SAINT MIGUEL FEBRES
CORDERO

Miguel was born Francisco in 1854 to an influential Ecuadorian family. A defect in his feet that made him unable to walk was miraculously cured when he beheld the Blessed Mother in the family garden at the age of five. Francisco went to a school by the Brothers of the Christian Schools (the De La Salle Brothers) and at fourteen he professed vows as Miguel, a teaching brother. At age nineteen, Miguel wrote a Spanish grammar for his students that became a standard national text, the first of many accolades for his work in language and philology.

After twenty years, Miguel was still preparing lesson plans. "I find a better way of teaching it each year, and I think that if I teach it for another twenty years I shall still find new and better ways," he told an amazed colleague. He confided to his diary: "I must look for every possible way of making the lessons and work agreeable and pleasant to my pupils."

In 1907, Miguel was called to teach in Europe. While in Spain he helped his students flee revolutionary forces. Soon afterward he contracted a chill that progressed to a fatal pneumonia. "I am happy to die in Spain since it is God's will," he confessed. Twenty-six years later, his body was found to be incorrupt and returned to Ecuador for burial.

A disabled boy was healed when he touched the casket as it was carried through Quito.

Father in heaven, through the intercession of Saint Miguel Febres Cordero, incline my heart toward others. Let me be willingly led.

UNDERSTANDING GOD'S GIFT, EVEN WHEN THEY COME WITH SUFFERING

Part of a great problem for Catholics of any generation is being willing to understand and accept changes, especially in the way we worship, as God's will. This year alone this nation and the entire globe raised questions and sought answers that would reduce the effect of a worldwide pandemic. For many faithful the Covid-19 pandemic meant no public Masses, no receiving the Holy Eucharist. Those who were planning to join our faith were put on hold and school children did not get to receive their sacraments with their classmates. Most of all the comfort of coming together daily or weekly was no longer an option. So many of us yearn for the community of Mass, the sharing of the sacraments we often take for granted, not after this year though. We will be more empathetic of our brothers and sisters in countries where practicing their faith can be dangerous.

Would you believe God actually gave some of us a gift during this horrendous time? He did. It was difficult for some to see but it was there. God's gift was the gift of time – for many – they were allowed time to think through their lives and be grateful. All those months many were able to think about their path in life. Was it leading toward Jesus or away from him? For those given time, it is hoped it wasn't squandered. Those who were home safe were able to pray for those who were not given this gift: those who worked the front lines, nurses, doctors, mail deliverers, bus drivers, grocery workers and so many in our country who kept the world turning, even in the midst of the crisis. And we pray for those to whom this economic downturn hit them particularly hard. How grateful we can be that we have our faith, that we have hope and comfort from Our Lord.

So what do we do with this newfound gratitude? Well we have many options. First, we can give of ourselves more perhaps than we did before the world turned upside down. We can reach out to the relative or friend to whom we have become estranged and forgive, show the mercy Our Lord surely shows us on a daily basis. And we can pray, really pray, and strengthen our bonds with Jesus Christ.

(From Franciscan Mission Associates)

NOTICE ON FINANCIAL MISCONDUCT

“The Archdiocese of New York takes stewardship of your donations seriously. If you have knowledge of or reason to suspect misconduct, please report your concerns via a toll-free hotline at 877-820-0541 or on the internet at <http://www.reportlineweb.com/ADNY>. Both are available 24 hours per day.”

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ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE



Next Wednesday, February 17, is Ash Wednesday.

Ashes will be distributed at our Masses at 8:00AM, 9:00AM and 12Noon and at an evening Mass at 7:30PM. Ashes will also be distributed at a Prayer Service at 3:00PM.

The prayer used by the priest in giving the ashes follows two forms:

- (1) Repent and believe in the Gospel and
- (2) Remember, you are dust and to dust you will return.

The ashes remind us of two things: first, God made us out of nothing, like the ashes, and without His love we would be nothing at all; and second, that we should “burn up” things that separate us from God's love, big or small things, serious sins but also smaller things like anger or jealousy or unkindness, things which the Lord wants us to “make like the ashes.”

PLEASE NOTE:

Because of CoVid restrictions,, Cardinal Dolan has directed that the following procedure will take place for the distribution of ashes this year:

- The priest will say the prayer for the giving of ashes once, rather than individually.
- You will be asked to come down the main aisle and to line up at the altar rail at the places that are marked by a cross and the priest will come to you to bless you on the forehead with ashes.
- We ask you to leave by the side aisle.

Thank you for your cooperation. May Lent be truly a holy time for us all.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED
MEMBER OF OUR PARISH AND HIS FAMILY
DORIS ORTIZ, EUGENIA SKOKAN
GLORIA GRECO, ANGELO ASTORINO
&
FATHER KEVIN O'REILLY



THIS WEEK'S ALTAR BREAD IS IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
ANNA ARCURI
LOVE, THE ZOTTOLA & ADDARIO FAMILY



THE SANCTUARY LAMP BURNING NEAR THE
TABERNACLE THIS WEEK IS IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
ANNA ARCURI
LOVE, THE ZOTTOLA & ADDARIO FAMILY

PASTORAL EVALUATION

This year Father Derivan will be completing his first six-year term as Pastor of St. Theresa Church, Bronx, NY.

In keeping with Archdiocesan policy, an evaluation of the parish has begun. Parishioners and staff who wish to do so may write letters with their own comments about our parish and the pastoral leadership of the parish. Please address your letters to:

The Office of Priest Personnel
Archdiocese of New York
1011 First Avenue
New York, New York 10022

Letters should be received no later than February 28, 2021. Any correspondence received after the deadline will **NOT** be included in the evaluation process.

THE 2021 CARDINAL'S APPEAL IS NOW UNDERWAY:

The 2021 Cardinal's Appeal is now beginning in our Archdiocese. You will be receiving or have already received a letter from Cardinal Dolan asking your help once again in this year's Appeal.

Your offering in the Appeal will help the Church to continue to serve others in Christ's name. In making your Appeal offering, you are being the Lord's faithful people, helping the Church's programs of service to others. Your Appeal offering, for instance, helps young women who are pregnant to find help in various programs which have helped countless hundreds of young women to avoid making the tragic mistake of having an abortion. Thank you for being "a guardian angel" for them.

If you have not received your Appeal envelope in the mail., there are envelopes available in the vestibule of the church. We are asking each parishioner to make a special effort in supporting the Appeal this year, helping us to reach our goal of \$65,000. With your help, we shall do so.

Thank you for your help to the Archdiocese and, of course, to our parish. Please keep the success of the Appeal in your prayers.



SATURDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2021

5:00PM Anna Arcuri

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 7, 2021

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

9:00AM Marie Sansalone

10:30AM Luke Turrisi

12:15PM Joseph Robert DeMaio

1:30PM Rosealba Gomez

5:00PM Dora Cardona

MONDAY FEBRUARY 8, 2021

8:00AM John DiStefano

9:00AM Elana Conte

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2021

8:00AM Mary Cea

9:00AM Benedetta & Filadelfio Marino

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2021

8:00AM Rose Gaetano

9:00AM Salvatore Mancuso

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2021

8:00AM Giovanni & Pasqua DelVecchio

9:00AM Robert Corazza

12NOON Thanking God for good health for me & my family

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2021

8:00AM Thaddeus A. Dorman

9:00AM Sal Zottola

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2021

8:00AM Marie Sansalone

9:00AM Charles & Mary Szivos

5:00PM Fay, Anthony, Tony & Jeanie Landi

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2021

7:30AM Nora Donovan (Living) Birthday

9:00AM Father Frederic Becker

10:30AM Anna Arcuri

12:15PM Sal Greco & Catherine Donovan

1:30PM Parishioners of St. Theresa

5:00PM Vincent Carotenuto

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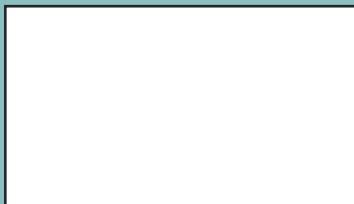
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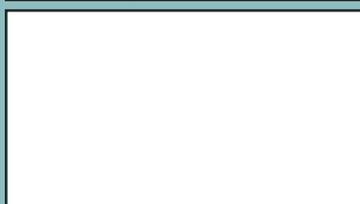
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