

# Church of St. Theresa

*A Caring Community Reaching Out To One Another in Christ*

*2855 St. Theresa Avenue, Bronx, New York*

## SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday at 5:00pm,  
Sunday at 7:30am, 9:00am(Italian),  
10:30am(Family Mass) 12:15pm ,  
1:30PM(Spanish) & 5:00pm

## WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday thru Saturday 8:00am & 9:00am

## DEVOTIONS

Miraculous Medal & St. Theresa  
Novenas after Monday morning Masses  
St. Anthony Novena after Tuesday  
morning Masses.

Thursday 12 Noon Mass  
& Eucharistic Adoration

Exposition & Benediction of the  
Blessed Sacrament First Friday 6:00PM

## CONFESSION

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

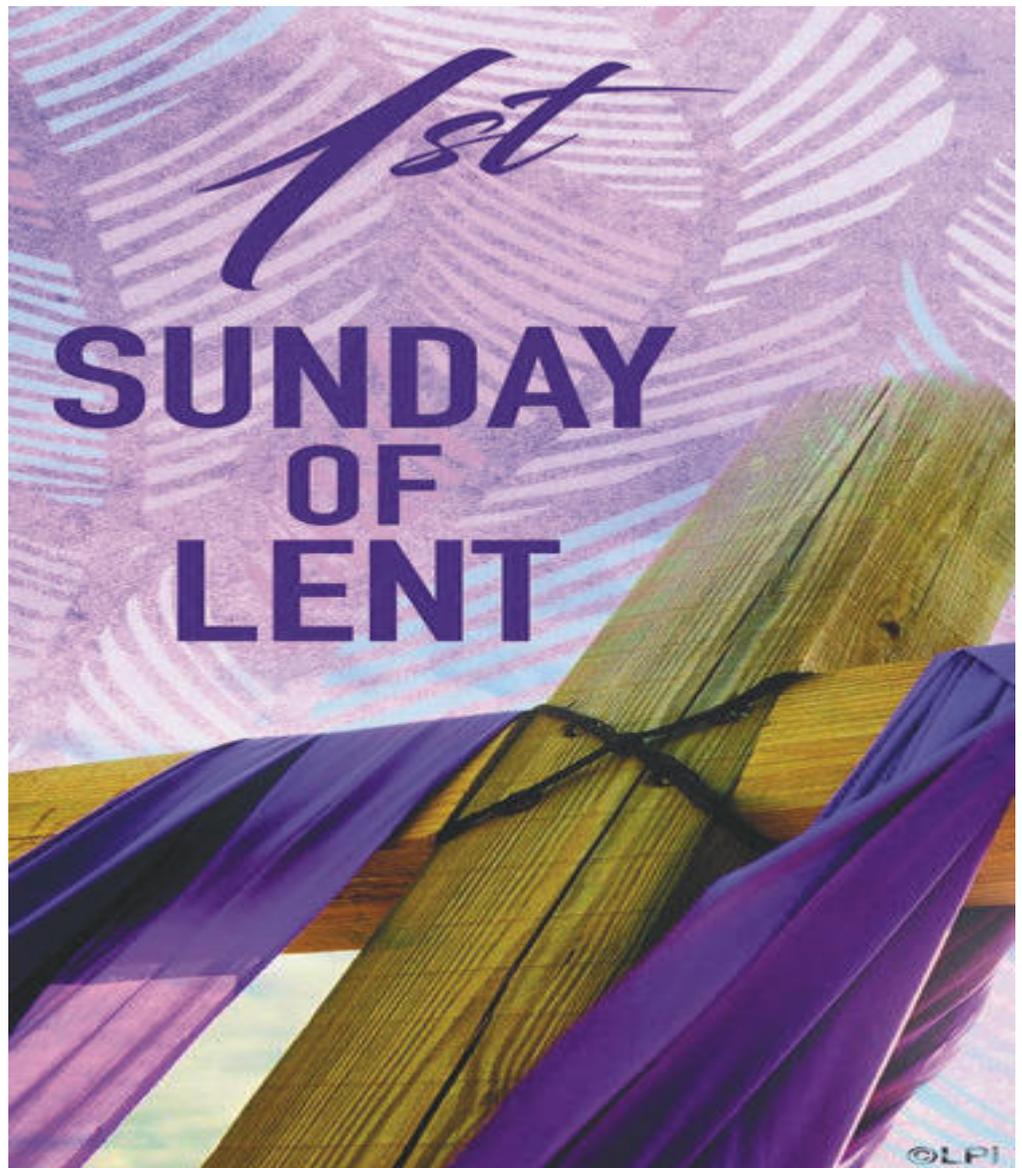
## BAPTISMS

Baptisms take place most Sundays  
after the 1:30pm Mass.  
We ask parents to attend the Baptism  
preparation meeting. Register at the  
Rectory for the meeting.  
The date of the Baptism will be discussed  
at the Baptism meeting.

## MARRIAGES

Call the Rectory at least six months in  
advance of the wedding date to make an  
appointment with parish clergy.

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*Rev. Edmundo Gomez, Retired,*  
*Rev. Robert Imbelli, Weekend Associate*  
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## CHURCH OF ST. THERESA, BRONX

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### FROM THE DESK OF FATHER DERIVAN

This past Wednesday so many people came to church to receive the blessed ashes. We were so happy to see so many people at all of our Masses and services. And one thing that I noticed at all of our times of giving ashes was this: how silent people were, how reverent, how respectful, how prayerful. That was beautiful. I would like to think that Ash Wednesday silence meant that people were seriously getting ready, getting ready not just to receive ashes, but getting ready for this Holy Season of Lent.

Silence. That must have been how it was in the scene of the gospel today. The Lord Jesus is ready to do His work, the work for which He came into this world, the work of calling people to repent and believe in the gospel. There is just silence, no excitement, no great noises, no fanfare. There is just Jesus going into the desert for forty days, resisting the temptation of the devil, getting ready for His mission of saving the world. It is almost as if the Lord Jesus is quietly getting ready for battle, getting ready to encounter the greatest evil of the world, namely evil itself. And so He was. Pope Francis reminds us that we too must go into battle. The Pope says, Lent is “a time of combat, of battle, a spiritual combat against the spirit of evil.” Just as Jesus went into battle, we must go into battle too. We must not give in to the evil of the world. We must let the Lord Jesus help us to battle evil, to fight hard, to conquer.

Is there any doubt that we must do battle with the evil that is sadly all around us? There are so many incidents of senseless violence, often inflicted on innocent children in schools. Think of the terrible incident three years ago in Parkland Florida where a 19-year old young person starting shooting in a school, ending the precious lives of three school personnel and fourteen young people. There is no doubt that evil was there, twisting that young man’s mind. But even in the midst of this horror, there was goodness there also, the goodness of people who risked much to help others. I am sure that none of us knew a man named Aaron Feis but we should not forget his name. Aaron was the football coach in that school. On that horrible day, Aaron shielded some of his students so that they would not be hit by the bullets. He put himself on the line helping them and lost his life. In that moment of sacrifice, this good man was battling evil and he was winning the battle. Yes, he lost his life, but his sacrifice showed the world that evil does not win out. Goodness is stronger than evil. Aaron Feis conquered the evil of a bullet by the power of his great love. He was fulfilling Jesus’ words, he was living Jesus’ love. As St. John says, “Greater love than this no one has than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

Lent is many things for all of us. It is a time of increased prayer, spending more time with the Lord. It is a time of charity when we help the least of our brothers and sisters in the Lord. But we must not forget that Lent is the time of battling evil—battling evil, shall we say, both inside and outside, first battling any evil, any hatred, any resentment or ill will or even vengeance that might exist in our own hearts towards others. Lent is our time to battle evil within. But Lent is also out time to battle the evil all around us. We will not be able to bring back those seventeen young people in Florida, but we can help their families by our prayers. May we always remember: Our strongest weapon against evil is prayer. Your prayers at home, your rosary, your prayer here in church on Sunday may be powerful enough to turn some other person away from his or her evil intent and may help that person find the path of goodness. You may not know the effect of you prayers in this life, but the Lord will make it known to you in heaven.

The Lord Jesus battled evil and He won His battle. May we be ready to fight evil and win our battle too. For we are not alone. We have the Lord Jesus on our side always. And with Him at our side, goodness will always win out, for, as we pray, “the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours, now and forever. Amen.”

### WEDNESDAY LENTEN MASS BEGINNING THIS WEEK

Each Wednesday, beginning this Wednesday, February 24th we will have a special evening Mass at 6:00PM. This will be followed by Stations of the Cross.

Hopefully this time will be helpful to parishioners coming home from work. Parents who bring their children to our Wednesday 7:00PM CCD classes may wish to come early for this Mass and Stations.

We remind you that we also have Stations of the Cross on Thursday after the 12:00Noon Mass with Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction.

**Please continue to share the peace and joy of our faith with others.** There are so many that are in the need of Jesus. Can you be for all of us a living sign to all our parishioners and neighbors, and tell them for us “we need them and love them”. Someone may hear and accept the invitation from you and return home to worship the Lord with us. So please invite a friend, relative, or neighbor to come with you to Church next Sunday. God will do the rest. Let us share our treasure of faith with others.

### PRAYER FOR LENT

The Lenten season begins. It is a time to be with you, Lord, in a special way, a time to pray, to fast, and thus to follow you on your way to Jerusalem, to Golgotha, and to the final victory over death.

I am still so divided. I truly want to follow you, but I also want to follow my own desires and lend an ear to the voices that speak about prestige, success, pleasure, power, and influence. Help me to become deaf to these voices and more attentive to your voice, which calls me to choose the narrow road to life.

I know that Lent is going to be a very hard time for me. The choice for your way has to be made every moment of my life. I have to choose thoughts that are your thoughts, words that are your words, and actions that are your actions. There are not times or places without choices. And I know how deeply I resist choosing you.

Please, Lord, be with me at every moment and in every place. Give me the strength and the courage to live this season faithfully, so that, when Easter comes, I will be able to taste with joy the new life that you have prepared for me. Amen.

Written by Father Henri Nouwen

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

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

### MESSAGE OF OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS FOR THIS SUNDAY

This first Sunday of Lent, the Gospel recalls the themes of temptation, conversion and the Good News. Mark the Evangelist writes: “The Spirit immediately drove Jesus out into the wilderness. And he was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan” (cf. Mk 1:12-13). Jesus goes into the desert to prepare himself for his mission in the world. He does not need conversion, but as a man, he must go through this trial, both for himself, to obey the Father’s will, and for us, to give us the grace to overcome temptation. This preparation consists in the battle against the evil spirit, that is, against the devil. For us too, Lent is a time of spiritual “contest”, of spiritual struggle: we are called to confront the Evil One through prayer in order to be able, with God’s help, to overcome him in our daily life. We know that evil unfortunately is at work in our existence and around us, where there is violence, rejection of the other, closure, war, injustice. All of these are the work of the Evil One, of evil.

Immediately following the temptations in the desert, Jesus begins to preach the Gospel, that is, the Good News, the second word. The first was “temptation”, the second, “Good News”. And this Good News demands man’s conversion — the third word — and faith. He proclaims: “The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand”; and then he cautions, “repent, and believe in the gospel” (v. 15), that is, believe in this Good News that the kingdom of God is at hand. In our lives, we always need to convert — every day! —, and the Church invites us to pray for this. In fact, we are never sufficiently orientated towards God and we must continually direct our minds and our hearts towards him. In order to do this, we need to have the courage to reject all that takes us off course, the false values which deceive us, by subtly flattering our ego. Rather, we must entrust ourselves to the Lord, to his goodness and to his project of love for each of us. Lent is a time of repentance, yes, but it is not a time of sorrow! It is a time of penance, but it is not a time of sorrow, of mourning. It is a joyous and serious commitment to strip ourselves of our selfishness, of our “old man”, and to renew ourselves according to the grace of our Baptism.

Only God can give us true happiness: it is useless to waste our time seeking it elsewhere, in wealth, in pleasure, in power, in a career.... The Kingdom of God is the realization of all our aspirations because at the same time, it is the salvation of mankind and the glory of God. On this first Sunday of Lent, we are invited to listen carefully and to hear Jesus’ appeal to convert, and to believe in the Gospel. We are exhorted to begin the journey towards Easter with commitment, to embrace evermore the grace of God who wishes to transform the world into a kingdom of justice, peace and fraternity.

May Mary Most Holy help us to live this Lenten Season with fidelity to the Word of God and with unceasing prayer, as Jesus did in the desert. It is not impossible! It means living each day with the desire to embrace the love that comes from God and which seeks to transform our life and the entire world.

Angelus Address, February 18, 2018

### LENT AT ST. THERESA’S CHURCH

**Sunday Masses**--7:30AM, 9:00AM(Italian), 10:30AM(Family), 12:15PM,  
1:30PM(Spanish) and 5:00PM

**Weekday Masses:** Every weekday at 8AM and 9AM  
Wednesday at 6PM with Stations of the Cross  
Thursday at 12PM with Adoration and Stations

**Confessions:** Every Saturday from 4PM to 5PM  
Special Lenten Reconciliation Monday, March 29  
with confessions from 3PM to 9PM

**Stations of the Cross**--Wednesdays after the 6PM Mass,  
Thursdays after the 12Noon Mass  
Fridays at 7PM—Stations in Spanish

**Eucharistic Devotion**--Thursdays after the 12Noon Mass  
First Fridays, Holy Hour from 6:00PM to 7:00PM

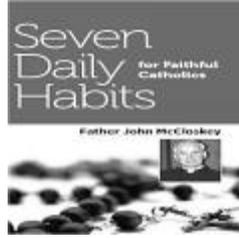
#### Fast and Abstinence

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. All Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence. Fasting limits a person to one full meal and two lighter meals for those from ages 18-59. Abstinence means no meat is allowed for those 14 and older. Reasons of health or work can excuse, in which case some other form of sacrifice should be substituted (acts of charity, additional prayers, etc)



FEBRUARY 21, 2021

SEVEN DAILY HABITS FOR FAITHFUL CATHOLICS



Father John McCloskey has written a very helpful pamphlet by this name. It is certainly appropriate for this Lenten Season. He calls these the essential means for achieving holiness.

The Seven Daily Habits which we should try to incorporate in our lives are:

1. **The Morning Offering:** Offer the day ahead for God's glory using your own words or a memorized prayer. Do not begin the activities of the day without putting yourself in God's presence, praising and thanking Him, and asking Him to guide you in all that you will do. Offer the whole day to the Lord.
2. **Fifteen Minutes of Silent Prayer:** Father McCloskey calls this "face time" or "quality time" with Our Lord, during which we can develop the ability to listen to Jesus and understand what He is asking of you and what He wants to give you. Father likens our soul to an answering machine where "Jesus can leave you profound messages even if you do not hear Him directly during your prayer time.
3. **Receiving Holy Communion:** Particularly during Lent, make the effort to come to daily Mass, either here in our church or at a church near where you work. Mass and Holy Communion are your surest way of staying close to the Lord. If you are not able to do this every day, try to come to Mass at least once more (in addition to Sunday of course) during each week of Lent.
4. **Fifteen Minutes of Spiritual Reading:** Try reading the New Testament, beginning with the Gospels—just one or two chapters each day. Also try to find some good spiritual book (especially St. Theresa's *Story of a Soul*) for additional reading during Lent.
5. **Pray the Angelus:** Pause in the middle of the day at noon and take a few minutes to recite the Angelus ("The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary...") while meditating on the Incarnation and Resurrection of Our Lord.
6. **Pray the Holy Rosary:** The Rosary is, as St. John Paul II said "the school of Mary." If you have not been saying the Rosary, try to do so during Lent. If possible, say at least one decade each night as a family praying together.
7. **Examine Your Conscience:** At the end of the day, look back to see how you have done in following Our Lord. Make whatever adjustments you may have to make. Ask for the Lord's help to do better in following Him and living your faith.

You may read the whole pamphlet "Seven Daily Habits for Faithful Catholics" or order your own copy by contacting: [www.catholicity.com/booklets/habits](http://www.catholicity.com/booklets/habits).

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 STATIONS OF THE CROSS by Cardinal Joseph Tobin

During Lent we present these reflections on the Stations of the Cross, written by Cardinal Joseph Tobin of Newark. The Cardinal uses the prayers of St. Alphonsus Liguori and offers the reflections as a way of praying the Stations of the Cross in response to the coronavirus pandemic that has caused so much suffering and death in our time and that has millions of people anxious and afraid. The Way of the Cross is a journey we make with Jesus as a pilgrim people. By sharing in Christ's suffering and death, we affirm our closeness to him and to all our sisters and brothers worldwide especially during this pandemic time.

**“We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.”**



### Station 3: Jesus Falls the First Time

Consider this first fall of Jesus under His Cross. His flesh was torn by the scourges, His head crowned with thorns, and He had lost a great quantity of blood. He was so weakened that he could scarcely walk, and yet he had to carry this great load upon His shoulders. The soldiers struck Him rudely, and thus He fell several times in His journey.

Reflection: We cannot help but stumble and fall as we try to respond to this completely new and unprecedented situation that the whole world is facing. Perhaps we will lose patience and lash out in anger at someone close to us. Or maybe we'll become so fearful that we're tempted to give up. Jesus knows how we feel. Let's ask him to help us get up again after we fall so that we can help others in their time of need.



### Station 4: Jesus Meets His Mother

Consider the meeting of the Son and the Mother, which took place on this journey. Jesus and Mary looked at each other, and their looks became as so many arrows to wound those hearts which loved each other so tenderly.

Reflection: What a comfort it is to have such a loving, tender mother! That's why we always turn to Mary in times of war, pestilence and famine. That's why we seek her intercession, her consolation and her unfailing help. Mary's heart was wounded by the suffering inflicted on her Son. She feels our pain and shares our sorrow. Holy Mary, Mother of God and our mother, plead with our Loving God for an end to this pestilence and for the health and safety of all your children.



**FEBRUARY 23  
SAINT POLYCARP  
(† C. 155)**

Polycarp, the Bishop of Smyrna (modern Izmir, Turkey) belonged to the generation immediately following that of the Apostles and is said to have been a disciple of John the Evangelist.

The reliable account of Polycarp's martyrdom, the first of such accounts to be circulated in the early Church, tells of the persecutions that were raging in Smyrna at the time and how a young Christian man, Germanicus, condemned to be killed, encouraged the wild beasts to rip him to pieces. The sight enflamed the crowd. Hungry for more blood, they called out: "Fetch Polycarp." The bishop fled at once to the country, and hid in a remote farmhouse for three days. The authorities found him there, praying behind the house in the garden. "The will of the Lord be done," said Polycarp as he gave himself over to their hands.

Brought before the crowd in the arena, Polycarp was offered release by the proconsul: "Swear and I will release you; revile Christ!" But the aged bishop replied, "Eighty-six years have I served him, and he has done me no harm. How then can I curse my King that saved me?"

When further threats proved useless, the proconsul had Polycarp bound in the midst of a pyre. With a prayer on his lips, the bishop faced the flames, but the fire did not consume him. He was then seized and dispatched by the sword.

*Loving God, through the intercession of Saint Polycarp, grant that I might remain faithful to you, my Lord and my King.*

### 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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 PATRICIA A. WIDING, JIMMY DEJESUS  
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 PHYLLIS VACCARIELLO & FR. JOSEPH BISIGNANO



**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2021**

5:00PM Angelina, Salvatore & Sarah Masi

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 21, 2021**

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

9:00AM Marie Sansalone

10:30AM Dominick Schiano

12:15PM Joanne Barton

1:30PM Rosalba Gomez

5:00PM Pat Golino

**MONDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2021**

8:00AM Fr. Kevin O'Reilly

9:00AM Alfred Jago

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2021**

8:00AM Gerry Noctor

9:00AM Vincent Firsching

**WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 24, 2021**

8:00AM Fr. Charles Szivos

9:00AM Marie Gaetano

**THURSDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2021**

8:00AM Rosalie Masters

9:00AM Gjagj Shotoj

12NOON Angelica Adames

**FRIDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2021**

8:00AM Christopher Pascall

9:00AM Gregory & Edward Fuci

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 27, 2021**

8:00AM Fr. Carl Johnson

9:00AM Xenija Koehler

5:00PM Lorenzo Albanese

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 28, 2021**

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

9:00AM Fr. Joseph Bisignano

10:30AM Dominick Muccio

12:15PM Patricia Musano

1:30PM Rosalba Gomez

5:00PM Ndue & Mora Dushaj

**THE 2021 CARDINAL'S APPEAL CONTINUES:**

For many years, the parishioners of St. Theresa's Parish have contributed faithfully to the Cardinal's Annual Appeal. As you well know, the purpose of the Appeal is to help support the pastoral, social and educational programs of the Archdiocese of New York. Without your help, the vast network of social services provided by the Archdiocese simply could not happen.

The Cardinal's Appeal helps to support our retired priests at our two residences the John Cardinal O'Connor Residence and the new Egan Pavilion, both in Riverdale, where Father Robert Imbelli resides. Your generosity helps these priests who have served—and continue to serve—our people so faithfully.

Material about the Appeal is available in the vestibule of the church, if you have not received the Appeal material in the mail. Please make every effort to help us reach our goal of \$65,000. Meanwhile please keep the Appeal—and all of those it helps—in your special prayers.

**ARE YOU A REGISTERED PARISHIONER**

All new or unregistered parishioners are asked to please register by phone or in person at the Rectory or fill out the information below. Many items of importance will be mailed home in the course of the year.

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**PLEASE RETURN TO THE RECTORY OFFICE.**



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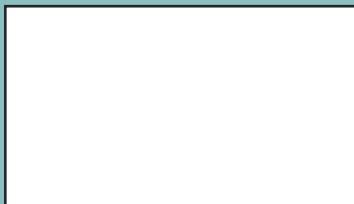
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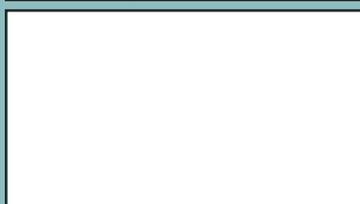
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