

# 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

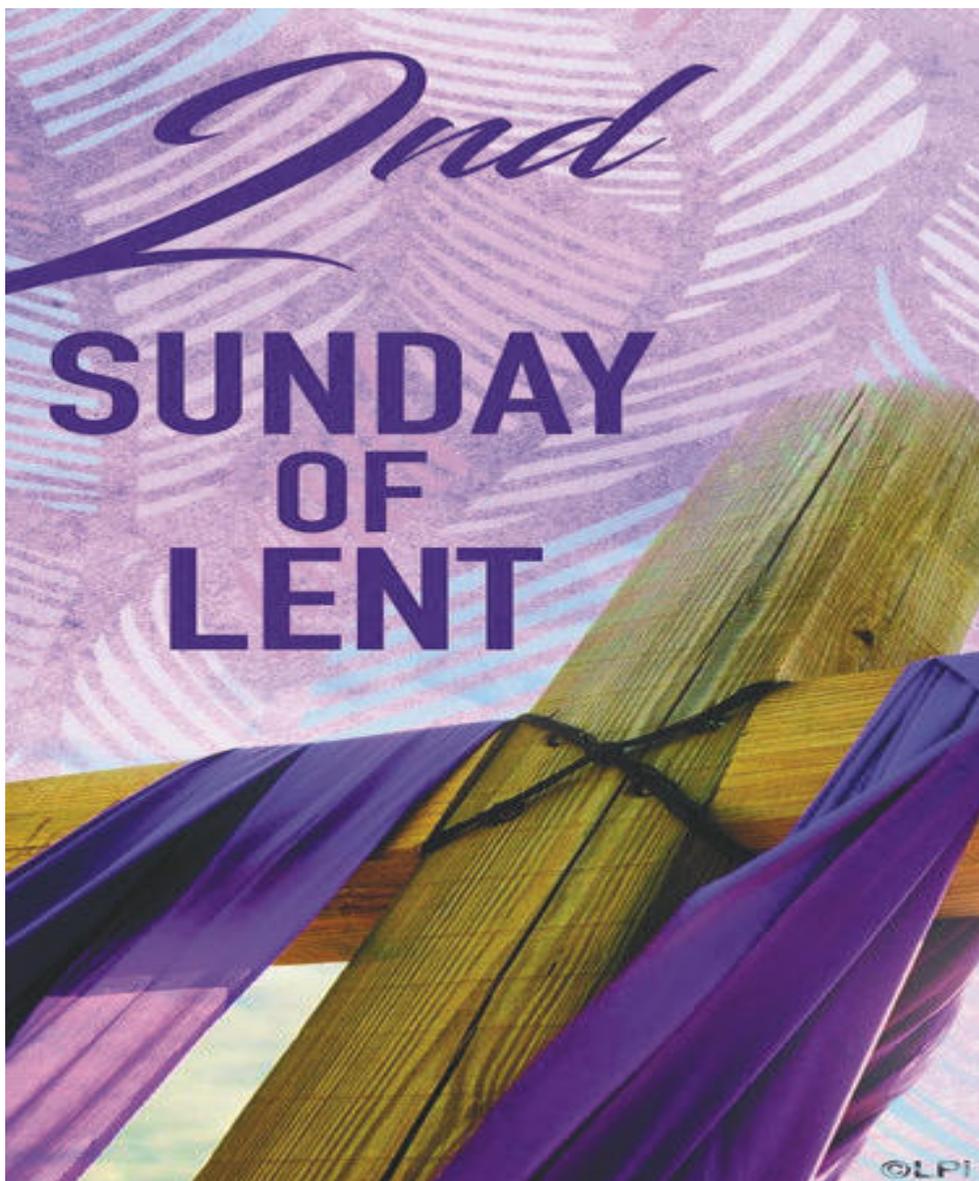
## BAPTISMS

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, Robert Carolan*

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

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E-MAIL: [rectorystc@aol.com](mailto:rectorystc@aol.com)

SCHOOL: 718-792-3688  
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## CHURCH OF ST. THERESA, BRONX

### FROM THE DESK OF FATHER DERIVAN:

Our gospel today tells us the great story of the Transfiguration of Our Lord on the holy mountain. For the briefest of moments, three human beings, the apostles Peter, James and John were able to see the glory of Jesus as He is in heaven, shining forth in powerful light. It is almost as if these three men were on the steps of heaven, looking upon the glory and majesty of the Son of God. The apostles bury their faces, and they are privileged to hear the voice of God the Father, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him." But that was only for a brief moment. They look up and the vision is over. They see Jesus as He was normally seen, not with Moses and Elijah, not with shining light, but Jesus alone.

And the point of the gospel is that we must be ready to see Jesus and listen to Him, not in shining moments on a mountain, but in our daily lives. Lent is our time especially of seeing Jesus and listening to Him. Think of the things we are asked to do during Lent—especially three things, sacrifice, charity and prayer. First, **sacrifice**. Lent is our time, as you well know, of giving up things, but it is not enough just to give something up; the Lord wants us to see Him and listen to Him as we offer our sacrifice. He wants us to focus on Him because He is the reason for our sacrifice. When you give something up, look at the Cross of Jesus where He sacrificed Himself for us. Look at Him and listen to Him speaking to your soul as you offer your sacrifice.

Then think of **charity**. Lent is our special time to concentrate on the works of charity, particularly the corporal works of mercy—feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, helping those in need of clothing or shelter, visiting those in need. Yes, Lent is the time of giving up—but it is also the time of giving, giving our time in service of others. When the Lord asks our charity through the corporal works of mercy, He is not inviting us just to give material things. O yes, He asks us to help those who are hungry for food and the people of this parish are so helpful in bringing food each Sunday for the needy. But so many people are hungry not just for food, but for other things—for understanding, for simple kindness. When you go out of your way simply to show acts of kindness to others particularly during this pandemic time—a family member, a neighbor, a co-worker, a friend—then you are observing the charity of Lent and in the process you are looking at Jesus and listening to Him as He says, "Whatever you do for the least of my brothers and sisters, you do for me."

And then, of course, the third major point of Lent: seeing Jesus and listening to Him in **prayer**. How important our daily prayers are, especially during Lent. Our Holy Father Pope Francis has spoken again and again about the need for prayer. He says, "The spirit of prayer gives time back to God." Prayer, he says, is spending time with the One who counts the most, our Heavenly Father. How many times in the gospel we hear of Jesus praying to His Father. In fact, in the gospel today, He goes up to the mountain of the Transfiguration, but He goes there to pray. Prayer demands time. As Pope Francis says, "Prayer means stepping away from the obsession of a life that is always lacking time; prayer helps us to rediscover the peace of things that matter." We can always find excuses not to pray. We have so much to do. Maybe we say to ourselves, "Well, I pray at Mass on Sunday. What more do I have to do?" Lent reminds we must find the time to pray. We must insert prayer into the daily things we do. It is not so much how much time we pray. It is how we just stop and look at Jesus and listen to Him often throughout the day. Think of this format of daily prayer. When you wake up in the morning, offer your simple prayer to the Lord in a Morning offering, thanking Him for a new day of life and asking for His guidance throughout the day. Before you eat, simply say a prayer of thanks to God for the food we eat and for the love He gives. In the course of the day, simply think of Jesus for a few seconds, perhaps saying a brief prayer like, "My Jesus, mercy," or simply saying the holy name of Jesus. And then at the end of the day, thank God for what He has given you and pray that you will be a better Christian tomorrow. Those things do not require much time. But they do give us much grace.

Lent means looking at Jesus and listening to Him. I remember the story of a man who used to come to church every day and just sit in the bench looking at the tabernacle. His priest admired his devotion and one day he asked him, "What do you say when you pray so beautifully every day?" And the man gave this answer. "Father, I really don't say anything. I just look at Jesus and He looks back at me." That man, dear friends, understood what prayer is all about, what Lent is all about, what Christian life is all about. May we look at Jesus and listen to Him.

A blessed Lent to you all!  
Father Thomas B. Derivan

### WEDNESDAY LENTEN MASS

Each Wednesday during Lent 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 12:00PM Mass with Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction.

### PRAYER FOR LENT

Dear God, just as the rains from heaven prepare the lands to flourish, we know that your blessings are bestowed upon us. In this season of preparation, help us grow closer to you as we make time for prayer, solitude and reflection. Make ready our ears to hear your loving call amidst the stressful and hurried days that make up the storms of our life.

Loving Father, we know that we do not face such days alone; your divine strength is our unfailing aid as we await the joy of the Easter Season.

Amen.



## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

### 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 5: Jesus is Helped by Simon

Consider how the Jews, seeing that at each step Jesus from weakness was on the point of expiring, and fearing that He would die on the way, when they wished Him to die the ignominious death of the Cross, constrained Simon the Cyrenian to carry the Cross behind our Lord.

Reflection: Simon the Cyrenian was at best a reluctant helper compelled by the Roman soldiers to help Jesus carry his Cross. If we're honest, none of us is eager to burden ourselves for the sake of another, but as Simon learned, true charity is its own reward. By helping others to carry their crosses, our own burdens become lighter. Let's ask Jesus for the grace to face our own unwillingness so that we can help others lighten their load.



#### Station 6: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

Consider how the holy woman named Veronica, seeing Jesus so afflicted, and His face bathed in sweat and blood, presented Him with a towel, with which He wiped His adorable face, leaving on it the impression of His holy countenance.

Reflection: In times like these, we learn that simple acts of kindness can have enormous impact on those who are sick, suffering or afraid. Tradition says that Veronica offered a towel to Jesus so that he could wipe the sweat and blood from his face. In return, Jesus returned the towel indelibly marked with his own image. Let's ask our Lord for the grace to be kind and loving. Let's face this time of trial and uncertainty with confidence that we have the face of Jesus embedded on our hearts.

### 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)



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

Today's Gospel, on the Second Sunday of Lent, invites us to contemplate the Transfiguration of Jesus (cf. Mk 9:2-10). This episode is related to what had happened six days earlier, when Jesus had revealed to his disciples that in Jerusalem he would "suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again" (Mk 8:31). This message led to crisis for Peter and the entire group of disciples, who rejected the idea that Jesus would be scorned by the leaders of the people and then put to death. Indeed they were waiting for a powerful, strong, dominating Messiah, whereas Jesus presented himself as a humble and gentle servant of God, and servant of mankind, who would offer his life in sacrifice, passing by way of persecution, suffering and death. But how could one follow a Master and Messiah whose earthly existence was to end in that way? That is what they were thinking. And the answer came precisely from the Transfiguration. What is the Transfiguration of Jesus? It is a preliminary Paschal apparition.

Jesus took with him the three disciples Peter, James and John, "and led them up a high mountain;" and there, for a moment, he showed them his glory, the glory of the Son of God. This event of the Transfiguration thus allowed the disciples to confront Jesus' Passion in a positive way, without being overwhelmed. They saw him as he would be after the Passion: glorious. And in this way Jesus prepared them for the trial. The Transfiguration helps the disciples, and us too, to understand that the Passion of Christ is a mystery of suffering, but it is above all a gift of love, of infinite love on Jesus' part. The event of Jesus transfiguring himself on the mountain enables us to better understand his Resurrection. In order to understand the Mystery of the Cross, it is necessary to know ahead of time that the One who suffers and who is glorified is not only a man, but is the Son of God who, with his love faithful to the end, saved us. In this way the Father renews his messianic declaration about the Son, which he had made previously on the bank of the River Jordan after his Baptism, exhorting: "Listen to him." The disciples are called to follow the Master with trust, with hope, notwithstanding his death; the divinity of Jesus must be made manifest precisely on the Cross, precisely in his dying "in that way", so that here Mark the Evangelist places in the mouth of the centurion the profession of faith: "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

Let us now turn in prayer to the Virgin Mary, the human creature transfigured interiorly by Christ's grace. Let us confidently entrust ourselves to her maternal support in order to continue with faith and generosity the journey of Lent.

Angelus Address, February 25, 2018

**ACCEPTING GOD'S WILL FOR ANOTHER**

Sometimes the most difficult reconciliation and acceptance we must make is when God lays a special claim on a loved one, even when it is a path we support. Usually when we read the lives of the saints we identify with the saint. But we should read them identifying with the parents who had to accept the unknown and be reconciled to God's will. Fortunately, so many families of saints welcomed and even encouraged their child's leanings toward a life for God. Consider the family of Louis Martin and Marie-Azélie Guérin, 19th century saints and parents of five nuns including Saint Therese of Lisieux. Both Louis and Marie-Azélie were rejected from religious life for different reasons. They had nine children, five of whom survived infancy, and all joined the religious life. The fervor and devotion these two had in their life was joyfully given to their children who dedicated themselves to God.

Another example, an American saint, St. Katherine Drexel's mother died shortly after Katherine's birth. Her father's new wife showed Katherine how true generosity can change lives. The Drexel household would distribute food, clothing and other material goods to the poor routinely. Once both parents were gone, Katherine used her multi-million-dollar inheritance to start schools and hospitals for the poor. Continuing her parent's way that saved many a soul.

For some parents their child's choice was initially met with resistance. St. Clare was born into a wealthy family. But she soon began to shun the luxurious wealth and instead embraced a love of poverty and piety. Her parents went so far as to find a wealthy suitor for Clare – hoping she would turn back toward their life but she would have none of it. Acceptance is not always easy when you know your child's path will be one of pain and challenges. Imagine our Blessed Mother, knowing even before her son was born that He would live a life filled with suffering. And allowing, even at a young age, Him to follow that path. How difficult it must have been, the agony of his last days. That, hopefully, is nothing we will have to endure. God knows the path for not only us, but also for those we love. It is up to us to use prayer and contemplation and faith to "let go" and come to a place of peace, understanding and finally joy.

(From Franciscan Mission Associates)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF ST. THERESA'S**

As you can imagine, the current crisis has affected our parish just as it has affected your family. Despite the hardship, we are grateful for your continued support of St. Theresa's Church. We thank those who have been bringing their weekly envelopes to Mass or mailed them to the rectory. We are asking everyone to do so.

You may wish to consider making your offering electronically, as many parishioners have done during this time especially. If so, please consult our parish website ([www.sttheresachurchbronx.org](http://www.sttheresachurchbronx.org)) and go to the section marked "Parish Giving." You may use your credit card for this purpose. If you have difficulty with this, please call the Rectory for help.

Thank you also for your continued support of the Cardinal's Appeal and the Renew and Rebuild Campaign. Cardinal Dolan has asked us to especially thank you for this.

Your generous help in the weekly collection helps you to keep "St. Theresa Strong."



**MARCH 3**  
**SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL**  
 Foundress († 1955)

Katherine's father was the banker Francis Drexel. Her own mother died soon after her birth. From her stepmother, Emma Bouvier, a devout Catholic, Katharine learned to give. Despite the family's standing in Philadelphia society, Emma opened the family home three afternoons a week to the destitute.

As teenagers, Katharine and her two sisters traveled widely in Europe and the United States. All three were moved by the plight of the poor in their homeland and sought to use their family wealth to relieve their sufferings. Katharine went furthest. She began founding missions, first for Native Americans and then African Americans. In an audience with Pope Leo XIII, she asked him to send missionaries to Wyoming. He asked her to consider becoming one herself. And so, at the age of thirty-three, Katharine founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People. In time, Katharine outlived both her sisters and became her father's sole heir. Every penny she inherited went to the work of her order. In all, Katharine personally founded nearly sixty schools and missions, as well as Xavier University, the first Catholic university in the United States for people of color.

After suffering a heart attack in 1935, Katherine was able to fulfill a long-held desire, devoting her remaining twenty years to contemplative prayer.

*Compassionate Father, through the intercession of Saint Katharine Drexel, help me to see the poor in my own backyard.*



**MARCH 6**  
**SAINT ROSE OF VITERBO**  
 Virgin († 1252)

The child of impoverished parents, Rose experienced intimacy with Christ from childhood. When she fell sick with a mysterious illness, the Blessed Mother appeared to her and commanded her to preach penance to her hometown of Viterbo, Italy.

Viterbo at the time was contested territory; both the pope and Emperor Frederick II claimed the city. Rose sided with the pope, and she put all her virginal energy into exhorting the people of Viterbo to reform their sinful lives and to shun heresy. In 1250, at the age of eighteen, she and her parents were exiled by a magistrate working for Frederick—a tacit acknowledgement of Rose's power to draw the people to the pope's cause. Rose took her preaching to Vitorchiano, where she succeeded in converting a known sorceress. The following year, Frederick relinquished Viterbo, and Rose was able to return home. Desiring to enter religious life, she applied to a convent only to be refused on account of her poverty. She stayed at home, where she died of illness the following year.

Rose's feast is celebrated yearly in Viterbo on September 4. In the Roman Martyrology, she is remembered on the day of her death, March 6, as "Blessed Rose," although the title of "saint" has been popularly applied to her for centuries. The Franciscan Third Order claims her as their own.

*Loving Father, through the intercession of Saint Rose of Viterbo, may I hearken to the call that comes from children and those who are pure of heart.*

**RESPONDING TO CHRIST'S MESSAGE**

One of the many ways we can participate during Mass is the Responsorial Psalm which comes between the readings. Early Christians followed the practices of the Jewish Synagogue and responded to a scripture reading by singing a psalm or bible canticle. That is what we do today. We respond to God's Word with God's Word - a psalm or biblical canticle. As children learn first the words and then the meaning, Christians too learn the Word of the Lord by hearing and singing and reciting. The Catechism of the Catholic Church calls prayer "a reciprocal call between God and family," exactly what is done during the Responsorial Psalm.

The meaning we derive from the psalm, comes by our pondering and reflecting on the message we have received. The more familiar refrains are ones we do in a rote method - reflexively. And that, like falling into a slightly meditative state during a rosary, is fine occasionally. But to get the most from the Responsorial Psalm, it is best to concentrate on the words. The psalms for daily or Sunday Mass are most familiar including Ps. 25, "To you O Lord I lift my soul," Ps. 22 "My God my God why have you abandoned me" and Ps. 103 "The Lord is kind and merciful." Each of these is generally used during a particular part of the Liturgical calendar and matches or supports the tone of the other readings. While we know them well it is important, like during other familiar parts of Mass to "tune in" fully. This was the most difficult for some during the past year as Mass consisted of sitting in our homes and not being in the community. Known phrases and comfortable seating often make it difficult to focus. But these words beg to be heard. The rich but simple messages of the Psalms cover many emotions, anger, frustration and sadness, but a true reading of the Psalms will also illustrate the writer's steadfast hope and belief that God will never fail us. That no matter what the obstacle, God will be our savior and our lives are worthy in His eyes and we are all His children. It is that support that we must reach for during troubling times. Listen closer next time to the Responsorial Psalm or better yet - read them on your own, and you will be refreshed and content in the love of the Lord.

(From Franciscan Mission Associates)

**PETITION BOOK**

Have you noticed our Petition Book in the vestibule of the Church? Every Saturday before the 5:00PM Mass, the petitions entered into the book for that week are brought up to the altar of the Blessed Mother, where they remain for all the weekend Masses. Please pray for these intentions.

**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.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED  
MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH AND THEIR FAMILIES  
ELIZABETH RIVERA, BRIAN MALEY  
&  
VITA CONGIALOSI



THE SANCTUARY LAMP BURNING NEAR THE  
TABERNACLE THIS WEEK IS IN LOVING MEMORY  
OF  
ANNA ARCURI  
LOVE, PINA & NICHOLAS LEONE



THE FLOWERS IN FRONT OF THE ALTAR THIS WEEK  
IN MEMORY  
OF  
ANNA ARCURI  
LOVE, PINA & NICHOLAS LEONE

**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 is a demonstration of our faith. It helps us to put our faith in action, particularly by serving those in need. Our Lord teaches us that, "Whatever you do for the least of your brothers and sisters, you do for me." Your Appeal offering helps to support Catholic Charities which sponsors so many programs to help the handicapped, the aged, and the youth of our Archdiocese and has been especially helpful to so many during this difficult pandemic time. You can be justly proud of the wonderful work which Catholic Charities is doing. Your Appeal offering makes their valuable work possible.

If you have not made your Appeal offering, we respectfully ask that you do so, either by sending your Appeal envelope directly to the Appeal Office or by dropping it at the Rectory or placing it in the Sunday collection.

Thank you for your generous help.



**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 27, 2021**

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

**MONDAY MARCH 1, 2021**

8:00AM Vincent Cartelli

9:00AM Tom Shotoj

**TUESDAY MARCH 2, 2021**

8:00AM Anna Lucania

9:00AM Vita Congialosi

**WEDNESDAY MARCH 3, 2021**

8:00AM Joseph McConnon

9:00AM Frank Bollitino

6:00PM Parishioners of St. Theresa

**THURSDAY MARCH 4, 2021**

8:00AM Margaret Aloise

9:00AM Diane Knadel

12NOON Huldah Gordon & Vevette Samuels

**FRIDAY MARCH 5, 2021**

8:00AM Anna Lucania

9:00AM Mary & Alfred Zombo

**SATURDAY MARCH 6, 2021**

8:00AM Marie Sansalone

9:00AM Cirino & Felicia Sanfilippo

5:00PM Frank Marzullo & Frank Virgintino

**SUNDAY MARCH 7, 2021**

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

9:00AM Maria Rosa Gentile

10:30AM Diane Kandel

12:15PM Nicolette Ferrara

1:30PM Rosalba Gomez

5:00PM John Reilly



Thomas Egan, Louise Esposito, Maryann Maiorana,  
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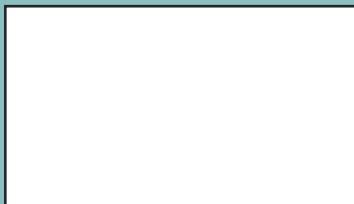
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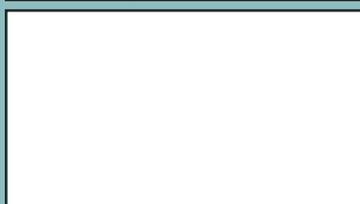
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