

# 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"**



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*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*  
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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: 718-792-8434

## CHURCH OF ST. THERESA, BRONX

### FROM THE DESK OF FATHER DERIVAN

Whenever we begin our prayers, we begin with the Sign of the Cross. I remember one day seeing a young mother passing the church with her two little children. She did not see me, but I certainly saw her and the beautiful thing that she was doing. She took the right hand of each child as they stood in front of the church and slowly she helped the child make the Sign of the Cross. I am sure that young mother has taught many things to her children. But I am quite sure that the Lord must have been very pleased with that mother teaching her children to bless themselves in the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Sign of the Cross is one of our most simple prayers. And yet it proclaims our two greatest beliefs: first, it is made in the outline of the Cross, the Cross on which Jesus died to set us free. And second, it professes our belief in Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Three Persons in One God. Every time you make the Sign of the Cross, as we do when we begin our prayers, you are saying this: "Dear Lord, I believe in your Trinity. I believe in Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And I believe that your Son Jesus died on the Cross for me."

Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Trinity. But actually every Sunday is a Feast of the Trinity. Every prayer we say with the Sign of the Cross is a prayer to the Trinity. We know that the Trinity is a mystery, something about God which we cannot even begin to understand. But the Lord Himself gives us a glimpse of this mystery when He says in today's gospel that the apostles are to go and baptize in the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Lord is sending His apostles forth to preach the gospel to every nation, to bring them into the family of God. He is giving them a mission of unity, of bringing together people of every race and tongue, every people and nation. That unity is a reflection of the unity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God wants us to be one in Him even as the Three Persons are one. He does not want us to be alone. He wants us to join the unity of His love, that same unity that Father, Son and Holy Spirit enjoy.

Unity is what our faith is all about. Unity in the Trinity, in Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God does not want us to be Christians just on our own. Sometimes people say to us priests, "Can't I just pray alone at home? Why do I have to come to Mass?" The answer is very simple: God wants us to be united in praise and love of Him. He wants us to have unity together with one another every time we gather to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. And our unity in church itself expresses our love for the unity of the Trinity. When we gather at Mass we are not alone. We may not know everyone in the church, but we know we are joined in faith. And that itself pays honor and glory to the Holy Trinity. At Mass we are showing our love for God the Father who made us, God the Son who redeemed us, God the Holy Spirit who sanctifies us. That is why it is so important for us to come to Sunday Mass, which thankfully we can now do. When we do so, we are joined together not only with those in our particular church, but with every Catholic in every church throughout the world, all of us professing our faith in Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Lord Jesus sent His apostles to the whole world to baptize people of every nation in the name of the Trinity, to draw all people in to the unity of the Trinity's love. That is why our outlook must always be to help others to join us in prayer and praise to God. The Lord Jesus did not give His message of going out to others and bringing them into the family of the Church just to the apostles or just to missionaries or just to the Pope and the bishops and priests. Every Catholic is called to bring others home to the Trinity, home to the Church. Do not be afraid to invite others, friends, neighbors, co-workers, to join you in Church. Perhaps you will be the instrument of bringing God to them. Perhaps you will be like that young mother who taught her children the Sign of the Cross and showed them how to honor both the Trinity and the Cross.

May we all hear Jesus' beautiful words. May we go out to all the world, bringing people to believe in Father, Son and Holy Spirit and remembering His promise: "Behold, I am with you always even to the end of time."

Father Thomas B. Derivan

### COLLECTION AT MASS



We have resumed using the collection baskets at our Masses at the regular time at the Offertory of the Mass. To save time at Sunday Mass, from now on, there will be only one collection time. Please put all your church envelopes (weekly offering, second collection, 50/50 Raffle, special collections) in this collection.

If for whatever reason you wish to still place your offering in the baskets at the back of the church or at the altar rail, you may of course do so. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

### 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.

MAY 30, 2021



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

Today, the Sunday after Pentecost, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, a celebration for contemplating and praising the mystery of the God of Jesus Christ, who is one in the communion of three Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. To celebrate with ever new wonder God-Love, who freely offers us his life and asks us to spread it throughout the world.

Today's Bible readings help us understand that God wishes to show us not so much that he exists but rather that he is the 'God with us', close to us, who loves us, who walks with us, is interested in our personal life story and takes care of each one, beginning with the least and the neediest. He "is God in heaven above" but also "on the earth beneath" (cf. Dt 4:39). Therefore, we do not believe in a distant entity, no! In an indifferent entity, no! But, on the contrary, in the Love who created the universe and who engendered a people, became flesh, died and rose for us and, as the Holy Spirit, transforms and leads everything to fulfillment.

Saint Paul (cf. Rom 8:14-17), who experienced firsthand this transformation brought about by God-Love, tells us of God's desire to be called Father, indeed, 'Dad' — God is 'Our Father' —, with the total confidence of a child who abandons himself in the arms of the one who gave him life. Acting in us — the Apostle again recalls — the Holy Spirit ensures that Jesus Christ is not reduced to a character of the past, no, but that we feel he is near, our contemporary, and feel the joy of being children loved by God. Lastly, in the Gospel, the Risen Lord promises to remain with us forever. And thanks precisely to his presence and to the power of his Spirit we can serenely carry out the mission that he entrusts to us. What is the mission? To proclaim to all and witness to his Gospel and thereby expand our communion with him and the joy that comes from it. God, walking with us, fills us with joy and in a way, joy is a Christian's first language.

Thus, the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity leads us to contemplate the mystery of God who unceasingly creates, redeems and sanctifies, always with love and through love, and enables every creature that welcomes him to reflect a ray of his beauty, goodness and truth. He has always chosen to walk with mankind and forms a people who may be a blessing for all nations and for each person, excluding none. A Christian is not an isolated person; he or she belongs to a people: this people that God forms. One cannot be Christian without this membership and communion. We are a people: the People of God. May the Virgin Mary help us to joyfully fulfill the mission of witnessing to the world, thirsty for love, that the meaning of life is precisely the infinite love, the tangible love of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Angelus Address, May 27, 2018

### ST. THERESA GRAND RAFFLE

Tickets for our annual GRAND RAFFLE have been sent to all who are on our mailing list. We hope you have received yours. If not or if you wish additional tickets, they are available by calling the rectory (718-892-1900) or at the Gift Shop on Sunday.

We thank those who have already made their Raffle returns. We ask your special help with the Raffle this year. We are hoping for a considerable profit from the Raffle to assist our parish. We are still very much affected by the current coronavirus epidemic which has affected us all. It has changed so much in our lives in your family's life and in the life of our parish. Therefore, we are depending on the Grand Raffle more than ever this year to help our parish meet our financial obligations.

We are asking every parishioner to take a ticket (two if possible) so that the Grand Raffle this year will be more successful than ever. The price of the ticket will be \$50. Our Raffle prizes to the following:

First Prize, \$15,000  
Second Prize, \$2500  
Third Prize, \$500

The drawing for the Grand Raffle will be on Sunday, June 27th at the 7:00PM "Salute to Heroes" in front of the church. Also if your Raffle tickets are in before June 12th you will qualify for the "early bird drawing," the winner of which will receive \$300 and three additional tickets. Also we will award \$100 in cash to the seller of the First Prize ticket. The early bird drawing will be on Sunday, June 13th after the 10:30AM Mass.

You may return your ticket stub and payment either by coming to the rectory or mailing it to the rectory or dropping it in the collection on Sunday.

Please help us to make the Raffle successful this year. We are confident you will help to keep "St. Theresa Strong."





### CAN I ASK GOD FOR THAT?

Have you ever thought it strange that we should have a devotion to a Saint of Impossible Causes? It seems to encourage us to ask God for the impossible. But, perhaps that is what God wants. To let us know that “nothing is impossible” with God, if we pray, earnestly, faithfully, and accept God’s will. “For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11) St. Jude, whose feast day is in October, is pictured at the Last Supper as still confused, still puzzled (as were the other apostles) about Christ’s true mission. St. Jude was one of the twelve apostles and is the patron saint of desperate or lost causes and situations. Interestingly the Chicago police department and a Brazilian soccer team have also adopted St. Jude as their patron, and a research hospital in Tennessee also goes by the name St. Jude. Each organization chose the name when they felt they needed to support what some believed to be a lost cause. But those who invoke St. Jude are usually those who are not going to give up easily. They are those who are close to Christ who trust He will listen when they call out.

During times of crisis, including the most recent ones, it is good to know St. Jude will hear our prayers and be an intercessor on our behalf. A popular novena to St. Jude includes this recitation.

“Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor for all who invoke thee, special patron in time of need; to thee I have recourse from the depth of my heart, and humbly beg thee, to whom God hath given such great power, to come to my assistance; help me now in my urgent need and grant my earnest petition. I will never forget thy graces and the favors thou dost obtain for me and I will do my utmost to spread devotion to thee. Amen.”

We can pray to St. Jude that with him we accept the Word of Christ while awaiting the coming of the Holy Spirit whom He promised to send to ease our pain and afflictions and bathe us in the light of His mercy and justice.

(From Franciscan Mission Associates)



**MAY 30TH**  
**SAINT DYMPHNA**  
Martyr († c. 7th century)

According to the traditional account, Dymphna was the maiden daughter of a pagan Irish chieftain and his Catholic wife. After her mother’s death, Dymphna’s father began to make incestuous advances toward her. Horrified, she fled from her home in the company of her confessor, Gerebernus.

The two reached present-day Belgium, and took up residence in a secluded wood. They spent their days in prayer, and Dymphna cared for some poor folk who lived nearby.

Eventually, Dymphna’s father and his men found them. A servant dispatched Gerebernus, and the king beheaded his own daughter. Later, their bodies were found by Christians and interred in the cathedral at Gheel, Belgium.

The history of Dymphna’s intercession began in the 13th century when a number of persons afflicted with mental illness reported cures after praying at her shrine. After similar miracles were recorded in the 17th century, Dymphna’s shrine became a haven for the mentally troubled. The number of pilgrims grew beyond the modest accommodations at the shrine, and the residents of Gheel began to invite them into their homes as “boarders”-thus beginning a tradition of home-centered care for the mentally ill that was far ahead of its time.

In the 1930’s the residents of Gheel hosted over 3,700 boarders. About five hundred are accommodated today.

*Eternal Father, through the intercession of Saint Dymphna, preserve me from addictions, obsessions, and all ailments of the mind.*



**JUNE 1ST**  
**SAINT JUSTIN MARTYR**  
Martyr (†c. 165)

A Greek from Nablus in Samaria (in the modern West Bank, thirty miles north of Jerusalem), Justin received a fine classical education in rhetoric, history, and poetry. In pursuit of wisdom, he traveled widely, attaching himself to different philosophical schools. One day, while walking along the beach in Ephesus, Justin met an old man who told him of the teachings of the Hebrew prophets and their fulfillment in the person of Jesus Christ. “My spirit was immediately set on fire,” Justin later wrote.

Soon, Justin was going from place to place, publicly defending what he now saw to be “the only sure and profitable philosophy.” He continued to preach as a layman, wearing the distinctive robes of the philosopher. He wrote many works of apologetics.

Justin’s powerful arguments made him many enemies. Saint Jerome reported that one of them, Crescens the Cynic, engineered his arrest while in Rome in 165. Justin was tried with six other Christians and condemned to death for his refusal to worship the Roman deities. The public record of the trial records the Christians’ unanimous consent to their sentence: “Do with us as you will. We are Christians and cannot sacrifice to idols.”

*Father in heaven, through the intercession of Saint Justin, set my spirit on fire for the truth of the Gospel.*

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

### SAFETY IN CHURCH

Even though there is very encouraging news about the decline of COVID-19 in New York, we want you to know that at this time and for the foreseeable future we are not changing any of our safety precautions in church. Masks will be required for all people entering the church, even if they are vaccinated. We will maintain the 6-feet social distancing for seating in the benches. And we will continue sanitizing the benches and other areas in church after every Mass. We want to assure your safety in coming to Mass. Thank you for your cooperation with all our safety procedures. Stay safe!!

## May 31, Feast of The Visitation Of Our Blessed Mother Mary to St. Elizabeth

*And Mary rising up in those days went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda. [Lk. 1:39]*

How lyrical that is, the opening sentence of St. Luke's description of the Visitation. We can feel the rush of warmth and kindness, the sudden urgency of love that sent that girl hurrying over the hills. "Those days" in which she rose on that impulse were the days in which Christ was being formed in her, the impulse was his impulse.

Many women, if they were expecting a child, would refuse to hurry over the hills on a visit of pure kindness. They would say they had a duty to themselves and to their unborn child which came before anything or anyone else. The Mother of God considered no such thing. Elizabeth was going to have a child, too, and although Mary's own child was God, she could not forget Elizabeth's need—almost incredible to us, but characteristic of her.

She greeted her cousin Elizabeth, and at the sound of her voice, John quickened in his mother's womb and leapt for joy. "I am come," said Christ, "that they may have life and may have it more abundantly". [Jn. 10, 10] Even before He was born His presence gave life.

With what piercing shoots of joy does this story of Christ unfold! First the conception of a child, and then this first salutation, an infant leaping for joy in his mother's womb, knowing the hidden Christ and leaping into life.

How did Elizabeth herself know what had happened to Our Lady? What made her realize that this little cousin who was so familiar to her was the mother of her God? She knew it by the child within herself, by the quickening into life which was a leap of joy.

If we practice this contemplation taught and shown to us by Our Lady, we will find that our experience is like hers. If Christ is growing in us, if we are at peace, recollected, because we know that however insignificant our life seems to be, from it He is forming Himself; if we go with eager wills, "in haste," to wherever our circumstances compel us, because we believe that He desires to be in that place, we shall find that we are driven more and more to act on the impulse of His love.

And the answer we shall get from others to those impulses will be an awakening into life, or the leap into joy of the already wakened life within them.

(Excerpted from The Reed of God, Caryll Houselander)

## POPE ST. JOHN PAUL'S PRAYER TO OUR LADY, MOTHER OF THE NEW MILLENNIUM

As we conclude the month of May, the month of Our Blessed Mother Mary, let us turn to her always for her loving protection for ourselves and our families. The following prayer was given to us by Pope St. John Paul II:



Mother of the Redeemer,  
with great joy we call you blessed.  
In order to carry out His plan of salvation,  
God the Father chose you before the creation of the world.  
You believed in His love and obeyed His word.  
The Son of God desired you for His Mother  
when He became man to save the human race.  
You received Him with ready obedience and undivided heart.  
The Holy Spirit loved you as His mystical spouse  
and filled you with singular gifts.  
You allowed yourself to be led by His hidden and powerful actions.  
In this third Christian Millennium,  
we entrust to you the Church  
which acknowledges you  
and invokes you as Mother.  
To you, Mother of the human family  
and of the nations,  
we confidently entrust the whole of humanity,  
with its hopes and fears.  
Do not let it lack the light of true wisdom.  
Guide its steps in the ways of peace.  
Enable all to meet Christ,  
the Way, the Truth, and the Life.  
Sustain us, O Virgin Mary,  
on our journey of faith  
and obtain for us the grace of eternal salvation.  
O clement, O loving,  
O sweet Mother of God and our Mother, Mary! Amen

**III TIME** Jonathan Quinones & Martha Ocegüera



THIS WEEK'S ALTAR BREAD IS IN LOVING MEMORY  
OF  
ANTONIETTE MORANTE  
LOVE, THE ZOTTOLA & ADDARIO FAMILIES



**JUNE 5TH**  
**SAINT BONIFACE**  
Apostle to the Germans († 754)

Boniface was baptized Wynfrid and received a fine monastery education in his native England. At the age of thirty, he was ordained a priest and shortly afterward set his sights on missionary work. He went to Frisia (modern Holland), but had little success and returned to England. Two years later, he carried his desire to Rome, where Pope Gregory II received him. The pope gave Wynfrid a new mission, to the German peoples, and a new name, Boniface.

Boniface began in Thuringia, moved back to Frisia for a time, and then went to Hesse and Saxony. He encountered resistance, as when he had to take an axe to the great oak dedicated to Jupiter. But many conversions followed. Then the pope appointed Boniface a "regional bishop" for the entire Germanic people. He recruited monks and nuns from England to spread liturgy and learning among them. Even the Frankish Church benefitted from Boniface's wise reforms.

True to form, at the age of eighty Boniface was still eager for new work. He returned to Frisia and was preparing to say Mass in a field when a band of pagans attacked. "Here is the long-awaited day; the time of our end has now come," he told his followers. "Courage in the Lord!" He was martyred alongside many of his followers. Afterward, his remains were brought to his main monastic foundation at Fulda.

*Loving Father through the intercession of Saint Boniface, grant me courage in the face of resistance and the difficulties of my life.*

#### **A Memorial Day Prayer**

As we celebrate Memorial Day on Monday, let us remember all of those who gave their lives so that we may be free:

"Gracious God, on this Memorial Day, we pray for those who courageously laid down their lives for the cause of freedom. May the examples of their sacrifice inspire in us the selfless love of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Bless the families of our fallen troops, and fill their homes and their lives with Your strength and peace.

In union with people of goodwill of every nation, embolden us to answer the call to work for peace and justice, and thus, seek an end to violence and conflict around the globe.

We ask this through your name."



#### **SATURDAY MAY 29, 2021**

5:00PM Christopher DeVino

#### **SUNDAY MAY 30, 2021**

7:30AM Fr. Thomas Derivan (For His Health)

9:00AM Anna Maria DelGigante

10:30AM Michael Camacho

12:15PM Charles Gaetano

1:30PM Digua & Peregrino Vallejo

5:00PM Parishioners of St. Theresa

#### **MONDAY MAY 31, 2021**

8:00AM Mary Cea

9:00AM Margaret Raniola

#### **TUESDAY JUNE 1, 2021**

8:00AM Gina DeRosa

9:00AM Ketsy Annette Rosario

#### **WEDNESDAY JUNE 2, 2021**

8:00AM Maria Signorelli

9:00AM Petrina Vullo

#### **THURSDAY JUNE 3, 2021**

8:00AM Mrs. Balasov

9:00AM Vevette Samuels

12NOON Thomas Swenson

#### **FRIDAY JUNE 4, 2021**

8:00AM Peter Mastrogiovanni

9:00AM Anna Arcuri

#### **SATURDAY JUNE 5, 2021**

8:00AM Diane Martino

9:00AM Crisia Esposito

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

#### **SUNDAY JUNE 6, 2021**

7:30AM Charles & Mary Szivos

9:00AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

10:30AM Maria & Sal Zottola

12:15PM Vita Cangialosi

1:30PM Olga Lugo & Oscar Pabon

5:00PM Vincent Caratenuto



Nancy Cardone, Thomas Egan, Louise Esposito,  
Josephine Graziano, Maryann Maiorana, Margie Primiani,  
Frances Riccio, Toni Spahr, Nicholas Vasti, Benny Primiani,  
Antoinette Primiani





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