

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

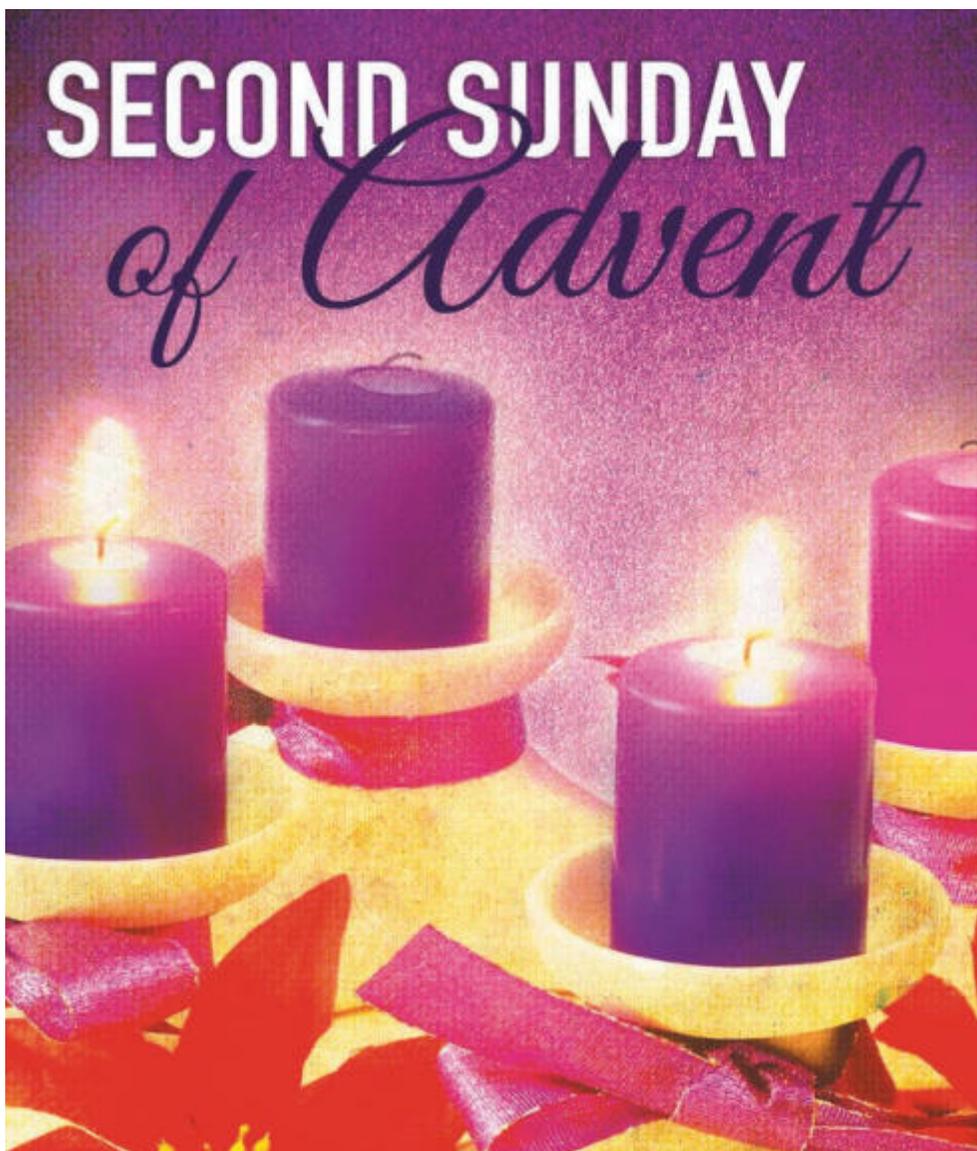
BAPTISMS

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
Salesian Fathers, Weekend Associates

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

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

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

CHURCH OF ST. THERESA, BRONX

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER DERIVAN

This week on Wednesday, December 8, we celebrate the beautiful Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Our Blessed Mother Mary. This feast is a holyday of obligation because it is so important to us as people of faith. We could say that the whole story of our redemption began when Mary was conceived in the womb of her holy mother St. Anne. She was without the stain of original sin because she would be the one who would bear the Sinless One, the Conqueror of sin, Jesus, into this world. As our Holy Father has said, "Today's feast celebrates one of the wonders of the history of salvation: the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary. Even she was saved by Christ, but in an extraordinary way, because God wanted that the mother of his Son not be touched by the misery of sin from the moment of conception. And thus, for the entire course of her earthly life, Mary was free from any stain of sin, she was 'full of grace,' as the angel called her. She was favored by a unique action of the Holy Spirit so as to always remain in perfect relationship with her Son, Jesus. Indeed, she was Jesus' disciple: his Mother and disciple and there was no sin in her." This feast not only celebrates Mary's Immaculate Conception; it celebrates our calling to conquer sin in our own lives, as the Pope says, "to say 'no' to sin and 'yes' to Grace once and for all."

Certainly above all people Our Blessed Mother Mary said "yes" to God's grace. But someone else did too. And that was our dear St. Joseph. As you know during this past year, we have been observing a special Year of St. Joseph as directed by Pope Francis. This special year began on December 8 of last year and concludes this Wednesday, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. This special Year of St. Joseph has been our time of remembering how important St. Joseph is in the story of our salvation. Pope Francis puts it simply, "The greatness of St. Joseph is that he placed himself at the service of the entire plan of salvation." Mary had her role in God's saving plan. And Joseph did too.

God chose St. Joseph to be part of the great story of the coming of His Son into our world to save us from sin and death. And Joseph accepted that task and how well he accomplished it! He listened to the Angel who told him to take Mary as his wife. He traveled with Mary to Bethlehem so that the Infant Jesus would be born, as the prophet foretold, in the City of David, Bethlehem. Again he listened to the Angel's message in a dream to take Mary and the Infant Jesus to Egypt to escape the murderous threats of King Herod. He lived with Mary and Jesus in Egypt, a foreign land, until the Angel again told him to return to his own land to the town of Nazareth. And St. Joseph, as a loving father, raised Jesus as his very own son, so much so that the people of Nazareth, not knowing the truth, would say, "Is he not the carpenter's son?" All of this was part of the plan of God for St. Joseph. All of these tasks which St. Joseph accepted were part of the Divine Plan which would eventually lead to the Cross and the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus and would open the gates of heaven for us all. And in all of this, Joseph was the "silent one." We have no words of St. Joseph in the gospel. Unlike St. John the Baptist whom we hear about in the gospel today, he did not make his voice heard, calling people to repentance and inviting them to prepare the way of the Lord. No, Joseph always remained "the Silent One" and his silence speaks louder than any words. His silence reminds us that God wants us to do, not to talk. Joseph's silence was a busy silence—Joseph did not waste time on words; he was busy doing the task the God gave to him.

And ultimately that is St. Joseph's message for us: to be ready to do God's will, not talk about it. Sadly many people speak well but do little. The Lord expects great things from us: taking care of our families as Joseph did; doing our daily work as Joseph the carpenter of Nazareth did; protecting our children from the dangers of this world, the "Egypt" of our day, even as Joseph protected his family from King Herod. That is St. Joseph's message to us—to be ready to do what God wants, to be ready to do our part in God's continuing story of saving all the world.

The special Year of St. Joseph will be over on Wednesday. But the message of St. Joseph is never over for us. May St. Joseph help us especially during Advent. May St. Joseph, the Silent Saint, help us in our own way to "prepare the way of the Lord and make a straight path for our God."

Father Thomas B. Derivan

Prayer for the Year of St. Joseph

Good St. Joseph, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil.
Good St. Joseph, pray for us. Amen

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



This Wednesday, December 8th, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Our Blessed Mother Mary when we remember that she was conceived without original sin. It is a holy day of obligation. Our country is under the special patronage of the Immaculate Conception.

Our Masses on Wednesday will be at 8:00AM, 9:00AM & 12Noon. There will also be a Mass on Wednesday evening at 7:15PM

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.



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

POPE FRANCIS AND THE CHRISTMAS CRIB

One of the most beautiful customs in preparation for Christmas is setting up in Christmas manger. We encourage every family to do so. Even persons who live alone should set up their Christmas crib and make this custom a special Advent prayer in preparation for the birth of Our Lord at Christmas.

Two years ago Pope Francis wrote a beautiful letter on the importance of the Christmas manger scene. In that letter "*Admirabile Signum* (Enchanting Image)" the Pope reminded us: "Wherever it is, and whatever form it takes, the Christmas crib (or crèche) speaks to us of the love of God, the God who became a child in order to make us know how close He is to every man, woman and child, regardless of their condition."

The Pope has encouraged families to set up the Christmas crib in their homes during Advent. "It is my hope that this custom will never be lost and that, wherever it has fallen into disuse, it can be rediscovered and revived," the Pope said.

At the heart of even the simplest Nativity scene, he said, there is a reminder of "God's tender love: the Creator of the universe lowered Himself to take up our littleness." When we look at the Christmas crib—at home, in church, or in public places, we come away knowing that "God's ways are astonishing, for it seems impossible that He should forsake His glory to become a man like us. To our astonishment, we see God acting exactly as we do: He sleeps, takes milk from His mother, cries and plays like every other child! As always, God baffles us. He is unpredictable, constantly doing what we least expect," Pope Francis wrote. "The Nativity scene shows God as He came into our world, but it also makes us reflect on how our life is part of God's own life. It invites us to become His disciples if we want to attain ultimate meaning in life."

The Pope encouraged families to set up their Christmas crib throughout Advent. He suggested that children can add each of the figures as Advent goes on. He particularly asked us to concentrate on the figures of Our Blessed Mother Mary and St. Joseph and the Infant Jesus: "Mary is a model of discipleship, faithfully accepting God's will for her life and sharing Him with others, inviting them to obey Him. Joseph, too, accepts the role God assigned him, protecting the baby Jesus, teaching Him and raising Him. And when, on Christmas itself, we place the statue of the Infant Jesus in the manger, the manger scene suddenly comes alive. God appears as a child, for us to take into our arms."

The Pope encourages every family to make the Christmas crib a lesson of faith to be shared by parents and grandparents with their children. From the manger itself the Lord Jesus is teaching us His lesson of love, which is the whole meaning of Christmas, reminding us, in the old saying, that "Jesus is the reason for the season."

Blessing Prayer For the Christmas Crib

By Edward Hays

Lord,
as we pray before this our Christmas crib and await the feast of the birth of the Holy Child,
may we wonder and rejoice with Mary and Joseph as they did on the first Christmas night.

As the Magi came bearing gifts, may we, this Christmas, gift one another
with the gold of charity, the myrrh of kindness
and the incense of prayer.

With the shepherds, we come to the birth of Christ
seeking a simple celebration, where the greatest gift will be ourselves
given to You, our God, and to each other.

May the star of Bethlehem which shined brightly over the first Christmas
stand guard over our home, fill it and all the earth with light and peace.

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You
because by Your holy birth
You give hope to all the world. Amen



THANKS FROM OUR FOOD PANTRY



We are grateful to all who contributed food for our Food Pantry, sponsored by the St. Theresa Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. We are most grateful to **Councilman Mark Gjonaj** for contributing turkeys for our pantry. Councilman Gjonaj has been most helpful to us and we wish him the best in his retirement. Thank you also to our new Council person Marjorie Valasquez, and Assemblyman Michael Benedetto and Community Board member John Doyle for their help to our pantry.

We are especially grateful to the staff of Cummins Sales and Service on Zerega Avenue for the large amount of food which they collected once this year. Each year through the help of their employee and our parishioner Susan Primiani, we receive the food which they collected before Thanksgiving. God bless them for their generosity!

Also we thank our school parents for the food collected for our Food Pantry. Each class was assigned different items to bring. We thank our principal Mrs. Fanelli for arranging this.

Finally, as always, we thank our parishioners who faithfully contribute food donations not only at Thanksgiving time but throughout the year. Thanks to all for your help to those in need.

DECEMBER 5, 2021

MESSAGE OF OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS FOR THIS SUNDAY

Last Sunday, the liturgy invited us to experience the Season of Advent and of anticipation of the Lord with an attitude of vigilance and also of prayer: “Be mindful” and “pray”. Today, the Second Sunday of Advent, we are shown how to give substance to this anticipation: by undertaking a journey of conversion, how to make this anticipation concrete. As a guide on this journey, the Gospel presents the figure of John the Baptist who “went into all the region about the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” To describe the Baptist’s mission, the Evangelist Luke refers to the ancient prophecy of Isaiah which says: “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be brought low.”

To prepare the way of the Lord’s coming, it is necessary to take note of the requirements of conversion to which the Baptist invites us. What are these requirements for conversion? First of all we are called to fill the ‘valleys’ caused by coldness and indifference, opening ourselves to others with the same sentiments as Jesus, that is, with affection and fraternal attention which takes on the needs of our neighbors. To fill the valleys caused by coldness. One cannot have a relationship of love, charity and fraternity with one’s neighbors if there are ‘gaps’ just as one cannot travel a road with many potholes. This requires a change of attitude. And all this should also be done with special attention to the neediest. Then there is the need to curtail the indifference caused by pride and arrogance. How many people, perhaps without realizing it, are proud, are indifferent, lack that kindly relationship. It is necessary to overcome this by making concrete gestures of reconciliation with our brothers and sisters, asking for forgiveness for our faults. It is not easy to reconcile with another. One always thinks: “Who will take the first step?”. The Lord helps us in this if we are of good will. Indeed, conversion is complete if it leads us to humbly recognize our errors, our infidelity and failings.

The believer is someone who, by being close to his brothers and sisters, like John the Baptist, opens pathways in the desert, that is, he indicates perspectives of hope, even in those existential contexts that are arduous, marked by failure and defeat. We cannot give up in the face of negative situations of closure and rejection: we must not allow ourselves to succumb to the mentality of the world, because the center of our life is Jesus and his word of light, love and solace. It is He! The Baptist invited the people of his time to conversion, with force, with vigor and with firmness. Nevertheless, he knew how to listen, he knew how to perform gestures of tenderness, gestures of forgiveness toward the multitude of men and women who went to him to confess their sins and to be baptized with the baptism of repentance.

The witness of John the Baptist helps us to go forward in our witness of life. The purity of his proclamation, his courage in proclaiming the truth were able to reawaken the expectation and hope in the Messiah that had long been dormant. Today too, Jesus’ disciples are called to be his humble but courageous witnesses in order to rekindle hope, to make it understood that, despite everything, the Kingdom of God continues to be built day by day with the power of the Holy Spirit. Let each of us ask ourselves: how can I change something in my attitude, in order to prepare the way of the Lord?

May the Virgin Mary help us prepare the way of the Lord day by day, beginning with ourselves; and to scatter around us with steadfast patience, seeds of peace, justice and fraternity.

Angelus Message, December 9, 2018



DECEMBER 6
SAINT NICHOLAS OF MYRA
Bishop († c. 350)

Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, in the province of Lycia in Asia Minor (modern Turkey), has been widely venerated since ancient times. He is the patron of Greece and Russia, as well as of Sicily in Italy and Lorraine in France. It is said that Nicholas was born at Patara and, after becoming bishop at Myra, suffered imprisonment for the faith for a time under the emperor Diocletian.

A tireless defender of the poor, Nicholas is said to have once saved three daughters of an impoverished merchant who were on the verge of selling their bodies for money. The holy bishop tossed three bags of gold into their window—an act of generosity that stands behind the tradition of Santa Claus (from the Dutch “Sint Niklaas”) and his surreptitious middle-of-the-night gift-giving.

Nicholas is said to have died in Myra, where his tomb was the site of a multitude of miracles. “His favors,” wrote a Greek in the 10th century, “are poured out over all the earth: the Scythians know them, as do the Indians and the barbarians, the Africans as well as the Italians.” Indeed, Nicholas was so popular with Italians that 1087 merchants from Italy schemed to have his relics removed from Myra, then under Muslim rule, to the city of Bari in Italy. His shrine there is still a popular site for pilgrims.

All-loving Father, through the intercession of Saint Nicholas of Myra, save me from selling myself for worldly wealth.

FLOCKNOTE



Our Archdiocese is encouraging all parishes to join **Flocknote**, a communication service created for Catholic parishes. This will help you to stay connected to your parish by directly receiving emails or texts from us. There is no charge for this service.

Only one **email/text** is sent each week, along with occasional reminders for parish events, Holy Days of Obligation and other information from our parish.

If you are interested, you can enroll online at stij.flocknote.com or text **STIJ** to **84576**.

THE GIVING TREE



Our parish observes the beautiful custom of the Giving Tree. Throughout Advent the tree is placed near the statue of St. Joseph with tags on it. This year we are using Christmas Angel tags on the back of which there is a request for toys or other items. Gifts will be distributed in the name of St. Theresa Parish to the following charities:

***HOPE FOR US** - a program started by Bronx college students to help children (particularly those affected by sickle cell anemia) who are in hospitals or other social service programs.

***HOURLY CHILDREN** - a program to help children in needy families and neighborhoods to enjoy Christmas presents.

***DOMINICAN SISTERS OF SPARKILL** to assist retired sisters in their infirmary. The Sparkill Sisters faithfully started our school and staffed it for many years.

Please take one of the "Christmas angel tags" and then bring your gift next week to Mass or the rectory during the week. tag which This can be a beautiful Advent project for the whole family. All gifts must be brought in by December 19th.

LOOKING AHEAD--OUR CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE



Soon, of course, we will be celebrating the beautiful Feast of the Birth of Our Savior. We want to review for you our schedule of Masses for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day so that you can properly prepare to celebrate this feast day. Remember that, above all, Christmas is a Feast Day, one which we celebrate at Mass with Our Lord Himself.

Of course our plans for this Christmas must take into account our continued concern over the COVID 19 virus. As always, we want to maintain safety for our parishioners and that is our paramount concern. As you know, we take extra precautions in our church at Mass, following the advice given to us by nurses who are our parishioners. All are asked to wear face masks and to maintain proper social distancing. And, as always, we follow any further directives of New York State and our own Archdiocese.

Therefore, our Christmas schedule is as follows:

- **Our Christmas Eve schedule** is the following Masses on Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24th will be at:
4:00PM,
5:30PM (Family Mass)
7:00PM

It will be necessary to give tickets to these Masses. Tickets for these Masses will be distributed to parishioners after our Masses next weekend and the following weekend. Please indicate to the young men in the vestibule which Mass you will attend and how many tickets you will need. Once we have reached capacity, we will not be able to distribute more tickets.

- **There will be no Midnight Mass.**
- Our schedule of Masses on Saturday, **Christmas Day** follows our Sunday schedule: 7:30AM, 9:00AM(Italian), 10:30AM, 12:15PM, 1:30PM(Spanish) and 5:00PM

PRAYER TO SAINT NICHOLAS



O good Saint Nicholas, you who are the joy of the children, put in my heart the spirit of childhood, of which the Gospel speaks, and teach me to see happiness around me. You, whose feast prepares us for Christmas, open my faith to the mystery of God made man. You, good bishop and shepherd, help me to find my place in the Church and inspire the Church to be faithful to the gospel. O good Saint Nicholas, patron of children, sailors, and the helpless, watch over those who pray to Jesus, your Lord and theirs, as well as over those who humble themselves before you.

May our celebration of your feast lead others to see the true meaning of giving and receiving and to guide all people to the greatest of all gifts, Jesus Christ, our only Savior. Bring us all in reverence to the Holy Child of Bethlehem, in whom true joy and peace are found.
Amen.

In Loving Memory

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH AND THEIR FAMILIES
NICHOLAS CHIAPPARINO, TONY SEMENTILLI,
FILOMENA MONTELLA, JULIE ORTIZ-BROQUADIO
ANN MARIE PISACANO



THIS WEEK'S ALTAR BREAD IS IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
ROSALIE MASTERS
LOVE, ALBERTA



DECEMBER 7
SAINT AMBROSE
Bishop and Doctor († 397)

Born of an outstanding Roman noble family, Ambrose rose to become a lawyer and then governor of a Roman province that had its center at Milan. He was still a catechumen when he attempted to quell the raucous crowd gathered to elect a new bishop and unexpectedly found himself the crowd's choice. He was baptized, ordained, and consecrated in quick succession. Ambrose prudently navigated a variety of political situations, all the while providing catechesis for a vast number of catechumens and countering the widespread Arian heresy.

When the Arians succeeded in getting the Emperor Valentinian to hand over to them the basilica outside the walls of the city, Ambrose made a decisive stand. He boldly entered the church with many of the faithful at the outset of the Holy Week liturgies. Soon afterward, the emperor's armed guard surrounded the church, trapping the bishop and people inside. Ambrose urged the people to fervent prayer and sought to stave off their exhaustion by introducing the antiphonal singing of hymns and psalms, a practice that would become enshrined in the West in the divine office. Ambrose's spiritual son Augustine of Hippo quotes four of Ambrose's hymns, and scholars have identified about a dozen thought to have been composed by him.

The men of his own time considered Ambrose the ideal bishop. He died in 397.

All-compassionate Father, through the intercession of Saint Ambrose, help me to enter more fully into the prayers and hymns of the liturgy.

ADVENT PRAYER

O God, Creator of the heavens and the earth, this holy season of Advent reminds us not only of our blessings, but of all the unfulfilled longings of our hearts. As we prepare to celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation of Jesus, we turn to you in hope for the future, and we thank you for all of your goodness to us. During this season of anticipation, may we open our hearts to you and to one another, especially those most in need. This we ask in the name of Jesus, our Emmanuel. Amen

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY DECEMBER 4, 2021

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

SUNDAY DECEMBER 5, 2021

7:30AM John & Annie Sweeney

9:00AM Michael Rocco

10:30AM Angelo & Maria Pozzuto

12:15PM Ann Leicht

1:30PM Isabella & Angelica Gomez

5:00PM Antoinette Zito

MONDAY DECEMBER 6, 2021

8:00AM Angelina Viserto

9:00AM Costranza DelGrosso

TUESDAY DECEMBER 7, 2021

8:00AM Pasquale & Lillian Marro

9:00AM Marco Errichiello

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 8, 2021

8:00AM Emily Guglielmetti

9:00AM Frieda Sirabella

THURSDAY DECEMBER 9, 2021

8:00AM Michael Rocco

9:00AM Nicola Stancati

12NOON Angela, Joyce, Luigi, Giovina & Nick Napolitano

FRIDAY DECEMBER 10, 2021

8:00AM Orlando Jusino

9:00AM Anna LoCicero

SATURDAY DECEMBER 11, 2021

8:00AM Pat Golino

9:00PM Alfio DiLeo & Betty LoCicero

5:00PM Felice & Rose Polito

SUNDAY DECEMBER 12, 2021

7:30AM Terence Lorino (NYPD)

9:00AM Luigi Gentile

10:30AM Zenaida Llamas

12:15PM Eileen Maskara

1:30PM Antonio & Laura Gomez

5:00PM Lorenzo Albanese



Nancy Cardone, Thomas Egan, Louise Esposito,
Josephine Graziano, Maryann Maiorana, Joseph Pisano,
Margie Primiani, Frances Riccio, Toni Spahr, Nicholas Vasti,
Benny Primiani, Antoinette Primiani, Lisa Primiani
Antoinette Primiani, Lisa Primiani, Fr. Thomas Lynch



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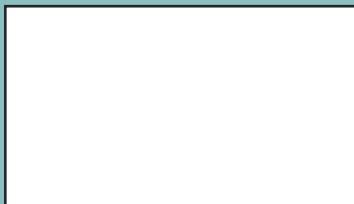
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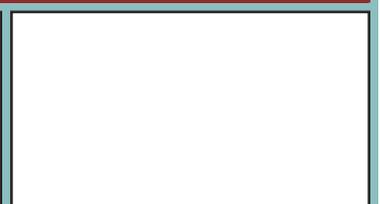
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