

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

RECTORY: 718-892-1900/1901
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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: PREPARING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Our gospel today is the familiar story of Our Lord's first miracle, the miracle of the Wedding Feast of Cana, when the Lord changed water into wine. It is significant that Our Lord chose a wedding to perform His first miracle, showing how important marriage is in His eyes and showing His love and support for every married couple. And in doing so He taught us a beautiful lesson about Christian marriage: The Lord Jesus was a guest at that wedding feast. He wants to be the guest in every couple's married life and in every family. And He wants to do this not just on the wedding day, but every day of the couple's married life.

Usually when we hear the term "**Preparing for Marriage,**" we think of the immediate things connected with the wedding celebration. There is so much to prepare—arranging the church and the reception, sending invitations, choosing a wedding party, and taking care of the thousand-and-one things that are connected with that beautiful wedding day. But it is one thing to prepare for a **wedding**; it is another thing to prepare for a **Marriage**, a Christian marriage, the Sacrament of Marriage, being married "in Christ." A few points to consider:

1. Actually preparing for Christian marriage begins long before the physical preparations. It begins when each person is growing up, learning about marriage from the married couples they know, and being ready to accept commitments in life. One of the most difficult words for some people today is precisely that word "**commitment.**" And yet how can a person make the most serious commitment of marriage if he or she has not accepted commitments when growing up. To use an analogy, for some young people, they want to play a sport, but they do not want to make the commitment to a team, a commitment that involves time and dedication, concentration and every-day practice, learning and growing in their sport. Some young people prefer just to "play around," not make the commitment to play for a team. Young people should be challenged by the adults who are important in their lives to accept commitments, the commitment of being a productive member of the family, the commitment of working hard in school, the commitment to practice their faith particularly by coming to Sunday Mass. Young people must learn that the commitments they make when they are growing up will help them to make greater commitments in their future years, the most important of which will be the commitment of Christian marriage.
2. Unfortunately many people forget that **Christ must be the center of every Christian marriage.** Our Jewish friends have a custom in their annual celebration of the Passover. They leave a seat open. It is called the seat of Elijah, the prophet who told the Jewish people to prepare for the coming of the Christ. We could say that every home should have a "**seat for Jesus**" because He belongs in every marriage and in every family. Marriage in the Catholic Church means that a couple welcomes the Lord Jesus into everything in their lives. Christ for Catholic married couples is the foundation of their marriage and their love. Just as the married couple love each other, so too does Christ love them. He gives them the grace through the Sacrament of Marriage to "love and honor each other for the rest of their lives," to be "faithful to each other for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health until death." Married couples must realize that they are not alone, The Lord Jesus is in the chair, strengthening them in their married love.
3. The most important preparation for Christian marriage is not sending invitations or making reception arrangements. Simply put, **the most important preparation for Christian marriage is coming to Sunday Mass.** It makes no sense for people to want to be married in the Church if they are not coming to Church, coming to Mass each week and receiving Our Lord in Holy Communion. Christian marriage is precisely that—Christian, being married "in Christ." Being married in church is not just a nice ceremony. It is an affirmation of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a sacrament, one of Our Lord's seven gifts of grace to prepare us for eternal life.

It is good for young people to think about these things long before they make the commitment to marriage. Likewise it is good for parents and grandparents to talk about Christian marriage as their children are growing up, helping them to be ready to make the most important commitment of their lives. May Our Lord who blessed the couple at Cana with His first miracle bless all our young people as they grow up and as they learn the importance of Our Blessed Mother's words in the gospel today, "Do whatever He tells you."

Father Thomas B. Derivan

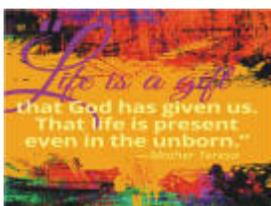
Weddings in our Church

Couples planning their weddings must have a connection with St. Theresa Parish (through baptism or other sacraments, school or current residence).

The couple should contact the rectory at least six months in advance of the proposed wedding date to arrange to meet with one of our priests. It is not advisable to make reception plans until a date for the Church has been established.

The priest will give the couple the procedures to be followed in preparation for the wedding, including the required certificates and PreCana information of the Archdiocese. Other information will be given in subsequent meetings (information on the actual ceremony, restrictions in church, readings from the Scripture, hymns to be sung).

This is a link to the webpage of the Archdiocese of New York that deals with Marriage Preparation:
<http://flrl.org/MarriagePreparation.htm>



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.

HOW THE LOVE OF HUSBAND AND WIFE IS FED BY THE EUCHARIST

St. John Paul II firmly believed that love within marriage is strengthened by the Eucharist.

After the “love-dovey” feelings go away in marriage, love between spouses changes into something deeper, but for many it can be a difficult time to get through. It can be tempting to turn elsewhere for love.

However, it is precisely during those rough patches in marriage that a couple needs to **feed their love with the Eucharist.**

St. John Paul II, in his apostolic exhortation Familiaris Consortio, explains how the love between husband and wife needs to be nourished by the Eucharist.

“The Eucharist is the very source of Christian marriage. The Eucharistic Sacrifice, in fact, represents Christ’s covenant of love with the Church, sealed with His blood on the Cross. In this sacrifice of the New and Eternal Covenant, Christian spouses encounter the source from which their own marriage covenant flows, is interiorly structured and continuously renewed.”

Jesus loved us so much that not only did he die on the cross, he literally became **food** for us in the Eucharist. This example of sacrifice and desire for intimate communion remains a model for us to follow. While we will never reach the heights of such love in this life, we can at the very least mirror it in a small way within our marriages.

St. John Paul II continues by pointing out how the reception of Jesus in Holy Communion can feed the life of charity within our homes.

*“As a representation of Christ’s sacrifice of love for the Church, the **Eucharist is a fountain of charity.** In the Eucharistic gift of charity the Christian family finds the foundation and soul of its ‘communion’ and its ‘mission’: **by partaking in the Eucharist, the different members of the Christian family become one body, which reveals and shares in the wider unity of the Church. Their sharing in the Body of Christ that is ‘given up’ and in His Blood that is ‘shed’ becomes a never-ending source of missionary and apostolic power for the Christian family.**”*

If Jesus is the source of all love, then why shouldn’t we go to him to renew our love in marriage?

We don’t always associate marital love with the love that Jesus exemplified, but St. Paul fully understood this connection as well, and wrote about it in his Letter to the Ephesians. His words remind us to love each other as Christ loves us and shows that love most fully in the Eucharist.

“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her (Ephesians 5:25).”

(Reprinted from Aletheia publications, Philip Kosloski)

PRAYER FOR RESPECT FOR ALL HUMAN LIFE

The month of January features a sad anniversary. On January 22, we observe the 49th anniversary of the tragic Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision allowing abortion on demand in our country. Since then, it is estimated that 62 million unborn babies have not been given the most basic of human life, the right to be born. As we prepare for this anniversary, pray that the right to life will once again be respected in our country.

*Almighty God, giver of all that is good, we thank You for the precious gift of human life:
For life in the womb, coming from your creative power,
For the life of children, making us glad with their freshness and promise,
For the life of young people, hoping for a better world,
For the life of people who are disabled, teaching us that every life has value,
For the life of the elderly, witnessing to the ageless values of patience and wisdom.*

*Like Blessed Mary, may we always say “YES” to Your gift. May we defend it and promote it from conception to its natural end.
And bring us at last, O Father, to the fullness of eternal life in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen*

(From Archdiocese of Vancouver)



The annual March for Life in Washington will be observed this year on January 21. Please offer your rosary or, better still, come to Mass on that day to pray for the right to life.

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Please support our advertisers; it is their support that makes this bulletin possible, and when you visit them, please let them know that you read their advertisement in St. Theresa’s bulletin.

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.

MESSAGE OF OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS FOR THIS SUNDAY

Last Sunday, with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we began the journey in the liturgical time called “Ordinary”; the time to follow Jesus in his public life, in the mission for which the Father sent him into the world. In today’s Gospel (cf. Jn 2:1-11) we find the narrative of Jesus’ first miracle. The first of these prodigious signs takes place in the village of Cana, in Galilee, during a marriage celebration. It is not by chance that there is a wedding at the beginning of Jesus’ public life, because in him, God espoused humanity: this is the Good News, even though those who invited him do not yet know that the Son of God is seated at their table and that he is the true bridegroom. Indeed all the mystery of the sign of Cana is based on the presence of this divine bridegroom, Jesus, who begins to reveal himself. Jesus manifests himself as the bridegroom of the People of God, announced by the prophets, and he reveals to us the depth of the relationship which unites us to him: it is a New Covenant of love.

In the context of the Covenant, the symbol of wine, which is at the heart of this miracle, is fully understood. Just as the feast is culminating, the wine runs out. Our Lady notices this and says to Jesus: “They have no wine.” Because it would have been bad to continue the feast with water! An embarrassment for those people. Our Lady notices and, as she is a mother, she immediately turns to Jesus. The Scriptures, especially Prophets, point to wine as a typical element of the messianic banquet. Water is necessary to live but wine expresses the abundance of the banquet and the joy of the celebration. A feast without wine? I don’t know.... By transforming into wine the water from the stone jars used “for the Jewish rites of purification” — it was customary: to purify oneself before entering a home — Jesus effects an eloquent sign. He transforms the Law of Moses into Gospel, bearer of joy.

And then, let us turn to Mary. The words that Mary addresses to the servants crown the spousal picture of Cana: “Do whatever he tells you.” Today too, Our Lady tells all of us to “Do whatever he tells you”. These words are a precious legacy that our Mother left us. And indeed, the servants in Cana obey: “Jesus said to them, ‘Fill the jars with water.’ And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, ‘Now draw some out and take it to the steward of the feast.’ So they took it. Truly, a New Covenant is pledged at this wedding. And a new mission is entrusted to the servants of the Lord, namely, the entire Church: “Do whatever he tells you”. To serve the Lord means to listen and to put his Word into practice. It is the simple, essential recommendation of Jesus’ Mother. It is the program for a Christian’s life.

I would like to highlight an experience which many of us have certainly had in life. When we are in difficult situations, when problems arise that we do not know how to resolve, when we feel a lot of anxiety and distress, when we lack joy, go to Our Lady and say: “We have no wine. The wine has run out: Look at the state I am in, look at my heart, look at my soul”. Say it to the Mother. And she will go to Jesus to say: Look at this one: he or she has no wine. And then, she will come back to us and say: “Do whatever he tells you”.

For each of us, drawing from the jar is tantamount to entrusting ourselves to the Word and to the Sacraments in order to experience God’s grace in our lives. Then we too, as the steward who tasted the water that had become wine, can say: “You have kept the good wine until now.” Jesus always surprises us. Let us speak to the Mother so that she may speak to her Son and he will surprise us.

May she, the Holy Virgin, help us to follow her invitation: “Do whatever he tells you”, so that we can fully open up to Jesus, recognizing in everyday life the signs of his life-giving presence.

Angelus Address, January 20, 2019



JANUARY 17
SAINT ANTHONY
Abbot († 356)

Anthony “the Great” is reputed to be the first Christian to live monastic life. According to Saint Athanasius, his friend and biographer, Anthony came from a wealthy Egyptian family. The eighteen-year-old Anthony heard Christ’s proclamation: *If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me* (Mt 19:21). Unlike the rich young man, Anthony hearkened to Christ’s words.

After training with a local hermit, Anthony lived in an abandoned burial ground for thirteen years. He then went further, to the desert, where he remained for twenty years, with prayer and humble labor as his sole occupations. When Anthony emerged from his solitude-looking remarkably healthy, Athanasius tells us he discovered that he had willing disciples. These gathered around him in nearby individual cells: the first recorded monastic community.

In 311, Anthony left his cell for a few years to preach against the Arian heresy and protest the persecutions in the city of Alexandria. After he returned to the desert, more disciples came to him. Just before Anthony died in 356, he sent his cloak and sheepskin to his friend Bishop Athanasius.

In the East, Anthony is hailed as “first master of the desert and the pinnacle of holy monks.” He is the patron of basket-makers.

Eternal Father, through the intercession of St. Anthony, teach me to seek you in work and prayer.



JANUARY 21
SAINT AGNES
Chastity († c. 305)

Agnes is one of the most revered of the Church’s early virgin martyrs and one of the women mentioned in the Roman Canon. Various accounts of her passion and death have come down to us. All of them agree that she was executed in Rome in the early 4th century at the age of twelve or thirteen and that she died as a direct result of her fidelity to Jesus, to whom she had promised herself.

Agnes is said to have outlasted various tortures. A trial by fire was ended by her prayers. When the Roman prefect sent her to be exposed in a brothel, she was enveloped in an intense light that blinded any who came near. In response to threats, Saint Ambrose reports, she replied: “To hope that any other will please me does wrong to my Spouse. I will be his who first chose me for himself. Executioner, why do you delay? If eyes that I do not want can desire this body, then let it perish.” Thus, thwarted in their attempts to assault Agnes’ purity, a soldier was finally summoned to dispatch her by the sword.

Agnes’ witness had a deep impact. In the middle of the 4th century, Constantine’s daughter had a church built over her burial place in the Via Nomentana. Saints Augustine and Ambrose preached on her. Saint Jerome wrote, “Every nation praises the life of Agnes orally and in writing, especially in the churches. Despite her young age she defeated the tyrant, and by her martyrdom she vindicated the name of chastity.”

Compassionate Father, through the intercession of Saint Agnes, make me pure of heart.

WHY SHOULD WE GET MARRIED IN A CHURCH?

Some engaged couples ask if their wedding can be celebrated in a place other than the church. This is not the practice in the Catholic Church. The following article from the Pastoral Office in LaCrosse gives a fine description of why Catholics should be married in church:

Why get married in a church? That's a question that has increasing relevance to many Catholics. Often, engaged couples are looking for a location that will easily accommodate both the ceremony and the reception. Or they want their wedding to be remembered for its "surroundings" which spurs them on to plan a "destination wedding." Because most church weddings don't meet the muster of convenience or create a memorable backdrop, the idea of a church wedding is being questioned by many couples.

The real reason for a "church wedding" is to celebrate a solemn Sacrament. Since Marriage is a Sacrament, the Catholic Church requests that it be celebrated within a sacred place - a church. That is why we celebrate weddings in the same building that we celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion and Reconciliation.

One priest describes it this way. "I usually end up explaining to (engaged) couples that the Catholic Church expects that a wedding, being a solemn and sacramental event, should occur in a church—in sacred space. Usually that's something that they understand, and it's not a problem. Occasionally I hear, "Well, isn't God present equally everywhere?" To this I generally respond, "Well, yes, God's just as present at the bus station downtown, but you wouldn't want to get married there, would you?"

Stop and think about this. Stepping into a church is very different from stepping into any other building or location however beautiful. By its very nature, a church is meant to be a place of reverence, awe, and peace. It is meant to welcome all persons into the loving presence of God; the creator of love and life. In fact, within a Catholic Church, Jesus is literally present in the tabernacle. A church is not just an environment that can be "themed" or a location that will produce great pictures. It is a sacred place for sacred promises; like the promise to be faithfully married forever.

This can seem like legalism to some people, and it can be frustrating to engaged couples who want to design their own wedding experience. But the Catholic Church is trying to teach us what God's plan for marriage is. This is especially important when our culture attempts to equate an over - the - top wedding extravaganza with a successful life-long marriage.

Joyful marriages spring from a mutual understanding by the engaged couple that God's presence within the marriage relationship and in the family that grows out of the marriage is much more important than the sentiments of the wedding day. It's not enough for us to give into the cultural expectation of a wedding as a romantic event and try to "keep the religious stuff in mind." The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony needs to be central to the wedding so God will be central to the marriage. That's why the Catholic Church celebrates weddings in a church.

(From the Diocese of LaCrosse)

PROMOTE CIVILITY

The world is losing its civility, in discourse and in deed, in word and in action. So many people are simply not being civil to one another. When Pope Francis visited our country several years ago, in his address to Congress, he encouraged all Americans to choose civility and be "beacons of change." He said:

"Each son or daughter of a given country has a mission, a personal and social responsibility. You are called to defend and preserve the dignity of your fellow citizens in the tireless and demanding pursuit of the common good."

And he built on that by saying:

"Building a future of freedom requires love of the common good and cooperation in a spirit of unity and shared responsibility."

The Pope cautioned against polarization among people, whatever be the cause, and he encouraged efforts towards restoring hope and addressing injustices, which in turn builds true peace and promotes the well-being of every individual. Choosing simply to be civil and respectful of one another is so important in today's polarized world where sometimes facts are obscured by social media noise or where people can too quickly go to extremes, rather than trying to see the other person's point of view. We should never be afraid to sit down and talk with others, even if they view things very differently than we do. Openness to others is a sign of strength, not a sign of weakness.

Civility is not a new concept. It was in fact close to the heart of our dear St. Francis of Assisi. He lived 800 years ago and that time was also filled with turbulence and warring groups. Imagine St. Francis in today's world, greeting all as he did hundreds of years ago by saying, "Peace be with you" at each meeting. He chose civility in relation to human beings, to animals whom he loved and to all of nature, reminding everyone that everything is a beautiful creation from God. The Prayer of St. Francis, so well known to us all, shows how St. Francis believed in peace and civility and encouraged everyone to do the same:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life
Amen.

(From Franciscan Mission Associates)

Wedding Banns

III TIME William McKenzie & Lauren LaMarca

In Loving Memory

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH AND THEIR FAMILIES
VILMA ALBINO, ANGELA DIAZ, PABLO MERCADO
&
JORGE BARBOSA



THIS WEEK'S ALTAR BREAD IS IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
ANTONIO CIPOLLONE
LOVE, YOUR FRIENDS AT STS



THE FLOWERS IN FRONT OF THE ALTAR THIS WEEK
IS IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
ANGELO & CARMELA CAVALIERE
LOVE, CARMELA GRECO & FAMILY



THE SANCTUARY LAMP BURNING NEAR THE
TABERNACLE THIS WEEK IS IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
GILBERT ZINGARO
LOVE, THE ZOTTOLA-ADDARIO FAMILY

OBSERVANCE OF THE BIRTHDAY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



This Monday we observe the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and we pray for mutual respect among all people, regardless of race or ethnic background. We remember that all of us are "one nation under God." We remember that we are all God's children, dearly loved by Him.

As we celebrate this national holiday, it is good to remember Dr. King's famous speech at the Lincoln Memorial, "I Have a Dream," a dream, as he said, that his children would be judged "not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY JANUARY 15, 2022

5:00PM Helen & Vincent Virgintino

SUNDAY JANUARY 16, 2022

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

9:00AM Marie Sansalone

10:30AM Anna Filardi

12:15PM Nina & Cleo Rosi

1:30PM Hugo & Omar Martinez

5:00PM Maria Anna Hendrick

MONDAY JANUARY 17, 2022

8:00AM Gilbert Zingaro

9:00AM Richard Aboumrad

TUESDAY JANUARY 18, 2022

8:00AM Evelyn DiStefano

9:00AM Dolores Cintron

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 19, 2022

8:00AM Mary Cea

9:00AM Filippo, Joseph & John Occhino

THURSDAY JANUARY 20, 2022

8:00AM Huldah Gordon

9:00AM Vevette Samuels

12NOON Tony Sementilli

FRIDAY JANUARY 21, 2022

8:00AM In Honor of the Unborn Children

9:00AM Camille Lobocono

SATURDAY JANUARY 22, 2022

8:00AM Giacomo & Anna Perrino

9:00PM Antonio Cipollone

5:00PM Robert Schaefer

SUNDAY JANUARY 23, 2022

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa Parish

9:00AM Marco Errichiello

10:30AM Phyllis Mamone

12:15PM Romeo Solon

1:30PM Dolores & Jenaro Martinez

5:00PM Eugenia & Frank Skokan (Living & Deceased)



Joseph B., Nancy Cardone, Paul C., Thomas Egan,
Louise Esposito, Josephine Graziano, Maryann Maiorana,
Msgr. John Meehan, Joan Orlando, Margie Primiani,
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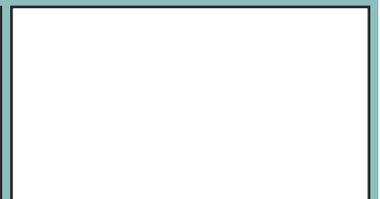
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