

Church of St. Theresa

A Caring Community Reaching Out To One Another in Christ

2855 St. Theresa Avenue, Bronx, New York

SUNDAY MASSES

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

WEEKDAY MASSES

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

DEVOTIONS

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

Thursday 12 Noon Mass
& Eucharistic Adoration

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

CONFESSION

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

BAPTISMS

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

MARRIAGES

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

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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 in hungry for food, as so many parishioners do did in helping the people of Ukraine in our recent collection. 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—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 it 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.

Father Thomas B. Derivan

THE 2022 CARDINAL’S APEAL—TODAY IS COMMITMENT SUNDAY



As you well know the annual Cardinal’s Appeal is well underway in our Archdiocese and in our parish.

This weekend is designated as COMMITMENT WEEKEND and we ask you, if possible, to make your Appeal pledge today if you have not done so.

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 today. You will find Appeal envelopes in the vestibule of the church and you may have received one as you entered church today. You may simply make out the envelope with your pledge and place it in the collection today. If is not necessary to place your offering in the envelope today—this is simply your pledge and a reminder will be sent to you by the Appeal Office.

You may make your offering by bringing it or mailing it to the Rectory; placing it in the Sunday Collection; or sending it to the Appeal Office. You may also make your offering online by going to our parish website (www.sttheresachurchbronx.org) and accessing “Cardinal’s Appeal.” Thank your for you generous help.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

MESSAGE OF OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS FOR THIS SUNDAY

On this Second Sunday of Lent, the liturgy leads us to contemplate the event of the Transfiguration in which Jesus allows the disciples Peter, James and John a foretaste of the glory of the Resurrection: a glimpse of heaven on earth. Luke the Evangelist (Lk 9:28-36) reveals to us Jesus transfigured on the mountain, which is the place of light, a fascinating symbol of the unique experience reserved to the three disciples. They go up the mountain with the Master, they see him immersed in prayer and, at a certain point, “the appearance of his countenance was altered.” Accustomed to seeing him daily in the simple appearance of his humanity, they are astonished as they face that new splendor that also envelops his entire body. And Moses and Elijah appear beside Jesus and speak with Him about his forthcoming “exodus”, that is, of his Paschal death and Resurrection. It is a preview of Easter. Then Peter exclaims: “Master, it is well that we are here.” He wished that that moment of grace would never end.

The Transfiguration occurs at a precise moment in Christ’s mission, that is, after he has confided to his disciples that he would have to “suffer many things, [...] be killed, and on the third day be raised.” Jesus knows that they do not accept this reality — the reality of the Cross, the reality of Jesus’ death —, and so he wants to prepare them to withstand the scandal of the passion and death on the Cross, so that they may know that this is the way through which the heavenly Father will lead his Son to glory; by raising him from the dead. And this will also be the way for the disciples: no one can reach eternal life if not by following Jesus, carrying their own cross in their earthly life. Each of us has his or her own cross. The Lord reveals to us the end of this journey which is the Resurrection.

Therefore, the Transfiguration of Christ shows us the Christian perspective of suffering. Suffering is not sadomasochism: it is a necessary but transitory passage. The point of arrival to which we are called is luminous like the face of Christ Transfigured: in him is salvation, beatitude, light and the boundless love of God. By revealing his glory in this way, Jesus ensures that the cross, the trials, the difficulties with which we struggle, are resolved and overcome in Easter. Thus this Lent, let us also go up the mountain with Jesus! But in what way? With prayer. Let us climb the mountain with prayer: silent prayer, heartfelt prayer, prayer that always seeks the Lord. Let us pause for some time in reflection, a little each day, let us fix our inner gaze on his countenance and let us allow his light to permeate us and shine in our life.

Indeed, Luke the Evangelist emphasizes the fact that Jesus was transfigured, “as he was praying.” He was immersed in an intimate dialogue with the Father in which the Law and the Prophets — Moses and Elijah — also echoed; and as he adhered with his entire being to the Father’s will of salvation, including the Cross, the glory of God flooded him, even shining on the outside. This is how it is, brothers and sisters: prayer in Christ and in the Holy Spirit transforms the person from the inside and can illuminate others and the surrounding world. How often have we found people who illuminate, who exude light from their eyes, who have that luminous gaze! They pray, and prayer does this: it makes us luminous with the light of the Holy Spirit.

Let us joyfully continue our Lenten journey. Let us make room for prayer and for the Word of God which the liturgy abundantly offers us these days. May the Virgin Mary teach us to abide with Christ even when we do not understand or comprehend him because only by abiding with him will we see his glory.

Angelus Address, March 17, 2019

WHAT IS LENT ALL ABOUT, AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Have you ever wondered what people are talking about when they say they’re giving something up for Lent? Do you need help understanding what Lent is and how it relates to Easter?

Lent is the 40 days extending from Ash Wednesday to Holy Thursday. Lent is often described as a time of preparation and an opportunity to go deeper with God. This means that it’s a time for personal reflection that prepares people’s hearts and minds for Good Friday and Easter.

What Happens During Lent and Why?

The three main things people focus on during Lent are prayer, fasting (abstaining from something to reduce distractions and focus more on God) and giving, or charity.

Prayer during Lent focuses on our need for God’s forgiveness. It’s also about repenting (turning away from our sins) and receiving God’s mercy and love.

Fasting, or giving something up, is a very common practice during Lent. The idea is that giving up something that’s a regular part of life, like eating dessert or scrolling through Facebook, can be a reminder of Jesus’ sacrifice. That time can also be replaced with more time connecting with God.

Charity or giving money or doing something good for others is a way to respond to God’s grace, generosity and love. For example, some people spend time volunteering or donate money they would normally use to buy something, like their morning coffee.

It’s important to note that doing these things can never make us earn or deserve Jesus’ sacrifice or a relationship with God. People are flawed and will never be good enough for a perfect God. Only Jesus has the power to rescue us from ourselves.

Jesus sacrificed Himself on Good Friday to bear the punishment for all our wrongdoings and offer us forgiveness. He was raised from the dead on Easter Sunday to give us an opportunity to have a relationship with God for eternity.

Spending time during Lent praying, fasting and giving can make Jesus’ sacrifice on Good Friday and His resurrection on Easter even more meaningful.

(Material from CRU Press)

LENT AT ST. THERESA'S CHURCH

We want you to know our schedule for Lenten Masses and devotions so that you can properly take part in this holy preparation for Easter. Please pass this information on to neighbors and friends and invite them to join us.

Weekend Masses: Saturday, 5:00PM
Sunday, 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, April 11th
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)



MARCH 15TH
ST. LOUISE DE MARILLAC
Foundress († 1660)

Louise's father was the nobleman Louis de Marillac. Her mother is unknown. Her father sent her to school with Dominican nuns, but at age fourteen she was removed and sent to the home of an aged spinster. She wanted to become a nun, but her spiritual director counseled her to marry a member of the queen's household, Antoine Le Gras. Antoine soon lost his job and then failed in another. He fell ill, and Louise nursed him until his death. She struggled to guide their one son, a difficult child.

At the height of Antoine's illness, Louise felt abandoned by God. She wondered if she were being punished for neglecting a call to religious life. In prayer, she had a sudden vision of herself serving the poor in the midst of a group of consecrated women. This moment she called her light. She wrote it out and carried it with her always.

Saint Vincent de Paul took her under his wing a few years later and asked her to lead his "Ladies of Charity." Louise flourished in the task. She formed the women, who came from all classes and all walks of life, into devoted servants of the poor. She traveled throughout France, guiding the women and establishing orphanages and hospitals. At Louise's death there were forty houses in France. Today, the Daughters of Charity serve worldwide.

All-loving Father, through the intercession of Saint Louise de Marillac, send light into my darkness. Conquer my doubt.



MARCH 19TH
ST. JOSEPH,
HUSBAND OF MARY

The Bible pays Joseph the highest compliment: he was a "just" man. The quality meant a lot more than faithfulness in paying debts.

When the Bible speaks of God "justifying" a man, it means that God, the all-holy or "righteous" One, so transforms a man that he shares somehow in God's own holiness, and hence it is really "right" for God to love him. In other words, God is not playing games, acting as if we were lovable when we are not.

By saying Joseph was "just," the Bible means that he was one who was completely open to all that God wanted to do for him. He became holy by opening himself totally to God.

The rest we can easily surmise. Think of the kind of love with which he wooed and won Mary, and the depth of the love they shared during their marriage.

It is no contradiction to Joseph's manly holiness that he decided to divorce when she was found to be with child. The important words of the Bible are that he planned to do this "quietly" because he was "a just man unwilling to expose her to the law."

The just man was simply, joyfully, wholeheartedly obedient to God—in marrying Mary, in naming Jesus, in shepherding the precious pair to Egypt, in bringing them to Nazareth, in the undetermined number of years of quiet faith and courage.

MARY'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During Lent, a very popular devotion is the Stations of the Cross, recalling Our Lord's journey, carrying the Cross to die for our sins. The following prayers for the Stations come from Creighton University's Catholic Ministry. They are composed from the standpoint of Our Blessed Mother Mary on that first Good Friday. Let us join with Mary in prayer remembering her Son and Our Lord carrying the Cross for us:

The Fifth Station: Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross



Now reflect with me on what it must have been like for my Son to simply not be able to carry the cross any further alone. I was so relieved that he was getting help at the time, even though my heart went out to Simon who was drawn into Jesus' journey.

As we look back, we can give thanks that Jesus entered into our life, even in this gesture of help. Jesus came to know the experience of all of us who must depend upon others, who can't make it alone. Even in this final journey, Jesus would not even have the satisfaction of being able to do this on his own. He needed Simon and thankfully Simon was there to help him carry the cross.

The Sixth Station: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus



I can't describe his face, with the blood and the sweat, and the bruises and swelling from the beatings. It was the face of solidarity with all who have ever experienced abuse and violence.

Then, out of the crowd came a woman whose compassion for my Son was so great that she pushed passed the Roman soldiers and wiped his face with her veil. Oh, how I loved her for that. The look between them touched me deeply. His clean face, for a moment, revealed the loving face of the Son I loved.

As he smiled at the woman and continued on the journey, those of us nearby looked at her veil and saw the gift he gave her. There on her veil was a stunning likeness, a true icon of the cost of his sacrifice and the depth of his solidarity with all who suffer. This image is his gift to us forever, to always contemplate his likeness, his union with us in our worst rejection and suffering.

As you remember with me how his face was so covered with punishment and violence, let us give thanks for his solidarity with us in every aspect of our lives.



MARCH 17TH
ST. PATRICK, bishop
(389?-461?)

Legends about Patrick abound; but truth is best served by our seeing two solid qualities in him: he was humble and he was courageous. The determination to accept suffering and success with equal indifference guided the life of God's instrument for winning most of Ireland for Christ.

Details of his life are uncertain. Patrick's birthplace is said to be either Dunbarton, Scotland or Cumberland, England. He called himself both a Roman and a Briton. At 16, he and a large number of his father's slaves and vassals were captured by Irish raiders and sold as slaves in Ireland. Forced to work as a shepherd, he suffered greatly from hunger and cold.

After six years, Patrick escaped, probably to France, and later returned to Britain at the age of 22. His captivity had meant spiritual conversion. He may have studied at Lerins, off the French coast; he spent 15 years at Auxerre, and was consecrated bishop at the age of 43. His great desire was to proclaim the Good News to the Irish.

In a dream-vision, it seemed "all the children of Ireland from their mothers' wombs, were stretching out their hands" to him. He understood the vision to be a call to do mission work in pagan Ireland. Despite opposition from those who felt his education had been defective, he was sent to carry out the task. He went to the west and north, where the faith had never been preached, obtained the protection of local kings, and made numerous converts.

Because of the island's pagan background, Patrick was emphatic in encouraging widows to remain chaste and young women to consecrate their virginity to Christ. He ordained many priests, divided the country into dioceses, held Church councils, founded several monasteries and continually urged his people to greater holiness in Christ.

He suffered much opposition from pagan druids, and was criticized in both England and Ireland for the way he conducted his mission.

In a relatively short time the island had deeply experienced the Christian spirit, and was prepared to send out missionaries whose efforts were greatly responsible for Christianizing Europe.

Wedding Banns

III TIME Angel Crispin & Katherine Riley

In Loving Memory

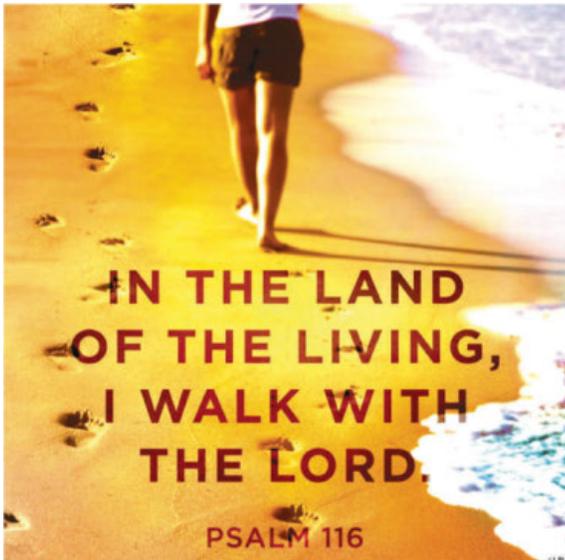
PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED
MEMBER OF OUR PARISH AND HIS FAMILY
JOSEPH RUSSO



THIS WEEK'S ALTAR BREAD IS IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
ANTONIETTA MORANTE
LOVE, PASQUALE, DINO, MICHAEL CALA & FAMILIES



THE SANCTUARY LAMP BURNING NEAR THE
TABERNACLE THIS WEEK IS IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
ANTONIETTA MORANTE
LOVE, PASQUALE, DINO, MICHAEL CALA & FAMILIES



MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY MARCH 12, 2022

5:00PM Carmella, Benjamin & Albert Gregoria

SUNDAY MARCH 13, 2022

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

9:00AM Giovanni Cipollone

10:30AM Patricia Finnegan

12:15PM Patricia Musano

1:30PM Zoila & Gonzalo Vallejo

5:00PM Fr. Herbert D'Argenio

MONDAY MARCH 14, 2022

8:00AM Juana Olga Pappageorge

9:00AM Antonietta Morante

TUESDAY MARCH 15, 2022

8:00AM Theresa Ryan

9:00AM Filomena Caputi

WEDNESDAY MARCH 16, 2022

8:00AM Gilbert S. Zingaro

9:00AM In Honor of St. Jude

6:00PM Marie Sansalone

THURSDAY MARCH 17, 2022

8:00AM Juana Olga Pappageorge

9:00AM Michele Muccio

12NOON Joseph J. Pompei

FRIDAY MARCH 18, 2022

8:00AM Mary T. Martz

9:00AM Cirino & Felicia Sanfilippo

SATURDAY MARCH 19, 2022

8:00AM Giuseppe Arcuri

9:00AM Patricia Musano

5:00PM Assunta Frangella

SUNDAY MARCH 20, 2022

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa Parish

9:00AM Assunta Frangella

10:30PM Anthony Fata

12:15PM Michele Muccio

1:30PM Digna & Peregrino Vallejos

5:00PM Mary Cea



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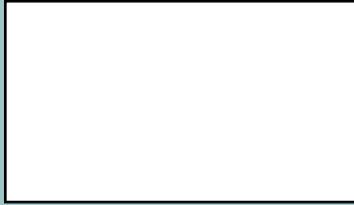
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