

# 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

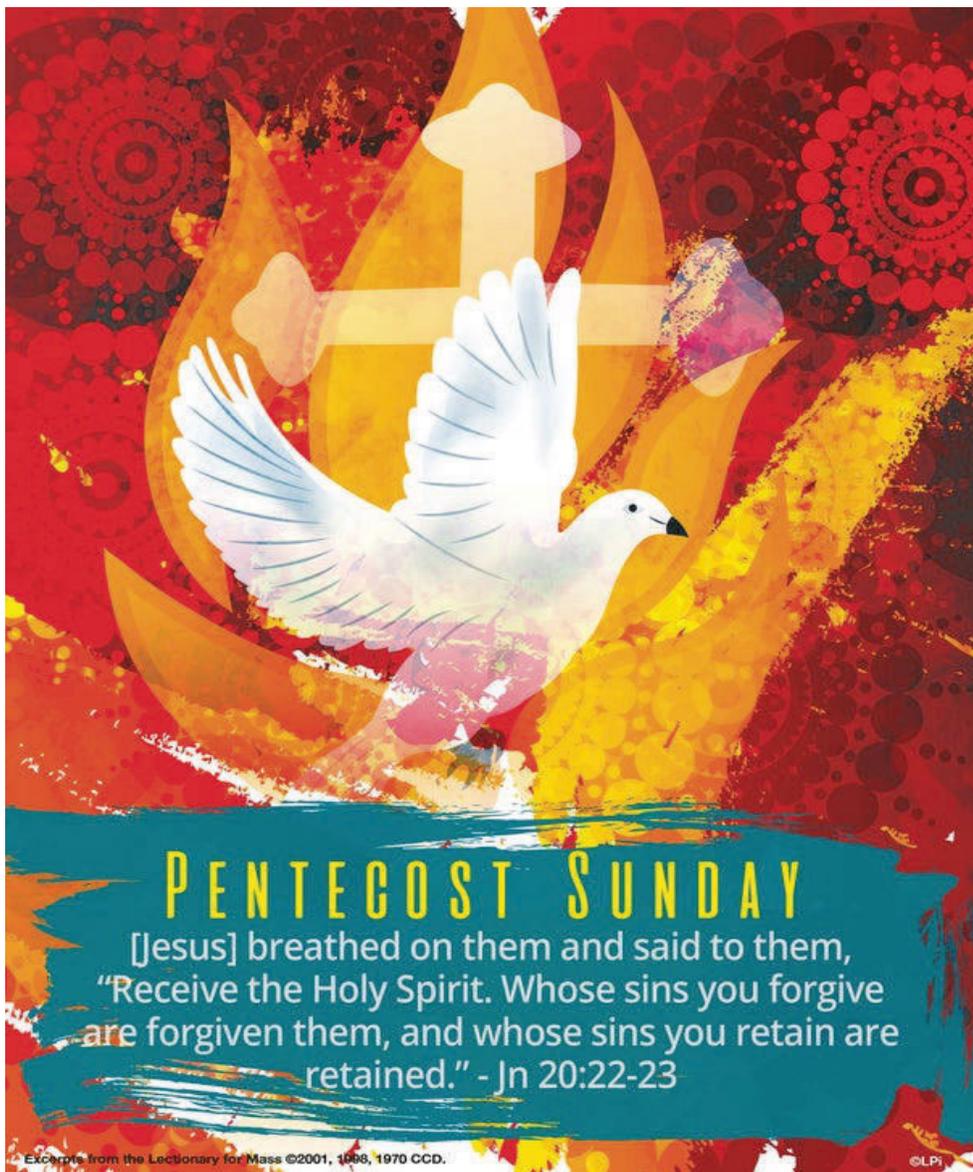
## BAPTISMS

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

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## CHURCH OF ST. THERESA, BRONX

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### FROM THE DESK OF FATHER DERIVAN: CELEBRATING PENTECOST

Many times at Mass I have talked about the stained-glass windows that are here. Each of them is a work of art. The 6th grade teacher in our school, Mrs. Fitzgerald, has a beautiful project that she gives to her religion class every year. Every year she brings her class to church and asks me to explain for them each of the beautiful stained-glass windows. Then each child selects a window and describes what he or she sees, not only the picture itself, but the lesson that window teaches. I am always impressed with what they see and write about as they examine each window.

One window that many of the children select for their project is the third window from the front on the right side of the church as you enter the church. It is the window of the feast we celebrate today. It is the window of Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and Our Blessed Mother fifty days after Easter as we hear in the reading today. Let us think of three lessons from the Pentecost window.

First, there are many symbols of the Holy Spirit in the window, of course the dove. But on the day of the first Pentecost the Holy Spirit did not appear as a dove. He appeared in another way. He appeared with wind and fire, wind to blow away their fear and fire to put them on fire to spread the gospel of Jesus to the ends of the earth. Often when we see a picture of one of the apostles, like St. Jude whom many people have great devotion to, we see what is called the tongue of fire over the apostle's head, not a hurtful fire, but a fire of zeal to preach the gospel to every nation. But one child saw something more in the fire over the apostles' heads. She told me the fire made the apostles look like birthday candles. And so it does. For Pentecost is indeed the birthday of the Church. It is our birthday as Christian people. And like the apostles in the window, we are like the birthday candles, celebrating the birth of our Church-family, the family of Jesus Christ.

A second lesson from this Pentecost window: notice that Our Blessed Mother Mary is at the center. And fittingly so. A birthday needs a mother and at the Pentecost birthday the Church needed a mother too. And that of course is Our Blessed Mother Mary. She did not need to receive the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. She already had received the Holy Spirit on the day when she said "Yes" to the Angel Gabriel to become the mother of the Son of God. But Mary is here, helping the apostles and helping us to open our minds and hearts to the Holy Spirit, letting the Holy Spirit guide us, even as the Spirit guided her. Mary is always in the middle, the middle of Pentecost, the middle of the Church, the middle of our Christian lives. A birthday needs a mother. Jesus has His Mother. The Church has His Mother too.

A third lesson from the Pentecost window: one child noticed the heart at the top of the window. That itself is a powerful Pentecost message. A heart signifies love. Pentecost is the celebration of God's love, but a love that we must not keep to ourselves, a love that we must share, a love we must spread, a love that the apostles brought to the ends of the earth, a love that we must bring to others too. Think of the people whose love has touched your life. How blessed we all are to have had them! Most of them were not famous people. They were parents and grandparents, teachers, neighbors, friends, priests whose love made us better than we were. And now we must live that love and bring it to those who touch our lives. Our world today has too much negativity, too much indifference, too much hatred, and tragically, as we have seen in Ukraine, too much war. We need Pentecost love and the Holy Spirit gives that love to us. The great Mother Teresa, an example of love if there ever was one, said, "To do great things for God does not require extraordinary things. Ordinary things will do. It is how much love we put into the doing of our life that makes of our life something beautiful for God."

That child was quite correct in noticing the heart in the Pentecost window. It is the heart of love, a love that we must live and share. Your love cannot change the whole world. But your love—your kindness, your charity, your goodness—can change the little part of the world in which you live. And when you do that, when you make your love for others shine brightly in your life, then a new Pentecost happens in you. Then you are doing what the Lord wants you to do. And then your love is making your life what it should be, "something beautiful for God."

Father Thomas B. Derivan

### THE SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST—THE BIRTHDAY OF THE CHURCH



Pentecost Sunday is one of the most ancient feasts of the Church, reported in the Acts of the Apostles and also mentioned in St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. It is the 50th day after Easter (if we count both Easter and Pentecost), and it supplants the Jewish feast of Pentecost, which took place 50 days after the Passover and which celebrated the sealing of the Old Covenant on Mount Sinai.

The Acts of the Apostles recounts the story of Pentecost. Jews from all over were gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish feast. On that Sunday, ten days after Our Lord's Ascension, the Apostles and the Blessed Virgin Mary were gathered in the Upper Room, where they had seen Christ after His Resurrection:

*And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a mighty wind coming, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them parted tongues as it were of fire, and it rested upon every one of them: And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak with different languages, according as the Holy Spirit gave them to speak. [Acts 2:2-4]*

Christ had promised His Apostles that He would send His Holy Spirit, and, on Pentecost, they were granted the gifts of the Spirit. The Apostles began to preach the Gospel in all of the languages that the Jews who were gathered there spoke, and about 3,000 people were converted and baptized that day.

That is why Pentecost is often called "the birthday of the Church." On this day, with the descent of the Holy Spirit, Christ's mission is completed, and the New Covenant is inaugurated.

## PENTECOST SUNDAY

### THIS MONDAY, FEAST OF MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH



In 2018, Pope Francis added a new feast to the Roman Calendar to be celebrated on the Monday after Pentecost: the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church. This title of Our Lady goes back to the 4th century when St. Ambrose used it in honoring Our Blessed Mother. Pope St Paul VI proclaimed Mary Mother of the Church during the Second Vatican Council. Now this feast is extended to the whole Church.

This feast reminds us that Mary's role in the Church flows from her union with Christ and cannot be separated from it. She brought the Word made flesh into the world through her free cooperation. She provided Jesus with His human body. She was there as He grew. She was present at His first public miracle. She was there at the Passion and at the foot of the Cross, alongside the Redeemer. She was there when they laid Him in the tomb. She was there at His Resurrection, His Ascension, and was in the Upper Room with the Apostles at Pentecost.

She was the first and greatest disciple of Jesus Christ. She participated in the Redemption in the world. As a result, united so singularly with her Son, at the end of the course of her earthly life she was taken up, assumed, body and soul into Heaven.

By the grace of God, the Virgin Mary is our model of faith and charity. In the order of grace, she is the mother of each and every person. She is our Advocate and Helper, pointing us always to her holy Son.

Aside from being the mother of every person, this connection is even more perfected in the baptized members of the Mystical Body of Christ. Through the life-giving waters of Baptism, we are entered into union with the Son of God and Son of Mary. And therefore, Mary's motherhood becomes more perfect in our lives. She is the Mother of the Church.

### PRAYER TO MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

O God, Father of mercies,  
whose Only Begotten Son, as he hung upon the Cross,  
chose the Blessed Virgin Mary, his Mother,  
to be our Mother also,  
grant, we pray, that with her loving help  
your Church may be more fruitful day by day  
and, exulting in the holiness of her children,  
may draw to her embrace all the families of the peoples.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity  
of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

### Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit



God Our Father, your Son Jesus Christ, before ascending into heaven, promised to send the Holy Spirit to His apostles and disciples. Grant that the same Spirit may perfect in our lives the work of Your grace and love.

Grant us the Spirit of **Wisdom** that we may be wise enough to do God's will in all things, not our own;  
the Spirit of **Understanding** to enlighten our minds with the light of Your truth;  
the Spirit of **Knowledge** that we may know Your plan for us in our lives as we try to grow in holiness;  
the Spirit of **Counsel** that the Holy Spirit will guide us to choose the surest way of doing Your will, seeking first your Kingdom;  
the Spirit of **Fortitude** that we may bear our cross and, with courage, overcome the obstacles that we may have to face in life, even as the martyrs did;  
the Spirit of **Piety** that we may show you that we want to live a good Christian life;  
Grant us the Spirit of **Fear of the Lord** that we may be filled with a loving reverence toward You, our loving Father, who always loves us as your precious children.

Teach us to be Your faithful disciples and fill us in every way with Your Holy Spirit throughout our lives. Amen

JUNE 5, 2022

MESSAGE OF OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS FOR THIS SUNDAY

The book of the Acts of the Apostles (cf. 2:1-11) recounts what happened in Jerusalem 50 days after Easter. The disciples were gathered in the Upper Room, and the Virgin Mary was with them. The Risen Lord had told them to remain in the city until they had received the gift of the Spirit from on High. And this was revealed with a “sound” they suddenly heard coming from heaven, like the “rush of a mighty wind” that filled the house they were in. Thus, it concerns a real but also symbolic experience. Something that happened but also gives us a symbolic message for our whole life.

This experience reveals that the Holy Spirit is like a strong and freely flowing wind; that is, he brings us strength and brings us freedom: a strong and freely flowing wind. He cannot be controlled, stopped, nor measured; nor can his direction be foreseen. He cannot be understood within our human exigencies — we always try to frame things — he does not let himself be framed in our methods and our preconceptions. The Spirit proceeds from God the Father and from his Son Jesus Christ and bursts upon the Church; he bursts upon each one of us, giving life to our minds and our hearts. As the Creed states: he is “the Lord, the giver of life”. He has authority because he is God, and he gives life.

On the day of Pentecost, Jesus’ disciples were still disoriented and fearful. They did not yet have the courage to go out in the open. We too, at times, prefer to remain within the protective walls of our surroundings. But the Lord knows how to reach us and open the doors to our hearts. He sends upon us the Holy Spirit who envelops us and overpowers all our hesitations, tears down our defenses, dismantles our false certainties. The Spirit makes us new beings, just as he did on that day with the Apostles: he renews us, new beings.

After receiving the Holy Spirit they were no longer as they had been before — he changed them, but they went out and began to preach Jesus, to preach that Jesus is risen, that the Lord is with us, in such a way that each one understood them in his or her own language. Because the Spirit is universal; he does not remove cultural differences, differences of thought, no. He is for everyone, but each one understands him in his or her own culture, in his or her own language. The Spirit changes the heart, broadens the view of the disciples. He enables them to communicate to everyone the great, limitless works of God, surpassing the cultural confines and religious confines within which they were accustomed to thinking and living. He enables the Apostles to reach others, respecting their possibilities of listening and understanding, in the culture and language of each one. In other words, the Holy Spirit puts different people in communication, achieving the unity and universality of the Church.

And today this truth tells us so much, this reality of the Holy Spirit, where in the Church there are small groups who always seek division, to separate themselves from others. This is not the Spirit of God. The spirit of God is harmony, it is unity, it unites differences. A good Cardinal, who was the Archbishop of Genoa, said that the Church is like a river: the important thing is to be inside; whether you are a little on that side and a little on the other side is not important; the Holy Spirit creates unity. He used the image of a river. The important thing is to be inside, in the unity of the Spirit, and not look at the pettiness that you are a little on this side and a little on that side, that you pray in this way or the other.... This is not of God. The Church is for everyone, for everyone, as the Holy Spirit showed on the day of Pentecost.

Today let us ask the Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, to intercede so that the Holy Spirit descends in abundance, fills the hearts of the faithful and kindles the fire of his love in everyone.

Regina Coeli Message, May 23, 2021

ST. THERESA GRAND RAFFLE



**Our St. Theresa GRAND RAFFLE is only three weeks away.**

We are grateful to all who have purchased tickets for our annual **GRAND RAFFLE** which will be taking place in just a few weeks on June 26. We ask your help if you have not yet done so. . Tickets are available by calling the rectory (718-8921900) and also at the Gift Shop in the vestibule of the church on Sundays.in the Gift Shop on Sundays.

The Raffle is one of our major fund-raising efforts to help our church. Your support of the Raffle shows your love for St. Theresa Parish and we are grateful for that.

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 is \$50. Our Raffle prizes are the following: First Prize, \$15,000 Second Prize, \$2500 Third Prize, \$500**

**The drawing for the Grand Raffle will be on Sunday, June 26th after the Procession of the statue of St. Theresa at 7PM.**

Also if your Raffle tickets are in before June 11th 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.

**REMINDER: The early bird drawing will be on next Sunday Sunday, June 12th after the 10:30AM Mass. Tickets submitted by June 11<sup>th</sup> will be eligible for the “early bird drawing” next Sunday.**



**JUNE 5**  
**SAINT BONIFACE**  
**Prudence († 754)**

Boniface was born of Anglo-Saxon nobles in Devon, England. He entered the monastery school as a boy and at thirteen declared his desire to take the habit. After ordination, he faced a promising future in England, but he chose to become a missionary.

Boniface's first mission was to Friesland (modern Netherlands), but, faced with a complex political situation, he went back to England and thence to Rome, where the pope gave him a broad mandate to preach to the German peoples. He made his way north, preaching in Bavaria, Hesse, and Thuringia. At Geismar, he boldly struck at the root of an ancient oak tree dedicated to the god Thor, and many

conversions followed. His decision to attack the false worship at its base proved right.

Boniface's letters to other missionaries show his zeal for souls. They also testify to his method: after sowing the seeds of the Gospel, he called in his friends to water them—other Benedictine monks and nuns who founded monastic centers of culture and education. His prudent successes led him to be entrusted with the reform of the Frankish church.

Boniface was in his seventies when he retired from his see in Mainz and returned to the rough Frieslanders, determined to complete his mission among them. His was not a mere earthly prudence, but one inspired from above. Tribesmen surprised his party, and the elderly bishop was murdered as he leaned over his book: Saint Ambrose's *On the Advantage of Death*.

*Merciful Father, through the intercession of Saint Boniface help me to judge the truth rightly and will the good promptly.*



**JUNE 9**  
**SAINT EPHREM THE SYRIAN**  
**Deacon and Doctor († 373)**

Ephrem was born at Nisibis (modern Nusaybin, Turkey) around the year 306. In his youth he studied with James, who became Bishop of Nisibis. He and James founded a theological school, where Ephrem taught for many years, even as the Romans and the Persians continually fought over the city.

When the Romans were at last driven out, the Persian rulers began to persecute the Christians. Ephrem and most of the Christian population left Nisibis and settled at Edessa (modern Urfa). While living there in a cave, Ephrem wrote almost all of his works—prose teachings, homilies, and his majestic hymns.

But Ephrem was by no means a recluse. He preached frequently and forcefully in Edessa, a city rife with heresy. To combat the gnostic Bardaisanites, Ephrem composed doctrinally sound poems, set them to popular tunes, and trained a women's choir to sing them—perhaps the first time hymns were used in public worship. Ephrem also organized an effort to distribute grain to the poor of the city during a famine. When the plague came, Ephrem cared for the sick. He contracted the plague himself and died in 373.

According to Saint Jerome, Ephrem wrote with “the incisive power of lofty genius.” In the East, he is known as the “Harp of the Holy Spirit.” He was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1920.

*Loving Father, through the intercession of Saint Ephrem the Syrian, grant me fidelity in times of chaos and confusion.*

**REQUIRED ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT ABUSE**

“To report an alleged incident of sexual abuse of a minor by a priest, deacon, religious or lay person serving in the Archdiocese of New York may contact the victims assistance coordinator, Mrs. Eileen Mulcahy at 646-794-2949 or [victimsassistance@archny.org](mailto:victimsassistance@archny.org). Information can also be found on the archdiocesan website [www.archny.org](http://www.archny.org). In keeping with archdiocesan policy regarding sexual abuse of minors, this is provided to ensure that our children remain safe and secure.”

“Cualquier persona que necesite reportar algún incidente de abuso sexual de un menor por un sacerdote, diacono, religioso/a, o laico sirviendo en la Arquidiócesis de Nueva York, se le pide que por favor contacte al coordinador de asistencia a las víctimas, Señora Eileen Mulcahy al 646-794-2949. Ella también pueden ser contactada vía correo electrónica: [victimsassistance@archny.org](mailto:victimsassistance@archny.org). Para más información pueden visitar la página en la red de la arquidiócesis: [www.archny.org](http://www.archny.org). De acuerdo con las normas de la arquidiócesis sobre el respeto al abuso sexual de menores, esta información se provee para asegurar que nuestros niños permanezcan seguros.”

**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.

**HOMEBOUND**

If any member of your family or if any of your neighbors are “Homebound” and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please call the Rectory so that a Priest or Eucharistic Minister might visit them.

## Wedding Banns

III TIME Sam Policchio & Mariangela Agovino

### ST. THERESA FEAST—A NEW LOOK



During 2020 and 2021 we were not able to have our annual St. Theresa Family Feast. However, now we have been given the permit to have our Feast this year. Because of the suggestions of many parishioners and community members, our Feast this year will be different than in past years and hopefully will be enjoyed as a truly parish and family event. The Feast will take place on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 24, 25 and 26. It will basically return to the “**block party**” which it started out as years ago. The Feast will take place in front of our church and school (on St. Theresa Avenue, from Pilgrim to Mayflower Avenues). The following will be the events of the Feast:

**Friday, June 24—Mass at 6PM** to which priests who have served in our parish have been invited. This will be the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the “new” church which had to be postponed because of the pandemic. After the Mass, there will be the “block party” with food and music available.

**Saturday, June 25—Children’s Day**, beginning at 11AM. This will be an “End of School” event and will take place in our gymnasium, featuring bouncy rides and children’s games. Food and music will be available in front of church throughout the day.

**Sunday, June 26 will be the main day of the Feast.** Our usual Sunday evening Mass will be celebrated at 5PM. The procession of the Statue of our patroness St. Theresa will follow the Mass. After the procession, there will be a benefit concert in church, arranged by our Director of Music Nadia Papayani, to assist in the relief efforts in Ukraine. (Nadia’s family is from there.) After the concert, we will have the drawing for our Grand Raffle. Food and music will be available as on Friday and Saturday.

Our Feast this year will take on a “**new look.**” We hope it will be an enjoyable time for our families, our parishioners and members of our community. We thank all who have made helpful suggestions for the Feast and we are grateful to the 45th Precinct NYPD who are always so helpful to our church.



## MASS INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY JUNE 4, 2022

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

### SUNDAY JUNE 5, 2022

7:30AM Father Donald Panella

9:00AM Olga & Oscar Pabon

10:30AM Shirley Jean Radcliff (Cardinal Dolan’s mom)

12:15PM Ilsa Borgia

1:30PM Martha & Rodrigo Gomez

5:00PM Paul O’Sullivan

### MONDAY JUNE 6, 2022

8:00AM Vincenzo Manginelli

9:00AM Vincent Caputo

### TUESDAY JUNE 7, 2022

8:00AM Paul Clark

9:00AM Nicoletta Ferrara

### WEDNESDAY JUNE 8, 2022

8:00AM Robert Milo

9:00AM Barbara Micale

### THURSDAY JUNE 9, 2022

8:00AM Carmela, Theresa & Frank Orazio

9:00AM Joann Viserto

12NOON Marie Halpern & Joseph Tripodi

### FRIDAY JUNE 10, 2022

8:00AM Margaret Iuso

9:00AM Joseph Leotta

### SATURDAY JUNE 11, 2022

8:00AM In Honor of St. Anthony

9:00AM Angelo & Abbondanza DelGrosso

5:00PM Giuseppe Arcuri

### SUNDAY JUNE 12, 2022

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa Parish

9:00AM John Davey

10:30PM Richard Delvecchio

12:15PM Rose Gaetano

1:30PM Bianca Moreno & Fanny Diaz

5:00PM Domenico Laratta



Joseph B., Nancy Cardone, Paul C., Marie DiPolo, Josephine Graziano, Maryann Maiorana, Msgr. John Meehan, Shara Olivera, Joan Orlando, Margie Primiani, Benny Primiani, Carol Primiani, Lisa Primiani, Antoinette Primiani, Denise Siracusa, Toni Spahr, Theresa Ulrich

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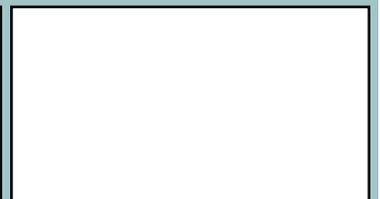
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