

# *Church of St. Theresa*

*A Caring Community Reaching Out To One Another in Christ*

2855 St. Theresa Avenue, Bronx, New York 10461

## **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

## **CONFESION**

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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FAX: 718-892-1146

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E-MAIL: [rectorystc@aol.com](mailto:rectorystc@aol.com)

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

## CHURCH OF ST. THERESA, BRONX

### FROM THE DESK OF FATHER DERIVAN

We are now in the month of November. The month of November has appropriately been called is the month of saints. It began with the Feast of All Saints which we celebrated last Tuesday as we honor all of those holy ones, both the canonized saints and the many, many uncanonized saints like members of our family who have gone to God and are saints with Him in heaven. November includes the Commemoration of All Souls which we observed on Wednesday, November 2, our particular day of remembering and praying for the souls in purgatory, realizing that our prayers help them on their way to heaven. November includes the feastdays of many familiar saints, St. Martin of Tours who helped a poor beggar on a road and discovered that he was helping Jesus Himself; St. Frances Xavier Cabrini who should be especially dear to us because she came here as an immigrant from Italy and ministered to the poor and the suffering; St. Martin de Porres, called a mixed-breed because he was the child of a Spanish soldier and a black mother, but who served the poor and the abandoned. Yes, November is the month of saints, our celebration of those who have reached the goal of heaven, the goal to which we all aim. We remember St. Theresa's beautiful words: "There is only one tragedy in life—not to become a saint."

When we hear those words, we probably say to ourselves two things. First, we might say, "Well, that was good for St. Theresa and the other saints. But it cannot be true of me. I am a sinner. I know my sins, past and present. How can a sinner like myself possibly become a saint?" If you are thinking that, then you are already on the way of becoming a saint. The saints were not perfect people from birth. Many of them led bad lives before their conversion. They knew that they were sinners, but they also knew that God was with them helping them to go beyond their lives and assisting them on their path to heaven. Yes, we are sinners, but we are called to be saints. We are "saints in training." And we must remember that we do not make ourselves saints. Only God makes saints. And God invites us, even as he invited St. Theresa and St. Martin and all the rest, God invites us to let Him make us His saints. His grace will do precisely that. St. Paul in the reading today reminds us that Our Lord Jesus "encourages our hearts and strengthens us in every good deed and word." In other words, Our Lord Himself forms us and fashions us and strengthens us on the road to heaven. Every day that we live is a day that brings us closer to heaven. Every day is a day in which God fashions us to be His saints.

And the second thing we probably say to ourselves is this, "Didn't the saints do great things? I am just an ordinary person, a child, a parent, a grandparent, a single person. I am just a person who goes to work every day and tries to make ends meet for myself and my family." If you have said that to yourself, correct it. It is not the things we do that make us saints (St. Theresa did nothing remarkable. But she made her life an offering to God, every day with every part of her being. That made her a saint.) Pope St. John XXIII said in a letter to his niece Enrica, "Holiness consists not in extraordinary things, but in seeking the Lord's will in all things, in obedience and humility." Or as the great St. Mother Theresa of Calcutta expressed it, "To do great things for God does not require extraordinary accomplishments. Ordinary ones will do. It is how much love we put in the doing of our lives that makes out of our lives something beautiful for God."

Yes, we realize that we are all called to be saints? But how? How do we do that? How do we let God form us and fashion us into His saints? Let us always remember the two Great Commandments, "Love God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength. Love your neighbor as yourself." When people join a health club, they are given a program to follow. The Lord gives us our program to become saints. First, we must love God. We must not allow anything or anyone to get in our way of loving Him. So many people let God slip out of their lives. They simply forget Him. That must not be the same for us. We must realize that God gives us every precious moment that we have and therefore we love Him with thanksgiving. And the second commandment is to love our neighbor and that means every person, everyone who is a child of God just as each one of us is. The Lord Jesus is inside every person and when we love and respect Him in one another, then we are fulfilling His beautiful words, "Whatever you do for the least of my brothers and sister, you do for me."

Let us always remember another important lesson: we are called to help one another love God and neighbor. We are called to help one another on our path of becoming saints. That is what St. Theresa's Parish is all about. It is why we come here every Sunday. It is why we do what we do, helping our children, helping those who need advice or direction, visiting the sick, celebrating the sacraments. We your priests are honored to join you in the path of becoming saints. Please pray for us. May we remember each day that we are saints in training and that the Lord Jesus is our trainer. And may we keep in mind St. Theresa's beautiful words, "I want to become a saint."

Father Thomas B. Derivan

### RECENT CHURCH AND SCHOOL REPAIRS

We want to keep you informed of various repair projects that have been done or are being done in our church and school at this time:

1. As reported several weeks ago, the steps of the school entrance on Mayflower Avenue have been repaired. We also needed work on the facade of that entrance. That work is now completed (and looks beautiful).

2. We are continuing repairs on the church roof, to prevent leakage. Currently the outside wall on the right side of the church is being pointed. After this work is done, we will be able to do necessary work inside the church on the right side aisle and painting.

3. We are examining repairs to our church air conditioning system and we will keep you informed of steps that will have to be taken.

Thank you, as always, for your love and devotion to our church and school.

### FOOD PANTRY



**PLEASE HELP!** Our St. Vincent de Paul Society Conference operates our Food Pantry. Our food pantry is in **urgent need** of replenishing and we are asking for **non-perishable** items such as soups, canned vegetables, tomato sauce, pasta, rice, peanut butter, jelly, tuna fish, cereals or any other **non-perishable** items. **NO GLASS JARS PLEASE!**

Your food donations may be placed in the baskets marked for this purpose in the vestibule of the church or may be brought to the rectory. These items will be passed on to needy families in our parish and community. God bless you for your kindness. Thank you to all who have donated to our Pantry and thank you to our St. Vincent de Paul Conference for all the help they give.

**ELECTION DAY THIS TUESDAY**

This **Tuesday, November 8**, is Election Day. Catholics are reminded of their privilege and responsibility to vote. Voting is one of our most basic rights as citizens of our beloved country. It is important that we take the right to vote seriously. This requires our being informed about the issues that face our elected officials—and us—today.

The following material is provided to us by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. We suggest that you read it before you exercise your right to vote.

**FORMING CONSCIENCES FOR FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP  
A MESSAGE FROM THE U.S. CATHOLIC BISHOPS**

We vote because we are citizens. But we vote conscientiously because we are people of faith. Our consciences are formed through studying Scripture and the teachings of the Church, examination of the facts, and prayerful reflection. This material is intended as a starting point to help us respond to our choices in the current political landscape.

- \* Issues that directly affect human lives—such as abortion and euthanasia—are fundamental and demand serious consideration.
- \* Our Constitution heralds religious liberty in the First Amendment, yet increasingly people of faith are having to fight to retain this basic right.
- \* There is a move in the nation to redefine marriage. The marriage of a man and a woman is the foundation of the family and an essential core element of a nourishing society.
- \* The growing disparity between rich and poor means most of the world's resources are in the hands of a small percentage of its people. The federal budget is a moral document and must prioritize the poorest and most vulnerable among us.
- \* The millions of undocumented persons living in the United States deserve our compassion. There is an immigration problem, and we need a humane solution to it.
- \* War, terror, and violence have caused thousands of lost lives. We must work for just solutions to conflict in Ukraine, the Holy Land, throughout the Middle East, and beyond.

**As Catholic citizens, we should remember three things:**

1. Respect for the dignity of each person is the core of Catholic social and moral teaching. This is our most basic principle.
2. We focus on the common good, not our own personal interests. We ask, how can we make the world a better place? Not, how can I improve my own personal situation?
3. We have a responsibility—a true obligation—to form our consciences and participate in the civic life of this nation.

**Here are some ways to do that.**

- \* Be true to the teachings of the Church. Read Scripture, the teachings from the recent Popes, and the statements of our bishops. Read "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship" at [faithfulcitizenship.org](http://faithfulcitizenship.org). We need to be sure that our reasoning and judgments are well-grounded in our faith.
- \* Stay **well-informed** about issues through judicious and reasoned engagement with the immense world of information in the twenty-first century. Just as all issues are not equal, all sources are not equal. For example, an individual's blog—while potentially very insightful—may not have the same fidelity to factual truth as our media sources that hold themselves to professional standards of journalistic ethics, imperfect though they are.
- \* Remain in **contact with our representatives** in local, state, and federal government. Our responsibility to form our consciences leads to an obligation to be active citizens. We should communicate regularly with our leaders—not only during election seasons.
- \* Engage in **reasoned, compassionate, and loving dialogue** with others—Catholics and non-Catholics alike—about the issues and choices that we are facing as a nation. Remember that we are called first to witness the Gospel, and through that witness, to share our social teaching, to highlight the moral dimensions of issues, and to participate in debate on public policy.
- \* The dual calling of faith and citizenship lies at the heart of what it means to be a Catholic in the United States. We stand on the shoulders of many Catholics who have gone before us, who have helped the United States of America become a better country because of their faith in loving God.

**NOVEMBER 6, 2022**

**NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD—CALLING UPON ST. JUDE**



Just a few days ago, on October 28, we celebrated the feastday of St. Jude, one of the most popular saints among Catholic people. One of the reasons for St. Jude's continued popularity today is because everything seems impossible. In our difficult society, we still are battling crime, disease and other powerful forces. We are constantly making decisions that impact our lives and yet we seem to have no input. It's frustrating and frightening. Freedom seems to mean people can assault our sense and sensibility on television, on our small screens and phones, with outrageous material that once would have been avoided by all decent citizens of every faith. So we turn to the Saint of the Impossible and ask him to help us live through these impossible times.

Not a lot is written about St. Jude, but we do know he was one of the twelve apostles. He is usually pictured with a book or pen because of his epistle in the New Testament. He also often has a club indicating his martyrs' death and the flame above his head denoting inspiration and assistance of the Holy Spirit. Many have had their desperate pleas answered by faithful devotion to St. Jude.

Although St. Jude is not mentioned much in the Bible and only had one quote attributed to him in the Gospel of John (14:22), this quiet apostle is extremely popular among Catholics today. St. Jude's popularity probably stems from his patronage of lost causes. An experience St. Jude had while in the city of Edessa is said to be the reason why St. Jude is associated with lost causes. Ancient church history attributes Jude's association with lost causes to his healing of Abgar V. of Edessa. Abgar was afflicted with an incurable and painful disease. After Jesus' Ascension into heaven St. Jude visited Abgar while ministering to new Christians near the city of Edessa. The sick ruler was healed with one touch of St. Jude's hands.

After St. Jude's death many flocked to his burial site in Rome and reported powerful intercessions on their behalf, confirming his place as the saint of lost causes.

The world is often a seemingly impossible place. We can pray to St. Jude for his intercession on our behalf as we navigate our challenges.

Many people choose to carry the image of St. Jude on a medal or as a pendant on a necklace for comfort and call on him in their time of need and healing. This is a prayer to use in honor of this wonderful saint.

**Prayer to St. Jude**

Blessed Apostle, St. Jude,  
we call upon you for help in hope and utmost confidence.  
St. Jude, renowned help of the hopeless,  
come to our aid in this time of distress.  
St. Jude cousin of our Lord,  
obtain from our Savior the favors we now need and seek.  
St. Jude the apostle, pray for us. Amen.

(From Franciscan Mission Associates)



**ST. THERESA SCHOOL FUNDRAISER  
“FALL INTO BINGO”  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2022 @ 7:00PM**

Reserve your table to ensure you have a reserved spot and are seated with your friends

**BYOF & BYOB (bring your own food & beverage)**

**\*\*\*\*\*COFFEE & DESSERT WILL BE SERVED\*\*\*\*\***

Tickets for all raffles will be on sale the night of the event

Tricky Tray: \$20 per 25 tickets      50/50: 6 tickets for \$5

Reserve your tables/seat now through school office or rectory!

**ATTENTION: LADIES BINGO**

\$30.00 for Bingo games with 3 games per card

Tickets will be sold in the school Monday-Friday 9:00AM-1:00PM and in the rectory Monday-Wednesday 8:00AM-3:00PM and Thursdays, November 3rd & 10th 12noon-3:00PM and Fridays November 4th & 11th 12noon-3:00PM.  
For more information call 718-792-3688.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS FOR THIS SUNDAY

Today's Gospel reading (Lk 20:27-38) offers us a wonderful teaching of Jesus on the resurrection of the dead. Jesus is asked by some Sadducees, who did not believe in the resurrection and therefore provoke Him with an insidious question: in resurrection, whose wife would a woman be if she had seven successive husbands, who were all brothers, who all died one after the other? Jesus does not fall into the trap and replies that in the hereafter the risen "neither marry nor are given in marriage, for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection." This is how Jesus responds.

With this response, first and foremost, Jesus invites His interlocutors — and us too — to consider that this earthly dimension in which we now live is not the only dimension, but that there is another, no longer subject to death, which will fully manifest that we are children of God. It is of great comfort and hope to listen to this simple and clear word of Jesus about life beyond death; we need it very much especially in our time, so rich in knowledge about the universe but so lacking in wisdom about eternal life.

Jesus' clear certainty about resurrection is based entirely on the fidelity of God, Who is the God of life. In fact, behind the question of the Sadducees is hidden a more profound question: not only whose wife will be the widow of the seven husbands, but to whom will her life belong. This is a doubt that touches mankind of every age and also us: after this earthly pilgrimage, what will become of our life? Will it belong to nothing, to death?

Jesus responds that life belongs to God, who loves us and cares very deeply about us, to the point of linking His name to ours: He is "the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. Now He is not God of the dead, but of the living, for all live to him." Life exists where there is [a] bond, communion, brotherhood; and it is a life stronger than death when it is built on true relationships and bonds of fidelity. On the contrary, there is no life where one has the presumption of belonging only to oneself and of living as an island: death prevails in these attitudes. It is selfishness. If I live for myself, I am sowing death in my heart.

May the Virgin Mary help us to live every day from the perspective of what we affirm in the final part of the Creed: "We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come".

Angelus Address, November 10, 2019



NOVEMBER 11  
SAINT MARTIN OF TOURS  
Bishop († 397)

A native of Pannonia (present-day Hungary), Martin grew up in Italy and followed his father into the army. Moved by the witness of some Christians, he had become a catechumen. One day, while serving in Amiens, Martin encountered a poor, naked beggar outside the city gate. Removing his military cloak, he cut it in two and gave half to the man. That night, Jesus appeared to Martin wrapped in the cloak, and Martin went at once to be baptized.

He soon left the army, and spent time in Poitiers, at home in Pannonia, and on the tiny island of Gallinaria, where he had taken refuge following confrontations with the Arians. At Ligugé, near Poitiers, other men gathered around Martin in what was the first monastic community in France.

In 371, the people of Tours chose Martin for their bishop. Knowing that he would refuse out of humility, one of them tricked Martin into coming into the city by claiming that his dying wife needed last rites. Martin came at once, and the people of Tours forced him to be consecrated. Yet he accepted the task before him. Though he still lived in the manner of a monk, he actively catechized his people and thoroughly evangelized the pagan countryside.

Martin was among the earliest non-martyrs, or "confessors," to be venerated as saints. In the Church's art he is depicted in the act of charity he committed while yet a catechumen.

*Loving Father, through the intercession of Saint Martin of Tours, help me to give without counting the cost.*



NOVEMBER 12  
SAINT JOSAPHAT  
Patron of Ukrainians († 1623)

Josaphat Kuntsevych was born in Volodymyr-Volynkyi, in what is today the northwestern Ukraine. When he was fifteen, the Orthodox Christians of the Greco-Slavic Rite to which his family belonged became reunited with Rome in the Union of Brest. At about the same time, Josaphat began to study Slavonic for the express purpose of praying the breviary. He entered the Basilian monastery at twenty-six, and rose to become abbot of the Holy Trinity Monastery. Three years after that he was made a bishop, and then Archbishop of Polotsk.

Josaphat reformed the clergy and published a catechism for the entire people. He preached with vigor in the churches, the prisons, the hospitals, and even the farmers' fields. He treated all with kindness. Yet the seeds of disunity were being sown among his people by those who rejected the Roman Church and the mostly-Polish hierarchy. When a rival bishop arose to challenge him, Josaphat remained calm and determined.

On November 12, 1623, Josaphat was preaching in Vitebsk, when an angry mob stormed the place where he was staying. Josaphat stepped forward: "My children, what are you doing to my servants? If you have anything against me, here I am. But leave them alone." Some swung an axe, striking the archbishop in the head. Another shot him. His body was thrown into the river. He is venerated as a martyr for Christian unity.

*Eternal Father, through the intercession of Saint Josaphat, let me always seek unity with my separated brethren.*



# In Loving Memory

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED  
MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH AND THEIR FAMILIES  
RALPH PAGLIUCA & GISELA MANZ

## BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS PATRON OF THE EUCHARISTIC RENEWAL



As you know, we are observing this special time of the Eucharistic Renewal, a time to grow in our love and devotion to Our Lord truly present in the Holy Eucharist. Two years ago Pope Francis beatified a young man who lived only to the age of 15, but who had tremendous love for Our Lord in Holy Communion and who helped other young people to grow in that love too. He is certainly an appropriate patron of the Eucharistic Renewal and we encourage you to learn about him, to pray to him, and to have the same devotion to Our Eucharistic Lord as he did. Blessed Carlo Acutis was born on May 3, 1991 in London to Andrea Acutis and Antonia Salzano. His parents worked in Germany and the United Kingdom before settling down in Milan, Italy in September 1991.

From a young age, around 3, he demonstrated great interest in Catholic churches and often asked to see them. At the age of 7 he received his First Holy Communion.. He was commonly observed praying before the Tabernacle before and after Mass. He also went to Confession weekly. He enjoyed visiting Assisi where St. Francis is entombed. In addition to his love for the Church, Carlo was deeply interested in computers and taught himself how to code and build websites while still in primary school. Carlo used his knowledge of computers and coding to build websites for Catholic organizations. His most popular website was one that listed miracles from around the world based on a catalog he compiled since age 11. He completed the site shortly before his death.

When Carlo developed leukemia as a teenager, he offered up his suffering for Pope Benedict XVI and the Church. He was quoted as saying, "I offer all the suffering I will have to suffer for the Lord, the Pope, and the Church." As part of his devotion, Carlo asked his parents to take him to various Eucharistic shrines, although his declining health made travel increasingly difficult. Carlo Acutis died on October 12, 2006 at age 15, in Monza, Italy. He was labeled a "Servant of God" in 2013, one of the first steps towards canonization. A miracle was attributed to him in November of 2019. Pope Francis announced the beatification of Carlo Acutis while visiting Assisi, Italy on October 10, 2020. Blessed Carlo Acutis's feast day is October 12, and he is a patron for computer programmers and youth.

*You will notice the picture of Blessed Carlo which is displayed in our church by the altar of St. Joseph. Father Joseph brought this picture from Assisi. May Blessed Carlo's picture remind us to grow in our love for the Blessed Sacrament during this Eucharistic Renewal. Blessed Carlo, model of devotion to the Holy Eucharist, pray for us. Amen*

## DVDs FOR JEANNE JUGAN RESIDENCE

Anyone able to donate DVDs that the elderly would enjoy? Jeanne Jugan Residence is accepting movies in DVD format, since we are able to show them via our new in-house station.

There is a box in the vestibule marked "Little Sisters of the Poor Jeanne Jugan Residence DVD Tapes" where you may place any DVDs you may wish to give.



# MASS INTENTIONS

## SATURDAY NOVEMBER 5, 2022

5:00PM Zina Plumaj

## SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2022

7:30AM Parishioner of St. Theresa Parish

9:00AM Msgr. John Meir

10:30AM Michele Muccio

12:15PM Timothy Donovan

1:30PM Armando Castro

5:00PM Maria E. Suarez

## MONDAY NOVEMBER 7, 2022

8:00AM Vincenzo Minginelli

9:00AM Sergio Ocasio Roman

## TUESDAY NOVEMBER 8, 2022

8:00AM Giuseppantonio Pozzuto

9:00AM Tony Semenitelli

## WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 9, 2022

8:00AM Joan Cosenza

9:00AM Beatrice & Donato DiCristofaro

## THURSDAY NOVEMBER 10, 2022

8:00AM Giuseppantonio Pozzuto

9:00AM Zina Plumaj

12NOON Carol Sassone

## FRIDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2022

8:00AM Robert "Dinggoy" Lukban

9:00AM Frank Cirillo

## SATURDAY NOVEMBER 12, 2022

8:00AM Corey Phelan

9:00PM Filadelfio & Benedetta Marino

5:00PM Anthony Cristiano

## SUNDAY NOVEMBER 13, 2022

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa Parish

9:00AM Eric Van Steenbergen

10:30AM Vincenzo Fragola

12:15PM Lena Gaetano

1:30PM Rosalba Gomez

5:00PM Maria Pia DiCristofaro



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

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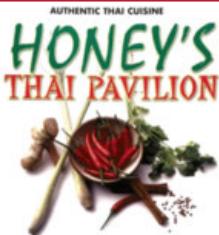
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