

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

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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"ST. THERESA STRONG"



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CHURCH OF ST. THERESA, BRONX

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER DERIVAN:

Once again today in the gospel we hear of the great St. John the Baptist. It is as if the Church is telling us, "Listen carefully to what this great saint, this great prophet has to say to us all." And what John has to say is this, pointing to the Lord Jesus, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." Those are beautiful words from this great saint. But I ask you to think about some other words which are certainly true of St. John the Baptist, words we hear in the first reading of the Mass from the prophet Isaiah, "The Lord has spoken who formed me as His servant from the womb." The Church has always applied those words to John the Baptist. From his mother's womb, John was called to be God's servant—not just when he was grown up, not even when he was just born, but even from his mother's womb John was called by God. There is that beautiful scene which we call the Visitation when John's mother St. Elizabeth was visited by her cousin Mary, both women bearing their unborn children, and Elizabeth proclaiming to Mary, "The moment your greeting sounded in my womb, the baby leapt for joy." The point is clear: John the Baptist was called by God even before he was born. He praised the Lord with joy even as he was an unborn baby in his mother's womb.

These words about the unborn John the Baptist are particularly appropriate today as we prepare to observe this week the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. This March has taken place every year since the tragic Roe vs. Wade decision of 1973. Even though that decision was overturned by the Supreme Court last year, the sad reality is that abortion is allowed in many states. Sadly, the number of abortions annually is still estimated at well over 900,000 each year. Much work must still be done. The goal of the national March for Life is to not only just to change laws at the state and federal level, but to change the culture that allows the taking of unborn life. On Friday, thousands of Americans, people of all religious persuasions, all nationalities and all ages will join in the March for Life in Washington, proclaiming their belief that all life is sacred, from conception until natural death. I ask you to join your prayers with theirs, through coming to Mass or saying the rosary praying for the right to life of all unborn children.

This is a good time for us to remember why we believe in the "right to life" and why we try to create what Pope St. John Paul II called "the culture of life." The sad reality is that most young adults and certainly young people have grown up in a climate where abortion is simply accepted. People can say they are personally opposed to abortion, but that those who do not should have the so-called "right to choose." Thinking that way misses the whole point: opposition to abortion is not a Catholic issue; it is a life issue. Just as it would be unthinkable to say that a person has the right to choose whether a born child should live, it is equally unthinkable to say that an unborn child should not live. Life is life and only God is the Author and Master of life. St. John the Baptist pointed to the truth when he pointed to Jesus as truly the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. We must point to the truth and help others understand the truth that life is always God's gift, always important, always precious.

I wish that every person who believes that abortion is a personal choice could hear about the unborn John leaping in his mother's womb, unborn but truly alive. I wish people could read other Bible words in the psalm, "Lord, you knit me in my mother's womb. I give you thanks that I am fearfully, wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works." Our society may question whether unborn life is precious. The Bible certainly does not. The Bible proclaims the right to life. The Bible proclaims that God calls every unborn child from his or her mother's womb. The Bible proclaims that all life—the life of the unborn, the handicapped, the sick, the aged, the infirm—all life is precious. St. John Paul II put it so well. We must avoid the "culture of death" by being "apostles of life."

What can we do in face of this tragedy of abortion? Three things: first, we must not be afraid to witness to our belief in the sanctity of life, not be afraid to explain to others, calmly and carefully, why we believe in the sanctity of life. Second, we must be ready to help young women who may, usually out of fear, be contemplating an abortion. The great work of the Advocates of Life who have spoken here in our church can help these young women and we encourage you to give them information as you will find in the vestibule today. By doing so you may be helping an unborn child to be born. And third, never underestimate the power of your prayer. Your prayer may help a young woman who is contemplating an abortion to avoid that tragedy and to let one of God's precious children to be born.

Whenever I think about the right to life, I think of a woman who years ago was told that she should not have children and, if she did, she would probably die. When she became pregnant, she and her husband prayed to the Sacred Heart. That woman might have decided not to have her child. But she did not hesitate to go ahead with her pregnancy. She trusted that the Sacred Heart would get her through. She gave birth to a fine, healthy baby boy. Far from dying, she lived to see the day when her son would be ordained a priest, my own dear pastor Monsignor Philip Mulcahy, one of the greatest priests who ever served the people of our Archdiocese. May we all learn from that story. May we all be people of life as that mother certainly was. And like St. John the Baptist, may we help others to see Jesus, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of all the world.

Father Thomas B. Derivan



LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR
JEANNE JUGAN RESIDENCE

Please join us in welcoming the Little Sisters of the Poor to our parish next weekend. At Jeanne Jugan Residence the Little Sisters offer hospitality and care to need elderly men and women. They depend greatly on charity to carry on their mission to the aged and infirm. Any assistance you can give will help them provide for the needs of the elderly entrusted to their care. You may also donate using We Share through the Little Sisters Bronx website. To learn more about the mission of the Little Sisters of the Poor see the website at www.littlesistersofthepoorbronx.org.



MESSAGE OF OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS FOR THIS SUNDAY

This second Sunday of Ordinary Time is in continuity with the Epiphany and the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus. The Gospel passage (cf. Jn 1: 29-34) again speaks to us of the manifestation of Jesus. Indeed, after being baptized in the River Jordan, He was consecrated by the Holy Spirit Who came upon Him, and was proclaimed Son of God by the voice of the heavenly Father. The Evangelist John, unlike the other three, does not describe the event, but proposes to us the witness of John the Baptist. He was the first witness of Christ. God had called him and prepared him for this.

The Baptist cannot hold back the urgent desire to bear witness to Jesus and declares: “I have seen and have borne witness.” John saw something shocking, that is, the beloved Son of God in solidarity with sinners; and the Holy Spirit made him understand this unheard-of novelty, a true reversal. In fact, while in all religions it is man who offers and sacrifices something to God, in the event it is God the Father who offers His Son for the salvation of humanity. John manifests his astonishment and his consent to this newness brought by Jesus, through a meaningful expression that we repeat each time in the Mass: “Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

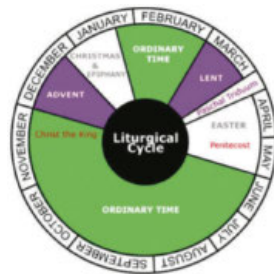
The testimony of John the Baptist invites us to start out again and again on our journey of faith: to start afresh from Jesus Christ, the Lamb full of mercy that the Father gave for us. Let us be surprised once again by God’s choice to be on our side, to show solidarity with us sinners, and to save the world from evil by taking it on fully.

Let us learn from John the Baptist not to assume that we already know Jesus, that we already know everything about Him. This is not so. Let us pause with the Gospel, perhaps even contemplating an icon of Christ, a “Holy face”. Let us contemplate with our eyes and yet more with our hearts; and let us allow ourselves to be instructed by the Holy Spirit, who tells us inside: It is He! He is the Son of God made lamb, immolated out of love. He alone has suffered, He alone has atoned for sin, the sin of each one of us, the sin of the world, and also my sins. All of them. He brought them all upon Himself and took them away from us, so that we would finally be free, no longer slaves to evil. Yes, we are still poor sinners, but not slaves, no, not slaves: children, children of God!

May the Virgin Mary obtain for us the strength to bear witness to her Son Jesus; to proclaim Him with joy with a life freed from evil and a word full of astonished and grateful faith.

Angelus Address, January 19, 2020

THE ORDINARY TIME



As you see from the green vestments worn by the priest at Mass today, we are now in the Ordinary Time of the Church Year. Ordinary Time is the longest season in the Catholic Church’s liturgical year. And just like the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter, it takes us through specific events in the life of Jesus Christ. During Ordinary Time, the Gospels include the calling of the twelve apostles, Jesus’ miracles and parables, the Sermon on the Mount, the bread of life discourse, and other well-known biblical stories about Jesus’ earthly ministry—the period of time between His birth and passion.

According to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), Ordinary Time is the time of conversion. “a time for growth and maturation, a time in which the mystery of Christ is called to penetrate ever more deeply into history until all things are finally caught up in Christ.”

The word “ordinary” usually refers to something that is common or not exciting. So if Ordinary Time is such an important part of the liturgical year, why does it sound so trivial? In the religious context, “ordinary” comes from the Latin word *ordinalis*, which refers to an ordered sequence. Numbering the weeks in Ordinary Time (The First Sunday in Ordinary Time, The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, etc.) helps us keep track of where we are in the liturgical year.

Ordinary Time has two parts in the Church’s calendar, but it’s still only one season. The liturgical year begins with Advent and is followed by the Christmas season, which ends on the Feast of the Epiphany. The first period of Ordinary Time begins on the Monday after the Epiphany and goes until Ash Wednesday, when Lent begins—and the Easter season follows. The second period of Ordinary Time begins on the Monday after Pentecost Sunday, which ends the Easter season. This second period of Ordinary Time, which is the longest liturgical season, goes until the First Sunday of Advent when the liturgical year begins again. Depending on how feast days fall from year to year, there are either thirty-three or thirty-four Sundays in Ordinary Time.

Green is the liturgical color for Ordinary Time. That’s why, when it’s not a special feast day, priests’ vestments, altar cloths, and church decor are green. Green is the color of life and hope. In the Church, green has long been associated with the time of growth and expansion of the Church after Pentecost when the disciples, filled with the Holy Spirit, began to spread the Gospel. This is a great reminder that we, too, are called to share the Good News everywhere we go.





**JANUARY 16
SAINT JOSEPH VAZ
Priest († 1711)**

Joseph was born at Benaullim, Goa (then a Portuguese colony), in India. After his ordination in 1676, he worked in Kanara and then helped to organize a house of Saint Philip Neri's Oratory for native priests who sought community life.

The island nation of Ceylon (modern day Sri Lanka), then under Dutch rule, had shut out all priests for fifty years. Moved by the plight of the Catholics who were deprived of the sacraments, Joseph decided to enter the country in secret. Upon arrival, he and his companion, a former family servant, immediately contracted dysentery and were taken into the woods to die. They were saved by a woman who found them, fed them, and nursed them to health.

Once recovered, Joseph took to the streets as a beggar until he was able to locate the hidden Catholics. He worked for two years ministering to these forsaken faithful, until persecution drove him to the Sinhalese Buddhist kingdom in the island's interior, where he was arrested and held by the king. When his prayers on the king's behalf brought much-needed rain, Joseph was freed and given full support in his work.

Joseph lived simply, earning the respect and support of men and women of all faiths. He died in 1711 at the age of sixty, after over twenty years in mission work. The Catholics in Sri Lanka then numbered 70,000 of whom 30,000 were converts.

Loving Father, through the intercession of Saint Joseph Vaz, grant that I might live in such a way that my life is an invitation to those of other faiths.



**JANUARY 21
SAINT AGNES**

Love is stronger than death. Agnes, a 13-year-old girl living in Rome, gave her life willingly for Christ in the third century. She preferred death so that she could remain a bride of Christ.

The traditional story of Agnes assures us that holiness does not depend on age. Agnes was beautiful, and many men wanted to marry her. She refused each one because she had decided to remain a virgin. One of her suitors was so angry he reported to the governor that she was a Christian. The governor summoned Agnes to the palace. He threatened her with punishment and showed her the tortures that would be used on her body. Agnes looked at the instruments of torture with heroic calmness. The governor had her sent to a house of prostitution to be tempted. All of the men who saw her courage were afraid to touch her. One who looked at her lustfully was struck blind, but Agnes prayed for him, and he regained his sight. The governor, seeing that she could not be persuaded, had her condemned and executed. Saint Ambrose wrote that she went to the place of execution more cheerfully than others go to their wedding.

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**SAINTS FABIAN AND SEBASTIAN
Feast Day January 20th**



Fabian was a pope, and Sebastian was believed to be a soldier. Both were faithful to Christ until death. The traditional story told about Saint Sebastian is that he was an army officer who was condemned to death for his belief in Jesus. His fellow soldiers shot him with arrows. Surviving this, he was beaten to death. The only actual fact we have is that Sebastian was an early Christian martyr under the reign of Emperor Diocletian.

More is known about Saint Fabian, who was pope in 236 during unstable political times. Philip, an ambitious and ruthless man, killed Emperor Maximus and made himself emperor. Later, he regretted his behavior and changed the government policy from persecution of Christians to tolerance for them. For the first time, being a Christian was legal, but peace for the Christians did not last long. Philip was killed by his lieutenant, Decius, who became the next emperor. Decius believed that his empire could be saved only if the pagan customs of ancient Rome were restored. He sent an edict that commanded the death penalty for all who would not give up their following of Christ. Pope Fabian eagerly died for the faith. Following his example, many Christians died as martyrs, though many others denied their faith in Christ.

THE 2023 CARDINAL'S APPEAL BEGINS



The 2023 Cardinal's Appeal is now beginning in our Archdiocese. You will be receiving or have already received a letter from Cardinal Dolan asking your help once again in this year's Appeal.

Your offering in the Appeal will help the Church to continue to serve others in Christ's name. In making your Appeal offering, you are being the Lord's faithful people, helping the Church's programs of service to others. Your Appeal offering, for instance, helps young women who are pregnant to find help at the Missionaries of Charity/ Queen of Peace Center on E. 145th Street. The Missionaries of Charity (established by St. Mother Teresa) also assist homeless men and women and patients with AIDS and provide emergency shelter. Your Appeal offering helps the Sisters to do their important work. Thank you for being "a guardian angel" for them.

If you have not received your Appeal envelope in the mail, there are envelopes available in the vestibule of the church. We are asking each parishioner to make a special effort in supporting the Appeal this year, helping us to reach our goal of \$62,000. With your help, we shall do so.

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 you for your help to the Archdiocese and, of course, to our parish. Please keep the success of the Appeal in your prayers.

THE EUCHARISTIC RENEWAL



As you know, the bishops of the United States are calling for all dioceses to begin a three-year plan to revive and foster Eucharistic devotion in dioceses, parishes, and families.

I am sure you have noticed the beautiful banner in front of church, encouraging this Eucharistic renewal. It reads:

**The Eucharistic Renewal;
a time of growing in our love for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.
Our theme is;
“Jesus in the center of the Church,
Jesus in the center of our lives.”**

That should be our aim during this special time—to grow in our love and devotion to Our Lord present in His Blessed Sacrament and to make the Lord Jesus more and more the center of our lives. Just as He is present in the center of church in the tabernacle, we must strive to put Him more and more into our daily living, into our homes and our families, into our relationships with others, into our places of business, and most of all into our hearts.

There are two problems which we must face. First, unfortunately many Catholics simply do not understand that the Lord Jesus is really present in the Holy Eucharist, that when they receive Holy Communion they are receive the living Christ, present there under the form of bread. Our senses tell us that it is just bread; our faith tells us that this is the Lord Jesus giving Himself to us. It is not just a sign or symbol of Jesus. It IS Jesus, giving Himself to us, as He said, for “the forgiveness of sins.”

And the second problem is this: we can become too accustomed to receiving Holy Communion because we do so so often. Things that we do again and again can become just a routine. We must never make receiving Holy Communion a routine. Instead we should focus on who it is that we are receiving—Jesus Himself. If we were to tell people that we are giving away a million dollars in church on Sunday, needless to say all would be there. We are being given a greater gift than that—the gift that Jesus gives us to be our strength, namely Holy Communion.

May this Eucharistic Renewal help us to avoid these two problems and to appreciate more and more Our Lord giving Himself to us in Holy Communion. “O Sacrament most holy, O Sacrament divine, all praise and all thanksgiving be every moment thine.”

Father Thomas B. Derivan

Prayer for the Eucharistic Renewal Archdiocese of New York

My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love You!
I beg pardon for those who do not believe,
nor adore, nor hope, nor love You.

Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
I adore You profoundly.
I offer You the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ,
present in all the tabernacles of the world
in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifference by which He is offended.

And, through the infinite merits of
the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
I beg of You the conversion of sinners.
Our Lady of the Holy Eucharist, pray for us. Amen

ST. THERESA SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE Sunday, January 29—12PM to 2PM



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For further information or to arrange another time to visit our school, call 718-792-3688.

HE HAS KEPT HIS PROMISES. WE SHOULD TOO

If you are like most people, you likely have promised the Lord lots of things, especially when this life seems overwhelming. We've all done it. In the last few years with a pandemic and all the other upheavals, we have reached out to the Lord with requests, for peace and for rest. In that time, we promise to do better, if God will help us with our challenge. We will remember to pray for those less fortunate, we will put more in the basket at Mass, we will keep our unkind words to ourselves in a heated discussion. What we don't realize is even our reaching out, even our belief in the power of prayer and divine intervention is Him helping us. That is the virtue of hope. This virtue leads us to peace in our daily lives. Christian Hope is not a wish but a certainty. A trust in the Lord and that we will be with Him for all eternity if we follow His path for us.

Pope Francis spoke of the virtue of hope this way: *Hope is a virtue that cannot be seen: it works from below; it makes us go and look from below. It is not easy to live in hope, but I would say that it should be the air that a Christian breathes, the air of hope; on the other hand, he cannot walk, he cannot go on because he does not know where to go. Hope – yes, it's true – gives us security: hope does not disappoint. Never. If you hope, you will not be disappointed. We must open ourselves up to that promise of the Lord, leaning towards that promise, but knowing that there is the Spirit that works in us. (Homily, October 29, 2019)*

The simple Act of Hope we learned as children can be a special meditation.

Act of Hope

O Lord God, I hope by Your grace for the pardon of all my sins and after life here to gain eternal happiness because You have promised it who are infinitely powerful, faithful, kind, and merciful. In this hope I intend to live and die. Amen.

We should be sure to do our best so that He can rely on our promises as well. When we promise to do better, to be better people, remember He is always with us, guiding, supporting. With God's help we can fulfill our promises.

(From Franciscan Mission Associates)

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All new or unregistered parishioners are asked to please register by phone or in person at the Rectory or fill out the information below. Many items of importance will be mailed home in the course of the year.

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PLEASE RETURN TO THE RECTORY OFFICE.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY JANUARY 14, 2023

5:00PM Eric Steenburg

SUNDAY JANUARY 15, 2023

7:30AM Parishioner of St. Theresa Parish

9:00AM Theresa Caliendo

10:30AM Stephen Corretto

12:15PM Nina & Cleo Rosi

1:30PM Msgr. Neil Graham

5:00PM Domenico Laratta

MONDAY JANUARY 16, 2023

8:00AM Sr. Rebecca Miriam PVM

9:00AM Helen & Vincent Virgintino

TUESDAY JANUARY 17, 2023

8:00AM John Hammerle

9:00AM Luigia Giaccio

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 18, 2023

8:00AM Evelyn DiStefano

9:00AM Antoinette "Dee" Cali

THURSDAY JANUARY 19, 2023

8:00AM Geraldine Mascatiello

9:00AM Filippo Occhino

12NOON Fr. Charles Szivos

FRIDAY JANUARY 20, 2023

8:00AM Giacomo & Anna Perrino

9:00AM Jimmu Mastrogiovanni

SATURDAY JANUARY 21, 2023

8:00AM Theresa Caliendo

9:00PM Maria Pia DiCristofaro

5:00PM Lucia Lisi Sementelli

SUNDAY JANUARY 22, 2023

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa Parish

9:00AM Ester Trano

10:30AM Benedetto Salanitro

12:15PM Theresa Ryan

1:30PM Rose Alba

5:00PM Carol Derian



Joseph B., Marie Cacciato, Nancy Cardone, Paul C., Marie DiPolo, Carmella 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, Neil Sussman, Theresa Ulrich

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