

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

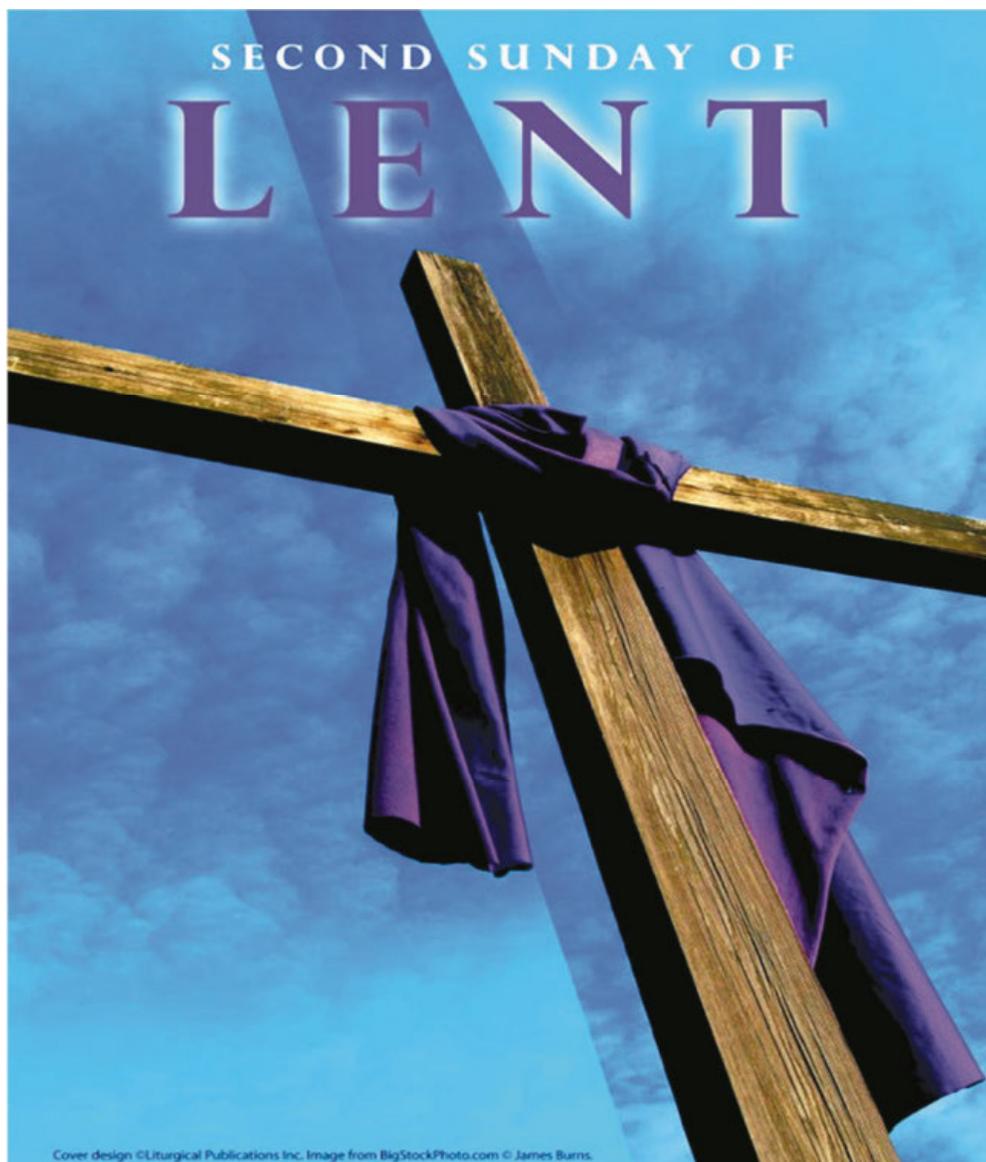
Baptisms take place most Sundays
after the 1:30pm Mass.

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:

How amazing it must have been for those three apostles, Peter, James and John on that day when the Lord Jesus brought them up the mountain! It is called Mount Tabor, but we call it now the mountain of the Transfiguration. For there on that mountain, those three mortal men saw something that no human being had ever seen before—they saw the glory of Jesus shining forth as the Son of God, brilliant in white, shining in light, as the angels saw Him in heaven. For a brief moment we could say that those three men took a step into heaven and saw the transfigured glory of God. And as if that was not enough, they even heard the voice of God the Father, “This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him.” But then in an instant the vision was over. And the gospel simply says “They raised their eyes and they saw no one else but Jesus alone.”

On the mountain of the Transfiguration two thousand years ago the Lord invited His apostles to do two things: to see and to listen. And He gives that same invitation to us as we come to church today. He wants us to see Him—not with human eyes and not on a holy mountain. No, He wants us to see Him in our hearts when we pray and, of course, we should be praying to Him every day or every night, saying the prayers we all know, like the “Our Father” and the “Hail Mary” and hopefully a decade of the rosary every night. But He also wants us just to open our hearts to Him and talk to Him as we would talk to our best friend, for as Pope Francis often reminds children, Jesus is your best friend and best friends talk to each other. And then He wants us to see Him here in church as we join in Mass together. When you come forward to receive the Body of Jesus, remember you are seeing Him under the form of bread. If you have received First Communion, then look at the Sacred Heart and thank the Lord Jesus for giving you His holy Sacrament. And for those children who have not received First Communion, when you come forward with arms folded, remember you see Jesus here and He sees you. He always does.

Every day the Lord invites us to see Him. But He also invites us to listen to Him and that is equally as important as the seeing. On the holy mountain of the Transfiguration God the Father told Peter, James and John to listen to Jesus. And now He wants us to listen to Him as we go about the things we do each day, at home, at school, in our neighborhood and among our friends, to listen to Jesus because, if we let Him, He speaks to us every day. But you may say, “Father, I want to listen to Jesus, but I don’t hear Him.” One thing we should remember, whether we are children or adults, is that often God speaks through other people. He uses their voice to be His voice. Many priests will tell you that they first started to think about becoming a priest because someone—a parent or grandparent, a teacher, a friend—said, “Did you ever think about becoming a priest?” God may have been speaking through that person. He often does, sometimes when we least expect. And the question is: Do we listen? Just a few days ago we celebrated the feast of a saint who did listen. She is one of our own American saints, St. Katharine Drexel. Katherine was born into the wealthy Drexel family in Philadelphia in 1858. As she was growing up, her parents taught her to love and serve God and to love and serve others in God’s name. They taught her to do the works of charity and she learned that lesson well. When she was older, Katharine was especially interested in helping the black and Native American people of the southern and western parts of our country, to help them by building schools for them and teaching them to love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ. She went to Rome and asked Pope Leo XIII to send more missionaries to help these people. and the wise old Pope looked at her and asked her a question, “Why don’t you become a missionary to them yourself?” And Katharine listened. She could have turned away but she did not. She heard God’s voice through the Pope’s words. She listened. She gave away all she had, formed an order of sisters called the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and spent the rest of her life serving the poor people whom she loved to serve. St. Katharine Drexel listened.

Seeing and listening. Dear friends, those are the two things the Lord asks us to do during this Lent. To open our eyes to see Him and pray to Him every day and to listen to what He asks us to do. During Lent, may we try to see and to listen more and more. And if we do, God the Father can look on us and say, as He said to Jesus His Son on the holy mountain, “You are my beloved son. You are my beloved daughter. In you I am well pleased.”

Father Thomas B. Derivan



March 7
Saint Perpetua
Martyr († 203)

Twenty-two-year-old Vivia Perpetua was rounded up with other Christians in Carthage, North Africa, in the persecutions initiated by Severus. A young wife and a mother, Perpetua had embraced the Christian Faith with much of her family. Her father, though remained a pagan.

We have a detailed account of Perpetua’s time in prison, much of it written by Perpetua herself. She worries about the fate of her nursing infant who is still dependent on her, and that of her anguished father, who cannot understand her path. At Perpetua’s trial, her father appears with her child in hand, begging her to make the sacrifice to the emperor and be freed. Even in this most vulnerable moment, Perpetua remains true to Christ. Learning that she is condemned to death, she and her fellow prisoners return to their cells “in a state of exaltation.” She later learns that her baby has begun to take solid food and can be cared for by others.

In the arena, Perpetua and her slave Felicity (now her fellow Christian and close friend) are exposed to a wild heifer, but are not killed. A gladiator is ordered to dispatch Perpetua with his sword. When his first, inept blow merely wounds her, Perpetua grabs his hand and guides it to her throat. “Perhaps such a woman,” concluded an anonymous eyewitness, “could not die unless she herself had willed it.”

Father of mercies, through the intercession of Saint Perpetua, grant me manly courage.



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

By St. Alphonsus Liguori

The devotion of the Stations of the Cross, while it is popular throughout the whole year, is particularly observed by Catholics during the Holy Season of Lent. The Stations recall the different scenes featuring Our Lord on Good Friday as He willingly underwent crucifixion to take away our sins.

These prayers for the Stations were written by St. Alphonsus Liguori and have been used by Catholics in praying the Stations for over three hundred years. During each of the weeks of Lent, we will present two of the Stations for your prayerful reflection:

Before each station, we pray:

My Lord Jesus Christ, you have made this journey to die for me with infinite love. So many times I have sinned, but I repent sincerely because I love you. Pardon me, my God. I will love you all my life.

Ÿ. We adore you, Christ, and we praise you.

R. Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Fifth Station: Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross

Meditation: Consider how weak and weary Jesus was. At each step He was at the point of expiring. Fearing that He would die on the way when they wished Him to die the infamous death of the cross, they forced Simon of Cyrene to help carry the cross after Our Lord.

Prayer: My beloved Jesus

I will not refuse the cross as Simon did:

I accept it and embrace it.

I accept in particular the death that is destined for me with all the pains that may accompany it.

I unite it to Your death

and I offer it to You.

You have died for love of me;

I will die for love of You and to please You. Help me by Your grace.

I love You, Jesus, my Love;

I repent of ever having offended You.

Never let me offend You again.

Grant that I may love You always; and then do with me as You will.



Sixth Station: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

Meditation: Consider the compassion of the holy woman, Veronica. Seeing Jesus in such distress, His face bathed in sweat and blood, she presented Him with her veil. Jesus wiped His face, and left upon the cloth the image of his sacred countenance.

Prayer: My beloved Jesus,

Your face was beautiful before You began this journey;

but, now, it no longer appears beautiful and is disfigured with wounds and blood.

Alas, my soul also was once beautiful

when it received Your grace in Baptism;

but I have since disfigured it with my sins.

You alone, my Redeemer, can restore it to its former beauty.



WEDNESDAY LENTEN MASS

Each Wednesday, during Lent we will have a special evening Mass at 6:00PM. This will be followed by Stations of the Cross. Hopefully this time will be helpful to parishioners coming home from work. Parents who bring their children to our Wednesday 7:00PM CCD classes may wish to come early for this Mass and Stations.

We remind you that we also have Stations of the Cross on Thursday after the 12:00Noon Mass with Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction.

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.

CONFESSIONS are heard every Saturday from 4:00PM to 5:00PM or by appointment in the Rectory.

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MARCH 5, 2023

THE MESSAGE OF OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS FOR THIS SUNDAY

The Gospel of this second Sunday of Lent (cf. Mt 17:1-9), presents to us the account of the Transfiguration of Jesus. He takes Peter, James and John with him up a high mountain, symbol of closeness to God, to open them to a fuller understanding of the mystery of his Person, that must suffer, die and then rise again. Indeed, Jesus had begun to speak to them of the suffering, death and Resurrection that awaited him, but they were unable to accept this prospect. Therefore, once they reached the summit of the mountain, Jesus immersed himself in prayer and was transfigured before the three disciples: "his face", says the Gospel, "shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light."

Through the wondrous event of the Transfiguration, the three disciples are called to recognize in Jesus the Son of God shining with glory. Thus, they advance in their knowledge of their Master, realizing that the human aspect does not express all his reality; in their eyes the otherworldly and divine dimension of Jesus is revealed. And from on High there resounds a voice that says: "This is my beloved Son... Listen to him." It is the heavenly Father who confirms the "investiture" — let us call it that — that Jesus already received on the day of his Baptism in the Jordan and invites the disciples to listen to him and to follow him.

It must be emphasized that, from among the group of the Twelve, Jesus chose to take James, John and Peter with him up the mountain. He reserved for them the privilege of witnessing the Transfiguration. But why did he select these three? Because they are the holiest? No. Yet, at the hour of trial, Peter will deny him; and the two brothers James and John will ask for the foremost places in his Kingdom (cf. Mt 20:20-23). However Jesus does not choose according to our criteria, but according to his plan of love. Jesus' love is without measure: it is love, and he chooses with that plan of love. It is a free, unconditional choice, a free initiative, a divine friendship that asks for nothing in return. And just as he called those three disciples, so today too he calls some to be close to him, to be able to bear witness. To be witnesses to Jesus is a gift we have not deserved; we may feel inadequate but we cannot back out with the excuse of our incapacity.

We have not been on Mount Tabor, we have not seen with our own eyes the face of Jesus shining like the sun. However, we too were given the Word of Salvation, faith was given to us, and we have experienced the joy of meeting Jesus in different ways. Jesus also says to us: "Rise, and have no fear" (Mt 17:7). In this world, marked by selfishness and greed, the light of God is obscured by the worries of everyday life. We often say: I do not have time to pray, I am unable to carry out a service in the parish, to respond to the requests of others.... But we must not forget that the Baptism and Confirmation we have received has made us witnesses, not because of our ability, but as a result of the gift of the Spirit.

In the favorable time of Lent, may the Virgin Mary obtain for us that docility to the Spirit which is indispensable for setting out resolutely on the path of conversion.

Angelus Message, March 8, 2020

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 (for Sunday)
Sunday, 7:30AM, 9:00AM(Italian), 10:30AM,
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 3rd
with confessions from 2PM to 4PM & 6PM to 9PM

Stations of the Cross:
Wednesdays after the 6PM Mass (beginning next week)
Thursdays after the 12Noon Mass
Fridays at 7:30PM-- 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)



A SUGGESTION FOR LENT: BIBLE STUDY

Some parishioners have asked for resources for studying the Bible during Lent. This is certainly a wonderful Lenten practice and the following websites may be helpful to you for studying the Bible from our Catholic perspective:

- lighthousecatholicmedia.org/app
- beginningcatholic.com/catholic-bible-study
- stpaulcenter.com/bible-studies

COLLECTION FOR EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

Many thanks to all who contributed to our free-will collection for the earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria. From that collection, along with a “dress-down collection” from our school children, we were able to send the amount of \$2300 to the Cardinal’s Office to be used by Catholic Relief Services for direct help to those people who have suffered so much. Thank you for your generosity, as always, to those in need.

SCHOOL NEWS



As you know, the announcement was made last week that several Bronx Catholic schools will be closing at the end of this school year. We regret this situation, of course, which has affected so many families. We want you to know that we are trying to assist parents from these schools who wish to enroll their children in our school. However, we have limited spaces available. Considering these limitations, we will try to help with those parents as best we can. We are blessed to have a wonderful school with our principal Mrs. Fanelli, our teachers and staff, our children and our parents who are dedicated to our school. Thank the Lord that we are “St. Theresa Strong.”

GAELIC FOOTBALL



Sign up for Gaelic Football for boys and girls, 7 and older, sponsored by the Gaelic Athletic Association of New York, will be held in our school gymnasium (entrance on Mayflower Avenue) on the following days:

Sunday, March 5—2PM to 5PM

Saturday, March 11—1PM to 4PM

Reflection for the 2nd Sunday of Lent By Father Victor Hoagland C.P.

Our gospel today is the story of the Transfiguration of the Lord Jesus when He revealed His glory as the Son of God before His apostles Peter, James and John. The Transfiguration of Jesus takes place at the midpoint of Matthew’s gospel, after Jesus announces to his disciples that “he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.”

Take up your cross and follow me, he tells his disciples.

“God forbid, Lord,” says Peter, who doesn’t understand this at all. We find it hard to understand too.

Six days later, Jesus takes Peter, James and John up a mountain where they experience him glorified, surrounded by Moses and Elijah. It’s a transitory experience, even though Peter, awed by the vision, asks to prolong it. After falling to the ground, the disciples looked up and “saw no one except Jesus himself alone.” But the experience strengthens them for the journey they’re called to make.

“The main purpose of the transfiguration was to remove the scandal of the cross from the hearts of Christ’s disciples,” says Pope Leo the Great. God doesn’t want us to be weighed down by suffering.

So, like Peter, James and John, Jesus takes us up a mountain throughout our lives to strengthen us as we share in his cross. What mountain do we ascend? St. Paul of the Cross and other spiritual guides say it’s the mountain of prayer, where we experience intimations of God’s glory, brief encounters, transfigurations of a lesser kind. We’re strengthened as we pray. St. Paul of the Cross said, “Don’t think that the trials and crosses you experience turn you to go another way. Trials don’t indicate you’re straying from God. We know it’s just the opposite from the scriptures we read and the saints we honor. The way to go is the way our Savior gives us grace to go. Saint Bernard wasn’t the first to know this truth when he said: ‘The cross is the way to life, the way to glory, the way to the Kingdom, and the way to the inhabited City.’”

Lord Jesus, lead me to that mountain place of stronger light and surer sound where I may see your glory.

Strengthen me through prayer.

Light and truth, bright as blinding snow, whom Peter, James and John saw, “Bring me to your holy mountain, to your dwelling place.”

In Loving Memory

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED
MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH AND THEIR FAMILIES
LUIA TIRAMANI, BIAGIO TRIPODI,
ELIZABETH GIANNINI, ROSE DELUCA,
CARMELA CITARDI & CARMELA MARCHESE



THIS WEEK'S ALTAR BREAD IS IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
FRANK MARZULLO
YOUR LOVING FAMILY



March 9
Saint Frances of Rome
Foundress († 1440)

Frances (or Francesca) was the daughter of devout nobles. She longed to enter religious life but accepted an arranged marriage to Lorenzo Ponziano when she was thirteen. She was to have three children with him.

Frances was drawn to a life of regular prayer and works of mercy. Her partner in this was Lorenzo's sister-in-law Vanozza. Though they remained devoted wives, both women worked assiduously to relieve the wants of the poor. In 1402 and again in 1410, Frances met the ravages of pandemic with a tireless effort to nurse the sick and beg for food. When firewood ran scarce, Frances harvested it from her vineyards, carrying the logs to the poor herself.

Frances knew many sufferings within her family. During the wars that beset Rome at this time, her husband was severely injured and later forced into hiding, and her young son was captured. Later, the same son married a difficult woman who only softened after Frances nursed her during a grave illness.

After many years of selfless service to the poor, Lorenzo released Frances from her duties as a wife. She founded a congregation of Benedictine oblates, who pursued prayer, penance, and charity. Living among them, she intensified her fasts and received many consolations and visions. She often saw her guardian angel. Frances fell ill in 1440 and died soon afterward.

Father of mercies, through the intercession of Saint Frances of Rome, teach me to pay attention to the needs of those in my family.



MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY MARCH 4, 2023

5:00PM Frank Marzullo & Frank Virgintino

SUNDAY MARCH 5, 2023

7:30AM Parishioner of St. Theresa Parish

9:00AM Maria Rosa Gentile

10:30AM Frances Wendland

12:15PM Theresa Curcio

1:30PM Fr. Tom D'Angelo

5:00PM Rosa Monsivais

MONDAY MARCH 6, 2023

8:00AM Mary Cea

9:00AM Luisa Tiramani

TUESDAY MARCH 7, 2023

8:00AM Bryan Dottavi

9:00AM Nicoletta Ferrara

WEDNESDAY MARCH 8, 2023

8:00AM Angelina Neglia

9:00AM Margaret D'Amato

6:00PM Marie Sansalone

THURSDAY MARCH 9, 2023

8:00AM Ernie & Florence Lund

9:00AM Carmela Greco

12NOON Margaret Salzano

FRIDAY MARCH 10, 2023

8:00AM Giuseppantonio Pozzuto

9:00AM Debra DeGregoria

SATURDAY MARCH 11, 2023

8:00AM James Faleri

9:00PM Domenico Rinaldi

5:00PM Antoinetta & Pietro Carovillano

SUNDAY MARCH 12, 2023

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa Parish

9:00AM Antonia DelVecchio

10:30AM Enzo Agresta

12:15PM Adam & Adeline Pizzuti

1:30PM Rosalba Gomez

5:00PM Joseph Torrioni

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Joseph B., Marie Cacciato, Nancy Cardone, Paul C., Shanna Cartalemi, Marie DiPolo, Josephine Graziano, Maryann Maiorana, Patricia Martano, Msgr. John Meehan, Patricia Mulhern, Shara Olivera, Joan Orlando, Margie Primiani, Denise Siracusa, Toni Spahr, Elaine S., Neil Sussman, Theresa Ulrich

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