

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

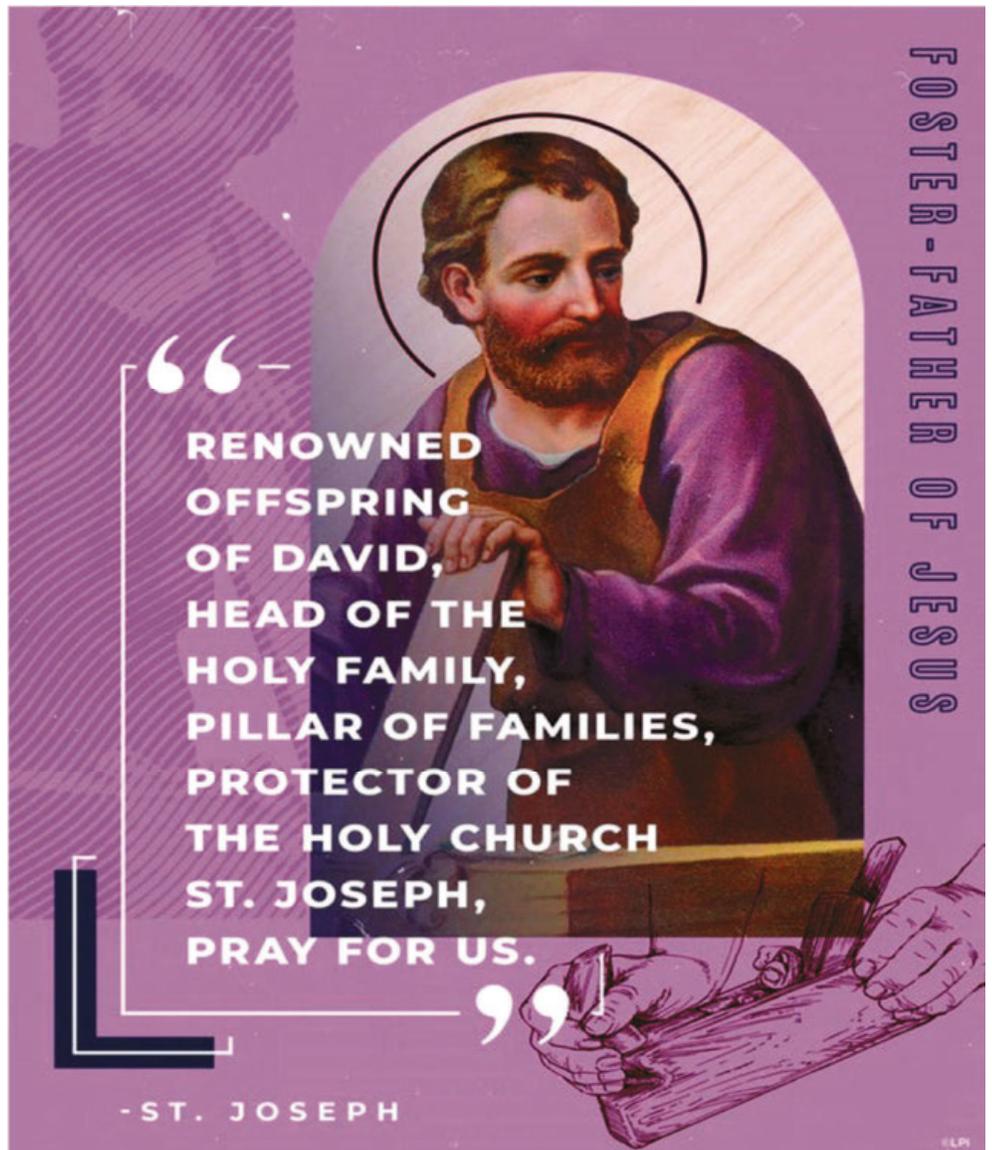
BAPTISMS

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.

**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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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: 718-792-8434

CHURCH OF ST. THERESA, BRONX

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER DERIVAN:

When we read the gospels, we meet many wonderful people of faith. Of course we meet Our Blessed Mother Mary—there was no greater person of faith than she. We meet St. Joseph, the faithful foster father of Jesus; St. John the Baptist who prepared the way for Jesus to come; St. Mary Magdalene who stayed at the foot of the Cross and was the first to see the Risen Christ, and so many others whom we should feel very close to. But then there are other people of faith in the gospels whose names we do not even know, but we should feel very close to them too.

Last week we met the Samaritan woman who came to the well looking for water, but instead found Jesus and put her faith in Him. And today we meet another great person of faith. Like the woman in the gospel last week, we do not even know this man's name. He is just called "a man blind from birth." This man should be our Lenten friend, helping us on our journey of Lent towards Easter. Let me mention three lessons that we can learn from this Lenten friend who once was blind, but now could see.

The very simple fact is that the man is blind, blind from birth. And the gospel says, "As Jesus was passing by," He met this man. The Lord told him to wash and immediately he was cured. He was able to see for the first time in his life. Can you imagine that? One of the greatest gifts that God has given us is the gift of sight. We should thank Him every day for our eyes, for the ability to see the world and the people around us. You can imagine the joy in this man's heart as he saw his family for the first time, and the people who cared for him and loved him. And he must have thanked each one of them for all they had done for him. The lesson is this: we see the people who love us every day. But how often do we thank them? How often do children thank their parents just for being their parents? How often does a husband or wife thank his or her spouse simply for loving them? Pope Francis says that he thanks God every day for his grandparents who taught him what faith and God and Church are all about. It is one thing to see; it is another thing to thank those whom we see. Let us make it our aim for the rest of Lent to thank the people who are most important to each of us and to thank God for putting them in our lives.

And then a second lesson from the man in the gospel: not only does he see with physical eyes; he sees with the eyes of faith. In fact he sees more than all the others who have had physical sight all their lives. And he is not afraid to tell others what he now sees, namely Jesus who cured him. Even when people try to deny what happened, alleging that this man was not really blind, still he does not hesitate to tell people the truth and he is not afraid to tell people how good the Lord Jesus has been to him. He says, "One thing I know—I was blind but now I see." And the lesson is this: we must never be afraid to tell people what God has done for us. We must never hesitate to tell people how much our faith means to us. Sometimes God uses us to bring His love to some person who sees us coming to church on Sunday, living the commandments, and helping others in the Lord's name. Remember people see you and you may be the person whom the Lord uses to bring someone home to His love. And then one final lesson from the cured blind man: the blind man sees more than the other people because he sees who Jesus is, the light of the world. Even though the Pharisees and the others have physical sight, they are blind in another sense—they do not open their hearts to see the light of Jesus. The lesson is this: we must make Jesus more and more the light of our lives. Jesus brightens up our lives, even when we are having troubles or problems. He gives us the light and the strength to go on. How hard it must be for those who do not have the light of Christ to get them through. How blessed we are to have the light of Christ! Notice the gospel says, "As Jesus was passing by." He was passing by when He met the man born blind. The Lord Jesus is always passing by, as He was that day for the blind man. He is passing us by too, but hopefully we do not pass Him by. Hopefully we are ready to see Him and hopefully we are ready to follow Him. And if we do, the Lord will give us something far greater than the cure He gave to the blind man. He will give us His greatest gift-- the glory of eternal

REFLECTION FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

The color of the vestments worn today is rose, a reminder for us to rejoice, for we are half way through the Lenten journey and our Easter salvation is near. The traditional title for this Sunday is "*Laetare* Sunday," taken from the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice," or "*Laetare*" in Latin.

Last Sunday the focus of the liturgy was clearly on the idea of living water. Jesus is the source of that water and if we draw from his well we will never thirst. This Sunday in addition to rejoicing, the focus is on the contrast between darkness and light. Like water, it is imagery used to describe the invisible, but nonetheless real, life of God working powerfully in human lives.

In the Gospel passage assigned for this fourth Sunday in Lent, the theme of light continues. The cure of the man born blind is clearly intended to illustrate Jesus' claim to be the Light of the world (see Gospel of Saint John, chapter 8). Those who refuse to embrace the light Christ has to offer are walking in darkness, expressed as being blind.

A miracle takes place: a man is able to see who previously could not. Those around Jesus see what has occurred and while unable to deny the fact of the miracle, they refuse to accept the significance of the event. This is especially so in the case of the Pharisees of Jesus' day. Their stance is clear: Jesus cures a man on the Sabbath, therefore the actions of Jesus cannot be from God, nor has a prophet performed the cure. Yet the popular verdict is that indeed Jesus is sent from God and is a prophet.

How easy for us to be more like the opponents than advocates of Christ, fearing to allow God into our lives. We may prefer not to let faith enlighten our consciences and conduct. We may fear to know our responsibilities and obligations before God as Christ's followers. In reality, though, we cannot afford to walk in darkness through this life, like someone who has a driver's license but who has no clue about the laws of the land regarding driving or the operating of a car.

When the man born blind is given sight he experiences a great peace and hope in his heart. When the opponents of Jesus refuse to see and believe, they feel vexed and unhappy. Also today, Christ is being offered to us as the light of the world and we need to decide about the golden opportunity being given us, not just once, but every day and every minute. Will we accept or reject God's call and gifts? If it is necessary to open the eyes of the body in order to see color around us, so also is it necessary for a clearer mind and more informed conscience to have God actively at work in our lives, enlivening our faith. That happens when we leave ourselves open to be formed by God's word and sacraments of grace. We are people who seek God. Sometimes we may feel overcome by the darkness, our brokenness, our tendency to stray and to put other things above the love of Christ, but we should never lose hope in the light of Christ.

May the biblical readings for this Sunday in Lent enlighten our minds and show us the way we need to walk. May the bread and wine that become the Body and Blood of the Lord in the Eucharistic celebration be the means of seeing our God present in our midst.

(From Monastery of Christ in the Desert)

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MESSAGE OF OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS FOR THIS SUNDAY

At the center of the liturgy of this fourth Sunday of Lent there is the theme of light. The Gospel (cf. Jn 9:1-41) recounts the episode of the man blind from birth, to whom Jesus gives sight. This miraculous sign confirms Jesus' affirmation that "I am the light of the world" (v. 5), the light that brightens our darkness. Jesus is thus. He operates illumination on two levels: a physical level and a spiritual level: the blind person first receives the sight of the eyes and then is led to faith in the "Son of Man" (v. 35), that is, in Jesus. It is all a journey. Today it would be good if you were all to take a copy of the Gospel according to John, chapter nine, and read this passage: it is so good and it will do us good to read it once or twice more. The wonders that Jesus performs are not spectacular gestures, but have the purpose of leading to faith through a journey of inner transformation.

The doctors of the law - who were there in a group - persist in not admitting the miracle, and ask the healed man insidious questions. But he disconcerts them with the power of reality: "One thing I do know. I was blind and now I see." Amidst the distrust and hostility of those who surround him and interrogate him, incredulous, he takes a route that leads him to gradually discover the identity of "the One who opened his eyes and to confess his faith in Him. At first he considers Him a prophet; then he recognizes Him as one Who comes from God;" finally he welcomes Him as the Messiah and prostrates himself before Him. He understood that by giving him sight Jesus displayed "the works of God."

May we too have this experience! With the light of faith he who was blind discovers his new identity. He is now a "new creature", able to see his life and the world around him in a new light, because he has entered into communion with Christ, he has entered into another dimension. He is no longer a beggar marginalized by the community; he is no longer a slave to blindness and prejudice. His path of enlightenment is a metaphor for the path of liberation from sin to which we are called. Sin is like a dark veil that covers our face and prevents us from clearly seeing ourselves and the world; the Lord's forgiveness takes away this blanket of shadow and darkness and gives us new light. The Lenten period that we are living is an opportune and valuable time to approach the Lord, asking for His mercy, in the different forms that Mother Church proposes to us.

The healed blind man, who now sees both with the eyes of the body and with those of the soul, is the image of every baptized person, who immersed in Grace has been pulled out of the darkness and placed in the light of faith. But it is not enough to receive the light, one must become light. Each one of us is called to receive the divine light in order to manifest it with our whole life. The first Christians, the theologians of the first centuries, used to say that the community of Christians, that is the Church, is the "mystery of the moon", because it gave light but it was not its own light, it was the light it received from Christ. We too can be "mystery of the moon": giving light received from the sun, which is Christ, the Lord. Saint Paul reminds us of this today: "Live as children of light; for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth" (Eph 5:8-9). The seed of new life placed in us in Baptism is like the spark of a fire, which first of all purifies us, burning the evil in our hearts, and allows us to shine and illuminate with the light of Jesus.

May Mary Most Holy help us to imitate the blind man of the Gospel, so that we can be flooded with the light of Christ and set out with Him on the way of salvation.

Angelus Message, March 22, 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)



MARCH 19, 2023

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.

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

Ninth Station: Jesus Falls the Third Time

Meditation: Consider how Jesus Christ fell for the third time. He was extremely weak and the cruelty of His executioners was excessive; they tried to hasten His steps though He hardly had strength to move.

Prayer: My outraged Jesus,
by the weakness You suffered in going to Calvary,
give me enough strength to overcome all human respect
and all my evil passions which have led me to despise Your friendship.
I love You, Jesus my Love, with all my heart;
I am sorry for ever having offended You.
Never permit me to offend You again.
Grant that I may love You always; and then do with me as You will.



Tenth Station: Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments

Meditation: Consider how Jesus was violently stripped of His clothes by His executioners. The inner garments adhered to his lacerated flesh and the soldiers tore them off so roughly that the skin came with them. Have pity for your Savior so cruelly treated and tell Him:

Prayer: My innocent Jesus,
by the torment You suffered in being stripped of Your garments,
help me to strip myself of all attachment for the things of earth
that I may place all my love in You who are so worthy of my love.
I love You, O Jesus, with all my heart;
I am sorry for 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.



MARCH 23
ST. TORIBIO DE MOGROVEJO
Bishop

Born in 1538 at Mojorca, Spain, St. Toribio became a Professor of Law at the University of Salamanca and was appointed president of the court of the Inquisition at Granada. In 1581, while still a layman he was appointed to the See of Lima, Peru—a most difficult charge both religiously and geographically.

For the next twenty-five years, this saintly man wore himself out in the service of his flock. He traversed his entire diocese on foot, willingly exposing himself to the steaming climate, wild animals, tropical maladies, and other dangers in order to reform the clergy and instruct the people in the Faith. He founded the first seminary on the American continent and baptized and confirmed close to a million people.

The Saint took pains to learn the native languages of the people (in which he was associated with St. Francis Solano) and opposed all attempts to justify their mistreatment by the Spanish. Thus, he exerted a great influence on other South American countries also.

St. Toribio was ever solicitous of the feelings of the poor and unstinting in his charities toward them. In the course of his ministrations he also befriended and confirmed St. Rose of Lima. He died in 1606 and was canonized in 1726 by Pope Benedict XIII.

Prayer God, You increased Your Church by means of the apostolic care and zeal for truth of St. Toribio, Your Bishop, Grant that the people who have been consecrated to You may experience a new increase of Faith and holiness. Amen



ST. JOSEPH
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Foster Father of the Son of God
Patron of the Universal Church
Feastday—March 19

Everything we know about St. Joseph, the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus comes from Scripture. We know he was a carpenter, a working man, for the skeptical Nazarenes ask about Jesus, "Is this not the carpenter's son?" (Matthew 13:55). He wasn't rich for when he took Jesus to the Temple to be circumcised and Mary to be purified he offered the sacrifice of two turtledoves or a pair of pigeons, allowed only for those who could not afford a lamb (Luke 2:24). Despite his humble work and means, Joseph came from a royal lineage. Luke and Matthew both mark his descent from David, the greatest king of Israel (Matthew 1:1-16 and Luke 3:23-38). Indeed the angel who first tells Joseph about Jesus greets him as "son of David," a royal title used also for Jesus.

We know Joseph was a compassionate, caring man. When he discovered Mary was pregnant after they had been betrothed, he knew the child was not his but was as yet unaware that she was carrying the Son of God. He knew women accused of adultery could be stoned to death, so he resolved to send her away quietly to not expose her to shame or cruelty. However, when an angel came to Joseph in a dream and told him, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins," he did as the angel told him and took Mary as his wife. (Matthew 1:19-25). He traveled with Mary and the unborn Jesus to Bethlehem where the Child who is Savior of the world was born.

Later on, when the angel came again to tell Joseph that his family was in danger, he immediately left everything he owned, all his family and friends, and fled to a strange country with his young wife and the baby. He waited in Egypt without question until the angel told him it was safe to go back (Matthew 2:13-23).

We know Joseph loved Jesus. His one concern was for the safety of this child entrusted to him. Not only did he leave his home to protect Jesus, but upon his return settled in the obscure town of Nazareth out of fear for his life. When Jesus stayed in the Temple we are told Joseph (along with Mary) searched with great anxiety for three days for him (Luke 2:48). We also know that Joseph treated Jesus as his own son for over and over the people of Nazareth say of Jesus, "Is this not the son of Joseph?" (Luke 4:22)

We know Joseph respected God. He followed God's commands in handling the situation with Mary and going to Jerusalem to have Jesus circumcised and Mary purified after Jesus' birth. We are told that he took his family to Jerusalem every year for Passover, something that could not have been easy for a working man.

Since Joseph does not appear in Jesus' public life, at his death, or resurrection, many historians believe Joseph probably had died before Jesus entered public ministry.

Joseph is the patron saint of the dying because, assuming he died before Jesus' public life, he died with Jesus and Mary close to him, the way we all would like to leave this earth.

Joseph is also patron saint of the Universal Church, families, fathers, expectant mothers (pregnant women), travelers, immigrants, house sellers and buyers, craftsmen, engineers, and working people in general.

There is much we still wish we could know about Joseph -- exactly where and when he was born, how he spent his days, exactly when and how he died. But Scripture has left us with the most important knowledge: who he was -- "a righteous man" (Matthew 1:18).

(Material from Catholic Online)

TODAY IS THE MIDPOINT OF LENT: HOW ARE YOU DOING?

We see the pink or rose-colored vestments at Mass today. Only twice during the Church year are these vestments worn, on the Third Sunday of Advent (the midpoint of Advent) and today, on the Fourth Sunday of Lent which is the midpoint of Lent. These vestments are the Church's visible reminder to us to consider how well we are observing Lent. Have we lived up to our Lenten resolutions of prayer, sacrifice, and charity? Three weeks have gone by since Ash Wednesday. How will we spend the remaining three weeks of Lent?

Where has Lent this year brought each of us? If Lent is a journey from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday, then where are we on our journey? How far have we gotten? What has happened in our spiritual lives as we follow our Lenten journey this year? If the answer to these questions is "I have not come very far," then let the rose-colored vestments of today be a reminder that we must not lose Lent. We must make it a productive time for our souls, a time when we give glory to the Lord Jesus who suffered and died and rose again—all for us.

But it is important for us to remember this: Lent is not our doing. Lent is what I am letting God do in me. The Lenten practices that we follow should be the channels of God's grace to us during this holy season. We must avoid the temptation of patting ourselves on the back and saying to ourselves, "I am doing just fine during Lent. I do all of these things. I have spent Lent quite well." That is the wrong attitude for us to have during Lent. Our attitude should be this: letting God's grace come to me during Lent. The great St. Mother Teresa had the very simple sentence, "Give God permission." During Lent we give God permission to help us grow as Christian people. We give God permission to use us to help others grow in His grace too. Try to keep those three words in mind during these last weeks of Lent: "Give God permission."

And so, the question we should be asking ourselves is not "How am I doing during Lent?" The question we should be asking is this: "How is God working with me? Am I giving God permission to help me grow in His grace during Lent?" Think of the Lenten practices you may be following. You may be coming to daily Mass; then ask yourself, "Am I giving God permission to help me grow in my love for the Mass and for Holy Communion.?" You may be spending more time in your own private prayer; then ask yourself, "Am I giving God permission to come to me by listening to Him when I pray?" You may be giving up something you enjoy; then ask yourself, "Am I giving God permission to help me see that my giving up something good that I enjoy is in union with Jesus' sacrifice for me on the Cross?" You may be working on removing from your life things that you know should not be there—anger, rash judgment, impatience, selfishness, pride; then ask yourself, "Am I giving God permission to help me remove these things from my life?" You may be doing special works of charity; then ask yourself, "Am I giving God permission to help me?"

Wedding Banns

II TIME - William James Machie Jr. & Francesca Pirraglia



THIS WEEK'S ALTAR BREAD IS IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
GIUSEPPANTONIO POZZUTO
FROM, ANGELINA PALMIERO & FAMILY



THE SANCTUARY LAMP BURNING NEAR THE
TABERNACLE THIS WEEK IS IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
GIUSEPPANTONIO POZZUTO
FROM, ANGELINA PALMIERO & FAMILY



March 24
Saint Oscar Romero
Justice († 1980)

Oscar was born to a large family in El Salvador. He studied carpentry before entering the minor seminary at fourteen. After studies and ordination in Rome, he returned to his homeland, where for over twenty years he served as a pastor. When he was named Bishop of Santiago de Maria, his efforts to serve his flock brought him before the conflict between the peasants, many of whom lived in crushing poverty, and the wealthy landowners, who sought to retain their control with the help of the military.

In 1977, Oscar was named Archbishop of San Salvador. Ten days later, one of his priests who had been living among impoverished farmers was slain by a death squad. From this time, Oscar's radio sermons increasingly addressed the inequality of a system that held so many in poverty and the immorality of the use of force against the innocent. On March 23, 1980, he made an eloquent radio plea urging those of his flock who were serving in the military to refrain from killing unarmed civilians.

The next day, while he was saying Mass in a hospital chapel, he was shot dead by an assassin.

In his 2018 canonization Mass for Oscar, Pope Francis praised him as one who "left the security of the world, even his own safety, in order to give his life according to the Gospel-close to the poor and to his people."

Loving Father, through the intercession of Saint Oscar Romero, grant me a heart in union with the oppressed and the downtrodden.



MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY MARCH 18, 2023

5:00PM Barbara Posillico

SUNDAY MARCH 19, 2023

7:30AM Parishioner of St. Theresa Parish

9:00AM Marco Errichiello

10:30AM Michele Muccio

12:15PM Messina Family

1:30PM Josie Tavares

5:00PM John & Annie Sweeney

MONDAY MARCH 20, 2023

8:00AM Mary Cea

9:00AM Anthony Fata

TUESDAY MARCH 21, 2023

8:00AM Ernie & Florence Lund

9:00AM Sergio Ocasio Roman

WEDNESDAY MARCH 22, 2023

8:00AM John Hammerle

9:00AM Frank Salerno

6:00PM Marie Sansalone

THURSDAY MARCH 23, 2023

8:00AM Fr. Charles Szivos

9:00AM Eleanor LaFata

12NOON Rita Del Franco

FRIDAY MARCH 24, 2023

8:00AM Fr. Tom D'Angelo

9:00AM Olga Salati

SATURDAY MARCH 25, 2023

8:00AM Msgr. Neil Graham

9:00PM Mary Forlini

5:00PM Mario Martone

SUNDAY MARCH 26, 2023

7:30AM Gigi Vazquez

9:00AM Elizabeth Iuliano

10:30AM Gilbert Zingaro

12:15PM Deric Faulkner

1:30PM Parishioners of St. Theresa Parish

5:00PM Dorina DiLullo

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,

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