

# Church of St. Theresa

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

2855 St. Theresa Avenue, Bronx, New York

## SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday at 5:00pm,  
Sunday at 7:30am, 9:00am(Italian),  
10:30am(Family Mass) 12:15pm ,  
1:30PM(Spanish) & 5:00pm

## WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday thru Saturday 8:00am & 9:00am

## DEVOTIONS

Miraculous Medal & St. Theresa  
Novenas after Monday morning Masses  
St. Anthony Novena after Tuesday  
morning Masses.

Thursday 12 Noon Mass  
& Eucharistic Adoration

Exposition & Benediction of the  
Blessed Sacrament First Friday 6:00PM

## CONFESSION

Saturdays from 4:00pm to 5:00pm  
and by appointment

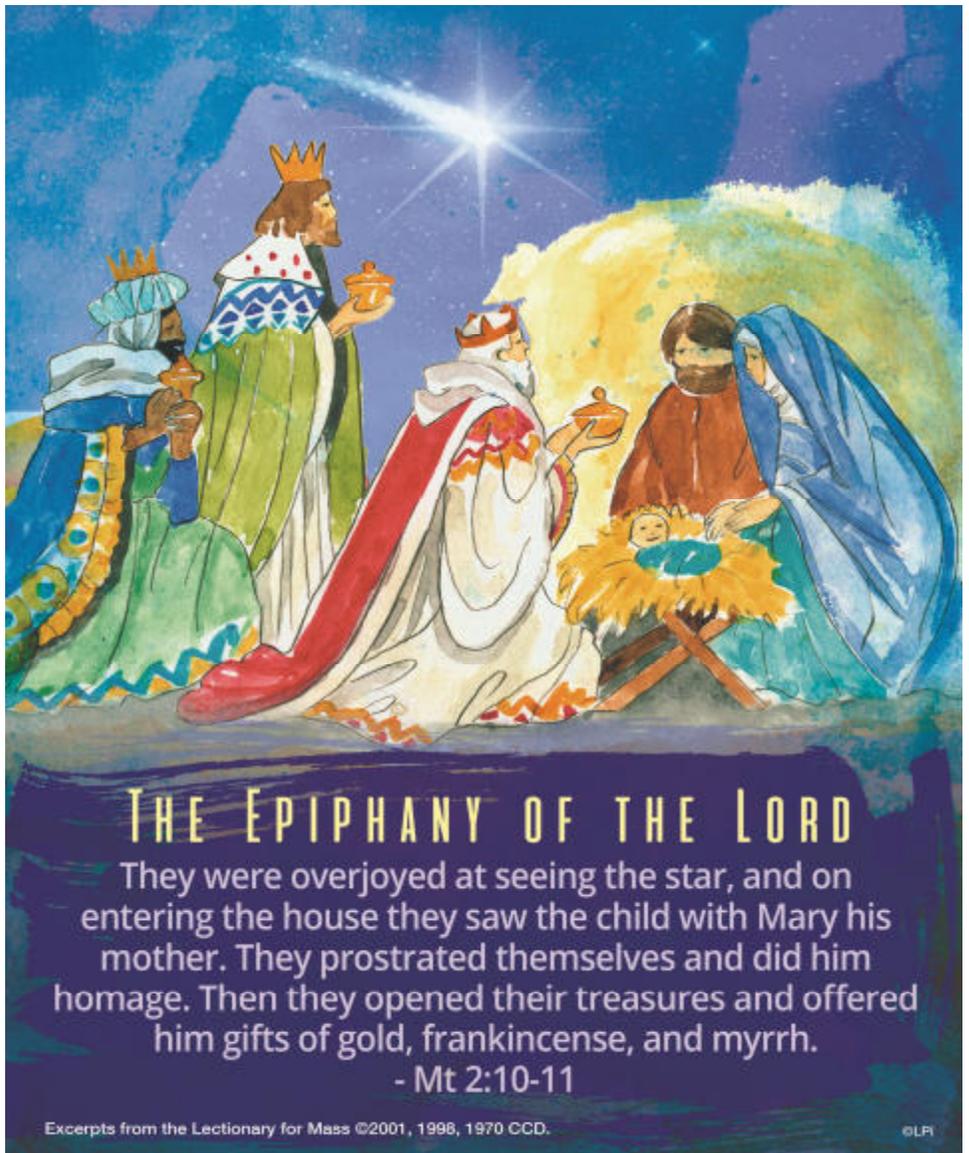
## BAPTISMS

Baptisms take place most Sundays  
after the 1:30pm Mass.  
We ask parents to attend the Baptism  
preparation meeting. Register at the  
Rectory for the meeting.  
The date of the Baptism will be  
discussed at the Baptism meeting.

## MARRIAGES

Call the Rectory at least six months in  
advance of the wedding date to make an  
appointment with parish clergy.

## ST. THERESA'S FAMILY IS OUR FAMILY "ST. THERESA STRONG"



### THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

- Mt 2:10-11

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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*Rev. Msgr. Thomas Derivan, Pastor*

*Rev. Joseph Ligory, Parochial Vicar*  
*Rev. Edmundo Gomez, Retired,*  
*Rev. Robert Imbelli, Weekend Associate*

*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

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### FROM THE DESK OF FATHER DERIVAN

Today is the day of the Magi. That is the word the Gospel calls them—the Magi, the learned ones, the wise men. Tradition has made them kings and fittingly so. But they were kings of a different sort than the world's kind of kings—different kings looking for a greater king. Shall we call them kings of wisdom, kings of truth, kings because they possessed the greatest power of all—the power of knowing that they were powerless, that they were nothing without finding the greatest King of all. So let us call them simply the Magi—men seeking the truth, men willing to cross a desert and to search the world for the Child who is the Son of God.

Blessed are the Magi. We know very little about them. Much comes from tradition and legend. Even their names Melchior, Balthasar and Gaspar are not found in the gospel. And yet although we know very little about them, we feel close to the Magi. We want to be like them. We place their statues in our Christmas cribs and we know why we do that. For are we not all trying to be the Magi? Are we not all crossing a desert of life, following the star of faith, looking for the Christ who will give joy to our hearts? Is that not why we love the Magi—we want to be like the Magi? We try to look for Christ even though our world still has many King Herods who try to keep Christ from us. We try to follow the star, even though so many worldly distractions try to keep us from following it. We try to love the Lord Jesus, to give Him our gifts, to bend the knee and bow the head and open the heart. We have no precious gold, frankincense or myrrh. We have only our hearts, only our love. And we are wise enough like the Magi to know that Jesus is most pleased with the gifts of the heart.

There is a beautiful story about the Magi written by Henry Van Dyke, called "The Other Wise Men." It is not found in the gospel, but it certainly portrays what the gospel tells us about the Magi. Long ago, when Caesar Augustus thought he ruled the world, in the mountains of Persia, four learned men studied the stars. They had been told, somehow, somehow, of the coming of a new star and the coming of a new king. They decided to do an incredible thing—to give up their possessions to buy precious gifts, to follow the star and find the King. One of them, Artaban, was delayed in meeting the other three. For on his way to meet them, he met a man on the road left for dead by his attackers. This other wise man stopped to take care of the man, losing precious time in doing so. The other three Magi thought he was not coming, so they set off and found the Child Jesus. The other wise man had no other choice than to travel on his own. He carried with him three jewels. The first he had to sell now to buy camels for the journey. He set out and arrived at Bethlehem, only to find that the Holy Family had fled because of King Herod's intention to kill the Infant King. He inquired of their whereabouts, only to find a woman in Bethlehem and even as he spoke to her, Herod's soldiers came to kill the baby boys in Bethlehem. The other wise man took out his second jewel and offered it to the captain of the soldiers to pass over the house of that mother and child. He did not find the Christ Child, but he saved another. He went on his journey year after year, for thirty-three years, never finding the new King. He still held on to his last jewel, hoping to give it one day as his gift to him. He came finally to Jerusalem on one gloomy Friday. He heard that a man was to be crucified, Jesus of Nazareth who was called King of the Jews. Could this be the Promised One? He could offer his last jewel to ransom the King from death. But even as he thought these thoughts, a slave girl ran up to him, begging that he save her from slavery. He gave his last jewel to her slave-owner to set her free. An earthquake came on that Good Friday. The now old wise man was struck by a falling brick. The slave girl held him in his dying moments. She heard his murmuring, "Lord, when did I see you hungry or thirsty or imprisoned? For thirty-three years I have searched for you, but I have never seen your face." Then a soft voice was heard, "As often as you did for the least of my brethren, you did for me." The wise man breathed his last breath. And the story ends with these beautiful words, "His journey was ended. His treasures were accepted. The other wise man had found the King."

A story? Yew, but a story filled with truth. We are all the other wise men and women. We travel over the years of our lives, carrying whatever inner treasure we have. And Christ wants to see if our treasures are open, not to Him, but to those in need, the least of our brethren. So let us find Christ, not in the manger of long ago. Let us find Him in the world of today, in the persons that need our love. Then we will indeed be the wise men and women, and then we can open the gift—the gift of our heart, the gift of our love.

Father Thomas B. Derivan

### A MEDITATION ON THE FEAST OF EPIPHANY

by John Littleton

For many Christians, the Feast of the Epiphany marks the end of the Christmas season. Yet the Epiphany is at the heart of the Christmas message. The word 'epiphany' means 'manifestation' or 'showing'. Fundamentally, the Christian vocation is to show Jesus and his glory to the world. The Epiphany acknowledges that Jesus Christ, the new born baby, is the Savior of all people.

During the Christmas season, we reflect on what it means to believe that the Word became flesh and lived among us. God has chosen to live among us, his people, in the person of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who saves us from the justly deserved consequences of our sins. This is why we celebrate Christmas. All other activities associated with Christmas — for example, the exchange of gifts, the holidays from school and work, the visits to family and friends — are secondary. The real wonder of Christmas is not just that God became human in and through his Son, Jesus Christ, but this Christ, through his Church, continues to be present in our world.

Christmas and the Epiphany challenge us to renew our appreciation of the commitment God has made to us by becoming human/in the person and life of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, God has demonstrated beyond all doubt how much he loves us and shares his life with us. God shares his life with us especially through the Church and the sacraments. In the person and life of Jesus Christ, God has embraced human nature completely and he has become one with it. This is the mystery of Christmas and it remains true for all time and for all God's people everywhere.

The Feast of the Epiphany invites us to consider once again the real meaning of Christmas and to respond accordingly. The Wise Men in presenting Jesus with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh acknowledged him as Savior of all people. The feast invites us to ask: what gift can we present to Jesus that acknowledges him as our Savior?

Surely the most appropriate gift is striving to live a life that imitates his teaching and example. Therefore Epiphany is an ideal time to reflect on the practice of our Christian faith so that during the coming year we will show the world the glory of the Savior who has redeemed us from sin and who gives us life through his Church and the celebration of the sacraments.

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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### THE PASTORAL REPORT

Dear Parishioners,

Every year on the Feast of the Epiphany, I like to give you the Pastoral Report for our parish. This was submitted to Cardinal Dolan and I now wish to share it with you. It covers information from September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020.

We are all aware that this past year was “the Pandemic Year.” The pandemic has changed so much in our lives and that affects our church as it has affected everything else. But I think it is fair to say that St. Theresa Parish has remained strong during this difficult time. Our motto (placed on our Rectory door for all to see) was simply this: “Stay strong, stay safe and pray hard.”

Let me share with you the following information:

**1. Our Church and the Sacraments.** As Catholic people, we know that the sacraments are central to our lives.

Unfortunately for several months (from mid-March to late June) we were not able to have public Masses or the sacraments in church because of the pandemic. Therefore these figures (which usually go from September to August) go from September 2019 to March, 2020 and then from late June 2020 to August 2020) are lower than last year. Thankfully we are now “catching up” with the celebration of Baptisms, weddings, and other ceremonies.

- During the past year, 73 children and 4 adults were baptized.
- 37 children from our school and CCD Program received First Holy Communion. First Communion was originally scheduled for May 2, but this had to be postponed. Fortunately we were able to have two beautiful First Communion Masses on July 18 with proper precautions taken. I commend the children, their teachers and their parents for making the best of this situation.
- Bishop Gerald Walsh, Auxiliary Bishop of New York, confirmed 54 youngsters from our school and CCD Program. Confirmation was scheduled for March 27. Of course that was not possible. But Bishop Walsh was kind enough to offer two Confirmation Masses on October 16, again following all safety precautions for everyone present.
- 7 marriages were solemnized.
- 94 funerals were offered for our departed loved-ones. During the height of the pandemic, we were not able to have Funeral Masses in church. The priest was able to go to the cemetery, with limited family members participating in the burial ceremony. I am happy to report that many of those families have taken up our suggestion to have a proper Memorial Mass for the person who died now that we are able to do so.
- Over 100 persons received the Anointing of the Sick at our Communal Anointing in October 2019.
- In addition to this, of course, there were many confessions and Holy Communions received daily at our two weekday Masses which resumed on June 22.
- We are blessed with parishioners taking part in Eucharistic Adoration on Thursdays after the 12:00:PM Mass and on First Friday evenings at 6PM with the Holy Hour and Benediction.
- As you remember, we were not able to have public Sunday Mass from mid-March to the end of June. We were able to resume Sunday Mass on June 28. Now we have about 500 people who attend our seven weekend Masses. We have designated spaces in church for families and for individuals or couples. I want to thank everyone for their cooperation in sitting in the designated places and for wearing masks. The church benches are sanitized after every Mass..
- Some people (particularly if there is a person in the household with some precondition) are hesitant about returning to church for Mass, even though we believe it is safe to do so. Therefore we have offered the Mass on our church website ([sttheresachurchbronx.org](http://sttheresachurchbronx.org)) for viewing at home. I am edified to hear from parishioners that they watch the Mass together as a family. Of course it is not the same as actually coming to Mass, but we respect each person’s decision regarding their health. Our website was used throughout the pandemic for daily Mass and other devotions, including the Monday Message for Children which is still featured every week.

**2. St. Theresa School and CCD Program**

- Our elementary school is a parish-based school and is the “second home” for 426 children, ranging from 3-Year Old Class to Grade 8. Our principal, Mrs. Fanelli, and her excellent staff of teachers and assistants worked long and hard during the summer to prepare for the opening of school on September 9. Some families have chosen “remote learning” with the children online from home; others have chosen the “hybrid method” where they are in school several days a week and the other days online; and 6th, 7th and 8th Graders are able to come full-time every day because we have converted our gymnasium and cafeteria to accommodate them all with proper social distancing. Every precaution is taken for the safety of our children (temperature checks on arrival; hand sanitizing; sanitizing the building throughout the day and after school and not allowing visitors in the building).
- Our CCD Program on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings, coordinated by Mrs. McCarrick, teaches the faith to 89 children, helping them to grow in Christ. We are happy that we can offer in-person CCD classes for our children and I thank Mrs. McCarrick and our volunteer catechists for making this possible.

**Continued**

- We have a fine adult sacramental program here at St. Theresa's, coordinated by Father Joseph Ligory and Mrs. McCarrick. Usually adults in this program (called RCIA—Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) receive the sacraments at the Easter Vigil Mass. Since that was not possible, Cardinal Dolan directed that the sacraments could be given at a Sunday Mass. Accordingly on Sunday, September 13 three adults received First Communion and Confirmation.. This year's RCIA program began on November 10.
- Our Bible study, usually held on Tuesday evenings by Father Joseph Ligory, was held until the pandemic closed the churches in mid-March. We look forward to resuming Bible study in the near future to help people to grow in love for God's Holy Word.
- Unfortunately during the height of the pandemic we were not able to have many things that are part of the life of our parish and school; Lenten evening Masses and Stations of the Cross; Palm Sunday and the Holy Week ceremonies; Easter; May Crowning ceremony; Home-School events like the Ladies Nights Out and Family Bingos; graduation events. Hopefully we will be able to have these events – and more--this coming year. Pray hard!

**3. Our people, the “life blood” of our parish.,** We are blessed to have faithful parishioners whose devotion to our church and parish has remained strong during this difficult time. I thank all who faithfully continue to support our church and to pay school tuition during these months, even though many families were experiencing much hardship. I thank our teachers who had to do much extra work since mid-March, helping both the children in-person in class and also those online at home. I thank our maintenance men, Joey Antico, Sonny McCord and Nick Obertello for the work that have been doing and continue to do to follow all the procedures that New York State and the Archdiocese direct us to follow for public safety. I thank our Rectory personnel, Cathy Zingaro, Angela Stoyka and Bernadette Donoghue for keeping things going smoothly during this trying time. And of course I thank our priests, Father Edmundo Gomez, Father Joseph Ligory, Father Robert Imbelli and the Salesian Fathers of St. John Bosco and our Deacon Robert Carolan for continuing to serve you, God's people.

Let us remember the feast we celebrate today, the Feast of the Epiphany. The Epiphany celebrates the Magi giving their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the Newborn Savior. Several years ago, our retired Pope Benedict XVI said, “We are all pilgrims in the footsteps of the Magi.” Remember, it was not easy for the Magi. They had to travel long and far to find the Newborn King. It has not been easy for us either during this difficult pandemic time. But like the Magi, we persevered, knowing that the Lord was with us every step of the way. May the Lord continue to help us to be His “modern day Magi” in the months and days ahead. May we all “stay strong, stay safe and pray hard.”

Father Thomas B. Derivan

#### MESSAGE FROM OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of Epiphany in memory of the Magi who went to Bethlehem from the Orient, following the star, in order to visit the newborn Messiah. At the end of the Gospel story, it says that the Magi, “being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, ... departed to their own country by another way” (Mt 2:12). By another way.

After traveling a long time, these wise men from distant lands find the one they wished to meet, after seeking him for so long, undoubtedly through exertion and danger. And when they finally reach their destination, they prostrate before the Child, they praise him and offer him their precious gifts. After that, they resume their journey without delay to return to their lands. But that encounter with the Child has changed them.

The encounter with Jesus does not hold back the Magi. Indeed it instills in them a renewed thrust to return to their countries to recount what they had seen and the joy they had felt. There is a demonstration of God's style in this, of his way of manifesting himself in history. The experience of God does not block us, but frees us. It does not imprison us, but rather puts us back on a journey and delivers us to the familiar places of our lives. The places are and will continue to be the same. However, after the encounter with Jesus, we are no longer the ones we were. The encounter with Jesus changes us, transforms us. The Evangelist Matthew highlights that the Magi returned “by another way” (v. 12). They were led to change their path after the angel's warning, so as not to run into Herod and his network of power.

Each experience of encounter with Jesus leads us to take a different road because from him comes a good power that heals the heart and separates us from evil.

There is a wise dynamic between continuity and newness: the Magi return “to their own country” but “by another way”. This indicates that we are the ones who have to change, to transform our way of living albeit in our everyday environment, to modify our criteria of judgment over the reality that surrounds us. Here lies the difference between the true God and treacherous idols such as money, power, success ... between God and those who promise to give you these idols such as clairvoyants, fortune-tellers, sorcerers. The difference is that idols tie us to them, they make us idol-dependent and they take possession of us.

The true God does not hold us back, nor does he allow himself to be held back by us. He opens paths of newness and freedom because he is the Father who is always with us so that we can grow.

If you encounter Jesus, if you have a spiritual encounter with Jesus, remember you must always return to the same places but by another way, with another style. It is so. It is the Holy Spirit that Jesus gives us that changes our hearts. Let us ask the Blessed Virgin that we may become witnesses of Christ wherever we are, with a new life transformed by his love.



**JANUARY 4TH**  
**ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON**  
**First American-born Saint (†1774-1821)**

In 1774, nearly 100 years after St. Isaac Jogues visited Manhattan – then the Dutch colony of New Amsterdam – a girl named Elizabeth Ann Bayley was born on the island. By the time of her birth, the city was called New York and the American Revolution was two years away.

Elizabeth Ann Bayley did not take the direct route to Catholic sainthood. Born an Episcopalian, she was married in 1794 to William Magee Seton, lived at a fashionable Wall Street address and had five children by the time she was 28 years of age. She was a prominent member of the Trinity Episcopal Church and the treasurer of the Society for the Relief of Poor Widows with Small Children.

In the early 1800s, however, the family's fortunes waned amid political upheavals and economic setbacks. When William's tuberculosis took a turn for the worse, his doctor suggested that Elizabeth should travel with him to Italy, where he died. It was during her mourning for William that friends of the family residing in Italy introduced Elizabeth to Catholicism. Impressed by their kindness and good works, Elizabeth became a convert when she returned to New York the following year. In 1805, she was baptized at St. Peter's Church, then the only Catholic church in New York City.

In the 16 years between her baptism and her death, Mother Seton built a religious career that places her among the most important and influential American Catholics in history. She began by teaching in New York before being invited to start a school for Catholic girls in Emmitsburg, Maryland. There she founded the Sisters of Charity, the first congregation of women religious founded in America, and went on to found a network of Catholic schools in locations around the country – all while raising her five children. The Sisters of Charity were asked to send some sisters to New York City as teachers, which marked the inception of a robust New York congregation of the order. The many institutions created by the Sisters – in the Archdiocese of New York and around the country – include schools, hospitals, children's centers and community-supported farms.

Mother Seton died in 1821 at the age of 46 and was canonized in 1975 by Pope Paul VI. The Sisters of Charity remain a profound force in American Catholicism. Deeply loved by New York Catholics, Seton is memorialized at the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg and at the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Shrine on the site of a home where she lived in lower Manhattan.

(Reprinted from Archways Magazine)



**JANUARY 5TH**  
**ST. JOHN NEPOMUCENE NEUMANN**  
**(1811-1860)**

St. John Nepomucene Neumann was born in Bohemia (now the Czech Republic) in 1811. At the age of 24, in 1835, having attended seminary and as he prepared to complete his studies in theology, Neumann learned that the Catholic Church in Bohemia had declared a moratorium on new ordinations because they had more priests than assignments for them. Determined to become a priest, he set sail for New York, where he arrived with no money and a single suit of clothes. When he arrived, he had no idea whether he would be accepted as a priest by Bishop Dubois of New York because the bishop's letter of acceptance had not reached him before he sailed to America. But when he arrived at the bishop's door, the bishop welcomed him with open arms.

In June 1836, Bishop John Dubois ordained Neumann at St. Patrick's Cathedral (now the Basilica of Old St. Patrick's Cathedral, in SoHo). He assigned the young priest, who spoke eight languages, to minister to German immigrants at the Church of Sts. Peter and Paul in Williamsville, near Buffalo, which at the time was part of the Diocese of New York.

For four years, Neumann rode his large rural parish on horseback, building community, visiting the sick, educating children and training teachers to carry on as catechists in his absence. Then, in 1840, he applied to join the Redemptorist Fathers, was accepted, and moved to Baltimore to study. The first Redemptorist candidate in the Americas, he took his vows with the order in 1842, then served parish assignments in Ohio and Maryland, tirelessly developing religious education and strengthening communities. In 1849 he became the provincial superior for the Redemptorists in the United States, and three years later, he was named bishop of Philadelphia.

With his many languages and understanding of diverse cultures, Neumann was an ideal choice to lead the Church in the so-called City of Brotherly Love, a growing urban region that was attracting Catholic immigrants from all over Europe. It was no easy task, as anti-Catholic and anti-immigrant factions, urged on by organizations like the Know Nothing Party, were rioting regularly against the Germans, Italians and Irish who were streaming into the Philadelphia area. Against this backdrop, Neumann worked to help immigrants find a footing in the city and to establish sound finances for many church communities. More than 90 new churches were built in the diocese under his watch, and nearly 200 parochial schools. He invited European religious orders to establish ministries in Philadelphia, including the School Sisters of Notre Dame, who provided religious instruction in the many new schools, and supported the Oblate Sisters of Providence, an order of African-American women religious. A humble man, he also eschewed material comforts; legend has it that he owned only one pair of shoes during his decades in America.

At the age of 48, in 1860, Bishop Neumann collapsed and died while out walking in Philadelphia. He was canonized by Pope Paul VI in 1977. "His love for people was authentic brotherly love," the pope said in his homily for the occasion. "He was close to the sick; he was at home with the poor; he was a friend to sinners. And today he is the honor of all immigrants."

(Reprinted from Archways Magazine)





THIS WEEK'S ALTAR BREAD IS IN LOVING MEMORY  
OF  
JOSEPHINE & DOMINICK SCARANO  
LOVE, THE RICCO FAMILY



THE SANCTUARY LAMP BURNING NEAR THE  
TABERNACLE THIS WEEK IS IN LOVING MEMORY  
OF  
JOSEPHINE & DOMINICK SCARANO  
LOVE, THE RICCO FAMILY



THE FLOWERS IN FRONT OF THE ALTAR THIS WEEK  
IN MEMORY  
OF  
JOSEPHINE & DOMINICK SCARANO  
LOVE, THE RICCO FAMILY



# MASS INTENTIONS

## SATURDAY JANUARY 2, 2021

5:00PM Margaret Clifford

## SUNDAY JANUARY 3, 2021

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

9:00AM Olga Salati

10:30AM Antonietta Golia

12:15PM Michael Granieli

1:30PM Rosalba Gomez

5:00PM Vevette Samuels & Huldah Gordon

## MONDAY JANUARY 4, 2021

8:00AM Raquel Montijo

9:00AM Fr. James Flanagan

## TUESDAY JANUARY 5, 2021

8:00AM Eileen Brady

9:00AM Charles H. Taylor

## WEDNESDAY JANUARY 6, 2021

8:00AM Margaret Clifford

9:00AM Angelo & Maria Pozzuto

## THURSDAY JANUARY 7, 2021

8:00AM Michelina Gagliardo

9:00AM Emilia Massagli

12NOON Fr. Tom D'Angelo

## FRIDAY JANUARY 8, 2021

8:00AM Marie Sansalone

9:00AM Terence Lorino

## SATURDAY JANUARY 9, 2021

8:00AM Mary Cea

9:00AM Betty LoCicero

5:00PM Thomas Vlahos

## SUNDAY JANUARY 10, 2021

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

9:00AM Josephine Crusco

10:30AM June Ricci

12:15PM Flora Ferrante

1:30PM Rosalba Gomez

5:00PM Fr. Charles Szivos

### **THANK YOU FOR OUR CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS**

We thank you, our parishioners, for making this year's celebration of Christmas beautiful, as always. Despite the fact that this was "the pandemic Christmas," with all the restrictions and precautions we had to take, still the joy of our Infant Savior shined through, bringing us hope as we go on serving the Lord and helping one another, as the Lord calls us to do.

We thank our Music Director Nadia Papayani for helping us to celebrate our Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. We thank our ushers and the young men who are our greeters and our faithful maintenance staff for helping people to be able to come to church safely, taking the proper precautions. We thank our altar servers and lectors for their faithful help.

Things were different this year, of course. We were not able to have our traditional Nativity Pageant usually given by the children at the Christmas Eve Mass. Of course, as those of you who came to Mass on Christmas Eve know, we had to change our Christmas Eve Mass schedule and distribute tickets so that we did not exceed the number of people we are permitted to have in church. I thank all of you for cooperating with this. Your cooperation not only at Christmas time but every Sunday is wonderful and we thank you for it.

Of course we thank you for your support of our church with your Christmas donation. Your generosity keeps us going. God bless you for your faithfulness to St. Theresa Parish.

Let us pray for the New Year ahead. Please God, with the help of all in the medical profession, there will be a light at the end of the "CoVid tunnel." Keep that intention in your special prayers. Doctors and scientists can do their part. We can do our part, by taking proper precautions and by praying hard. As we have said throughout these difficult months, "Stay strong. Stay safe. And pray hard."

God bless you and your family for a healthy and happy New Year.

Father Thomas B. Derivan

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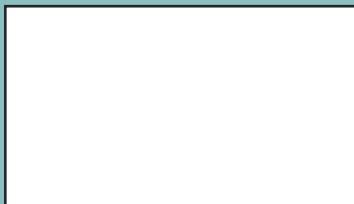
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