

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"



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

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Nadia Papayani, Dir. of Music

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E-MAIL: rectorystc@aol.com

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

CHURCH OF ST. THERESA, BRONX

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER DERIVAN

How very simply St. Mark gives us the gospel scene today. It is the scene of the calling of the first apostles, a scene that would change the world. There is no drama here, no trumpets blaring, no crowds cheering. There is just Jesus and these fisherman, Jesus calling them to come and follow Him. The gospel says, “Jesus said to them, ‘Come after me and I will make you fishers of men.’” Then they abandoned their nets and followed Him. There are two amazing things here—first, of course, Jesus calling these fisherman to follow Him, but second, even more amazingly, the fact that they immediately obey Him, asking no questions, demanding no explanation of what following Him would entail. There is just Jesus’ calling and the fisherman becoming apostles by dropping their fishing nets, their old way of life, and beginning a new way of life by following Him.

We could say that our gospel today features the Lord Jesus getting down to business, the business for which He was born in Bethlehem, the business which would lead Him to die on the Cross for us, the business that explains why He came to us. It is the business of Jesus calling and our following. Our Lord came to this earth to call us—yes, to call the apostles, but also to call every one of us. And that call involves changing ourselves. It involves our dropping our nets, whatever our nets may be, even as the first apostles did. Really following Jesus means being ready to change ourselves, making the decision to really follow Jesus and His way of life, not just by word but by action, not just by what we say we believe, but by how we live what we believe. If we are to follow Jesus, it cannot be just “business as usual” for us. We must resolve to be people of two absolutely necessary things—prayer and action. First, prayer—if we really want to follow Jesus, we must know Him and the only way we can know Him is by praying to Him, spending the time each day just between Christ and you, putting your life in His hands, all your cares and worries and heartaches and pains. We must be people of real prayer—for only if we pray to Jesus can we really know Him and love Him, and only then can we follow Him.

And then there is the other absolutely necessary feature of being a follower of Jesus—prayer is only Step 1; action is Step 2. Christian action is living the call of Jesus by what you good people do each day, raising your families, listening to those who need you, helping your neighbor, visiting the sick, going out of your way to think of others, not ourselves. Jesus does not want just our words, even our prayers; He wants our action, He wants our love. As St. Mother Teresa said, “God does not want great things, but He does want great love.”

Three years ago, our country was blessed with another American being declared Blessed, the final step before his becoming our next American saint. Most people do not know about Blessed Stanley Rother, though his story tells us about what following Jesus is all about. Stanley grew up on a farm in Oklahoma. In prayer he heard God’s call to follow Him as a priest and, despite the fact that he had trouble with his studies, he persevered and was ordained as a priest. After serving his diocese in Oklahoma, he accepted the task of staffing a mission that his diocese sponsored in Guatemala in Central America. He served his people there for thirteen years and was dearly loved by the Guatemalan people. At that time there was much civil unrest in that country. Father Rother defended the rights of his people, despite threats against his life. Certainly he heard the call of Jesus to follow Him, first through prayer and then through action, even though he knew that could mean the loss of his life. And it did. On July 28, 1981 three masked men entered Father Rother’s rectory and shot him to death. Father Rother was a symbol of a person who, like the apostles, was willing to give everything, even his life to Jesus. Pope Francis declared Stanley Rother a martyr and on September 23, 2017 in his home diocese of Oklahoma City he was declared blessed, the final step before his being declared a saint.

We are not called to the same sacrifice that Blessed Stanley Rother was called to. But we are called, in our own way of life, to follow Jesus faithfully through prayer and action. May the example of Blessed Stanley Rother encourage us to follow Jesus ever more faithfully, and may we always be ready to hear His call, the call heard by the apostles, the call heard by Blessed Stanley, the call we must all hear every day, “Come and follow me.”

Father Thomas B. Derivan

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

As you can imagine, the current crisis has affected our parish just as it has affected your family. Despite the hardship, we ask you to continue to help St. Theresa’s Church. We thank those who have dropped off their weekly envelopes at Mass or mailed them or brought to the rectory. We are asking everyone to continue to do so. Because there are fewer people able to come to Sunday Mass, we are even more grateful to you for making the extra sacrifice that so many of you have made.

Please consider the following:

1. As you know, since the reopening of churches at the end of June, we are not able to use our regular collection baskets for safety reasons. We have tried different methods of collecting offerings over the past several months, to assure safety. At the suggestion of the Police Department we are placing collection baskets in **front of the church** where you can place your Sunday envelope or other contribution either before or after Mass. There are **baskets on the altar rail** where you can place your offering or you may place it directly in the **brown collection boxes** that are marked “Sunday Church Envelopes” which are on either side of the Sanctuary (one by the shrine of Our Blessed Mother and the other by the shrine of St. Joseph). The collection baskets are deposited in the collection boxes after each Mass.
2. Many parishioners have chosen to make their contributions online. If you wish to do so, please consult our parish website (www.sttheresachurchbronx.org) and go to the section marked “**Parish Giving.**”
3. Most importantly, thank you for your continued help to our parish. Your generosity helps us, particularly during this difficult time. Thank you for your continued help to St. Theresa’s Church.

JOINING SPIRITUALLY IN THE MARCH FOR LIFE

The annual March for Life takes place this Friday, January 29 in Washington . This March is the annual demonstration to promote respect for all human life, particularly the life of the unborn. You are invited to join in this March spiritually by offering this prayer, written by Pope St. John Paul I in his encyclical "The Gospel of Life:"

POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II's PRAYER FOR LIFE

O Mary, bright dawn of the new world,
Mother of the living,
to you do we entrust the cause of life:
Look down, O Mother, upon the vast numbers
of babies to be born,
of the poor whose lives are made difficult,
of men and women who are victims of brutal violence,
of the elderly and the sick killed
by indifference or out of misguided mercy.
Grant that all who believe in your Son
may proclaim the Gospel of life
with honesty and love to the people of our time.
Obtain for them the grace
to accept that Gospel as a gift ever new,
the joy of celebrating it with gratitude
throughout their lives
and the courage to bear witness to it resolutely,
in order to build,
together with all people of good will,
the civilization of truth and love,
to the praise and glory of God,
the Creator and lover of life. Amen!

THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON OF AMERICAN HISTORY by Martin Reiser:

In the modern world, virtually everyone everywhere condemns slavery. Yet, it is not long ago in our nation's history that this was not the case and human beings were deprived of their "inalienable rights" including the rights to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

This provides the most important lesson of American history and the continuing battle against contemporary forms of slavery and exploitation. First, we must oppose all forms of modern relativism, which attempt to establish "no absolutes." If a practice (such as slavery) is morally wrong, it is wrong and unacceptable under all conditions in any society. In other words, a moral evil does not become good simply because sociological or political views might change, or even if it is the prevailing law at a particular time.

Slavery is just one offence against human dignity. Today, abortion is the most heinous and extensive violation of human rights.

Abortion like slavery refuses to recognize the fact that a human being is precisely that, a human being and instead, reduces human beings to "things" or chattels. The moral of the story is that we must always vigorously oppose any measure which undermines the dignity of any human being and reduces them to the status of means rather than ends.

This is precisely what abortion-on-demand and the culture of death does and why it is so vitally important that we work unceasingly to oppose it!

For excellent articles on the sanctity of life, consult:

www.pro-lifearticles.org

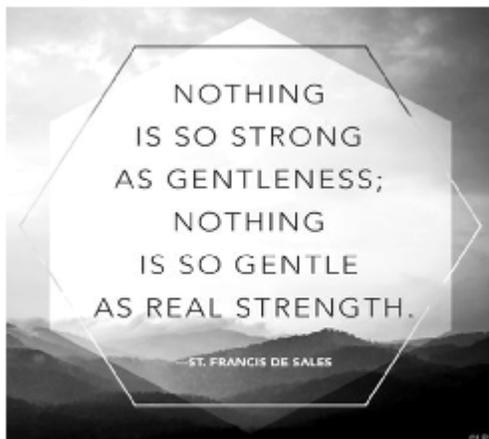
FREE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Riverside Language Program, New York City's top non-profit language school, offers free, full-time English classes to immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers currently living in New York.

Riverside Language Program has worked with more than 40,000 newly arrived immigrants since 1979 when the school opened. This unique program is rated in the top 5% of all New York State adult education programs and 85% of our students achieve measurable gains after six weeks of instruction, five hours a day. A video of the program is available online <https://vimeo.com/235750982>.

These classes are now remote and very easy to access from all boroughs—Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan, Staten Island, and the Bronx. The next cycle of free classes begins January 29. Potential students are asked to contact the school info@riversidelanguage.org.

More information is available online: <https://www.riversidelanguage.org>. and by calling 212-662-3200.



We are trying to update our parish Sick List. Please look at the list on the last page and let us know if there should be any changes made. Should anyone be taken off or would you like someone put on the list?

It has been awhile seen we have updated the list so we would like to make sure it is right.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Please call the Rectory with your request. 718-892-1900

MESSAGE OF OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS FOR THIS SUNDAY

The Gospel today presents to us the beginning of Jesus' preaching ministry in Galilee. St Mark stresses that Jesus began to preach "after John [the Baptist] was arrested" (1:14). Precisely at the moment in which the prophetic voice of the Baptist, who proclaimed the coming of the Kingdom of God, was silenced by Herod, Jesus begins to travel the roads of his land to bring to all, especially the poor, "the gospel of God" (cf. *ibid.*). The proclamation of Jesus is like that of John, with the essential difference that Jesus no longer points to another who must come: Jesus is Himself the fulfillment of those promises; He Himself is the "good news" to believe in, to receive and to communicate to all men and women of every time that they too may entrust their life to Him. Jesus Christ in his person is the Word living and working in history: whoever hears and follows Him may enter the Kingdom of God.

Jesus is the fulfillment of divine promises for He is the One who gives to man the Holy Spirit, the "living water" that quenches our restless heart, thirsting for life, love, freedom and peace: thirsting for God. How often do we feel, or have we felt that thirst in our hearts! He Himself revealed it to the Samaritan woman, whom he met at Jacob's well to whom he says: "Give me a drink" (Jn 4:7).

God, in becoming man, made our thirst his own, a thirst not only for water itself, but especially for a full life, a life free from the slavery of evil and death. At the same time by his Incarnation God placed his own thirst — because God too thirsts — in the heart of a man: Jesus of Nazareth. God thirsts for us, for our hearts, for our love, and placed this thirst in the heart of Jesus. Therefore, human and divine thirst meet in Christ's heart. And His disciples' desire for unity is part of this thirst. We find it expressed in the prayer raised to the Father before the Passion: "That they may all be one" (Jn 17:21). That is what Jesus wanted: the unity of all! The devil — we know — is the father of division, the one who always divides, always makes war, does so much evil.

May Jesus' thirst become ever more our own thirst! Let us continue, therefore to pray and commit ourselves to the full unity of the disciples of Christ, in the certainty that He Himself is at our side and sustains us by the power of his Spirit so that we may bring this goal closer. And let us entrust this our prayer to the motherly intercession of the Virgin Mary, Mother of Christ and Mother of the Church, that she may unite us all like a good mother.

Angelus Address, January 25, 2015

UNTOLD RICHES HIDDEN IN JUST ONE BOOK

Pope Francis declared the third Sunday in Ordinary Time the "Sunday of the Word of God." In his Apostolic letter, Pope Francis described it as "the celebration, study and dissemination of the word of God." In other words, a day dedicated to the Bible. Pope Francis in proclaiming this day said it would help the Church, "experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world."

For many of us our experience with the Bible is limited to Mass. Even if we go to daily Mass, though, we only experience the Bible in a partial way, instead of in its total glory and beauty. In his declaration, Pope Francis pointed to the unifying force of the Bible and the comfort in a harsh world the readings can give. He talked of the book of Nehemiah and its depiction of the people assembling in Jerusalem after their return from exile.

"The people lent 'attentive ears' (Neh. 8:3) to the reading of the sacred book realizing that in its words they would discover the meaning of their lived experience. The reaction to the proclamation was one of great emotion and tears."

In this example where scripture brings a nation together, Pope Francis and other church leaders hope the Sunday of the Word will spark renewed interest in the everyday reading of the Bible.

"At times there can be a tendency to monopolize the sacred text by restricting it to certain circles or select groups. It cannot be that way. The Bible is the book for the Lord's people, who listening to it move from dispersion and division towards unity."

The good news for all the faithful is that there are so many ways to encounter the Bible. Summer vacation is a perfect time to take a hard copy or listen to an audio copy or even download an app that allows you to read on your phone. The Word of the Lord, the healing words of scripture can translate a summer trip into a life changing event. And continue to read after the trip is over, well into the fall. The Bible is so available, make it a priority this year to welcome its presence and grace.

(From Franciscan Mission Associates)

A NOTE ON SAFETY PROCEDURES IN OUR CHURCH

We want you to know that, during these months of the pandemic, we are making every effort to assure that our church is safe.

- As you know, our church is regularly sanitized before and after our Masses with proper disinfectant to prevent the spread of the Co-Vid virus.
- Face-masks are mandatory for anyone entering the church.
- Hand-sanitizer is available in the vestibule.
- We continue to ask you to sit in the proper places in church, marked for social distancing.
- We want you to know that we follow the same protocols in our school, to keep our children, teachers and staff safe and healthy.

We are proud to say that our parishioners have been most diligent in observing these procedures. We congratulate you on that and we ask you to keep it up. With God's help and with your cooperation, we will prevail and we will continue to keep "St. Theresa Strong."



JANUARY 23
SAINT MARIANNE COPE
 Virgin († 1918)

Marianne was an infant when her family left their native Germany for Utica, New York. After eighth grade she went to work to help support her family. At twenty-four she was able to follow the desire of her heart and entered the Sisters of Saint Francis in Syracuse.

A gifted organizer, Marianne rose quickly to become administrator of Saint Joseph's Hospital. She had a heart for everyone, even the alcoholics who were not welcome anywhere else. In 1883, she received a letter from Hawaii begging for help with the victims of leprosy (Hansen's disease). The Hawaiian government had quarantined the lepers, but fear of the then-incurable, disfiguring disease deterred almost everyone from serving them. Not Marianne. "I am hungry for the work," She declared. "I do not fear disease."

She and six other sisters went to the island. They were given a hospital in Oahu and established another in Maui. In 1886, Marianne received future saint Father Damien de Veuster, who himself had become a leper and was shunned by other clergy. When the lepers were routed to the isolated peninsula of Molokai, Marianne went with them. She tended to Father Damien as he lay dying and assumed the leadership of the children in his boys' home after his death. Marianne spent her remaining thirty years on Molokai. She died of a heart attack, never having contracted leprosy.

Father of mercies, through the intercession of Saint Marianne Cope, make me one who says "yes" even when others say "no".



JANUARY 24
SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES
 Bishop and Doctor († 1622)

Francis was born in his family's castle at Thorens, Savoy, and sent by his father, a minor nobleman, to study in Paris and Padua. He completed a law degree, but then decided to study for the priesthood. In 1593, Francis was ordained for the Diocese of Geneva and sent to the mountainous Chablais region, where sixty thousand inhabitants were Calvinists.

Francis traveled through the region, preaching where he could and in other places hanging up "tracts," that is, simple notices explaining the Catholic position on different theological points. After two years, he had but two hundred converts. But his moderate approach, constant good cheer, and obvious dependence on God's mercy had begun to capture hearts. After two more years, two-thirds of the population had come into the Church. Francis had proven his own motto: "He who preaches with love, preaches effectively."

In 1602, Francis was made the Bishop of Geneva, a large diocese in need of an overhaul. Her prioritized preaching, the catechesis of young people, and the education of clergy. He kept up a vast correspondence, sometimes writing twenty to thirty letters a day. He wrote the *Introduction to the Devout Life*, encouraging everyday holiness, and the *Treatise on the Love of God*.

Francis founded the Order of the Visitation with Saint Jane Frances de Chantal in 1604. He is the patron of writers.

Loving Father, through the intercession of St. Francis de Sales, help me to see your mercy present and active in all circumstances.

THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH



We remind you that our Holy Father Pope Francis has declared a special "Year of St. Joseph" from December 2020 to December 2021, to ask for the intercession of St. Joseph to guide us in our daily lives as we try to respond to God's will as faithfully as he did. The Pope gave us a prayer for this Year of Joseph. We recite it on Wednesdays at daily Mass:

PRAYER FOR THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

Good St. Joseph, Guardian of the Redeemer,
 Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
 To you God entrusted his only Son;
 In you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father
 And guide us in the path of life.
 Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
 and defend us from every evil.

Good St. Joseph, pray for us. Amen



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED
MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH AND THEIR FAMILIES
ANNA ARCURI, RODOLFO RODRIGUEZ
&
LOIS DAVIS

BEING PRO-LIFE, NOT JUST SAYING WE ARE

A sad event happened at St. Patrick’s Cathedral on New Year’s Day. Graffiti insulting both the Catholic Church and the New York City Police officers defiled the side of the Cathedral. This was a repeat of an earlier incident several months ago. All New Yorkers—Catholic and non-Catholic—have joined in protest against such an affront to the Catholic Church which has helped so many New Yorkers especially in these difficult times.

This was the occasion of a strong article by His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan in the New York Post on January 4. The Cardinal used this terrible incident to make an important point concerning the dignity of all human life and the great efforts the Church in New York is taking to promote the dignity of all human life, not just by words but by actions.

The Cardinal wrote: “The cathedral, in a towering way, professes that all life matters, as we are all made in God’s image and likeness. This is more than mere lip service, as we help thousands of black and minority children leave poverty through our acclaimed inner-city schools; as we present minority women the choice of birth for their preborn babies, rather than continue the genocide of unfettered abortion; as we provide ongoing support after birth for both mother and child; as we concentrate on feeding the poor, drug-addiction recovery, assistance to those on parole and health care through our Catholic Charities and Archcare; as we bring the gift of the Sacraments and true community and sustenance to dozens of vibrant but financially struggling parishes in our most challenged areas.”

The Cardinal’s point is so clear. It is not enough just to say that we are pro-life. Those words are easy. What is more important is showing that we are pro-life, acting on behalf of life issues, and putting ourselves on the line, both with our words and our financial support, to promote the programs that the Cardinal mentions, programs that support life at all its stages, born and unborn, healthy and sick, people who enjoy a “normal” life and those who do not because of addiction, poverty, or other difficult circumstances.

You can be proud of the record of pro-life services promoted by the Church in New York. You are part of that record as you support the **Cardinal’s Appeal** which makes these programs possible. We thank you for what you have done. We ask your continued help in this year’s Appeal—to **be** pro-life, not just to **say** that we are.

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



SATURDAY JANUARY 23, 2021

5:00PM Fay, Anthony, Tony & Jeanie Landi

SUNDAY JANUARY 24, 2021

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

9:00AM June Ricci

10:30AM Benedetto Salanitro

12:15PM Lorenzo Albanese

1:30PM Rosalba Gomez

5:00PM Msgr. Mario Ponsiglione

MONDAY JANUARY 25, 2021

8:00AM Peter & Peter Jr. Bastone

9:00AM Salvatore Mancuso

TUESDAY JANUARY 26, 2021

8:00AM Marissa Nicole Maimone

9:00AM Dino Salati

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 27, 2021

8:00AM Taryn Zingaro-Fisher

9:00AM Mary Poidomani

THURSDAY JANUARY 28, 2021

8:00AM Gregory Fucci

9:00AM Marie Sansalone

12NOON Lena Gaetano

FRIDAY JANUARY 29, 2021

8:00AM Theresa Rose LaBreglio

9:00AM Luigi Fata

SATURDAY JANUARY 30, 2021

8:00AM Fr. Tom D’Angelo

9:00AM Patricia Rella

5:00PM Herminia Marte

SUNDAY JANUARY 31, 2021

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

9:00AM Msgr. John Guido

10:30AM Joanne Barton

12:15PM Sean Brady

1:30PM Luis Antonino Medina Jr.

5:00PM Msgr. Neil Graham

PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH:

Maryann Cale Bannan, Kenny Brisco,
Nancy Cardone, Elaine Reiss Cina, Joseph Cina,
Phyllis Caruso, Pasqua Del Prete, Marie DiPolo, Thomas Egan,
Frank Ferrara, Rita Ferrara, Daley Gribbon, Ita Griffin,
Sean Howell, William Keenan, Sal Lanza, Frank Maiorana,
Maryann Maiorana, Diane Martino, Joe Martino,
Theresa Martino, Patrick & Jimmy McCoy,
Antonia Maria Melendez, Isabelle O’Brien,
Marie Petillo, Joseph Pisano, Camille Siciliano,
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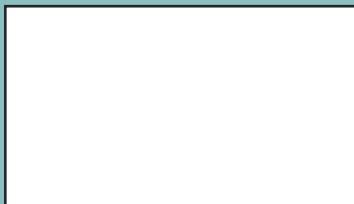
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