

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"



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

RECTORY: 718-892-1900/1901
FAX: 718-892-1146

WEBSITE: www.sttheresachurchbronx.org
E-MAIL: rectorystc@aol.com

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

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER DERIVAN

During the past several weeks, as you will remember, we have been listening to the 6th chapter of the gospel of St. John, some of the most beautiful words of the Scripture. It is called Our Lord's Discourse or Sermon on the Eucharist, as He prepares the people for the great mystery in which He changes bread and wine into His Body and Blood, as He first would do at the Last Supper and as He continues to do every time we come to Mass. Let us try to put ourselves in the gospel scene, picturing ourselves with the great crowd of people who gathered to hear the teaching of Jesus. He has told them that He is the bread of life, the bread come down from heaven. If that was all they listened to, they could have thought that Jesus was simply using an image about Himself, using bread as a symbol of Himself. But as He goes on, there is something more, something different, something that He would celebrate at the Last Supper and which we celebrate every Sunday at Mass, "The Bread that I will give is my flesh, my Body, for the life of the world," which foreshadows the words that He used at the Last Supper, "This is my Body which will be given up for you."

If we were in the crowd that day what would have been our reaction? The gospel says the people who heard Him murmured, "How can this man give us His flesh to eat?" If we were there, would we have reacted the same way?" We hopefully would not. Hopefully we would have received Jesus' words with great joy. Hopefully we would have thanked Him for giving us the gift of Himself, not just a symbol of Himself, but His very Self, His own Body and Blood to be our food and life. I remember seeing in a dining hall this beautiful sentence, "Let us remember that it was in a room like this that Our Lord gave us His most precious gift, the Holy Eucharist."

One of the big problems in the Church today is that many people do not really understand the Holy Eucharist. Yes, they know the doctrine of the Holy Eucharist. They know that every Mass is "another Last Supper" and the bread and wine that is offered at the altar, is consecrated by God's wonderful power by the priest and becomes the Body and Blood of Jesus. That is the doctrine they were taught, in many cases years ago, when they prepared for First Holy Communion. But sadly for many people that just does not "sink in." They think it is just bread, sometimes saying, for instance, "I received the bread at Mass today." Many people treat Holy Communion as simply bread or a symbol of Jesus and they fail to remember His words at the Last Supper, words He says every time we come to Mass, "This is my Body."

That is one problem. But there is the other problem, shall we call it, the "love problem." It is one thing to know about the Eucharist, to know what Holy Communion is, the Body of Christ, but it is another thing to let the power of the Eucharist touch us, guide us, change us. And that power is the power of Jesus' love, the same love He poured out for us on the Cross. We have to admit that sometimes because we receive Holy Communion so often, we forget the "love part." Just as married couples have to repeat to one another the simple words "I love you," we must do the same to Our Lord in Holy Communion. After all, Holy Communion is the sacrament of love. It is Jesus lovingly giving Himself to us and inviting us to give our love back to Him. If people really understood the power of the Eucharist, the power that is Jesus' love, then that itself would draw them here, as you good people do, Sunday after Sunday. The late Archbishop Fulton Sheen said that people spend thousands of dollars to go to places to enjoy the sun. Right here before us we have a greater sunlight, the powerful sunlight of Jesus Himself in Holy Communion.

Let us resolve today to try to appreciate the Eucharist more. Let us resolve to love the Eucharist more, to let Jesus' love from the Eucharist empower our lives. Let me share with you a story about the power of the Eucharist. During World War II, in the concentration camp of Dachau, thousands of innocent people, Christians and Jews, suffered from the Nazi atrocities. Among them were hundreds Catholic priests. They were imprisoned for their faith, but they held on strongly to that faith. One of them explained how. Somehow they smuggled bread and a bit of wine into a cell where they would gather. One of the priests would then recite from memory the prayers of the Mass, knowing that if they were discovered, they would be put to death. But they said the Mass because they needed the power of the Holy Eucharist. One of them said, "Perhaps we missed some of the prayers of the liturgy, but I think the Lord Jesus was particularly pleased with our prison Mass." Nothing, he said, nothing could keep them from being there at Mass and receiving Our Lord in Holy Communion.

What gave those prison priests the power to go on, to help countless others in their suffering? Their answer was this: Holy Communion was their power, Jesus Himself strengthening them with His love. May we feel that same power, and that same love and may we welcome Jesus' words, words we hear every time we come to Mass, "This is my Body which will be given up for you."

Father Thomas B. Derivan



AUGUST 14
SAINT MAXIMILIAN KOLBE
Priest & Martyr († 1941)

Raimund was the son of a poor Polish weaver. At the age of ten, his frustrated mother confronted him one day: "Raimund, what will become of you?" The startled boy retreated to prayer, and the Blessed Virgin appeared to him holding a red martyr's crown and a white crown of purity. "I choose them both," he told her.

Raimund joined the Franciscans as Maximilian and went to study in Rome, where he formed the idea of a "Militia of the Immaculata," a movement to bring the world to Christ through consecration to Mary. In 1927, he founded Miepokalanow, the "City of the Immaculata," in his native Poland. Hundreds of friars joined him there in a high-tech Marian print apostolate that reached up to a million people.

In 1941, Maximilian was arrested by the Nazis and sent to the Auschwitz concentration camp. He shocked the camp leaders by offering to take the place of a father of two children who had been sentenced to the starvation bunker. Maximilian transformed the concrete hole into an oratory, leading the dying men in hymns and prayers to the Virgin. He died on August 14, the vigil of the Feast of the Assumption, by lethal injection. "Hate is not a creative force," he once wrote. "Only love is creative. These sufferings...are necessary...so that those who come after us may be happy." *Compassionate Father, through the intercession of St. Maximilian Kolbe, teach me to look, in hope, beyond today's sufferings to the time when my sacrifices bear fruit.*

MESSAGE OF OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS FOR THIS SUNDAY

This Sunday, we continue the Reading of Chapter Six of the Gospel according to John, in which Jesus, after performing the great miracle of the multiplication of the loaves, explains to the people the meaning of that “sign” (Jn 6:41-51).

As he had done earlier with the Samaritan woman, starting from the experience of thirst and the sign of water, here Jesus begins from the experience of hunger and the sign of bread, to reveal himself and to offer an invitation to believe in him.

The people seek him, the people listen to him, because they are still enthusiastic about the miracle; they want to make him king! However, when Jesus affirms that he is the true bread given by God, many are shocked, they do not understand, and begin murmuring among themselves, saying: “Do we not know his father and mother? How does he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven?’” And they begin to murmur. Then Jesus says, “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him”, and he adds: “he who believes has eternal life.”

This word of the Lord astonishes us, and makes us think. It introduces the dynamic of faith, which is a relationship: the relationship between the human person — all of us — and the Person of Jesus, where the Father plays a decisive role, and, of course, the Holy Spirit does too, which is implied here. To believe in Him, it is not enough to meet Jesus, it is not enough to read the Bible, the Gospel — this is important! But it is not enough. It is not even enough to witness a miracle, such as that of the multiplication of the loaves. So many people were in close contact with Jesus and they did not believe. In fact, they even despised and condemned him. And I ask myself: Why this? Were they not attracted by the Father? No, this happened because their hearts were closed to the action of God’s Spirit. If your heart is always closed, faith doesn’t enter! Instead God the Father draws us to Jesus: it is we who open or close our hearts. Instead, faith, which is like a seed deep in the heart, blossoms when we let the Father draw us to Jesus, and we “go to Him” with an open heart, without prejudices; then we recognize in his face the Face of God, and in his words the Word of God, because the Holy Spirit has made us enter into the relationship of love and of life between Jesus and God the Father. And there we receive a gift, the gift of the faith.

With this attitude of faith, we can also understand the meaning of the “Bread of Life” that Jesus gives us, and which he describes in this way: “I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live for ever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh” (Jn 6:51). In Jesus, in his “flesh” — that is, in his concrete humanity — is all the love of God, which is the Holy Spirit. Those who let themselves be drawn by this love go to Jesus and go with faith, and receive from Him life, eternal life.

The one who lived this experience in such an exemplary way was Mary, the Virgin of Nazareth: the first human person who believed in God by accepting the flesh of Jesus. Let us learn from her, our Mother, joy and gratitude through the gift of faith. A gift that is not “private”, a gift that is not private property but is a gift to be shared: it is a gift “for the life of the world”!

Angelus Address, August 9, 2015

CCD (Religion Class) REGISTRATION
(Religion Classes for children who attend public school)



Applications are now being accepted for classes which begin in September 2021. Sunday classes: Grade 1, 2, 3 and Communion Class-9:00AM. Wednesday evening classes: Grades 4,5,6,7 (Confirmation Class)-7:00PM.

HOW TO APPLY Pick up an application in the Rectory Office or download applications from the St. Theresa Church website: www.sttheresachurchbronx.org
Applications are available both in English and in Spanish.

SACRAMENT CLASSES FOR CHILDREN

Students must complete 2 consecutive years of CCD classes to be eligible to receive sacraments. Elementary school children who have not been baptized must attend CCD prior to receiving Baptism.

For additional information contact Mrs. McCarrick, CCD Coordinator, at sainttheresa.religioused@gmail.com

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For those who wish to complete the sacraments or become a Catholic, the Church has the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA), which is the formal title for the whole process of preparing adults for entrance into the Catholic Church.

The RCIA program prepares men and women to receive the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Each year we welcome new members into our Catholic faith and the ceremony is celebrated at our Easter Vigil Mass.

For one reason or another, sometimes people were not able to receive First Communion or Confirmation or even Baptism. We are here to help. The Lord wants it that way! Our parish is happy to offer you the support necessary to be initiated into full communion with the Catholic Church and receive the sacraments.

If you are thinking of entering more fully into the Catholic Church, pray about it and let the Lord do the rest. Please pass this information on to some other person whom you may know who may benefit from it. You may wish to contact Mrs. Marie McCarrick, our Religious Education coordinator, at sainttheresa.religioused@gmail.com for further information and enrollment. God bless you!

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH



As you know our Holy Father Pope Francis has declared a special YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH, extending from last December 2020 to December, 2021. During these summer weeks we are presenting in our bulletin some of the words of Pope Francis from his Apostolic Letter Patris Corde (With a Father's Love) announcing the Year of St. Joseph and explaining why St. Joseph is so important for us all. May St. Joseph help us to come ever closer to Jesus Our Lord.

In his letter, Pope Francis emphasizes the fatherhood of St. Joseph. In this excerpt he calls St. Joseph: A WORKING FATHER

An aspect of Saint Joseph that has been emphasized from the time of Pope Leo XIII is his relation to work. Saint Joseph was a carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family. From him, Jesus learned the value, the dignity and the joy of what it means to eat bread that is the fruit of one's own labor.

In our own day, when employment has once more become a burning social issue, and unemployment at times reaches record levels even in nations that for decades have enjoyed a certain degree of prosperity, there is a renewed need to appreciate the importance of dignified work, of which Saint Joseph is an exemplary patron.

Work is a means of participating in the work of salvation, an opportunity to hasten the coming of the Kingdom, to develop our talents and abilities, and to put them at the service of society and fraternal communion. It becomes an opportunity for the fulfillment not only of oneself, but also of that primary cell of society which is the family. A family without work is particularly vulnerable to difficulties, tensions, estrangement and even break-up. How can we speak of human dignity without working to ensure that everyone is able to earn a decent living?

Working persons, whatever their job may be, are cooperating with God himself, and in some way become creators of the world around us. The crisis of our time, which is economic, social, cultural and spiritual, can serve as a summons for all of us to rediscover the value, the importance and necessity of work for bringing about a new "normal" from which no one is excluded. Saint Joseph's work reminds us that God himself, in becoming man, did not disdain work. The loss of employment that affects so many of our brothers and sisters, and has increased as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, should serve as a summons to review our priorities.

Let us implore Saint Joseph the Worker to help us find ways to express our firm conviction that no young person, no person at all, no family should be without work!

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.**

BACK-TO-SCHOOL BOOKBAG GIVEAWAY



A Back-to School Bookbag Giveaway, sponsored by Catholic Charities community Services and Councilman Mark Gjonaj, will be held outside of Councilman Gjonaj's office at 1478 Williamsbridge Road on Tuesday, August 10 from 12 Noon to 5PM. For more information, contact 718-931-1721.

WELCOME TO FATHER PERGJINI



We are happy to welcome Father Nikolin Pergjini, the new pastor of St. Benedict's Church. Father is not stranger to the East Bronx, having served as pastor of St. Lucy's Church. He is a classmate of our own Father Charles Szivos and they were ordained together in 1999. Welcome, Father Pergjini. We are blessed to have you with us again! And we assure you of our prayers.

“EVERYONE IS WOUNDED”

The Stigmata, the marks of the Cross in the hands, feet and side, have been given to a few followers of Christ over the centuries since that first Good Friday. In 1224, St. Francis of Assisi was meditating on Jesus’ passion when he emerged from his vision of the wounded Christ on the Cross. St. Francis was “favored” with the five wounds of Christ and exhibited them to astonished friends.

But isn’t it odd that we say favored when this is a wound? Isn’t it odd we think of pain and tribulation as “marks of God’s favor?” The answer is no, it is not odd. For it is through suffering often that we gain the humility and sight that we are not alone. Because such things draw us closer to rely only on God and not ourselves. How often do we allow our suffering to draw us away from God and from others? We take our pain, mental or physical, and blame others, or blame ourselves. We don’t use the pain to reach out to God who is waiting for us. In looking outward, we also grow in humility, realizing we are not alone in our suffering. And often the pain we feel is minimal in relation to so many others. In seeking to follow Christ we must listen to the pain of others. We must work to understand it and truly embrace it as our own.

In a recent address Pope Francis reminded Christians that everyone is wounded. “The Lord’s stigmata, the Lord’s wounds—this is the door from which mercy comes.” He went on to say that only when we are aware of our wounds that “we are brought to knock at the door of mercy.” By understanding our own wounds as sinners, we can draw closer to God. “A ‘wounded’ sinner finds forgiveness, peace and consolation only in the wounds of the Lord, nowhere else.”

During this summer spend some time focusing on your own wounds, or ones you have inflicted on others, ones that pull you away from God that create a gulf. Pray over it, ask God to forgive you. Find out when your parish, or a nearby parish is offering confession and avail yourself of that beautiful sacrament of mercy and forgiveness. I’ll bet at the end of each week you’ll be closer to God than ever before. That’s what Francis did when he prayed.

(From Franciscan Mission Associates)

ARRANGING FOR THE BAPTISM OF YOUR CHILD:

Parents who wish to have their children baptized in St. Theresa Church are asked to come to the rectory and fill out the form for the Baptism Class (generally held twice a month on Thursdays at 7PM in the church). Parents are asked to bring the child’s birth certificate to this class. Godparents are encouraged to attend, if possible. At the Baptism Class, the date of the child’s baptism will be arranged. During the current time, we have only one child baptized at a time, with the family following social distancing. We have baptisms on most Sundays.

We remind parents that they should have their children baptized as soon as possible after birth (that is, within a month or two). We want the child to have the grace of Baptism from his or her earliest weeks of life. Baptism should not be delayed until the child is older.

We look forward to welcoming your children into the Church with their first sacrament, the sacrament of Baptism.



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AUGUST 15
SAINT TARSICIUS
Martyr († 3rd Century)

According to an ancient tradition, Tarsicius was a youthful acolyte who assisted regularly at Mass in Rome during the fierce persecution under Valerian. One day, the priest sought someone to carry the Eucharist to prisoners and the sick, and Tarsicius volunteered. When the priest objected that he was too young for such a dangerous task, Tarsicius insisted. “My youth will be the best shield for the Eucharist.”

The Hosts were placed in a small linen bag which Tarsicius placed next to his chest. On his way through the streets of Rome, he met some pagan friends, who were curious about the mysterious bundle he was clutching. When he refused to answer, they became suspicious that he might be a Christian. They began to abuse and berate him. A mob formed, and they began to pelt Tarsicius with sticks and stones. At last, the youth, still holding tightly to the consecrated Hosts, fell to the ground unconscious. A sympathetic nearby guard picked him up and carried him to the priest. Tarsicius died soon afterward. When they undressed Tarsicius to prepare his body for burial, the Hosts in the little bag were gone. They seemingly become one with his own flesh.

Pope Saint Damasus wrote a moving poem about Tarsicius in the 4th century. He is the patron of altar servers.

Heavenly Father, through the intercession of Saint Tarsicius, help me to hold fast to you, even when I am attacked.

Wedding Banns

I TIME Joseph Gensert & Stefania Mastrogiacomo



THE SANCTUARY LAMP BURNING NEAR THE
TABERNACLE THIS WEEK IS IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
ANNA ARCURI
LOVE, THE PRAYER GROUP



THIS WEEK'S ALTAR BREAD IS IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
ANNA ARCURI
LOVE, THE PRAYER GROUP



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED
MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH AND THEIR FAMILIES
CELESTINA MCCRAIN, GEORGE C. MORENO
& JOSEPH MUCCI

A NOTE ON OUR SAFETY PRECAUTIONS IN CHURCH



As you know from coming to Sunday Mass, we are maintaining our safety precautions in church—asking every person (vaccinated or not) to wear a mask, following distancing in the benches and sanitizing after every Mass. Throughout the pandemic, we have asked for the advice of nurses and other medical personnel who attend Mass in our church and we have followed their advice. They have advised us to keep up our precautions because of the fact that many persons at Mass have not been vaccinated (especially the children) and because of the variants that are now affecting our country.

We thank everyone for following these safety precautions until things get better and we are advised that we can change them in our church. If someone comes to church with you as a visitor, please remind that that we wear masks here in church.

May Our Lord keep you and your family safe.

Father Thomas B. Derivan

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY AUGUST 7, 2021

5:00PM Joseph Dilluvio

SUNDAY AUGUST 8, 2021

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

9:00AM Barbara & Natale Micale

10:30AM Giuseppe, Annunziata & Mario Pozzuto

12:15PM Ralph Bockino

1:30PM Sofia & Agridina Mongayo

5:00PM Grace March

MONDAY AUGUST 9, 2021

8:00AM Sosamma Kalladhanthiyil (Mother of Fr. Geo--OLA)

9:00AM Giuseppe DiBartolo

TUESDAY AUGUST 10, 2021

8:00AM Joann Marino

9:00AM Patricia Pfiffer

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 11, 2021

8:00AM Anna Arcuri

9:00AM Luigi Fata

THURSDAY AUGUST 12, 2021

8:00AM Fr. Joseph O'Shea

9:00AM Nicoletta Ferrara

12NOON Thomas Byrne

FRIDAY AUGUST 13, 2021

8:00AM Philip Falcone

9:00AM Cirino Difrancio

SATURDAY AUGUST 14, 2021

8:00AM Edward Kaatz

9:00AM Lorenzo Albanese

5:00PM Pietro & Antonetta Carovillano

SUNDAY AUGUST 15, 2021

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

9:00AM John Davey

10:30AM Maria Grazia Russo

12:15PM Anthony D'Abbraccio

1:30PM Emerita & Jose Martinez

5:00PM Pat Golino



Nancy Cardone, Thomas Egan, Louise Esposito,
Josephine Graziano, Maryann Maiorana, Lisa Murphy,
Joseph Pisano, Margie Primiani, Antoinette Primiani,
Lisa Primiani, Benny Primiani, Frances Riccio,
Denise Siracusa, Toni Spahr, Nicholas Vasti, ,



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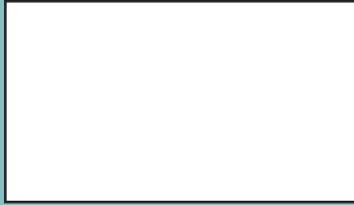
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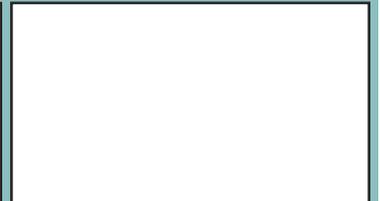
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