

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

CONFESION

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 ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

— — — — —

“From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his Name. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.”

- Lk 1:48b-49, 52

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*

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

CHURCH OF ST. THERESA, BRONX

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER DERIVAN

Today we celebrate a beautiful feast, the feast of the Assumption of Our Blessed Mother Mary. We profess our faith that Mary, at the close of her earthly life, was taken body and soul into the Kingdom of heaven. In the beautiful words of one of the prayers of today's Mass, "Let us all rejoice in the Lord as we celebrate the feastday in honor of the Virgin Mary at whose Assumption the angels rejoice and praise the Son of God."

We will not find the story of Mary's Assumption in the gospel, but the Church has held on to this belief since its earliest days. The gospel we hear at Mass does not describe Mary's Assumption. Instead it describes her journey, literally her journey from her home in Nazareth to visit the home of Elizabeth in Judea, and the beautiful scene of these two women, two cousins, rejoicing that they both bear a child in their womb, Elizabeth bearing St. John the Baptist and Mary bearing the One who is Savior of the world. Mary was always on her journey. She made her journey to Bethlehem for Jesus' birth; she made her journey to Egypt when the Infant Jesus' life was threatened; she made her journey to Jerusalem finding the 12-year old Jesus in the temple; and finally she made her journey to Calvary walking with Jesus as He carried His cross, staying with Him to the end. Our Holy Father Pope Francis has spoken beautifully about Mary's journey: "So often in her earthly life Mary travelled mountainous areas, even to the mount of Calvary. Today we think of Mary on her journey toward the Heavenly Jerusalem, to see at last the face of the Father and to see once again the face of her Son. Today we see her arrive at God's mountain, the woman 'clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and on her head a crown of twelve stars' and we see her cross the threshold of the heavenly homeland." The Pope reminds us that Mary "was the first to gather Jesus in her arms when he was a child and she is the first to be gathered in His arms to be introduced into the eternal Kingdom of the Father." Dear friends, this is what we celebrate today—Mary being gathered in the arms of Jesus in the Kingdom of God Our Father.

But let us remember that Mary's Assumption is a promise for us. The Lord Jesus on His Mother's feastday promises us that we too one day will be gathered into His arms. When our journey of life is over, like Mary we will have our final journey to that Kingdom where she will be waiting for us to bring us to the arms of her Son. When Mary was assumed into heaven, her journey was finished. But ours is not, your journey goes on as we face the challenges of our lives, as we love our families, as we care for others, as we hold on to our faith in the troubles of our lives, whatever they may be. But remember you are never alone on your journey. Mary promises on this her feastday that she will be with us every step of our way. A mother never forgets her children. Mary never forgets us. She will take us by the hand as we go on with our journey of life. And she will hold on to our hand until she places us in the hands of Jesus her Son. *"Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen"*

Father Thomas B. Derivan

MEDITATION FOR SUMMER

As we sit in our warm weather here in the northern hemisphere where it's summer, the southern hemisphere is experiencing winter. Their heat is on, they are bundled against the cold and there is snow all on the one planet. But we don't have to go below the equator to be confronted with the mysterious and strange. We can just look out our windows at the grass or the trees. In bloom they will die and sleep only to bloom again next summer. We live in that time cycle and yet, because we are Christians we live outside time with God. Our thoughts, our actions, our desires, our needs, our loves, are all caught up with God in Eternity. Jesus used simple things of Galilee to tell the story of God's love for us: sheep, fish, bread, grass, wind, water. All things and God are with us still in a remarkable example of God's love and care for us. Do we take this all for granted? Of course we do. We are human, we are busy, we aren't truly careless, just distracted. It is overwhelming for our mortal minds to sit with the reality of all we have been given. Even when we work, truly work, to be grateful, we slip, we falter and compare ourselves with others and ask: Why God? Why am I suffering when he isn't or she isn't? Gratitude is a muscle we must use to strengthen. And it goes hand in hand with mercy toward ourselves. We must move forward each day with forgiveness and a heart full of love toward God and our neighbor. God loves us, and forgives us. For this we all need to be grateful. Here is a short meditation to practice this summer to strengthen that gratitude muscle and center us. Pray it this summer when we begin to slip, to forget God has a plan for all of us, individually.

MEDITATION

You watch over us, Lord God at every moment of the day, I know, even when we are not thinking of you. Help us, then, to turn to You briefly from time to time as we pause in our work. Let us not forget altogether who You are, who we are, why we are here and that we are all, however slowly, returning to You who made us for Yourself. Please teach us how to pray even when words won't come, when our spirits are heavy and our minds tired. By the merits of Christ our Savior, who knew times of tiredness and lonesomeness, we ask Your aid. Amen

(From Franciscan Mission Associates)

PETITION BOOK

Have you noticed our Petition Book in the vestibule of the Church? Every Saturday before the 5:00PM Mass, the petitions entered into the book for that week are brought up to the altar of the Blessed Mother, where they remain for all the weekend Masses. Please pray for these intentions.

HANDICAPPED ENTRANCE TO THE CHURCH



The side entrance to the Church on Pilgrim Avenue will be open every Sunday for anyone who is handicapped or in a wheelchair. Also this same entrance will be opened every weekday until 9:30AM.

MESSAGE OF OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION

On today's Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the holy faithful People of God joyfully express their veneration of the Virgin Mother. They do so in the common liturgy and also with thousands of different forms of piety; and the prophesy of Mary herself takes place in the same way: "All generations will call me blessed" (Lk 1:48). Because the Lord has raised his humble handmaiden. Her Assumption into heaven, in body and soul, is a divine privilege accorded to the Holy Mother of God for her particular union with Jesus. It is a corporal and spiritual union, which began with the Annunciation and matured throughout Mary's life through her unique participation in the mystery of her Son. Mary always went with her Son: she followed Jesus and thus we say she was the first disciple.

Our Lady's existence unfolded like that of an ordinary woman of her time: she prayed, managed her family and home, attended the synagogue.... However every daily action she performed was always done in total union with Jesus. And on Calvary this union culminated, in love, in compassion and in heartache. For this reason God also gave her full participation in Jesus' Resurrection. The body of the Blessed Mother was preserved from corruption, like that of the Son.

Today the Church invites us to contemplate this mystery: it shows us that God wishes to save the whole man, that is, to save soul and body. Jesus rose with the body he had assumed from Mary; and he ascended to the Father with his transfigured humanity; with his body, a body like ours, but transfigured. The Assumption of Mary, a human being, gives us confirmation of what our glorious fate will be. Greek philosophers had already understood that the soul of man is destined to happiness after death. However, they disregarded the body — considered the prison of the soul — and they did not understand that God had planned for the human body to be joined to the soul in the heavenly beatitude. Our body will be there, transfigured. This — the "resurrection of the flesh" — is a specific element of Christian revelation, a cornerstone of our faith.

The wondrous reality of the Assumption of Mary reveals and confirms the unity of the human person and reminds us that we are called to serve and glorify God with our whole being, soul and body. To serve God with the body alone would be the action of slaves; to serve him with the soul alone would be counter to our human nature. Around the year 220, a great Father of the Church, Saint Irenaeus, stated that "The glory of God is a living man; and the life of man consists in beholding God." If we live this way, in joyful service to God, which is also expressed in generous service to our brothers and sisters, then on the day of the resurrection our fate will be like that of our heavenly Mother. We must therefore fully dedicate ourselves to accomplishing the exhortation of the Apostle Paul: "Glorify God in your body" (1 Cor 6:20), and we shall forever glorify him in heaven.

Let us pray that Mary, through her maternal intercession, may help us live our daily journey in the earnest hope of being able to reach her one day, with all the Saints and our loved ones, all in heaven.

Angelus Message, August 14, 2018



**AUGUST 16
SAINT STEPHEN OF HUNGARY († 1038)
MAY 7
BLESSED GISELA OF HUNGARY († 1060)**

Gisela came from an established Catholic royal family. Stephen, the son of Geza, grand prince of the Hungarians, had been baptized at the age of ten. To their union Gisela brought a deep Catholic formation, Stephen the energy and ardor of the convert.

Under Stephen, the disparate tribes of Hungary were united into a Christian nation in 1001. Gisela enthusiastically supported her husband's efforts at building churches and founding hospices for pilgrims. With their son Emeric, whom they carefully educated in Christian values, they formed a sort of Hungarian Catholic "first family." Emeric died in a tragic hunting accident in 1031. Seven years later, Stephen too died. His successor snatched Gisela's wealth, and she, with patient acceptance, retired to a convent near Passau, Germany, where she was named abbess.

In the year 2001, on the occasion of the "Hungarian Millennium," Pope John Paul II highlighted Stephen and Gisela's enduring legacy of holiness. "These splendid lights of Christianity continue to spur us on to take the right path, following the signs of Christ. Ten centuries later, they are still a warning to our generation that the virtues of family life must be deeply esteemed and that the mission of educating children must not be neglected."

Father in heaven, through the intercession of Saint Stephen and Blessed Gisela, root my family in the nurturing soil of the Church.



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!

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

PRAYER OF POPE PIUS XII TO OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION

O Immaculate Virgin, Mother of God and Mother of Humanity,
we believe with all the fervor of our faith in your triumphal Assumption
both in body and in soul into heaven
where you are acclaimed as Queen
by all the choirs of angels and all the legions of saints.
We unite with them to praise and bless the Lord
who has exalted you above all other pure creatures
and to offer you the tribute of our devotion and our love.
We trust that your merciful eyes may deign to gaze down
upon our miseries and anguish, upon our struggles and our weaknesses;
that your countenance may smile upon our joys and our victories;
that you may hear the voice of Jesus saying to you of each one of us,
as He once said to you of His Beloved Disciple: "Behold you son,"
and we who call upon you as our Mother, we, like John,
take you as the guide, strength and consolation of our mortal life.
We are inspired by the certainty that your eyes,
which wept over the earth crimsoned by the blood of Jesus,
are yet turned toward this world racked by wars and persecutions,
the oppression of the just and the weak.
From the shadows of this vale of tears,
we seek your heavenly assistance, tender mercy, comfort for our aching hearts,
and help in the trials of Church and country.
We believe finally that in the glory where you reign,
clothed with the sun and crowned with stars,
you are, after Jesus, the joy and gladness of all the angels and the saints,
and from this earth, over which we tread as pilgrims,
comforted by our faith in the future resurrection,
we look to you our life, our sweetness, our hope;
draw us onward with the sweetness of your voice,
so that one day, after our exile, you may show us Jesus,
the blessed fruit of your womb.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

Amen.



AUGUST 15
ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA
Religious († 1568)

Stanislaus' father, a Polish noble and senator, had great plans for his son. But from a very early age, Stanislaus had ambitions of his own: he sought solitude in prayer and frequented Holy Communion.

At fourteen, Stanislaus was sent to the Jesuit college in Vienna in the company of his older brother Paul and their tutor Jan. When Jan moved the boys into a home owned by a Lutheran, Stanislaus vehemently protested. Paul turned on him, bullying him for his piety. The whole situation came to a head when Stanislaus grew sick and asked for Viaticum. Although the Lutheran landlord refused, Stanislaus later reported that two angels had brought him the precious Host.

As soon as he recovered from this illness, Stanislaus decided to enter the Jesuits. Fearing his father's reaction, the Viennese Jesuits refused him, so he left secretly on foot one night to walk the 350 miles to Rome. When he got there, he made the vows of a novice, and embraced the Rule with abandon. Stanislaus had been a novice for only nine months when his health failed. He died early on August 15, after seeing the Blessed Mother surrounded by a host of saints.

Paul arrived in Rome one month after Stanislaus' death and repented of his cruelties to his brother. He was a witness at Stanislaus' canonization process.

Father in heaven, through the intercession of Saint Stanislaus Kostka, flood my heart with your mercy. Help me to forgive my brothers and sisters who have hurt me.

Please continue to share the peace and joy of our faith with others . There are so many that are in the need of Jesus. Can you be for all of us a living sign to all our parishioners and neighbors, and tell them for us "we need them and love them". Someone may hear and accept the invitation from you and return home to worship the Lord with us. So please invite a friend, relative, or neighbor to come with you to Church next Sunday. God will do the rest. Let us share our treasure of faith with others.

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 FATHER IN THE SHADOWS**

The Polish writer Jan Dobraczyński, in his book *The Shadow of the Father*, tells the story of Saint Joseph's life in the form of a novel. He uses the evocative image of a shadow to define Joseph. In his relationship to Jesus, Joseph was the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father: he watched over him and protected him, never leaving him to go his own way. We can think of Moses' words to Israel: "In the wilderness... you saw how the Lord your God carried you, just as one carries a child, all the way that you travelled" (Deut 1:31). In a similar way, Joseph acted as a father for his whole life.

Fathers are not born, but made. A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child. Whenever a man accepts responsibility for the life of another, in some way he becomes a father to that person.

Children today often seem orphans, lacking fathers. The Church too needs fathers. Saint Paul's words to the Corinthians remain timely: "Though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers" (1 Cor 4:15). Every priest or bishop should be able to add, with the Apostle: "I became your father in Christ Jesus through the Gospel" (*ibid.*). Paul likewise calls the Galatians: "My little children, with whom I am again in travail until Christ be formed in you!" (4:19).

Being a father entails introducing children to life and reality. Not holding them back, being overprotective or possessive, but rather making them capable of deciding for themselves, enjoying freedom and exploring new possibilities. Perhaps for this reason, Joseph is traditionally called a "most chaste" father. That title is not simply a sign of affection, but the summation of an attitude that is the opposite of possessiveness. Chastity is freedom from possessiveness in every sphere of one's life. Only when love is chaste, is it truly love. A possessive love ultimately becomes dangerous: it imprisons, constricts and makes for misery. God himself loved humanity with a chaste love; he left us free even to go astray and set ourselves against him. The logic of love is always the logic of freedom, and Joseph knew how to love with extraordinary freedom. He never made himself the center of things. He did not think of himself, but focused instead on the lives of Mary and Jesus.

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.

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

ELECTRONIC GIVING

We want to remind you that St. Theresa Church has enlisted Parish Giving to provide our parishioners the opportunity to use Electronic Funds Transfer as an alternative method for giving. The Program is free of charge for parishioners.

Especially during the pandemic, when many parishioners were not able to come to Mass, they decided to use Parish Giving to make their church contributions and they have continued to do so.

If you are interested in Parish Giving please go to our website: www.sttheresachurchbronx.org and click on "Parish Giving" to register for this program. If you need help, please contact the rectory at 718-892-1900,



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MEMBER OF OUR PARISH AND HER FAMILY
ANTONETTA DELVECCHIO



MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY AUGUST 14, 2021

5:00PM Pietro & Antonetta Carovillano

SUNDAY AUGUST 15, 2021

7:30AM Joseph Salerno

9:00AM John Davey

10:30AM Maria Grazia Russo

12:15PM Anthony D'Abbraccio

1:30PM Emerita & Jose Martinez

5:00PM Pat Golina

MONDAY AUGUST 16, 2021

8:00AM Dora & Michael Skori Sr.

9:00AM Assunta Frangella

TUESDAY AUGUST 17, 2021

8:00AM Antonio & Angela Perrino

9:00AM Helen & Vincent Virgintino

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 18, 2021

8:00AM Michael Caputo Jr.

9:00AM George Parsons

THURSDAY AUGUST 19, 2021

8:00AM Duila & Eugene Sanchez, Rocky & Irene Hernandes & Michael & Lucille Gavigan

9:00AM Gustavo Adolfo Romero

12NOON Maria & Nicola Laverghetta

FRIDAY AUGUST 20, 2021

8:00AM Mercedes Frez Desietto

9:00AM Maria Magdits

SATURDAY AUGUST 21, 2021

8:00AM Michael Skori Jr.

9:00AM Divino Nino, San Aparicio, San Jude & San Miguel

5:00PM Benita Zingaro

SUNDAY AUGUST 22, 2021

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

9:00AM Marie Sanslone

10:30AM Vincent Bottari

12:15PM Nicholas Iuliano

1:30PM Omar & Ulises Martinez

5:00PM Kathleen Bufano



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

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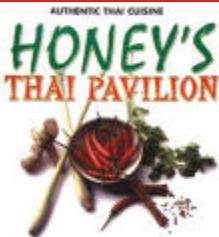
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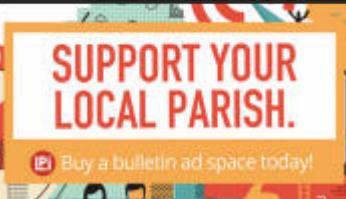
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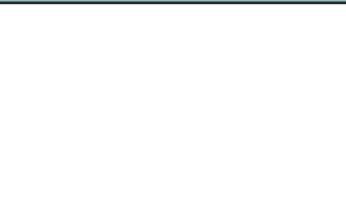
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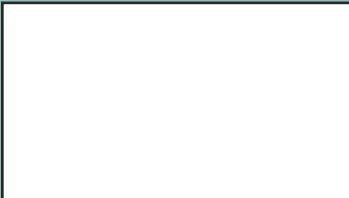
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