

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
Salesian Fathers, Weekend Associates

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Nadia Papayani, Dir. of Music

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WEBSITE: www.sttheresachurchbronx.org
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:

As you will recall, for the past several weeks at Sunday Mass, we have been listening to St. John's gospel, where he gives us Jesus' beautiful sermon on the Holy Eucharist. Step by step, the Lord Jesus explains to His listeners that he is the bread come down from heaven, the bread of life, and finally that the bread that He gives is not bread anymore, "the bread I give is my flesh, my Body for the life of the world." Here is Our Lord giving us the great mystery of the Blessed Sacrament, of His living self under the form of bread. You would think the people would be amazed or, if not amazed, would be silent because of the momentous thing Jesus was saying. And yet the truth is, they were not. In fact St. John tells us that they quarreled among themselves saying, "How can this man give us His flesh to eat?" Notice it is not that they do not understand what Jesus is saying. They do understand, but they cannot accept it. Here the Lord Jesus is offering them His very self, here He is offering them the strength of their lives, here he is giving them the opportunity to remain in Him and He is them, but what do they do? They fail to open their ears and their hearts. They quarrel among themselves, finding His word too hard to accept. The Lord Jesus is offering them His very self, His Body, and they just quarrel among themselves and walk away. As the gospel says today, "As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and walked with Him no longer."

The most important thing the Lord Jesus was telling the people long ago was this, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him." The Blessed Sacrament, the Body of Christ, is indeed, in the other beautiful expression, Holy Communion, a communion or union with our brothers and sisters in faith, a communion or union with the larger family of the Church right here, a communion or union with the whole Church, with every Catholic throughout the world. Yes, when we receive Holy Communion at Mass, we are united with every other Catholic in every church or chapel throughout the world. But even more importantly there is a greater union: ever time we receive Holy Communion, we have our union with Jesus Himself. He remains in us and we in Him. We are never closer to the Lord Jesus than when we receive Him in Holy Communion.

This past week we celebrated the feast of a saintly Pope who deeply understood the lesson Jesus is teaching us in the gospel today and who wanted every Catholic to understand it too. He is one of the greatest Popes of modern times, Pope St. Pius X, known as the Pope of the Holy Eucharist. He was born Giuseppe Sarto near Venice in Italy, the second of ten children in a poor family. He was always mindful of his poor beginning and said, "I was born poor, I lived poor, I will die poor." Quite against his wishes, he was elected as Pope in 1903 and his aim as Pope was, in his words, "to restore all things in Christ." And central to his vision of restoring the world to Christ was the Holy

Eucharist. Before Pope Pius X, Catholics received Holy Communion only once or twice a year; Pope Pius encouraged people to receive Holy Communion frequently, even every day if possible. Before Pope Pius, children had to wait until the age of twelve to receive First Holy Communion. Pope Pius lowered the age of receiving First Holy Communion to seven because, as he said, we should take seriously Our Lord's words, "Let the little children come to me." And he saw that there was no greater way of letting children come to Jesus than by receiving Him in Holy Communion. He helped Catholics to understand that Holy Communion must be the center of our lives, the center of who we are as Catholics. And Pope St. Pius was very practical about this. He wanted Catholics to understand, as Jesus says in the gospel today, "Whoever eats this bread, Jesus' Body, will live forever." Pope Pius put it this way, "Holy Communion is the shortest and safest way to Heaven. There are others: innocence, but that is for little children; penance, but we are afraid of it; generous endurance of trials of life, but when they come we weep and ask to be relieved of them. The surest, easiest, shortest way to heaven is the Holy Eucharist." Are not those words an echo of Jesus' beautiful words in the gospel, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life and I will raise him up on the last day"?

The people who heard those words when Jesus spoke them the first time just grumbled and quarreled and walked away. We must never walk away from Jesus in Holy Communion. May Pope St. Pius X be our helper. May this Pope of the Eucharist help us to appreciate the Holy Eucharist more and more. May he help us to remain in Jesus and to let Jesus remain in us. And every time we come to this altar to receive Jesus in this Blessed Sacrament, may we hear Him speaking to us, "I am the living bread come down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread, my Body, will live forever." And like St. Peter, may we say, "Lord, to whom else shall we go. Only you have the words of eternal life."

Father Thomas B. Derivan



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!



MESSAGE OF OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS FOR THIS SUNDAY

This Sunday's Gospel passage (cf. Jn 6:51-58) introduces us to the second part of the discourse that Jesus delivers in the Synagogue of Capernaum, after having satisfied the hunger of the great multitude with five loaves and two fish: the multiplication of the loaves. He presents himself as "the bread which came down from heaven", the bread that gives eternal life, and he adds: "the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh."

This passage is decisive, and in fact it provokes the reaction of those who are listening, who begin to dispute among themselves: "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" When the sign of the shared bread points to its true significance, namely, self-giving to the point of sacrifice, misunderstanding arises; it leads to the actual rejection of the One whom, shortly before, they had wanted to lift up in triumph. Let us remember that Jesus had to hide because they had wanted to make him king.

Jesus continues: "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you." Here the blood is present together with the flesh. In biblical language, flesh and blood express concrete humanity. The people and the disciples themselves sense that Jesus invites them to enter into communion with him, to 'eat' him, his humanity, in order to share with him the gift of life for the world. So much for triumphs and miracles of success! It is precisely the sacrifice of Jesus who gives himself for us.

This bread of life, the sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ, comes to us freely given at the table of the Eucharist. Around the altar we find what spiritually feeds us and quenches our thirst today and for eternity. Each time we participate in the Holy Mass, in a certain sense, we anticipate heaven on earth, because from the Eucharistic sustenance, the Body and Blood of Jesus, we learn what eternal life is. It is living for the Lord: "He who eats me will live because of me," the Lord says. The Eucharist shapes us so that we live not only for ourselves but for the Lord and for our brothers and sisters. Life's happiness and eternity depend on our ability to render fruitful the evangelical love we receive in the Eucharist.

As in that time, today too Jesus repeats to each of us: "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you." Brothers and sisters, it is not about material sustenance, but a living and life-giving bread, which conveys the very life of God. When we receive Communion we receive the very life of God. To have this life it is necessary to nourish ourselves of the Gospel and of the love of our brothers and sisters. Before Jesus' invitation to nourish ourselves of his Body and of his Blood, we might feel the need to dispute and to resist, as did those listeners whom today's Gospel spoke of. This happens when we struggle to model our existence after that of Jesus, to act according to his criteria and not according to worldly criteria. By nourishing ourselves of this food we can enter into full harmony with Christ, with his sentiments, with his behavior. This is so important: to go to Mass and partake in Communion, because receiving Communion is receiving this living Christ, who transforms us within and prepares us for heaven.

May the Virgin Mary support our aim to enter into communion with Jesus Christ, by nourishing ourselves of his Eucharist, so as to become in our turn bread broken for our brothers and sisters.

Angelus Message, August 19, 2018



AUGUST 27
SAINT MONICA
Widow († 387)

Monica, a Christian from Thagaste, North Africa, married Patricius, a pagan. Though he was difficult, and his mother even more so, Monica won them both with patience, and she had the joy of seeing both embrace the faith.

More troubling was her eldest son, bright but lazy Augustine. As a teenager he went to Carthage, where he found the philosophy of the Manichees and a mistress. He returned home spouting heresy, and Monica drove him from her table. Only a prophetic dream could convince her to take him back. Soon afterward, she consulted St. Ambrose, who reassured her: "It is not possible that the child of these tears should be lost."

At the age of twenty-nine, Augustine went to Rome to seek work and his widowed mother followed. Monica convinced him to put off his concubine—with whom he now had a child—although he soon took up with another. She found an ally in Bishop Ambrose, whose teaching began to work on Augustine. At last, his mother's prayers, the bishop's urgings, and his own incessant longings were fulfilled in a stunning moment of grace.

Telling the story in his *Confessions*, Augustine praised God for the moment he was able to go to Monica and tell her that he wanted to be baptized. "You had turned her mourning into joy much more perfectly than she had ever hoped." She died six months later.

Loving Father, through the intercession of Saint Monica, purify my love for others.



AUGUST 28
SAINT AUGUSTINE
Bishop and Doctor († 430)

Augustine came from Numidia in North Africa. His father was a pagan, his mother the indefatigable Saint Monica. As a teenager he went to Carthage to study and fell away from his Christian upbringing. He found himself a woman to live with and began to follow the philosophy of the Manichees.

In 383, at the age of twenty-nine, Augustine moved to Rome in search of work. His mother, who was ever seeking his conversion, followed after him. In Milan, he heard Saint Ambrose's stirring sermons and felt deeply drawn to the Christian Faith. But still he had a concubine and a love of wealth and the world. One day, as he pondered his dilemma, he heard the chanting of a child in a garden: *Tolle, lege*, "Take and read!" He opened the Bible randomly to Romans 8: Brothers, we are not debtors to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God (12-14). He was converted to his mother's great joy.

The grace Augustine received that day carried him forward. He studied the Fathers, became a priest, and was elected Bishop of Hippo, North Africa. His vast writings include *The City of God* and the autobiographical *Confessions*. Augustine died in 430 as Vandals invaded Hippo.

Eternal Father, through the intercession of Saint Augustine, hold before my eyes all that you have given me, grace upon grace.

TWENTY-FIRST 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.

Today we present the final part of Pope Francis' tribute to St. Joseph.

Joseph found happiness not in mere self-sacrifice but in self-gift. In him, we never see frustration but only trust. His patient silence was the prelude to concrete expressions of trust. Our world today needs fathers. It has no use for tyrants who would domineer others as a means of compensating for their own needs. It rejects those who confuse authority with authoritarianism, service with servility, discussion with oppression, charity with a welfare mentality, power with destruction. Every true vocation is born of the gift of oneself, which is the fruit of mature sacrifice. The priesthood and consecrated life likewise require this kind of maturity. Whatever our vocation, whether to marriage, celibacy or virginity, our gift of self will not come to fulfillment if it stops at sacrifice; were that the case, instead of becoming a sign of the beauty and joy of love, the gift of self would risk being an expression of unhappiness, sadness and frustration.

When fathers refuse to live the lives of their children for them, new and unexpected vistas open up. Every child is the bearer of a unique mystery that can only be brought to light with the help of a father who respects that child's freedom. A father who realizes that he is most a father and educator at the point when he becomes "useless", when he sees that his child has become independent and can walk the paths of life unaccompanied. When he becomes like Joseph, who always knew that his child was not his own but had merely been entrusted to his care. In the end, this is what Jesus would have us understand when he says: "Call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven" (Mt 23:9).

In every exercise of our fatherhood, we should always keep in mind that it has nothing to do with possession, but is rather a "sign" pointing to a greater fatherhood. In a way, we are all like Joseph: a shadow of the heavenly Father, who "makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Mt 5:45). And a shadow that follows his Son.

"Get up, take the child and his mother" (Mt 2:13), God told Saint Joseph.

The aim of this Apostolic Letter is to increase our love for this great saint, to encourage us to implore his intercession and to imitate his virtues and his zeal.

Indeed, the proper mission of the saints is not only to obtain miracles and graces, but to intercede for us before God. The saints help all the faithful "to strive for the holiness and the perfection of their particular state of life." Their lives are concrete proof that it is possible to put the Gospel into practice.

Jesus told us: "Learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart" (Mt 11:29). The lives of the saints too are examples to be imitated. Saint Paul explicitly says this: "Be imitators of me!" (1 Cor 4:16). By his eloquent silence, Saint Joseph says the same.

We need only ask Saint Joseph for the grace of graces: our conversion.

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 Rector's 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 saintheresa.religioused@gmail.com

DISCIPLINE DOES NOT TAKE THE SUMMER OFF

If you've ever watched a fisherman cast or a water skier practice or a baseball player run for home you have seen the results of discipline at work.

Somehow, we don't mind disciplining ourselves for that earthly crown of success in sports or work or hobby. Why can't we do it for God as well?

A simple to do list that we stick to is a way to begin to discipline ourselves in a more virtuous way. This summer why not do something you usually don't do, like doing things you have put off or putting down your phone or making prayer a more important part of your day. If you think it's impossible to live like that you can ask St. Jude, the Saint of the Impossible, for help.

St. Jude, known also as Thaddeus, one of the Apostles is celebrated as a patron of hopeless cases, and in things almost despaired impossible. He is usually pictured with a book or pen, because of his epistle in the New Testament. He also is often holding a club which indicates his martyr's death and often there is a flame above his head, indicating the inspiration and assistance of the Holy Spirit. After his death pilgrims reportedly prayed at his grave and experienced intercessions resolving what they believed were insurmountable problems. He subsequently became known as the Patron Saint of the Impossible.

The early followers of Christ truly did the impossible. They carried on and spread the Word of God through an often-hostile world. For many it cost them their lives on earth. But they died knowing they had an eternal life awaiting them with our Lord. This summer, when you need some strength to get through a seemingly impossible task, turn to St. Jude and know you will receive the support you need. For nothing is impossible with our saints as guides and our Lord in our heart.

Prayer to St. Jude



Glorious St. Jude, with faith in your goodness, we ask for your help today. As one of Christ's chosen Apostles, you remain a pillar and foundation of His Church on earth. You are counted, we know, among the elders who always stand before God's throne. From your place of glory, we know you do not forget the needs and difficulties of Christ's little ones here, still struggling, like me, on the way home to God. Please intercede for us all, gracious St. Jude, and be with us in our daily toil and in all our necessities. In Christ's name, we appeal to you again today. Amen.

(From Franciscan Mission Associates)

ST. MONICA AND THE ACT OF NEVER GIVING UP



St. Augustine is a revered Saint, and indeed his backstory is one for the ages. He struggled with his faith and earthy temptations for most of his young adult life. But behind the scenes, as often is the case, was a human force reminding Augustine of the rewards that would meet him if he got his life together and turned toward the Lord. That driving force was St. Monica, his mother. St. Augustine's autobiography, confessions, paints the best picture we can ever have of St. Monica—a portrait of a woman whose 56 years in this world yielded a rich harvest of accomplishment for the Lord.

St. Monica was born to a Christian family in North Africa in 332 AD. She married a pagan, Patricius, whom she never stopped trying to convert. She eventually succeeded and his last year of life on this earth was filled with happiness, grace and peace. Her marriage was not without violence. St. Monica went into the public at large to bring the love of our Lord and help those struggling with domestic abuse. It is said she actually saved many lives. Still her son Augustine, (she had three other children as well), continued to turn away from God. St. Augustine became her most famous convert. His opposition to Catholicism and dissolute lifestyle grew worse when he left home to study at Carthage at age 17. Eventually, he fathered a son out of wedlock. Augustine spoke of how his mother lived her life with joy and truly cherished her relationship with God. She never came at her son with relentless attacks expecting him to become a member of the church. She knew in her heart she would succeed and because she loved her son and wanted everlasting life for him, she never ever gave up in her quest to show him God's way. Very soon after St. Augustine converted, his mother became ill, never to recover. As they journeyed back to Africa, it was evident Monica would not make it alive. At that point, she was not afraid. She knew her life mission had been completed, and she told her beloved, "Son, nothing in this world now affords me delight. I do not know what there is now left for me to do or why I am still here, all my hopes in this world being now fulfilled." St. Monica's faith was so strong, and she was able to change the minds and hearts of many, including her son, who pushed back on God's love. When we pray to St. Monica, let us ask for some of that perseverance and faith.

(From Franciscan Mission Associates)

**ST. FRANCES DE CHANTAL
POP-UP COVID VACCINATION SITE**

St. Frances de Chantal Parish with the City of New York is providing a pop-up vaccination site for the Pfizer vaccine. The location is De Chantal Hall. Enter through the church parking lot.

The vaccine's will be given out on the following days, Saturday, August 28th from 9:00AM to 6:00PM. And Friday, September 10, Saturday, September 11, and Sunday, September 12 from 9:00AM to 4:00PM



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ARE YOU A REGISTERED PARISHIONER

All new or unregistered parishioners are asked to please register by phone or in person at the Rectory or fill out the information below. Many items of importance will be mailed home in the course of the year.

NAME _____

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E-MAIL _____

PLEASE RETURN TO THE RECTORY OFFICE.



SATURDAY AUGUST 21, 2021

5:00PM Benita Zingaro

SUNDAY AUGUST 22, 2021

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

9:00AM Marie Sansalone

10:30AM Vincent Bottari

12:15PM Nicholas Iuliano

1:30PM Omar & Ulises Martinez

5:00PM Kathleen Bufano

MONDAY AUGUST 23, 2021

8:00AM America & John Rivera

9:00AM Eugene & Dina Alfonso, Mary, Thomas Sr.

Thomas P. Kelly, Janice Garone & Elsa Lopez

TUESDAY AUGUST 24, 2021

8:00AM Delvecchio Family

9:00AM Maureen Guyton

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 25, 2021

8:00AM Rose Esposito

9:00AM Ann Nutini

THURSDAY AUGUST 26, 2021

8:00AM Oscar Rivera Vasquez

9:00AM Joseph Biagiotti

12NOON Walter Rivera

FRIDAY AUGUST 27, 2021

8:00AM Rafael A. Rios

9:00AM Diane Stoyka

SATURDAY AUGUST 28, 2021

8:00AM Leeann Williams (Living pray for healing)

9:00AM Michelle Mohan

5:00PM Rose & Mary Gregoria

SUNDAY AUGUST 29, 2021

7:30AM John & Annie Sweeney

9:00AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

10:30AM Giorgio & Emilio Rinvenuto

12:15PM Ann Nutini

1:30PM Rosalba & Dolores Vallejo

5:00PM Ralph E. Caprio



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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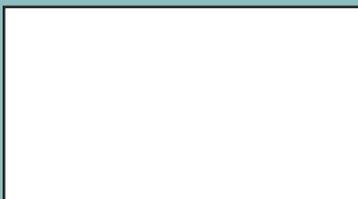
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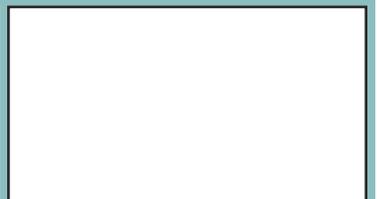
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