

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

Mrs. Josephine Fanelli, Principal
Mrs. Marie McCarrick, Dir. of Religious Education
Nadia Papayani, Dir. of Music

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FAX: 718-892-1146

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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

When young people are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation, as you will remember, they are asked to think about the name of the saint whom they will select for their Confirmation, their “Confirmation saint.” Our young people here in St. Theresa School and in our CCD Program are beginning their Confirmation preparation and one of the first things that we talk to them about is the selection of their Confirmation saint. They are asked to read about the saints, to study their lives and to select a saint whom they wish to copy in their young adult lives. Their Confirmation saint should be someone they want to imitate in their lives, someone whose qualities of life and faith they want to have. A boy selects the name of St. Joseph, patron of fathers, because he wants to become a good father in the future. A girl picks the name of St. Theresa because she wants to have the same love for Jesus that St. Theresa had. I remember a young lady who was preparing for Confirmation. She selected the name of St. Anysia. I told her that I was not sure that was a saint’s name. And she corrected me. She told me about a young girl, a teenager named Anysia who lived in Greece during the Roman persecution when Christians were persecuted or even put to death because of their faith. Anysia knew the danger that she faced, being a Christian. But that did not deter her. She would have to sneak out of her house early on Sunday morning to go to the house where Mass would be celebrated secretly. Those early Christians never made excuses about not going to Mass. They went, despite the danger, because they knew they needed the strength of the Mass and of Holy Communion to go on. Anysia went quietly through her city, but as she turned a corner, she met a Roman soldier who asked her who she was and where she was going. And Anysia said, “I am the servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am going to my Master’s assembly.” And what that, the soldier put her to death, a martyr for her faith. That young lady preparing for Confirmation told me she wanted to have the same strong faith in Jesus that St. Anysia had. How pleasing to Our Lord and to St. Anysia it must have been for that Confirmation girl to say that.

Saints are important. For saints are just like us. They faced their troubles, their hardships, their worries, even their doubts. But they kept going in their faith. We must remember, as Pope Francis has reminded us, that saints are not “supermen” or “superwoman.” They are people just like us. They were “us” when they lived on earth, living lives like ours, men and women, boys and girls, all preparing for heaven.

But what makes a saint? How does a person become a saint? Our Lord in the gospel today gives us the answer. Here are the apostles arguing among themselves who was the greatest. We are all tempted to do that—we want to be the best, whatever the best is. We want to be the greatest, forgetting that God and He alone is the greatest. Our Lord could have scolded them, but He did not. He used that occasion to tell them how to become a saint. “If you want to be the greatest, you must be the servant of all.” The least common denominator of the saints is that they put God first, not themselves, and they lived lives of service to one another. Our Lord says particularly that, if we want to be the greatest, then we must serve His children. Next week we celebrate the feast of St. Vincent de Paul. St. Vincent lived in France four hundred years ago at a time when so many people were desperately poor. One day he was walking out of his rectory and he found a basket. He picked it up and found, under a blanket, a baby with this note attached, “Father Vincent, please take care of my baby. I have nothing to give him.” St. Vincent took that child in and hundreds of others like him, starting an orphanage for abandoned children. He certainly fulfilled the words of Our Lord in the gospel today that “whoever receives a little child in His name, receives me.” Service was what St. Vincent was all about, service of God and service of others, particularly those most in need. The St. Vincent de Paul Society throughout the world and here in our own parish continues the work of service that St. Vincent lovingly did.

Do you want to become a saint? Then do two things—love the Lord Jesus Christ and serve others in His name. Another great saint, St. Mother Teresa, once said, “What is required of us is not great things, but great love.” Like St. Mother Teresa and St. Vincent and St. Anysia, may we love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ and like them—and all the saints - may we have great love.

Father Thomas B. Derivan

“THOSE WHO SING PRAY TWICE.”



You are invited to join St. Theresa’s Adult Choir. Let your singing inspire people around you! “Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!” For the safety of everyone, we will be singing in masks, keeping distance between the choir members. If you are interested, please talk to our organist Nadia after a Mass you are attending, email her (nadezhda_papayani@yahoo.com), or call the rectory and leave your name and telephone number/email.

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.



SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

OUR DISPLAYS OF FAITH

The proliferation of picture taking (especially in summer) catches moments of time, on the swing, in the tree, or on the beach. A beach picture is more than just nice to look at. We cherish it because it reminds us and actually transports us back to the time, the day, the hour, and most importantly, the feeling. That's why followers of Christ should have a picture of Jesus, His Mother, the Saints to help concentrate, to help focus attention, as the snapshot does.

We picture what we prize. These are our values, evident for all to see. Holy Family displays and art are often heartwarming. They allow us to remember that Jesus was part of a true and real family. He existed in a dynamic we all know. Each of us comes from a family and exists as adults with family members we love. When we are at work, either at a home office or away, we spend short moments of reflection on framed photos of our children or siblings or parents. God is our Father and Mary, our Mother. They love and guide us too. It is important to spend those off moments during the day, and some dedicated time also, in communion with God and Mary. In addition to the Holy Family, look into having some art depicting a favorite saint. Start with you patron. So many resources have information on saints, online is filled with information, as are your local bookstores. The more we read about the saints the more we realize we, too, can work toward that end, we can be more saintly. What better way to nudge ourselves toward sainthood than a physical reminder at home to strive for all that the saints did. To live a life filled with faith, and love and devotion to our Lord. Start small, one statue on the mantle of Mary or Jesus and perhaps a print of your favorite saint on a nearby wall. And don't consider it a static arrangement. Make it one you add to as you gain more pieces. A display at home of Our Lord and of the Saints reminds those who visit what we cherish beyond our beach or ski vacation.

(From Franciscan Mission Associates)

THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH



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 our families 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. It is a beautiful prayer for you to recite with your family to St. Joseph, patron of families:

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.

PRESTON HIGH SCHOOL

Join us at our **OPEN HOUSE** events to meet faculty and students, and learn about Preston's curriculum and student life.

- VIRTUAL: Wednesday, September 29th (6:00-8:00PM)
- IN PERSON: Sunday, October 24 (11:00AM-2:00PM)
October 25 (6:00PM-8:00PM)

PRESTON HIGH SCHOOL

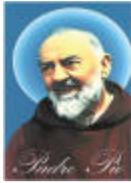
Preston High School will be holding a TACHS Workshop in the fall for all 8th grade girls and boys.

September 18th-October 30th from 9:00AM-12:00PM
Program cost is \$350.00

To register for the TACHS EXAM visit <http://tachsinfo.com>
For more information about Preston High School admissions contact Cristina Fragale at 718-863-9134 ext.132 or cfragale@prestonhs.org

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





SEPTEMBER 23
ST. PIUS OF PIETRELCINA
Priest († 1968)

The son of Italian farmers, Francis Forgione told his mother that he wanted “to be a friar...with a beard.” He became “Pio” with the Capuchins in 1903 and was ordained a priest in 1910. After Mass one day he received the extraordinary gift of the stigmata, the wounds of Christ in his own flesh—invisible, but nevertheless painful. The wounds became visible in 1918.

Despite the sensation the wounds caused, Padre Pio always identified himself as a “poor brother who prays,” and he devoted himself to Mass and hearing confessions for many hours each day. He embraced the chance to become intimately connected with Christ’s Passion, “I too have suffered, insofar as it is possible for a human creature.”

To Pio’s supernatural sufferings and the numerous but necessary investigations by Church officials were added a host of natural ailments: asthmatic bronchitis, kidney stones, gastritis, and enduring inflammations of the nose and ears. In 1946, Pio founded the House for Relief of Suffering, a place where “the patient might be led to recognize those working for his cure as God’s helpers, engaged in preparing the way for the intervention of grace.” Today it is a thousand-bed hospital with a stellar reputation. Padre Pio was canonized in 2002.

Loving Father, through the intercession of Saint Pius of Pietrelcina, make me a student of the Cross. Teach me to rejoice in suffering.

PRAYER OF PADRE PIO AFTER COMMUNION:

Stay with me, Lord, for it is necessary to have You present so that I do not forget You. You know how easily I abandon You.

Stay with me Lord, because I am weak, and I need Your strength, so that I may not fall so often.

Stay with me Lord, for You are my life, and without You, I am without fervor.

Stay with me Lord, for You are my light, and without you, I am in darkness.

Stay with me Lord, to show me Your will.

Stay with me Lord, so that I hear Your voice and follow You.

Stay with me Lord, for I desire to love you very much, and always be in Your company.

Stay with me Lord, if You wish me to be faithful to You.

Stay with me Lord, for as poor as my soul is, I want it to be a place of consolation for You, a nest of Love.

Stay with me, Jesus, for it is getting late, and the day is coming to a close, and life passes, death, judgment, eternity approach. It is necessary to renew my strength, so that I will not stop along the way and for that, I need You. It is getting late and death approaches. I fear the darkness, the temptations, the dryness, the cross, the sorrows. O how I need You, my Jesus, in this night of exile.

Stay with me tonight, Jesus, in life with all its dangers, I need You.

Let me recognize You as Your disciples did at the breaking of bread, so that the Eucharistic Communion be the light which disperses the darkness, the force which sustains me, the unique joy of my heart.

Stay with me Lord, because at the hour of my death, I want to remain united to you, if not by Communion, at least by grace and love.

Stay with me Jesus, I do not ask for divine consolation because I do not merit it, but the gift of Your presence, oh yes, I ask this of You.

Stay with me Lord, for it is You alone I look for, Your Love, Your Grace, Your Will, Your Heart, Your Spirit, because I love You and ask no other reward but to love You more and more.

With a firm love, I will love You with all my heart while on earth and continue to love You perfectly during all eternity. Amen.

HANDICAP 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.

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MESSAGE OF OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS FOR THIS SUNDAY

Saint Mark devotes an entire section of his Gospel to the instruction of the Lord's disciples. It would seem that Jesus, at the halfway point of his journey to Jerusalem, wanted them to renew their choice to follow him, knowing that it would entail moments of trial and grief. The Evangelist describes this period of Jesus' life by mentioning that on three occasions he announced his passion. All three times, the disciples expressed bewilderment and opposition, and on each of these occasions the Lord wished to leave them a teaching. We have just heard about the second of these three occasions (cf. Mk 9:30-37).

The Christian life always involves experiences of the cross; at times they can seem interminable. The Book of Wisdom speaks to us of the just who are persecuted, who suffer insult and punishment solely for their goodness (cf. Wis 2:10-12). ..The disciples did not want Jesus to speak to them of sorrows and the cross; they wanted nothing to do with trials and hardships. Saint Mark tells us that they were interested in other things, that on the way home they discussed who was the greatest among them...Jesus, knowing what the disciples were discussing, provided them with an antidote to their struggles for power and their rejection of sacrifice. And to make his teaching all the more solemn, he sat down, as a teacher would, summoned them and set a child in their midst; the kind of child that would earn a penny for doing chores no one else would care to do. Whom would Jesus place in our midst today, here, on this Sunday morning? Who will be the smallest, the poorest in our midst? Who is it that has nothing to give us, to make our effort and our sacrifices worthwhile? Perhaps it is the ethnic minorities of our city. Or the jobless who have to emigrate. Maybe it is the elderly and the lonely, or those young people who find no meaning in life because they have lost their roots.

"In their midst" means at the same distance from everybody, so that no one can claim not to notice, no one can argue that it is "somebody else's responsibility" because "I didn't see him", or "I am further away". And without anyone drawing attention to oneself, wanting to be applauded or singled out for praise.

Like the disciples, we will need to learn that in welcoming a little child, we welcome Jesus himself...We want to welcome Jesus, in his Word, in the Eucharist, in his little ones. To welcome him so that we can follow him as his disciples. For there is nothing truly human that does not find an echo in the heart of Christ's disciples. We feel as our own the joys and the hopes, the sorrows and the afflictions of the people of our time, particularly the poor and the suffering. For this reason, and because as a community we feel true and profound solidarity with all humanity, we wish to spend our lives in joyful service, and thus to make known to all that Jesus Christ is our one hope.

Homily, September 23, 2018



SEPTEMBER 20
ST. ANDREW KIM TAEGON
Patron of Koreans († 1846)

The first Korean priest, Andrew Kim, was born into a family of martyrs. His great-grandfather perished in the persecutions of 1814, and his father was martyred in 1839. Three years earlier, though, Andrew's father had had the joy of seeing his fifteen-year-old son leave home for Portuguese-controlled Macau, where he entered the seminary.

After ten years of study, Andrew traveled with great difficulty to Shanghai, where he was ordained by French Bishop Jean-Joseph Ferréol. He then made for his homeland, but was able to get no further than the coast before he was arrested on suspicion of being a Christian. He was kept in custody for months. His accusers repeatedly tortured him, but Andrew never stopped preaching Christ to them.

In a final letter from prison, Andrew encouraged his persecuted countrymen: "God numbers the very hairs of our head and in his all-embracing providence he has care over us all...Hold fast...to the will of God and with all your heart fight the good fight under the leadership of Jesus; conquer again the diabolical power of this world that Christ has already vanquished. I beg you not to fail in your love for one another."

He was executed September 16, 1846, on the Han River near Seoul.

Father of mercies, through the intercession of Saint Andrew Kim Taegon, let me not forget that you have already won the victory against the power of darkness.



FLU SHOTS TODAY

This Sunday from 10:00AM to 1:00PM, Walgreen's Pharmacy will give Flu Shots in the vestibule of our school (entrance on St. Theresa Avenue, opposite the church).

We are grateful to Walgreen's for once again providing this service to our parishioners.

Please bring your insurance information.



TODAY IS NATIONAL CATECHETICAL SUNDAY

Catechetical Sunday is observed each year in all churches throughout the United States. Our American bishops have encouraged us on Catechetical Sunday to reflect and celebrate each person's role in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel, especially Catholic school teachers and catechists in our CCD Program. All Catholics are called, in one way or another, to be "catechists," helping children to grow in their faith. Obviously the most important catechists are parents and grandparents. But beyond that every Catholic helps our children to grow in faith, through your encouragement and through the example that you give of practicing your own faith, thereby showing our children, whether you know them or not, how important our faith is. We particularly pray for teachers of the faith on this Sunday. May the Lord continue to bless our Catholic school teachers and our CCD catechists as they help our children to know, love and serve the Lord.

In Loving Memory

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED
MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH AND THEIR FAMILIES
ROSALIE PORCO & LISA MONA ROCCOMBOLI



THE SANCTUARY LAMP BURNING NEAR THE
TABERNACLE THIS WEEK IS IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
ADELE IULIANO
LOVE, THE RICCO FAMILY



THIS WEEK'S ALTAR BREAD IS IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
ADELE IULIANO
LOVE, THE RICCO FAMILY



THE FLOWERS IN FRONT OF THE ALTAR THIS WEEK
IN MEMORY
OF
ADELE IULIANO
LOVE, THE RICCO FAMILY

FOOD FOR FOOD PANTRY NEEDED



Our St. Vincent de Paul Society hosts a monthly Food Pantry for those in need. Unfortunately much of the food donations given by our parishioners were damaged from flooding during the recent hurricane.

Donations of nonperishable food may be placed in the baskets in the vestibule of the church. No perishable items, please.

- Pasta, Cereal
- Tomato Sauce & Tuna Fish

Thank you for helping the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to help those in need.

As an added note, some parishioners have made monetary donations to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. We want you to know that these donations and other donations from our parishioners have been sent to the St. Vincent de Paul conferences in New Orleans and in Haiti to help in their recovery efforts from the recent storms.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2021

5:00PM Carmela, Benjamin & Albert Gregoria

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

9:00AM Marie Sansalone

10:30AM Diane Kandel

12:15PM Grace March

1:30PM Rafael Rios

5:00PM Marguerite Seigler

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2021

8:00AM Zef Kurti (Living)

9:00AM Nicoletta Ferrara

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

8:00AM Marco Errichiello

9:00AM Vincent, Antoinette & Frank Vignola

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

8:00AM Roseann Feit

9:00AM Consuelo Roman

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

8:00AM In Honor of St. Padre Pio

9:00AM Anthony Scotto

12NOON Rose Pagano

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2021

8:00AM Joseph L. Antico

9:00AM Antonietta Golia

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2021

8:00AM Iris Medina

9:00AM Sergio A. Ocasio Roman

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

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

7:30AM Helen Virgintino

9:00AM Luigi Mundija

10:30AM Giuseppe DeMasie

12:15PM Nicholas Iuliano

1:30PM Parishioners of St. Theresa

5:00PM Sisto Funciello



Nancy Cardone, Thomas Egan, Louise Esposito,
Josephine Graziano, Maryann Maiorana, Margie Primiani,
Frances Riccio, Toni Spahr, Nicholas Vasti, Benny Primiani,
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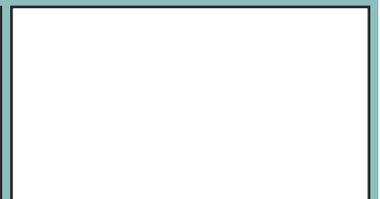
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