

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 7:30pm
to 8:30pm followed by silent adoration
until 9:00pm.

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.



Rev. Msgr. Thomas Derivan, Pastor

Rev. Joseph Ligory, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Thomas D'Angelo, In Residence
Msgr. Neil Graham, Retired, Spanish Mass
Rev. Robert Imbelli, Weekend Associate
Rev. Charles Szivos, Parochial Vicar

Mrs. Josephine Fanelli, Principal
Mrs. Marie McCarrick, Dir. of Religious Education
Helena Kim, 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

CHURCH OF ST. THERESA, BRONX

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER DERIVAN

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday. You will read below some beautiful material about this special feast, instituted by our late Pope John Paul II, the Feast of Divine Mercy. Devotion to the Divine Mercy has become one of the most popular devotions in the Church. The image of Jesus, as He revealed His Divine Mercy to a Polish sister, Sister (now Saint) Faustina Kowalska, has become renowned throughout the world.

Why has devotion to the Divine Mercy become so popular? Let me mention two reasons. **First, devotion to the Divine Mercy has become so popular because it is so very simple and clear.** All we have to do is to look at the Cross of Jesus and we see Mercy Incarnate. We see the mercy of Jesus on the Cross, His pouring out His blood and His grace in mercy for all mankind. Even the person who does not know how to read can understand the depth of the Divine Mercy by simply looking at our Crucified Lord.

And then a second reason: Pope John Paul II explained this when he said, “The limit imposed upon evil is ultimately the Divine Mercy.” No one of us needs to be reminded of evil in the world. There is the evil of war and civil strife, the evil of prejudice and discrimination, the evil of jealousy and revenge, the evil that results in suffering children and suffering nations. So often, when we see such evil, when we read about it in the newspapers, we wonder what can stop it. Our late Pope’s answer is that Jesus’ Divine Mercy is the limit placed on the spread of evil. Ultimately, Jesus’ Mercy stops evil from spreading even further, almost as a strong wall prevents the sea from destroying the land. The Divine Mercy of Jesus is a popular devotion because it assures us that evil will not win out because Jesus’ mercy is stronger than any evil force, stronger even than sin. And again, all we have to do to understand this is to look at the Crucifix. Sin crucified Jesus—that is true. But the opposite is true also: Jesus’ Mercy on the cross crucified sin. The late Pope wrote, “In sacrificing Himself for us all, Christ gave a new meaning to suffering, opening up a new dimension, a new order, the order of love. It is this suffering which burns and consumes evil with the flame of love and draws forth even from sin a great flowering of good.” Devotion to the Divine Mercy reminds us that we can unite our sufferings with Jesus’ suffering on the Cross and that very action will help to “burn and consume the evil of this world” and will “draw forth from sin a great flowering of grace.”

What a beautiful devotion! If you do not have this devotion in your personal life and in your family, then begin it today on Divine Mercy Sunday. Parents should help their children to appreciate this beautiful devotion. Devotion to the Divine Mercy will help you to be a more loving, a more forgiving, a more merciful person because the Mercy of Jesus will shine through you. So many people need to know that God has mercy on them. May they learn that from you, from your mercy which is a reflection of the beautiful Divine Mercy of our Risen Lord.

Father Thomas B. Derivan



SAINT MARIA FAUSTINA KOWALSKA

The Humble Instrument

Sister Faustina was a young, uneducated nun in a convent of the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Poland during the 1930s. She came from a poor family that struggled during the years of World War I. She had only three years of simple education, so hers were the humblest tasks in the convent, usually in the kitchen or garden. However, she received extraordinary revelations - or messages - from our Lord Jesus. Jesus asked Sr. Faustina to record these experiences, which she compiled into notebooks. These notebooks are known today as *the Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, and the words contained within are God’s loving message of Divine Mercy.

Though the Divine Mercy message is not new to the teachings of the Church, Sr. Faustina’s Diary sparked a great movement, and a strong and significant focus on the mercy of Christ. Saint John Paul II canonized Sr. Faustina in 2000 making her the “first saint of the new millennium.” Speaking of Sr. Faustina and the importance of the message contained in her *Diary*, the Pope called her “the great apostle of Divine Mercy in our time.”

Prayer to Saint Faustina:

Dear St. Faustina, you told us that your mission would continue after your death and that you would not forget us. Our Lord also granted you a great privilege, telling you to “distribute graces as you will, to whom you will, and when you will.” Relying on this, we ask your intercession for the graces we need, especially for the intentions just mentioned. Help us, above all, to trust in Jesus as you did and thus to glorify His mercy every moment of our lives. *Amen.*

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

HOMEBOUND

If any member of your family or if any of your neighbors are “Homebound” and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please call the Rectory so that a Priest or Eucharistic Minister might visit them.

SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY

THE IMPORTANCE OF DEVOTION TO THE DIVINE MERCY

What will the years ahead bring us? What will man's future on earth be like? We are not given to know. However, it is certain that in addition to new progress there will unfortunately be no lack of painful experiences. But the light of Divine Mercy, which the Lord in a way wished to return to the world through St. Faustina's charism, will illumine the way for the men and women of the third millennium.

However, as the Apostles once did, today too humanity must welcome into the upper room of history the risen Christ, who shows the wounds of his Crucifixion and repeats: *Peace be with you!* Humanity must let itself be touched and pervaded by the Spirit given to it by the risen Christ. It is the Spirit who heals the wounds of the heart, pulls down the barriers that separate us from God and divides us from one another, and at the same time, restores the joy of the Father's love and of fraternal unity.

It is important then that we accept the whole message that comes to us from the Word of God on this Second Sunday of Easter, which from now on throughout the Church will be called "Divine Mercy Sunday".. Christ has taught us that "man not only receives and experiences the mercy of God, but is also called "to practice mercy" towards others: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy" (Mt 5:7) (Dives in Misericordia, n. 14). He also showed us the many paths of mercy, which not only forgives sins but reaches out to all human needs. Jesus bent over every kind of human poverty, material and spiritual.

His message of mercy continues to reach us through his hands held out to suffering man. This is how St. Faustina saw him and proclaimed him to people on all the continents when, hidden in her convent in Kraków, she made her life a hymn to mercy.

Sr. Faustina's canonization has a particular eloquence: by this act I intend today to pass this message on to the new millennium. I pass it on to all people, so that they will learn to know ever better the true face of God and the true face of their brethren.

In fact, love of God and love of one's brothers and sisters are inseparable, as the First Letter of John has reminded us: "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments" (5:2). Here the Apostle reminds us of the truth of love, showing us its measure and criterion in the observance of the commandments.

It is not easy to love with a deep love, which lies in the authentic gift of self. This love can only be learned by penetrating the mystery of God's love. Looking at him, being one with his fatherly heart, we are able to look with new eyes at our brothers and sisters, with an attitude of unselfishness and solidarity, of generosity and forgiveness. All this is mercy!

Sr. Faustina Kowalska wrote in her Diary: *"I feel tremendous pain when I see the sufferings of my neighbors. All my neighbors' sufferings reverberate in my own heart; I carry their anguish in my heart in such a way that it even physically destroys me. I would like all their sorrows to fall upon me, in order to relieve my neighbor"* (Diary, p. 365). This is the degree of compassion to which love leads, when it takes the love of God as its measure!

It is this love which must inspire humanity today, if it is to face the crisis of the meaning of life, the challenges of the most diverse needs and, especially, the duty to defend the dignity of every human person. Thus the message of Divine Mercy is also implicitly *a message about the value of every human being*. Each person is precious in God's eyes; Christ gave his life for each one; to everyone the Father gives his Spirit and offers intimacy.

This consoling message is addressed above all to those who, afflicted by a particularly harsh trial or crushed by the weight of the sins they committed, have lost all confidence in life and are tempted to give in to despair. To them the gentle face of Christ is offered; those rays from his heart touch them and shine upon them, warm them, show them the way and fill them with hope. How many souls have been consoled by the prayer *"Jesus, I trust in you"*, which Providence intimated through Sr. Faustina! This simple act of abandonment to Jesus dispels the thickest clouds and lets a ray of light penetrate every life.

And you, Faustina, a gift of God to our time, a gift from the land of Poland to the whole Church, obtain for us an awareness of the depth of Divine Mercy; help us to have a living experience of it and to bear witness to it among our brothers and sisters. May your message of light and hope spread throughout the world, spurring sinners to conversion, calming rivalries and hatred and opening individuals and nations to the practice of brotherhood. Today, fixing our gaze with you on the face of the risen Christ, let us make our own your prayer of trusting abandonment and say with firm hope: *Christ Jesus, I trust in you!*

From the homily of Pope St. John Paul II on the occasion of the canonization of St. Faustina, April 30, 2000.



**Into The Heart of Mercy and Peace
Young Adult Holy Hour**

Friday, April 28, 2017 at 7:00PM

**St. Frances de Chantal (host)
St. Benedict, St. Clare of Assisi, St. Francis Xavier
St. Theresa of the Infant Jesus**

ST. THERESA PARISH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER LADIES NIGHT "ROCKIN" BINGO/TRICKY TRAY EVENT

DATE: FRIDAY- APRIL 28, 2017 @ 7:00PM

WHERE: ST. THERESA SCHOOL GYM

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& BEVERAGE)**

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PER CARD**

DIVINE MERCY

Openness to Christ, who as the Redeemer of the world fully “reveals man to himself,” can only be achieved through an ever more mature reverence to the Father and his love. Although God “dwells in unapproachable light,” he speaks to man by means of the whole of the universe: “Ever since the creation of the world his invisible nature, namely, his eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made.” This indirect and imperfect knowledge, achieved by the intellect seeking God by means of creatures through the visible world, falls short of “vision of the Father.” ... This “making known” reveals God in the most profound mystery of his being, one and three, surrounded by “unapproachable light.” Nevertheless, through this “making known” by Christ we know God above all in his relationship of love for man: in his “philanthropy.” It is precisely here that “his invisible nature” becomes in a special way “visible,” incomparably more visible than through all the other “things that have been made”: It becomes visible in Christ and through Christ, through his actions and his words, and finally through his death on the cross and his resurrection.

In this way, in Christ and through Christ, God also becomes especially visible in his mercy; that is to say, there is emphasized that attribute of the divinity which the Old Testament, using various concepts and terms, already defined as “mercy.” Christ confers on the whole of the Old Testament tradition about God’s mercy a definitive meaning. Not only does he speak of it and explain it by the use of comparisons and parables, but above all he himself makes it incarnate and personifies it. He himself, in a certain sense, is mercy. To the person who sees it in him - and finds it in him - God becomes “visible” in a particular way as the Father “who is rich in mercy.”

Pope John Paul II

**CROWING OF THE BLESSED MOTHER
&
COMMUNION BREAKFAST
MAY 7, 2017**



St. Theresa’s Altar Society is sponsoring a Family and Parish Community Communion Breakfast after the 10:30AM Mass on Sunday, May 6th. All St. Theresa’s First Communicants will be the guest of the Altar Society. In addition, all others are invited to attend. Tickets can be purchased through the school or Rectory. The ticket price is \$5.00 per person, ages 5 to adult. Children under 5 are free. **NO tickets will be sold at the door.**

REMINDER – If you have a Sunday Mass offered for a loved one and are present at the Mass and would like to bring up the Offertory Gifts to the Altar please let one of the ushers know before the Mass begins.

PRAISES OF THE DIVINE MERCY

Response: **I Trust In You***

Divine Mercy, gushing forth from the bosom of the Father,
 Divine Mercy, greatest attribute of God,
 Divine Mercy, incomprehensible mystery,
 Divine Mercy, fountain gushing forth from the mystery of the Most Blessed Trinity,
 Divine Mercy, unfathomed by any intellect, human or angelic,
 Divine Mercy, from which wells forth all life and happiness,
 Divine Mercy, better than the heavens,
 Divine Mercy, source of miracles and wonders,
 Divine Mercy, encompassing the whole universe,
 Divine Mercy, descending to earth in the Person of the Incarnate Word,
 Divine Mercy, which flowed out from the open wound of the Heart of Jesus,
 Divine Mercy, enclosed in the Heart of Jesus for us, and especially for sinners,
 Divine Mercy, unfathomed in the institution of the Sacred Host,
 Divine Mercy, in the founding of Holy Church,
 Divine Mercy, in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism,
 Divine Mercy, in our justification through Jesus Christ,
 Divine Mercy, accompanying us through our whole life,
 Divine Mercy, embracing us especially at the hour of death,
 Divine Mercy, endowing us with immortal life,
 Divine Mercy, accompanying us every moment of our life,
 Divine Mercy, shielding us from the fire of hell,
 Divine Mercy, in the conversion of hardened sinners,
 Divine Mercy, astonishment for Angels, incomprehensible to Saints,
 Divine Mercy, unfathomed in all the mysteries of God.
 Divine Mercy, lifting us out of every misery,
 Divine Mercy, source of our happiness and joy,
 Divine Mercy, in calling us forth from nothingness to existence,
 Divine Mercy, embracing all the works of His hands,
 Divine Mercy, crown of all of God’s handiwork,
 Divine Mercy, in which we are all immersed,
 Divine Mercy, sweet relief for anguished hearts,
 Divine Mercy, only hope of despairing souls,
 Divine Mercy, repose of hearts, peace amidst fear,
 Divine Mercy, delight and ecstasy of holy souls,
 Divine Mercy, inspiring hope against all hope.

All:

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.

**Encounter with Jesus, St. Benedict’s Church,
2969 Otis Avenue, Bronx, NY 10465**

A Night of prayer and adoration with the Blessed Sacrament, with meditation of Scripture, with songs of praise and worship. Confessions throughout the evening.

Friday, May 12th from 7:00pm until 8:30pm, followed by fellowship in Fr. Albert Hall.

718-828-3404, ext. 116 Bro. Robinson - The-Encounter.org



**APRIL 28
ST. PETER CHANEL
(1803-1841)**

Anyone who has worked in loneliness, with great adaptation required and with little apparent success, will find a kindred spirit in Peter Chanel.

As a young priest, he revived a parish in a “bad” district by the simple method of showing great devotion to the sick. Wanting to be a missionary, he joined the society of Mary (Marists) at 28. Obediently, he taught in the seminary for five years. Then, as superior of seven Marists, he traveled to Western Oceania. The bishop accompanying the missionaries left Peter and a brother on Futuna Island (northeast of Fiji), promising to return in six months. He was gone for five years.

Meanwhile, Peter struggled with this new language and mastered it, making the difficult adjustment to life with whalers, traders, and warring natives. Despite little apparent success and severe want, he maintained a serene and gentle spirit, plus endless patience and courage. A few natives had been baptized, a few more were being instructed. When the chieftain’s son asked to be baptized, persecution by the chieftain reached a climax. Father Chanel was clubbed to death.

Within two years after his death, the whole island became Catholic and has remained so. Peter Chanel is the first martyr of Oceania and its patron.

Suffering for Christ means suffering because we are like Christ. Very often the opposition we meet is the result of our own selfishness or imprudence. We are not martyrs when we are “persecuted” by those who merely treat us as we treat them. A Christian martyr is one who, like Christ, is simply a witness to God’s love, and brings out of human hearts the good or evil that is already there.



CARDINAL’S APPEAL 2017:

The 2017 Cardinal’s Appeal is underway throughout the Archdiocese and here in our own parish.

Cardinal Dolan has emphasized that we are all “stewards” of God’s gifts, that everything we have has been given to us by our loving Father. Your gift to the Appeal is your sharing what you have with those who are less fortunate. That is what Christian stewardship is all about. We respond to God’s generosity in our lives with gratitude by using and sharing our gifts in service of others.

You have received a special mailing from our Parish Office about the Appeal. You may use the form contained in that letter, place it in an envelope, and drop it off at the Rectory or place it in the regular collection on Sunday.

Thank you for being God’s “faithful Stewards.”

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**APRIL 23
SAINT GEORGE
(C.280 - 303)**

Saint George is the object of a vast amount of imagination. There is every reason to believe that he was a real martyr who suffered at Lydda in Palestine, probably before the time of Constantine. The Church adheres to his memory, but not to the legends surrounding his life. That he was willing to pay the supreme price to follow Christ is what the Church believes. And that is enough.

The story of George’s slaying the dragon, rescuing the king’s daughter and converting Libya is a 12th-century Italian fable. George was a favorite patron saint of Crusaders, as well as of Eastern soldiers in earlier times. He is a patron saint of England, Portugal, Germany, Aragon, Catalonia, Genoa and Venice. He is also the patron saint of soldiers and Boy Scouts.

Human nature seems to crave more than cold historical data. Americans have Washington and Lincoln, but we somehow need Paul Bunyan, too. Santa Claus is the popular extension of the spirit of Saint Nicholas. The legends about Saint George are part of this yearning. Both fact and legend are human ways of illumining the mysterious truth about God who alone is holy.



ST. THERESA FEAST UPDATE:

As you know, we are planning to hold the Feast this year from Wednesday, June 21st through Sunday, June 25. The Feast, usually held in July, will be held in June right after school closes, to encourage families to attend. This year the Feast will have a definite “family focus.” In this our 90th year, we want to emphasize that it is our families that make “**St. Theresa Strong.**”

At this time we want to ask your help in obtaining **corporate sponsors** for the Feast. Businesses you may be dealing with may be interested in becoming corporate sponsors. Each sponsor will receive a poster indicating “**I am a Sponsor of the St. Theresa Feast.**” Please bring this information to local businesses who may wish to sponsor our Feast. It is good advertisement for them and, of course, it is a great help to us. Sponsorship information may be obtained at the rectory or online at our church website www.sttheresachurchbronx.org.

You may also know a vendor who may be interested in a Food Booth or a table in the Flea Market which will be going on during the Feast. Vendor information, with the appropriate NYC regulations, may likewise be obtained at the rectory.

Finally, please pass the word about our **GRAND RAFFLE**; The prizes are:
First Prize—\$25,000
Second Prize—\$5000
Third Prize—\$1000

Tickets are \$100 each. If you need a ticket, please pick one up at the rectory. Raffle tickets will also be sold on Saturday evenings and Sundays in front of the church.

Our next **Feast Preparation Meeting** will be this Tuesday, April 25th at 7:30PM in the rectory meeting room. Come and give us your ideas and help.



THIS WEEK'S ALTAR BREAD IS IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
ROSE DIFIGOLA
LOVE, CAROL DELUCA & FRANK ROSCONI



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED
MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH AND THEIR FAMILIES
GEORGE ORTIZ & JAMES DIDOMENICO



THE SANCTUARY LAMP BURNING NEAR THE
TABERNACLE THIS WEEK IS IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
JOSEPH LOMBARDO
LOVE, MAUREEN



THE FLOWERS IN FRONT OF THE ALTAR THIS WEEK
ARE IN LOVING MEMORY
SALVATORE & MARY TOCCO

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.

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.



SATURDAY APRIL 22, 2017

5:00PM Frances Cafiero

SUNDAY APRIL 23, 2017

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

9:00AM Gennaro Serpico

10:30AM Lillian Marro

12:15PM Filippo Restifo

1:30PM Moza Anton

5:00PM Antonio Scassera

MONDAY APRIL 24, 2017

8:00AM Gennaro (Gerry) Serpico

9:00AM Rose Gangemi

TUESDAY APRIL 25, 2017

8:00AM Chris Sassone

9:00AM Ann Nutini

WEDNESDAY APRIL 26, 2017

8:00AM Benedetta Limongelli

9:00AM Luigi Fata

THURSDAY APRIL 27, 2017

8:00AM Jamie Fret

9:00AM Giuseppe Bucci

12:00PM Lisa Miranda

FRIDAY APRIL 28, 2017

8:00AM Maria Bruno

9:00AM Joseph Posimato

SATURDAY APRIL 29, 2017

8:00AM Terri DiPasquale & Annie Leicht

9:00AM Ciro & Filadelfio DiFranco

5:00PM Zottola & Marino Familia

SUNDAY APRIL 30, 2017

7:30AM Merinda Fusco

9:00AM Flora Pisano

10:30AM Francesca Giaquinta

12:15PM Irma Orrico

1:30PM Parishioners of St. Theresa

5:00PM Sr. Grace Sabatello, Mary Sabatello & Frances Ackery

PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH:

Phyllis Amitrano, Maryann Cale Bannan, Ralph Barbaro, Nancy Cardone, Elaine Reiss Cina, Joseph Cina, Phyllis Caruso, Peter Corbo, Marie DiPolo, Daley Gribbon, Sean Howell, William Keenan, Sal Lanza, Frank Maiorana, Maryann Maiorana, Diane Martino, Joe Martino, Theresa Martino, Tina Maskara, Jeannete Montalbano, Isabelle O'Brien, Joan Ricci, Marie Russillo, Mario Simeone, Toni Spahr, Bina Trerotola, Florence Valentine, Nicholas Vasti, Irene Vesely.

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