



AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Luis A Vera, O.S.A.
Pastor

Pastor@stnicholasoftolentinebronx.org

Fr. Joseph Tran- *Associate*

Fr. Carlos Urbina, O.S.A.
In Residence

Fr. Joseph Murray, O.S.A.
In Residence

Fr. William Wallace, O.S.A.
In Residence

Br. Bienvenido Rodriguez, O.S.A.
In Residence

CATHOLIC FAITH
FORMATION
Jesus DeLaRosa

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
Mr. Daniel Kirk-Foster
Mr. Dang Vu

ACCOUNTING
Ms. Shelly Parkin

PLANT MANAGER
Mr. Jesus Liriano
917-579-6720

RECEPTIONIST
Ms. Lucy Maldonado

ST. NICHOLAS OF TOLENTINE CHURCH

2345 UNIVERSITY AVENUE BRONX, NY 10468

TEL. (718) 295-6800 www.stnicholasoftolentinebronx.org FAX (718) 367-7411

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil

7:00 p.m. **Spanish** (piano & cantor)

Sunday

8:00 a.m. **English** (organ & cantor)

9:30 a.m. **Spanish** (piano & choir/cantor)

11:30 a.m. **English** (organ & choir/cantor)

1:30 p.m. **Vietnamese** (keyboard & choir)

3:30 p.m. **Spanish** (piano & cantor)

Weekdays	8:30 a.m. Spanish (Mon-Fri.)
	7:45 a.m. Vietnamese (Sat)

CATHOLIC FAITH FORMATION

All those who are called to follow Jesus in the Catholic faith along with Catholics already baptized (adults, youth & children) who desire to celebrate the sacraments of First Confession, First Communion and Confirmation can make contact with the coordinator of this area for information about the various programs available. Registration for these programs are announced in the bulletin during various times of the year. Also appointments can be made in the parish office at anytime.

Parents wishing to baptize their children (ages 1-5) are invited to make an appointment in the parish office to speak with a staff member in order to make arrangements for participating in the Baptismal Program.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSIONS)

At the parish office by appointment.

MARRIAGE

Couples planning to be married should call for an appointment six months in advance of the wedding.

VISITS TO THE SICK

In emergency, call the parish office at any hour. Please inform the office of sick or homebound who desire the sacraments.

NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome to all parishioners.

We encourage all parishioners to register at our parish office. We invite new parishioners to make an appointment to meet a member of the parish staff.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00 a.m. - 12 Noon open (12 pm - 1 pm closed)
1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. open (5 p.m. - 6 p.m. closed) 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. open
SATURDAY 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
SUNDAY 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE ETERNAL GOD



King David wished that the ark of God might have a more permanent home. David may have envisioned something like the cedar palace where he resided. God had in mind something more: a throne where David's descendants would rule for ever, a kingdom where Jews and Gentiles alike would be welcome.

Mary's prayerful nature led to an even more disturbing message. She would conceive and bear a Son though she was not yet married. "How can this come about?" Mary wondered. "The Holy Spirit will come upon you," she was told (Luke 1:35).

Mary's acceptance of this difficult challenge ushered in this, the final age of God's reign. What was once a secret known only by chosen people like King David and his descendants must now be made clear to all so that, as Saint Paul wrote to the Romans, we can be brought to the "obedience of faith" "according to the command of the eternal God" (Romans 16:26).

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

First Reading — I will fix a place for my people. (2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16).

Psalm — For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord (Psalm 89).

Second Reading — To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever and ever (Romans 16:25-27).

Gospel — Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word (Luke 1:26-38).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

"Where does God dwell?" is a question on the minds of many as we continue to adjust to the pandemic. David wanted to build an ornate dwelling for the Ark of the Covenant, but God said, "No, that's not what I had in mind!" The reading from Romans teaches us that God is present in the Word, and in Luke's Gospel passage today, Jesus is residing in the womb of Mary. We know that Jesus is present in the assembly gathered, the *Koinonia*, as well as within the Eucharistic species. But no matter how one experiences the presence of Jesus, these days are challenging. In many places, only limited numbers continue to be allowed in church, while others are only able to worship via live stream. None of the pat answers to where God dwells really fit. We need to try and answer this with new eyes and ears and heart.

LOOKING AGAIN

Luke says that Mary "was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be." She asks, "How can this be?" These questions don't fit with how Fra Angelico positioned Gabriel and Mary. In the *Vivas* illustrations, the Angel Gabriel sits down with battered wings and a balding head and has a cup of coffee with Mary as the two of them try to figure it out together. The text is the same, but the message conveyed is different. There is a different degree of comfort and familiarity to these illustrations.

This "having a cup of coffee" is something we need to learn to do with the scriptures and with our lives. After this event, pregnant Mary traveled into the hill country to be with Elizabeth; an older, wiser, mentor—a mother figure. She spent three months there reflecting and preparing for the birth of her child. In this final week of Advent, take a few moments to find a Gabriel/Mary or an Elizabeth/Mary moment and read the Christmas readings again to see what you might have overlooked, and to find a new way for Christ to dwell in you.

A CLASSIC IMAGE

When we think of today's Gospel, the image of this meeting between the Angel Gabriel and Mary by Fra Angelico (1440–1445) likely comes to mind. In this fresco, Gabriel and Mary are outside sitting among the columns, and Gabriel, with his big wings and hands crossed, gazes upon Mary and gestures towards her. She is well dressed in a traditional blue garment, and though her face shows shock, her folded hands model submission and humility. This work of art is so beautifully executed that we can miss some of its finer details. Similarly, because the Gospel scene is so familiar, we can forget to take in its small details. A few years ago, this author found a children's book called "The Nativity" illustrated by Julie Vivas. Because her drawings were so fresh and charming and simple, she invited new perspective on the story.

Please visit our website for all the latest information and special Prayer Services, at: stnicholasoftolentinebronx.org and join us on Facebook, St. Nicholas of Tolentine Parish

Pray Before You Speak

Have you ever been told to “think before you speak”? Nathan seems to have spoken too soon when he told David to do whatever he wanted about building a house for the LORD. He was being respectful to his king, and it sounded like a good idea. But later that night the Lord gave him a message for David: the LORD did not need anyone to build him a house; God would make David’s house (in the sense of family or descendants) last forever.

As a prophet Nathan was expected to speak for the LORD. When he finally listened to the LORD, he got the message right. And that can be a lesson to us. Instead of just thinking before we speak, it could be a good idea to pray before we speak.

How many times have we said something in anger—or selfishness, fear, any strong feeling—that we wished we could take back? If we just think before we speak, we might just rationalize what we wanted to say in the first place. But if we take a little more time to bring our feelings to God, ask for guidance and listen for what God would have us say, things might turn out a lot better.

God can also surprise us if given the chance. The kingdom (“house”) God was promising was not a political one, but a universal one. Jesus fulfills this promise as the Son of God who came to proclaim the Kingdom of God. Jesus himself prayed to the Father often in his life.

We can do the same. We pray before meals; why not pray before going to work? We can pray before making decisions about our family, getting engaged, taking a new job, buying a new house/car/HD-TV, etc. When a friend or relative needs someone to talk to, we can pray that we listen well and say what God wants our friend to hear. When we are sorry for hurting someone, we can pray for forgiveness and even listen to God to learn what we might do to make it up to them. If we have enough faith to let God guide our lives, let’s take the time in prayer to listen for that guidance.

Tom Schmidt, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

The Archdiocese of New York takes stewardship of your donations seriously. If you have knowledge of or reason to suspect misconduct, please report your concerns via a toll-free hotline at 877-820-0541 or on the internet at <http://www.reportlineweb.com/ADNY>. Both are available 24 hours per day.

Confessions are by appointment only. Please call 718-295-6800 for an appointment time.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK
DECEMBER 21, 2020

Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
 Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
 Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
 Thursday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79
 Friday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]
 Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22
 Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 105:1-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Hb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK
DECEMBER 21, 2020

Monday
8:30am Marta Hanh (D); Miriam Sanchez Chavez (D)
Tuesday
8:30am Familia Reyes Maldonado (D); Colon Rosado (D)
Wednesday
8:30am Juana Mercedes Vera (D)
Thursday
8:30am Maria Thuan (D)
8:00pm For the people of the parish
Friday
10:00am For the people of the parish
Saturday
7:45am Giuse va Maria (D); Giuse Hung (D)
7:00pm Maria Loi (D); Ramon Bueno (D); Ramon Martes (D)
Sunday
8:00am All Souls
9:30am Juana Merel Alvarado (D)
11:30am Joseph McQuade (D)
1:30pm Maria Thuan (D)
3:30pm Peace (family)

OFFERTORY COLLECTION
DECEMBER 6, 2020

Tithing: \$5,616.48
 Children: \$0.00
 Total: \$5,616.48

Helping Seniors Stay Healthy and Independent



SBH offers programs to deal with many problems associated with aging, including:

- Memory loss
- Falls, balance disorders or dizziness
- Urinary incontinence
- Depression
- Vision, hearing and dental problems
- Medication management

SBH
Health System
BRONX
www.SBHNY.org

To get started today, please call 718-960-3100.



catholicmatch®
New York



CatholicMatch.com/myNY

FOOD UNIVERSE
MARKETPLACE

Fresh Produce • Counter Meat
Dairy • Frozen • Groceries
at Great Prices! Weekly Sales
FREE Delivery (\$50 Min.)
on Store/Phone Orders
Hot Food (\$10 Min) FREE Delivery
60 W. 183rd St. (718) 367-5006
2358 University Ave.
(718) 295-2776
Catering All Occasions
10% Sr. Citizen Discount - Wed Only



534 East 180 St
(718) 295-6188
www.palacepaints.com

5% OFF for Parishioners



Consider Remembering Your Parish in Your Will.

For further information, please call the Parish Office.



Sell, Buy or Rent:



Call me for a free Comparative Market Analysis of your home.
Hablamos español.
Jose Flores, Licensed Realtor®
Exit Realty Group
2000 Williamsbridge Rd. • Bronx, NY 10461
Cell: 917-353-8808
Fax: 718-409-3311
www.joseflores.exitrealtygroup.com

Advertising Sales

¿TIENES EXPERIENCIA EN VENTAS Y DISFRUTAS LLAMAR A LAS EMPRESAS LOCALES?

PODEMOS TENER UNA POSICIÓN IDEAL PARA USTED.

TIEMPO COMPLETO.

POTENCIAL DE INGRESOS DE \$45K A \$60K

CONVIÉRTASE EN VENDEDOR DE PUBLICIDAD PARA

J.S. PALUCH COMPANY,

EDITOR NACIONAL DE BOLETINES DE LA IGLESIA.

• Excelente Programa de Compensación de la Comisión

• Beneficios médicos, 401k, seguro de vida y discapacidad disponible



Si está interesado mande su curriculum por correo electrónico a boberr@jspaluch.com

www.jspaluch.com

EOE



1430 AM
1160 AM

America's Catholic Talk Radio Network



Your ad could be in this space!

JOIN US FOR OUR OPEN HOUSE!

¡VENGA A NUESTRO EVENTO DE PUERTAS ABIERTAS!

December 19 | Diciembre 19
January 23 | Enero 23
February 25 | Febrero 25
March 24 | Marzo 24
5:30PM-6:30PM

Catholic Cruises and Tours and The Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America

Take your FAITH ON A JOURNEY.
Call us today at 860-399-1785 or email eileen@CatholicCruisesandTours.com

www.CatholicCruisesandTours.com



DO YOU HAVE SALES EXPERIENCE? ARE YOU WELL NETWORKED IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY?

J.S. PALUCH COMPANY
NATIONAL PUBLISHER OF CHURCH BULLETINS

- Full Time Positions Available with Excellent Earning Potential!
- Medical Benefits, 401K, Life & AD&D Insurance Available
- Excellent Commission Compensation Program

Interested? Call Kay Leane 1.800.621.5197 x2823

or Email Resume to RECRUITING@JSPALUCH.COM

www.jspaluch.com

EARN MONEY!
DO GOOD! MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT!



BRILLA
Public Charter Schools

929-422-0128 • 347-996-9712

www.brillaschools.org
apply@brillaschools.org

Brilla Pax & Brilla Caritas
2331 University Ave, Bronx, NY 10468