



## AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

### PASTORAL STAFF

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

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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

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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](http://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)

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|                 |                                     |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Weekdays</b> | 8:30 a.m. <b>Spanish</b> (Mon-Fri.) |
|                 | 7:45 a.m. <b>Vietnamese</b> (Sat)   |

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### 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.



## THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

### WE ARE GOD'S HOLY FAMILY



The scriptures of Israel are filled with many stories of barren couples who were miraculously granted the gift of children by God. Surely the best known among these is the first reading from today, from which Luke took inspiration when he recounted the miraculous birth of John the Baptist to Zechariah and Elizabeth, and the more miraculous birth of Jesus to Mary and Joseph. In each instance, we are given examples or role models of those who trusted in God. More than examples of those who trust, they are models of self-surrender. They abandoned their own presuppositions and prejudices about the workings of the world and turned their lives over to belief in a God who can make life grow where none ought to; a God who can turn death around into a new and unimagined life; a God who can, today, take a tiny child of humble parents in an insignificant town and make him into a light for all the world. This is what we, as God's holy family, are called to do each day: to trust not in ourselves and the way we think things should be, but to open ourselves and surrender ourselves in faith to a God of endless promise.

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**First Reading** — Those who honor their parents will be greatly blessed and will atone for sins (Sirach 3:2-6,12-14) or *Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3*.

**Psalm** — Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways (Psalm 128) or *Psalm 105*.

**Second Reading** — Be thankful; do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus (Colossians 3:12-21 [12-17]) or *Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19*.

**Gospel** — The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom (Luke 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]).

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

On this feast of the Holy Family, we want to offer all families blessings. "Family" may have a lot of different connotations these days. In the United States, the "father, mother, child" family is less common now, and large Catholic families are not as common as they once were. The concept of family is more fluid with many forms of blended families due to second marriages, multigenerational households, and other living arrangements. In a recent survey by the Pew research center, four in ten babies are born to single mothers. Other children are being raised by grandparents or foster parents. In today's Genesis story, Abraham was ready to concede to another form of family, making the child of one of his servants his heir. The reading from Hebrews reiterates the story of Genesis, and "your descendants will be more numerous than the stars." The Gospel relates the story of the presentation in the temple.

#### EXAMPLES IN OUR ELDERS

When someone does present a child for baptism, it can become too easy for others to pass judgment because the parents don't know the rubrics well, or aren't dressed better, or "why is that single mother having her baby baptized during Mass?" Notice that the Gospel says nothing about the priests of the temple and how they received Jesus. Rather it talks about Simeon and Anna. They are worth a study in themselves. Simeon is a devout man who is there waiting for a particular sign, and it is fulfilled when he see the Christ Child. Anna is just in the temple praying, as is her custom. After the presentation of Jesus, she does what she does best—she goes back to praying in the temple. Perhaps these readings teach us how we as a faith community can see the sacredness in those families presenting their children for baptism, and welcome them as did Anna and Simeon. May we all learn from their wisdom!

#### POWER IN PRESCRIBED RITUALS

Joseph and Mary presented Jesus in the temple at eight days old, as was prescribed by Mosaic law. For many Catholic families, baptismal gowns were handed down through generations, and a baptism was a time of great celebration. Sadly, in our culture, baptisms continue to decline. There are many reasons for this: fewer practicing Catholics, more interfaith marriages, more secular weddings, fewer weddings by clergy, and problems or misunderstandings that turn people away. Many have left the church altogether because of the way they were treated. For some the parish is not a welcoming place. For others baptism has become just a ritual they go through for the sake of the grandparents.

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

**Processions**

Why does the liturgy begin with a procession? It is not just a practical matter of getting the ministers of the liturgy from the sacristy to the sanctuary. The procession is a powerful sign of who we are as Christian people. We are not static, staying in one place. We are going somewhere. Our procession leads us to the altar, sign of Christ's presence in our midst. We move, we process, because we recognize our need for what Christ is preparing for us at that table. We go forward eagerly, because we are hungry for that heavenly food.

This procession is an orderly one: servers, deacon, priest presider. Each is set apart by distinctive vesture: albs for the altar servers, dalmatic for the deacon, chasuble for the priest. The procession is an image of the hierarchical structure of the Church. On a deeper level it is an image of unity in diversity. We are all on a journey to the heavenly city, but each of us is clothed with different gifts. We all receive the call to service, but not in the same way. Only by coming together in all our wonderful variety can we achieve the work of the kingdom.

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK****DECEMBER 28, 2020**

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| Monday:    | 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt:13-18                   |
| Tuesday:   | 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35                     |
| Wednesday: | 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40                         |
| Thursday:  | 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18                    |
| Friday:    | Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21        |
| Saturday:  | 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28                          |
| Sunday:    | Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12 |

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK****DECEMBER 28, 2020**

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Monday</b><br>8:30am    | John Baptist, Phero, & Maria (D)   |
| <b>Tuesday</b><br>8:30am   | Thanksgiving (family)  |
| <b>Wednesday</b><br>8:30am | Odulia Muñoz (D); Jose Flores, Jesus Flores, Pedro Flores, Irene Ramirez (D) |
| <b>Thursday</b><br>8:30am  | Phanixico Xavier Hung (D)  |
| <b>Friday</b><br>10:00am   | Maria Nghi (D)   |
| <b>Saturday</b><br>7:45am  | Terêxa (D)   |
| <b>Sunday</b><br>8:00am    | Maria Truc (D)   |
| <b>9:30am</b>              | Roberto Cruz (D)   |
| <b>11:30am</b>             | Thanksgiving   |
| <b>1:30pm</b>              | Phero Trieu (D)  |
| <b>3:30pm</b>              |  |

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES****Sunday**

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

**Monday**

The Holy Innocents

**Tuesday**

Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; St. Thomas Becket

**Wednesday**

Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

**Thursday**

Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; St. Sylvester I; New Year's Eve

**Friday**

The Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; Mary, the Holy Mother of God; World Day of Prayer for Peace; New Year's Day; First Friday

**Saturday**

Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen; First Saturday

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

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION****DECEMBER 13, 2020**

|                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| <b>Tithing:</b>  | \$6,795.57 |
| <b>Children:</b> | \$0.00     |
| <b>Total:</b>    | \$6,795.57 |

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