



## AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

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*In Residence*

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

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# 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.

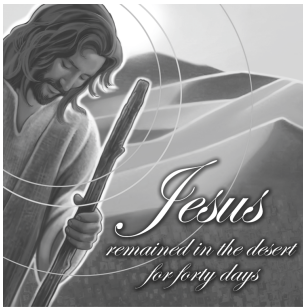
## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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.



## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

## REPENT AND BELIEVE IN THE GOSPEL



Lent is the time of year we devote to scrutinizing our lives in the light of our baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus. Today's readings are a nice shorthand catechism of what our baptized lives mean. As Noah passed through the waters of the flood to a covenant with God, so did we enter into a covenant, a promised relationship with God through our baptism.

Peter's letter gives an explicit explanation of what our baptism means: it is an appeal we make to God for a clear conscience. How do we obtain this clear conscience? The words proclaimed by Jesus immediately following his temptation show us the way: "Repent, and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15). It might be a good spiritual exercise to keep these readings before us throughout the entire season of Lent, a means to help us return to a life lived by our baptismal promises.

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**First Reading** — I will set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth (Genesis 9:8-15).

**Psalms** — Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant (Psalm 25).

**Second Reading** — The water of the flood prefigured baptism, which saves you now (1 Peter 3:18-22).

**Gospel** — Jesus was tempted by Satan, and the angels ministered to him (Mark 1:12-15)

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

Today's readings suggest two different meanings and experiences of baptism. The second reading (from 1 Peter) makes an analogy between Noah's ark and Christian baptism: just as Noah and his family were saved from death by going through the waters of the flood in the ark, Christians are saved from sin and death by going through the waters of baptism. The first reading, from Genesis, portrays the world after the flood: washed clean of its prior wickedness, embraced by God's promises that the world will never again be destroyed by water. The psalmist expresses a desire to follow the ways of God, as if re-establishing the harmony between God and humanity destroyed by sin. This peaceful scene is very different from the drama and urgency in Mark's description of Jesus after his baptism. Jesus battles demons, receives sustenance from angels, and begins preaching: "Repent. The kingdom of God is at hand."

## GOOD MORNING! WELCOME TO LENT!

You probably did not get that greeting from your priest today, and you probably did not expect it. Isn't Lent a time of reflection and repentance? Somber purple, no "Alleluias"? Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving; attending to one's relationship with God?

True enough; however, there are Lenten practices that have a festive air woven into these penitential elements. One example is in the Church's retrieval of ancient Lenten practices that made up the final preparation of persons elected to receive the Easter sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and eucharist. Jesus' urgent preaching in today's passage from Mark comes soon after his own baptism and reminds us that these sacraments still signal a dramatic change in a person's life: they have responded to Jesus' preaching of the kingdom and are now publicly professing themselves to be disciples of the Lord and fully initiated members of his visible church. The prayer, fasting, and almsgiving during Lent were part of that preparation. Repentance was then, and remains today, important also for those already fully initiated; the work of repentance, of prayerfully examining our lives and making changes in anticipation of God's reign, is an ongoing aspect of our life in Christ.

## A SECOND CHANCE TO MAKE A FIRST IMPRESSION

Other changes with baptism are more subtle and personal. When Noah and his family emerged from the ark, they saw that the floodwaters had receded after cleansing the world of human sinfulness. Everything was clean and fresh—a new creation, with a rainbow to guarantee God's promise to never again destroy the world with water. So, too, will the newly baptized emerge from the font and be anointed with chrism. Like the earth after the great flood, they are a new creation. Washed clean of sin and anointed with chrism, they are renewed in the embrace of the God of covenant love.

This is why Lent is always a festive anticipation of Easter and always about baptism, just as it is always about the repentance that draws us more deeply into God's kingdom.

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



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**DATES/FECHAS**

February 10   Febrero 10 5:30-6:30PM	March 23   Marzo 23 5:30-6:30PM
February 23   Febrero 23 5:30-6:30PM	March 25   Marzo 25 5:30-6:30PM
March 13   Marzo 13 10:00-11:00AM	March 30   Marzo 30 5:30-6:30PM

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**READINGS FOR THE WEEK  
FEBRUARY 22, 2021**

Monday: 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6; Mt 16:13-19  
 Tuesday: Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15  
 Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32  
 Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12  
 Friday: Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26  
 Saturday: Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48  
 Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116:10, 15-19; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK  
FEBRUARY 22, 2021**

**Monday 8:30am** Anastacio Montero (D); Carlos Cabrera (D), Juan Cesario Nuñez (D)  
**Tuesday 8:30am** Alfonso Figueroa (D)  
**Wednesday 8:30am** Familia Muñoz (D)  
**Thursday 8:30am** Giuse Hau (D)  
**Friday 8:30am** Ramon Marte (D); Manuel E. Caminero (D)  
**Saturday 7:45am** Phero Luc (D)  
**7:00pm** Filomena & Ricardo Reyes (D); Estanislao Hernandez (D)  
**Sunday 8:00am** People of SNT  
**9:30am** San Judas Tadeo, Ricarda Umana (D), David Umana (D), Irma Cascante (D); Francisco Gomez & Estelvina Rojas (D)  
**11:30am** Virginia Letitia Woods, Walter Acerno Woods, Beryl Cleopatra Woods, Percival D'Anil, Wilfred Ramos (D)  
**1:30pm** Daminh Háí (D)

Usually, the first reading has something in common with the gospel. Today's however, has more in common with the second reading from St. Peter. They both talk about Noah and the ark, where the few good people were saved by going through the water. Peter compares that to the waters of Baptism, in which we are saved by God. Just as God washed away the evil of the world in the waters of the flood, so the waters of Baptism made us into a new people who have clear consciences, both because God has forgiven our sins and because we promise to follow only Him.

That leads to the Gospel, where Jesus is tempted by Satan. But unlike the people of Noah's time, Jesus does not fall to the temptations. Instead, he comes out of the desert, telling us to repent and believe in the good news.

That means we have a choice to make: Do we accept this kingdom and repent, or do we ignore our baptism and do what we want? Do we still have a clear conscience when we think of how much time we spend getting to know Jesus? Ever pray or read the bible outside of church? Do we spend near as much on the poor, as we do for our entertainment?

Next time you see a rainbow, think about the covenant that God made with Noah. Just as God's promises get better and better till the coming of Jesus, we are challenged to be more and more like Him. Are you satisfied with just a promise that God won't destroy us all in a flood? Or are you ready to live the New Covenant that Jesus promises to those who will follow him?

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**OFFERTORY COLLECTION  
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