



## AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

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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  
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Mr. Dang Vu

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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.

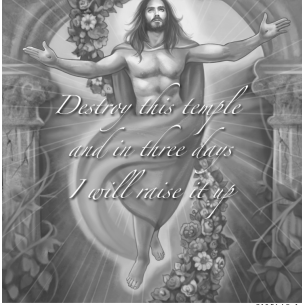
## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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.



## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

## TOTAL ALLEGIANCE



In previous weeks we have seen how the theme of covenant—as a preparation for the baptismal covenant celebrated at Easter—occupies an important place in our cycle of Lenten readings. The notion of covenant as a relationship between two parties carries with it an expectation of mutual accountability and fidelity to the terms of the covenant. When God forged the covenant with the Jewish people on Mt. Sinai, it was a pledge of God’s protection, and it would forever permit them familiar access as the Chosen People. For their part, the Jewish people were to observe the dictates of the law, summarized most succinctly here in the form of the Ten Commandments. To be in a covenantal relationship with the Lord God requires an exclusive relationship, just as discipleship with Jesus—ritualized in baptism—demands a total allegiance to him and none other.

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**First Reading** — The law was given through Moses (Exodus 20:1-17 [1-3, 7-8, 12-17]) or *Exodus 17:3-7*.

**Psalm** — Lord, you have the words of everlasting life (Psalm 19) or *Psalm 95*.

**Second Reading** — We proclaim Christ crucified; the foolishness of God is greater than human wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:22-25) or *Romans 5:1-2, 5-8*.

**Gospel** — Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up (John 2:13-25) or *John 4:5-42 [5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42]*.

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 reading from Exodus tells of God giving the Ten Commandments to Moses; this passage is well known to Christians, but it is only the introduction to the entire Mosaic Law, or Torah. The Psalm is a small section of the longest in the Psalter—172 verses—which are generally couplets (two lines) praising the Law as perfect, true, just, right, and so on. The Law is both the source of Jewish identity and the centerpiece of the Jewish intellectual tradition. Paul briefly compares this tradition with those of the Greeks, the two groups in the church at Corinth that were often quarreling. The passage from John’s Gospel shows Jesus’ righteous anger as he chases the moneychangers from the temple. His actions are a sign of Jesus’ own reverence for “my Father’s house,” which in turn reflects his deep appreciation for the Law.

## JESUS, THE LAW, THE JEWS—AND US

When Jesus accused the moneychangers of sacrilege and cleared them out of the temple, the onlookers asked for a sign of his authority to do such a thing. After all, wasn’t it a sacrilege to purchase animals for sacrifice with pagan coins? Wasn’t this how the Jews adapted to Roman rule? Jesus says nothing about that; he only knows that this commercial activity inside the temple was a sacrilege. Elsewhere in the Gospels Jesus is criticized for not being strict enough with the Law, as when he ate with prostitutes and tax collectors, but here he is prescribing something stricter, something “more.”

Jesus is doing something extraordinary, contrary to ordinary practice, prompting the onlookers to request a sign, evidence that God is acting here through Jesus. His insistence that the moneychangers depart, his clear vision regarding “my Father’s house,” and his cryptic reference to himself as a temple, are signs of his contemplative intimacy with his Father that is the source of his authority about the Law.

Catholics, like first-century Jews, have our regular means for living in God’s presence. We have the liturgy, sacraments, devotions, and personal prayer. During Lent, we are asked to be a little stricter with ourselves, listening for God’s own voice. If we do, we might discover that we, too, are being called to something “more.”

## “THE LAW OF THE LORD IS PERFECT . . .”

For pious Jews in first-century Palestine, the Mosaic Law prescribed the way every action in life is dedicated to God. Today’s reading from Exodus tells how the Ten Commandments, the introduction to this larger legal code, is given to Israel as a gift from God.

In the Gospels Jesus is portrayed as a rabbi, or someone learned in the Law. A rabbi’s learning ideally included both the precepts of the Law and its reverent contemplation as a divine gift, within which one could hear God’s own voice. This was the way rabbis through the centuries used the Law to adapt to changing circumstances. This seems to be what Jesus was doing with the moneychangers in the temple.

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**

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March 13 | Marzo 13  
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March 23 | Marzo 23  
5:30-6:30PM

March 25 | Marzo 25  
5:30-6:30PM

March 30 | Marzo 30  
5:30-6:30PM

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**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**  
**MARCH 8, 2021**

**Monday:** 2 Kgs 5:1-15b; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30  
**Tuesday:** Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6-7bc, 8-9; Mt. 18:21-35  
**Wednesday:** Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19  
**Thursday:** Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Lk 11:14-23  
**Friday:** Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-11ab, 14, 17; Mk 12:28-34  
**Saturday:** Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-21ab; Lk 18:9-14  
**Sunday:** 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Ps 137:1-6; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21  
 Alternate readings (Year A):  
 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23:1-6; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41[1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**  
**MARCH 8, 2021**

**Monday 8:30am** Lourdes Espinal (D); Fr. Joseph Girone, Manuel DeJesus Ramirez (D)  
**Tuesday 8:30am** Gioan & Maria (D); Fr. Joseph Girone, Manuel DeJesus Ramirez (D)  
**Wednesday 8:30am** Thanksgiving (family)  
**Thursday 8:30am**  
**Friday 8:30am** Peace (family)  
**Saturday 7:45am** Giuse Tin (D)  
**7:00pm** Silvia Sandoval, Alejandro Luna, Lorenzo Sandoval (D)  
**Sunday 8:00am** All Souls  
**9:30am** Raul Cabrera, Padre & Juana Loncomilla (D); Acción de gracias a la Milagrosa; Pedro Reyes Basurto (D); Felix Cruz (L)  
**11:30am** Altagracia Roman Rodriguez (D)  
**1:30pm** Phero & Maria (D)

As we are now well into Lent, we can take a look at what it means to turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel. A good place to start would be the Ten Commandments. The reading from Exodus presents us with one of the first listings of the Commandments. In this passage, God explains some of the laws to show how serious they are. For the first one, God includes making images to be used for worship.

In the days of Moses, people of other cultures made images of their gods and declared that the image was the god, and so should be worshipped. The LORD wanted his people to remember that God cannot be limited to an image or idea. That is still true today. Our images and statues are meant to help us pray to God, not to that work of art.

On the other hand, some people give a superstitious meaning to religious articles. Burying a statue to help sell your house could be one example. If you want to ask for a favor from God, just ask Him. God is much more likely to listen to a sincere prayer than a superstitious action.

God also emphasizes some commands by duplicating them. He tells us not to steal from others, and also not to plan to steal from our neighbor. The same with adultery: Planning it is just as bad as doing it.

Jesus simplified all these commands when he reminds us to love God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself. Let's remember that as we turn away from sin to serving God better during Lent.

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**OFFERTORY COLLECTION**  
**FEBRUARY 21, 2021**

<b>Tithing:</b>	\$5,787.78	Ash Wednesday:
<b>Children:</b>	<u>\$0.00</u>	\$1,617.83
<b>Total:</b>	\$5,787.78	

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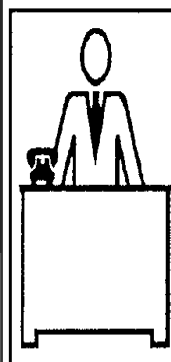
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