



## AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

### PASTORAL STAFF

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

[pastor@stnicholasoftolentinebronx.org](mailto:pastor@stnicholasoftolentinebronx.org)

Fr. Joseph Tran- *Associate*

Fr. Carlos Urbina, O.S.A –*Associate*

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

Fr. William Wallace, 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](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)

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### **Weekdays**

8:30 a.m. **Spanish** (Mon-Fri.)

12:00 p.m. **English** (Mon-Fri)

7:45 a.m. **Vietnamese** (Thu & 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.

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## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. open

MONDAY - THURSDAY 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 ADVENT

## WATCHFUL CONFIDENCE



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We the Church enter into Advent and the new liturgical year with a call for a watchful confidence. Our readings were originally addressed to communities undergoing great loss and confusion. Jeremiah speaks confidently of God fulfilling the ancient promises to Israel, even during a time of foreign invasion. Paul speaks of God leading the Church into holiness, while the community longs for the coming of Jesus. In the Gospel passage from Luke, Jesus speaks of powerful signs and of great confusion to come, but emphasizes that we may look forward knowing that God brings not cause for despair, but hope. We celebrate Advent to remind each other of God's faithfulness. We are to be watchful, to see how God is stirring up our world. God disturbs both our pride and our complacency, and brings us healing and justice. We prepare ourselves to welcome Jesus, confident that God indeed fulfills all these divine promises.

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Today, whether at evening, morning, or midday, in many communities of different churches around the world, the first candle lighted in each Advent wreath silently but beautifully announces the beginning of a new liturgical year. This new beginning presents a grace-filled opportunity for us to resolve to live not simply according to the secular calendar of our commercialized society, but according to the spirit of the liturgy. There's nothing wrong—indeed there can be something quite holy—about planning to celebrate God's surprising gift of the Son by surprising our loved ones with thoughtful gifts at Christmas. But how important, amid the rush of holiday preparations, to take the time and to make the effort to appreciate Advent's early twilights and later sunrises, awash in the purples, deep blues, and even the dusky rose colors we associate with Advent. Thus we let nature's own "Advent" prompt reflections on the "Advent" that Jeremiah saw coming.

## PREPARATION FOR THE END-TIMES

In light of these predictions of frightening end-times, Jesus advises us to embrace his three-fold "Preparation for the End Program": (1) "Beware!" that is, be aware of what really matters, life's true priorities. (2) "Be vigilant at all times," that is, watchful for Christ's coming not only at the end but in the meantime, in family and neighbor, friend and stranger. (3) Above all, "pray." Prayer, communion with God, will help us to remember that for faithful disciples, The End of this world—or our own lives, whichever comes first—will be The Beginning of a joy no one can take from us, fullness of life that will never end. How lovely if this Advent's renewal prepared us to look forward to the moment of Jesus' coming—in his glory or our death—not as a cataclysmic disaster, but as a reason for which to "stand erect and raise (our) heads (in joyful expectation) because (our) redemption is at hand."

## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — One like a Son of man received dominion, glory, and kingship (Daniel 7:13-14).

**Psalms** — The Lord is king; he is robed in majesty (Psalm 93).

**Second Reading** — Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead (Revelation 1:5-8).

**Gospel** — For this I came into the world, to testify to the truth (John 18:33b-37).

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.

## IMAGES OF THE END-TIMES

How forcefully today's scriptures challenge us to attend to the ominous nature of the Kingdom's definitive in-breaking! The call echoes through Jeremiah's prophecy: "In those days, in that time" and in Paul's letter: "at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones. Amen." The theme intensifies toward a crescendo in Luke: "there will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth . . . dismay and perplexity." People will be scared to death—literally—"in anticipation of what is coming upon the world," as "seas and waves roar" and "the powers of heaven will be shaken." And all of this will be just a prelude to "the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory." In the face of this "awful" (that is, filled-with-awe) ending, Jesus warns his disciples to guard against two equally debilitating extremes, both of which seem to be trademarks of our contemporary culture: deadening diversion on one hand, and frantic anxiety on the other.

**T**he COVID-19 pandemic has brought overwhelming grief to many families. At FEMA, our mission is to help people before, during and after disasters. We are dedicated to helping ease some of the financial stress and burden caused by the virus.

**FEMA is providing financial assistance for COVID-19-related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020.**

**Visit the parish office for more information.**

Strengthen Your Hearts

How good is good enough? Do you have to be perfect to get to heaven? In the second reading this Sunday, Paul seems to think so when he tells us to be “blameless in holiness” (1 Thess 3:13.) In fact, he tells the Thessalonians who are pleasing God, to do even more. (4:1) Now Paul never considered himself as perfect: “I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses, in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me.” (2 Cor 12:7-9) But even with his weakness, Paul always did the best he could. So what should we strive for? Maybe we can take a hint from his phrase “strengthen your hearts.”

Think of athletes who try to do their best. A great ball player takes batting practice every day to improve his average. A tennis player will practice her serve to get more aces. A hockey player will keep skating during the summer to get faster. Good athletes are always looking for ways to improve themselves. The keep in shape so they can be stronger, faster, smarter. So what about good Christians? That same attitude is what Paul means by “strengthen your hearts.” And Advent is a good time to start.

As we prepare to celebrate the coming of the Lord, we can get ourselves in spiritual shape. Spiritual reading can give us a stronger prayer life. But like the athlete who can read about the rules or strategies of the sport, we get a stronger prayer life by actually praying. If our spiritual reading just makes us feel good, we may be wasting our time. Hopefully, it will lead us to try praying more often and more seriously. Likewise, we can read about volunteering to feed the poor, but making the commitment and doing it is what strengthens the heart. And how can we be “blameless in holiness... at the coming of Our Lord?” Not by bragging about our goodness, but confessing what we have done wrong. Only God’s forgiveness can make us blameless. Then as the Gospel says, we may have “the strength...to stand before the Son of Man.” (Lk 21:36)

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



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

OFFERTORY COLLECTION  
NOVEMBER 14, 2021

Tithing: \$7,074.68  
Children: \$0.00  
Total: \$7,074.68

READINGS FOR THE WEEK  
NOVEMBER 29, 2021

Monday: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11  
Tuesday: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 4:18-22  
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37  
Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27  
Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31  
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35 — 10:1, 5a, 6-8  
Sunday: Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK  
NOVEMBER 29, 2021

**Monday**  
8:30am Benera Sufron, Petra Ortiz, Wilberto Rivera, Damaris Sanchez (D)  
Maria Ninh (D)  
12:00pm  
**Tuesday**  
8:30am Jose Miguel Peña (D); Beatriz Lendof (D)  
12:00pm Maria Nguyet (D)  
**Wednesday**  
8:30am Maria Ninh (D);  
12:00pm Marta Hanh (D)  
**Thursday**  
8:30am Bienvenido Gonzalez, Teresa Chio, Santa Ortega, Rosa Minchala (D)  
Gioanbaotixita (D)  
12:00pm  
**Friday**  
8:30am Maria Nguyet (D)  
12:00pm Phero (D)  
**Saturday**  
7:45am Ana Huong & Maria Sáu (D)  
7:00pm  
**Sunday**  
8:00am People of SNT; Maria (D)  
9:30am Acción de gracias al Divino Niño, Por los favores recibido; Pedro Reyes Basulto (D)  
Francis Xavier Trung (D) (D)  
Phero & Magarita Han (D)  
11:30am  
1:30pm

*We pray for the People of St. Nicholas of Tolentine.*  
*We pray for the sick: Marilyn Torain, Neil Kirby, Robert Weber*  
*We pray for the dead: Maria Perez, Zacarias Fortunato*



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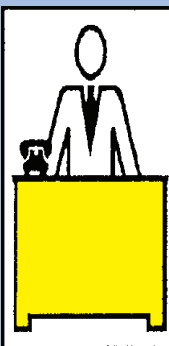
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