



AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

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Pastor

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Fr. Carlos Urbina, O.S.A –*Associate*

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

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

Br. Bienvenido Rodriguez
In Residence

CATHOLIC FAITH
FORMATION
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Mr. Daniel Kirk-Foster
Mr. Dang Vu

ACCOUNTING
Ms. Shelly Parkin

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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

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)

Weekdays

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

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

7:45 a.m. **Vietnamese** (Thu & 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. - 5:00 p.m. open

MONDAY - THURSDAY 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. open

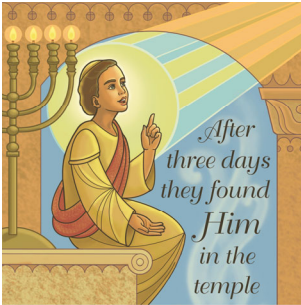
SATURDAY 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

SUNDAY 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

FAMILY LIFE



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Christmas celebrates the Incarnation, the “en-flesh-ment” of God as a human person. In Jesus, God is bodily present in the human story. Today we honor the Holy Family, helping us to see that God is active in daily family life. God is near at hand, amidst the tensions, joys, and uncertainties of family life. As our Gospel passage describes, even with family miscommunications and with limited understanding of Jesus’ mission, the Holy Family persevered in their life together. Like many family conflicts, there was no immediate or clear resolution of the issues raised by Jesus and by Mary. God’s intentions for the family, and for Jesus, were still unfolding. They continued to stay connected with each other and with God. Within the turbulence of family life, they trusted God to actively sustain and guide them into an uncertain future. We are invited to follow their example.

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It wasn’t at all what Mary and Joseph expected their life to be like. Almost from the beginning, there were indications that something extraordinary was at work: Mary’s angelic annunciation; Joseph’s strange dream; the puzzling words of Simeon and Anna in the Temple. And now this: during Mary and Joseph’s annual Passover journey to Jerusalem, the discovery that their son Jesus was lost—and even when he was found, they didn’t totally recognize their twelve-year-old boy. Today’s feast of the Holy Family reminds us of the perplexities and promise of family life. The mystery of “the Word made flesh” becomes very tangible indeed in the routines and foibles of family life—our Christmas gatherings were likely unmistakable reminders of that! From the pure flesh of a newborn child to the wizened flesh of a beloved grandmother, families are ground zero for glimpsing the wondrous mystery of the Incarnation.

DID YOU NOT KNOW?

A child’s first words are usually a source of excitement and joy for family members. Today we hear the first words of Jesus in the Gospel according to Luke. And they are challenging ones. “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” The words *astounded*, *astonished*, and *great anxiety* are used to describe Jesus’ extended visit to the Temple. How familiar those emotions are to most parents! Had Jesus’ parents forgotten the angel Gabriel’s words or the prophecy of Simeon? In Luke’s Gospel this passage foreshadows Jesus’ final journey to Jerusalem where he will experience his own Passover and again be “lost” for three days. The story of Hannah in the first reading confirms the need and nature of trusting in God’s activity in our lives. It seems clear that faithful attention to a family’s spiritual life is no guarantee that life will be free from hardship.

TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — Hannah gives her son Samuel back to the LORD, leaving him in the temple at Shiloh: “As long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD” (1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28) *or Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14.*

Psalm — Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord (Psalm 84) *or Psalm 128.*

Second Reading — We are children of God when we believe in the name of God’s Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us (1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24) *or Colossians 3:12-21 [12-17].*

Gospel — Joseph and Mary find the lost Jesus in the temple in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking questions (Luke 2:41-52).

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.

EMMANUEL: GOD IS WITH US

Could Tolstoy have gotten it wrong when he wrote that all happy families are alike and that unhappy families are each unhappy in their own way? It seems that the opposite is equally true. Because happy families foster the unique talents and interests of each member, each person shines according to their own lights. A happy family’s faith, goals, and challenges will be uniquely their own. Unhappy families, on the other hand, might look very similar in their woundedness, their fears and confrontations, and their tendency to give negative interpretations to another’s actions.

It is tempting to conclude that family life today is more problematic than ever. It might be reassuring to learn that the feast of the Holy Family was added to the Church’s universal calendar because of Pope Leo XIII’s concern for the state of family life—one hundred years ago! During this season of Christmas when families are everywhere, we welcome Emmanuel—the God who has pitched his tent among us.

We Are Family

On the feast of the Holy Family, it is tempting to compare our own families to the family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. If your parish used the year A readings that were traditionally used for this feast, the second reading from Colossians has much practical advice for our families. However, while living as a family today is challenging enough, the Gospel for year C reaches a lot farther.

Luke's narrative of the twelve year old Jesus in the temple is not a warning for parents to watch their children closely while travelling. The story looks forward to the time Jesus would be "lost" in the tomb after his crucifixion. Just as his parents found him on the third day, so Jesus would rise from the dead on the third day. And Jesus' remark, "I must be in my Father's house" (Lk 2:49) gives us a hint at who is Jesus' family.

Luke was well aware that the Temple was considered God's dwelling place. So to call it his Father's house showed that Jesus was the Son of God. Keep that in mind as you look at the second reading from the First Letter of John: "we may be called children of God." (1 Jn 3:1) Like Jesus, we call God our father, and like Jesus, we are part of a larger family than the one we live with. That family of all God's children is the one we are called to serve.

But remember Jesus was 12 in this part of the gospel. So his duty to God included being obedient to his parents. We too have a tension between obedience to our parents and following God's call, a tension between taking care of our children and giving time to God's children in the church and the community. At election time we have the tension of voting for candidates who will keep our family safe, or for those that help the poor or the aged. Just remember that, while we have a warm, cozy picture of the Holy Family, Jesus' ultimate duty was to give his life for all, especially sinners. Let us ask God to help us appreciate what our family obligations really are.

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
DECEMBER 12, 2021

Tithing: \$10,302.06
Children: \$0.00
Total: \$10,302.06

READINGS FOR THE WEEK
DECEMBER 27, 2021

Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35
Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40
Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18
Saturday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
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 27, 2021

Monday
8:30am All Souls
12:00pm Giuse Hy (D); Jason Richard Hyde (D)
Tuesday
8:30am John Baptist Chau (D)
12:00pm Maria Ninh (D)
Wednesday
8:30am Maria Colon Rosario (D)
12:00pm Giuse Hai (D)
Thursday
8:30am Maria Ninh (D)
12:00pm Maria Nhat (D)
Friday
8:30am Beatriz Lendof (D); Dando gracias por la familia; Odulia Muñoz & Jose Flores Ramirez (D) Angel Vasquez Flores & Eusebia Vasquez - 50 años de casados Maria Hue (D); Ramon Mejia Fria & Jose Altagracia Arias (D)
12:00pm
Saturday
7:45am Gioanbaotixita Phi & Ana Khien (D)
10:00am Acción de gracias a la Virgen Maria
7:00pm
Sunday
8:00am All Souls
9:30am Juan De La Cruz Vazquez, Antonia Nuñez, Alberto Nuñez, Genoveva Valerio, Blas Valerio, Maria Veras, Ramona Valerio Lolita Valerio (D)
11:30am Phero Thong & Magarita Han (D)
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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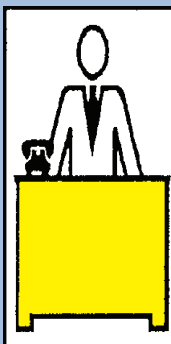
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