



## 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*

Br. Bienvenido Rodriguez  
*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.

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

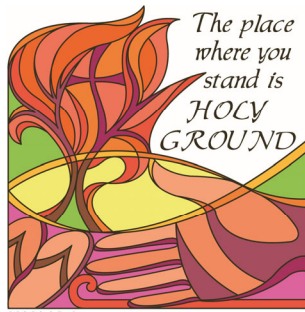
MONDAY - THURSDAY 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. open

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

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



## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



**HOLY GROUND**

Moses met God in a most astounding way in the bush that was burning but not consumed by fire. Moses clearly had a powerful encounter with the Lord. He even felt bold enough to ask God's name, something unheard of among his people at the time—God's name was unspeakable. Moses stood on holy ground. Do we not also stand on holy ground? As people who are created in God's image and drawn to Christ through the waters of Baptism, we have been filled with God's grace and goodness. The ground of our lives is holy. Lent is a time when we are called to open our minds and hearts to Christ, rely on God's patient mercy, and to grow as God's holy people.

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Elizabeth Barret Browning wrote, "Earth's crammed with heaven, And every common bush afire with God, But only he who sees, takes off his shoes; The rest sit round it and pluck blackberries." We are challenged today to experience the mystery of God with the image of Moses and the burning bush—a God who answers all questions in a simple, bold manner. Like an exasperated parent telling a child "Because I said so," God tells Moses "I am who I am," and "tell the Israelites I AM sent me to you." God may as well have said, "Save all your questions, and trust in me. Quit being so stubborn." The passage from First Corinthians reminds us what happened when the Israelites did not listen to God's message. They grumbled and complained because manna from heaven was not enough! Lastly, an annoyed Jesus calls on his listeners to repent and uses a difficult parable to stress transformation.

## GROWTH

There are times when we may feel our lives are covered in dung, and we lie dormant through a plethora of difficult and painful moments. But Jesus is calling us to use this time, to draw strength from it, to use the dung in our lives as fertilizer, to begin a slow and steady transformation to a new and better place, until we too can bear fruit. Growth is always a process, and we have to start somewhere. While there is always a call to repentance and conversion, we are blessed with a God who is loving enough and patient enough to wait for us to come to our senses, however long that may take. This Lent we are being called to life. We are called to repent. We are called to be nurtured and fertilized and take the time and effort to grow.

## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — The LORD God appears to Moses and directs him to go and deliver the Israelites from Egypt (Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15) *or* Exodus 17:3-7.

**Psalm** — The Lord is kind and merciful (Psalm 103) *or* Psalm 95.

**Second Reading** — We are not to grumble like the people with Moses in the desert (1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12) *or* Romans 5:1-2, 5-8.

**Gospel** — If you do not repent, you will all perish (Luke 13:1-9) *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.

## A CONTINUOUS LENT

In the Rule of Saint Benedict, the monks are told that their lives should be a "continuous Lent." At first, this may sound like a negative, difficult thing, or entirely depressing. Rather, it is simply a call to be open and continue growing. In fact, one of the vows that Benedictines profess is *Conversatio Morum*, that is, "conversion of life." In a nutshell, that is what Jesus is saying this week. We are being called to change our lives. Some people came to Jesus with gossip and a gruesome story about Pilate; Jesus challenged them with a couple of pointed questions, and then related the parable of the fig tree. To put it in context, usually figs blossom within two years, and then can be harvested twice a year. When a tree has been barren three years, it might be best just to remove it, but this is not the approach that Jesus suggested. Rather, the gardener in the parable chose to nurture the tree, fertilizing it with dung. He was not willing to give up on it.

Overconfident?

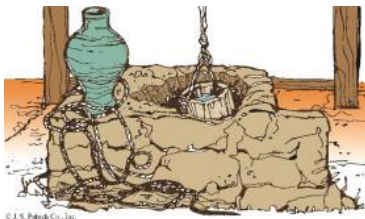
As we get to the halfway point of Lent, we may be tempted to overconfidence: "The first three weeks weren't so hard. I can go a few more weeks without the things I gave up. And I've only committed a few sins; maybe I'll go to confession right before Easter." If so, it might be a good idea to look at the second reading and the Gospel.

St. Paul says that anyone who is overconfident about their lack of sin "should take care not to fall" (1 Corinthians 10:12). He compares those people to the ones Moses brought through the desert. Just because they were God's chosen people and had survived years in the desert doesn't mean they are perfect. In fact, many were punished because they were tempted to follow false gods or to complain about the food and drink God provided them. Could the same thing happen to us?

One form of overconfidence is rejecting what we learned as children. We may think, "I'm old enough to decide if I should go to church" or "I can take care of myself now; I don't need God's help." Or we may think that holiness is just for priests and religious: "I go to church on Sundays; no need to pray the other days of the week." If these sound familiar because you have thought that way yourself, Paul has a warning. His analogy of the Rock following the Hebrews in the desert refers to God's constant presence to the people. In the same way, he is present to us today. A couple of chapters after our second reading Paul says, "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it" (1 Corinthians 12:27). But just as God was not pleased with those in the desert, God may not be pleased with us if we continue to ignore the Lord.

That brings us to the Gospel. In the parable of the fig tree, the owner is not pleased—the tree has not produced any fruit. Unlike the fig tree, God would be happy with any fruit we produce. We could be generous to the poor, we could fight for the unborn child's right to life, we could welcome new members to the church, or we could simply teach our children how to pray. But if all we give is one hour a week in church, and ignore God the rest of the time, we need to take heed. Like the owner of the fig tree, God is patient, but we only have so much time. So when do you plan to bear fruit?

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



*but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." - John 4:14*

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

OFFERTORY COLLECTION  
MARCH 6, 2022

Tithing: \$8,081.12  
Children: \$0.00  
Total: \$8,081.12

READINGS FOR THE WEEK  
MARCH 21, 2022

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab; 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: Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Ps 40:7-11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38  
Saturday: Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-21ab; Lk 18:9-14  
Sunday: 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 21, 2022

**Monday**  
8:30am Bienvenido Gonzalez, Teresa Chio, Santa Ortega, Rosa Minchala (D) Dorothy Johnson (D)  
12:00pm  
**Tuesday**  
8:30am Rafaela Rodriguez Guzman (D) Maria Nghi (D)  
12:00pm  
**Wednesday**  
8:30am Victoriano Lago (D)  
12:00pm  
**Thursday**  
8:30am Juan Bautista Hernandez, Keren Hernandez, Anastacio Montero, Bienvenido Gonzalez (D); Blas Rodriguez (D), Todas las almas del purgatorio  
12:00pm  
**Friday**  
8:30am  
12:00pm  
**Saturday**  
7:45am Martin Phan (D)  
7:00pm Ana Mena Adames (D); Julia Nuñez, Jose Garcia, Eljio Perez (D); Ricaarda Cabañas Cruz & Aderly Aldana Cabañas (D)  
**Sunday**  
8:00am Jason Richard Hyde (D)  
9:30am Sonia Gonzalez (D); Miguel Angel Vichay Tovar (D); Ana Dolores Rivero Tejada (D) People of SNT; Patrick Greer (D)  
11:30am Maria Vu Phuong (D)  
1:30pm

**We pray for the People of St. Nicholas of Tolentine.**  
**We pray for the sick:**  
**We pray for the dead: Charles Persaud**



**Do you have an unhealed wound on your foot?**

**Don't ignore it!**

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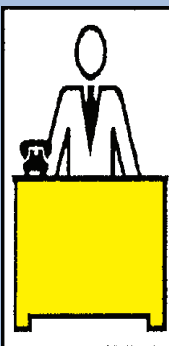
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