



## AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

### PASTORAL STAFF

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

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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  
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RECEPTIONIST  
Ms. Lucy Maldonado

# ST. NICHOLAS OF TOLENTINE CHURCH

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[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.



## FOURTH 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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Who knew that when Moses led the Israelites out of slavery it would mean forty years of wandering in the desert before they were able to enter the Promised Land? Many of us experience periods of wandering in our life. Perhaps we made some poor judgment calls in our younger days, or maybe as adult children we returned home to live because of struggling with substance abuse, or unemployment, or a divorce. Or maybe we fell away from Church for a bit. This is nothing new. The second reading calls us to be new creations in Christ, to put away our old selves, to be transformed; and in the Gospel we hear the beautiful story of the Prodigal Son. Each of these calls for us to move, and grow, and leave old ways behind.

## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — God's people enter the promised land, observe the Passover, and eat of the produce of the land (Joshua 5:9a, 10-12) or *1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a*.

**Psalm** — Taste and see the goodness of the Lord (Psalm 34) or *Psalm 23*.

**Second Reading** — We are now ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17-21) or *Ephesians 5:8-14*.

**Gospel** — We must rejoice when our brother who was dead in sin repents and comes back to life (Luke 15:1-3, 11-32) or *John 9:1-41 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]*.

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.

## WELCOME HOME

What we don't often remember in the story of the Prodigal Son is that God is there welcoming, urging us on. A few years ago there was a funeral for a young man who died of a drug overdose within days of coming out of a treatment center. Many of his young friends came but expected fire and brimstone, and to be told what a bad child that boy was. Instead, the priest preached about God loving this child so much that perhaps the only way God could protect him was to bring him home. That gentle image of God welcoming him with open arms soothed the broken hearts and unspoken questions that were on many minds. Not every situation is that drastic, but God is calling us home this Lent no matter what mistakes we've made, or how many times we have made them.

## TESTING THE BOUNDARIES

Some of the first words a two-year-old might say are "Do by self!" It is almost a rite of passage for teenagers to test their parents as much as they can. Every parent who ever lay awake in bed at night waiting to hear the sound of the child pulling the car into the garage or opening the door knows at least as much about praying vigils as any nun in a convent. This is a deep and earnest prayer, and the parents can barely breathe until their child comes home. Usually when we think of the story of the Prodigal Son, we think of the feeling of guilt the son had as he realized how much he had messed things up, or we feel the injustice that the older brother felt, because he wasn't the rebel child leaving the home.

Arm the Photon Torpedoes

Usually the first reading is picked to go with the Gospel. This week the connection appears to be a feast. The book of Joshua tells of the Israelites coming into the Promised Land, where they no longer needed to be fed with manna as in the desert. They had been wandering much longer than expected because of their unfaithfulness. But now they are forgiven, and so celebrate the Passover with food from the land. Then we hear the Gospel parable about another feast. This one is also a celebration of forgiveness, for the prodigal son has returned to his father, and the father's forgiveness shows us how willing God is to forgive us. That's where we end the parable, right?

Wrong. The parable continues with the older son's complaint about a feast for his brother. Did you notice the words of the father that "everything I have is yours" (Luke 15:31)? He's not just being sentimental because they are family. The younger brother had already taken *his* inheritance, so whatever was left will one day go to the older one. That son cannot forgive his brother and is angry at the father for welcoming the prodigal back. This is where we come in.

Most of us have no trouble asking God's forgiveness. But we may have trouble forgiving others. We are so used to thinking in terms of justice that we are not satisfied with forgiveness. When I have been hurt, I feel like hitting back. When you see an action movie, you don't want the bad guy to give up and say he's sorry—you expect him to be destroyed by the good guy, hopefully in a big fight or a spectacular explosion. (Superheroes, however, almost never kill the bad guy.)

So we have to ask ourselves whose idea of justice we live by. Is it the human expectation of an eye for an eye? Or is it God's justice, which is mercy and forgiveness? When someone cuts you off in traffic, do you feel like firing the photon torpedoes, or offering forgiveness? The Golden Rule could be "Forgive others as you would be forgiven." Jesus gave his life for the sins of the world. Do we have the right to ask for more?

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

**PRAYER OF THE WEEK**

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

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

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION**  
MARCH 13, 2022

**Tithing:** \$6,635.71  
**Children:** \$0.00  
**Total:** \$6,635.71

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

MARCH 28, 2022

Monday: Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b; Jn 4:43-54  
Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16  
Wednesday: Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30  
Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47  
Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-21, 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30  
Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12; Jn 7:40-53  
Sunday: Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-8; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

MARCH 28, 2022

**Monday**  
8:30am Alejandrina Suardi, Silvestre Suardi, Francisca Suardi, Marco Antonio Baez (D); Migladys Mejia (D)  
12:00pm  
**Tuesday**  
8:30am All Souls  
12:00pm  
**Wednesday**  
8:30am All Souls  
12:00pm Richard Jones (D)  
**Thursday**  
8:30am Beatriz Lendorf (D)  
12:00pm  
**Friday**  
8:30am Rose Carucci, Maria Vega, Rosa Caines, Maria Susana (D)  
12:00pm  
**Saturday**  
7:45am Ong Ba To Tien Ngoai (D) Kinh  
7:00pm A la Virgen Santisima por los favores Recibidos; Rafael Amaguaya y esposa— por la salud, Segundo Roldan y esposa - por la salud  
**Sunday**  
8:00am People of SNT  
9:30am Juana Garcia (D); Miguel Angel Vichay Tovar (D); Difuntos familia Alvarado Perez; Acción de gracias por una creyente Phero Thich (D)  
11:30am Phero Thong & Magarita Ham (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**



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