



## AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

### PASTORAL STAFF

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

2345 UNIVERSITY AVENUE BRONX, NY 10468

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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.



## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

## IN THE DESERT



Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, and then the devil tested him. Moses and the Israelites had been in the desert for forty years before being led to the land of milk and honey. There were times when they called out to God, sure that, as Saint Paul wrote to the Romans, “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” We sometimes spend time in the desert as well. Not a literal desert most of the time, but a desert in which it seems difficult to perceive God’s presence, times when we face difficulty and are tempted to leave God’s ways behind. On this First Sunday of Lent, Jesus shows us what to do in these moments: stand firm and trust in God.

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Face it, the last couple of years have worn us all down. Sometimes we don’t know how to pray, or we don’t seem to find the words we want. It is easy to falter and waver. Lent is a time to get back to the basics. There is much hope and strength in our readings as we begin our Lenten journey. The letter to the Romans tells us today that “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved,” and this is an idea we hear throughout the scriptures. Psalm 91 shows us exactly how to cry for help, “Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.” In Deuteronomy, Moses teaches the people to bring their firstfruit offerings to God, and put their faith and trust in God, and Jesus teaches us in today’s Gospel that we find our life in the word of God.

## TODAY’S READINGS

**First Reading** — The Israelites show their faith by offering the LORD first fruits of the products of their new land (Deuteronomy 26:4-10).

**Psalm** — Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble (Psalm 91).

**Second Reading** — All who express faith in the risen Christ and confess that he is Lord will be saved (Romans 10:8-13).

**Gospel** — Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit and was tempted (Luke 4:1-13).

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.

## KNOWING YOUR TOUCHSTONES

When Jesus found himself tested by the devil, he was given several different scenarios. The devil brought up situations that he knew could specifically test Jesus, but similar situations would test any of us. Physical hunger is a real need, and many of us might yearn for success, or better paying jobs, or power, or the like. The difference is that when Jesus was tempted, he had some strong “touchstones” to hold onto, secure answers to lead him. He went to simple, basic scriptures that he could call upon in his time of need. For many, one of those basics would be Jeremiah, “I know the plans I have in mind for you—plans for peace and not disaster.” For another it might be the Beatitudes or the twenty-third Psalm. Whatever it may be, have ready those touchstones, those “go to” prayers or phrases that you can hold onto during the times when you are sorely tested in your life. Let those stones be your firm foundation.

## GOOD ZEAL AND TEMPTATIONS

In the chapter of Luke preceding today’s Gospel, Jesus was baptized in the Jordan and began his adult ministry. Immediately afterward he was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tested. While this might seem almost surreal as we imagine the devil taking Jesus from place to place, it is really much more simple and common than that. For many of us, as we strive to live our lives, we deal with many temptations. Sometimes it is a matter of having the zeal and desire, but not the practical experience or knowledge to carry out a goal. Other times, we are afraid to ask for the assistance that we need to carry a project through to completion. Or we might think that we deserve more, or that our results should be happening more quickly. Our egos can be destructive.

Putting God to the Test

I always thought of the temptations in the desert as part of Jesus' growth in "wisdom, age, and grace" (Luke 2:52). They show how Jesus was tempted to be a Messiah in a way that matched human expectations—those of Jews waiting for a messiah—instead of doing what his Father wanted. So he could have provided for all our needs (turn stones into bread,) brought peace to the world as a great leader (worship the devil,) or been a superhero (jump off the temple without harm). But I also wonder if these temptations are what we expect of God.

Do we expect God to provide for our needs by turning stones into "bread" (i.e., money)? When we ask God to help us by doing everything for us, we are tempting the Lord. God does help us with our troubles, but usually by giving us the strength to get through them with our God-given abilities. This might mean finding a better job that uses more of our talents. It might be forgiving us, if we are the cause of our own troubles, and giving us the courage to start over. It might be a friend who helps us find the right doctor for a medical problem.

Or do we expect God to bring peace to the world by instantly removing all nuclear weapons or capturing all terrorists? When we pray for peace, we could pray that God show us what we can do to bring about that peace. We could follow Jesus' command to love those around us, so that peace spreads from our actions. We could be generous in giving to the poor, especially where poverty is the cause of war.

Maybe we expect God to be a superhero for us, curing diseases, stopping hurricanes or earthquakes, and strengthening our faith with spectacular miracles. Jesus would tell us the same thing he told the devil: "Don't put the Lord your God to the test" (see Luke 4:12). Instead, as we take time to pray over the scriptures, read spiritual books, and share our faith with others, we will find our faith growing and know that the Lord has been with us all along the way.

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



**Prayer**  
**Fasting**  
**Almsgiving**

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK  
MARCH 7, 2022

- Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mt 25:31-46
- Tuesday: Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15
- Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32
- Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12
- Friday: Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26
- Saturday: Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48
- Sunday: Gn 15:5-12, 17-18; Ps 27:1, 7-9, 13-14; Phil 3:17 — 4:1 [3:20 — 4:1]; Lk 9:28b-36

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK  
MARCH 7, 2022

- Monday**  
**8:30am** Josefa Sandy & Antonio Jaquez (D)
- 12:00pm**
- Tuesday**  
**8:30am**
- 12:00pm** All Souls
- Wednesday**  
**8:30am** Joseph Phi (D); Manuel de Jesus Hernandez, Manuel Antonio Hernandez, Fernando Hernandez (D)
- 12:00pm**
- Thursday**  
**8:30am** Ana Felicita Hernandez - conversión & liberación
- 12:00pm**
- Friday**  
**8:30am** Blasina Inoa (D)
- 12:00pm** Anna Richardson (D)
- Saturday**  
**7:45am** 3 LH Gioan Kim (D)
- 7:00pm** Maria Severino & Manuel Breton (D)
- Sunday**  
**8:00am** People of SNT
- 9:30am** Feliz Evangelista Gonzalez, Eduvina Gonzalez, Serafin Alfredo Gonzalez (D); Miguelina Reyes (D)
- 11:30am** Patricia Keon (D)
- 1:30pm** Phero Tinh (D)

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

OFFERTORY COLLECTION  
FEBRUARY 20, 2022

Tithing: \$7,501.58  
Children: \$0.00  
**Total: \$7,501.58**

**We pray for the People of St. Nicholas of Tolentine.**  
**We pray for the sick: Rosa Ramos, Alejandrina Suardi, Willy Diaz**  
**We pray for the dead: Ciro Brito**



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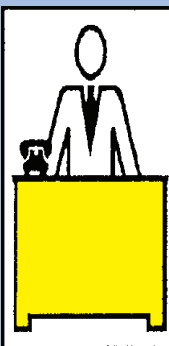
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