



AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

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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

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ST. NICHOLAS OF TOLENTINE CHURCH

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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.



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



HARMONY

Have you ever known a moment when, just for a brief instant, you felt that all was right with the world? It is just such a moment, stretched into eternity, that the writer of Isaiah describes in today's first reading: the perfection of everything, centered in God's spirit, where knowledge, justice, and awe in God's presence reign. In such a paradise, everyone sees eye to eye and thinks in harmony with each other, as Saint Paul describes in his letter to the Romans. Even animals with a natural animosity toward one another coexist peacefully. John the Baptist understood that such harmonious relationships do not simply happen. They are the fruit of living in right relationship with God and others.

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In our scripture translations, word choices matter. When today's first reading tells us that a "stump" will bring forth a new shoot, it's Isaiah's way of telling us that God's miraculous power is at work. Seeds bring forth shoots. Even buried roots can bring forth shoots. But a stump? When we look at a stump, essentially we are seeing the corpse of what used to be a tree. Mortal eyes look and see death, but divine eyes look and see new life. And what a life the Spirit of God will bring forth from this stump! A life filled with wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, and fear of the Lord—the life that we name "Jesus." How fitting it is that we will also look upon the wood Calvary's cross—a tree of death—and behold that the Spirit of God has turned that tree into a Tree of Life!

NAME CALLING

We often change our tone of voice and vocabulary when we really want to get somebody's attention. Parents will add a middle name to indicate a child is in trouble (a middle *and* last name when the child is *really* in trouble). Change of tone and words invites attention, demanding a response. Today John the Baptist does a bit of name-calling: "You brood of vipers!" Even for someone like John, who regularly used potent vocabulary, this way of addressing the holy men—the Pharisees and Saducees—this level of name-calling stands out. Snakes were commonly understood as a representation of evil, and a poisonous snake in the ancient world held the power of life and death, as the holy men thought they did. Instead of thinking about their own power, John tells them to produce good fruit. We still get ourselves in trouble today when we think that we truly hold any type of power over others, when it's a power that belongs only to God.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — He shall bring justice for the afflicted; the earth shall overflow with the knowledge of the LORD (Isaiah 11:1-10).

Psalm — Peace and justice will come in the day of the Lord (Psalm 72).

Second Reading — Glorify God by living in harmony with one another, welcoming each other as Christ welcomed you (Romans 15:4-9).

Gospel — Produce good fruit worthy of your baptism; repent, for the reign of God is near (Matthew 3:1-12).

EMBRACING CHANGE

Words like John's might cause fear in us, or may hold us back, hesitant. Words like these can also invite us to change our lives. When we do so, we open ourselves to a core virtue of the Advent season: hope. Changing our lives can also open us up to a more vigorous presence of the gifts of the Holy Spirit—wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, and fear of the Lord—named in Isaiah today. Recall that it was in that very Spirit we were named for Christ at Baptism. Open your ears and heart to the voice of God, who knows the name given to you on that day. Respond not out of fear, but in love, to the ways that God is calling to you today; calling you to change what needs to be changed, and to welcome Christ today, as you will once again on Christmas day.

Gifts of the Spirit

The reading from the prophet Isaiah is a very hopeful description of the Messiah. Part of that description in verses 2–3 contains the traditional seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Messiah, and looking forward to his coming in glory, let us take a look at those gifts and see how we can use them.

Wisdom is first, but it is not simply a matter of tossing out proverbs and sayings. This wisdom is the gift of seeing God in creation. It means that we value the things of this world only as they help us to know and love God more. The second gift, understanding, follows from wisdom. As we appreciate God in creation, we understand what God expects of us in dealing with creation and other people. This gift helps us know how to act in a world that seems to ignore God.

Counsel follows from understanding as the gift of making correct judgments about how to act, how to follow those commands of God. For example, understanding can lead us to love others; counsel guides us to love them in appropriate ways.

Strength, or fortitude, is the gift that enables us to do those things inspired by understanding and counsel, even if they are difficult. John the Baptist displays this gift in the Gospel when he challenges the Pharisees. Fortitude gave him the courage to die for his faith.

Knowledge is similar to counsel (knowing how to act) in that we begin to see what God wants for us in this world. It includes an understanding of the scriptures and how God's word applies to our lives. Knowledge leads us to deeper revelations of the truths of our faith. This can lead to the sixth gift, piety (seventh in Isaiah's text—"delight in the Lord"). Piety is a willingness to worship and love God, a desire to be close to God in prayer. Piety leads us to rely totally on God and humbly ask God's help.

The final gift, fear of the Lord, is more than just being afraid. It is the awe and wonder of recognizing how great God is, how much God loves us, and how much we want to stay close to God. And the desire to be close to God circles back to the wisdom with which we see God in creation.

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

DECEMBER 5, 2022

Monday:	Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday:	Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday:	Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday:	Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Friday:	Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday:	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday:	Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

DECEMBER 5, 2022

Monday 8:30am 12:00pm Tuesday 8:30am 12:00pm Wednesday 8:30am 12:00pm Thursday 8:30am 12:00pm Friday 8:30am 12:00pm Saturday 7:45am 7:00pm Sunday 8:00am 9:30am 11:30am 1:30pm	Emilio Ramos (D) Jose Arturo Flores Manzaba (D) Roberto Perez (D); La Divina Misericordia Giuse Luc & Gioanbaotixita Chau (D) Para los difuntos Legionarios People of SNT Leonardo (Leo) Pichardo (D); Pura Cruz; Valentin Morel & Gilberto Romero (D) Francisco Ruiz, Ernest Santiago (D); Pedro Melendez (D) Anton Lang & Maria Phi (D)
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OFFERTORY COLLECTION

NOVEMBER 20, 2022

Tithing:	\$8,106.90
Children:	\$0.00
Total:	\$8,106.90

We pray for the People of St. Nicholas of Tolentine.

We pray for the sick:

We pray for the dead: Troy Crutchfield, Anne Bernard, Eugene Crutchfield, Rudolph Bernard

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