



## 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.

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## 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 NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

### WHAT ALL THE WAITING HAS BEEN FOR



Today's readings are as familiar to most of us as the carols we sing and the commercials that overwhelm this holiday season. Often Christmas finds us tired, struggling with preparations and expectations. What we really want to feel is joy and peace. The stress of preparation, of waiting, is reflected in both Isaiah and Paul's letter to Titus. Luke tells us of the exhaustion that Mary and Joseph felt: a young pregnant wife and her husband, forced to travel just as she is about to give birth, unable even to find a room to stay in. It must have been miserable. They must have been afraid. In the midst of this exhaustion, misery, and fear, a child is born, a Son is given. The world is then filled with light and hope, joy and peace. In that moment they, and we, know what all the waiting has been for.

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The four Gospel portraits of Jesus take very different approaches to his origins. Mark has no record of Jesus' ancestry, except for his connection to John the Baptist. Matthew traces his genealogy back to Abraham; Luke even farther back, to Adam. The Gospel of John outdoes them all, tracing Jesus' origins back to the time before time, *before* the world was created! Jesus is the eternal Word of God. The Greek term for "Word" is *logos*, and it is a word with deep implications. The *logos* exists *before* creation, because all of creation came to be through the *logos* and, in turn, the *logos* will become the light of all it has created. This is what makes Christmas a season light and life. May our lives radiate this light, reflecting the life-giving Word-made-Flesh. Let our discipleship truly and fully make incarnate once again the Word-in-flesh whom we celebrate and adore: Jesus Christ, our Lord!

### THE SEASON OF LIGHT

It is customary to celebrate Christmas with lights of all sorts. This even happens in the southern hemisphere, where people aren't experiencing the shorter, darker days of northern climates. From little twinkles on Christmas trees to the glow of candles in church, Christmas is a celebration of the light born today in God's Word-made-flesh. As with other types of lights, the Christ-light takes on different forms. Sometimes its light is direct, while at other times it is a reflection. The lights of Christmas, like Jesus the Light of the world, offer comfort, ease fears, show us the way, and help us to see that God is present here. While we believe that Jesus is the light that no darkness can overcome, it can seem at times it seems as though the gloom around us is overcoming the light. We all are familiar with darkness's different forms that seem to bombard us daily, hourly—minute by minute, if we allow them to. And yet . . .

### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — All the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God (Isaiah 52:7-10).

**Psalm** — The whole world has seen God's salvation (Psalm 98).

**Second Reading** — God has spoken to us through the Son, the very imprint of God's being (Hebrews 1:1-6).

**Gospel** — The Word became flesh; from his fullness we have all received grace (John 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]).

### THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

The relentless daily reports of darkness can easily lead us not to see the many glimmers of light around us. We who follow the Christ-light must always be on alert for signs of that light around us. Likewise, we who have that Christ-light in us must let it shine forth. No matter how little we think our light may be, we must recall that it is the light of Christ we bear within us. Like John the Baptist in today's Gospel passage, we are meant to testify to the power of light, to help others see glimpses of God-with-us. Our actions must bear good news, they must announce glad tidings. Even small deeds of light can shine brightly, giving birth to Jesus once again each day. On Christmas day and every day we are called to be people of hope, messengers of peace who offer comfort and make God's glory known. Let the light of Christ in your life be one of the season's brightest!

## Great Expectations

Christmas can be disappointing. We remember the Christmases from our childhood, all the joy, the excitement, and the fun we had. When we grow up, we have to shop for gifts, write and mail the cards, put up the decorations, and do all the preparations that seem to stress us out. We may be sad that the day did not meet our expectations. Now that most of that is done, (unless you are reading this on a break from cleaning house before the grandkids arrive) we can reflect on how the first Christmas upset all expectations.

I'm sure Joseph never expected to have a child so soon. Or to have the baby born in a stable miles from their home in Nazareth. The shepherds never expected to be awakened by angels. And those Jews who looked forward to the coming of a Messiah never expected him to come as a baby. Yet God had reasons for coming in this way.

The nativity scene looks so peaceful and beautiful, but the reality was not so romantic. The messiah came not to the sound of war horns, but the cry of a helpless infant. He was born in a stable because no one had room for him. The first to see him were the shepherds, the migrant workers of the time. The political leaders (Herod and friends) wanted to kill him.

Jesus was born in this way to show that he came not for the important and wealthy, but for the poor and outcast. As an adult, he would continue to surprise: he ate with sinners and tax collectors; he challenged the religious leaders of Israel. He was executed as a criminal.

So today he continues to come to us in the homeless, the illegal alien, the sick, those in prison, the unborn infant, that we might find him where we least expect. Can we learn to see him in the unexpected, in our trials and difficulties, our own weaknesses? When we do, we will celebrate what Christmas is truly about.

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

The parish office will be closed on Monday, December 26, 2022 in observance of Christmas. There will be only one bilingual mass that day at 9AM.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

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OFFERTORY COLLECTION  
DECEMBER 11, 2022

Tithing: \$7,647.15  
Children: \$0.00  
Total: \$7,647.15

READINGS FOR THE WEEK  
DECEMBER 26, 2022

Monday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22  
Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8  
Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18  
Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:36-40  
Friday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 [12-17]; Ps 128:1-5; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23  
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18  
Sunday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK  
DECEMBER 26, 2022

**Monday**  
9:00am Luis A. Vera (D); Mary & Kruvilla Thoonkuzhy (D)

**Tuesday**  
8:30am  
12:00pm Dr. Kuruvilla Thoonkuzhy (D)

**Wednesday**  
8:30am  
12:00pm

**Thursday**  
8:30am Jose Peguero Montero (D)  
12:00pm

**Friday**  
8:30am Odulia Muñoz, Jose Flores (D)  
12:00pm

**Saturday**  
7:45am Isave Day & Phero Mi (D)  
7:00pm Acción de gracias por todo el año 2022; Alejandrina Santana, Casimiro Confesor Hidalgo (D); Jose Filion (D)

**Sunday**  
8:00am People of SNT  
9:30am Luz Pelaez (D); Teofilo Pelaez, Elvira Arichabela (D); Alejandrina Santana, Andrea Sanchez (D), Andrea Rueda (D)  
11:30am Virgin Mary, Ramon Mejia Frias (D)  
1:30pm Phêro Thong & Magarita Han (D)

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

*We pray for the sick:  
We pray for the dead:*





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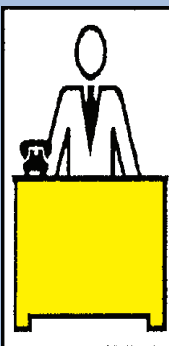
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