



## 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)

---

#### 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

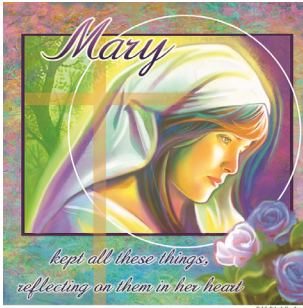
SATURDAY 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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



## MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

### BLESSINGS



Today's readings include another account of the story of Jesus' birth. The reading from the book of Numbers reminds us that we are blessed. We are looked upon with kindness and grace. The psalm and Galatians remind us of the blessings given through God's Son. Luke tells of our ultimate blessing, that Mary, a human being like us, gave birth to a child who is God's Son. Mary, a young mother, watches all that is happening around the birth of her son. She listens as the shepherds bring messages from angels, a message she also received from an angel, about her son. Yet Mary remains silent. She keeps all this news about her son to herself. She reflects on all these experiences. The only thing she shares is the name of her son, Jesus, a name given him before he was even conceived. Her silence leaves us wondering if this is how one responds to such a great blessing.

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

A Hebrew word that many people are familiar with is *shalom*, commonly translated into English as "peace." However, the word is much richer, deeper, and broader than that. As a matter of fact, when the blessing in today's first reading concludes with *shalom*, it serves as a summary of the entire blessing: *shalom* is God's wholeness, well-being, longevity, harmony, as well as God's peace. Perhaps Mary prayed this blessing while she found herself in the midst of angels, shepherds, and—quite likely, thanks to the shepherds—inquisitive neighbors who had been told of the wondrous birth. Perhaps she prayed for God's *shalom* not only for herself, but also for her child as she reflected on his birth. As we stand at the threshold of a new year, we can likewise pray this blessing, with Mary as our example, pondering the mysteries of Christ in our hearts, praying for the richness, depth, and breadth of God's *shalom*.

### MARY THE CAREGIVER

At some point in time, most people will find themselves needing to watch over another person. This is true for parents and children of course; for others, perhaps an aging parent or spouse; a friend or neighbor living alone after surgery. At these times, along with the caregiving of the moment, there is often a focus on the future, a wondering about what will come. Quite naturally for the new mother Mary there is this future focus, with many possibilities for her to hold in her heart. She reflects quietly in the midst of the *very* hectic series of events that follow the birth of her child: hurrying shepherds who go and tell the wondrous news to others, then those others sharing their amazement. Luke tells us that Mary keeps all of this, and reflects on it in her heart. Mary is watching over Jesus as mothers do, watching over each and every moment.

### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — The LORD bless you and keep you! The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace! (Numbers 6:22-27).

**Psalm** — May God be merciful and bless us (Psalm 67).

**Second Reading** — God sent the Spirit of the Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" So you are no longer a slave but an heir, through God (Galatians 4:4-7).

**Gospel** — The shepherds glorified and praised God for all they had heard and seen (Luke 2:16-21).

### GOD THE CAREGIVER

As Mary watches over her child, so did Israel pray for God to watch over them and one another, to bless and keep them, as Mary kept and reflected on things in her heart. Mary's face surely shone upon the infant Jesus, as Israel prayed for God's face to shine upon them with that graciousness we also know in her whom we call "full of grace." At the conclusion of the blessing in today's first reading is a prayer for God to look on us in kindness and, even more, to grant us peace. It may be in this final line of the blessing that we see God most at work in the face and the care of Mary, gazing gently on her child, wishing the fullness of God's *shalom* for Jesus and his future. Our mission as disciples is to show the divine care we hear in the blessing prayer, and to live out the care-giving we see today in Mary.

Remember, Reflect, Respond

This feast has had several names through history. Most recently, it was called the Feast of the Circumcision and then the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus. The Church finally settled on a more ancient title, Mary, the Holy Mother of God. It also has a secondary title of the Octave of Christmas, the secular title of New Years Day, and an honorary title of World Day of Prayer for Peace. Strangely, the title that is most confusing to non-Catholics is the official one.

When we call Mary the Mother of God, we are not saying that she somehow preceded God or is equal to God. We are simply recognizing that her human son Jesus is also the divine Son of God. We honor Mary because God honored her by choosing her to be the mother of Jesus. In her humble response of "let it be done to me," she agreed to be part of God's plan for our salvation. And so today's Gospel records one simple action of Mary: to keep these things in her heart.

Even in this simple sentence we are given a good example of being a disciple. Like Mary, we need to both keep, or remember, what God has done, and to reflect on what we remember. First, how much do we remember about what God has done for us? How well do we know the stories of salvation found in the scriptures? How well do we know God's actions in Church history? And how much do we remember of the personal graces given us by God? Do we recall the prayers God has answered, the guidance given, the love of God that others have shown us, the times God has forgiven us?

Second, how much do we reflect on what God has done? Even if we have many memories of God's goodness to us, we also need to pray over them and ask ourselves how we have changed because of what God has done. Am I more generous to others? Do I forgive hurts more readily? Do I share my faith with my family or friends? Do I support my parish with my time or offerings? Let us ask God's help to imitate Mary by remembering and reflecting.

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

The parish office will be closed on Monday, January 2, 2023 in observance of New Year's Day. There will be only one bilingual mass that day at 9AM.



READINGS FOR THE WEEK  
JANUARY 2, 2023

Monday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28  
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:29 — 3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34  
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42  
 Thursday: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 4:14-22a  
 Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-28 [23, 31-34, 36, 38]  
 Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Sal 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 2:1-11  
 Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK  
JANUARY 2, 2023

**Monday**  
9:00am  
**Tuesday**  
8:30am  
12:00pm  
**Wednesday**  
8:30am  
12:00pm Elly Fitzgerald Moriarty (D)  
**Thursday**  
8:30am CJ Maldonado (L) - cumpleaños  
12:00pm  
**Friday**  
8:30am  
12:00pm  
**Saturday**  
7:45am Maria Bang (D)  
7:00pm  
**Sunday**  
8:00am People of SNT  
9:30am Leonardo (Leo) Pichardo (D); Hector Serrano, Luis Serrano, Alfredo Serrano, Mary Velez (D)  
11:30am Anthony Koon & Roberto Perez (D)  
1:30pm Lorenzo Nguyen & Madalena Gia (D)

OFFERTORY COLLECTION  
DECEMBER 18, 2022

Tithing: \$6,350.30  
 Children: \$0.00  
**Total: \$6,350.30**

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

*We pray for the sick:*

*We pray for the dead: Floyd McDonald*



Do you have an unhealed wound on your foot?

Don't ignore it!

See a specialist now - especially if you are at risk.

**SBH**  
Health System  
BRONX

Center for Hyperbaric Medicine and Wound Healing at 718-960-5064.

**ONE PARISH**

Download Our Free App or Visit

<https://www.oneparish.com>

Grow in your faith, find a Mass, and connect with your Catholic Community with OneParish!

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google play



Consider Remembering Your Parish in Your Will.

For further information, please call the Parish Office.



534 East 180 St  
(718) 295-6188  
[www.palacepaints.com](http://www.palacepaints.com)

5% OFF for Parishioners

Catholic Cruises and Tours and The Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America

Take your FAITH ON A JOURNEY.

Call us today at 860-399-1785 or email [eileen@CatholicCruisesandTours.com](mailto:eileen@CatholicCruisesandTours.com)

[www.CatholicCruisesandTours.com](http://www.CatholicCruisesandTours.com)

**Grow Your Business, Advertise Here.**

Support Your Church & Bulletin.

Free professional ad design & my help!

email: [sales@jspaluch.com](mailto:sales@jspaluch.com)



[www.jspaluch.com](http://www.jspaluch.com)

**For Information ... Call**

**800.524.0263**

**Don Safferstein, D.D.S.**

General and Cosmetic Dentistry

1 Fordham Hill Oval

718-584-5300

**If You Live Alone You Need MDMedAlert!**

✓ Ambulance 24 Hour Protection at HOME and AWAY!

✓ Police

✓ Fire

✓ Friends/Family

FREE Shipping

FREE Activation

NO Long Term Contracts

Solutions as Low as

**\$19.<sup>95</sup>** a month



This Button SAVES Lives!

As Shown GPS, Lowest Price Guaranteed!



"I have peace of mind... Mom remains independent."

CALL NOW! 800.809.3352

**MDMedAlert**  
Safe-Guarding America's Seniors Nationwide!

GPS Tracking w/Fall Detection Nationwide, No Land Line Needed  
EASY Set-up, NO Contract  
24/7 365 Monitoring in the USA



DO YOU HAVE SALES EXPERIENCE? ARE YOU WELL NETWORKED IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY?

**J.S. PALUCH COMPANY**  
NATIONAL PUBLISHER OF CHURCH BULLETINS

- Full Time Positions Available with Excellent Earning Potential!
- Medical Benefits, 401K, Life & AD&D Insurance Available
- Excellent Commission Compensation Program

Interested? Call Kay Leane 1.800.621.5197 x2823

or Email Resume to [RECRUITING@JSPALUCH.COM](mailto:RECRUITING@JSPALUCH.COM)

[www.jspaluch.com](http://www.jspaluch.com)

EARN MONEY!  
DO GOOD! MAKE A  
POSITIVE IMPACT!



¿TIENES EXPERIENCIA EN VENTAS? ESTÁS BIEN CONECTADO EN LA COMUNIDAD LOCAL?

**J.S. PALUCH COMPANY**  
NATIONAL PUBLISHER OF CHURCH BULLETINS

- Seguro Médico, Dental, Plan de Retiro 401k, Seguro de Vida, Muerte Acidental y Desmembramiento
- Trabajos de Tiempo Completo y Medio Tiempo Con Potencial de Altas Ganancias.
- Excelente Programa de Pagos de Comisión!

¿ESTÁS INTERESADO?

Llame a Kay Leane 1.800.621.5197 x2823 o Envie un Correo Electrónico a [RECRUITING@JSPALUCH.COM](mailto:RECRUITING@JSPALUCH.COM)

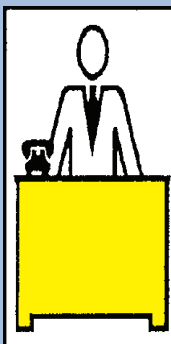
[www.jspaluch.com](http://www.jspaluch.com)

GANAR DINERO!  
CONTRIBUIR A LA  
COMUNIDAD! TENER  
UN GRAN IMPACTO!

**catholicmatch<sup>®</sup>**  
New York



[CatholicMatch.com/myNY](http://CatholicMatch.com/myNY)



Your ad could be in this space!

Get this weekly bulletin delivered by email - for FREE!

Sign up here:

[www.jspaluch.com/subscribe](http://www.jspaluch.com/subscribe)

Courtesy of J.S. Paluch Company, Inc.

