



## 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  
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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.

## 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

## WHO WE ARE AND WHOSE WE ARE



The Lenten season is a fresh invitation to explore again who God is, who we are, and what it means to be human. We begin by hearing the tragic story of the first humans in the book of Genesis. As Paul describes in Romans, our struggles started when our ancestors broke the bond of unity with God, sought self-sufficiency, and grew apart from their true purpose and identity. In Matthew's Gospel, we see how Jesus resists the lure of living outside of unity with God. Jesus rejects false promises of possessions, power, and status. Instead, he puts his life in his Father's hands. As our model for living as a fully human person, Jesus demonstrates that we are created to live in relationship with and trust in God, and in harmony with and for all of creation.

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Ashes and gardens, failings and faithfulness, death and life. As we enter into Lent, we are invited to turn our thoughts, hearts, and lives toward God and God's ways, to turn away from the death of sin, which separates us from God, and to embrace the gift of life offered in Christ, now and into eternity. Eve and Adam listened to the serpent rather than God who had given them a garden filled with beauty and abundance. On the contrary, Jesus stood firm in the face of temptation. This Lent, we ponder the choices we make in our daily lives, trust in God's mercy as we repent from sinfulness, and strengthen our commitment to discipleship, following Jesus' model of faithfulness.

## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — The man and the woman ate the fruit of the one tree that God had told them to avoid, and their shame overtook them (Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7).

**Psalm** — Have mercy on us sinners, O Lord (Psalm 51).

**Second Reading** — Death reigned from Adam to Moses, but now grace and life abound in Christ Jesus (Romans 5:12-19 [12, 17-19]).

**Gospel** — Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit and there he fasted for forty days and forty nights (Matthew 4:1-11).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

## TRUST IN GOD'S MERCY

"Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned." The refrain of today's Responsorial Psalm gives voice to our conviction that God is good and reminds us that we can trust in God's mercy as we face our sin, seek forgiveness, and resolve to avoid sin in the future. The more deeply we grow in relationship with Christ, the more sure of God's love we become. Rooted in this love, we can admit our failings and trust that God always desires to be close to us, drawing us into abundant life. Lent is a good time to seek God's mercy and forgiveness in the sacrament of reconciliation. We can take heart in the assurance that forgiveness awaits our repentant heart.

## TURN AWAY FROM SIN

Lent is a season in which we resolve to turn away from sin and turn toward Jesus. Turning away from sin requires us to admit that we miss the mark and fail to live as God desires. The first Sunday of Lent always includes a gospel account of Jesus facing temptation in the desert. Notice that it is not generic temptation Jesus meets, nor do we. Our temptations are personal, areas of particular weakness, situations in which, like Eve and Adam, we may rationalize and give in to sin rather than holding firm to what we know is right and just. Jesus gives us a model for meeting temptation: draw on the wisdom and truth found in sacred scripture and the teaching tradition of the Church to know what we must do or not do. Be strong and know that the Lord is with you as you resolve to be faithful.

Connections

The second reading this Sunday is not easy to follow, especially when some of Paul’s sentences are more like paragraphs. But you will notice that he makes several important connections: between sin and death, between Adam and Jesus, and between obedience and disobedience.

Sin, he says, is the cause of death—not just spiritual death, but physical death also. His point is that sin affects everyone, innocent as well as sinner. Of course, everyone is subject to death at some point, even if they haven’t sinned. Sometimes the cause is immediate, such as a drunken driver who causes the death of an innocent person. Even a less serious sin can be a little “death” when it makes us feel that we are not as close to God as we could be. And sins that we might think are not a big deal, such as smoking, can lead to serious health problems.

The connection between Adam and Jesus is not so obvious. Adam was the first to bring sin and death into the world. Jesus is the first to bring forgiveness by his death on the cross. Adam was at the beginning of creation and Jesus is the beginning of a new creation. If we are all sons and daughters of Adam, we are also God’s children, since Jesus taught us to call God our father.

The Letter to the Romans shows us how Jesus is different from Adam. Adam disobeyed God, while Jesus was obedient to his Father. Adam reminds me of a child who knows what he is supposed to do, but thinks that he can do the opposite and get away with it.

The Gospel can be an example of that difference. The child likes to do things the easy way, while the adult will do them the right way. Satan can be thought of as trying to get Jesus to do things the easy way. When he tempts Jesus to turn stones into bread, he shows Jesus an easy way to feed the people. But Jesus takes a better way, when he feeds us with himself in the Eucharist. The devil says Jesus can throw himself off the temple as a dramatic way to attract followers; Jesus lets himself hang from the cross to draw people to himself. Satan promises the kingdoms of the world if Jesus will only worship him. But Jesus chose to be crowned with thorns and receive his kingdom when he rose from the dead.

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

**Healing After Abortion:** Do you know someone who is carrying the grief of a past abortion? There is always hope. The pain and sorrow of abortion does not need to endure for a lifetime. A “Day of Prayer and Healing” offers the opportunity to experience the love and mercy of God and to respond to His invitation to begin the journey of healing the wound of abortion. Upcoming dates in the NYC area are: Jan.14, Feb. 4, March 11, and May 20 in English, and May 6 in Spanish. For more dates, locations, and confidential registration, or just to talk to a Sister, please call the Sisters of Life at (866) 575-0075 (toll free) or reach us by email at [hopeandhealing@sistersoflife.org](mailto:hopeandhealing@sistersoflife.org).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

FEBRUARY 20, 2023

- 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 12:1-4a; Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22; 2 Tm 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

FEBRUARY 27, 2023

- Monday**  
8:30am Santiago Frias (D)  
12:00pm Filomena Rosario, Ricardo Reyes (D); Peace
- Tuesday**  
8:30am Jose Peguero Montero (D); Santiago Frias (D)
- 12:00pm
- Wednesday**  
8:30am Luz Pelaez, Teofilo Pelaez, Elvira Arichabala (D); Josefa Reyes Garcia & Rafael Javier (D)  
12:00pm Anton Lang & Maria Phi (D)
- 12:00pm
- Thursday**  
8:30am
- 12:00pm
- Friday**  
8:30am Vidal De Jesus Guzman Francisco (D)  
12:00pm Maria Hue & Gioan Vinh (D)
- Saturday**  
7:45am Daminh Thanh (D)  
7:00pm
- Sunday**  
8:00am People of SNT  
9:30am Segundo Olivares (D); Altagracia Garcia (D), Ramon Diaz (D); Fausto Gonzalez, Nelson Bienvenido Minaya (D)
- 11:30am
- 1:30pm Phero Thong & Magarita Han (D)

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

FEBRUARY 12, 2023

Tithing: \$8,646.04  
 Children: \$0.00  
**Total: \$8,646.04**

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

**We pray for the sick: Celso Hilaria Guzman, Evangelith Morales**

**We pray for the dead:**



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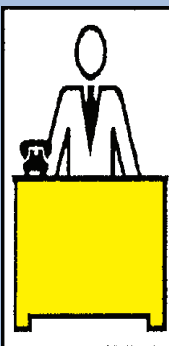
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