



## 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

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## 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

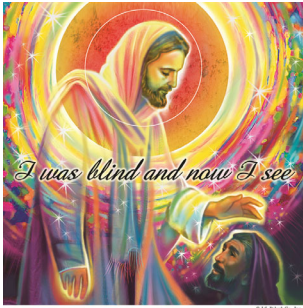
SATURDAY 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

## SEEING THE LIGHT



Our Lenten journey continues this Sunday as we hear of Jesus healing a blind man in the Gospel of John. Jesus proclaims himself the light of the world, a light that overcomes darkness and enables a new capacity to see. The man, blind from birth, was able to begin his path to sight by first acknowledging his blindness. We are reminded of God's ongoing invitation to us to journey from blindness to sight. We begin by acknowledging our own capacity for "blind spots," and so open ourselves to uncomfortable truths and to God's healing. We are invited to see beyond appearances, as the reading from Samuel indicates, and to look into the heart of things. We are invited to "live as children of light" as the letter to the Ephesians teaches. Like the man healed from blindness, we may gradually learn to see fully and to follow Jesus.

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What do you see? Jesus gave sight to a man who was blind from birth. Not only was his physical sight restored, he saw things clearly even though the people around him—religious leaders, his own parents—were blinded by fear. Their preconceived convictions kept them in darkness even while the light of the world stood before them, offering them new sight. Led by the light of Christ, the man who had been blind worshiped Jesus. Samuel looked at Jesse's sons through the eyes of God and found the Lord's anointed, not in the older, stronger ones, but in the youngest, David. As we continue our Lenten journey, we resolve to live in the light of the Lord, to see clearly through the eyes of faith and respond by sharing Christ's light with the world.

## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — As the prophet Samuel anointed David with oil, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David (1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a).

**Psalm** — My shepherd is the Lord; I shall not want (Psalm 23).

**Second Reading** — You who were once darkness are now light in the Lord. Live as children of light (Ephesians 5:8-14).

**Gospel** — The man who was blind from birth proclaimed: The one called Jesus made clay with his saliva, anointed my eyes with it, and told me to wash. When I washed, I was able to see! (John 9:1-41 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38])

## SEE THROUGH THE EYES OF FAITH

When Samuel met the sons of Jesse, he thought he could see the one the Lord would anoint. He found the grace, however, to see through the eyes of faith and respond by anointing David, who would become the king of Israel. Jesus opened the eyes of the man who was born blind. We do not know how many others' eyes were opened that day, as they saw Jesus as the source of light and life. We can learn from Samuel and Jesus, bringing our darkness to the light through faith. When we look at life through God's eyes, we see endless possibility for goodness, holiness, grace, and peace.

## IT'S TIME TO SEE OUR BLINDNESS

Most of us can admit that we're blind at times—we simply do not see the people and situations around us clearly. We stumble in the darkness of illness or grief and cannot see a way out. We may be blinded by selfishness or self-centeredness. Sometimes we are so caught up in our own lives, we're blind to the hurt, confusion, and need of those around us. We may look at things through our limited experience and perspective and not understand others' pain. At times, we choose to remain blind. We fail to see injustice and unfairness, preferring to remain in the dark rather than risk acknowledging and addressing such situations. Like the parents of the man who was born blind, we stay safe and comfortable, even when there is clearly an opportunity to make a difference, to bring light and love to the darkness.

**Beware of the Dark Side**

Remember the *Star Wars* movies, in which the Dark Side was a symbol of evil? In our second reading Paul tells the Christians in Ephesus that they were once darkness. Paul uses darkness as a symbol of shame. Shame is not just sorrow for sins; it is the fear of being caught in sin, or of telling our weaknesses to another because we think the other will look down on us. Or you might fear the punishment you think you deserve. Paul was a sinner himself and was blinded when Jesus appeared to him, asking, "Why do you persecute me?" So he knew that the only way to be free of shame is not to hide sins, but to expose them.

Does that mean we have to broadcast our sins on the evening news, or post them all on our social media pages? No; we just need to confess them to God and receive God's forgiveness. We can do this through the sacrament of reconciliation. The priest shows that God loves sinners, no matter what they have done. When you injure your arm, you explain how you hurt it, so the doctor knows how to treat it. If you wreck your car, you take it to the repair shop and tell the mechanics what is broken so they can repair it. In reconciliation we bring our sins to the priest so that we can experience forgiveness. You could leave your car at the shop overnight, with enough cash to make the repairs, but until you come back and claim your car, you will never know if it was fixed.

Sometimes other people try to shame us. In today's Gospel, Jesus' disciples asked whose sin caused the man to be born blind. The Pharisees told the man that he was born in sin. Jesus, however, told his disciples that the man had not sinned, and furthermore, the Pharisees themselves were the sinners because they had judged the blind man. So when we know that God forgives us and still loves us, we don't have to fear what others might think. Let us instead hold our sins up to the light of forgiveness and be free of our shame.

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**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**

**MARCH 20, 2023**

- Monday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
- Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16
- Wednesday: Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30
- Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47
- Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-21, 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
- Saturday: Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Ps 40:7-11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38
- Sunday: Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-8; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

**MARCH 20, 2023**

- Monday**  
8:30am Jose Flores Ramirez & Odulia Muñoz (D); Ramona Altagracia Vega (D), San Patricio Sylvia Willie, Elaine Guasp (L) - birthday  
12:00pm
- Tuesday**  
8:30am Petra Ortiz, Benera Sufron, Damaris Sanchez, Wilberto Rivera (D)  
12:00pm
- Wednesday**  
8:30am  
12:00pm Rafaela Rodriguez Guzman, Chanel Berroa (D)
- Thursday**  
8:30am  
12:00pm Victoriano Lago (D)
- Friday**  
8:30am  
12:00pm Patrick Keon (D)
- Saturday**  
7:45am Gioan Hon (D)  
7:00pm Sara Ravelo (L) - por salud; Jose Nicolas Vasquez, Norma Josefina Rojas Perez (D)
- Sunday**  
8:00am People of SNT  
9:30am Ana Dolores Rivera (D); Maria Sanchez (D); Gracias al Divino Niño por Nancy Sinco y familia  
11:30am  
1:30pm Gioan Chat & Maria Nghi (D)

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION**

**MARCH 5, 2023**

**Tithing:** \$8,966.40  
**Children:** \$0.00  
**Total:** **\$8,966.40**

**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: Lolita Rubi**