



## AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

### PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Luis A Vera, O.S.A.  
*Pastor*

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Fr. Joseph Tran- *Associate*

Fr. Carlos Urbina, O.S.A –*Associate*  
Fr. Liam O'Doherty  
*Associate*

Fr. Joseph Murray, O.S.A  
*In Residence*

Fr. William Wallace, O.S.A.  
*In Residence*

CATHOLIC FAITH  
FORMATION  
Jesus DeLaRosa

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC  
Mr. Daniel Kirk-Foster  
Mr. Dang Vu

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Ms. Shelly Parkin

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Mr. Eric Fortunato  
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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** (organ & cantor)

### Sunday

8:00 a.m. **English** (organ & cantor)

9:30 a.m. **Spanish** (organ & cantor)

11:30 a.m. **English** (organ & 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)**

Saturday 5:30-6:30 p.m. and 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.



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

“Blessed are you who believed,” Elizabeth tells Mary. Do we believe? When we hear the voice of God whispering in our heart, do we listen — or do we ignore, out of fear and uncertainty? This last week of Advent, follow Mary’s example, and believe.

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4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

The Blessed Virgin teaches us the secret to being blessed, happy, and full of joy. When Elizabeth, her cousin, greets her, she calls Mary “blessed” for two reasons, her motherhood of Jesus, and Our Lady’s belief that **“there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord”** (Luke 1:45). Mary is “blessed” entirely because of her relationship to the Incarnation of God in Jesus, and for no other. This of course makes perfect sense, because as the Lord, as God-in-the-flesh, her son is the source of all blessedness, life, and joy. Mary is blessed because of her contact with Jesus, and by her faith in him.

So, it is with us, too. We become blessed by our “motherly” contact with Christ in our souls through baptism. He lives in us and grows to maturity within us. We bear him to the world. This requires unshakeable faith that his promises to us will be fulfilled, despite all the problems and difficulties that plague us. We become blessed, happy, and joyful in the measure that we are in contact with Jesus and trust in him.

Advent challenges: 1.) This week go to someone who has borne the love of Jesus to you and tell her or him how they have been a blessing to you. 2.) Name someone in your life now to whom God has sent you to bring Jesus’ presence. Pray: “Lord, thank you for the blessing of sending me to bring your presence to this person. Help me bear you faithfully to him/her.”

— *Father John Muir*

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## Readings for the week of December 22, 2024

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/  
Heb 10:5- 10/Lk 1:39-45  
Monday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and  
14/Lk 1:57-66  
Tuesday: *Morning:* 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps  
89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79  
Wednesday: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6  
(3c)/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14  
Thursday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and  
8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22  
Friday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97: 1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2  
-8  
Saturday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13  
-18  
Next Sunday: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10  
(see 5a)/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

## Observances for the week of December 22, 2024

**Sunday**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**Monday**

St. John of Kanty, Priest

**Tuesday**

Christmas Eve

**Wednesday**

The Nativity of the Lord

**Thursday**

St. Stephen, First Martyr

**Friday**

St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

**Saturday**

The Holy Innocents, martyrs

**Next Sunday**

The Holy Family

**(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS**

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

**The Hidden Truth**

If you have ever been visibly pregnant, chances are that someone, somewhere, whom you do *not* know, has reached out to touch your stomach.

I've had this happen to me, and sure, it's a little strange. Generally, I prefer people to ask before they touch me. But it's also very sweet, this great mystical excitement inspired by a pregnant belly. We know that belly is special. We know enclosed within it is hope and potential — the very future of our world. Hidden, but real. How can we help but venerate it?

It's why the pregnant Madonna is my favorite devotional image. I even prefer it over the depictions of the Madonna and Child because I find in the sight of Mary's swollen belly more to meditate upon than I find in the unveiled face of the Christ Child. Salvation and redemption, enclosed in flesh, moving, and growing and breathing, but I cannot see it. It's real and it's true and it's *there*.

And it is hidden.

There is much about God that we know with certainty. But there is so much that remains beyond our sight, beyond our comprehension. Questions of evil and sorrow. Pain and tragedy. Life and death. Why don't we have all the answers? We grow very impatient about this. We're like teenagers who want to be trusted with all the family secrets. We hate feeling left out of the loop.

But truth, like life, does not come to us showing its face. Perhaps this is because we could not bear its terrible beauty. Perhaps it's because we would not recognize it if it was laid bare for us to see.

But it's there, right in front of us. We can reach out and touch it. We may not see it. We may not understand it. But we can know it.

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**First Reading:**

You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah  
too small to be among the clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to be ruler in Israel. (Mi 5:1)

**Psalm:**

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved. (Ps 80)

**Second Reading:**

"Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll, behold, I come to do your will, O God.'" (Heb 10:7)

**Gospel:**

"And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Lk 1:43)

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK  
DECEMBER 23, 2024**

**Monday**

**8:30am** Rubén Dario Torres Jr. (D), Confesora Luciano (D), Mercedes Cintrón (D)  
**12:00pm** Damian Jr., Juan, Eugenia, Damian Sr., Meding & All souls in purgatory

**Tuesday**

**8:30am** Patricia Murfitt, Hercilia Arjona, Josefina Vega (D)  
**12:00pm** Julio Freddy Jimbo Sr. (D), Lea & Sebastian Cuje

**Wednesday**

**10:00am** Laura Muñoz (D)  
**12:00pm** Phero Thong & Magarita Han (D)

**Thursday**

**8:30am** Por todos los niños del mundo (L), Pedro Mansureta (D), Ana Minadedes (D), Carmen Mansureta (D)

**12:00pm**

**Friday**

**8:30am** Ricardo Reyes (L)-por su salud, Juana Cáceres (L)-cumpleaños

**12:00pm**

**Saturday**

**7:45am** LH Ana (D)  
**7:00pm** Ysidrio De los Santos & Ana Contreras (D), Rita Valdez & Ely Jose Valdez (L)-por salud

**Sunday**

**8:00am** People of SNT  
**9:30am** Para la salud y trabajo de Samantha Reyes, Crystal Reyes, Beatriz Cresenas y Daniel Reyes, Mirta Madera (D)  
**11:30am** Fr. Jospeh Girone & Angela Girone (D), Kandula Emile Family Thanksgiving  
**1:30pm** LH Phero Luc (D)

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION  
DECEMBER 815, 2024**

<b>Tithing:</b>	\$8,362.60	Priest Retirement:	
<b>Children:</b>	\$0.00	<b>\$1,770.00</b>	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$8,362.60</b>		

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

**We pray for the sick:**

**We pray for the dead: Antonio Perez**