

St. Nicholas of Tolentine Church

THE BRONX



NEW YORK

DECEMBER | 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor

Fr. Luis A Vera, O.S.A.
pastor@stnicholasoftolentinebronx.org

Associate

Fr. Joseph Tran
Fr. Carlos Urbina, O.S.A.
Fr. Joseph Murray, O.S.A.

In Residence

Fr. William Wallace, O.S.A.

Catholic Faith Formation

Jesus DeLaRosa

Director of Music

Mr. Daniel Kirk-Foster
Mr. Dang Vu

Accounting

Ms. Shelly Parkin

Plant Manager

Mr. Eric Fortunato
347-856-3573

Receptionist

Ms. Lucy Maldonado

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend

Saturday Vigil

7:00pm Spanish (organ & cantor)

Sunday

8:00am English (organ & cantor)
9:30am Spanish (organ & cantor)
11:30am English (organ & cantor)
1:30pm Vietnamese (keyboard & choir)

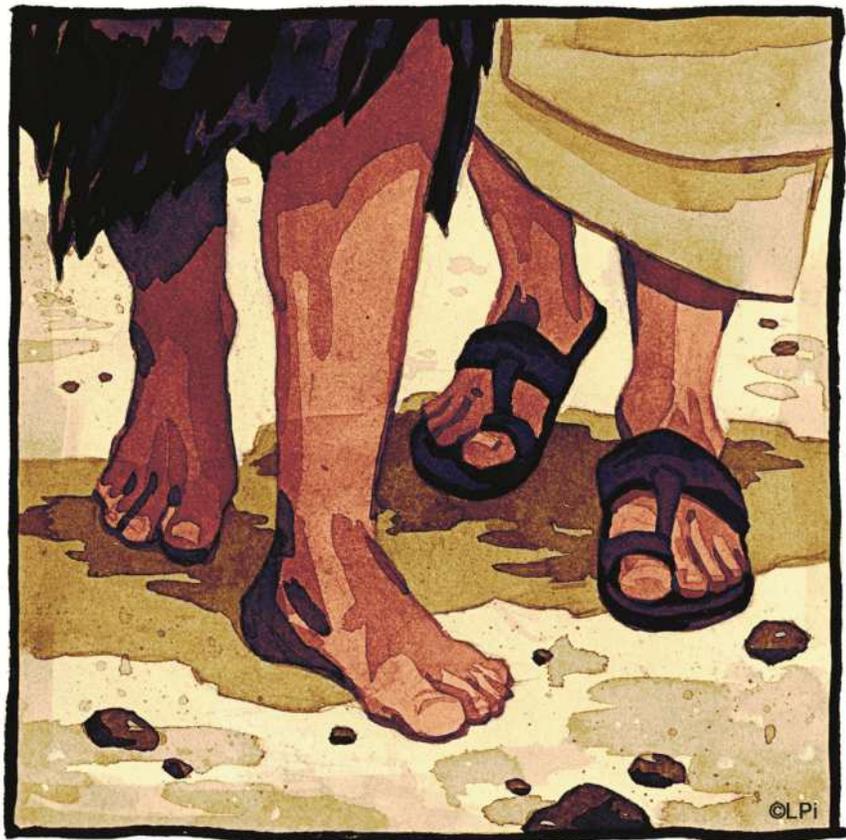
Weekdays

Monday - Friday

8:30am Spanish 12:00pm English

Thursday & Saturday

7:45am Vietnamese



SACRAMENTS

Confession, First Communion and Confirmation

Make contact with the coordinator of this area for information about the various programs available. Appointments can be made in the parish office at anytime.

Baptism

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.

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.

2 PRAYER AND WORSHIP

DECEMBER 14, 2025

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 15

8:30 a.m. Felix Antonio Hernandez,
Maria Olinda Ramirez,
Keren Hernandez, Juan
Bautista Hernandez (D)

12:00 p.m. San Anthony Negron,
Ricardo Reyes, Cruz
Negron, Filomena Reyes,
Angel Maldonado (D)

Tuesday, December 16

8:30 a.m.
12:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 17

8:30 a.m.
12:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 18

8:30a.m.
12:00 p.m.

Friday, December 19

8:30 a.m. Nancy Margarita Perez (D)
12:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 20

7:45 a.m. Ta on & Binh an (D)
7:00 p.m. Fernando Caido (L) -
cumpleaños, Miguel
Roque & Lucia Hidalgo (D)

Sunday, December 21

8:00 a.m. People of SNT
9:30: a.m. Elsa Maria Marte. (D),
Maria Virgen Sanchez de
Taveras (D), Porfirio
Acatzl (D), Fernando
Saucedo (D), Juana
Rojas (D)

11:30 am
1:30 pm

READINGS

First Reading:

Those whom the LORD has
ransomed will return
and enter Zion singing,
crowned with everlasting joy;
they will meet with joy and
gladness,
sorrow and mourning will flee.
(Isa 35:10)

Psalm:

Lord, come and save us. (Ps 146)
OR
Alleluia.

Second Reading:

Be patient, brothers and sisters,
until the coming of the Lord.
(Jas 5:7)

Gospel:

Jesus said to them in reply,
"Go and tell John what you
hear and see:
the blind regain their sight,
the lame walk,
lepers are cleansed,
the deaf hear,
the dead are raised,
and the poor have the good
news proclaimed to them." (Mt
11:4-5)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001,
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The English translation of Psalm Responses
from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997,
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Readings for the week of December 14, 2025

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 (see Is 35:4)/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11
Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17
Thursday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25
Friday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25
Saturday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38
Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24



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(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE
GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini reflection: We go to Mass. We go to Confession. We pray. We read Scripture. In doing all these things, again and again, we go out to the desert. Why? What are we expecting to see?

What We See in the Desert

I've always wanted to see a real desert.

I know all about frigid, snowy winters and warm, wet summers. I grew up on rich soil that yields lush vegetation and bountiful harvests. But I've never experienced a desert, not in my own country or abroad, and I'm curious.

I know there must be something magical about the desert for it to feature so heavily in Scripture, for it to provide a backdrop to so many crucial moments of salvation history. The Israelites following the cloud, the temptation of Christ, the voice crying out: "Prepare the way for the Lord."

Why do these moments have to happen in a desert? Why do they make so much less sense in a tropical rainforest or a verdant forest?

I think it's because the desert doesn't have anything to offer us, at first glance. No one longs for the physical sensation of a dry heat and a beating sun. But the vast emptiness and the almost mystical harshness — even if we don't desire and delight in it, this is a setting that we understand, somehow, intrinsically. We know it deep within our soul. God is there.

We go to Mass. We go to Confession. We pray. We read Scripture. In doing all these things, again and again, we go out to the desert.

Why? What are we expecting to see?

If we expect to be entertained, we will be disappointed. If we expect reassurance, we will be disappointed. If we expect to feel pleasant and safe and sheltered, we will be disappointed.

The desert is there to challenge us. The desert is there to show us who we are, and who we can be.

So go.

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Third Sunday of Advent Matthew 11:2-11

When I was 11, I was riding my bike on a Friday night in Scottsdale, Arizona. I saw giant spotlights swirling in the sky. Something amazing had to be happening. I pedaled after them with excitement. Sweaty and tired, I arrived, only to find a used car lot. Bright lights, flapping banners, inflatable balloon men swaying wildly in the wind. I stood there, heart sinking. All that spectacle, and all my effort ... for this?

As life proceeds, we learn what it is like to pursue promising but fruitless searches. This week we hear Jesus ask the crowds regarding John the Baptist: **"What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind?" (Matthew 11:7).** He's not just describing the crowd's mis-aimed pursuit. He's naming our tendency to chase after what's flashy but flimsy.

What are our swaying reeds? For me, it is endless video reels on my phone, worldly pleasures, entertainment in sports, and the good opinion of others. Inflated distractions that bend whichever way the wind blows. But they can't satisfy my soul. What are your flimsy reeds?

John the Baptist wasn't a swaying reed. He was rooted, grounded, unafraid to speak the solid truth. The people went to see him because, deep down, they were starving for something real.

This Advent, the Church asks us to reassess: What are we really looking for? Are we chasing the dazzling but hollow? Or are we seeking what is solid and lasting — that which points to Christ?

— *Father John Muir*

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

"Go and tell what you have seen and heard," Jesus says. When it comes to proving who he is, he always lets his actions do the talking. We have heard. We have seen. We must go and tell. Let's let our actions do the talking. Who do we think Jesus is?

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