

# St. Nicholas of Tolentine Church

THE BRONX



NEW YORK

DECEMBER | 2025  
Fourth 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)

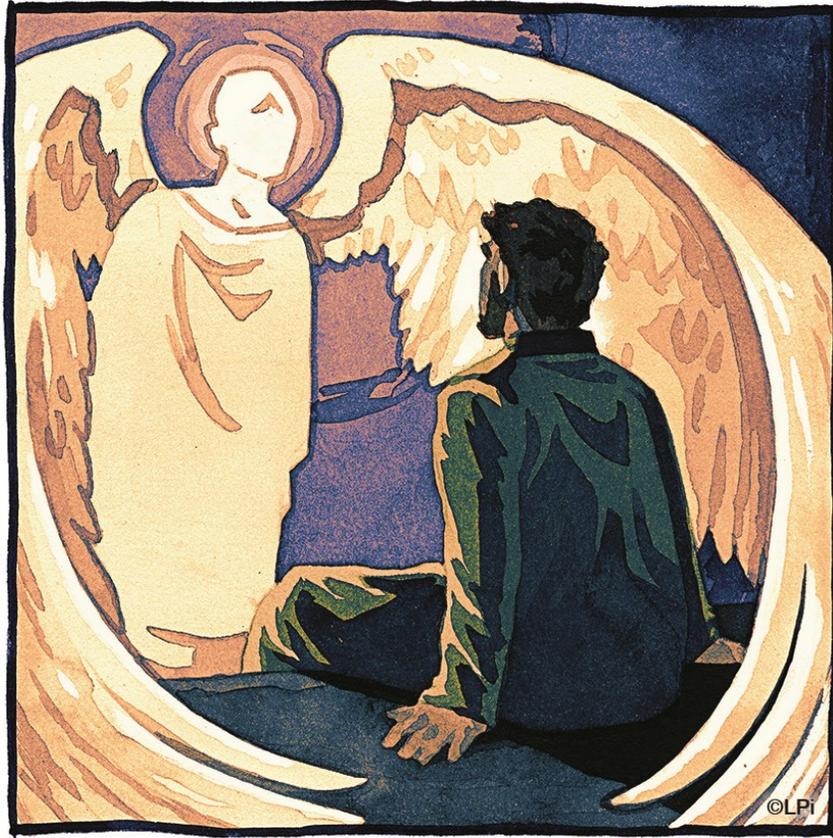
### Weekdays

#### 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 21, 2025

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Monday, December 22

8:30 a.m. Olinda Salcedo, Fernando Hernandez, Manuel Antonio Hernandez, Maria Zapata (D), Carlos Cabrera, Raul Cabrera, padre (D)

12:00 p.m.

### Tuesday, December 23

8:30 a.m.

12:00 p.m.

### Wednesday, December 24

8:30 a.m.

12:00 p.m. Edmanuel & Adlai Torres (D), Pablo & Paul Guzman (D)

8:00 p.m. Familia Muñoz (D), Familia Colon (D)

### Thursday, December 25

10:00 a.m. Virgen Maria Dones (D), Laura Muñoz, Tomasina Guzman (D), Mercedes Hernandez (D)

12:00 p.m.

### Friday, December 26

8:30 a.m. Luis A. Vera (D)

12:00 p.m. Serina Norall (D) - 1st anniv

### Saturday, December 27

7:45 a.m.

7:00 p.m. Tommy Febles (D), Juan Gonzalez (D), Acción de gracias—Gloria Dacillo

### Sunday, December 28

8:00 a.m. People of SNT, Tommy Febles (D), Juan Gonzalez (D)

9:30 a.m. Juana Isabel Murillo Mercel (D) Ambrocio De la Cruz (D)

11:30 am Ricardo Reyes (D)

1:30 pm

## READINGS

### First Reading:

Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel. (Isa 7:14)

### Psalm:

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory. (Ps 24)

### Second Reading:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Rom 1:7)

### Gospel:

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." (Mt 1:20-21)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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## Readings for the week of December 21, 2025

Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24  
Monday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56  
Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66  
Wednesday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79  
Thursday: *Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 *Night:* Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 (Lk 2:11)/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 *Dawn:* Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20  
*Day:* Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14  
Friday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22  
Saturday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8  
Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 (see 1)/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23



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

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

**Mini reflection:** Advent is drawing quickly to a close, and Christmas is coming soon. The change is upon us. Do we rise to accept it, or do we fall on our faces in fear?

**The First Transfiguration**

I imagine Joseph waking up the morning after the dream, blinking in the dim half-light of the dawn.

One day, decades from now, the baby his wife carries will stand on a mountaintop. His face will shine like the sun, and those who look upon him will fall down upon their own faces in fear.

We call this the transfiguration, and Joseph won't be there to see it. But that doesn't matter. What those men will learn on the mountaintop, Joseph already knows. He learned it last night.

Today, he shrugs off the remnants of slumber and stands up.

"Rise, and do not be afraid." This is what the baby — a baby no longer, but a man now, one in the last days of his life — will say to his companions on the mountain a few decades from now. They will look up to see him standing there the same as he always was, and they will realize that he did not change at all. They did.

"Do not be afraid." This is what the angel said last night as he revealed to Joseph the will of God: that Joseph take Mary and the Child as his own, despite having so many reasons not to do so. And today Joseph wakes up and the world is the same as it always was: Mary is pregnant, and the Child does not belong to him.

No, the world has not changed. Joseph has.

He rises, and goes to Mary.

Advent is drawing quickly to a close, and Christmas is coming soon. The change is upon us. Do we rise to accept it, or do we fall on our faces in fear?

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**Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Matthew 1:18-24**

A priest friend recently told me a remarkable story. One of his cousins reported having a vivid dream in which an angel told him the family needed to exhume their grandmother's body from a cemetery in New York and return it to her birthplace in Romania. She had been dead nearly ten years. As you might expect, the family thought it was, well, crazy. But astonishingly they exhumed her body. It was incorrupt, showing no signs of decomposition. That experience sparked healing, faith, and reconciliation throughout the family.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Joseph also receives a dream. He's confused, afraid. But in the quiet of sleep, God speaks: **"Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home" (Matthew 1:20).** When he wakes, Joseph acts. He doesn't overanalyze or dismiss the message. He trusts, and acts.

God still speaks — not necessarily through literal dreams but through those deeper intuitions of the heart. St. Ignatius of Loyola taught that God's voice draws us into peace, courage, and love. But we have to listen to it. Advent is a time for stillness. As we prepare for Christ's coming, we're invited to enter that quiet space where God's voice can be heard.

When and how do you become most receptive to God? Is it in silence? In prayer? In nature? At Mass? This week, go there. Be still. Listen. And like Joseph, have the courage to act on what God shows you.

— *Father John Muir***LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK**

Sometimes we want God's instructions to be clear and precise — like the angel in Joseph's dream. But Joseph's understanding was only as strong as his devotion to God's will. If we give our lives to God as Joseph did, we will know what he asks of us.

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