

St. Nicholas of Tolentine Church

THE BRONX



NEW YORK



JULY | 2026

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor

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

Associate

Fr. Joseph Tran
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

JULY 12, 2026

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, July 13

8:30 a.m. Rosa Emilia Carpio Macias (D), Jimmy Rolando Figueroa Carpio (D)

12:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 14

8:30 a.m. Carmen Marquez (D)

12:00 p.m. Joseph & Maria (D), Carmen Ureña de Castillo (D)

Wednesday, July 15

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

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

Thursday, July 16

8:30 a.m. Alfredo Densagre (D), Simona Parra & Andy Puig (D)

12:00 p.m. Jane Weiss, Cirilo Abrea, Elena Abrea, Cresus Abrea (D)

Friday, July 17

8:30 a.m. Manuel de Jesus Henriquez, Maria Altagracia Reinozo, Luis Leonel Henriquez (D)

12:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 18

7:45 a.m. Phero Thich & Maria Loi (D)

7:00 p.m. Ricardo Reyes Caro (D), Ulises Francisco Aquino Sterling (D), Teofilo Martinez (D)

Sunday, July 19

8:00 a.m. People of SNT, Miri family, Honor of the Holy Family

9:30 a.m. Acción de gracias, Acción de gracias a la Virgen d la Milagrosa. Jose Elias Tapia (D)

11:30 am Ana Paulino Batista (D), Anton Dedvukaj (L), Honor of St Anthony, Baby Jesus, John Meyers (D)

1:30 pm Bartolomeo & Maria (D)

READINGS

First Reading:

My word shall not return to me void,

but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it. (Is 55:11)

Psalm:

The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest. (Ps 65)

Second Reading:

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. (Rom 8:18)

Gospel:

Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it. (Mt 13:17)

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Readings for the week of July 12, 2026

Sunday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14/Rom 8:18-23/Mt 13:1-23 or 13:1-9

Monday: Is 1:10-17/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mt 10:34-11:1

Tuesday: Is 7:1-9/Ps 48:2-3a, 3b-4, 5-6, 7-8/Mt 11:20-24

Wednesday: Is 10:5-7, 13b-16/Ps 94:5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 14-15/Mt 11:25-27

Thursday: Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19/Ps 102:13-14ab and 15, 16-18, 19-21/Mt 11:28-30

Friday: Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8/Is 38:10, 12abcd, 16/Mt 12:1-8

Saturday: Mi 2:1-5/Ps 10:1-2, 3-4, 7-8, 14/Mt 12:14-21

Next Sunday: Wis 12:13, 16-19/Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16/Rom 8:26-27/Mt 13:24-43 or 13:24-30



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Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Matthew 13:1-23

Sometimes I feel capable of absorbing almost anything except God's Word. My mind soaks up song lyrics, sports trivia, and endless online content. But what was the reading at Mass this morning? I struggle to recall. That realization discourages me, and it leads to an uncomfortable question. What is my heart really for? Is it shaped for constant information and distraction, or is it truly designed for God? Am I capable of deeply receiving His Word?

Jesus speaks directly to this today with a simple image. **"The seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it."** By comparing the Word of the Kingdom to a seed, Jesus reveals something hopeful about us. The human heart is made for that seed. Soil and seed belong together. No matter how compacted, rocky, or overgrown the ground has become, the Sower never stops sowing.

God loves our hearts. He sees them as a farmer sees his fields, full of potential. Human hearts can indeed **"understand the Word."** Understanding does not mean mastering information. It means letting the Word sink in, interacting with it, and giving it a home. It means trusting that, beneath the surface, God is at work in quiet and hidden ways.

When we allow the Holy Spirit to loosen the soil of our hearts through prayer, repentance, and simplicity, the same Word that created the universe begins to bear fruit in us, 30, 60, even a hundredfold.

Lord Jesus, Sower of life, soften the soil of my heart. Let Your Word take root in me again, and bring forth the fruit You desire. Amen.

— Father John Muir

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS
By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

The Gardener and the Soil

I began writing this piece by googling "how do you make soil fertile?" which should tell you everything you need to know about my own abilities as a gardener.

I remember seeing a packet of seeds in the store one summer as a child and convincing my mother to buy them. They were delphiniums, which bloom into a beautiful cone shape if you know what you're doing. Alas, I didn't. I chose for my garden a particularly dry spot of earth right next to my backyard playset, scattered the seeds, congratulated myself, and went on my merry way. I returned occasionally to water the area, but only when I remembered to.

Nothing grew, not even a little sprout. I was more than heartbroken — my faith was shaken. I had planted these seeds! I had watered them! (A little.) There was sunlight! All my childhood books and rhymes said this was all you needed. Was it all a lie?

Of course it wasn't a lie. Seeds need soil, sunlight, water, and oxygen — good soil, adequate sunlight for whatever the plant is, and consistent water.

So what seeds need more than anything is a gardener. (At least, delphiniums do.)

When I hear the parable of the rich soil and the rocky ground in the Gospel of Matthew, I often miss the point. I think Jesus is trying to give me a message about how I should be. "Be better." That's what I think he's telling me.

I forget that I am only the soil. I cannot enrich myself; all my efforts to do so will come to nothing. What he is telling me is to ask the gardener: "Make me what I need to be."

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