



AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

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In Residence

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CATHOLIC FAITH
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ST. NICHOLAS OF TOLENTINE CHURCH

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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)

Weekdays	8:30 a.m. Spanish (Mon-Fri.)	12:10 p.m. English (Mon-Fri)
	7:45 a.m. Vietnamese (Thu & Sat)	

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 4:00-5:00 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.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00 a.m. - 12 Noon open (12 pm - 1 pm closed)
1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. open (5 p.m. - 6 p.m. closed) 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.



EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



The word of God serves up a tremendous feast for us today. Isaiah beckons all who hunger and thirst to come to the Lord for satisfaction. The psalmist cries out, “The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs” (Psalm 145:16). Saint Paul tells us that nothing can separate us from the love of God. Finally, in the Gospel, we hear the story of the miraculous feeding of over five thousand people from a mere five loaves and two fish. Most of us have our material needs met on a day-to-day basis. These scriptures, nevertheless, have much to say to the contemporary believer. We must ask ourselves, “Where are my deepest hungers? Where are my thirsts?” After material needs are satisfied and, in some cases, over-satisfied, many people still experience a deep longing for spiritual balance and well-being. As the loaves and fish are multiplied in today’s Gospel, perhaps our prayer can be a longing for the satisfaction of the deepest needs that only God can fill.

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OUR DEEPEST NEEDS

TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — All you who thirst, come to the water! You without money, come to the feast! (Isaiah 55:1-3).

Psalm — The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs (Psalm 145).

Second Reading — Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ (Romans 8:35, 37-39).

Gospel — All ate until satisfied; they collected twelve baskets of what was left over (Matthew 14:13-21).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

NOTHING CAN SEPARATE US

Today’s passage from Saint Paul’s letter to the Romans concludes Chapter 8 with a flourish. It is the exclamation point of Paul’s teaching on the presence of the Spirit within them and among them. The church in Rome faced great suffering as they were marginalized and persecuted for their faith. Paul names both social and cosmic forces that oppress them, over which they have no control. Their trials likely provoked questions that led them to wonder, “Where is God?”

Paul teaches that God is so deeply present within us that nothing can separate us from God. This includes our own forms of resistance. Even when we find myriad ways to avoid and run away, God is waiting patiently. Even when God seems distant or absent, God continues to invite, to welcome, and to speak to us.

Our readings today remind us of our hunger and thirst, and how God works within us. We human beings are created dependent on food and water, and much more. And God deeply desires that our needs be met. Our physical hunger and thirst point to our deeper hungers: our need for meaning, purpose, and belonging; and most of all, for unity with God. In Matthew’s Gospel passage today, Jesus’ heart is moved with compassion for the people. Jesus not only cures the sick and feeds the multitude, he also establishes bonds of community through the shared meal. Saint Paul shows us that nothing can ultimately separate us from God. Isaiah reminds us of God’s ongoing invitation to us to come and receive. God’s gifts cannot be earned or purchased. God’s grace is offered in abundance. God’s nourishment is the very best possible, and we should accept no substitutes.

IMAGINING GOD’S ABUNDANCE

When reflecting upon today’s Gospel passage from Matthew, the story of the feeding of the multitude, we might consider the role of Jesus’ disciples. Unlike the very similar story in Matthew 15, Jesus responds to the disciples by saying, “Give them some food yourselves”. Jesus is pushing his disciples to think beyond the apparent scarcity, and to open their imaginations to God’s abundance. They are to join in with what God is doing. Jesus then takes, blesses, breaks, and shares the bread (anticipating his action at the Last Supper), and the disciples share the loaves with the crowd.

The stories of the feeding of the multitudes also point ahead to the practice of Eucharist in the Church. The Eucharist itself points ahead to God’s banquet at the consummation of the reign of God, when all will share God’s abundance. We the Church are called to open our imaginations to God present and active, who continually works toward God’s promised future. We are to share in God’s passionate desire to feed the people, and join in what God is doing here and now.

Please visit our website for all the latest information and special Prayer Services, at: stnicholasoftolentinebronx.org and join us on Facebook, St. Nicholas of Tolentine Parish

Lessons to be Learned

The miracle of the loaves and fishes is one of the best known in the Gospels. It is also one that people have tried to explain as a myth, or say that Jesus called for people to share what they brought and that turned out to be sufficient. The fact that the story is repeated in all four Gospels (one Gospel says Jesus did it twice) leads us to believe that it is a genuine miracle.

When Jesus performs a miracle, he is not trying to show off his power. He always has a lesson that his action illustrates. This miracle can teach us many things. Let's look at a few of them.

One is the compassion of Christ. He has pity on the crowd and first shows his love by curing their sick. Then he sees they are hungry and feeds them. This reminds us that Jesus knows what we need and cares about us.

The bread reminds us of Jesus' temptation in the desert, where he said "man does not live on bread alone." He meant that mere food is not enough; we need to hear God's word. The people all followed Jesus because they wanted to hear more from him. Just as the miracle satisfied the hunger of five thousand families, so his word will satisfy the spiritual hunger of millions.

Notice the actions of the miracle: he blessed, broke, and gave the bread to the disciples to distribute. These are the actions of the Eucharist where bread is blessed, broken, and given to us, his disciples. So the miracle reminds us that Jesus will give us himself as Bread and Wine to be our food and drink. The miracle of bread and wine becoming the Body and Blood of Christ happens every day.

So the question is, do we learn from this miracle? Do we trust the Lord to care for all our needs? Do we thirst for God's word to inform our lives? Do we try to live by that word? And finally, do we take advantage of the great gift of the Eucharist daily or at least weekly? The miracle may have happened two thousand years ago, but the lessons are meant for us today.

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**The parish office is now opened.
Confessions are by appointment only. Please call 718-295-6800 for an appointment time.**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

AUGUST 3, 2020

Monday: Jer 28:1-17; Ps 119:29, 43, 79, 80, 95, 102; Mt 14:22-36
 Tuesday: Jer 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22; Ps 102:16-21, 29, 22-23; Mt 14:22-36 or Mt 15:1-2, 10-14
 Wednesday: Jer 31:1-7; Jer 31:10-12ab, 13; Mt 15:21-28
 Thursday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9; 2 Pt 1:16-19; Mt 17:1-9
 Friday: Na 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7; Dt 32:35cd-36ab, 39abcd, 41; Mt 16:24-28
 Saturday: Hb 1:12 — 2:4; Ps 9:8-13; Mt 17:14-20
 Sunday: 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a; Ps 85:9-14; Rom 9:1-5; Mt 14:22-33

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

AUGUST 3, 2020

Monday
8:30am Octavia Camilo (D); Roberto Cruz (D); Elba Flores
Tuesday
8:30am
Wednesday
8:30am Acción de gracias a La Divina Misericordia y Al Divino Niño Jesus
Thursday
7:45am
8:30am
Friday
8:30am
Saturday
7:45am
7:00pm Nicela Garcia (D)
Sunday
8:00am Maria Josefa Parache (D)
9:30am Juanita Soto, Betsy Bonet & Angel Soto (D); Domingo Perez (D)
11:30am Mary Velez (D); Peter Scavetta (D)
1:30pm

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WHY IS IT

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WHY IS IT?