



## AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

### PASTORAL STAFF

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*Pastor*

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Fr. Carlos Urbina, O.S.A - *Associate*

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

Br. Bienvenido Rodriguez, O.S.A  
*In Residence*

CATHOLIC FAITH  
FORMATION  
Jesus DeLaRosa

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Mr. Daniel Kirk-Foster  
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Mr. Jesus Liriano  
917-579-6720

RECEPTIONIST  
Ms. Lucy Maldonado

# ST. NICHOLAS OF TOLENTINE CHURCH

2345 UNIVERSITY AVENUE BRONX, NY 10468

TEL. (718) 295-6800 [www.stnicholasoftolentinebronx.org](http://www.stnicholasoftolentinebronx.org) FAX (718) 367-7411

## 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)

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<b>Weekdays</b>	8:30 a.m. <b>Spanish</b> (Mon-Fri.)
	7:45 a.m. <b>Vietnamese</b> (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 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.



## TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



### THE CROSS OF JESUS

The perception of a cross changed dramatically after Jesus' crucifixion. Before that event, death on a cross was not only horrible, it was degrading. It was a penalty reserved only for the most wretched of criminals. The word "glory" would not have found its way into the same sentence containing the word "cross." But all that changed with Jesus. Over time, believers began to venerate and honor the cross. They painted, sculpted, and carved images of it. Many lost their own lives for their association with it. Today our reverence for and relationship with the cross recalls little of the contempt originally associated with it. As it has been through the ages, it is our perception of the cross that determines how we follow Jesus.

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#### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — The name of the LORD has become like fire burning in Jeremiah's heart (Jeremiah 20:7-9).

**Psalm** — My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God (Psalm 63).

**Second Reading** — Be transformed; renew your mind; discern what is good (Romans 12:1-2).

**Gospel** — Those who lose their lives for Jesus' sake will find them (Matthew 16:21-27).

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.

#### GOD OF DIALOGUE

Our reading from Jeremiah contains some of the harshest language you will find in the Bible toward God. In despair and fury, Jeremiah accuses God of deceiving and abusing him. He pours out his rage at God for ruining his life. He wants to quit God, but finds it impossible. In later verses, he alternates between giving thanks to God and wishing he had never been born. Remarkably, after all this, Jeremiah resumes his prophetic ministry.

As with Abraham (Genesis 18), Moses (Exodus 32), Job, and various psalms, Jeremiah pushes back against God. God receives and blesses their prayer, and their relationship is stronger for it. Our God is a God of dialogue, who encourages us to speak our mind and heart in full honesty. Our Trinitarian God is in eternal conversation within God's self, and with all of creation. God invites honest dialogue, always grounded in love, within God's Church, and between the Church and the world.

We are invited to reflect on the path of discipleship offered by Jesus in our readings today. Jesus, now seen by the disciples as Messiah and Christ, begins to describe most fully what this means: he will not march into Jerusalem filled with God's power like a conquering general. His path is like that of Jeremiah; he will be rejected and mocked. His path is like that described by Paul, offering his body as a living sacrifice. Jesus summons his followers down the same path of death and resurrection, to live the radical paradox that "whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." Loving and trusting God will entail self-surrender, leading us to joy in service to others. We will learn to let go of what we desire and what we think we need, trusting God to pro-

#### THE TEMPTER

It seems that Jesus is pretty hard on Peter in today's Gospel, when he calls him "Satan" for questioning Jesus' prediction of his passion. The scene echoes Matthew's story of the temptations of Jesus (4:1-11) when Jesus encounters Satan, also called the "tempter." Satan had sought to draw Jesus into thinking about his own needs instead of attending to God's purposes. Peter was an unwitting tempter, anxiously reacting out of his own fears and misunderstanding.

This story speaks about Jesus' identity and vocation, and also about our own. As God's beloved, sent out to witness to the gospel, we are offered a foundation and a purpose to our lives. There is much in life that tempts us, stirs up false fears, or draws us to the attractive but superficial. Jesus provides us a way forward. He named the temptations that he faced, so they had no power over him. As he followed his path, he placed his full trust in his Father.

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

The Eyes of a Child

I frequently see signs on churches inviting everyone to come. Often they advertise that they are a contemporary, casual church. One thing that concerns me is that they do not add “challenging” to that description. Some people try to teach that since Jesus is risen from the dead, we should also be able to live that way: Rejoicing, but never sorrowing. But if we preach resurrection without the cross, we are acting like Peter in the Gospel.

Peter had just proclaimed that Jesus was the Messiah, but he failed to understand that Jesus’ mission was not to bring wealth and glory to Israel. Jesus knew that being messiah required him to give his life for all people. In a sense, Peter was tempting Jesus to avoid the painful death and use his divine power to bring prosperity. Like Satan’s temptations in the desert, he wanted Jesus to take the easy way to glory.

Instead, Jesus challenges us to deny ourselves. Today this phrase is not very popular with those who say we should be free to satisfy all our desires, or with motivational speakers who say that everyone is able to achieve financial success and live a comfortable life. As long as we center our lives on our own pleasure and comfort, we are rejecting the cross. To deny oneself means to choose God’s will over our own. It means to be willing to suffer for being honest. It means giving God the first place in our lives. It means we get more joy from serving others than serving ourselves. This is what Paul is talking about in the second reading when he says to offer ourselves as a “living sacrifice.” Or as Jesus says, we lose our life for his sake, only to find it in loving and serving him.

That is one reason I like the image of God as father. Parents will lose much of their freedom—and much sleep—when they bring a child into the world. But they find a new joy in the eyes of that child. We are all called to lose our selfish lives and find the joy of living for Jesus.

Tom Schmidt, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

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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 31, 2020

Monday: 1 Cor 2:1-5; Ps 119:97-102; Lk 4:16-30  
 Tuesday: 1 Cor 2:10b-16; Ps 145:8-14; Lk 4:31-37  
 Wednesday: 1 Cor 3:1-9; Ps 33:12-15, 20-21; Lk 4:38-44  
 Thursday: 1 Cor 3:18-23; Ps 24:1bc-4ab, 5-6; Lk 5:1-11  
 Friday: 1 Cor 4:1-5; Ps 37:3-6, 27-28, 39-40; Lk 5:33-39  
 Saturday: 1 Cor 4:6b-15; Ps 145:17-21; Lk 6:1-5  
 Sunday: Ez 33:7-9; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK  
AUGUST 31, 2020

**Monday**  
8:30am Manuel DeJesus Henriquez, Maria Atagracia Reynoso (D)  
**Tuesday**  
8:30am Filomeno Abreu Nicudemo (D)  
**Wednesday**  
8:30am  
**Thursday**  
8:30am Roberto Cruz (D)  
**Friday**  
8:30am Severina Francisco de Suardi, Marco Antonio Baez, & Silvestre Suardi (D)  
**Saturday**  
7:45am  
7:00pm Luis Albert Gonzalez (D); Jesus Francisco Reyes (D); Estela Barerra-Gil, Carlota Gil Olibera, Gusinta Barrera (D)  
**Sunday**  
8:00am People of SNT  
9:30am Bienvenido Bourdierd (D)  
11:30am  
1:30pm Maria Nguyen T Hach (D)

OFFERTORY COLLECTION  
AUGUST 16, 2020

<b>Tithing:</b>	\$5,647.00	Assumption of Mary:
<b>Children:</b>	\$0.00	\$829.00
<b>Total:</b>	\$5,647.00	

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**1430 AM**  
**1160 AM**

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**WHY IS IT**

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**WHY IS IT?**

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