



AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

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Fr. Frank Barr, O.S.A.
In Residence

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

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

CATHOLIC FAITH
FORMATION
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Mr. Daniel Kirk-Foster
Mr. Dang Vu

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ST. NICHOLAS OF TOLENTINE CHURCH

2345 UNIVERSITY AVENUE BRONX, NY 10468

TEL. (718) 295-6800 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)

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.

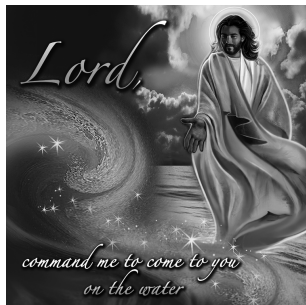
PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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.



NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE PRESENCE OF GOD



After the miracle of Jesus walking on water, the disciples exclaimed, “Truly, you are the Son of God” (Matthew 14:33). Most Christians will probably never experience such a dramatic miracle. Like Elijah, we await the manifestation of God in other moments. Perhaps the biggest challenge for the believer is to be constantly attuned to the possible presence of God in the everyday events of life. This is a stance that takes some people years to develop. Others seem to find the Lord easily in the simple things. As the week unfolds, let us look for the presence of God in the little things around us. Perhaps, like Elijah, we will be surprised at what we find. And, like the disciples, we can add our voice to the confession, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The LORD said to Elijah: “Stand on the mountain; the LORD will be passing by” (1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a).

Psalm — Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation (Psalm 85).

Second Reading — To the Israelites belong the covenants, the law, and the patriarchs; and from them comes the Christ (Romans 9:1-5).

Gospel — As Jesus walked on the sea, the disciples were terrified (Matthew 14:22-33).

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.

How do we encounter God in the midst of the trials and storms of our lives? Our readings help us reflect upon God's presence with us in difficult times. We hear of the prophet Elijah, who had just boldly demonstrated God's power, and is now terrified as he flees for his life, desperately seeking God's presence. We hear of Peter, after briefly walking on water during the storm, sinking fast as fear overwhelms him. At times our fears, sadness, or fatigue might severely test even our strongest desires to care for others and to serve God. Perhaps these are the moments when, as we encounter our weakness, we may open ourselves more deeply to God's strength. Often with difficulty, and perhaps over a lifetime, we can learn to depend on God, who always extends a loving hand toward us, especially during the storms of our lives.

A “LITTLE” FAITH

In Matthew's Gospel, Peter often serves as a representative of Jesus' other disciples, and of all who strive to follow Jesus. When Peter desires to imitate Jesus by walking on the water in the middle of the storm, maybe wishing to show how strong his faith is, he encounters his own limitations and his need to be rescued by Jesus. Jesus then says to Peter, with tenderness as well as with challenge, “O you of little faith.” Jesus accepted the fragile and limited faith of Peter and the other disciples and loved them unconditionally.

The early church identified with Peter, as people with a “little” faith. Their faith was not fully mature, or as extraordinary as others' faith might seem to be. But they knew that their faith, however small or imperfect, was real and true. We might remember that our own “little” faith is cherished by God. God loves us as we are, and always seeks to form us toward a fully mature Christian life of faith.

GROUNDED IN GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

Today's passage from Saint Paul's letter to the Roman begins an extended reflection, in Chapters 9–11, of Paul's coming to terms with the mixed but generally negative reception of his fellow Jews toward his proclamation of Christ. He was concerned for the Jewish people certainly, but also for the members of the early church, who were both Jew and Gentile. His primary concern was that their Christian faith should always be grounded in God's faithfulness. So Paul rejected any notion that God somehow had abandoned Israel or God's covenant with them.

As Catholic teaching confirms, especially in the Second Vatican Council, the Church shares with the Jewish people in the tradition of God's faithfulness. We are to acknowledge and repent of the Church's participation and complicity in the darkness of anti-Semitism, both in the past and today. We pray continually with and for the Jewish people as our sisters and brothers in faith.

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

Two Steps Forward . . .

Why did Jesus walk on water to the disciples in the boat? Did he want to scare them? No, his first words to them were "Do not be afraid." While they were being tossed by wind and waves, he showed them that he was not affected by the storm. If they had had faith, they might have realized that if Jesus was safe, they would be, too. We too must make that leap of faith, especially when we are afraid.

Peter seemed to be willing to take the leap as he stepped into the water. But when his attention was distracted by the strong winds, he began to falter. This is where we can apply the story to ourselves.

Our growth in faith is not a steady progression. For every two steps forward, we may take one step back. For example, we receive God's forgiveness in the sacrament of reconciliation and rejoice in God's loving mercy, but later we fall back into sin. We ask God's help in prayer and when our prayer is answered, our faith in God grows. Then we become ill or wreck the car, and think that God has abandoned us. But isn't that a natural reaction?

It is natural to doubt God in times of trouble, but we are choosing to live in the supernatural when we become followers of Christ. Like Peter, we need to keep our attention on the Lord. As long as Peter looked to Jesus, he could walk on water. Only when he focused on the wind did he lose his nerve and begin to sink.

In a similar way, we can lose our focus on the Lord. We see someone we love who is gravely sick. We make a serious mistake that gets us in trouble. We lose our job and have no leads to a new one. We are frightened by news of terrorist activity. These seem more real than faith in an invisible God. That is when we must remember that true faith allows us to believe when it doesn't seem to make sense. Faith tells us that though apparently invisible, God is more real than anything we can see. Remember Jesus on the cross saying, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" The Father never abandoned his Son and God will never abandon us.

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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 10, 2020

- Monday: 2 Cor 9:6-10; Ps 112:1-2, 5-9; Jn 12:24-26
- Tuesday: Ez 2:8 — 3:4; Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131; Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14
- Wednesday: Ez 9:1-7; 10:18-22; Ps 113:1-6; Mt 18:15-20
- Thursday: Ez 12:1-12; Ps 78:56-59, 61-62; Mt 18:21 — 19:1
- Friday: Ez 16:1-15, 60, 63 [59-63]; Is 12:2-3, 4bcd-6; Mt 19:3-12
- Saturday: Vigil: 1 Chr 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2; Ps 132:6-7, 9-10, 13-14; 1 Cor 15:54b-57; Lk 11:27-28
Day: Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Ps 45:10-12, 16; 1 Cor 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56
- Sunday: Is 56:1, 6-7; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Rom 11:13-15, 29-32; Mt 15:21-28

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

AUGUST 10, 2020

- Monday**
8:30am
 - Tuesday**
8:30am
 - Wednesday**
8:30am
 - Thursday**
7:45am
 - Friday**
8:30am
 - Saturday**
7:45am
 - Sunday**
8:00am
 - 11:30am**
1:30pm
- Acción de gracias al Sagrado Corazón de Jesus
- Nathan Santana (D)
- Ana Nguyen T Hay (D)
Henry Santana (D)
- Nathan Santana (D)
- Felix Antonio Hernandez (D)
Odulia Muñoz & Jose Flores (D); Isabel Mercedes (D) & Salud de Eulogia Nicasio
Peter Scavetta (D)

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JULY 26, 2020

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WHY IS IT?