



AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

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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)

3:30 p.m. **Spanish** (piano & cantor)

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

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.



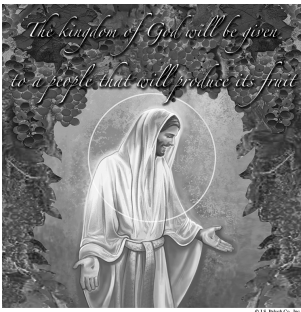
TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE GIFT OF THE REIGN OF GOD

Matthew's Gospel today expands on Isaiah's ballad considerably. A comparison with the same story in Mark's Gospel clearly shows us that here the author is busy teaching this community of Jewish Christians: "This is a story about Israel a long time ago; this is also a story about Jesus and the skeptical leaders."

Jesus as much as told these Jewish leaders that they were the tenants who first stoned their own prophets. And he told the leaders they were the tenants who would soon even dispose of him—Jesus—and, in doing so, would forfeit their privileged place of presenting to the world the promised Messiah.

"And this," says Matthew's Gospel, "is a story about you, the inheritors of what was first offered to Israel." The reign of God was first opened to Israel and is now given to the whole world, but it must be received as a gift. The first Christians are the new tenants in the vineyard. The deeper reality of the reign or kingdom of God is that it is available to everyone on the face of the earth—Israel included.



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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The vineyard of the LORD is the house of Israel (Isaiah 5:1-7).

Psalm — The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel (Psalm 80).

Second Reading — God's peace will guard your hearts and minds (Philippians 4:6-9).

Gospel — The kingdom of God will be given to those who will produce its fruit (Matthew 21:33-43).

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.

AMAZED BY INNOVATION

What Jesus does next surprises his audience. He adds a new twist to Isaiah's well-known words, adding a new character, the landowner's very own son. Adding this innovation shows that Jesus confirms the prophet's warning—that God longs for "his cherished plant" to grow according to the divine plan. The narrative twist also allows Jesus to reveal the fullness of God's plan in a way his audience can understand. Like a master teacher, Jesus respects the knowledge and faithfulness of the chief priests and elders, and then builds on what they know. By adding the landowner's son to the parable of the vineyard, Jesus gently expresses his own mission as the Son of God. Matthew's Gospel often depicts the chief priests and elders as oppositional; they worry that Jesus will abolish the law and foment rebellion. As the Lord said earlier in Matthew's Gospel, however, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill" (Matthew 5:17). Jesus' audience is skeptical about him, horrified at the thought of a mere human being claiming that he is the Son of God. Jesus' masterful approach provides an opportunity for his audience to give him the benefit of the doubt. In this way, Jesus proposes—not imposes—his kingship, inviting us all to follow him.

Today's first reading, psalm, and Gospel concentrate heavily on vineyards. For those of us who don't drink wine or have never set foot in a vineyard, these scriptures may seem inaccessible. But if we consider the tremendous importance of wine to the ancient world, we hear the scriptures asking us to make a life-or-death decision. Choosing death means forsaking our relationship with God and taking upon ourselves all the anxiety of faithlessness. Choosing life means paying attention to the kingdom of God on earth, striving to pursue "whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious." Today's vineyard metaphors invite us to identify our highest priority in life and tend to it. If we ask, God will help us order our lives correctly so we are free to cultivate our vineyards in love.

CONNECTED TO TRADITION

The Church presents today's Old Testament and Gospel readings together, as a pair. We delight in the symmetry between the two passages. Jesus, who is the Word of God, knows the Hebrew scriptures by heart and intends for his parable to echo Isaiah. As Jesus begins speaking, he summons the words of Isaiah, knowing his learned audience of chief priests and elders will feel comfortable with a familiar scripture passage. These scholars recognize immediately that Jesus is referring to a prophetic passage about sin, about the chosen people's tendency to turn away from God and grow "wild."

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

Where Are the Grapes?

Jesus' parable is a little different from the one in the first reading. Isaiah has the vineyard under good and faithful care, but still it produces wild grapes. In the Gospel, the vineyard presumably had a good harvest, but the workers refuse to give any of the grapes to the landowner. The question for us is, which parable is about me?

Do I ignore all that God does to help me be a good disciple? Am I too busy to take time to pray or read the Bible? Do I hold onto grudges instead of forgiving and releasing them? Do I only go to church when someone drags me there, or only at Christmas and Easter? (If that were true, I probably would not be reading this bulletin.) Do I decline the invitations to go on a retreat? Am I afraid to share my faith with someone who needs encouragement? If any of these are true, I might be like the vineyard in the first reading, producing no fruit despite all the opportunities God has given me.

Or we may be the other side of the coin. We had our children baptized when they were babies, sent them to the parish school or religion classes. We went to church every Sunday and took them with us. We gave them as good an example as we could, teaching them to love others and be generous with what they have. Yet they grew up and drifted away from the faith. Then we have to remember how patient God is with us, God's people who don't always produce the fruits of faith.

The Gospel is a little more difficult to relate to. The tenants in the parable refer to those who mistreated or killed the prophets sent by God or the people who would have Jesus crucified. Yet the kingdom of God is still being proclaimed in spite of them. God is patient with them. Look what happened to Saul, who persecuted many Christians before he became one himself. In our second reading he tells us to follow his example as he follows Christ. Then, he says, the peace of God will be with us, too (Philippians 4:6-9).

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Confessions are by appointment only. Please call 718-295-6800 for an appointment time.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

OCTOBER 5, 2020

Monday: Gal 1:6-12; Ps 111:1b-2, 7-9, 10c; Lk 10:25-37
 Tuesday: Gal 1:13-24; Ps 139:1b-3, 13-15; Lk 10:38-42
 Wednesday: Gal 2:1-2, 7-14; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Lk 11:1-4
 Thursday: Gal 3:1-5; Lk 1:69-75; Lk 11:5-13
 Friday: Gal 3:7-14; Ps 111:1b-6; Lk 11:15-26
 Saturday: Gal 3:22-29; Ps 105:2-7; Lk 11:27-28
 Sunday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Phil 4:12-14, 19-20; Mt 22:1-14 [1-10]

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

OCTOBER 5, 2020

Monday
8:30am
Tuesday
8:30am
Wednesday
8:30am Angel Maldonado (D)
Thursday
8:30am
Friday
8:30am Leonol Valle (D)
Saturday
7:45am
7:00pm Aniversario de Juan y Ana Garcia; Petra Abelino & Josefina Taveras (D)
Sunday
8:00am People of SNT
9:30am Ana Jerez, Pedro Almonte, Humberto Fernandez (D) (D)
Peter Scavetta (D)
11:30am Maria Le T Gai (D)
1:30pm

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