



## AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

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# 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)

#### 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 (CONFESIONS)

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-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## A MESSAGE OF LOVE



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In the final verses of today's Gospel reading Jesus says that when two or three are gathered in his name, "there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20). So we understand that fraternal correction is always undertaken with Jesus present to us.

Likewise, encouraging the good in others is not only the right thing for us to do, it is a necessity. The Lord tells the prophet Ezekiel that if he "does not speak out" to dissuade a person from evil, then he too will be held responsible.

We live in a "do your own thing" age when moral objectivity is often ignored. Clearly when the message we share with others is one of love, our motives cannot ever be misinterpreted. As St. Paul writes, "Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law" (Romans 13:10).

## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — Warn the wicked and try to turn them from their ways (Ezekiel 33:7-9).

**Psalm** — If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts (Psalm 95).

**Second Reading** — Owe nothing to anyone, except mutual love (Romans 13:8-10).

**Gospel** — If two agree about anything for which they pray, it shall be granted to them (Matthew 18:15-20).

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.

## IF TODAY YOU HEAR HIS VOICE

Where does this leave us when we experience conflict with others? As in all times and seasons, the best place to begin is in prayer. Listen for the voice of God in personal prayer, at Mass, in sacred scripture and other devotional reading, with trusted faithful and faith-filled friends. Listen with the compassion of the Lord in mind. And when you hear God's voice, pay attention! This sounds self-evident, yet how many of us hear God's voice but ask that we not be called to the challenge and discomfort of the situation, desiring instead to hope that things will simply get better? Perhaps they will, but perhaps you are called to bring the light and life of Christ to the situation, in love, for love, and through love, just as Jesus did. "If today you hear [God's] voice, harden not your hearts," says today's psalm. We often know the depth of love to which we are called. Today's readings invite us to listen and to act, to love our neighbor as ourselves, to desire the best for every person as God desires, and to be assured that God is in our midst.

If you ever thought that living as a Christian was always going to be easy, today's readings will convince you that this is not so. In the first reading from Ezekiel, the prophet was sent to convince the people in Jerusalem to return to God and God's ways; he bore rejection as a result of fulfilling his mission. In today's Gospel, Jesus instructs his followers to work toward reconciliation when we have been wronged, rather than remaining caught in anger or disappointment. Saint Paul captures what lies behind these instructions—love. "Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law." When we are tempted to walk away from a friend or co-worker with whom we disagree, or even more so when we worry that the person has turned away from the Lord, we are instead called to reach out in love.

## LOVE AS CHRIST CALLS

The truth is, love is sometimes wonderfully charged with light and life, but it also often requires us to confront wrongdoing and injustice, to be patient and forgiving, and to work for peace and reconciliation. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to reflect the love of God which desires the best for every person and for all of humanity. Jesus was so committed to this mission of God's love that he gave himself as an offering of pure sacrifice. This is not easy love. It is compelling love, the sort of love that transforms and draws us toward the light and life that in our hearts we know we seek, and which we are called to share.

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

## Not My Problem

Ever notice how people today like to ignore the evil in the world? People will witness a mugging and not bother to call the police. We see television stories of children starving in poor countries and say, "Not my problem." The readings for this Sunday challenge this attitude.

As a prophet, Ezekiel is to proclaim God's word of repentance to the wicked. The Lord tells Ezekiel that he will be held responsible for the death of the wicked if he refuses to warn against the evil they are doing.

In the Gospel, Jesus describes how his disciples should confront the sinner. His words teach us something about our duty to the sinner. First, he tells us that sin *is* our problem, and when we see it we need to take the initiative to stop it. Second, he tells us we need not feel alone in this duty. When the sinner refuses to listen, we bring in help. In fact, this command is meant for the whole church. Third, he tells us to be persistent; don't give up on someone too easily.

So what about that line about treating the sinner who refuses to listen as a Gentile or tax collector? On the one hand, the sinner should be excluded from the church, excommunicated, if he doesn't repent. On the other hand, Jesus never rejected tax collectors (like Matthew himself, who wrote this Gospel) or Gentiles. He said he came to call sinners, to save them. He loves sinners. And that is the reason we are to confront them—not to punish them, but to love them. As we see in the second reading, "love is the fulfillment of the law."

That is why the Gospel ends with Jesus' words about disciples praying together. When we think we cannot make a sinner repent, we remember that only God can do that. We can pray for sinners, including ourselves, and ask God to renew them in the Spirit. For God never forces a person to repent. God invites with love, especially the love Jesus showed by dying on the cross. May we all learn to fight evil with love!

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK  
SEPTEMBER 7, 2020

Monday:	1 Cor 5:1-8; Ps 5:5-7, 12; Lk 6:6-11, or, for Labor Day, any readings from the Mass "For the Blessings of Human Labor," nos. 907-911
Tuesday:	Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30; Ps 13:6; Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 [18-23]
Wednesday:	1 Cor 7:25-31; Ps 45:11-12, 14-17; Lk 6:20-26
Thursday:	1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13; Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 23-24; Lk 6:27-38
Friday:	1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27; Ps 84:3-6, 12; Lk 6:39-42
Saturday:	1 Cor 10:14-22; Ps 116:12-13, 17-18; Lk 6:43-49
Sunday:	Sir 27:30 — 28:7; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK  
SEPTEMBER 7, 2020

<u>Monday</u> 9:00am	
<u>Tuesday</u> 8:30am	Jose Adames (D)
<u>Wednesday</u> 8:30am	Maria Josefa Parache (D)
<u>Thursday</u> 9:00am	Henry Santana Medina (D); Bienvenido De la Cruz (D)
<u>Friday</u> 8:30am	
<u>Saturday</u> 7:45am	Ana Mung (D)
7:00pm	Lazaro Anselmo Companioni (D); Grasiela Torres Hernandes (D); Ernan Victorino (D)
<u>Sunday</u> 8:00am	
9:30am	People of SNT Mariel Manuela Gomez (D); Virginia Leticia Woods (D) Mary Velez (D); Peter Scavetta (D) Giuse Thuyet (D)
11:30am	
1:30pm	

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The parish office will be closed on Monday, September 7 in observance of Labor Day. It will also be closed Thursday, September 10 in celebration of the Feast of St. Nicholas of Tolentine

OFFERTORY COLLECTION  
AUGUST 23, 2020

<u>Tithing:</u>	\$4,771.08
<u>Children:</u>	\$0.00
<u>Total:</u>	\$4,771.08

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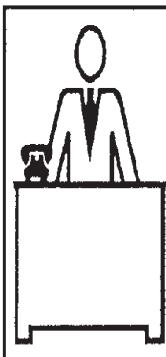
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