



## AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

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*Pastor*

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Fr. William Wallace, O.S.A.  
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Br. Bienvenido Rodriguez, O.S.A  
*In Residence*

CATHOLIC FAITH  
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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)

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

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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-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

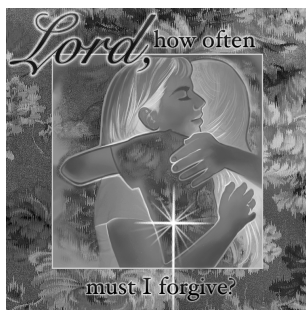
### FORGIVENESS

Nearly ten years before, a son and father had parted ways when the business they shared went bankrupt. The son blamed the father. They did not speak to each other again.

Then the father became seriously ill. The mother called the son and told him he had better come soon. The son walked sheepishly into the hospital room. The father motioned his son to him and whispered: "Did you ever think you could do anything that would keep me from loving you?"

Resentment and anger are foul things, the first reading from Sirach tells us. Remember the last things. Stop hating. Live by the commandments. As St. Paul writes to the Romans, we are to live for the Lord and die for the Lord.

Jesus' parable in today's Gospel reminds us of God's compassion. The immense sin of humanity has been forgiven and stricken from the record. We are to forgive others in the same way.



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#### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — Remember the commandments and hate not your neighbor (Sirach 27:30 — 28:7).

**Psalm** — The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion (Psalm 103).

**Second Reading** — Whether we live, or whether we die, we do so for the Lord (Romans 14:7-9).

**Gospel** — Forgive one another from your heart (Matthew 18:21-35).

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.

#### BECOMING MORE LIKE CHRIST

When Peter asked Jesus how many times he must forgive, he was probably stunned at Jesus' response. Peter had asked, "As many as seven times?" Seven being the perfect number, surely this is enough forgiveness, Peter likely thought. Jesus' response seems lavish beyond proportion. "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times." Jesus understands the fullness of God's mercy and teaches that disciples are called to this same lavish outpouring of mercy. God showers compassion on humanity, beyond what might seem sensible or wise, yet we are called to "remember the Most High's covenant, and overlook faults," to give others the benefit of the doubt, knowing that God does this and more with us, each and every day. As recipients of God's compassion, we must extend forgiveness and care beyond what might seem reasonable, because God's love is beyond human reason.

"You missed the point," we might be tempted to shout at the servant in today's Gospel. His master had just forgiven a huge debt when he cried for mercy, and yet, when given the opportunity to show mercy himself, he instead acted violently and with retribution toward a fellow servant. Certainly, he had missed the point of his master's merciful actions toward him, and suffered the consequences as a result. He missed the point. He is not alone, however. We all "miss the point" sometimes—we miss the point of God's enduring covenant of love, and miss the mark in our call to live as though we are the Lord's, for this is who we are.

#### HOW MUCH IS TOO MUCH?

All this might seem just too much for us. It is one thing to recognize God's enduring covenant love. It is another to grasp that we are called to the same sort of lavishness in mercy and forgiveness ourselves. Saint Paul helps us put this in perspective. We no longer live for ourselves, but for the Lord. In life and death, we belong to God and are called to be witnesses to God's love, even in the most challenging circumstances. A friend turns away from us; we are called to turn toward the friend with mercy. A co-worker hurts us; we are called to approach him or her with forgiveness, seventy-seven times no less! God's love is always about what is just and right. As God's people, we live and die for the Lord, forgive even when it doesn't make sense to do so, and leave the rest in God's hands.

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 Cross of Forgiveness

Why should we forgive those who hurt us? The gospel this Sunday gives three reasons: First, because Jesus commands it. Second, because forgiveness is part of loving one another. And third, because we want to be forgiven for our sins.

Obviously, Jesus expects us to forgive one another. Here he commands us to forgive unceasingly, without limit. Now that could be a challenge for even the most patient person. So does forgiveness exclude tough love? Does it mean we have to let someone hurt us over and over? No, it is possible to forgive someone and also prevent them from hurting us, if we do it with love (the second reason.) For instance, we might forgive an alcoholic family member, but still insist that they get help. We can forgive a son or daughter who breaks the law, but still let them face the consequences so they learn from their mistake. We may forgive a friend who borrows money without repaying it, but still refer them to a credit counselor, instead of lending them more money. Since forgiveness is part of love, it is also part of tough love.

That leads to the third reason: We forgive because we want to be forgiven. Or more accurately, we forgive because we have been forgiven. Jesus has already died for our sins. His resurrection shows us that the Father accepted the sacrifice of his Son Jesus for our sins. If we truly believe that Jesus is risen and that we will rise to eternal life with him in spite of our sins, how can we refuse to forgive someone who hurts us? When we promise to take up our cross each day to follow Jesus, we must remember why Jesus took up his cross and realize that we have to forgive as he does. That is why the cross is such a powerful symbol. It challenges us to accept suffering for Jesus' sake. It reminds us that sometimes our cross is simply forgiving someone rather than hurting them back or hating them. If Jesus gave his life to forgive us, how willing are we to spread that forgiveness around?

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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

SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

Monday: Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1-2, 34-38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17  
 Tuesday: 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a; Ps 100:1b-5; Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35  
 Wednesday: 1 Cor 12:31 — 13:13; Ps 33:2-5, 12, 22; Lk 7:31-35  
 Thursday: 1 Cor 15:1-11; Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28; Lk 7:36-50  
 Friday: 1 Cor 15:12-20; Ps 17:1bcd, 6-8b, 15; Lk 8:1-3  
 Saturday: 1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49; Ps 56:10c-14; Lk 8:4-15  
 Sunday: Is 55:6-9; Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18; Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

**Monday**  
8:30am Altagracia Roman Rodriguez (D); Jorge Miguel Cabrera (D)  
**Tuesday**  
8:30am Felix Antonio Hernandez (D); Acción de gracias al Sagrado Corazón de Jesus; Gracias por mi salud  
**Wednesday**  
8:30am Isabel Mercedes (D); Manuela Martinez (D)  
**Thursday**  
8:30am Gilbert Jesus Colon (D), Bangela Rodriguez (D); Almas en el Purgatorio  
**Friday**  
8:30am Eida Mercedes Ovando Castillo (D); Sanación familia Cruz Ramirez; Hotoniel Cruz Dominguez (L)  
**Saturday**  
7:45am Anton The (D)  
7:00pm Germania Perez (D); Moises E. Ramirez (D); Alejandro Rafael Fernandez (D)  
**Sunday**  
8:00am People of SNT  
9:30am Santa Diaz (D); Mercedes Plata (D)  
11:30am  
1:30pm Maria Nguyen Xvan (D)

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

AUGUST 30, 2020

Tithing: \$5,359.00  
 Children: \$0.00  
 Total: \$5,359.00

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*We pray for the sick:*

*We pray for the dead:*

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