



AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

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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
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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)

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

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Weekdays | 8:30 a.m. Spanish (Mon-Fri.) | 12:00 p.m. English (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)

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.

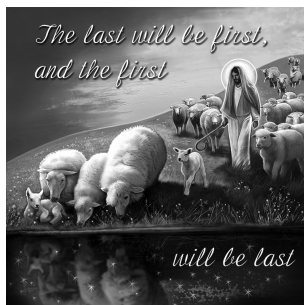
PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

DIRECTION



Isaiah tells us something that we already know, and yet seem to forget every now and then. He tells us, essentially, that God is God and we are not. When we're confused and troubled and can't figure everything out, it might be wise to recall Isaiah speaking on the Lord's behalf and explaining that God—who is on a much more, well, Godly wavelength than we are—moves in ways we can't even imagine.

Saint Paul, by comparison, has everything figured out. Kind of. At least he understands his calling in life—to magnify Christ in everything he does. That should give all of us the direction we need. Jesus gives us direction, too, explaining to us once again in the parable of the workers in the vineyard that the last will be first, and the first, last.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Turn to the LORD who is generous in forgiving (Isaiah 55:6-9).

Psalms — The Lord is near to all who call upon him (Psalm 145).

Second Reading — Live your lives in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ (Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a).

Gospel — The last will be first, and the first will be last (Matthew 20:1-16a).

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.

BEGINNING AGAIN

Today's readings provide sweet refreshment to all of us who know the bitterness of discouragement. No matter how stubbornly we determine to improve ourselves, the human condition often leaves us in puddles of failure and regret. Jesus has a new plan for us. Today's Gospel parable demonstrates the mercy of God, mercy that rejoices in fresh beginnings. We take comfort in knowing that God accompanies us in our labors—and works for us—whether we struggle with caring for our bodies, striving for patience, avoiding gossip, making time for prayer, being generous, overcoming addiction, remaining in recovery, or simply attending to our daily work. Jesus shows us that he actively engages with us each time we fall short. From dawn to dusk, the Lord seeks us out, calling us to join him in the vineyard. Now, today, right this moment, is our dawn. Or our nine o'clock. Or noon? Ignore the clock! Jesus invites us to forget past failures; divine mercy wipes them away. Today's psalm insists that the "Lord is near to all who call upon him." In hope, then, we begin again.

Children are usually still quite young the first time they have occasion to shout, "That's not fair!" At some point in our lives, we've probably all felt the bitterness of unfairness. Today's readings agree that life isn't always fair—yet, unexpectedly, invite us to rejoice! We rejoice because God's mercy is totally unfair: God lavishes us with forgiveness and love even when we deserve less. Both the reading from Isaiah and the psalm praise the great mercy of God, mercy that forgives our sins over and over. In the Gospel parable, Jesus demonstrates that God longs to give good things to all of us, even to those who seem less worthy. When Saint Paul reflects on God's goodness, embodied in Jesus Christ, he can hardly wait to enter his heavenly reward.

AN UNEXPECTED LESSON

Jesus' parable depicts workers who "punch the clock" at various times throughout the long day: dawn, nine, noon, three, and five o'clock. Regardless of when they began working in the vineyard, the laborers all receive the same reward. The reward seems lavish to the latecomers, of course, and shockingly unfair to the long-faithful workers. The landowner soothes his most dutiful laborers, however, delighting in them as friends and transforming their bitter confrontation into a reflection on generosity. The laborers who arrived at five o'clock might have been late to the job, but those who began at the crack of dawn were last to understand the extravagant bounty of the landowner. Seen in this way, the parable discusses not only God's generosity toward "unworthy" believers, but also the Lord's inexhaustible patience toward those who thought they had nothing more to learn.

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

Management Unfair

Notice any difference between the attitude of Paul in the second reading and that of the workers in the Matthew's Gospel? The workers grumble because the latecomers got the same pay as those who worked all day. Paul has worked for the Lord for years, yet he thinks it is better to keep working than to claim his reward of eternal life.

The workers grumbled because the landowner gave the same wages to the ones who only worked for an hour. (You can imagine the picket signs: Vinedressers Local on Strike: Management Unfair!) Sometimes we see this parable as an explanation for why sinners who repent on their deathbed can get to heaven. But Matthew was more likely referring to the Jews who had served God for centuries and now see newcomer Gentiles claiming equality in the church. They were complaining about God's generosity in reaching out to all peoples, not just the chosen few. God's generosity is the real point. Those who realize how blessed they are in being called to do God's work have no problem sharing that blessing with others. When we see how much God loves us, we naturally want to respond with love and service of our own. That is what the grumblers, both in the parable and in Matthew's church, were missing.

Contrast that with Paul, who loves the Philippians so much that he is willing to put off his heavenly reward if he can help any more people come to Christ. Paul is more interested in their welfare than in his own reward. That is the attitude that Jesus hopes for in all his disciples. We can love him so much that we can't help but share that love with those around us. We can be so grateful for what he has done for us that we will suffer anything with joy. We can care more about bringing Jesus to others than we do about our own comfort or even our lives. We can do this because we know the Lord's ways are not fair—they are more generous than we can imagine!

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The parish office is now open.
Confessions are by appointment only. Please call 718-295-6800 for an appointment time.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

Monday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Ps 19:2-5; Mt 9:9-13
 Tuesday: Prv 21:1-6, 10-13; Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44; Lk 8:19-21
 Wednesday: Prv 30:5-9; Ps 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163; Lk 9:1-6
 Thursday: Eccl 1:2-11; Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17bc; Lk 9:7-9
 Friday: Eccl 3:1-11; Ps 144:1b, 2abc, 3-4; Lk 9:18-22
 Saturday: Eccl 11:9 — 12:8; Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17; Lk 9:43b-45
 Sunday: Ez 18:25-28; Ps 25:4-9; Phil 2:1-11 [1-5]; Mt 21:28-32

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

Monday
8:30am Familia Morris (D); Olimpia Abreu Cepeda (D); En acción de gracias a lo Concedido
12:00pm
Tuesday
8:30am Maria Eriberta Genao (D); Jose Benito Gonzalez (D); Luis Gonzalo Rosario (D)
12:00pm
Wednesday
8:30am Acción de gracias a Sagrado Corazón de Jesus
12:00pm
Thursday
8:30am Juan Bautista Hernandez (D)
12:00pm
Friday
8:30am Virginia Colon (D)
12:00pm
Saturday
7:45am Ta on duc me
7:00pm La Santisima Trinidad, Cumpleaños de Juan & Ana Garcia
Sunday
8:00am John Baptist Chau (D)
9:30am Mercedes Plata (D); Evangelista Ortega (D)
11:30am Maria Thong (D)
1:30pm Giuse Quang (D)

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

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