



## AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

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Fr. Carlos Urbina, O.S.A - *Associate*

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*In Residence*

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

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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.)	12:00 p.m. <b>English</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.

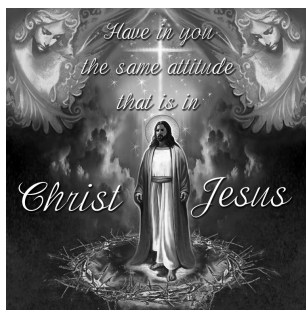
## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FAMILIAR INSIGHTS



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Spiritual teachers tend to repeat themselves, and to repeat other teachers. Maybe there really aren't that many different truths to tell. Just a lot of slow, sleepy human beings—like us—who need to hear the basics over and over. Consider today's readings.

People complain God isn't "fair," and Ezekiel answers that God is more than fair. People choose their own fates, and people can change. Even evildoers can turn, do right, and live. "Actions speak louder than words." A fresh new insight? Hardly.

Paul tells the Philippians that he would truly be encouraged if those who claimed to be believers would, in fact, look to others' interests and not their own. "The proof of the pudding is in the eating." A novel idea? I don't think so.

In Jesus' story of the farmer and his sons, everyone knows that the one who said he wouldn't work—but did—is way ahead of the one who said he would work—but didn't. "Talk is cheap." Heard that before?

TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — When the wicked turn away from their wickedness they have committed and do what is right, they shall surely live (Ezekiel 18:25-28).

**Psalms** — Remember your mercies, O Lord (Psalm 25).

**Second Reading** — Consider others as better than yourselves; look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others (Philippians 2:1-11 [1-5]).

**Gospel** — Tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you (Matthew 21:28-32).

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 .

SUPERNATURE

Animals never object to punishment, only humans. A wounded gerbil wouldn't shake her fist at the skies and ask, "Why me?" But as Ezekiel knows, human beings complain constantly. Humans are supposed to be more logical than animals, yet we irrationally protest natural consequences that we do not like, such as pain or death. Mysteriously, our bitterness against nature is rooted in our unique capacity for greatness. Unlike every other creature in the universe, we humans are made in the image and likeness of God. We may live in the natural world, but God calls us every minute to supernatural glory. Though we are mortal, God's mercy has destined us for immortality. Our hearts long for perfect bliss unlike anything we will ever know on earth. No wonder we demand so much from God! Preserved for glory as we are, we experience pain when earthly life falls short of our divine expectations. Jesus shows us the antidote for that pain—service. Though we share in the kingship of Christ, we must demonstrate our royalty as Jesus does, by serving others. As Saint Paul tells us, Jesus is God, yet takes the form of a slave—our slave. The Gospel encourages us to imitate Jesus in this way. We may object to being a servant at first, and even grumble about it. But God's strength can help us overcome natural objections and enter gracefully into our supernatural role, heirs to the kingdom of God.

For the past several weeks, the word of God has drawn us into the mystery of mercy. Today's readings deepen our reflection, reminding us how blessed we are to know God's kindness and sharing practical ways to show compassion to others. The prophet Ezekiel cautions God's chosen people, emphasizing that bad behavior naturally leads to painful consequences. The psalm responds prayerfully: "Remember your mercies, O Lord." In this prayer, we ask for the mercy of recognizing our sins and receiving the strength to act differently. In his letter to the Philippians, Saint Paul invites us into a daunting challenge of mercy: "humbly regard others as more important than yourselves." If we scoff at Paul's challenge as impossibly naïve, the Gospel gives us a chance to reconsider. Our natural instincts of self-preservation might reject merciful behavior initially, but like the son in today's Gospel of mercy, we can change our minds.

NATURE

The prophet Ezekiel scolds God's chosen people for demanding more than they deserve. Acting like spoiled children, the Israelites complain when their wicked actions lead logically to negative consequences. Nature has built-in punishments for bad behavior: laziness leads to unpreparedness; overwork leads to exhaustion; overindulgence leads to poor health; violence leads to injury. The natural world brims with corrective countermeasures to our poor choices. Why is it, Ezekiel wonders, that we become upset when sin leads to predictable and natural punishments?

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 Understanding Father

Jesus is saying something important in today's Gospel. He talks about tax collectors and prostitutes who repented after hearing John the Baptist preach. He must have shocked the priests and elders when he said those prostitutes would enter the kingdom of God before them. After all, his listeners had spent their whole lives being faithful to the Law. Yet Jesus was saying that sinners who repented will enter God's kingdom first. Jesus' point was not so much about final salvation as about our daily choices.

Remember the parable about the two sons. The second son said what his father wanted to hear, with no intention of doing it. The first was honest about not wanting to go to the vineyard, but then decided to do it anyway. I suspect the father of those men knew what each would or would not do.

And whom do we want to imitate? The priests and elders said all the right things about obeying God's laws, but they were more interested in looking important than living a holy life. Are we like that—telling everyone I am a good Christian, going to church every Sunday (or at least on Christmas and Easter), and yet never making any effort to be loving, forgiving, patient, honest, or any of the difficult things that Jesus calls us to be?

The tax collectors and sinners knew that they were unworthy, but they listened to the call to repentance and let God make them worthy. Are we honest enough to look at our lives and repent of our hatred, our selfishness, or whatever keeps us in sin, and then to follow Jesus with our whole heart? We may not always like doing what God asks of us, but God is an understanding Father who can accept our weaknesses and forgive them when we are ready to return to him.

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2020

Monday: Jb 1:6-22; Ps 17:1bcd-3, 6-7; Lk 9:46-50  
 Tuesday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a; Ps 138:1-5; Jn 1:47-51  
 Wednesday: Jb 9:1-12, 14-16; Ps 88:10bc-15; Lk 9:57-62  
 Thursday: Jb 19:21-27; Ps 27:7-9abc, 13-14; Lk 10:1-12  
 Friday: Jb 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5; Ps 139:1-3, 7-10, 13-14ab; Mt 18:1-5  
 Saturday: Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17; Ps 119:66, 71, 75, 91, 125, 130; Lk 10:17-24  
 Sunday: Is 5:1-7; Ps 80:9, 12-16, 19-20; Phil 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2020

**Monday**  
8:30am Hotoniel Cruz Dominguez & Hotoniel Cruz Ramirez (L); Ramon, Francisco, Antonio, Ramon S., & Victoria Espinal

**Tuesday**  
8:30am Elsie Ortiz Ramirez, Maria Luisa Pimentel, Ana Antonia Molina & Candelario Sanchez (D); Josileny Borge (L)

**Wednesday**  
8:30am

**Thursday**  
8:30am

**Friday**  
8:30am

**Saturday**  
7:45am Phero Phach (D)  
7:00pm Roberto Cruz (D); Agustin Ramos, Nicolas Perez, Michelle Garcia Arnulfi Perez (D)

**Sunday**  
8:00am People of SNT  
9:30am Bienvenido Bourdierd (D)  
11:30am Maria Hoan (D)  
1:30pm Giuse Le D Thanh (D)

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