



## AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

### PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Luis A Vera, O.S.A.  
*Pastor*

[Pastor@stnicholasoftolentinebronx.org](mailto:Pastor@stnicholasoftolentinebronx.org)

Fr. Joseph Tran- *Associate*

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

Fr. William Wallace, O.S.A.  
*In Residence*

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

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Mr. Jesus Liriano  
917-579-6720

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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)

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-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### GOD REVEALED TO THE NATIONS



What wonderful images we have today of the reign of God! Isaiah speaks to us of a great feast—a heavenly feast—a feast of abundance with rich foods and choice wines. It is the Lord’s own affair, Isaiah explains, when God will unite all nations, dry every tear, and destroy death forever. Then, too, will the entire earth rejoice in the Lord and bask in God’s saving grace.

Jesus speaks of heaven in terms of a feast as well. Here, the kingdom of heaven is likened to a king’s wedding feast given for his son. This is a feast of abundance also, with the fattened cattle prepared just so. But many of the people invited don’t want to come, so the king invites anyone who would honor his son by their presence there. And Paul tells us that whether we live abundantly or in humble circumstances, we can do all things in the Lord who strengthens us.

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#### TODAY’S READINGS

**First Reading** — On this mountain the LORD will make for all peoples a feast of rich food and choice wines (Isaiah 25:6-10a).

**Psalm** — I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life (Psalm 23).

**Second Reading** — God will supply whatever you need (Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20).

**Gospel** — I have prepared my banquet, and everything is ready. Come to the feast! (Matthew 22:1-14 [1-10]).

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.

Today’s readings do nothing less than reveal the secret to happiness. To whet our appetite, Isaiah describes what paradise feels like: “a feast of rich food and choice wines, juicy, rich foods, and pure, choice wines.” In this paradise, says Isaiah, God dries our tears and puts an end to death. The psalm response lures us with its own descriptive words for paradise: restful, refreshing, fearless, overflowing. Just when all of these extravagant images seem too good to be true, Saint Paul’s letter brings us down to earth. Paul is confident that he will one day be in heaven, but he knows just as certainly that he is not there yet. His “secret” to happiness is to trust in God’s providence under every earthly circumstance. Echoing Isaiah’s images of paradise, the Gospel promises that the Lord has invited us all to the heavenly feast. Like Paul, may we respond with trusting hearts.

#### RESTORING RELATIONSHIPS, BUILDING BRIDGES

Instead of dismissing or quaintly smiling at today’s parable, we can let the word of God work in our hearts. Jesus, who is the Word of God, exists in all time and knows each of us intimately. He speaks to us today through this very parable. The king’s invitation applies to us. The Creator of the universe calls us, and we must respond. Eternal life is at stake.

Today’s liturgy is a rich opportunity to identify the invitation extended by God. The liturgy itself is our collective glimpse into heaven. Perhaps the Lord is calling us to be more attentive to the liturgy, or to enter more deeply into a parish’s weekend experience. Or perhaps our liturgical prayer time today will reveal a call to service, an invitation to care intentionally for strangers in need or for people we know. Perhaps, too, we might discern a call to repair brokenness. Most of us do not witness murder or burning cities on a daily basis, but we surely know of relationships in need of repair. Once we hear the invitation to reconcile with others, we can pray for the strength to respond. Instead of ignoring the summons by filling our time with busyness, we can ask the Lord to help us apologize, or forgive, or begin a difficult conversation. “Many are invited,” Jesus tells us. He will help us respond.

#### DESTROYING MURDERERS, BURNING CITIES

Jesus’ parable of the king’s wedding feast sounds extreme to our modern ears. After all, if a king—a beloved celebrity, say—were to invite us to his son’s party, which one of us would refuse, much less murder the messenger? In Matthew’s Gospel, the chief priests and elders obstinately refuse to acknowledge Jesus’ mission as the anointed Son of God. Today’s parable suggests that God will punish this stubbornness by burning their city. The extreme violence of this parable seems to be aimed at Jesus’ stubborn first-century audience, but falls short of hitting us.

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

Come to the Feast

Why would invited guests refuse to come to a wedding? Free food and drink, music and dancing—what’s not to like? Apparently the king in Jesus’ parable had the same questions. By this time, Jesus knew that many of the Jewish leaders would not accept the invitation to follow him. As we know, after the Resurrection, the disciples began to spread the good news not only to other Jews, but to anyone who would listen. The church began to grow, much faster than they expected.

One reason the leaders in Israel did not accept Jesus was his association with sinners. They did not understand that God calls sinners to repent and be forgiven. Since they thought of themselves as holy, they were not interested in forgiveness. Ordinary people, who knew they were sinners, were attracted by the offer of forgiveness. Many of them repented and came to be baptized. As the parable says, they filled the banquet hall.

Jesus calls us today to come to the same feast. But there are still people who think they have no need for Jesus. So what about the man in the parable who came in street clothes? The wedding garment was a symbol of the baptismal gown, the sign of new life in Christ. This man symbolizes those who “come to the feast” without repenting of their sins.

We can be like that man sometimes. We come to church arguing with our spouse on the way. We bring our prejudices, lies, anger, and selfishness—with no intention of doing anything about them. We come with the attitude that says, “I’m here, aren’t I? That should be good enough.” But it isn’t, for the feast we come to is not a wedding to join husband and wife. It joins God to humanity. God’s Son came to unite us all to himself. By dying for our sins, Jesus calls us to come back to God. So repentance is not just a change of clothing; it is a change of heart, a change in how we live. It is our ticket to the banquet. It is our way of saying, “I know I don’t deserve this, but thanks for letting me share the feast.”

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

OCTOBER 12, 2020

Monday: Gal 4:22-24, 26-27, 31 — 5:1; Ps 113:1b-5a, 6-7; Lk 11:29-32  
 Tuesday: Gal 5:1-6; Ps 119:41, 43-45, 47-48; Lk 11:37-41  
 Wednesday: Gal 5:18-25; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 11:42-46  
 Thursday: Eph 1:1-10; Ps 98:1-6; Lk 11:47-54  
 Friday: Eph 1:11-14; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 12-13; Lk 12:1-7  
 Saturday: Eph 1:15-23; Ps 8:2-3ab, 4-7; Lk 12:8-12  
 Sunday: Is 45:1, 4-6; Ps 96:1, 3-5, 7-10; 1 Thes 1:1-5b; Mt 22:15-21

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

OCTOBER 12, 2020

**Monday**  
 9:00am  
**Tuesday**  
 8:30am Acción de gracias al Sagrado Corazón de Jesus  
**Wednesday**  
 8:30am Altagracia Roman Rodriguez (D)  
**Thursday**  
 8:30am Felix Antonio Hernandez (D)  
**Friday**  
 8:30am Isabel Mercedes (D) & Eulogia Nicasio (L)  
**Saturday**  
 7:45am Maria Khuyen (D)  
 7:00pm Almas del Purgatorio; Moises I. Ramirez & Isabel Rodriguez (D)  
**Sunday**  
 8:00am Maria Hoan (D)  
 9:30am Acción de gracias al Sagrado Corazón de Jesus; Eida Mercedes Ovando Castillo (D); Hobart Frost (D)  
 11:30am Mary Velez (D); Peter Carucci Sr. (D)  
 1:30pm Phero Phach (D)  
 3:30pm Maria Thong (D)

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