



AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

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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.)
	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)

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.

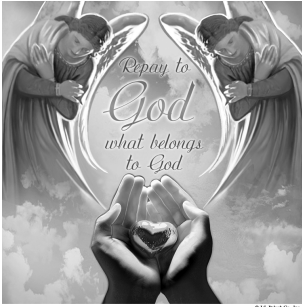
PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

IN GOD ALONE



Isaiah speaks to us today of Cyrus, King of Persia, anointed by the Lord. God calls Cyrus by name and leads him in service to the Israelites. In this passage we hear that it is the Lord who gives Cyrus his title, who arms him against his enemies, and who opens doors and unbars gates before him. And God does all of this so that the people will know that “I am the LORD,” and that “there is none besides me” (Isaiah 45:6).

Paul opens his letter with essentially the same notion—that in God alone we find our grace and peace. Paul also gives thanks to God on our behalf, calling to mind our work of faith, hope, and love. And in the familiar Gospel reading, Jesus tells the Pharisees to give to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.

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TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — The LORD said to Cyrus, his anointed, “I am the LORD, there is no other” (Isaiah 45:1, 4-6).

Psalm — Give the Lord glory and honor (Psalm 96).

Second Reading — Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy to the church of the Thessalonians: We thank God always for all of you (1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b).

Gospel — Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s (Matthew 22:15-21).

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.

THE RISK OF DISCIPLESHIP

When we deepen our relationship with Jesus, we follow in his footsteps. Sometimes this discipleship brings about obvious blessings, like belonging to a thriving parish community or feeling good about helping people in need. At other times, imitating Jesus means sharing in his sufferings. Like Jesus, we know the sting of rejection. We fear to lower our social status by spending time and money as Jesus may call us to do. At a social gathering, choosing to spend time with someone who is awkward or unpopular means we are not hanging with the in-crowd. Offering a full tithe to charity means we have less money to spend on trendy items. Letting go of our earthly desire to be admired can be difficult, but the Lord accompanies us in the struggle. Truly, Jesus Christ does not “regard a person’s status.” Inspired by this divine impartiality, we pray: Lord God, help us to love the extravagant freedom that comes from you. Help us to follow you out of the status quo and into your compassionate heart.

God’s word speaks to our hearts today, acknowledging the sad fact that we lose hope at times, and encouraging us to trust in the Lord. Isaiah speaks of God’s astonishing plan to use Cyrus, a Persian king, to deliver God’s people from exile. After generations in captivity, the Israelites take new hope in this unexpected plan and praise God’s might. Saint Paul’s letter to the Thessalonians encourages Christ’s followers there to remain faithful to their call. Never tiring, they continue their “labor of love and endurance in hope.” The Gospel relates a heartbreaking reality in Christ’s ministry: plots to humiliate and capture Jesus. Knowing their treacherous plans, Jesus does not despair. He remains faithful to God and persists in his own labor of love.

STATUS QUO

Perhaps the most shocking sentence in today’s Gospel comes from the mouth of a Pharisee: “And you are not concerned with anyone’s opinion, for you do not regard a person’s status.” In context, that false compliment sounds savagely passive-aggressive. These scripture scholars do not actually admire Jesus’ freedom, the unconventional way he interacts with men, women, and children from every background. It’s possible some of Jesus’ peers are jealous of his confident ease, but mainly they find Jesus threatening. Over and over again, Matthew’s Gospel highlights the ways Jesus offends the Pharisees and scribes: failing to wash his hands in the traditional manner, for example, or, on the Sabbath, curing diseases and allowing his disciples to pick grain. Jesus does not focus on earthly status and the status quo; his mission is to proclaim the kingdom of God.

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

“He Alone Is LORD”

In the scriptures, being anointed usually meant you were a prophet or king of Israel. Anointing was a sign that God had chosen you for that job. But it was almost unheard of to call a king from another country anointed. So why is Cyrus given that title? Cyrus was king of Persia when the Babylonians held the people of Israel captive. God used him to defeat the Babylonians and eventually bring the Israelites back to their homes.

In our first reading, we hear the Lord’s words to Cyrus about God’s plan for Israel. Notice that God is in charge: telling Cyrus what God will do, making other kings run from him, opening doors or gates that might have blocked Cyrus’ armies—all for a king who doesn’t even know God. Cyrus only knew the Persian gods. That is why the reading says several times that there is no God but the LORD.

One thing this tells us is that God can work through anyone, not just saints and religious. Any time someone does a good deed, God is behind it. Just as God used Cyrus to free the Israelites from their Babylonian captivity, God can use governments to protect the poor, to help rebuild after disasters, to defend freedom.

In that sense, we can understand what Jesus says about payment to Caesar and to God. Since everything belongs to God, that should be our first allegiance. When a government does not protect the weakest or the rights of the poor, it should be accountable. But when God works through governments, we can give some support to them by such activities as voting, or paying taxes. Let us ask God to work through us also, helping us to proclaim that God alone is LORD.

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

OCTOBER 19, 2020

Monday: Eph 2:1-10; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 12:13-21
 Tuesday: Eph 2:12-22; Ps 85:9ab-14; Lk 12:35-38
 Wednesday: Eph 3:2-12; Is 12:2-3, 4bcd-6; Lk 12:39-48
 Thursday: Eph 3:14-21; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 11-12, 18-19; Lk 12:49-53
 Friday: Eph 4:1-6; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 12:54-59
 Saturday: Eph 4:7-16; Ps 122:1-5; Lk 13:1-9
 Sunday: Ex 22:20-26; Ps 18:2-4, 47, 51; 1 Thes 1:5c-10; Mt 22:34-40

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

OCTOBER 19, 2020

Monday
 8:30am Germania Perez (D)
Tuesday
 8:30am Elsie Ramirez Ortiz, Candelario Sanchez & Bienvenido Diaz (D)
Wednesday
 8:30am Gilbert Jesus Colon (D)
Thursday
 8:30am
Friday
 8:30am Petra Ortiz, Benera Sufron, Wilberto Rivera, Damaris Sanchez (D)
Saturday
 7:45am Gioanbaotixita Chau (D)
 7:00pm Para los enfermos; Esperanza Del Castillo (D)
Sunday
 8:00am Dominico (D)
 9:30am Nelly Maria Murillo Boguerillo (D); Santa Diaz (D); Ramon Olivo Gomez (D)
 11:30am People of SNT
 1:30pm Maria Thong (D)
 3:30pm Lucia Cuc (D)

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