



## AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

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*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](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.

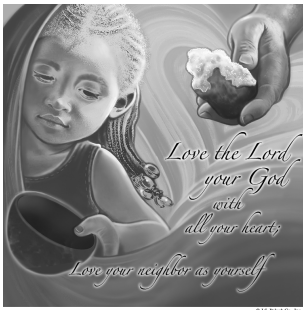


## THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## LIVING JUSTLY

“You give that back right now!” How many of us have heard that line, probably more than once, as we were growing up? We come home with the trophy of what we thought was a really sweet deal, only to have our parents undo our profits by making us return the spoils. They had a different idea of what constituted a “fair trade agreement.” Justice in our dealings with others continues to be an important measure of our character, and like a good parent, God cares very much about how we treat each other and about how others treat us. God hears the cry of the poor, and answers the call of the oppressed. God’s beloved children are not to behave like bullies.

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## TODAY’S READINGS

**First Reading** — You shall not oppress an alien, for you yourselves were once aliens in Egypt (Exodus 22:20-26).

**Psalm** — I love you, Lord, my strength (Psalm 18).

**Second Reading** — You became imitators of the Lord, so that you became a model for all believers (1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10).

**Gospel** — You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and you shall love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:34-40).

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.

## IMITATING GOD

Laws would be entirely unnecessary if we lived perfect lives. As we know all too well, however, we often fall short of the good intentions that we cherish in our hearts. Perhaps the law would even be unnecessary if we lived alone, isolated from other people. After all, what hermit in a cave actually needs a commandment to charge no interest on a loan? But God’s design for humanity includes togetherness. And when we live together, we tend to step on each other’s toes. Thank God for laws that help us to live in community with justice and compassion.

Underlying every one of God’s laws is an eternal longing for fairness and fullness. What’s more, God’s own self—a vibrant community of Father, Son, and Spirit—reveals the deep joy of living in peace with self and neighbor. The Trinitarian nature of God—three persons in one God—astonishes us with its commitment to fruitful love. Love is gratuitous and lavish, constantly producing and giving of itself. The more generously we love God, self, and neighbor, the more we will know that, as Saint Paul says, “love is the fulfillment of the law” (Romans 13:10).

The secret to our Sunday readings lies in today’s Gospel Acclamation: “Whoever loves me will keep my word, says the Lord, and my Father will love him and we will come to him” (John 14:23). That single line from John’s Gospel gets right to the heart of today’s readings, reminding us of the intimate relationship between the law (“keeping God’s word”) and God’s love. While human nature tends to resist burdensome rules, our readings show us the wisdom of God’s plan that guides us with the rule of law. In Exodus, the law boldly prevents injustice, protecting the most vulnerable members of society. In Thessalonians, the law elevates our behavior and saves us from “the coming wrath.” In Matthew’s Gospel, the law swaddles us in God’s compassion. In loving God, neighbor, and self, we imitate God and bring blessing to a fractured world.

## THE RULE OF LAW

Anyone who has read the Pentateuch (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy) from beginning to end appreciates the massive influence of the law on our ancestors in faith. In fact, what Christians call the Pentateuch (Greek for “five books”), Jewish tradition calls the Torah (“teaching” or “law”). In the first five books of the Bible, there is no escaping the law, its meticulous detail and relentless regulations, decrees, and pronouncements from God to Moses and Aaron. Also common in these books, alas, are stories of God’s chosen people going astray. The predominance of the law reminds us that we are creatures with a tendency to sin; God provides the law to us beloved children to regulate our behavior and help us live more peacefully on earth.

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 Diamond Rule

When I hear the line from the first reading about not molesting or oppressing an alien, I think of the movie *E.T.*, in which the children help the extraterrestrial just because he needs help. What the reading calls aliens are immigrants or newcomers. They lived among the Hebrews but were not Jews themselves. The Lord reminds the people that they were once aliens themselves. They should not make the same mistake the Egyptians did when they mistreated the Israelites. God uses the same logic in commanding them to take care of widows and orphans. Treat them like family, or else your own wives and children will be in the same situation. Immigrants, widows, orphans, borrowers—all must be treated with compassion.

The reason for such compassion should be deeper than just fear of punishment. “Do to others as you would have them do to you,” Jesus said (Luke 6:31). Today’s Gospel has a similar saying: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:39). Jesus called this the second commandment. The first is to love God wholly and completely, heart, mind, and soul. If the second commandment is the Golden Rule, the first might be called the Diamond Rule. If you think about it, in order to keep the first commandment, you have to be keeping the second as well.

Jesus said that whatever you do for the poor, the homeless, the sick, or prisoners, you do for him (Matthew 25:31–46). Mother Teresa could see Jesus in the poorest of the poor. Jesus himself showed compassion even to sinners. We can’t really say we love God if we don’t love the people God created.

So that gives us two reasons to love our neighbor. First, because God lives in other people, so loving God means loving God wherever God is found. Second, God loves them, so if we are to be holy, we must be like God. What does that mean? Remember the saying that “charity begins at home”? That is only true because it is easier to love family and friends, but charity doesn’t end there. If we truly love God, we will extend our charity to those outside our homes. People are probably still rebuilding after the earthquakes in Japan, tornadoes in America, floods in India, and other disasters, and every city has some kind of homeless shelters. You say you love God? Let’s see you love your neighbor.

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

OCTOBER 26, 2020

Monday: Eph 4:32 - 5:8; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 13:10-17  
 Tuesday: Eph 5:21-33; Ps 128:1-5; Lk 13:18-21  
 Wednesday: Eph 2:19-22; Ps 19:2-5; Lk 6:12-16  
 Thursday: Eph 6:10-20; Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10; Lk 13:31-35  
 Friday: Phil 1:1-11; Ps 111:1-6; Lk 14:1-6  
 Saturday: Phil 1:18b-26; Ps 42:2, 3, 5cdef; Lk 14:1, 7-11  
 Sunday: Rv 7:2-4, 9-14; Ps 24:1-6; 1 Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12a

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

OCTOBER 26, 2020

**Monday**  
**8:30am** Maria Thian (D)  
**Tuesday**  
**8:30am**  
**Wednesday**  
**8:30am** Gilbert Jesus Colon (D)  
**Thursday**  
**8:30am** All Souls (OBCM)  
**Friday**  
**8:30am**  
**Saturday**  
**7:45am** Gerardo (D)  
**7:00pm** Acción de gracias a la Santisima Trinidad  
**Sunday**  
**8:00am**  
**9:30am** Fortunato Abella, Eugenia S. Abella, Felicitas A Arcadio, Leonila S. Abella (D) James Mammama (D) Por todas las almas del Purgatorio; Maria de Luna, Roberto Emilio Vasquez (D)  
**11:30am** Peter & Phyllis Keon (D)  
**1:30pm** Cac Linh hon  
**3:30pm** Stephanie Giam (D)

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

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