



AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

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In Residence

CATHOLIC FAITH
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ST. NICHOLAS OF TOLENTINE CHURCH

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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.



SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SPEAK, LORD, WE ARE LISTENING



In today's first reading God keeps calling out in the night to a sleeping boy. Neither the boy, Samuel, nor his teacher, Eli, understands who is calling. But God's persistence convinces them. Samuel is then ready—not ready yet to do anything, but ready to listen. "Speak, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:10).

In the Gospel Jesus is out teaching. Various people notice him and begin to gather around. They soon become disciples and, like the young Samuel, are ready—not ready yet to do anything, but ready to listen. "Speak," they say, "we are listening."

God's voice is always with us, awake or asleep. It swirls around us like fog on a waterfront, enveloping us, gently urging us to wake up, to listen. Awareness of the voice comes first; then willingness to listen; then, in time, the decision to act, to live according to God's word. Let's ask today for the ability to keep our ears open so we don't miss God's voice.

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First Reading — Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening (1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19).

Psalm — Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will (Psalm 40).

Second Reading — Your bodies are members of Christ; glorify God in your body (1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20).

Gospel — The first disciples saw where Jesus was staying and they stayed with him (John 1:35-42).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

The stories of the call of Samuel and of the first disciples in John's Gospel help us begin to understand the nature of God's call. It is not a work order from a distant God to carry out a specific task, but an invitation to participate in what God is already doing. The journey begins with God's intentions and activity. After the initial moment of call, God is shown to be actively leading these ordinary people to partner in God's work. For ourselves, we might not experience a single or dramatic moment of call. God's call can take many forms. But like Samuel, and like Jesus' disciples, we are invited into a relationship of trust and friendship with God. We too are invited to employ the gifts God has given us, always in dialogue with our God, in our daily lives.

YOUR SERVANT IS LISTENING

We hear of young Samuel today, dedicated to a life of service to God, under the guidance of Eli, a Temple priest. Twice, Samuel hears the call of God and says "Here I am" to Eli. At last Eli recognizes that it is God who is calling Samuel. When Samuel hears God a third time, Samuel does not say "Here I am," but "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening." We can see a subtle shift as Samuel moves away from announcing his intention to serve and more clearly opens himself to God's voice. Samuel allows God to take the initiative, and attends first to God's intentions rather than his own.

Samuel's story helps us to remember that accepting God's call is not only about a new chapter in our personal story. Our acceptance is, more profoundly, a new moment in God's story. Even in our smallest "yes," God celebrates our partnership in God's great work. Through our openness and acceptance, God has new opportunities to bring all of us into loving unity with God.

OUR DEEPEST DESIRES

In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus' first spoken words in the Gospel of John: "What are you looking for?" This penetrating question reverberates throughout John's Gospel. The disciples who form Jesus' first community, and many others who meet Jesus during his life, are drawn to him, seeking something they can't quite name. As Jesus called and formed his community of disciples, he probed their hearts and allowed them to probe his heart. They shared their deepest needs, hopes, and commitments.

Jesus' words might be directed to us, here and now. Sometimes we struggle to name what we really want. In our faith journey, in prayer and in lived experience, we learn to share our dreams and also to open our hearts to know God's dreams. In time, with lots of practice, with many successes and failures, we learn to trust God to shape and to fulfill our deepest desires.

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

Hello, God

Just before our first reading it says that “the word of the **LORD** was rare; there were not many visions.” (1Sam 3:1) I imagine most people today would think that was true. Haven’t you ever wished you lived in biblical times, to see some of the miracles you read about? Wouldn’t it be cool to hear the **LORD** speaking in a vision? Do you think God has stopped talking? People apparently felt that way in Samuel’s time. Let’s look at the reading to see what Samuel’s experience can teach us.

At first Samuel thinks it is Eli calling him. It is not unusual for people to miss a sign from God. If you have a talent that you are proud of, perhaps it is a sign that God wants you to use that talent to help others. Or if a friend tells you she is concerned about your health, it could be God’s way of telling you to get help. Try to see God speaking in whatever happens to you and you may hear a lot more than you think.

Samuel also gets help from Eli. Eli began to recognize that the **LORD** was speaking to Samuel. Sometimes we need help discerning what the Lord is telling us. A good spiritual director can lead you to understand what God is saying to you. Your pastor may be able to do that, or at least able to refer you to someone.

Warning: A spiritual director will probably ask how often you pray. In our reading Samuel finally speaks directly to God, instead of going back to Eli. Then God tells him what God’s plan was. So if you wonder what God plans for your life, try spending more time in prayer with him. Don’t be like the man who complains he never know what his wife wants from him. When asked what she tells him, he says, “I don’t know; we never talk.” I bet we have all had times where we didn’t know if we are doing God’s will because we didn’t take time to pray. But don’t do all the talking. Give God some quiet time to hear his response. For God hasn’t stopped talking; we just stopped listening.

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

JANUARY 18, 2021

Monday:	Heb 5:1-10; Ps 110:1-4; Mk 2:18-22
Tuesday:	Heb 6:10-20; Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9, 10c; Mk 2:23-28
Wednesday:	Heb 7:1-3, 15-17; Ps 110:1-4; Mk 3:1-6
Thursday:	Heb 7:25 — 8:6; Ps 40:7-10, 17; Mk 3:7-12
Friday:	Heb 8:6-13; Ps 85:8, 10-14; Mk 3:13-19, <i>or any of a number of readings for the Day of Prayer</i>
Saturday:	Heb 9:2-3, 11-14; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9; Mk 3:20-21
Sunday:	Jon 3:1-5, 10; Ps 25:4-9; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mk 1:14-20

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

JANUARY 18, 2021

Monday 9:00am	Lillie Jones (L)
Tuesday 8:30am	Hermania Perez (D)
Wednesday 8:30am	Roberto Rosario (D)
Thursday 8:30am	ISave Day (D); Grace Archibald (D); Rosa Caines, Juan Bautista Hernandez, Keren Hernandez (D)
Friday 8:30am	Anastasio Montero (D); Constantino Hidalgo Chino (D); Carlos Cabrera (D)
Saturday 7:45am 7:00pm	Phero Guy (D) San Judas Tadeo, Antonia Galbaci (D), Virgen Maria; Richard Lettich (D)
Sunday 8:00am 9:30am	People of SNT San Judas Tadeo, Virgen Maria, las benditas almas; Marion Cahill & Epifania Velazquez (D)
11:30am 1:30pm	Phero Phach (D)

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

JANUARY 3, 2021

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