



AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

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CATHOLIC FAITH
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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.

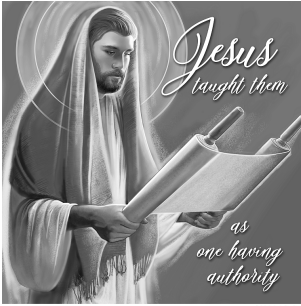


FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FALSE PROPHETS, TRUE PROPHETS

In Deuteronomy today we hear that God's very words will fill the mouth of a true prophet, but a false prophet will, in a manner of speaking, put mere mortal words into God's mouth. In Mark's Gospel, we see Jesus teaching and healing as a true prophet, one filled with the authority of God's own voice, the Holy One of God.

The whole history of our church is filled with both true and false prophets. But in today's Gospel we learn that Jesus' fame spread because he taught with authority; he wasn't an authority because he was popular or famous. We also learn from him, in his desert temptation confrontations with Satan, that anyone can quote scripture, even against God's purposes. And today we hear that his authority was not like that of the scribes, who held the official positions of religious authority in his day. Our work is to do our best to discern the true prophets in our midst, and to be true prophets as well. The psalmist tells us how to do this: by not hardening our hearts when God speaks. If we truly listen to God, it will be God's very words filling our mouths.



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First Reading — Moses spoke to all the people, saying: “A prophet like me will the LORD, your God, raise up for you” (Deuteronomy 18:15-20).

Psalm — If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts (Psalm 95).

Second Reading — Brothers and sisters: I should like you to be free of anxieties (1 Corinthians 7:32-35).

Gospel — The people were astonished at Jesus' teaching; he taught them as one having authority (Mark 1:21-28).

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

PROPHETS IN DAILY LIFE

Moses assures Israel of God's continued presence by promising a new prophet. Like Moses, the prophet will be raised up directly by God. But how to distinguish a true prophet from a false one? Many claim to speak for God. The task is complicated by the fact that often, true prophets make waves, cause trouble, and disturb how things are normally done. Many simply don't want to hear what God is saying, because it threatens their privilege, comfort, or sense of identity.

Like the Israelites in today's reading, it can be hard for us to bear the voice of God. For God calls us out of all the ways we avoid opening our hearts to God and to others. And so, God raises up surprise prophets in daily life. These are all the people and events who summon us to fuller maturity in love and in faith. We are called upon to always be ready for the prophetic word that may emerge from God's surprises.

Who speaks for God? How can we determine which are authentic, authoritative expressions of God's intentions, and which are false? Today's readings explore the question of authority in distinct ways. In Deuteronomy, Moses prepares the people of Israel for his coming death, indicating that God will raise up a new prophet to guide them. Mark describes Jesus as God's authentic voice, by the authority of his teaching and the authority he commands over an unclean spirit. In both, authority comes directly from God. Authority comes from an intimate relationship with God and with God's people. God's spokesperson is one who teaches, protects, and heals the people loved by God. As always, there is great need today for leaders in our communities who radically trust God to work through them. Let us pray that each person who performs in a role of leadership may speak for God with an authentic voice.

RESCUE FROM BONDAGE

Uniquely in the Gospel of Mark, Jesus' public ministry begins with a direct confrontation with an unclean spirit. Today's Gospel passage reflects a recurring theme in Mark, that Jesus' coming is part of a cosmic battle between God and evil forces. It was commonly believed that many spirits were present in the world, and some sought to control human beings. Mark asserts that in Jesus, God has come to rescue humanity, to free us from every form of bondage.

In today's passage, the unclean spirit does not surrender power quietly. After complaints, convulsions, and screams, the spirit finally departs. As we may witness in own experience, that which binds us—fear, injustice, resentment—often departs only after a mighty struggle. Confronting anything “unclean” in our hearts, our institutions, or our society often involves a long journey toward freedom. May we sustain our efforts and our trust in God, during these long struggles.

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

Thunderbolts and Lightning

One of the most difficult duties of a disciple is to follow the command of Jesus to spread the gospel to all nations. (Lk 24:47, Mk 116:15, Mt 28:19) I think one reason may be that we don't feel we have the authority to tell someone else what to believe. Most of us don't think we know the gospel well enough to preach it. Or we are so afraid of offending atheists, that we use that fear as an excuse to say nothing. But being a disciple means following Jesus. The gospel this Sunday mentions twice that Jesus taught with more authority than any of religious leaders of Israel. So how can we get such authority?

First, Jesus didn't get his authority from winning a Messiah election. And he didn't threaten people with thunderbolts and lightning. He certainly didn't impress people by saying what they wanted to hear. He spoke the truth that he heard from his Father. His two main actions in his ministry were curing and forgiving people. Since the Jews thought sickness was a punishment for sins, by curing the sick and forgiving sins, Jesus showed that God loves even sinners. And those actions showed that Jesus got authority from his Father.

"But you still haven't answered the question: How do we get that authority?" We get it from the Holy Spirit, in Baptism and Confirmation. And like an athlete, who may be born with strength and abilities, yet has to work-out and practice to be any good, we still need to grow in that authority. One way is to read the scriptures and pray with them, so that we get to know God through his Word and begin to listen to him in our prayers. We can consciously decide to see God in other people, not just those we love, but everyone, even the ones who annoy us. (And especially the ones who challenge us to be more loving, patient and forgiving.) Most parishes have programs that encourage sharing your faith, such as RCIA, Christ Renews his Parish, etc. And of course, the Eucharist and other sacraments strengthen God's life in us. You'll know you have that authority when you can talk about your faith with confidence instead of hesitation, because you will be speaking from experience, not second hand knowledge.

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

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK
FEBRUARY 1, 2021**

Monday: Heb 11:32-40; Ps 31:20-24; Mk 5:1-20
 Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7-10; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 [22-32]
 Wednesday: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15; Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a; Mk 6:1-6
 Thursday: Heb 12:18-19, 21-24; Ps 48:2-4, 9-11; Mk 6:7-13
 Friday: Heb 13:1-8; Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9; Mk 6:14-29
 Saturday: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21; Ps 23:1-6; Mk 6:30-34
 Sunday: Jb 7:1-4, 6-7; Ps 147:1-6; 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23; Mk 1:29-39

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK
FEBRUARY 1, 2021**

Monday
8:30am
Tuesday
8:30am Rosa Caines, Juan Bautista Hernandez, Keren Hernandez (D)
Wednesday
8:30am Roberto Cruz (D); Blas Rodriguez (D) & Todas las almas del Purgatorio; Willy Galarza (D)
Thursday
8:30am All Souls
Friday
8:30am
Saturday
7:45am Giuse Thau, va Cau linh hon (D)
7:00pm San Judas Tadeo, Antonia Galbaci (D), Virgen Maria; Luis Ramon Corona (D); Sanación de la familia Ramirez, Acción de Gracias
Sunday
8:00am Lorenzo & Madalena (D); Niola Jezukaitis (D)
9:30am Bienvenido Bourdierd (D), Miguel Angel Acosta & Angel Juan Acosta (D)
11:30am People of SNT
1:30pm Lorenzo Nguyen & Madalena (D)

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