



AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

PASTORAL STAFF

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

Pastor@stnicholasoftolentinebronx.org

Fr. Joseph Tran- *Associate*

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

Fr. Joseph Murray, O.S.A.
In Residence

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

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

CATHOLIC FAITH
FORMATION
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DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
Mr. Daniel Kirk-Foster
Mr. Dang Vu

ACCOUNTING
Ms. Shelly Parkin

PLANT MANAGER
Mr. Jesus Liriano
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RECEPTIONIST
Ms. Lucy Maldonado

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.

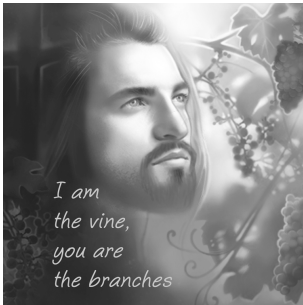
PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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.



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

BEARING FRUIT



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Few of us, even when we meditate on the image of the vine and branches, stop to really think about how God “prunes” us. For some there is the danger of thinking that we are already producing fruit for the kingdom, in deed and truth as John says, perhaps raising a family, being active in our parish, and so on. But even those branches which are bearing fruit, the Gospel tells us, can be pruned to produce still more. Today Saul, freshly “pruned” by his conversion, arrives in Jerusalem and meets resistance. Since he had been persecuting Christians, this was only natural. But even after he is accepted and begins to bear fruit, he meets further adversity, and his letters are filled with many accounts of how his trials “pruned” him to produce greater fruit for the kingdom. Like him, as long as we remain in Christ we will continue to bear fruit and, when the will of the Father determines it is time to prune us, the strength of the true vine must enable us to endure it.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus likens our relationship with him to a plant with many branches. We, the branches, are called to remain so close to Jesus that we bear fruit, loving one another as Christ loves us. Saul bore the fruit of his faith through powerful witness that drew others to Christ. And the branches that grew into the early Church were extraordinarily fruitful. What is the fruit of your faith in Jesus Christ?

First Reading — Barnabas reported to the apostles how Saul had seen the Lord on the way (Acts 9:26-31).

Psalm — I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people (Psalm 22).

Second Reading — This is God’s commandment: that we may believe and love (1 John 3:18-24).

Gospel — I am the true vine; whoever remains in me will bear much fruit (John 15:1-8).

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.

LEARN FROM THE FIRST ONES

The story of the early Church that we hear from the Acts of the Apostles during the Easter season is instructive and inspiring. We learn how the community grew in their understanding of what it means to remain close to Jesus in the most challenging of situations. They lived in word and deed as Christ had taught and bore the fruit of their faith in their daily decisions, in small ways and in dramatic moments. Faced with Saul who had persecuted Christians and who presented himself as a disciple, Barnabas risked believing Saul’s testimony. Through Barnabas, the community accepted Saul, with increasing numbers of people being led to belief in Christ as a result. We too are called to live in word and deed, taking to heart Christ’s command to love one another, even when it is challenging to do so. We may find inspiration in the way the early believers drew consolation from the Holy Spirit, finding wisdom and strength to keep the commandments and do what pleases God.

VINES, BRANCHES, AND FRUIT

Few activities are as disappointing as cultivating garden plants, watering them, and ensuring that they receive sunlight and nutrients, only to receive one or two vegetables or flowers to show for all the effort. Jesus uses the metaphor of the vine and branches to describe how closely we are called to remain with him—so close that we bear the fruit of his life and love in the way we live. When we do this, Jesus says, we give glory to God the Father, which Jesus did perfectly through his life, passion, death, and resurrection. Like plants that rely on the sun and nutrients from the soil, we rely on the Lord Jesus through whom we can do all for which we are called. Without the Lord, we can do nothing.

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

Living in Shame?

In the reading from St. John's first letter, he talks about our hearts condemning us. (1 John 3:20) He is referring to the shame we feel when we do something sinful. When he says God is greater than our hearts he means that even when we know we have sinned, even if we feel unworthy to be forgiven, God is still a forgiving God, who doesn't wait for us to be "worthy." He patiently waits for us to ask for his mercy, to want his forgiveness. So when we confess our sins, we need not doubt that we are forgiven.

But sometimes we feel shame when we have done nothing wrong. It may be something simple, like sneezing in the quiet part of a symphony. Or perhaps something more serious, such as when you accidentally hurt someone. That is when it is good to remember that God knows what happened and still loves us.

The best way to remember this is by living as God commands, by loving God and our neighbor. If you believe in Jesus, you love God, because you trust that God sent his Son to save us. So we know that God forgives us even before we ask him to. If you love your neighbor, then you reach out to the person you hurt, instead of hiding in shame, and try to help them.

When we stop living in shame and start living in love, we know that the Lord lives in us. And as both the second reading and the gospel point out, we can ask for whatever we need and receive it. For when God lives in us and we live in him, we won't ask for anything trivial or selfish. His Spirit teaches us how to pray with confidence and faith. We pray as Jesus taught in the Lord's Prayer: "Thy will be done." Our love and trust in God will help us to accept whatever God sends our way.

Tom Schmidt, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

The Augustinian Volunteers are recent college graduates between the ages of 21-29 who feel called to spend a year in service to others while living in an intentional community. Volunteers serve with local community partners in social service, campus ministry, and education placements. By engaging in a way of life inspired by the Augustinian Friars, volunteers experience personal and spiritual development as they build relationships with fellow volunteers and those they serve. Applications are currently being accepted for the 2021-2022 volunteer year for our sites in Lawrence, MA, Philadelphia, PA, San Diego, CA, Ventura, CA and Chulucanas, Peru.

If interested, please visit www.augustinianvolunteers.org or contact us at info@augustinianvolunteers.org

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK
MAY 3, 2021

Monday: 1 Cor 15:1-8; Ps 19:2-5; Jn 14:6-14
 Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28; Ps 145:10-13ab, 21; Jn 14:27-31a
 Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6; Ps 122:1-5; Jn 15:1-8
 Thursday: Acts 15:7-21; Ps 96:1-3, 10; Jn 15:9-11
 Friday: Acts 15:22-31; Ps 57:8-10, 12; Jn 15:12-17
 Saturday: Acts 16:1-10; Ps 100:1b-3, 5; Jn 15:18-21
 Sunday: Acts 10:25-36, 34-35, 44-48; Ps 98:1-4; 1 Jn 4:7-10 or 1 Jn 4:11-16; Jn 15:9-17 or Jn 17:11b-19

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK
MAY 3, 2021

Monday
8:30am

Tuesday
8:30am Familia Muñoz (D); Jose De los Santos la Cruz (D)

Wednesday
8:30am Maria Josefa Parache & Manuel de Jesus Hernandez (D)

Thursday
8:30am All Souls

Friday
8:30am

Saturday
7:45am Phero Phach (D)
7:00pm Benera Sufron, Petra Ortiz, Damaris Sanchez, Gulberto Rivera (D); Lourdes Espinal (D); Josefa Sandy & Miguel Jaquez (D); Cira Martinez (D); Juana Severino (D)

Sunday
8:00am Maria Olinda Ramirez (D)
9:30am Todas las Madres difuntas y vivas; Derek Lopez (D); Angela Rodriguez & Felix Rodriguez (D)
11:30am All Souls
1:30pm Ana Muoi (D)
3:30pm Julia Guasp (D)

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 Children: \$0.00
 Total: \$6,467.14

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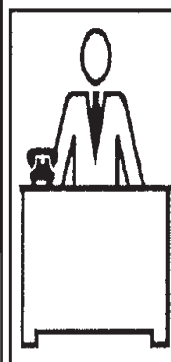
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