



AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

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Associate

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In Residence

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

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

CATHOLIC FAITH
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Mr. Dang Vu

ACCOUNTING
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Ms. Lucy Maldonado

ST. NICHOLAS OF TOLENTINE CHURCH

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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. - 5:00 p.m. open (5 p.m. - 6 p.m. closed)

MONDAY - THURSDAY 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.



ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

GOD'S TIME



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We either pay attention to or ignore “clock time” as we play in the summer sun and note the earth’s tilt and the lengthening days. We live by time. We reckon time in seconds and minutes and hours, or we use broader chunks like supertime and summertime.

God keeps another sort of time. God speaks to us of “saving time,” that is, the time of salvation. This sense of time is called *kairos*, and this time is always now, always present and available, always revealing, often surprising.

This Sunday’s readings alert us to the reality and the import of God’s time. Ezekiel and the Gospel of Mark remind us that our labor and our plotting and our planning rest in God. For God takes our smallest efforts and makes of them great works. Paul points us to the “harvest” time, urges us to be watchful for its coming, and calls us to recognize that we must spend our time pleasing God.

Today’s scriptures connect the towering cedars of Lebanon from the prophet Ezekiel to the mustard plant of the famous parable of Jesus. Both plants represent the Kingdom of God. Both are also to be understood as symbols of the Church, where “birds of every kind shall dwell” (Ezekiel 17:23) and shelter in the cedar’s branches, and the shade of the mustard plant’s large branches provide dwelling for the “birds of the sky.” Even today’s psalm tells of the just one who is like a cedar flourishing in the house of the Lord.

Now, the Church is not the Kingdom, but rather a sacrament, a visible sign of it. They co-exist in the here-and-now but also in the “not yet.” As Paul reminds us, we must constantly work to continue building and growing the Kingdom by everyday good works of “the just one.” So we are all birds and just ones.

“LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF GOD . . .”

The Gospel of Mark is nothing if not a testament to the power of parables to illustrate the Good News through story. Jesus was a master storyteller, who understood the importance of using images and concepts to which his listeners could relate. A seed, a mustard plant, would symbolize one of Mark’s signature focuses: the Kingdom of God.

Centuries earlier, the prophet Ezekiel proclaimed most poetically to the Israelites, recently liberated from Babylonian captivity, that their God was still their hope, their comfort, their rescue, and their shelter. Those refugees would understand the image of the towering cedar as a symbol of their kingdom, cut down, fallen, captured. By restoring their kingdom, their God was giving them a new creation (the replanted shoot) and a new covenant.

First Reading — I have lifted high the lowly tree (Ezekiel 17:22-24).

Psalm — Lord, it is good to give thanks to you (Psalm 92).

Second Reading — Whether we are at home or away, we aspire to please the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:6-10).

Gospel — It is the smallest of all seeds, and becomes the largest of plants (Mark 4:26-34)

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.

THY KINGDOM COME . . .

Ezekiel said that God would tear off “a tender shoot” (17:22) for this replanting. What does this sound like? Why, Advent, of course, and specifically the words of the prophet Isaiah: “A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom” (Isaiah 11:1); and again in Isaiah’s Messianic texts we hear: “He grew up before us like a tender shoot” (53:2). Jesse was the father of the great king David and, as we know, Jesus came to be that tender shoot, that blossom, the new Davidic King whose throne, the cross, was once a tree.

God’s incarnation in Jesus, born fully human, is the fulfillment of the promise to Ezekiel of the renewed and restored cedar, the new Kingdom. That new creation and covenant exists for us in the Church, through the Holy Spirit making the seed planted within us grow, flourish, and spread. Thus we have the faith and courage to be that visible sign of the Kingdom bringing hope and renewal to the world. We must live Kingdom lives before we can convince others to do so.

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

The Big Picture

We hear about the Kingdom of God in many of Jesus' parables. Jesus must have gotten tired of trying to explain it, but he never gives up. In today's passage, he uses parables to describe how the kingdom will spread. What is interesting is that these parables are not so much about our actions as they are about how God builds his kingdom.

Let's start with the second parable: Jesus exaggerates a little, with the mustard seed being the smallest seed and the bush being the largest plant. His point is that the kingdom may look small at first, but it will keep growing. The image of all the birds coming to the branches is taken from Old Testament passages, in Daniel and Ezekiel, about other people coming into Jerusalem to worship the one LORD. Jesus implies that the growing kingdom will attract outsiders to be members. The main point is not to be discouraged when it seems the kingdom is not growing: We might be limiting it to people who think and act just like ourselves. We might see attendance at church in our parish declining. So Jesus is reminding us to think of the bigger picture.

In the first parable about the man who scattered seeds, Jesus says that those seeds produce a harvest, even though the farmer doesn't know how or why those seeds can grow. We too can be doing things that help the Kingdom to grow, without knowing how we are helping. The obvious example is prayer: We may not see the results of our prayer, or not know if God is answering our prayer. But God is making the kingdom grow in his own way and in his own time. Like the farmer, we can help it grow by loving each other, teaching our children about Jesus, caring for the poor and the sick.

If the farmer were to let weeds choke his crop, or be stingy with his seeds, he might not have a very good harvest. We can be stingy with our love, or hurt people with our anger. Then we would be slowing the growth of the kingdom. So let us always be aware of the kingdom, and ask God to move us to do whatever we can to help it grow.

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

JUNE 14, 2021

Monday: 2 Cor 6:1-10; Ps 98:1, 2b, 3-4; Mt 5:38-42
 Tuesday: 2 Cor 8:1-9; Ps 146:2, 5-9a; Mt 5:43-48
 Wednesday: 2 Cor 9:6-11; Ps 112:1bc-4, 9; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
 Thursday: 2 Cor 11:1-11; Ps 111:1b-4, 7-8; Mt 6:7-15
 Friday: 2 Cor 11:18, 21-30; Ps 34:2-7; Mt 6:19-23
 Saturday: 2 Cor 12:1-10; Ps 34:8-13; Mt 6:24-34
 Sunday: Jb 38:1, 8-11; Ps 107:23-26, 28-31; 2 Cor 5:14-17; Mk 4:35-41

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

JUNE 14, 2021

Monday
8:30am Altagracia Roman Rodriguez (D)
Tuesday
8:30am Felix Antonio Hernandez & Maria Olinda Ramirez (D); Claudio Pelaez (D)
Wednesday
8:30am Elsie Anna Groliuscraff (D); Emenegildo Capellan (D)
Thursday
8:30am
Friday
8:30am Noel Rodriguez (D); Alejandro Luna (D)
Saturday
7:45am
7:00pm Serafin Alfredo Gonzalez (D); Maria Franco, Diodora Perez, & Manuel Baez (D), En Acción de gracias al Divino Niño, Jesus Sacramentado, San Antonio Milagroso
Sunday
8:00am Felix Antonio Hernandez (D)
9:30am Henry Santana Medina (D); Ricardo Garcia Apolina (D); Pedro Reyes Basulto (D)
11:30am Luis Vera Sr. (D) ; Pat Odessa (D)
1:30pm Gioan Vu Kinh (D)

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

MAY 30, 2021

Tithing: \$5,871.18
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 Total: \$5,871.18

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