



AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

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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 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)

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

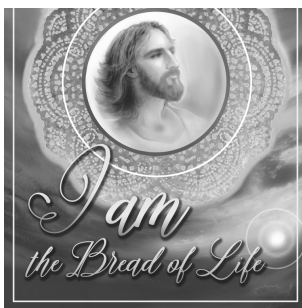
SATURDAY 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

SUNDAY 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE BREAD OF LIFE



Today's Gospel has the crowd asking Jesus three questions. First, "When did you get here," to which Jesus responds by rebuking them for their failure to grasp his miracle as a "sign," an occasion to put faith in him. Their second question about accomplishing the "works of God" has Jesus respond that faith is the "work" that God wishes. Many scholars believe this is John's answer to the faith-works dichotomy emerging in the early Christian community. Faith is the work of God in the believer, John would have us understand. The third question asked by the crowd is a request for a "sign" that would allow them to put faith in Jesus, as the manna in the desert allowed the Israelites to put faith in the Lord God. Jesus answers by revealing himself as the "bread of life" that "comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

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Today's Gospel is a sequel to last week's account of Jesus feeding a large crowd with five barley loaves and a few fish. Here, Jesus is challenging the crowd to see in the bread they have eaten a sign of God's generosity in providing for all the blessings in their lives, as well as the blessing of life itself. The first reading, from Exodus, recounts how the escaped Hebrew slaves were fed in the wilderness, first with quail, then with manna. The psalm is a later reflection on the manna as the bread from heaven and a blessing from God. The selection from the letter to the Ephesians sketches the image of putting away the "old self" and putting on the new, emphasizing that a person's life in Christ needs to differ from their previous life, just as the life of a free person differs from that of a slave.

First Reading — The people of Israel receive bread from heaven in response to their grumbling (Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15).

Psalm — The Lord gave them bread from heaven (Psalm 78).

Second Reading — Put on the new self that has been created in God's way (Ephesians 4:17, 20-24).

Gospel — I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger (John 6:24-35).

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.

SIGNS AND WONDERS?

Today's Gospel continues into a second day the narrative that had begun the day before when, after crossing the lake to look for Jesus, a large crowd are fed with five barley loaves and two fish. The following day (today's reading), after more lake crossings, the people who had been miraculously fed are again searching for Jesus. However, they do so (as Jesus puts it) "not because you saw signs, but because you ate the loaves and were filled" (John 6:6).

In John's Gospel, the word "sign" has a distinct meaning. At the wedding at Cana, after telling how Jesus turned water into wine, the Evangelist notes "Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs" that "revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him" (John 2:11). For John, signs are not just wonders to behold; they are about the revelation of God and a response of faith in Jesus.

OR MAYBE THE SIGN IS THE WONDER

When the crowd first arrives, Jesus notes that they had not appreciated the sign that he had already given; they are still focused on their physical hunger. When they ask for a sign, "that we may see and believe in you" (John 6:30), they refer to their ancestors who ate manna in the wilderness. Can Jesus top that? Can he give them more bread that will relieve them of their daily worries about going hungry?

Jesus reminds the crowd that it was not Moses who gave the "bread from heaven," but his Father. Further, the Father can give them the true bread from heaven that comes down and gives life to the world. There is a parallel in the Greek between working for food that perishes and doing the works of God, which is believing in Jesus as the one God has sent. This is the sign that the people missed the day before, the sign that Jesus is pointing out to them.

Like the Evangelist, the Church uses the word "sign" for its sacraments. Like the crowd, we are called to see similar "signs" of God's generosity in all the blessings of our lives.

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

Don't Look Back

It's bad enough that the Israelites were grumbling against their leaders. But they also complain to God that they were better off as slaves in Egypt. After all God did to bring them to freedom, now they want to go back to slavery. Before we judge them too harshly, we might ask ourselves if we ever act like that. For us, it might be looking back on our slavery to sin.

We would never sin if there wasn't something attractive about it. We might confess the sin and say we'll never do that again, but we often can't resist the memory of our past sins. As we hold on to the past, the temptations come back and draw us to repeat our offenses. Even though we know we are better off putting it behind us, we sometimes find it difficult to move on. Notice that the Israelites look back to their time in Egypt, while the people of Jesus' time look back to the manna in the desert, yet none of them ever had manna!

So how do we free ourselves from the past? Should we look to the future, instead? If we want to make the world, or just our community, a better place we can make plans. If those plans are ever going to work, we have to begin now. Jesus doesn't say "Remember how good that manna was." Or "Don't worry; your children will get it right." No, he keeps us focused on the present moment, telling us to believe in Him now, His Father gives us true bread today; Jesus is that bread of life.

Those words are just as true today. We may look fondly at Jesus' birth, his miracles, and his death on the cross, but if we don't let him be born again in us, if we don't trust him to do wonders today, and if we don't take up our crosses each day—we are missing the chance to experience Jesus in us and in the people we live and work with each day.

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

AUGUST 2, 2021

- Monday: Nm 11:4b-15; Ps 81:12-17; Mt 14:13-21
- Tuesday: Nm 12:1-13; Ps 51:3-7, 12-13; Mt 14:22-36 or Mt 15:1-2, 10-14
- Wednesday: Nm 13:1-2, 25 — 14:1, 26-29a, 34-35; Ps 106:6-7ab, 13-14, 21-23; Mt 15:21-28
- Thursday: Nm 20:1-13; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Mt 16:13-23
- Friday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9; 2 Pt 1:16-19; Mk 9:2-10
- Saturday: Dt 6:4-13; Ps 18:2-4, 47, 51; Mt 17:14-20
- Sunday: 1 Kgs 19:4-8; Ps 34:2-9; Eph 4:30 -5:2; Jn 6:41-51

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

AUGUST 2, 2021

- Monday**
8:30am Eleuterio Mercedes & Norma Perez (D)
- Tuesday**
8:30am Octavia Camilo (D); Acción de gracias para el cumpleaños de Milquidia Segura & para todos los fieles difuntos; Eleuterio Mercedes & Norma Perez (D)
- Wednesday**
8:30am
- Thursday**
8:30am Carmen Sosa (D)
- Friday**
8:30am
- Saturday**
7:45am Phero Luc & Maria Tu (D)
7:00pm Rosa Cujilan (D); Perfecta Cujilan, Washington Franco Cujilan (D), Angela Velasco de Franco (D)
- Sunday**
8:00am People of SNT
9:30am Lourdes Espinal (D); Miselia Garcia (D), Ceprian Zabala Valenzuela (D); Domingo Perez (D)
11:30am
1:30pm Phero Phá & Terexa Tieu (D)

CATHOLIC FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

CHILDREN & TEENAGER

BAPTISM - CONFIRMATION

FIRST COMMUNION

REGISTRATION

At the Parish Office

Register your child now!

If you would like to learn more about our program CALL OR COME TO THE RECTORY: (718)295-6800

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

JULY 18, 2021

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 Children: \$0.00
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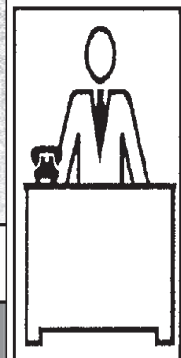
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