



## AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

### PASTORAL STAFF

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*Pastor*

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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  
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Mr. Dang Vu

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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](http://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)

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<b>Weekdays</b>	8:30 a.m. Spanish (Mon-Fri.)
	7:45 a.m. Vietnamese (Sat)

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### 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

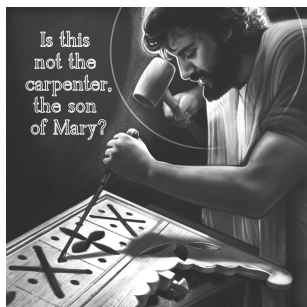
SATURDAY 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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



## FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## NO BAD NEWS



There are many times when we say, “Tell me what I want to hear, and don’t confuse me with facts.” And we don’t take kindly to someone who might be bold enough to snuff out our expectations.

The biggest problem with such an attitude is not that we miss out on the truth or the facts, but that we miss out on the new and surprising gifts others can give us. Like the townspeople in today’s Gospel story, we too often refuse to allow others to display the talents that can be good news for us.

Today’s readings call for hospitality and faith and discernment. Hospitality opens the doors of our hearts and minds to the “stranger” among us, no matter how familiar he or she may seem to be. Faith enables us to accept the gifts of others, no matter how alarming or “strange” they may seem to be. Discernment helps us discover the prophets in our midst, no matter how amazing they may seem to be. Hospitality, faith, and discernment—cultivate these. Then, nobody can bring bad news.

In the Sunday Lectionary, the first reading is usually chosen from anywhere in the Hebrew Bible to tie together with the Gospel. Currently, the second reading is from Saint Paul’s second letter to the Corinthians. Often the second reading is not so closely related to the day’s Gospel selection, because those books are read in a more continuous fashion from week to week. But today, all three of the scripture readings go together very well. Ezekiel struggles with the job he is given by the Lord, speaking to a rebellious people. Paul is dealing with a “thorn in his side,” that is, the difficulties of his own personal weakness and foibles, and learning to rely on God’s grace. Mark’s Gospel introduces us to a Jesus who is struggling to be believed and accepted in his native country. In all three passages, the major figures are following the will of God and paying the price of rejection by the community for their efforts.

## I DON’T GET NO RESPECT

Years ago there was a popular comedian named Rodney Dangerfield, and he would riff about his family life or his work and his catchphrase was “I don’t get no respect!” You knew this refrain was coming, and was part of the punch line, so you waited to hear it and usually laughed or groaned with it. The idea of Jesus being disrespected is a much more foreign feeling. It is easy to forget that Jesus was both human and divine. We can easily romanticize his life and ministry and forget his struggles and the difficulty he had being heard, understood, and respected, especially in his own country. Placed in the larger context of Mark’s story, this was very early in Jesus’ ministry, and the message he was proclaiming was not what the people wanted to hear. Jesus was not speaking about the Messiah that the Jews were hoping for. Add that together with the fact that people are often hardest on their own. Somehow “local boy makes good” just didn’t sit well with them, and they didn’t want to have anything to do with Jesus or his message. Jesus was caught off guard by this.

**First Reading** — They shall know that a prophet has been among them (Ezekiel 2:2-5).

**Psalm** — Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his mercy (Psalm 123).

**Second Reading** — I am content with weaknesses and hardships for the sake of Christ (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).

**Gospel** — “Where did this man get all this? Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary?” (Mark 6:1-6a).

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.

## A MESSAGE FOR OUR TIME

There are times when being Catholic, or even being Christian is very countercultural. It used to be you belonged to a parish, and that was your home, based on your geographic boundaries or ethnicity. But now people change parishes depending on pastors, styles of music, or the Mass schedule. In these days of Covid-19, many who stayed away because of social distancing have not yet found their way back. Many never recovered from their disillusionment over the abuse scandals. Others left Catholicism for non-denominational churches, or explored other paths such as Buddhism. Still others consider themselves “spiritual but not religious” or are labeled “nones.” Frequently, families who once sat together every week in church are now scattered all over the spiritual spectrum. In the face of all this, let us pray for the strength of Ezekiel to continue to preach our faith by the lives we live, despite everything in our culture that rebels against religion. May we have the wisdom of Paul to persevere despite our weaknesses and the thorns in our side. And like Jesus, may we always find the faith we need to endure, even when those around us do not.

Please visit our website for all the latest information and special Prayer Services, at: [stnicholasoftolentinebronx.org](http://stnicholasoftolentinebronx.org) and join us on Facebook, St. Nicholas of Tolentine Parish

Strength in Weakness

Is Paul serious? Can you imagine being content with “weaknesses, insults, hardships, and persecutions?” (2Cor 12:10) Paul never specifies what that “thorn in the flesh” was. I used to think it referred to a physical weakness, or disability. But some of the commentaries I’ve read say that it was a person who opposed Paul (think of a “thorn in my side.”) That opponent may have been a Christian who Paul did not want to mention by name.

Paul could have been proud of all that God revealed to him, and of all that he accomplished in spreading the gospel. He sees that “thorn” as God’s way of keeping him humble. So instead he boasts about his weaknesses. He knows that all the good work he has done have been accomplished by Christ. So he accepted suffering, rejection, setbacks and persecution because they helped him see how much Christ was doing through him.

We can learn a lot from St. Paul. Remember how Jesus said to love your neighbor as yourself. Paul loved himself in the good sense of accepting his faults and weaknesses. He was always aware that he once persecuted Christians. But that fault enabled him to experience God’s forgiveness. I usually try to avoid doing things that show my weaknesses. That means I might miss a chance to see how God can help. Suppose you don’t know how to swim, so you stay out of swimming pools. Of course, then you could never learn to swim. But if you get in the water and let someone teach you, you might just find yourself liking the water.

St. Paul says that when he is weak, then he is strong. He knows that God will still work through him, showing God’s power to heal the sick and draw converts to Christ, in spite of Paul’s weaknesses. Paul did what he could to encourage others to follow Jesus, but he knew the results of his preaching and healing were up to God. When you think that you would fail at spreading the faith, remember Paul and give your weaknesses to God. Then see what he can do!

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

JULY 5, 2021

Monday: Gn 28:10-22a; Ps 91:1-4, 14-15ab; Mt 9:18-26  
 Tuesday: Gn 32:23-33; Ps 17:1b, 2-3, 6-7ab, 8b, 15; Mt 9:32-38  
 Wednesday: Gn 41:55-57; 42:5-7a, 17-24a; Ps 33:2-3, 10-11, 18-19; Mt 10:1-7  
 Thursday: Gn 44:18-21, 23b-29; 45:1-5; Ps 105:16-21; Mt 10:7-15  
 Friday: Gn 46:1-7, 28-30; Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40; Mt 10:16-23  
 Saturday: Gn 49:29-32; 50:15-26a; Ps 105:1-4, 6-7; Mt 10:24-33  
 Sunday: Am 7:12-15; Ps 85:9-14; Eph 1:3-14 [1:3-10]; Mk 6:7-13

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

JULY 5, 2021

**Monday**  
8:30am Peace (family); Adoté Kpakpovi Leandres (D)  
**Tuesday**  
8:30am Thanksgiving; Adoté Kpakpovi Leandres (D)  
**Wednesday**  
8:30am  
**Thursday**  
8:30am Ana Felicita Fernandez-converción y liberación; Lourdes Espinal (D)  
**Friday**  
8:30am Maria Josefa Parache & Manuel de Jesus Hernandez (D)  
**Saturday**  
7:45am Phero Binh (D)  
7:00pm Cira Martinez Santana (D); Nelda Medina (D); Jose Fasandi & Miguel Jaquez (D)  
**Sunday**  
8:00am People of SNT  
9:30am Maria Del Carmen Menjura & Miguel Menjura (D); Saul Galva, Daniel Holguim, Titi Portorreal (D); Claudio Emilio Mendez (D)  
11:30am Peter & Phyllis Keon; Ifeoma Ohakam (D); Luis Vera Sr. (D)  
1:30pm Gioan Vu Vy (D)

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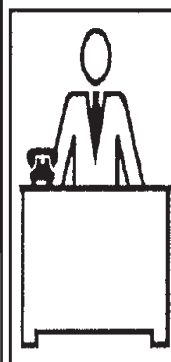
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