



AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

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

Pastor@stnicholasoftolentinebronx.org

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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. Daniel Kirk-Foster
Mr. Dang Vu

ACCOUNTING
Ms. Shelly Parkin

PLANT MANAGER
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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)

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 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

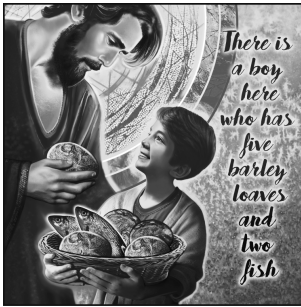
SATURDAY 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ONE LORD, ONE FAITH



Do you suppose the authors of the four Gospels were aware of today's first reading from the second book of Kings? Of course they were. The prophet Elisha fed a hundred men with twenty barley loaves in order to prove God's power. This same miracle, now multiplied by more people fed by fewer loaves, is attributed to Jesus in all four Gospels. In today's passage from John we even have the detail that the loaves were barley, reminding every pious Jew of that miracle that Elisha worked. Yet Jesus went into hiding when they wanted to make him king. It is the passage from Paul's Letter to the Ephesians that gives us the reason for this. The power of Jesus comes from God. It is not meant merely to feed us, or to provide one group with a king. There is one Lord, one faith, one God and Father of all who works through Jesus Christ and through us all.

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Today's message could be summed up in psalm 145, "The hand of the Lord feeds us, he answers all our needs." Each reading shows how carefully God feeds and cares for us, in an up-close and personal fashion. Elisha fed the crowd from twenty barley loaves. Jesus blessed a few loaves and thousands were fed. Perhaps this seems far-fetched, but we read stories in the news about chefs taking the leftovers from fancy restaurants and feeding many people in a soup kitchen. As a school-girl, one of my favorite stories was "Stone Soup," the tale of a couple of war-weary soldiers convincing the people of a frightened and starving little country village to bring out their meager supplies and share them to make a marvelous soup to feed the town. The second reading asks us to "Consider well our call." How do we respond to those in need around us?

HOW WILL WE KNOW WE ARE DOING THE RIGHT THING?

Miracles are seldom as obvious as the multiplication of loaves and fishes. Many years ago, I overheard a family conversation in a restaurant at the end of a long holiday weekend. At the register was one of those collection jars saying, "For just fifty cents a day you can feed a child." The little girl asked her folks about it and they explained it. She said, "I have money left from my weekend, could I put it in the jar?" The parents said yes and let her go on the adventure for herself. She came back and sat down, and they chatted some more. She said, "If fifty cents feeds a child for a day, then I was able to feed one for three days, because I had \$1.50 left from the weekend." When we follow this child's example and go beyond the minimum, when we give all we can, we know we are doing the right thing, and we have understood the test that Jesus posed to Philip so long ago.

First Reading — Elisha feeds a hundred people with twenty barley loaves (2 Kings 4:42-44).

Psalm — The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs (Psalm 145).

Second Reading — Paul urges the Ephesians to live in a manner worthy of the call they received (Ephesians 4:1-6).

Gospel — Jesus feeds a large crowd with five barley loaves and two fish (John 6:1-15).

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.

MIRACLE OR MAGIC?

It can be easy to just say, "Oh yes, this is the story of the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes, when everybody decided to share the bits of food they had." But how much of it is really about feeding the crowds? "Jesus said to Philip, 'Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?' He said this to test him, because he knew what he was going to do." It must have been very hard to trust Jesus, especially when the disciples often didn't understand him. This year has been challenging for us, too, to trust that God will provide, and also challenging for us to ask for help.

In the Rule of Saint Benedict, there is a chapter called "The assignment of impossible tasks." It says, in essence, that when your superior tells you to do something impossible, it is fine to go talk to them about it, but in the end you may still be asked to do this task. In what situations are we called to trust? When are we asked to act in faith or to do the impossible task?

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 Prophet's Profit

It's no coincidence that the first reading shows the prophet Elisha feeding a crowd of people like Jesus in the gospel. If you want to compare miracles, Elisha did his first, but Jesus did it better. Elisha had a hundred people to feed with twenty barley loaves and a handful of fresh grain. Jesus had five thousand people and only five loaves and a couple fish. So was Jesus trying to show up Elisha?

Neither Jesus nor Elisha ever did a miracle for their own benefit. The very next story in 2 Kings about Elisha is the one where he cured Naaman, the king's servant, of leprosy. (2 Kgs 5:1-19) When Naaman realized he was cured, he came back to Elisha and offered him a gift in thanksgiving. Elisha refused the gift, because it would imply that Elisha did the miracle, while the prophet knew that God had cured him. Jesus also refused to benefit from feeding the crowds. They came to take him away and make him king, but he went up to his place of prayer on the mountain.

Jesus' miracle of feeding the five thousand was not done just for the crowd. He was using it to teach the disciples something important. He knew there would be times when they felt they were not holy enough or good enough preachers, to spread the gospel over the world. So he showed them what God can do with our meager abilities.

There are millions of people hungry for the good news that Jesus brings to the world. Remember the miracle of the loaves when you only have a few dollars to give to the missions, when you're not sure you know enough to teach someone about Jesus, when you don't know how to invite someone to come back to church. And remember that you do those things, not to make you look holy, but to let God show his loving power.

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

JULY 26, 2021

Monday: Ex 32:15-24, 30-34; Ps 106:19-23; Mt 13:31-35
 Tuesday: Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28; Ps 103:6-13; Mt 13:36-43
 Wednesday: Ex 34:29-35; Ps 99:5-7, 9; Mt 13:44-46
 Thursday: Ex 40:16-21, 34-38; Ps 84:3-6a, 8a, 11; Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42
 Friday: Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37; Ps 81:3-6, 10-11ab; Mt 13:54-58
 Saturday: Lv 25:1, 8-17; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8; Mt 14:1-12
 Sunday: Ex 16:2-4, 12-15; Ps 78:3-4, 23-25, 54; Eph 4:17, 20-24; Jn 6:24-35

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

JULY 26, 2021

Monday
 8:30am Luis Vera. Sr. (D); Yunion Torrez (D), America Garcia Peña (D)
Tuesday
 8:30am
Wednesday
 8:30am
Thursday
 8:30am Acción de gracias al Sagrado Corazón de Jesus
Friday
 8:30am Jose Miguel Pena Zapata (D)
Saturday
 7:45am Lorenzo & Madalena Hg (D)
 7:00pm Luis A. Serrano (D); Felipe Kelly (D)
Sunday
 8:00am People of SNT
 9:30am Pedro Reyes Basulto (D)
 11:30am
 1:30pm Phero Thong & Magarita Han (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 11, 2021

Tithing: \$6,001.55
 Children: \$0.00
 Total: \$6,001.55

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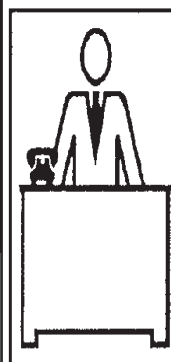
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