



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
Jesus DeLaRosa

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)

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

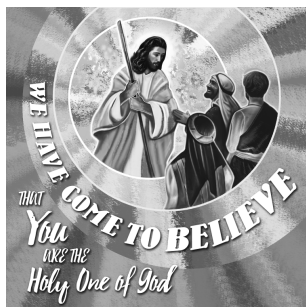
SATURDAY 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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



TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

DECISIONS



There is an axiom that states, “Not to decide is to decide.” This saying was popular in the turbulent times of the Vietnam War. It urged us not to allow others to answer the moral questions raised by our nation’s involvement in that terrible conflict, but to decide for ourselves. Making such choices is never easy. Avoiding them is common. Jesus, for his part, was not only a gallant risk-taker, but a clear decision-maker. As he pursued the mission to which the Father called him, he continually decided for us and for the Father. He worked hard to lay out a scenario that would enable others to make similar choices. Never did he make decisions for others or force others into decisions, even decisions that had eternal ramifications. Jesus is inviting us to make such decisions today. We won’t be absolutely sure. What is sure, however, is the command that issues from God’s word: Take the risk. Decide!

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Today’s Gospel is the conclusion of the Bread of Life discourse in John. After Jesus’ continued insistence that he is the Bread of Life come down from heaven, and that his words are “Spirit and life,” most of his disciples drift away. The Twelve, however, affirm their faith in Jesus, whom Simon Peter professes to “have the words of eternal life.” In the first reading, Joshua and the Israelites are preparing to enter the Promised Land, and Joshua asks the people to decide which god they will follow, the LORD their God, or the gods of neighboring peoples. The Responsorial Psalm features Psalm 34, the “taste and see” psalm, that reflects the kinds of struggles the Israelites faced during their sojourn in the wilderness. In the second reading, Paul gives counsel for maintaining domestic peace and happiness.

First Reading — Joshua challenges the Israelites to serve either the Lord or other gods. They choose the Lord (Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b).

Psalm — Taste and see the goodness of the Lord (Psalm 34).

Second Reading — Paul reflects on how husbands and wives should reverence and love each other (Ephesians 5:21-32 [2a, 25-32]).

Gospel — Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life (John 6:60-69).

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.

CROSSROADS IN LIFE, THEN AND NOW

Sometimes in life we find ourselves at a crossroads, faced with an existential choice that will alter the course of our life. We are aware, at these moments, just how significant our choice will be and that there will be no going back.

In both the first reading and the Gospel we see such moments calling people to make such choices. Which god will the Israelites follow? Joshua, their leader after Moses, knows that the area around the Promised Land is occupied by other peoples, with other gods. Perhaps remembering how, after Moses had gone up Mount Sinai, the Israelites set up a golden calf to worship, Joshua worries that they may again be susceptible to such attractions. He is asking them for a commitment, and proclaims, “As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

WE FACE THE SAME QUESTION: CAN WE STAY WITH JESUS?

The people who were frenetically following Jesus, crossing the lake twice to pursue him, eating the bread he miraculously provided, are now puzzled by Jesus proclaiming himself as “the bread of life,” and they are incredulous. They can go with him no farther, so they gradually drift away. The Twelve, however, stay with Jesus. What else could they do? Who else offers such a profound vision of human life? Peter expresses it well: “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”

Not all of our life’s crossroads involve our faith, but some do. Perhaps there is someone in your parish who chose to become Catholic and is now alienated from their family; someone who is unhappy with a new pastor and wondering about looking for a different parish; someone who was especially distressed by the clergy sex abuse and prayed long and hard before deciding that she needed her parish to get through it. There may be many in your parish facing such choices, and they need our support and our prayers. In the meantime, we can hope that someday they will again experience Jesus as the Holy One of God, offering them words of eternal life.

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

Taken Out of Context

If you want to start an argument, try telling your wife that St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians says she should agree with everything you say. I'm sure that many people have taken out of context the line about wives being submissive to their husbands. In fact, the first sentence says they both should be subordinate to one another. (Eph 5:21) And even more important is the last verse: Paul says he is actually talking about Christ and the Church.

So what does Christ show us guys about being subordinate to our wives? Paul mentions the main example: Christ handing himself over for her (the Church) refers to his death on the cross. "Handed over" is a scriptural term for Jesus' giving himself to be crucified. He made it even clearer for them the night before he died: He washed the feet of his disciples and told them to do the same for each other. (Jn 13:14-15) If you ever had your feet washed on Holy Thursday by the pastor, and were humbled by that experience, imagine how it would feel to have the Son of God wash your feet!

Still not sure that subordination is a mutual quality in marriage? Paul explains that marriage is the best example of "love your neighbor as yourself." He quotes Genesis 2:24 about two people becoming one body. So your love for yourself now becomes love for your spouse. Do I love my wife so much that what she needs is as important to me as what I need? Are we willing to listen to each other and support each other? Do we encourage and support each other in our chores and weaknesses? Do we support each other's faith? Ladies, ask yourselves the same questions.

Paul's conclusion is that marriage is a sign of what the church should be. If you ever want to know what the love of Christ for his Church is, look at how a couple in a strong marriage love each other. And if you want to have a good marriage, love each other as Christ loves you.

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**READINGS FOR THE WEEK
AUGUST 23, 2021**

Monday: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Mt 23:13-22
 Tuesday: Rv 21:9b-14; Ps 145:10-13, 17-18; Jn 1:45-51
 Wednesday: 1 Thes 2:9-13; Ps 139:7-12ab; Mt 23:27-32
 Thursday: 1 Thes 3:7-13; Ps 90:3-5a, 12-14, 17; Mt 24:42-51
 Friday: 1 Thes 4:1-8; Ps 97:1, 2b, 5-6, 10-12; Mt 25:1-13
 Saturday: 1 Thes 4:9-11; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Mt 25:14-30
 Sunday: Dt 4:1-2, 6-8; Ps 15:2-5; Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27; Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK
AUGUST 23, 2021**

Monday
8:30am Anastacio Montero, Juan Bautista Hernandez, Keren Hernandez, Rosa Caines (D)
Tuesday
8:30am Blas Rodriguez (D) & para todos los fieles difuntos
Wednesday
8:30am Olimpia Abreu Cepeda (D)
Thursday
8:30am Luis Vera, Sr. (D); America Garcia Peña (D)
Friday
8:30am Jacina Fabian (D)
Saturday
7:45am Phero Thong & Magarita (D)
 7:00pm Matilde Villar (D); Acción de gracias a Jesus Sacramentado por el nacimiento de mi nieta; Acción de gracias a la Santisima Trinidad
Sunday
8:00am People of SNT (D)
 9:30am Luis A. Serrano (D); Manuel de Jesus Henriquez & Maria Altagracia Reynoso (D)
 11:30am Fr. Joseph Girone (D)
 1:30pm Gioan Chat & Maria Nghi (D)

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION
AUGUST 8, 2021**

Tithing: \$6,859.43
Children: \$0.00
Total: \$6,859.43

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

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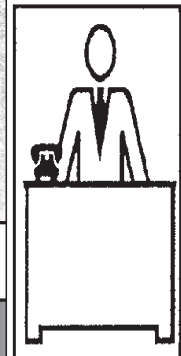
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