



## AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

### PASTORAL STAFF

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*Pastor*

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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  
FORMATION  
Jesus DeLaRosa

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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](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. <b>Spanish</b> (Mon-Fri.)	12:00 p.m. <b>English</b> (Mon-Fri)
	7:45 a.m. <b>Vietnamese</b> (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

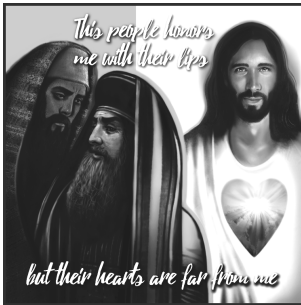
SATURDAY 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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



## TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### DOERS OF THE WORD



The second reading for today begins a five-week series of selections from James, a letter that is classified among the so-called “catholic” (or universal) epistles because they are addressed to a general audience rather than to one particular community. Today’s text offers important advice for Christians of every generation. God is first cited as the author of all gifts, and in particular, reference is made to the gift of baptism by which we have been made the “first fruits” of the new creation.

What follows is advice based on a very Jewish understanding of the “word” as an active force, operative in the world. We are reminded that unless we, too, become “doers” of the word, our claim to faith is empty. Today and in subsequent weeks the author reminds us that it is equally important to do the “works” of love, for example, by caring for the “orphans and widows in their affliction.”

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Today’s readings provide some interesting parallels and contrasts. The first reading is an account of Moses who, having delivered the Law to the Israelites, admonishes them to “observe them [its statutes] carefully.” The author of the Letter of James likewise instructs fellow Christians to “welcome the word” they have received, that they may become “doers of the words and not hearers only.” The psalmist praises “whoever walks blamelessly and does justice” by listing a few examples of what is required for that—descriptions that apply equally to both Jewish and Christian traditions. On the other hand, when the scribes and Pharisees point out that the disciples have not properly washed their hands before eating (which is, as Mark explains, the usual Jewish practice) Jesus scolds them sharply for being too focused on human rules—even ritual ones—instead of God’s laws.

#### MOSAIC LAW: WHAT GOD WANTS OF THE PEOPLE

Moses gives the Israelites their Law, which provided the structure for daily life. As recorded in the Bible, over half of the Law is about rituals for worship and sacrifice. A related concept is the concept of a person’s ritual purity (or cleanliness), which is required for participation in both social and religious activities, since persons become unclean by physical contact with other unclean persons, animals, or objects. Other ways a person becomes unclean include the presence of skin lesions, bleeding, or a bodily discharge. Unclean persons are required to purify themselves to be again considered clean. Despite the Law’s complexity, observant Jews considered it a privilege, not a burden, to observe its precepts, and they continue to do so today.

**First Reading** — Moses directs the people to observe the commandments of the Lord (Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8).

**Psalms** — The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord (Psalm 15).

**Second Reading** — Welcome the word that you have received and become doers of the word, not hearers only (James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27).

**Gospel** — You disregard God’s commandment but cling to human tradition (Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23).

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.

#### ON THE OTHER HAND . . .

The scribes and Pharisees are focusing on the disciples’ failure to properly wash their hands prior to eating. But nowhere in the biblical texts of the Law are there regulations regarding the washing of hands before or after meals. These regulations, as described by Mark, are merely practices like those that arise in all societies; if they continue long enough, they can seem like sacred duties, sanctified as “the traditions of their elders.”

This distinction is the source of the tension in these three readings. Moses and James both tell their people that they are recipients of a divine gift that requires special care, while Jesus is practically livid when the scribes and Pharisees react harshly to the disciples’ failure to wash their hands according to Jewish practices.

Such a distinction between divine law and human practices is valuable for our own lives. When we hear of another’s misdeeds, we should evaluate the seriousness of the offense before forming our own impression. Is this truly a serious moral matter? Or something less weighty? Carefully discerning the seriousness of such matters might reveal that things are not as grave as they first appear. Such care is an exercise in Christian charity, one way of acting on the word we have received as members of the Body of Christ.

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

Laws of Love

When someone mentions laws and/or commandments, we usually think of them as burdens that we have to bear to be good citizens or church members. But if you listen carefully to the first reading from Deuteronomy, you get the sense that the laws Moses presented to the people of Israel were gift from God, something to be proud of. Moses gives two reasons for this.

Moses presents the laws as wise and just, so much so that other nations would praise and envy the Israelites for having such laws. No doubt some of the nations around at the time had kings who used the law to keep themselves in power and make them wealthy. As the Jews had no kings at this time, they only had to obey God's laws. Moses' command not to add or subtract from the laws was a reminder that they were directly from God, not an interpretation by Moses.

The origin of the laws was the second reason they were revered. They showed how much God cared for his people, that he would guide them in their everyday lives and hear their prayers. Though God is greater than they could comprehend, he is also nearer than we think. Which brings us to Jesus, who shows us the Father and who made the law both simpler and more challenging?

Jesus simplified the laws and commandments by showing us that loving God with all our being and loving our neighbors as ourselves was the basis of all God's laws. But it is also more difficult because it is no longer enough to simply avoid hurting or cheating others. We are to love one another as Jesus loves us. That means reaching out to those in need, forgiving our enemies, caring for the sick or dying, teaching our children that love is more important than money.

And don't forget the first part of Jesus' command: loving God. How often do we even think about Him, thank Him for all we have, or take time to listen to Him? Do we love Jesus so much that we want other people to know him too? Do we thank him for the people who love us? Do we ask his Holy Spirit for the courage to spread the gospel? If we are willing to accept the challenge to love God and neighbor, we will not have to worry about breaking laws.

**CATHOLIC FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM**  
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Confessions are by appointment only. Please call 718-295-6800 for an appointment time.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK  
 AUGUST 30, 2021

Monday: 1 Thes 4:13-18; Ps 96:1, 3-5, 11-13; Lk 4:16-30  
 Tuesday: 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Lk 4:31-37  
 Wednesday: Col 1:1-8; Ps 52:10-11; Lk 4:38-44  
 Thursday: Col 1:9-14; Ps 98:2-6; Lk 5:1-11  
 Friday: Col 1:15-20; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 5:33-39  
 Saturday: Col 1:21-23; Ps 54:3-4, 6, 8; Lk 6:1-5  
 Sunday: Is 35:4-7a; Ps 146:7-10; Jas 2:1-5; Mk 7:31-37

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK  
 AUGUST 30, 2021

**Monday**  
 8:30am Angelina Frias (D)  
**Tuesday**  
 8:30am  
**Wednesday**  
 8:30am  
 12:00pm  
**Thursday**  
 8:30am Bienvenido Gonzalez, Teresa Chio, Santa Ortega, Rosa Minchala (D)  
 12:00pm  
**Friday**  
 8:30am  
 12:00pm  
**Saturday**  
 7:45am Maria Vang (D)  
 7:00pm Josefa Sandy & Miguel Jaquez (D); Carmen Delia Rivera (D); Romulo Anibal Berges (D)  
**Sunday**  
 8:00am People of SNT (D)  
 9:30am Pedro Reyes Basulto (D)  
 11:30am  
 1:30pm Phero & Magarita Han (D)

OFFERTORY COLLECTION  
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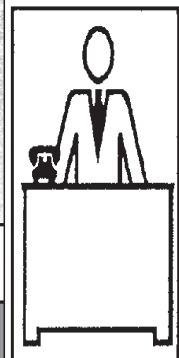
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