



AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

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Associate

Fr. Joseph Murray, O.S.A.
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Fr. William Wallace, O.S.A.
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In Residence

CATHOLIC FAITH
FORMATION
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Mr. Daniel Kirk-Foster
Mr. Dang Vu

ACCOUNTING
Ms. Shelly Parkin

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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.)	12:00 p.m. English (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-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

IT'S ALL ABOUT CONTROL

From toddlerhood to old age, we grow in mastery of our own lives, our bodies, and our destiny. This mastery is hard won, and we don't let go of autonomy easily. Much of this self-mastery involves the avoidance of pain or discomfort, so when we hear things like "take up your cross" and "lose your life," we tend to resist the message.

James says that faith without works is dead. Ouch! That is really a direct message! One way to look at this, as well as the part about losing our life to find it, is that faith is a process of more and more openness to God's direction of our lives. It is very hard for us to give up control, but perhaps what we are being asked to do is not to become passive and babyish, but to allow God to direct where our self-mastery will lead and what it will accomplish. We are asked to relinquish the need to control the results of our efforts; to risk, as Jesus did, the loss of everything we are working to achieve. We are asked to let God take the lead and to control the results, even though we may never see those results.



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Our readings from Isaiah and from the Gospel of Mark confront us with the fact that the invitation to faith leads us into suffering. In Isaiah, the prophet accepts pain and shaming from others, as he trusts in God. In Mark, Jesus is blunt about this: "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." When we embrace faith, we are confronted with our own fears about suffering and about losing comfort, status, and control over our lives. Life has plenty of suffering already, so why choose to add to it? Jesus points to a response: avoiding our fears and clinging to illusion and superficial comforts will not give us what we really want from life. Jesus offers a better, deeper life, a life grounded in God's love. It is lived in hope of resurrection and the final triumph of this love.

A DIFFERENT LIFE

The Gospel of Mark reaches a turning point in today's passage. About halfway through Mark, Jesus' disciples begin to understand Jesus as the Messiah (or Christ). And Jesus begins to spell out just what is expected of those who follow him. The story then shifts to learning just what being Christ, and following Christ, actually means. Jesus shatters the expectation of a political or military power defeating Israel's oppressors, and reveals a different kind of Messiah. The disciples later come to see that this different Messiah offers a different understanding of power, and of life itself.

We inhabit a world that honors power over others, through wealth or achievement or violence. Jesus invites us into a community and a way of life that honors the power of love and service to others. Lived fully, it is truly a different way of life. It is marked by great suffering and great joy, because it embraces the fundamental pattern of the death and resurrection of Jesus.

First Reading — The Lord GOD is my help; who will prove me wrong? (Isaiah 50:5-9a).

Psalm — I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living (Psalm 116).

Second Reading — Faith, if it does not have works, is dead (James 2:14-18).

Gospel — Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" (Mark 8:27-35).

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.

A "LARGE" FAITH

The letter of James is designed to enlarge your faith. James knew that his community faced trials that could lead them to abandon the faith, or perhaps to reduce faith to a comfortable, manageable size. In today's passage, James calls the reader to resist reducing faith to safe, intellectual assent to teachings, and instead to expand one's faith to actively engage in good works, especially in service to the poor.

To have a "large" faith is to move from apathy toward others' sufferings to empathy and to action. A large faith leads to a large heart, where we can take in the enormity of suffering in the world around us, not become overwhelmed by it, and do what we can to relieve it. With a large heart, we can even squarely face our own sufferings, accepting our own tragedies with forgiveness and hope, and walking in empathy with all who share in suffering.

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

Faith or Works?

Sometimes we think the argument of faith vs. works started with the Reformation. But the second reading shows that it was already being debated in New Testament times. The simplified version of the debate has the Reformers saying that faith alone is all we need to be saved, while the Catholic side says we have to do good to be saved. Actually, they are both right.

The idea of works being necessary for salvation probably goes back to the Old Covenant emphasis on the law and the commandments. The Jews believed that keeping the law showed their holiness. They avoided anything or anyone that was unclean. They believed that their religious practices set them apart from the pagans around them.

Then Jesus came to show that only God is Holy. Our holiness comes from loving God and loving others. Because Jesus is the Son of God, he is the best way to know God. So believing in Jesus is not just believing that he exists, (like those who believe in Santa Claus or UFO's.) It means we believe in Love, the love Jesus showed by his life and death. We believe in a Person who loves us and showed us that God is not our boss or judge; he is our Father. He gives us life and protects us; he supports us and also lets us learn from our mistakes. Then he forgives us, showing that he loves us even when we turn away from him.

So if we truly believe in Jesus we believe in what he said and did. We follow his commandment of love, not because we want to avoid evil, but because we love him so much we want to be just like him. We help others, not to make us look good, but to show them how good God is. So you cannot truly believe in Jesus without wanting to help others to know and love him too. Jesus' way of saying that in today's gospel was to take up our cross and follow him. That is truly a work of faith.

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

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought overwhelming grief to many families. At FEMA, our mission is to help people before, during and after disasters. We are dedicated to helping ease some of the financial stress and burden caused by the virus.

FEMA is providing financial assistance for COVID-19-related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020.

Visit the parish office for more information.

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK
SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

Monday: 1 Tm 2:1-8; Ps 28:2, 7-9; Lk 7:1-10
 Tuesday: Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17
 Wednesday: 1 Tm 3:14-16; Ps 111:1-6; Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35
 Thursday: 1 Tm 4:12-16; Ps 111:7-10; Lk 7:36-50
 Friday: 1 Tm 6:2c-12; Ps 49:6-10, 17-20; Lk 8:1-3
 Saturday: 1 Tm 6:13-16; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 8:4-15
 Sunday: Wis 2:12, 17-20; Ps 54:3-8; Jas 3:16 — 4:3; Mk 9:30-37

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK
SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

Monday
 8:30am Rose Carucci, Jenny Vite (D)
 12:00pm
Tuesday
 8:30am
 12:00pm Karen Smith (D)
Wednesday
 8:30am Felix Antonio Hernandez & Maria Olinda Ramirez (D); Acción de gracias al Sagrado Corazón de Jesus
 12:00pm
Thursday
 8:30am Familia Rosario Colon (D); Santa Maria Zapata (D)
 12:00pm
Friday
 8:30am
 12:00pm
Saturday
 7:45am Giuse Khá (D)
 7:00pm Noel C. Rodriguez (D); Estilf Miguel Santos (D); Romulo Anibal Berges (D)
Sunday
 8:00am People of SNT (D)
 9:30am Acción de gracias a la Virgen Milagrosa
 11:30am
 1:30pm Giuse Đuong (D)

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AUGUST 29, 2021

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 Children: \$0.00
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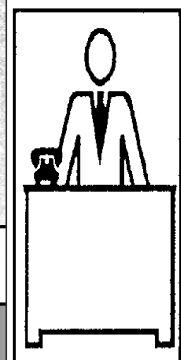
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