



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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Br. Bienvenido Rodriguez, O.S.A.
In Residence

CATHOLIC FAITH
FORMATION
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Mr. Dang Vu

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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-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE MEANING OF DISCIPLESHIP



The geography of today's Gospel is significant. Jesus is completing his ministry in Galilee and beginning his journey to Jerusalem, where he will meet both death and resurrection. The prediction of his death placed here is the second of three in Mark's Gospel, and as usual it is the occasion for an important teaching on the part of Jesus. Today that lesson is tied to the need for his disciples to embrace a ministry of service. A play on words in Aramaic would have linked the words "child" and "servant," thus turning Jesus' gesture of placing a child in their midst into an illustration of his understanding of himself as the Servant of the Lord. It is that same awareness of the meaning of their ministry that Jesus (and Mark) wishes to instill in the disciples. Theirs must be a ministry of service if they are to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. And that service might even require of them that they be "handed over" to death. What would have been—in the culture of Jesus' day—an ordinary discussion of social status ("who is the greatest") becomes in Mark's context a key insight into the meaning of discipleship for the disciples and for us.

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Today's first two readings present a striking contrast between two pathways in life. In Wisdom and the letter from James we are told of the path of the wicked, which leads to oppression and violence. We also hear of the path of the faithful, which leads to peace and human flourishing. Then our Gospel reading from Mark takes our reflection farther. The choice is shown to be not so simple or obvious. The path of faithfulness means following Jesus' lead, to expand our circle of care toward everyone, especially the most vulnerable. This path also includes opening ourselves to suffering and trials, as we face resistance from within and from outside us. The two paths essentially diverge over whether we refuse or accept God's love. Each day we face such choices as God invites us into the divine circle of care and enlists us to extend our own circle to those around us.

ASK THE HARD QUESTIONS

Twice in today's Gospel, Jesus' disciples are reduced to silence. First when Jesus describes his future suffering and death, and again when caught in their argument about who is the greatest. Perhaps they were afraid to really understand his teachings because of what it might cost them. Maybe they were afraid of being seen as ignorant by Jesus and especially by each other. What if they had dared to admit their confusion and ignorance and asked Jesus hard questions? Would Jesus have welcomed them?

Jesus presents a child who is to be welcomed and embraced. The child sets an example: it is the child who knows that he or she doesn't know. The child is free to ask "childlike" questions, and is open to answers. What if, in the intimacy of our prayer, we asked Jesus our own hard, embarrassing questions: about life, about ourselves and our relationships, about God? How might our relationship with God then change?

First Reading — The wicked say: With revilement and torture let us put the just one to the test (Wisdom 2:12, 17-20).

Psalm — The Lord upholds my life (Psalm 54).

Second Reading — The wisdom from above is full of mercy and good fruits (James 3:16 — 4:3).

Gospel — Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me (Mark 9:30-37).

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.

WHO IS HONORED

Today's Gospel passage has two parts: Jesus' announcement again of his coming suffering and death, and a scene with the disciples arguing about who is the "greatest." Mark places these scenes next to each other to emphasize the disciples' failure to understand. Their petty argument was the opposite of what Jesus had described as the way to follow him. The disciples were following the common understanding of group status: to honor the influential and those who seem to contribute the most. Jesus points to the opposite: he honors the vulnerable, the "least" in the community; in this case, a child. And he honors those who welcome the child.

Mark was addressing his own community in the early Church, who were seeking to learn how to live their faith. His questions may be important for us too. Who is honored in our faith community, and why? How do we honor those whom we set as examples? Who benefits from this different kind of "greatness"?

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

What Makes You Happy?

St. James message of peace is as true now as it was two thousand years ago. Where else do wars and terrorism come from, than people holding on to wealth, power, or hatred? But the message James shares, and that of Jesus in the gospel, is a simple call to be different. Neither of them condemns anyone. They call us to look at what we really want and what truly brings happiness.

Jesus' disciples argued about who was greatest. Instead of slapping them down for their selfish pride, he looks at what they could be and calls them to a different attitude. To be truly happy, they must let go of pride and arrogance; they must learn that serving others is the only way to experience love and joy.

We are no different today. We have to learn that having the latest gadget, the most expensive cell-phone, or the latest-model car are at best temporary delights. And that being admired by acquaintances is never as lasting as loving someone for themselves. Jesus offers even more: the joy of being loved by God and helping others to know Him. Think about Jesus' words to the disciples: He is the Son of God, yet he wants to lead us not just to himself, but to the Father.

Can we learn to be more excited about what God has done for us than what we did to improve our home? Can we share our faith in God's mercy instead of bragging about our golf or bowling scores? Are we more interested in impressing members of the opposite sex, or treating all people with respect?

St. James ends our second reading with a challenging statement: He says we ask but don't receive because we ask wrongly. How often do we desire things that won't really make us happy? Do we pray for things we don't really need? Would we ask God to punish those who hurt us, or to help us forgive them? Let us ask God to show us his love and to help those around us to experience it too.

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 20, 2021

Monday: Ezr 1:1-6; Ps 126:1b-6; Lk 8:16-18
 Tuesday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Ps 19:2-5; Mt 9:9-13
 Wednesday: Ezr 9:5-9; Tb:13:2, 3-4abefghn, 7-8; Lk 9:1-6
 Thursday: Hg 1:1-8; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Lk 9:7-9
 Friday: Hg 2:1-9; Ps 43:1-4; Lk 9:18-22
 Saturday: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a; Jer 31:10-12ab, 13; Lk 9:43b-45
 Sunday: Nm 11:25-29; Ps 19:8, 10, 12-14; Jas 5:1-6; Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK
SEPTEMBER 20, 2021

Monday
 8:30am
 12:00pm
Tuesday
 8:30am Maria (D)
 12:00pm
Wednesday
 8:30am Anastacio Montero, Juan Bautista Hernandez, Keren Hernandez, Rosa Caines (D); Carlos Cabrera (D) & la mejoría de Luz Pelaez (L)
 12:00pm
Thursday
 8:30am Acción de gracias al Sagrado Corazón de Jesus
 12:00pm
Friday
 8:30am Juan Bautista Hernandez, Rosa Caines, Teresa Chio (D)
 12:00pm
Saturday
 7:45am Maria Ninh (D)
 7:00pm Josefina Martinez (D); Berta Genao & Mino Gonzalez (D); Maria Franco, Deodoro Perez, Vitelbo Baez (D); Mercedes Muñoz De Agudo; Elijo Campusano (D)
Sunday
 8:00am Jason Richard Hyde (D)
 9:30am Luis Vera, Sr. (D), Luis A Serrano (D); Ana Garcia - cumpleaños (L); Ana Mena (D)
 11:30am People of SNT
 1:30pm Anton Thê (D)

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 Children: \$0.00
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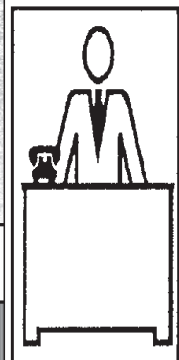
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