



AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

PASTORAL STAFF

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

pastor@tolentinebronx.org

Fr. Joseph Tran- *Associate*

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In Residence

Fr. William Wallace, O.S.A.
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917-579-6720

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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** (Thu & 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

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.



THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



RECOGNIZING JESUS

The star of today's Gospel is a panhandler. Bartimaeus is blind, yes, but he is probably also homeless and filthy, a real nuisance to respectable citizens. Even so, it is Bartimaeus who recognizes Jesus as the Messiah, places all his faith in him, throws aside everything he has (his cloak), begs him for mercy, receives new vision, and follows Jesus on the way to suffering and death in Jerusalem. How desperate will we have to get before we can do the same?

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Today's reading from Jeremiah, Israel's sorrowful and suffering prophet, whose readings usually signal and prepare us to hear Jesus' Gospel suffering, is from Jeremiah's "Book of Consolation." Jeremiah sets aside traditional sorrow and instead bids God's chosen people—and us, as God's baptized covenant people—to celebrate the Lord's miraculous "harvest": "Shout with joy; exult; proclaim your praise" (Jeremiah 31:7). In this "harvest," God declares Israel already "delivered," while promising to transform a "remnant" (31:7) into "an immense throng," "gathered from the ends of the world" (31:8). Though these people are still in need, Jeremiah declares their tears already gone, replaced by God's consolation and guidance to living waters. As a fitting response, the great "Harvest Psalm" makes us, at least spiritually, former "captives," whose joyous return feels like "dreaming" (Psalm 126:1). Then, Mark's Gospel—again—shows the prophetic vision for the world fulfilled as Jesus heals, and we ourselves are once again challenged to live more faithfully our baptismal covenant.

SIGHTLESS BARTIMAEUS' VISION

At first, Bartimaeus is not yet "on the way"—Mark's "Gospel code" for Jesus' journey to Jerusalem and our journey of discipleship—but at least near the way, "by the roadside" (Mark 10:46). Still only on the sidelines, Bartimaeus cries out what becomes Christianity's "Jesus Prayer": "Jesus, son of David, have pity (most translations, mercy) on me" (Mark 10:47–48). Sightless, Bartimaeus is nonetheless fearless: "many rebuked him, telling him to be silent" (10:48). Sightless, Bartimaeus is already insightful: "son of David" acclaims Jesus Messiah. Seen in the context of baptism and discipleship, sightless Bartimaeus' response resembles both journey to baptism as catechumen and pilgrimage from baptism as what Pope Francis calls "missionary disciples" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, Joy of the Gospel, 119–121).

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — I will lead the people to brooks of water, on a level road, so that none shall stumble (Jeremiah 31:7-9).

Psalm — The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy (Psalm 126).

Second Reading — It was not Christ who glorified himself, but rather the one who said to him: You are my son: this day I have begotten you (Hebrews 5:1-6).

Gospel — Immediately the blind man received his sight and followed Jesus on the way (Mark 10:46-52).

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.

RESPONDING LIKE BARTIMAEUS

Once healed, "illumined" as in Baptism, Bartimaeus' discipleship response to Jesus challenges us to examine our own. Again this week, Hebrews reminds us that Jesus is our merciful high priest. Though sinless, Jesus "is able to deal patiently with the ignorant and erring" (Hebrews 5:2) like all high priests. Hebrews invokes Melchizedek, whose meeting with Abraham signals the joining of God's primeval cosmic covenant made with Noah and God's scriptural covenant with Israel, leading to "the new and eternal covenant" sealed in Jesus' Blood. Like Melchizedek, Jesus transcends history's boundaries of race and nation to gather earth's fragmented, even warring factions into the great harvest of a humanity renewed and redeemed. So our baptismal commitment and discipleship's journey bid us become instruments of Christ's unity and peace to all whom we encounter "on the way."

Are we sitting still, isolated, safely on the sidelines? Or do we cry out, like Bartimaeus, for Jesus' mercy, understanding that we are bound to extend to others, ceaselessly and unconditionally, the mercy that we ourselves need? As part of that mercy, then, are we cowed into safe, respectable silence by a world rejecting Christ's countercultural teachings, or do we dare speak up and speak out on behalf of others?

Man of Many Talents

When you think of Jesus, what do you think was his job? Healer of the sick, the lame and the blind, as in today's gospel? Preacher? Teacher? Leader of men? Messiah? The second reading from Hebrews reminds us of his main duty: Priest. It calls him a High Priest, referring to the Jewish priesthood in which one priest was chosen each year to offer the most important sacrifices and so appeal to God for forgiveness of the peoples' sins. Now this may sound like primitive religion, but it actually lets us understand Jesus even better.

The high priest offered sacrifice for his own sins, as well as the peoples'. While Jesus did not sin, he experienced temptations just as we do and so can intercede for us as one who knows what it is like to be tempted. He also knows suffering, from his passion and death on the cross. If you ever wonder if you deserve to be forgiven, remember that Jesus died for all sinners, deserving or not. The High Priest was the one to bring the Israelites prayers to God and God's blessings to the people. Jesus also brings our prayers to his Father and shows us the Father's love.

Our baptism gives us a share in that priesthood. You don't have to be ordained to pray for your friends and family. You don't have to be a bishop to bring God's love to those around you. When you listen to a friend who is hurting, or forgive someone who hurts you, you are blessing them with God's love. When you encourage them to have faith and trust in the Lord, you are bringing them to God. You are sharing in the priesthood of Christ.

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

OCTOBER 25, 2021

Monday: Rom 8:12-17; Ps 68:2, 4, 6-7ab, 20-21; Lk 13:10-17
 Tuesday: Rom 8:18-25; Ps 126:1b-6; Lk 13:18-21
 Wednesday: Rom 8:26-30; Ps 13:4-6; Lk 13:22-30
 Thursday: Eph 2:19-22; Ps 19:2-5; Lk 6:12-16
 Friday: Rom 9:1-5; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Lk 14:1-6
 Saturday: Rom 11:1-2a, 11-12, 25-29; Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 17-18; Lk 14:1, 7-11
 Sunday: Dt 6:2-6; Ps 18:2-4, 47, 51; Heb 7:23-28; Mk 12:28b-34

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

OCTOBER 25, 2021

Monday
 8:30am Petra Ramos & Cecilio Maldonado (D)
 12:00pm Souls of Ancestors
Tuesday
 8:30am Luis Vera Sr. (D); Hipolito Burgos (D)
 12:00pm Maria Ninh (D)
Wednesday
 8:30am Maria Ninh (D)
 12:00pm Joseph Thanh (D)
Thursday
 8:30am
 12:00pm Maria Ninh (D)
Friday
 8:30am Confesora Luciano (D)
 12:00pm
Saturday
 7:45am Germaine Lai (D)
 7:00pm Jose Miguel Peña (D). Heiley Upun (L)- por su salud; Acción de gracias a la Santisima Trinidad; Ada Guzman (D); Edmundo Ortega Garcia (D)
Sunday
 8:00am People of SNT
 9:30am Luis A Serrano (D); Beatriz Lendof (D); Acción de gracias a la Milagrosa
 11:30am Maria Ninh (D)
 1:30pm Toma Kinh (D)

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

OCTOBER 10, 2021

Tithing: \$7,853.00
 Children: \$0.00
Total: \$7,853.00

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