

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.



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

CATHOLIC FAITH
FORMATION
Jesus DeLaRosa

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Mr. Daniel Kirk-Foster

Mr. Dang Vu

ACCOUNTING

Ms. Shelly Parkin

PLANT MANAGER

Mr. Jesus Liriano

917-579-6720

RECEPTIONIST

Ms. Lucy Maldonado



THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

LOVE GOD

As we near the end of the liturgical year we listen to Gospel readings from the final stage of Jesus' ministry—his teaching in Jerusalem. This Sunday Jesus is in conversation with one of the scribes of the temple. In a rare occurrence Jesus and the scribe agree on the two greatest commandments—to love God with all your being and to love your neighbor as yourself.

In today's selection from Deuteronomy Moses gives this teaching to the Israelites as the core of their life of faith and prayer, and Psalm 18 echoes this prayer with the words, "I love you, O LORD, my strength" (Psalm 18:2). Jews and Christians agree that our greatest responsibility is to love the one and only God, and that we cannot claim to love God without loving our neighbor as ourselves.

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In today's First Reading, from Deuteronomy, we hear the great summary of the very core of God's covenant with Israel, its title taken from its opening word, the *Shema* ("Hear!"). The *Shema* is at once a doctrinal summary of Israel's faith and the personal/corporate prayer of Israel's sons and daughters. To this day, devout Jews inscribe the *Shema* on parchment and enclose it in the *mezuzah* that adorns the doorways of so many Jewish homes. The residents kiss the *mezuzah*, and thus the Word of God, upon entering their homes and when going forth from them into a world that often acknowledges neither God nor the covenant. Recited several times daily, Deuteronomy's "formula" comes alive as a vivid reminder to devout Jews that their personal relationship with God is both source and safeguard of their public identity as members of God's chosen people.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The LORD, the God of your fathers, will give you a land flowing with milk and honey (Deuteronomy 6:2-6).

Psalm — I love you, Lord, my strength (Psalm 18).

Second Reading — Jesus is always able to save those who approach God through him (Hebrews 7:23-28).

Gospel — To love God with all your heart and to love your neighbor as yourself is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices (Mark 12:28b-34).

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

EDITING THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

Today's Gospel shows Jesus as fully part of Israel's covenant tradition: he responds to the scribe's question by proclaiming Deuteronomy's *Shema* which both of them would have revered and recited since childhood: "Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone! Therefore you shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength" (Deuteronomy 6:4-5). But note the "editorial changes" both Jesus and the scribe make to the *Shema*. To Deuteronomy's heart, the Biblical seat of the will and affections, and soul, the deepest part of the human person, and strength, encompassing both physical ability and material treasure, Jesus adds "with all your mind," a phrase the scribe changes to "with all your understanding" (Mark 12:30, 33). Perhaps Mark, the author of today's Gospel, wanted to consecrate to the kingdom's service the philosophical reflection and intellectual exploration so valued by the Greco-Roman world—and our world—in which the Gospel would be preached.

KNOWING AND DOING

Jesus makes a further change to Israel's *Shema*: to the Deuteronomy text Jesus adds Leviticus 19:18: "you shall love your neighbor as yourself." For Jesus, these commandments cannot be separated. The scribe, delighted at Jesus' answer, goes on to indicate that he has grasped one of the central tenets of Jesus' kingdom: ritual worship and practical charity toward one's neighbor are twin expressions of love for God. This insight places the scribe "not far from the kingdom of God," says Jesus (Mark 12:34). But is "not far" close enough? For the scribe, as for the rich would-be disciple from a few Sundays ago, as for each of us, it is one thing to know what we ought to do and quite another actually to do it. So, then: what about us? How do we live out, in daily practice, the covenant whose words we know so well, but whose deeds we so often find a challenge?

All My Love

According to Jesus, the first (most important) commandment is to love God with heart, mind, soul, and strength. This is usually taken to mean loving God with your whole being. But it wouldn't hurt to look at the modern meanings of those words to see how we can apply them.

The heart is the one organ that all others depend on to keep living. It is also a symbol of our desires and love. So to love God with all your heart can mean that you recognize God as the one source of your life. Now, that is easy to say as a philosophical concept. But it also means that you love God above everything and everyone. How many of us can say we would rather spend time with God than with our friends, family, or loved ones?

To love God with all your mind can mean that you never stop thinking of God. That is not as difficult as it sounds. You can ask God to help you any time you make a decision, whether it is what to watch next on TV, or what to do for a living. Loving God with your mind can also mean knowing God. The better you know God, the more likely you are to hear God in your decisions. You can get to know God through the scriptures and other spiritual reading. Hearing God may require you to consider the next way to love: with your soul.

If the soul is the center of your spiritual life, then loving God with all your soul can remind you to listen to God when you pray. If prayer is a conversation with God, you might remember how annoying it can be to converse with someone who does all the talking. At first it is easy, but eventually you find yourself getting nervous because you have things you would like to say also. Think of that when you pray; give God a chance to put in a few words, too.

Finally, to love God with all your strength can mean you put as much energy into loving God as you do with exercising, doing your day-job, cleaning the house, or mowing the lawn. Fortunately, none of those activities has to replace loving God, for you can do each of them as if you were working for the Lord. Just remember that no matter how hard you work for the Lord, God loves you even more than you love Him.

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

NOVEMBER 1, 2021

- Monday: Rv 7:2-4, 9-14; Ps 24:1-6; 1 Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12a
- Tuesday: Wis 3:1-9; Ps 23:1-6; Rom 5:5-11 or 6:3-9; Jn 6:37-40, or any readings from no. 668 or from the Masses for the Dead, nos. 1011-1016
- Wednesday: Rom 13:8-10; Ps 112:1b-2, 4-5, 9; Lk 14:25-33
- Thursday: Rom 14:7-12; Ps 27:1bcde, 4, 13-14; Lk 15:1-10
- Friday: Rom 15:14-21; Ps 98:1-4; Lk 16:1-8
- Saturday: Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27; Ps 145:2-5, 10-11; Lk 16:9-15
- Sunday: 1 Kgs 17:10-16; Ps 146:7-10; Heb 9:24-28; Mk 12:38-44 [41-44]

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

NOVEMBER 1, 2021

- Monday**
8:30am Jose De Los Santos La Cruz (D); Francisco Aquino (D); Manuela Perez (D)
- 12:00pm
7PM Maria Ninh (D)
Hernan Carias Castro (L)
- Tuesday**
8:30am Familia Maldonado, Muñoz, Caban (D); Familia Reyes, Familia Rosario Colon (D); Mercedes Acosta, Margarita Martinez, Carlos Alba (D)
- 12:00pm
7PM Ada Dike (D), Abella Family (D)
Maria Ninh (D)
- Wednesday**
8:30am Bienvenido Gonzalez, Teresa Chio, Santa Ortega, Rosa Minchala (D); Martin Batista (D)
- 12:00pm
Thursday
8:30am Maria Nguyen Ninh (D)
- 12:00pm
8:30am Maria Ninh (D)
- Friday**
8:30am Germaine Lai (D)
- 12:00pm
Saturday
7:45am Josefa Sandy & Miguel Jaquez (D); Mercedes Brione, Rosa F. Cujilan (D)
- 7:00pm
- Sunday**
8:00am People of SNT
- 9:30am Josefina Rosa (D); Pedro Reyes Basulto (D)
- 11:30am Eddie Maldonado (D)
- 1:30pm Phero & Margarita Han (D)

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

OCTOBER 17, 2021

Tithing:	\$6,656.56
Children:	\$0.00
Total:	\$6,656.56

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