



AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

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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
In Residence

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

ACCOUNTING
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ST. NICHOLAS OF TOLENTINE CHURCH

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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

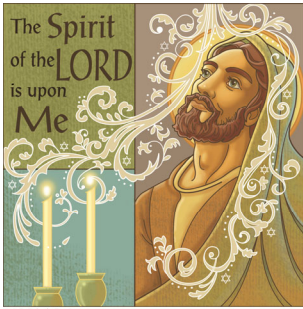
SATURDAY 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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



THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

GOD'S LAW



Scripture has always held God's law to be the path to human happiness. In today's first reading, Ezra the priest reads the scroll of the law to the people returned from exile. They weep—then are joyful. Israel's relationship with God had always been defined by how they kept and lived God's law. The author of Psalm 96 likewise praises the law of God as the source of wisdom, joy and enlightenment, purity and justice.

In his advice to the bickering Corinthians, Paul points out that, just as God has made all parts of a human body essential for the health of the whole, living as "Christ's body" requires that each member be recognized as necessary for the good of all. Finally, in Luke's Gospel Jesus claims that the Spirit is sending him to relieve human suffering. Like Ezra, he is reading from a scroll, proclaiming God's "law" of mercy to those in need.

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Community is important. Community is essential. Community is crucial. This message is the foundation of today's readings from Nehemiah, Corinthians, and Luke. Ezra's reading of the scroll is done in front of the community, including—a radical act at the time—women, and children old enough to understand, groups usually not counted among those hearing God's promise proclaimed. Community is important. The mystical Body of Christ, like the human body, functions best and most fully when all members are playing the role for which they were meant. Community is essential. God's word is fulfilled when the community has heard it, and witnessed it. In Luke, the baptism and desert trials of Jesus lead to the synagogue scene, which will then lead Jesus to his public ministry of proclaiming the reign of God. He eventually will journey to Jerusalem and his crucifixion. Community is crucial.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Ezra read from the book of the law of God to the assembled people. They understood and accepted the law (Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10).

Psalm — Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life (Psalm 19).

Second Reading — As the body with its many parts is still one body, so it is with Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-30 [12-14, 27]).

Gospel — While attending worship in the Nazarean synagogue, Jesus reads from the prophet Isaiah and declares himself to be the fulfillment of the prophecy (Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21).

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.

ONE BODY, ONE JESUS

Our liturgical calendar separates different Gospel scenes, which can sometimes do them a bit of a disservice. The liturgical year, of course, has its own rhythm and purpose, into which the stories of the life of Jesus are placed. However, when Luke was organizing his Gospel (for "Theophilus" the lover of God whom we encounter in today's Gospel introduction), today's scene was part of a three-fold structure: the baptism of Jesus; the temptation in the desert; the announcement of the public mission in the synagogue at Nazareth. Linking these is the Holy Spirit, who descended on the body of Jesus at his baptism, who filled his body as he endured his forty-day trial, and who is upon his body to announce and to bring about God's reign, a mission he fulfills with his body on the cross. The incarnation (the "in-flesh-ing") of Jesus, which we think of in connection with his birth, remains central to his story.

ONE CHRIST, ONE BODY

Last week's reading from Corinthians concerned the one Spirit who gives many gifts, yet is the source of our unity. Paul continues this theme today using the image of the body, whose different members each have an important and distinct role to play. The Spirit of baptism forms that one mystical Body of Christ. The Spirit of baptism fills the many members, but unites them always as one. The Spirit of baptism is on each member, as it was for Jesus in the synagogue at Nazareth. That Spirit of our baptism anoints each of us as a member of Christ's Body to be glad tidings, proclaim liberty, bring clearer vision, lift the oppressed, to announce God's reign to all. As different members of Christ's Body, we are each called upon to do this in our own way. We may face opposition or rejection, as Jesus did, but we can always turn again in faith to the Spirit of our baptism who is still with us.

Rejoicing in the Lord

In the first reading, Ezra gets a strange reaction from the people to whom he reads the book of the law. First they lie down, with faces to the ground, and then they all are weeping. Remember the background of this reading. The people of Israel had returned from exile and needed to become a unified nation. Most had never heard the laws, so when they learned what was expected of them and realized how much of the Law they had broken, they wept from shame. Many probably didn't know that they had been breaking the law. Others might have been overwhelmed with all the requirements of the law.

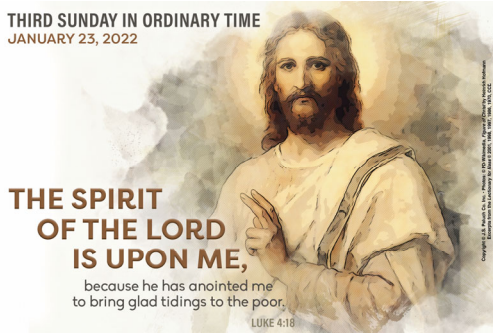
Ezra and Nehemiah console the people by reminding them that their return makes this a day "holy to the LORD" (Nehemiah 8:10). He adds that they would draw strength from "rejoicing in the LORD." That may be good advice for us also.

We might find ourselves so trapped in sin that we think we could never be forgiven. We need to remember that Jesus loved sinners so much that he gave his life on the cross to free us from sin. No sin can be so bad that God's love cannot forgive it. In other words, God's forgiveness is only limited by our failure to ask for it. As the psalms say, God's mercy endures forever. In fact, the more I have to repent, the more God wants to forgive. So we can rejoice in the Lord's forgiveness and the Spirit will give us the strength to change our lives.

And what about those who find the law overwhelming? That usually means a lack of faith in God's willingness to help us or in our ability to do the best we can to live as Christians. It can also be because we have forgotten Jesus' saying that all of God's laws are contained in the command to love God and love our neighbor as we love ourselves. The more we come to accept God's presence in our lives and see God in others, the easier it becomes to keep the law of love.

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

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
JANUARY 23, 2022



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

OFFERTORY COLLECTION
JANUARY 9, 2022

Tithing: \$5,598.30
Children: \$0.00
Total: \$5,598.30

READINGS FOR THE WEEK
JANUARY 24, 2022

Monday: 2 Sm 5:1-7, 10; Ps 89:20-22, 25-26; Mk 3:22-30
Tuesday: Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-22; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Mk 16:15-18
Wednesday: 2 Tm 1:1-18 or Ti 1:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 27-30; Mk 4:1-20
Thursday: 2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29; Ps 132:1-5, 11-14; Mk 4:21-25
Friday: 2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17; Ps 51:3-7, 10-11; Mk 4:26-34
Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17; Ps 51:12-17; Mk 4:35-41
Sunday: Jer 1:4-5, 17-19; Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17; 1 Cor 12:31 — 13:13 [13:4-13]; Lk 4:21-30

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK
JANUARY 24, 2022

Monday
8:30am Juan Bautista Hernandez, Keren Hernandez, Anastacio Montero, Bienvenido Gonzalez (D)
Phero Dung (D)
12:00pm
Tuesday
8:30am Maria Yen (D)
12:00pm
Wednesday
8:30am Michael Iyuela
12:00pm
Thursday
8:30am Maria Truc (D)
12:00pm
Friday
8:30am Bout Harvey
12:00pm
Saturday
7:45am Maria Bang (D)
7:00pm Shirley CB Boyle (D); Jason Richard Hyde (D)
Sunday
8:00am Cecilia & Julian Gomez Villafañe
9:30am Acción de gracias a la Divina Providencia, Beatriz Lindorf (D)
11:30am People of SNT; Patricia Colbert O'Reilly (D); Luis A. Serrano & Hector Serrano (D)
1:30pm Gioan Kinh Vu (D)

We pray for the People of St. Nicholas of Tolentine.

*We pray for the sick:
We pray for the dead:*



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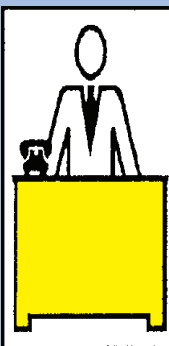
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