



## 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  
Jesus DeLaRosa

#### DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Mr. Daniel Kirk-Foster  
Mr. Dang Vu

ACCOUNTING  
Ms. Shelly Parkin

#### PLANT MANAGER

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RECEPTIONIST  
Ms. Lucy Maldonado

# ST. NICHOLAS OF TOLENTINE CHURCH

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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)

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#### Weekdays

8:30 a.m. **Spanish** (Mon-Fri.)

12:00 p.m. **English** (Mon-Fri)

7:45 a.m. **Vietnamese** (Thu & Sat)

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### 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.



## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## TO BE A PROPHET



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Today's readings show us what it is like to be a prophet. As Jeremiah recounts his call, God warns him that he will need strength and perseverance to withstand the hostility he will face from "Judah's kings and princes" and "its priests and people" (Jeremiah 1:18b). God also assures him that they "will not prevail over you, for I am with you" (1:19). The psalm reflects both of these struggles as well as deliverance from them ("salvation").

This is exactly what Jesus experiences in today's Gospel. After he claims that his own mission is the same as what Isaiah proclaimed, at first the people marvel at his "gracious words" (Luke 4:22). Soon, however, they become suspicious, skeptical, and hostile, even threatening to kill him. But just as God promised to deliver Jeremiah, so Jesus "passed through the midst of them and went away" (4:30).

The "fulfilled in your hearing" statement of Jesus today is also the conclusion of last week's Gospel, with the words of Isaiah about the breadth of God's mercy and justice at its heart. The response of the crowd in the synagogue is united: *all* are amazed, but *all* likewise ask if he's not merely the son of Joseph the humble carpenter. Jesus calls them out for seeming to think that he ought to be doing his ministry only locally, and—selfishly—only for them. (After all, they know where he comes from!) When Jesus essentially replies "nope" through some proverbs and prophetic stories, *all* the crowd gets angry at his implication that the fulfillment in Jesus is for everyone, not just for them. When our "take care of your own" reflex kicks in, we would do well to recall that this isn't the attitude of Jesus, nor is it the attitude of his mission that we continue to this day.

## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — God appoints Jeremiah as prophet to the nations (Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19).

**Psalm** — I will sing of your salvation (Psalm 71).

**Second Reading** — Love with its many facets is the most important of the virtues (1 Corinthians 12:31 — 13:13 [13:4-13]).

**Gospel** — When Jesus claims his salvific mission is for all people, not just the Jews, he is expelled by the enraged members of the Nazarean synagogue (Luke 4:21-30).

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.

## YOU'VE BEEN WARNED

The opening of the reading selected from Jeremiah is surely one of the most comforting in scripture. Imagine! God knew me before my bodily conception; God dedicated me before my birth or any human dedication rites; God appointed me a prophet! Then comes the uh-oh. Jeremiah is warned that his appointment as a prophet will bring opposition, against which God's prophets must stand up. Somehow the appointment as God's prophet seems like it should be a bit happier, with the glamor that we might think will come from having friends in high places. Yet, just as there are many forces in the world arrayed against the divine will and divine goodness, so too are they arrayed against God's prophets. A second round of assurances comes to Jeremiah, a pledge that God will be with Jeremiah to strengthen him. God doesn't promise a turmoil-free life, but does vow to be Jeremiah's strength.

## JESUS, SON OF JEREMIAH

In the synagogue at Nazareth, a similar turn of events takes place. When Jesus speaks of the Spirit's anointing being upon him, the anointing described in Isaiah, the crowd is amazed, and seems like they even want to take credit, since he's a local boy. Then Jesus speaks some words of tough love, and "local boy" pivots to "who does he think he is?" You couldn't blame Jesus, in that moment, if he recalled the words of Jeremiah, his prophetic ancestor. Though the crowd drove Jesus out of town and up a hill to throw him to his death, his time had not yet come. The strength and protection that God promises to prophets came for Jesus that day, as he passed through the mob's midst, unharmed. He passed through their midst to continue the work for which the Spirit had anointed him. For us who follow the prophetic heritage of Jesus this day, we've been warned. But we've also been assured of God's care.

Love Never Fails

Of all the lines in the second reading, Paul's famous description of love, I think the one that says it all is "Love never fails" (1 Corinthians 13:8). Out of context it sounds like the name of a hokey soap opera. Instead, Paul compares love to other gifts of the Spirit. He shows that love is the greatest gift and the reason for all gifts.

First, he speaks of gifts without love. If someone was a great speaker, but without love, it would be self-serving. We've all heard politicians who make stirring speeches, not to move us to become better citizens, but to convince us that they are the best choice in an election. The same goes for other gifts, such as prophecy, knowledge, or faith. Without love, they become spectacles that draw attention to the one with the gift. They accomplish nothing more than to boost his or her ego, just more spiritual bling. Even self-sacrifice, without love, becomes an attention grabber. Suicide-bombers are an extreme example of this, but more a common one the person who says something like, "I gave up everything to be with you and what thanks do I get?"

Next, Paul tells us everything that love is not (1 Corinthians 13:4-6). If the first part was gifts without love, this section could be called feelings without love. The feelings Paul mentions, such as jealousy, pride, brooding, and anger, usually come from thinking that everything should go my way. You can read the list yourself, but if you find anything that sounds familiar, it's a part of your personality that makes it difficult to love.

The last section is about the permanence of love. We're not talking about romantic love here. Human love at best is "till death do us part." But God's love is only partially experienced in this life. Even the gifts of the Spirit are meant to carry us forward and lead others to eternal life. When we are finally united completely with God, faith will be unnecessary and hope will be realized. What remains is perfect love.

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

OFFERTORY COLLECTION  
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READINGS FOR THE WEEK  
JANUARY 31, 2022

Monday: 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13; Ps 3:2-7; Mk 5:1-20  
Tuesday: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30 — 19:3; Ps 86:1-6; Mk 5:21-43  
Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7-10; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 [22-32]  
Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12; 1 Chr 29:10-12; Mk 6:7-13  
Friday: Sir 47:2-11; Ps 18:31, 47, 50, 51; Mk 6:14-29  
Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13; Ps 119:9-14; Mk 6:30-34  
Sunday: Is 6:1-2a, 3-8; Ps 138:1-5, 7-8; 1 Cor 15:1-11 [3-8, 11]; Lk 5:1-11

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK  
JANUARY 24, 2022

**Monday**  
8:30am Boris Beltran (D); Rose Carucci, Maria Vega, Rosa Caines, Maria Susana (D); Leonardo Leo Pichardo (D)  
Nicholas Beale  
12:00pm  
**Tuesday**  
8:30am Leonardo Leo Pichardo (D)  
Giuse Phuc (D)  
12:00pm  
**Wednesday**  
8:30am  
12:00pm  
7:30pm Francisco Regel Galvan Abreu (D)  
**Thursday**  
8:30am  
12:00pm Bridget McDermott (D)  
**Friday**  
8:30am  
12:00pm Maria Ninh (D)  
**Saturday**  
7:45am Giuse Sinh (D)  
7:00pm Sonia Gonzalez (D)  
**Sunday**  
8:00am People of SNT  
9:30am  
11:30am  
1:30pm Phero Thong & Magarita Han (D)

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

*We pray for the sick: Eduardo Marcos  
We pray for the dead: Mildred Caraballo*



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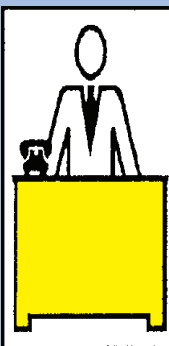
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