



AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

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In Residence

Fr. William Wallace, O.S.A.
In Residence

Br. Bienvenido Rodriguez
In Residence

CATHOLIC FAITH
FORMATION
Jesus DeLaRosa

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Mr. Dang Vu

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ST. NICHOLAS OF TOLENTINE CHURCH

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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.



SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEELING BLESSED



Your reward will be great in heaven

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Congratulations! Welcome to the Kingdom! Rejoice and leap for joy! Sounds a little like Easter, doesn't it? Well, in a very real way, it is. This Sunday, the scriptures remind us that we are blessed and beloved, especially when we have difficulties and don't feel especially blessed. Jesus reminds us that God blesses us in our trials, so we should trust in the saving power of God. We are "raised from the dead," as it were, each time we arise from our hardships. The ultimate proof of all of this is our new life in Christ, who died so that we could be free of sin, and was raised from the dead so that we might all have new life. Wouldn't that be something? A new life, in which poverty is riches and sadness is transformed into lightness of spirit? It's a topsy-turvy world, isn't it? Do you feel blessed today?

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Today we hear once again of the deep connection between Jesus and Israel's prophets. In the reading from Jeremiah, God's curses at the opening are counterbalanced by God's blessings in the second part. In Luke's version of the Beatitudes, Jesus begins with blessings, then counterbalances with a "woe" section. The point is clear: the way we live our lives has a direct connection to whether we will experience curses and woes, or blessings instead. Of course, being among God's blessed ones (in Latin, *beati*, from which "beatitudes" comes) doesn't necessarily mean a life free of woe. Jesus, in his fully human nature, knew this. He also knew that when we seek happiness through our own devices, and trust only in ourselves, the woes are guaranteed to come. Let us follow the wisdom of Jeremiah and Jesus, along with the opening of the book of Psalms (echoed by Jeremiah today): "blessed are the ones who trust in the Lord."

I DON'T KNOW

There are times when the smartest, but most difficult, thing we can say is, "I don't know." While we often think of this as a sign of weakness, the amount of humility it takes to say this means that the word of God is alive and well in us. To say "I don't know" means that we look outside of ourselves to learn, and to find those who do know, and—ultimately—accept that we have to look to others and to God to help us, to guide us through life. To place our trust and hope only in this world, Paul tells the Corinthians (and us!), makes us people to be pitied. Jesus echoes this in the "woes" section of Luke's Beatitudes, when he points out that trusting in earthly wealth, full bellies, entertainments, and reputation will, eventually, not be enough when we are called beyond this life.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The one who trusts in the LORD is like a tree planted beside the waters (Jeremiah 17:5-8).

Psalm — Blessed are they who hope in the Lord (Psalm 1).

Second Reading — Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep (1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20).

Gospel — Blessed are you who are poor, hungry, weeping. Woe to you who are rich, filled, laughing (Luke 6:17, 20-26).

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.

LOOK 'EM IN THE EYE

Prior to delivering the blessings and woes of his "Sermon on the Plain" in Luke, Jesus had been on top of a mountain in prayer, after which he selected the Twelve to go on his mission with him. Coming down from the mountain, the first thing Jesus does is show them what is at the heart of his—and their—mission: preaching to the multitude, healing all who were in need of it, no matter where they had come from. Luke then carefully notes that Jesus raises his eyes, not to look toward heaven again in prayer, but he raises his eyes to look directly at his disciples, to share the message of blessings and woes. This scene echoes Moses coming down from the mountain to give Israel its command as to how they should live in God's covenant. As followers of Jesus today, we are called to live out his mission to the world, while we also look beyond this world to trust in God, our only hope.

Woe is Me?

In Luke's version of the Beatitudes, he has only four blessings and he adds four woes. These woes correspond to the blessings: 1. the poor and the rich, 2. the hungry and the filled, 3. those who weep and those who laugh, and 4. the hated and the well-treated. Did you notice that all the things that we work forty or more hours a week to give to our family are considered "woes"? So is Jesus saying we should not have savings for the future, food for the kids, a happy, safe environment, or a good reputation?

I suspect that the disciples and the others listening to Jesus wondered the same thing. Jesus may have been exaggerating a little but he had a point. The values of this world are not necessarily the values of God's Kingdom. For example, self-reliance, usually considered a virtue, can be taken to an extreme of not relying on God for our needs, or for justifying the belief that poverty is the fault of the poor. Jesus himself is the extreme example of reversing worldly values: His death was not a tragic ending, but the saving action that brought us forgiveness and new life in the Resurrection.

So how do we experience the blessings of the poor, the hungry, the mourning, or the unpopular? Do we have the faith to let go of self-reliance and to trust in Jesus? How much money does it take to meet the needs of our family? How much do we really need and how much is just extra? Are we really helping our children if we give them anything they want? We teach them to do their best in school and sports. Do we also teach them to give to the poor or to help other children struggling with schoolwork? We buy them nice clothing; do we teach them to see Jesus in others? How can we say this is all too idealistic, and still claim to believe in the Resurrection?

I don't expect everyone do go around saying "woe is me." Some of the happiest people are those who live simple lives of faith and trust in God. When we learn to trust the Lord and love one another, we not only can see Jesus in the poor or the lonely, he can also be seen in us.

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



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

OFFERTORY COLLECTION
JANUARY 30, 2022

Tithing: \$5,342.56
Children: \$0.00
Total: \$5,342.56

READINGS FOR THE WEEK
FEBRUARY 14, 2022

Monday: Jas 1:1-11; Ps 119:67-68, 71-72, 75-76; Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday: Jas 1:12-18; Ps 94:12-13a; 14-15, 18-19; Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday: Jas 1:19-27; Ps 15:2-4ab, 5; Mk 8:22-26
Thursday: Jas 2:1-9; Ps 34:2-7; Mk 8:27-33
Friday: Jas 2:14-24, 26; Ps 112:1-6; Mk 8:34 — 9:1
Saturday: Jas 3:1-10; Ps 12:2-3, 4-5, 7-8; Mk 9:2-13
Sunday: 1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13; 1 Cor 15:45-49; Lk 6:27-38

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK
FEBRUARY 14, 2022

Monday
8:30am
12:00pm
Tuesday
8:30am Felix Antonio Hernandez & Maria Olinda Ramirez (D); Luis Roberto Santos Virella (D)
12:00pm
Wednesday
8:30am Anthony Negron (D)
12:00pm
Thursday
8:30am Patrick McDermott (D)
12:00pm
Friday
8:30am Romulo Anibal Berges Perez (D)
12:00pm Maria Ninh (D)
Saturday
7:45am Phero Mi & Isave Day (D)
7:00pm Estilf Miguel Santos (D); Maria Bravo (D); Rafael Gabot (D)
Sunday
8:00am Carmen Vazquez & Iliana Rivera (L)
9:30am People of SNT
11:30am Gioan Vy Vu (D)
1:30pm

We pray for the People of St. Nicholas of Tolentine.
We pray for the sick:
We pray for the dead: *Ciro Brito*



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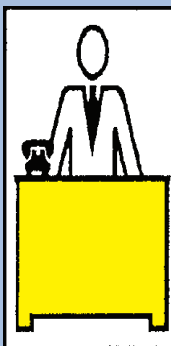
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