



AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

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Pastor

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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
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Mr. Dang Vu

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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)

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

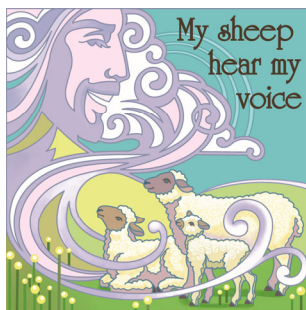
SATURDAY 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

A FORETASTE OF PARADISE



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Throughout Easter Time, the Church rejoices with Jesus, risen from the dead. Our readings on this Fourth Sunday of Easter celebrate our instinct to come together in joy, worshiping in church. While private prayer nourishes our individual relationship with the Lord, community prayer is a foretaste of paradise. The book of Revelation depicts a “great multitude” worshipping God “day and night in his temple.” Our churches on Easter Sunday often reflect this happy multitude, filling the pews to bursting. Four Sundays into the festive season, we are encouraged to keep praising God together. In the Acts of the Apostles, Paul and Barnabas demonstrate their instinct to worship with their faith community each Sabbath, dutifully taking their seats in the synagogue. In the Gospel, Jesus calls us his sheep and reminds us why coming together as a flock is so important: uniting in community, we imitate the unity of God.

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In the time of Jesus, when multiple flocks of sheep would be gathered, protecting the flock depended heavily on the shepherd’s personal recognition of individual sheep, by sight and sound. In today’s Gospel, Jesus uses this imagery to speak of how Jesus—and the Father—protect those whom God loves—that is, everyone. Forces that pull us away from God are ultimately no match for the fierce love God has for us. Our favor with God does not depend on our behaving properly, or gaining theological knowledge, or holding precise beliefs. Our stance with God is primarily about God’s insistence that we belong to God, and to no other. Belonging to God, we know that however much we mess up, we are not lost. Belonging to God eventually draws us into a life of care for each other. Belonging to God, we can safely grow into a fuller belonging.

LIGHT TO THE GENTILES

Today’s passage from the Acts of the Apostles is one of several turning points in the self-understanding of the early Church. Paul evokes the image of “A light to the Gentiles.” Some thought that Gentiles, non-Jews, were somehow marginal in God’s eyes. The Gentiles in Paul’s audience rejoice, because they now see that they are not “second class” members of God’s family, but fully part of God’s beloved people. The story continues by noting the resistance from those who enjoy “first class” status in the community, as inclusion of the Gentiles was perceived as a threat to their self-image and privilege.

The book of Acts continues to challenge today’s societies, churches, and organizations. Luke’s vision of God’s family, united as equal heirs to the Kingdom of God, confronts our many barriers of wealth, race, gender, and much more. We are invited to give witness to this vision in our life together as the Church.

TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — The Jews angrily reject Paul and Barnabas’ preaching. They then turn their energies to the Gentiles (Acts 13:14, 43-52).

Psalm — We are his people, the sheep of his flock (Psalm 100).

Second Reading — John envisions a great white-robed multitude standing before the throne and before the Lamb. (Revelation 7:9, 14b-17).

Gospel — My sheep hear my voice; they follow me. I give them eternal life (John 10:27-30).

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.

WHITE ROBES

Our reading from the Book of Revelation presents the image of God’s people before God’s throne, wearing robes that are washed white in the blood of the Lamb. A robe, especially when worn in God’s presence, is meant to express the real truth about the person. A white robe indicates their purity. The washing in the blood of the Lamb (Jesus) suggests that the people have met much suffering, and in some manner, have participated in the suffering of Jesus.

These passages were written to a people experiencing great tribulations in living their faith. But the author of Revelation does not suggest that anyone should seek out suffering for its own sake. He does not make suffering somehow a necessary entry pass for salvation. Our sufferings come from many sources, and suffering is a profound mystery. The image of washing in blood suggests that God is present within our suffering. God accompanies our suffering, leads us toward refreshment, and will wipe every tear from our eyes.

A Lot of Nerve

Last week we saw how the disciples rejoiced to suffer for their faith. This week we see them turn away from their persecutors and begin preaching to the Gentiles. Even though they are thrown out of town, they still are filled with joy (Acts 13:50-52). Rejected by their own people, they are happy that the pagans not only listen to them, but also spread the word of the Lord. What I find interesting is that the disciples' joy comes from their failure to convert the Jewish leaders in Antioch. If those Jews had become believers and had not rejected Paul and Barnabas, the disciples probably would never have thought to preach to non-Jews about Jesus.

I think that failure to convert their own people allowed them to see how God's power was working for them. That's why their joy was so great. They were not just congratulating themselves on how well they were preaching. No, they saw how God was doing the real work. That took the pressure off of them. They could stop worrying about every word of their preaching, wondering if they looked holy enough to impress people, or afraid that someone might make fun of them (or do a background check: "Isn't that Saul, who used to persecute Jesus' followers? He's got a lot of nerve thinking he could now be one of them."). None of that mattered, because they knew that the Spirit was leading them, as our second reading says, "to springs of life-giving water, and God will wipe every tear from their eyes" (Revelation 7:17). They knew they were in God's hands, as we heard in the Gospel (John 10:28).

Can we be like those disciples? Instead of getting angry at frustrations, can we see them as an opportunity to experience God's grace? Do we let our failures get us down, or do we let God bring us through them, teaching us to rely on the Lord? When people reject us, do we give up, or do we trust God to help them? Are we ashamed of our past sins, or grateful for God's forgiveness?

Of course, the disciples didn't go around looking for ways to suffer. But they did look for ways to share their great news that Jesus is risen from the dead. Let us ask the Lord to send us the Spirit to show us how we can spread that same news.

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MAY 9, 2022

Monday: Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4; Jn 10:1-10
 Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87:1b-7; Jn 10:22-30
 Wednesday: Acts 12:24 — 13:5a; Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8; Jn 12:44-50
 Thursday: Acts 13:13-25; Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27; Jn 13:16-20
 Friday: Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-11ab; Jn 14:1-6
 Saturday: Acts 1:15-17; Ps 113:1-8; Jn 15:9-17
 Sunday: Acts 14:21-27; Ps 145:8-13; Rv 21:1-5a; Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MAY 9, 2022

Monday

8:30am

12:00pm

Tuesday

8:30am

Ana Felicita Hernandez - conversión y liberación

12:00pm

Wednesday

8:30am

12:00pm

Thursday

8:30am

Margarita Guzman (D)

12:00pm

Friday

8:30am

Rosa Caines, Neil Patel, Keren Hernandez, Juan Bautista Hernandez (D)

12:00pm

Saturday

7:45am

7:00pm

Phero Thong & Magarita Han (D)
 Pablo Antonio Diaz (D); Felix Evangelista Gonzalez, Euvina Gonzalea, Serafin Alfredo Gonzalez, Joan Benito Gonzalez (D)

Sunday

8:00am

People of SNT; Felix Antonio Hernandez, Maria Olinda Ramirez (D)

9:30am

Felix A Tejada (D); Enrique Javier Valladares Lopez (D); Mariana De Jesus Sanchez Sanchez, Rosario Sanchez Sanchez, Lauro Sanchez (D)

11:30am

Julia Guasp (D)

1:30pm

GioanKim Hoi & Marco Dat (D)

Happy
 Mother's Day!



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OFFERTORY COLLECTION

APRIL 24, 2022

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Total: \$7,932.85

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We pray for the sick:

We pray for the dead:



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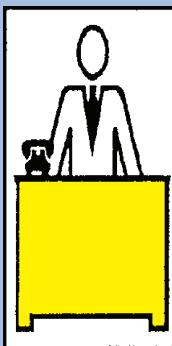
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