



## AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

### PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Luis A Vera, O.S.A.  
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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

Mr. Jesus Liriano  
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RECEPTIONIST  
Ms. Lucy Maldonado

# ST. NICHOLAS OF TOLENTINE CHURCH

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[www.stnicholasoftolentinebronx.org](http://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)

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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.



## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

## RETURNING TO ORDINARY LIFE



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Six weeks into our Easter rejoicing, the Church gives us readings today that start preparing us for a return to ordinary life. The Acts of the Apostles and the Gospel both dwell on proper daily behavior for followers of Jesus, while the reading from Revelation reminds us why we bother with laws at all. In Acts, leaders of the church meet to discuss which essential elements of the Mosaic Law converts must obey if they wish to be disciples of Jesus Christ. John's Gospel reflects back to the Last Supper discourse when Jesus himself emphasizes the importance of obeying God's commandments. Observing God's law, says Jesus, shows a desire to be intimate with the Lord. We follow rules not for their own sake, but to love God and neighbor better. This more excellent love brings us closer to Revelation's vision of paradise, gleaming with "the splendor of God."

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The sixth Sunday of Easter moves us toward the feast of Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit to the early Church. Today's Gospel describes Jesus at the Last Supper, foretelling the coming of the Spirit to the community of Jesus. Jesus combines the promise of the Spirit with his gift of peace to his disciples. He foresees that the community must be grounded in his love, which provides peace, to face the tumult of the Crucifixion, and later, the trials of the early Church. Grounded in Jesus, the community can be then open to the Spirit who will continually guide, remind, and renew them in their life together. The gift of peace from Jesus is not a worldly peace through which the powerful crush opposition. It is not a complacent or private peace. The peace of Jesus instead seeks and works toward peace throughout the world, guided by the Spirit.

## RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP

Today's passage from Acts captures the beginning and the conclusion of what became known as the Jerusalem Council. It is well worth studying all of Acts 15, meant to provide an example of responsible leadership for the wider Church. There was substantial conflict within the community over what is necessary for unity in the diverse community of Jews and Gentiles. We can notice some key characteristics of the actions of the leadership.

The leaders acknowledged the reality of a significant conflict without minimizing it. They received and fully honored the diverse experiences of persons of different backgrounds. They worked with an accepted authority structure and a process to move toward resolution. They were committed to discern the action and will of the Spirit, with a deep respect for testimony about how the Spirit was working. They avoided placing unneeded burdens on anyone. And afterward, they continued to observe the ongoing action of the Spirit as the decision was implemented.

## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — The question of whether circumcision is necessary for salvation (Acts 15:1-2, 22-29).

**Psalms** — O God, let all the nations praise you! (Psalm 67).

**Second Reading** — John envisions the holy city, the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23) *or* Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20.

**Gospel** — The Holy Spirit, sent by the Father in Jesus' name, will teach us everything (John 14:23-29) *or* John 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.

## WHAT IS ESSENTIAL?

The issues weighed by the Jerusalem Council in our passage from Acts were related to circumcision as a requirement, and to table fellowship. A strong theological tradition held that traditional practices were essential, and the community genuinely sought to maintain continuity with the roots of their faith. Peter's observation about how the Spirit was actively working in their midst pointed the leaders in a new direction. Then James reminded them that the scriptural tradition also pointed to fully welcoming the Gentiles into God's community.

It is a profound challenge for leaders in our own parishes when encountering issues that can fracture a community. What is essential and what is not? What are we called to embrace, or called to lay down? Acknowledging conflict and working toward resolution is an essential function for our parishes, because Christ calls us to live in unity. We are called to open our hearts, mine our tradition, and observe the activity of the Spirit.

## A Humble God

The second reading from Revelation gives us a picture of the new Jerusalem as a sign of the power and majesty of God. Gleaming with precious stones, a massive high wall with twelve gates, it is illuminated not by the sun but by the glory of God. Yet the other two readings seem to describe a humble God who wishes "not to place on you any burden beyond . . . necessity" (Acts 15:28), and Jesus in the Gospel tells his disciples that "the holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name . . . will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you" (John 14:26). This gentleness reminds me of an icon by the Russian monk Andrei Rublev that depicts the Trinity as three angels bowing in deference to each other. This humility may be what moved Jesus to say that "the Father is greater than I" (John 14:28). It is certainly a unique way of understanding God.

I used to think of free will as God's way of testing our worthiness for the kingdom of heaven. But it is more likely part of that same humility, God not being forced on us. While we are given ways to know God, especially through the scriptures and the witness of those who went before us in faith, God leaves us free to believe or not, to love God or not. When the Father sent his Son Jesus to show us his love, he sent us a tiny baby, born in a stable, not a mighty warrior leading an army. When Jesus rose from the dead on Easter, he appeared not in triumph to strike down Herod and those who had put him to death, but quietly to a handful of disciples who already believed in him.

So does this mean God leaves us on our own to get through life? No, God gives us the Holy Spirit to teach and remind us of all that Jesus said. That "reminding" is an important way the Spirit helps us today. You may have spent years in religion classes or the RCIA process. When you need an answer to life's questions, the Spirit may remind you of something you heard from a teacher or read in the scriptures. As you pray over that question, the Spirit may help you understand how the scripture applies to you. So the more you read the Bible, the more likely that the Spirit will have something of which to remind you.

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OFFERTORY COLLECTION  
MAY 8, 2022

Tithing:	\$6,845.67
Children:	\$0.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$6,845.67</b>

READINGS FOR THE WEEK  
MAY 23, 2022

Monday: Acts 16:11-15; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Jn 15:26 — 16:4a  
 Tuesday: Acts 16:22-34; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Jn 16:5-11  
 Wednesday: Acts 17:15, 22 — 18:1; Ps 148:1-2, 11-14; Jn 16:12-15  
 Thursday: Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9; Eph 1:17-23 or Heb 9:24-28; 10:19-23; Lk 24:46-53 (for Ascension); otherwise Acts 18:1-8; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 16:16-20  
 Friday: Acts 18:9-18; Ps 47:2-7; Jn 16:20-23  
 Saturday: Acts 18:23-28; Ps 47:2-3, 8-10; Jn 16:23b-28  
 Sunday: Acts 7:55-60; Ps 97:1-2, 6-7, 9; Rv 22:12-14, 16-17, 20; Jn 17:20-26 or (for Ascension) Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9; Eph 1:17-23 or Heb 9:24-28; 10:19-23; Lk 24:46-53

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK  
MAY 23, 2022

**Monday**  
 8:30am  
 12:00pm  
**Tuesday**  
 8:30am  
 Juan Bautista Hernandez, Keren Hernandez, Anastacio Montero, Bienvenido Gonzalez (D)  
 12:00pm  
**Wednesday**  
 8:30am  
 Ramona Moreno Vinicio (D)  
 12:00pm  
**Thursday**  
 8:30am  
 Ana Mena Adames (D); Anastacio Montero, Juan Bautista Hernandez, Keren Hernandez, Rosa Caines, Teresa Chio (D)  
 12:00pm  
**Friday**  
 8:30am  
 Rosalina & Carmelita Caban (D)  
 12:00pm  
**Saturday**  
 7:45am  
 Phero Huynh (D)  
 7:00pm  
 Flor Maria Fernandez Flores - 2 años (D)  
 8:00am  
 9:30am  
 Miguel Angel Vichay Tovar (D); Luis Serrano, Hector Serrano, Mary E. Velez (D); Elisa Reyes de Mejia (D)  
 11:30am  
 People of SNT  
 1:30pm  
 Giuse Sinh & Maria Thong (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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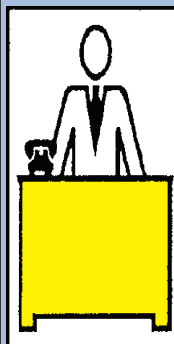
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