



AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

PASTORAL STAFF

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

pastor@stnicholasoftolentinebronx.org

Fr. Joseph Tran- *Associate*

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
917-579-6720

RECEPTIONIST
Ms. Lucy Maldonado

ST. NICHOLAS OF TOLENTINE CHURCH

2345 UNIVERSITY AVENUE BRONX, NY 10468

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

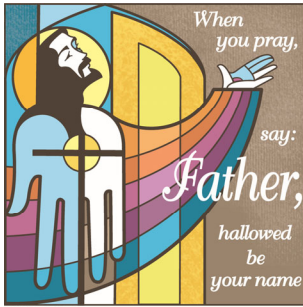
SATURDAY 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

CONVERSATION WITH GOD



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Prayer is our focus this weekend. In the Gospel, Jesus gives his disciples, and us, the Lord's Prayer, which we have cherished through the centuries. The first two words encompass much about our faith—unity among all Christians (Our), and a sense that we are in a deeply bonded relationship with God (Father).

In Genesis, we see Abraham in conversational prayer, in his creaturely humility before his Creator, seeking mercy and compassion for the innocent. The psalm is a lyrical prayer of thanksgiving and praise for the God who answered the sincere prayers of a people who had called out for help, showing them mercy. In Luke's Gospel, the disciples come to pray like Jesus, with the same intimacy—to experience God as Abba in the depths of their being.

Do we try to talk to God? Do we listen for answers? This relationship is always a work in progress.

Have you ever watched a master chef at work or a professional musician or athlete and wondered "How do they do that? They make it look so easy." We are naturally attracted to someone who excels at something, a person whose heart is obviously in their work, and we can't help but wonder if we are capable of anything like that. This was likely true for the disciples as well. They had seen Jesus at prayer on many occasions (this is especially true in Luke's Gospel) and it was obvious that someone, somehow was shaping/transforming the life of their teacher. Abraham, too, gives us an example of a conversation with God that goes beyond the ordinary approach to divine petitioning. Meanwhile, Psalm 138 assures us that when we cry for help God will answer—for Christ has become our mediator and we are one with him in baptism.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Abraham bargains with God to spare the city (Genesis 18:20-32).

Psalm — Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me (Psalm 138).

Second Reading — Buried with Christ in baptism, we were also raised with him; all our transgressions are forgiven (Colossians 2:12-14).

Gospel — Jesus speaks of God's sure response to those who pray (Luke 11:1-13).

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 HAVE HEARD THE WORDS OF MY MOUTH

Notice that the very first words of today's Gospel are "Jesus was praying." Of course, the disciples would be curious about a practice that was so central to Jesus' daily life. He was obviously good at it. Perhaps they wanted to know how they could more easily "influence" God themselves! They wanted to know what would work. Luke's version of the beloved Lord's Prayer (one of two found in the Gospels) is highlighted today in response to the disciples' request.

The two parables following the Lord's Prayer teach us about prayer both from the point of view of the one who prays and from God's point of view. The parable of the friend who knocks on the door at midnight illustrates prayer from the point of view someone who urgently needs something. Persistence is the key. The last section of the Gospel offers us a glimpse of prayer from God's point of view. If you seek, you will find; if you knock, the door will be opened. With Jesus as our mediator, we are assured of a hearing before our Father in heaven who is waiting to give good gifts to his children.

SNAKES AND SCORPIONS AND PRAYERS? OH, MY!

How often do we hear about snakes and scorpions at Mass? Well, today we do! Jesus uses these frightful (to most of us!) images for their shock value in order to emphasize how graciously and unfailingly our Father in heaven cares for us. The first reading sets the stage for our reflection. Who can hear the story of Abraham negotiating with God in the first reading and not smile at his audacity? The middle Eastern custom of bartering likely honed Abraham's skills in that arena. He even appeals to God's sense of honor, saying, "Far be it from you to do such a thing" [as to wipe out the innocent with the guilty]. Have we not all bargained with God at one time or another when we were desperately in need?

Be Careful What You Ask For

Jesus talks about praying for whatever we need with faith and confidence, but he ends by asking, "How much more will the Father . . . give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?" (Luke 1:13). Is he saying there are limits to what we can ask for?

"Be careful what you ask for," the saying warns. Just because we want something doesn't mean it will be good for us. Remember the Indiana Jones movies? The artifact that the bad guys were seeking usually turned out to be lethal. But if we have enough faith to pray for something, we probably would not pray for anything evil. So what is Jesus really saying? He is giving us two lessons about prayer.

First, he assures us that God does hear our prayers and answers them. Many people take "ask and you shall receive" so literally that they expect God to do their bidding no matter what they want. Prayers, however, are not a magical ritual that somehow forces God to do our will. God is free to do what is best for us, free to answer some prayers with a no when what we seek is against God's will. So maybe our first prayer should be to ask God to show us what we really need.

That leads us to the second lesson: prayer changes us, not God. If we truly pray as Jesus prayed, we would ask for what we need, adding, "Not as I will, but as you will" (Matthew 26:39). If we pray humbly and are open to what God wills for us, we will begin to see that what we really need most is actually God. It's not easy to change our minds about what we want or need. To change our desires from selfish to holy takes a lot of power, the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus was raised from the dead by that power and we will be, too (Romans 8:11). Mary conceived by the power of the Spirit (Matthew 1:18). The bread and wine of the Eucharist become the Body and Blood of Christ by the Spirit's power. So when Jesus promises that the Father will give the Spirit to us for the asking, the Spirit is both the source of and the answer to our prayers. Let us ask the Spirit to empower us to desire and pray for what we really need.

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OFFERTORY COLLECTION
JULY 10, 2022

| | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Tithing: | \$6,681.81 |
| Children: | \$0.00 |
| Total: | \$6,681.81 |

READINGS FOR THE WEEK
JULY 25, 2022

| | |
|------------|---|
| Monday: | 2 Cor 4:7-15; Ps 126:1bc-6; Mt 20:20-28 |
| Tuesday: | Jer 14:17-22; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Mt 13:36-43 |
| Wednesday: | Jer 15:10, 16-21; Ps 59:2-4, 10-11, 17-18; Mt 13:44-46 |
| Thursday: | Jer 18:1-6; Ps 146:1b-6ab; Mt 13:47-53 |
| Friday: | Jer 26:1-9; Ps 69:5, 8-10, 14; Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42 |
| Saturday: | Jer 26:11-16, 24; Ps 69:15-16, 30-31, 33-34; Mt 14:1-12 |
| Sunday: | Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23; Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17; Col 3:1-5, 9-11; Lk 12:13-21 |

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK
JULY 25, 2022

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Monday 9:00am | Ramona Moreno Vinicio (D) |
| Tuesday 8:30am 12:00pm | Anna Mung (D) |
| Wednesday 8:30am 12:00pm | |
| Thursday 8:30am 12:00pm | |
| Friday 8:30am 12:00pm | Acción de gracias al Sagrado Corazón de Jesus (D); Alberto Ponciano Sanchez (D) Rafaela Rodriguez Guzman (D); Chanelle Berroa (D); Leonor Santiago (D) |
| Saturday 7:45am 7:00pm | |
| Sunday 8:00am 9:30am | People of SNT Miguel Angel Vichay Tovar (D); Domingo Rojas Mercado (D); Larry Harvey, Maria Harvey (D) |
| 11:30am 1:30pm | Eddie Maldonado (D) Gioan Chat & Maria Nghi (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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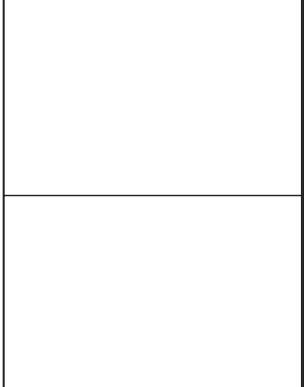
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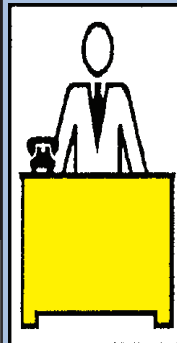
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