



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
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Mr. Dang Vu

ACCOUNTING
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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.



TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



THE GIFT OF FAITH

Faith is a gift. When the disciples asked Jesus to increase their faith, they were going to the source of that faith with their request. God is the giver of all good gifts, including faith. When we put our faith in Christ, we believe that God is with us, even though we cannot physically see God. Or can we? If we are attentive, we see the evidence of God's presence in the love of family and friends, care poured out in service of our neighbors, the living beauty of creation. This is not blind faith, but rather is the result of seeing with the eyes of faith. Followers of Jesus look beyond what is apparent to see what is possible with the power and presence of the Holy Spirit within and among us.

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We live in a society of instant gratification. We download and stream and binge-watch at our convenience; we use drive-throughs or have our food and groceries delivered. Wonderful things are indeed coming, but we must learn patience and humility! The Lord encourages Habakkuk to quit being impatient and wait for the vision to mature. Anyone who has started a fire knows how patient you must be to, as Paul admonishes, "Stir into flame the gift of God you have," and to guard it well. Even in their good zeal, Jesus slows down the apostles. He equates faith to a mustard seed and tells them to settle down. As it takes that little seed many years to become a great tree, the Apostles and disciples must spend their time in service and grow in learning and love, and faith will come with it.

LESS IS MORE

The last few weeks, we have seen Jesus speaking in parables that were long and complex, and sometimes it was difficult to find the point of his message. But today he speaks simply to the Apostles and gives them a graphic image that is very easy to grasp. Think of how many pictures you have seen with an open hand holding mustard seeds, or the image of the seeds and the grown tree. The thing is, those photos are worth a thousand words. One could call it the "elevator pitch" on faith. Jesus provides his followers with a touchstone to hold onto, a spiritual roadmap as it were. But along with that beloved parable is a more difficult message.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — In spite of violence, destruction, and ruin, the just person, because of faith, will live (Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4).

Psalm — If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts (Psalm 95).

Second Reading — Bear hardship with the strength that comes from God (2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14).

Gospel — Lord, increase our faith! (Luke 17:5-10).

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.

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

At some point, Jesus must just get exasperated with these folks. The Apostles and disciples have been following him for how long now? And they still don't understand. The kingdom of God is not about how great you are on earth, or how much faith you have. There is much work to be done. He reminds them that they are still the folks who are going to be cooking dinner when they come home in the evening. They are the servants. Their work continues until the kitchen is clean! Similarly, it is not enough for us to simply show up to church on Sunday morning. We must be servants in our daily lives. On my computer screen is a yellow sticky note that says "If serving is below you, then leadership is above you." Right now, "Servant Leadership" is a big buzzword phrase bordering on overuse, but there is a lot of truth to it. Some of the ways we may lead our families, our workgroups, our faith groups include: listening to others, showing empathy, healing yourself through work-life balance, developing your self-awareness, and being a good steward. Wrap it any way you want, it is all about being a good Christian. Have faith. Serve others. Watch it grow!

Taking Care of Business

When we were kids, my brothers and sisters and I thought that you were not supposed to say the blessing before meals in a restaurant. You were not supposed to flaunt your faith in public. It probably had more to do with fear of being embarrassed if non-believers saw us praying. I think of that when I hear St. Paul telling Timothy, "God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control" (2 Timothy 1:7). All three readings mention the difficulties that people of faith will encounter, and each reading has its own way of facing those hardships.

Jesus gives the practical advice: Look at the difficulties of being a disciple as just part of your job. No servant expects to be praised by his master for doing his job. So if the Lord says I must forgive those who hurt me, or be patient with customers, or share what I have with the poor—no problem; it's part of the job of a disciple. If someone I know is in pain, I'm there to support them. Too tired to go to church after work on a holy day? Just taking care of business.

So how do we get the strength and self-control to roll with the punches? Paul reminds us in the second reading to stir the gifts of the Spirit into flame. If you take time to pray every day, if you look for God in other people, if you see difficulties as your share of the cross—you'll find those gifts of faith, power, love, and self-control beginning to grow stronger inside.

We can trust that this is more than just wishful thinking by going to the first reading. When the prophet cries out for help with the misery and violence in the world, he hears God's promise that the vision (of hope for deliverance) will be fulfilled even if it seems to be delayed. We too hear that promise when we start to get discouraged, for God's promise "will not disappoint" (Habakkuk 2:3).

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

Please welcome the priest visiting our parish next weekend. He comes to us from Cross Catholic Outreach and will share some touching stories about the amazing work Catholic missions are accomplishing worldwide. Since Cross Catholic Outreach empowers existing Catholic missions, its program are extremely cost-effective, and the majority of the resources it collects go into program services that help the poorest of the poor around the world. To learn more about Cross Catholic Outreach, please go to CrossCatholic.org/outreach, text BLESSINGS to 474747.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION
SEPTEMBER 11, 2022

Tithing:	\$7,813.86
Children:	\$0.00
Total:	\$7,813.86

READINGS FOR THE WEEK
OCTOBER 3, 2022

Monday: Gal 1:6-12; Ps 111:1b-2, 7-9, 10c; Lk 10:25-37
 Tuesday: Gal 1:13-24; Ps 139:1b-3, 13-15; Lk 10:38-42
 Wednesday: Gal 2:1-2, 7-14; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Lk 11:1-4
 Thursday: Gal 3:1-5; Lk 1:69-75; Lk 11:5-13
 Friday: Gal 3:7-14; Ps 111:1b-6; Lk 11:15-26
 Saturday: Gal 3:22-29; Ps 105:2-7; Lk 11:27-28
 Sunday: 2 Kgs 5:14-17; Ps 98:1-4; 2 Tm 2:8-13; Lk 17:11-19

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK
OCTOBER 3, 2022

Monday
8:30am Juan Bautista Hernandez, Keren Hernandez, Rosa Caines, Jenny Vite (D)

12:00pm
Tuesday
8:30am Peter Chi (D)
12:00pm
Wednesday
8:30am Emilio Ramos (D); Miosotis Familia, Yadira Arroyo, Fr. Joseph Girone, Jacqueline Peterson (D)

12:00pm
Thursday
8:30am
12:00pm
Friday
8:30am Angel Maldonado (D)
12:00pm
Saturday
7:45am Giuse Tien va Maria Cam (D)
7:00pm Maximo Vargas, Australia Alvarez (D)
Sunday
8:00am Matta Ty (D)
9:30am Leonardo (Leo) Pichardo (D); Jose Arturo Flores Manzaba (D)
11:30am People of SNT
1:30pm Lorenzo Nguyen & Madalena Gia (D)

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



Do you have an unhealed wound on your foot?

Don't ignore it!

See a specialist now - especially if you are at risk.

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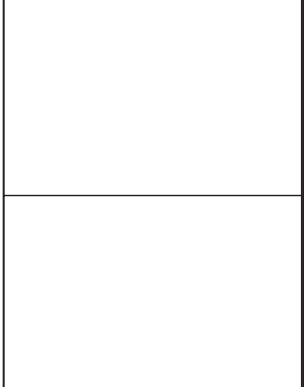
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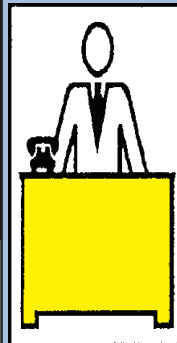
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