



## AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

### PASTORAL STAFF

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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  
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RECEPTIONIST  
Ms. Lucy Maldonado

# 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)

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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.



## TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### LIMITS



Today's readings continue the theme of humility explored last Sunday. All three readings today encourage us to admit that we have limits, and God has none. The poignant poetry of Wisdom resonates with all of us who have ever struggled for peace in situations we cannot control: "For the corruptible body burdens the soul and the earthen shelter weighs down the mind that has many concerns." Saint Paul recognizes his own limitations, both physically (he is in prison) and spiritually: he cannot compel his friend to obey his wishes; he can only propose his request and respect Philemon's free will. In the Gospel, Jesus reminds us that God alone can complete the good we wish to do in the world. While we thank God for the gifts we receive—and the families we love—we acknowledge that they are temporary, and humbly cling to God.

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Wisdom asks us "Who can know God's counsel, or who can conceive what the LORD intends?" If we put this in contemporary language, we might say "You haven't got a clue!" There are times when none of us knows what is going on. Life is beyond our understanding. We seek loved ones, mentors, friends, spiritual directors, and therapists to help us comprehend. This is a common theme through all of today's scriptures. Wisdom reminds us, "scarce do we guess these things on earth, and what is within our grasp we find with difficulty." Psalm 90 pleads, "Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart." Saint Paul is speaking on behalf of Onesimus, and begging Philemon to welcome him. Luke's Gospel is very challenging to hear. Today we see that not all the lessons we need to learn are pleasant or joyful, but they are timely.

### MINISTRIES AND CALLS—VOCATIONS AND AVOCATIONS

Prior to this week's Gospel, great crowds were beginning to follow Jesus. Excitement was building, as there were whispered conversations wondering if this were the long-awaited King that the Hebrews were hoping for. The crowds' idea of a king was very different, however, from what Jesus was offering. The king they were waiting for was a high priest, a Messiah. This was not the kingdom that Jesus was preaching, but rather one of pain, of carrying one's cross and burdens—a kingdom that one must not approach lightly, but make serious plans and efforts to help build. Too often we see this passage, thinking it harsh and referring only to those called to religious life. The truth is that we are all called to charity. Taking up our cross is not a call to suffer for the sake of suffering, but to pursue goodness and righteousness.

### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — Who can ever know God's counsel unless God gives wisdom and sends the Holy Spirit from on high? (Wisdom 9:13-18b).

**Psalm** — In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge (Psalm 90).

**Second Reading** — Paul asks Philemon to accept back his slave Onesimus, not as a slave but as a brother (Philemon 9-10, 12-17).

**Gospel** — To be a disciple of Jesus one must carry one's own cross and renounce all possessions (Luke 14:25-33).

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.

### THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

*The Cost of Discipleship* is the name of the powerful book written by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the theologian who was killed in a Nazi death camp. Today we see breakdowns in family relationships over religion and politics. We see those who forget how to forgive, and those who were never taught how to love. Bonhoeffer offered a message that could be applied to any story right out of the evening news. He said that Christian love doesn't distinguish between enemies, except that those who hate more bitterly are in greater need of love. Indeed, they should expect only unqualified love from a Christian. Bonhoeffer concludes that if one is not willing to love indiscriminately as a disciple of Christ, then one is not a Christian at all. When Jesus asks us today to take up our cross, he is asking us to take up the discipline of Christian love.

Free to Love

St. Paul must have understood today's Gospel very well. Like Jesus, he knew what being a disciple would cost. It landed him in prison. Yet he seems to have no regrets; he accepts that imprisonment as part of his discipleship. Also like Jesus, he is not afraid to ask others to take that discipleship seriously. And he is not ashamed to ask a favor: Would Philemon accept his runaway slave, Onesimus, back into his home? Not just as a slave, but as a member of his family. He shamelessly calls himself a prisoner for Christ five times in the short letter (three times in our reading). If that didn't tug Philemon's heart-strings, Paul also calls himself an old man.

In the Gospel, Jesus talks about the cost of discipleship. Paul takes that a step further; he reminds us to accept that cost freely. He could have ordered his friend to free the slave. Paul was an apostle, a leader in the early church. Instead of giving an order, he called on Philemon to respond freely to his request. Perhaps we can learn from that example.

Like Paul, when Jesus commands us to love one another, he leaves us free to accept that challenge. Remember, he always says, "Love one another, as I have loved you" (John 13:34). Jesus was never compelled to cure anyone or forgive their sins. No one ordered him to feed the hungry with loaves and fishes or raise Lazarus from the dead. Yet how often do we go to church because we were told we have to? Do we volunteer for the picnic only because the pastor twists our arm? Or do we love Jesus so much that we volunteer to help without being asked? Do we love Jesus enough to invite others to follow him?

We can live life just doing what we have to. Or when Jesus offers us a new motive—love for God because God loves us—we can choose to follow him freely. In John's Gospel, there is no Agony in the Garden. He shows us that Jesus chose to obey his Father and willingly took up the cross. Let us ask the Spirit to fill us with the freedom to love.

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



The parish office will be closed on Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 in observance of Labor Day. There will be only one bilingual mass that day at 9AM.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION  
AUGUST 21, 2022

Tithing: \$6,369.40  
Children: \$0.00  
Total: \$6,369.40

READINGS FOR THE WEEK  
SEPTEMBER 5, 2022

Monday: 1 Cor 5:1-8; Ps 5:5-7, 12; Lk 6:6-11,  
Tuesday: 1 Cor 6:1-11; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Lk 6:12-19  
Wednesday: 1 Cor 7:25-31; Ps 45:11-12, 14-17; Lk 6:20-26  
Thursday: Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30; Ps 13:6; Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 [18-23]  
Friday: 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27; Ps 84:3-6, 12; Lk 6:39-42  
Saturday: 1 Cor 10:14-22; Ps 116:12-13, 17-18; Lk 6:43-49  
Sunday: Ex 32:7-11, 13-14; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19; 1 Tm 1:12-17; Lk 15:1-32 [1-10]

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK  
SEPTEMBER 5, 2022

**Monday**  
9:00am Emilio Ramos (D); Junior Tavera, Neil Patel, Fernando Hernandez, Manuel de Jesus Hernandez, hijo (D)

**Tuesday**  
8:30am Bienvenido Jesus Santana (D)  
12:00pm Peter Chi (D)

**Wednesday**  
8:30am  
12:00pm

**Thursday**  
8:30am  
12:00pm

**Friday**  
9:00am Maria Josefa Parache (D), Manuel De Jesus Hernandez; Eddison Tapia (D) - 3 meses

**Saturday**  
7:45am Maria Gái (D)  
7:00pm Henry Santana Medina (D); Liss Nuñez (D)

**Sunday**  
8:00am People of SNT  
9:30am Feliz Evangelista Gonzalez, Jose Adames, Eduvina Gonzalez (D); Leonardo (Leo) Pichardo (D)  
11:30am Ana Mung (D); Ignatius Rahman (D)  
1:30pm Phero Luc va Maria Tu (D)

**We pray for the People of St. Nicholas of Tolentine.**  
**We pray for the sick:** Joshua Rivera; Regina Maldonado  
**We pray for the dead:**



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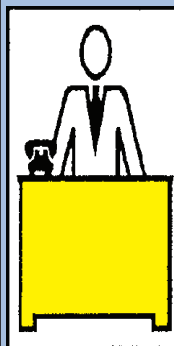
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