



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
FORMATION
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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.



THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MADE RIGHT BEFORE GOD



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Although the opening lines of today's first reading claim that the Lord "knows no favorites" (Sirach 35:15) and is "not unduly partial toward the weak" (35:16), the remainder of the passage makes it clear that the Lord does indeed pay special attention to the weak, the oppressed, and the orphans and widows. The psalmist reiterates: "The Lord hears the cry of the poor" (see Psalm 34:18). In the Gospel, Jesus claims that a tax collector is more justified in his prayer for mercy than the Pharisee, whose prayer was an account of his own righteous deeds. Jesus' point could not have been clearer: tax collectors in the Jewish society of Jesus' day were not just lowly; they were considered outcasts and cheaters. They collected taxes for the hated Romans and almost certainly collected enough to assure a generous income for themselves. Tax collectors were among society's outcasts; didn't this one just admit his own sinfulness? How could a tax collector be "justified" (that is, made right) before God, while the Pharisee was not? Why would God even listen to the prayer of a tax collector? This surely was a surprise, upsetting common assumptions about righteousness.

In these waning weeks of the liturgical year, our readings present us with God's vision for the world, in which the prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds and the humble are exalted in God's sight. It is not always easy to follow Jesus, to stand for justice, share love, and bring peace when there is so much division, poverty, loneliness, and pain in our homes, workplaces, cities, and world. We do not stand alone, however. We who are disciples and servants are assured that the Lord will hear our petitions, stand by us, and give us strength as we strive to bear witness to the good news of salvation.

THE LORD HEARS THE CRY OF THE POOR

It is easy for those who do not face food insecurity or homelessness to turn a deaf ear to those who struggle for survival. We may regularly drive by the street corner and ignore the person who stands there each day asking for help. We might see the commercial on TV, hear the plea on the radio or in our churches, and yet not let the message in, ignoring not only the need, but the *people* whose needs are great. The prophet Sirach and the psalmist tell us that the Lord is not like us—God hears the cries of the oppressed, the orphan and widow, the vulnerable among us. As Christian disciples we are called to become more like our loving, compassionate God who hears the cry of the poor.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The LORD is a God of justice who hears the cry of the oppressed, the orphan, the widow, the lowly (Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18).

Psalms — The Lord hears the cry of the poor (Psalm 34).

Second Reading — The crown of righteousness awaits me (2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18).

Gospel — The tax collector stood at a distance, beat his breast, and prayed, "O God, be merciful to me, a sinner" (Luke 18:9-14).

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.

DO WE?

Jesus' parable in today's Gospel tells the story of two people. The Pharisee is puffed up with his own importance. His prayer is more a statement of self-justification in which he positions himself as being above the rest of humanity. So much so that he prays to himself, thanking God that he is so much better than everyone else! The tax collector on the other hand raises his eyes to God and acknowledges his sinfulness. He is the one Jesus says is justified, exalted in God's sight. What about us? Are we so puffed up with our own importance, so caught up in the stuff of our daily lives that we fail to recognize our failings or to see the needs of the people around us? This week, let us ask the Lord to pierce our hearts, help us to genuinely admit our failings, and truly live as followers of the one who gave his life so that all might live life to the fullest. God hears the cries of the weakest and relies on us to respond.

To Boast or Not to Boast

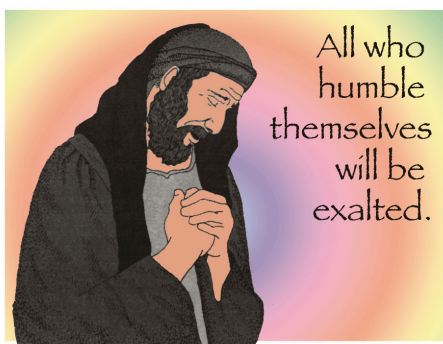
The Gospel makes it pretty clear that exalting yourself is not the way into the Kingdom. So it might sound strange to hear Paul saying he competed well and finished the race and now expects the winner's crown. So why is he any different from the Pharisee in the Gospel?

The Pharisee probably was being honest about himself. Sure, he fasts and tithes, is not greedy or adulterous, but he misses the point. He thinks that justification, being right with God, comes from a person's accomplishments. He feels no need to ask for God's mercy. Yet if he relied on that mercy, he wouldn't boast about his good deeds. Instead, he would ask for God's mercy and then thank God by doing good or being generous. In other words, he put the cart before the horse. He thinks that God is waiting to be bribed with good deeds (or at least a lack of bad ones) so that he can be justified. "After all," thinks the Pharisee, "what else are good deeds for if not to make me look good?"

St. Paul, on the other hand, looks at his life as a Pharisee and is amazed that God forgave his "good works" of keeping the law and persecuting Christians. He is so grateful for God's mercy that he can't wait to tell everyone about Jesus and how he loves us. His boasting is not about what he has done for God; it's more about what God has done through him. In verse 17, he credits God, who gave him the strength to preach the Good News.

Maybe you have examples of what God has done in your life: the people God sent to love you, the talents or abilities God gave you, the times God forgave your sins. Are you so grateful for what God has done that you want to do more for God? Or do you go to church, put your offering in the collection, and work a booth at the parish picnic so that God will be grateful to you? It sounds obvious when put that way, but it is tempting to think that God loves us more when we do good things. Remember that God loved St. Paul while he was still persecuting Christians, loved him enough not only to forgive him but to make him into a great apostle. Why waste your time trying to earn that love, when you could be doing whatever you can to thank God for it?

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK
OCTOBER 24, 2022

- Monday: Eph 4:32 — 5:8; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 13:10-17
- Tuesday: Eph 5:21-33 or 5:2a, 25-33; Ps 128:1-5; Lk 13:18-21
- Wednesday: Eph 6:1-9; Ps 145:10-14; Lk 13:22-30
- Thursday: Eph 6:10-20; Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10; Lk 13:31-35
- Friday: Eph 2:19-22; Ps 19:2-5; Lk 6:12-16
- Saturday: Phil 1:18b-26; Ps 42:2, 3, 5cdef; Lk 14:1, 7-11
- Sunday: Wis 11:22 — 12:2; Ps 145:1-2, 8-11, 13-14; 2 Thes 1:11 — 2:2; Lk 19:1-10

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK
OCTOBER 24, 2022

- Monday**
8:30am Manuel Antonio Hernandez, Bienvenido Gonzalez, Teodora Mercedes, Santa Ortega (D)
Peter (D); Antonia Paez (D)
- 12:00pm
Tuesday
8:30am Eduvegis Garcia (D); Frances Negron (L) - cumpleaños
Phero Trang (D); Ismael Perez (D)
- 12:00pm
Wednesday
8:30am All Souls (ancestors)
- 12:00pm
Thursday
8:30am San Judas Tadeo
- 12:00pm
Friday
8:30am All Souls (ancestors)
- 7:45am
Saturday
7:00pm Jose Peguero Montero (D); Confesora Luciano
- Sunday**
8:00am People of SNT
9:30am Miguel Angel Vichay Tovar (D); Acción de gracias a la Santisima Trinidad; Almaisa Orlinda Tovar (D) Padre Jesucristo
- 11:30am Ana Mung (D); Sanchez Caraballo, Caraballo family and Martinez family
- 1:30pm Ana Ky (D)

OFFERTORY COLLECTION
OCTOBER 9, 2022

Tithing: \$7,090.54
Children: \$0.00
Total: \$7,090.54

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



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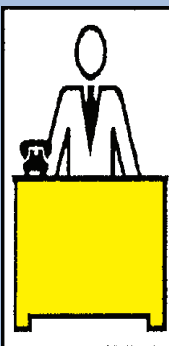
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