



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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ST. NICHOLAS OF TOLENTINE CHURCH

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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.



THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

GOD'S LOVING CARE



Two readings today refer to the northeast region of ancient Israel: “the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali.” Upon hearing these names, some of us might consult maps and determine exactly where these regions lie. Others might let the unfamiliar names drift by unnoticed. If no maps are handy—but we don’t want to ignore the references completely—consider this: we might not know the latitude and longitude of Zebulun and Naphtali, but God does. We praise God for watching over every inch of land and sea, caring perfectly for each creature on the planet. While Isaiah celebrates the depth of God’s care with “abundant joy and great rejoicing,” Saint Paul begs us to remember how the Lord shows this loving care: through the cross. In today’s Gospel, Jesus calls Peter, James, and John to follow him. We follow too, confident that God accompanies us, wherever we are.

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To introduce the beginnings of Jesus’ ministry in Matthew’s Gospel today, the evangelist quotes from Isaiah 9, which is presented to us more fully in our first reading. Isaiah acknowledges the darkness of oppression from the conquest of the Galilee region by Assyria, but reminds his people of the hope God offers them. Matthew, writing in the time of the Roman Empire centuries later, points to Jesus and his proclamation of the kingdom of heaven, to overturn all forms of oppression. Power structures like Assyria or Rome rely on fear, control, and distrust to sustain themselves. But God’s reign is to be saturated with God’s love, freedom, and mutual trust. Jesus began by gathering a group of disciples. When Jesus similarly gathers his community of disciples in our church today, our love of each other, and our care for all others, can make this reign of God visible to all.

CALLED TO COMMUNITY

Today’s Gospel from Matthew sketches the initial movements of Jesus’ public ministry. The arrest of John the Baptist signals that Jesus’ time has come. His first actions include the call of his first disciples, and proclaiming the reign, or kingdom, of heaven. Jesus first gathers a community, which he can gradually form to become living evidence of this coming reign. His preaching, which begins just a few verses later in the Sermon on the Mount, is not just essential guidance for each individual life, but for life within a community of his followers.

It can be very challenging for most of us, who live in a highly individualized society, to hear this story of being summoned into community, committed to learning together and from each other. Our parishes and Christian communities need to be safe places so that we can open our hearts to each other, learning the Way of Jesus, and sharing this Way with others.

TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — The burdens that were once laid upon the people have been vanquished (Isaiah 8:23 — 9:3).

Psalm — The Lord guides and saves me (Psalm 27).

Second Reading — Paul exhorts the believers at Corinth: As there is one Christ, so too must there be no divisions among you. (1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17).

Gospel — After calling his first disciples, Jesus goes throughout Galilee teaching, proclaiming the gospel, and curing the people (Matthew 4:12-23 [12-17]).

UNITED IN CHRIST

In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul addresses many pastoral issues, and begins with questions of division over leadership. We hear of rival camps of loyalty for various leaders and preachers: Paul himself, Apollo, or Cephas. Paul fears that the community has lost the center of the faith, that is, Christ himself. The community is to be united in mind and purpose under Christ.

Many today experience in a very similar division. Some Christians will in effect say: “I belong to . . . (fill in the name of your favorite preacher, theologian, or leader), and those who don’t are not to be trusted.” Diversity of thought and background are essential to the vitality of Christian community, but here Paul describes a division that hides the message of Christ. It hides Christ’s call to charity and forbearance toward all. This division hides the truth that we are all at the foot of the cross, a cross that reveals our own brokenness and our need for mercy.

Boast in the Lord

What are you most proud of? What do you like to boast about? Were you top of your class in college? Are your children the most well-behaved? Do you work harder than anyone in your office? Or are you the best at appearing to work hard, but hardly working? Everyone likes to have something they are the best at, or at least very good. But it really is kind of silly to base your own worth on what you accomplish. What truly makes us important is that we are loved by God. This love begins at our birth, long before we have accomplished anything. Our second reading tells how God uses the foolish, weak, or poorest people to shame those who are wise, strong, and wealthy. Why? Because God loves the poor, the weak, the disabled, the homeless just as much as God loves the important people. What's more, the poor probably love God more than the powerful, rich people do.

And it's not just the external qualities that are important. Some wealthy people have great love for the poor. Some of the best teachers only work with disabled children. My dentist is a very good doctor, but is happiest when he goes to help the poor in Latin America. Our Gospel on the Beatitudes today makes that clear if you listen carefully. Blessed are not just the poor, but the poor in spirit; not only the hungry, but those who hunger for righteousness. That's what Saint Paul means when he says, "Whoever boasts, should boast in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 1:31). In other words, it is not so much what you do, as what God does through you. How much you know is less important than how well you know the Lord. It's not so much where you live, as whether God is living in you. Those who claim to love the poor have nothing on those who are loved by God.

So how do we get to be "important" to God? Instead of asking God to make my projects a success, I can ask what God wants me to do. Instead of reading every magazine or blog to impress your co-workers with your worldly knowledge, take time to read the scriptures and to listen quietly to the Lord in prayer. Instead of complaining about the government or your parish, try volunteering your time. And for all the good that you do, remember to thank the Lord.

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Healing After Abortion: Do you know someone who is carrying the grief of a past abortion? There is always hope. The pain and sorrow of abortion does not need to endure for a lifetime. A "Day of Prayer and Healing" offers the opportunity to experience the love and mercy of God and to respond to His invitation to begin the journey of healing the wound of abortion. Upcoming dates in the NYC area are: Jan.14, Feb. 4, March 11, and May 20 in English, and May 6 in Spanish. For more dates, locations, and confidential registration, or just to talk to a Sister, please call the Sisters of Life at (866) 575-0075 (toll free) or reach us by email at hopeandhealing@sistersoflife.org.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

JANUARY 23, 2023

Monday:	Heb 9:15, 24-28; Ps 98:1-6; Mk 3:22-30, <i>or any of a number of readings for the Day of Prayer</i>
Tuesday:	Heb 10:1-10; Ps 40:2, 4ab, 7-8a, 10, 11; Mk 3:31-35
Wednesday:	Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Mk 16:15-18
Thursday:	2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5; Ps 96:1-3, 7-8a, 10; Mk 4:21-35
Friday:	Heb 10:32-39; Ps 37:3-6, 23-24, 39-40; Mk 4:26-34
Saturday:	Heb 11:1-2, 8-19; Lk 1:69-75; Mk 4:35-41
Sunday:	Zep 2:3; 3:12-13; Ps 146:6-10; 1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 5:1-12a

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

JANUARY 23, 2023

Monday 8:30am	Rosa Minchala, Teodora Mercedes, Rosa Caines, Rose Carucci (D)
12:00pm	
Tuesday 8:30am	Manuel de Jesus Henriquez, Genesis Peguero, Maria Altagracia Reynoso(D)
12:00pm	
Wednesday 8:30am	Conroy Anthony (D)
12:00pm	
Thursday 8:30am	Inocencio Perez (D)
12:00pm	
Friday 8:30am	Virgen Santisima
12:00pm	
Saturday 7:45am	Gioan Vu Vy (D)
7:00pm	
Sunday 8:00am	People of SNT
9:30am	Jose Peguero Montero (D); Burgos Perez, Santos Family
11:30am	Shirley CB Boyle
1:30pm	Gioan Kim Khai (D)

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

JANUARY 8, 2023

Tithing:	\$8,050.28
Children:	\$0.00
Total:	\$8,050.28

We pray for the People of St. Nicholas of Tolentine.

We pray for the sick: Miguel Angel Cuevas

We pray for the dead: Floyd McDonald



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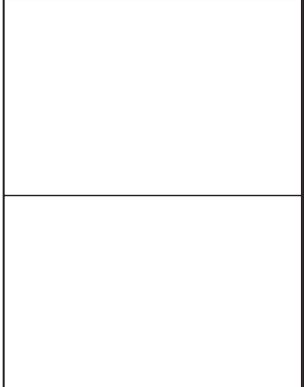
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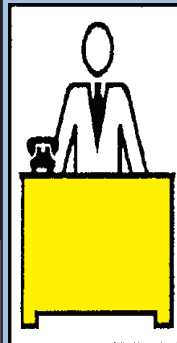
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