



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

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ST. NICHOLAS OF TOLENTINE CHURCH

2345 UNIVERSITY AVENUE BRONX, NY 10468

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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

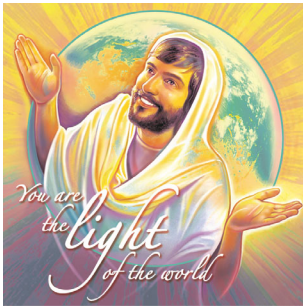
SATURDAY 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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



FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE LIGHT OF SERVICE



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The prophet Isaiah inspires us with these words: “Light shall rise for you in the darkness, and the gloom shall become for you like midday.” All of us celebrating the liturgy today praise God for these words of encouragement. Surely each of us knows the gloomy side of life, but today’s readings propose a brilliant antidote to misery: the light of service. Isaiah focuses on physical suffering, telling us to provide food, clothing, housing, and equal opportunity to those with limited resources. Moving beyond material needs, Saint Paul demonstrates how to proceed humbly when attending to people’s spiritual needs. Saint Matthew’s Gospel stirs us to bold action: whatever gifts we have, we must put them at the service of our communities. As Christians, we must engage with one another without holding back, letting our light shine before all.

Today’s readings from Isaiah and Matthew evoke the powerful metaphor of light as an image of the community gathered by God. Jesus speaks of his followers as “light of the world”: they are not the source of light, but a mirror reflecting the brightness of God. This light does not call attention to itself, but enables beauty to be revealed and celebrated, and sinfulness to be exposed and healed. The light of this community is not primarily for itself, but fulfills its purpose when it shines upon the world. The light that we the Church bring to our world can be hidden by “bushels” sometimes imposed by others and sometimes of our own making. Our lights may flicker and die under stress. What might sustain the brightness of our own small light? Our ongoing practices of community prayer, discernment, and action allow God to illumine our Church, day by day.

LEARNING HOW TO BE CHURCH

Following last week’s passage from Matthew with the Beatitudes, today we continue Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount with his images of salt, light, and a city. Jesus moves from describing the core identity of the community he has gathered to considering its impact on the world. He wanted his community not just to claim its identity, but to live it out. He wanted his community to journey with him, to fully learn what this might mean.

For us, being salt for others may mean engaging and enriching the lives of our neighbors. Being light may mean illuminating and addressing the world’s systems that sustain social sins of violence, racism, and vast inequalities of wealth and opportunity. Being a city set high may mean holding to high standards of transparency, respect, and care for each other. Like Jesus’ first followers, we are invited to travel the difficult and joy-filled road of learning and re-learning how to be the Church.

TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — If you share your food with the hungry, provide housing for the homeless, then light shall break forth upon you (Isaiah 58:7-10).

Psalm — One who is just is a model for the righteous (Psalm 112).

Second Reading — My message to you, says Paul, was not clever words of wisdom but the proclamation of Christ crucified (1 Corinthians 2:1-5).

Gospel — You are the salt of the earth, the light of the world (Matthew 5:13-16).

CROSS-SHAPED MINISTRY

Saint Paul, in today’s passage from First Corinthians, admits he is not a salesman. He did not come to Corinth with a sales pitch, with skilled rhetoric and worldly wisdom. Paul says that he simply came to speak of Christ crucified. For Paul, the cross is God’s primary self-revelation, and the whole life of following Christ is marked by it. Paul describes this cross-shaped ministry by how he first preached it: with humility and fear. He was a messenger who looked weak by the standards of society, in order that the Spirit might break through to his listeners.

We may know or have read of those who spoke or lived with a cross-shaped presence. Perhaps a missionary who humbly served a community while preaching Christ. Or a group of protesters against injustice, who faced violent resistance with dignity and persistence. They open a space for the Spirit to transform hearts. Paul suggests that making ourselves vulnerable makes love possible.

A Low-Salt Faith

Jesus uses two different examples of a good disciple—salt of the earth and light of the world. While these images seem to have little in common, there are similarities, the most obvious being that a little of either goes a long way. Just a pinch of salt can change the taste of food. Similarly, when we wake up in a dark room, one light bulb can be blinding. So also, a little faith can make a big difference. The faith of little children can bring their parents back to the Church. The way we live our faith can speak even louder.

Isaiah gives us some hints in the first reading when he writes about feeding the hungry and giving shelter to the homeless and clothes to the poor. When someone has so much faith that it shows in their actions, as Isaiah puts it, “Your light shall break forth like the dawn.” But we sometimes get things backwards. If we do the things Isaiah tells the people to do, we might think that the deeds will give us faith. But faith is the source of those actions, not the result. If we truly believe in God’s love for us, and we believe that God lives in the people around us, especially the poor, then we will want to show our love by caring for each other.

When we do have faith, we don’t have to worry about how people react to us. Like St. Paul in the second reading, we don’t need to be dramatic or full of worldly wisdom. As he preached the wisdom of Christ who died on the cross and was raised from the dead by the power of the Spirit, he let people see that power in the lives of other believers as well as his own life.

But if we don’t have faith, then we are like the salt that has lost its flavor. A low-salt diet may be good for us; but a low-salt faith, instead of making things better, would make them worse. Without faith in God’s love for us, we would not respond with love of our own. We could still be a good person, but we would not be a very good disciple. We could not spread the faith if we didn’t have it ourselves.

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

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

FEBRUARY 6, 2023

Monday: Gn 1:1-19; Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10, 12, 24, 35c; Mk 6:53-56
 Tuesday: Gn 1:20 — 2:4a; Ps 8:4-9; Mk 7:1-13
 Wednesday: Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17; Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30; Mk 7:14-23
 Thursday: Gn 2:18-25; Ps 128:1-5; Mk 7:24-30
 Friday: Gn 3:1-8; Ps 32:1-2, 5-7; Mk 7:31-37
 Saturday: Gn 3:9-24; Ps 90:2-6, 12-13; Mk 8:1-10
 Sunday: Sir 15:15-20; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37 [20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37]

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

FEBRUARY 6, 2023

Monday
 8:30am Santiago Frias (D)
 12:00pm
Tuesday
 8:30am Santiago Frias (D)
 12:00pm
Wednesday
 8:30am Santiago Frias (D)
 12:00pm Anthony Koon & Roberto Perez (D)
Thursday
 8:30am Santiago Frias (D)
 12:00pm
Friday
 8:30am Ana Felicita Hernandez - liberación y conversión (D); Santiago Frias (D); Angela Espinal Ramos, Antonio Espinal, Maria Ana Espinal (D)
 12:00pm
Saturday
 7:45am Maria Thanh (D)
 7:00pm Santiago Frias (D)
Sunday
 8:00am People of SNT; Margaret Grossenbacher (D)
 9:30am Ricardo Gonzalez, Luiz Alberto Gonzalez (D); Acción de gracias a la Santisima Trinidad; Santiago Frias (D)
 11:30am Vilma Rodriguez (D)
 1:30pm Phaolo Tam (D)

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

JANUARY 22, 2023

Tithing: \$8,555.64
 Children: \$0.00
Total: \$8,555.64

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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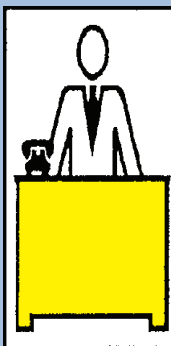
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