



AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

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In Residence

Fr. William Wallace, O.S.A.
In Residence

Br. Bienvenido Rodriguez
In Residence

CATHOLIC FAITH
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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.



SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE GLORY OF THE DIVINE WAY



Today's readings draw us into ageless, vibrant depths. Followers of God's law, we belong to ancient traditions. Children of God, we marvel at the freshness of creation. The Old Testament readings, from Sirach and the Psalms, celebrate the rich blessings we receive when we observe God's commands—not because we are slaves to the law, but because the law gives life in abundance. Saint Paul's Letter to the Corinthians confirms the glory of divine law, but warns that God's ways tend to be unpopular and misunderstood in this world. Paul speaks of the ancient wisdom of God, which is mysteriously both "hidden" and "revealed." God does not have secret codes that we earthly mortals cannot understand; in love, God reveals the glory of the divine way in Jesus. Saint Matthew's Gospel emphasizes the importance of living in God's law, enlivened by a deep and personal relationship with Jesus.

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Our readings today together provide powerful insight into how to be faithful disciples. Sirach reminds us that, in the deepest places in ourselves, in our primary attitudes and tendencies in living, we face choices. We have real agency to embrace what is good, and resist what is destructive, for our own flourishing and for the common good. We are shaped, but we are not ultimately shackled, by social forces or by other persons. In Matthew's Gospel, we read that God cares not only about our observing boundaries, but about these deep areas of ourselves and our basic choices in life. God knows our fears and wounds that influence our choices. God is actively providing wisdom, as Paul wrote to the Corinthians. God will help us sort out the bewildering decisions we often face. God is here, deep within, offering challenge, healing, and courage so we may choose to love.

BOTH PRESENT AND FUTURE

Matthew continues Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in today's Gospel, which is Jesus' extended teaching on the central theme of his ministry, the Kingdom of Heaven. Matthew highlights Jesus as a teacher like Moses, and who is rooted in the law of Moses. Jesus interprets the law by intensifying its meaning, by going to the root values behind the specific teachings in the law. These include reconciliation with others; mutual care for all persons as sacred, especially women; and being trustworthy and honest.

The Kingdom of Heaven is described as both in the present and in the future. When these values are lived out in daily life within the community, the Kingdom becomes present there and demonstrable to others. Jesus also spoke about life in the future, when God fulfills the divine promises to establish fully justice and peace on earth. The reconciliation, care, and trust experienced now will reach their fullness in the promised Kingdom.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — God allows us to make choices, but we are not to choose injustice or sinfulness (Sirach 15:15-20).

Psalm — Happy are those who observe God's commands (Psalm 119).

Second Reading — God's wisdom is mysterious and hidden (1 Corinthians 2:6-10).

Gospel — Jesus has come not to abolish but to fulfill the law and the prophets (Matthew 5:17-37).

WITH EACH OTHER

Jesus' Sermon on the Mount today turns to the relationships within the community. Jesus understands the traditional teachings about relationships in light of the coming Kingdom. He describes a deep trust and accountability among members of the community. Not settling for meeting minimum requirements, he points his new community toward an intimate knowledge and caring for each other, so that all may flourish as individuals and as a whole.

Although he highlights the dignity of each individual person, Jesus also envisions a community life where there is both a responsibility for each other and an accountability to each other. Members are to attend to each other's struggles and sorrows. Members become aware that their individual choices and lifestyle will be an example to others. We are to work out how to follow Jesus together in community, not only as individuals. We discern and live out our community's vocation, not only our own. Our unity with God is also with each other.

License to Sin

In the James Bond movies, 007 has a license to kill. He can shoot all the bad guys he wants without worrying about being charged with murder. God, however, does not issue a license to sin. The first reading from Sirach reminds us that any time we choose between life and death, good and evil, it is our free choice and our responsibility. God may allow us to make bad choices, but God never commands anyone to sin.

Jesus goes even deeper than Sirach. The people of Sirach's time had followed the laws and commandments that governed external actions. As long as they treated others fairly, did not kill anyone or steal from them, they could think whatever they wanted. But Jesus taught that thoughts and desires that lead to sin can also be freely chosen or rejected. In the Gospel he gives us some examples.

The first is about killing. Jesus says that anyone who gets angry enough to kill or who looks down on his neighbor as not deserving to live has committed murder in his heart. What prejudices or grudges am I holding in my heart? The longer I hold onto hurtful feelings, the more likely it becomes that they will lead to hurtful actions. Because the Eucharist is our sacrament of unity, we should take care to be reconciled with others before coming to the altar.

The next warning is about adultery, which also begins with interior feelings. Jesus exaggerates when he tells us to cut off a hand or tear out an eye, because he knew how easily we rationalize our feelings and pretend they are harmless. This leads to the next warning about divorce. Jesus takes marriage seriously and expects his disciples to do the same.

His final example concerns taking oaths. Apparently, people would swear upon almost anything in an effort to be believed. Jesus gets to the point and says that we wouldn't need oaths if we always told the truth and kept our promises. Our faith is based on the knowledge that God keeps promises. Shouldn't we do the same?

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 13, 2023

- Monday: Gn 4:1-15, 25; Ps 50:1, 8, 16bc-17, 20-21; Mk 8:11-13
- Tuesday: Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10; Ps 29:1a, 2, 3ac-4, 3b, 9c-10; Mk 8:14-21
- Wednesday: Gn 8:6-13, 20-22; Ps 116:12-15, 18-19; Mk 8:22-26
- Thursday: Gn 9:1-13; Ps 102:16-21, 29, 22-23; Mk 8:27-33
- Friday: Gn 11:1-9; Ps 33:10-15; Mk 8:34 — 9:1
- Saturday: Heb 11:1-7; Ps 145:2-5, 10-11; Mk 9:2-13
- Sunday: Lv 19:1-2, 17-18; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13; 1 Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

FEBRUARY 13, 2023

- Monday**
8:30am Santiago Frias (D); Fr. Joseph Girone (D)
12:00pm
- Tuesday**
8:30am Santiago Frias (D)
12:00pm
- Wednesday**
8:30am Santiago Frias (D); Felix Antonio Hernandez, Maria Olinda Ramirez, Keren Hernandez (D); Anthony Negron (D); Enrique Javier Valladares (D)

12:00pm
- Thursday**
8:30am Santiago Frias (D)
12:00pm Timothy McCormick (D) - 10 yr Anniversary
- Friday**
8:30am Santiago Frias (D)
12:00pm
- Saturday**
7:45am 3 LH Gioan Kim (D)
7:00pm Santiago Frias (D)
- Sunday**
8:00am
9:30am Ciria Flores, Romualdo Garcia, Artemio Garcia, Fruebel Ortega (D); Elvis T. Novas (D); Santiago Frias (D)
11:30am People of SNT; Angel Dariel Rodriguez Hernandez (D)
1:30pm Phêro Trac, Maria Kâng, Ana Huong (D)

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

JANUARY 29, 2023

Tithing: \$7,422.12
 Children: \$0.00
Total: \$7,422.12

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

We pray for the sick: Celso Hilaria Guzman, Evangelith Morales

We pray for the dead:



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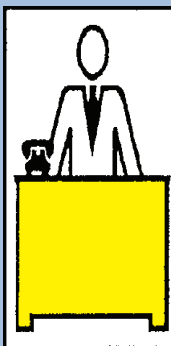
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