



AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Luis A Vera, O.S.A.
Pastor

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Fr. Carlos Urbina, O.S.A –*Associate*

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In Residence

Br. Bienvenido Rodriguez
In Residence

CATHOLIC FAITH
FORMATION
Jesus DeLaRosa

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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

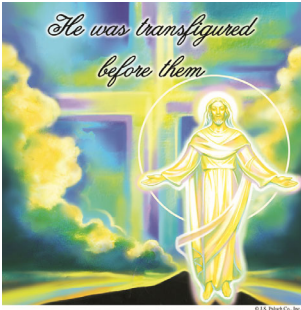
SATURDAY 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

TURNING POINTS



Our readings today describe turning points for those whom God has chosen. In Genesis, God calls Abram to leave his homeland, with the promise of forming a people in a new land. In the Gospel, the disciples see Jesus literally in a new light, the bright light of Jesus' transfiguration. They begin to see Jesus, and themselves, in a new way. These are times when God presents a new way forward, providing new purpose and energy. Our lives too have their own turning points, where God is working (usually in less spectacular fashion) to lead us into fuller maturity, and into deeper unity with God and others. The road ahead, as with Abram, Jesus, and the disciples, may be long and difficult. Lent can be a time when we reflect upon these turning points in our past, and consider how God may be stirring something new in us today.

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Listen. Abram listened and, certain of God's blessing, set out for an unknown future in response to God's call. Awestruck Peter, James, and John heard a voice from a cloud tell them to listen to Jesus. When we listen to the Lord, we are assured of and find strength in God's presence. Listening deeply, we perceive the Lord's call and find the grace to respond to it, finding the assurance we need to live and share the gospel of Jesus Christ, even when it is challenging to do so. When we listen, we hear Jesus say to us as he did to the disciples on the mountain, "Rise, and do not be afraid."

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The LORD said to Abram: All the families of the earth shall find blessing in you (Genesis 12:1-4a)

Psalm — We rely on you, O God; show us mercy (Psalm 33).

Second Reading — God has called us to a holy life, not because of our works but according to grace (2 Timothy 1:8b-10).

Gospel — Atop a high mountain, Jesus was transfigured before Peter, James, and John. (Matthew 17:1-9).

GOD IS WITH US

It can be hard to grasp that the God of glory and power and undying love is always with us. Truly, this is one of the great mysteries of our Christian faith. Every time we make the sign of the cross, we are reminded of the life that is brought to light in Christ. The very life, passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus is evidence of the determination of God to love us through it all. Not only is Jesus proof of God's love, Christ's very presence with and within us is an outpouring of that love. This Lent, take time to listen to the Lord and allow what you hear to help you turn away from sin and toward the life and immortality of the Christian disciple.

LISTEN WHILE ON THE JOURNEY

Have you ever taken a long trip with a family member or friend and found yourself talking about the deeper things of life? Given time, the mundane can give way to topics of meaning and purpose. We sometimes speak of our movement through life and faith as a journey. The metaphor of a journey is fitting, since we are not only to make our way from one point to another the way we take a quick trip or a walk around the block—the process of living in faith is one of growth and change over time. On the journey of life and faith, we can find the grace to talk deeply with the Lord and listen to the voice of God, who strengthens us to face the challenges of living as followers of Christ.

Transfiguration Manifestation

It may seem odd to hear the Gospel of the Transfiguration of Jesus during Lent. Wouldn't it fit better after Easter? After all, the disciples who witnessed it did not tell anyone else about it until after the Resurrection (Matthew 17:9). An answer is found a few verses after our Gospel selection. Jesus tells the disciples that he will suffer (Matthew 17:12). The vision of Jesus' glory shared by Peter, James, and John was meant to help them not to become discouraged by Jesus' death on the cross.

The story encourages us during the long season of Lent to be faithful to our prayers, our Lenten sacrifices, and our charity because we have seen a glimpse of the glory that is coming. Some of the details in the Gospel can help us understand.

First, we hear about Jesus' appearance, that "his face shone like the sun" (Matthew 17:2). Just as we can't look directly at the sun, so people thought that if they looked at the face of God they would die. If the disciples didn't believe that Jesus was the Son of God before, they surely did now. For us this can be a reminder that God is with us during this season of Lent, helping our faith to grow.

Next, the three disciples see Moses and Elijah, who were signs that Jesus fulfills the law and the prophets. But when Peter tries to keep them around by offering to set up tents for them, the voice of God interrupts. God tells them that now they should listen to Jesus. The Gospel tells us to keep our eyes on Jesus throughout Lent. Do I grumble about Lent, seeing it is as another set of laws to be obeyed? Perhaps I'm forgetting that Lent is not about how much I do for God, but a time to reflect on what God has done for me.

The last line of the Gospel has Jesus admonishing the three not to tell anyone about their vision until after his resurrection. Maybe the disciples were tempted to brag that they were better than the other followers of Jesus. This reminds us that the sacrifices of Lent don't just make us look holy; they lead us to the new life of Easter.

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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

MARCH 6, 2023

- Monday: Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Lk 6:36-38
- Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mt 23:1-12
- Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14-16; Mt 20:17-28
- Thursday: Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 16:19-31
- Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a; 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-21; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
- Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
- Sunday: Ex 17:3-7; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42 [5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42]

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MARCH 6, 2023

- Monday**
8:30am Maria Teresa Alvarez, Jose Ramon Garcia, Jose Ulises Garcia (D); Asunción Virafuentes (D)
12:00pm Luisito Nuñez, Olimpia Guzman, Antonio Nuñez, Fidel Nuñez (D)
- Tuesday**
8:30am Jose Sandy (D), Antonio Jaquez (D)
12:00pm
- Wednesday**
8:30am Jose Arturo Flores Manzaba (D)
12:00pm Anthony Coon, Roberto Perez, Genoveva Madera (D)
- Thursday**
8:30am
12:00pm
- Friday**
8:30am Ana Felicita Hernandez - liberación y conversión (D)
12:00pm Maria Hue & Gioan Vinh (D)
- Saturday**
7:45am Gioan Chat & Maria Nghi (D)
7:00pm Cira Martinez Santana - 2 años
- Sunday**
8:00am People of SNT
9:30am Acción de Gracias; Yadira Librado Santiago, Jesus Oscar Aviles Librado Brassy (D)
11:30am Margaret Grossenbacher (D)
1:30pm Giuse Duong (D)

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

FEBRUARY 19, 2023

Tithing: \$7,166.64
Children: \$0.00
Total: \$7,166.64

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: Lolita Rubi