



AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

PASTORAL STAFF

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

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Fr. Joseph Murray, O.S.A
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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.



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

GOD EVER PURSUES US

We hear today of God's unrelenting pursuit of us. Our readings tell stories of God's intense desire to share the divine life with us. From Exodus, we see how God shows endless persistence and compassion, even to those who grumble against God, or seem to have forgotten God. From the Gospel of John, we hear of how Jesus, in his extended conversation with the Samaritan woman, gives her dignity, names uncomfortable truths, and gradually leads her into a new path of faith. We can have confidence that as we bring our own confusions, fears, and failings to God, we may receive God's mercy and forgiveness. God always persists and continually finds new ways to invite people into unity with God. As Paul describes in Romans, in the cross we see how God will go to any length to demonstrate the depth and breadth of divine love.



There is thirst, as we feel when we need a glass of water, and then there is the sort of thirst about which Jesus speaks with the Samaritan woman at the well. The conversation started on the level of the sort of thirst that is quenched by a soothing drink. Yet, the conversation between Jesus and the woman quickly became about a deeper sort of thirst, the yearning for spiritual nourishment. The Israelites fussed about being thirsty, yet their thirst also had a spiritual dimension. Was the Lord with them or not, they wondered? On this Third Sunday of Lent, the elect participate in the first of three scrutinies as they prepare for the living waters of baptism. We share their thirst and open our hearts to the living water that Jesus offers, the water of life, hope, and peace.

ARE YOU THIRSTY?

Do you feel unsettled or sense that life is about more than the daily details that fill your time, energy, and attention? Are you anxious or worried and yearn for peace? Is there an ache in your heart that longs for relief? The thirst for meaning, purpose, peace, and solace is real. We humans have a tendency to seek relief from such thirst with wealth, material things, or social status, failing to recognize that these things are fleeting. We may distract ourselves with constant activity, keeping ourselves busy and preoccupied rather than allowing ourselves to acknowledge the yearning in our hearts. We fail to see that only Christ can quench our thirst.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — When the people grumbled to Moses for water in the desert, the LORD heard and brought forth water from the rock for all to drink (Exodus 17:3-7).

Psalm — Listen to God's voice today; be not hardhearted (Psalm 95).

Second Reading — God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:1-2, 5-8).

Gospel — Ask, and you will be given living water so that you will never thirst again (John 4:5-42 [5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42]).

LET JESUS QUENCH YOUR THIRST

It was likely hot in the midday sun on the day that Jesus encountered the woman at the well. Scholars tell us that she must have been shunned by the other women in the community, leading her to avoid the cooler early morning time when others filled their jugs. Add to this that Jews and Samaritans shared longstanding animosity toward one another. No wonder she was surprised and perplexed when Jesus asked for a drink. Yet she did not run away. Jesus sought her out and she opened her heart and mind to his offer of salvation. Jesus seeks us out, too. Our Lord desires that we open our hearts and minds to the fullness of love, forgiveness, mercy, and peace that is only found in God. For what do you thirst at this time? Compassion, justice, consolation? Only Christ can truly quench your thirst. Jesus desires to do so. Open your heart today; "hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us" (Romans 5:5).

One Small Step

This story in John's Gospel is one of the three longest Gospel readings next to the Passion stories. They are always read on the Sundays of Lent when those preparing for baptism celebrate the scrutinies. They are meant not only for catechumens, but also for all of us who are growing in faith. In today's Gospel, we see the Samaritan woman coming to faith. The steps she takes are our steps, too.

Though she needs Jesus' help, he approaches her first. In asking her for a drink, he is really thirsting for her faith. He invites us to make the journey of faith long before we start by putting us into a faithful family, giving us a curious heart that seeks the truth, sending us a friend or spouse whose example draws us to the Lord.

The next step is acknowledging our need and our sinfulness. The woman does this when she asks for living water and faces her behavior in having five husbands. Admitting our need for God, and especially for God's forgiveness, opens us to God's saving grace.

Another step is drawing closer to God in prayer. That explains the odd question about worshiping on a mountain. Jesus tells the woman, and us, that the best worship is honest and from the Spirit. That is more important than when or where we pray. God hears the prayers of a small congregation in a rural chapel just as well those of a thousand people in a large cathedral.

When we begin to share our faith with others, we take the step of living our faith. We make a difference in someone else's life and they begin to experience Jesus presence. Like the woman who told her neighbors about Jesus, we find that the people we have touched begin to find the Lord on their own. Our catechumens are taking these steps now, thanks to those who have helped them experience Jesus' invitation to faith.

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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.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION
FEBRUARY 26, 2023

Tithing: \$7,419.40
Children: \$0.00
Total: \$7,419.40

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MARCH 13, 2023

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30
Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc, 8-9; Mt 18:21-35
Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19
Thursday: Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Lk 11:14-23
Friday: Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-11ab, 14, 17; Mk 12:28-34
Saturday: Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab; Lk 18:9-14
Sunday: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23:1-6; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41[1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MARCH 6, 2023

Monday
8:30am Anthony Israel Felix (D)
12:00pm
Tuesday
8:30am Pablo, Jaime Negrón (D)
12:00pm
Wednesday
8:30am Felix Antonio Hernandez, Maria Olinda Ramirez, Keren Hernandez (D); Maria Josefa Parache (D); San Anthony Negrón (D), Cruz Negrón, Ricardo Reyes (D)
12:00pm Julia Guasp (D) - 2nd year
Thursday
8:30am Maria Colon (D)
12:00pm
Friday
8:30am Virginia Colon (D)
12:00pm
Saturday
7:45am Anton The (D)
7:00pm Wally Dominguez (D); Elisa Reyes (D); Ydalia Ventura (D); Benito Peña & Digna Escobosa (D)
Sunday
8:00am Hector Serrano, Luis Serrano, Alfredo Serrano, Mary Velez (D); Feliz Evangelita Gonzalez, Eduvina Gonzalez, Serafin Alfredo Gonzalez (D)
9:30am People of SNT; Saul Garcia Pimentel (L) - 15th birthday
11:30am Anton Lang & Maria Phi (D)
1:30pm

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