



AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS

PASTORAL STAFF

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

pastor@stnicholasoftolentinebronx.org

Fr. Joseph Tran- *Associate*

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
Jesus DeLaRosa

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Mr. Daniel Kirk-Foster
Mr. Dang Vu

ACCOUNTING
Ms. Shelly Parkin

PLANT MANAGER

Mr. Jesus Liriano
917-579-6720

RECEPTIONIST
Ms. Lucy Maldonado

ST. NICHOLAS OF TOLENTINE CHURCH

2345 UNIVERSITY AVENUE BRONX, NY 10468

TEL. (718) 295-6800

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

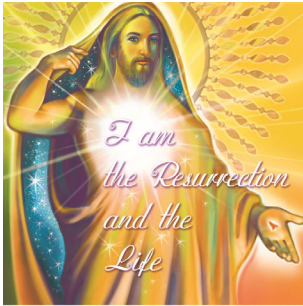
SATURDAY 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

LIFE FROM GOD



As we approach Holy Week, our readings speak of a God who, in the midst of death, brings new life to the people. In Ezekiel, we hear that God will open the graves of the people of Israel, who faced near extinction. In the Gospel of John, Jesus gives new life to Lazarus in a manner that prefigures the resurrection of Jesus. Paul tells the Romans that in Christ, God will not only give life to our bodies after death, but God offers us abundant life here and now. We observe that the external conditions for the people described in these readings did not radically change. Israel was still in exile. Lazarus would eventually face death again. But now God's presence and power are revealed. Even when our situation in life is difficult and perhaps not likely to change soon, we remember that the Spirit dwells within us.

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Death does not have the final say. This is the great mystery we ponder on this Fifth Sunday of Lent. Martha and Mary were good friends of Jesus. They did not hide their confusion and grief from the Lord; they voiced their conviction that if Jesus had been with them during their brother's illness, he would not have died. Jesus entered into their grief and more—he overturned it. Lazarus' death became the occasion for Jesus to show all who had gathered the mercy of God who cries out, "Oh my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them." In this moment, the world was given a sign of the new life to come through Christ, the Risen One.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Thus says the LORD GOD: I will open your graves, have you rise from them, and settle you on your land. (Ezekiel 37:12-14).

Psalm — The Lord is kind and saves us (Psalm 130).

Second Reading — If Christ is in you, the spirit is alive even if the body is dead because of sin (Romans 8:8-11).

Gospel — Lazarus, dead for four days, came out of his tomb when Jesus called his name. Many of those who had seen what had happened began to believe in Jesus (John 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]).

COME TO BELIEVE

Martha had a uniquely personal relationship with Jesus. She spoke with him honestly, baring her heart to Jesus, openly expressing her confusion and sorrow at her brother's death. Jesus' response led Martha to a deep declaration of faith, "I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world." We, too, can have a uniquely personal relationship with Jesus. We can speak honestly to the Lord, baring our hearts, expressing the truth of each moment of our lives, whether in joy or sorrow, happiness, grief, confusion, or times of fulfillment. In such honesty and trust, we may find deeper faith as well, coming to believe that Christ is our all, our way, truth, and life.

FROM DEATH TO NEW LIFE

There really is no way around it. Eventually, we will grapple with the death of a loved one, a parent, sibling, spouse, or dear friend. As we mature, we also begin to come to terms with our own mortality. Our Sunday readings this Lent have invited our reflection on the big questions of life and faith. We have resolved to turn away from sin and toward God, listening to the Lord and responding with open minds and hearts. We have acknowledged and perhaps heightened our thirst for the Lord and have committed ourselves to walk in the light of God's grace. Today, we journey from death to new life, reflecting on the mystery of Christ who is the resurrection and the life.

Greater Than You Expect

Sometimes a prophet says more than he intended. Ezekiel in the first reading is talking about restoring Israel after the Babylonian exile. The Jews saw the Exile as punishment for their sins, especially the sin of relying on false gods or political leaders for their safety. God demonstrates forgiveness by bringing them back to Israel; God also shows them divine power and glory so that they return to the Lord for their protection.

Ezekiel uses the image of the dead rising from their graves (37:12). Jesus came to show us God in a new way and to fulfill the promises of all previous prophecies. Notice how the first reading repeats two phrases: "open your graves" and "know that I am the LORD." Jesus demonstrates that God's promise is much greater than anything Ezekiel expected.

First, the Gospel. When Jesus went to the tomb of Lazarus, he apparently waited till his friend had died. He knew that he was going to raise Lazarus from death to help his disciples believe. So why was he "perturbed and deeply troubled"? It could be that he was disappointed that his friends did not seem to believe that he could raise Lazarus. Notice Jesus became perturbed again when some of the crowd question Jesus' ability to do so (John 11:37-38). Like Ezekiel, the people of Jesus' time did not expect him literally to raise the dead. But God used the prophet's message to prepare for Jesus' message that not only would he rise from the dead, but we will also. And like the friends and relatives of Lazarus, we too may find it hard to believe, or at least question how it could be possible. Fortunately, Jesus helps with that, too.

Look at the second reading to the Romans. Because we have God's Spirit living in us, we who are sinners can be raised to new life by that Spirit. When our sins are forgiven, we begin to live a new life by loving the people we hurt by our sins, forgiving people who have hurt us, being more concerned for the poor than for our own comfort. We are freed from worrying about the future, from holding onto grudges, and perhaps even from the fear of death itself—all because we have experienced the new life of God's Spirit and, as Ezekiel says, know that God is the LORD.

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

MARCH 27, 2023

- Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 [41c-62]; Ps 23:1-6; Jn 8:1-11
- Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-30
- Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42
- Thursday: Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-9; Jn 8:51-59
- Friday: Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42
- Saturday: Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10, 11-13; Jn 11:45-56
- Sunday: Mt 21:1-11 (procession); Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14 — 27:66 [27:11-54]

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MARCH 27, 2023

- Monday**
8:30am Domingo Basora (D)
12:00pm Divine Mercy, Domingo Siri (D)
- Tuesday**
8:30am
12:00pm
- Wednesday**
8:30am Jose Peguero Montero (D); Teofilo Humberto Candelario (D)
12:00pm
- Thursday**
8:30am Renee Alvarez (D); Maria Dolores Rubi (D)
12:00pm Albertine Louise Seale, Elizabeth Victoria Seale, Mercy Tete (D), Felicia Seale Miller, Joseph Ofosu Miller (D)
- Friday**
8:30am
12:00pm
- Saturday**
7:45am Gioan Kim (D)
7:00pm Luz Pelaez, Teofilo Pelaez, Elvira Arichabala (D); Carmen Nitida Alix, Matilde Alix (D)
- Sunday**
8:00am People of SNT
9:30am Juan Santana (D); Jose Miguel Peña Zapata (D); Familia Cortez-Angel, Salud de Antonia Angel, Ramon Sural Rondon (D); Irena Reyes De Leon (D)
11:30am
1:30pm Phero Thong & Magarita Han (D)

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

MARCH 13, 2023

Tithing: \$7,480.66
Children: \$0.00
Total: \$7,480.66

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

*We pray for the sick: Nancy Cruz
We pray for the dead: Lolita Rubi*