St. Nicholas of Tolentine Church

The Bronx New York



AUGUST| 2026

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor
Fr. Luis A Vera, O.S.A.
pastor@stnicholasoftolentinebronx.org
Associate
Fr. Joseph Tran
Fr. Joseph Murray, O.S.A
In Residence
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Ms. Shelly Parkin
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Mr. Eric Fortunato
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Ms. Lucy Maldonado

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend

Saturday Vigil
7:00pm Spanish (organ & cantor)
Sunday
8:00am English (organ & cantor)
9:30am Spanish (organ & cantor)
11:30am English (organ & cantor)
1:30pm Vietnamese (keyboard & choir)

Weekdays

Monday - Friday
8:30am Spanish 12:00pm English
Thursday & Saturday
7:45am Vietnamese

SACRAMENTS

Confession, First Communion and Confirmation

Make contact with the coordinator of this area for information about the various programs available. Appointments can be made in the parish office at anytime.

Baptism

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.

Confessions

Saturday 5:30-6:30 p.m. and 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.

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

AUGUST 16, 2026

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, August 17
8:30 a.m. Felix Antonio Hernandez, Maria Olinda Ramirez, Keren Hernandez, Juan Bautista Hernandez (D), Sofia Peralta (D)
12:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 18
8:30 a.m. Ricardo Reyes (D), Julia Burbano (D)
12:00 p.m. Maria (D), Ulises Francisco Aquino Sterling (D)

Wednesday, August 19
8:30 a.m. Patricia Mozo, Vira Fuentes (D)
12:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 20
8:30 a.m.
12:00 p.m.

Friday, August 21
8:30 a.m.
12:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 22
7:45 a.m.
7:00 p.m. Rafael Flores Olivera & Maximino Flores (D), Eloisa Olivera (D), Tommy Febles (D), Ydalia Ventura, Roque Garcia (D), Ramon Ricardo Rivas (D) - 1er aniversario, Pablo Holgin (D)

Sunday, August 23
8:00 a.m. People of SNT, Louie Dedvukaj (L) Honor of St. Nicholas
9:30: a.m. Angel Luis Sanchez & Angel Luis Rodriguez (D), Almas en el Purgatorio, Eugenio Rebollar, Amparo Cuatla, Agustiana Rebollar (D)
11:30 am Miri family -Honor of St. Nicholas, Souls of Kasongo Family members
1:30 pm

READINGS

First Reading:
Thus says the LORD:
Observe what is right, do what is just;
for my salvation is about to come,
my justice, about to be revealed. (Is 56:1)

Psalm:
O God, let all the nations praise you! (Ps 67)

Second Reading:
For God delivered all to disobedience,
that he might have mercy upon all. (Rom 11:32)

Gospel:
Then Jesus said to her in reply,
"O woman, great is your faith!
Let it be done for you as you wish." (Mt 15:28)

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Readings for the week of August 16, 2026

Sunday:	Is 56:1, 6-7/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/Rom 11:13-15, 29-32/Mt 15:21-28
Monday:	Ez 24:15-23/Dt 32:18-19, 20, 21/Mt 19:16-22
Tuesday:	Ez 28:1-10/Dt 32:26-27ab, 27cd-28, 30, 35cd-36ab/Mt 19:23-30
Wednesday:	Ez 34:1-11/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 20:1-16
Thursday:	Ez 36:23-28/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19/Mt 22:1-14
Friday:	Ez 37:1-14/Ps 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 22:34-40
Saturday:	Ez 43:1-7ab/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Mt 23:1-12
Next Sunday:	Is 22:19-23/Ps 138:1-2a, 2b-3, 6 and 8/Rom 11:33-36/Mt 16:13-20



Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Matthew 15:21-28

Does God ignore or act a bit rough with you? Jesus crosses the border into the pagan region of Tyre and Sidon, the territory long outside the covenant. There, a Canaanite woman calls out, **"Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David."** At first, he is silent. Then he rebuffs her. **"It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs."** But the Church Fathers saw this not as an insult but as an initiation. Christ draws out of her heart a deeper faith.

She presses on. **"Please, Lord, even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters."** Jesus' silence and response solidify her humility and trust. She thus becomes a model for prayer for centuries of Christians. St. Augustine said she shows how sinners come to grace by moving from silence to humility to perseverance.

This woman is the Church. She is you and me. She is every soul who dares to cry out from the margins, who endures divine silence until it turns to compassion. When Jesus says, **"O woman, great is your faith,"** it is the joyful cry of God discovering faith where the world least expects it. Even the smallest crumb of Your mercy, Lord, is enough to heal the soul. Do we have the courage to show faith like that?

— Father John Muir

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(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS
By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Chess, Not Checkers

There's a saying that good leaders have to play chess, not checkers.

It will surprise no one who knows me well that I am terrible at chess. It's not so much a lack of skill (although that's part of it) as a lack of effort. I find chess exhausting. To succeed at this complex game of strategy, you have to see not just the board in front of you, but the person in front of you — and more than that, you have to consider not just what is, but what could be.

I prefer checkers.

When I read a Gospel passage like today's, I think of what Jesus would be like as a chess player. It's so easy to see this account of the Canaanite woman and her tenacity and take it at face value, as a reminder to pray without ceasing, to never stop asking God for what we need. And certainly, it is that.

But it's not only that.

We see a woman begging God for help, and we see God refuse — at first. We see her persist, and we see him capitulate. At least, that's what it looks like to us.

What does it look like to Jesus?

Jesus sees this woman's face and hears her words, just as his disciples do — but he also sees her heart. He sees her whole life. He sees every moment that leads up to this one. He sees her belief, but he also sees her unbelief. He sees her wounds. He sees her daughter.

He sees the game board not just for what it is, but for what it could be.

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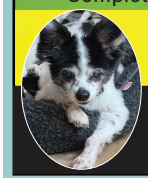

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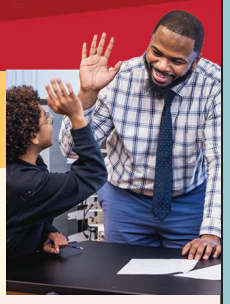

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