

FEBRUARY

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Thursday, February 1, 2024
(Lec. 326)

- 1) 1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12
- 2) Mark 6:7-13

THURSDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Follow the call of the Lord.

Our readings today give instructions on what it means to follow the Lord. We listen to the word of God, but to truly live it we must put the Word into practice in our lives and show others. God has prepared us to go out into the world and share the Gospel.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading David, near death, gives final words of instruction to his son Solomon to keep faithful to the Lord. In the Gospel, Jesus sends out the Twelve in pairs, giving them instructions on how to go about their mission. They preach repentance and bring healing to those in need.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Mindful of the needs of the world, let us offer our prayers to God with one voice.

- 1) For Church leaders in their ministry of preaching the word of God, may the Holy Spirit continue to guide them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For lawmakers, may God's grace direct their hearts in proposing laws that protect the life and rights of all people, including those yet to be born, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who live with inadequate food, shelter, or community support, may God be gracious to them and provide for their every need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community here today, may the Holy Spirit bring us to a greater understanding of our calling, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have passed away from this world in hope of the next, may the Lord bring them to eternal rest in him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, you sent your only Son so that we might grow closer to you. Listen to the needs we bring to you today, and answer them, we ask, through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, February 2, 2024
(Lec. 524)

- 1) Malachi 3:1-4
- 2) Hebrews 2:14-18
- 3) Luke 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

**THE PRESENTATION
OF THE LORD
- FEAST**

FOCUS: We are refined and purified to be perfected in the Lord's image.

The Lord's messenger of the covenant is *like the refiner's fire*, that purifies and refines us *like gold or like silver*. The Lord has made us in his image to reflect his truth, beauty, and goodness, and we have worth far greater than any gold or silver. In Jesus Christ we are purified and refined for his glory, and he works to draw us through fire and trials to be perfected in his image. He does not settle for a temporary good for us, such as comfort; instead he leads us to lasting, deep good.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading prophesies the Lord coming to the temple to purify God's people. In the Letter to the Hebrews, we are reminded that Jesus was tested and so is able to help those who are tested. In the Gospel, Mary and Joseph present Jesus at the temple and meet Simeon and Anna, who recognize him as the Christ.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in our good and gracious God, let us boldly bring him our needs and the needs of our community.

- 1) For the Church, may we be refined like gold to reflect Christ's light to all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who hold positions of authority and governance, may the refiner's fire form them into leaders who protect those most in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are suffering, may the grace of God and his everlasting peace bring them consolation and relief, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the Lord continue to sanctify and purify us in lives of faithful service, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they rest in the eternal light of heaven with all the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and loving God, receive these prayers we offer you today through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Saturday, February 3, 2024
(Lec. 328)

- 1) 1 Kings 3:4-13
- 2) Mark 6:30-34

SATURDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.)

Saint Blaise, Bishop and Martyr;
Saint Ansgar, Bishop;
Saturday in honor of BVM)

FOCUS: Pray, as did Solomon, for *an understanding heart*.

Solomon, the young king of Israel, asks God for *an understanding heart* to judge God's people and to discern right from wrong. We all could use this same heart in our daily lives, to understand the people and situations we encounter every day. In this complicated world, we need God's heart to know how to respond.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, young King Solomon pleases God by asking for an understanding heart to help him govern God's people well. Jesus leads his disciples to a deserted place to give them rest – but is himself drawn in out of pity to serve the people who follow them, who are *like sheep without a shepherd*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Knowing God's love and care for us, we bring him our needs.

- 1) For our Holy Father and all Church leaders, may God always bless them with wise, understanding, and discerning hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our world, may Christ's peace touch the hearts of leaders and influencers and lead them to harmony, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who suffer the ravages of war or violence, may the Holy Spirit envelop them with protection and bring them peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For families in this community of faith, may the Lord help them in creating places of love and support, with prayer and faithful living, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may God soon lead them to a place of rest and joy in his kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of all love, compassion, and mercy, hear these prayers we present to you and answer them as you know best. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2024

(Lec. 74)

- 1) Job 7:1-4, 6-7
- 2) 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23
- 3) Mark 1:29-39

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Jesus, the Word of God, came for all the world.

Jesus came not just for those he encountered in person but for the salvation of the whole world. As his earthly ministry touched the lives of many people, so does his Word spread to all the earth. He brings healing to those in despair by offering the hope of the kingdom of God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Job speaks of living in misery. Paul, in his Letter to the Corinthians, tells them he has an obligation to preach the Good News of the Gospel. In the Gospel, Jesus drives out demons and heals Simon's mother-in-law, and then goes on healing and preaching *throughout the whole of Galilee*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring to our merciful God our prayers for ourselves, for one another, and for the whole world.

- 1) For Church leaders, may the Holy Spirit continue to inspire them in faithfully preaching the Good News of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may God grant them integrity in protecting all who are vulnerable, especially the poor, the elderly, and the unborn, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who struggle with disabilities, may God's strength accompany them in their hardships, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered in this holy place, may the grace of this sacrament transform us in the image of Christ's love and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may our loving God soon bring them to eternal union with him in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and merciful God, we praise you for the wonders you have done for us. We ask that you graciously accept the prayers we have brought to you, through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, February 5, 2024
(Lec. 329)
1) 1 Kings 8:1-7, 9-13
2) Mark 6:53-56

MONDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Agatha,
Virgin and Martyr)

FOCUS: The glory of the Lord dwells among us.

For the chosen people of Israel, the Lord dwelled among them in the temple. In Christ Jesus, he came to dwell among and within each one of us, As his followers, we have the great joy of knowing that God's presence abides with us forever in the self-sacrificing love that Christ has for each of us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the ark of the covenant is brought to King Solomon in Jerusalem and placed in the sanctuary of the temple. The Lord's glory fills the temple, which Solomon calls a dwelling *where [the Lord] may abide forever*. In the Gospel, people recognize Jesus and bring the sick to him to be healed.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With hope in the abundant goodness of our loving God, we bring to him our cares and concerns.

- 1) For vocations to the priesthood and religious life, may the Lord bless our holy Church with committed men and women, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may they work to bring about a just society for everyone, especially for those whose voices are often unheard, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those burdened by any kind of difficulty, especially those who are ill and struggling with their pain, may God's grace bring them comfort and relief, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all in this faith community, may we evangelize in our everyday lives through our words and actions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they enjoy eternal life in heaven and behold the face of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful God, you provide for all people and bring healing to those who call upon you. Hear the prayers we offer to you, we pray, and grant them according to your will, through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, February 6, 2024
(Lec. 330)
1) 1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30
2) Mark 7:1-13

TUESDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Paul Miki and Companions,
Martyrs)

FOCUS: *How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord, mighty God!*

The Pharisees looked “religious.” They were very good at following their own rules, even bending God’s statutes when convenient. They disregarded God’s commandment but clung to human tradition. If we are honest, the Lord’s assessment of unrighteous behavior may hit a little close to home, at times. Our worship of the Lord is not in vain – he is faithful and steadfast, and nothing of our own design can be worth more than him. Let us honor him with our words, our actions, and our hearts.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Solomon prays at the dedication of the temple. He asks the Lord to watch over it night and day. In the Gospel, the Pharisees criticize the disciples for not observing the ritual washing of hands. Jesus takes them to task for insisting on their traditions and ignoring the word of God.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Our heavenly Father watches over us day and night. Let us offer him our prayers with confidence in his care.

- 1) For the Holy Father, may God bless him with wisdom and clarity to lead the Church with holiness and strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may the Lord inspire them to live with integrity and work for justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who suffer from chronic illness, may God in his mercy help them to persevere and may he grant healing in his time, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For God’s people gathered here, may the Lord fill us with joy and so draw others to join our family of faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in faith, may Jesus show them the splendor of his heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, please hear and answer our prayers in your wisdom. We ask through Jesus, your Son.

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Wednesday, February 7, 2024

(Lec. 331)

1) 1 Kings 10:1-10

2) Mark 7:14-23

WEDNESDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Align your heart to God in thought, word, and deed.

Excuses are plentiful and easy as to why we fall into sin or act in certain ways. However, we are responsible for our own actions, thoughts, and words, which are usually a direct reflection of what is going on in our hearts. Are our hearts aligned with God or with the world?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the queen of Sheba visits Solomon in Jerusalem, questioning him *on every subject*. She witnesses his great wisdom and blesses the Lord who made him king. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that nothing from outside can defile a person; it is what is in our hearts that defiles us.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that our heavenly Father loves and cares for us, we present to him our needs and intentions.

- 1) For the Church, may the Holy Spirit continue to lead each of us into a deeper relationship with Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who shape public policy, may the Lord soften their hearts as they care for the poor and most vulnerable in their midst, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who suffer religious persecution or discrimination, may God give them courage and strength to persevere in hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For each of us gathered here, may our love and devotion for Jesus be fueled with apostolic zeal, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the light of faith, may perpetual light shine upon them and grant them peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, please hear these prayers and petitions, for we make them through your Son, Christ our Lord.

Thursday, February 8, 2024
(Lec. 332)

- 1) 1 Kings 11:4-13
- 2) Mark 7:24-30

THURSDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Jerome Emiliani;
Saint Josephine Bakhita, Virgin)

FOCUS: Keep close to the Lord, and have faith in his works.

What different characters in our readings today! One has been given every grace and blessing and yet falls away from obedience to and relationship with the giver of those gifts. The other is a woman who by law and custom deserved neither the Lord's attention or grace, yet who believed and persisted in seeking his favor. It demonstrates the simple truth of the axiom, "if you ever find yourself distant from God, guess which one of you moved." Keep close to the Lord, and have faith in his works.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Solomon, who had turned and followed other gods despite the Lord's command, hears God explain that his punishment will fall on his descendants. God says he will spare one tribe for the sake of David and his chosen Jerusalem. In the Gospel, a Greek woman who had heard about Jesus begged him to heal her daughter who had an unclean spirit. Jesus responds saying that the children should be fed first and it isn't right to take the children's food and give it to the dogs. When the woman persists in her faith, Jesus tells her that her daughter has indeed been healed.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Raising our voices with trust in our heavenly Father, we now place our intentions before him.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we who profess Jesus as Lord receive every grace and gift from him to persevere in faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civil leaders, may God's truth and abundant love guide them in their efforts to protect the dignity and sanctity of life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are suffering from financial or physical hardships, may the generous Spirit of the Lord bring them assistance and relief, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For an increase in faith, hope, and love for all of us gathered here and for those we love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they experience union with the God who loved them into being, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, we trust in your loving providence as we offer these prayers to you, through Christ our Lord.

Friday, February 9, 2024

(Lec. 333)

1) 1 Kings 11:29-32; 12:19

2) Mark 7:31-37

FRIDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God's healing inspires proclamation of the Good News.

In the Rite of Baptism, Jesus' word *Ephphatha!*, and a physical blessing of the mouth and ears, has been incorporated so that the newly baptized person may hear God's word and profess the faith. May we, the baptized, live out this blessing and amaze those around us with the depths of God's mercy and grace.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Ahijah tears his cloak into 12 pieces and gives Jeroboam 10, to signify that Jeroboam shall reign over the 10 northern tribes, splitting the nation in two. In the Gospel, Jesus heals the deaf man who also has a speech impediment. Although *he ordered them not to tell anyone*, the witnesses could not help but broadcast Jesus' deeds.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Grateful for the many ways God grants miracles every day, we bring our prayers to the Lord, confident in his love.

- 1) For the Church, may the Holy Spirit always inspire her bold proclamation of God's mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may the Lord guide their actions to promote peace and unity among all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those burdened by loneliness or despair, may the healing touch of Jesus bring them consolation and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all gathered in this holy place, may Jesus be our guide and our strength as we work to build his kingdom on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they soon sing with the choirs of angels in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, we bring to you our needs and concerns. Graciously hear us, we ask, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, February 10, 2024
(Lec. 334)

- 1) 1 Kings 12:26-32;
13:33-34
- 2) Mark 8:1-10

SATURDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Scholastica,
Virgin)

FOCUS: God's generosity and mercy are infinite.

God's generosity and mercy are astounding. Even after all his people did to rebel against him – even as they were easily led astray – he never gave up on them. He never gave up on us. Sending his Son into the world, he offered the very gift of himself so that another Jeroboam could not overcome us with his evil ways. His gift overflows to each of us, with enough for anyone and everyone who would seek it.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Jeroboam fears the Israelites will reunite and gain power, so he installs idols in their worship area and turns them against God, weakening their unity and strength. In the Gospel, Jesus feeds 4,000 people with seven loaves of bread and a few fish. After all have eaten, there are seven baskets of fragments left over.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust in God's infinite love for each of us, let us offer our petitions to him.

- 1) For Church leaders, may the Spirit bless them with fortitude to do the work entrusted to them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who hold community leadership positions, may God grant them compassion and prudence in meeting the needs of those whom they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are grieving the loss of a loved one, may they be filled with the spirit of consolation and peace, even as they mourn, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may God help us to weather the hardships of discipleship with joy and thanksgiving, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls of the faithful departed, may they soon be given a place at the heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, hear our prayers and answer them in your perfect will. We ask this through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024

(Lec. 77)

- 1) Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46
- 2) 1 Corinthians 10:31–11:1
- 3) Mark 1:40-45

**SIXTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: *Do everything for the glory of God.*

Do everything for the glory of God. Paul's words are both commanding and encouraging. As Christians, whatever we do ought to reflect who we are: children of the Most High God, adopted sons and daughters of the Lord. We are sisters and brothers of Christ, and our very identity should permeate all we say and do. We are encouraged in this endeavor, and aided by grace, so that we can glorify God for his sake, and for the sake of the world's salvation.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading regulates procedures for dealing with people with skin disease. They are denounced unclean and must live alone. Paul calls the Corinthians to give glory to God in everything they do. In the Gospel, Jesus is moved with pity for a man with leprosy. Jesus touches the man, and he is made clean.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We turn to God in prayer, trusting that he knows our hearts.

- 1) For our holy Church and her mission to build the kingdom of God in our midst, may God continue to uphold us in this sacred work, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may the Prince of Peace guide them in their work for justice, peace, and truth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are "outcasts" in our society or feel alienated from others, may the Lord's enduring love embrace them in their vulnerability, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the members of this faith community, may the sacramental graces we have received come alive in our every word and deed, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may our merciful God bring them to everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of all, please hear and answer these prayers we ask through your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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Monday, February 12, 2024
(Lec. 335)

- 1) James 1:1-11
- 2) Mark 8:11-13

MONDAY OF
SIXTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Faith is a gift and a source of joy.

What is it about humans that makes us need proof of everything? “Pictures or it didn’t happen,” is a common social media refrain. “Show me” or “prove it” are both taunts and expectations. Jesus is, literally, living proof of God’s love for us and of our redemption, and yet the people around him constantly demand to see signs of such power and authority. Do we demand the same of God in our own lives? Have faith! It’s a gift from God, and brings great joy.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, James writes of the joy of life’s trials and the need for perseverance, and offers insights into both faith and wisdom. In the Gospel, Jesus scolds the Pharisees as they clamor for a sign that he is divine. This follows immediately after Jesus fed 4,000 with a few loaves and fish.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in our merciful God, we humbly place our prayers and petitions before him.

- 1) For Pope Francis, may he be blessed with an abundance of grace to shine the light of Christ in our world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may God’s voice be their guide in forming laws that favor the common good over specific agendas, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those in crisis pregnancies, may God fill them with courage and provide the resources they need to choose life for their babies, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may the peace of Christ reign in our hearts and homes, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they soon rejoice as they join the communion of saints in the fullness of God’s kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, we humbly ask you to accept our prayers in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, February 13, 2024
(Lec. 336)

- 1) James 1:12-18
- 2) Mark 8:14-21

TUESDAY OF
SIXTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Focus on the gifts the Lord desires to give us.

When the disciples realize they did not bring enough food with them, Jesus reminds them of his power to provide more than what they need. This exchange is an example for us that what we think we have, or need, is not what is important. What the Lord gives us, and what he does with what we have, is what counts.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, James cautions the community to persevere in the face of temptation, set aside personal desires, and look to God as the giver of all that is good. In the Gospel, Jesus challenges the disciples to look beyond what they lack and look to him – the God who will respond to their needs.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In confidence that the Lord will respond to our pleas, let us lift up our hearts and minds to him as we pray.

- 1) For the Church, may God continue to provide all she needs for her mission in spreading the Gospel to the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may the Lord give them the grace to make wise decisions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are facing difficult life choices or temptation, may God grant them clarity to choose what is good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may the Holy Spirit give us the courage to choose the good even when it is difficult, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they be at peace forever in God's loving presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, hear the prayers we place before you this day. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ.

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Wednesday, February 14, 2024
(Lec. 219)

ASH WEDNESDAY

- 1) Joel 2:12-18
- 2) 2 Corinthians 5:20–6:2
- 3) Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

FOCUS: Create space in your life to be filled with the merciful presence of God.

For the next 40 days we will seek, through our Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, to turn our hearts and our lives back to God. We will seek to create that necessary room to be filled with his mercy. With that healing mercy, we will strive to gain mastery over our lives and conform ourselves more to Christ and his Gospel message.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Joel teaches that true repentance is an act of the heart and not simply an outward act. In the second reading, Paul reminds us of our identity as ambassadors for Christ in the world. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches his disciples that when they pray, perform righteous deeds, or fast they should avoid seeking the adulation of others and seek only to please the Lord.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we begin our Lenten journey, we bring our needs to the Lord with trust and confidence.

- 1) For the Church during this Lenten season, may we experience anew God's faithfulness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who govern nations, may God bless them with an abundance of wisdom and moral courage, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who suffer from chronic illness, pain, or disease, may the healing consolation of Christ bring them comfort and relief, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all members of this faith community, may the grace of the sacraments purify and heal our hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died having lived in Christ, may they come to share in the fullness of his glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and ever-loving God, we rely on Jesus who is our way, our truth, and our life. We offer these prayers through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Thursday, February 15, 2024
(Lec. 220)

- 1) Deuteronomy 30:15-20
- 2) Luke 9:22-25

THURSDAY AFTER
ASH WEDNESDAY

FOCUS: The cross is the way to eternal life.

When we act according to what God commands, and become who he is calling us to be – human beings in relationship with him, loving and obeying him – we will gain eternal life. Jesus encourages us to follow him on the path through death to eternal life. It is only by dying to ourselves that we can live eternally with God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Moses tells the people that if they obey God's commandments, they will live and prosper; if they turn away and adore other gods, they will perish. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples that the Son of Man must suffer, die, and be raised. He tells everyone that in order to follow him, they must take up their crosses daily.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We now unite our prayers with the whole Church for the needs of the world.

- 1) For the Church as we enter this season of Lent, may God help each of us live in a manner worthy of all we have received, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who hold political office, may the Holy Spirit guide their decision-making so as to defend and protect the right to life from conception until natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who have left the faith, may the Good Shepherd bring them back into the fold of the Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may our fasting, prayer, and almsgiving purify our hearts' desires, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they enter into the eternal abundant life of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God, our Father, you promise abundant life to all who follow your Son. Hear our prayers today and answer them according to your will. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Friday, February 16, 2024
(Lec. 221)

FRIDAY AFTER
ASH WEDNESDAY

- 1) Isaiah 58:1-9a
- 2) Matthew 9:14-15

FOCUS: Fasting that is acceptable to God involves charity.

As we begin our Lenten journey, a primary focus is fasting. The prophet Isaiah makes it clear that merely limiting our intake of food does no good if we don't exhibit both interior and exterior repentance. We must repent of greed, hatred and cruelty; we must meet the needs of the poor. Only then will God accept our penitential practices.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah prophesies the manner of fasting that is acceptable to the Lord. Fasting accompanied by selfish behavior will not give access to God. He requires charity toward the needy. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples of John, who questioned him about fasting, that his disciples will fast only when he is taken from them.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With the word of the Lord in our hearts and in our minds, let us place our needs before God.

- 1) That during this holy season, God may purify the Church and protect all her members from temptation and sin, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the Holy Spirit may guide those who control natural and monetary resources to use them equitably within their community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who are weighed down by the burden of sin may be drawn into the light of forgiveness and peace through the grace and mercy of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That in our Lenten observances, our community of faith may receive the grace and courage to give renewed witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died in the light of faith may come to live in the eternal light of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, look favorably upon our petitions, and grant them in accordance with your bounty and mercy. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Saturday, February 17, 2024
(Lec. 222)

- 1) Isaiah 58:9b-14
- 2) Luke 5:27-32

SATURDAY AFTER
ASH WEDNESDAY
(Opt. Mem.
The Seven Holy Founders
of the Servite Order)

FOCUS: *Follow me.*

Throughout human history, God has desired all people to follow in his ways. Doing so offers the freedom of his life-giving grace. Separation from the Lord can lead only to death and despair. To learn God's ways, to walk in his light, and to speak his truth extends his kindness to the world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Isaiah calls upon the people to change their ways so they may come to delight in the Lord. In the Gospel, Jesus emphasizes his mission to call sinners to repentance. He calls on the tax collector Levi to follow him. To those who follow him Jesus brings healing, as a physician cares for the sick.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us now turn to the Lord, who showers us with abundant mercy.

- 1) For missionaries throughout the world, may the Holy Spirit fill their hearts with zeal for the Gospel and protect them in their ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who seek to serve others in public office, may God grant them steadfast commitment to those in their communities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who have strayed from God's covenant or rejected his promise of life eternal, may the Lord, in this Lenten season, help them see and experience his steadfast love and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may we be strengthened by our prayers and by the Eucharist in which we partake, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may Christ soon welcome them to his heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of mercy, you call us into communion with you and with each other. Hear our prayers, and graciously grant what we ask in faith, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2024

**FIRST SUNDAY
OF LENT**

(Lec. 23)

- 1) Genesis 9:8-15
- 2) 1 Peter 3:18-22
- 3) Mark 1:12-15

FOCUS: *Repent, and believe in the gospel.*

To repent means to feel regret and sorrow and to change, or "turn from" what is evil. Gospel is a word meaning "good news." To "repent and believe in the Gospel" is the twofold call of the Christian, which is brought into profound relief during the Lenten season. This time of prayer and preparation for Easter shows there is indeed cause for regret and sorrow, and a need for change. And yet, what we are turning toward as we turn from sin is always cause for joy and hope.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God makes a covenant with Noah. In the second reading, Peter reflects on how the waters of the flood prefigured baptism. In the Gospel, Jesus is driven into the desert for 40 days before beginning to preach: *The kingdom of God is hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us turn to the Lord, trusting in his mercy and compassion, to hear and answer our prayers.

- 1) For the shepherds of the Church, may the hope of the Resurrection sustain them as they carry the cross of leadership, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all in governmental authority or leadership, may God give them prudence and wisdom to judge rightly and act for justice in every circumstance, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who feel alone or hopeless in suffering, may God console and comfort them and bring them relief, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may the Lord grant us perseverance and courage to truly repent this Lenten season, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls of the faithful departed, may perpetual light shine upon them, and through the mercy of God may they rest in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of boundless love, receive these prayers we offer you today, through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, February 19, 2024

(Lec. 224)

- 1) Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18
- 2) Matthew 25:31-46

MONDAY OF
FIRST WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: Loving our neighbor flows from love of God.

Of course, if we knew it was Jesus asking for water, a coat, or a meal, we surely would have responded to that need, right? As Catholics, we are called to recognize that it is always Jesus asking, and what we do for those whom society deems "least," we do for him. Generosity rooted in love of God leads to eternal life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading the Lord speaks through Moses, delivering a series of commandments for the Israelites. He reminds them frequently that he is the Lord. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that whatever is done for others, especially those considered least, is really done for him. At the final judgment, the love shown toward others will factor into who is considered a sheep or a goat.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in the goodness of our God, let us bring our prayers before him.

- 1) For the Church, may the Holy Spirit pour out his gifts upon each of us to strengthen us in faith and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For peace throughout the world, may the Holy Spirit heal the divisions and strife among all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are suffering from any material need, may God in his mercy deliver them from their plight, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all in our faith community who may feel overlooked or outcast, may the Spirit offer them encouragement in mind and comfort in heart, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls of the faithful departed, especially those who have no one else to pray for them, may the angels welcome them to paradise, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, in your wisdom grant our prayers according to your holy will. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Tuesday, February 20, 2024
(Lec. 225)

- 1) Isaiah 55:10-11
- 2) Matthew 6:7-15

TUESDAY OF
FIRST WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: Jesus teaches us to pray.

Do not babble like the pagans. When we enter into prayer, do our thoughts *babble* and flood us with myriad distractions? Jesus' prayer can anchor us, and help us fight through the distractions. *Hallowed be thy name* – "Father, you are holy." *Thy will be done* – "by me, let my will be aligned with yours. Whom do I need to forgive?"

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, from Isaiah, the Lord compares his Word to rain and snow which enable the earth to bear fruit. God's word will accomplish his will. Today's Gospel from Matthew presents Jesus' teaching on prayer. He instructs his disciples not to babble like pagans and offers the words with which to pray.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: The Lord instructs us to seek him for our daily bread. As trusting children, we offer him our prayers this day.

- 1) For bishops, priests, and deacons, may God bless them with wisdom to boldly proclaim his holy Word, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may God move their hearts to act with justice and protect the vulnerable, especially the elderly and the unborn, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who struggle to forgive, may Jesus' example on the cross enable them to extend mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may God strengthen us to dedicate our lives more fully to him during this Lenten season, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked with the sign of faith, may God reward them with eternal life in him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, you know our needs before we ask. Please hear and answer these prayers according to your will. We ask this through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, February 21, 2024
(Lec. 226)

- 1) Jonah 3:1-10
- 2) Luke 11:29-32

WEDNESDAY OF
FIRST WEEK
OF LENT
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Peter Damian,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church)

FOCUS: Jesus perfected the message of Jonah, calling each of us to repent of our sin and embrace new life.

How hard it can be to listen and respond to the call of repentance. We make excuses, and often we prefer our sin, perhaps being too selfish or too lazy to change. Yet acknowledging our sin and desiring new life through repentance is the message of Jesus, who perfected the message of Jonah. If the whole city of Nineveh can do it, so can we. We need no sign, only action.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first reading recounts Jonah's journey to the city of Nineveh, where he delivers the message of the Lord. The Ninevites respond with repentance, declaring a fast from food and violence. In the Gospel, Jesus says *this generation is an evil generation*, seeking a sign but none will be given *except the sign of Jonah. Just as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so will the Son of Man be to this generation.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together we gather in prayer to ask the Father to grant our needs and those of our brothers and sisters.

- 1) For the Church and all her members, may this Lenten journey rend our hearts and lead us to true repentance, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For policymakers, may God's message of love teach them to value life at every stage, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who struggle with questions about their faith, may the power of God's grace bring them peace and understanding, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those who offer the gift of their time or talent to this faith community, may God bless their efforts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked by the sign of faith, may God open to them the door to the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious Father, you never cease showering us with good things. Hear and answer these prayers we bring to you today through your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Thursday, February 22, 2024

(Lec. 535)

1) 1 Peter 5:1-4

2) Matthew 16:13-19

**THE CHAIR OF
SAINT PETER THE APOSTLE
- FEAST**

FOCUS: *You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church.*

As we celebrate the Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle, we, too, can ponder the question of who we consider Jesus to be. Whether we are fully aware of it or not, we have an answer that is part of how we live our faith every day, because Peter's first response continues to shape our Church: *You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Peter *exhorts the presbyters among [them]* to take care of those in their communities. In the Gospel, Jesus takes his followers to the region of Caesarea Philippi and asks them who they think he is. Simon Peter answers that he is the Christ, and Jesus praises his proclamation.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As servants, let us approach the Lord with patience, humbly presenting our needs and intentions.

1) For Francis, our pope, who now occupies the Chair of Peter, may God continue to bless him and sanctify him in his ministry, let us pray to the Lord.

2) For government and civic officials, may the Lord inspire all to greater servant leadership, let us pray to the Lord.

3) For the homeless and all who lack stable housing in the cold winter months, may God provide them safe shelter, let us pray to the Lord.

4) For we who worship and share community here, may the Holy Spirit continue to enkindle in us the fire of his love, let us pray to the Lord.

5) For all who have died in Christ, may he soon bring them to everlasting life with all the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.

6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we ask you to hear the prayers we bring before you, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Friday, February 23, 2024
(Lec. 228)

- 1) Ezekiel 18:21-28
- 2) Matthew 5:20-26

FRIDAY OF
FIRST WEEK
OF LENT
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Polycarp,
Bishop and Martyr)

FOCUS: Ours is a God of both mercy and justice.

The Christian life can be demanding, even while it is freeing. It requires us to strive always for virtue, with the Lord guiding us. God is just and demands we live well – not even remaining angry with our brothers. But God does not abandon us to live this life on our own. It is grace that makes it possible. God is merciful; if the wicked turn away from their sin, they shall live.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God promises that if the wicked man turns from his evil to what is right and just he shall live, but that if the virtuous abandon virtue, he shall die. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples that whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment and exhorts them to be reconciled with their brothers.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Turning with faith and hope to the God of justice and mercy, let us offer our prayers to the Father.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may she be sanctified through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who work in the judicial system, may the Holy Spirit grant them the gifts of charity and prudence in carrying out their duties, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who feel despair, may God show them his face of mercy and inspire them to repentance and hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may God give us grace in striving for virtue and being generous in mercy with all whom we meet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have gone before us in faith, may they rest in the perfect goodness of God's presence in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, we entrust our prayers to you. Hear and answer them, we ask, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, February 24, 2024
(Lec. 229)

- 1) Deuteronomy 26:16-19
- 2) Matthew 5:43-48

SATURDAY OF
FIRST WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: *Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord!*

Jesus' teaching to love our enemies is challenging, uncomfortable, and impossible without God's grace. Our God, who loves us without condition, wants us to love as he does.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the command from God to walk in his ways is given. God will keep his promise to his people, and commands that we keep his statutes. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches the disciples to love their enemies. While in the past they have learned to live with vengeance, Jesus explains that as God loves every person, so, too, are we called to love.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our needs before the Lord, who is perfect love.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may the Lord help each one of us love as he loves, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may the Holy Spirit inspire them in leading with justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who experience doubt that God hears their prayers, may the peace of Christ console them and strengthen their faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered in this holy place, may God's Holy Spirit bestow upon us the gift of piety, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they rest in peace in the fullness of God's grace and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, we bring you these intentions today, trusting that in your time and according to your plan you will answer every prayer. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024

(Lec. 26)

- 1) Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18
- 2) Romans 8:31b-34
- 3) Mark 9:2-10

**SECOND SUNDAY
OF LENT**

FOCUS: *This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.*

We do not have a God who sits enthroned, looking down from a great distance to arbitrarily ask us to do this or not do that. No, we have a God who loves us enough that we can trust him completely, as Abraham did. We have a God who did not hold back anything, not even his beloved Son, to lead us to the goodness he desires for us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God calls Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, but provides a ram instead and promises blessing on all nations in response to Abraham's trust. In the Epistle, we are reminded that God did not spare his own Son and so gives us everything with him. In the Gospel, Jesus is transfigured and a voice from the cloud says: *This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God's boundless goodness, let us bring our prayers before him with confidence and hope.

- 1) For the pope and all bishops, may they be strengthened by God's beloved Son in all they do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all nations and peoples, may God open their hearts to the Gospel message, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who struggle with doubt, may they hear God's voice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the Lord encourage us in perseverance in our Lenten resolutions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have passed away from this life, may they rejoice with Christ in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, hear the prayers of your children and grant them according to your holy will. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Monday, February 26, 2024
(Lec. 230)

- 1) Daniel 9:4b-10
- 2) Luke 6:36-38

MONDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: We rejoice in the steadfast love of God.

As we proceed on our Lenten journey, let us keep in our hearts and minds the words of Jesus in today's Gospel: *Be merciful ... stop judging ... stop condemning ... forgive ... Give and gifts will be given to you.*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the prophet Daniel speaks a prayer of painful repentance for the community's breaches of covenant in the face of God's steadfast love. In the Gospel, Jesus emphasizes that repentance is only one step in our call to be Godlike in mercy and forgiveness.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Gathered as one, let us pray together to God for the needs of all the world.

- 1) For an increase in religious vocations, may the Lord bless those discerning priesthood or consecrated life with generous and open hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the world, may Christ's peace touch the hearts of leaders and influencers and lead them to harmony, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those burdened by any kind of difficulty, may God graciously look upon their needs and bring them comfort, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may the calling of Christ echo in our hearts, giving clarity to our desires and actions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they join the saints at the wedding feast of the Lamb, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of truth and love, you have given us your Son in order to show us the way to you. We ask that you hear these prayers we offer, through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, February 27, 2024
(Lec. 231)

- 1) Isaiah 1:10, 16-20
- 2) Matthew 23:1-12

TUESDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
OF LENT
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Gregory of Narek,
Abbot and Doctor
of the Church)

FOCUS: A conversion of mind and heart leads to trust in Jesus.

The Christian life involves a total conversion of self. It is not something one can engage in half-heartedly. Rather, a transformation of mind and heart is needed to be able to live the authentic Christian life. It is a call to turn away from sin and trust in Jesus.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Isaiah exhorts the people to turn away from their evil ways and turn to God – to be set right with him who turns sins from crimson red to white as snow. In the Gospel, Jesus reminds us of the importance of not only listening to his Word, but also living it in humility.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With faith that God sets all things right according to his plan, we now present him with our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, may the Holy Spirit continue to lead and inspire him as he serves as Vicar of Christ on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may the Lord give them the compassion and strength to fight for human dignity and for laws that promote human life from conception to natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the chronically ill, may the healing compassion of Christ be made present for them through their families, caregivers, and all who support them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may the Lord help us grow in understanding of his merciful love for us and so be transformed, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls of the faithful departed, especially those who have no one else to pray for them, may God shed his mercy upon them so they may live in everlasting joy with him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we know that you hear our prayers and petitions. Please grant these through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, February 28, 2024
(Lec. 232)

- 1) Jeremiah 18:18-20
- 2) Matthew 20:17-28

WEDNESDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: When we serve others we serve God as well.

Jesus taught that serving others is the way to serve God. He recognized the needs of others, especially those who were weak or ill or without power. The words and example of Jesus are straightforward: We are to treat others as we wish to be treated, and use whatever skills, talents, authority, or goods we have for the well-being of others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first reading tells of a plot against Jeremiah. He asks God: *Must good be repaid with evil?* In the Gospel, immediately after Jesus discloses that he will soon be persecuted, killed, and then rise from the dead, the mother of the sons of Zebedee asks Jesus for a high place in the kingdom for her sons. Jesus then teaches them about servant leadership.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together, let us stand and present our needs to the Father, who sees to our every need.

- 1) For the Church, may God use this season of Lent to foster in us a greater commitment to living as disciples of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the world, may the Lord bring forth compassionate people willing to assume elected and appointed leadership positions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those oppressed by any evil in the world, may Christ bring about justice and sources of healing for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this worship community, may the Lord help us grow in humility by serving others in the name of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they live eternally in the light of heavenly glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Everlasting God, hear the prayers of your servants and grant what will help us grow closer to you. We pray through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Thursday, February 29, 2024
(Lec. 233)

- 1) Jeremiah 17:5-10
- 2) Luke 16:19-31

THURSDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: *Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose hope is in the Lord.*

We know that a committed disciple is consistent in words and actions. And that extends to the words spoken to God in prayer. As Jesus reminds us in the parable, our life with him in eternity depends upon how we treat others during our earthly life as well as our prayers for them.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the prophet Jeremiah reminds us that we will find refreshment and bear fruit if we put our trust in God, and not human beings. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the rich man and Lazarus.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in his love for us, let us offer to the Father our needs and the needs of the world as we pray.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all who serve the Church, may the Lord strengthen them in their mission of bringing the light of Christ to a weary world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For national and international leaders, may they be empowered by the Holy Spirit in serving their people as Christ came to serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those discerning their vocation in life, may God honor them in their search and give them the grace to remain open to his invitation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may Jesus continue to show us how to live and how to pray as his faithful disciples, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they rejoice as they join the communion of saints in the fullness of God's kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we come to you trusting in your care for us and for all in need. Look with favor on the prayers we offer this day in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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