

# JANUARY

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**YEAR B  
WEEKDAYS II**

**Monday, January 1, 2024**

(Lec. 18)

- 1) Numbers 6:22-27
- 2) Galatians 4:4-7
- 3) Luke 2:16-21

**THE OCTAVE DAY  
OF THE NATIVITY  
OF THE LORD;  
SOLEMNITY OF MARY,  
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**  
[not a Holyday of Obligation]

FOCUS: The Holy Spirit in our hearts is proof of our adoption as children of God.

It is a wondrous thing to think of ourselves as the adopted children of God. In today's second reading, Saint Paul writes that we have *proof* of our adoption: God has given each of us the Spirit, who unites us to the Father and Son, Jesus. Because of the Spirit, God's very presence resides inside of us, and we yearn for union, crying, *Abba, Father!*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, the Lord gives Moses a prayer of blessing that Aaron is to pray over his fellow Israelites. Paul tells the Galatians in the second reading that they have been adopted as God's children; they are no longer slaves but heirs. In the Gospel from Luke, the shepherds visit the infant lying in a manger, whom Mary and Joseph name Jesus.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With reliance on our good and gracious God, let us bring him our prayers.

- 1) For the Church in her physical and mystical body, may God continue to richly bless her, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the salvation of the whole world, may the Lord's mercy and love touch all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who suffer injustice, may the healing power of Christ and the freedom found in him be made real in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may God be our guide in our efforts to live each day as his beloved children, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls of the faithful departed, may they rise to new life in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we thank you for hearing our prayers. Grant that which we need, we ask through your Son, Christ our Lord.

Tuesday, January 2, 2024  
(Lec. 205)

- 1) 1 John 2:22-28
- 2) John 1:19-28

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY  
(OBL MEM  
Saints Basil the Great  
and Gregory Nazianzen,  
Bishops and Doctors of Church)

FOCUS: We must confess Jesus Christ as Son of God and Messiah.

Today's readings connect the truth with confessing Jesus. John's epistle condemns the heretics who deny Jesus' divine Sonship. John the Baptist, in his honesty and humility, proclaims Jesus instead of taking the opportunity to create a messianic following for himself. We, too, must speak the truth about our Lord, regardless of the consequences.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading warns Christians against those who deny the Son of God. Only those who have the Son have the Father. The anointing of Christ will teach them all things. In the Gospel, John the Baptist denies being the Christ, the Prophet, or Elijah. He and his baptism with water only prepare the way for the true Lord.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) That the Holy Spirit may inspire in the Church modern-day prophets who will proclaim Christ boldly and effectively, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That God may grant to those in authority the humility to be truthful rather than ambitious, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That the Lord may bring consolation and firm hope to all who are suffering, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That Christ may give to our faith community the grace to be his hands and feet in service to our neighbors, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the faithful departed may soon be cleansed of all remnants of sin, so as to enter the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, we bring these requests to you, confident that you will grant them according to your holy will, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

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Wednesday, January 3, 2024  
(Lec. 206)

- 1) 1 John 2:29–3:6
- 2) John 1:29-34

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY  
(Opt. Mem.  
The Most Holy Name of Jesus)

FOCUS: The Holy Spirit gives us the courage and faith to boldly proclaim Jesus' name.

John the Baptist saw the Holy Spirit descend upon Jesus, marking him as the Son of God. The same Holy Spirit emboldened him to speak the truth, as he emboldens all who are baptized. The Spirit has enkindled within us the fire of faith, and with his gifts we are made ready to bring forth fruit for the sake of the kingdom.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

John reminds his audience of God's unfathomable love for his children, emphasizing Christian hope in the life to come. He exhorts them to avoid sin. In the Gospel, John the Baptist declares Jesus to be the *Lamb of God*, who existed before him and will baptize others with the Holy Spirit. John testifies to Jesus' true identity as Son of God.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust in our loving Father, we bring him our needs.

- 1) For all members of Christ's body, the Church, may we be continually refreshed by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For local and world leaders, may the Holy Spirit give them courage and wisdom in proclaiming the truth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who do not yet know God, may the Lord open their hearts to his goodness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the unfathomable love made real in the Incarnation lead us to greater adoration of the Child Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may the angels soon welcome them to paradise, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of endless goodness, look with favor, we pray, on the needs of your children gathered here today. We ask this through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, January 4, 2024  
(Lec. 207)

- 1) 1 John 3:7-10
- 2) John 1:35-42

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY  
(OBL MEM

USA: Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton,  
Religious)

FOCUS: Discipleship means seeking Jesus and following him through our words and deeds.

When the disciples first meet Jesus and ask him where he is staying, instead of a direct answer, he invites them to come and see for themselves. Likewise, Jesus invites us, his disciples, to come with him and witness his work. Where will we encounter Jesus today? Let us take a moment to ready our hearts to abide with Christ.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, we learn that true disciples are righteous and demonstrate that they are children of God with their virtue. The Gospel reading recounts John the Baptist identifying Jesus as the *Lamb of God* and Jesus' invitation to the disciples to *come, and ... see*, which they proceeded to do. Jesus gives Simon the name, Peter.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in the Father's love for us, we bring the needs of our hearts to the Lord.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord continue to equip her with disciples eager to *come and see*, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may God's wisdom and mercy always guide their judgment, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who struggle with mental illness, may the Lord grant them peace and security, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all gathered here in prayer, may the Lord continue to bless us and sanctify us in his name, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked as Christ's own forever, may they come to enjoy the splendors of eternal life with God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, receive our prayers and grant us all that we need. We ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ.

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Friday, January 5, 2024  
(Lec. 208)

- 1) 1 John 3:11-21
- 2) John 1:43-51

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY  
(OBL MEM  
USA: Saint John Neumann,  
Bishop)

FOCUS: Confidence is found through following Christ.

Today's readings focus on the theme of discipleship. Jesus called his followers from their ordinary lives and taught them the meaning of Scripture. He taught them how to love through his example. The first reading emphasizes that Jesus' disciples are called to carry out the love of God in deed and truth. In this truth we find confidence in God.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Apostle John explains to believers what it means to love others. He says we came to know love because Jesus *laid down his life for us*. In the Gospel, Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael to follow him. Nathanael is amazed at Jesus' call.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us now bring our prayers to the Lord, who taught us to love by his example.

- 1) For all leaders in the Church, may God fill them to overflowing with the joy of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in public authority, may the grace of our merciful God help them in their service to their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are imprisoned or awaiting trial, may God look graciously upon their need for repentance and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community gathered here, may God grant us strength and courage on our journeys of discipleship, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have fallen asleep in the hope of Christ, may God soon lead them to his glorious kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, hear the prayers we have offered today and grant us your mercy. This we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, January 6, 2024  
(Lec. 209)

- 1) 1 John 5:5-13
- 2) Mark 1:7-11  
or Luke 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY  
(Opt. Mem.  
USA: Saint André Bessette,  
Religious)

FOCUS: Live joyfully as *one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God*.

Don't skip the genealogies – where we come from is important! God calls us by name. In recounting generations back to Adam, Luke instructs us that Jesus is God's Son, both humanly and divinely. We, too, are part of God's family both humanly and spiritually. In a human sense, we are created by God. Spiritually, through baptism we are God's adopted children, joint heirs with Jesus.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The reading from the First Letter of John describes the power of faith. The one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God has victory over the world and possesses eternal life. In Mark's Gospel, John the Baptist says that *one mightier than I is coming*. The Gospel from Luke presents Jesus' genealogy, beginning with Joseph and establishing his lineage as descendant of Adam and the Son of God.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God gives us eternal life through his Son. Trusting in God's care for us, we offer our prayers this day.

- 1) For the Church on earth, may God bless her with an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may God move their hearts to work for the good of all nations and establish lasting peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who lack adequate shelter, may God in his mercy provide for their needs through generous brothers and sisters, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of believers, may the joy of the Gospel be a source of light and life in our daily endeavors, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may Jesus welcome them to the heavenly banquet to delight in his presence forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, your wisdom knows no bounds. Please hear and answer these prayers according to your will, through your Son, Jesus Christ.

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## SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2024

(Lec. 20)

- 1) Isaiah 60:1-6
- 2) Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
- 3) Matthew 2:1-12

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - SOLEMNITY

FOCUS: With Christ's help we can be his light for others.

We are not the source of the light that a world in darkness needs desperately. Instead, we must *receive* Jesus, the Light of the World, so that we can in turn share it. And as we heard in the first reading: *Then you shall be radiant ... your heart shall throb and overflow.* Jesus has come to give all the love we need, all the wisdom called for, all the virtue necessary to be a light to others.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah promises that Jerusalem will be a light for all nations. In the Letter to the Ephesians, Saint Paul explains the revelation that the Gentiles are members of the same body of Christ. In the Gospel, *magi from the east* look for the newborn king, finally finding the child with his mother, Mary.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in God's help and grace, let us bring our needs and prayers before him today.

- 1) For all leaders in the Church, may the Lord grant them compassion and wisdom as they shepherd his people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected and appointed leaders, may God give them strength and vision in making just decisions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who struggle with mental, emotional, or spiritual darkness, may the light of Christ break through their burdens and bring them comfort, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may we be given the grace to hear and respond to all God is asking of us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they rejoice in the eternal light of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of truth and love, hear these prayers we offer you today, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Monday, January 8, 2024  
(Lec. 21)

**THE BAPTISM  
OF THE LORD  
- FEAST**

- 1) Isaiah 55:1-11  
or 1 John 5:1-9
  - 2) Mark 1:7-11
- or
- 1) Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7  
or Acts 10:34-38
  - 2) Mark 1:7-11

FOCUS: *You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.*

The baptism of Jesus marks an important beginning in his ministry. While we do not know much of his life between his birth and this moment, we know of his divine calling. We know the richness of his ministry that is to come after his baptism. May it inspire in us a deeper commitment to our baptismal call.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Lord says: *Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased.* In the Gospel, John the Baptist tells of the coming of one greater than him. Then Jesus comes to John the Baptist to be baptized. As he is baptized, a divine voice identifies him as his beloved Son.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the Lord's abiding love for us, let us bring our needs before him.

- 1) For all clergy, may God continue to bless and guide them in their work of preaching the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who hold elected office, may God give them a spirit of wisdom in their defense of life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are on the path to full communion in the Church, may God bring light to their growing faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all gathered here today, may the Holy Spirit help us more firmly embrace our faith in a loving God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked with the sign of faith, may God lead them to eternal life and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, hear the prayers we bring before you today and answer them according to your will. We ask this through your Son, Christ our Lord.

Tuesday, January 9, 2024  
(Lec. 306)

- 1) 1 Samuel 1:9-20
- 2) Mark 1:21-28

or

- 1) 1 Samuel 1:1-8 (305) and 1 Samuel 1:9-20 (306)
- 2) Mark 1:14-20 (305) and Mark 1:21-28 (306)

TUESDAY OF  
FIRST WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God has the power and authority to do as he wills, and he often chooses to work through us.

In today's Scriptures, God shows tremendous power: the power to grant Hannah a son finally after she approaches him in prayer, and the power through Jesus to drive out unclean spirits. Yet God often chooses to work through us, as well. If we approach God with trust, he will use us to work out his divine plan.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Hannah approaches God with a heart-felt prayer for a son. God remembers her request, and Hannah bears a son whom she calls Samuel. In the Gospel, Jesus demonstrates his authority as the anointed Son of God through his teaching and by driving out unclean spirits.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For our Holy Father, may the Lord bless and protect him as he proclaims God's truth to the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all throughout the world who have yet to hear and receive the Good News of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who struggle with the pain and burden of infertility, may Jesus bring them comfort and assure them of his love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us here, may God help us persevere in prayer as Hannah did, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they soon be welcomed into God's everlasting kingdom of peace and joy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious, all-powerful God, hear and answer our prayers on behalf of a hurting and wounded world. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Wednesday, January 10, 2024  
(Lec. 307)

- 1) 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20
- 2) Mark 1:29-39

WEDNESDAY OF  
FIRST WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: *My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord.*

When Jesus heals Simon's mother-in-law, she immediately gets up and waits on her guests. Not only is she healed but she is strong enough to once again contribute in her household. Jesus and her guests are her focus. Let us contemplate the healing power of Jesus in our lives and shift our focus to him.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, young Samuel hears the call of the Lord, beginning his journey to become *an accredited prophet of the Lord*. In the Gospel, Jesus heals many, including Simon Peter's mother-in-law. He retreats in the early morning to pray, then continues to preach in nearby villages and throughout all of Galilee.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Calling to mind the great need for healing in our world, in our Church, in our families, and in our own hearts, let us present our prayers to the Lord.

- 1) For the Church, may God's perfect truth shine within her and guide her in carrying out his saving work, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who govern or legislate in our world, may the Spirit help them to know and follow God's laws above all other laws, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are in need of healing, may God grant wholeness of mind, body, and soul, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the homebound of this faith community, may the Lord relieve them of any loneliness and offer his consolation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the hope of Christ, may they be raised to eternal glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear and answer the prayers we have offered through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, January 11, 2024  
(Lec. 308)

- 1) 1 Samuel 4:1-11
- 2) Mark 1:40-45

THURSDAY OF  
FIRST WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God's mercy alone redeems us.

We are often tempted to take things into our own hands, to make happen what we want by our own cleverness or influence. Sometimes, we even want to *make* God do what we believe to be good. One of the most important spiritual lessons we seek to learn is the humility to trust in God's timing and his mercy alone.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Israelites are defeated in battle by the Philistines. *The ark of God was captured, and Eli's two sons ... were among the dead.* In the Gospel, a leper approaches Jesus and says, *If you wish, you can make me clean.* Jesus heals the leper, who then disobeys Jesus' order not to tell anyone what happened.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With earnest hope, we bring our needs to the Lord, trusting that he hears and answers our prayers.

- 1) That the Church will continue to grow in holiness as she works to build God's kingdom here on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That warring nations in every corner of the earth may be led by the Holy Spirit to strengthen their efforts for finding peace between them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those whose lives are darkened by the shadow of sin or doubt 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 this faith community may be fertile soil that bears good fruit after hearing the word of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may find peace and rest in our Lord's loving care in the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, from whom all goodness flows, hear our prayers and the prayers of all your people. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Friday, January 12, 2024  
(Lec. 309)  
1) 1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a  
2) Mark 2:1-12

FRIDAY OF  
FIRST WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Faith opens our hearts to receiving God's graces.

Tempted by pride and other sins, it can be easy for us to fall into judging the works and miracles of God, thus closing us off to resting in him. Faith in Jesus and his works molds and changes our hearts so that we can be open to receiving the graces he wishes to give us.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the people demand of Samuel a king to rule them. Samuel warns them of the terrible things the king will do, but the people insist. So he grants their request, at the Lord's instruction. In the Gospel, Jesus heals and forgives the sins of a paralytic who was lowered through the roof. The scribes accuse Jesus of blasphemy.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the love and mercy of our Lord, we bring to him our needs and intentions.

- 1) For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, and all bishops, may the power of the Holy Spirit be upon them as they shepherd the faithful, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For national and local civic leaders, may the Lord form and shape their consciences in promoting the dignity of human life from conception to natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who suffer from extreme weather conditions, and all who lack adequate housing or shelter, may the Lord protect and sustain them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may our Lord Jesus tend to our every need in his mercy and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, especially those who have no one else to pray for them, may they soon see the face of God and live forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear the prayers of your children, we ask, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, January 13, 2024  
(Lec. 310)

- 1) 1 Samuel 9:1-4,  
17-19; 10:1a
- 2) Mark 2:13-17

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

Saint Hilary, Bishop and Doctor  
of the Church;  
Saturday in honor of BVM)

FOCUS: Jesus calls sinners to turn from sin and follow him, because he is Healer, Savior, and Redeemer.

Jesus breaks into people's lives to draw them out of sin and into his work of redemption. No matter how serious the sin, Jesus is ready to pour out his mercy as he invites every sinner to turn and follow him.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Lord tells Samuel that Saul is the one of whom he has been speaking, and who will govern his people. Samuel pours oil on Saul's head by which the Lord anoints him ruler over Israel. In the Gospel Jesus calls Levi, a tax collector, to follow him. Levi gets up from his post and follows. While others are skeptical of Jesus' choice of followers and company, he explains that he *did not come to call the righteous but sinners*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We bring our intentions before the Lord, who calls each one of us to holiness.

- 1) For Holy Mother Church, may the Lord raise up men and women of fortitude and hope who will embrace vocations of ordained or religious life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may the Holy Spirit guide them in using their authority for the benefit of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are sick, may God's healing touch bring them relief and consolation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us gathered here, may we be strengthened by our prayers and by the Eucharist in which we partake, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the hope of the Resurrection, may they soon see the Lord face to face, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear and answer the prayers we have brought before you this day, confident in your mercy and grace. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ.

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## SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2024

(Lec. 65)

- 1) 1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19
- 2) 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20
- 3) John 1:35-42

## SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: The Lord invites us to come and stay a while with him.

What are we looking for in Jesus? Are we looking for a teacher, as the disciples were? A problem-solver? A miracle-worker? Whatever it is that our hearts are seeking, the Lord, the Lamb of God, present here in the Eucharist, invites us to come and stay a while with him. If we dare do so, we, like Andrew, might come to know who Jesus truly is and be transformed by his presence.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lord calls Samuel for the first time, but Samuel does not know him. Eli recognizes what is happening and tells Samuel how to answer: *Speak, for your servant is listening*. Paul exhorts the Corinthians to avoid immorality, reminding them that they are united to Christ and their bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. In the Gospel, John the Baptist directs two of his disciples toward Jesus, who invites them to stay with him. Andrew, one of the two, seeks his brother Simon and brings him to Jesus.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the Lord, let us bring before him our prayers and petitions for ourselves and for the world.

- 1) For all of us in God's holy Church, may the Holy Spirit grant us courage and confidence in living as humble and holy disciples, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the conversion of all sinners, may the Lord lead all hearts to seek him and repent of their sins, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all families who are wounded by division, separation, or divorce, may Christ bring them healing and forgiveness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all members of this worship community, may God strengthen us in faith and help us grow in charity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the hope of eternal life, may our Savior welcome them into the joy of his heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, hear these prayers we have brought before you and answer them, we ask, in accordance with your divine providence. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Monday, January 15, 2024  
(Lec. 311)

- 1) 1 Samuel 15:16-23
- 2) Mark 2:18-22

MONDAY OF  
SECOND WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: New ways can be better ways.

When we surrender our lives to God, it is likely to require changes in our old ways – in behavior, in manner of speaking, in how we occupy our time. It is not possible to change our heart without changing our way of life.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Saul is chastised for disobeying God. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks of new cloth and new wineskins, requiring old practices to be put aside. Even fasting practices will need to be re-examined.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God's providential love, let us present our needs to him.

- 1) For the Church, may God continue to help each one of us faithfully live our baptismal calling, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders and public officials, may God guide their hearts in making just and wise decisions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are suffering from the ravages of war or violence, may the Lord grant them safety and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may Christ continue to draw us ever closer to himself, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they soon rest in God's light forever in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear our prayers and answer them in ways that will bring us closer to you. We pray through your Son, Jesus Christ.

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Tuesday, January 16, 2024  
(Lec. 312)

- 1) 1 Samuel 16:1-13
- 2) Mark 2:23-28

TUESDAY OF  
SECOND WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: *The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath.*

Jesus' pronouncement regarding the sabbath is less shocking to us than it was to the religious leaders of his time. For the most righteous among them, the dictates of the law and precise adherence to it were the most important part of being in relationship with God. Jesus is saying, "no, the most important part of being in relationship with God is ... being in relationship with God!" Knowing and loving the Lord – and following his commandment to love one another – are the marks of a true disciple. And it is for us that the Lord created the sabbath – for rest. Let us rest in him.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Lord directed the prophet Samuel to anoint David as King of his Chosen People. In the Gospel, Jesus defends his disciples' right to pick the heads of grain even though it is the sabbath.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us now present our prayers and petitions to the Father.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all Church leaders, may the Lord bless them with wisdom, compassion, and prudence in their efforts to build his kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government officials across the world, may God give them eyes to see those in need and hearts to serve them first, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who endure the difficulties of mental illness and those who care for them, may the Lord in his mercy provide health, healing, and hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all in our faith community who struggle in their relationship with the Lord, may the light of Christ guide them and grant them peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may Jesus soon welcome them into his loving arms, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, in your infinite compassion, grant us our prayers and petitions, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, January 17, 2024  
(Lec. 313)

- 1) 1 Samuel 17:32, 33,  
37, 40-51
- 2) Mark 3:1-6

WEDNESDAY OF  
SECOND WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
Saint Anthony, Abbot)

FOCUS: *Blessed be the Lord, my Rock!*

Trusting in the Lord is the bedrock of the Christian life, for he is our refuge and our fortress – our stronghold and deliverer. From him we are given the gift of fortitude. With fortitude we can live confidently and boldly in the Lord, in spite of challenges. We can witness to our faith in God, regardless of the obstacles. The Lord is always with us, guiding us, healing us, caring for us.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, David convinces Saul to let him fight *this Philistine*, and David defeats him with sling and stone. In the Gospel, Jesus cures the man with the withered hand, bringing upon himself the enmity of the Pharisees.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence and trust, let us bring our prayers before our eternal Father.

- 1) For Church leaders, may the Holy Spirit continue to lead them in wisdom and truth as they shepherd God's people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who govern and legislate, may the Lord bless them with generous and charitable hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are persecuted for their faith in Christ, may the Holy Spirit uphold and strengthen them in their darkest hours, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the Lord who is our refuge and strength keep us free from all temptation and safe from all evil, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked as Christ's own forever, may they soon come to share in the fullness of Christ's glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God, hear the prayers of your people and grant us what we need. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, January 18, 2024

(Lec. 314)

1) 1 Samuel 18:6-9; 19:1-7

2) Mark 3:7-12

THURSDAY OF  
SECOND WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: The Lord is always near to us, and heals us.

In Psalm 56, the psalmist proclaims *I know that God is with me*. The crowds who followed Jesus may not have understood exactly who Jesus was, but they knew he was a healer and they wanted to be near to him. As Jesus healed then, he desires to heal those suffering spiritually or physically today. God is with us.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saul grows jealous of David's defeat of the Philistine and the people's praise of David, and speaks his intention to kill him. Saul's son Jonathan tells his father that David has committed no offense against him and that killing him would be shedding innocent blood. In the Gospel, Jesus asks for a boat to be made ready for him because the crowd of people following him has grown so large as to crush him. Many had been healed by him and unclean spirits cried out to him as *the Son of God*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us offer our needs and the needs of the world to the Lord who is always near.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may God look with favor upon us and grant us every grace and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic authorities, may the Lord guide them in their efforts protecting human life in all stages, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are sick, may the Lord grant them healing and comfort in their suffering, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us here, may the grace of the Holy Spirit guide us in a life of holiness in all we say and do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the light of faith, may God grant them peace in eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, hear and answer the prayers we have brought before you through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Friday, January 19, 2024  
(Lec. 315)

- 1) 1 Samuel 24:3-21
- 2) Mark 3:13-19

FRIDAY OF  
SECOND WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Jesus calls us by name to share in his mission.

Early in his ministry, Jesus selects 12 of his followers to be Apostles. He chooses them to accompany him and to share in his mission. We, too, are chosen by Christ – called by name and, in baptism, marked as his own forever. We participate in his mission of building the kingdom of God.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

David encounters Saul in a cave and cuts off the end of his mantle. He tells Saul that God will be the judge between them, and Saul recognizes David's generosity. Jesus goes up a mountain and chooses Twelve Apostles by name to be with him and to be sent to preach and drive out demons.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us place our petitions before God, who calls us to new life with him.

- 1) For bishops and priests, may the Lord continue to bless and protect them, and sanctify them for his kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may the Lord's peace and generosity guide them in their decision-making, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who have been wrongly or falsely imprisoned, may the Lord grant them justice and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may the Holy Spirit continually renew and sustain us in our lives of discipleship, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may God's love and mercy surround them and bring them to his everlasting kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of love and mercy, you know our every need. We ask you to graciously hear our prayers, in the name of your Son, who is Christ the Lord.

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Saturday, January 20, 2024  
(Lec. 316)

- 1) 2 Samuel 1:1-4,  
11-12, 19, 23-27
- 2) Mark 3:20-21

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

Saint Fabian, Pope and Martyr;  
Saint Sebastian, Martyr;  
Saturday in honor of BVM)

FOCUS: *Let us see your face, Lord, and we shall be saved.*

Those who awaited the coming of the Messiah prayed to be able to see his face, as the psalmist says. We, who are heirs to the kingdom because the Messiah has come, pray these same words knowing that his face once graced this earth, and – because of that – we have the hope of seeing it for eternity.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, David receives word of the death of Saul and Jonathan in battle. He and his men grieve deeply. In the Gospel, Jesus' relatives accuse him of being *out of his mind*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Grateful to be counted among God's children, we bring our concerns to our loving Father.

- 1) For the Church, may the love and generosity granted her by the Holy Spirit flourish within her members and overflow to the whole world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all peoples and nations, may the Good News of salvation reach every corner of the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are grieving the loss of a loved one, may God offer comfort, companionship, and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may we grow in mercy and compassion in imitation of Christ, our Savior, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they soon rest beneath the eternal splendor of the Father in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God, as you once heard the prayers of your Son, Jesus Christ, we ask that you hear now our prayers and petitions. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.

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## SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2024

(Lec. 68)

- 1) Jonah 3:1-5, 10
- 2) 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
- 3) Mark 1:14-20

## THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Jesus is calling us today.

Jesus is calling *us* today. Maybe he is calling us to drop something we have been clinging to. Maybe he is calling us to lay down our weeping or rejoicing, to move into something new. Maybe he is calling us to listen. In the precious time we give to him, he will give us all we need to answer his call, big or small.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Jonah answers God's call to preach in Nineveh and the city repents. In the second reading, Saint Paul urges the Corinthians to act as if *time is running out*. The Gospel tells of the beginning of Jesus' ministry, as he calls the Galileans to repent and believe in the Gospel. We also hear of the call of James, John, Andrew, and Simon.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Aware of God's quiet presence at work in our lives, we place our needs before him.

- 1) For all clergy, may the Holy Spirit continue to sanctify and purify them in Christ's name, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the world, may all be drawn to Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer at the hands of others, may the Lord grant them reprieve, and bring them justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may we be given the grace to recognize the gifts we are offered in this liturgy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they be shepherded by our compassionate God into the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of all good gifts, we offer you these prayers today through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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NOTE: For the Day of Prayer, any readings from the *Lectionary for Mass Supplement*, the Mass "For Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life," nos. 947A-947E, or the *Lectionary for Mass* (vol. IV), the Mass "For Peace and Justice," nos. 887-891

Monday, January 22, 2024

(Lec. 317)

1) 2 Samuel 5:1-7, 10

2) Mark 3:22-30

MONDAY OF  
THIRD WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(USA: Day of Prayer  
for the Legal Protection  
of Unborn Children)

FOCUS: God raises holy leaders to guide his chosen people to him.

God's people need leaders to shepherd them toward him. Throughout history – from the time of David, to Jesus' earthly ministry, to today – God has raised up holy men and women to faithfully guide his people in the ways of the Lord.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The children of Israel anoint David as their king, recognizing that God has chosen him to be their shepherd. In the Gospel, Jesus rebukes the scribes for claiming that he is possessed by Beelzebul. He then cautions them not to blaspheme against the Holy Spirit, lest they be guilty of an everlasting sin.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we strive for holiness by following God's commandments, we turn to him with our prayers.

- 1) For the Church, may she grow in holiness and charity through the gracious mercy of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all people of the world, may they respect the inherent dignity of every human person, especially the unborn, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the marginalized, the vulnerable, and for those who have no voice, may the Lord grant them a stronghold of faith and people to be their advocates, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us here and for those whom we love, may the Spirit of God open our hearts to the goodness of his ways and his mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the hope of rising again with Christ, may they soon rest in his eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special intention/s)

PRIEST: God of all power and mercy, listen and answer the prayers of your people, which we have made through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, January 23, 2024  
(Lec. 318)  
1) 2 Samuel 6:12b-15, 17-19  
2) Mark 3:31-35

TUESDAY OF  
THIRD WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.)

USA: Saint Vincent, Deacon and Martyr;  
USA: Saint Marianne Cope, Virgin;

FOCUS: *Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.*

There is something quite beautiful in the image of David and the people of Israel being so jubilant at the presence of God among them – in the ark – that they seemingly forget themselves and give over to how their emotions move them. *David came dancing before the Lord with abandon.* To know and respond to such love is a gift. Feel the freedom that comes in the love of the Lord and join in the dance of doing God's will.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading describes the jubilation of David and Israel as he brings the ark of the covenant into the City of David. In the Gospel, Jesus says his mother and siblings are those who do the will of God.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God who is a loving Father, we bring him our needs and petitions.

- 1) For Pope Francis, may God bless him with strength and courage as he leads the Church of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those entrusted with authority, power, and governance, may they be guided by the Holy Spirit in working for a world of peace and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those enduring difficult family situations, may the unending and unconditional love of the Lord guide them in their struggles, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may the Holy Spirit draw us ever closer to one another and to the Lord, as we labor for his kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls of the faithful departed, may they soon be welcomed to the wedding feast of the Lamb, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we praise you for your goodness. Look kindly upon the needs of your family, which we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, January 24, 2024  
(Lec. 319)

- 1) 2 Samuel 7:4-17
- 2) Mark 4:1-20

WEDNESDAY OF  
THIRD WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
Saint Francis de Sales,  
Bishop and Doctor  
of the Church)

FOCUS: The word of God produces abundant fruit in his faithful people.

Today's readings tell of the wonderful efficacy of God's word. In establishing the house of David, God ensured David's dynasty throughout Judah's history, and its everlasting continuation in Christ. Jesus himself speaks of the marvelous fruitfulness of the Word when it meets good soil. Let us ask God to make us faithful, fruitful soil.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Lord tells David that he will establish a house and kingdom for him that will last forever. David's descendant will be a son to God, and will rule forever. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the sower, whose seed fell on various types of soil. Jesus explains the parable to the Twelve Apostles.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With one voice, let us ask the Lord to look favorably on our petitions, and to bless them abundantly.

- 1) That God may send numerous faithful, zealous workers into his vineyard, the Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That national and international leaders may be empowered by the Holy Spirit in serving their people as Christ came to serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That God may guide refugees from their homeland into a peaceful settlement, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the Spirit may inspire the members of our faith community to spread the seed of the Word, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our beloved dead may, through God's grace, reap in heaven the rewards they have sown on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, you sent your Son that we might come to know the gifts of the kingdom. Grant our prayers, we ask, through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Thursday, January 25, 2024  
(Lec. 519)

- 1) Acts 22:3-16  
or Acts 9:1-22
- 2) Mark 16:15-18

**THE CONVERSION  
OF SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE  
- FEAST**

FOCUS: Jesus knows our faults and yet in his mercy he redeems us.

The Good News of Jesus' mercy is for everyone, including adversaries of the Gospel. Jesus knows our faults and redeems them. He gives us just what we need to be reoriented toward the good. Having experienced his mercy and redemption, we are called to be witnesses of this Good News before all.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul shares the story of his conversion, from persecutor of the Way to chosen instrument of the Lord. Jesus intercepts Paul on his way to Damascus, and sends him to Ananias to be healed and given his mission. In the Gospel, Jesus commissions the Apostles to proclaim the Gospel *to every creature*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We present our petitions to the Lord, whose love and mercy is for us all.

- 1) That the Lord may continue to bless and protect those who have been ordained to proclaim the Gospel, baptize believers, and lay hands on the sick, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That people throughout the world may be saved through the proclamation of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who have turned away from God may receive from him the grace of conversion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the Lord may redeem our faults and reorient us toward the good as witnesses of his mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died may be led by the Lord's hand and the sound of his voice into the light of his kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, in your steadfast kindness hear our prayers, and in your enduring fidelity, grant us what we need. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Friday, January 26, 2024  
(Lec. 520)

1) 2 Timothy 1:1-8  
or Titus 1:1-5

(Lec. 321)

2) Mark 4:26-34

FRIDAY OF  
THIRD WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM

Saints Timothy and Titus,  
Bishops)

FOCUS: The life of grace yields fruit over time, even when we are unaware of it.

Jesus tells an interesting parable about seed scattered on the land, which yields fruit in a manner unknown to the farmer. God's grace is at work inside each of us. Even when we feel lost or inept, God never abandons us to our own weaknesses. Our lives bear fruit because of grace, which is sown patiently over time.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first reading is an emotional and personal letter from Paul, in which he urges Timothy to live out his Christian testimony with courage and *the strength that comes from God*. In the Gospel, Jesus shares two short parables about the kingdom of God, likening it to fruit-bearing land and a small yet mighty mustard seed.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring before the Lord the prayers we offer this day.

- 1) For leaders in the Church, may the Holy Spirit continue to empower them in witnessing authentic love to the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those entrusted to public office, may they embody an attitude of selflessness and carry out their duties for the good of those they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who experience loneliness or despair, may Jesus the compassionate healer grant them hearts filled with contentment and consolation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may God's grace help us yield fruit in our daily walks of faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died marked with the sign of faith, may God soon welcome them to their eternal home, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of all life, we praise you for your goodness to us. Hear and answer the prayers we have brought to you, we ask, through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Saturday, January 27, 2024  
(Lec. 322)  
1) 2 Samuel 12:1-7a, 10-17  
2) Mark 4:35-41

SATURDAY OF  
THIRD WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Angela Merici,  
Virgin;  
Saturday in honor  
of BVM)

FOCUS: Let us call daily upon the Lord, trusting his desire to help, guide, and bring us peace.

When confronted with challenges, many of us try to face them on our own and only turn to the Lord when we feel as though we're sinking. Christ is, of course, ready to help us when we find ourselves in desperate situations. But rather than wait until a crisis, let us call daily upon the Lord, trusting his desire to help, guide, and bring us peace.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Nathan confronts David with his sin of taking Uriah's wife to be his own. David immediately expresses sorrow for his sin and the Lord forgives him and mitigates the severity of his punishment. While Jesus and his disciples are crossing the sea, a storm comes up. In fear, the disciples awaken Jesus, who calms the storm.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With faith in his love and mercy, let us bring before the Lord our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For the Church, may the Holy Spirit continue to stoke within her the fire of God's presence in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who govern nations, may the Lord lead them toward decisions that bring about justice and peace for their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are experiencing a crisis of faith, may God reveal his love and care to them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community gathered here, may the grace of the sacraments inspire us in our lives of discipleship, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the light of faith, may the Lord grant them eternal rest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Hear these prayers, O Lord, and answer them, we ask, in accordance with your holy will. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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## **SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024**

(Lec. 71)

- 1) Deuteronomy 18:15-20
- 2) 1 Corinthians 7:32-35
- 3) Mark 1:21-28

## **FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Jesus taught as one having authority – having power of his own.

When Jesus speaks or teaches, his words have power – for example in today's Gospel by driving out demons. In our lives, Jesus can free us from anxiety and bring us into union with the Father in the kingdom to come. Unlike all the preceding prophets, Jesus does not simply convey God's word and commands, he *is* God's word in the flesh. His power derives from the Father, for he and the Father are one.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Moses says God will raise up a new prophet who will speak the words of God. In the second reading, Paul contrasts the divided loyalties of married people with those who are unmarried and have only the desire to please the Lord. In the Gospel, Jesus commands an unclean spirit to be quiet and come out of a man in the synagogue.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us turn to our Lord, trusting him to hear and answer our prayers.

- 1) For all members of God's holy Church, may the Lord speak clearly to our hearts the words of love he wishes all to hear, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For lawmakers, may the Holy Spirit guide them in protecting and aiding the most vulnerable, especially the elderly and the unborn, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For refugees, those in exile, and all those displaced from their homes, may the mercy of God give them comfort and rest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may we be given courage to act on the words of God spoken in our lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they be welcomed into the Father's house and granted eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, we know that your words are living and effective. Hear and answer our prayers, we ask, through Christ our Lord.

Monday, January 29, 2024  
(Lec. 323)

- 1) 2 Samuel 15:13-14  
30; 16:5-13
- 2) Mark 5:1-20

MONDAY OF  
FOURTH WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: *Lord, rise up and save me.*

The change in the man in the Gospel who was tormented by a demon and healed by Jesus is dramatic. He proceeds to go out and proclaim what Jesus had done for him. There may be aspects in our own lives that need healing or restoration; when we turn to God for help and allow his grace to work in and through us, the change can be dramatic for us as well.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, upon hearing a report that David's son, Absalom, has gained Israel's loyalty, David and his servants take flight. While fleeing, David shows great restraint in allowing Shimei to follow him, accusing and cursing him. In the Gospel, Jesus commands an unclean spirit to come out of a man. He allows them to enter a herd of swine that drown in the sea.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our needs to the Lord, confident in his providence.

- 1) For the Church, may she continue to grow in holiness and generosity through the mercy of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may God always guide them in forming virtue and leading with gracious authority, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who struggle with addiction of any sort, may the Lord free them from all unhealthy desires and bonds, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the Holy Spirit empower us in bringing love and truth to our world with conviction, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the hope of Christ, may they enjoy eternal comfort and joy with the saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: All-powerful and loving God, hear our pleas and answer us, we ask, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, January 30, 2024  
(Lec. 324)

- 1) 2 Samuel 18:9-10, 14b,  
24-25a, 30–19:3
- 2) Mark 5:21-43

TUESDAY OF  
FOURTH WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: *Christ took away our infirmities and bore our diseases.*

Today's readings have two episodes of tremendous grief and suffering. The Gospel shows what can happen when we hold on to our faith, even in the most overwhelming of situations. Faith can bring us new hope and new life, even out of great pain. God's power and deep love for us can overcome the most difficult situations.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

David mourns the loss of his son Absalom after a great victory for the nation. In the Gospel, Jesus, surrounded by a crowd, is asked to heal the daughter of a synagogue official. On his way, a woman suffering from a hemorrhage for years touches Jesus' cloak so that she might be healed. Jesus goes on to heal the girl.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in God's grace and mercy, let us offer our prayers before him.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may the Lord in his divine goodness watch over us and help us joyfully seek his kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may the Holy Spirit be their guide in working to protect the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who suffer from chronic pain, may the Lord bring them peace, respite, and new life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here today, may the Lord bless us with the eyes and heart of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may the Lord's perpetual light shine upon them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we ask that you listen to the prayers before you, and answer them according to your will. We pray through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, January 31, 2024  
(Lec. 325)

- 1) 2 Samuel 24:2, 9-17
- 2) Mark 6:1-6

WEDNESDAY OF  
FOURTH WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
Saint John Bosco,  
Priest)

FOCUS: *Lord, forgive the wrong I have done.*

Jesus meets disbelief in his hometown. They ask, *Where did this man get all this?* We answer, "From God." Jesus' wisdom and mighty deeds didn't satisfy the locals, and so they lost an opportunity to know God's healing love. Pride blocked their hearts. Does it block ours? Let's pray for humble faith to always see God's truth.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, King David takes a census of the people, against the will of God. As punishment he chooses three days of pestilence. In the Gospel, Jesus spends time with people in his native place. He is not able to perform many miracles there due to their lack of faith.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: The Lord is kind and merciful. Let us offer him our prayers with confidence.

- 1) For an increase in vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, may God empower all who are called to respond with joy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all in public authority, may God free them from pride and the love of power, inspiring them in the ways of servant leadership, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who grieve the loss of a loved one, may God bring them consolation and hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this family of faith, nourished by the Eucharist, may Christ lead us to follow him ever more closely, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may God grant them a place at his heavenly banquet, glorifying him together with the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord, your grace is sufficient for our needs. Please answer our prayers this day, according to your holy will, we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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