

MAY

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Wednesday, May 1, 2024
(Lec. 287)

- 1) Acts 15:1-6
 - 2) John 15:1-8
- Or for Memorial (Lec. 559)
- 1) Genesis 1:26-2:3
or Colossians 3:14-15, 17, 23-24
 - 2) Matthew 13:54-58

WEDNESDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
OF EASTER
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Joseph
the Worker)

FOCUS: We are the branches of the vine that is Jesus.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus identifies himself in many different ways through a series of “I am” statements. Each fulfills a different purpose. *I am the true vine* tells us that he is the source of love necessary to feed us, the branches. Remaining in him, and in his love, bears fruit in our lives through loving others and staying spiritually strong.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, early Church leaders discern how much Jewish law should be followed by non-Jewish people being baptized into the faith. In the Gospel, Jesus says he is *the true vine* and we are his branches.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We gather all of our prayers and petitions and present them to the Lord.

- 1) For the pope and all the clergy, may the true vine of Jesus refresh and nourish them in their ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may the Holy Spirit help them govern in truth and faith for the good of their constituents, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For families who suffer division or hurtful relationships, may the Holy Spirit guide them in forgiveness and reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may the Lord help us to always be open to his merciful love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they soon rest in peace in heaven with all the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving and merciful Father, we humbly pray that you grant the petitions placed before you today, through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, May 2, 2024
(Lec. 288)
1) Acts 15:7-21
2) John 15:9-11

THURSDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
OF EASTER
(OBL MEM
Saint Athanasius,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church)

FOCUS: We abide in God's love by keeping his commandments.

Although Jesus' teachings are direct, they can sometimes be difficult to uphold in the face of our human frailties and temptation to sin. To remain in his love, Jesus says, is to remain in the love of the Father. In order to do this, we must follow the path he has set out for us by living according to his commandments. He is love, and whoever abides in him abides in love.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Apostles and elders are gathered. Peter speaks to them and says that God knows the heart, and that he gave the Holy Spirit without distinction. In the Gospel, Jesus says he has loved his disciples as the Father loves him, and he instructs them to abide in his love. They are to do this so that his joy may be in them and their joy will be complete.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us pray, offering God our petitions for our needs and those of our brothers and sisters throughout the world.

- 1) For the Church, may God give her the grace to boldly follow his commandments and to abide in his love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For political leaders, may the Lord of justice help them govern according to his commandments for the good of all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, may God's healing grace be upon them today and every day, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the Holy Spirit help us be steadfast in living according to God's law, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they come to live in the eternal rest prepared for them in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we entrust ourselves and our intentions to you today and ask that you hear and answer them, through Christ our Lord.

Friday, May 3, 2024

(Lec. 561)

1) 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

2) John 14:6-14

**SAINTS PHILIP AND JAMES,
APOSTLES
- FEAST**

FOCUS: Whoever believes in Christ will do his works.

If we profess that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life, then our faith cannot be merely personal. It must permeate every aspect of our lives. We are called to do what Jesus would do – offering ourselves for the sake of others and building a culture that reflects Gospel values.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul reminds the Corinthians of the Gospel he preached to them: that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. In the Gospel, Jesus says, *I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.* Whoever believes in Jesus will do the works that he does.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God's goodness and love, we offer him our petitions.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord be pleased with her efforts and grant her unity and peace throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all people of the world, may God shine his face upon them and make his love and presence known to all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, may the consolation and peace of the Holy Spirit bring them healing and comfort, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For families in this community of faith, may they be open to the workings of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they dwell in the Father's presence forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful God, please hear and answer the prayers we offer today, through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, May 4, 2024
(Lec. 290)
1) Acts 16:1-10
2) John 15:18-21

SATURDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: We are called to share Jesus with others.

When we feel inadequate to be of use to Jesus and his mission of bringing more people to him, remember that Jesus' own efforts appeared, to human eyes, to fail, but have changed the world. His work has continued through the centuries to touch people and bring them to salvation. We are called to share his teachings and leave the results to the Holy Spirit.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first reading tells of Paul and his companions growing the Church through conversion of the Gentiles. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that they will face hatred and persecution, as he did.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As a community of faith, we present our petitions to the Father.

- 1) That the Church may continue to be blessed with men and women of faith and fortitude, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That leaders of nations and peoples may receive every good gift and grace from the Lord so as to guide their people with integrity and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who have suffered the loss of a loved one may be comforted and consoled by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That we in this faith community may grow in wisdom through the grace of this sacrament, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died may soon live eternally in the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, hear our prayers and answer them according to your holy will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024

(Lec. 56)

- 1) Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48
- 2) 1 John 4:7-10
- 3) John 15:9-17

**SIXTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER**

FOCUS: *Remain in my love.*

This Easter season, as the paschal mystery continues to unfold before us, Jesus focuses our attention on love being at the heart of discipleship. Jesus' words and actions were always rooted in his profound love for us. As disciples, we grow closer to Jesus and his mission by sharing God's love with others. In God's love, he is revealed.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Peter humbly speaks while the Holy Spirit falls upon those who are listening, resulting in more baptisms. In the second reading, John writes of our call to love one another. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples to remain in his love. He calls them friends, no longer slaves.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As Jesus invites us to follow him, we turn our hearts and minds to the Father and present our petitions before him.

- 1) For our Holy Mother Church and her work of love and mercy around the world, may God strengthen her efforts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in authority, may God show them the way of true servant-leadership, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who suffer from persecution of any kind, may God be with them in their affliction, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all in this assembly on our journey as disciples, may God draw us ever closer to his heart, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may God bring them to eternal life and rest in him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, in your mercy please hear and answer the needs we have brought before you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, May 6, 2024

(Lec. 291)

1) Acts 16:11-15

2) John 15:26–16:4a

MONDAY OF
SIXTH WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: The Holy Spirit testifies to the truth of who God is and his movement in our lives.

Today we are reminded of the power of the Holy Spirit at work in the hearts of the Apostles. The Holy Spirit testifies to the truth of who God is, bringing about conversions in the hearts of many. We can have faith that the Holy Spirit will testify to God's movement in our lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, the Apostles continue their journey and the Lord opens the heart of a woman named Lydia. She and her household are baptized, and she offers hospitality in her home to the Apostles. In the Gospel, Jesus foretells the coming of the Advocate, *the Spirit of truth*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Turning to our loving Father, we bring to him our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For our Holy Father and all bishops throughout the world, may the Holy Spirit continue to strengthen them for teaching the ways of the Lord to the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For policy makers, may the guidance of the Holy Spirit help them in enacting and promoting laws that defend the dignity and sanctity of human life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are suffering in any way, may our gracious and merciful Lord look with kindness upon them and relieve their burdens, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us gathered here, may the Lord help us continue to grow in hope, faith, and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died in faith, may they come to see the face of God and live in his eternal light, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, we entrust these prayers to you and ask that you answer them according to your most holy will, through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, May 7, 2024
(Lec. 292)
1) Acts 16:22-34
2) John 16:5-11

TUESDAY OF
SIXTH WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: We can praise God and serve him even in the midst of trials.

Beaten, imprisoned, in chains – who would blame Paul and Silas for praying, “God, deliver us!” Instead, they sang to God – a benefit to fellow prisoners. They served in the midst of tribulation. When an earthquake broke their chains, they led the guard and his family to faith in Jesus. Faithfulness brought opportunity. What are the chains that bind us which the Lord can break for us?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul and Silas are in prison. After an earthquake shook the jail, loosening their chains, Paul and Silas spoke God’s word to the jailer and his family, who were baptized at once. In the Gospel, Jesus prepares for his departure. He promises to send the Advocate, who will *convict the world in regard to sin and righteousness*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Jesus will ascend to his Father and send us the Advocate. As his faithful children, we offer him these prayers.

- 1) For members of the Church throughout the world, may the outpouring of the Holy Spirit sanctify each one of us in our daily lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all in authority over nations and communities, may God lead them not into temptations of power but inspire them to service, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who live in fear, may they find shelter in the shadow of God’s love and be protected from all harm, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this assembly, may God open our hearts to love and serve him in all things, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls of the faithful departed, may the Lord lead them with joy to his heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Eternal Father, your love is beyond understanding. Please hear and answer our prayers according to your gracious will, through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, May 8, 2024
(Lec. 293)
1) Acts 17:15, 22–18:1
2) John 16:12-15

WEDNESDAY OF
SIXTH WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: We confidently proclaim the truth in love.

When we proclaim the truth of Christ's resurrection and share the message of Easter, we are assured of the Spirit's guidance. Let us work to plant the seed of the Gospel in the hearts of those we encounter each day, confident that the Holy Spirit will guide us in truth.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul builds upon what he finds on an altar in Athens to proclaim the truth of God who made the world and all that is in it. In the Gospel, Jesus assures the disciples that the Spirit of truth will come and guide them to all truth.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Because God is our stronghold in times of need, we petition him with our prayers.

- 1) For the Church, may God give us the grace to hear and live by the Spirit of truth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who hold civic or political office, may God lead them in acting with both wisdom and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those struggling with financial burdens, may the Lord provide all that they need and help them trust in his providence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may God endow us with a spirit of mercy toward others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked with the sign of faith, may the Lord shine his face upon them and grant them eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, hear and grant these petitions we have placed before you with trusting hearts, through Christ our Lord.

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NOTE: Regarding the Ascension of the Lord, the ecclesiastical provinces of Boston, Hartford, New York, Newark, Omaha, and Philadelphia have retained its celebration on the proper Thursday, while all other provinces have transferred this Solemnity to the Seventh Sunday of Easter, May 12. If transferred, Thursday, May 9, is observed as an Easter Weekday.

Thursday, May 9, 2024

(Lec. 294)

- 1) Acts 18:1-8
- 2) John 16:16-20

THURSDAY OF
SIXTH WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: The word of God is meant for all.

There are no restrictions or prohibitions as to who can, and should, receive the Good News of Jesus Christ. Paul was never shy about proclaiming Christ crucified, nor did he demand conditions be met before others could hear him. The admonition to repent and believe is one given to, and meant for, all. God's message of covenant and hope, brought near to us in the promise borne by the Word made flesh, is freely given, and all people are welcome to receive.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul travels to Corinth where he meets Aquila and Priscilla and engages in discussions with Jews and Greeks. When Silas and Timothy join him, Paul begins to *occupy himself totally with preaching the word ... that the Christ was Jesus*. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples that in a little while they will no longer see him, and then later they will see him. The disciples are unsure of what this means, and Jesus reminds them of the coming joy.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Mindful of God's great mercy, we entrust our prayers to him.

- 1) For our Holy Father and all bishops, may the Holy Spirit continue guiding them in sanctifying and teaching the faithful with great love and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may the Lord guide them toward a path of peace for all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are alone or in need of community, may the Lord be their refuge and comfort, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those who have recently been received into the Church, may the graces of the Easter sacraments continue to strengthen them in their journey of faith, 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 behold the face of God and live, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, we know that you hear our prayers. Please answer them according to your most holy will, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, May 9, 2024
(Lec. 58)

- 1) Acts 1:1-11
- 2) Ephesians 1:17-23
or 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13
- 3) Mark 16:15-20

**THE ASCENSION
OF THE LORD
- SOLEMNITY**
[Holyday of Obligation]

FOCUS: The Solemnity of the Ascension invites us to raise our eyes to behold Christ's glory.

Christ does not leave us in the Ascension. Instead, he lifts our eyes, inviting us to behold his power and glory. We do so in a particular way through the sacraments. He is with us in our struggles. He carries our burdens with us. He makes his glorious presence known to us in a way that we can taste and see in the Eucharist.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, we hear witness of Jesus' appearances after his resurrection, as well as the disciples' experience of him being lifted up into a cloud and being taken from their sight. In the second reading, Paul prays that the hearts of the faithful be enlightened to know Christ's glory. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples: *Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Filled with confidence in God's power and care, let us offer our prayers to him today.

- 1) For all leaders in the Church, may the Holy Spirit enkindle in them a holy fire to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders in our communities, may God give them strength to protect the most vulnerable in our midst, especially the elderly and the unborn, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are burdened with physical or financial difficulties, may Christ's love and promise provide them solutions and hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who are gathered here, may we be strengthened by the Eucharist to follow Christ's call in our lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they rest in the loving presence of Christ forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of power and might, hear these prayers we offer you today, we ask, through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, May 10, 2024
(Lec. 295)
1) Acts 18:9-18
2) John 16:20-23

FRIDAY OF
SIXTH WEEK
OF EASTER
(Opt. Mem.
Saint John of Avila,
Priest and Doctor
of the Church;
USA: Saint Damien de Veuster,
Priest)

FOCUS: *God mounts his throne amid shouts of joy.*

In his farewell discourse continued in today's Gospel, Jesus assures his disciples they will mourn, but that when he returns, no one will take away the joy they will feel. Like the early Apostles, we can experience joy even in the midst of sorrow and pain when we recall that we belong to Jesus and that he is with us in all situations.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, although Paul has been persecuted by the Jewish leaders in Corinth, he remains in that city for *quite some time* because Gallio, the Roman official, refused to intervene in religious matters. In the Gospel, Jesus assures his disciples that, after he returns to them from death, their mourning will turn into joy that no one can take away from them.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God is with us in every difficulty. With great confidence, we bring to him our needs.

- 1) For missionaries, may the Lord give them fortitude and sustain them without fear as they minister to the people to whom they are sent, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected and governmental officials, may the Lord give them the wisdom they need in defending human life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who live in fear of violence, may God protect and defend them, and lead them to safety, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those within this community who have recently been initiated into the Church, may the gifts of the Spirit grow and bear fruit in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they soon encounter the joy and everlasting peace of eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, we bring you these needs today, confident in the power of your love and the abundance of your generosity. Through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, May 11, 2024
(Lec. 296)
1) Acts 18:23-28
2) John 16:23b-28

SATURDAY OF
SIXTH WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: *Whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you.*

According to Jesus' words in the Gospel, what we ask of the Father in the name of the Son, the Father will give to us, according to his will. If we love Jesus and believe in him, he intercedes to the Father for us. What joy that the Father wants to lavish us with his love!

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Apollos learns the ways of God more accurately. He took what he learned and shared it with many people, even refuting the Jews in public, *establishing from the Scriptures that the Christ is Jesus*. In the Gospel Jesus tells his disciples, *whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you ... for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us offer our petitions to God, who loves us so much and longs to hear our prayers.

- 1) For all clergy, may the graces of the Eucharist sustain them in their ministering to the faithful, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may they be inspired by the Holy Spirit in promoting the dignity of all human life and the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who suffer from chronic illness, may the healing hand of the Lord be upon them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community gathered here today, may the Holy Spirit help us be united in love and be effective witnesses of Christ's love in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may Jesus welcome them with love into his Father's house in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, hear and answer the prayers of your children according to your will. We ask through Christ our Lord.

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NOTE: In those places where the observance of the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord has been transferred to this day, the Mass and readings of the Ascension are used.

SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2024

**SEVENTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER**

(Lec. 60)

- 1) Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26
- 2) 1 John 4:11-16
- 3) John 17:11b-19

FOCUS: Seek above all else to be in union with God.

When praying for his disciples, Jesus prayed for their protection from the power of the evil one, and for their union with God. In other words, he prayed for their holiness. This is a good reminder that what matters most is our holiness, and holiness comes through our union with God, the source of all holiness. Let us strive to live in a manner that reflects this purpose.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Matthias is selected by lot to replace Judas and be counted as a witness to the Resurrection. In the second reading, John explains that God has revealed his love by sharing his Spirit with us and by sending his Son for our salvation. In the Gospel, Jesus prays that the Father will preserve his disciples in union with him, protect them from the evil one, and sanctify them in his truth.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in God's love for us, let us bring before him our prayers and petitions for the Church and the world.

- 1) For all who minister in the Church, that through the power of the Holy Spirit, their hearts may be opened and filled with an abundance of God's love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For peace in our world, may God guide world leaders in resolving disputes nonviolently, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all parents, may the Lord multiply their joys and ease the burdens of their sorrows, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may the grace of the Eucharist lead us toward greater love for Christ and all his people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may our Savior, our Blessed Mother, and all the angels and saints joyfully welcome them to the heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, we ask that you graciously hear these prayers and answer them in accordance with your divine will, through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, May 13, 2024
(Lec. 297)

- 1) Acts 19:1-8
- 2) John 16:29-33

MONDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
OF EASTER
(Opt. Mem.
Our Lady of Fatima)

FOCUS: Even when our faith is tested, Jesus offers us peace.

As we near the end of the Eastertide, today's Scriptures give us encouragement for those times when we are not "celebrating" our life of faith as we are during this liturgical season – times when troubles abound, and the Lord seems distant. Jesus assures us that even when our faith is tested, he offers us peace. He has conquered the world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul travels to Ephesus where he fervently continues his missionary work. In the Gospel, the disciples tell Jesus that they believe he has come from God. Jesus responds that their faith will be tested, but they should take courage even in these moments, because he has conquered the world.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God wills what is the best for all of us. Let us approach him with the needs of our world, confident of his love and concern.

- 1) For the Church and her work of missionary discipleship, may the Spirit continue to help her flourish, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For lawmakers in every level of government, may God lead them to policies rooted in justice and human dignity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are absent from the life of the Church, may the Lord encourage them in their faith and deliver them from doubt, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, in our vocation to holiness may God accompany us to a life of fulfillment, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have departed from this life in hope for the next, may God welcome them into his heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of abundance, you know all of our thoughts and concerns. We ask you to hear what we bring before you and grant us what we need, through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, May 14, 2024

(Lec. 564)

1) Acts 1:15-17, 20-26

2) John 15:9-17

**SAINT MATTHIAS,
- FEAST**

FOCUS: To love God and one another is the source of all joy.

The Lord longs to complete our joy by giving us opportunities to love one another. Love gladdens our hearts as we are in communion with others and, ultimately, with God. No possession, no accolade, no amount of wealth can compete with love as the source of true joy.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first reading from the Acts of the Apostles recounts the election of Matthias, who replaced Judas as the twelfth Apostle. In the Gospel, Jesus instructs his disciples to remain in his love, for he calls them not slaves but friends. The most fundamental command he gives them is to love one another as he loves them.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We come before the Lord with humble hearts and ardent prayers.

- 1) For the Church, may the Father of all mercies grant her members the grace to grow in love and forgiveness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For judicial leaders and policy makers, may God guide their hearts to a greater respect for all life from conception to natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all ensnared by sin, may the freedom of Christ touch their lives in a real way, and break the chains that bind them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the members of this faith community, may God grant us the gift of wisdom to discern what is right and just, and help us make decisions that align with his will, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they soon come to rest in the eternal joy of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we thank you for your faithfulness. Look kindly, we pray, upon these petitions we bring before you, through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, May 15, 2024
(Lec. 299)
1) Acts 20:28-38
2) John 17:11b-19

WEDNESDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
OF EASTER
(Opt. Mem.
USA: Saint Isidore)

FOCUS: *Your word, O Lord, is truth; consecrate us in the truth.*

We can confront any adversity that might creep into our lives assured by Christ's promise: He wants to consecrate us. Jesus wants to guard us and speak to us. He sends us into every challenge with the promise that we belong to him. He speaks a living word to us and invites us to share in his joy.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Paul urges the presbyters of Ephesus to keep watch over the Church, and to work hard and practice generosity. In the Gospel, Jesus asks the Father to protect his followers as he consecrates and sends them into the world.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in God's protection and care, let us bring our petitions before him today.

- 1) For Church leaders, may they be strengthened and guided in their efforts to reveal Christ's presence in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the salvation of the world, and for men and women of faith willing to proclaim the Gospel to the ends of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those burdened with any suffering, may God comfort them with strength, healing, and the assurance that they are not alone, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community gathered here, may we be guided in all we do by the power of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have passed away, may they come to share in the fullness of life with the risen Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, every good gift comes from you. We humbly ask that you hear our prayers, through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, May 16, 2024
(Lec. 300)
1) Acts 22:30; 23:6-11
2) John 17:20-26

THURSDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: *Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.*

We must be courageous in our mission to evangelize. It is our job to spread the Good News of the Lord and to let others know the love and promise of God, even when it seems they may not want to hear it. We must let the world know God's love because that is what Jesus asks of us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

While Paul is on trial and facing many obstacles, the Lord stays by his side, advising him to *take courage* in his witness and continue his mission in spreading the Word. In today's Gospel, Jesus prays to the Father *that the world may believe that you sent [him]*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Relying on the Lord's promise to hear our every prayer, let us bring him our needs.

- 1) For unity in the Church, may the Lord help us bear good fruit in our mission to evangelize, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may God help them lead with wisdom, humility, and integrity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the oppressed and downtrodden, may the Lord lift them up and strengthen them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in this faith community who suffer from illness or disability, may they feel Christ's healing and loving embrace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the light of faith, may eternal rest be granted unto them and may perpetual light shine upon them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord, please hear and answer the prayers we have brought before you, through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, May 17, 2024
(Lec. 301)
1) Acts 25:13b-21
2) John 21:15-19

FRIDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Christian discipleship brings both joy and hardship.

In today's Gospel scene by the lake, Jesus reaffirms Peter's role as shepherd over his entire Church. The triple demand of a declaration of love mirrors the Apostle's triple denial of the Lord. The prediction of Peter's death follows immediately. As Jesus told Peter to follow him, he says the same to us, promising both honor and suffering as his disciples.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, King Agrippa is apprised of the situation with Paul and his imprisonment. In the Gospel, Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves him, and each time commands him to feed or tend his sheep. He then predicts the circumstances of Peter's death and commands the Apostle to follow him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As Jesus invites us to follow him, we turn our hearts and minds to the Father and present our petitions before him.

- 1) That God may bless the Church with shepherds after Christ's own heart who lead his flock with loving care, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the Lord may inspire leaders in their efforts to protect the dignity and sanctity of human life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all oppressed by fears and anxieties may be uplifted by the assurance of God's love and compassion for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the Holy Spirit may inspire each of us here to strengthen our belief in his presence and help us to trust in his providence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the souls of the faithful departed may rest in the eternal peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, please hear and grant these petitions, which we offer through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, May 18, 2024
(Lec. 302)
1) Acts 28:16-20, 30-31
2) John 21:20-25

SATURDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
OF EASTER
(Opt. Mem.
Saint John I,
Pope and Martyr)

FOCUS: God can use all things for good if we cooperate with his grace.

Despite being arrested, Paul was able to evangelize. He requested to be sent to Rome to appeal to Caesar, and it was granted. God used this opportunity for Paul to bring the Gospel to the Jews in Rome, one of the most important cities in the world at that time. God can use all things for good if we cooperate with his grace In our lives, too.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

While Paul is essentially under house arrest in Rome, he is able to preach to the Jews in the city. He points out that he is not trying to harm Israel through his preaching, but rather share the Good News of the Messiah. In the Gospel, when Peter questions if John will be martyred, Jesus chides him, reminding Peter his responsibility is to follow him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Gathering our needs and the needs of our world and our community, we turn with faith to our loving Father.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may the voice of Christ be our only guide, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all with civic responsibilities, may the Holy Spirit instill in them a deep respect for the poor, the elderly, and the unborn, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those carrying crosses in their daily lives, may Christ make his presence known to them with hope and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may God continue to pour out his blessings upon us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, especially those with no one else to pray for them, may they be warmly welcomed by the angels and saints into God's heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2024

(Lec. 63)

- 1) Acts 2:1-11
- 2) 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13
or Galatians 5:16-25
- 3) John 20:19-23
or 15:26-27; 16:12-15

**PENTECOST SUNDAY
- SOLEMNITY**

FOCUS: The Holy Spirit gives and renews life, to each of us and to the Church.

Pentecost celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, giving birth to the Church. The Spirit always gives. The Spirit not only gives but renews life as well. Like the disciples, we are continuously renewed by the Spirit for service in Jesus' name.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Apostles are filled with the Holy Spirit and able to preach in different tongues *of the mighty acts of God*. In the second reading, Paul teaches that there are many parts and different gifts, yet one body and one Spirit. In the Gospel, Jesus comes to the disciples who are hiding out in fear. He offers peace, breathes the Holy Spirit upon them, and sends them to forgive sins.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us present our petitions to the Lord as he sends his Spirit to intercede for us.

- 1) That the Holy Spirit may renew the face of his holy Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the Gospel may be proclaimed to the entire world, through word and deed and by the example of the faithful, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That the Spirit may enkindle in all a fire for his love, to bring aid to the suffering and comfort to the afflicted, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the Spirit may fill the hearts of his faithful gathered here today and guide us to lives of holiness and commitment, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may know the joy of eternal life in God's kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious Father, you have given us your Spirit that we may bring to you all that we need. Hear and answer the prayers we have offered, we ask, through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, May 20, 2024
(Lec. 572A)

- 1) Genesis 3:9-15, 20
or Acts 1:12-14
- 2) John 19:25-34

MONDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
The Blessed Virgin Mary,
Mother of the Church)

FOCUS: *Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners.*

The Blessed Virgin Mary is truly the Mother of the Church. In recognizing the foundational relationship she has with the people of God, her role as Mother is honored on the Monday after Pentecost, the birth of the Church. We invoke her to pray for all believers until we pass away, at which time we hope to join her and her Son in the heavenly kingdom.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Adam and Eve have eaten of the forbidden fruit and are thus banned from the garden. In the Gospel, Jesus establishes a new relationship between his mother and the beloved disciple, as mother and son, and then hands over his spirit.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We now bring our prayers to the Lord, whose mercy knows no bounds.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord help her flourish under Mary's maternal charity, giving visible witness to the saving power of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the salvation of the world, may God's grace touch the hearts of those who have not yet encountered his love, drawing them closer to him and transforming their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For parents who struggle to ensure the well-being of their families, may the Holy Spirit offer them comfort, assurance, and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all gathered in this holy place, may God bless our every endeavor and strengthen us in our work building his kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked as Christ's own forever, may they be embraced by the Lord in eternal salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of glory, in your infinite goodness, please listen to the prayers we have offered, through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, May 21, 2024
(Lec. 342)
1) James 4:1-10
2) Mark 9:30-37

TUESDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Christopher Magallanes,
Priest,
and Companions,
Martyrs)

FOCUS: Christian greatness is found in humble service, especially to those who cannot repay you.

The virtue of humility is the theme of today's readings. When we set aside our tendencies toward selfishness and put our faith in action by serving the least among us, the Lord *bestows a greater grace* and *he will exalt [us]*.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, James rebukes those who dabble in both worldly and godly ways. The ways of the world and vices, such as envy, bring conflict and war. He extols his readers to focus on humbling themselves to God so as to follow God's ways. In the Gospel, Jesus instructs the disciples to humble themselves in order to attain holiness.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In a spirit of humility and gratitude, let us bring to the Father our needs and the needs of others.

- 1) For the Holy Father, the servant of the servants of God, may the Lord exalt him in his humility and bestow grace upon him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all in public office, may God guide them in the ways of charity and virtue, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer at the hands of others, may our Father in heaven always protect them and surround them with his love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the homebound in our community, may God offer them healing and companionship, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may any sorrow and pain they had in this life be transformed into everlasting joy with God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Wednesday, May 22, 2024
(Lec. 343)

- 1) James 4:13-17
- 2) Mark 9:38-40

WEDNESDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Rita of Cascia,
Religious)

FOCUS: We live by the will of God.

Today's readings remind us that God is in control. We tend to think we can accomplish our goals by our own power. We may even think this is required of us. But this is pride, the root of sin. We must seek God's guidance in making our plans, and depend on his grace to complete them.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

James writes that we do not know what tomorrow holds. We should qualify plans for the future with the condition, *if the Lord wills it*. He also says to know the right thing and not do it is a sin. In the Gospel, John tells Jesus that they have prevented someone from driving out demons in his name. Jesus replies, *whoever is not against us is for us*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that God wills only our good, we offer him our petitions.

- 1) That the Church throughout the world may be united in the name of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That all people of the world may come to see each other as neighbors and work together for the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That people living on the margins of society may receive special care from those who follow Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all of us here may have the prudence to know the right thing to do and do it, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died may be welcomed into the arms of our heavenly Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, you give us life and provide for all our needs. We ask that you hear our prayers and answer them according to your will, through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, May 23, 2024
(Lec. 344)

- 1) James 5:1-6
- 2) Mark 9:41-50

THURSDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: We who seek divine justice must also be instruments of justice.

Love is clearly at the heart of the Gospel and will often show itself in the pursuit of justice and in how we deal with others, especially those who are less powerful. Let us take to heart James' powerful message to all believers that they must work actively and daily to put the message of the Gospel into action.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

James calls the rich to weep over their *impending miseries* because their wealth and the treasure they have stored up has *rotted* and *corroded*. While they have lived in luxury, they have withheld wages from workers and condemned others. In the Gospel, Jesus uses different images to emphasize the importance of right living and the pursuit of the kingdom of God.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For Church leaders, may the voice of the Holy Spirit continue to lead them as they serve and guide God's holy people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For political and civic leaders, may the Holy Spirit inspire their efforts in working to protect human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who lack the material needs of life, may God's generosity outpour upon them and bring them necessary relief, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of this assembly, may the Holy Spirit restore any brokenness within us and liberate us from all afflictions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they receive the reward of a life well spent and come to share in the fullness of Christ's glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and eternal God, our salvation comes from you alone. Hear and answer the prayers we bring before you, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, May 24, 2024
(Lec. 345)
1) James 5:9-12
2) Mark 10:1-12

FRIDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: *Your word, O Lord, is truth.*

The words *let your "Yes" mean "Yes" and your "No" mean "No"* from the first reading can pose a challenge for us sometimes, particularly within marriage. As a couple together discern either "yes" or "no" in any given situation, the Gospel reminds us that marriage is a union of three: the husband, wife, and God. Seeking and discerning the answer with God will bear great fruit.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, James writes that all should avoid complaining and judgment, and look to the prophets for examples of patience; he exhorts his community not to swear oaths but to let "yes" mean yes and "no" mean no. In the Gospel, Jesus answers the question of the Pharisees regarding divorce, reciting the Scripture, *a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us gather our needs and bring them before our Father in heaven.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord raise up holy men and women for the sacrament of marriage, and bless and sustain them in their lived witness to the Body of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all people and nations of the world, may the freedom found in Christ and God's plan for creation be made available to them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who struggle to live faithfully what God commands, may he grant them strength in their efforts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of worship, may God grant us wisdom and courage to seek his help as we discern his will, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they soon rest in the peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear our prayers today and answer them in accordance with your will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, May 25, 2024
(Lec. 346)
1) James 5:13-20
2) Mark 10:13-16

SATURDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Bede the Venerable,
Priest and Doctor of the Church;
Saint Gregory VII, Pope;
Saint Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi, Virgin;
Saturday in honor
of BVM)

FOCUS: Seek the kingdom with the eyes and heart of a child.

The Father desires that we, his children, will one day live eternally with him in his kingdom. Though we will age in our mortal bodies here on earth, we are meant to approach the kingdom as a child: without guile, open to a Father's love, and unblemished by the vices and passing fancies of the world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, James urges his community to pray not only for themselves or others who are in need, but also in praise for the gifts God has given them. In the Gospel, Jesus is indignant that others are preventing children from coming to him and he tells them, *let the children come to me*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We remember God's great mercy and love and entrust our prayers to him.

- 1) For the Church, may the Holy Spirit guide and protect her as she takes the word of God to all corners of the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may the Lord bless them with clarity of vision to act in a manner that promotes the common good of those they govern, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are suffering from anxiety or mental anguish, may the Lord give them strength and grant them consolation and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may we be filled with the Holy Spirit as we strive to fulfill our roles as servants of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our loved ones who have died, may they soon share in the joy of the risen Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, we are thankful for all you have given us and humbly pray that you grant these prayers and petitions laid before you today, through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2024

(Lec. 165)

- 1) Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40
- 2) Romans 8:14-17
- 3) Matthew 28:16-20

**THE MOST
HOLY TRINITY
- SOLEMNITY**

FOCUS: Through baptism we receive our identity as children of God with Christ.

The mystery of the Holy Trinity is central to our Christian faith. We are baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, receiving the Spirit that enables us to call God our Father. Our identity as sons and daughters of God calls us to share in the Son's suffering, so that we might also share in his glory.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Moses tells the people that the actions of God on their behalf show he is Lord of heaven and earth. Paul tells the Romans that they have received a *Spirit of adoption* to be children of God and *joint heirs with Christ*. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the eleven disciples to make disciples of all nations, *baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As God's adopted children, we now offer our prayers to him.

- 1) That the Church may be strengthened and sustained by the Holy Spirit in preaching the Good News to all nations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That in God's mercy all people may come to believe in Christ and obey his commandments, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That the Lord may comfort all who are lonely and provide them with connection and community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That we who are gathered here and call God "Father" may experience the real presence of Christ in our lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died with Christ may share in his eternal glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, hear the prayers of your children and answer them according to your will, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, May 27, 2024
(Lec. 347)
1) 1 Peter 1:3-9
2) Mark 10:17-27

MONDAY OF
EIGHTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Augustine of Canterbury,
Bishop)

FOCUS: All that we have and receive comes from God's good grace.

Jesus is not prejudiced against rich people; he just knows that wealth – amassing it, using it, and keeping it secure – can distract people from serving God's people or trusting God to direct their actions. Humans are tempted to see themselves as self-made or entitled to the best, but it is a temptation to falsehood. All that we have and receive comes from God's good grace, and it is through him and him alone that we are blessed and saved.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first reading encourages Christians to keep our faith, even in the face of difficulties. Our faith will lead to our salvation, which lasts for eternity. In the Gospel, Jesus meets a rich young man who cannot give up his wealth to gain eternal life. Jesus tells his disciples it is very difficult for *one who is rich* to enter the kingdom of heaven.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us join together to bring our petitions to the Father, knowing he is always there for us.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord continue to bless her and help her grow in number and unity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who are entrusted with the care and protection of their fellow citizens, may they be guided by God's grace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who suffer from physical or mental distress, may the healing power of Christ bring them relief, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the Holy Spirit guide us in our efforts to be more forgiving and gracious people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked with the sign of the cross, may they rest in peace for all eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God, hear our prayers and provide for us what we truly need. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, May 28, 2024
(Lec. 348)
1) 1 Peter 1:10-16
2) Mark 10:28-31

TUESDAY OF
EIGHTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God must come before all else.

Today we heard: *For it is written, Be holy because I am holy.* It is a reminder that everything we do must be done in holiness, for God and with him in mind. We must put God at the center of all that we do. If we want eternal life with him, our earthly loves and desires must come second to our love and desire for God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's readings, Peter conveys God's message that we must purify our lives and set our sights on salvation. The Gospel explains how to put our love for God before our love for anyone or anything else.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we put God at the center of our hearts and minds, let us bring him our petitions.

- 1) For Church leaders, may the Holy Spirit guide them in their mission to bring all to the Lord's eternal salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may the Lord help them in making just decisions that promote peace in our world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all struggling with homelessness or poverty, may the comfort, hope, and strength that God offers bring them restitution and relief, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here today, may the Holy Spirit help us grow in the hope and knowledge of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For eternal rest for the souls of the loved ones of all who are gathered here, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of mercy, we ask that you hear our prayers and answer them in accordance with your will. Through Christ our Lord.

Wednesday, May 29, 2024
(Lec. 349)

- 1) 1 Peter 1:18-25
- 2) Mark 10:32-45

WEDNESDAY OF
EIGHTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Paul VI,
Pope)

FOCUS: *Whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant.*

God gives us so many beautiful but perishable things that it is easy to become distracted by them and pursue them for their own value. Our readings remind us that the perishable is intended to serve the imperishable values of love and service.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading says that we were ransomed from our conduct *with the precious Blood of Christ*, and that we must not focus on the perishable but on the *living and abiding word of God*. The Gospel provides a specific example of two disciples learning from Jesus the importance of discerning the highest value of serving one another.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us pray as one to our loving God for our needs and the needs of all the world.

- 1) For the Church, may she prosper in the sight of God as she strives to be a source of light and justice in a troubled world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who serve in governments throughout the world, may God grant them the wisdom to advocate for protecting the most vulnerable, especially the unborn, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are burdened by illness or any type of difficulty, may they experience the Lord's care and presence in their struggle, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our community gathered here, may God strengthen our faith through our love for one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may God welcome them into his eternal love together with all the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, in your constant love and merciful presence, we ask that you answer these prayers we have brought to you, through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, May 30, 2024

(Lec. 350)

1) 1 Peter 2:2-5, 9-12

2) Mark 10:46-52

THURSDAY OF
EIGHTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Jesus hears every cry of the heart.

Although God knows our needs and our desires, he wants to hear from us, as we are his beloved. When we cry out to the Lord, we can be assured that he sees our faith and responds in love.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Peter instructs us to come to Jesus in order to receive what we need. For, he says, we are God's own people and can go forth and proclaim his works. The Gospel tells the story of Jesus leaving Jericho with his disciples in the midst of crowds of people. A blind man, hearing that Jesus was there, cries out in faith. Jesus asks him what he wants from him, and the man asks for sight. Jesus heals the man, telling him that his faith has made him well.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Just as Bartimaeus cried out to Jesus in faith, let us cry out to the Lord, bringing to him our every need.

- 1) For the Church, may faith, hope, and love guide all who proclaim Jesus as Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may the Holy Spirit help them humbly and faithfully fulfill their roles as civil servants, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, may they, like Bartimaeus, experience the healing touch of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the love of God dwell in our hearts and in our homes, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may the faith they had in this life bring them into the fullness of God's presence for eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, you continue to work signs among us. Hear the prayers we offer today, through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, May 31, 2024

(Lec. 572)

- 1) Zephaniah 3:14-18a
or Romans 12:9-16
- 2) Luke 1:39-56

**THE VISITATION
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
- FEAST**

FOCUS: *Most blessed are you among women.*

When Mary and Elizabeth greet each other in the Gospel reading, they turn attentively to one another with sincere love and affection. In turning outwards and focusing on the other, they recognize Christ in their midst. Let us open our own hearts so we, too, may come to recognize Christ more clearly in our lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading from the Letter to the Romans, we are called to sincere love that includes service in the Lord, endurance in affliction, and association with the lowly. In the Gospel, Mary visits Elizabeth. Both Elizabeth and her unborn child recognize the presence of the Lord, and Mary responds with a canticle proclaiming God's greatness.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our prayers before our merciful Father, with confidence in his desire to care for all our needs.

- 1) For the pope and all bishops, priests, and deacons, may they be blessed in the ministry to which they have been ordained, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders in government, may God grant them wisdom to participate in his work to lift up the lowly and fill the hungry with good things, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all mothers, may they be given insight to recognize the presence of Christ and be strengthened in their call, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this assembly, may God bless our efforts to conform our lives to him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have passed away, may they rest in the perfect home prepared for them in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Savior, we offer you these prayers in humility and trust, through Christ our Lord.

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