

AUGUST

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Monday, August 1, 2016

(Lec. 407)

- 1) Jeremiah 28:1-17
- 2) Matthew 14:13-21

MONDAY OF
18TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM

Saint Alphonsus Liguori,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church

FOCUS: God works in and through us, and our acts of kindness and love, to work marvels in the lives of others.

Similar to the way that Jesus multiplied five loaves and two fish to feed a crowd of five thousand, God takes our acts of kindness and love and multiplies them to work marvels and wonders in the lives of others. This means that no gesture of love or kindness we extend to others, even the seemingly most small or ordinary, is in vain.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of Jeremiah speaking the truth regardless of how he is received. The responsorial psalm reminds us of the importance of abiding by God's commands and statutes. In the Gospel, Jesus multiplies five loaves and two fish to feed a crowd of five thousand.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Loving and compassionate Father, we offer you our petitions with confidence that you will hear and answer them according to your will.

- 1) For bishops, priests and deacons, may their teaching and example encourage and assist the faithful in pouring themselves out more generously in love and service to others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For countries torn by war and ethnic conflict, may their people find reconciliation and healing, and thereby put an end to the cycle of violence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are chronically ill, may their faith in Jesus bring them healing and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For young people in our parish discerning a vocation to the religious life or priesthood, may they be blessed with the wisdom and support needed to respond to God's call for their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they may enjoy perfect happiness and peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of mercy and compassion, hear and answer our prayers according to your will. For we offer them to you through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, August 2, 2016
(Lec. 408)
1) Jeremiah 30:1-2, 12-15,
18-22
2) Matthew 14:22-36 or
15:1-2, 10-14

TUESDAY OF
18TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Eusebius
of Vercelli, Bishop;
Saint Peter Julian Eymard, Priest)

FOCUS: We must learn to trust in the Lord and strive to live in his ways.

In this day and age of scientific advancement in so many areas, people often demand proof in order to believe in something. There is little room for faith or mystery. Even so, we as Christians have faith and hope, rooted in the mystery of Christ's life, death and resurrection.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of how Jeremiah prophesied that the Lord would act in time to bring healing and restoration to the people of Israel. The Gospel tells of Jesus walking on water and inviting Peter to come to him. Because of Peter's lack of faith, he began to sink.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the Lord, we bring our prayers to him with confidence they will be heard and answered.

- 1) For missionaries in the Church, may God continue to bless them with the grace and strength needed to persevere in preaching and teaching the Gospel throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in elected office, may they enact laws and policies which protect and safeguard the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception until natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are hungry or homeless, may they be assisted in their need by committed Christians and people of good will, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish, may we always strive to be a faith community that offers a warm welcome to visitors, and all those in search of a parish home, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they join the company of all the angels and the saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord our God, hear the prayers we bring before you this day. May they be granted according to your holy will. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

Wednesday, August 3, 2016
(Lec. 409)

- 1) Jeremiah 31:1-7
- 2) Matthew 15:21-28

WEDNESDAY OF
18TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Having great faith and trust in God opens the door for God to accomplish wonders in our life.

Since God has given us the gift of free will, he doesn't force himself upon us. This means that in order for us to experience the many graces and blessings God wishes to lavish upon us, we need to place our faith and trust firmly in him. The more we are able to do this, the better we will become at recognizing the many wonders God works in our lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading gives the assurance that God is working to bring healing and restoration to the people of Israel. When this comes about, it will be an occasion of great joy and festive singing and dancing. The Gospel tells us about the faith of the Canaanite woman, who asks Jesus to heal her daughter. Jesus sees her great faith and heals the daughter.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Placing our faith in our ever-loving God, we present these prayers to him.

- 1) For all members of the church, may we be a light to the world, and lead others to grow in holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in public office, may they turn to God for guidance in forming laws and policies which protect and care for the poor and vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are homeless, may they find shelter and assistance from Church outreach ministries and people of good will, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the members of this parish, may we find ways to extend God's love and mercy to our family, friends, coworkers and others we meet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they find eternal joy in the company of the angels and saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, in your goodness hear and answer our prayers. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Thursday, August 4, 2016
(Lec. 410)

- 1) Jeremiah 31:31-34
- 2) Matthew 16:13-23

THURSDAY OF
18TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint John Vianney, Priest)

FOCUS: In Saint John Vianney, we see the example of living life for the sake of others – for the sake of Christ.

Saint John Vianney offers us a powerful example of what it means to lead a life devoted to serving God and others. He sacrificed his time in the confessional, and his health in fasting and prayer, in order to bring souls to Christ. He did this all out of his love for God. May his example move us toward greater love and service of God and our neighbor.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of a new covenant that God would make with his people, one where the laws of God are not etched in stone, but on people's hearts. In the Gospel, Jesus asks the disciples the question, *Who do you say that I am?* Peter alone answers the question correctly, stating, *You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us join in prayer as we humbly place our petitions before God.

- 1) For priests and bishops, may they continue to be faithful instruments of God's love and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all people in positions of leadership, may they use their influence to foster cooperation and reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering from depression, may they be blessed with the support and assistance needed to begin the journey toward recovery, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For each of us, may we continue to grow in our faith and love for the Lord so we may give a more faithful and effective witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may their souls rest in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, we ask you to hear and answer our prayers, which we offer in Jesus' name.

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Friday, August 5, 2016
(Lec. 411)
1) Nahum 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7
2) Matthew 16:24-28

FRIDAY OF
18TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
The Dedication of
the Basilica of Saint Mary Major)

FOCUS: We are to take up our cross and follow Jesus.

The modern world would have us buy into the mindset that happiness can be found in money and material things. However, we know that the satisfaction these things offer is temporary and fleeting. Jesus teaches that the deepest desires of our heart – for lasting happiness, peace and salvation – are found in taking up our cross and following him.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, we hear Nahum prophesying the destruction of Ninevah because of its wickedness. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that anyone who desires to live as one of his disciples must take up his or her cross and follow him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us offer our petitions in confidence to God, our loving Father.

- 1) That the pope, bishops and all clergy will continue to be enriched by the gifts of the Spirit as they work to lead us closer to Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That all who hold and seek public office may be guided by the pursuit of the common good above any personal gain or advantage, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are persecuted for their faith in Jesus may be blessed with the grace and strength needed to persevere in the face of adversity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That each of us may turn to the Lord each day for the grace to remain steadfast in our faith and live out our baptismal promises, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may, through God's grace and mercy and the assistance of our prayers, enter into eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, please hear and answer our prayers. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Saturday, August 6, 2016
(Lec. 614)

- 1) Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
- 2) 2 Peter 1:16-19
- 3) Luke 9:28b-36

**THE TRANSFIGURATION
OF THE LORD
– FEAST**

FOCUS: We are called to listen to the voice of Jesus Christ, who today is revealed as both human and divine.

In the only occasion in all of the Gospels where the Father speaks directly to Jesus' disciples, they are commanded to listen to Jesus, who is the Father's *chosen Son*. In a world of many voices and competing agendas, we, too, are invited to listen to Jesus alone and to hear the message of eternal life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of one like a son of man being given everlasting kingship and dominion over all peoples and nations. In the second reading, Peter confirms that Jesus is the Messiah, pointing out that he witnessed the Transfiguration and heard the voice of the Father on the holy mountain. Today's Gospel recalls the Transfiguration of Jesus.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in God's mercy and care for his people, we place our needs before him.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we always listen attentively to the voice of Christ and faithfully follow his teaching, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For countries torn by ethnic and religious division, may hatred and violence be transformed into peaceful co-existence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are sick, may they experience the healing consolation of Christ through their caregivers, family and friends, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this parish community, that in this Jubilee Year of Mercy the message of God's forgiveness may shine brightly through our words and actions, let us pray to the Lord
- 5) For those who have died, may they experience the eternal peace and joy of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and ever-loving God, we offer our prayers and petitions through Christ, our Lord.

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 2016

(Lec. 117)

- 1) Wisdom 18:6-9
- 2) Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19 or
11:1-2, 8-12
- 3) Luke 12:32-48 or 12:35-40

**NINETEENTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Through placing our faith in God and living according to his commands, we become a source of hope.

As we read almost daily about terrorism and violence, it can seem like the good guys are losing. This is not the case. As long as believers in God's ways exist, there is hope that love will overtake hate, good will overtake evil. Jesus' perfect sacrifice of love upon the cross is definitive proof that the power of sin and evil has been defeated. What more do we need?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Our first reading from the Book of Wisdom recalls the great Exodus event. The people's faith in God gave them courage to weather the storms they faced, Our reading from Hebrews recalls Abraham's journey of faith, which gave him the courage to follow through in doing God's will. In the Gospel, Jesus talks with his disciples about faithful and foolish stewards, encouraging them to choose wisely.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Striving to be faithful stewards of God's blessings, we place our needs before the Lord.

- 1) For all the faithful in this Year of Mercy, may we heed Pope Francis' plea to create a more compassionate and just society, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For politicians and other government leaders, may they embrace the principles of cooperation and humility so they may more effectively implement laws and programs which serve the good of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering from chronic pain or disease, may they receive dignified and compassionate care which eases their distress, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all members of our faith community, may we strive to be good and faithful stewards by generously giving of our time and resources to build up our parish and the wider community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rejoice in the glory of God's heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s).

PRIEST: Almighty and merciful God, hear us as we place before you our needs, with humble confidence that you will respond. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

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Monday, August 8, 2016
(Lec. 413)
1) Ezekiel 1:2-5, 24-28c
2) Matthew 17:22-27

MONDAY OF
19TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Dominic, Priest)

FOCUS: Jesus calls us to avoid acting in ways that could set a bad example or offend others.

Although Jesus was not obliged to pay the Temple tax, he did not wish to offend, and so pays the tax by means of a miracle whereby Peter finds a coin in the mouth of a fish. As the followers of Jesus, we can imitate him by taking care not to act in a way that could be perceived as giving a bad example.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Prophet Ezekiel describes his vision of the glory of God: winged creatures, a man-like figure on a sapphire throne, fire and rainbow colors. In the Gospel, Jesus foretells his death and resurrection. He pays the Temple tax by having Peter find a coin in the mouth of a fish.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in our faithful God, let us place our needs before him.

- 1) For our Church leaders, that they may continue to be models of Christ for us by their humility, simplicity and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in positions of authority, may they be blessed with wisdom and compassion, and exercise fairness toward those they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have experienced violence or terrorism in their lives, may they be consoled by the love of God and the compassion of others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all in our parish community, that we may continually strive to lead others to Christ by our good example as Saint Dominic did, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they enjoy eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of power and might, hear and answer our prayers, which we offer to you through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Tuesday, August 9, 2016
(Lec. 414)

- 1) Ezekiel 2:8—3:4
- 2) Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14

TUESDAY OF
19TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Teresa Benedicta
of the Cross,
Virgin and Martyr)

FOCUS: Jesus invites us to become like children in order to enter the kingdom of heaven.

It is easy to find delight with a new baby or little child. While they can bring us joy, normally we do not want to become children again. Yet Jesus invites us in today's Gospel to have a childlike faith in God. This means that we depend upon God to provide for our needs, similar to the way children depend upon their parents to provide for their needs.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In our first reading, the prophet Ezekiel describes a vision in which God commands him to speak the word of God to the rebellious Israelites. In the Gospel, Jesus is asked by the disciples, *Who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?* Jesus responds by saying that whoever becomes humble like a little child is the one greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us offer our prayers and petitions to our loving God, with trust in his mercy and compassion.

- 1) For all who serve the Church in ministry, may they be blessed with the grace and strength needed to persevere in teaching the truths of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may they enact laws, policies, and programs which protect and safeguard the dignity and sanctity of all human life from conception until natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For victims of violent storms and natural disasters, may they find strength in their faith and comfort in the care of neighbors, aid groups, churches and people of good will, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For students and teachers in our parish preparing to return to the classroom, that God will bless them as they begin a new academic year, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rejoice with all the saints in the presence of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, hear and answer our prayers, both spoken and those held within the silence of our hearts. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, August 10, 2016
(Lec. 618)

- 1) 2 Corinthians 9:6-10
- 2) John 12:24-26

**SAINT LAWRENCE,
DEACON AND MARTYR
– FEAST**

FOCUS: Dying to self enables us to live more fully for Christ.

Today, the Church honors Saint Lawrence, who was a deacon in the Roman Church and who was martyred under the persecution of the Roman emperor, Valerian. He is known for his devotion to caring for the poor, and the courageous way he faced martyrdom. May his example move us to love God above all things and more generously serve others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading reminds us that, *Whoever sows sparingly will reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.* In today's Gospel, Jesus explains how a grain of wheat must die in order to bear fruit, and that we must die to the world in order to serve him completely.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in all that the Lord promises, let us present our petitions to him.

- 1) That members of our Church throughout the world may work to foster a spirit of unity and understanding as we spread the Gospel message, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That citizens throughout the world may recognize that we all have a responsibility to act as good stewards of the earth and its resources, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are experiencing stress or discord within their families may turn to the Holy Spirit for guidance and the strength needed to persevere in the midst of difficult times, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That catechists and youth ministers in our faith community may be given the grace and strength needed to continue to guide our young people in growing in their faith and love for Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may share eternity with the angels and saints in paradise, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, in your goodness hear and answer our prayers. For we offer them to you through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, August 11, 2016
(Lec. 416)
1) Ezekiel 12:1-12
2) Matthew 18:21—19:1

THURSDAY OF
19TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Clare, Virgin)

FOCUS: Jesus teaches us that we are to strive to love and forgive others without limit.

God, in his goodness and grace, loves us unconditionally and is ever-willing to forgive us. However, for God's love and forgiveness to bear good fruit in our lives so that we may be judged worthy of heaven, we must strive to love and forgive others without limit as God loves and forgives us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of the Lord instructing the prophet Ezekiel to pack as for exile, and to move on from where he lives to another place. This was to be a sign to the people of Israel of what would happen to them if they failed to repent. In the Gospel, Jesus tells a parable which underscores the importance of striving to love and forgive others without end.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In confidence and trust, let us offer our prayers and petitions to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) That all members of the Church may be open to the workings of the Holy Spirit, and be instruments of Christ's love and peace in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That leaders of the world will be open to assisting those who have been forced from their home because of war or violence, and work to ensure their needs are provided for, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are unemployed may be blessed to find suitable work that will provide for their needs and the needs of their families, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That members of this faith community will strive to love and forgive others without counting cost, as God forgives us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the faithful departed may be held in the loving embrace of Jesus for all eternity in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God and Father, we ask that you hear and answer our prayers. For we ask them through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Friday, August 12, 2016
(Lec. 417)

- 1) Ezekiel 16:1-15, 60, 63 or
16:59-63
- 2) Matthew 19:3-12

FRIDAY OF
19TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Jane Frances
de Chantal, Religious)

FOCUS: God is always faithful and true to the covenants he has made throughout the ages and for all eternity.

God has entered into covenants with his people with the purpose of drawing them closer and binding them to himself. God is always faithful and true to the covenants he has made. Through Christ's death and resurrection, God established a new and eternal covenant with humankind so that all who believe in Christ Jesus may have eternal life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading offers both a message of warning and hope. Although the Israelites will suffer as a result of their infidelity to the Lord, God promises he will establish an everlasting covenant with them. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that marriage is a covenant in which a man and a woman bind themselves to one another for life.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Grateful for the gifts and blessings that God bestows upon us each day, let us now join in offering him our prayers for our needs and those of the world.

- 1) That members of the Church in this Year of Mercy may ease the burdens of those less fortunate by their corporal and spiritual acts of mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That elected leaders everywhere may understand that first and foremost, they are public servants entrusted to pursue the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That women facing unexpected or difficult pregnancies may be blessed with the grace, strength and support needed to choose life for their unborn children, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That families in our faith community will look to Mary and Joseph and Jesus as their model for living together in love and unity with God and one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the faithful departed may come to share in the fullness of life and love in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, we ask that you hear and answer our prayers. For we offer them to you through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, August 13, 2016
(Lec. 418)

- 1) Ezekiel 18:1-10, 13b, 30-32
- 2) Matthew 19:13-15

SATURDAY OF
19TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saints Pontian, Pope, and
Hippolytus, Priest, Martyrs;
Saturday in honor of BVM)

FOCUS: The kingdom of God belongs to those who are like children.

Jesus taught that the kingdom of God belongs to those who are like children. That means we are to be teachable, recognize our need for care and protection, and have trust along with open hearts. But children are not always well-behaved. Thank God! That means we do not have to be perfect to be part of God's kingdom.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Ezekiel prophesies that God will judge individuals according to how they live their lives, and not by what their forebears did. In the Gospel, Jesus calls children to himself, and teaches that the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these children.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together, let us bring our petitions to the Father, who watches over us always.

- 1) That the Church may continue to be blessed in its efforts to engage more young people to grow in holiness and participate in the life of the Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That children throughout the world may be protected from harm and from teachings that instill hatred of others because of ethnicity, religion or country of origin, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That orphans and other children in dire circumstances may be blessed with what they need to grow into healthy and holy adults, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That each of us may continually strive to deepen our faith and trust in the Lord, and place our lives into his hands, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may enjoy perpetual peace and joy in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God, our Father, hear and grant our petitions. We pray through your son, Jesus Christ.

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2016

(Lec. 120)

- 1) Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10
- 2) Hebrews 12:1-4
- 3) Luke 12:49-53

**TWENTIETH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Jesus will strengthen us to persevere in our faith. We will share in his suffering, but also in the joy of his victory.

Following Jesus is not easy. In striving to live out our faith, we may at times find ourselves at odds with other people – even those who are closest to us. But we can turn to Jesus, who also suffered opposition and rejection, to give us the strength and grace needed to remain steadfast in faith and not lose heart.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of the prophet Jeremiah being thrown into a cistern and left to die as a result of being faithful to the Lord. The second reading reminds us to keep our eyes on Jesus – the leader and *perfecter* of faith. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that living as one of his followers will cause us to experience persecution and resistance from others.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As a people persevering in faith, let us bring our petitions to the Father.

- 1) For those members of the Church throughout the world who are suffering persecution for the sake of their faith, may they be blessed with the grace and strength needed to persevere and remain steadfast, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who do not yet know Christ, that they may hear and rejoice in the Good News, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For victims of human trafficking, that they may be freed from their bondage and receive the help and support needed to rebuild their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of this faith community, may God grant us the grace to respond fully to the needs of the homeless and hungry around us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died with Christ, may they be drawn into an eternal communion of love with him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, hear and answer our prayers and grant us the grace needed to persevere in faith. We ask this and all things through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, August 15, 2016
(Lec. 622)

- 1) Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab
- 2) 1 Corinthians 15:20-27
- 3) Luke 1:39-56

**THE ASSUMPTION
OF THE BLESSED
VIRGIN MARY
- SOLEMNITY**
(not a Holyday of Obligation)

FOCUS: We have an important role to play in helping to build up God's kingdom on earth.

God enters the world in the person of Jesus, the Word made flesh, who was born of the Virgin Mary. God continues to enter the world through us. Through our words and actions of kindness, love and compassion, we make Christ and his light and love present to others. Let us also trust, in the same way that Mary did, that our faithfulness to the Lord will be rewarded in heaven.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading speaks of the glory Mary would one day enjoy in heaven: *A woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet.* The second reading reminds us that, in the same way all die through Christ through the sin of Adam, all who believe shall come to have eternal life. Today's Gospel recalls Mary going to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, who was also with child.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident that God loves us and cares for us, we humbly offer our prayers to him.

- 1) That all members of our Church may follow the Blessed Mother's example of faithfulness, and endeavor to praise the Lord each day through our words and actions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That civic leaders will work to protect those most vulnerable in our society, especially the elderly and all children, both born and in the womb, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who suffer from chronic, debilitating illness will receive the support and assistance needed to bring them healing and comfort, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That those who minister in our parish may be blessed with strength and grace to continue serving our faith community and modeling Christ's love for all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our beloved dead, and all who have died, will experience perpetual joy and peace in God's heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, hear our prayers and guide us in your ways. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, August 16, 2016
(Lec. 420)

- 1) Ezekiel 28:1-10
- 2) Matthew 19:23-30

TUESDAY OF
20TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Stephen of Hungary)

FOCUS: A humble person works diligently at being alert to God's grace.

Humility is a virtue that is not easy to attain. In striving to live humbly, a person becomes aware of God-given gifts and shortcomings. The next step is then to ask the Lord for guidance and strength each day so we may give our best for God by using our unique gifts and talents in love and service to others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading reminds us that those who are filled with pride and arrogance, and place themselves on the same level as God because they are powerful or wealthy, will one day be held accountable by God. Today's Gospel stresses that none of the sacrifices we make for the sake of our faith in Jesus will go unrewarded.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We join with one another in placing our prayers before the Lord.

- 1) That all who shepherd our Church may continue to guide the faithful in a spirit of humility and grace, and by their example lead others to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That elected officials of city, state and federal governments will work to pass laws that protect and safeguard the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception to natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That the homeless, and those without permanent shelter, may be blessed with stable and safe housing for themselves and those who depend on them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That our parish family will seek to embrace the community around us, and search for ways to share the merciful love of Jesus through performing corporal and spiritual acts of mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may be welcomed into the heavenly kingdom in the company of the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious and loving Father, we ask that you hear and answer the prayers we have offered you in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.

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Wednesday, August 17, 2016
(Lec. 421)

- 1) Ezekiel 34:1-11
- 2) Matthew 20:1-16

WEDNESDAY OF
20TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: The generosity of God is equally poured out on all.

The parable of the workers in the vineyard is challenging because it does not seem fair to us that the worker given work later in the day should be paid the same as the one who arrived early. Upon hearing an explanation, however, it becomes clear that God's justice is unlike our own, and his generous mercy is for everyone, without reserve.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the form of a parable, the prophet Ezekiel warns the leaders of Israel that they should not be self-serving, but should shepherd the people whom they have been given to oversee. The parable in today's reading from the Gospel of Mathew speaks of God's justice, which is different from the justice often practiced by humans.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We come before the Lord today in gratitude for his generosity and mercy, and ask that he hear our petitions for our needs, and those of the world.

- 1) For all Church leaders, that they will continue to tend to the pastoral needs of those in their care, and build up disciples to do Christ's work on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations torn by ethnic or religious violence, may they stand up for the dignity of all their people regardless of race or religion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are alienated or disconnected from the Church, may the Holy Spirit touch their hearts and restore them to unity with their brothers and sisters in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all Communion ministers to the homebound in our parish, may they be blessed with the grace to continue to serve their brothers and sisters, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have gone before us, may they see God face to face in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear and answer our prayers according to your most holy will. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

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Thursday, August 18, 2016
(Lec. 422)

- 1) Ezekiel 36:23-28
- 2) Matthew 22:1-14

THURSDAY OF
20TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Many are invited, but few are chosen, to sit at the table of the Lord's great wedding feast.

Our heavenly Father invites all people to his Son's great wedding feast. It is up to each of us to respond accordingly and make sure we are appropriately attired for such a royal celebration. This requires a repentant heart and renewed spirit through a life lived out in charity and love.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, the Lord reveals how he will regenerate his people – reforming them spiritually to restore the holiness of his name. In the Gospel, Jesus delivers the parable of the great wedding feast. The king invites many guests, but only those who are properly attired can join the celebration.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We are among those invited to our Lord's great wedding feast. Let us bring our needs and those of the world to our loving Father in heaven, trusting in his mercy and compassion.

- 1) For all members of the Church, that through our words and actions we may give glory to God in all that we do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those with the power to influence policy on human life, that respect for life in all its stages may guide their consciences and decision-making, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who struggle with addiction in any form, that they might find the support needed for recovery, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, that we may welcome strangers with the same kindness God shows to us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they may receive a place at the eternal banquet in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord, please look favorably on the prayers of your people, and grant what we truly need. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, August 19, 2016
(Lec. 423)
1) Ezekiel 37:1-14
2) Matthew 22:34-40

FRIDAY OF
20TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint John Eudes, Priest)

FOCUS: The two great commandments teach us how to live.

When the Pharisee asked Jesus which was the greatest commandment, he responded, *You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.* The second was like it: *You shall love your neighbor as yourself.* In both, Jesus is asking us to *love*.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God instructs the prophet Ezekiel to tell the Jews who were living in exile that God would free them from their bondage, and bring healing and restoration as a nation and a people. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that the two greatest commandments are to love God with one's whole being, and love one's neighbor as oneself.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in the Lord who keeps his promises, let us turn to him with our petitions.

- 1) For bishops, priests and deacons, may they continue to be blessed with the grace needed to preach the Gospel so more people may place their faith in Jesus and be saved, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, that they may embrace a spirit of cooperation and harmony, and seek non-violent, collaborative solutions to disputes, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all refugees – men, women and children – and for all who long for their homeland, may they be welcomed and assisted in their need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For young people in our parish who are discerning a vocation to the priesthood or religious life, that we may offer them our prayers and support, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they come to share eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, in your goodness and love we ask that you hear our prayers. For we offer them to you through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, August 20, 2016
(Lec. 424)

- 1) Ezekiel 43:1-7a
- 2) Matthew 23:1-12

SATURDAY OF
20TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Bernard, Abbot
and Doctor of the Church)

FOCUS: Jesus reminds us that we must not seek honor for ourselves, but only for God.

False teachers abound, and Jesus uses the example of the Pharisees to demonstrate this. We must never seek to exalt ourselves or assume superiority over another. Instead, let us strive to live with humility and love for God and others instead of ourselves.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of a vision by the prophet Ezekiel, which offered a promise that the glory of the Lord would return to a newly rebuilt Temple once God had freed his people from exile and they had returned home. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that, *Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we strive to live humbly, we lay our prayers at the feet of our loving Father.

- 1) For Pope Francis, that he be guided safely in his travels as he preaches and teaches the Gospel message to the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For men and women in the armed forces, that they be kept from harm as they carry out their duties, and return home safely to their families, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are experiencing difficult pregnancies, may they feel God's loving care and compassion, and may they be blessed with a safe delivery, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may we continue to carry out our baptismal promise to serve God and his people through our words and actions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they come to experience perfect happiness and peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, hear and answer our prayers according to your most holy will. We ask this and all things through Christ the Lord.

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2016

(Lec. 123)

- 1) Isaiah 66:18-21
- 2) Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13
- 3) Luke 13:22-30

**TWENTY-FIRST
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: We are to strive to enter through the narrow gate, that we might be judged worthy of entering into eternal life.

Jesus teaches in the Gospel that we are to strive to enter through the narrow gate, that we might be judged worthy of sharing eternal life in heaven. By this, Jesus means we should endeavor to travel lightly, unencumbered by attachments to things of this world. This will allow us to keep our eyes firmly fixed on Jesus, and our feet planted on the path of salvation.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The reading from Isaiah proclaims that nations of every language will be gathered to see the glory of God. The second reading reminds us that by patiently enduring life's trials, we can grow stronger in faith. In the Gospel, Jesus warns that people should strive to enter the kingdom of God in earnest, and not assume a place will be reserved for them.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With humble confidence, we offer our prayers to our Father in heaven.

- 1) For the leaders of our Church, that they may continue to proclaim the Gospel boldly to all the nations of the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, that they may work to ensure religious freedom in their countries, and support the right of all to worship freely in neighboring nations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick and suffering in our community, that they may find strength in prayer, and comfort in the support of friends and neighbors, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish families, that prayer and guidance in the home may bring peace and growth in virtue, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have gone before us in faith, that they may come to enjoy eternal life in God's heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we ask you to hear and answer our prayers, which we offer you through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Monday, August 22, 2016
(Lec. 425)

- 1) 2 Thessalonians 1:1-5,
11-12
- 2) Matthew 23:13-22

MONDAY OF
21ST WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
The Queenship of the
Blessed Virgin Mary)

FOCUS: A true Christian strives to conform every aspect of his or her life to the life of Jesus Christ.

Throughout our lives – in good times and in bad, trial and tribulation, sickness and in health – we are called to be faithful to God and to live according to Christ's teaching. Doing this requires that we turn to God for the strength and grace to persevere in faith, and love and support one another as we make every effort to grow in holiness of life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul praises the Thessalonians for their faith, love and endurance. They are being made worthy for the kingdom of God. In today's Gospel, Jesus chastises the scribes and Pharisees for their failure to genuinely assist others in growing in their faith and love for God.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in our heavenly Father, let us now offer him our prayers.

- 1) For Pope Francis and our bishops, that they may continue to be attentive and responsive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit as they guide the Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our political leaders, may they set aside differences to enact policies that serve the common good and provide for the basic needs of those whom they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who live in nations torn apart by war or violence, that they find strength in their faith and the efforts of people of good will to assist them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the young people in our parish preparing to return to college, may the Lord bless them with knowledge, insight, confidence and faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they enjoy eternal rest and peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, in your goodness and love hear and answer our prayers. We offer them to you through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, August 23, 2016

(Lec. 426)

- 1) 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3a,
14-17
- 2) Matthew 23:23-26

TUESDAY OF
21ST WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Rose of Lima,
Virgin)

FOCUS: Jesus reminds us to stay focused on the important things that will help us reach heaven.

Among the beautiful aspects of the Catholic Church are its ceremonies, traditions and devotions. These are meant to help further the Church's real mission: the salvation of souls. We can treasure our devotions and traditions as long as we do not lose sight of the most important things: right judgment, mercy, and love and fidelity to God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first reading encourages the early Christians of Thessalonica to stay faithful, despite false information about the return of Jesus to Earth. In the Gospel, Jesus warns the religious leaders, calling them hypocrites. He chides them for over-emphasizing small things, rather than teaching and modeling judgment, mercy and fidelity.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we strive to make good judgments, be merciful to one another and be faithful to God, let us bring our petitions to the Father, confident in his constant love for us.

- 1) That the Church in developing countries may be blessed with the grace and resources needed to continue its work of assisting those in need, and working for justice for all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That those in government positions model the qualities of mercy, judgment and fidelity that Jesus spoke of in today's Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those suffering as a result of natural disasters may be reassured of God's love and care for them by people who assist them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That families in our faith community, during this Year of Mercy, may treasure the gifts we have been given and share our time and talents to assist those in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died receive a place at the eternal banquet in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST Heavenly Father, we ask that you hear our petitions and grant what is in your will for us. We pray through your son, Jesus Christ.

Wednesday, August 24, 2016
(Lec. 629)

- 1) Revelation 21:9b-14
- 2) John 1:45-51

**SAINT BARTHOLOMEW,
APOSTLE
– FEAST**

FOCUS: Christian disciples are called to share the Good News.

In Scripture, often we read stories of people who, having encountered Jesus, invite family, friends and neighbors to do so as well. Their excitement is palpable. Today's Gospel recounts one of those stories. Like Philip we, too, as baptized faithful, have encountered Christ. Do we keep him to ourselves or invite others to come and see?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, an angel reveals to John the vision of the holy city of Jerusalem *coming down out of heaven from God*. The Gospel recounts Philip encouraging Nathanael (also referred to as Bartholomew) to meet Jesus. Upon their meeting, Nathanael proclaims that Jesus is the *Son of God ... the King of Israel*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With steadfast faith and assured hope in God's mercy and compassion, let us offer our prayers to the Lord for the Church, our world and ourselves.

- 1) For all faithful members of the Church, may we, like Saint Bartholomew, continue to have the sure faith that Jesus Christ is the Messiah and, like Saint Philip, the determination to share that news with all those we encounter, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the leaders of countries where Christians are persecuted for their faith in Christ, may their hearts be moved by God's grace to end the violence and persecution, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who trust that material goods will satisfy the longing of their hearts, may they be inspired by the Good News of the Gospel and turn to Jesus as the source of their deepest desire, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our parish community with family members who serve in the military, may the Lord bless them and keep their loved ones safe, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they find eternal comfort in the presence of God, the saints and the angels in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Thursday, August 25, 2016
(Lec. 428)

- 1) 1 Corinthians 1:1-9
- 2) Matthew 24:42-51

THURSDAY OF
21ST WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Louis;
Saint Joseph Calasanz, Priest)

FOCUS: Thanking God for the blessings in our lives helps us to love and serve others more generously.

Each day it is important that we take time to give thanks to God for the blessings in our life. This cultivates an attitude of gratitude, which helps us to pour ourselves out more fully in love and service to others. This, in turn, will allow us to experience more abundantly the blessings of peace, joy and fulfillment in our lives and hearts.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Saint Paul gives thanks for the blessings of God that have been bestowed upon the members of the Church in Corinth. In the Gospel, Jesus warns his followers to stay awake and be prepared for his Second Coming, which will occur at a time they cannot predict.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With humble and grateful hearts, let us join in offering our prayers to the Lord for our needs and those of the world.

- 1) For all the faithful, may the Holy Spirit lead us to greater awareness of the spiritual gifts with which we have been blessed so we may give a more effective witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders at the local, state and national levels, that they will turn to God for guidance, wisdom and grace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are gravely ill, that Christ will draw them to himself and comfort them with his love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish, that the Holy Spirit may enliven us to be a more vibrant witness to the truth and love of Christ in our community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they come to see God face to face in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, hear and answer our prayers according to your holy will. We ask this, and all things, through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, August 26, 2016
(Lec. 429)
1) 1 Corinthians 1:17-25
2) Matthew 25:1-13

FRIDAY OF
21ST WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: We are called to live like Jesus did, guided by the true wisdom which comes from God.

As Christians, we seek the wisdom to live in a way that is pleasing to God. We are to look to Jesus' teaching and example for concrete guidance in what it means to live wisely. He teaches us that true wisdom comes from God alone, and that some of the important ways we grow in wisdom are by praying daily, and practicing his teachings in our daily lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORLD

Today's first reading from Saint Paul's first letter to the Corinthians draws a contrast between the foolishness of the world and the wisdom of God. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the wise women who bring extra oil for their lamps. This reminds us to stay awake and be prepared to meet Jesus when he returns in glory.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that God hears and answers our prayers, we place our petitions before him.

- 1) For the missionaries in our Church, may they be blessed with the grace needed to continue giving witness to the Gospel, and may those to whom they proclaim the Good News be receptive to its message, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our nation's leaders, that they will seek God's wisdom as they govern, and encourage a spirit of cooperation and tolerance, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For police, firefighters and first responders, that God will protect and bless them and their families as they put their lives on the line for others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For each of us, that we take the time to pray each day, so we may continue to grow in our knowledge and love for the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they come to experience the fullness of life and love in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God, you are the source of all wisdom. We ask you to hear our prayers and answer them according to your will. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord.

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Saturday, August 27, 2016

(Lec. 430)

1) 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

2) Matthew 25:14-30

SATURDAY OF
21ST WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Monica)

FOCUS: *Consider your own calling.*

Today we celebrate the feast of a powerful, faithful woman of prayer: Saint Monica, the mother of Saint Augustine. As we come together to consider our roles in the Church, may we gratefully use our talents for the building up of the Christian community, as did Monica and Augustine.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Each of us has special gifts and talents, as we heard in today's Gospel. Yet, as Saint Paul reminds us in today's first reading, we should *consider (our) own calling*. As we listen to God's word, may we be open to his plan for our lives, in the same way that Saint Monica was open to the calling to intercede for her son, the future Saint Augustine.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Knowing that we are called by the Lord to use our many gifts and talents for the good of others, we faithfully present these petitions to the Lord.

- 1) For all members of the Church, especially during this Jubilee Year of Mercy, that we will be conscious of the gifts God has given us and use them to reach out to those in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, that they use their skills and leadership for the betterment of their populations and not for their own gain, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For parents whose children are no longer practicing the faith, that they not lose heart, but, like Saint Monica, persevere in prayer, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all students returning to school, that they use the many talents God has given them to consider how they can best serve God and others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they might now rejoice forever with all the angels and saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, grateful for the many gifts you have bestowed upon us, we ask you to hear and answer our prayers. We offer them to you through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, 2016

(Lec. 126)

- 1) Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29
- 2) Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a
- 3) Luke 14:1, 7-14

**TWENTY-SECOND
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: We are not called on to judge our own worthiness or value, but to leave those judgments to God.

Whether we are at a social event or striving in our daily lives to attain the kingdom of God, it is best not to place ourselves above others. In the kingdom of God, rank or prestige carries no meaning; we are all brothers and sisters, children of the same God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's reading from Sirach presents us with the wisdom of knowing our own limitations, and humbly living within them. Hebrews reminds us that we are drawing near to a loving God and our heavenly home. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the wedding banquet, which is a reminder not to place ourselves above others.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in the compassion and mercy of the Father, we offer him our prayers for our needs and all the people of the world.

- 1) For Church leaders, that they might continue to lead the faithful on the path of holiness, and be a shining example of love and humble service to others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who serve in the military or in police work, that they might be protected as they strive to protect others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all married couples, that they might invite Christ into their marriages and open their hearts to each other, so their love for God and one another may shine as a light before others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For people who live with disabilities, that they might be accepted for who they are and be invited to share their gifts with this parish community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they might know the peace and light of Christ for all eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, hear our prayers both spoken and unspoken. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, August 29, 2016
(Lec. 431)
1) 1 Corinthians 2:1-5
(Lec. 634)
2) Mark 6:17-29

MONDAY OF
22ND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
The Passion of
Saint John the Baptist)

FOCUS: Today we are reminded of the great price some pay to witness to Christ.

John the Baptist risked all to proclaim the truth that Jesus was the Son of God. He paid the ultimate price for his faithfulness, and did not regard the cost to himself. Let us remember that we are to pick up our cross each day and remain faithful to the Gospel, as did John the Baptist.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul speaks of the mystery of God, urging that his listeners' faith rest not on human wisdom, but on the power of God. Today's Gospel tells of the passion and martyrdom of Saint John the Baptist.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God, the source of all truth, let us offer him our prayers for our needs and those of the world.

- 1) For Pope Francis and those who shepherd our Church, that they may be given the grace and strength to continue testifying to the Truth with courage and zeal, let us pray to the Lord
- 2) For leaders throughout the world, may they be open to and actively seek nonviolent, cooperative solutions to problems, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all married couples who are struggling, may they be blessed with the grace and strength needed to face and resolve their difficulties, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For each of us, that we will continue to turn to God for the strength needed to resist pressure from others to compromise our values and beliefs, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead and all those who have died, may they come to enjoy perpetual joy and peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Most merciful Father, we ask that you hear and answer our prayers according to your will. For we offer them to you through Christ our Lord.

Tuesday, August 30, 2016
(Lec. 432)
1) 1 Corinthians 2:10b-16
2) Luke 4:31-37

TUESDAY OF
22ND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: The gifts of the Holy Spirit equip us to give a faithful and effective witness to the Gospel.

In our baptism and participation in the sacraments of the Church, we are graced with the gifts of the Spirit. Through these gifts of the Spirit, we can join in Christ's mission, sharing the Gospel and the wisdom of God with others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD:

The first reading reminds us that receiving the Spirit of God allows us to understand what we have been given by God, and to speak with authority about spiritual matters. In the Gospel, Jesus expels a demon from a man while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum on the Sabbath.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With faith in God's steadfast providence in our lives, let us join in offering our prayers to him.

- 1) For all members of Church, may we continue to be a living witness to the merciful love of God by incorporating the spiritual and corporal works of mercy into our daily lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those working to defend life from conception until natural death, may God continue to bless their efforts and give them the strength to persevere, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who labor on the land, gather the earth's harvest and bring food to our tables, may they be blessed with abundance, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our parish who are sick, may they experience God's healing presence through the compassion of visitors and caregivers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they enjoy perfect happiness and peace forever in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, in your goodness hear and answer our prayers. For we offer them to you through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, August 31, 2016
(Lec. 433)

- 1) 1 Corinthians 3:1-9
- 2) Luke 4:38-44

WEDNESDAY OF
22ND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: As Christians, we are called to give selflessly, without expecting something in return.

It is wonderful to receive praise and adulation for doing good work. For some, it may be the return they are seeking, which makes their effort and sacrifice worthwhile. Jesus and the early disciples showed us clearly, however, that expecting such praise can be a hindrance. It can lull us into forgetting our main purpose, which is bringing more souls to God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, we hear that God's ministers are coworkers with him, helping bring holiness to those they serve. They are tools God uses. The Gospel tells of Jesus curing Peter's mother-in-law and many others. The people want Jesus to stay with them, but he must move on to fulfill his mission.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together, let us bring our petitions to the Father, confident that his love and providence can never fail us.

- 1) For the Church, that those who preach and teach the Gospel may continue to see themselves as God's coworkers, as they do the good work of bringing others closer to him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For soldiers throughout the world, that God may give them the grace and strength to persevere and do what is right in spite of the difficulties or provocations they may face, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who live in war-torn areas, that they may be kept safe and may obtain safe haven from violence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, that we may remember daily to express our gratitude to God and to one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they may be granted a place at the heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and ever living God, hear and answer the prayers of your servants. We pray now and always in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

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