

February

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Monday, February 1, 2016
(Lec. 323)

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

MONDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Words spoken in love have the power to bring about change in the lives and hearts of others.

In today's Gospel, Jesus encounters a man possessed by a host of demons. Moved by the man's plight, Jesus speaks words of power and love, ordering the demons to leave. The man is freed to return to his life, and transformed on a deeper level, becoming a believer in Jesus. Jesus' actions teach us that words spoken in love have the power to change and transform lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, David, while fleeing Absalom, is accosted by an angry Shimei. Shimei curses David, throwing stones at him and his soldiers. A servant of David desires to kill Shimei for such an offense, but David refuses. He states, *Suppose the Lord has told him to curse David.* In the Gospel, Jesus heals a man possessed by demons.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in God's love and mercy, let us trust in his divine healing as we offer our prayers of petition to our heavenly Father.

- 1) For the pope, our bishops and all the clergy, may they continue to guide the faithful through words of admonishment, encouragement, hope and joy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may they, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, find the inspiration to build peaceful relationships among nations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are victims of bullying and verbal abuse, may they find comfort and healing through the words of sacred Scripture and the friendship of compassionate Christians, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all those gathered here, may our hearts be open to the words of Scripture so that we may be transformed, and in turn share the good news with others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may they be welcomed into the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Tuesday, February 2, 2016
(Lec. 524)

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

**THE PRESENTATION
OF THE LORD
-FEAST**

FOCUS: God always fulfills the promises he makes.

Today we commemorate the presentation of Jesus in the Temple as Mary and Joseph followed the Jewish law concerning the first-born son. Simeon and Anna were filled with the Holy Spirit as they recognized Jesus as the deliverer of the Israelite people. They rejoiced to see the Lord.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading speaks of the Lord coming to the Temple to bring about renewal and salvation to the Israelites and to the world. The second reading reminds us that Jesus became one us to bring about our salvation. The Gospel tells of Joseph and Mary taking the child Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, as prescribed by Jewish law.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God's love for us, we place our needs and concerns before him in these petitions.

- 1) That all members of the Church may become more actively engaged in the Church's mission to reach out to those in need, particularly during this Year of Mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That all people may work together to preserve the God-given gifts of the earth and its resources , let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who feel overwhelmed by the darkness of doubt may be enlightened by the joy and truth that is found in Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That this faith community may work to help build up the kingdom of God on earth, so that others may come to experience the new life and salvation Christ offers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may enjoy eternal peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, look upon us with love and answer our prayers. We pray in the name of Jesus, your son.

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Wednesday, February 3, 2016
(Lec. 325)

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

WEDNESDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem. Saint Blaise,
Bishop and Martyr;
Saint Ansgar, Bishop)

FOCUS: Our expectations can blind us to God's goodness and grace, which always surrounds us.

Treating others with kindness and respect challenges us to become better people and better Christians. However, expectations that we place upon others can be detrimental, because they can blind us from seeing that a particular person has more to offer us than we might have imagined. In addition, expectations can prevent us from being open to the way God might want to work through that person to touch our lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, David is punished for pridefully conducting a census of the people. The Gospel tells of how the people of Nazareth rejected Jesus and his teaching.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Coming before God in humility, let us lay our needs before him.

- 1) For the Church, may the Holy Spirit give the faithful the grace to be humble witnesses of Christ's merciful love in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations around the world, may the Lord lead them to care for their people with humility, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For prisoners, may Christ be their constant companion and source of hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our local community, may God move our hearts to care for those in need around us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may God welcome them this day into paradise, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, humbly we ask you to hear and answer our prayers according to your will. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

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Thursday, February 4, 2016
(Lec. 326)

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

THURSDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Jesus prepares the disciples to help build up the kingdom of God by sending them out to heal the sick and drive out demons.

When Jesus sent out his disciples, he exhorted them to leave with only the tunics on their backs and their sandals. When they obeyed, God gave them the power to heal the sick and drive out demons. They relied on the power of God to lead them and to minister to other people.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading recalls King David, as his death drew near, instructing his son Solomon to remain faithful to the Lord. He did so to ensure someone from their family lineage would always be on the throne of Israel. In the Gospel, Jesus sends the twelve on mission, two by two, to heal and preach in surrounding villages.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trusting hearts, let us turn to God with our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For Pope Francis, our bishops, priests and all religious, that they be blessed as they lead us to walk more closely with Christ while reaching out to others in love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, that they not lose sight of the least among us, and that they work to pass laws that protect the lives and dignity of people from conception until natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are suffering physical, mental or emotional illness, that they will be comforted by the Holy Spirit and the people of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish, that we may help build up the kingdom of God through our faithful witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they may enter eternal life with the fullness of joy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petitions)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, with confidence, we ask that you hear and answer our prayers. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

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Friday, February 5, 2016
(Lec. 327)

- 1) Sirach 47:2-11
- 2) Mark 6:14-29

FRIDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL. MEM. Saint Agatha,
Virgin and Martyr)

FOCUS: When faced with hard decisions, seek the Lord.

Life offers many challenging situations that call for making good choices. We can either choose to do right, with the support and guidance of the Lord, or we can choose to do wrong, often by succumbing to worldly pressures. In times of trouble, seek the Lord, ask his strength, follow God and give him praise.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The reading from the Book of Sirach tells of how David loved the Lord with his whole being, and relied upon him for the strength and guidance to defeat his foes and defend his people. The Gospel tells of King Herod giving the order to have John the Baptist killed and beheaded.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence and trust in God, we present our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For Church leaders, that they may continue to seek the Lord's guidance as they preach and teach the message of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, that they seek to make decisions for the good of all, especially the poor and vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those having difficulty in making right choices, that they pray for God's guidance and not give in to peer pressure, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, that we rely on God's wisdom and be good stewards of our resources, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they find peace in the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we place our faith, hope and trust in you. Please hear our prayers and guide us. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

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Saturday, February 6, 2016
(Lec. 328)

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

SATURDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL. MEM. Saint Paul Miki
and Companions, Martyrs)

FOCUS: God sees our hearts, hears our prayers and responds with compassion.

The Gospel tells us that Jesus was moved because the crowds were *like sheep without a shepherd*. God is moved by our suffering. He gives us the strength and grace to carry on.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of Solomon asking the Lord for wisdom so that he may govern the Lord's people wisely. The Lord is pleased and grants it. In the Gospel, Jesus is greeted by a vast crowd, who were like sheep without a shepherd. Jesus, moved by compassion and love, began to teach and minister to them.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our requests and longings to God our Father, confident that he will hear us with compassion.

- 1) For the Church, that she may continue to be blessed with grace and strength in her efforts to foster a culture of life throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all leaders of government and public institutions, that they may lead with wisdom and create a world of justice and religious freedom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those suffering anxiety or depression, that they may find relief from their distress, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the Church community, that we may respond with compassion and generosity to those in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, that they may enter eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful God, please hear and answer the prayers we place before you today. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2016

(Lec. 75)

- 1) Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8
- 2) 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11
- 3) Luke 5:1-11

**FIFTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Christianity demands that we make a leap of faith, placing our lives in the hands of Jesus.

In order to be a true follower of Jesus, we must let go of the security of an earthly life and place our lives into the hands of the Lord. This daunting challenge can be met by remaining firm in our faith and belief that Jesus has saved us and opened the way to eternal life in heaven. We can rely upon the Lord to be our strength.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of Isaiah having a vision of heaven, in which he sees the Lord, is purified of his sin, and is called to be a prophet of God. The second reading reminds us to be faithful to Christ and the truth of the Gospel, so that we might come to enjoy eternal life in heaven. In the Gospel, Jesus calls Simon Peter, James and John to come and follow him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God, let us place our needs and our prayers before him.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may the Lord be our strength as we strive to lay down our lives for others in love and service, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our national and world leaders, may they have the courage to govern with integrity and seek justice for all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the caretakers of those with dementia and other illnesses, that they may find support from friends and family and may rely on God's guidance as they face difficult decisions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the young people of our faith community, that they may be encouraged and supported in their faith by their parents, teachers and friends, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they may find joy and peace in the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, with confidence in your love and mercy, we ask you to hear and answer our prayers, through Christ, our Lord.

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Monday, February 8, 2016
(Lec. 329)

- 1) 1 Kings 8:1-7, 9-13
- 2) Mark 6:53-56

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

FOCUS: We are to turn to Jesus with our wounds and hurts so he can bring about healing in our lives.

When people heard that Jesus was near, they would gather around him, bringing their sick and handicapped loved ones. They knew if they just touched him, they would be healed. Similarly, whenever we reach out to Jesus, he works to bring about healing in our lives and hearts.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The reading from 1 Kings tells the story of Solomon moving the Ark of the Covenant from Mount Zion to the Temple that Solomon had built. A great cloud fills the Temple, which the people see as a sign of God's presence. The Gospel tells of Jesus crossing a lake; when the people recognized him, a crowd gathered. Many brought friends and relatives, asking Jesus to heal them.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in our Father, let us present our petitions to him.

- 1) For Pope Francis, our bishops and our priests, that they may receive the grace and strength needed to continue to be models of discipleship for us and the world at large, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our civic leaders, that they will work to ensure that laws are fair and just to all, especially the poor, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering from chronic illnesses, that God will bring them comfort and strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish, that the catechetical programs we offer will help parishioners develop a deeper relationship with God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, that they will dwell in God's heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

Tuesday, February 9, 2016
(Lec. 330)

- 1) 1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30
- 2) Mark 7:1-13

TUESDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: We are to embrace God's commandments with our whole heart, for they are offered out of love for us.

God's love for us is great. He compassionately offers his support and guidance through his commandments. He also gives the teaching and example of his son, Jesus, and the gift of the Holy Spirit to strengthen and guide us on the path that leads to eternal life. With grateful hearts, let us walk in his love.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In 1 Kings, Solomon prayed at the dedication at the Temple. He praised God for keeping his covenant with all who wholeheartedly follow his ways. In the Gospel, Jesus chastises the Pharisees and the scribes for ignoring God's commandments in favor of human precepts that serve their own needs and purposes.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With love and thanksgiving for God's goodness and kindness, we place our prayers and petitions before him.

- 1) For Church leaders, that they will have the grace and strength to continue to inspire us to follow God's commandments and give witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in civic office, that they will lead with a compassionate heart to do good for all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have turned away from God, that we may know that God loves us and open our hearts to his guidance, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish, that we give honor and praise to God by being a welcoming and vibrant community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those souls in purgatory, may they be cleansed and purified of their sins and come to enter the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, we present to you our prayers. Please answer according to your will, through Christ, our Lord.

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Wednesday, February 10, 2016

ASH WEDNESDAY

(Lec. 219)

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

FOCUS: Let us begin a season of reflection and action so that we might live more consistently in ways pleasing to God.

As we begin our Lenten journey, let us commit to doing more than wearing ashes on our foreheads. Let us truly examine our lives and see where we need to begin anew; what we need to let go of – or add – into our lives, so that we might live more fully and faithfully as disciples of Jesus.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Lord tells the Israelites to return to him and he will forgive them. They are to rend their hearts, not their garments, to fast, and to ask forgiveness. The second reading announces that *now* is the day of salvation. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that prayer and fasting should be done privately, so that only God knows.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together, let us offer our prayers to the Father, confident in his providential care for us all.

- 1) That all members of the Church may look deeply into their hearts and repent of anything that is keeping them from fully experiencing God's love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That warring factions, nations and individuals may do whatever they can to bring about peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who have suffered because they are holding onto anger may allow God to help them let go of their burden, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the people of our parish may see Lent as an ideal time to examine their lives and grow closer to God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may be granted the joy and peace of living eternally in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, trusting in your providence, we offer our prayers in the name of Jesus.

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Thursday, February 11, 2016

(Lec. 220)

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

THURSDAY AFTER
ASH WEDNESDAY
(Opt. Mem. Our Lady
of Lourdes)

FOCUS: When we choose to follow God, we choose life.

Following God is a daily choice to walk the path he has shown us. If we obey his commandments, we will find peace and a joy that no one can take from us. Though we will experience suffering in life, Christ is with us always and will give us the strength to bear our crosses and burdens.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading recalls Moses exhorting the Israelites to follow the Lord's commandments and walk in his ways – that they may be blessed in the Promised Land. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches his disciples that they must deny themselves and take up their cross daily if they wish to be his disciples.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together, we raise our voices and offer our prayers to God, our loving Father.

- 1) That the whole Church will enter this season of Lent in a spirit of self-reflection, and with an earnest desire for continual conversion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That leaders throughout the world will devote themselves to establishing peace and justice for all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who suffer from physical and emotional distress will be comforted by the presence of Christ in their suffering, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That members of this faith community may be welcoming to strangers, and generous to those in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they be welcomed into the loving embrace of the Lord in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, hear the prayers of your children, who ask for your divine help in the name of your only begotten son, Jesus Christ.

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Friday, February 12, 2016
(Lec. 221)

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

FRIDAY AFTER
ASH WEDNESDAY

FOCUS: *Why do we ... fast much?*

Fasting is a theme in today's readings. They call us to pay attention to "why" we fast. Fasting fosters the opportunity to grow deeper in our relationship with God. Its purpose is beyond external obligations. Fasting is about interior conversion, not self-deprivation, public show or self-righteousness. Sincere fasting is a gift we offer.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading reminds us that the aim and purpose of fasting is to foster conversion of heart, such that we grow in our love for God, become more detached from the things of the world, and are able to give of ourselves more fully in love and service to others. In the Gospel, Jesus states that when the bridegroom is taken away, then his disciples will fast.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Called to be disciples of Jesus, we pray to our Father for our needs and the needs of the world.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may our example of witness to the Gospel lead others to know Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may they seek opportunities to mend divisions, tend to those in need and nurture goodwill, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from hunger or who struggle to make ends meet, may they find strength through the Holy Spirit, and find the assistance they need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all those gathered here today, may we seek a deeper conversion during this Lenten season by experiencing the Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they come to join the angels and saints in singing God's praises for all eternity in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, as your beloved sons and daughters, we yearn to grow more deeply in our relationship with you. We ask you to hear our prayers, through Christ, our Lord.

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Saturday, February 13, 2016
(Lec. 222)

SATURDAY AFTER
ASH WEDNESDAY

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

FOCUS: God alone knows the disposition of our hearts.

How is it that Jesus calls Levi, a tax collector and sinner, to follow him? We observe external actions and make judgements accordingly. But we must always remember the truth: that God alone knows the disposition of our hearts and judges us accordingly.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading exhorts the people of Israel to turn from their wickedness, and begin once again walking in the ways of the Lord. If they walk in the ways of the Lord and keep his commandments, they may experience the blessings that come from being faithful to God. In the Gospel, Jesus calls Levi the tax collector to come and follow him. Levi responds by immediately dropping everything he had been doing to go and follow Jesus.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that God knows the desires and disposition of our hearts, let us in confidence offer him our prayers.

- 1) For all clergy, that they may continue to be a witness to the Gospel and an inspiration to the faithful through acts of service, care and comfort that are pleasing to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the world, may the Christian faithful, through actions of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, work to alleviate suffering, locally, nationally and globally, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those victimized by violence or war, may they find healing and renewal through the working of the Holy Spirit and the compassion of others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the members of this faith community, may we pray for, and support our young people discerning vocations to priesthood, marriage and religious life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be welcomed into the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, you know our hearts. In your mercy and compassion hear our prayers and grant what we need. Through Christ, our Lord.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2016

(Lec. 24)

- 1) Deuteronomy 26:4-10
- 2) Romans 10:8-13
- 3) Luke 4:1-13

**FIRST SUNDAY
OF LENT**

FOCUS: Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Throughout our Judeo-Christian history, people have cried out to God for help, and the Lord has protected us, provided for us, and helped us to grow into a mature relationship with him. We know, as Jesus knows, that we are to call upon the Lord for help, but not to test him, as the devil sometimes tempts us to do.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The reading from Deuteronomy is a reminder of God's fidelity to the Hebrew people, and their responsibility to offer the first fruits of their labors back to the Lord. In Romans, Paul teaches the people to confess that Jesus is Lord, and to be saved. In the Gospel of Luke, the devil tempts Jesus in the desert.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in God's faithfulness, we offer our prayers to the Lord.

- 1) For all Christians, that we may remember God's fidelity, and be generous in offering the first fruits of our labor to the ministries and missionary work of our Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in positions of power, that they always remember that they are public servants, and strive to work for the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all married people, that their lives will be models of the love between Christ and his Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the sick of our community, that they may not hesitate to call on the Lord in their affliction, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have gone before us in faith, that they will enjoy eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we ask you to hear our prayers and answer them according to your will. Through Christ, our Lord.

Monday, February 15, 2016
(Lec. 224)

MONDAY OF
FIRST WEEK OF LENT

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

FOCUS: We are called by God to love our neighbors and thereby receive the inheritance of eternal life.

Just as God gave the Israelites instructions for loving him and their neighbors so they could inherit the Promised Land, Jesus has given us instructions so that we can do his will on earth and inherit his heavenly kingdom. If we follow his example, we will be sheep in his sheepfold for all eternity.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first reading details the commandment to love one's neighbor, which was given by God to the Israelites while he was forming them in the desert. In the Gospel, Jesus calls us to love our neighbor, and through powerful imagery he challenges us to fulfill this commandment so as to inherit eternal life.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Knowing that our heavenly Father always gives us the strength to fulfill his commandments, we turn to him in humble petition.

- 1) That all members of the Church may be blessed with the grace and strength to reach out to those who have become disconnected from the life of the Church, and invite them to return to the practice of the faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That those involved in working to bring about a restoration of Christian unity may be blessed and strengthened, so that the walls that divide may be torn down, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who suffer from chronic illness may be helped by compassionate caregivers and filled with the compassion of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That everyone in our wider community may come to know the love of Jesus and overflow with love for their neighbors, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may rest in peace in the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, you never cease to give good gifts to your children. Hear our prayers, for we make them in faith through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Tuesday, February 16, 2016
(Lec. 225)

TUESDAY OF
FIRST WEEK OF LENT

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

FOCUS: Jesus gave us the *Our Father* as the model and guide for all of our prayers.

In today's Gospel reading, Matthew gives us the Lord's Prayer, the prayer that comes to us from the Lord himself. All we need to know about our Father and about how we should speak with him is contained in this prayer. We should know him to be our Father, we should hold his name hallowed, and affirm his will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Then we should ask for our daily bread, and forgiveness for our transgressions as we forgive each other. The prayer is perfect simplicity: Love God, and love each other.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading reminds us that the word of God will not return to God empty, but rather will accomplish God's will and the end for which he sent it. In today's Gospel, our Lord teaches us how to pray by giving us the *Our Father*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: My brothers and sisters in Christ, let us now offer to our Father the petitions of our hearts, in loving obedience to our Lord's command.

- 1) That members of our Church may be blessed and strengthened in order to continue accomplishing the will of the Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That world leaders may work to uphold the dignity of human life from conception to natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who work to help the poor and the disadvantaged may be strengthened in their work and continue to bring the compassion of Jesus to others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That those who are discerning vocations may prayerfully recognize God's will for their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the faithful departed may see God face to face in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Wednesday, February 17, 2016
(Lec. 226)

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

WEDNESDAY OF
FIRST WEEK OF LENT
(Opt. Mem. The Seven
Holy Founders
of the Servite Order)

FOCUS: Seeing is not always believing.

"If it were any closer it'd bite you," is an adage we often say to people who cannot see something right in front of them. Their eyes can't see something often because it does not meet their expectations. Jesus' warning in today's reading suggests that there are consequences for trusting our own expectations instead of those seen through the eyes of faith.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God sends Jonah to Ninevah to preach repentance to the Ninevites. After hearing of Jonah's preaching, the King of Ninevah decrees that everyone, man and animal, in the kingdom will perform acts of repentance and turn from their evil ways. In the Gospel, Jesus tells a gathered crowd that, *this is an evil generation, it seeks a sign, but no sign will be given it except the sign of Jonah.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident that God hears our prayers, we offer our petitions to our heavenly Father.

- 1) For the Church, the members of the mystical body of Christ, may we continue to reveal God's mercy and compassion to those who doubt it, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may they seek moments of personal repentance and conversion, and seek to implement policies to further the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are experiencing isolation and loneliness due to physical impairments or disabilities, may their suffering be alleviated by caring and compassionate Christians, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here today, may we open our eyes and hearts to God's love and forgiveness, which we then can extend to others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they be welcomed into the heavenly kingdom and witness the eternal glory of God Almighty, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, we are grateful that we can seek your forgiveness when we are blinded in our sinfulness. Hear the prayers we offer today and grant them according to your will. Through Christ, our Lord.

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Thursday, February 18, 2016
(Lec. 227)

THURSDAY OF
FIRST WEEK OF LENT

- 1) Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25
- 2) Matthew 7:7-12

FOCUS: Prayer is powerful.

We can approach prayer as if we are rubbing a magic lamp and expecting the genie to grant our wish. Queen Esther's prayer demonstrates that our request needs to be coupled with humility, endurance and trust. When we do this, we can ask in confidence, as Jesus instructs, because the Father loves us. God will grant what it is we need, which may or may not be what we want.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Queen Esther, in a time of great trial, humbly prays to God. She does so because she knows God alone can save her. In the Gospel, Jesus instructs his disciples to seek what they desire through prayer. He assures them to be confident in their asking because the Father, who loves them, hears and will grant their prayers.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in Jesus' instruction to ask, seek and knock, we offer our prayers of petition for ourselves and our world.

- 1) For all the clergy who lead the faithful in prayer, may their steadfast devotion to God continue to inspire in the faithful a desire for deeper prayer lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may they, through prayer, seek the knowledge, wisdom, counsel and reverence that will enable them to govern justly, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have turned away from faith, may they be inspired by the Holy Spirit to open their hearts and seek God once again, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our families and friends who are experiencing doubt in or hostility toward God, may our Christian discipleship be a beacon that guides them to seek reconciliation with him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they rest in eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear the prayers we offer today. You know our needs better than we do. Answer them according to your will, through Christ, our Lord.

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Friday, February 19, 2016
(Lec. 228)

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

FRIDAY OF
FIRST WEEK OF LENT

FOCUS: Making things right with God and neighbor.

There may be times we fall short of God's desire for our lives and enter into sin. Our state of sinfulness is not necessarily the final judgement. The readings today demonstrate a two-fold action for making things right: we need to turn from wickedness and seek God's ways, and we need to reconcile ourselves with those we have wronged.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading conveys that God will forgive those who turn from wickedness and do what is right and just. In the Gospel, Jesus lets it be known that sinfulness can be held in our thoughts and hearts. Although it is not acted on, it can still be sinful. Reconciliation with our neighbor needs to take place before bringing an acceptable gift to the altar.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With a deep desire to do what is right, just and pleasing to our Lord, let us humbly turn to him with our prayers of petition.

- 1) For the clergy of the Church, may they continue to inspire the faithful to do what is right and just and to keep God's statutes, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may they seek opportunities of reconciliation with one another so that, in turn, they may build nations of goodwill and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are convinced they are too sinful to be forgiven, may they be encouraged by faithful Christian disciples to seek God's mercy and forgiveness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here today, as we bring our gifts to the altar, may we examine our hearts to identify those with whom we need to seek reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may they be welcomed into the eternal kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, hear the prayers we offer and in your profound mercy and compassion, grant them according to your will. Through Christ, our Lord.

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Saturday, February 20, 2016
(Lec. 229)

SATURDAY OF
FIRST WEEK OF LENT

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

FOCUS: Jesus, who deepens the law of Moses, gives us much to ponder – and to practice.

Today, we reflect on the law that God passed on to us through Moses – the law that teaches us how to live as God's children, and as brothers and sisters to one another. Centuries later, Jesus came not to annul the law but to perfect and deepen it, as he teaches us that loving our neighbor involves loving our enemies.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading Moses, after having brought the law to the Hebrew people, exhorts the people to follow this law and to listen to God, for they were the Lord's special and chosen people. In the Gospel, Jesus deepens this law, asking us to go beyond the letter of the law. We are to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Seeking to walk in the way of the Lord, let us join in offering our prayers to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) For the leaders of our Church, that they may continue to be blessed and inspire us to walk in the way of the Lord during Lent and throughout our lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our men and women in the military and in law enforcement, that God might keep them safe even as they work to protect us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from alienation or loneliness, may they be comforted by the workings of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who are in the final steps of the journey to the Easter sacraments, that this time of Lent might deepen their faith and their understanding, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, that they might be brought to the eternal joy of God's heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, accept these prayers made by your children on behalf of those who are in need throughout our world, and grant them as you will. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your son.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2016

**SECOND SUNDAY
OF LENT**

(Lec. 27)

- 1) Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18
- 2) Philippians 3:17-4:1 or 3:20-4:1
- 3) Luke 9:28b-36

FOCUS: Through placing our faith and trust in Jesus, our lives can be changed and transfigured.

Living as a faithful disciple of Jesus requires that we strive to follow his example, practice his teachings in our lives and go where he leads us. And although we will have ups and downs, Jesus will work by his grace, and through our efforts to be faithful to him, to change and transfigure our lives so they are blessed with joy and peace.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of God's covenant with Abraham to make his descendants as countless as the stars in the sky. The second reading reminds us that our true citizenship lies in heaven, and that our primary concern in life should be to remain faithful to Jesus. In the Gospel, Jesus leads Peter, James and John up a mountain where he is then transfigured before them.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With certain knowledge of God's love and care for us, we present our needs in prayer.

- 1) That all members of the Church may grow in wisdom and continue to share the Gospel message, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That civic leaders will work to uphold the dignity of life and promote the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who suffer with illness will come to know the healing love of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That married couples may be blessed and strengthened to live out their marriage covenant, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the faithful departed may have eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, we hope and trust that you will hear our prayers and answer them according to your will. We pray in the name of your son, Jesus.

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Monday, February 22, 2016
(Lec. 535)

- 1) 1 Peter 5:1-4
- 2) Matthew 16:13-19

**THE CHAIR
of SAINT PETER
the APOSTLE – FEAST**

FOCUS: Saint Peter and his successors are entrusted with the responsibility of being the chief shepherds of the Church.

In today's Gospel, Jesus names Peter as the rock upon which he will build his Church. This is important because, through these words, Jesus designates Peter and his successors to be the chief shepherds of his Church. Their leadership has been, and continues to be, the visible sign and source of unity in the Church.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The reading from the First Letter of St. Peter reminds those entrusted with leadership in the Church of the importance of lovingly tending to the flock God has entrusted to their care. In the Gospel, Jesus names and designates Peter as the rock upon which he will build his Church.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With the assurance that our Lord is always ready to hear us, let us turn to him in prayer.

- 1) For all Church members and leaders, that we will follow Jesus' example of humility and simplicity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all world leaders, that they will work vigorously to create peace among nations in conflict, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have never heard the Gospel, may they have the opportunity to hear the good news of salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may we continue to grow in our knowledge 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 those who have died, may they see the Lord face to face in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we ask that you hear our prayers, for we offer them to you through Christ, our Lord.

Tuesday, February 23, 2016
(Lec. 231)

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

TUESDAY OF
SECOND WEEK OF LENT
(Opt. Mem. Saint Polycarp,
Bishop and Martyr)

FOCUS: We are to follow the example of Jesus and pour ourselves out in love and service to others.

Jesus, throughout the whole of his life, poured himself out in love to all whom he encountered. Ultimately, in humble obedience to the will of his Father and out of love for us, Jesus made the perfect sacrifice of love by dying upon the cross for our salvation. In imitation of him, may we humbly and generously love and serve others each day so we may share eternal life in heaven.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Isaiah calls the people to repentance, and promises God's forgiveness even though their sins *be crimson red*. Jesus, in the Gospel, warns against the proud ways of the Pharisees and calls his followers to humbly walk in his footsteps.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us lift our hearts and minds to the Lord as we confidently make our petitions.

- 1) For all members of the Church, that we will always seek the Lord's will with all humility, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all government leaders – national, regional and local – may they turn to the Lord for guidance, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the homeless, may they be provided shelter and warmth through the efforts of caring people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our local faith community, may our lives be good examples of the humility and simplicity to which the Lord calls us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, especially our beloved departed friends and relatives, may they enjoy the blessed happiness of eternal life in paradise, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we pray with confidence that you will hear and answer our prayers according to your will. We ask in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.

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Wednesday, February 24, 2016
(Lec. 232)

WEDNESDAY OF
SECOND WEEK OF LENT

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

FOCUS: Jesus came to serve, not to be served.

Our Lord, Jesus, laid down his life for the salvation of all. He shared the importance of heartfelt service to others. We ask the Lord to help us daily to serve with humility and joy.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of the citizens of Jerusalem contriving a plot to bring about the death of the prophet Jeremiah. In the Gospel, Jesus pulls the twelve disciples aside and tells them they will be traveling together to Jerusalem. And that once they reach Jerusalem, he will be mocked, scourged and crucified, but be raised up on the third day.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Striving to heed Jesus' teaching that true greatness in God's eyes is found in laying down our lives in service to others, let us join in offering our prayers to our loving Father.

- 1) For the shepherds of our Church, that they may continue to be blessed with the grace and strength to give of themselves in service to God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, that they recognize the importance of compassion and service, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, that they be blessed with the care and support needed to help them heal and recover, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of this faith community, that we may embrace more fully our Christian call and our duty to assist those in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they will experience perfect peace and joy in the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, we ask you to hear and answer our prayers according to your will, through Christ, our Lord.

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Thursday, February 25, 2016
(Lec. 233)

THURSDAY OF
SECOND WEEK OF LENT

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

FOCUS: Trust in the Lord and follow him.

Let us place our trust in the Lord at all times. If we do this, we may receive the grace and strength needed to persevere in faith and lead lives which bear good fruit for the Lord. If we place our trust in Jesus, we may experience more fully, in our lives on earth, God's blessings of peace, joy and fulfillment.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, we hear of the blessings that come with turning our hearts to the way of the Lord. Today's Gospel teaches the lesson that one of the main measures Jesus will use in deciding whether we are deemed worthy of entering unto eternal life is how we cared for the needs of the poor.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us offer our prayers for our needs and the needs of the world.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may our witness to the love and mercy of God inspire those without faith to seek him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, that they recognize the goodness in all people, including the poorest of the poor, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are sick, that they experience healing and strength through their faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish family, that we may support one another in following the way of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they enjoy eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Friday, February 26, 2016

(Lec. 234)

1) Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a

2) Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46

FRIDAY OF
SECOND WEEK OF LENT

FOCUS: With the help of God's grace, we can turn the other cheek and forgive those who have hurt us.

It seems almost second nature to hold grudges against others who have done us wrong, and to want to respond in kind. Jesus' teaching and example remind us that there is an alternative that can accomplish a greater good and preserve our peace of mind. That alternative is turning the other cheek, and forgiving and praying for those who have hurt us. With the help of God's grace, we can overcome evil with good.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading recalls how Joseph's brothers, motivated by jealousy and envy, sold their brother Joseph into slavery. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the landowner who planted a vineyard and leased it to tenants. This parable reminds us that God expects us, in the vineyards of our daily lives, to live in such a way that we give a faithful witness to the Gospel and help build up his kingdom on earth.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God's mercy and concern for us know no bounds. Let us therefore humbly place our needs and petitions before him in faith and trust.

- 1) For all who shepherd our Church – Pope Francis, our bishops and priests – may they remain open to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our brothers and sisters throughout the world who have separated themselves from God, may they find the grace and strength to be open to following Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those struggling with the guilt of past sins and past mistreatment of others, that they may experience the healing and forgiving power of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For families dealing with division and misunderstanding, that by God's grace they may find peace and reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be granted eternal life in heaven with all the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we ask that you hear and answer the prayers that we offer to you in confidence.

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Saturday, February 27, 2016
(Lec. 235)

SATURDAY OF
SECOND WEEK OF LENT

- 1) Micah 7:14-15, 18-20
- 2) Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

FOCUS: The parable of the prodigal son illustrates God's unconditional love for us.

In the parable of the prodigal son, the father who welcomes his undeserving son home is like our heavenly Father who forgives us. As children of this loving Father, let us regard repentant sinners as he does, and not like the older brother who resents that his father celebrates his wayward son's return.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Both readings speak about God's forgiveness. The prophet Micah reminds us that God casts our sins into the depth of the sea. In the Gospel, we hear the parable of the prodigal son about a father who, with boundless love, celebrates the return of his foolish and sinful son. We can be confident that our heavenly Father will always take us back after we've wandered from him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in our Father's love, let us place our needs before him.

- 1) That our Church leaders may always show the merciful face of God to the flock under their care, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That those in positions of authority may strive to make decisions based on knowledge and integrity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That people throughout the world may have access to basic necessities such as shelter and clean water, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That each of us may strive to reach out to those who have become disconnected from the life of the Church, and invite them to return home, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the faithful departed may enjoy perpetual joy and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious Father, please hear and answer our petitions. We ask them in the name of Jesus the Lord.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2016

(Lec. 30)

- 1) Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15
- 2) 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12
- 3) Luke 13:1-9

**THIRD SUNDAY
OF LENT**

FOCUS: Every moment of our lives can be holy, as God is ever at work in our lives.

Too many people think the experience Moses had was a once-in-a-lifetime event. The truth is that every moment is a holy moment, as God is always at work in our lives. The challenge is to continue to grow in our faith and love for the Lord, so that we may recognize the many and varied ways he is present with us. If we do this, we cooperate with the Lord's grace and help build up his kingdom on earth.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from Exodus recalls God revealing himself, and speaking to Moses from a burning bush in the desert. The second reading reminds us not to grumble like our ancestors in the desert did. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the fig tree and we learn that God offers us many chances to repent and bear fruit.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Believing in a God who loves us unconditionally and is ever-willing to forgive, we place before the Lord our needs and those of the world.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all our spiritual leaders, may they continue to help us understand God's plan for us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders throughout the world, may they strive to create a society that protects the rights of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For our brothers and sisters everywhere who continue to suffer because they follow Jesus, may they always sense God's presence in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may we continue to spread the good news of salvation by our acts of charity and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they enter into eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God of heaven and earth, we ask that you hear and answer our prayers, through Christ, our Lord.

Monday, February 29, 2016
(Lec. 237)

MONDAY OF
THIRD WEEK OF LENT

- 1) 2 Kings 5:1-15ab
- 2) Luke 4:24-30

FOCUS: God works in wonderful and mysterious ways.

Today's first reading tells of Naaman, the mighty commander of the army of the King of Aram, traveling to Israel to be cured of his leprosy at the urging of a young Israelite girl. Because he was humble enough to listen to the young girl, he was cured of his leprosy. Similarly, if we keep our hearts humble and open to God, our lives will be blessed in ways beyond our imaginings.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, the great Aramean general Naaman is cured of his leprosy through the ministry of the prophet Elisha. In the Gospel, Jesus is rejected by the people of his hometown of Nazareth after teaching them in the synagogue on the Sabbath.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God's providential care, let us come before him this day with our needs.

- 1) For the faithful, may they open themselves more fully to the grace and action of the Holy Spirit working in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in positions of authority, that they may use their positions to protect the most vulnerable among us, especially children and the elderly, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For people whose lives are threatened by natural disasters, that God might protect them and meet their needs through the care of others around the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish community, that the Holy Spirit might move our hearts to be channels of God's mercy to all those we encounter throughout our daily lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that the Lord might welcome them into the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, thank you for loving us and caring for our every need. Graciously hear our prayers and answer them according to your will. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

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