

# January

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## Cycle C Year II

Friday, January 1, 2016  
(Lec. 18)

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

**THE OCTAVE DAY  
OF THE NATIVITY  
OF THE LORD;  
SOLEMNITY OF MARY,  
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**  
(Holy Day of Obligation in USA)

FOCUS: Mary, the first to believe, is the model for all believers.

God sent the angel Gabriel to announce to the Blessed Virgin Mary that she had been chosen to be the mother of the Son of God. Ever faithful and obedient, Mary said “yes” to what God was asking her to do. With her words, *Let it be done to me as you say*, (Lk 1:38) Mary became the mother of God, as well as a model for us of what it means to be faithful and obedient to God.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading recalls the blessing given by God to Moses, which Aaron and his sons were to use in blessing the Israelites. The second reading reminds us that God sent his Son to free us from the slavery of sin, so that we might live in the glorious freedom of God’s dearly beloved sons and daughters. Today’s Gospel tells how the shepherds, after making their way to Bethlehem and finding Jesus lying in a manger, related to Mary and Joseph all that had been told to them regarding the child, Jesus.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

**PRIEST:** Confident that God’s generous blessings and care are extended toward us, we pray for our needs and for the needs of the entire world.

- 1) For all the members of the Church, may we grow in compassion and generosity toward those in need as we live out the message of God’s love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all people, may peace reign in our hearts as we recognize each other as children of the same God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who have been displaced by war or natural disasters, may neighbors near and far provide safe haven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may we always welcome strangers as holy sons and daughters of the Almighty, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they rest in eternal peace with all the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** Heavenly Father, hear our prayers and give us the grace to live according to your will, we pray through Christ, our Lord.

Saturday, January 2, 2016  
(Lec. 205)

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

(OBL. MEM. Saint Basil  
the Great and Saint Gregory  
Nazianzen, Bishops and  
Doctors of the Church)

FOCUS: In all we do and believe as Catholics, there is one central truth: Jesus is God.

Who is Jesus to us? Is he our guide in life, a friend who consoles and helps us, a person who inspires us to be loving and kind? Jesus is all of these things, but he is so much more. He is God – fully human yet fully divine. This is at the heart of the Christian faith.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading reminds us that we have received the Holy Spirit who guides, directs and strengthens us that we may walk in Jesus' way of love. In the Gospel, in responding to questions about who he was, John the Baptist states, *I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, "Make straight the way of the Lord."*

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us present our needs and petitions to God our loving Father.

- 1) For the shepherds of our Church, N. our pope and N. our bishop, that they may be blessed as they continue to help the faithful grow in their knowledge and love for the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, that they may work to ensure all citizens have access to food, housing and employment, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are ill or experiencing chronic pain, that they have access to the medical care they need, and find strength in their faith and the knowledge that they are not alone, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For each of us, that we may grow stronger in our faith in Jesus Christ, true God and true man, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they may find eternal peace with our loving Father in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, please hear these prayers we place before you, we ask this through Christ, our Lord.

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**SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2016**

(Lec. 20)

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

**THE EPIPHANY  
OF THE LORD  
- SOLEMNITY**

FOCUS: We are to walk always in the light of the Lord.

The visit of the Magi is a dramatic event that symbolizes the universality of Christ's saving mission on earth. In effect, this event tells us that Jesus opened the kingdom of God not only to the Jews, but to all humankind. It is up to each of us to walk in the light of Christ so that we might come to share eternal life in heaven.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first reading is a prophecy about the radiance of the Lord's light shining on all nations. The second reading speaks of the Gentiles as co-heirs, along with the Jews, to the promises of Jesus. The Gospel tells of the visit of the Magi to the child Jesus, and how they were led by a star, fulfilling ancient prophecies.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust in God's goodness and love, let us present our petitions to him.

- 1) That the Church throughout the world may continue to share Christ's light and love with others by living according to his teachings, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That all nations torn by strife and division will work for peaceful solutions, especially in the Holy Land, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are suffering displacement due to war, terrorism or natural disasters may be blessed and find the shelter that they need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That this faith community may search for new and ever-more effective ways to share God's love with others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may come to enter unto the glorious splendor of God's heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear our prayers and help us to make our lives reflect your love. We ask all things through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Monday, January 4, 2016  
(Lec. 212)

(OBL. MEM. Saint Elizabeth  
Ann Seton, Religious)

- 1) 1 John 3:22—4:6
- 2) Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25

**FOCUS:** *And his commandment is this: We should believe in the name of his son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us.*

Jesus, through his teaching and example, reveals to us how we are to live so that we might come to enjoy eternal life in heaven. Mindful of this, we are to follow his example and proclaim the good news in our homes, workplaces and communities, and strive to heal the suffering among us.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the reading from the First Letter of John, we are reminded to follow Jesus Christ and not the temptations of the world. Today's reading from the Gospel of Matthew describes how Jesus returned to his native land of Galilee to preach the good news of the kingdom and to heal the sick and possessed.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Having confidence in God, let us offer our prayers to him.

- 1) For all members of the Church, that we may continue to grow in our love for the Lord and live our faith with greater zeal, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, that they may be renewed in their commitment to justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer in body, mind or spirit, that they may find healing and comfort in their loved ones and in their faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our community of faith, that we may seek to give witness to the Gospel by being merciful and kind to those we meet in our homes, at work and at school, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they may enter into eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, we offer you our prayers with trust and confidence in your loving mercy. We ask all these things through your son, Jesus Christ.

Tuesday, January 5, 2016  
(Lec. 213)

(OBL. MEM. Saint John  
Neumann, Bishop)

- 1) 1 John 4:7-10
- 2) Mark 6:34-44

FOCUS: God works through our everyday gestures of kindness and love to accomplish wonders and marvels in the lives of others.

Today's Gospel recounts Jesus multiplying five loaves and two fish provided to him by his disciples to feed a crowd of five thousand people. This miracle offers us an important lesson for our lives. Similarly to the way Jesus took the five loaves and fishes to feed thousands, he can and will use our everyday gestures of kindness and love to accomplish marvels in the lives of others.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading exhorts and encourages us to love one another because love is of God. The responsorial psalm reminds us that in time, God will set all things right and one day, all nations will join in adoring the Lord. In the Gospel, Jesus multiplies five loaves and two fish to feed the crowd.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Our heavenly Father loves us and always gives us what we need. Let us confidently present these prayers before him.

- 1) That members of the Church may continue to be a sign of God's love through their service to others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That civil leaders may be generous in their service and wise in their governance, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That refugees and victims of violence may be blessed with places of safety and refuge, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That members of this faith community may be attentive to those among us who are hurting and in need of our kindness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may be welcomed into the heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of infinite love, hear our prayers this day and grant them according to your gracious will. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

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Wednesday, January 6, 2016  
(Lec. 214)

- 1) 1 John 4:11-18
- 2) Mark 6:45-52

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY  
WEDNESDAY  
AFTER EPIPHANY

FOCUS: We need never fear, because of God's love and care for us.

All we do should be grounded in God's love. We were created out of God's love. God never ceases to bless us, and we can never outdo the Lord in generosity. Mindful of this, let us generously give of ourselves in love and service to others.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The reading from the First Letter of John reminds us that God is love; whoever remains in love remains in God, and God in them. The Gospel tells of the apostles' fear when they saw Jesus walking on water in a stormy sea. They were afraid because they thought Jesus was a ghost.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us pray in confidence to our heavenly Father who hears our every prayer.

- 1) That all members of our Church will continue to grow in faith and strengthen our relationship with Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That leaders of nations will rule with justice and kindness rather than fear and intimidation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who suffer from loneliness will take comfort in the knowledge that God is with them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That our faith community will experience a real hunger for spreading the good news and being effective witnesses to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all those who have died will experience a joyful and heavenly peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we ask you to hear and answer these prayers of your children, offered to you in the name of your son, Jesus.

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Thursday, January 7, 2016  
(Lec. 215)

- 1) 1 John 4:19-5:4
- 2) Luke 4:14-22a

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY  
THURSDAY  
AFTER EPIPHANY  
(Opt. Mem. Saint Raymond  
of Penyafort, Priest)

FOCUS: Christ's mission is to bring freedom through love.

Today's readings make it clear that to love God, we must keep his commandments. His commandment is that we should love one another. If we do not love one another, we cannot say that we love God. Christ's mission, to proclaim liberty to captives, to restore sight to the blind, is one of love. Let us learn from his example.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the reading from the First Letter of John, we are told that we love because God first loved us, and that the victory that enables us to conquer the world is our faith. In the Gospel, Jesus proclaims the words of Isaiah in the synagogue. He tells them that the Scripture is fulfilled in their hearing.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in the love of God our Father, let us stand and humbly present to him these prayers of petition.

- 1) For the pope, bishops and all the clergy, that they may be blessed with the grace and strength to continue leading and guiding the people of God in holiness and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who govern, that they may be guided by charity as they seek to promote the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are struggling to provide for their loved ones because of unemployment or illness, that they may be blessed with the assistance they need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who are gathered here, that we may open our hearts more fully to the gifts and grace of the Holy Spirit in order to give a more faithful and effective witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they may see God face to face in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, please hear and answer these prayers, for we ask them through Christ, our Lord.

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Friday, January 8, 2016  
(Lec. 216)

- 1) 1 John 5:5-13
- 2) Luke 5:12-16

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY  
FRIDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

FOCUS: The one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God is victor over the world.

Today's first reading reminds us that one of the primary ways God testifies on behalf of his son, Jesus, is through the Holy Spirit. Understanding this, let us be grateful for the gift of the Holy Spirit, who confirms us in the truth that Jesus is Lord, and guides us so we may keep our feet planted on the path that leads to eternal life in heaven.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells us that the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God is victor over the world. Whoever believes in the Son has life. In the Gospel, a leper prostrates himself before Jesus and is healed. The Lord tells the leper not to reveal this to anyone, but reports of Jesus' works continue to spread and he continues to heal.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Christ the Lord has revealed himself as the Savior of all nations. Let us confidently present these prayers before God our Father.

- 1) For the Church, that she may continue to proclaim to all peoples that Jesus is the Son of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who hold positions of authority, may they always advocate to promote the sanctity of life, from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are suffering from illness in mind or body, may they know the healing compassion of Christ through the loving care of others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our community, that we may testify, with the grace of the Holy Spirit, that Jesus is the Lord of all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they may enjoy eternal rest in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, we thank you for hearing our prayers. We ask you to answer them according to your will, through Christ, our Lord.

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Saturday, January 9, 2016  
(Lec 217)

- 1) 1 John 5:14-21
- 2) John 3:22-30

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY  
SATURDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

FOCUS: *He must increase, I must decrease.*

John the Baptist's response to his disciples' questions about the popularity of Jesus provoked this memorable comment about his role in relationship to the Messiah. He is a best man at the groom's wedding. John is happy to see disciples coming to Jesus.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading reminds us to confidently make our prayers to God, trusting that he will hear and answer them according to his holy will. He provides for what we most truly need. In the Gospel, John the Baptist's disciples come to him with a concern that many people are coming to Jesus to be baptized. John responds by reminding them that he was sent to prepare the way for Jesus, telling them that Jesus must increase, and he must decrease.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that the Lord delights in his people, let us offer our prayers for our needs, and those of the world, to God the Almighty Father.

- 1) For Pope Francis, may he be blessed with strength to continue his work of renewing and strengthening our Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For people throughout the world, may we always remember the least of our brothers and sisters and provide assistance to those in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the elderly and all those confined to nursing homes or hospitals, may their spirits be lifted by those who visit them and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all teachers and catechists, may they work tirelessly to lead and instruct young men and women to fully live the mysteries of our faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they come to know fullness of life and love in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, hear and answer our prayers and strengthen us with your grace, so we may lead lives which bear good fruit for you. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your son.

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## **SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2016**

(Lec. 21)

- 1) Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 or  
Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
- 2) Acts 10:34-38 or  
Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7
- 3) Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

## **THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - FEAST**

**FOCUS:** The signs and wonders that accompanied Jesus' baptism are meant to confirm in our hearts that Jesus is the Son of God and savior of the world.

After Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River, the Holy Spirit descended upon him like a dove. A voice from the heavens was heard, saying: *"You are my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."* Understanding this, may we strive to live out our faith in Jesus all the more fully.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of the chosen servant of the Lord whom the Lord will raise up to be a light for the nations and bring forth the victory of justice. The second reading reminds us that God shows no partiality, and that everyone who places their faith in Jesus and lives according to his teaching can be saved. In the Gospel, Jesus is baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

**PRIEST:** Let us pray with confidence to God our loving Father.

- 1) For Church leaders, that the Holy Spirit may continue to guide them as they share the good news with the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the leaders of nations, that they may use their authority and resources to uphold the dignity of all people and to work for peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who lack adequate food and shelter, that they may be assisted in their need and be treated with dignity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the sick of our parish and our community, that they may find comfort in our prayers and in the loving care of compassionate people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, that they may join the angels and saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** Merciful and loving Father, please hear the prayers we offer today. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

Monday, January 11, 2016  
(Lec. 305)

- 1) 1 Samuel 1:1-8
- 2) Mark 1:14-20

MONDAY OF  
FIRST WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

**FOCUS:** Living as a faithful follower of Jesus requires that we consciously and intentionally choose to love him and serve him each day.

Today's Gospel relates Jesus announcing that the kingdom of God has come. He then called Peter, Andrew, James and John to follow him. They responded by dropping everything they were doing to follow Jesus. He also calls each one of us. How do we respond to him? Are we saying "yes" to him each day?

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of Hannah's despair over being cruelly mocked because she was unable to have children. Ultimately, Hannah will have a child, Samuel, whom God will call to be a prophet. In the Gospel, Jesus calls Peter, Andrew, James, and John to drop their nets and follow him.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together, let us offer our prayers of petition in confidence to the Father.

- 1) For all within the Church, that they always be willing to say "yes" to the call of God in all circumstances, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the countries of the world, that they be drawn to work together with one another in peace and unity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those struggling with illness, that they be comforted by the compassion of caregivers, family and friends, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all Catholic school teachers throughout our diocese, may they be blessed and strengthened as they strive to help our youth develop their unique gifts and talents, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they see God face to face 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 offer them to you through Christ, our Lord.

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Tuesday, January 12, 2016  
(Lec. 306)

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

TUESDAY OF  
FIRST WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God listens to our prayers and takes care of us.

Do we trust that God will answer our prayers? Hannah's prayers to God for a child were sincere and heartfelt. She truly trusted that God would hear and in some way answer her prayers as she poured out her heart to the Lord. When we approach God in prayer, are we as honest and trusting as Hannah?

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of Hannah pouring out her troubles to the Lord in prayer. Earnestly, she appeals to God to take pity on her and grant her a child. In the Gospel, Jesus, while teaching in the synagogue, expels an unclean spirit from a man by simply commanding the spirit to come out of him.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us come together in awe of our powerful Lord, and with faith present him with our petitions.

- 1) For our Church, that we may be an example of faithfulness in prayer to the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the nations of the world, that they grow in their love of God and in their willingness to do his will, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all people throughout the world, that they be able to practice their faith without fear of persecution, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish, that we may always put our trust in God and his power to answer our prayers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they may be in heaven with God the Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Wednesday, January 13, 2016  
(Lec. 307)

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

WEDNESDAY OF  
FIRST WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God calls each believer to play a role in helping bring his plan of salvation to its fulfillment.

As Creator, God has a plan of salvation for humankind which he revealed fully through his son, Jesus Christ. This plan of salvation is furthered by all those who believe in God, cooperate with his grace and strive to be true to his plan for their lives. Let us discern and be faithful to his plan for our lives because it holds the key to our happiness, both now and for eternity.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Samuel is summoned by God three times. God reveals that Samuel will be his servant. Today's Gospel reading tells of Jesus entering the house of Simon Peter, and then acting to cure Simon Peter's mother in law who was sick with a fever.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together, let us call upon our heavenly Father to hear our humble prayers.

- 1) For all members of the Church, that we will strive to discern and live out the Lord's call for our lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders throughout the world, that the Holy Spirit may be with them as they strive to govern justly, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who live with violence, that they will be comforted by the compassion of others and will know peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, that each of us may continue to grow in faith so our lives more and more bear an effective witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they will come to share in eternal glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father we ask that you hear our prayers, and bless and strengthen us so we may do your will.

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Thursday, January 14, 2016  
(Lec. 308)

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

THURSDAY OF  
FIRST WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Jesus offers us new life, healing and salvation.

Today's Gospel tells of a leper humbly approaching Jesus and asking to be healed. Moved by compassion and love Jesus then acted to heal the man of his leprosy. These actions remind us that Jesus came to bring new life, salvation and healing to humankind. And that we should never hesitate to turn to him with hurts and burdens so that he can heal us and set us free from the things which hold us bound.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of the Israelites carrying the Ark of the Covenant with them into battle against the Philistines, believing that it would bring them victory. Instead of the victory they hoped for, they experienced a disastrous defeat at the hands of the Philistines. In the Gospel, Jesus was moved by compassion and love and acts to cure a man of leprosy.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Striving to be faithful and obedient to God, let us now join in offering our prayers and petitions to him.

- 1) For members of the clergy, that they continue to shepherd the faithful and help them grow in their love for the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all those in positions of authority, that by their actions they show respect for those they govern, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who struggle with addiction, may they turn to God for the grace and strength needed to begin the journey toward recovery, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our community, that we may continue to grow in love for God, our Father, and for each other, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our departed brothers and sisters in Christ, that they may experience perfect peace and joy in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Friday, January 15, 2016

(Lec. 309)

1) 1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a

2) Mark 2:1-12

FRIDAY OF  
FIRST WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: The Lord is to be ruler of our hearts and lives.

Jesus taught that a fundamental requirement for living as one of his faithful disciples was a singular devotion to him. Mindful of this, may we strive to make living as a disciple of Jesus the number one priority in our lives each day, so the example of our lives will help lead others to Jesus and glorify God.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of the people of Israel coming to Samuel and asking that he appoint a king over them. In the Gospel, Jesus forgives the sins of a paralyzed man and demonstrates that he has the authority to do so by telling the man to rise, pick up his mat and go home. The man then walked away.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Father, trusting in your love for us, we present our needs to you with confidence that you will hear them.

- 1) That all members of the Church will work zealously to spread the Gospel message, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That civic leaders everywhere strive to fulfill their mission with justice and integrity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That victims of natural disasters will be helped by aid workers and comforted by the generosity of others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That our parish community may open our eyes and hearts to the needs of those around us, especially the elderly, lonely and sick, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the faithful departed may enter eternal life in the presence of the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, look kindly on the petitions of our community of faith, who place our trust in your unfailing love. We ask this as we ask all things, in the name of Jesus, your son.



Saturday, January 16, 2016  
(Lec. 310)

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

SATURDAY OF  
FIRST WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Saturday in honor of  
BVM)

FOCUS: Jesus calls us to live as his faithful disciples by patterning our lives after his.

During the first few weeks of Ordinary Time, the call to discipleship is emphasized. A disciple is one who follows. Jesus calls each of us to live as his faithful disciples by patterning our life after his and by laying down our lives in service of others. When we do this, we give an effective witness to the Gospel.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In our reading from the First Book of Samuel, God chooses Saul to lead the people of Israel. Samuel then anoints Saul as commander over God's heritage. In the Gospel, Jesus calls Levi, the tax collector, to come and follow him. Levi responds by immediately leaving what he was doing to go and follow Jesus.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Responding to God's word in Scripture, let us call to mind the needs of others and present them in prayer to our merciful God.

- 1) For our Holy Father and for all whom God calls to serve his Church, that they may be receptive to the grace of the Holy Spirit working in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials and public servants, that they may work to preserve and protect the dignity of human life as they implement policies, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from severe weather and natural disasters, that they will receive the help they need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may we go forth and share our faith and be effective witnesses to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they may be brought to eternal life and enjoy perfect happiness and peace with God in heaven for all eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful God, hear us and answer our petitions. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your son.

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**SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2016**

(Lec. 66)

- 1) Isaiah 62:1-5
- 2) 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
- 3) John 2:1-11

**SECOND SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

**FOCUS:** God gives us each unique gifts and talents that we are to use to further the mission of the Church.

Today's second reading from Corinthians reminds us that God has given each of us unique gifts which we are to use to help build up the kingdom of God on earth. Living this out requires ongoing prayer and discernment to identify our gifts and talents, and the resolve and determination to live in service to God and our neighbor.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

The first reading from Isaiah speaks of God's love for the people of Israel. The second reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians speaks of the special gifts, or charisms, which are given to the baptized for the sake of the Church. The Gospel recounts the first miracle of Jesus at the wedding feast in Cana.

**UNIVERSAL PRAYER**

**PRIEST:** Let us pray to the Father, whose tender love always watches out for our wants and needs.

- 1) That members of the Church may cooperate with the grace and action of the Spirit, and use their unique gifts and talents to more fully build up the kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That leaders throughout the world will make decisions for the betterment of all whom they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That persecuted Christians around the globe be granted grace and strength to persevere and endure in their faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That members of this faith community work to relieve the cares and burdens of others in our midst, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the faithful departed might come to share eternal life in heaven with God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** Lord God, we offer you these petitions confident in your tender compassion for us and all your children, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

\* \* \*

Monday, January 18, 2016  
(Lec. 311)

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

MONDAY OF  
SECOND WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

**FOCUS:** Seek God with a heart full of humility before his presence, and joy for how his love fills our lives.

In order to deepen our relationship with God, we must have an ongoing sense of humility before the wonder of God's guidance and the wonder of his blessings, which sometimes come to us in very surprising ways. Given such gifts, we can also foster an enduring joy for how much we are loved by God.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from the Book of Samuel describes how the prophet Samuel confronts Saul for not listening to what God has asked of him. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that new wine cannot be poured into old wineskins, meaning that the newness of the Gospel cannot be contained in old ways of doing things.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

**PRIEST:** With both enduring joy and humility, we come to our God today to express our needs in the following petitions.

- 1) That members of the Church throughout the world will live in ways that fully manifest the joy of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That government leaders will work together in wisdom and compassion to solve the difficult problems that we face in today's world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That we may open our hearts with kindness to those burdened by sadness or grief, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That families in this community be thankful for the gifts they have received, and may their lives manifest the presence of God in their home, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have walked in life with Jesus, that they may experience the fullness of the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petitions)

**PRIEST:** Almighty Father, we ask that you hear and answer our prayers, brought to you this day in the name of your son, Jesus.

\* \* \*

Tuesday, January 19, 2016

(Lec. 312)

1) 1 Samuel 16:1-13

2) Mark 2:23-28

TUESDAY OF  
SECOND WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: We are called to look beyond appearances and see the face of Christ in all those we encounter.

God reminds the prophet Samuel that he does not see as human beings see. God knows us through and through and does not judge us – or others – by appearances. Thus, he calls us to look beyond appearances and see the face of Christ in all those we meet.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God calls on Samuel to anoint his chosen king from among the sons of Jesse. God's chosen – the least of Jesse's sons – is destined to be a great king. Jesus, in the Gospel, teaches that the son of man is Lord, even of the Sabbath.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust in our God, who knows our hearts and the needs of our world, we present our concerns.

- 1) For Church leaders, that they may be blessed to follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit in their leadership, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who serve in government, that they might act out of concern for all, especially those most in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For people who suffer from loneliness or alienation, that concerned Christians might reach out to them in mercy and give them comfort, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our local community, that we might welcome refugees and do what we can to assist them in their need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, that they might come to enjoy perpetual joy and peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, hear our prayers and grant them according to your will. We ask this in the name of your son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Wednesday, January 20, 2016

(Lec. 313)

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

WEDNESDAY OF  
SECOND WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem. Saint Fabian,  
Pope and Martyr;  
Saint Sebastian, Martyr)

FOCUS: We are called in all times and places to assist others who are in need.

Establishing a daily routine in order to fulfill our duties and responsibilities, and be true to our commitments, is a good and healthy thing to do. However, if we encounter someone who is in need throughout the course of our day, we must be prepared to set aside our to-do list and be a loving neighbor or friend.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of David relying upon the Lord to give him strength to defeat a mighty Philistine warrior who put fear into the hearts of others. In the Gospel, Jesus heals a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath in order to teach that God calls us in all times and places to love others and attend to their needs.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

**PRIEST:** Let us join our prayers and petitions to those of the Church's martyrs we remember today, Saints Fabian and Sebastian.

- 1) For all who shepherd the Church, may they live their lives as followers of Jesus and effective witnesses to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all civil servants, may they work to uphold the dignity and sanctity of life, from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are denied religious freedom, may they not lose the strength of their faith, and have courage to stand up for their beliefs, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For an increase in vocations to the priesthood, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they enter into the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** Heavenly Father, we ask that you grant these petitions and all those we hold in our hearts, through Christ, our Lord.

\* \* \*

Thursday, January 21, 2016  
(Lec. 314)

(OBL. MEM. Saint Agnes,  
Virgin and Martyr)

- 1) 1 Samuel 18:6-9; 19:1-7
- 2) Mark 3:7-12

**FOCUS:** Jesus gives new life, healing and the promise and hope of salvation to all who believe in him and walk in his ways.

Today's Gospel speaks of many people coming to Jesus to be healed of their afflictions. Jesus responded in kindness and love to their plight by granting them the healing they sought. Similarly, Jesus is ever willing to bring us greater wholeness and healing if we humbly turn to him each day with our hurts and areas of brokenness in our lives.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of King Saul becoming jealous of David and desiring to put him to death after hearing a group of women sing, *Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands*. Today's Gospel recalls great crowds coming to Jesus from near and far seeking to be healed of their afflictions and freed from the things that bound them.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

**PRIEST:** Jesus teaches that what we ask for in true faith, we shall receive. May this promise be in our minds and hearts as we place our prayers before God, confident and trusting that he will hear and answer them.

- 1) For Pope Francis, our bishop, N., and all bishops, priests and deacons, that, through their ordained ministry, the healing power of God may reach all of the faithful, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For national and world leaders, that they may continually strive to serve the needs of people, especially those displaced by war or natural disaster, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, that they may receive quality medical care and experience the healing and loving presence of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For doctors, nurses and all other health-care professionals, that through their God-given skill they may cure the sick, heal the injured and comfort the dying, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead and all who have died, that they may come to share eternal life with all angels and saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** Loving Father, may our faith in you be constantly reflected in our love for you, and for all whom you send into our lives. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

Friday, January 22, 2016

(Lec. 315)

1) 1 Samuel 24:3-21

2) Mark 3:13-19

**NOTE:** Or for the Day of Prayer, any of the following readings: Genesis 1:1–2:2 (41) or 2 Maccabees 7:1, 20-31 (499) or Isaiah 49:1-6 (587) or Romans 11:33-36 (121) or Ephesians 1:3-14 (104) or Ephesians 3:14-21 (vol. III, 476) or Colossians 1:12-20 (162) or 1 John 3:11-21 (208)/Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14 (414) or Mark 9:30-37 (134) or Luke 1:39-56 (622) or Luke 17:11-19 (144) or Luke 23:35-43 (162) or John 1:1-5, 9-14, 16-18 (755) or John 6:24-35 (113), or the Lectionary for Ritual Masses (vol. IV), the Mass “For Peace and Justice,” nos. 887-891.

DAY OF PRAYER for the  
LEGAL PROTECTION  
of UNBORN CHILDREN

**FOCUS:** What we do to the least and most vulnerable of all, we do to Christ himself.

Our Catholic faith calls us to care for the most vulnerable – the poor, the sick, the elderly, children and, especially, the unborn. Mindful of this, may we continue to pray, do works of penance, and write letters of advocacy to our legislators, so that the legal right to life of unborn children may be restored.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of King Saul and his men trying to kill David. Despite this, David was unwilling to kill Saul when he had the chance because he was the Lord’s anointed. Today’s Gospel reading recalls Jesus appointing twelve men as apostles. The apostles would one day be entrusted with preaching the Gospel message and being the chief shepherds of his Church.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

**PRIEST:** Let us pray to our almighty Father in heaven, the God of life, for his care and protection for all of his people.

- 1) For our Church leaders, that their advocacy to promote respect for life from birth to natural death will take root in our hearts, our nation and our world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For national and world leaders, that they recognize the dignity of life and work to bring an end to abortion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all women facing a difficult or unplanned pregnancy, that they will receive compassionate, practical and loving care, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all families, that they treat each other with respect and love, and work together to serve others – at home, at work, at church and in their neighborhoods, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they may come to enjoy eternal peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** Merciful Father, you give us life. We ask that you hear our prayers and give us the grace to let our lives be instruments of your will. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

Saturday, January 23, 2016  
(Lec. 316)

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

SATURDAY OF  
SECOND WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem. Saint Vincent,  
Deacon and Martyr;  
Saint Marianne Cope, Virgin;  
Saturday in honor of BVM)

**FOCUS:** Jesus is with us always. He will give us the grace needed to remain steadfast in faith if we but trust in him.

In striving to do God's will, we can encounter resistance from others who profess believing in God. Life can sometimes be confusing. How do we make sense of it all? We do so by turning to the Lord in prayer and trusting that he will give us the grace, guidance and strength to navigate life's uncertainties.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of David returning from victorious battle to find that both Saul and Jonathan have been killed, and Israel defeated. He laments the deaths of his former enemy, Saul, and his best friend, Jonathan. Today's Gospel tells of some of Jesus' relatives trying to seize Jesus, for they feared for his safety and thought that perhaps he might be out of his mind.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

**PRIEST:** Trusting in God's grace and guidance in our lives, let us ask him to hear our prayers.

- 1) That Pope Francis, our bishops and priests will receive the grace and strength to continue to shepherd the church to grow in holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That leaders of nations will use their power for the common good, working to provide for the basic needs of shelter and food for all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That police officers and firefighters will be blessed in their efforts to protect our safety and well-being, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That, as we begin this Year of Mercy, we avail ourselves of the grace and healing offered to us through the sacrament of reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died will enjoy eternal life in the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** God, please hear and answer our prayers. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

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**SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2016**

(Lec. 69)

- 1) Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10
- 2) 1 Corinthians 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27
- 3) Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21

**THIRD SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

**FOCUS:** We are called to use the unique gifts and talents that God has given us to further the work and mission of the Church.

Today's reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians reminds us that, by virtue of our baptism, we are members of Christ's body. We have a sacred duty and solemn obligation to use the unique gifts and talents God has given us to further the work and mission of the Church. Mindful of this, let us share our gifts generously so many others might come to know Jesus.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

The first reading tells of how those Israelites who returned from exile in Babylon to live in Jerusalem joined together in renewing their commitment to be faithful to God and his commandments. The second reading reminds us that we are parts and members of the one body of Christ. Today's Gospel recalls the beginnings of Jesus' public ministry.

**UNIVERSAL PRAYER**

**PRIEST:** Gathered as many parts and formed into one body in Christ by the Spirit, we offer our prayers to the Lord.

- 1) For the Church and for all Christians during this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, that we may continue to engage in dialogue and work together, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world and national leaders, that they will seek peaceful solutions to conflict, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are sick, that they may experience Jesus' healing through the compassionate care of medical professionals, family and friends, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of our parish community, that we may prayerfully consider sharing our gifts and talents by volunteering for a ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they may enjoy eternal life with God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** O God, hear our prayers today and give us the grace to further your mission as the body of Christ. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

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Monday, January 25, 2016  
(Lec. 519)

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

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

**FOCUS:** God can and will work in and through us to accomplish marvelous things, if we but place our trust in him.

Paul's life was irrevocably changed by his encounter with the Lord on the road to Damascus. He went from being a zealous persecutor of Christians to being God's instrument to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles. God accomplished marvelous things through Paul; he can accomplish marvelous things through us if we place our trust in him.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

The first reading tells of how Paul's encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus changed him from being a persecutor of Christians to becoming God's chosen instrument to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles. The Gospel tells how the risen Lord Jesus commissions the apostles to proclaim the Gospel to every creature.

**UNIVERSAL PRAYER**

**PRIEST:** Placing our trust in God, we offer these prayers for our community and our world.

- 1) For Pope Francis, our bishops and priests, that with God's grace they may continue to guide us to proclaim the Gospel by word and action in our daily lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, that they may be open to the wisdom of God as they govern, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who face religious persecution, that they may find a safe haven and strength in their faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish community, that we may continue to serve the needs of our neighbors, especially those who are hungry or homeless, through our outreach efforts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they may enjoy eternal peace and joy in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** All-powerful and loving God, we place these prayers before you with faith, in the name of Jesus our Lord.

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Tuesday, January 26, 2016  
(Lec. 520)

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

(Lec. 318)

2) Mark 3:31-35

TUESDAY OF  
THIRD WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL. MEM. Saint Timothy  
and Saint Titus, Bishops)

FOCUS: The lives of those who aspire to follow Jesus are to be marked by fidelity to the will of God.

Throughout the world, there are many types of communities in which people may be a part. But they are all characterized by an allegiance to the will of men and women. This is not to be the case for those who aspire to live as disciples of Jesus. Their lives are to be marked by fidelity to the will of God.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Paul speaks of his affection toward Timothy, and challenges him to go deeper into his faith and ministry. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that those who do the will of God are as mother, brother and sister to him.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the Lord's providential care, we humbly turn to him with our petitions.

- 1) For the Church, may all members be united in one mind and heart as we seek to do the will of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who hold public office, may they turn to God for guidance and wisdom as they work to promote the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who do not have immediate family members near them, may they find in the Church a community of healing and strength as they life's challenges, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those who do not believe or have lost their faith, may their hearts be open to God's enduring love for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may they receive a place at the eternal banquet in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, giver of all good gifts, hear our prayers, for we ask them in faith through your son, Jesus our Lord.

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Wednesday, January 27, 2016  
(Lec. 319)

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

WEDNESDAY OF  
THIRD WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem. Saint Angela Merici,  
Virgin)

FOCUS: Through Jesus, we learn how to open our hearts to God.

Sacred Scripture reveals God's unwavering desire for intimate friendship with us. The parables of Jesus invite us to reflect on the nature of God, and on our own longings for relationship. Through placing our faith in Jesus and growing in our love for him, we come to develop the intimate friendship with God that fulfills the deepest longings of our heart.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of the covenant God made with King David. God promised David that he would raise up an heir from David's descendants, so that David's royal throne would be made firm forever. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the sower and the seed.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in God's grace and love, we bring our prayers before him.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may she be a clear voice for respect for life from conception until natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our government leaders, may they lead with justice and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are imprisoned by addiction, may they be open to God's healing and seek help with the support of family and friends, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish community, may we be a sign of God's hope by serving the community around us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may they come to experience the joy of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father in heaven, hear today the prayers of your people, spoken and unspoken. We ask this in the name of your son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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Thursday, January 28, 2016

(Lec. 320)

1) 2 Samuel 7:18-19, 24-29

2) Mark 4:21-25

THURSDAY OF  
THIRD WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL. MEM. Saint Thomas  
Aquinas, Priest and Doctor  
of the Church)

**FOCUS:** *The measure with which you measure will be measured out to you, and still more will be given you.*

God the Father, in his abundant generosity, offers us the gifts of new life, healing and salvation through faith in Jesus. May we strive to be cognizant of these gifts every day, so that our hearts overflow with love and gratitude to God. As we pour ourselves out in love and service to others, we experience God's good gifts more abundantly.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of David giving thanks to God for his promise to make David's throne and kingdom endure forever. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that those who give of themselves in generous love and service to others will be blessed abundantly by God.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

**PRIEST:** In thanksgiving for the many blessings God has bestowed on us, we offer him our prayers.

- 1) For the Church, that she may continue to be blessed and strengthened as she preaches the good news of salvation to the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all government leaders, that God may give them wisdom and understanding to promote peace and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those in prison, that they may experience God's love, compassion and forgiveness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our local community, that we continually thank God for our blessings and generously serve others we encounter in our everyday lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, that they may look upon the face of God this day and for all eternity in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** Loving God, hear these prayers and grant them according to your gracious will, through Christ, our Lord.

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Friday, January 29, 2016  
(Lec. 321)

- 1) 2 Samuel 11:1-4a,  
5-10a 13-17
- 2) Mark 4:26-34

FRIDAY OF  
THIRD WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Through our simple and everyday gestures of kindness and love, we help to build up the kingdom of God in the world.

The parables of Jesus teach that, though the kingdom of God is a mystery we may never fully understand, we can and do experience it through opening our hearts to Jesus and allowing God's love to reign and rule our lives. God's kingdom is built up through our everyday gestures of kindness and love.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Our first reading continues to tell the story of King David, a man chosen by the Lord to lead his people, yet equally a man of human fragility and brokenness. In the Gospel, Jesus uses two images to speak further about the kingdom of God: Like a seed sown, it grows silently and mysteriously; like a mustard seed, it has potential to grow vigorously and to a great size.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For Church leaders, may they continue to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit as they guide the Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civil leaders, may they work to ensure that all people can worship God in peace and freedom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are persecuted for their faith in Christ, may God's Holy Spirit uphold and strengthen them and assure them of the prayers and support of their Christian brothers and sisters, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the sick and all who suffer, may God's Holy Spirit restore them to the fullness of life and health and liberate them from all afflictions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they come to share in the fullness of Christ's glory in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and eternal God, please hear and answer our prayers according to your will, through Christ, our Lord.

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Saturday, January 30, 2016  
(Lec. 322)  
1) 2 Samuel 12:1-7a, 10-17  
2) Mark 4:35-41

SATURDAY OF  
THIRD WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Saturday in honor of  
BVM)

FOCUS: When we acknowledge our sins and turn back to God, we can be forgiven.

Today we hear about King David and the result of his adultery with Bathsheba. David acknowledges that the sin he has committed is grave, but believes – rightly – that God will forgive him. As we gather today, may we seek the forgiveness of the Lord for our sins, as well.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading today tells of David's punishment for defying God and taking Uriah's wife for his own. David declares his guilt and tries to atone to God. In the Gospel, Jesus calms a storm at sea and his disciples wonder at his power, even over the natural elements of wind and sea. Their faith in him is still developing.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God gives us mercy, even when we least deserve it, but we must turn to him. Therefore, let us raise our voices and ask that God hear our intentions.

- 1) For our Church leaders, that with God's grace they may continue to be a model for us of what it means to trust in Jesus and fully devote our lives to love and service, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in authority, that they do not abuse their authority but use it to serve and better their nations and communities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are experiencing mental illness, that they may know God is with them and experience the compassion of those close to them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, that we renew our faith and carry it out in our day-to-day lives throughout the week ahead, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those that have died, may they enjoy eternal peace and joy in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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**SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2016**

(Lec. 72)

- 1) Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19
- 2) 1 Corinthians 12:31—13:13 or 13:4-13
- 3) Luke 4:21-30

**FOURTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Love is the greatest of all spiritual gifts. Without it, we gain nothing.

God the Father sent his son, Jesus, out of love to save and redeem us, and to teach us how to live so that we might have eternal life in heaven. Receiving this great gift demands a response on our part – namely, faith and love for Jesus. We must strive to continually grow in our love for Jesus, for it is what gives life to our faith and keeps it strong.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading reminds us that God formed and fashioned each of us in our mothers' wombs to play a unique role in his unfolding plan of salvation. The second reminds us that love is the greatest of all spiritual gifts. In the Gospel, the people of Nazareth reject Jesus after listening to him teach in the synagogue on the Sabbath.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With loving trust in the Lord God, we come before him with our petitions.

- 1) For the leaders of our Church, that they may guide us in walking in the way of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, that they may work tirelessly for peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are suffering in mind and in body, that our Lord lovingly touch their hearts with a spirit of healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our friends and neighbors, that we may live in a loving and peaceful way with them, marked by a spirit of humility, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, that they may come to enjoy eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we know the tremendous love that you have for us and we know that you are present with us. We ask that you answer our prayers according to your will, through Christ, our Lord.

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