

July

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	
<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>		
<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>		
<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>		
<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>		
<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>		

CYCLE C YEAR II

Friday, July 1, 2016

(Lec. 381)

- 1) Amos 8:4-6, 9-12
- 2) Matthew 9:9-13

FRIDAY OF
13TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Junípero Serra,
Priest)

FOCUS: Similar to Matthew, the tax collector, we have been called by Jesus to live as his faithful disciples.

Today's Gospel passage recounts the call of Matthew, the tax collector, who left his post and followed Jesus. Jesus did not call the high and mighty to be his followers; he called the lowly, such as fishermen and those who were despised by others, such as tax collectors. Similarly, we have been called to share the Gospel and be his disciples.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from the Prophet Amos speaks of stark consequences from God for those who act unjustly and oppress others, most especially those who are poor. In the Gospel, Jesus calls Matthew, a tax collector, to be his disciple, and then breaks bread with sinners and tax collectors, angering the Pharisees.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With humble and grateful hearts, let us join in offering our prayers to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) For our Holy Father, bishops and priests, may they be blessed with the grace and strength needed to continue to help the faithful walk in the way of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders throughout the world, may they, in this Jubilee Year of Mercy, remember the needs of the poor and vulnerable in their decision-making, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have been forced from their homes as a result of war or oppression, especially children and the elderly, may the assistance of people of good will help them obtain the shelter that they need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For each of us, may we continue to grow in our knowledge and love of the Lord so as to bear more faithful and effective witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead and all the faithful departed, may they join all 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: Merciful God and Lord of all, we ask that you hear and answer these petitions according to your will. We pray through Christ our Lord.

* * *

Saturday, July 2, 2016
(Lec. 382)
1) Amos 9:11-15
2) Matthew 9:14-17

SATURDAY OF
13TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Saturday in honor
of BVM)

FOCUS: The words and example of Jesus reveal the kingdom of God that is present in our midst.

When Jesus taught about the kingdom of God, he never implied that what God had previously revealed no longer had any use or value. Rather, he proclaimed that the promised day of salvation had come, and that God's kingdom of love and peace had broken into the world through him. Because of this, we are called to help build up God's kingdom on earth.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from the prophet Amos speaks of the restoration of Israel, describing new life being given to vineyards and gardens. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that people do not pour new wine into old wineskins, for the skins will burst and the wine will spill out.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident that God hears and answers our prayers, let us join in offering our prayers to God the almighty Father.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may she be a beacon of light to those in darkness, and unified in her efforts to spread the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our elected leaders, may they always seek out the truth and remember to uphold the dignity of the office they hold, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are living with chronic illness, as well as their caregivers, may they be strengthened by the Holy Spirit and feel the healing presence of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For visitors to our community of faith, may they always feel welcome, and may they feel the stirrings of the Spirit amongst us, which calls us to love and serve others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rest peacefully in the arms of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we ask that you hear and answer our prayers according to your will. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

* * *

SUNDAY, JULY 3, 2016

(Lec. 102)

- 1) Isaiah 66:10-14c
- 2) Galatians 6:14-18
- 3) Luke 10:1-12, 17-20
or 10:1-9

**FOURTEENTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Rejoice in the love and compassion of the Lord.

In the reading from Isaiah, we hear that as a mother comforts her child so, too, does the Lord reach out to comfort us. Understanding this, it is important that we open ourselves to the Lord. If we are open to feeling the Lord's care and compassion, it will bring us strength and peace of mind as we walk our daily journey of faith.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from Isaiah uses beautiful imagery to show how the Lord cares for his people. The second reading reminds us that we have become new creations in Christ and are brothers and sisters in the Lord. In the Gospel, Jesus sends out seventy-two disciples in pairs to cure the sick and proclaim that the kingdom of God is at hand.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, because we place our hope and trust in you, we now present our needs and the needs of the world.

- 1) For Pope Francis, bishops, priests and deacons, may they be blessed with the grace to continue preaching the Gospel with courage and zeal to all the nations of the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, that their decision-making may reflect wisdom and consideration for peaceful resolution to conflict, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who face unplanned or difficult pregnancies, that they may feel the comfort of Jesus and always choose life for their babies, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For families in our parish, that they may rejoice in sharing the Good News of the Lord within their families and in their schools, neighborhoods and workplaces, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they may enjoy perfect peace and joy in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: O God, please answer our prayers according to your will. We ask this through Christ our Lord

* * *

Monday, July 4, 2016
(Lec. 383)
1) Hosea 2:16, 17b-18,
21-22
2) Matthew 9:18-26

MONDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Independence Day
In United States of America)

NOTE: for Independence Day, any readings from the *Lectionary for Ritual Masses* (vol. IV), the Mass "For the Country or a City," nos. 882-886, or "For Peace and Justice," nos. 887-891

FOCUS: *Courage! Your faith has saved you.*

God continues to reveal the relationship he desires with us. In Scripture, he woos us. In the person of Christ, he has revealed himself, and in the Church's sacraments, through Christ, God extends his grace, mercy and healing. In and through our faith in God alone lies true freedom, and our salvation.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the prophet Hosea describes the relationship God desires with Israel; a spousal relationship of love, mercy and fidelity. Jesus performs two miracles in today's Gospel – healing the woman afflicted by hemorrhaging and raising an official's daughter from the dead.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Recognizing that God invites us into a deep and abiding relationship of love with him, let us join in offering our prayers to him on behalf of the Church and the world.

- 1) For the Church universal, may she continue to share the Good News of salvation to all the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the nations of the world struggling with war and violence, may their leaders come to realize that lasting peace comes through nonviolent and just resolution of conflicts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are oppressed by the exploitation of human trafficking, may they be liberated by a deep faith in God, and comforted by those who work tirelessly to set them free from their bondage, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the members of this faith community, may we share the message of God's mercy to those who feel entrapped by addiction, illness or despair, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they enjoy perpetual rest in the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, through our faith in you and your mercy, you offer us freedom from all that burdens us. Hear the prayers we offer today and grant them according to your most holy will. Through Christ our Lord.

* * *

Tuesday, July 5, 2016
(Lec. 384)
1) Hosea 8:4-7, 11-13
2) Matthew 9:32-38

TUESDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Anthony Zaccaria, Priest;
USA: Saint Elizabeth
of Portugal)

FOCUS: We must worship God in truth and sincerity.

Our worship must give praise and thanks to God from the heart, and not just satisfy an obligation. When our worship is sincere and from the heart, we will be more open to the many abundant graces God wishes to lavish upon us throughout the liturgy. This will enable us to go out and labor in the Lord's vineyard.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from Hosea warns us of the consequences that can come as a result of unwittingly serving false gods, as opposed to serving the Lord our God. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples, *The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Heavenly and merciful Father, we recognize your goodness and place our trust in you. We join together now in offering our prayers, and those of the world, to you.

- 1) For all members of the Church, that we may deepen our relationship to the Lord so as to give more faithful witness to the Gospel, and continue to grow in commitment to the New Evangelization, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, that they may strive to enact laws that uphold the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are oppressed by governments throughout the world because of their belief in Christ, may they receive the grace and strength needed to persevere in faith, and be granted the right to freely practice their faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish community, that we may support and encourage our young people who are discerning a call to the priesthood or religious life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be received into the loving presence of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

* * *

Wednesday, July 6, 2016
(Lec. 385)
1) Hosea 10:1-3, 7-8, 12
2) Matthew 10:1-7

WEDNESDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Maria Goretti,
Virgin and Martyr)

FOCUS: When we confess and repent of our sins, we receive God's merciful love so we can live more fruitful lives.

When we are divided between obtaining material wealth for ourselves alone, and God's call to share our possessions with others, we need help to transform our lives. In the sacrament of reconciliation, we confess our sins and receive forgiveness for them from God, through the ministry of a priest. This grace frees and enables us to be more generous to others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from Hosea tells of the Israelites being greedy and worshipping false idols. They must change their hearts and repent. In today's Gospel, the Twelve are sent out on mission by Jesus to spread the Gospel and to *cure every disease and every illness*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us now offer our petitions for our needs and for those of the world to God, the almighty Father.

- 1) That Pope Francis, bishops and priests may continue to be blessed in their ministries and efforts to reconcile sinners to God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That nations torn by war or conflict may see reconciliation between neighbors, and peaceful solutions to disputes replace hatred and revenge, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That we work to protect the most vulnerable in our society, especially the disabled, the elderly and the unborn, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the members of our faith community may make more frequent use of the sacrament of penance as a means of having their sins forgiven and experiencing God's healing love and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may come to enjoy eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious and loving God, we ask you to hear our prayers in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.

* * *

Thursday, July 7, 2016
(Lec. 386)

- 1) Hosea 11:1-4, 8c-9
- 2) Matthew 10:7-15

THURSDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Jesus calls each of us to share God's love with others.

All of us are sent forth to give witness to the Gospel by the witness of our life. We are to trust in and rely upon God for strength to provide for our needs. We are to give as gift what we have freely received from God as gift.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first reading from Hosea reminds us that God draws us to himself with bands of love. In the Gospel, Jesus sends out his Apostles to preach the Gospel and heal the sick. Jesus tells them that they have been given gifts by the grace of God, and they are to share them freely with others.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Mindful of the Father's faithfulness to us, let us turn to him today with our needs.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may our hearts be ever-open to the Holy Spirit so we may grow in our love for God, and share God's light and love more fully with others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the leaders of all nations, that the Lord's grace may guide them in ways of tolerance and justice, and may they seek peaceful solutions to conflicts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For parents and children at odds with one another, may they open their hearts to God's grace so that reconciliation may occur, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For catechists in our parish, may they be blessed with the grace needed to continue sharing their time and love for the Gospel with our young people, so they may grow in faith and holiness of life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they come to enjoy the fullness of life and love in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we humbly place before you our prayers. We ask that you answer them according to your will, through Christ our Lord.

* * *

Friday, July 8, 2016
(Lec. 387)

- 1) Hosea 14:2-10
- 2) Matthew 10:16-23

FRIDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Disciples of Christ will face adversity and persecution.

Jesus tells the Apostles that they will be persecuted by governors, kings and their families for following him and preaching his name. Likewise, our journey of discipleship will not be easy. We must pick up our cross each day and follow him, and know that *whoever endures to the end will be saved*.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading from Hosea, Israel is called to repent and turn to the Lord, who will freely love them and make them prosper. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches the disciples that they will face hardship. They are not to be disheartened, however, but trust in God and stay steadfast, for by doing so they help secure for themselves a place in heaven.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God's providence, we offer our prayers to our Father in heaven.

- 1) For Pope Francis, bishops and priests who shepherd the Church, that they may continue to teach the Christian faith and preach the Gospel in spite of adversity or persecution, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the people of the world, may we work to set aside those things that divide us so peace may reign more fully on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those fleeing religious persecution because of their Christian faith, may they find safety, peace and freedom from those who persecute them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the sick in our parish community, may their faith in God bring them strength, healing and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they be welcomed into heaven by all the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, receive our prayers and the deepest concerns of our hearts. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit.

* * *

Saturday, July 9, 2016
(Lec. 388)
1) Isaiah 6:1-8
2) Matthew 10:24-33

SATURDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Augustine
Zhao Rong, Priest and
Companions, Martyrs;
Saturday in honor of BVM)

FOCUS: Jesus gives us the grace and strength needed to answer his call to faithful discipleship.

Jesus calls each of us to serve as his disciple, promising that the Father, who loves us, has *counted every hair* on our heads and will give us the grace to minister to others by word and deed. Jesus calls us not to be fearful, for he will teach us all we need to know. He gives us the grace and strength we need to go where he leads us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading recounts Isaiah's fear as he gazes on the glory of God and the heavenly Seraphim angels. A Seraphim angel "purges" Isaiah of his sins with an ember from the altar, and Isaiah is able to hear the voice of God and respond. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that, *Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be made known.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God's great love and concern for each of us, we bring him our prayers and petitions with humble, thankful hearts.

- 1) For the Holy Father, Pope Francis, that he may continue to enflame our hearts by bringing us to new understandings of the grace of ministering to others through service, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, that they may work together to ensure that all people can live in peace and safety regardless of their religious beliefs, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are experiencing unemployment or underemployment, may they find meaningful work that allows them to provide for themselves and those who depend upon them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, that we may always welcome the stranger and treat one another with love and respect, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they may have a seat at the heavenly banquet and enjoy eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we thank you with all our heart for your abundant providence in hearing and answering our prayers according to your will.

* * *

SUNDAY, JULY 10, 2016

(Lec. 105)

- 1) Deuteronomy 30:10-14
- 2) Colossians 1:15-20
- 3) Luke 10:25-37

**FIFTEENTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: The Lord's basic law – love for God and love for neighbor – is written in our hearts.

While God is mysterious, the laws of God – and what the Lord wants of us – are easy to see and understand. For God has written his law in our hearts, and has revealed to us who he is through Jesus. Our God also lets us know one of the easiest ways to please him: loving him with our whole being, and loving and serving our neighbor.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading recounts Moses pointing out to the people of Israel how near the Lord is to them, and that his commandments have been written upon their hearts. Paul describes Jesus in the Letter to the Colossians as the revelation of God in human form. Today's Gospel recalls the parable of the Good Samaritan.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With faith and trust in God, we place before his throne of grace our prayers for our needs and those of the world.

- 1) For all clergy who shepherd our Church, that they might continue to help the faithful grow ever closer to Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For social workers, those in the medical profession, and all who care for those in need, that they might fulfill their responsibilities with hearts full of compassion and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For victims of crime, especially those who are exploited through human trafficking, that they might regain their freedom and be treated with the dignity that all deserve as children of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who are terminally ill, that they might, through the grace of God, live out their final days with peaceful hearts and the hope for eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead and all who have died, may they come to know perfect happiness in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

* * *

Monday, July 11, 2016
(Lec. 389)
1) Isaiah 1:10-17
2) Matthew 10:34—11:1

MONDAY OF
15th WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Benedict, Abbot)

FOCUS: Living as a disciple of Jesus requires courage and a willingness to bear hardship for the sake of the Gospel.

Living as a disciple of Jesus is not easy, as his teachings are often at odds with the values of the world. So, in our efforts to practice Jesus' teachings and stand up for what is right, we will inevitably experience resistance from others. Persevering through such adversity requires faith, fortitude and a willingness to bear hardship for the sake of the Gospel.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from Isaiah reminds us of our ongoing need for repentance, and of our duty to care for the widow and the orphan. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches, *Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With faith and trust in our loving God, we place our petitions before him.

- 1) That all members of the Church may continue to work for justice through our words, actions and ministries, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That our national and world leaders govern in a way that protects the dignity and human rights of all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That refugees from war-torn countries find welcome and safe haven as they seek a better future for their families, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That members of our parish embrace the call to stewardship, helping build up our community through service as volunteers and lay ministers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died, may rest in eternal peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

* * *

Tuesday, July 12, 2016

(Lec. 390)

1) Isaiah 7:1-9

2) Matthew 11:20-24

TUESDAY OF
15TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: By placing our faith and trust in God, we receive the grace and strength needed to overcome adversity.

The challenges we face throughout the course of our lives can at times seem insurmountable. However, we need not fear, for the Lord is with us always and walking with us step by step on our life's journey. All we need to do is place our trust and confidence in him each day, and we will receive the grace and strength needed to overcome life's trials and obstacles.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah exhorts and encourages us to place our faith and trust firmly in the Lord. In the Gospel, Jesus condemns unrepentant towns, saying that they shall fare worse on judgment day than the land of Sodom.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In confidence, let us join in offering our prayers and petitions to the Lord.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we continue to grow in our knowledge and love of the Lord so as to bear a more effective witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected leaders, may they humbly recognize God as the source of their authority, and see their positions as opportunities to enact laws and policies which serve the good of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who suffer from addiction, may they be open to the workings of the Holy Spirit and receive the support needed to rebuild their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the sick in our community, may our prayers and outreach bring them strength and comfort, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they join the saints and angels in singing God's praises for all eternity in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, hear these prayers which we offer you in the name of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

* * *

Wednesday, July 13, 2016
(Lec. 391)
1) Isaiah 10:5-7, 13b-16
2) Matthew 11:25-27

WEDNESDAY OF
15TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Henry)

FOCUS: Those who humble themselves and praise God will receive his divine revelation.

While it may not always be obvious, God has a plan for our salvation. This plan is revealed and fulfilled through his son, Jesus Christ. We open ourselves to this truth by praising the Lord for his love and mercy, and humbling our hearts rather than succumbing to pride.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading reminds us that living with excessive pride and failing to acknowledge our need for God can bring serious and painful consequences in our lives. In the Gospel, Jesus praises the Father, then explains how God reveals himself to those ready to receive him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our needs before the Father, Lord of heaven and earth, on whom all things depend.

- 1) For Pope Francis, cardinals, bishops, priests, religious brothers and sisters and the laity, that we may continue to fulfill Christ's mission through this holy Year of Mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our nation's leaders, that they may find peaceful resolutions to ongoing conflicts through dialogue and understanding, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those experiencing struggles with their faith in God, may they feel God's loving presence in their lives through the support of others and the graces of the sacraments, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish, that we seize opportunities to share the good news of Christ and the joy of our faith community with those outside church walls, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, that through God's grace and mercy they may bask in the eternal light of his love in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving and merciful Father, hear and answer our prayers according to your most holy will. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.

* * *

Thursday, July 14, 2016
(Lec. 392)

- 1) Isaiah 26:7-9,
12, 16-19
- 2) Matthew 11:28-30

THURSDAY OF
15TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
USA: Saint Kateri
Tekakwitha, Virgin)

FOCUS: Jesus gives us the grace needed to bear our burdens in love.

Today we honor the seventeenth-century Native American saint, Kateri Tekakwitha. As one who followed Jesus, Saint Kateri can be a model of discipleship for each of us. Jesus invites us to come to him with our burdens, as did Saint Kateri. As we do so, they will be lightened by Jesus, who walks with us and gives us the grace needed to shoulder these burdens.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah uses poetic language to praise God's virtues, and express trust that God will act to bring healing and salvation to Israel and to the world. In the Gospel, Jesus offers comforting words, inviting us to experience his gentle and humble heart, where we will find rest.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Having heard God's word in Scripture, let us offer our petitions for our needs, and for all the people of the world, to God our loving Father.

- 1) For all clergy who serve the Church, that God will continue to grant them the grace needed to carry out their ministries and vocations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, that they may have the wisdom to remain attentive to the needs of the people they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who grow and tend our crops, that they may remain safe in their work and contribute to a bountiful harvest to feed the hungry of the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our parish community who have experienced conflict in their families, that they may be open to receive the grace to forgive and reconcile differences, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they may come to enjoy eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, hear and answer our prayers and give us the grace needed to lead lives that help foster peace in the world. We ask this in the name of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

* * *

Friday, July 15, 2016

(Lec. 393)

- 1) Isaiah 38:1-6, 21-22
7-8
- 2) Matthew 12:1-8

FRIDAY OF
15TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
OBL MEM
Saint Bonaventure,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church

FOCUS: As faithful disciples, we are called to open our hearts to God's mercy and extend that mercy to others.

An important question to ask ourselves is: What lies at the heart of our faith in Jesus? Is it following the right rules and fulfilling our obligation to attend Mass? As important as these may be, what matters most to God is what lies in our hearts, and how we treat others. So understanding this, let us strive to treat others with kindness, compassion, mercy and love.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of Isaiah prophesying to King Hezekiah that he would die in three days. Upon learning this, Hezekiah calls upon God to save him. God answers Hezekiah's prayer by giving him fifteen more years of life. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God's mercy and love, let us offer our petitions to him.

- 1) For all clergy, that in this Year of Mercy they may continue to teach us about God's love and compassion through their witness and leadership, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who serve our nation at all levels of government, may they work to protect the rights of the most vulnerable among us, including the unborn, the elderly and those with disabilities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those experiencing anxiety or depression, that they may experience God's peace and healing through prayer, and the support of family and caring professionals, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our parish who bring the Eucharist to the sick and homebound, that they find strength and inspiration for their ministry through our prayerful support during this Year of Mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those in our parish who have died, that they may see God face to face in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, hear our prayers today and grant your gifts of healing and compassion to those who suffer. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

* * *

Saturday, July 16, 2016
(Lec. 394)

- 1) Micah 2:1-5
- 2) Matthew 12:14-21

SATURDAY OF
15TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel;
Saturday in honor of BVM)

FOCUS: God is loving, merciful and ever-willing to forgive.

God loves us beyond anything we could possibly imagine, is ever-willing to forgive and is always working to draw us back to himself. In order for us to experience this great love, however, we must turn to him humbly and ask forgiveness for our sins, and have hearts which are open and receptive to his love, grace and mercy.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading reminds us that God will hold us accountable for the times we have taken advantage of others solely for our own benefit. Today's Gospel reading tells of how Jesus, upon learning that the Pharisees were discussing putting him to death, withdraws from that area and continues his mission in other towns and villages.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Recognizing that our heavenly Father is the one who fulfills all of our needs, we place our petitions before him.

- 1) For teachers, religious educators and clergy who serve the people of God in our churches and schools, may their efforts to share the faith with our children be blessed and reinforced in our homes, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all world leaders, may they work to uphold the dignity and sanctity of human life, from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who are unjustly imprisoned or persecuted for their Christian faith, may they find strength in that faith and in God's promise of justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all those in our community who are experiencing chronic pain or illness, may they find strength through prayer and the support of our community of faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may they experience perpetual peace and joy in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

* * *

SUNDAY, JULY 17, 2016

(Lec. 108)

- 1) Genesis 18:1-10a
- 2) Colossians 1:24-28
- 3) Luke 10:38-42

**SIXTEENTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: We must hear God's word in our hearts before we can share it through our service.

As followers of Christ, we are called to hear God's word first, and before all things. Only then can we share it with others, and incorporate his word into our acts of service. As we live and share God's word, we will face trials, but this suffering unites us with Christ. We do this for the sanctification of the world and our own purification.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of Abraham encountering God in the messengers who promise him a son. The second reading reminds us of the importance of joining our sufferings to Christ's for the salvation of the world. Today's Gospel tells of Jesus entering a village and visiting with the two sisters, Martha and Mary.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence and trust, let us join in offering our prayers for our needs, and those of the world, to God the almighty Father.

- 1) That all members of the Church may receive the grace and strength needed to share the Gospel message with others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That war-torn countries plagued by ethnic conflict may work to foster reconciliation and forgiveness among their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who suffer from isolation and loneliness will know they are loved by Jesus, demonstrated by committed and compassionate Christians reaching out to them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That each of us will join our sufferings to those of Christ for the salvation of the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died, especially those with no one to pray for them, will know the joy of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, in your goodness and love, hear our prayers and grant us the grace needed to continue to grow in faith and holiness of life. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

* * *

Monday, July 18, 2016
(Lec. 395)
1) Micah 6:1-4, 6-8
2) Matthew 12:38-42

MONDAY OF
16TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem. USA
Saint Camillus de Lellis
Priest)

FOCUS: In order to be God's servants, we must *do justice and love goodness*.

Today's reading from the prophet Micah reminds us of some essential things we must do to live as faithful servants of God. We must love goodness, do what is right and walk humbly with our God. Doing what is right – what is good – means acting with justice and mercy toward others. We must conform ourselves to the will of God and work to please him in all that we do.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading from Micah, we learn that God does not want burnt offerings or sacrifices, but he wants us to act justly and humbly in communion with him. In the Gospel, the Pharisees demand a sign, but Jesus says that no sign will be given them except the sign of Jonah.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Having listened to God's word which gives us hope, let us now turn to our heavenly Father with our needs, and the needs of our world.

- 1) For members of our Church, may they be strengthened and renewed by the Holy Spirit in their quest to bring the transforming Word of God to the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our world, that our leaders may work tirelessly to root out terrorism and seek peaceful ways to end conflicts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer oppression, particularly victims of religious persecution, that God will give them the grace to endure, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish community, that our actions and outreach ministries may convey hope to those who are in anguish, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our faithful departed, that they may experience perfect happiness and peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, you provide generously for our needs. Please look favorably on our intentions and grant them in accordance with your holy will. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

* * *

Tuesday, July 19, 2016

(Lec. 396)

1) Micah 7:14-15, 18-20

2) Matthew 12:46-50

TUESDAY OF
16TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: As brothers and sisters in the Lord, we are to support and encourage one another in doing God's will.

Because we became members of Christ's body, the Church, in and through our baptism, we are brothers and sisters in Christ. As members of this body, we are called to do God's will in all that we do, and treat everyone we meet as a child of God, thereby helping to build up the kingdom of God on earth.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the prophet Micah offers a message of hope and confidence that God will have mercy upon his people, and bring salvation and restoration to the people of Israel. In the Gospel, Jesus tells us that whoever does the will of his heavenly Father is his brother and sister and mother.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the compassion of our merciful Father, let us present our petitions to him.

- 1) That during this Year of Mercy, our Church leaders will continue to help us experience God's grace and forgiveness through their teaching and witness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That government leaders throughout the world may be tolerant of different religious beliefs among their people, and support the right of all to practice their faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are grieving the loss of a spouse, family member or friend may know that God is with them in their sorrow, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That we, as members of this faith community, may be given the grace to forgive those who have wronged us, just as God has forgiven us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may rest forever in their eternal home with the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we ask you to hear and answer our prayers, spoken and unspoken, through Christ, our Lord.

* * *

Wednesday, July 20, 2016
(Lec. 397)

- 1) Jeremiah 1:1, 4-10
- 2) Matthew 13:1-9

WEDNESDAY OF
16TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Apollinaris,
Bishop and Martyr)

FOCUS: The Lord gives us the words to proclaim his message to others if we but place our trust in him.

We may be hesitant to share our faith with others because we feel we are lacking in one thing or another. However, this is not the case. If we place our trust in the Lord, God will give us the grace and the words to bring his message to those who are searching for the truth.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of Jeremiah being given a gift from God – the words to speak to the people. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the sower and the seed which is spread on different types of ground. Only the seed that falls on rich soil produces fruit, *a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In humility and trust, let us join our voices together and offer our prayers to our heavenly Father.

- 1) For our Holy Father, our bishops and all our priests, that they may continue to be blessed and strengthened to preach the Gospel message to all the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our government leaders, that they may recognize the dignity and sanctity of human life, and seek to protect and safeguard it from conception until natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are suffering from serious illness, may they be assisted in their need by compassionate caregivers, and may they find strength in their faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our parish community who are discerning a call to priesthood or religious life, that we may offer them encouragement through our words and our prayers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they come to enjoy perfect happiness in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

* * *

Thursday, July 21, 2016
(Lec. 398)
1) Jeremiah 2:1-3, 7-8,
12-13
2) Matthew 13:10-17

THURSDAY OF
16TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Lawrence of Brindisi,
Priest and Doctor of the Church)

FOCUS: Jesus' teachings reveal the mysteries of God's kingdom.

Jesus taught the mysteries of the kingdom of God. The Apostles were receptive to his teachings, while many other people closed their eyes and ears to them. We who are blessed to know the truth passed on by the Apostles are called to share the Gospel with others so they may know the joy we have found in Jesus.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of God instructing the prophet Jeremiah to chastise the Israelites for turning away from him and for worshiping false gods. In the Gospel, Jesus points out to the disciples how blessed they are to see what they see, because many prophets and righteous people came before, longing to see the promised Messiah.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Knowing that our God is good and gracious, let us offer him our prayers and petitions.

- 1) That the continuing efforts of Pope Francis and our bishops to encourage us to share the Gospel may be blessed with success, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That leaders in war-torn parts of the world, especially the Middle East, work for nonviolent solutions to problems, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That prisoners who are preparing to re-enter society may be blessed with the services and support needed to obtain gainful employment and contribute positively to the world around them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That each of us may grow in our faith and love for the Lord Jesus in order to give a more faithful and effective witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the faithful departed may come to enjoy the promised reward of eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we ask you to hear and answer our prayers, which we offer you in the name of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

* * *

Friday, July 22, 2016
(Lec. 399)
1) Jeremiah 3:14-17
(Lec. 603)
2) John 20:1-2, 11-18

FRIDAY OF
16TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Mary Magdalene)

FOCUS: Living as a faithful disciple of Jesus requires sharing the message of the Gospel by both word and example.

Today we honor Mary Magdalene, who is often referred to as the Apostle to the Apostles. This is because Mary was the first to see the risen Lord Jesus, who then instructed her to go and tell the Apostles that he had risen. Mary then went and announced to the Apostles that Jesus had risen. Similarly, we are called to share the Gospel by word and example.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the prophet Jeremiah writes that God invites his rebellious children to return to him, and that God will appoint over them shepherds after his own heart. The Gospel tells of Mary Magdalene encountering the risen Lord Jesus outside of his tomb, and being instructed by him to go and announce to the Apostles that he had risen.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With humility and trust, we offer our prayers to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) For Pope Francis, all priests, deacons and religious, that through their witness they may continue to shepherd the faithful to encounter the risen Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our elected officials, that they may seek first the goodness, truth and beauty of God's kingdom and honor those they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the poor and oppressed around the world, that in the midst of their afflictions they may experience the peace of the risen Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all married couples in our community, may they strive to be a mirror image of Christ's love for the Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead and all who have died, may they experience the fullness of life and love in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, in your goodness and love, hear and answer our prayers. We ask this and all things through Christ our Lord.

* * *

Saturday, July 23, 2016
(Lec. 400)
1) Jeremiah 7:1-11
2) Matthew 13:24-30

SATURDAY OF
16TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Bridget, Religious;
Saturday in honor of BVM)

FOCUS: Taking the time to prayerfully reflect upon our lives helps us to live in such a way that we bear good fruit for God.

When we take the time to prayerfully reflect upon our lives, we'll most surely find some "weeds" – ways in which we are living that are not in accord with the teachings of Jesus. Upon recognizing an area of our life that is not in line with Jesus' teaching, we need to turn to him and ask for the grace to grow in this area so our lives may bear good fruit for God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading reminds us that living with integrity and acting justly toward others are essential in order to experience the abundant blessings God wishes to bestow upon us. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the weeds and the wheat.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God, we place before him our petitions.

- 1) For our Church leaders, that they continue to advocate for justice for all God's people, especially for the least of our brothers and sisters, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, that they work together to enact laws and policies that address the pressing problems before us, and which promote the good of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who feel lost and alone, may the outreach of caring and committed Christians help them experience God's infinite love and mercy, and help them recognize that they never walk alone, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish community, that we may extend welcome to newcomers, and support one another as brothers and sisters in the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they may experience the joy of everlasting life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, we ask that you hear our prayers, for we offer them to you in the name of Jesus, your son.

* * *

SUNDAY, JULY 24, 2016

(Lec. 111)

- 1) Genesis 18:20-32
- 2) Colossians 2:12-14
- 3) Luke 11:1-13

**SEVENTEENTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Our heavenly Father lovingly watches over us and provides for what we most truly need.

Jesus taught throughout his life and ministry that God the Father watches over us and provides for what we most need. We must try to trust and rely upon God a little more each day and ask him for the deepest desires of our heart. For whoever seeks, finds; and whoever knocks has the door opened.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Abraham implores God's mercy in saving innocent inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah. The second reading reminds us that through baptism, we were given new life in Christ and the promise of salvation. The Gospel recounts the disciples asking Jesus to teach them to pray. He does so with the words of the Our Father.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us offer our prayers of petition to our Father, praying that his mercy and generosity continue to sustain the Church, the world and ourselves.

- 1) For Pope Francis during this Year of Mercy, may he continue to share acts of mercy that inspire the faithful to seek God's mercy in their lives, and extend that mercy to all they encounter, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may they, inspired by the Holy Spirit, demonstrate good faith and mercy in their leadership, and seek peaceful resolutions to conflict, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who feel that, because of their actions, they cannot be redeemed, may they experience the healing grace of God's mercy extended to them through the ministry, care and compassion of faithful Christians, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of this faith community, may we continue to grow in our love for the Lord Jesus, and in our commitment to providing an effective witness to the Gospel in all areas of our life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they come to enjoy the fullness of life and love in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Our Father, holy is your name. We entrust these prayers to you today, ever-confident that you will hear and answer them. Through Christ, our Lord.

* * *

Monday, July 25, 2016
(Lec. 605)

- 1) 2 Corinthians 4:7-15
- 2) Matthew 20:20-28

**SAINT JAMES,
APOSTLE
– FEAST**

FOCUS: Jesus calls us to humbly serve the needs of others, and bear our share of hardship for the sake of the Gospel.

Jesus lovingly cared for all those who came to him for healing and salvation. And ultimately, out of love, he freely gave his life on the cross for the sake of our salvation. We, as disciples of Jesus, are to pattern our lives after his and endure our share of hardship for the sake of the Gospel.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In our first reading, Paul explains how Jesus' disciples endure hardships, but are strengthened by God. Through imitating Jesus' sufferings, he tells us, we give witness to him and are raised with him. In our Gospel, Jesus teaches that *the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In thanksgiving for our heavenly Father's infinite mercy, let us turn to him in humble petition.

- 1) For all clergy who lead our Church, may they be blessed with the grace and strength needed to continue guiding the faithful in the ways of God's love and mercy by their word and example, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may they work to protect the most vulnerable among us, especially the unborn, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all Christians throughout the world who are being persecuted, may they be blessed with the grace and strength needed to persevere in faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may we share the Gospel more boldly with those who have yet to believe in Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they enjoy eternal rest and joy in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

* * *

Tuesday, July 26, 2016

(Lec. 402)

1) Jeremiah 14:17-22

2) Matthew 13:36-43

TUESDAY OF

17TH WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(OBL MEM

Saints Joachim and Anne,

Parents of the Blessed

Virgin Mary)

FOCUS: Hope in the Lord; he will not forget us.

Despite how difficult life may seem, our heavenly Father is in control and watching over us. If we persevere in leading our lives according to Jesus' teachings, like the good seed mentioned by Jesus in today's Gospel, we will be raised up and *shine like the sun* in God's kingdom.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading speaks of the suffering and destruction that comes upon the people of Israel as a consequence of their failing to walk in the ways of the Lord. In the Gospel, Jesus explains the parable of the good seed. He and his angels will come and separate the good from the evil, so we need to be prepared and await his return with confidence.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in our heavenly Father, we bring our prayers to him.

- 1) For all members of the Church during this Year of Mercy, may we open our hearts more fully to God's mercy so we can be more compassionate and generous toward others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our community leaders, that they place the good of the citizens before their personal agendas or gain, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who are homeless or without work, may they be assisted in their need by the efforts of Church ministries and people of good will, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For parents, that God may bless their efforts to educate their children in the practice of the faith, and give them the grace to model a strong moral and spiritual foundation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, that they may come to experience perfect peace and joy for eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, thankful for your loving care, we ask that you hear and answer our prayers, through Jesus our Lord.

* * *

Wednesday, July 27, 2016
(Lec. 403)
1) Jeremiah 15:10, 16-21
2) Matthew 13:44-46

WEDNESDAY OF
17TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: The riches of God's kingdom bring salvation and fulfill the deepest yearnings of hearts.

Many people go through life moving from one thing to another in a seemingly unending quest to find true and lasting happiness. This needn't be the case for us, as Jesus taught that the way to salvation, and true and lasting happiness, is through loving God and helping to build up his kingdom – the true treasure of our lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading and the responsorial psalm remind us that God is to be our refuge and our strength. In the Gospel, Jesus likens the kingdom of heaven to a treasure that one finds buried in a field; upon finding this treasure, one sells everything in order to possess it.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that God is our rock and refuge, let us join in offering him our prayers for our needs and the needs of the world.

- 1) For the Church and all her members, may each one of us be a beacon of hope and mercy to others through our effective witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For first responders and members of the armed forces, may they be protected from harm and draw strength from their faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, may they feel Christ's healing presence through the work of medical professionals and other caregivers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may we continue to strive to strengthen our relationship with God so we may be channels of his peace in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they know the perpetual peace and joy in God's heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious and merciful God, we offer our prayers to you with humility. We ask that you hear and answer them through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

* * *

Thursday, July 28, 2016
(Lec. 404)

- 1) Jeremiah 18:1-6
- 2) Matthew 13:47-53

THURSDAY OF
17TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: When Jesus returns in glory, there will be a final judgement which will separate the good from the bad.

Jesus taught clearly that there will be a final judgement in which the righteous will enter into eternal life in heaven while the wicked will go off to eternal punishment. As such, we have a choice before us to follow the Lord and do his will, or suffer the consequences of our own selfishness. Even when we stray from the path, our God invites us to return to him.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading reminds us that God is the potter and we are the clay. He continues to mold and shape us to live more fully as his sons and daughters if we but cooperate with his grace. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the net to make clear that at the end of time, there will be a final judgement in which the good will be separated from the bad.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us pray to the Father, the source of every blessing, and ask that he hear our prayers.

- 1) For the pope, bishops and all clergy, that during this Year of Mercy they may continue to be blessed in their efforts to show us how to be merciful like God the Father is merciful, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, that they may seek God's wisdom as they govern, and enact policies to help ensure that the needs of all are being met, especially the poor, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those in developing countries who are battling disease with limited resources, may God continue to bless efforts to provide them medicine and treatment, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of our parish, that we may continue to prayerfully discern and consider new ways to give of our time and talent to help our community grow and remain vibrant, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, that they will come to join the company of the angels and saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Ever-living God, hear and answer our prayers according to your will. We ask this in the name of your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

* * *

Friday, July 29, 2016
(Lec. 405)
1) Jeremiah 26-1-9
(Lec. 607)
2) John 11:19-27
or Luke 10:38-42

FRIDAY OF
17TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Martha)

FOCUS: In all situations and circumstances, we are to place our faith and trust in Jesus, who is the resurrection and the life.

Martha eagerly goes to meet Jesus when she learns of his visit. She has faith in Jesus despite her brother's death. Let us strive to imitate the faith of Martha when we are tempted to lose hope. We must turn to Jesus, who is the resurrection and the life, with our cares and concerns, trusting that he will give us the strength needed to shoulder our burdens, and raise us up to see the light of a brighter day.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Jeremiah issues a warning that God will bring judgement upon the Israelites if they do not turn back to him and obey his law. The people reject Jeremiah's message. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks to Martha about resurrection, asserting that he is the resurrection and the life. She proclaims her belief in him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in God's power and love, let us present to him these petitions for our needs and those of the world.

- 1) That the Church may continue to grow in its ability to utilize new and different ways to communicate the Gospel in order to bring others to believe, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That those in positions of authority may enrich the lives of the people they serve through wise and compassionate programs and practices, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those suffering from mental illness may obtain the help they need to live fruitful and productive lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That each of us here, like Saint Martha, may see Jesus as a friend and open our hearts to his teachings, help us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may experience peace and joy for all eternity in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear and answer our prayers according to your most holy will. We ask these things through your son, Jesus Christ.

* * * * *

Saturday, July 30, 2016
(Lec. 406)
1) Jeremiah 26:11-16, 24
2) Matthew 14:1-12

SATURDAY OF
17TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Peter Chysologus,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church;
Saturday in honor of BVM)

FOCUS: Living as a disciple of Jesus means putting God first and being faithful, regardless of the cost.

At times we may want to take the path of least resistance. The examples of the prophet Jeremiah and John the Baptist remind us to put God first in our lives, no matter the cost. Whatever our daily situation might be, we are called to strive to live as Christ's disciples, even when it means going against the prevailing culture or putting the needs of others before our own.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, we hear of the opposition to Jeremiah's call to the people to change their way of living and become more faithful to God. His life is spared, but eventually he will be put to death because of his message. Today's Gospel tells of the circumstances that lead King Herod to order that John the Baptist be put to death.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that the Lord hears and answers all our prayers, let us now join in offering our petitions for our needs and those of the world.

- 1) For all members of the Church throughout the world, that we may strive to be faithful disciples by loving and serving one another in the way that Jesus taught us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may they reflect the love of God the Father as they carry out the duties and responsibilities of their office, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who live in fear due to oppressive governments, may they, by the power of the Holy Spirit and our prayers for them, know that the Lord is present in their life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the sick in our parish may they know of Christ's love and care for them, through our loving support and the efforts of those who tend to their needs, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died and have gone before us marked with the sign of faith, may they experience eternal joy and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Beloved Father, we ask you to hear and answer our prayers, which we offer you in the name of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

* * *

SUNDAY, JULY 31, 2016

(Lec. 114)

- 1) Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2:21-23
- 2) Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11
- 3) Luke 12:13-21

**EIGHTEENTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Let us seek to store up treasure not in worldly goods, but in what matters most to God.

The time we have on this earth is precious and short. It can be all too easy to fall into the trap of wasting precious time pursuing happiness in the things of the world, which will not endure. Let us seek to grow rich in the things that matter most in God's eyes and bring us to share in eternal life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from Ecclesiastes reminds us that everything good comes from God. The second reading from Colossians exhorts us to *put to death the parts of you that are earthly*, and focus on what is of God. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that we are to take care to guard against greed, for our life does not consist of possessions.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that God provides for what we most truly need, we bring our prayers before him.

- 1) For all members of our Church, that we seek to be a sign of God's presence in the world through service and compassion toward others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our national and world leaders, may they enact policies that protect religious freedom for their citizens, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have cancer or other life-threatening illnesses, that they may find strength and hope in prayer, and emotional support from those around them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For catechists and educators in our parish, that the Holy Spirit may continue to inspire them in their efforts to share our Catholic faith with our youth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they find comfort in a heavenly reward, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

* * *