

JUNE

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Wednesday, June 1, 2016
(Lec. 355)

- 1) 2 Timothy 1:1-3, 6-12
- 2) Mark 12:18-27

WEDNESDAY OF
NINTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL. MEM. Saint Justin,
Martyr)

FOCUS: Following the teachings and example of Jesus, we are to share the good news of salvation with others.

Jesus rarely let an opportunity to teach about God's kingdom pass him by. Through the Holy Spirit, he has given us power, love and self-control so we can follow his example. For us, of course, we need to add study and prayer, so we can be more effective in sharing the Gospel with others, which is our mission as disciples of Jesus.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first reading reminds us that God has saved us and *called us to a holy life* so that we might share the Gospel with others. The Gospel tells how Jesus turned the questioning of some Sadducees into an opportunity to teach them the truth about the resurrection.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in God's provident care for us, let us present our petitions to him.

- 1) That the Church may continue to reach people in all corners of the world with Christ's message of love and salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That world leaders may recognize and work to safeguard and protect the dignity and sanctity of all human life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are mourning the loss of a loved one may be comforted and encouraged by the teaching of Jesus regarding the promise and hope of eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That we in this faith community may continue to boldly proclaim God's love and salvation to the world through our words and actions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may be granted everlasting life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God, we bring these petitions to you, and ask that you hear our prayers. We ask these things in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

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Thursday, June 2, 2016
(Lec. 356)

- 1) 2 Timothy 2:8-15
- 2) Mark 12:28-34

THURSDAY OF
NINTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saints Marcellinus and Peter,
Martyrs)

FOCUS: Following Jesus means obeying his simple directions for living.

All too often, we let the noise and chaos of daily life cloud our judgment and confuse us. We get distracted and upset. We forget the basics. In today's Gospel, however, Jesus tells us that following his twofold law is all we need: to love the Lord with all our heart, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. It is the heart of Christian living.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The counsel given by Paul in the first reading is plain. He exhorts his readers to be faithful, as he has been, even if their witness may result in personal suffering. Paul offers good news – he says that God will never give up on us, but instead, *he remains faithful*. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that the two greatest commandments are to love God with your whole being and to love your neighbor as yourself.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We present our needs to God, our Father, confident that he will hear us.

- 1) For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, may he have the strength to continue in his work of proclaiming the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders in this Year of Mercy, may they strive to show mercy and compassion to the least among them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from physical or mental illness, may they be comforted by loving caregivers and the knowledge of God's merciful compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For parish lay leaders, catechists and teachers, may they be blessed in their work of assisting others to grow in faith and in love for their neighbors, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those in our parish who have died, may they be wrapped in the loving embrace of God for all eternity in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of love and mercy, we ask that you hear and answer our prayers, according to your will. We ask this through your son, Jesus.

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Friday, June 3, 2016
(Lec. 172)

- 1) Ezekiel 34:11-16
- 2) Romans 5:5b-11
- 3) Luke 15:3-7

**THE MOST
SACRED HEART
OF JESUS
- SOLEMNITY**

FOCUS: Throughout all of history and in the present day, God continues to seek us out and offer us his love.

In spite of our sinfulness, God has remained faithful throughout history. Not only did he care for his chosen people, he sent his Son to save us while we were yet sinners. Even more, in our own day, God continues to pour out his love upon us through his Spirit, and reconcile us to himself through his son, Jesus.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading gives the promise that God will bring salvation and restoration to the people of Israel. The second reading reminds us that God shows forth his love for us in that, all the while we are sinners, Christ died for us. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the lost sheep to teach that he came to seek and save all those who are lost.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Grateful that God is ever-willing to forgive and provide for our needs, let us join in offering him our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For those who shepherd God's people – Pope Francis, bishops, priests and deacons – may they continue to witness to the joy of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the lost sheep of God's flock, may they welcome the mercy of the Good Shepherd and open their hearts to hear God's voice in their lives, let us pray to the Lord
- 3) For those who suffer alienation or isolation, may they feel the love of Jesus by the workings of the Holy Spirit and the outreach of committed Christians, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our surrounding community who have not heard the Good News, may their hearts be prepared for the gift of faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they receive a place at the eternal banquet feast in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear our prayers this day, for we ask them through Jesus Christ, your son.

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Saturday, June 4, 2016

(Lec. 358)

1) 2 Timothy 4:1-8

(Lec. 573)

2) Luke 2:41-51

SATURDAY OF

NINTH WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(OBL. MEM.

The Immaculate Heart of
the Blessed Virgin Mary)

FOCUS: Our lives are a journey of faith; we must decide whether we will make that trip with Christ, who will help us stay the course.

In today's Gospel, we read the account of Jesus in the Temple, a 12-year-old Jewish boy who became separated from his parents on a trip from Nazareth to Jerusalem for Passover. We know Mary asked Jesus why he disappeared and did not understand Jesus' response, but she had great faith in God and so she *kept all these things in her heart*.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul tells Timothy to stay the course, to be persistent and self-possessed in the fulfillment of his ministry – the preaching of the Gospel. Today's Gospel recalls Joseph and Mary returning to Jerusalem to find the boy Jesus. They searched for three days, only to find Jesus in the Temple.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With grateful hearts, let us join in offering our petitions to the Lord.

- 1) For bishops, priests and religious, that the Holy Spirit continue to guide their journeys and inform their efforts of evangelization, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our nation's leaders, may they work to promote the common good and uphold their commitment to serve those who elected them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those throughout the world who are persecuted for their belief in Christ, may they be strengthened by the Holy Spirit to persevere in the face of opposition, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of this faith community, may we avail ourselves of the grace and healing offered to us through the sacrament of reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may they come to join the angels and saints in singing God's praises for all eternity in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father in heaven, we ask that you shower us with your grace and mercy and grant these petitions, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2016

(Lec. 90)

- 1) 1 Kings 17:17-24
- 2) Galatians 1:11-19
- 3) Luke 7:11-17

**TENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: We give thanks to the Lord for the gift of life.

Life itself is a precious gift from God. With that gift comes the obligation to use what we have been given for the betterment of ourselves and others. To waste the talents that are uniquely ours is a loss that can never be recovered. We can praise the Lord with who we are and all that we are.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading and in the Gospel, we hear two accounts of life being restored. Elijah pleaded with God to revive the widow's son, and Jesus was moved by pity for the grieving mother and restored her son's life. Paul explains to the Galatians that the source of his teaching is revelation from Jesus Christ.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Brothers and sisters, Jesus shows us the perfect example of compassion toward those in need. With trust in our loving God, we place our needs before him.

- 1) That members of the Church may continue to spread the Gospel message with faith and courage, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the nations of the world may unite in their efforts to cure diseases that threaten the lives of people everywhere, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That families torn asunder by poverty or natural disaster may be restored to peace and harmony, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the joy-filled worship of our parish family may lift the hearts of our parishioners and those guests who join us today, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the faithful who have died may experience eternal happiness in the unending love of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God, we thank you for the gift of your Son. Hear the prayers we ask through his holy name.

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Monday, June 6, 2016

(Lec. 359)

- 1) 1 Kings 17:1-6
- 2) Matthew 5:1-12

MONDAY OF
TENTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem. Saint Norbert,
Bishop)

FOCUS: God blesses and protects us according to our needs and actions.

Blessed are... In these famous verses from Matthew's Gospel, we hear the promises Jesus makes to those who follow his teachings. They are the paradoxical expressions that sustain the true disciples, and teach us how to live so as to enter the kingdom of God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of Elijah prophesying to King Ahab that a drought would come upon Israel in punishment for his sin. Today's Gospel reading recalls Jesus teaching the eight beatitudes to his disciples and the crowds gathered on a mountain.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us join together in offering our prayers and petitions to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all clergy, that they continue to strive to give more effective witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our political leaders, that they will be peacemakers who always seek the preservation of life and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer chronic pain or serious illness in this Year of Mercy, may they be comforted by the healing mercy Jesus showed toward the sick, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For young people in our parish who are discerning their vocation in life, may they feel the love and support of this community of faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they come to enjoy perfect peace and joy in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Tuesday, June 7, 2016

(Lec. 360)

1) 1 Kings 17:7-16

2) Matthew 5:13-16

TUESDAY OF
TENTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: We are the salt and the light.

Jesus calls his disciples the salt of the earth and the light of the world. What does he mean when he gives us titles that are more suitable for himself? Perhaps he is calling us to walk in his place, and giving us the gifts. That would certainly fit with his warnings not to squander these gifts that he gives us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Elijah asks a poor woman for water and bread, assuring her that God in return will provide enough for her and her son to last a year. In the Gospel reading, Jesus tells his disciples that they are the salt of the earth and the light of the world, and to not lose their flavor or conceal their light.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our petitions before God our Father, who loves us and gives us all good things.

- 1) For the Church, that we may be a city of light that is visible to all the earth, reflecting Christ's light and love to the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the leaders of our nation, and all nations, that they may not conceal the light of justice, but let it shine brightly upon all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the poor, that they may see the light of hope in our generosity and be sustained by the salt of our charity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our community, and especially for the sick among us, that we all may know God's healing light, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, that, together with the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, they may glorify our heavenly Father in the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of eternal light, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Wednesday, June 8, 2016
(Lec. 361)

- 1) 1 Kings 18:20-39
- 2) Matthew 5:17-19

WEDNESDAY OF
TENTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Obeying God's law is an act of joyful faithfulness.

We can relate to the Mosaic law as a set of "you shall not" restrictions. Jesus taught its true purpose, to give concrete guidance in what it means to love God and neighbor, and to deepen one's relationship with God. We obey and teach the commandments not in obligation, but in freedom; as a joyful action of steadfast faithfulness.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the prophet Elijah appeals to Israel to make a choice – follow the Lord or follow Baal. He challenges the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal to prove that their God is the true God. They could not. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples he did not come to abolish the law but to fulfill it. He says, *Whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God our Father, we offer our prayers of petition on behalf of the Church, the world and ourselves.

- 1) For Church leaders, may they continue to inspire the faithful to persevere in courageous obedience to the commandments, especially when enticed by worldly allurements, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may they turn to God for guidance in creating new, just laws and enforcing current ones, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For victims of violence and exploitation, may they be strengthened through the Holy Spirit and the compassionate care of Christian disciples, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of this faith community, may we turn to the sacrament of reconciliation to be forgiven our sins, and to be more fully reconciled to God so we may continue to grow in holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls in purgatory, may they, through God's grace and mercy and the assistance of our prayers, be cleansed and purified so they may enter into the fullness of life and love in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God almighty, please hear the prayers we offer today, and in your mercy grant them according to your divine will. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

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Thursday, June 9, 2016
(Lec. 362)

- 1) 1 Kings 18:41-46
- 2) Matthew 5:20-26

THURSDAY OF
TENTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem. Saint Ephrem,
Deacon and Doctor of the Church)

FOCUS: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

Forgiveness is difficult, especially when we feel that we have been treated unjustly or harmed deliberately. Impossible as it may seem, God wants us to keep trying. He desires peace among his people even more than offerings to his altar. As we seek his mercy and compassion for our wrongdoings, we must extend these same graces to those who have wronged us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's reading from Kings recounts Elijah's ascension to Mount Carmel. Seven times, he sent his servant to look for signs of rain that would end the drought. A tiny cloud appeared, and soon a great rain fell from the sky. The Gospel reading provides a deeper examination of the commandment *Thou shall not kill*. Beyond prohibiting murder, Jesus explains that we also must avoid the root causes leading to this action and reconcile with our brothers and sisters.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God desires peace among his people. Let us unite in prayer before the Lord to voice our needs and petitions.

- 1) For our Church, that we may continue to imitate the compassion and mercy modeled to us by Christ in the way we treat people at all stages of life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our world leaders, that they might employ diplomatic strategies to end war and violence, and bring peace to all nations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who struggle with anger, may God's grace bring them healing and strength so they may make peace with their neighbor, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our faith community, that we may show kindness and welcome to all who visit our house of worship, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died marked with the sign of faith, that they may come to enjoy eternal life in God's heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Friday, June 10, 2016

(Lec. 363)

- 1) 1 Kings 19:9a, 11-16
- 2) Matthew 5:27-32

FRIDAY OF
TENTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Our relationship with God is the most important thing in our lives; we don't want anything to keep us from God.

Just like a couple works to protect their marriage, we protect our relationship with God. In nature, in Scripture and in many other places, God speaks and says that we are loved with delight and abandon. We live best when we make space in our life for relationship with God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the First Book of Kings, great winds, an earthquake and a fire come, but God does not speak in them. Elijah then hears a whisper and knows that God is speaking. The Gospel of Matthew underscores the value God places on marriage. The covenant of marriage is meant to mirror the covenant relationship between Christ and the Church. The Gospel exhorts us to let nothing come between us and God.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Today, let us bring the worries of our minds and the burdens of our hearts to our merciful Father, who speaks in small whispers and promises, and ask that he hear our prayers.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may she continue to be a powerful voice in defense of the sacredness of life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may they turn to God for guidance and direction so they may lead with wisdom and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are alienated from the Church, may they, through the power of the Holy Spirit, return to the practice of the faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our parish family, may we know the joy of holy and healthy families and fulfilling friendships, and may we always welcome the stranger, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may they find eternal rest and peace in the loving arms of Jesus in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, hear the prayers of your people offered here today. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Saturday, June 11, 2016

(Lec. 580)

1) Acts 11:21b-26; 13:1-3

(Lec. 364)

2) Matthew 5:33-37

SATURDAY OF

TENTH WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(OBL. MEM.)

Saint Barnabas, Apostle)

FOCUS: Each of us is sent to witness to the faith by the way we live our lives.

In this age of the New Evangelization, we are confident that our efforts to spread the faith will produce much fruit since we are guided by the work of the Holy Spirit. As we celebrate the memory of Saint Barnabas the Apostle, let us look to his example of perseverance in sharing the faith.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In our first reading, Barnabas is sent to Antioch to help the many new converts to the faith continue to grow in their faith and love for Jesus. The Gospel text recounts Jesus teaching his disciples to go beyond the tenets of the Mosaic Law and avoid taking oaths and swearing.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust and confidence, let us present our petitions to God on behalf of all those in need.

- 1) For our Holy Father and all who shepherd the Church, that they may persevere in sharing the faith and witnessing to the Gospel, following the example of Saint Barnabas, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials and others who govern, that they will turn to God for guidance so they may enact laws and policies which serve the good of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the hungry and the homeless, that their needs may be addressed through the assistance of committed Christians and people of goodwill, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our efforts in the New Evangelization, may they be fruitful and effective in helping to bring many to place their faith and trust in Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, that they may see God face-to-face in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, hear and answer our prayers according to your will. For we offer them to you in the name of your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2016

(Lec. 93)

- 1) 2 Samuel 12:7-10, 13
- 2) Galatians 2:16, 19-21
- 3) Luke 7:36—8:3 or 7:36-50

**ELEVENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Our God is merciful and loving.

Today's Gospel offers us some important reminders about forgiveness. We are to forgive others as God has forgiven us. God's mercy is boundless and he will forgive us for any sin if we place our trust in him, love him and humbly ask for forgiveness. Upon being forgiven, we are to generously love and forgive others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of Nathan the prophet confronting King David about his grievous sins involving Uriah and his wife. The second reading reminds us that we are justified and saved by virtue of faith in Jesus Christ. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that one who is forgiven much loves much, and the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With humility and trust, we come before our loving God with our prayers and petitions for our needs and those of the world.

- 1) For Church leaders, may their words and actions continue to reflect the love and mercy of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world and national leaders, may they work vigorously to enact policies and programs that provide for the basic needs of all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are addicted to drugs or alcohol, may they be blessed with the support and assistance needed to begin the journey to recovery, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For each of us, may we continue to take the time to discern and discover the new and different ways God is calling us to serve the needs of others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they now enjoy eternal rest and peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, as Jesus showed mercy to the sinful woman in the Gospel, we ask for your mercy in our lives. We ask that you answer our prayers, through Christ, our Lord.

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Monday, June 13, 2016
(Lec. 365)

- 1) 1 Kings 21:1-16
- 2) Matthew 5:38-42

MONDAY OF
11TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL. MEM. Saint Anthony
of Padua, Priest
and Doctor of the Church)

FOCUS: Living as a follower of Jesus requires that we not respond in kind, but turn the other cheek.

Throughout our lives, each of us will encounter people who hurt or offend us in some way. When this occurs, quite often we want to strike back. But we must resist acting in this way, and instead do as Jesus taught and turn the other cheek. When we rely on the Lord to be our strength, we can meet this challenge.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from Kings tells of the seizure of Naboth's vineyard by King Ahab and his wife, Jezebel. They have him murdered in order to take his property. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches us that when someone hurts or offends us, we are not to respond in kind, but rather turn the other cheek.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For all priests, religious and deacons, that they may experience the consolations of God's mercy and the grace of his guidance as they shepherd his flock, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who serve in public life, that they may be open to hearing God's word, and be granted wisdom in their decision-making, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For Christians around the world who suffer persecution for their faith, may they gain strength from the knowledge of God's love for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may we work together to impart to the youth of our parish the knowledge and spiritual guidance necessary to discern their life's vocation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our departed loved ones, and especially for those who have no one to pray for them, may they come to enjoy eternal life in God's heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, hear the prayers of your people who desire above all things to do your holy will. We ask this through your son and our savior, Christ the Lord.

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Tuesday, June 14, 2016

TUESDAY OF

(Lec. 366)

1) 1 Kings 21:17-29

2) Matthew 5:43-48

11TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: We are to love our enemies and pray for our persecutors.

Loving our enemies is a challenge, to say the least. However, it is a challenge we can meet by praying for them and by asking God for the grace and strength needed to love them. When we practice this day in and day out, we will come to receive the grace needed to show love for our enemies by treating them with kindness and respect.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of the prophet Elijah announcing to King Ahab the punishment the Lord was going to bring upon him for his grievous sins and wicked ways. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that those who aspire to be his disciples must love their enemies and pray for those who persecute them.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Seeking to lead lives which give glory to God and help build up his kingdom on earth, let us join in offering our prayers and petitions to God, our loving Father.

- 1) That all members of the Church may turn to God each day in prayer for the grace and strength needed to love our enemies, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That national leaders may work diligently to ensure that the basic needs of those whom they serve are being met, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are being persecuted for their faith in Jesus may be granted the grace and strength needed to persevere in faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That each of us, in this Jubilee Year of Mercy, may become more committed to carrying out the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may come to share in the fullness of Christ's glory in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Wednesday, June 15, 2016

(Lec. 367)

1) 2 Kings 2:1, 6-14

2) Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

WEDNESDAY OF
11TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Let us purify the motives of our righteous deeds so that all honor and glory may be directed toward God.

As Christians, our motives must reflect the heart and mind of Christ. He modeled for us a life that directed all glory and honor toward his Father. He calls us to purify the intentions behind our righteous deeds so that all that we do will direct praise and honor to God, not to us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of the prophet Elijah being taken up to heaven by a flaming chariot. The responsorial psalm reminds us that hoping in the Lord will bring comfort and consolation to our hearts. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that his disciples' actions must be driven by the proper motive – giving glory to God in all they say and do.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We place our prayers, and the prayers of the Church, before our heavenly Father.

- 1) That Church leaders may continue to give a faithful and effective witness to the Gospel so that many who have not heard the word of God may place their faith in Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That government leaders may be always cognizant of their moral duty to attend to the needs of the poor and the vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who suffer from loneliness and isolation may be comforted by the good works of compassionate Christians, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the work of catechists, lay ministers, music ministers and others who serve in our parish will continue to strengthen our faith community and give glory and honor to God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died will come to enjoy eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, all honor and glory belong to you alone. We ask you to receive our prayers, and hear and answer them according to your holy will, through Christ our Lord.

Thursday, June 16, 2016
(Lec. 368)

- 1) Sirach 48:1-14
- 2) Matthew 6:7-15

THURSDAY OF
11TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: In the Our Father, Jesus teaches us to pray to a loving, heavenly Father.

The Our Father teaches us about our faith, about who we are and about who God is. The word Jesus uses for Father in the prayer is the familiar name a child would use. Depending on geography, it might translate, "daddy" or "papa," to signify that the Father watches over us to protect us and provide for our needs.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The reading from Sirach recalls and celebrates the life of the prophet Elijah and his faithfulness to God. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches the disciples to pray by teaching them the Lord's Prayer.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our prayers today before our loving Father, who knows our needs.

- 1) For members of the Church throughout the world, may we continue to proclaim the joy of the resurrection with great zeal, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may they work to protect the dignity and sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those with chronic mental illness, may they be blessed with the help and support needed to live fruitful lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For each of us, may we continue to grow in our faith and love for the Lord each day so we may give a more effective witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may they come to enjoy perfect happiness in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear the prayers we offer today in the name of Jesus Christ, your son, our Lord.

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Friday, June 17, 2016

(Lec. 369)

- 1) 2 Kings 11:1-4, 9-18, 20
- 2) Matthew 6:19-23

FRIDAY OF
11TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: *Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

What does Jesus mean when he tells us that where our treasure is, our hearts will be as well? *The Catechism* tells us the spiritual tradition of the Church “also emphasizes the heart, in the biblical sense of the depths of one’s being, where the person decides for or against God.” (368) With that in mind, our treasure should be our love for God, and this treasure should be the focus of our earthly lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of the time after King Ahaziah’s death, when his mother Athaliah began executing members of the royal family so she could rule over Israel. Her efforts proved futile because when King Ahaziah’s son was installed as king, she was put to death. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that where our treasure is, there our hearts will be as well.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence and trust, let us join in offering our prayers to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) For our Holy Father and all bishops, priests and religious, that they may continue to be guided by the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world and national leaders, may they seek to resolve conflicts and disputes nonviolently so peace may reign more fully upon the earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have yet to accept the Gospel message, may their hearts be softened by God’s grace so they may believe and be saved, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of this faith community, that we may become more engaged in the work of evangelization and strive to give more effective witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, that they may come to receive a place at the eternal banquet in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Saturday, June 18, 2016

(Lec. 370)

- 1) 2 Chronicles 24:17-25
- 2) Matthew 6:24-34

SATURDAY OF
11TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Saturday in honor
of BVM)

FOCUS: God's abundant love provides for all our needs.

We praise and thank God as we listen to today's Gospel! There is no need to worry because, just as with the flowers and grass that grow wild in the field, God will provide for all our needs out of his abundant love.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the Old Testament book of Second Chronicles, we learn that the people turned away from God under the reign of King Joash. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks of the importance of relying on and trusting in God to provide for one's needs.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that God provides for our needs, let us offer our prayers to him in confidence.

- 1) That the example of those who shepherd our Church throughout the world will lead others to embrace the Gospel message, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That government leaders will put disagreements aside and embrace a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect toward one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who have sinned and turned away from God will come to realize that God is a loving, merciful Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That members of this faith community may open themselves more fully to the workings of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may enjoy eternal rest with the angels and saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of creation, look down upon us today and hear our prayers, which we offer in confidence and trust, in the name of Jesus, your son.

* * *

SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 2016

(Lec. 96)

- 1) Zechariah 12:10-11; 13:1
- 2) Galatians 3:26-29
- 3) Luke 9:18-24

**TWELFTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

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

The Messiah was expected to free the Jewish people from oppression, and restore the freedom and holiness of their nation. Jesus instead reveals that the Messiah will suffer, die and be raised from the dead, and that true discipleship requires self-denial and sacrifice. Understanding this, let us take up our cross each day and follow Jesus.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from Zechariah foretells mourning by the inhabitants of Jerusalem over one they have slain, which will be followed by repentance. The second reading reminds us that in and through baptism we are made one in Christ. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that living as his disciple requires taking up one's cross each day and following him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Lord, we bring our needs before you with confidence that our prayers will be answered according to your will.

- 1) For the leaders of the Church, that their example of humble and self-giving service may inspire the faithful to carry out Christ's mission in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in positions of authority, that they may respect the dignity and sanctity of all human life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick among us, that they may be strengthened by our caring and compassionate response to their needs, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For families in this faith community, may they feel the power of God's love for them, learn to forgive one another, and support each other in doing acts of service, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the deceased of our community, may they enjoy eternal peace and joy in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we ask you to hear our prayers, those spoken and those held within the silence of our hearts. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

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Monday, June 20, 2016
(Lec.371)

- 1) 2 Kings 17:5-8, 13-15a, 18
- 2) Matthew 7:1-5

MONDAY OF
12THWEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: *Stop judging, that you may not be judged.*

Jesus' words in this Gospel are as clear as they can be. The challenge becomes: Can we truly hear these words and take them to heart? Judging each other will only come back at us, Jesus says, and the more harshly we judge others, the more harshly we will be judged. Judging prevents us from loving each other.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Israelites ignored all God's warnings and stubbornly followed false gods, and in the end were carried off into exile. In the Gospel, the warning is plain and simple: How we judge others will come back to us in the same measure.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We join together to turn to our heavenly Father and offer these petitions.

- 1) For Pope Francis, and all bishops, priests and deacons, that they continue to be examples of Christ's selfless service to the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all world leaders, that they mete out judgments in a just manner, and strive for peaceful relations with their neighbors, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those unemployed and looking for work, that they will find gainful employment that provides for their needs, and for the needs of those who depend on them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the sick of our parish, may they feel the healing touch of Jesus, and may their faith in God bring them peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead and all who have died, that they may join with all the angels and saints in giving glory to God for all eternity in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, help us to hear your loving guidance, and we ask that you hear and answer our prayers according to your will, through Christ, our Lord.

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Tuesday, June 21, 2016

(Lec. 372)

- 1) 2 Kings 19:9b-11,
14-21, 31-35a, 36
- 2) Matthew 7:6, 12-14

TUESDAY OF

12TH WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(OBL. MEM.

Saint Aloysius Gonzaga,
Religious)

FOCUS: Our heavenly Father protects his people.

Even when the odds are stacked against us, God watches over and protects us, similar to the way he protected King Hezekiah and the kingdom of Judah. Though we may face obstacles, God will grant us the grace and strength to persevere in faith and overcome whatever stands in our way.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of Hezekiah and his prayer to God to protect his people from the king of Assyria. Hezekiah's prayers are answered, and his people are saved. In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches that we are to enter through the narrow gate. But he also tells us that the road that leads to eternal life in heaven is narrow and constricted.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In humility and trust, let us present our petitions to our heavenly Father.

- 1) For the bishops and priests who shepherd our Church, may they be blessed with the grace and strength needed to continue their witness to the Gospel, and help others grow in faith and love for God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our nation's leaders, may they rely on God's guidance as they formulate policies and make decisions, and may their efforts be fruitful, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are sick, may they experience peace and healing through their faith in God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our parish who are struggling to discern God's call, may they open their hearts to the Holy Spirit and discover God's will for their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they come to enjoy eternal life in God's heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God and Father, we ask that you hear and answer our prayers according to your will. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Wednesday, June 22, 2016
(Lec. 373)

- 1) 2 Kings 22:8-13; 23:1-3
- 2) Matthew 7:15-20

WEDNESDAY OF
12TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem. Saint Paulinus
of Nola, Bishop;
Saints John Fisher, Bishop,
and Thomas More, Martyrs)

FOCUS: Our hearts need to be open and cooperative with God's grace so we may bear good fruit.

Jesus' words in today's Gospel, *by their fruits you will know them*, offers us a guarantee that God's grace can work in us. Grace is bestowed on us through faith in our Lord, Jesus. However, we must have hearts that are open and receptive to God's grace, and then cooperate with it, so we may lead lives that bear good fruit for God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of the book of the law being rediscovered in the Temple of the Lord. Upon learning of this, the king summoned all faithful Jews living in Jerusalem to join in making a covenant with the Lord. In the Gospel, Jesus warns us to be on guard against false prophets who will come as wolves dressed in sheep's clothing.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we ask you to turn your merciful gaze upon us as we present our petitions.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we, by our example, share the Gospel message with others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in positions of leadership, may they respect the sanctity of life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those throughout the world suffering persecution because of their belief in Christ, may they be granted the grace and strength needed to persevere in faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may each of us, according to our means and ability, work to assist and comfort those among us who are in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may they be granted eternal rest and peace in God's heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of mercy and love, hear our petitions and grant us the grace needed to persevere in faith amidst trials and tribulations. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

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Thursday, June 23, 2016

THURSDAY OF

(Lec. 374)

- 1) 2 Kings 24:8-17
- 2) Matthew 7:21-29

12TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Who will enter the kingdom of heaven?

In the Gospel, Jesus warns that not all of those performing works in his name will enter heaven. He says that the one who *listens to these words of mine and acts on them* will enter. In order to faithfully lead our lives according to Jesus' teachings and be judged worthy of entering heaven, let us strengthen our faith through daily prayer and reflection upon holy Scripture.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, invades Jerusalem and deports all its inhabitants, except the poor. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that *not everyone who says to me "Lord, Lord" will enter the kingdom of heaven. The crowd is astounded that he teaches as one having authority, not as their scribes.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us now offer our petitions to our loving Father, who knows what we truly need.

- 1) For Church leaders, may they continue to tend to the pastoral needs of their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in public office, may they strive to always maintain the principles of integrity and fairness amidst the challenges of governing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For refugees fleeing war-torn countries in this Year of Mercy, may they find sanctuary and respite through the generosity and compassion of Christians throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here today, may we firmly resolve to both listen to the words of Jesus and act upon them, that we might be judged worthy of eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they come to enjoy perfect peace and happiness in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, we offer these prayers to you and ask that you grant them according to your will. Through Christ, our Lord.

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Friday, June 24, 2016
(Lec. 587)

- 1) Isaiah 49:1-6
- 2) Acts 13:22-26
- 3) Luke 1:57-66, 80

**THE NATIVITY
OF SAINT JOHN
THE BAPTIST
SOLEMNITY**

FOCUS: A prophet is born who will proclaim the coming of the Messiah.

Wonder filled the minds and hearts of John's family even before his birth. His mother was beyond the age of bearing children, and his father had become mute. What could all this mean? What plan did God have for him? Of course, we know that John would herald the coming of the Messiah.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading describes the *servant of the Lord* who is called from his mother's womb to be made glorious in the sight of the Lord. The second reading recalls Paul teaching that John the Baptist heralded Jesus' coming by proclaiming a baptism for the forgiveness of sins. The Gospel describes the events surrounding the birth of John the Baptist.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Called by Christ to be mindful of the needs of all people, we present these petitions to the Father.

- 1) For all in the Church who preach the Gospel, may their words stir in the hearts of their listeners a renewed desire to follow closely the way of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in positions of authority, may they work to ensure that all people can worship God in peace and freedom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from isolation or have no one to care for them, may they experience God's love and care through the outreach of caring Christians and people of goodwill, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may we support with our prayers and our resources those who are preparing for the diaconate and the priesthood, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may they see God face-to-face in the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, hear the prayers of your servants who strive to do your will in all things. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, your son.

* * *

Saturday, June 25, 2016
(Lec. 376)

- 1) Lamentations 2:2,
10-14, 18-19
- 2) Matthew 8:5-17

SATURDAY OF
12TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: *Jesus took away our infirmities and bore our diseases.*

Who can reach us in our darkest moments? Who can heal us when we feel broken beyond repair? God the Father, who will never cast us off, God the son, who will take our hands and lift us out of despair and discouragement, and God the Holy Spirit, who heals and renews our souls.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading describes the grief and great sadness that the people of Israel experienced in seeing their nation destroyed, and being carried off into exile. In the Gospel reading, Jesus heals the centurion's son, Peter's mother-in-law and many others.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us join together in offering our petitions for our needs and those of the world to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) For those who shepherd our Church and tend to their flock, that they continue to proclaim the Gospel message to a world in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the leaders of nations, that they may seek to improve the lives of their people, and pursue peaceful solutions to conflicts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the poor, that their burdens may be lightened by the works of Christians in this Jubilee Year of Mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, that we may strive to bear effective witness to the Gospel so as to help lead others to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, that they may join all the angels and saints in singing God's praise for all eternity in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, we humbly ask that you hear and answer our prayers according to your will. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2016

(Lec. 99)

- 1) 1 Kings 19:16b, 19-21
- 2) Galatians 5:1, 13-18
- 3) Luke 9:51-62

**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Words are not enough when it comes to committing ourselves to the mission of Jesus.

Jesus was hard on people who claimed they wanted to follow him, but then gave excuses for putting off their commitment. What are we using as an excuse for not giving our all to and for Jesus? What will it mean to our way of life if we do give our all to and for him?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Elisha is called to succeed Elijah as prophet. He immediately kills his oxen and burns his plow in order to follow Elijah. The second reading from Galatians reminds us that Christ has set us free from the yoke of the law and slavery to sin. In the Gospel, Jesus rebukes would-be followers for putting other needs and concerns ahead of his mission.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As Jesus taught us, let us ask the Father for what we need, trusting in his love and providential care.

- 1) That members of the Church may continually renew their commitment to Christ's mission and spreading the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That those in positions of power may always remember the most vulnerable among us, especially the elderly and the unborn, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That people suffering as a result of natural or man-made disasters may receive the help they need to be safe and secure, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the members of this faith community may continue to follow Jesus daily by loving one another as he taught us, and engaging in acts of service, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may be with God, and all the angels and saints, forever in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, we ask that you hear and answer our prayers according to your will. We ask this, and all things, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Monday, June 27, 2016

(Lec. 377)

- 1) Amos 2:6-10, 13-16
- 2) Matthew 8:18-22

MONDAY OF

13TH WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(Opt. Mem. Saint Cyril
of Alexandria, Bishop and
Doctor of the Church)

FOCUS: Discipleship calls us to put Jesus first.

Jesus offers stark words in the Gospel to those who wish to follow him. He tells them that he has no place to rest his head, implying that they must be willing to leave behind the comforts of home to follow him. He tells a man who wishes to bury his father to let the dead bury the dead, further emphasizing that his followers must love him above all things.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading is from the prophet Amos, who recounts the various sins of the Israelites and reminds them about all the Lord has done for them. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that those who desire to follow him must love him above all things, and be willing to endure suffering and hardship on account of their faith in him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us now join in offering our prayers to God, our Father.

- 1) For Church leaders, may they be blessed by the Holy Spirit to continue shepherding and guiding God's people along the path of life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may they be good stewards of the resources under their care, and work to ensure that all have access to those resources, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from chronic illness, may they be assisted in their need by compassionate people who reflect the healing power of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may we answer the call to discipleship which Christ Jesus offers in today's Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they come to enjoy eternal peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

Tuesday, June 28, 2016
(Lec. 378)

- 1) Amos 3:1-8; 4:11-12
- 2) Matthew 8:23-27

TUESDAY OF
13TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL. MEM. Saint Irenaeus,
Bishop and Martyr)

FOCUS: We should never hesitate to call upon Jesus.

In the Gospel, Jesus acts to calm a storm after his disciples turn to him, terrified that their boat would be overcome by the storm. This action on the part of Jesus reminds us that, throughout the stormy seas of our life, we should never hesitate to call upon Jesus. For he will see us through, leading us to the light of a brighter day.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God looks for Israel's return to the faith, but they do not return – so he will deal with them in his own way. In the Gospel, we hear the familiar story of Jesus and his disciples in a boat when a violent storm comes upon them. The disciples panic, but Jesus rebukes the winds and the sea and calms everything.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In confidence and trust, let us join in offering our prayers and petitions to God, the almighty Father.

- 1) For all members of the Church, that we may be strengthened in our faith through our worthy reception of the sacraments, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our nation's leaders, that they may put aside disagreements and work to enact legislation for the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick and suffering, that they may be strengthened by joining their sufferings to those of Christ for the salvation of the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish family, that we may always strive to grow in faith and discipleship and be an example to others of Christ's love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, that they may come to enjoy perfect happiness in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord our God, hear the prayers we bring before you today and grant us the grace and strength needed to do your will. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

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Wednesday, June 29, 2016
(Lec. 591)

**SAINTS PETER
AND PAUL, APOSTLES
- SOLEMNITY**

- 1) Acts 12:1-11
- 2) 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18
- 3) Matthew 16:13-19

FOCUS: Our Christian faith has been passed down through the generations by the powerful witness of the martyrs.

We rejoice today in the fidelity of Simon Peter and Paul, who boldly proclaimed the risen Christ and laid down their lives for the Gospel message. We also are reminded of our apostolic roots and how the Christian faith has been handed down through the generations, and through the faithful witness of all who have embraced Christ's message.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Having been imprisoned for proclaiming the Gospel, Peter in the first reading is miraculously freed to continue his mission. In the second reading, Paul writes to his friend and disciple, Timothy, exhorting him to persevere for Christ. The Gospel recalls Jesus asking the disciples, *Who do you say that I am?* Simon Peter identifies him as the Christ, and is entrusted with a special role among the Twelve.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Reminded of God's steadfast love through the preaching of the Apostles, we bring our prayers with confidence before the Lord.

- 1) For the Church, as the Body of Christ, may we, like Peter and Paul, boldly proclaim Jesus as Lord and bring others to heed the Gospel message, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders throughout the world, may they seek to uphold the principles of tolerance and respect for basic human dignity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all the sick and the dying, may they be comforted by the prayers and support of faith-filled Christians, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For vocations to the priesthood and religious life, that all who have been called to a vocation in the Church may respond with courage and generosity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may they join the angels and saints in God's heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and eternal God, hear our prayers and answer them according to your holy will. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, June 30, 2016
(Lec. 380)

**THURSDAY OF
13TH WEEK**

- 1) Amos 7:10-17
- 2) Matthew 9:1-8

IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem. The First Martyrs
of the Holy Roman Church)

FOCUS: *Courage, child, your sins are forgiven.*

Recall for a moment these similarly comforting words of Jesus. *Peace be with you*, (John 20:21) he said, when he appeared to the disciples after his resurrection. And to the woman he saved from stoning, Jesus said: *Neither do I condemn you*. (John 8:11) Jesus came to heal us of our infirmities, as he did with the paralytic – to lift us up and lead us to our heavenly home.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of the prophet Amos, a humble shepherd, being empowered by God to speak the truth to a high-ranking religious leader of his time. In today's Gospel, Jesus acts to heal a paralyzed man, saying, *Rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home*. After Jesus spoke these words, the man then rose and went home.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For the Church, that her service and works of charity throughout the world may continue to communicate Christ's love for all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, that they enact laws and policies that uphold the sanctity of life, from the womb to natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are weighed down by fear or worry, that they may experience peace and healing through placing their cares and concerns into God's hands, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For young people discerning their vocations, that they may be strengthened and encouraged by our prayers and support to faithfully live out God's call for their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, that they come to enjoy perfect peace and joy in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, we ask that you hear and answer our prayers, which we offer to you through Christ, our Lord.

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