

# NOVEMBER

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**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2016**

(Lec. 667)

- 1) Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14
- 2) 1 John 3:1-3
- 3) Matthew 5:1-12a

**ALL SAINTS  
- SOLEMNITY**

FOCUS: Becoming a saint should be one of our primary motivations in life.

Today's solemnity of All Saints honors all the saints in heaven – known and unknown. In order that we might join the rest of the saints in heaven, it is imperative that we strive to love God with our whole being, follow his commandments and love our neighbor as ourselves.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading reminds us that receiving the gift of salvation God offers to all people requires placing one's faith in Jesus. In the second reading, John writes that we are beloved children of God. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches the beatitudes, assuring those persecuted for following him that their reward will be great in heaven.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

**PRIEST:** With humble and grateful hearts, we offer our prayers and petitions to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) For all members of the Church, that we strive to help build up the kingdom of God by witnessing to our faith through good works, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For teachers and professors, may they use their wisdom and skills to help their students grow in confidence and knowledge, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are poor, that their needs for food and shelter will be met through the advocacy of Christians and people of goodwill, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish, that we continue to pray for vocations and encourage our young people to consider priesthood or religious life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they may experience the never-ending joy in heaven in the company of the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** Loving God, we ask you to respond to our petitions in accordance with your will. We pray in the name of your son, Jesus.

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Wednesday, November 2, 2016  
(Lec. 668)

- 1) Wisdom 3:1-9
- 2) Romans 5:5-11  
or Romans 6:3-9
- 3) John 6:37-40

**THE COMMEMORATION  
OF ALL THE FAITHFUL  
DEPARTED  
(ALL SOULS' DAY)**

FOCUS: Pray for the souls of our faithful departed.

Today, we celebrate the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, known as All Souls' Day. We remember those who have died, and pray for their souls as they undergo purification. Our Lord's promises fill us with hope that the souls of the faithful will rise with Christ on the last day.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from Wisdom offers consolation that the souls of the just are with God. They are at peace. In Romans, Paul reminds believers that Christ died for sinners. How much more, now reconciled, will the faithful be saved by his life? The Gospel reveals Christ's mission of fulfilling the will of the Father to raise his faithful on the last day.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With faith and trust in the promise of eternal life, let us bring our needs before the Lord.

- 1) For Pope Francis, bishops and priests, that the Holy Spirit may continue to fill them with wisdom and understanding as they lead the Church on its mission of spreading the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in positions of leadership, may they listen to the voices of those whom they lead, and act with fairness and respect for all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are sick or suffering, especially those in the final moments of their earthly pilgrimage, may they pass into new life free of pain and loneliness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, that our church may always be a place of compassion and welcome for all who enter, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our departed brothers and sisters, that through the Lord's grace and mercy they may be cleansed and purified and enter eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, in your goodness, hear our prayers and grant us the grace to lead lives pleasing to you so we might one day come to enjoy perfect happiness in heaven. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

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Thursday, November 3, 2016  
(Lec. 488)

- 1) Philippians 3:3-8a
- 2) Luke 15:1-10

THURSDAY OF  
31<sup>ST</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Martin de Porres,  
Religious)

FOCUS: The Lord always welcomes home the lost or repentant sinner.

Regardless of how hard we try to lead holy and virtuous lives, we fall short and sin. The good news is that when we repent, the Lord always forgives and welcomes us back. When we lose our way, the Lord always seeks us out to draw us back to himself.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In Paul's letter to the Philippians, he says that knowing Jesus is the most important thing in his life. In the Gospel, Jesus compares finding a lost sheep, or a single coin, with the joy in heaven over the repentance of a lost sinner.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in the Lord's promises, let us place our prayers before him.

- 1) That Church leaders will continue to encourage the faithful to make more frequent use of the sacrament of penance as a means of being more fully reconciled to God and growing in holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That public authorities may work to stamp out corruption and dishonesty at all levels of government, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That the homeless, particularly young people living on the streets, will find assistance and safe housing through the efforts of church groups and people of goodwill, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That members of our faith community will encourage one another as we each strive to live our lives for Christ every day, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our departed brothers and sisters in Christ will enjoy eternal happiness in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, with grateful hearts we ask that you hear these petitions in the name of Jesus, your son.

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Friday, November 4, 2016

(Lec. 489)

- 1) Philippians 3:17–4:1
- 2) Luke 16:1-8

FRIDAY OF  
31<sup>ST</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
Saint Charles Borromeo,  
Bishop)

FOCUS: We are made for God and we must have our hearts set on the hope of heaven.

Saint Paul warns us against becoming preoccupied with the things of this world so as not to sow the seeds of our spiritual demise. To avoid falling into this trap, we must be diligent about daily prayer, have our hearts set on the hope of heaven and strive to imitate Christ in our thoughts, words and actions.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from Saint Paul warns us against becoming preoccupied by worldly things, reminding us that our citizenship lies in heaven. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the dishonest steward.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Grateful for his love and mercy, we look to God to answer our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For our Holy Father, our bishops and priests, that they continue to guide us in imitating Christ in our daily lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the leaders of all nations, that they seek God's wisdom in their decision-making, and look to cooperate with neighboring countries to solve difficult issues, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the homeless and the hungry, that they may be assisted in their need by Christians and people of goodwill, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our parish suffering from serious or terminal illness, that God may hold them in the palm of his hand, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they might enjoy eternal rest and peace in the company of the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God of hope, in thanksgiving for all you have given us, we ask that you grant these petitions, through Christ, our Lord.

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Saturday, November 5, 2016

(Lec. 490)

1) Philippians 4:10-19

2) Luke 16:9-15

SATURDAY OF  
31<sup>ST</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Saturday in honor  
of BVM)

FOCUS: God is with us always, providing us with what we most truly need.

During our lifetime, we may experience times of great abundance and times of great need. Usually, we fall somewhere in between. Today's reading reminds us not to get caught up in material things, but to place our faith in God, who provides what we most need.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul's message to the Philippians deals with learning to live humbly, tempering need and abundance. Today's Gospel focuses on being prudent with our money and talents, using these gifts to serve God and promote the Gospel.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us offer our prayers to our Father, who is rich in mercy and love.

- 1) That the Church, as Pope Francis has prayed in this Jubilee of Mercy, may be the visible face of the risen Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That our world leaders may seek peaceful solutions to conflict, and protect the human rights of all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who have been forced from their homes because of persecution or violence may find a place of peace and safety, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That police officers, firefighters and other first responders in our faith community may be kept from harm in the course of their daily work, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may come to share eternal life with our Father in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we ask you to answer our prayers in accordance with your will, through your son, Jesus Christ.

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**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2016**

(Lec. 156)

- 1) 2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14
- 2) 2 Thessalonians 2:16–3:5
- 3) Luke 20:27-38  
or 20:27, 34-38

**THIRTY-SECOND  
SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Believers in Jesus are given the promise and hope of eternal life in heaven.

Our hope is in the Lord, who made heaven and earth, and who remains faithful to those who believe. For those who believe in Jesus and persevere in faith with the help of God's grace, the trials of this world will ultimately pass away. As Jesus' disciples, we will one day come to share eternal life in heaven.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of seven brothers who, because of their great love for God and the hope of eternal life, are able to face martyrdom with courage. The second reading reminds us that God is with us always to watch over and protect us. In the Gospel, Jesus refutes the Sadducees in their denial of the resurrection.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us offer our prayers with confidence in our God, who is always faithful.

- 1) For all who minister and teach in the Church, may they be blessed in their efforts to proclaim boldly the Gospel in word and deed, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who lead, govern and have authority in our world, may they lead with humility and govern with integrity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering in mind or body, and all who care for them, may they be consoled by the promise of God's love and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community, may we continue to grow in our knowledge and love of the Lord through our study of Scripture and our devotion to daily prayer, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they live in God's light and peace for eternity in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord, you are not the God of the dead but of the living. Hear our prayers as we strive to be faithful to you. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

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Monday, November 7, 2016

(Lec. 491)

- 1) Titus 1:1-9
- 2) Luke 17:1-6

MONDAY OF  
32<sup>ND</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: We are called to forgive as many times as we are wronged.

Forgiveness is not always easy, but it is what Jesus calls us to do. It is even harder when the person we need to forgive hurts us repeatedly; even in this circumstance, however, we are called to forgive.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, we hear the qualifications for those who were to be appointed bishops. They are to be followers of Christ and hold fast to the true message they have been taught. In the Gospel, Jesus warns that leading others into sin is a great offense. He also teaches that his followers are to forgive others over and over.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

**PRIEST:** Holding fast to the teachings of Jesus, let us bring our petitions to the Father, trusting in his providence.

- 1) That the pope and all the clergy may continue to inspire us to open our hearts to those in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That world leaders may seek nonviolent solutions to conflicts and work toward lasting peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are holding onto grudges and old hurts may be open to the workings of the Holy Spirit to help them let go of the past and learn to forgive, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all members of this parish, young and old, may live in a way that sets a positive example for others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the faithful departed may come to see God face to face in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** Almighty God, hear our prayers and grant our petitions according to your will. We offer these prayers in the name of your son, Jesus.

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Tuesday, November 8, 2016  
(Lec. 492)

- 1) Titus 2:1-8, 11-14
- 2) Luke 17:7-10

TUESDAY OF  
32<sup>ND</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God gives us the grace and strength needed to persevere in faith amid difficult times in our lives.

It is not always easy to live according to the teachings of Jesus. Yet, we need not fear. Daily prayer, the graces of the sacraments, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit will give us the strength we need to keep our faith strong.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul urges the people to live in a way that is pleasing to God. This can be accomplished with God's help and grace. In the Gospel, Jesus uses the example of a servant to remind the Apostles to go beyond simply doing what they have been commanded.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Mindful that the Lord is our salvation, we bring our prayers before our loving God.

- 1) For all members of the Church, that we remain steadfast in our faith and share it with others through word and action, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, that they work to bring an end to discrimination and intolerance, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are struggling with depression, that they know God is with them as they receive the help and support they need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For families in our parish, especially those struggling or facing difficulties, may they find strength in their faith and mutually support one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they come to live in the fullness of light, love and truth in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we ask you to hear and answer our prayers. With great trust, we ask these and all things through Jesus, the Lord.

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Wednesday, November 9, 2016

(Lec. 671)

- 1) Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12
- 2) 1 Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16-17
- 3) John 2:13-22

**THE DEDICATION  
OF THE  
LATERAN BASILICA  
- FEAST**

FOCUS: *God's people must be as holy as his Temple.*

Today we celebrate the feast of the Lateran Basilica, the cathedral of the pope in Rome. Referred to as the "Mother of all Churches in the City and the World," each of us is connected to this church, no matter our physical distance from Rome. May we strive each day to generously contribute to the work and mission of the Church.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul writes that we are the temple of God and our foundation must be Jesus Christ. Without Jesus, we are nothing. In the Gospel, we hear the familiar story of Jesus cleansing the Temple. He drives out those who sold animals with a whip of cords, and overturns the tables of the money changers.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Gathered in this holy place, let us present our needs to the Lord, who always listens to our prayers.

- 1) For the leaders of the Church, that they may continue to proclaim the Gospel of Christ in all the corners of the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our priests, may they be blessed in their ministry as they help make Christ present to us in word and sacrament, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have experienced persecution for their beliefs, may they find strength in their faith and safe haven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us gathered here today, that we may always seek to deepen our relationship with Christ and be open to the voice of God in our hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they may experience perpetual joy and peace with God in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Creator God, hear the prayers we bring before you today and grant them according to your holy will. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

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Thursday, November 10, 2016

(Lec. 494)

- 1) Philemon 7-20
- 2) Luke 17:20-25

THURSDAY OF  
32<sup>ND</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
Saint Leo the Great,  
Pope and Doctor  
of the Church)

FOCUS: Each day we are to strive to help build God's kingdom on earth.

Before he ascended into heaven, Jesus entrusted the Church and all her members with the task of helping to build up God's kingdom on earth. Day in and day out, we are called to help make the world a better place and be judged worthy of eternal life.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Saint Paul urges Philemon to welcome the former slave Onesimus as he would welcome a brother, out of love. In the Gospel, when the Pharisees ask when the kingdom of God will come, Jesus answers, *The kingdom of God is among you.*

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us offer our prayers for our needs and those of the community to the Father, the source of every good gift.

- 1) For the Church, may her teachings on the dignity and sanctity of human life be observed throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may they continue to work diligently to enable the most vulnerable among us to flourish as productive members of society, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For refugees forced to flee war-torn countries, may they find safety and welcome in neighboring countries, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the seminarians in our faith community, may our parish offer prayers and support as they discern their vocations to the priesthood, we pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they come to enjoy the rewards of eternal life in heaven, we pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Eternal Father, we place these petitions before you, asking that you hear and answer them, through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Friday, November 11, 2016

(Lec. 495)

- 1) 2 John 4-9
- 2) Luke 17:26-37

FRIDAY OF  
32<sup>ND</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
Saint Martin of Tours,  
Bishop)

FOCUS: We are to love the Lord and one another each day as we await the coming of the kingdom.

We do not know the day or the hour when Jesus will return. We must place all our hope and trust in Jesus, follow in his ways, and set our sights every day on the coming of the kingdom. We are reminded to love the Lord Jesus and one another while revealing the joy of following the path of Christ each day.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading reminds us that a fundamental way we live in love and unity with God and one another is to practice Jesus' teachings in our daily lives. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches, *Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses it will save it.*

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in God's love and compassion, let us offer our prayers and those of the world to our almighty Father.

- 1) For Church leaders, that they be blessed as they continue to guide us in following the footsteps of Christ each day, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, that they may turn to God for guidance, and work to foster peace and greater tolerance among all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, that they feel the loving compassion of Jesus the divine physician, and find new strength through the aid of caregivers and loved ones, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For parish families, that they model the love of the Holy Family in their daily interactions with one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rejoice in the peace of the heavenly kingdom for all eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, please answer our prayers according to your will, through Christ, our Lord.

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Saturday, November 12, 2016

(Lec. 496)

- 1) 3 John 5-8
- 2) Luke 18:1-8

SATURDAY OF  
32<sup>ND</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
Saint Josaphat,  
Bishop and Martyr)

FOCUS: Daily prayer is essential for growing in our faith and love for the Lord.

Having a good relationship with another person requires spending quality time with that person. Similarly, in order to have a good relationship with God and grow in our love for him, we need to spend quality time with God in prayer each day. By praying daily, we draw closer to God and receive his grace, so we may live our faith more fully.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first reading reminds us of the importance of providing material assistance to our brothers and sisters within the Christian faith and in the wider human family. In the Gospel, Jesus tells a parable about a dishonest judge and a widow, which underscores the need for continuous prayer.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Grateful to God for the many blessings he bestows upon us each day, let us join in offering our prayers to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) For priests, religious and laypeople serving as missionaries throughout the world, that the Holy Spirit may protect and guide them as they strive to spread the Gospel message, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in positions of civic authority, that they may turn to God for wisdom and guidance in their decisions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the families of those who struggle with mental illness, that they may find strength in their faith as they support their loved one, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For each of us, may we recognize the importance of persistence in prayer so we may be more faithful witnesses to the Gospel, and strive to model Christ's love for us to others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they will experience the joy and peace of eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, we trust in your mercy and protection, and we ask that you hear our prayers. For we offer them to you through Christ, our Lord.

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## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2016

(Lec. 159)

- 1) Malachi 3:19-20a
- 2) 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12
- 3) Luke 21:5-19

**THIRTY-THIRD  
SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Jesus gives us the grace and strength needed to persevere in faith.

Throughout his life and ministry, Jesus taught clearly that there is a cost to living as his faithful disciples. We may be rejected or persecuted for the sake of our faith. We need not fear, however, for Jesus promises to give us the grace and strength to persevere.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading explains that the day is coming when the Lord will punish evildoers, but bring healing to the just. Paul's words in Thessalonians urge those who are idle to keep busy and work quietly to earn their own food. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that he will give them *a wisdom in speaking* that will render their adversaries *powerless to resist or refute*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Ever striving to grow in our faith and love for the Lord who rules the earth with justice, let us offer him our prayers for our needs and those of the world.

- 1) For all clergy, may their steadfast call for repentance guide the faithful to a deeper understanding of what it means to live as a disciple of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all judges and prosecutors, that they may turn to God for wisdom and act with justice and mercy as they deal with offenders and victims, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all women considering abortion, may they turn to God for guidance so they may recognize that the child they carry within them is a precious gift from God who has a right to life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, that we may take advantage of the sacrament of penance in order to be more fully reconciled to God and grow in holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our family and friends who have died, and for all who have died, may they live in the light of God's love for all eternity in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of all creation, we ask that you be merciful to us and grant our petitions according to your perfect will, in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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Monday, November 14, 2016  
(Lec. 497)

- 1) Revelation 1:1-4; 2:1-5
- 2) Luke 18:35-43

MONDAY OF  
33<sup>RD</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Jesus calls us to live according to his teachings, even when it is trying and difficult.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to put his teachings into practice in our words and everyday lives, even when it is difficult and the world wants us to be silent. We are able to meet this challenge because God is always with us. He gives us the strength to bear our crosses and daily burdens.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The reading from the Book of Revelation reminds us of the ongoing need for repentance and conversion of heart so we may continue to grow in our love for Jesus. In today's Gospel, we hear of the blind beggar who keeps calling out to Jesus. Jesus takes the time to speak with him, saying, *Have sight, your faith has saved you.*

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Striving to walk in the way of Christ's love and share his light and love with others, let us offer our petitions to our loving Father.

- 1) For all bishops, priests and deacons, may they be blessed as they work to lead others to opening themselves to the saving and healing power of God's love and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all those in positions of authority, may they strive to lead with integrity in their decision-making, and seek to serve the needs of their constituents, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from addiction, may they be blessed with the grace and strength needed to experience healing and recovery, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our brothers and sisters who no longer attend Mass or belong to a parish, may they experience a renewal of their Catholic faith through the prayers, welcome, and outreach of this community of believers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may they find eternal rest and peace with all the angels and saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Tuesday, November 15, 2016  
(Lec. 498)

- 1) Revelation 3:1-6, 14-22
- 2) Luke 19:1-10

TUESDAY OF  
33<sup>RD</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Albert the Great,  
Bishop and Doctor  
of the Church)

FOCUS: Jesus never stops seeking us out, that we might open our hearts to him and be saved.

When we open our hearts more fully to Jesus, we grow in love for him and experience his blessings of peace and joy more completely in our lives. We, in turn, share his love more fully with others, and help secure a place for ourselves in heaven.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from Revelation recounts John's vision of Christ exhorting believers in two cities to renew their faith.

Today's Gospel tells of Jesus calling out to the tax collector Zacchaeus to come down from his tree so that he could dine at his house. This moved Zacchaeus to repay those he cheated, give to the poor and place his faith in Jesus.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We come together in faith before our heavenly Father, trusting that he will respond to our needs.

- 1) For the Church, that followers of Jesus will be open to the stirrings of the Holy Spirit to renew our faith and give us strength to carry out Christ's saving mission, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, that Christ, the Prince of Peace, might open their hearts and minds to bring about peaceful reconciliation and an end to violence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For people whose religious liberty is threatened, that God might strengthen them in their witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the elderly in this faith community, that they may be treated with dignity and appreciation by those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that Christ might welcome them this day into paradise with the Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Trusting in your providence, loving Father, we ask that you hear our prayers. We offer them through your son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns forever and ever.

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Wednesday, November 16, 2016  
(Lec. 499)

- 1) Revelation 4:1-11
- 2) Luke 19:11-28

WEDNESDAY OF  
33<sup>RD</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Margaret of Scotland;  
Saint Gertrude, Virgin)

FOCUS: We are called to faithfully use the gifts we have been given.

God has given each of us unique gifts, talents and material blessings. Jesus teaches that we are use them to serve the needs of others and help build up God's kingdom on earth.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, the author of Revelation gives us a glimpse of life in heaven, and of the devout and humble worship that the angels and saints give wholeheartedly to God. In the Gospel, Jesus reminds us of what we owe to him as our king: a heart ready to accept his saving grace, and the willingness to put our gifts to the service of others.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Seeking to lead lives that give glory to God, let us offer our prayers for our needs and those of the world to our loving Father.

- 1) For leaders of our Church, that they might inspire us through word and example to give our lives more fully to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world and national leaders, that they might strive to follow God's will by serving the people in their care with honesty and integrity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For people who struggle to obtain food, clean water and shelter, may they receive the help and assistance needed to meet their basic needs, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our parish who are facing chronic or terminal illness, that God will give them courage, and they will be comforted by compassionate caregivers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, that they experience eternal joy and peace with all the angels and saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, giver of all good gifts, we ask that you hear and answer our prayers. We offer them through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

\* \* \*

Thursday, November 17, 2016

(Lec. 500)

- 1) Revelation 5:1-10
- 2) Luke 19:41-44

THURSDAY OF  
33<sup>RD</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
Saint Elizabeth of Hungary,  
Religious)

FOCUS: Jesus, our savior, rules with humility. He is a king unlike any other the world has ever known.

Jesus is a lion and a lamb – our Savior who rules over all but is also humble. He desires our salvation so much that he rejected earthly power and status, humbling himself to suffer and die for us. We can never fully repay Jesus, but we can express our gratitude and our love by serving others and helping to build his kingdom on earth.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, the Apostle John has a vision of heaven where Jesus is worshiped as both a lion and a lamb. In our Gospel, Jesus is approaching Jerusalem, where he will suffer and die. He weeps over the city, lamenting the people's rejection of the Good News and prophesying about Jerusalem's impending judgment and destruction.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: The Father gave us his only Son that we might not perish but have eternal life. Confident in his love for us, we turn to the Father in humble petition.

- 1) For the Church, may she be a witness to the world of love, unity and service to one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our recently elected public servants, may they work for the common good with diligence and in a spirit of collaboration, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from chronic sickness or pain, may they find strength and healing in their faith in Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our community whose faith has become tepid, may their faith be strengthened and renewed by our prayers and words of encouragement and support, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they join all the saints and angels in the heavenly hymn of praise, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, with grateful hearts we offer our prayers to you through your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

\* \* \*

Friday, November 18, 2016

(Lec. 501)

- 1) Revelation 10:8-11
- 2) Luke 19:45-48

FRIDAY OF

33<sup>RD</sup> WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(Opt. Mem.)

The Dedication of the Basilicas  
of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles;  
USA: Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne,  
Virgin)

**NOTE:** Or, for the Memorial of the Dedication, Acts 28:11-16, 30-31; Matthew 14:22-33(Lec. 679).

**FOCUS:** By taking to heart the words of sacred Scripture, we will become more effective witnesses to the Good News.

The readings from sacred Scripture can cause us to feel joyful because they are filled with great promise. Yet, they also point to the pain and suffering we may experience because God's word often runs counter to cultural messages. When we live in accord with God's word, we are messengers of God's faithfulness to his people.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from Revelation tells of John eating a scroll, which represents the word of God. It tastes sweet because it predicts the final victory of God's people, but it is also sour because it announces their suffering. In the Gospel, Jesus drives out those who were selling in the Temple area.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

**PRIEST:** Confident of God's infinite love and mercy, let us place our prayers and petitions before him.

- 1) For missionaries, religious and laypeople who serve the Church throughout the world, that God may bless them and their families as they share the teachings of Jesus through service to others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the leaders of nations, that they will preserve and protect the dignity and sanctity of human life, from conception until natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are persecuted for their Christian faith, may they find strength in the Lord and relief through the efforts of our churches and people of goodwill to defend religious freedom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish, may we continually seek to reach out to others in service and welcome through our ministries of social justice and hospitality, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they receive a place at the eternal banquet in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

Saturday, November 19, 2016  
(Lec. 502)

- 1) Revelation 11:4-12
- 2) Luke 20:27-40

SATURDAY OF  
33<sup>RD</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Saturday in honor  
of BVM)

FOCUS: We await the promise of the resurrection of the body and life everlasting.

These final days of the liturgical year provide us with a time to ponder the mystery of death and resurrection. As we prepare to draw this Jubilee Year of Mercy to a close on Sunday, let us be mindful that God sent his only Son to suffer and die that we might have eternal life. Our God is merciful, indeed.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's reading from the Book of Revelation speaks in highly symbolic terms about the mission, demise and rewards of two unnamed prophets. In the Gospel, Jesus fields a hypothetical question from the Sadducees about the resurrection of the dead and cites Moses in his response, revealing his grasp of Scripture.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With humble hearts, we turn to our heavenly Father with our needs and those of the world.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may she be blessed with the grace to continue her mission to witness to the Gospel to the ends of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all elected and appointed officials, that they will support policies and laws that protect life from conception until natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the poorest of the poor throughout the world, may we see in them the face of Christ and respond to their cries for help as Jesus taught us to do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For catechists and youth ministers in our faith community, may they continue to have the strength and grace to impart the word of God and sacred tradition to our young people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they see God face-to-face in the heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: O God, we ask that in your loving kindness, you look with favor upon our prayers. For we offer them to you through Christ, our Lord.

\* \* \*

## **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2016**

(Lec. 162)

- 1) 2 Samuel 5:1-3
- 2) Colossians 1:12-20
- 3) Luke 23:35-43

**OUR LORD  
JESUS CHRIST,  
KING OF THE UNIVERSE,  
- SOLEMNITY**

FOCUS: Jesus is to be the ruler of our lives and hearts.

Today we celebrate the solemnity of Our Lord Jesus, King of the Universe. Our celebration invites us to acknowledge Jesus not only as King of the Universe, but also as the ruler of our lives and hearts. One way to do this is to begin each day with prayer, where we invite Jesus to be the ruler of our lives and to use us in the ways he sees fit.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of David being anointed to replace Saul as the king of Israel. The second reading presents a spiritual hymn that describes the sovereignty of Christ. In the Gospel, the good thief, Dismas, asks Jesus to remember him when he comes into his kingdom.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER:

**PRIEST:** Confident in the loving mercy of our God who sent his only Son to save us, let us offer him our prayers.

- 1) That all members of the Church may have the courage to proclaim the power of our king, Jesus Christ, through words and service, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That nations may engage in fruitful diplomacy which leads to just resolution of conflict with other nations, and peace and reconciliation among their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who suffer from depression may draw strength from their faith in Jesus, and receive the help and support needed to bring about healing and recovery, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That our faith community, through our prayers and advocacy efforts, will continue to defend the right to life of our most vulnerable, especially the unborn and the elderly, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may come to enjoy perfect peace and joy in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

\* \* \*

Monday, November 21, 2016

(Lec. 503)

- 1) Revelation 14:1-3, 4b-5
- 2) Luke 21:1-4

MONDAY OF  
34<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
The Presentation  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

FOCUS: In God's eyes, the amount we give is less important than how much we are willing to sacrifice.

Today's Gospel reading invites us to reflect on what we offer to God. It's not the amount we *give* that pleases him but the intention – what we're willing to *give up*. Detachment from wealth and material things frees us to give ourselves more fully in love and service to God and others.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from Revelation tells of John's vision of the Lamb surrounded by 144,000. They follow him wherever he goes, singing a hymn no one else can learn. In the Gospel, Jesus uses the example of the poor widow who gave two small coins to the Temple treasury to teach that we are to offer all we have in service to God and others.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: United as brothers and sisters in Christ, we present our prayers for our needs and those of the world to the Lord.

- 1) For all members of our Church, that we may be united by the Gospel message and work tirelessly to bring the Good News to all we meet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those elected to public office, that their words and actions be guided by righteousness, justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who mourn the loss of a loved one, that they may find comfort in the promise of heaven and support from friends, family and community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our local parish community, that we may grow in our commitment to being good stewards – and give generously of our time, treasure and talent, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls of the faithful departed, may they 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: Loving Father, hear the needs of your people and grant them according to your will. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.

\* \* \*

Tuesday, November 22, 2016

(Lec. 504)

- 1) Revelation 14:14-19
- 2) Luke 21:5-11

TUESDAY OF  
34<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
Saint Cecilia,  
Virgin and Martyr)

FOCUS: Setting our eyes on the hope of heaven helps us stay focused on building up the kingdom of God.

Jesus taught clearly that war, violence and strife will persist until he returns in glory to fully establish God's kingdom on earth. Our eyes are to be set on the hope of heaven as we strive to help build up God's kingdom on earth through our daily gestures of love and kindness to others.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Book of Revelation describes a vision of the Son of Man and angels, stating *the time to reap has come, because the earth's harvest is fully ripe*. In the Gospel reading, Jesus warns against being deceived by false prophets who claim that the end of the world is imminent.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Grateful for the abundant graces and blessings God bestows on us each day, we join in offering our prayers to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) For all members of Church, that we may continue to grow in love of the Lord through daily prayer, and by sharing that love through service to those in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For members of relief agencies, may they be blessed with the perseverance and resources to continue assisting victims of terror, violence and natural disasters, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are dying, and their families and caregivers, may they draw strength from God and the hope and promise of eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of our parish, that we may see Christ in those in need, and generously respond to the needs of the homeless and hungry in our community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they may see God face to face in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: O God, grateful for all you have given us we ask that you hear and answer our prayers. For we offer them to you through Christ, our Lord.

\* \* \*

Wednesday, November 23, 2016

(Lec. 505)

- 1) Revelation 15:1-4
- 2) Luke 21:12-19

WEDNESDAY OF  
34<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.)

Saint Clement I,  
Pope and Martyr;  
Saint Columban, Abbot;  
USA: Blessed Miguel Agustin Pro,  
Priest and Martyr)

FOCUS: The Holy Spirit gives us wisdom to speak to our adversaries.

Each and every day, our faith is tried and tested in different ways. For example, a family member or friend may press us to do something that runs contrary to our faith in Jesus. We need not be disheartened but rather turn to the Holy Spirit, who will give us the grace and strength to stand steadfast in our faith.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the Book of Revelation, John's vision of victory over the beast is followed by a song of praise to the Lamb of God. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus warns his followers that they will be persecuted because of him, but that he will give them wisdom to speak to their adversaries.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Remembering God's wondrous deeds, we place our petitions before him.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we give praise and thanks to God for the gift of faith and the abundant blessings he bestows upon us each day, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For peace in the world, especially in nations that are shaken by conflict and terrorism, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For military service men and women, may they be protected during their tours of duty and return home safely to their loved ones, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our parish who are struggling with their faith, that they will know that God will never abandon them and find support from our community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they come to share 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 respond to our prayers according to your most holy will. For we offer them through your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

\* \* \*



Thursday, November 24, 2016

(Lec. 506)

- 1) Revelation 18:1-2, 21-23;  
19:1-3, 9a
- 2) Luke 21:20-28

THURSDAY OF  
34<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
Saint Andrew Dũng-Lạc,  
Priest, and Companions,  
Martyrs)

**NOTE:** Or for Thanksgiving Day in the United States of America, any readings from the *Lectionary for Ritual Masses* (vol. IV), the Mass: "In Thanksgiving to God," nos. (943-947). See especially Sirach 50:22-24 (943.2), 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 (944.1), Luke 17:11-19(947.6).

**FOCUS:** Alleluia! God is true and just.

God has given us another day. Let us rejoice and give thanks! In spite of our struggles, aches, pains and hardships, we can live in faith and hope. Redeemed by the Son of God and strengthened by the Holy Spirit, let us live the Gospel with praise and thanksgiving!

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading reminds us that salvation, might and glory belong to God, and that one day he will set all things right. Today's reading from the Gospel of Luke speaks of persecution and tribulation before the coming of the Son of Man.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

**PRIEST:** Let us lift up our minds, open our hearts and offer our prayers to our heavenly Father.

- 1) That the Church continue to offer praise and thanksgiving to God for the wisdom and fortitude to withstand the struggles and tests of time, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That newly elected officials seek God's wisdom and remain true to their promises as they serve their constituents and pursue the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those experiencing the pain of divorce, especially their children, may find strength and healing in their faith and our faith community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That our faith community may recognize the presence of God in all we do and continue to offer thanks for each and every gift, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died may enjoy perfect peace and joy in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** Everlasting God and Father, we are grateful for all you have done for us. Please accept our prayers, which we offer you through your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

\* \* \*

Friday, November 25, 2016

(Lec. 507)

- 1) Revelation 20:1-4, 11—21:2
- 2) Luke 21:29-33

FRIDAY OF

35<sup>TH</sup> WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(Opt. Mem.)

Saint Catherine of Alexandria,  
Virgin and Martyr)

FOCUS: Jesus came to bring salvation and renewal to humankind and all creation.

The sin of Adam and Eve introduced sin into the world and disrupted the original harmony of creation. Despite this, God set in motion a plan to save humankind and bring about the renewal of all creation. This plan was brought to fulfillment in Christ, and moves toward its completion through all who believe in Jesus and help build up God's kingdom on earth.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from the book of Revelation describes John's vision of the day of judgement, saying the dead will be judged based on their deeds. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that *Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.*

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confident trust, we bring our prayers and petitions to God, our heavenly Father.

- 1) For all Catholics, that our faith in Jesus may continue to grow and that we may be blessed with the grace to share it with others by living as Jesus teaches in our everyday lives at home, at school and in the workplace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders and lawmakers, that they will enact laws and policies that safeguard and protect life from conception until natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who do not believe in God or have lost faith, may their faith be renewed through our prayers, and through encountering people filled with a genuine love for Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For catechists and teachers, may they be blessed with fortitude and grace to continue their work of helping others grow in their knowledge of the Catholic faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they experience eternal joy in the company of the angels and saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

\* \* \*

Saturday, November 26, 2016  
(Lec. 508)

- 1) Revelation 22:1-7
- 2) Luke 21:34-36

SATURDAY OF  
35<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Saturday in honor  
of BVM)

FOCUS: The Lord desires us to be found watchful and waiting, and to enter his kingdom.

Preparedness is not something that others can do for us. Only we can prepare ourselves. In the same way that a student cannot prepare for an exam by asking a classmate to study for him or her, we cannot obtain the spiritual preparation to be in God's kingdom from another person. We must do that work ourselves through prayer, the Scriptures, faith and good works.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's reading from the Book of Revelation tells of the glory of God's kingdom; it does not need a source of light because the Lamb of God is its light. In today's Gospel, Jesus warns us to be found ready to enter the kingdom of heaven.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God is the giver of all gifts, both human and divine. Trusting that God knows our deepest needs, we place our petitions before him.

- 1) For the shepherds of the Church, especially our Holy Father and our bishop, may they continue to lead us in the Spirit and help us to bear a more effective witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, especially those just elected, may they work to bring peace, harmony and justice to the people they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For women experiencing unplanned pregnancies, may their hearts be open to God's grace, such that they recognize the sanctity of life and resolve to give their child life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those who suffer from loneliness, that they might know that God is with them always and be strengthened in faith through the support of our parish community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they enter unto eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we ask you to open our hearts to your will for us. We offer these prayers through your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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**CYCLE A  
YEAR I**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2016**

**FIRST SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT**

(Lec. 1)

- 1) Isaiah 2:1-5
- 2) Romans 13:11-14
- 3) Matthew 24:37-44

FOCUS: The Jesus who is born in time and history is also the Christ who will come in glory to judge all.

The season of Advent begins today with a call to perseverance and vigilance, as we prepare, not just to celebrate the historical event of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, but also to celebrate our central belief that Christ will come again in glory to judge all humanity. Our readings are chosen to help us reflect on this great truth and to be prepared for the coming of Christ.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Our readings speak to us about eternal life and the fulfillment of the kingdom. Isaiah, the Old Testament prophet of consolation, describes a pilgrimage to the mountain of the Lord where the faithful will be instructed in his ways. Paul calls us to wake up and *to throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light*. Our Gospel echoes this, describing the need to be prepared for the unexpected coming of Christ in glory.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

**PRIEST:** Seeking to be properly prepared for the day when Jesus will return in glory to fully establish God's kingdom upon the earth, we bring our prayers and concerns before the Lord.

- 1) For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, our bishops and all who exercise authority in the Church, may they be alert to the signs of the times and continue to inspire us to walk in the ways of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who live in nations torn apart by ethnic unrest and division, may peace and reconciliation reign in their homes and communities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who struggle to find meaning and direction in their lives, may we who await the return of Christ shine forth as a beacon of light and hope in their search, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us as we begin this season of Advent, may it be a time of renewal and blessing as we prepare our hearts for the return of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they enter into eternal life with all the angels and saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** Gracious and loving God, your patience is beyond our understanding. As we place these prayers before you, teach us to be patient and to trust in your holy will. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, the Lord.

Monday, November 28, 2016

(Lec. 175)

- 1) Isaiah 4:2-6
- 2) Matthew 8:5-11

MONDAY  
OF ADVENT  
- FIRST WEEK

FOCUS: We are to lead lives that give a faithful witness to the Gospel, and glory to God.

Through the sacrament of baptism, we were given new life in Christ by water and the Holy Spirit, we became members of his body the Church, we received the promise of eternal life, and received the call to bear witness to the Gospel. Grateful for these gifts and mindful of the call we have received, may we – this day and every day – lead lives that give glory to God.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Book of the Prophet Isaiah prophesies that God will purge Jerusalem with *searing judgment*, but those left behind will be called holy, and be given refuge on Mount Zion. In the Gospel, a centurion asks Jesus to cure his servant, and Jesus commends the centurion's faith.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our prayers before our almighty Father – our shelter and protection.

- 1) For all members of the Church, that we may place our trust in God and draw strength from our faith as we face the uncertainties and challenges of our daily lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of all nations, may they turn to God for guidance and wisdom as they strive to promote the common good of all whom they govern, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the poor, that they may have their basic needs for food and shelter met through the help of faithful Christians and people of goodwill, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the sick in our parish, may they find relief through our prayers and the care of considerate healthcare professionals, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they join the angels and saints in singing God's praises forever in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Tuesday, November 29, 2016

(Lec. 176)

- 1) Isaiah 11:1-10
- 2) Luke 10:21-24

TUESDAY  
OF ADVENT  
- FIRST WEEK

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

We are blessed to have received the gift of faith. We receive the promise of salvation if we are faithful to Jesus. If we live according to his teachings, we can be a blessing to the world. The more faithfully we abide by Jesus' teachings, the more we help build up God's kingdom of love and peace on earth.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah prophesies that a new king will arise, and the spirit of the Lord will rest upon him. He will bring justice to the poor and *slay the wicked*. In Luke, Jesus tells the Apostles that God reveals spiritual truths not to the learned and powerful, but to those who are childlike in their faith.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Grateful for the gift of faith, we bring our prayers before the Lord, who knows what we most need.

- 1) For all members of the Church, that we may live in a way that makes Christ visible to those we encounter, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, that they promote peace in their nations and seek nonviolent solutions to conflict, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have been displaced from their homes because of natural disasters or violence, may they find shelter and comfort from relief agencies and caring individuals, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For parents, catechists and Catholic school teachers, may they be blessed in their efforts to nourish our children's faith, let us pray to the Lord
- 5) For those who have died, that they come to enjoy perfect peace and joy in the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

\* \* \*

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

(Lec. 684)

- 1) Romans 10:9-18
- 2) Matthew 4:18-22

**SAINT ANDREW,  
APOSTLE  
- FEAST**

FOCUS: *How beautiful are the feet of those who bring the good news!*

“Get on your feet.” “Move your feet, lose your seat.” The word “feet” seems to imply action. Taking action is precisely what today’s readings make imperative, issuing a call and response. The first reading encourages all to believe in the Good News. The Gospel recounts the response of believers – to drop everything and follow Jesus.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Paul extols the Romans to believe that Jesus is Lord by confessing with their mouth and believing in their hearts. The Gospel recounts Jesus’ call and invitation to Peter, Andrew, James and John to follow him. They immediately respond by dropping everything and following him.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Seeking to heed the Lord’s call for our lives, we confidently offer our prayers of petition to the Lord.

- 1) For the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ, may the faithful continue to profess with their mouths and witness with their lives that Jesus Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of countries torn by war and violence, may they, with the assistance of other nations, find peaceful solutions to conflicts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For victims of human trafficking, may they find rescue and sanctuary through the determination and dedication of all those who work tirelessly to bring an end to this form of corruption and oppression, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of this faith community, may we continue to heed today’s Gospel and respond to Jesus’ invitation to follow him with decisive immediacy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may they be held in the loving embrace of Jesus forever in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father almighty, through the life, death and resurrection of your Son, you have revealed your love and mercy. Please grant our prayers according to your divine will, through Christ, our Lord.

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