

OCTOBER

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**CYCLE C
YEAR II**

Saturday, October 1, 2016
(Lec. 460)

- 1) Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17
- 2) Luke 10:17-24

SATURDAY OF
26TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM

Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus,
Virgin and Doctor of the Church)

FOCUS: As disciples, we are called to bring others to Christ, as did Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus in her short life.

Saint Thérèse, in her “little way” of spirituality and love for others, showed others the way to God. We, too, are called to “become like children” and place our faith and trust in Jesus. When we do this, and become the face of Jesus to those we meet, we are helping to build up the kingdom.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Job acknowledges the error of his ways in questioning God. Job is then blessed by God with more than he ever had before. Today’s Gospel recounts Jesus telling his disciples, *Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. For I say to you, many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it ...*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident of God’s goodness and mercy, we bring our prayers of petition to him.

- 1) That Pope Francis and all Church leaders may be given the strength to continue to proclaim the good news of salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That those in war-torn regions of the world may know peace, and that reconciliation may take hold in people’s hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are experiencing religious persecution may find strength and hope in their faith, and in the prayers and advocacy of Christians around the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That in this Year of Mercy, all members of our parish may strive to incorporate the spiritual and corporal works of mercy into our everyday lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our beloved dead and all who have died may come to experience the joys and splendor of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Most merciful Father, we ask that you hear our prayers. We ask this through Jesus, our Lord.

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2016

(Lec. 141)

- 1) Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4
- 2) 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14
- 3) Luke 17:5-10

**TWENTY-SEVENTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Daily prayer is essential in order to be open to the workings of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit gives us the grace, gifts and strength needed to put our faith into practice. We, in turn, must cooperate with the Holy Spirit moving within us so that our lives may bear good fruit for God. Let us set aside time to pray each day in order to be attentive and responsive to the Spirit's promptings in our daily lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In our first reading, the Lord responds to Habakkuk's plea for help, assuring him that the just shall live because of their faith. In the second reading, Paul encourages Timothy to find strength in God in the face of hardships, and to hold fast to his faith with the help of *the Holy Spirit that dwells within us*. Jesus tells the Apostles that if they have faith even as tiny as a mustard seed, God can perform great works in and through them.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In humility and trust, let us offer our prayers for our needs and those of the world to God, the almighty Father.

- 1) For missionaries throughout the world, that God may give them the strength and grace to show the face of Christ to others and to persevere in patience, mercy and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For police officers and first responders, that they may be blessed as they work to protect the welfare and safety of others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For refugees, that they may find safety and material and spiritual comfort through the assistance of Church agencies and people of goodwill, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our catechists and teachers, that the Holy Spirit may inspire them in their efforts to instruct our youth in the practice of the faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they may have eternal joy in heaven where every tear will be wiped away, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious and loving God, please hear the prayers of your servants gathered in your presence. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

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Monday, October 3, 2016

(Lec. 461)

1) Galatians 1:6-12

2) Luke 10:25-37

MONDAY OF
27TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Love God with your whole heart and your whole being, and love your neighbor as yourself.

Jesus taught throughout his life and ministry that loving God with one's whole being, and loving our neighbors as ourselves, fulfills the law. Although it is not easy to follow these two great commandments, we must strive each day to be like Paul – *a slave of Christ* – and follow God's ways, not the ways of the world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians reminds us that the Gospel is not of human origin, but comes through the revelation of Christ. In the Gospel, Jesus presents the two great commandments – to love God with all your heart and to love your neighbor as yourself. He then tells the parable of the Good Samaritan to demonstrate that we are to consider every person we encounter as our neighbor.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that God lovingly watches over us and provides what we most truly need, let us offer our prayers to our Lord.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we strive to see the face of Christ in all whom we encounter and treat them with love, mercy and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For national leaders, may they work to enact and support agreements that enable the citizens of their country to live in peace with neighboring nations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are sick, that they may experience God's healing grace through the prayers and helping hands of others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For families in our parish, may they support one another in giving witness to the Gospel in their workplaces, schools and neighborhoods, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they may enjoy eternal peace and joy in God's heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Tuesday, October 4, 2016
(Lec. 462)

- 1) Galatians 1:13-24
- 2) Luke 10:38-42

TUESDAY OF
27TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Francis of Assisi)

FOCUS: Living as a disciple of Jesus requires that we spend time with the Lord in prayer and listen to him speak.

Daily prayer brings us closer to the Lord. Jesus prayed often to the Father, and he asks us to do the same. Spending time with the Lord in prayer enables us to receive the grace and strength we need to be more faithful witnesses to the Gospel.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading reminds us that God has a unique plan and purpose for each of our lives. In today's Gospel, Jesus visits with Martha and Mary, who are sisters. While Martha busied herself with providing hospitality to Jesus, Mary sat at his feet and simply listened to him speak.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God, who knows the deepest needs of our hearts, we place our prayers before him.

- 1) For all those who minister in the Church, that they may be filled with a spirit of simplicity and trust in God's providence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all nations, that they will work to provide basic services to the poorest of the poor, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For people of all faiths and religious traditions, may they work to foster mutual respect and tolerance for one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the sick in our community, that they will find comfort in their faith and in our prayers and support, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed and all who have died, may they come to enjoy eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Wednesday, October 5, 2016

(Lec. 463)

1) Galatians 2:1-2, 7-14

2) Luke 11:1-4

WEDNESDAY OF
27TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Our actions should complement our words.

As Christians, we are taught to be loving, caring and compassionate – embracing all people as Jesus did. Our words and actions are to be consistent with the faith we profess. Otherwise, we will fall short of giving an effective witness to the Gospel and run the risk of leading others astray.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the reading from Galatians, Paul chides Peter and some Jewish leaders for their hypocritical behavior that is contrary to Gospel truth. Today's Gospel presents Luke's version of the Lord's Prayer. We acknowledge that God is our Father; we owe him everything; we ask forgiveness and deliverance.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in God's loving mercy, let us give voice in prayer for the Church, the world and the needs of all people.

- 1) That the Church, celebrating this Jubilee Year of Mercy, may grow in joy as she experiences anew the mercy of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That world leaders may govern with honesty and integrity by keeping their word, and by seeking to collaborate to achieve peace and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are wounded in spirit may find hope and know the joy of the Gospel from Christians empowered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That members of this faith community may experience the joy and peace that come from receiving the sacrament of reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died in faith may rejoice with the angels and saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we ask that you hear our prayers and grant us the grace needed to generously share your love and mercy with others. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

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Thursday, October 6, 2016
(Lec. 464)

- 1) Galatians 3:1-5
- 2) Luke 11:5-13

THURSDAY OF
27TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Bruno, Priest;
USA: Blessed Marie Rose Durocher,
Virgin)

FOCUS: Knock and the door will be opened to you.

In a world filled with distractions, there's much to "bewitch" us and pull us away from our faith. Jesus wants us to stay close to God – to talk to him like we would a friend. This is done through prayer. Jesus teaches us to trust that our Father in heaven hears our prayers and will answer them in the way that is best for us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's reading, Paul warns the Galatians about the consequences of growing lax in their faith in Christ. The Gospel includes a parable about a man who interrupts his friend in the night to ask for bread. Jesus says to *ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that the Lord will answer our prayers, let us turn to him with our petitions.

- 1) For all members of the Church, that we may receive grace and strength from the Holy Spirit to continue the work of protecting the dignity of human life in all its stages, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who serve in public office, that they may turn to God for the wisdom and foresight to respond to threats of violence and terrorism, and work to lessen its root causes, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For migrants and refugees, that they may find safe haven and be welcomed by Christians and people of goodwill, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us gathered here, that we may give generously of our time, talent and treasure to support our parish and those in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they enjoy perpetual light, rest and peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Friday, October 7, 2016
(Lec. 465)

- 1) Galatians 3:7-14
- 2) Luke 11:15-26

FRIDAY OF
27TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Our Lady of the Rosary)

FOCUS: A house divided cannot stand.

Our culture bombards us with messages that run contrary to the Gospel. We must do our best each day to make good choices that are in accord with the teachings of Jesus, and allow us to live out our faith fully.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Saint Paul explains how faith in Jesus is necessary in order for the Gentiles to receive the blessing of Abraham and the promised Holy Spirit. In the Gospel, Jesus has just driven out a demon when he responds to critics. He defends his actions as the work of God, and proclaims the presence of God's kingdom.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Ever confident of the Father's love and care for us, we turn to him with our prayers for our needs and those of the world.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we boldly proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in all times and places, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who will soon take up the responsibility of public office, may their thoughts and actions be guided by a concern for the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those struggling with their faith in God, may our prayers and God's grace provide them with the strength to persevere in their quest and trust the Gospel message, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For catechists and lay leaders in our parish community, that they may be blessed in their work of spreading the Gospel, 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: Father, hear our prayers and grant us the grace to do your will and serve the needs of others with humble and contrite hearts. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Saturday, October 8, 2016
(Lec. 466)

- 1) Galatians 3:22-29
- 2) Luke 11:27-28

SATURDAY OF
27TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Saturday in honor
of BVM)

FOCUS: We are called to care for and nurture the gift of faith we have been given.

Given the demands of daily life, it is easy to take our focus off of tending to our spiritual needs. But we cannot take our faith for granted. Participation in the sacraments of reconciliation and Eucharist will give us the strength and grace we need to keep our faith strong.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In our first reading, Paul writes that through faith and baptism we are all children of God – neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, but one in Jesus Christ. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that those who not only hear but live by the word of God are truly blessed.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Seeking to lead lives that give glory to God and help build up his kingdom on earth, we offer prayers and petitions.

- 1) That all members of the Church may continue to grow in faith and holiness, so we may share the Gospel message with others by word and example, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That those who govern may place great value on the freedom of all people to worship without fear of persecution, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who suffer loneliness or spiritual doubt may experience God's love and care through the actions of committed Christians who reach out to help them, let us pray to the Lord
- 4) That members of our parish community may be committed to performing corporal works of mercy in our daily lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may know the joys of the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, ever grateful for the abundant blessings you pour out upon us each day, we ask that you hear and answer our prayers. We offer them through your son, Jesus Christ.

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2016

(Lec. 144)

- 1) 2 Kings 5:14-17
- 2) 2 Timothy 2:8-13
- 3) Luke 17:11-19

**TWENTY-EIGHTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Faith in the midst of adversity fortifies the soul.

When things are going well, it is easy to believe in a loving God. In the midst of adversity, believing can be more difficult. Witness today the strong faith of Naaman, Saint Paul speaking from prison, and the leper who was a Samaritan. All three are good roles models for us in times of difficulty.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In our first reading and in the Gospel, Elisha, a man of God, and Jesus, the son of God, heal lepers. We see the strong faith of Naaman and the Samaritan. We also hear of the nine who lacked gratitude. In the second reading, Paul speaks out from prison that the word of God cannot be chained.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Recognizing that God's love, grace and mercy heal and make us whole, let us place our needs before the Lord.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all pastoral leaders, may their words and example cultivate thankful and merciful hearts in all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all civic leaders, may they be blessed with courage and wisdom as they work to solve the problems that plague humankind, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the chronically ill among us, may they know the merciful love of God through our care and concern for their needs, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our faith community who feel called to the priesthood or religious life, may we support and encourage them as they discern God's call for their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they share in the heavenly banquet with the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of mercy, hear and answer our prayers according to your will. This we pray through Christ, our Lord.

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Monday, October 10, 2016

(Lec. 467)

- 1) Galatians 4:22-24,
26-27, 31—5:1
- 2) Luke 11:29-32

MONDAY OF
28TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Jesus saves us and sets us free from slavery to sin.

In today's culture, many believe true freedom comes from doing whatever one wants. However, many are unhappy and enslaved by vices. Christ calls us into relationship with him, and he promises to save us and give us the grace needed to change and break free of the sinful patterns in our lives which hold us bound.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading reminds us that Christ sets us free. In the Gospel, Jesus compares the people of his time to the people of Nineveh, who converted upon hearing the message of Jonah. He says the people of Nineveh would condemn the people of his time because even though his preaching is greater than Jonah, the people remain unrepentant.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Grateful for the gifts of new life, healing and salvation we are offered through Jesus, let us present our petitions to God our merciful Father.

- 1) That members of the Church will be open to the creative promptings of the Spirit as we work to spread the Gospel message throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That national leaders may work to protect the dignity and sanctity of life from conception to natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all Christians being persecuted for their belief in Christ may be blessed with the strength and grace to continue giving witness to their faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That married couples in our parish community may continue to grow in love for one another, and mutual understanding of their sacred bond, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may receive a place at the eternal banquet in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God of mercy and love, hear our prayers and grant us the grace to grow in virtue and resist sin and temptation. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

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Tuesday, October 11, 2016

(Lec. 468)

- 1) Galatians 5:1-6
- 2) Luke 11:37-41

TUESDAY OF
28TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Spiritual practices performed with a sincere faith and love for God bear good and lasting fruit.

Amidst the busyness of life, it's all too easy to view spiritual practices such as daily prayer as just another item to be crossed off one's to-do list. We need to be ever-vigilant against falling into this type of thinking. For only those spiritual practices carried out with a sincere faith and love for God truly bear good fruit.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading reminds us that Jesus has set us free to lead lives that are holy and pleasing to God. In today's Gospel, Jesus chastises the Pharisees for failing to recognize that spiritual practices only bear good fruit when done with sincerity.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we seek to grow in our faith and love for the Lord, let us join in offering him our petitions.

- 1) That Church leaders continue to model practices of daily prayer and tireless devotion to spreading the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That all legislators may turn to God for guidance in enacting just laws that promote the good of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are living with chronic mental illness may receive the help and support needed to manage their conditions and live each day to its fullest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That young people in our parish community who are discerning their vocation in life may receive our prayers and support, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our beloved dead, and all who have died, may receive a place at the eternal banquet feast in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Wednesday, October 12, 2016

(Lec. 469)

1) Galatians 5:18-25

2) Luke 11:42-46

WEDNESDAY OF
28TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: *If we live in the Spirit, let us also follow the Spirit.*

Today's readings remind us that in order to say we belong to Christ, our hearts must be transformed by the Spirit of God. It isn't enough to follow a spiritual checklist like the Pharisees often did in strictly following the law. Our way of life must be changed so we manifest the fruits of the Spirit such as patience, kindness, gentleness, peace and joy.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading lists the works of the flesh and shows that they are opposed to the fruits of the Spirit. In the Gospel, Jesus scolds the Pharisees for strictly observing the minutiae of the law while neglecting judgment and love for God. He also reprimands the scholars of the law for imposing burdens on others.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For Pope Francis and all bishops of our Church, may they continue to be open to the workings of the Holy Spirit to provide them with the gifts and strength necessary to shepherd the faithful along the path of life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in government office and those seeking to obtain office, may they be selfless in their leadership and steadfast in their desire to serve the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who feel isolated and struggle to find hope each day, may they know of God's loving care for them through the outreach of Christians and people of good will, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For each member of this faith community, may we strive to share Christ's light and love with others by the witness and example of our daily lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they come to enjoy eternal rest and peace in God's heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we ask that you hear and answer these prayers, which we offer through Christ, our Lord.

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Thursday, October 13, 2016
(Lec. 470)

- 1) Ephesians 1:1-10
- 2) Luke 11:47-54

THURSDAY OF
28TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: We are called to live according to both the letter and the Spirit of the law.

It can be all too easy to merely live according to the letter of the law. Jesus calls us to do something more difficult in that we are to abide by both the letter and the Spirit of the law. The commandments and teachings of Jesus are to guide our conduct, and the over-arching principle that takes priority is loving God and our neighbor.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading reminds us that God the Father has blessed us through Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens. In the Gospel, Jesus charges the scholars of the law with the blood of the prophets – and chastises them for preventing others from entering the kingdom of God.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Grateful that God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, let us join in offering him our prayers for our needs and those of the world.

- 1) For bishops, priests, deacons and catechists throughout the Church, may they continue to proclaim and teach the Gospel with loving care so the faithful may continue to grow in holiness of life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may they seek to address the root causes of ethnic and religious strife and economic inequality within their nations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For married couples who are experiencing difficulties in their marriages, may they find in the Church the support and resources they need to achieve reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of our parish community, that we might practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy more fully and consistently, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, that they might see God face to face in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, you bestow numerous blessings on your people. Hear our prayers and extend your grace and mercy to all in need. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

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Friday, October 14, 2016
(Lec. 471)

- 1) Ephesians 1:11-14
- 2) Luke 12:1-7

FRIDAY OF
28TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Callistus I,
Pope and Martyr)

FOCUS: We are to live today with eternity in mind.

We are told that those who believe in Jesus are given the Holy Spirit as the *first installment of our inheritance* from God. Imagine what else God has in store for us! If we live today keeping in mind the promise of eternal life, we will have more than we could ever think to ask for from our God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first reading teaches that those who believe in Jesus are sealed with the Holy Spirit as the first installment of our inheritance of everlasting life with God. The Gospel warns us not to be hypocrites, for God knows and sees all we do.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together, let us offer our petitions to the Father, confident of his love and care for all of us.

- 1) That all members of the Church may heed the call of Jesus to spread the Good News of the Gospel as disciples who are sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That civil governments throughout the world may dedicate time, effort and resources to bringing peace and prosperity to the people they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are suffering due to the loss of a loved one may turn to Jesus for strength and be comforted by the promise of eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That each of us here may be attentive and responsive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit so we may lead lives which bear good fruit for God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may share fully in the joy of the saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, source of all that is good, we ask you to hear and answer our prayers. For we offer them to you through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Saturday, October 15, 2016

(Lec. 472)

1) Ephesians 1:15-23

2) Luke 12:8-12

SATURDAY OF

28TH WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(OBL MEM

Saint Teresa of Jesus,

Virgin and Doctor of the Church)

FOCUS: Jesus taught that we are to turn to the Holy Spirit for strength needed to stay strong in our faith.

Throughout his ministry, Jesus taught that his followers would experience resistance and persecution from others for the sake of their faith in him. This has proved to be true throughout history, and still is the case in today's world. We needn't be afraid, but rather must turn to the Holy Spirit for guidance and strength.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading reminds us of the importance of praying for one another so we may continue to grow in our faith and love for the Lord Jesus. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that whoever acknowledges him before others will be acknowledged by him before all the angels.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For our Holy Father, bishops, and priests, may they continue to model a spirit of unity and love as they shepherd our Church each and every day, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our elected officials, may they work tirelessly to protect the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those left without shelter as a result of war or oppression, may they be blessed with assistance from others that helps them find a peaceful dwelling place, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For young people in our faith community discerning a vocation to the priesthood or religious life, may they be guided by the Holy Spirit, and be strengthened and encouraged by our prayers and support, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they enjoy full communion with God in the company of all the angels in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious and loving God, we ask that you hear and answer our prayers according to your loving will. We offer them through Christ, our Lord.

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2016

(Lec. 147)

- 1) Exodus 17:8-13
- 2) 2 Timothy 3:14–4:2
- 3) Luke 18:1-8

**TWENTY-NINTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Trusting in and relying upon God gives us strength to persevere during trials, and live as more faithful disciples of Jesus.

Many people in our world think they are self-sufficient and do not need God. As believers in Jesus, however, we are called to trust and rely upon him. We know God is our strength and salvation, and the more we rely on him, the more we will receive the strength we need to face life's challenges.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the reading from Exodus, the Israelites, led by Joshua, defeat Amalek in battle with the help of Moses. The Second Letter of Timothy reminds us to study sacred Scripture so that we may be *equipped for every good work*. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the persistent widow, helping us to see that God gives us what we need when we place our trust in him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) That Pope Francis will continue to be blessed in his efforts to lead the Church on its mission to spread the Gospel to all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That leaders of nations will work to find peaceful solutions to the problems they face within and outside their borders, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who live with chronic illness may turn to the Lord each day and be blessed with healing and strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That our parish community may seek the Lord's guidance in our efforts to evangelize and share the Good News with those around us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may come to enjoy perfect happiness and peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, we ask that you look with favor on our petitions. We offer them to you in the name of Jesus, your son.

* * *

Monday, October 17, 2016
(Lec. 473)

- 1) Ephesians 2:1-10
- 2) Luke 12:13-21

MONDAY OF
29TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Ignatius of Antioch,
Bishop and Martyr)

FOCUS: Jesus calls us to seek to be rich in what matters to God.

Jesus taught that we are to guard against greed and not focus on accumulating possessions. Rather, we are to focus on being rich in God's sight so we might be judged worthy of coming to share eternal life in heaven. We must make every effort to generously share our time, treasure and talent with those in need of a helping hand.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, we learn that God is the author of the plan for our salvation. Since God is rich in mercy, he offered his Son to save us. Jesus' parable of the rich fool from the Gospel of Luke is a reminder that, since our lives on earth are brief, we should not seek to grow rich in material things, which are temporary and fleeting, but rather grow rich in the things that matter most to God – that we might be judged worthy of eternal life in heaven.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Knowing that God watches over us and provides for our needs, let us join in offering our prayers to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) That all members of the Church may be beacons of hope to the world by showing God's mercy and love through acts of forgiveness and charity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That government officials may be mindful of the most vulnerable among us, especially the unborn, as they work to enact laws and policies, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who suffer from isolation or loneliness may be comforted by their faith in Jesus and the compassion of others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That we in this parish set our hearts on growing rich in God's sight by proclaiming the Gospel and living as faithful disciples when we walk out these doors, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the faithful departed may rest in eternal peace in the arms of the heavenly Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God and Father, we offer you these prayers confident that you will hear them. For we offer them to you through Christ, our Lord.

* * *

Tuesday, October 18, 2016
(Lec. 661)

- 1) 2 Timothy 4:10-17b
- 2) Luke 10:1-9

**SAINT LUKE,
EVANGELIST
- FEAST**

FOCUS: The Lord can be counted on above all others to stand beside us and give us strength.

As a result of sin and human weakness, people will inevitably fail us from time to time. But God will never disappoint. For he is with us always, providing for what we most truly need, and giving us the strength and grace needed to persevere in the midst of adversity. So this day and every day, may we place our trust and confidence in him.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, we hear Paul's frustration with his friends and coworkers – how at his first defense no one came on his behalf. Yet God stood by him and gave him strength. Today's Gospel tells of Jesus sending out 72 disciples in pairs to proclaim that the kingdom of God was at hand and to cure the sick.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that God watches over us to provide for what we truly need, let us join in offering him our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For those who shepherd our Church, may they continue to tend to the pastoral needs of all people under their care in a loving, Christ-like manner, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For areas of the world that experience unrest and ethnic conflict, may leaders and others of influence in these regions turn to the Lord for guidance, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are unemployed or underemployed, may they find meaningful and sufficient work to provide for themselves and their families, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For students as they settle in to their new school year, may their teachers and parents work to provide them with all the tools and support they need to succeed, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died and those who will die today, may they and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, grant us the grace needed to lead lives which bear good fruit for you. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Wednesday, October 19, 2016

(Lec. 475)

- 1) Ephesians 3:2-12
- 2) Luke 12:39-48

WEDNESDAY OF

29TH WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(OBL MEM

USA: Saints John de Brébeuf
and Isaac Jogues, Priests,
and Companions, Martyrs

FOCUS: Always remain vigilant; the Son of Man will come at an hour we do not expect.

While Jesus did not reveal the time he will return in glory to bring the kingdom of God to its fulfillment, he does leave us with clear instructions for how we are to prepare so we might be judged worthy of eternal life. We are to live according to the teachings of Jesus and be faithful to God's call for our lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul writes to the Ephesians that, through God's grace, the Apostles have been commissioned to go out on mission and preach the Gospel to all, including the Gentiles. In the Gospel, Jesus uses an example of an unexpected thief to remind us that we do not know when the Son of Man is returning, but we must be ready.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in God's loving mercy, we bring our needs before the Lord.

- 1) That all the faithful may be blessed, through God's grace, to continue to share the Good News with all whom they encounter, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That candidates seeking elected office may always speak the truth, and act with integrity and honesty, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That victims of domestic violence may be blessed with the help and support they need to leave dangerous situations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That our parish community may always be one of welcome to the stranger, and all who walk through our doors, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may one day come to dwell in the heavenly Jerusalem, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, hear and answer our prayers and help us be good stewards of what you have entrusted to us. We ask this, and all things, in Jesus' name.

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Thursday, October 20, 2016
(Lec. 476)

- 1) Ephesians 3:14-21
- 2) Luke 12:49-53

THURSDAY OF
29TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
USA: Saint Paul of the Cross,
Priest)

FOCUS: The teachings of Jesus and the Church guide us along the path to eternal life.

Our Catholic faith addresses choices that stand before us – between evil and good, falsehood and truth, nonbelief and faith, and death and eternal life. Temporally and spiritually, we are to be on the right side of these dividing lines; faith in Christ and fidelity to the teachings of his Church must be our guides.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul prays that the Ephesians will grow to understand more fully God's plan of salvation for them, and be *filled with all the fullness of God*. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that all who aspire to live as one of his disciples should be prepared to encounter opposition and resistance from others.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Understanding that Jesus is present whenever two or three are gathered in his name, we humbly place our needs before our almighty Father.

- 1) That all members of the Church may shine as a beacon of God's love to those who have fallen away from the faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That those who are persecuted for their faith in Christ may be strengthened by the grace of the Holy Spirit to remain steadfast in faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are estranged or in conflict with family members may turn to Christ for the strength needed to foster healing and reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That members of our parish may feel empowered to spread the Gospel in our homes, schools and workplaces in spite of the conflict it may cause, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may be warmly welcomed into God's heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we pray that you look favorably on our prayers and petitions. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

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Friday, October 21, 2016
(Lec. 477)

- 1) Ephesians 4:1-6
- 2) Luke 12:54-59

FRIDAY OF
29TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: We are called as members of the body of Christ to live in love and unity with God and one another.

As members of the Church, we are called to live in unity. This isn't an easy task, given the great diversity that exists within the Church. However, we can meet this challenge by being fortified and strengthened by God's grace, and by patiently bearing with one another in love.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul urges the Ephesians to preserve unity, affirming that there is one Body and one Spirit, one Lord, one faith and one baptism. In the Gospel, Jesus admonishes his listeners to settle differences on their own based on what is right, rather than going before a judge.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With love and trust, we bring our prayers to our loving God.

- 1) For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, our bishop, _____, and our priests, deacons and religious, that they may continue to build unity in the Church through their teaching and leadership, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our government leaders, that they seek peace in the world through negotiation and nonviolent means to end conflict, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the vulnerable in our society, especially the very young and the elderly, that their lives be protected from conception until natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of families who are experiencing conflict and discord, may they turn to God for the grace and strength needed to forgive and reconcile with one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our brothers and sisters who have died, may they enjoy eternal rest and peace in God's heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, with humble hearts, we ask you to answer the prayers we place before you in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.

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Saturday, October 22, 2016
(Lec. 478)

- 1) Ephesians 4:7-16
- 2) Luke 13:1-9

SATURDAY OF
29TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.)

USA: Saint John Paul II, Pope;
Saturday in honor of BVM)

FOCUS: Leading lives that bear good fruit for God requires ongoing repentance and conversion.

Jesus taught clearly that in order to be judged worthy of entering into eternal life in heaven, we must bear good fruit for God. We must take the time to examine our hearts each day and identify the sinful habits we need to change with the help of God's grace. What pruning do we need in our lives in order to bear abundant fruit?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul instructs the Ephesians to profess the truth in love, *grow in every way into him, who is the head, Christ*, and be united in love. In today's Gospel, Jesus dispels the notion that human calamities are God's punishment for sin. He calls for repentance, offering the parable about a barren fig tree that will be destroyed unless it bears fruit after being fertilized.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us offer our prayers and petitions to God the Father, the giver of every good and perfect gift.

- 1) That all members of the Church may seek to give a faithful and effective witness to the Gospel by following the teachings of Jesus in their daily lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That government and civic officials may work together to identify and respond to the needs of their people so that justice and peace prevail in our towns and cities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That farmers will be blessed in their work with bountiful harvests to provide food for the hungry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That members of this parish community may grow in an understanding of what it means to live as a follower of Jesus, and bear good fruit for the Gospel by setting aside time for daily prayer and spiritual reading, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may join the angels and saints in heaven in singing God's praises for all eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2016

(Lec. 150)

- 1) Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18
- 2) 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
- 3) Luke 18:9-14

**THIRTIETH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Only those who truly know they need God will come to trust in his word.

When we approach the Lord in prayer, whether it be for help or strength, we should avoid false pretenses. Instead, we should recognize who we are – in our struggles and achievements – and stand before the Lord in honesty. This posture allows us to recognize our need for God's grace and mercy, grow in faith, and give a more faithful witness to the Gospel.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from Sirach reminds us that God has a special love for the weak and oppressed, the orphan and the widow. The second reading exhorts us to persevere in faith and keep our eyes fixed on heaven. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable about the Pharisee and the tax collector.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

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

PRIEST: Almighty and eternal God, our salvation comes from you alone. We place our prayers before you through Christ, our Lord.

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Monday, October 24, 2016

(Lec. 479)

- 1) Ephesians 4:32–5:8
- 2) Luke 13:10-17

MONDAY OF

30TH WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(Opt. Mem.

Saint Anthony Mary Claret,
Bishop)

FOCUS: We are called to live as children of the light.

Christians are children of the light. We are called to treat others with kindness and compassion, and be ever-willing to forgive. Unlike greed and selfishness, which lead one away from God, walking in the light of Christ's love helps us become beacons of hope that invite others to know the joy, peace and salvation we have found in Jesus.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Saint Paul exhorts the Ephesians to imitate God by being compassionate and avoiding immorality. In the Gospel, Jesus heals a suffering woman, refuting those who criticize him for doing so on the Sabbath.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God calls us into his wonderful light by giving us the grace to be kind and forgiving to others. Let us come before him today with our needs.

- 1) For all members of the Church, that, strengthened by the Holy Spirit and God's grace, we may be living signs of God's mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, that they might turn to God for guidance and provide for the needs of their citizens, especially the poor, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For people burdened by hardships in body, mind or spirit, may they experience God's healing grace and love through the compassion of caregivers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of our parish, may our hearts be open to the workings of the Holy Spirit so that we may receive the grace to be kind to others in all areas of our daily lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they come to experience perpetual light, joy and peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Tuesday, October 25, 2016

(Lec. 480)

- 1) Ephesians 5:21-33 or
Ephesians 5:2a, 25-32 (Lec. 122)
- 2) Luke 13:18-21

TUESDAY OF
30TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Through simple acts of kindness and love, we help build up God's kingdom on earth.

Today's Gospel parable of the mustard seed reminds us that good things often start small. None of our daily acts of kindness and love to others are insignificant. They are seeds that, with God's grace, grow and help build up his kingdom of love and peace on earth.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians, Paul talks about some of the precepts for marriage. Today's reading from the Gospel of Luke relates the parable of the mustard seed. Just as the seed becomes a large bush, the kingdom of God will continue to grow.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In humility and trust, let us join together in offering our prayers and petitions to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) That all members of the Church will surrender fully in obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, devoting their lives to love of God and others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That world leaders will turn to God for guidance and wisdom so they may enact just laws and policies that promote the common good and foster greater peace in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those experiencing physical and emotional pain will find comfort in prayer and in the support of caring professionals, family and friends, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That God will protect members of this faith community who serve in the military, and that they will return safely to their loved ones, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may enjoy eternal peace and joy with the angels and saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we offer you our prayers and petitions in the name of your only begotten son, Jesus Christ.

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Wednesday, October 26, 2016

(Lec. 481)

- 1) Ephesians 6:1-9
- 2) Luke 13:22-30

WEDNESDAY OF
30TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: We are to seek to enter through the narrow gate.

In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches that to be judged worthy of entering into eternal life in heaven, we must strive to enter through the narrow gate. This requires loving God above all things, and letting go of attachments to the things of this world that hold us back from living in the way Jesus calls us to live.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul offers instruction on how members of a Christian household should relate to one another. In the Gospel, Jesus warns his listeners that in order to attain the kingdom of God, they must strive to enter through the narrow gate.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the goodness and mercy of God, our Father, we present our petitions.

- 1) That all Catholics will strive to set a good example by continuing to grow in love for Jesus and practicing his teachings in all areas of our lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That those in public office will deal fairly and considerately with those they represent as they make laws and policies, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who have become disconnected from the life of the Church may open their hearts to God's healing grace and mercy and be moved to return to the practice of the faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That during this Year of Mercy, our community will strive to show love and concern for one another through the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may see God's face and experience eternal joy in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petitions)

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

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Thursday, October 27, 2016

(Lec. 482)

1) Ephesians 6:10-20

2) Luke 13:31-35

THURSDAY OF
30TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: The force of God is with us.

Being on the right side is not the same as being on the winning side. Someone can win an argument, a battle or a game and still be wrong. Being right in matters of faith far outweighs winning. When the love of God prevails, everyone wins.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians calls for an all-out assault on the evil ways of the devil. This requires being clothed in God's righteousness. In the Gospel, Jesus will not be dissuaded from carrying out the mission given to him by his Father.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us gather our prayers and petitions, and place them before our merciful and loving Father.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all shepherds of the church, may they unite believers with their loving words and actions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may they forge new paths to peace and justice, replacing the old ways of war and hostility, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the most vulnerable among us, especially those who suffer from Alzheimer's disease, may they know the Lord's compassion through our kindness and tender care, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For pilgrims from our parish community traveling to the holy places of our faith, may they be kept from harm's way as they walk where Jesus walked, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rest in the eternal love of God and may perpetual light shine upon them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, hear our pleas as we cry out to you in faith. Keep us safe from all the darkness of the world so that we may carry out your will for us. This we pray through Christ, our Lord.

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Friday, October 28, 2016

(Lec. 666)

- 1) Ephesians 2:19-22
- 2) Luke 6:12-16

**SAINTS SIMON AND JUDE,
APOSTLES
- FEAST**

FOCUS: The Apostles are the foundation upon which the Church is built.

Jesus, after spending a night in prayer, chose twelve men whom he named as Apostles for the purpose of one day being the chief shepherds of the Church. Saints Simon and Jude were numbered among the Twelve. By their teaching, preaching, example and leadership, they are the foundation upon which the Church is built.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians, Paul reminds the community that they are united with the holy ones as members of the household of God, of which Jesus is the capstone. In the Gospel, after a night of prayer, Jesus chooses the Twelve Apostles.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As disciples of Christ and participants in the mission carried forth in the Church, let us place our needs before God.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, that, following the example of the Apostles, we may turn to the Lord each day for the strength to give effective witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord
- 2) For our civic leaders, that they will promote the dignity of all people and work for an end to bigotry and intolerance, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are experiencing loneliness or depression, that they will find comfort, relief and hope in prayer and in the attention of those close to them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For each of us, that we may support one another in hearing and responding to God's call in our lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they enjoy eternal rest and peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, hear and answer our prayers in your loving mercy. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

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Saturday, October 29, 2016
(Lec. 484)

- 1) Philippians 1:18b-26
- 2) Luke 14:1, 7-11

SATURDAY OF
30TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Saturday in honor
of BVM)

FOCUS: Authentic humility involves using our gifts and talents to help build up God's kingdom on earth.

Humility is an overriding theme in today's Gospel. Unfortunately, the virtue of humility was not well understood at the time of Jesus nor is it in our society today. What is authentic humility? It is recognition of God's grace working in our lives to develop our gifts and talents in order to help build up his kingdom and draw us closer to himself.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Saint Paul speaks eloquently to the Christian community in Philippi concerning the joy he experiences in seeing the Gospel proclaimed among them. In the Gospel, Jesus, while dining at the home of a Pharisee, tells a parable relating the consequence of taking the seat of honor at a banquet rather than the lowest seat.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us offer our prayers and petitions for our needs and those of the world to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) For our Holy Father and all who preach the Good News, that they may rejoice in the spread of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials and government leaders, that they will strive to serve their people with humility, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For individuals, families and communities affected by shootings or violence this past year, that with God's grace and our support they may find strength and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our seminarians, may God continue to bless them in their studies as they discern their vocations to the priesthood, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they enter eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful God, hear us and look favorably on our petitions. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2016

(Lec. 153)

- 1) Wisdom 11:22–12:2
- 2) 2 Thessalonians 1:11–2:2
- 3) Luke 19:1-10

**THIRTY-FIRST
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: *The Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost.*

Jesus came to free us from sin; he continues to save his people through his word and sacraments. Even though we sin, his mercy fills us with his grace – continually making us worthy to serve each other and to build up his kingdom.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Book of Wisdom reminds us that God has mercy on all because he loves all that he has made, and his Spirit is in all things. The second reading exhorts us to pray for one another always. In the Gospel, Jesus sees the tax collector Zacchaeus, and, after hearing his promise of repentance and restitution, assures him of salvation.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident that the Lord is kind and merciful, let us approach him with our petitions.

- 1) For all members of the Church, that they may become ministers of reconciliation and share the bounty of God's mercy with all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all world leaders, especially those in warring nations, may they seek common ground for the sake of mercy and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are ill, especially those who suffer from terminal illness, may they know the healing embrace of the Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of our parish community, that we may seek reconciliation with those from whom we are estranged – in our families, amongst our friends and in our parish, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, that they may see the face of the all-merciful Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we place our prayers before you. Through Christ, our Lord.

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Monday, October 31, 2016

(Lec. 485)

1) Philippians 2:1-4

2) Luke 14:12-14

MONDAY OF
31ST WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: We are members of one body, united in one Spirit in Christ, to worship our heavenly Father.

Life can be a lot smoother when everyone is on the same page. Among family and friends, this may happen when we agree to spend the day together doing something everyone enjoys. In parish life, things flow along at a nice clip when everyone is considerate of the ideas and needs of others. As members of the body of Christ, let us be united in serving one another each day.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading exhorts us to do nothing out of vanity, but rather to regard others as more important than ourselves. In the Gospel, Jesus challenges his dinner host – a leading Pharisee – to invite people to his banquet who cannot repay the favor to invite him back.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We offer our prayers and petitions to our loving and merciful Father.

- 1) For our Holy Father, bishops, priests and deacons, may they be blessed with the grace and strength to continue preaching the Gospel to all the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders and all those in policymaking positions, that they respect and protect the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception until natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For victims of severe weather and natural disasters, that they find comfort and relief in the compassionate response of their families and communities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish community, that during this Year of Mercy we will strive to extend mercy and forgiveness to all those whom we encounter, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they may come to enjoy eternal peace and joy in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful God, we ask that you hear and answer our prayers, both spoken and unspoken. We offer them in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.

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