

SEPTEMBER

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Thursday, September 1, 2016
(Lec. 434)

- 1) 1 Corinthians 3:18-23
- 2) Luke 5:1-11

THURSDAY OF
22ND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Christ is our foundation. Place your trust in him and let him work within you.

Through faith, we reveal that we belong to Christ, and through him, we belong to God. Let us not be foolish and boast that we can do everything on our own. Let us place our trust in Jesus, and let him guide us on our daily journey of faith.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul warns the Corinthians not to boast. In the Gospel, Jesus reaches out to fishermen who had an unsuccessful catch earlier, instructing them to go to their boats to cast again. This time, the fishermen were surprised by a bountiful catch. Jesus invited them to follow him to be fishers of men. They listened and followed him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With faith and trust in our heavenly Father, let us present to him our needs, and the needs of the world.

- 1) For Church leaders, may they continue to boldly spread the Gospel message, and may their words fall on receptive ears, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may they work together with a collaborative spirit so peace and justice may reign more fully upon the earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are sick, may they be blessed with compassion from caregivers and find strength and peace in their faith in God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all families in our parish, may they continue to witness as true disciples of Jesus in their homes, schools and workplaces, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they come to experience perfect joy and peace in God's heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Friday, September 2, 2016
(Lec. 435)

- 1) 1 Corinthians 4:1-5
- 2) Luke 5:33-39

FRIDAY OF
22ND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Practicing the teachings of Jesus in our daily lives brings us the blessings of peace and joy.

Jesus offers us a new and abundant life in his love. For this to come about, we must open our hearts to his love and practice his teachings in our daily lives. The more we do these things, the more our lives will be blessed with God's gifts of peace and abounding joy.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul's letter to the Corinthians assures his readers of his trustworthiness, but he also tells them he doesn't worry about what others think. He leaves judgment to the Lord. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that a time will come when his disciples will fast.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God calls us to be a trusting people, and with this trust and confidence, let us present our petitions to him.

- 1) That bishops and priests who shepherd the Church may continue to be united in their efforts, as they labor to bring all people to know God's love and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That elected officials may recognize that their true authority comes from the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all human life may be respected and protected from conception until natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all of us in this faith community may be aware of the needs of those around us, and seek to meet those needs by humble acts of service, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our beloved friends and relatives, and all who have died, will enjoy eternal bliss in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petitions)

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

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Saturday, September 3, 2016
(Lec. 436)

- 1) 1 Corinthians 4:6b-15
- 2) Luke 6:1-5

SATURDAY OF
22ND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Gregory the Great,
Pope and Doctor of the Church)

FOCUS: The life of a disciple does not follow the same conventions as the rest of society.

Paul makes it clear that following Jesus is not like any other lifestyle. He exhorts us not to seek fame or status, and to reply softly when slandered. He teaches us not to be puffed up at our accomplishments or concerned about appearing weak in the world's eyes. We are to be faithful to Jesus and walk in his ways, even amid trials and strife.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Paul instructs the Corinthians to stop boasting and instead bear their share of sufferings for the sake of the Gospel. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that *The Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we strive to walk more closely with God, let us offer him our prayers and petitions for our needs and those of the world.

- 1) That all members of the Church may be beacons of light to those who live mired in darkness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That world leaders make it a priority to ensure that all their people have access to basic human rights such as food, clothing and shelter, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are struggling with their faith may be strengthened by our prayers and renewed by the love of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That our local faith community may consider the Sabbath as a day of rest and prayer, and a chance to renew our commitment to spreading the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our dearly departed, and all those who have died, may come to enjoy eternal life 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 and grant us the grace needed to serve you more faithfully. We ask this through Christ the Lord.

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2016

(Lec. 129)

- 1) Wisdom 9:13-18b
- 2) Philemon 9-10, 12-17
- 3) Luke 14:25-33

**TWENTY-THIRD
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

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

Jesus taught throughout his life that to live as his disciples, we must take up our cross each day and follow him. Doing so requires that we love him above all other people and things in our lives. It also requires a willingness to let go of anything that may hinder us in growing in our love for the Lord.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading encourages us to keep our minds on God, not on worldly concerns. In the second reading, Paul sends Onesimus back to his owner Philemon, with the hope that Philemon will take him back not as a slave but as a brother. Today's Gospel reminds us that faithful discipleship requires taking up our cross each day and following Jesus.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident that God hears our every cry, we offer our needs and our prayers.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we, as disciples of Christ, share the Good News of the Gospel with all those we encounter, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For national and world leaders, may they enact policies that protect the religious liberty of all their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who live with fear, loneliness or grief, may they, in this Year of Mercy, be comforted by those who reach out with the peace of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our faith community discerning a vocation to religious life, may we encourage and pray as they seek to properly discern and answer God's call for their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, especially those who have no one to pray for them, may they come to perpetual joy and peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Monday, September 5, 2016
(Lec. 437)

- 1) 1 Corinthians 5:1-8
- 2) Luke 6:6-11

MONDAY OF
23RD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: On all days and seasons, Jesus calls us to love and serve others.

Jesus, through the witness and example of his life, taught us that we were not called to live with strict adherence to the letter of the law but according to the Spirit of the law, which is love. This means that we are to love our neighbor always, even on a day of rest.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians speaks to the immorality that is growing among the people. Paul compares it to the yeast of malice and asks the people to repent and return to living with sincerity and truth. In the Gospel, Jesus heals a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath, which enrages the scribes and Pharisees.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Grateful for the many blessings showered upon us by the Lord, we offer our prayers and needs.

- 1) That we, as members of the Church, may always recognize and celebrate the diversity within our Church while we work to foster unity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That leaders of nations may work to enact laws that protect the dignity and sanctity of life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who devote their lives to protecting others, such as those in law enforcement and the military, may turn to God for guidance and strength in carrying out their duties, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That our parish community may be renewed and strengthened by open hearts and minds that are receptive to the abundant graces and blessings God offers us at Mass, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our beloved dead, and all who have died, may see God face to face in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, hear our prayers and grant us the grace needed to do your will. We ask this in the name of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, September 6, 2016
(Lec. 438)

- 1) 1 Corinthians 6:1-11
- 2) Luke 6:12-19

TUESDAY OF
23RD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Fruitful discernment is rooted in prayer.

Jesus spent the night in prayer before he chose his Twelve Apostles. This underscores the fact that right judgment is rooted in prayer and holiness. Time spent in prayer and contemplation bears good fruit.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading reminds us that the unjust will not inherit the kingdom of God. Today's Gospel recalls Jesus departing for a mountain and spending a night in prayer to God. When day broke, he called his disciples to himself. He chose the Twelve, whom he named Apostles.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Gathering our needs and prayers, we offer them to our merciful Father.

- 1) For members of the Church, that we always remember that our mission is to give witness to the Gospel and help build up God's kingdom on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For judges and others in the legal profession, that they may exercise justice in their judgments and treatment of those under their consideration, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For peace in our families and community, that we exercise patience and goodwill in our interactions with loved ones and strangers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the sick, may God bring them healing, strength and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, that they may experience the fullness of life and love in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious and loving God, hear and answer our prayers this day. For we offer them to you through Christ, our Lord.

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Wednesday, September 7, 2016
(Lec. 439)

- 1) 1 Corinthians 7:25-31
- 2) Luke 6:20-26

WEDNESDAY OF
23RD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: The beatitudes remind us of the real values of God's kingdom.

As people came seeking healing from Jesus, they were given the beatitudes, which contain words of hope to those whose conditions are desperate, and words of warning to those whose celebrations give no heed to others. Prayerful consideration of Jesus' words will help us to be better disciples.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading reminds us that our time on earth is precious and we should focus on what truly matters – keeping our eyes firmly fixed on Jesus, and helping to build up God's kingdom on earth. Today's reading from the Gospel of Luke recounts Jesus teaching the beatitudes in his sermon on the plain.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Grateful for the blessings we have been given by God, let us turn to him with our prayers for our needs, and the needs of the world.

- 1) For all who shepherd our Church, may their witness to the Gospel strengthen the faith of believers and bring light to those who do not know Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For countries torn by war and conflict, may their leaders seek peace and may innocent refugees find safe haven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering from addiction, may their faith in God and the support of their family, friends and caregivers give them strength and hope on the path to recovery, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For each of us, may we be strengthened and uplifted by our celebration today, and carry the Gospel message out the doors of the church to all whom we meet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our loved ones who have gone before us, may they rest peacefully in their heavenly home, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, look with favor on these petitions we place before you. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

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Thursday, September 8, 2016
(Lec. 636)

THE NATIVITY OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
– FEAST

- 1) Micah 5:1-4a or
Romans 8:28-30
- 2) Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23 or
1:18-23

FOCUS: Mary has a significant role in salvation history.

According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, “What the Catholic faith ... teaches about Mary illumines in turn its faith in Christ.” (CCC#487) Aside from Jesus, the Church celebrates only two other births: John the Baptist and Mary. Today’s feast is celebrated because of Mary’s role in salvation history. God, from all eternity, chose a daughter of Israel to be the mother of his Son.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the prophet Micah proclaims, on behalf of the Lord, that from Bethlehem-Ephrathah shall come one who is to be ruler in Israel. The Gospel recounts the genealogy of Jesus from Abraham to Joseph, husband of Mary. It also recounts how the birth of Jesus came about.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With joy and thanksgiving, we celebrate God’s saving work. In humility and trust, let us offer God our prayers for the Church, the world and ourselves.

- 1) For all members of the Church, as recipients of God’s saving grace, may we continue to proclaim the good news that God offers redemption, mercy and salvation to all those who seek it, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all those in civic leadership, may wisdom guide their decisions, and may a spirit of cooperation direct their actions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are displaced due to war or natural disaster, may they find welcome and comfort through the corporal works of mercy offered by compassionate Christians, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here today, may we never fail to realize that all we have is a gift from God, and may we go forth in gratitude to do his will, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they join all the angels and saints in God’s heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God almighty, we ask that you hear our prayers and grant them in accordance with your will. Through Christ, our Lord.

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Friday, September 9, 2016
(Lec. 441)
1) 1 Corinthians 9:16-19,
22b-27
2) Luke 6:39-42

FRIDAY OF
23RD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(USA OBL MEM
Saint Peter Claver,
Priest)

FOCUS: Patterning our lives after Jesus, we are to lay down our lives in humble love and service to God and neighbor.

Saint Peter Claver, whose feast we celebrate today, sought to live as Jesus did. The Spanish-born Jesuit spent 40 years serving slaves, who had been subjected to inhumane conditions. He provided them with food and medicine, assuring them of their human dignity in God's eyes. We, too, are called to reach out to our brothers and sisters in love, placing their needs above our own.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading reminds us that our efforts to be faithful to Christ, and the sacrifices we make for the sake of the Gospel, are not in vain. An imperishable crown awaits us in heaven. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that instead of finding fault with others, we are to focus on growing in holiness and humbly serving others.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God the Father, in his infinite love, sent his Son to save and redeem us. Let us turn confidently to him with our prayers.

- 1) For the Church, that the Holy Spirit may inspire the faithful to follow Christ's example and the example of Saint Peter Claver, and tend lovingly to the needs of the poorest of the poor, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, that they might have the wisdom and integrity to stand for what is right and just, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For families who are experiencing discord and division, may they turn to the Holy Spirit for guidance and strength in their efforts to reconcile, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of our parish, that our hearts may be open to the Holy Spirit as we seek to be Christ to others throughout our community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they might receive a place at the eternal banquet in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Saturday, September 10, 2016
(Lec. 442)

- 1) 1 Corinthians 10:14-22
- 2) Luke 6:43-49

SATURDAY OF
23RD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Saturday in honor of
BVM)

FOCUS: Each day we are to strive to love God with our whole being, not letting false idols get in the way.

As Christians, we must be faithful to our calling and to God, avoiding all forms of idolatry. When we love God with our whole hearts, his love wells up within us and moves us to love and serve others. This helps build up God's kingdom on earth, and gives glory to God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul reminds the Corinthians that it is incompatible for Christians to participate in the communion of the body and blood of Christ – and at the same time give themselves over to false gods. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that every tree can be known by the fruit it bears. A heart filled with the love of Christ seeks to serve others.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that God is our strength and salvation, let us offer him our prayers for our needs and the needs of the world.

- 1) For Pope Francis, bishops and all the clergy throughout the world, that they continue to remain strong in their roles as shepherds and teachers, and lead others to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For farmers and farm workers, that they might be blessed with favorable weather conditions and bountiful harvests so as to feed our hungry world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For victims of natural disasters, that they may be strengthened by their faith and find comfort in the support and assistance of people of good will, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who are suffering from depression may they draw strength and comfort from their faith and receive the help needed to bring about recovery in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, that they may come to experience perfect happiness, joy and peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, you are aware of our needs even before we present them. Hear us and grant our prayers according to your will. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2016

(Lec. 132)

- 1) Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14
- 2) 1 Timothy 1:12-17
- 3) Luke 15:1-32 or 15:1-10

**TWENTY-FOURTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Although we are all sinners, God's mercy is boundless, and he will always seek us out when we become lost.

The message of forgiveness echoes throughout our Scripture passages today. Although God's mercy is not always apparent in the Hebrew Scriptures, it is revealed to all with the arrival of our Savior, Jesus. Salvation is for all who seek it.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Moses beseeches God to remember the covenant he made with the Israelites. Saint Paul, in his letter to Timothy, is abundantly grateful for God's mercy, especially in light of his earlier persecution of Christians. In today's parables, Jesus teaches that God is merciful to those who are lost, including repentant sinners.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Called to practice forgiveness in all areas of our life, we place our needs before our compassionate Father.

- 1) That all confessors in the Church may be missionaries of God's mercy and forgiveness, following the example set by Pope Francis, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That enduring hostilities among nations, and within ethnic groups, may be replaced with tolerance and acceptance which lead to a lasting peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who continue to struggle with the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks feel the presence of God's never-ending love and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That members of our parish, like Saint Paul in today's reading, be ever-grateful for the continuing mercy of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the faithful departed will see God face-to-face in the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful God, as our ever-forgiving Father, we ask that you hear and answer our prayers according to your will. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

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Monday, September 12, 2016

(Lec. 443)

1) 1 Corinthians 11:17-26, 33

2) Luke 7:1-10

MONDAY OF
24TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
The Most
Holy Name of Mary)

FOCUS: When we approach Jesus with humble and trusting hearts, we draw closer to him and open ourselves to him so he may heal, renew and transform us.

Lord I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof ... but say the word and let my servant be healed. As an outsider, the centurion could never have imagined that his words would become the prayer we say each time we receive the body and blood of Christ. His example teaches us that even though we may feel unworthy, we can trust that God loves us unconditionally, and is always working to draw us closer to himself and renew us in his love.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of Jesus instituting the Eucharist at the Last Supper. In the Gospel, Jesus is amazed at the centurion's faith. Without even entering the centurion's house, Jesus cures the centurion's servant who was ill and near death.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As members of Christ's holy Church, let us offer our prayers of petition to our heavenly Father.

- 1) That Pope Francis, bishops, and priests may continue to be open to the Holy Spirit as they help guide the faithful along the path toward salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the leaders of local and national governments may be wise and prudent stewards of the authority given to them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are trapped in a cycle of addiction may experience support and compassion from loved ones, and feel the healing presence of Jesus as they work toward recovery, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the Lord will bless the work of catechists so that their words may take root in the hearts of those they teach, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may enter into eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we give you thanks for your constant care and protection. We ask you to hear and answer our prayers, which we offer you through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Tuesday, September 13, 2016
(Lec. 444)

- 1) 1 Corinthians 12:12-14,
27-31a
- 2) Luke 7:11-17

TUESDAY OF
24TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint John Chrysostom,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church)

FOCUS: God has created each of us to play a unique role in his unfolding plan of salvation.

As members of the body of Christ, we have a unique vocation for which God has created us. We must follow that call, and live in such a way that we use our gifts and talents to the best of our ability, and in ways that further the work and mission of the Church to help build up the kingdom of God on earth.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In Saint Paul's letter to the Corinthians, he compares the human body and its many parts to the Mystical Body of Christ, and points out that each individual part has its own function. In today's Gospel, Jesus demonstrates his power over death by bringing a young man back to life and returning him to his widowed mother.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God's love and compassion for us, let us prayerfully present our petitions to him.

- 1) That members of the clergy, like Saint John Chrysostom whom we remember today, always seek to preach the Gospel with passion and eloquence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That all who hold public office will seek wisdom from the Lord as they make decisions that affect the lives of those they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are homeless or living in poverty may be assisted in their need by caring Christians and people of good will, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That members of this parish community will open their hearts to what the Lord is calling them to do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our deceased friends and relatives will enjoy everlasting peace and joy in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, hear and answer our prayers, both spoken and unspoken. We offer them to you through Christ, our Lord.

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Wednesday, September 14, 2016
(Lec. 638)

- 1) Numbers 21:4b-9
- 2) Philippians 2:6-11
- 3) John 3:13-17

**THE EXALTATION
OF THE HOLY CROSS
– FEAST**

FOCUS: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. By your cross you have redeemed the world.

Jesus freely chose to suffer and die upon the cross for the sake of our salvation. Through his death upon the cross, Jesus won forgiveness for our sins, reconciled us to the Father, and defeated the power of sin and death. Through his sacrifice on the cross, Jesus changed an instrument of death into the tree of life and source of our salvation.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Moses prays for the Israelites punished for complaining against the Lord, and God spares the lives of those who repent. The second reading eloquently describes how Jesus emptied himself, accepting death on the cross. In the Gospel, Jesus affirms that God sent his only Son into the world so that we might be saved.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Grateful for Christ's sacrifice upon the cross by which we are saved and redeemed, let us offer our petitions.

- 1) For all members of the Church, that the Holy Spirit will inspire us to share the good news of salvation with others through our words and actions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders in this Year of Mercy, may they strive to provide food, water and shelter for all those whom they govern, especially the most vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are sick, may they experience God's healing grace through prayer and the support of caregivers, friends and family, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the members of our parish, may we set aside the time to more frequently go to confession, so we may be more fully reconciled to God and grow in holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may they, through God's mercy and grace, come to enjoy eternal peace in the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, with confidence we bring our prayers before you. Please hear and answer them according to your will.

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Thursday, September 15, 2016
(Lec. 446)

1) 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

(Lec. 639)

2) John 19:25-27 or
Luke 2:33-35

THURSDAY OF
24TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Our Lady of Sorrows)

FOCUS: As the mother of Jesus, Mary faced ordeals that earned her the title Our Lady of Sorrows.

Mary did not live a charmed life. She was the mother of God, but she was still a human being. As such, she endured heart-wrenching sorrows and hardships. In times of trouble, we can turn to Mary and know that she will understand and intercede for us. After all, she is also our mother.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Paul preaches the Good News: Jesus died for our sins and rose from the dead. Paul testifies to the truth of the resurrection. Today's Gospel relates Simeon's prophetic words when Jesus is presented in the Temple: Jesus will be opposed, and Mary will suffer as a result.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust in our almighty Father, let us turn to God with our needs, and the needs of the Church.

- 1) That all members of our Church may turn to Mary to intercede for us as we strive to live out the Gospel message and live as more faithful disciples of her son, Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That nations torn by ethnic conflict may, through the grace of God, find ways to heal divisions and foster reconciliation among their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That the unemployed and the underemployed may find meaningful work that allows them to support themselves and those who rely upon them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That young mothers in this faith community may find in Mary a model and a friend, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all the faithful departed may enter the fullness of life and love in the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Friday, September 16, 2016
(Lec. 447)
1) 1 Corinthians 15:12-20
2) Luke 8:1-3

FRIDAY OF
24TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saints Cornelius, Pope and
Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs)

FOCUS: A disciple's response to the Lord is marked by generosity.

The women who followed and supported the ministry of Jesus sacrificed a great deal for the Lord because he had healed them. This is the proper response of a disciple: to respond generously to the merciful and healing love of God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading reminds us that, *Christ has been raised from the dead, as the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep*. In the Gospel, we hear that, after having been healed of evil spirits and ailments, several women supported Jesus in his ministry with their resources.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust in God's mercy and compassion, let us now offer our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For those who shepherd our Church, that they may be strengthened in their task of spreading the Gospel and guiding the faithful on their journey to the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, that by the power of the Holy Spirit, they may have the wisdom and grace to act for the common good of their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering from chronic illness, that they, like the women in today's Gospel, might experience the healing touch of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, that we might respond generously to the call to use our time, talent and other gifts for the sake of our brothers and sisters in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, that they may join the company of all the angels and saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of all bounty, we ask you to hear and answer our prayers, which we offer you through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Saturday, September 17, 2016
(Lec. 448)

- 1) 1 Corinthians 15:35-37,
42-49
- 2) Luke 8:4-15

SATURDAY OF
24TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Robert Bellarmine,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church;
Saturday in honor of BVM)

FOCUS: Life loses all meaning if we fail to believe in the resurrection of Jesus and our own resurrection after death.

The resurrection of Jesus witnesses to the immense power of God. Only the God who created life can transform it after death. It is also a testimony to our resurrection. The catechism adds, "For, by virtue of the Holy Spirit, Christian life is already now on earth a participation in the death and resurrection of Christ." (1002)

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Saint Paul uses the analogy of a seed to explain the resurrection and transformation of the body. In the Gospel, we hear the parable of the sower. The seed that falls on good soil stands for the people who hear and accept the message of Jesus.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that God hears and answers our prayers according to his will, let us join in offering our prayers to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) That all members of the Church may open their hearts more fully to the Holy Spirit, so as to grow in awareness of God's presence in our lives and spread the Good News to others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That world leaders might serve their constituencies with justice and fairness, and open their hearts to God's wisdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are suffering from serious illness might place their trust in Jesus, the Divine Physician, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That our faith community will be an example to all of good soil in which the seed – the word of God – has taken root and borne good fruit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may enter eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious Father, hear these prayers that we have placed before you this day. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

* * *

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2016

(Lec. 135)

- 1) Amos 8:4-7
- 2) 1 Timothy 2:1-8
- 3) Luke 16:1-13 or
16:10-13

**TWENTY-FIFTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: As disciples of Christ, we are called to love God above all things.

As disciples, our focus should not be on the material and passing things of this world, for true freedom is found in loving God and committing oneself to the Gospel message. When we keep our eyes firmly fixed on Jesus, our priorities shift, freeing us to live according to his teaching and help build up God's kingdom on earth.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading reminds us that in our everyday affairs, we are called to act with justice and fairness toward all. In the second reading, Saint Paul explains that we are called to pray for everyone, especially those in authority. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the dishonest steward, who could not be trusted in small or larger matters.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that God knows our needs, let us place our petitions and prayers confidently before him.

- 1) For Church leaders, that by their witness to the Gospel and devotion to acts of mercy, others may seek Christ and embrace the Good News, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in positions of authority, may they seek to uphold the dignity and sanctity of life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from lack of adequate housing or food, may compassionate Christians in this Year of Mercy work to alleviate their burdens, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all members of this parish, may we always be trustworthy in matters large and small, and witness to our faith in our everyday lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all our deceased brothers and sisters, may God welcome them into his heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and eternal God, hear our prayers and grant us the grace and strength needed to be faithful in matters great and small. We ask this and all things through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, September 19, 2016
(Lec. 449)

- 1) Proverbs 3:27-34
- 2) Luke 8:16-18

MONDAY OF
25TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Januarius,
Bishop and Martyr)

FOCUS: God has given us the gift of faith, a gift that we are to let shine throughout our world.

Receiving the gift of faith from God requires a willingness on our part to turn our lives over to him. Doing this means relying on God to provide for our needs, and striving to share God's light with others by treating them with kindness and compassion. As sons and daughters of God and disciples of Jesus, we are to be beacons of hope in the world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from Proverbs reminds us that God bestows abundant blessings upon those who act justly and serve him with humility of heart. Today's Gospel reading exhorts us to walk in the ways of the Lord each day so that Christ's light and love might shine brightly in and through us to touch the lives of others.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Grateful for God's loving kindness, let us bring our prayers and petitions before him.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we always be open to the Spirit and generously respond to his promptings, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the leaders of the world, may they promote peace and justice and be a light among their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who struggle with the aftermath of violence or terrorism, may they be comforted by the Holy Spirit and compassionate people of good will, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us assembled here, may we strive to see the face of Jesus in those who meet and treat them with kindness and respect, 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: Loving Father, please hear and answer the prayers we bring before you today, through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, September 20, 2016
(Lec. 450)

- 1) Proverbs 21:1-6, 10-13
- 2) Luke 8:19-21

TUESDAY OF
25TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM)

Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, Priest
And Paul Chŏng Ha-sang,
and Companions, Martyrs)

FOCUS: By practicing the teachings of Jesus, we grow closer to him and our lives are enriched with joy.

When we turn our lives over to Jesus and aim to follow his teachings our lives are immeasurably blessed. As we grow in our faith and love for Jesus, experience God's peace and joy in our lives, we must keep our eyes firmly fixed upon what matters most – loving God and loving one another.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Book of Proverbs reminds us that God is in control, even directing kings, and offers us practical advice for doing what is right and just. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that, *My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and act on it.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With one voice, and with confidence that our prayers will be heard, let us offer our petitions to our merciful Father.

- 1) That Pope Francis, bishops, clergy, religious and laity will continue to turn to the Holy Spirit for strength and guidance in doing God's will, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That all persons vested with power use it wisely and justly as good stewards for the benefit of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That victims of natural disasters will be blessed and sustained by the Lord as they seek to rebuild their homes and their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That each of us may listen more intently to God's word and act more earnestly upon it so as to bear a more effective witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the souls of the faithfully departed be granted a seat at the heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Wednesday, September 21, 2016
(Lec. 643)

- 1) Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13
- 2) Matthew 9:9-13

**SAINT MATTHEW,
APOSTLE AND
EVANGELIST
– FEAST**

FOCUS: We are called to use our unique gifts and talents to help further the work and mission of the Church.

Through baptism, we became members of Christ's body on earth – the Church. This membership charges us with the task of doing our part to further the mission of the Church. One way we do this is by using our unique talents to help build up God's kingdom on earth.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading exhorts us to live in a manner worthy of the call we have received from God. In the Gospel, we hear of Matthew's calling. As a tax collector, he was not a popular choice amongst the people to be a follower of Jesus. He was thought to be a traitor and a sinner. Matthew changed his ways to become a loyal disciple.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we seek your support and guidance, and present our needs to you.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all who shepherd our Church, may they be blessed with the strength needed to continue to reach out to sinners and demonstrate the mercy of God's love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, that they serve with wisdom and with the recognition that, ultimately, their authority and capacity to rule come from God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are sick in mind or body, that the Lord give them the strength to persevere, and may they experience the blessing of God's healing love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For an increase in vocations to the priesthood, consecrated life, and lay ecclesial ministry in our community and our diocese, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they join the company of angels and saints in God's heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, we ask that you answer our prayers according to your holy will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, September 22, 2016
(Lec. 452)

- 1) Ecclesiastes 1:2-11
- 2) Luke 9:7-9

THURSDAY OF
25TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: The human mind will never understand the marvels or might of our God.

Children do not always understand, or even agree, with what their earthly fathers do. We, too, as God's children, must accept the fact that we can never fully understand the majesty and wisdom of our God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from Ecclesiastes emphasizes the point that, over the centuries, almost everything done or said has been done or said before. In the Gospel, we hear of Herod the tetrarch being perplexed by the different accounts he was hearing of Jesus.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God's infinite mercy, let us present our petitions to him.

- 1) That as members of our holy Church, we may open our hearts to the Holy Spirit as we seek to be better witnesses to the Gospel and model the love of Jesus to others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That civic leaders work to provide an atmosphere of collaboration in their day-to-day interactions so that the needs of those they govern are being met with a spirit of cooperation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those suffering from prolonged or chronic illness may be assisted in their need by compassionate caregivers in this Jubilee Year of Mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That this community gathered for worship today will continue to witness to the Gospel and share the word of God with others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our beloved deceased friends and relatives, and all who have died, may come to enjoy eternal happiness in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petitions)

PRIEST: Father, we present with confidence these petitions, as well as those we hold in our hearts, and ask that you grant them according to your will, through your son, Jesus Christ.

* * *

Friday, September 23, 2016
(Lec. 453)

- 1) Ecclesiastes 3:1-11
- 2) Luke 9:18-22

FRIDAY OF
25TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Pius of Pietrelcina,
Priest)

FOCUS: *There is an appointed time for everything.*

The various seasons and rhythms of our lives are all well and good. But they do not ultimately satisfy us as children of God. This is because God put the *timeless*, or eternity, in our hearts, and so we long for the happiness of our eternal reward – God’s heavenly kingdom.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from Ecclesiastes reminds us that there is a particular time for each type of activity. In today’s Gospel, Christ asks Peter, *Who do you say that I am?* After Peter responds, *the Messiah of God*, Jesus tells the Apostles that the Son of Man must suffer greatly.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Seeking to grow in our faith and love for Jesus, let us join in offering our prayers to God the almighty Father.

- 1) For all members of the clergy, may they be inspired by the example of Padre Pio, and seek to model his humility and unceasing faith in the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our national, state and local leaders, and those seeking office, may they be guided by the Lord’s wisdom as we approach the election season, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who work in agriculture, may the Lord keep them safe in their work as they prepare for the fall harvest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our families who are struggling with their faith, may our example give them strength and encouragement to persevere and work through what is troubling them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the deceased members of our families and our parish, and all the faithful departed, may they see God face-to-face in the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear and answer the prayers of those gathered here before you. We offer them to you through your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

* * *

Saturday, September 24, 2016
(Lec. 454)

- 1) Ecclesiastes 11:9—12:8
- 2) Luke 9:43b-45

SATURDAY OF
25TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Saturday in honor of BVM)

FOCUS: All good things come to us from God, our creator.

Remember your Creator, Ecclesiastes tells us. How many of us go through our days without doing this? Although it is easy to place our gaze upon the things of this world that are right in front of us, let us strive to remember each day all of the blessings bestowed upon us by our creator, God the almighty Father.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first reading from Ecclesiastes reminds us that it is futile to place all our focus on the things of this earth. We are told that eventually, the dust will return to the earth and the *life breath* will return to God, who gave it. In the Gospel, Jesus gives the second prediction of his death when he says he must be *handed over to men*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In humility and gratitude, let us join in offering our prayers for our needs, and the needs of the world, to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) That all members of the Church may seek to use the gifts we have been given by God to share the Gospel message and help build up God's kingdom on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That those in public office may set aside their differences to work for the common good of the people they govern, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are suffering mentally, physically, emotionally or spiritually will find comfort in the mercy and compassion of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That in this Jubilee Year of Mercy, members of this faith community may recognize Christ in those around us and act to alleviate suffering where we see it, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have gone before us may be welcomed by the angels and saints into the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of love and mercy, we offer these prayers with confidence that you will hear and answer them according to your will. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2016

(Lec. 138)

- 1) Amos 6:1a, 4-7
- 2) 1 Timothy 6:11-16
- 3) Luke 16:19-31

**TWENTY-SIXTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: We must be mindful of the stumbling blocks that distract us from living as disciples of Jesus.

Wealth is not inherently evil, but can cause us to become complacent and lose our focus on building up the kingdom of God on earth. Jesus is reminding us that our worldly possessions must not blind us to the fact that our blessings come from God, and we must use them to love one another, and to help ease the suffering of others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from Amos urges the complacent to cease their wicked ways and turn back to the Lord God. Saint Paul exhorts Timothy to pursue righteousness and goodness, and to *compete well for the faith*. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the Pharisees the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, and what happens to each after their death.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in the abiding love of the Father, let us turn to him with our petitions.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we be ever aware of the poor in our midst, and in this Year of Mercy, manifest our Christian faith with good works, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, states and cities, may they collaborate with one another to alleviate the cycle of poverty and hunger that plagues so many, especially children, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are unemployed or under-employed, may our acts of charity help them provide for their families until they can find meaningful work to sustain them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those whose lives have been shattered by senseless violence or acts of terrorism, may they experience the healing, compassionate presence of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, and all the faithful departed, may they rest in eternal peace with God in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST Heavenly Father, give us the grace to share your gifts with others, and give us the insight to see your presence in the poor and lowly. Hear the prayers we offer you, and grant them in accord with your will, through Christ our Lord.

* * *

Monday, September 26, 2016
(Lec. 455)

- 1) Job 1:6-22
- 2) Luke 9:46-50

MONDAY OF
26TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saints Cosmas and Damian,
Martyrs)

FOCUS: No matter what happens to us in life, may our faith and our relationship with God stay strong.

Have you ever been at a point in your life where you did not know if you could handle any more adversity? If so, you can relate to Job's situation in today's reading and ask yourself: how did Job handle all this and yet not waver in faith? Let us pray this day, and every day, for the grace to stand strong in faith.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the reading from Job, we see how God let Satan test Job to the point of losing everything he had. Despite all these setbacks, Job never lost faith in God. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches the disciples a lesson in humility when he tells them that to receive a child in his name is to receive Christ himself.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Striving to remain steadfast in faith amidst the trials and tribulations of life, let us join in offering our prayers and petitions to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) For all our bishops, priests and deacons, that they may continue to be faithful to God's commands and preach his word boldly and with conviction, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of governments throughout the world, may they support policies that protect the dignity of life from conception until natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the most vulnerable among us, especially the elderly and homebound, may they be comforted by the compassion of caregivers and feel the loving presence of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish community, that, like Jesus, we always welcome the child and the stranger in our midst, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rest in peace in the heavenly kingdom with the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord our God, in your goodness you provide for the things we most truly need. Hear and answer the prayers we offer you through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, September 27, 2016
(Lec. 456)

- 1) Job 3:1-3, 11-17,
20-23
- 2) Luke 9:51-56

TUESDAY OF
26TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Vincent de Paul,
Priest)

FOCUS: God is with us always, giving us the grace and strength needed to persevere and endure in faith.

Bad things happen to good people. This is not a punishment from God, but a fact of life. However, we can take comfort in the fact that he walks with us always on every step of our journey. God's guidance allows us to keep our feet planted on the path to life, and he gives us the grace and strength needed to persevere in faith.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of Job cursing the day he was born, as he tries to make sense of the sudden deaths of his whole family. Today's Gospel reading tells of Jesus resolutely beginning his journey toward Jerusalem, where he would suffer and die to win our salvation.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence that God provides for all that we need, let us come to him with our petitions.

- 1) That we, as members of the Church in this Year of Mercy, may seek to be ambassadors of mercy in our everyday interactions with friends, family, neighbors and coworkers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the leaders of nations might treat all whom they govern with compassion and fairness, especially the most vulnerable among them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who have been weighed down by tragedies in life or great loss might turn to God in their time of need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That young people in our faith community who are considering priesthood or religious life may have our prayerful support as they discern God's plan for their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may come to enjoy eternal peace with God forever in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of all, you graciously bestow on us many blessings. Hear the prayers we offer to you now, through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, September 28, 2016
(Lec. 457)

- 1) Job 9:1-12, 14-16
- 2) Luke 9:57-62

WEDNESDAY OF
26TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Wenceslaus, Martyr;
Saint Lawrence Ruiz
and Companions, Martyrs)

FOCUS: Living as disciples of Jesus requires loving God above all things and placing our lives into his hands.

We are reminded today that God is the one who gives and the one who can take away. He calls us to remove all obstacles in our life that keep us from doing his will. Doing this requires letting go of our attachments to things of this world, continually striving to love God above all things, and placing our lives into God's hands.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from the book of Job reminds us today of the might and power of God. Indeed, the very sun rises and sets because God commands it. Who are we to question God and his ways, which are beyond our understanding? In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that those who desire to live as one of his disciples must love God with their whole hearts.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Turning our hearts and minds to God, let us join together to place our petitions before him.

- 1) For all young people called to priesthood or religious life in the Church, may they respond generously, with complete trust in God's plan for their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may they turn to God for guidance and strength as they seek to enact laws and programs which promote the good of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all Christians who have had to leave homes and possessions behind because of persecution for their faith, may they find safe haven and be blessed with the strength needed to hold fast to God's promises, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may each member seek to use their unique gifts to serve others and help build up the kingdom of God on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may they come to share eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord, almighty God and Father, source of all that is good, hear and answer our prayers. We offer them to you through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Thursday, September 29, 2016
(Lec. 647)

- 1) Daniel 7:9-10 13-14 or
Revelation 12:7-12a
- 2) John 1:47-51

**SAINTS MICHAEL,
GABRIEL AND RAPHAEL,
ARCHANGELS
– FEAST**

FOCUS: We live in God's kingdom on earth, where Jesus reigns over all and Satan has been conquered.

We need not fear Satan or the evil that we encounter in this world. Jesus has already conquered Satan by shedding his blood for us, the blood of a pure and spotless Lamb. God has given all authority in heaven and on earth to Jesus. Even the angels serve him.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading in which we hear of Daniel's visions, God sits on his throne, in judgment over all nations and peoples. In the Gospel, Jesus tells Nathanael that he will see angels ascending and descending on the Son of Man. Jesus is the bridge between heaven and earth.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As brothers and sisters in the Lord, let us present our needs to our heavenly Father, who reigns over all and hears our prayers.

- 1) For all bishops in the Church, that God will continue to strengthen them in their role as teachers and leaders who draw us closer to God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders in every nation, that they may use their authority and power to serve the people they govern, especially the poor, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from depression and loneliness, that the Lord may send his angels to protect them and bring them hope and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our faith community, may we be true to our baptismal call each day as we strive to be people of God, and Christ's disciples on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, 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: Father, hear and answer our prayers this day, and grant us the grace needed to lead lives which are holy and pleasing to you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, September 30, 2016
(Lec. 459)

- 1) Job 38:1, 12-21;
40:3-5
- 2) Luke 10:13-16

FRIDAY OF
26TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Jerome,
Priest and Doctor
of the Church)

FOCUS: When we place our trust in the Lord, he leads us to where we should be.

In the psalm response, we pray that the Lord guides in the everlasting way. It may seem difficult to follow the Lord. However, by allowing Jesus to guide us, he can accomplish great things through us. He gave certain instructions to the disciples and then sent them out. Jesus sends us out as well. Wherever we are, the Lord is closely guiding us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of the Lord speaking to Job. But Job realizes that he cannot answer, so in humility he listens. The psalm is a plea to the Lord God to lead us. The Lord is at our side always. Today's Gospel is a reminder of our ongoing need for repentance so we may continue to grow in our knowledge and love of the Lord.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) That our Church may continue to be a place of welcome for all who seek to know the person of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That leaders around the world make every effort in their day-to-day decision-making to choose nonviolent solutions to conflict, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are struggling to meet the basic needs of their family may be helped, in this Year of Mercy, by compassionate Christians, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That members of this faith community, like Saint Jerome whose feast we celebrate today, devote quality time and attention to studying the Scriptures and growing in our knowledge of the faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our deceased brothers and sisters may rest in peace in God's heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, we trust fully in the guidance of the Holy Spirit and ask you to answer our prayers, which we offer through Christ our Lord.

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