

AUGUST

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Tuesday, August 1, 2017

(Lec. 402)

- 1) Exodus 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28
- 2) Matthew 13:36-43

TUESDAY OF
17TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Alphonsus Liguori,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church)

FOCUS: We must strive to live our faith each day so Jesus might judge us worthy of eternal life in heaven.

Today's Gospel gives the reminder that at a time unknown to us, each of us will stand before the Lord Jesus to give an account of our lives. In order that we might be judged worthy of entering into eternal life in heaven, it is important that we strive to live our faith every day and seize every opportunity to do good for a brother or sister in need.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of how Moses would go out to the meeting tent so he could speak with the Lord face to face. In the Gospel, we hear an explanation of the parable of the wheat and the weeds. Jesus says that at the final judgment, *the righteous will shine like the sun.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Believing that God the Father loves us beyond measure, let us join in offering him our prayers.

- 1) That all bishops may continue to be blessed in their apostolic mission of shepherding the faithful and bringing others to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That national leaders may work to set aside those things which divide, and focus their energies on finding common ground in order to build a more peaceful world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those experiencing the ravages and upheaval of natural disasters may receive the assistance they need, and find consolation and strength in God's love for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That those in our diocese who have been called to the priesthood, religious life or lay ecclesial ministry may respond with courage and generosity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may join all the angels and saints in singing God's praises for all eternity in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear our prayers and strengthen us with the grace needed to serve you faithfully. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, August 2, 2017

(Lec. 403)

- 1) Exodus 34:29-35
- 2) Matthew 13:44-46

WEDNESDAY OF

17TH WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(Opt. Mem.)

Saint Eusebius of Vercelli,

Bishop;

Saint Peter Julian Eymard,

Priest)

FOCUS: We are called to be radiant in our faith, giving our lives to God, so we may be judged worthy of eternal life.

Moses' face becomes radiant when he speaks with the Lord. So should we be fervent and radiant in our prayer lives. In the Gospel parables, we are challenged to give our lives totally to God. We are called to make God's kingdom the true treasure of our lives — that we might be judged worthy of eternal life. Let us be radiant, led by the light of our Lord.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of Moses coming down from Mount Sinai carrying the Ten Commandments, with his face radiant from having conversed with God. In the Gospel, Jesus tells two parables which emphasize the great joy people come to experience when they make God's kingdom the true treasure of their lives.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) That all members of the Church may be radiant in prayer and service so God's kingdom of justice and peace may be built up more fully on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That those in public office may grow in their resolve to enact just laws that protect the fundamental rights of all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who have become disconnected from the life of the Church may, through our prayers and outreach, come back to the active practice of the faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That each of us gathered here may heed the promptings of the Holy Spirit working within us to more effectively witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may have perpetual peace and joy in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we ask you to hear these prayers and those within our hearts. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, August 3, 2017

(Lec. 404)

- 1) Exodus 40:16-21, 34-38
- 2) Matthew 13:47-53

THURSDAY OF
17TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Glimpses of God's glory can be seen in creation all around us if we view it with the eyes of faith.

God's closeness to the people of Israel in their journey to the Promised Land is seen in simple things such as a tent, an ark, a cloud and fire. By opening our eyes to God's closeness to us in our world, we can be drawn nearer to him in our hearts.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The passage from Exodus shows how God remained close to his people while they wandered through the desert to the Promised Land. In the Gospel, Jesus uses everyday images such as fishermen separating good fish from bad fish to reveal to us what will happen at the end of the world.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Knowing in our hearts that God hears and answers our prayers according to his will, let us stand humbly before him with our petitions.

- 1) For the Church, that the Holy Spirit may inspire all the faithful to be more vibrant witnesses to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, that Christ might open their eyes to the needs of the most vulnerable among their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are unemployed, may they find strength in their faith, and be blessed to find employment which provides for their needs and for the needs of those who depend on them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may we open our hearts fully to the Holy Spirit so we may continue to grow in faith and be better equipped to share it with others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they come to enjoy perfect peace and joy in heaven with the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear our prayers and help us to grow in gratitude for all your blessings. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Friday, August 4, 2017

(Lec. 405)

- 1) Leviticus 23:1, 4-11,
15-16, 27, 34b-37
- 2) Matthew 13:54-58

FRIDAY OF
17TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint John Vianney,
Priest)

FOCUS: Let us strive to recognize the many ways Jesus works in our lives.

Today's Gospel tells of Jesus teaching the people of his hometown in the synagogue on the Sabbath, but they do not believe. Similarly, each of us can be blinded by our own preconceived notions of how we think Jesus is supposed to work. Let us be open to recognizing the many ways Jesus is working, or wishes to work, in our lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from Leviticus tells of the Lord speaking to Moses and instructing him as to which days are to be designated as holy and celebrated with a sacred assembly. In our Gospel, Jesus is rejected by those in his hometown, and he is unable to work miracles there because of their lack of faith.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As God's beloved sons and daughters, let us offer our prayers to him for our needs and the needs of others.

- 1) That all members of the Church may serve as Jesus' messengers to the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That God may bless world leaders with the wisdom to discern good from evil, and the strength to make just decisions for the good of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are discouraged and heavily burdened may turn to God and feel his loving presence in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That each of us gathered here may strive to be more attentive and responsive to the voice which speaks to us through sacred Scripture and in the silence of our hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may join the angels and saints in giving glory to God in the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, hear and answer these prayers we offer to you in the name of your son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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Saturday, August 5, 2017
(Lec. 406)

- 1) Leviticus 25:1, 8-17
- 2) Matthew 14:1-12

SATURDAY OF
17TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
The Dedication of
the Basilica of Saint Mary Major;
Saturday in honor of BVM)

FOCUS: Faith is a critical component in our everyday lives.

From ancient times, we are called to treat each other fairly and with compassion, and the martyrdom of John the Baptist reminds us of the price we must sometimes pay on our spiritual journey. Let us strive to be faithful to the Gospel in the face of opposition or weakness.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's reading from the Book of Leviticus, which provides both ritual and life guidelines for the people of ancient Israel, focuses on the importance of treating each other fairly and with compassion. In the Gospel, King Herod folded under the pressure of saving face and ordered John the Baptist to be beheaded, even though he knew it was wrong.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we come before you with humble hearts, and ask our petitions be heard and answered according to your mercy and will.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, that she be guided by the love of God in Christ to serve all in need with the compassion and mercy shown to us in Christ Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may they work toward providing universal prosperity and dignity for all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the dying and for those who care for them, that God will hold each close to his heart, and that they will be comforted by the hope of the Resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For catechists and youth ministers in our parish, may they be guided by wisdom and engage in insightful teaching as they pass along the faith to our young people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, especially those dear to us, may they enjoy the rewards of the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, we thank you for all good gifts, especially for the grace and mercy you give us each day. We ask these petitions be granted according to your will, through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2017

(Lec. 614)

- 1) Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
- 2) 2 Peter 1:16-19
- 3) Matthew 17:1-9

**THE TRANSFIGURATION
OF THE LORD
-FEAST**

FOCUS: *This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.*

“The word of the Lord” is something we hear in church, perhaps without giving it much thought. Peter and Daniel both remind us that the words of Jesus we hear in Scripture are none other than the words of the beloved Son of the Ancient One, who is the Most High over all the earth. We would do well to pay close attention to these words.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Prophet Daniel observes the Ancient One on his throne, to whom is presented one like a Son of Man who will receive everlasting dominion. The second reading reminds us that Jesus is the beloved son of the Father. In the Gospel, Jesus takes Peter, James and John up the mountain where he is transfigured. The disciples then see Moses and Elijah conversing with him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Having been nourished by the word of God, let us present to him our prayers for our needs and the needs of our sisters and brothers.

- 1) For those in the Church who are charged with proclaiming the Gospel, may they continue to faithfully proclaim the word of God to all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may they work tirelessly with each other to transform the fear between enemies into trust and respect between neighbors, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick in mind or body, may they experience comfort and peace through the grace of Jesus, the Divine Physician, and the compassionate care of others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may we strive to reach out with the light and love of Christ to those living in the darkness of despair and loneliness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the peace of Christ, may they come to enjoy eternal happiness in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, we ask that you graciously hear the prayers we bring to you, and grant them according to your will. Through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, August 7, 2017

(Lec. 407)

- 1) Numbers 11:4b-15
- 2) Matthew 14:13-21

MONDAY OF
18TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt Mem.
Saint Sixtus II, Pope,
and companions,
Martyrs;
Saint Cajetan,
Priest)

FOCUS: God uses all the good we do, even the simplest acts of kindness, to accomplish marvels and wonders.

Jesus' multiplication of the five loaves and two fish to feed a crowd of five thousand in the Gospel reminds us of the importance of generously giving of and sharing our talents and material blessings with others. For God uses all the good we do for others to accomplish his marvelous deeds.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from the Book of Numbers tells of the Israelites complaining about a lack of meat to eat. In the Gospel, Jesus multiplies five loaves and two fish to feed a vast crowd.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Knowing that all our hope is in the Lord, we have confidence to approach God with our needs, and the needs of the world.

- 1) For all members of the Church, that through our love of others and our example of discipleship, we may lead many to Christ so they might believe and be saved, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For places in the world that are experiencing civil unrest, may the peace of Christ permeate the hearts of all those involved and bring an end to violence and loss of life, we pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are persecuted for their faith in Christ, may the Holy Spirit uphold and strengthen them, and assure them of the prayers and support of their Christian brothers and sisters, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may each of us continue to grow in our love for Jesus and be unafraid to take up our crosses and follow in the footsteps of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they may experience the love and mercy of the Father and enter eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, hear and answer these prayers we present to you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, August 8, 2017

(Lec. 408)

1) Numbers 12:1-13

2) Matthew 14:22-36 or
15:1-2, 10-14

TUESDAY OF
18TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Dominic,
Priest)

FOCUS: Have faith and trust in the Lord, for his love and mercy are never-ending.

There are times when we give in to the weakness of sin, as Miriam did in today's reading. Other times, as with Peter in the Gospel, we fail to place our full trust in the Lord. Whatever the situation, our loving and merciful God is ready to come to our aid when we place our faith and trust in him, and rely upon him to strengthen and guide us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from the Book of Numbers tells of how Miriam and Aaron are rebuked by the Lord for challenging Moses' authority. In the Gospel from Matthew, the disciples are caught in a storm in their boat on the sea, and Jesus calms both the waters and their fears.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Seeking to follow and walk in God's way of love, we join in offering our prayers for our needs and those of the world to the Lord.

- 1) For the pope and bishops of our Church, may they continue to shepherd their flock along the pathway to holiness and truth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may they turn to God for wisdom and guidance so they may enact laws and policies which serve the good of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who must flee their homes because of violence or oppression, may they find places of safety and refuge, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For families gathered here today, may God strengthen the bonds of love between husbands and wives, and between parents and children, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they come to enjoy perfect peace and joy in heaven, singing God's praises for all eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, hear our prayers and help us to trust that you are with us always, providing for what we most truly need. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, August 9, 2017

(Lec. 409)

- 1) Numbers 13:1-2, 25-14:1, 26-29a, 34-35
- 2) Matthew 15:21-28

WEDNESDAY OF

18TH WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(Opt. Mem.

Saint Teresa Benedicta
of the Cross,
Virgin and Martyr)

FOCUS: When things seem impossible, God reminds us that in him, all things are possible.

We all face times when a task seems insurmountable, or something we need doesn't seem to come to pass. But God's promises are within our reach, and what he gives, he gives completely. We are asked to walk in faith, and to rely on his goodness and mercy.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Lord instructs Moses to send people to check out the land of Canaan, which has been promised to them. They return, praising the land's fruits but complaining they will not be able to defeat its inhabitants. In our Gospel, Jesus heals the daughter of a Canaanite woman.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust in the Lord, we turn to him with confidence and offer our petitions.

- 1) For the Church, may she continue to be a living witness to the merciful love of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those around the world who are persecuted for their Christian faith, may they turn to the Holy Spirit for strength and courage to proclaim Christ's love to all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who suffer in mind, body or spirit, may they experience the consoling presence of our compassionate God in their moments of loneliness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all those who labor on the land, gather the earth's crops and bring food to our tables, may they be blessed with an abundant harvest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they enjoy perpetual light, refreshment and peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Thursday, August 10, 2017
(Lec. 618)

- 1) 2 Corinthians 9:6-10
- 2) John 12:24-26

**SAINT LAWRENCE,
DEACON AND MARTYR
- FEAST**

FOCUS: Let us strive to be God's faithful servants each and every day.

Jesus calls us today to give unselfishly, and to serve others: *where I am, there also will my servant be*. Although it's not always easy to place God first in our busy lives, if we stay close to him through prayer and the Eucharist, we will be given the grace, courage and strength we need to do his work here on earth.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Paul explains that God will make *every grace abundant* for those who give generously. In John's Gospel, Jesus uses a grain of wheat to remind us of the need to die to self in order to be a faithful servant of the Lord.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Acknowledging that God calls us to a life of service to each other, let us now offer our prayers to him.

- 1) That all members of the Church may commit ourselves more fully to answering the call to give witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That elected officials will work tirelessly to enact laws protecting the sanctity of life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those in the medical profession will show kindness and gentleness at the bedsides of their patients, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That each of us gathered here may seek to renew the grace of our baptism so we may be messengers of God's love in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may know the love and compassion of a merciful God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, to know you is to serve you. Hear our prayers this day and guide us in your loving ways. Through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, August 11, 2017

(Lec. 411)

- 1) Deuteronomy 4:32-40
- 2) Matthew 16:24-28

FRIDAY OF
18TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Clare,
Virgin)

FOCUS: Living as faithful disciple of Jesus, though never easy, brings innumerable rewards and blessings.

Answering Jesus' call to discipleship is not easy. It requires that we set aside our own pursuits and seek to love God above all things. It requires that we lead our lives according to the teachings of Jesus and go wherever he leads us. Despite such costs, however, the rewards of discipleship are many, such as peace, joy and the promise of eternal life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from the Book of Deuteronomy tells of Moses enjoining the Israelites to obey God's commandments. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that all who aspire to live as one of his disciples must take up their cross and follow him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER:

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

- 1) That all members of the Church may recognize more fully the many ways that God has blessed our lives and, in return, serve him with humble and grateful hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That elected officials may strive to put aside their own interests and work toward the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are victims of violence may be blessed with the help and support needed to heal and recover, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That each of us will make more frequent use of the sacrament of reconciliation as a means of being more fully reconciled to God and open to growing in holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may come to enjoy eternal rest and perfect peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

Saturday, August 12, 2017

(Lec. 412)

- 1) Deuteronomy 6:4-13
- 2) Matthew 17:14-20

SATURDAY OF

18TH WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(Opt. Mem.

Saint Jane Frances De Chantal,

Religious;

Saturday in honor of BVM)

FOCUS: Following the first commandment Moses gave to the Israelites – to love God with all our strength – will give us faith enough to move mountains.

Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, soul and strength – the commandment Moses gave the Israelites before they were to enter the Promised Land is also the commandment that Jesus identified as the greatest. When we follow this commandment and grow in our faith, God works through us to accomplish great things.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the reading from Deuteronomy, Moses teaches the Israelites they are to love the Lord with all their heart, soul and strength. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples the reason they are unable to drive a demon out of a boy is because of their little faith.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: The Lord is our refuge and our salvation, and so with confidence we approach and offer him our prayers for our needs and those of the world.

- 1) That all clergy may continue to be steadfast in sharing the Gospel message through the witness of their words and deeds, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That heads of nations and diplomats may turn to God for guidance in finding ways to set aside rivalries to build bridges to peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all those afflicted with serious illness and pain may find peace and comfort in God's saving love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That this faith community may offer warmth and welcome to all, especially those who are lost and seeking to find their way, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the faithful departed may 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: Gracious and loving God, hear and answer our prayers according to your most holy will. Through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 2017

(Lec. 115)

- 1) 1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a
- 2) Romans 9:1-5
- 3) Matthew 14:22-33

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Jesus is always there for us.

Sometimes, in the midst of life's storms, we might feel that Jesus has abandoned us. But Jesus walks with us every step along the way. During stormy times, it's important to turn to Jesus because he will give us the grace, guidance and strength we need to endure and make our way out of the storm.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God reveals himself to Elijah in a quiet whisper. Paul expresses sorrow in his Letter to the Romans that his fellow Israelites have not accepted Jesus as the Messiah. In the Gospel, Jesus comes to his disciples, walking on the water during a storm.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we prepare to offer gifts on the altar, let us turn to God and offer him our prayers of petition.

- 1) That those who shepherd our Church may be blessed with the grace needed to continue faithfully shepherding and tending to the needs of those entrusted to their care, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That those in positions of authority will be motivated by compassion and the desire to serve the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are struggling with their faith may turn to the Holy Spirit for the guidance and strength needed to persevere and resolve their difficulties, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the young people in our parish will develop into faithful servants who use the gifts they have been given to enrich our community and to witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died will find everlasting peace in God's heavenly home, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we ask that you hear and answer the prayers of your faithful gathered here. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Monday, August 14, 2017

(Lec. 413)

- 1) Deuteronomy 10:12-22
- 2) Matthew 17:22-27

MONDAY OF
19TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Maximilian Kolbe,
Priest and Martyr)

FOCUS: Love and serve the Lord our God, who gave us hope in Jesus Christ.

As children of God, we are called to serve him. This involves self-sacrifice and a spirit of giving. Jesus gave his life for us, and we are called to give of ourselves following the example he set for us. Doing so will bring us closer to Christ and help to ensure that we live in a way that is pleasing to God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Moses tells the people they must adhere to the principles of the Lord. It is the Lord who has been abundantly good to them. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that he will *be handed over to men*, but will rise on the third day.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident of the Father's love for us, we now bring these prayers and petitions to our heavenly Father.

- 1) For young men and women throughout the Church, may they respond generously to God's call to the priesthood or religious life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For war-torn areas of the world, may the peace of Christ permeate the hearts of all involved so they may set aside violence and find peaceful solutions to conflict, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the unemployed, may they be blessed to find work that allows them to provide for themselves and those who depend upon them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered at the Lord's Table today, may we strive to give a faithful and effective witness to the Gospel by giving generously of ourselves in love and service to others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they experience the joys of heaven for all eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, hear and answer our prayers we offer to you with humility and trust, through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, August 15, 2017

(Lec. 622)

- 1) Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab
- 2) 1 Corinthians 15:20-27
- 3) Luke 1:39-56

**THE ASSUMPTION
OF THE BLESSED
VIRGIN MARY
-SOLEMNITY**

FOCUS: Where Mary has gone we hope to follow.

Today's solemnity invites us to recall and remember the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary body and soul into heaven. This event speaks to us in a number of important ways, one of which is to offer us hope: Where Mary has gone, we hope to follow. Let's strive to always say "yes" to God that we might be judged worthy of eternal life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of a great sign appearing in the sky: a woman clothed with the sun. The second reading reminds us that *just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life*. In the Gospel, Mary travels to a town in Judah to visit her kinswoman, Elizabeth, who was with child.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Seeking to lead lives which give glory, honor and praise to God, let us join in offering our prayers for our needs and those of the world to our loving Father.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we seek to imitate the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary by listening to God and striving to say "yes" to whatever he asks of us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may they work to ensure that all people can worship freely in peace and safety, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who feel betrayed by a loved one, may they turn to God for the grace and strength needed to heal and forgive, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may we make use of the sacrament of reconciliation frequently as a means of growing in holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they receive a place at the eternal banquet in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and living God, hear and answer our prayers, both those spoken and those held in the silence of our hearts. We offer them to you through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, August 16, 2017
(Lec. 415)

- 1) Deuteronomy 34:1-12
- 2) Matthew 18:15-20

WEDNESDAY OF
19TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Stephen of Hungary)

FOCUS: We are called as disciples of Jesus to foster healing and reconciliation in the world.

Today's Gospel reminds us that, as disciples of Jesus, we are called to work for healing and reconciliation in the world. One important way we can do this is to ask for forgiveness and to seek to make amends whenever we act in a way that is hurtful toward someone. Another is to pray ardently for those who have grown lax in the practice of the Catholic faith.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the Book of Deuteronomy, we hear that the people are obedient to Joshua after he was filled with the *spirit of wisdom*. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus says, *where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our petitions to the Father, who provides for all of our needs.

- 1) That the Church universal will be blessed with the grace and resources she needs to continue to meet the needs of the poor through her missionary outreach, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That those who serve in government will turn to God for guidance to find nonviolent solutions to conflicts and disputes, and work to bring about lasting peace throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are ill may experience comfort and healing by trusting in Jesus, the Divine Physician, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That each of us may seek to deepen and strengthen our relationship with the Lord so we may more fully respond to the differing ways he calls us to love and serve others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may join all the angels and saints in singing God's praises for all eternity in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Thursday, August 17, 2017

(Lec. 416)

1) Joshua 3:7-10a, 11, 13-17

2) Matthew 18:21-19:1

THURSDAY OF
19TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: We are called to forgive freely from the heart.

Today's Gospel reminds us that as disciples of Jesus, we are called to forgive others as God has forgiven us – without limit or hesitation. We are to freely forgive others from the heart. The more we do so, the more we will experience God's healing mercy and peace in our hearts, and the better prepared we will be to help build up his kingdom in the world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Following the death of Moses, Joshua, in our first reading, stands ready to follow God's command to lead the Israelites across the Jordan River into the Promised Land. Jesus answers Peter's question on how often he is to forgive his brother in today's Gospel by responding that there is no limit to the number of times he is to forgive.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us call to mind the needs of our brothers and sisters, and join in offering our prayers to God.

- 1) For all the faithful, that we will continue to strive to grow in holiness and give witness to the Gospel by generously loving and forgiving others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world and national leaders, that they may never lose sight of mercy as they uphold the law and work for justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer in drought-stricken areas of the world, may their leaders seek equitable solutions that provide relief and respite, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us gathered here, that through our discipline of prayer we may continue to grow in faith and holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, 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: Father, hear and answer these prayers. We offer them to you through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

* * *

Friday, August 18, 2017
(Lec. 417)

- 1) Joshua 24:1-13
- 2) Matthew 19:3-12

FRIDAY OF
19TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God, in his immense generosity and mercy, provides for all of our needs.

Sometimes we take for granted all that the Lord provides for us. We may need to remind ourselves to be grateful. In today's first reading, Joshua provides a model for gratitude, as he lists for the Israelites the many things God had done for them. We, too, can reflect on the countless ways the Lord has blessed and continues to bless us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Joshua reminds the people of all that God has done for them. In today's Gospel, Jesus says that when two people marry, they become *no longer two, but one flesh*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For members of the Church, may we continually turn to the Holy Spirit for guidance and strength in the course of our everyday lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For judges and lawmakers, may they turn to God for wisdom to render just decisions tempered with mercy and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For persecuted Christians around the globe, may they be granted grace and strength to persevere and endure in their faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish community, may we show our gratitude to God by sharing our gifts and giving of ourselves generously in love and service to others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead and all who have died, may they enjoy the company of all the saints and angels in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and eternal Father, hear our prayers and grant us the grace to lead lives that are holy and pleasing to you. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, August 19, 2017

(Lec. 418)

- 1) Joshua 24:14-29
- 2) Matthew 19:13-15

SATURDAY OF
19TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint John Eudes,
Priest;
Saturday in honor of BVM)

FOCUS: Let us commit to loving and serving the Lord each day.

Just as Joshua instructs his people to turn from idols and false notions, so, too, must we continue to turn from sin and selfishness. We are called to worship God through lives of holiness and discipleship. Let's commit, by our actions, to sharing Christ's love with all we encounter, especially those in need.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading Joshua exhorts the Israelites that they are to *fear the Lord and serve him completely and sincerely*. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples, *Let the children come to me, and do not try to prevent them; for the Kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust in God's mercy and providence, we lift our petitions to you for the needs of the Church and the world.

- 1) That all members of the Church may strive to reflect the light of Christ in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That people throughout the world will work together to care for our planet, respecting and preserving God's handiwork and resources for the good of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are ill may be strengthened in body and soul through God's grace and the kindness of caregivers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That each of us fortified by this Eucharistic celebration may be renewed and strengthened to share the Gospel with others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the faithful departed may come to receive the promised reward of eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord, our God, in your goodness hear and answer our prayers according to your most holy will. Through Christ our Lord.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2017

(Lec. 118)

- 1) Isaiah 56:1, 6-7
- 2) Romans 11:13-15, 29-32
- 3) Matthew 15:21-28

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God offers salvation to all who have faith in him and follow his ways.

The Lord welcomes to the kingdom all who believe in him and follow him. His mercy and love is extended to all. Let us strive not to focus on each other's differences, but to view others through the eyes of Jesus, and seek to celebrate that we are all children of God by reaching out to one another with love and kindness.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading speaks of God's gift of salvation being offered to all people. The second reading reminds us that the gifts and call of God are irrevocable. In the Gospel, Jesus heals the daughter of a Canaanite woman because of the woman's great faith in him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As brothers and sisters in Christ, let us offer ourselves to our heavenly Father and pray for our needs and those of the world.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we cooperate with the grace and action of the Holy Spirit, and use our unique gifts and talents more fully to build up the kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may they work to preserve the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are hungry or homeless, may they be assisted in their need by committed Christians and people of good will, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those who serve in our parish ministries, may they be blessed with the grace and strength to continue serving generously, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they come to enjoy perfect happiness and peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Monday, August 21, 2017

(Lec. 419)

- 1) Judges 2:11-19
- 2) Matthew 19:16-22

MONDAY OF
20TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Pius X,
Pope)

FOCUS: *If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.*

There are times in life when God calls us to give up something we treasure — a task which can prove to be daunting and difficult. However, we can do what God asks us to do in such a situation if we remember that God alone knows what is best.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

We hear in today's first reading that the Israelites grew lax in their worship of God, and were taken over by their enemies. Leaders, called judges, rose up, but when they died, the people returned to their unfaithful ways. Today's Gospel tells of how a young man was not able to follow Jesus because of his attachment to material things.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God's love for us, let us place before him our needs and those of the world.

- 1) That all members of the Church may continue to grow in their faith and love for the Lord Jesus and give a more faithful and effective witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That elected officials may turn to God for guidance and strength so they might govern wisely and justly, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who live with a chronic mental illness may receive the help and assistance needed to heal and recover, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all members of this faith community may let go of the things that stand in the way of growing in our love for Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all those who have died may live in the light of God's love for eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father in heaven, hear us as we bring our needs to you. Help us accept your will in these and all things. We pray through your son, Jesus Christ.

Tuesday, August 22, 2017
(Lec. 420)

- 1) Judges 6:11-24a
- 2) Matthew 19:23-30

TUESDAY OF
20TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
(The Queenship of the
Blessed Virgin Mary)

FOCUS: We need to place all of our trust in God, without sign or hesitation, every minute of our day.

Trust in God can be a difficult thing. We want a sign to confirm that we are indeed doing what God asks. Trusting in God usually means making the tough choices with confidence in his love and mercy, but without such a sign. That trust grows as we let go of those attachments to things of this world that keep us from God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Through his angel, the Lord commissions Gideon in the first reading to save the Israelites from the Midianites. A sign is provided to assure Gideon that the Lord is indeed with him. In the Gospel, Jesus explains to the disciples that only through trust in God can one be saved, but this may require many sacrifices. The reward is eternal life with God.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident that God gives us strength to bear our daily burdens and lovingly provides for what we most truly need, let us offer him our prayers and petitions.

- 1) That all members of the Church may be living witnesses to God's love in the world, and by their witness bring others to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That world leaders may work to ensure that people are provided the right to freely practice their faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those weighed down by bitterness and resentment may turn to God for the grace needed to heal and forgive, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That those who preach at parish missions or conduct retreats in our diocese may lead us, through their words and prayers, to a deeper relationship with God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the faithful departed may be at peace in God's heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, your words bring us your Spirit and give us life. We offer you our prayers through your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Wednesday August 23, 2017

(Lec. 421)

- 1) Judges 9:6-15
- 2) Matthew 20:1-16

WEDNESDAY OF
20TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Rose of Lima,
Virgin)

FOCUS: God freely and generously offers the gift of salvation to all who place their faith and trust in Jesus.

Today's Gospel reminds us that God freely offers the gift of salvation to all who place their faith in Jesus. In responding to this gracious offer, some people place their faith in Jesus more readily, while others are more hesitant at first. Regardless of how or when a person places their faith in Jesus, if they believe and persevere they shall be saved.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading Jotham, who has escaped his brother Abimelech's slaughter, goes to the top of Mount Gerizim and tells a story which speaks of the evil of having a king. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the good employer who pays his workers equal wages despite the fact that they worked different lengths of time.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Grateful for the abundant gifts and blessings that God bestows upon us each day, let us join in offering him our prayers for our needs and those of the world.

- 1) For all the faithful, that we will open our hearts more fully to God's unbounded love and mercy so we may share it more freely and generously with others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For missionaries around the world, may they be blessed with the grace, strength and resources needed to continue preaching so many come to believe, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick and the lonely, that through the love and outreach of faithful Christians, they may be assured of God's love and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, that we may be generous in giving of our time, talent and treasure to further the work the Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead and all who have died, may they come to enjoy perpetual light, refreshment and peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

* * *

Thursday August 24, 2017
(Lec. 629)

- 1) Revelation 21:9b-14
- 2) John 1:45-51

**SAINT BARTHOLOMEW,
APOSTLE
- FEAST**

FOCUS: In order to give a faithful and effective witness to the Gospel, our faith must be strong.

The Apostles had to be sincere and genuine in their belief in Jesus as Messiah and Lord to preach and teach the Gospel message effectively. Similarly, we must have a genuine faith and trust in Jesus to give a faithful witness to the Gospel, and to help build up God's kingdom on earth.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Book of Revelation presents an image of the heavenly Jerusalem. It is built on the foundation of the Apostles. Its gates welcome in all directions. In the Gospel, Philip beckons Nathanael to come and see Jesus, the one promised through Moses and the prophets. Nathanael professes faith in Jesus, and Jesus promises him that he will see far greater things.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Seeking to lead lives which bear an effective witness to the Gospel, let us join in offering our prayers to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) For Pope Francis, that God's word may become known to all the world as he faithfully proclaims the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may they seek to work together and cooperate with one another in order to serve and promote the good of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For families in need of reconciliation, may they receive healing and comfort through the mercy of God and the good counsel of others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the young people in our parish, may they turn to God for guidance in discovering and discerning his plan for their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they come to enjoy unending peace and joy in the presence of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Friday, August 25, 2017

(Lec. 423)

- 1) Ruth 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22
- 2) Matthew 22:34-40

FRIDAY OF
20TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Louis;
Saint Joseph Calasanz,
Priest)

FOCUS: God calls us to a life of faithfulness.

At a time when many seem afraid to make a lifetime commitment, God calls us to be true to the promises made at our baptism. As God's sons and daughters, we are to maintain our fidelity to God through the uncertainties of life and place him first in our hearts.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Ruth remains faithful to her mother-in-law, Naomi, who is without husband or sons. Ruth is willing to adopt Naomi's land, family and God. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that the first and greatest commandment is to love God with one's whole being. And the second is to love your neighbor as yourself.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Believing that God always hears our prayers, let us join in presenting our needs and the needs of others to him.

- 1) For the leaders of the Church, may they continue to shepherd the faithful along the path to salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may they work to enact laws that uphold the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are imprisoned, may they put their trust in the Lord and experience healing in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For each of us, that we will mutually encourage and support one another in growing in our faith and love for the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they come to join the angels and saints in singing God's praises for all eternity in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, in 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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Saturday, August 26, 2017
(Lec. 424)

- 1) Ruth 2:1-3, 8-11;
4:13-17
- 2) Matthew 23:1-12

SATURDAY OF
20TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Saturday in honor of BVM)

FOCUS: To be rewarded for our faithfulness, we must first follow Christ in humility and trust.

Today's readings remind us that being faithful to God's commandments requires great humility. Ruth was humble and trusting that her faithfulness was more important than her personal gain, and for this she is rewarded. In contrast, Jesus rebukes the Pharisees for their hypocrisy and lack of humility. God rewards the humble and chastises the proud.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Ruth was faithful to her husband and to her mother-in-law, even after her husband's death. Instead of returning home to her parents, she remains with her mother-in-law, knowing she risks hardship. She is rewarded for her faithfulness. In the Gospel, Jesus chastises the scribes and Pharisees for their hypocrisy and lack of faithfulness.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With humble and contrite hearts, we turn to God, our loving Father, and present our needs to him.

- 1) For Pope Francis, bishops and priests, may their example of humble service move the faithful to lay down their lives more fully in humble love and service to God and their neighbor, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may they work to find nonviolent solutions to conflicts and disputes so peace may reign more fully upon the earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering persecution for their faith in Christ, may they be blessed with the strength to persevere and endure, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For married and engaged couples in our faith community, may they come to know Christ's love more deeply through their love for one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they join the angels and saints in giving glory to God in the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, hear our prayers and grant us the grace needed to lay down our lives more fully in love and service to you and our neighbor. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2017

(Lec. 121)

- 1) Isaiah 22:19-23
- 2) Romans 11:33-36
- 3) Matthew 16:13-20

**TWENTY-FIRST
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Belief in Jesus as the Messiah is central to being a disciple.

Peter's statement of faith that Jesus is the Messiah, the son of God, comes not from human knowledge, but through a revelation from God. As Jesus announces that Peter is the bearer of the keys to the kingdom, Peter is given the power to bind and loose. Similarly, Jesus gives us unique gifts by the power of the Holy Spirit that we are to use to bear witness to the Gospel.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Isaiah speaks of how God works in and amongst his people to bring about justice and salvation. The second reading reminds us that all glory is to be given to God, whose ways are unsearchable. In the Gospel, Jesus gives Peter authority to bind and loose, as he gives him the keys to the kingdom of heaven.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our petitions to God, our heavenly Father, and trust in his all-encompassing love.

- 1) That bishops, priests and deacons may be blessed with the grace needed to continue being instruments of God's healing and saving love in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That those in positions of authority may turn to God for guidance as they seek to make wise and just decisions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who suffer as a result of violence or abuse may be blessed with the support and assistance they need to heal and recover, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That families in our parish will make a renewed effort to keep Christ at the center of their homes, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the faithful departed might come to receive a place at the eternal banquet in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, hear and answer our prayers according to your will. We offer them to you through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Monday, August 28, 2017

(Lec. 425)

- 1) 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5,
8b-10
- 2) Matthew 23:13-22

MONDAY OF
21ST WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Augustine,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church)

FOCUS: We are thankful for the gifts of faith, love and hope in our lives.

Paul is sending a thank-you note to the Thessalonians for their *labor of love and endurance in hope of our Lord Jesus Christ*. He is grateful that the Gospel came to them *in power and in the Holy Spirit*. In the same way, let us be grateful for the gift of the Holy Spirit in our lives, and strive to be open each day to its promptings.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul offers thanksgiving to the Thessalonians for their faith, love and hope. In the Gospel, Jesus rebukes the scribes and Pharisees for obstructing and preventing others from entering God's kingdom.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With humility and gratitude, let us offer our petitions to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, that his example and faithful preaching and teaching of the Gospel may bring many to place their faith and trust in Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may they work to enact laws and policies that protect and safeguard the earth and the environment, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are sick or dying, may they be strengthened by their faith in God, and find hope in the love and support of others and in the promise of eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the young people in our parish, may they continue to grow in their knowledge of the Gospel, and their love for Jesus and one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may know the joy of eternal rest with God in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, in your goodness and love, we ask that you hear and answer our prayers. Through Christ our Lord.

Tuesday, August 29, 2017

(Lec. 426)

1) 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

(Lec. 634)

2) Mark 6:17-29

TUESDAY OF
21ST WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
The Passion of
Saint John the Baptist)

FOCUS: Living a life of holiness means we must focus our lives on the ways of God.

Living a holy life means measuring everything in this world by the standards of the message given to us in sacred Scripture and the teachings of the Church. This consists of having faith in Jesus Christ, allowing him to guide us, entering into the struggles before us, and nourishing our faith with daily prayer and the graces of the sacraments.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading reminds us that our lives shouldn't be driven by a desire to please others, but rather, God. Today's Gospel gives an account of the circumstances that led to John the Baptist being put to death.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Seeking to lead lives which give glory, honor and praise to God, let us join in offering our prayers and petitions to the Lord.

- 1) That all members of the Church, like John the Baptist, may grow in their commitment to sharing the Gospel message with others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That world leaders will cooperate to foster peace throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are feeling isolated or alone may come to experience God's love for them through the outreach and caring of others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That those in our diocese who have been called to the ordained or consecrated life may respond with courage and generosity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the faithful departed may come to enjoy the promised reward of eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, hear our prayers and grant us the grace we need to grow in holiness and lead lives which give a faithful and effective witness to the Gospel. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, August 30, 2017

(Lec. 427)

1) 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

2) Matthew 23:27-32

WEDNESDAY OF
21ST WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Let us strive to grow in our love for Jesus, our Savior, each day.

Jesus roundly criticizes the hypocritical religious leaders. What is important is what is in our hearts, which God sees, not what people see on the outside. Let's strive to encourage others in faith in the same way that Paul encouraged the Thessalonians, encouraging them to walk in a manner worthy of God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul reminds the Thessalonians of the sacrifices he made on their behalf so they might grow in their faith and love for Jesus. In the Gospel, Jesus scolds the scribes and Pharisees for their hypocrisy, saying they are like tombs — beautiful outside but full of decay.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the faithful love of our heavenly Father, let us place our needs before him, knowing he will answer our prayers.

- 1) That all those who serve in Church ministry may be blessed with the grace and strength needed to continue helping the faithful grow in their faith and love for the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That leaders of nations may strive to establish laws and policies that have as their goal the common good, especially an improved life for the neediest in their midst, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are unemployed or underemployed will be blessed to find work that provides for their needs and allows them to support their families, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That each of us may continually strive to strengthen and deepen our love for the Lord Jesus so we may give a faithful and effective witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our beloved dead, and all 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: O God, hear and answer our prayers according to your will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, August 31, 2017

(Lec. 428)

- 1) 1 Thessalonians 3:7-13
- 2) Matthew 24:42-51

THURSDAY OF
21ST WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Faithfulness is the fruit of the Holy Spirit whereby we keep our commitments and entrust ourselves to the Lord.

Faithfulness involves keeping commitments and consistently entrusting ourselves to God. Faithfulness is never an obligation, but, the natural expression of love. The faithful servant in the Gospel is the one who is found committed to the duties entrusted to him or her by the Lord.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Paul assures the Thessalonians that he is praying that the Lord Jesus may make them abound in love for one another, and give them the grace to continue growing in holiness. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples they must stay awake because he will return at an unknown day and hour.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident that our heavenly Father never tires of hearing the petitions of his beloved children, let us bring our needs before him.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we work diligently and persistently to ensure that the dignity and sanctity of all human life is respected and protected from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in our world who have been entrusted with civic responsibility, may they grow in their resolve to enact just laws that protect and respect the fundamental rights of all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those in our community who live with chronic mental illness, may they find strength from their faith, and be blessed with the help and support they need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all students who are beginning a new school year, may they, with the assistance of dedicated teachers, grow in knowledge and maturity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be wrapped in the loving embrace of God for all eternity in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, look kindly upon our petitions and answer them according to your most holy will. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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