

February

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Wednesday, February 1, 2017
(Lec. 325)
1) Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15
2) Mark 6:1-6

WEDNESDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: A prophet is not without honor except in his native place.

When Jesus is rejected by the people of Nazareth, he is amazed at their lack of faith and unable to perform miracles there. Like the people in his hometown, most of us are familiar with Jesus. We know about him, but this isn't the same as having faith in him. For Christ to be able to accomplish wonders in our lives, we must have faith.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The reading from Hebrews identifies trials that Christians encounter in their lives as disciples. We hear that instead of focusing on the pain, we must await *the peaceful fruit of righteousness* that trials eventually bear. In the Gospel, Jesus is rejected by the people of his hometown. Amazed at their lack of faith, he is unable to perform any mighty deed there.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Grateful for the love and guidance God extends to us each day, we offer our prayers to our loving and merciful Father in heaven.

- 1) For Pope Francis, may the Holy Spirit sustain him in his ministry as he spreads the Gospel of life and the hope of the resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may they turn to the Lord for guidance in seeking ways of governing with righteousness and integrity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who struggle with their faith, may they experience the Lord's love and mercy along their spiritual journey and turn back to God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the people of our parish, may our words and actions promote greater respect for life and human dignity in our community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they, assisted by our prayers and through God's grace and mercy, come to enter into eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord, Redeemer of all, hear our prayers and, in your mercy, grant us what we need according to your will. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

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Thursday, February 2, 2017
(Lec. 524)

- 1) Malachi 3:1-4
- 2) Hebrews 2:14-18
- 3) Luke 2:22-40
or 2:22-32

**THE PRESENTATION
OF THE LORD
- FEAST**

FOCUS: Be attentive to the messengers of the Lord.

Messengers of the Lord help us grow in our faith and love for God. Simeon and Anna reveal prophetic messages regarding Jesus to his mother and father – two people we can assume knew him best. We can never know all there is to know. The Church continues to be a messenger –revealing God’s love for us through the saving actions of Jesus Christ.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Malachi speaks of a messenger coming to reveal the Lord. The second reading recounts Jesus’ saving work in overcoming death. The Gospel shares the story of the presentation at the Temple of the baby Jesus according to the Mosaic Law. Simeon and Anna both speak of a prophecy.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to be attentive to the messages of God’s love as they are revealed in our time. Let us offer our prayers of petition for our Church and our world.

- 1) For the universal Church, may she continue to boldly proclaim messages of love, healing and compassion to help transform hearts and minds in times of violence, despair and injustice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may they, inspired by the Holy Spirit, collaborate with those who encourage peace, generosity and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer in despair as a result of the loss of loved ones due to violence, may they find comfort and consolation in the message of God’s boundless compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all members of this faith community, may we be attentive to the messages of those who encourage us to grow deeper in our life in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may they come to experience the fullness of life and love in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

Friday, February 3, 2017
(Lec. 327)

- 1) Hebrews 13:1-8
- 2) Mark 6:14-29

FRIDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Blaise,
Bishop and Martyr;
Saint Ansgar, Bishop)

FOCUS: *The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid.*

King Herod had to choose between keeping his word and impressing his guests, or doing the right thing. Although Herod knew John was *righteous and holy*, he acted out of fear of being embarrassed and ordered John the Baptist's beheading. How do we make our choices? Do we choose to be *popular* or do we choose to do *right*?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first reading outlines moral and social behavior expected from those who keep the faith. We are told to *be content with what you have*, for the Lord *will never forsake you or abandon you*. The Gospel of Mark recounts the martyrdom of John the Baptist.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With gratitude for all that God has given us, let us make our prayers for the Church and for our world.

- 1) That the Church, remembering Saint Blaise today, may be a source of compassion and hope for all who suffer illness, especially every disease of the throat, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That nations may work to protect the unborn, give help to women in crisis pregnancies, and assist families in providing loving homes for their children, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That victims of violence, discrimination or bullying may find justice and be bolstered by the words, *The Lord is my helper, What can anyone do to me?*, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That our faith community may be moved to reach out to those who are hurting, and to comfort those who are anxious or distressed, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may find peace in the heavenly kingdom, and that those who mourn may be comforted, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, we thank you for your goodness and help, and ask that you look favorably on our prayers. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Saturday, February 4, 2017
(Lec. 328)
1) Hebrews 13:15-17, 20-21
2) Mark 6:30-34

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

FOCUS: We are called to lead lives which are holy and pleasing to God.

Jesus calls us to lead lives which are holy, and to be his disciples. Meeting this challenge requires spending time in prayer each day so we may continue to grow in our love for God, and recognition that everything we have is a gift from him. This, in turn, frees us to offer ourselves, and all we say and do, as a living sacrifice of praise to God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The author of Hebrews exhorts us as Christians to offer God praise and good works, and sends a blessing, that the Lord may carry out in us *what is pleasing to him through Jesus Christ*. Our Gospel reminds us that, as disciples, we need to spend time with Jesus to receive his peace and refreshment, for he is the Good Shepherd who looks upon us with great love.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In trust and confidence that God hears and answers all our prayers, we join in offering our petitions for our needs and those of the world to our loving Father.

- 1) For the missionary efforts of the Church, may we all be strengthened in courage and faith as we seek to make disciples of all nations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those elected to public office, may their hearts and minds always seek what is pleasing to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are experiencing physical or spiritual illness, may Jesus, the Divine Physician, bring them healing and strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all in our parish community, may we receive the grace and strength needed to lead lives that give a faithful witness to the Gospel and help bring others to place their trust in Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they come to 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, we desire to please you above all. Hear our humble petitions in accordance with your will, for we ask them in faith through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2017

(Lec. 73)

- 1) Isaiah 58:7-10
- 2) 1 Corinthians 2:1-5
- 3) Matthew 5:13-16

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: We are called to be salt and light for others.

As we continue in ordinary time, we are challenged to see it as a blessed opportunity to share and witness to others through the daily events of life. We are to be a light for others – illuminating the way, and salt for others – giving flavor to their lives: drawing them closer to God through the witness of our lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Isaiah reminds us that in showing concern and love for others, we are like a light for all people – a light that radiates the very glory of God. Saint Paul explains that real faith comes from the power of God and not mere human reason. In the Gospel, Jesus uses two powerful images to describe true discipleship: salt and light.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With the Holy Spirit stirring in our hearts we bring our prayers and petitions before our eternal Father.

- 1) For Church leaders, may they continue to be salt and light for those entrusted to their pastoral care, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For policymakers and civic leaders, may they work to enact laws that support the dignity and sanctity of all human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are alienated from God and his Church, may they open their hearts and respond to Christ's message of love and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For catechists, readers and extra ordinary ministers of holy Communion, may they be strengthened by God's grace to continue to share the light of Christ's love in their ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they come to share in the fullness of Christ's glory and enjoy his peace forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God, as you once heard the prayers of your son, Jesus Christ, hear now our prayers and in your great love answer them. Let us experience anew your constant help and steadfast mercy. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, February 6, 2017
(Lec. 329)

- 1) Genesis 1:1-19
- 2) Mark 6:53-56

MONDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Paul Miki and Companions,
Martyrs)

FOCUS: We are called to love of God and neighbor, to mercy and forgiveness.

The sin of our first human parents introduced sin, evil, sickness and death into the world. It has brought us to live in ways that are contrary to the will of God, and hurtful toward one another. But our compassionate and merciful God offers us a way back to himself. This way is through his son, Jesus, who provides the healing touch of forgiveness and reconciliation and offers us the gifts of new life and salvation.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading from Genesis, we hear how God delights in the order and sacredness of his creation of light, sky and earth, and the sun, moon and stars. Mark's Gospel tells of all the sick who were healed when they were brought to Jesus and able to touch the hem of his garment.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us lift our hearts in prayer to our Father in heaven, who made all things good.

- 1) That all members of the Church may continue to strive to preserve the beauty and sanctity of God's creation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That politicians, legislators and public administrators may not be swayed by special interest groups and instead make decisions based on the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That the beauty and sanctity of human life may be honored and respected from conception until natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That our parish family may continue to be aware of and reach out to those in our area who are hungry or homeless, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may see God face to face in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, from whom all good things come, hear our prayers and grant us the grace needed to live in love and unity with you and with one another. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Tuesday, February 7, 2017
(Lec. 330)
1) Genesis 1:20-2:4a
2) Mark 7:1-13

TUESDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Our priorities are in order if we let Jesus guide us.

Jesus always had his priorities straight. He knew that God's will must always come first. It is easy for us to get our priorities mixed up, and forget to take the time to prayerfully consider what is God's will for us. Today, let us examine our lives and make sure they are based on God's will, shown through his commandments and the teachings of Jesus.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first reading from Genesis tells part of the story of God's creation of the world. It includes his creation of humankind. In the Gospel, Jesus calls the Pharisees to task for criticizing his disciples for not following the traditions of the elders while the Pharisees, themselves, follow man-made laws instead of God's commands.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our petitions to the Father, confident of his desire to provide for all our needs.

- 1) That our Church leaders may help us grow in holiness as they continue to bring the Gospel message to all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That peace and reconciliation may come to those areas of the world that struggle with violence or ethnic turmoil, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who have been displaced because of natural disasters and extreme weather events may receive the help and support needed to rebuild their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the members of this parish may keep holy the Lord's Day, resting from the world's demands, so we may keep our eyes firmly fixed upon Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may be granted eternal happiness in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: O God, hear us and grant our petitions, for you are our help and salvation. We pray in the name of Jesus the Lord.

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Wednesday, February 8, 2017
(Lec. 331)

- 1) Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-17
- 2) Mark 7:14-23

WEDNESDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Jerome Emiliani;
Saint Josephine Bakhita, Virgin)

FOCUS: The sinful desires that lie within our hearts can lead us to act in ways not in accord with the will of God.

Jesus teaches us that the sinful desires in our hearts that come out in the form of hatred, malice, envy, arrogance and the like are the true source of defilement and uncleanness. Given this, it is critical that we regularly examine our hearts and empty ourselves of sinful desires so we may do God's will and love him above all things.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from Genesis is the second account of creation, condensing the narrative into a few short lines, with God forming the earth, breathing life into Adam and placing him in the Garden of Eden. In the Gospel, Jesus points to what lies within our minds and hearts as the source of our actions that are sinful and contrary to the will of God.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in God's love and care for us despite our failings and sinfulness, we join in offering our prayers for our needs and those of the world to God the almighty Father.

- 1) For all members of the Church throughout the world, may we seek to be instruments of God's love and mercy by treating others with kindness, supporting those in need and being always willing to forgive, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all elected officials, may they be true servant leaders and work to promote policies that pursue the common good and benefit those whom they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the chronically ill and their caregivers, that God's love for them may be a comfort and source of strength in times of hardship, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the young people in our parish community who are discerning their vocation in life, may we always support them in prayer, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they receive a place at the eternal banquet feast in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, ever grateful for your love and care, we ask that you hear and answer our prayers. We ask this in the name of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, February 9, 2017
(Lec. 332)

- 1) Genesis 2:18-25
- 2) Mark 7:24-30

THURSDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God's love for us is without limit.

God's love for his people is a never-ending love that offers boundless blessings. One way God shows forth his infinite love and blesses humankind is through the sacrament of marriage. In this sacrament, husbands and wives are joined together as one for the whole of their lives as companions, and are called to share Christ's love with others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from Genesis tells of how God created men and women in his own image and instituted the sacrament of marriage, which joins a man and a woman together as one. In the Gospel, a Gentile woman persistently appeals to Jesus to heal her daughter. Her persistence and trust are rewarded as Jesus grants her request.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust that the Father of all Creation hears and answers our prayers, we bring our needs before him today.

- 1) For the whole Church, that we support married couples in their daily quest to live out their vocation, be true to one another and bear good fruit for God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders throughout the world, that they be responsive to the needs of families and work to keep them together in spite of hardship or adversity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the homeless, especially children, that they find stability and love among friends and neighbors, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish community, that we may support our families and married couples through our ministries and outreach, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that 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: Father in heaven, please hear and answer our prayers, which we ask through your son, Jesus.

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Friday, February 10, 2017
(Lec. 333)

- 1) Genesis 3:1-8
- 2) Mark 7:31-37

FRIDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Scholastica, Virgin)

FOCUS: Making the choice to place our lives into God's hands brings an abundance of blessings.

Being in right relationship with God requires that we surrender to him in love. Obviously, this is not something we can accomplish overnight, but requires praying daily and making the conscious and intentional choice each day to place our lives into God's hands. The more we are able to walk in his way of love, the more we will come to experience his blessings of peace and joy in our lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from the book of Genesis recalls our first parents disobeying God's command at the prompting of the serpent. In the Gospel, after having a deaf man with a speech impediment brought to him, Jesus touches the man's ears and tongue, restoring the man's hearing and ability to speak.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Assured that God hears and answers all our prayers, let us join in offering our petitions to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) That Pope Francis and other Church leaders may continue to work for peace throughout our war-torn world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That public authorities may respect the dignity and sanctity of all human life from conception until natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That parents of special needs children may locate the resources that will enable their children to flourish, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That our local community may be assisted in hearing and acting on the word of God through the intercession of Saint Scholastica and all the saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may enjoy eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father and Creator of all, hear our prayers and respond according to your will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Saturday, February 11, 2017
(Lec.334)

- 1) Genesis 3:9-24
- 2) Mark 8:1-10

SATURDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Our Lady of Lourdes;
Saturday in honor of BVM)

FOCUS: Our God is a loving and caring Father.

Our merciful Father cares for us with firm, yet loving hands. He takes pity on us despite our failings, sinfulness and weak moments, providing for what we truly need in our daily lives. We can rest assured that he loves and cares for us always. However, to experience the depths of the Father's love for us, we must place our lives into his hands.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from Genesis tells of Adam and Eve being expelled by God from the Garden of Eden as a result of their disobeying his command not to eat fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. In the Gospel, Jesus feeds a crowd of four thousand with seven loaves of bread and a few fish.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that God the Father hears and answers all our prayers, let us join together with humble hearts offering our prayers of petition for our needs and those of the world.

- 1) For our Holy Father, that God will continue to protect him as he travels the world to spread Christ's message of love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, that they may work together for peace and seek nonviolent solutions to conflict, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are sick, that they may find strength, healing, and comfort in their faith in God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For each of us, may we mutually support one another in growing in our faith and love for the Lord so we may give a more effective witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have gone before us, may they experience joy and everlasting peace in the company of the angels and saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, Lord of all, we ask you to grant these petitions and all those we hold in our hearts, according to your will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2017

(Lec. 76)

- 1) Sirach 15:15-20
- 2) 1 Corinthians 2:6-10
- 3) Matthew 5:17-37
or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God gave us commandments because he loves and cares for his people.

Throughout human history, one of the norms that guided people was that their word was their bond. Although more people today feel free to not honor a commitment when it no longer suits them, we are called to live differently. For Jesus teaches clearly that our “yes” is to mean yes and our “no” is to mean no.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading exhorts us to freely choose to keep God’s commandments, for they help keep our feet planted on the path to life. The second reading reminds us of the importance of seeking true wisdom from God. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that he has come to fulfill the law – not to abolish it. He came to show us how to live and love.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Grateful for the goodness of our loving Father, we offer him these prayers of petition.

- 1) For leaders of the Church, that they may be blessed with the grace needed to continue teaching us by word and example how to follow God's laws, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, that they may govern with integrity and strive to meet the needs of all people, including those most vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the terminally ill, that they may experience God's love for them through the compassionate care of medical professionals and other caregivers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For parents in our parish, that they may support one another as they strive to pass along the teachings of Jesus to their children, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they might enjoy perfect happiness and peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we ask that you hear and answer our prayers and grant us the grace needed to live in gratitude. We pray through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Monday, February 13, 2017
(Lec. 335)

- 1) Genesis 4:1-15, 25
- 2) Mark 8:11-13

MONDAY OF
SIXTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Let us strive to open our hearts to Jesus, and allow him to work wonders in our lives.

Today's Gospel tells of the Pharisees coming to Jesus and demanding to see a sign. Jesus refused to provide them with a sign knowing their hearts were hardened, and that nothing he could do would be enough. Conversely, may we strive to have hearts that are open so we may experience the wonders Jesus wants to work in our lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from Genesis tells of Cain killing his brother Abel. Today's Gospel tells of some Pharisees coming forward to argue with Jesus, and demanding a sign from heaven to test him. Jesus responds by saying, *Why does this generation seek a sign? Amen, I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust in our gracious God, we place our petitions before him.

- 1) For all members of the Church, that we will courageously defend life from conception to natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected leaders, that they will work to promote policies that make it possible for those they serve to develop their gifts and talents to their full potential, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the innocent victims of war and violence, may they know the love of God through those who help and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For young people in our parish, may we encourage them to use their gifts and talents to serve Jesus, and to further the work and mission of the Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead and all who have died, may they come to experience perfect happiness in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, hear and answer our prayers which we offer you in the name of your son, Jesus.

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Tuesday, February 14, 2017

(Lec. 336)

- 1) Genesis 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10
- 2) Mark 8:14-21

TUESDAY OF
SIXTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saints Cyril, Monk,
and Methodius, Bishop)

FOCUS: God gives us the strength to persevere in the face of temptation.

All that is good comes from God – therefore, if something before us is not good, it is not from God. Keeping this mantra in mind helps us to persevere in the face of temptation. We are guided by the understanding that salvation and true happiness are found in walking in the way of the Lord – walking in righteousness and truth.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from Genesis tells the story of the flood. Noah trusts God to be true to his word, and does as God commands him to do. In the Gospel, Jesus warns the disciples to *guard against the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Recognizing that God is the source from whom all blessings flow, let us join in offering him our prayers for our needs and those of the world.

- 1) For all members of the Church, that we will recognize and share the good gifts that God has bestowed upon us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in positions of leadership, that they may use their office to serve the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are on the fringes of society, especially the poor, may they find the resources and help they need through the efforts of compassionate people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us gathered here today, may we be aware of the needs of others, and reach out to them with God's love and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they 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: God our Father, hear and grant these prayers, which we ask through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, February 15, 2017
(Lec. 337)

- 1) Genesis 8:6-13, 20-22
- 2) Mark 8:22-26

WEDNESDAY OF
SIXTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Wait patiently for the Lord to act.

We so often want and seemingly expect immediate, positive answers to our prayerful requests. But we have to learn and trust that God answers our prayers according to his time, and in a way which promotes our greatest good. The more we do this, the more we will grow in our love for God and experience our lives as blessed with peace.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In Genesis, Noah twice sends a dove to test the floodwaters. On the second try, the dove returns with an olive branch in its bill, a sign the waters were receding. In the Gospel, Jesus places his hands on a blind man's eyes two times. At first the man's sight is partially restored. The second time his sight is completely restored.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Aware of the Lord's promise to hear our every prayer, we present our petitions.

- 1) For all members of the Church, that we will be persistent in prayer, ever-mindful of Jesus' teaching to, *ask and you will receive*, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our newly elected public officials, may they remember to seek the Lord for wisdom when facing important decisions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are feeling discouraged and on the brink of despair, may they turn to God and the sacraments to find healing, strength and renewal, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our local parish community, may each of us prayerfully seek the Lord's will for us in our daily lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved deceased friends and relatives, may they come to enjoy eternal joy, splendor and peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: O God, we ask that you hear and answer our prayers, which we offer you with humility and gratitude. Through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, February 16, 2017
(Lec. 338)

- 1) Genesis 9:1-13
- 2) Mark 8:27-33

THURSDAY OF
SIXTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: The Son of Man must suffer greatly.

Today's Gospel tells of Jesus teaching the disciples that he must suffer, die and rise from the dead to bring about salvation. Peter does not understand or accept this prediction, and Jesus rebukes him. Similarly, how often do we misunderstand God's plan for our lives, or perhaps ignore it altogether if it seems too difficult?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In Genesis, God made a covenant with Noah, his sons, their descendants and every living creature on earth. In the Gospel reading, Jesus asks his disciples: *Who do people say that I am?* Then he presses them further: *Who do you say that I am?* Peter responds with great faith: *You are the Messiah.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) That all members of the Church may boldly proclaim that Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That leaders of nations experiencing conflict may work tirelessly to alleviate ethnic and religious tensions and encourage respect for one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all victims of violence and terrorism, especially refugees and children, may find comfort and healing in our loving God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all who suffer from mental or physical illness may experience our prayerful support and find healing and strength through the care of medical professionals, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our beloved dead, especially those who will die alone today, may see the face of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, you established a covenant with Noah and his descendants, and set a rainbow in the sky as a sign of your promise. Help us to always be mindful of your great love for us, and trust that you will answer our petitions according to your holy will. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

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Friday, February 17, 2017
(Lec. 339)

- 1) Genesis 11:1-9
- 2) Mark 8:34—9:1

FRIDAY OF
SIXTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem. The Seven
Holy Founders of the
Servite Order)

FOCUS: Whoever loses his or her life for Christ's sake will save it.

As Christians, we are called to do so much more than follow the Ten Commandments and be kind to one another. We must put our pride and selfish motives aside and take up our cross. Losing our lives for Christ's sake on earth will help ensure we will be judged worthy of entering into eternal life in heaven.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's reading, the people of early Babylon construct a mighty tower within a city to make a name for themselves. The Lord recognizes their prideful motives and confuses their language so they can't understand one another. Today's Gospel identifies the conditions of discipleship – deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Christ.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that God watches over us, let us join with one another as we bring our needs before the Lord.

- 1) For those in consecrated life, may their personal sacrifice and dedicated service be an example of true discipleship which moves many to follow Jesus more faithfully, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in positions of leadership around the world, may they strive to eliminate intolerance and extremism in their midst, and instead promote respect of others and mutual cooperation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer in mind or body or spirit, may they join their sufferings to those of Christ for the salvation of the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of this faith community, may we live as committed disciples of Jesus by taking up our cross each day and following him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died believing in Christ, that through the Lord's mercy they may be welcomed into the fullness of life and love in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord, hear our prayers and grant us the grace to live as faithful disciples of your son, Jesus, that we might one day come to share eternal life in heaven. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Saturday, February 18, 2017
(Lec. 340)

- 1) Hebrews 11:1-7
- 2) Mark 9:2-13

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

FOCUS: Nurturing the gift of faith brings us to grow in holiness of life.

We have not had the experience of seeing Christ in glory like the Apostles. But God gives us sacred Scripture, the graces of the sacraments, the teaching of the Church, and the Holy Spirit to nurture the gift of faith planted in our hearts.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from Hebrews reminds us that the gift of faith offers us the promise and hope of salvation. In the Gospel, Jesus is transfigured before Peter, James and John. The Father's voice is heard: *This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) That our Holy Father, Pope Francis, and all bishops who shepherd the Church will continue to be attentive and responsive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, and that the Spirit may continue to guide them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That Catholic legislators and civic leaders may work tirelessly to promote respect for all human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those trapped in cycles of violence may find freedom and peace through the aid of relief agencies, religious organizations and people of goodwill, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That each person gathered here will strive to be a more faithful witness to the Gospel in our homes, schools, workplaces and everyday lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may enjoy the vision of Christ in glory forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, help us listen to the voice of your Son. Trusting in your mercy, we ask that you hear and answer our prayers, which we offer you through Christ, our Lord.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2017

(Lec. 79)

- 1) Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18
- 2) 1 Corinthians 3:16-23
- 3) Matthew 5:38-48

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: As we are loved and forgiven by God, we are to love and forgive others.

God the Father sent his son, Jesus, to win our salvation and reveal the way we need to live, that we might come to share eternal life in heaven. The teachings of Jesus make it clear that God loves us without limit, and is ever-willing to forgive. Thus, to walk in God's way of love we must strive to love all people, including our enemies, and be willing to forgive.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading recalls Moses relaying to the people God's call to be holy by loving one's neighbor as oneself. The second reading reminds us that we are a temple of God, because the Holy Spirit resides within us. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches the disciples that they must love their enemies and pray for those who persecute them.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Gathered as the holy people of God, we unite our voices to present our needs to the Lord.

- 1) For all members of the Church who strive to live in the name of Christ, may we continue to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For theologians, scientists and educators, may they continue to seek to be enlightened by the wisdom of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer the effects of domestic violence, may they receive assistance and relief through our prayers and the work of people of goodwill, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish community, that we will open our doors to all who enter and welcome each with hospitality, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved departed, may they be given a place at the heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, look with compassion upon these petitions. Grant to us all that brings us into greater unity with you, through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, February 20, 2017
(Lec. 341)

- 1) Sirach 1:1-10
- 2) Mark 9:14-29

MONDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Faith and reason can come together in harmony as we study and ponder the wonders of creation.

Despite the confusion that persists about science and faith being incompatible, the Scriptures and the long intellectual tradition of the Church suggest that they are actually in harmony. Faith and reason go hand-in-hand.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The passage from the Book of Sirach poetically reflects on how the wisdom of God is woven into all creation. Today's Gospel reading from Saint Mark recalls how Jesus expelled a demon from the son of a man who asked the Lord to increase his faith.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Knowing in faith that God cares for all our needs, we come before him today with our prayers.

- 1) For the Church, that the Holy Spirit will move all believers to proclaim their faith in Christ in their everyday lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all legislators, that the Lord give them the wisdom to pass just laws and care for the needs of the most vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the unemployed or underemployed, that they may find meaningful work with a just wage to support themselves and those who depend on them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our local community, that Christ might inspire us to be a beacon of justice and compassion in our wider world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they, through God's mercy and the assistance of prayers, be cleansed and purified and come to enter into eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us the faith to place our prayers before you this day. Please answer them according to your will. We ask this through Christ, the Lord.

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Tuesday, February 21, 2017
(Lec. 342)

- 1) Sirach 2:1-11
- 2) Mark 9:30-37

TUESDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Peter Damian,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church)

FOCUS: Building a strong relationship with God requires patience and trust.

Building a good and strong relationship with God requires patience. We must be patient with ourselves as we learn little by little, day by day, to walk in God's way of love with the help of his grace. We must also be patient with God, who answers our prayers in his own time and in the way that is best for us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from Sirach exhorts us to wait on the Lord with patience, and to trust that God will guide us to walk in his ways. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches the disciples, *If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that God provides for what we truly need, let us join in offering our prayers to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) For the pope and bishops of the Church, that they might continue to place their trust in the Father as they lead us closer to him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the leaders of nations, that they seek to meet the needs of the least in our society as they form policies and allocate resources, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering persecution for their Christian faith, may they find strength in Jesus and receive the grace they need to persevere, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish community, that our prayers and devotions transform us and give us the grace and strength we need to build the kingdom of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, that they might come to enter into the glory of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, we offer these petitions confident that you know our needs, you who sent us your only son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, February 22, 2017
(Lec. 535)

- 1) 1 Peter 5:1-4
- 2) Matthew 16:13-19

**THE CHAIR OF
SAINT PETER
THE APOSTLE
- FEAST**

FOCUS: Jesus promises us a Church that will prevail against everything – even the *gates of the netherworld*.

Some people are pessimistic about the future of the Catholic Church because of all the struggles and challenges she faces. Today's feast, the Chair of Saint Peter, reminds us we needn't be discouraged because Jesus has built the Church firmly on the rock of Saint Peter – the first pope – and the gates of the netherworld will never prevail against it.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Saint Peter encourages his fellow Church leaders to see their ministry as a loving, humble service to their followers – not as a means to have power over them. The Gospel depicts the grounding of the Church on Saint Peter after his firm, Spirit-led declaration of faith in Jesus as *the Messiah, the Son of the living God*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As members of the Church, the Body of Christ, we have the courage to approach the throne of God with the world's needs.

- 1) For Pope Francis, successor to Saint Peter, that he may be blessed with the gifts and strength needed to shepherd and guide the faithful in walking in the ways of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our local government leaders, may they work to enact policies that help bring about caring and generous communities, and promote concern for the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who do not have access to clean, drinkable water, may their leaders work tirelessly to provide this basic human resource to all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For families and caregivers of those who are ill, that they might be strengthened by their faith to continue to provide loving care and comfort to those who suffer, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they be clothed in the light of God's love for all eternity in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, hear the prayers of your Church for the needs of our world, and grant them according to your will. We ask this through Jesus, your son.

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Thursday, February 23, 2017
(Lec. 344)

- 1) Sirach 5:1-8
- 2) Mark 9:41-50

THURSDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM Saint Polycarp,
Bishop and Martyr)

FOCUS: *Rely not on your strength in following the desires of your heart.*

We are often encouraged to rely on our ingenuity and work ethic to achieve success. At times, it is possible to rely solely on our own resources. But today's readings remind us of an adage often taught in religion class: "God is God and I am not." Our human capacity will always fall short in our search for holiness unless it is deeply rooted in the will of God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from Sirach offers a stern warning about relying on our own resources when it comes to living our faith; they will not do us any good on the day of judgment. In the Gospel reading, Jesus admonishes us to rid ourselves of anything that leads us into sin – including things we love and value the most.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As followers of God's will, we are confident that his love and mercy enable us to lead lives that are holy and true. We believe the prayers we now offer will be heard and granted through God's compassion.

- 1) For the clergy and laity, may we all continue to strive to overcome human weaknesses and encourage each other on our pilgrimage toward eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all the peoples of the world, may we strive to overcome hatred, bigotry and discrimination by trusting in God to help us reconcile our differences and honor our diversity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have become disconnected from the life of the Church, may our prayers and outreach help bring them to the active practice of the faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here today, may we rely on God and the graces of the sacraments to strengthen us to examine our lives to reveal what leads us into sin, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they be welcomed into the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God, our deepest longing is to see you face to face in the heavenly kingdom. Hear our prayers and grant them according to your divine will, which empowers us to become victorious over that which tempts us into sin. Through Christ, our Lord.

Friday, February 24, 2017
(Lec. 345)

- 1) Sirach 6:5-17
- 2) Mark 10:1-12

FRIDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Be grateful to God for blessing you with friends and family, who support and strengthen you throughout your life.

The blessings that come from a faithful friend or a loving spouse are gifts from God. They share our joys and our troubles. In them we experience the presence of God's love in our lives. For such relationships to be healthy, holy and life-giving, they must be centered in God, who created us to love one another. He is the source of all love.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading reminds us that faithful friends are a treasure – a great gift and blessing from God. In today's Gospel the Pharisees, trying to trap Jesus, ask whether a man can divorce his wife. Jesus responds by reminding them that God created man and woman for each other, and that no one can separate what God has joined together.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As faithful members of the body of Christ, let us present our needs to God with confidence in his mercy.

- 1) That our bishops may be strengthened to meet the demands of their office by their openness to the grace of God in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That all people throughout the world may come to know Christ through the powerful witness of Christians who face daily persecution and yet persevere in their faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who suffer from loneliness or isolation may find comfort in God's presence and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That our parish will continue to be blessed by the work of our lay ministers, catechists and others who offer their gifts and talents for our ministries, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our beloved and faithful departed may be welcomed into paradise in the company of Jesus and the saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we thank you for your many blessings, and we ask you to graciously hear and answer our prayers. We offer them to you in the name of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, February 25, 2017
(Lec. 346)

- 1) Sirach 17:1-15
- 2) Mark 10:13-16

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

FOCUS: God created us in his image and likeness, and blesses us with what we need to walk in his ways.

What has God done for us? He has created us in his own image and likeness and sustained us throughout time. This is further revealed by the words of Sirach, *He ... imparts to them an understanding heart. With wisdom and knowledge he fills them.* This is so we may walk in his ways, know the blessings of peace and joy, and have eternal life in heaven.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from Sirach reminds us that God has given us the gift of wisdom and the law of life so we might live in right relationship with him and with one another. In the Gospel, Jesus insists that his disciples are not to prevent children from coming to him, *for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in the love of the Father, let us bring our concerns in prayer to him.

- 1) That all members of the Church will share the Gospel throughout the world, so many may come to place their faith in Jesus and be saved, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That those in positions of civic leadership may turn to the Lord for wisdom and guidance as they govern, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are struggling with addiction may turn to God for the grace and strength needed to begin the journey toward recovery, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That each of us will answer the call to discipleship, and have the discipline to keep our eyes fixed firmly on Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may see the face of God in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, all that is good in this world comes from you. We ask that you hear and answer our prayers which we offer you through your son, Jesus Christ.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2017

(Lec. 82)

- 1) Isaiah 49:14-15
- 2) 1 Corinthians 4:1-5
- 3) Matthew 6:24-34

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: *No one can serve two masters.*

Today's Gospel reminds us that we cannot serve both God and mammon. This means we must choose either to serve our own selfish desires, or choose to serve God and strive to love him above all things. Only one of these choices provides an inexhaustible treasure in heaven. Given this, let us seek in prayer the grace needed to choose wisely.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading ensures the people of Israel that God will not forsake them. In the second reading, Saint Paul extols us to live in a trustworthy manner so that when God judges and reveals the hiddenness of our hearts, we will be judged worthy. In the Gospel, Jesus encourages his followers to place their trust in God alone.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God to fulfill the deepest desires of our hearts, and knowing that God will provide for all our needs, let us now offer our prayers of petition to our God.

- 1) For the Church, the body of Christ, as we prepare to enter the season of Lent, may we commit to growing in our trust in God to provide for our needs, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders at all levels of governance, may they, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, work to promote a respect for people of different faith and religious traditions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who live on the margins of society and lack basic necessities, that their suffering may be alleviated and their needs met through the generous work of people of goodwill, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all those assembled here, may we strive to seek God as the provider of our heart's desires as we work to build a community of peace and harmony, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may they come to enjoy everlasting peace and happiness in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious and loving God, hear our prayers and grant us the grace needed to serve you faithfully – that we might come to enjoy eternal life in heaven. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, February 27, 2017
(Lec. 347)

- 1) Sirach 17:20-24
- 2) Mark 10:17-27

MONDAY OF
EIGHTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Prayer is key to developing a closer and stronger relationship with God.

Many of us desire a closer relationship with the Lord. Our first step to that relationship could be to simply pause during the course of our day – wherever we may be – and voice aloud, or in the silence of our hearts, this desire to the Lord. As the Scriptures assure us, God will answer our prayer; he always responds to those who seek him.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading speaks about the gravity of sin and pleads for sinners to repent and return to the Lord, who is merciful. In the Gospel, a man asks Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. When Jesus tells him to give away what he has and follow him, the man *went away sad, for he had many possessions*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With hearts full of gratitude, we bring the Father our prayers for ourselves and for the needs of others.

- 1) For Church missionaries who devote their lives to sharing the Gospel with others, that God may bless their efforts and they may radiate the joy of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, that they may not forget those suffering and displaced by wars or natural disasters, but work to bring them the relief they need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick in mind or body, that they may never lose hope that God is aware of their suffering and their needs, and may they experience the love of God through our prayers and the efforts of compassionate caregivers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish community, that we may elect to spend more time with Jesus in prayer so that he may open our hearts to the joy and peace of true discipleship, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they may enjoy eternal joy and peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

Tuesday, February 28, 2017
(Lec. 348)
1) Sirach 35:1-12
2) Mark 10:28-31

TUESDAY OF
EIGHTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: By offering God all that we have and all that we are, we please him and receive many blessings in return.

God desires most of all the offering of what is most dear to us. He wants us to offer him our innermost selves – our very hearts. God also wants us to give generously of our time, talent and treasure. For by doing these things, we help build up God's kingdom on earth and come to experience God's good gifts more abundantly in our lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In our reading from Sirach, we learn that the offering most pleasing to God is a pure and merciful heart. In our Gospel, Jesus reminds Peter and the other disciples that God has great gifts in store for those who have left everything to follow him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Knowing that God is merciful and desires that we come to him with our needs, we turn to him in humble petition.

- 1) For all members of the Church throughout the world, may we be animated by God's mercy in all that we do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For national and world leaders, may their decisions be guided by a desire for justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the poor and hungry, may they find relief through the generosity of Christians and others of goodwill, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish community, may we be united in making our lives a pleasing offering to God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they experience the loving embrace of God for all eternity in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear our prayers and petitions today, for we ask them in faith through Jesus, our Lord.

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