

July

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Saturday, July 1, 2017

(Lec. 376)

- 1) Genesis 18:1-15
- 2) Matthew 8:5-17

SATURDAY OF
12TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Junipero Serra,
Priest;
Saturday in honor of BVM)

FOCUS: Let us welcome God into our lives.

Abraham welcomed the Lord actively, eagerly and immediately. He ran to greet the visitors and pressed them to accept his hospitality. Do we welcome the Lord with this kind of enthusiasm? Are we eager to invite Jesus into our lives, our activities and our homes? Let us pray for open hearts.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lord appears to Abraham as three visitors in the reading from Genesis, and Abraham honors them with hospitality. The Lord tells Abraham and Sarah they will have a son. The centurion in today's Gospel trusts that his servant will be healed by Jesus' word. Jesus, amazed by his faith, heals the servant from afar.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust in God's love and faithfulness, we offer him our petitions.

- 1) That the Church, strengthened by the grace of the Holy Spirit, will continue to be a sign and instrument of God's healing and saving love in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That government leaders work to protect the poor and vulnerable in their midst, especially those who have no voice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who struggle each day to meet their basic needs of food, water and shelter may be strengthened by the generosity of many helping hands, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That this parish may be a place of hospitality, generously welcoming visitors as Abraham welcomed strangers in his midst, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may see the face of the Lord in glory and enjoy perfect peace and joy in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, all power and glory are yours. In your goodness and wisdom hear and answer our prayers. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, JULY 2, 2017

(Lec. 97)

- 1) 2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16a
- 2) Romans 6:3-4, 8-11
- 3) Matthew 10:37-42

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: The Lord rewards his faithful disciples with the gift of life.

As believers, we share in the death and resurrection of Christ. He is our hope and our salvation. While Jesus' words in the Gospel might seem challenging or even cold, he is making the point that discipleship must be our priority, and the lens through which we see all aspects of life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Elisha rewards his host with a great blessing. In the Letter to the Romans, Paul describes the Gospel as a dynamic force — to be baptized is to receive the Spirit of Christ into ourselves. In today's Gospel, Jesus explains to his disciples the conditions and rewards of discipleship.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, through the witness and devotion of her people and ministries, may she always be a source of welcome to all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may they work to foster a greater understanding and spirit of cooperation when seeking to resolve conflicts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are sick or who are nearing the end of their days, may they know the peace of Christ and the comfort of family and friends, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish community, may we reflect the goodness of the Lord by our dedication to serve those around us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may they come to enjoy perfect happiness and peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and eternal God, giver of life and salvation, hear and answer our prayers according to your will. Through Christ our Lord.

Monday, July 3, 2017

(Lec. 593)

- 1) Ephesians 2:19-22
- 2) John 20:24-29

**ST. THOMAS,
APOSTLE
-FEAST**

FOCUS: *Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.*

The Apostle Thomas, after encountering the risen Lord, was changed and transformed and went to proclaim the Gospel with courage and zeal – traveling as far as India where, according to tradition, he was martyred. Thomas' life and example remind us of the importance of bringing our struggles and doubts to the Lord so he can strengthen our faith and we can give more effective witness to the Gospel.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Paul tells the Ephesians that they are citizens of God's household, which is built on the foundation of the Apostles and held together by Christ. In John's Gospel, we hear about "doubting Thomas" who, in his great courage, asked Jesus to show him who he was. When Christ reveals his wounds, Thomas declares, *My Lord and my God!*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Ever-mindful of God's providence, love and mercy, we bring our prayers to our Father.

- 1) For all members of the Church, that we may be true disciples of Christ who invite him into our lives and our hearts, and declare him to be our Savior and Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For public authorities and government officials throughout the world, that they may recognize the value of all human life, especially the most vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the homeless, that they may experience the peace of Christ through the generous love of Christians who assist them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For each of us, may we seek to grow ever stronger in our faith through prayer and reflection upon sacred Scripture so we may bear a more effective witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead and all who have died, that they may experience the joys of heaven for all eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, in your mercy hear and answer our prayers. We ask this in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.

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Tuesday, July 4, 2017
(Lec. 378)
1) Genesis 19:15-29
2) Matthew 8:23-27

TUESDAY OF
13TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Independence Day
in United States of America)

Note: for Independence Day, any readings from the *Lectionary for Ritual Masses* (vol. IV), the Mass "For the Country or a City," nos. 882-886, or "For Peace and Justice," nos. 887-891

FOCUS: God is faithful to us, and he calls us to continue growing in our faithfulness.

Each of us will experience trials and tribulations at different times and points in our lives. During such occasions, we might be tempted to think that Jesus has left us to fend for ourselves. This is false, of course, as Jesus is with us always and will give us the strength and guidance we need to navigate life's stormy seas if we turn to him and ask.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading from Genesis, God destroys the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. In the Gospel, the disciples are afraid when a sudden storm comes up when they are at sea, in a boat with Jesus. Jesus calms the storm.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us join in offering our prayers for our needs and those of the world before our loving and faithful God.

- 1) That Pope Francis, bishops and priests may continue to encourage the faithful to stay true to the Gospel message through their witness and example, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That those living in war-torn areas of the world may come to know peace, and may turn to God for healing and reconciliation with their neighbors, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That families who are estranged from one another because of past disagreements or injuries may seek God's grace and begin the process of healing and forgiveness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That our parish community may see an increase in vocations to the priesthood, consecrated life and lay ecclesial ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may come to enjoy eternal peace in heaven with the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, hear our prayers and strengthen us with your grace so we may lead lives which are holy and pleasing to you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, July 5, 2017
(Lec. 379)
1) Genesis 21:5, 8-20a
2) Matthew 8:28-34

WEDNESDAY OF
13TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt Mem.
Saint Anthony Zaccaria,
Priest,
USA: Saint Elizabeth of Portugal)

FOCUS: God works directly and indirectly in ways that we can't fathom.

God's ways surely are not our ways. Even in the ordinary events of our lives, we often don't understand how God is working to move our hearts and minds, and those of other people. While we can't fathom the ways of God, we can pay closer attention to God's loving presence in our lives each day.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Sarah seeks to expel Hagar and Abraham's son, Ishmael, but God is watching over both mother and son with loving attention. In the Gospel, Jesus frees two men who were possessed by savage demons by expelling the demons into a herd of swine.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With a renewed spirit of hope, let us approach God with our petitions, confident that he will hear our prayers.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we work to foster a culture of life throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders throughout the world, may they work to ensure all people are accorded the right to freely practice their faith without fear, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For nations and cities caught in the web of violence, that they might reject hostility and turn to God to find peace and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may we use the gifts and talents God has given us to reach out and lift up those in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they come to enjoy eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, with faith and thanksgiving we ask you to hear our prayers, through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, July 6, 2017
(Lec. 380)
1) Genesis 22:1b-19
2) Matthew 9:1-8

THURSDAY OF
13TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Maria Goretti,
Virgin and Martyr)

FOCUS: God blesses those who have true faith and trust in him.

God loves and cares for all his people. He gives us the grace and strength needed to carry out what he asks. When we are tested, like Abraham was in the first reading, let us challenge ourselves to see these times as opportunities to deepen our faith in God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the reading from Genesis, Abraham's faith is tested. God asked him to give his son, Isaac, as a sacrificial offering. Abraham obeyed. In return, God reaffirmed his promise to Abraham to make his descendants as countless as the *sands of the seashore*. In the Gospel, Jesus heals a man who is paralyzed by commanding him to rise, walk and go home.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With faith and trust in our heavenly Father, we offer our prayers to him with confidence.

- 1) For those in the Church entrusted with preaching and teaching the Gospel, may they continue to grow in holiness and strength to do their work with courage and zeal, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may they work with greater determination and resolve to solve problems nonviolently, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For families who struggle to meet their basic needs each day, may they receive assistance from many generous people of good will, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish community, may we grow in our love for the Eucharist, and in our willingness to serve one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, that they may come to enjoy eternal rest in the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, you give us new and abundant life through your son, Jesus. Hear and answer our prayers according to your will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, July 7, 2017

(Lec. 381)

- 1) Genesis 23:1-4, 19;
24:1-8, 62-67
- 2) Matthew 9:9-13

FRIDAY OF
13TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Let us try to find the good in everyone we encounter today.

It seems that Jesus was always able to find good in people. Tax collectors, for instance, were regarded as terrible people, yet Jesus chose one of them to be an Apostle. Following his example, let us make an effort to look past preconceived ideas we may have about others to find the goodness in everyone we encounter today.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first reading tells of how Isaac found solace in the love he had for his wife, Rebekah, after the death of his mother, Sarah. In the Gospel, Jesus calls the tax collector, Matthew, who immediately got up and followed him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us offer our petitions to God for our needs and those of the world.

- 1) For the Church, may we dedicate ourselves more fully to the mission of building up the kingdom of God on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civil servants, that their work may be blessed and bring benefit to the people they are called to serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the unemployed and others who have lost their sense of security, may their faith in God provide them with a solid footing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the members of this parish community, may we continue to discern God's will and strive to follow it each day, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, that they will come to enjoy perfect happiness in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, renew us in faith and graciously hear and answer the prayers we offer you through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, July 8, 2017

(Lec. 382)

1) Genesis 27:1-5, 15-29

2) Matthew 9:14-17

SATURDAY OF

13TH WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(Saturday in honor of BVM)

FOCUS: Living as a disciple of Jesus requires ongoing conversion of mind and heart.

Today's Gospel reminds us that living as a disciple of Jesus requires ongoing conversion of both mind and heart. This means we must rid ourselves of the notion that it is possible to live our faith in Jesus by merely stretching the bounds of old, sinful ways of living. Rather, we must become fresh wineskins, into which the wine of Christ's love and mercy can be poured.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's reading describes how Jacob tricks his father, Isaac, into giving him Esau's blessing. In the Gospel, Jesus is asked why his disciples do not fast. He explains that wedding guests do not fast while the bridegroom is present; then he uses examples of patches and wineskins to illustrate how the old and new are often incompatible.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In humility and trust, let us join in offering our prayers for our needs and those of the world to the Lord.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we give a witness to the Gospel which shines as a beacon to those who are lost and seeking to find their way, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For national leaders, that they will turn to God for guidance to write and enact just laws that promote the good of all, 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 couples preparing for the sacrament of marriage, may their preparation help bring them to a deeper knowledge and understanding of the vocation of marriage, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed and all 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: Father, in your goodness hear and answer our prayers according to your will. We ask this and all things through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, JULY 9, 2017

(Lec. 100)

- 1) Zechariah 9:9-10
- 2) Romans 8:9, 11-13
- 3) Matthew 11:25-30

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: True peace comes from following the ways of our humble Savior.

Each day, we pursue earthly goals such as a better job or a bigger house. If we're not careful, our heroes can become those who have achieved such things. But today's readings invite us to know the true peace that comes from following the ways of a humble Savior, who sought only to do his Father's will.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Zechariah prophesies about the king who is to come – just, meek and riding on a humble donkey. He will bring peace to the nations and have dominion from sea to sea. The second reading reminds us to not live according to the flesh, but to live according to the Spirit. In the Gospel, Jesus invites all who labor and who are burdened to find rest in him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Christ has told us that all who labor and are burdened should come to him. Therefore, let us confidently approach him with our petitions.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and use all our gifts to share the Gospel with others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may they model the humility of our Savior and seek peace among all nations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from chronic illnesses and for those who care for them, may they turn to the Lord for grace and strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who are absent from our assembly today, that they may be attuned to the Spirit's call to return, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, especially those who will die alone today, may they be at rest in heaven with all the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, you sent your only Son to live among us and to reveal your great love for us. Hear, then, the prayers which we offer to you in the most holy name of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Monday, July 10, 2017

(Lec. 383)

- 1) Genesis 28: 10-22a
- 2) Matthew 9:18-26

MONDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: An act of faith, a turning toward God, brings God's healing touch upon us.

We can hear, in the words spoken by the woman with the hemorrhage, quiet words of faith that solicited a powerful response from Jesus resulting in her cure. The official also came to Jesus with humility and faith that he could cure his daughter. Let us approach Jesus humbly when we turn to him in prayer so he may continue to heal and strengthen us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Lord appears to Jacob in a dream and tells him that the promises he made to Abraham and to Isaac will be extended through him and his descendants, who will be as plentiful as the dust of the earth. Today's Gospel tells of Jesus healing a woman who touched his cloak, and also the daughter of an official who humbly asked Jesus for healing.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us turn in confidence to the Father, who loves us and hears our petitions.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, that its mission of proclaiming the Gospel to the ends of the earth may bring many to believe and be saved, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations torn by conflict, may they work to foster healing and reconciliation among their people so they may live in peace with one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who struggle with addiction, may they turn to Christ for strength in breaking the shackles of dependence in order to begin the journey to recovery, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our neighbors in need in this community, that we will see in them the face of Jesus and respond in love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they enjoy perfect peace and joy in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Tuesday, July 11, 2017

(Lec. 384)

- 1) Genesis 32:23-33
- 2) Matthew 9:32-38

TUESDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Benedict,
Abbot)

FOCUS: Faith always requires encounter with God.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd, who leads us and guides us along the path to eternal life. Let us listen to his voice and pay attention to the promptings of the Spirit as we strive to lead lives which bear good fruit for God. We are his laborers for the harvest.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Jacob wrestles with a man who tells him he will no longer be spoken of as Jacob, but as Israel. In the Gospel, Jesus says to his disciples, *The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Seeking to live in greater love and unity with God and one another, let us join in offering our prayers to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) That all members of our Church may continue to grow in their commitment to proclaiming the Good News of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That leaders throughout the world will work to protect the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are living with chronic pain may draw strength from their faith in God and find comfort through the care of compassionate people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That our faith community may always be a place of welcome and outreach to the stranger, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may see God face-to-face in heaven with all the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, hear our prayers and grant us the grace needed to lead lives which bear good fruit for you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, July 12, 2017
(Lec. 385)

WEDNESDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

- 1) Genesis 41:55-57;
42:5-7a, 17-24a
- 2) Matthew 10:1-7

FOCUS: The kingdom of God is at hand.

What is our reaction to Jesus saying the kingdom of God is at hand? Are we skeptical, looking at the mess in the world? Are we afraid, hoping to reform before meeting the King? Are we at peace, feeling the kingdom of God present in our hearts and in your lives? Any of these reactions are appropriate. Let us not ignore the message.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first reading tells of the reuniting of Joseph and his brothers, even though the brothers do not realize it is the brother they had betrayed. In the Gospel, Jesus sends his Twelve Apostles out to the lost sheep of Israel to proclaim that the kingdom of God is at hand.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In a spirit of humility, let us bring our needs to the Father, confident of his providential love.

- 1) That lay leaders in the Church may always seek to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and serve others with humility and faithfulness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That world leaders may strive to conduct their business with a disposition toward fairness and collaboration, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That family members torn apart by conflict and division may turn to the Lord for the strength to forgive and foster healing and reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That each of us may grow in our commitment to building up God's kingdom by sharing the Gospel message with those around us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may enter into eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Thursday, July 13, 2017
(Lec. 386)

- 1) Genesis 44:18-21,
23b-29; 45:1-5
- 2) Matthew 10:7-15

THURSDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Henry)

FOCUS: God is with us in everything we do, and will give us the strength we need.

Today's Gospel reminds us that we will encounter people who are not open to receiving our acts of love and kindness offered as sincere expressions of our love for God and neighbor. When this happens, we needn't be discouraged but move forward to continue sharing God's love with others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In Genesis, Joseph and his brothers are reunited after many years of separation. Joseph forgives them, realizing that God used those circumstances to save them all. In the Gospel, Jesus instructs his Apostles as they go out on mission to proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is at hand, and they are to rely upon God for strength.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we turn to God, let us pray with confidence, knowing his hand is upon us.

- 1) For the Church, the body of Christ, that we may unite in love and mercy toward one another and work to build God's kingdom on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For farmers, migrant workers and all who labor in the fields to provide food for our tables, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are ill in mind or body, that God may restore them to health and well-being, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all married couples in our parish, may they grow in love and fidelity, and always work to forgive one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, especially the members of our families and our faith community, that they might receive a joyful welcome into their heavenly home, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we gratefully lift these petitions to you, knowing that your love and mercy are upon all of us. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Friday, July 14, 2017

(Lec. 387)

- 1) Genesis 46:1-7, 28-30
- 2) Matthew 10:16-23

FRIDAY OF

14TH WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(OBL MEM

USA: Saint Kateri Tekakwitha,
Virgin)

FOCUS: With faith in the Lord, we can face whatever lies ahead for us.

Jeremiah thought he was too young, and Isaiah considered himself a man of unclean lips. Scripture is full of excellent examples of heroic acts by ordinary men and women who never considered themselves heroes or heroines. They did, however, accomplish extraordinary feats by obeying the Lord in faith.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Jacob obeys the Lord's command to move his entire family to Egypt, and Jacob is reunited with his son, Joseph. In the Gospel, Jesus warns his Apostles of future dangers, but assures them of his Spirit being always with them.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us present our petitions to the Lord, as we open our hearts and minds in faith.

- 1) That Church leaders will continue to challenge us to walk with faith and trust in the way God leads, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That those throughout the world who live without belief in God may come to know the joy of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That the Holy Spirit may seek out and guide those who are lost and searching for their way in life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That those of us in this Eucharistic community may be inspired by the steadfast devotion of the saint we honor today, Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, and work to bring others to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our deceased loved ones, and all who have died, may be granted eternal peace and happiness with our heavenly Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, Creator of all that is good, give us the courage we need to live the Gospel so that all may come to know salvation. Through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, July 15, 2017

(Lec. 388)

- 1) Genesis 49:29-32;
50:15-26a
- 2) Matthew 10:24-33

SATURDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM

Saint Bonaventure
Bishop and Doctor of the Church)

FOCUS: Live each day as a witness to Christ.

When we live as witnesses to Christ — when we are his hands and feet in the world — we are assured of God's unwavering love and care. We can respond to God's providential care by trying our best each day to lift up others by our actions, and be more Christ-like in our speech.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, we hear about Joseph's willingness to forgive his brothers because he knows that while they meant to harm him, God allowed it because much good would come from their misdeed. In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches the Apostles that *No disciple is above his teacher, no slave above his master.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that God hears and answers our prayers, let us offer them now in confidence.

- 1) For our Church leaders, may they continue to work tirelessly to spread the message of God's love and mercy to all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the nations of the world, may they grow in respect for one another so that peace may reign more fully on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who are suffering physically or emotionally, may they turn to Jesus, the Divine Physician, for healing and comfort, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all members of this faith community, may we be more open to helping others and living in ways that reflect God's love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may they come to enjoy perpetual rest and peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2017

(Lec. 103)

- 1) Isaiah 55:10-11
- 2) Romans 8:18-23
- 3) Matthew 13:1-23 or 13:1-9

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: The word of God is the source of eternal life.

We hear today that the seed, when sown and watered, brings forth an abundant crop. In the same way the word of God, when sown in our hearts and nourished by the waters of baptism and the sacramental life of the Church, brings forth the hope and glory and promise of redemption.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Isaiah uses the image of rain that waters the soil and brings about the process of growth. Saint Paul reminds us that all of creation is moving toward the great day when the fullness of redemption will be revealed. In the Gospel, Jesus tells a powerful parable about the sower and the seed to describe the kingdom of God.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Knowing that God provides all that is good, let us bring our prayers and petitions before our eternal Father.

- 1) For Church leaders, may the word of God continue to guide and inspire them, and keep them faithful to Christ and his Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all civic leaders, may they work to address conflict and violence with dialogue and nonviolent solutions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are persecuted for their faith in Christ, may they be blessed with the strength and grace needed to persevere, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the sick of our parish, may their faith in God bring them healing, hope and strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they receive the reward of a life well spent and come to share in the fullness of Christ's glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and eternal God, our salvation comes from you alone. Hear and answer our prayers both spoken and unspoken. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, July 17, 2017

(Lec. 389)

- 1) Exodus 1:8-14, 22
- 2) Matthew 10:34–11:1

MONDAY OF
15TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Let us strive to follow Christ, even when it is not easy.

While it's important to stay committed to our work and family obligations, we must not get sidetracked from our primary vocation as Christians — to follow Christ. This means letting go of earthly attachments to keep our eyes firmly fixed on Christ, and trusting our sacrifices will be rewarded by God in heaven.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's reading from Exodus, Egypt's new pharaoh forces the Israelites into slavery, and orders their baby boys be thrown into the river. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks of the conditions and rewards of discipleship.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that the Lord is our strength and salvation, let us now offer our prayers and petitions to our heavenly Father.

- 1) For Church missionaries throughout the world, that they may be blessed with the grace needed to continue announcing the Gospel of the Lord with joy and enthusiasm, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in positions of authority, that they may respect and protect the lives of all people under their jurisdiction, 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 back to the active practice of the faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those who serve in our parish ministries, that their example of discipleship and commitment to the Gospel may set an example for all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they come to see God face to face in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, hear our prayers, and help us to do your will. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Tuesday, July 18, 2017

(Lec. 390)

- 1) Exodus 2:1-15a
- 2) Matthew 11:20-24

TUESDAY OF
15TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem. USA
Saint Camillus de Lellis
Priest)

FOCUS: Each of us is called to recognize our sins, and to seek the mercy and forgiveness of God.

Caught up in worldly cares, we can lose sight of the path that leads to eternal life. Understanding this, and so we stay on the right path, let us continually seek to repent of anything that keeps us from growing in our love for Jesus and giving of ourselves in service to others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, we hear the story of Moses' birth and growth among the Egyptian people. In the Gospel, Jesus chastises the people of the towns in which he has performed miracles and mighty deeds for their failure to repent.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With one voice, let us join in asking God to hear our needs.

- 1) For bishops and priests, may they remain steadfast in their role as loving shepherds guiding the faithful and seeking to bring lost sheep back to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For judges and others who work in the judicial system, may they turn to God for guidance to render just judgements that are tempered with compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer division within their families, may they turn to God to find the path to forgiveness and reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For each of us gathered here, that we may seek God's mercy with humble hearts and share the joy of God's love with others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead and all who have died, that they may receive a place at the eternal banquet in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, in your mercy hear and answer our prayers. We ask this in the name of your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Wednesday, July 19, 2017
(Lec. 391)

- 1) Exodus 3:1-6, 9-12
- 2) Matthew 11:25-27

WEDNESDAY OF
15TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God reveals extraordinary things — in the ordinary — to those who are childlike.

Throughout his life and ministry Jesus said, again and again, that to the childlike belong the kingdom of God. In other words, to receive God's gift of salvation we must place our faith and trust in Jesus and then rely upon God to strengthen and guide us along the path of life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God appears to Moses in the burning bush and calls him to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. In the Gospel Jesus states, *No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Filled with wonder and praise for God's goodness, let us present to our heavenly Father our prayers of petition.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we seek to foster peace and reconciliation in the world through daily acts of kindness and loving our enemies, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in civil authority, may they turn to God for guidance to enact laws that protect the dignity and sanctity of life, from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For children oppressed by poverty, may they retain their sense of awe and wonder in the world that God has created, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us gathered here, may we strive to open our minds and hearts to the Holy Spirit so we may continue to grow in holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they come to enter into eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Thursday, July 20, 2017
(Lec. 392)

- 1) Exodus 3:13-20
- 2) Matthew 11:28-30

THURSDAY OF
15TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Apollinaris,
Bishop and Martyr)

FOCUS: God gives us the grace and strength we need to shoulder daily crosses and burdens.

Amid the stresses and strains of life, it can be all too easy to feel overwhelmed and discouraged. When we feel ourselves starting to feel overwhelmed, it is especially important that we turn to Jesus in prayer. For as today's Gospel makes clear, Jesus walks with us, giving us the strength needed to shoulder our burdens.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading from Exodus, God speaks to Moses – revealing his name, and all that he will do for the Israelites, bringing them out of slavery and misery and into a land flowing with milk and honey. In the Gospel of Matthew, we are reminded that Jesus instructs us to come to him when we are burdened, for his yoke is easy and his burden light.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us offer our petitions to our God, who knows our every need.

- 1) That all members of the Church will be enriched by the gifts of the Spirit, and use those gifts to proclaim the Gospel boldly, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That all who hold public office may be guided by an honest pursuit of the common good above any personal gain or advantage, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those deprived of freedom and liberty will turn to God and be given courage and strength to face each day, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all of us in this faith community may, by our conversations and actions, honor the Lord and help others to draw closer to him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died may enjoy perfect happiness in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear and answer our prayers this day, both those spoken and those held within the silence of our hearts. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Friday, July 21, 2017

(Lec. 393)

- 1) Exodus 11:10–12:14
- 2) Matthew 12:1-8

FRIDAY OF

15TH WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(Opt. Mem.)

Saint Lawrence of Brindisi,
Priest and Doctor of the Church)

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

Today's Gospel reminds us that Jesus is Lord and ruler of all things, and we must remember this if we are serious about living as his disciples, We need to place our lives into Jesus' hands each day so he may work in and through us to touch the lives and hearts of others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Lord tells Moses and Aaron how they are to instruct the people as to how the Passover meal is to be prepared and eaten. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For the Church, that many of its members may be open to following the Lord's call to the priesthood, consecrated life and lay ecclesial ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those throughout the world who work to grow food for others, may they be blessed with an abundant harvest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who grieve the loss of a loved one, may they be comforted by their faith in Christ's promise of eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all teachers in our parish, may their efforts help our young people grow in faith and wisdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they enjoy perfect happiness and peace in heaven with the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, in your goodness and love, hear and answer our prayers according to your most holy will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, July 22, 2017

(Lec. 603)

SAINT MARY MAGDALENE

- FEAST

- 1) Songs 3:1-4b or
2 Corinthians 5:14-17
- 2) John 20:1-2, 11-18

FOCUS: May our lives be transformed each time we receive the Eucharist.

Mary Magdalene is known as the “apostle to the Apostles” because she was tasked with carrying the message of Jesus’ resurrection to the disciples. Her statement, *I have seen the Lord*, demonstrates that this has been a life-transforming experience for her. Likewise, our lives are to be transformed each time we receive Jesus in the Eucharist.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading, from the second letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians, reminds us that we have become new creations in Christ. In the Gospel, Mary Magdalene announces to the disciples that she has seen the Lord.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In trust that our loving God provides for us at all times, let us offer our petitions for our needs and for those of our world.

- 1) That all the faithful may, like Mary Magdalene, strive to joyfully share the Good News with others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That all who work to alleviate the grinding cycle of poverty in the lives of others may see their efforts bear good fruit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who suffer from long-term illnesses may turn to Jesus, the Divine Physician, for strength, healing and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That children in our parish families may learn the ways of discipleship from parents and family members, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our beloved dead, and all who have died, may receive a place at the eternal banquet in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, we ask that you hear and answer our prayers. Through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2017

(Lec. 106)

- 1) Wisdom 12:13, 16-19
- 2) Romans 8:26-27
- 3) Matthew 13:24-43 or
13:24-30

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: The Holy Spirit brings life and peace.

Today we hear about God as a Father who is both merciful and just, about God who is mighty, and about the Spirit who comes to our aid. Let us turn to the life-giving Holy Spirit for guidance and grace so we may continue growing in holiness, so we bear an effective witness to the Gospel, and so we may experience Christ's gift of peace more fully in our lives and hearts

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the Book of Wisdom, we hear that God is both mighty and lenient. The second reading reminds us that the Spirit helps us in our weakness, and intercedes for us according to God's will. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches about God's kingdom, and offers parables of grain and weeds to explain it.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our petitions to the Father, who hears and answers all of our prayers.

- 1) For Pope Francis, our bishops, priests and deacons, that the example of their lives may continue to give witness to God's mercy and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in public office, that they may be open to God's grace, and work to protect the weak and vulnerable in their midst, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick and the lonely, that through the love and compassion of others, they may know of God's unfailing presence in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may we take time each day to give thanks to God for the many gifts he bestows upon us, and strive to serve him with joyful hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, that they may be welcomed into God's heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Monday, July 24, 2017

(Lec. 395)

- 1) Exodus 14:5-18
- 2) Matthew 12:38-42

MONDAY OF
16TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Sharbel Makhluf,
Priest)

FOCUS: God gives us signs of his love if we have eyes to see his love and care all around us.

The scribes and Pharisees ask Jesus for a sign, despite the fact that he had already performed many signs before them. We know that Jesus is sign enough, and all we must do is listen to his message of salvation, and have eyes to see his loving and caring presence in our lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of how the Pharaoh, upon regretting his decision to release the Israelites from his service, musters his army to go and bring the Israelites back. In the Gospel, the scribes and Pharisees ask Jesus for a sign. Jesus responds to their request by saying, *An evil and unfaithful generation seeks a sign, but no sign will be given it except the sign of Jonah the prophet.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that our heavenly Father lovingly watches over us and provides for what we truly need, we offer him our petitions.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we always point the way to Christ and to salvation for those who seek it by living out the Gospel message, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may they embrace the concept of servant leadership in their governing role, putting the needs of their people before their own, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who have been wounded by war or acts of terrorism or violence, may they find strength in their faith and consolation through the goodness and outreach of others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For couples in our parish preparing for marriage, may they turn to God for guidance and strength so they come to a deeper understanding of the vocation of marriage, and continue to grow in their love for one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they see God face-to-face in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Eternal Father, hear our prayers and conform our hearts to the covenant of your love. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, July 25, 2017

(Lec. 605)

- 1) 2 Corinthians 4:7-15
- 2) Matthew 20:20-28

**SAINT JAMES
APOSTLE
-FEAST**

FOCUS: Through faith, God is glorified.

By uniting our sufferings to Christ's for the salvation of the world, we help move God's plan of salvation toward its fulfillment. Our faith in Jesus strengthens us so we may persevere amidst adversity. Like Saint James, we must pour out our lives in service to Christ in order to bring life to a world in need.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading reminds us that despite our personal faults and limitations, Christ can work in and through us to accomplish marvelous things. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples that to be seen as great in God's eyes, they must lay down their lives in humble love and service to others.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With faith in the enduring love and mercy of our heavenly Father, we lift up our prayers and petitions to him.

- 1) That the Church and her leaders may offer an example of humble service, and encourage all to turn away from worldly glory and seek the path which leads to eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the leaders of our nation may seek to place the needs of those they govern ahead of their own need for honor and recognition, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who struggle with depression or despair may be lifted up through acts of love and charity, and find care that brings them healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That travelers and pilgrims may return from their summer journeys rested and renewed, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may experience the fullness of God's presence in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God, we humbly trust that you will hear our prayers, both spoken and unspoken, through your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Wednesday, July 26, 2017
(Lec. 397)

- 1) Exodus 16:1-5, 9-15
- 2) Matthew 13:1-9

WEDNESDAY OF
16TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saints Joachim and Anne,
Parents of the Blessed
Virgin Mary)

FOCUS: God wants to nourish us in rich soil so that we can grow.

The parable of the sower provides a very descriptive picture of the “life” of the seed, which, in turn, offers an example for our own life of faith. It is good to meditate on this passage and consider our own susceptibility to being lost along the path, if we do not continue to turn the soil of our hearts and allow the Good News to enrich it.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the reading from the Book of Exodus, God provides the Israelites with quail and manna, in spite of their grumbling against Moses and the Lord. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches the parable of the sower.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: It is with open hearts and a deep desire for God’s mercy that we now turn to God with our petitions.

- 1) For laypeople working throughout the world as missionaries, that their witness to the Gospel may bring many to hear and believe in Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who serve others by their work in government, may they seek to protect and safeguard the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception through natural death, 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 their family members, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all parents gathered here, that they may find strength and wisdom in the example of the Holy Family, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be granted eternal rest in the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord, all glory and honor are yours. Hear the prayers we ask in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.

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Thursday, July 27, 2017

(Lec. 398)

- 1) Exodus 19:1-2, 9-11,
16-20b
- 2) Matthew 13:10-17

THURSDAY OF
16TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: The Lord speaks to us.

God seeks an intimate relationship with us – one that involves communication. Sometimes he speaks in trumpet blasts and peals of thunder, and other times he reveals his message through prayerful reflection on the parables of Jesus. Those who seek the Lord will find meaning in his word; others will not understand.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Israelites arrive at Sinai in Exodus. Moses leads them to a mountain where the Lord comes down in fire and talks to him. In the Gospel, the disciples ask Jesus why he speaks to the crowds in parables. He tells them that they are given the gift of understanding, but not everyone has this gift.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We humbly come before the Lord with our needs, praying that our petitions will be heard and answered.

- 1) For the pope and all Church leaders, may they be instruments of God's abundant grace and wisdom in their guidance of the Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of government, may they work for peace, and always seek to take actions for the good of those they govern, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have lost their homes due to natural disaster or conflict, may they be strengthened by God's grace as they work to rebuild, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our local parish community, that we may respond generously to the call for increased vocations to the priesthood and religious life in the Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died believing in Christ, that through the compassionate mercy of our Savior, they may find eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving, ever-powerful God, hear the prayers of your people and answer them according to your will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, July 28, 2017

(Lec. 399)

- 1) Exodus 20:1-17
- 2) Matthew 13:18-23

FRIDAY OF
16TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: When we cultivate the soil of our minds and hearts, Christ's words and teachings can grow in us.

Today's Gospel reminds us of the need to cultivate the soil of our minds and hearts continually so that it remains rich, and so that Christ's words and teachings may continue to be planted in our hearts and grow. When we do this, we come to live as more faithful disciples of Jesus and lead lives which bear good fruit for God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The reading from Exodus tells of the Lord giving Moses the Ten Commandments. In the Gospel, Jesus presents the parable of the sower.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us lift up our prayers to our merciful God for all of our brothers and sisters in need.

- 1) That the Church may continue to lead and guide all humankind along the path to holiness and salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That those who govern throughout the world may use judgment tempered with compassion, fairness and generosity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those caught up in a cycle of anger, bitterness or resentment may open their hearts to God's grace and come to experience healing and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That members of this faith community may pray to know God's will for their lives, and receive the grace and strength needed to live it out, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the faithful departed will come to enjoy perfect happiness and peace with all the angels and saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, may your word nourish us and fill us with the desire to bear good fruit, we ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, July 29, 2017

(Lec. 400)

1) Exodus 24:3-8

(Lec.

(OBL MEM

2) John 11:19-27 or

Luke 10: 38-42

SATURDAY OF
16TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
607)

Saint Martha)

FOCUS: We are called to follow the Lord and stay the course, even when surrounded by temptation and sin.

Today's Gospel from Luke reminds us that we can become overwhelmed and lose our bearings if we do not set aside time to pray each day and listen to the voice of Jesus. Mindful of this, let us pray and go where the Lord leads us so we may keep our feet planted on the path to life and experience the good gifts and blessings God wishes to bestow upon us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Israelites tell Moses they will do everything the Lord has asked, and Moses seals the covenant between God and his people. In the Gospel, Jesus visits Mary and Martha, and Jesus tells Martha that her sister, Mary, who sits and listens to him, *has chosen the better part*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER:

PRIEST: Mindful of our own needs and those of our brothers and sisters, we join together with humble hearts to ask God to hear our prayers.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we be visible signs of Christ's presence in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who grow food for the hungry in our world, may their harvests be plentiful, and may their labor be blessed, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, may they turn to the Holy Spirit for strength, and may they take comfort in God's love for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those members of our parish who serve in the armed forces, may God guide them in their efforts and keep them safe, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they receive a place at the eternal banquet in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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SUNDAY, JULY 30, 2017

(Lec. 109)

- 1) 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12
- 2) Romans 8:28-30
- 3) Matthew 13:44-52 or
13:44-46

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Every good thing that happens to us provides a glimpse into the joy that will be ours in heaven.

When good things happen to us, we get an idea of what the kingdom of heaven is like: it is always time for celebration. Happily, we do not have to wait until we die to join the celebration. For by placing our faith in Jesus and living according to his teachings, we can experience the blessings of the kingdom of God amidst our lives on earth.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of how King Solomon asks the Lord to grant him an understanding heart so he can lead his people well. In the second reading, we hear that all things work for good for those who love God. In the Gospel, Jesus uses parables to give his followers an idea of the joy that is theirs in the kingdom of heaven.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With one voice, let us offer our prayers to God, trusting him to provide for our needs.

- 1) That Church leaders may continue to listen closely to the voice of the Holy Spirit as they guide and lead the faithful, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That world leaders may turn to the Lord for guidance as they strive to foster peace and justice over all the earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who are persecuted for their faith in Christ may find comfort from the prayers and support of their Christian brothers and sisters, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That families in this faith community may grow in grace and become beacons of the love of Christ to others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the faithful departed may know eternal joy in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious and loving God, hear our prayers that we humbly offer to you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, July 31, 2017

(Lec. 401)

- 1) Exodus 32:15-24, 30-34
- 2) Matthew 13:31-35

MONDAY OF
17TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Ignatius of Loyola,
Priest)

FOCUS: The seeds of faith are planted in our hearts, and it is up to us to nurture those seeds.

Today's Gospel reminds us that God's kingdom grows, and Jesus says that the kingdom may start seemingly small in the seeds of faith planted in our hearts. As we come to grow in our love for God, his love comes to reign more and more in our hearts and moves us to share his gift of love with others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The reading from the book of Exodus recounts the grave sin of the Israelites. Left to their own devices, they cast and worship the golden calf. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches the crowds of people two parables about the kingdom of heaven: that of the mustard seed and the yeast mixed in the wheat flour.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With joyful hearts, we now turn to God and offer him our prayers for our needs and those of the world.

- 1) For all who serve the Church, may their ministries continue to be a sign of God's love for all people, and help to build the kingdom of heaven on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials and government leaders, may they be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they work to craft laws and policies that lift up those they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick and the dying, that the promise of sharing in the Resurrection may bring them strength and hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of this faith community, may we seek to build up the kingdom of God on earth and be Christ's presence in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they come to share in eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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