

JUNE

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Thursday, June 1, 2017
(Lec. 300)

- 1) Acts 22:30; 23:6-11
- 2) John 17:20-26

THURSDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
OF EASTER
(OBL MEM
Saint Justin, Martyr)

FOCUS: The early disciples were resolute in their witness to the Gospel message, and we are the beneficiaries of their zeal.

Jesus prayed for his disciples in the garden, and the Lord stood beside Paul in his detention, granting him courage. In both of these instances, these men were graced with resolve to witness to the Gospel, even upon pain of persecution and death. We have faith today because those early disciples persevered in the truth.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In our first reading from Acts, we see Paul under persecution by the elders and the Sanhedrin, and a Roman official coming to his aid to prevent his death. Paul is encouraged by the Lord to continue his witness. In the Gospel passage from John, we hear Jesus praying for his disciples and for the Church, that they may know his name and his love.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we seek to live out our Gospel values, let us offer our prayers of petition to the Lord.

- 1) For the newly baptized, confirmed, and those who recently entered into full communion with the Church, may they be blessed and strengthened by the prayers and support of their brothers and sisters in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who govern our nation as public servants, may they turn to God for guidance in seeking nonviolent solutions to conflicts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who face economic hardship throughout the world, may they have access to clean water, proper nutrition and caring health care professionals, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For catechists and those who work to pass on the faith to our young people, may they be blessed with the grace and strength to continue in their ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, and those who will die this day, may they join the company of all the angels and saints in heaven in singing God's praises for all eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear our prayers and strengthen us with your grace that we might lead lives that are holy and pleasing to you. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Friday, June 2, 2017
(Lec. 301)

- 1) Acts 25:13b-21
- 2) John 21:15-19

FRIDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
OF EASTER
(Opt. Mem
Saints Marcellinus and Peter,
Martyrs)

FOCUS: Just as the first disciples were challenged in living their commitment to Jesus, our faith will also be put to the test.

Being a follower of Christ is not easy. We each struggle with our own trials, temptations and failures as disciples. Let us turn to the sacraments and prayer to find the strength to persevere on our journey.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from Acts recounts the story of Paul's imprisonment in Rome from the perspective of a Roman official explaining it to King Agrippa. In the Gospel, Peter is reconciled to Jesus through his profession of love for him – in response to Jesus asking Peter three times, *Do you love me?*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Our all-powerful God raised his son, Jesus, from the dead. Let us turn to God in trust offering him our prayers for our needs and for the needs of our brothers and sisters around the world.

- 1) For bishops and priests, that in their role as shepherds of our Church, they may inspire us to lead lives that are holy and pleasing to God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who hold elected office, may they govern with mercy and make decisions wisely, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For families who are estranged from one another, may they turn to the Holy Spirit for guidance and strength to foster healing and reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For an increase in vocations to the priesthood, to the consecrated life, and lay ecclesial ministry in our parish and throughout the wider Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead and all who have died, may they know the joy and splendor of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father in heaven, hear and answer our prayers according to your most holy will. For we offer them to you in the name of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, June 3, 2017
(Lec. 302)

- 1) Acts 28:16-20, 30-31
- 2) John 21:20-25

SATURDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
OF EASTER
(OBL MEM)

Saint Charles Lwanga and Companions,
Martyrs)

FOCUS: We must always focus on Jesus.

Just after Peter is told by Jesus that he will suffer martyrdom, Peter asks Jesus about the fate of the beloved disciple, John. Will he suffer too? Jesus responds to Peter by saying, *What concern is it of yours? You follow me.* By giving Peter the command, *You follow me*, Jesus was reminding Peter, and believers of all ages, to stay focused on following him first and foremost.

LITURGY OF THE WORD:

The first reading from the Acts of the Apostles tells of Paul's persecution and imprisonment in Rome on account of his preaching the Gospel. Today's Gospel is the conclusion of the Gospel of John, in which the Evangelist writes that all things written in the Gospel are true.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER:

PRIEST: Let us pray to the Lord, who desires to give us his blessings, by offering our petitions with grateful hearts.

- 1) For the Church, may she continue to be steadfast in her proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ so that those who have not yet heard may hear and believe, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials and government leaders, may they work to protect the dignity and sanctity of all human life, from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For farmers and all who work the land to feed us, may they be blessed with favorable weather and the assistance they need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the youth in our parish, may our examples of Christian love and joy fill them with enthusiasm for their faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they come to enjoy perpetual light, rest and peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2017

(Lec. 63)

- 1) Acts 2:1-11
- 2) 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13
- 3) John 20:19-23

**PENTECOST SUNDAY
- SOLEMNITY**

FOCUS: Jesus sent the gift of the Holy Spirit to protect and guide the Church in carrying out his saving mission.

The feast of Pentecost reminds us that the work of the Holy Spirit guides and protects the Church and enables her to carry out her mission. The gift of the Holy Spirit gives us, as disciples, the grace and strength to move forward and live out our call of faith.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The reading from Acts speaks of the Holy Spirit descending upon the disciples, which enables them to go forward and preach the Gospel. In the first Letter to the Corinthians, we learn of the many gifts the Holy Spirit imparts to the Lord's followers. In the Gospel, Jesus bestows the gift of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples by breathing upon them, so they might go forward to preach the Gospel and lead the Church.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, grateful for the gifts you generously share with us through the Holy Spirit, we humbly ask that you hear and answer our prayers.

- 1) For the Pope and all who shepherd our Church, may their joyful proclamation of the Gospel move the faithful to share more fully the good news of salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may they open themselves to the Holy Spirit for guidance and strength to work for peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, that they will feel the Lord's healing touch through the compassionate care and concern of people of good will, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For parish families, may they recognize the gifts of the Spirit and seek ways to share them by their examples of Christian love to each other and all those they meet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they come to enjoy perfect happiness and peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God of heaven and earth, you shower us with every gift of the Spirit. We ask that you hear and answer our prayers in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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Monday, June 5, 2017
(Lec. 353)

- 1) Tobit 1:3; 2:1b-8
- 2) Mark 12:1-12

MONDAY OF
NINTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM Saint Boniface,
Bishop and Martyr)

FOCUS: Christ teaches us to courageously and effectively proclaim the kingdom in all that we do.

Each day, in so many ways, we have the opportunity to proclaim the kingdom by our lives of obedience and service. Tobit in the Old Testament risks his very life in service of God's commands. Jesus provides us with numerous examples of healing, ultimately giving his own life for us. Let us go forth today and strive to be his faithful disciples.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Tobit learns of the murder of a kinsman. He leaves a feast to courageously rescue the body, and offers a proper burial while facing possible retribution from authorities. In the Gospel, the parable of the vineyard leased to tenants anticipates Jesus' rejection in the world, and the passion and death he will endure to win our salvation.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us lift up our prayers to the Father for all of our brothers and sisters.

- 1) That the Church may courageously continue to be God's beacon of light to the world, shining love and care on all those in any kind of need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the leaders of nations may seek pathways to peace and unity, nurturing their people with justice and wisdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That there may be an end to all violence and war, creating safe and peaceful homes for all God's children, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That our parish will be a model for respecting life at all stages, as a seamless garment, from conception to natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all those who have gone before us in faith may come to enjoy perfect happiness and peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, hear the prayers we offer for the needs and longings of all the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, June 6, 2017
(Lec. 354)

- 1) Tobit 2:9-14
- 2) Mark 12:13-17

TUESDAY OF
NINTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Norbert, Bishop)

FOCUS: Jesus says to give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's.

God has created each of us in his own image and likeness. We show forth our gratitude to God for all the good things he has done for us, most especially the gift of salvation we are offered in and through our faith in Jesus, by keeping his commandments and living as faithful disciples of his son, Jesus.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Tobit is greatly distressed at his blindness and accuses his wife of stealing a goat. In the Gospel, Jesus is asked if it is right to pay taxes to Rome. He asks for a coin and replies, *Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Relying on God, who is our strength and salvation, let us place our needs before him.

- 1) For our Holy Father, bishops, priests and parish leaders, that they may be blessed with fortitude and wisdom as they continue to serve us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may they be upright and just in their decision-making so that policies uplift their people and benefit the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For women who are considering abortion, that by opening themselves to God's grace, and through the support and understanding of others, they may choose life for their unborn children, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish community, that our love for God may be deepened by our acts of love toward others, and by our respect for and devotion to the Eucharist, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead and all who have died, that they may one day be united with God in the everlasting joy of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God, source of all goodness, please grant our petitions that we ask in the name of Jesus, our Lord.

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Wednesday, June 7, 2017
(Lec. 355)

- 1) Tobit 3:1-11a, 16-17a
- 2) Mark 12:18-27

WEDNESDAY OF
NINTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: The Resurrection reveals that our God is God of the living.

Jesus' teaching in the Gospel – that God is not God of the dead but of the living – focuses on the power of God to both create life, and re-create it. And Jesus heals and restores life many times during his earthly ministry. Let us go forth today and spread the good news of our saving, life-giving God and Creator.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the Book of Tobit, Tobit turns to the Lord in time of distress to deliver him from his strife, and the Lord responds by sending an angel. In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus' response to the Sadducees teaches that life in heaven will be nothing like life on earth.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With faith and hope in the promise of eternal life in heaven, let us join in offering our prayers to the Lord.

- 1) For those called to ministry in the Church, may the joy of the Resurrection sustain them in their work, and may the Holy Spirit give them grace and strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who work in government, may their decision-making bring about justice for those in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from depression or despair, may the light of Christ illumine their world and bring them comfort and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish, may each of us, through prayer and discernment, more clearly recognize our gifts and share them generously for the greater good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they come to experience the joys of God's heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, comforter of all who feel lost or alone, hear and answer our prayers, which we offer to you through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Thursday, June 8, 2017
(Lec. 356)

THURSDAY OF
NINTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

- 1) Tobit 6:10-11; 7:1bcde,
9-17; 8:4-9a
- 2) Mark 12:28-34

FOCUS: Jesus teaches us the first and greatest commandments – to love God and neighbor.

Jesus teaches that in order to live as one of his followers, we must strive to love God with our whole being, and love our neighbor as ourselves. This is not easy to do, but through prayer and the graces of the sacraments, we can tune out the distractions of the world and respond to Jesus' call to love God and neighbor.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading from the book of Tobit, the angel Raphael leads Tobiah and encourages him to take Sarah as his wife. In the Gospel, Jesus gives us the two great commands of love – to love God with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that God hears and answers our prayers, let us join in offering our petitions to the Lord.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we be faithful witnesses to the Gospel by living out Jesus' commandments to love God and neighbor, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those around the world who produce food for our tables, may their harvests be bountiful, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are held captive by sin and feel unworthy of forgiveness, may they come to accept Jesus so they may be freed from bondage to sin and experience Christ's healing love and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all in our diocese who are being called to the priesthood or to consecrated life, may they respond with courage and generosity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they have life everlasting with God in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father in heaven, you are love and mercy itself. Hear and answer our prayers in accordance with your holy and perfect will. We ask this through your son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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Friday, June 9, 2017
(Lec. 357)

- 1) Tobit 11:5-17
- 2) Mark 12:35-37

FRIDAY OF
NINTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Ephrem,
Deacon and Doctor of the Church)

FOCUS: Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Son of Man, and Son of David, is Savior and Lord of all.

Last Sunday, we celebrated Pentecost – the gift of the Holy Spirit to Jesus’ Apostles. This same Spirit revealed truths about the Messiah to David, and makes Christ known to us today. While belief in Jesus as both Son of Man and our Lord challenges human reason, the Holy Spirit inspires us to profess it as part of our Christian faith.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today’s reading, Tobit’s vision is restored when the angel Raphael gives Tobiah fish gall to rub on his father’s eyes. Tobit and Anna rejoice at this miracle, and praise God for the blessing of their son and daughter-in-law. Jesus’ words in the Gospel challenge the popular definition of “the messiah” among the people.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Called by name to share the Gospel, we praise the Lord and humbly turn to him with our prayers.

- 1) For missionaries in the Church, may they continue to have the grace and strength to proclaim the good news of salvation so many may hear and believe, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For Christian unity throughout the world, that the Holy Spirit may fill the hearts of the faithful and kindle in them the fire of love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those throughout the world who have suffered the ravages of war, may they find solace and healing through prayer, and assistance from many helping hands, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For couples preparing for marriage, that they may see their vocation to married life as a calling to give witness to God’s love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may they come to enjoy eternal life in God’s heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and powerful God, may your holy name be praised through all the ages. Hear our prayers and have mercy on us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, June 10, 2017
(Lec. 358)

- 1) Tobit 12:1, 5-15, 20
- 2) Mark 12:38-44

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

FOCUS: Give of yourself generously to give honor and glory to God, who has given us the gift of life.

In the Gospel, the scribes are criticized by Jesus for being self-serving, whereas the widow is celebrated by Jesus for her radical self-giving and trust in God. This dynamic challenges and reminds us of the importance of setting aside selfish motives and giving ourselves in service to others – out of a sincere love for God and gratitude for all he has done for us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Tobit is instructed by the archangel, Raphael, to give honor, praise and glory to God through prayer, fasting and, above all, almsgiving and charitable works. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that the scribes will face stern consequences for their self-serving and hypocritical behavior.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us offer our prayers in the certain hope that our Father in heaven will hear and lovingly respond to our needs and the needs of the world.

- 1) That Pope Francis' example of humility may inspire all members of the Church to embrace God's call to live humbly in the service of others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That leaders of the world may be open to the ways of peace and justice that are hallmarks of God's Kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those weighed down by sorrow or fear may have their burdens lightened by our prayers and God's grace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That each of us use our gifts of time, talent and treasure to help build up the Church and our parish community for the greater honor and glory of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may be welcomed into the eternal joy of the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, we ask that you hear and answer our prayers, through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2017

(Lec. 164)

- 1) Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9
- 2) 2 Corinthians 13:11-13
- 3) John 3:16-18

**THE MOST
HOLY TRINITY
- SOLEMNITY**

FOCUS: *God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.*

The life and teachings of Jesus reveal to us that God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are a community of persons who live together as one in a perfect unity of life and love with one another. As such, we are called to model our lives on the Most Holy Trinity – by seeking to give God glory in all we do and by living in love and unity with God and with one another.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading from Exodus, the Lord revealed himself to Moses directly as kind, merciful and slow to anger. In the second reading, Saint Paul stresses to the Corinthians the importance of living in peace. The Gospel reminds us that *God so loved the world that he gave his only Son* so that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident that God is merciful and slow to anger, let us join in offering our prayers and petitions to the Lord.

- 1) That all the faithful may continually strive to grow in their faith and love for the Most Holy Trinity – God the Father, Son and Spirit – through prayer, study and attending the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That all elected officials will work to enact laws that uphold the sanctity of human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who suffer from mental illness may have access to proper treatment, and have the faith and courage to seek the Lord's healing embrace, let us pray to the Lord
- 4) That everyone in this faith community may recognize that we are called to holiness, and may grow in our resolve to live as intentional disciples of Jesus and give a faithful witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our deceased family members and friends, and all who have died, may live in the glory of God's loving presence in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we thank you for your generosity to us. We make these petitions in Jesus' name, and ask that you hear and answer them according to your will. Through Christ, our Lord.

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Monday, June 12, 2017
(Lec. 359)

- 1) 2 Corinthians 1:1-7
- 2) Matthew 5:1-12

MONDAY OF
TENTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: The detailed instructions of blessing and promise in the beatitudes are our guidelines for living as Christ's disciples.

Jesus' teaching in today's reading from the Gospel of Matthew –the beatitudes – spells out for those who desire to live as his disciples the attitudes and actions one needs to live out in order to enter into the kingdom of God. The poetic cadence of the verses underscores the beauty of Christ's core teachings of mercy, humility, righteousness and peacemaking.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The beginning of Paul's second Letter to the Corinthians reminds us that persevering in faith amidst suffering and trial can be a source of strength and encouragement for others. Today's reading from the Gospel of Matthew recounts the beginning of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in which he teaches the eight beatitudes.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Knowing God, our Father, answers the prayers of all, regardless of our sinful natures, we join our humble hearts together and lift them in prayer.

- 1) For Pope Francis, bishops, priests and religious throughout the world, that they continue to inspire us through their witness to building God's kingdom on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For judges and civil magistrates, may the gift of wisdom from the Holy Spirit lead them to render justice tempered with mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from sickness may they find strength and healing from their faith in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish community, may we be transformed by our prayer and reception of the Eucharist to pattern our lives more after Christ Jesus and go forth to serve the needs of others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful who have died, may Jesus, the Good Shepherd, lead them safely home to 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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Tuesday, June 13, 2017
(Lec. 360)

- 1) 2 Corinthians 1:18-22
- 2) Matthew 5:13-16

TUESDAY OF
TENTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Anthony of Padua,
Priest and doctor of the Church)

FOCUS: We are called to be salt and light.

We are to be like salt, which helps preserve the world around us from sin and corruption by leading lives according to Jesus' teachings. We are to be like light that helps dispel the darkness of sin and helps lead others to Christ by leading lives that abound in charity and good works. We can only accomplish this by trusting and relying upon the Lord.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Paul tells the Corinthians that they can trust what he and his companions have taught. His travel plans may have to change, but his teachings are steadfast. In the Gospel, Jesus uses similes of salt and light to encourage his disciples to be strong, bold and open in sharing their faith with others.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together, let us bring our petitions to God, asking for his blessings on us and all the world.

- 1) That all members of the Church may help strengthen one another as we strive to be light and salt for each other's spiritual lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That people around the globe may use technology and social media in ways that bring more love and kindness to others and to our world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who suffer from long and painful illnesses may turn to God and experience the love and comfort of his healing grace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That we in this parish community may continue to seek out and open new avenues for reaching out and helping those in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may be granted eternal rest in the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, hear these petitions and those we hold in our hearts, and grant what is in your will for us. As your faithful children, we pray always through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Wednesday, June 14, 2017
(Lec. 361)

- 1) 2 Corinthians 3:4-11
- 2) Matthew 5:17-19

WEDNESDAY OF
TENTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Jesus came not to abolish the law, but to fulfill it.

There is perhaps no greater honor for a Christian than when he or she experiences the good fruit which comes from serving others – such as the blessings of peace and joy in one's heart. This can only happen when a disciple of Jesus knows how to put the commands of God into practice in a compassionate, loving and sincere way.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians, Paul reminds the Corinthians that his call and qualifications come from God, who has qualified him as a minister of the new covenant. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that he did not come to abolish the law, but to fulfill it.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As brothers and sisters in Christ, let us join in offering our prayers to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) For Pope Francis and those who minister within the Church, may they be given the strength and grace needed to continue serving others with compassion and zeal for the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all those who hold public office, may they work together with wisdom and integrity to solve the difficult problems that our world faces, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are persecuted or imprisoned for their faith in Christ, may the power of the resurrection fill them with courage and hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those who serve as catechists in our faith community, may they be blessed in their ministry of assisting young people to grow in their faith and love for the Lord, 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: Merciful God, we ask you to hear and answer our prayers, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Thursday, June 15, 2017
(Lec. 362)

- 1) 2 Corinthians 3:15–4:1, 3-6
- 2) Matthew 5:20-26

THURSDAY OF
TENTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Under the new law of Jesus, we are to reflect his love and mercy to everyone we meet.

Jesus' strong words in the Gospel demonstrate the demands of being a disciple of Jesus. We are to not only obey the Ten Commandments, but also seek to recognize the hurtful thoughts and actions which may eventually lead us to sin, and try to resolve them before we break one of God's laws.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In our first reading, Paul uses the symbolism of a veil being lifted to contrast the old law with the new covenant in Christ Jesus. In the Gospel, Jesus warns that following the letter of the law in the commandments is not enough to save one from punishment. Jesus insists on conversion of the heart and forgiveness of one another in order to be his disciple.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With hope and confidence, we bring our prayers and petitions to our loving Father.

- 1) For bishops, priests and deacons, that they will receive the grace and resources needed to continue preaching and proclaiming the Gospel message to all the nations and peoples of the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may they, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, find the inspiration to help build peaceful relationships among neighboring countries, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have drifted from their faith because the challenges of life have overwhelmed them, may the outreach of evangelization efforts touch their hearts so they may feel the compassion of God once more, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may we work to help build up the kingdom of God on earth, so that others may come to experience the salvation and new life that Christ offers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they enjoy perfect happiness and peace as they bask in the light and love of God for all eternity in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, hear our prayers and answer our needs according to your will. Through Christ, our Lord.

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Friday, June 16, 2017

(Lec. 363)

- 1) 2 Corinthians 4:7-15
- 2) Matthew 5:27-32

FRIDAY OF
TENTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God has called and chosen us in and through Christ to be his messengers.

As we heard in the first reading, through the power of God, earthen vessels carry his message. This means that God has called us in and through Christ to be his messengers on earth. As such, we are called to share the Gospel and help build up God's kingdom on earth. This comes about by placing our lives into God's hands each day and allowing him to use us as instruments and messengers.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the reading from the second Letter to the Corinthians, Paul reminds us that his ministry is powered by God, not by human beings. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that any person who looks at another with lust has already committed sin in his or her heart.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God of mercy and love, we come to you with faith and trust, and ask you to hear the prayers we offer.

- 1) For Church leaders, may they continue to share Christ's light and love to all by living according to his teachings and ministering to those in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, that they encourage one another to commit to peace and cooperation in lieu of aggression and violence in order to solve problems, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the chronically ill, may they draw strength from the healing compassion of Jesus, the Divine Physician, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For parish families, may they model the love of the Holy Family by their care and concern for one another, and by reaching out to others with the Gospel message, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the dead, may they know the peace and happiness of the heavenly kingdom in the company of the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord, with sincere trust we ask that you hear our petitions and answer them according to your will. Through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, June 17, 2017
(Lec. 364)

- 1) 2 Corinthians 5:14-21
- 2) Matthew 5:33-37

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

FOCUS: Living out the call that flows from our baptism requires that love of Christ and love of neighbor steer our words and actions.

When love of Christ and love of neighbor steer our words and our actions, we are truly living our baptismal call. We live for Christ when our thoughts, words and actions show forth a genuine love for God and others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading from Corinthians, Saint Paul implores us to *be reconciled to God* on behalf of Christ. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that living as his disciples requires being people who are true to their word. He says: *Let your Yes mean Yes, and your No mean No.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Grateful to our Father in heaven for all his gifts and blessings, let us offer our petitions to him.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may her witness to the Gospel inspire those who have yet to believe to place their faith and trust in the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our national, state, and local leaders, that their decisions and policies be grounded in a respect for human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For young people, that through their love for Christ, they may continually say “yes” to God in a world that often draws them away from him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those who minister to the sick and homebound in our parish, may they be blessed with the grace and strength to continue being the hands and feet of Jesus to others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they enter into heaven and be united with the Lord Jesus forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we ask you to hear our prayers and grant them according to your will. Through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 2017

(Lec. 167)

- 1) Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a
- 2) 1 Corinthians 10:16-17
- 3) John 6:51-58

**THE MOST HOLY
BODY AND BLOOD
OF CHRIST
(Corpus Christi)
- SOLEMNITY**

FOCUS: Through simple signs of bread and wine, the profound gift of Jesus is made present to us.

The sign of unity in our faith life is the Eucharist. The living bread we receive at Communion sustains us and reminds us that Jesus is with us always. Let our humble belief in the Eucharist set a holy example to be followed.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Moses tells the people they must know hunger to appreciate the manna the Lord provided. In the second reading, Saint Paul professes faith in the Eucharist and calls believers to unity around the Eucharistic table. In the Gospel, Jesus creates controversy by proclaiming to be living bread come down from heaven. He says that all who eat this living bread shall live forever.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Called to be one around the table of the living bread, we lift up our needs to the Father.

- 1) That Pope Francis and all the clergy may lead the faithful in reverent worship by breaking open the word of God and sharing the Bread of Life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That civil leaders may work to eliminate hunger from the face of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That food pantries may always be able to meet the needs of the hungry and poor because of the continued support of committed Christians, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all of us gathered here may grow in discipleship through the actions of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the faithful departed may be received into eternal life with God in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we give glory and honor to your name. We ask that you hear the prayers we offer, through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, June 19, 2017

(Lec. 365)

- 1) 2 Corinthians 6:1-10
- 2) Matthew 5:38-42

MONDAY OF
11TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Romuald,
Abbot)

FOCUS: We must strive to act justly at all times, even when we are wronged.

As disciples of Jesus, we must look to confront injustice when we can, and not retaliate in kind. Saint Paul wrote that as Jesus' followers, we must *commend ourselves as ministers of God*, and endure hardships for the sake of the Gospel. We must strive to practice the virtues of patience and kindness.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the reading from the second Letter to the Corinthians, Paul explains that he has persevered in his mission in spite of the obstacles and resistance he has encountered. Jesus teaches in Matthew's Gospel that despite the desire to exercise revenge, his disciples must turn the other cheek.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With joyful hearts, we offer our prayers and petitions to the Father.

- 1) That all members of the Church may proclaim the Gospel truth of Jesus without fear so those who have yet to hear his word may come to know Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That discord among nations throughout the world will give way to mutual respect and nonviolent resolution to disputes, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That the healing hand of God will touch the ill and suffering and bring them comfort and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That each of us may always strive to support and lift up those among us who are lonely or suffering, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died marked with the sign of faith may be received into the arms of our heavenly Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we thank you for your unending mercy and compassion. We ask you to hear our prayers, through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, June 20, 2017
(Lec. 366)

- 1) 2 Corinthians 8:1-9
- 2) Matthew 5:43-48

TUESDAY OF
11TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Love is a commandment that involves not feelings, but deeds.

How often do we show true gratitude to the Lord for his generosity? Do we tithe or give to the poor out of a grudging obligation, or is our heart truly in it? These are the questions these readings pose. To truly give as a Christian, we must do so with a heart filled with Christian charity.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the passage from Second Corinthians, Saint Paul describes the way the Macedonians generously gave to assist the Church, despite their poverty. In the Gospel from Matthew, Jesus explains to his disciples that true charity must extend beyond simply loving our friends and family.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us now turn to our loving Father with our prayers for those in need, and for our Church.

- 1) For all members of our Church, may the Holy Spirit cultivate in us true Christian charity essential to living the life of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may they be open to seeking nonviolent solutions to conflict so that peace may reign more abundantly upon the earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer religious persecution, that God will give them the grace and strength to persevere, and may the promptings of the Holy Spirit inspire mercy in the hearts of the oppressors, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of this faith community, may we remember the words of Jesus, who said, *Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you*, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our faithful departed, may they enjoy the rewards of eternal life with all the angels and saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, look with kindness upon our petitions both spoken and unspoken, and in your mercy answer them according to your most holy will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, June 21, 2017
(Lec. 367)

- 1) 2 Corinthians 9:6-11
- 2) Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

WEDNESDAY OF
11TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Aloysius Gonzaga,
Religious)

FOCUS: We are called to give joyfully of whatever we have.

Some of us might have material goods, and others an abundance of physical strength, energy, organizational skills or some other talent. Whatever God has graced us with, we are called to share our gifts with a generous heart to build up the Body of Christ and the kingdom of God on earth.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In his second Letter to the Corinthians, Paul urges us to give bountifully from the heart, with joy and gratitude to the God who first gives us what we need. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his followers to perform righteous deeds with a sincere desire to please God – not to win praise from others.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For missionaries in our Church, that they may be blessed with abundant grace and the resources they need to spread the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life within the Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who lack adequate food and water, that they may find relief and sustenance through the generosity of others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For farmers in our community, may they receive the rain and sunshine they need to produce food for a hungry world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rest in peace in the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, you know what we need and are generous in response to our cries for help. We ask that you hear and answer our prayers, through Jesus Christ, your son.

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Thursday, June 22, 2017
(Lec. 368)

- 1) 2 Corinthians 11:1-11
- 2) Matthew 6:7-15

THURSDAY OF
11TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.)

Saint Paulinus of Nola, Bishop;
Saints John Fisher, Bishop,
and Thomas More, Martyrs)

FOCUS: *If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you.*

In the Gospel, Jesus teaches his disciples to pray the Lord's Prayer, but also emphasizes that they pray clearly and directly to God with the concerns that are in their hearts. Disciples are not to pray in order to gain attention from others. Rather, the reason we pray is to enter into deeper communion with God, who already knows what we need.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul warns and exhorts the Corinthians not to let their faith be corrupted by making sure they are faithful to the Gospel preached by him. In the Gospel reading, Jesus teaches his disciples to pray by giving them the Lord's Prayer.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident that God is close to us always and hears all of our prayers, let us come before him today with our needs.

- 1) That all members of the Church may work to build up God's kingdom on earth by treating others with compassion and working for justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That leaders of nations throughout the world may take action to ensure that the religious freedom of all their people is respected, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who suffer from addiction may turn to Christ for strength and guidance, and may the assistance of caring professionals help them on the road to recovery, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That this parish community may be blessed with God's grace to be strong and faithful witnesses to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who labored for Christ in this life might enjoy eternal life with him in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we find solace knowing that you hear our prayers. Please answer the petitions we place before you today according to your will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, June 23, 2017
(Lec. 170)

- 1) Deuteronomy 7:6-11
- 2) 1 John 4:7-16
- 3) Matthew 11:25-30

**THE MOST
SACRED HEART
OF JESUS
- SOLEMNITY**

FOCUS: We are here because God loves us.

It is easy to think that we have to earn God's love, or bargain our way to love, when in fact, the reason we simply exist at all is because God loves us. He loved us into being, and he loves us *in* our being. All we are asked to do is love him, and one another, in return.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In our first reading, Moses reminds his people of their mission: they are who and what they are because God chose them, and because he loves them. In the second reading, John encourages us to love one another, because love is the gift God gave us; *God is love*. Our Gospel passage today reminds us that following Jesus gives us the grace to love one another.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: United as one in Christ, we turn to our loving Father and offer him our petitions and prayers.

- 1) For all members of our Church, that the love embodied in the sacred heart of Jesus may manifest itself in our commitment to love and serve those around us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who work in the judicial system, may they always seek God's wisdom when exercising judgment, and consider everyone who comes before them with fairness and integrity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are suffering in mind or body, may they feel the healing presence of Jesus through the compassion of their caregivers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the young people in our parish who are discerning their vocation in life, may we offer them our prayers and support, 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: Father, we ask that you grant these petitions, and those we hold in our hearts. Grant this through Christ, our Lord.

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Saturday, June 24, 2017
(Lec. 587)

- 1) Isaiah 49:1-6
- 2) Acts 13:22-26
- 3) Luke 1:57-66, 80

**THE NATIVITY
OF SAINT JOHN
THE BAPTIST
- SOLEMNITY**

FOCUS: Similar to John the Baptist, each of us is called by God from our birth to serve a unique role in God's plan of salvation.

John the Baptist had the hand of the Lord with him even before Elizabeth bore him, heralding the coming of the savior, Jesus. In the same way, we have been called to help build up the Church, build up the kingdom of God, give witness to the Gospel and shine as a light before others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the reading from the Prophet Isaiah, we hear of the call and preparation of Jesus, the Messiah. The Apostle Paul speaks of another prophet, John the Baptist, who heralded the coming of Jesus by calling people to repentance. In the Gospel, John the Baptist is born, and Zechariah's tongue is freed when he affirms that John is his name.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) That missionaries in the Church will be blessed with the grace and strength to preach and teach the Gospel with great zeal, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That leaders throughout the world will engage in cooperative efforts to allow refugees from war-torn areas to be welcomed in many regions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That expectant parents and parents of young children will, like Elizabeth, see their children as precious gifts from God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all of us here today may shine as a beacon of God's love by serving those in need in the community around us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the faithful departed will join the angels and saints in giving God glory in the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of glory and majesty, hear the prayers of your people, spoken and unspoken. This we ask through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2017

(Lec. 94)

- 1) Jeremiah 20:10-13
- 2) Romans 5:12-15
- 3) Matthew 10:26-33

**TWELFTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Let us strive to openly proclaim the Gospel message with joyful hearts.

Each of us is called to testify to the spirit of truth that is Jesus. When we give faithful witness, we hear in today's Gospel, Jesus says he will acknowledge us before the Father. Let us not be afraid to testify to our belief in Jesus.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Jeremiah reminds his listeners that he lives under constant threat from outsiders, but he is confident the Lord is with him. Saint Paul reminds the Romans that Adam brought sin and death into the world, but Jesus' sacrificial act brought new life and a new creation. In Matthew's Gospel, Christ reminds his disciples to remain steadfast in their witness to the truth.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As Christ's disciples, let us confidently approach the Father with our petitions.

- 1) That all members of the Church will testify to the truth of Christ and the salvation which he has won for all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That all those who govern will hear the cries of the poor and protect the least among us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all missionaries who risk their lives in service to the Gospel may be emboldened through the courage and wisdom of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That those who teach religious education and sacramental preparation in our parish may help children grow in his wisdom, knowledge and faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our beloved dead, and all who have died, may find eternal rest in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious Lord, in your great mercy, turn toward us, and in your great love, answer us, according to your will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, June 26, 2017
(Lec. 371)

- 1) Genesis 12: 1-9
- 2) Matthew 7:1-5

MONDAY OF
12TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of the old law.

In the reading today, Jesus warns against passing judgement on others, and spoke of the detrimental things that can happen if we do so. For one thing, it takes the focus off our call to live as Christ calls us to live. As the fulfillment of the old law, Jesus challenges us to examine our own shortcomings before we point out the faults of others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from the Book of Genesis tells of God's call of Abraham to a land God will show him, and his promise to make of him a great nation. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches us to stop judging others that we may not be judged.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Brothers and sisters, let us bring our needs before God, trusting that he will hear and answer them.

- 1) For bishops and priests who shepherd the Church, may they turn to the Holy Spirit for the grace to continue proclaiming the mercy of God to all peoples and places, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in the world who have yet to believe in the Gospel, may they open their hearts to God's grace and come to place their faith and trust in Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are experiencing difficulty or hardship in their families, may they seek guidance from the Holy Spirit and find peace and reconciliation in bringing their problems to Christ and the Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in this community who are suffering from cancer and other forms of serious illness, may they be assisted by caring health care professionals and comforted by compassionate caregivers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be received into the kingdom of heaven with the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, hear us and answer our petitions. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, June 27, 2017
(Lec. 372)

- 1) Genesis 13:2, 5-18
- 2) Matthew 7:6, 12-14

TUESDAY OF
12TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Cyril of Alexandria,
Bishop and Doctor of the Church)

FOCUS: Jesus challenges us to enter through the narrow gate and follow the path of life.

Jesus tells us in today's Gospel that we must *Enter through the narrow gate*, which is not easy. It requires us to make the choice and commitment to live as a disciple of Jesus, and to practice his teachings in our daily lives. Although these are daunting challenges, we needn't be discouraged. Through daily prayer, the graces of the sacraments, and the Holy Spirit who is ever-present as our helper and advocate, we receive the grace and strength needed to keep our feet planted on *the road that leads to life*.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, as Abram and Lot's people outgrow the land and tension increases among them, Abram seeks to avoid strife and offers Lot the first choice of land to settle. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that we are to strive to enter through the narrow gate because the gate that leads to destruction is wide, and those who pass through it are many.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Calling to mind the burdens and cares that we carry in our hearts, we offer these petitions to our merciful God.

- 1) That the example of Church leaders throughout the world will continue to draw all people together in the love of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That nations and their leaders will use the golden rule as a foundation for treating their neighbors with respect, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who suffer from terminal illness will find comfort in turning to Jesus, who offers the promise and hope of eternal life, and in the compassion of those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all members of our parish will increase their commitment and resolve to work to protect the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our loved ones, and all who have died, may rest in the peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: O God, in your mercy, hear and answer our prayers. For we offer them to you through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Wednesday, June 28, 2017
(Lec. 373)

- 1) Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
- 2) Matthew 7:15-20

WEDNESDAY OF
12TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Irenaeus,
Bishop and Martyr)

FOCUS: Trust in God's promises to his people.

Promises can sound sweet, but unless they are kept, they are shallow and empty. We can trust in God's promises because he has shown us time and time again that what he promises, he delivers. God promised to send us a Savior, and in the fullness of time he sent his son, Jesus, to save and redeem us and offer us the promise and hope of eternal life in heaven.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading today, God establishes the covenant with Abraham, because Abraham has faithfully trusted him. In the Gospel, Jesus warns his disciples of false prophets, who will come amongst them as wolves dressed in sheep's clothing. These false prophets can be known and recognized by the bad fruit they bear.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that God provides for what we most truly need, we confidently offer him our prayers.

- 1) That all members of the Church will continue to grow in holiness and in their commitment to share the Gospel message with others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That world leaders may strive to make decisions based on what is best for the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who have been harmed by violence in any form may find strength and comfort in their faith in Jesus, and may the prayers and outreach of family and friends hasten their recovery, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That members of our parish will heed the Gospel message and serve as examples of honesty and integrity in their neighborhoods and places of work, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died might come to enjoy the fullness of life and love in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Thursday, June 29, 2017
(Lec. 591)

**SAINTS PETER
AND PAUL, APOSTLES
- SOLEMNITY**

- 1) Acts 12:1-11
- 2) 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18
- 3) Matthew 16:13-19

FOCUS: On today's Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, we are challenged to respond more fully to our own call to discipleship.

Jesus questions his disciples about who he is, and he asks us as well: *Who do you say that I am?* Today, if other things in our lives come before God, let us proclaim as Peter did, that truly, Jesus is Lord, and allow him to reign as king of our hearts. Let us also pray each day, and ask the Lord to direct our hearts in his ways of love.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading recalls King Herod arresting members of the early Church to harm them. The second reading exhorts us to turn to the Lord for the strength and grace to persevere in faith and enter into eternal life. In today's Gospel, Peter acknowledges Jesus as the Messiah and Son of the living God, and Jesus gives him the keys of heaven.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Seeking to live more fully and faithfully as disciples of Jesus, let us offer our petitions to our loving Father.

- 1) For our Holy Father and all leaders of the Church, may they continue to be the face of mercy to all who seek God's forgiveness with a sincere heart, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all Christians, may they grow in their commitment to sharing the Gospel and giving witness so many may come to believe and be saved, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are rebuilding their lives after tragedy, disaster or storm, may they be assisted by many helping hands, and find comfort through their faith in Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those discerning a priestly vocation in our parish, that they may follow the example of Saints Peter and Paul, and lay down their lives for the Lord and his will, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, that they may bask in the light of God's love for all eternity in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Friday, June 30, 2017
(Lec. 375)

- 1) Genesis 17:1, 9-10, 15-22
- 2) Matthew 8:1-4

FRIDAY OF
12TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
The First Martyrs
of the Holy Roman Church)

FOCUS: Let us turn to Jesus for healing and forgiveness.

Jesus' healing of the leper in today's Gospel demonstrates his compassion for one who was suffering. While we often turn to Jesus in prayer for healing from physical ailments, let's also ask him for healing and forgiveness when we sin — when we grow lax in our commitment to being his disciples.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the Book of Genesis, God reveals to Abraham how he plans to bring to fulfillment the promises he made to him through the covenant. In the Gospel, Jesus heals a leper who asks to be made clean. Jesus asks him not to tell others, as his time has not yet come.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Grateful for the gifts of new life, healing and salvation that God bestows on us in Christ, let us join in offering our prayers to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) For Church leaders throughout the world, may their example of faithfulness to the Gospel inspire Christians to be more effective witnesses of the Good News, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations and communities, may they work for nonviolent solutions to conflicts and disputes, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who do not yet know God, may they open their hearts and experience the joy and peace of God's love at work in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may we be generous in sharing our gifts of time, talent and treasure within our parish, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they have life everlasting with God in heaven, along with all the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we trust in you and praise your name. Hear our prayers and answer them according to your will. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.

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