

NOVEMBER

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Wednesday, November 1, 2017
(Lec. 667)

- 1) Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14
- 2) 1 John 3:1-3
- 3) Matthew 5:1-12a

**ALL SAINTS
- SOLEMNITY
(Holyday of Obligation)**

FOCUS: Today we honor the saints, the holy men and women who lived and died as faithful disciples of Jesus.

Today's solemnity of All Saints calls us to honor all the saints in heaven. We do this by learning from the example of their lives so we come to a deeper understanding of what it means to live as faithful disciples of Jesus. By asking them to pray and to intercede with God on our behalf, may we grow in holiness and stand steadfast in faith.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from the Book of Revelation presents a mystical and majestic vision of heaven. The second reading reminds us that we are all called *children of God*, a name to cherish. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches his disciples the eight beatitudes.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Having been purchased by the blood of the Lamb, we humbly implore our God to hear our needs.

- 1) For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, may he continue to inspire us by his acts of kindness to all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may they be blessed in their efforts to create communities that are safe, where all citizens are lifted up to the dignity that is rightfully theirs, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, may they find strength, comfort and consolation from Christ's promise of eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the saints in heaven intercede on our behalf so we may continue to grow in our faith and love for Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they come to join all the angels and saints in singing God's praises for all eternity in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Thursday, November 2, 2017
(Lec. 668)

- 1) Wisdom 3:1-9
- 2) Romans 5:5-11
or Romans 6:3-9
- 3) John 6:37-40

Or any readings from no. 668 or from the *Lectionary for Ritual Masses* (vol. IV), the Masses for the Dead, nos. 1011-1016 Pss Prop

**THE COMMEMORATION
OF ALL THE FAITHFUL
DEPARTED
(ALL SOULS' DAY)**

FOCUS: All Souls' Day reminds us of the importance of praying for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed.

Today's feast of All Souls' Day is one in which the Church throughout the world joins together in offering prayers on behalf of the faithful departed who have yet to enter into eternal life in heaven. Aided by our prayers and through God's grace and mercy, may they be cleansed and purified of their sins and come to enter into eternal life in heaven.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells us that the souls of those who lead faithful and holy lives are with God. The second reading reminds us that hope doesn't disappoint because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the power of the Holy Spirit. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that those who place their faith in him will be raised up to eternal life in heaven.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us humbly bring our petitions before the throne of our heavenly Father, with confidence he will hear and answer them.

- 1) For the Church, may she joyously proclaim the Good News of the Gospel through the faithful witness of her members, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may God guide them in enacting just laws and policies which protect the rights of all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who feel rejected or abandoned, may the witness of faithful Christians comfort them and assure them of God's loving presence in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of this faith community, may we be good stewards of our time, talent and treasure for the building up of the kingdom of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rejoice in the presence of the angels and saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, in your mercy hear and answer our prayers according to your most holy and perfect will. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Friday, November 3, 2017
(Lec. 483)

- 1) Romans 9:1-5
- 2) Luke 14:1-6

FRIDAY OF
30TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Martin de Porres,
Religious)

FOCUS: We are called to live according to both the letter and the spirit of the law.

Today's Gospel reminds us that we are to live according to the letter of the law by abiding by the commandments and the teachings of the Church. We are also called to live according to the spirit of the law, which is love of God and neighbor.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of the anguish Paul feels in his heart for his people, the children of Israel, who have refused to believe in Jesus as the promised Messiah and Savior. In the Gospel, Jesus heals a man with dropsy on the Sabbath.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For those who witness to the Gospel as missionaries in the Church, may the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit strengthen them each day, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For areas of the world ravaged by war and violence, may their land be replenished over time to a state of vitality and renewal, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from financial concerns and difficulties, may they come to experience comfort and security, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For each of us, may we be led by the example of Saint Martin de Porres who we remember today, and have the grace needed to be more attentive and responsive to the needs of others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they come to receive a place at the eternal banquet in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, giver of all good gifts, hear and answer our prayers. For we offer them to you through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, November 4, 2017
(Lec. 484)

- 1) Romans 11:1-2a,
11-12, 25-29
- 2) Luke 14:1, 7-11

SATUDAY OF
30TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Charles Borromeo,
Bishop)

FOCUS: The one who humbles himself will be exalted.

The Lord knows the human heart. Sin is universal, and we are all in need of salvation. Rather than think of ourselves as greater than another, we should see ourselves the way the Lord sees us. Let us approach him with humility so he can raise us up.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's reading, Saint Paul writes that the Israelites have stumbled but have not fallen. God honors their covenant. In the Gospel, Jesus tells a parable about seating at a banquet.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Our heavenly Father honors his covenant with his people. With humble hearts, let us now offer the following prayers and petitions.

- 1) For those who serve in the Church, may the Holy Spirit bless them with love and humility as they carry out their work, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those entrusted with the power to change and uphold laws, may they courageously defend the dignity of life in all its stages, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who feel abandoned by God, may they persist in faith in response to his irrevocable gifts and call, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this parish community, may we express God's love in the way we greet visitors and those returning to the Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our faithful departed and all those who have died, may the Lord welcome them into the radiant light of his kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord, your mercy and compassion are never-ending. May our prayers be answered in accordance with your will. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2017

(Lec. 151)

- 1) Malachi 1:14b-2:2b, 8-10
- 2) 1 Thessalonians 2:7b-9, 13
- 3) Matthew 23:1-12

**THIRTY-FIRST
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Preach the Gospel and practice it.

A good leader is not self-seeking, but always has the best interests of his followers at heart. A poor leader thinks only of himself and what he has to gain from his position of authority. Leaders have the power to guide their followers to destruction or prosperity. Jesus is the model servant-leader, humbling himself and serving all.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God sternly warns the priests that their behavior is leading his people astray, and that they must change their ways or risk his wrath. The second reading finds Saint Paul giving thanks that the people to whom he preached have taken the word of God to heart and put it into practice. In the Gospel, Jesus warns the people not to follow their earthly leaders down the path to destruction, but instead to lead lives of humble service to one another.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, you show us the path to life. Trusting in your goodness, we offer our prayers and petitions.

- 1) That leaders of the Church may reflect the truth of the Gospel through their devotion to living according to God's commandments, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That nations trapped in a cycle of violence may experience peace and reconciliation among their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all teachers and catechists may be tireless in their efforts to spread the Gospel message to those whom they instruct, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That we may emulate the many noble saints of the Church as we strive to provide for the needs of those in our parish and community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may enjoy their heavenly reward for lives lived in service to Christ and his Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious and loving God, hear our prayers and continue to lead us along the path of mercy, love and life. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

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Monday, November 6, 2017
(Lec. 485)

- 1) Romans 11:29-36
- 2) Luke 14:12-14

MONDAY OF
31ST WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: We are invited to God's banquet without any expectation of repayment.

How inscrutable are [God's] judgments and how unsearchable his ways! Through the grace and mercy of God, we are offered the gift of salvation. Nothing we do can repay God for this gift, nor is repayment expected. We need to accept the invitation, however, because God alone is the source of life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul explains that both the Gentiles and the Jews received God's mercy, through the disobedience of the other, because God's mercy extends to all. In the Gospel, Jesus instructs his host to invite to his table only those unable to repay him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In wonder and gratitude at the depth of the mercy of our God, we humbly present our needs and the needs of all the world.

- 1) For Pope Francis and the bishops in our Church, may God bless their faithfulness in word and example, and may their work bear much fruit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all judges, may they dispense justice tempered with mercy and understanding, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are separated from the life of the Church, may they be open to the power of the Holy Spirit to bring them home to their faith community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may we be a place of safety and welcome to all fleeing danger or oppression, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rejoice with the heavenly Father, free from all the hardship and pain they experienced on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of mercy, all things are from you and through you and for you. We offer these prayers through Christ, our Lord.

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Tuesday, November 7, 2017
(Lec. 486)

- 1) Romans 12:5-16b
- 2) Luke 14:15-24

TUESDAY OF
31ST WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Sometimes we must put aside our own agenda to answer God's call and to meet the needs of others.

Sometimes, we carefully plan out our day and then become annoyed at interruptions and changes to our plans: phone calls, higher priorities from our family or colleagues, or emergencies. The question becomes: how ready are we to put aside our own plans to answer God's call or meet the needs of others?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Letter to the Romans encourages us not only to fulfill our specific calling – whether as teacher, minister or leader – but also to fulfill our daily call to serve and honor other people. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the wedding feast, where those who are invited refuse the king's invitation, and so the king extends the invitation to all people.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God constantly invites us to serve him and to tend to the needs of his people. We respond now by offering our prayers for those in need.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may they be guided by the Holy Spirit in discerning and sharing the gifts God has given them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who make economic decisions for nations of the world, may they be led in their work by God's call to serve and honor all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who live with illness, weakness or pain, may they feel God standing beside them and sustaining them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For seminarians and young people in our faith community who are considering religious life, may they be affirmed in their response to God's call wherever it may lead, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they forever sing the praises of God with all the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, you gift us with your grace and continually call us to service. Hear the prayers we ask in the name of your son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Wednesday, November 8, 2017
(Lec. 487)

- 1) Romans 13:8-10
- 2) Luke 14:25-33

WEDNESDAY OF
31ST WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Loving one's neighbor is the fulfillment of all of the commandments.

Keeping our focus on Christ by fully loving our neighbors, both close and far, is the fulfillment of all the commandments. However, such a radical commitment to being a disciple of Jesus and caring for others comes with a cost for which we must be prepared. In putting others first, our own desire for wealth or personal gain should be set aside.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In Romans, Paul commands them to love one another, since this fulfills the law. He says the command, *You shall love your neighbor as yourself* sums up all commandments. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus states there is a cost to discipleship, which we must consider before we say we are his followers.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in God, let us turn to him with humility as we offer our prayers today.

- 1) For the Church, may she be a beacon of light and peace to all who seek Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those blessed with authority and charged with solving difficult challenges, may Christ guide them along their path, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For victims of human trafficking and slavery, may they feel the healing touch of Jesus, and find strength in the loving and prayerful support of those who assist them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For married couples in our faith community, may their bond of love and faithfulness toward one another mirror the love that Christ has for his Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may they bask in the light of God's love forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, you call us to follow you, knowing the cost. Please hear and answer our humble prayers today. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

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Thursday, November 9, 2017
(Lec. 671)

- 1) Ezekiel 47: 1-2, 8-9, 12
- 2) 1 Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16-17
- 3) John 2:13-22

**THE DEDICATION
OF THE LATERAN
BASILICA
- FEAST**

FOCUS: The Church is the new dwelling place of God today, as the Temple in Jerusalem was of old.

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, the Cathedral of the Bishop of Rome and mother of all churches in the Latin Rite, has several meanings. As we celebrate its ritual dedication, its bricks and mortar point to the much deeper meaning of the Church as the new dwelling place of God with his chosen people.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Ezekiel uses the image of flowing water from the heart of the Temple to express his hope-filled vision for the future. Paul reminds the Corinthians that they are the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. In the Gospel, Jesus promises to raise up the sanctuary that is destroyed.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God is always faithful to his promises, and invites us to bring before him our needs.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all bishops, may they be strengthened in their common vision and encouraged by our prayers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all nations and peoples, may God open their hearts to the Gospel message of repentance, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are alienated from the Church in some way, may they come to know God's faithful and healing presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish, may we be inspired to share our gifts in building God's kingdom here in our community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they come to share in the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and eternal God, we give you thanks and acclaim your holy name. We ask that you hear the prayers we ask through Christ, our Lord.

Friday, November 10, 2017
(Lec. 489)

- 1) Romans 15:14-21
- 2) Luke 16:1-8

FRIDAY OF
31ST WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Leo the Great,
Pope and Doctor
of the Church)

FOCUS: Each of us is a steward of God's gifts and, like Saint Paul, we are called to be faithful witnesses to the Gospel.

The parable of the dishonest steward is about being urgent with the task at hand and ready for whatever the future holds. Jesus commends the dishonest steward not for being dishonest, but for his ardor and foresight. Saint Paul serves as an example of a good steward through his preaching and teaching.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Paul tells the Romans that he does not speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through him in leading the Gentiles to obedience. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the dishonest steward.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Knowing that God is our loving Father, let us now turn to him with our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For our pope, bishops, and those in leadership positions in the Church, may God bless them in their stewardship of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in civil government, may wisdom guide them to use the power entrusted to them for the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who are sick or suffering, may they know the intimate presence of God with them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may we always use the gifts and abilities that God has given us for his greater glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, especially those who have no one to pray for them, may they now rest with Christ in paradise, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, in your love and mercy hear and answer our prayers and petitions, for we trust that all things can be accomplished through your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Saturday, November 11, 2017
(Lec. 490)

- 1) Romans 16:3-9,
16, 22-27
- 2) Luke 16:9-15

SATURDAY OF
31ST WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Martin of Tours,
Bishop)

FOCUS: Whom do we serve, and how?

A life of service is not a solitary one. We cannot serve God by ourselves or without his grace, nor can we serve one another without cooperation and love. Choosing to surround ourselves with other faithful servants, as Paul does, and being trustworthy in even the smallest aspects of our faith, will help us serve God and one another more faithfully.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Our first reading from Paul's letter to the Romans is a litany of greetings to his beloved coworkers in preaching the Gospel, praising and thanking them for their obedience in faith – all for the glory of God. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus reminds his listeners that no servant can serve two masters – we must choose between God and worldly things.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Striving to live as good and faithful stewards of all that God has entrusted to us, let us now join in offering our prayers for our needs and those of the world to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) For our Holy Father, our bishops and Church leaders, may their bold proclamations of the Gospel inspire all of us to speak out forcefully against the evils which endanger our society, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders throughout the world, may the Holy Spirit strengthen them and give them wisdom as they face the challenges of governing today, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer an illness or sickness of any kind, may their faith in Christ bring them strength, healing and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the men and women of our community who have answered the call to Christian service in so many ways, may they be good stewards of all who pass through their care, and nurture the faith of those with whom they minister, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, in baptism they died with Christ, may they now share in the fullness of his resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God of justice and mercy, answer our prayers according to your holy will. Through Christ, our Lord.

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2017

(Lec. 154)

- 1) Wisdom 6:12-16
- 2) 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
or 4:13-14
- 3) Matthew 25:1-13

**THIRTY-SECOND
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Today, as we hear about the kingdom of heaven, we are reminded to be steadfast in our Christian faith, hope and love.

Jesus uses a parable to teach us about the reality of heaven. He warns us not to become drowsy in our faith, like the virgins who in their foolish lack of preparation bring no oil with them. Instead, Jesus teaches that we are to live in such a way that we are ready to meet the Lord.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading reminds us that wisdom is found by those who desire and seek her. The second reading exhorts us to live buoyed by the hope of eternal life in heaven. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the ten virgins, which reminds us of the importance of staying awake for we do not know the day or hour Jesus will return.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Loving Father, we come to you today with hope in your promises. Hear the prayers we bring to you this day.

- 1) For Pope Francis, bishops, priests and all who teach the faith, that by word and example, they may lead others to a deeper relationship with Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For national leaders, may they turn to God for guidance to enact just laws and policies which serve the good of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, the oppressed, the homebound and the elderly, that they may be cared for with loving compassion and may experience God's love through their caretakers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our community of faith and our greater local community, that we may respond generously to the call of discipleship, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those we love 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, we ask that you hear and answer these prayers, and all those that we hold in the silence of our hearts. Through Christ, our Lord.

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Monday, November 13, 2017
(Lec. 491)

- 1) Wisdom 1:1-7
- 2) Luke 17:1-6

MONDAY OF
32ND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini,
Virgin)

FOCUS: Living as a faithful disciple of Jesus requires having hearts that are ever-willing to forgive.

Today's Gospel reminds us that to live as disciples of Jesus we must have hearts that are ever-willing to forgive. In order to meet this challenge, we must recognize our own faults and ongoing need for God's forgiveness. When we do this, we are freed more and more to be generous in forgiving others as God is infinitely generous in his forgiveness of our sins.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from the Book of Wisdom reminds us of the importance of living justly and seeking the Lord with *integrity of heart*. In the Gospel, Jesus warns us about leading others into sin while at the same time calling us to have hearts that are ever-willing to forgive others.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Humbly recognizing our ongoing need of God's mercy and forgiveness, let us join in offering our prayers to God, our almighty Father.

- 1) For Pope Francis, Vicar of Christ, may he continue to model for us a merciful and forgiving heart, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For judges and lawyers, may they always seek justice over expediency, and truth over rash judgment, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who feel unworthy of God's love and forgiveness, may their hearts be softened and opened to receiving the gift of God's gracious mercy and forgiveness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For penitents and confessors, may the sacrament of reconciliation always be an experience of grace and redemption, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they come to enjoy the fullness of life and love in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of wisdom and mercy, hear the petitions we humbly lay before you this day. Grant us strong and forgiving hearts that we may carry out your will for us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, November 14, 2017
(Lec. 492)

- 1) Wisdom 2:23–3:9
- 2) Luke 17:7-10

TUESDAY OF
32ND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: We are called to be prepared for the return of the Lord Jesus in glory.

We are nearing the end of our liturgical year, when we are reminded that Jesus will return in glory. But will we be ready for his return? In order to be ready, we must hold firmly not to the worries and wants of this world, but to God's love for us – with hearts that are grateful for all he has done for us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from the Book of Wisdom reminds us that all those who place their faith and trust in God shall understand truth and abide with him in love forever in heaven. Today's Gospel reminds us that we should serve God and others with humble and grateful hearts, expecting no reward other than God's most gracious gift of salvation.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, because we know your merciful love knows no bounds and that you will provide for us, we offer you our petitions.

- 1) For the Church, may she be an instrument of peace and hope in our troubled world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For missionaries today, may they find strength and guidance in the example of the missionary work of the early disciples, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For refugees fleeing persecution or conflict throughout the world, may they be welcomed and assisted in their need by committed Christians and people of goodwill, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the sick of our parish, may our prayers and outreach bring them healing and strength, let us pray to the Lord
- 5) For those who have died, may they enjoy perfect happiness, peace, and joy in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, hear and answer our prayers according to your will. For we offer them to you through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, November 15, 2017
(Lec. 493)

- 1) Wisdom 6:1-11
- 2) Luke 17:11-19

WEDNESDAY OF
32ND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Albert the Great,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church)

FOCUS: Listen to God's word in order to grow in wisdom and love.

We are called to learn wisdom, and not sin. How do we do this? *Desire therefore my words*, according to the Book of Wisdom. Studying Scripture, holding fast to a routine of daily prayer and receiving the sacraments will help us hear and understand God's word and keep us firmly planted on the path to salvation.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from the Book of Wisdom offers a stern warning to leaders that they will be held to a very high standard, and be under *rigorous scrutiny* over the use of their authority. Today's Gospel tells of Jesus acting to cure ten lepers of their illness, and how only one of the ten, upon realizing he had been cured, returns to give thanks to Jesus.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Seeking to serve the Lord with humble and grateful hearts, let us join in offering our prayers to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) For Pope Francis, the bishops, priests, and all religious, that God continues to strengthen their devotion to spreading the Gospel message throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may they turn to God for guidance to enact laws and policies that protect and safeguard the dignity and sanctity of all human life from conception until natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are grieving the death of a loved one, may the promise and hope of eternal life bring them comfort and consolation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us gathered here, may we continue to grow in our resolve and commitment to give generously of our time and treasure to assist those who are in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead and all who have died, may they come to enjoy eternal rest and peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we are forever grateful for all you do for us. We thank you for hearing and answering our prayers in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.

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Thursday, November 16, 2017
(Lec. 494)

- 1) Wisdom 7:22b-8:1
- 2) Luke 17:20-25

THURSDAY OF
32ND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Margaret of Scotland;
Saint Gertrude,
Virgin)

FOCUS: The kingdom of God is present in our midst.

Today's Gospel reminds us that the kingdom of God is present in our midst. Just as the Pharisees questioned Jesus about the timing of God's reign on earth, so we, too, can get caught up in details of how or when Jesus will come again. What matters is that God's kingdom is with us now, and we must be mindful and aware of this each and every day.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading reminds us that true wisdom is found in God and in walking in his way of love. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that the kingdom of God is present in and among us in the world.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Seeking to lead lives that help build up God's kingdom on earth, let us join in offering our prayers to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) For the Church, that she may continue to respond to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in order to carry on the mission entrusted to her by Jesus — that of preaching and teaching the Gospel and making disciples of all nations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For people everywhere, that our individual efforts to live in harmony will help to bring about peace and reconciliation among nations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For victims of violence, may they feel the healing touch of Jesus, and find strength in the support of family and community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our faith community who are discerning a vocation to the priesthood or religious life, may we offer them our prayers and support, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they experience the peace and joy of God's heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, hear the prayers we bring to you in faith. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, November 17, 2017
(Lec. 495)

- 1) Wisdom 13:1-9
- 2) Luke 17:26-37

FRIDAY OF
32ND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Elizabeth of Hungary,
Religious)

FOCUS: We must live each day in readiness for the coming of the Son of Man.

While no one knows exactly when Jesus will return in glory, we can still be prepared when he comes. Jesus has told us to prepare, and given us the way to do it: heed his words and follow his example, loving God and neighbor. He also said he would be with us always, so we can call on him for help whenever we need it

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first reading from Wisdom tells us that God can be known by observing the beauty and organization of the world around us. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches, *Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses it will save it.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us offer our petitions to God in the certainty that he hears us and can provide for our needs and the needs of the world.

- 1) That all members of the Church may continue to grow in faith, putting the teachings of Jesus into daily practice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That all who are searching for the truth may have open minds and hearts so they may come to know and experience Jesus, who saves and sets them free, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those 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 each of us may continue to grow in our knowledge and love for the Lord so we may bear a more faithful and effective witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the faithful departed may come to know the fullness of life and love in heaven with all the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

* * *

Saturday, November 18, 2017

(Lec. 496)

1) Wisdom 18:14-16; 19:6-9

2) Luke 18:1-8 or

(Lec. 679)

1) Acts 28:11-16, 30-31

2) Matthew 14:22-33

SATURDAY OF
32ND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

(Opt. Mem.)

The Dedication
of the Basilicas

of Saints Peter and Paul,
Apostles;

Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne,
Virgin;

Saturday in honor of BVM)

FOCUS: God comes among us to free us from sin.

God coming to free his people from slavery in Egypt foreshadowed Jesus liberating us from our sins. As God heard the cries of the Israelites and answered them, so, too, when we diligently pray can we be confident that God will help us in our need. We must be confident in our prayer, and not lose heart.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first reading from Wisdom recalls the great event of God leading his enslaved people to freedom at the Red Sea. In the Gospel, Jesus reminds his disciples to pray continuously with confidence.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Grateful for the abundant graces and blessings God bestows upon us each day, let us join in offering our prayers to God, our almighty Father.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we hear the voice of the Holy Spirit in order to become more sincere and loving witnesses to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our judges and those who work in our justice system, that Christ might enlighten their minds to the true meaning of justice and strengthen their will to carry it out, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the homebound, those in hospitals and those facing life-threatening illnesses, that the Lord might be their constant companion in their need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish, that the Holy Spirit might help us come to a greater friendship with Christ so we may live more faithfully as his disciples, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they come to enjoy eternal life 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 according to your will. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2017

(Lec. 157)

- 1) Proverbs 31:10-13,
19-20, 30-31
- 2) 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6
- 3) Matthew 25:14-30
or 25:14-15, 19-21

**THIRTY-THIRD
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Nearing the end of the liturgical year, our attention turns to our vigilant and prayerful preparation for the return of Christ in glory.

Life is perhaps best described as a journey with a beginning and an end. As we come to the end of another Church year, we are invited to reflect on what is often referred to as the last things — judgment, heaven and hell. But we do so not in fear but in hope, for while our earthly lives will end, the promise of life eternal shines forth in Christ.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from Proverbs reminds us that having a loving and faithful spouse is a gift from God. The second reading exhorts us to be vigilant for the return of Christ. The Gospel tells us we must each give an account of how we have used the gifts God has given us for the greater good of the kingdom.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Grateful for all that God has done for us, let us bring our prayers and petitions before him.

- 1) For the Church, that as the body of Christ in the world, we may proclaim and live out God's justice and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all elected officials in government, may their leadership bring peace to our world and justice to all those in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are sick, may Christ bring healing and comfort to their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those enduring trials and challenges in life, may they come to know the loving presence of God and the support and compassion of this community of faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they come to join the angels and saints in singing God's glory for all eternity in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and eternal Father, we trust that your desire for us is mercy and steadfast love. We make our prayers with confidence and hope, through Christ our Lord.

* * *

Monday, November 20, 2017

(Lec. 497)

1) 1 Maccabees 1:10-15,
41-43, 54-57, 62-63

2) Luke 18:35-43

MONDAY OF
33RD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Jesus cures us of our spiritual blindness so we may live more fully and faithfully as his disciples.

Today's Gospel tells of how a blind man, after being healed by Jesus of his physical blindness, placed his faith in Jesus and became one of his disciples. Similarly, each of us can be hampered in our spiritual sight by distractions and diversions. Let us turn to Jesus each day to cure our spiritual blindness so we live more faithfully as his disciples.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the reading from first Maccabees, many members of the Jewish community are willing to give up their values and beliefs as God's chosen people to be accepted by the Greek conquerors, adapting to their ways even though it means turning their backs on God. Today's Gospel reminds us of our Lord's desire to offer his healing love to all who turn to him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We live in trust and confidence of our Father's desire for our welfare and well-being. Knowing this, we offer him our prayers for our needs and those of the world.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we always hold to the values of our Christian faith and, in doing so, work to bring Christ's peace and compassion to the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may they seek to work together cooperatively to resolve conflicts and disputes nonviolently so peace may reign more fully upon the earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have no access to clean and reliable water or safe and adequate housing, may their needs be met by Christians who commit themselves to bringing the compassionate care of Jesus to those in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For each of us, may we turn to Christ each day to open our eyes so we may see the world more clearly through the eyes of faith and walk in Christ's way of love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they may enjoy the loving embrace of the Lord for all time, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of love, compassion and understanding, we bring these prayers to you confident that you will hear and answer them. Through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, November 21, 2017
(Lec. 498)

- 1) 2 Maccabees 6:18-31
- 2) Luke 19:1-10

TUESDAY OF
33RD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
The Presentation
of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

FOCUS: Jesus came first and foremost to save sinners.

Today's Gospel concludes with Jesus saying that he had come to seek and save what was lost. In other words, Jesus came first and foremost to save sinners. Understanding this, let's make an effort to be grateful for the gifts of God's mercy and forgiveness poured out upon us through Christ. And may we share these gifts generously with others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's reading from Maccabees describes the martyrdom of Eleazar. He chooses death rather than violate holy law. In the Gospel, the tax collector Zacchaeus climbs a tree to see Jesus passing by. Jesus calls him down and says he will stay at the man's house. This inspires Zacchaeus to relinquish half of his possessions and follow Jesus.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Grateful for the gifts of God's grace and mercy poured out upon us through Christ Jesus, let us join in offering our prayers for our needs and those of the world to the Lord.

- 1) For Pope Francis, bishops and all clergy, may they be blessed with the grace and strength needed to continue preaching and teaching the Gospel so many may hear and believe, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who lead nations, may they work tirelessly to find effective ways to bring peace to troubled areas of the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all people facing difficult decisions in life, may they receive the wisdom of the Holy Spirit for guidance and strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For each of us, may we be constant in our striving to love God above all things and go wherever he leads us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they enjoy eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, you sent your Son to seek and to save what was lost. If it be your will, grant us what we ask in the name of Jesus the Lord.

Wednesday, November 22, 2017
(Lec. 499)

- 1) 2 Maccabees 7:1, 20-31
- 2) Luke 19:11-28

WEDNESDAY OF
33RD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Cecilia,
Virgin and Martyr)

FOCUS: Do we lead lives *most admirable and worthy of everlasting remembrance*?

Scripture is full of memorable people – either because their actions were admirable, or because they were anything but. What is admirable – that which is true, good and beautiful – let us do these things. Let us bear trials courageously because our hope is in the Lord. Let us be faithful in small matters and large. Let us love one another.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In our first reading, we hear of a mother, *most admirable and worthy of everlasting remembrance*, who saw seven sons tortured and killed for refusing to act against their faith. In today's Gospel passage, Jesus teaches us about the kingdom of God through the parable of the nobleman and his servants.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that God always listens to our prayers, let us make our needs known to him.

- 1) For Pope Francis, bishops, priests and religious, may they be filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit, and assist the faithful to grow in their faith and love for the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in leadership at all levels, may they consider it their right and duty to protect and serve every member of society, including the weak and most vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from chronic illness, may the healing power of God touch them, and may those who care for them do so with love and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us here, in this community, may we continue to spread the Good News in all that we do at work, in our families and in our daily lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may the Lord welcome them with open arms, and embrace those who mourn for them with consolation and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Creator, guardian of our homes and source of all blessings, hear the prayers we offer for all your people and for the entire world. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, November 23, 2017
(Lec. 500)

- 1) 1 Maccabees 2:15-29
- 2) Luke 19:41-44

THURSDAY OF
33RD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.)

Saint Clement I, Pope and Martyr;
Saint Columban, Abbot;
Blessed Miguel Agustín Pro, Priest and Martyr;
USA: Thanksgiving Day

NOTE: For Thanksgiving Day, any readings from the *Lectionary for Ritual Masses* (vol. IV), the Mass "In Thanksgiving to God," nos. 943-947

FOCUS: Thanking God each day for the blessings he bestows upon us helps us grow in our faith and love for him.

Giving thanks to God each day for the blessings he bestows upon us is essential for growing in our faith and love for God. For in doing so we cultivate an attitude of gratitude within our hearts, which frees us to give of ourselves more generously in love and service to God and our neighbor.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Mattathias refuses to join others in actions that deny the true God, even after being promised to be numbered among the king's friends. Today's Gospel tells of how Jesus, upon drawing near Jerusalem, wept over it saying, *If this day you only knew what makes for peace – but now it is hidden from your eyes.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With hearts that are grateful for the gifts and blessings God bestows upon us each day, let us join in offering him our prayers for our needs and concerns.

- 1) That all members of the Church may recognize that all we have is a gift from God, and give generously of ourselves in love and service to God and our neighbor, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That government leaders will seek to enact laws and policies that work to ensure that no one is left homeless or hungry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who feel isolated and alone may be reassured of God's love and care for them through the outreach of caring and committed Christians, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That each of us may seek to live as good stewards of all that God has entrusted to us by giving generously of our time, treasure and talent, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our beloved dead, and all those who have died, may receive a place at the eternal banquet in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

Friday, November 24, 2017
(Lec. 501)

- 1) 1 Maccabees 4:36-37, 52-59
- 2) Luke 19:45-48

FRIDAY OF
33RD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Andrew Dung-Lac,
Priest,
and Companions,
Martyrs)

FOCUS: *My house shall be a house of prayer.*

In the Old Testament, prophets focused on Israel as a chosen people. Therefore, they cried out for renunciation of sin and a return to holiness. Jesus' prophetic work centers itself in reconciling people to God through his death and resurrection. Offering himself in this way is the definitive sign of perfect love.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Judas Maccabaeus and his brothers fight a war against the abuse of religion. After winning the war, they purify and dedicate the Temple. In the Gospel, Jesus enters the Temple area and drives out those who were selling things, saying, *It is written, My house shall be a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Most merciful Father, we come before you this day and humbly offer our prayers.

- 1) That all members of the Church who devote their lives to prayer and humble service may see their efforts bear the good fruit of peace and love in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That public authorities may govern with the spirit of servant leadership in keeping with the example of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who feel overburdened by physical hardship may be uplifted by the strength of God's grace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That each of us will set aside time to pray each day so we may continue to grow in our faith in God, and give a more faithful and effective witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may share in the joys of the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, hear and answer our prayers according to your will. For we offer them to you through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, November 25, 2017
(Lec. 502)

- 1) 1 Maccabees 6:1-13
- 2) Luke 20:27-40

SATURDAY OF
33RD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Catherine of Alexandria,
Virgin and Martyr;
Saturday in honor of
BVM)

FOCUS: Eternal life in heaven surpasses anything that we could dream or imagine.

Today's Gospel reminds us of the discontinuity between the expectations of the Jewish leaders of the day, and the kingdom of God as proclaimed by Jesus. The Sadducees were focused on the laws of earthly marriage, and Jesus is speaking of eternal life in heaven. If we stay true to the teachings of Jesus and persevere in faith, we will come to share in this great gift.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of how King Antiochus became sick with grief upon learning that his evil designs had failed him. In the Gospel from Luke, Jesus teaches that eternal life in heaven transcends life on earth.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) That all the faithful may continue to grow in their commitment to living as intentional disciples of Jesus, and sharing the Good News with others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the people of the world may seek to work together cooperatively to ensure that earth's natural resources are used for the good of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who suffer as a result of mental illness may receive the help and support needed to heal and recover, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That each of us may continue to grow in our commitment to assisting those who are hungry or homeless in our midst, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may come to enjoy eternal life 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 please grant them in accord with your holy will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2017

(Lec. 160)

- 1) Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17
- 2) 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28
- 3) Matthew 25:31-46

**OUR LORD
JESUS CHRIST,
KING OF THE
UNIVERSE
- SOLEMNITY**

FOCUS: Jesus is the King of the Universe and Lord of all creation.

Today's Solemnity of Christ the King lauds Jesus as the King of the Universe and Lord of all creation. Through his death on the cross, rising from the dead and ascension into heaven, he won our salvation and opened the way to eternal life. So in gratitude for all that Jesus has done for us, may we give of ourselves more fully in love and service to others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading reminds us that God looks after his flock with tenderness – the lost are brought back, the injured are bound and the sick are healed. The second reading describes the kingship of Jesus as being the one who reigns over all. Today's Gospel parable exhorts us to care for those who are in need so that we might be judged worthy of eternal life.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Striving always to be open to Jesus so he might become more and more the Lord and ruler of our lives, let us join in offering our prayers to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we resolve to be open to Jesus so he may become more and more each day the King and ruler of our lives and hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may they imitate the kingship of Christ, which is characterized by service and charity, and so bring about a more just and peaceful society, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are suffering from any kind of spiritual, physical or emotional illness, may they turn to God for strength, solace and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of this faith community, may we share the fruits of the Spirit – peace, gentleness and joy – with one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead and all who have died, may they come to join the saints and angels in singing God's praises for all eternity in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, look kindly upon the requests which we humbly bring before you, and grant them according to your holy will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, November 27, 2017
(Lec. 503)

- 1) Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20,
- 2) Luke 21:1-4

MONDAY OF
34TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Let us resolve to give ourselves generously to God and neighbor.

The widow in today's Gospel gave everything she had to contribute to the Temple. She did not give from her surplus, but instead *offered her whole livelihood*. Let us resolve to give our all to God and seek to serve him more completely and fully.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells how Daniel and his companions refuse to eat any food from the king's table that would defile them. Instead, they ate only vegetables, grew strong and rose to positions of prominence within the king's court. In the Gospel, Jesus lauds the poor widow. By giving two small coins, she has offered her whole livelihood.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) That all the faithful may give generously of their time, talent and treasure to further the work and mission of the Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That Christians everywhere may shine brightly the light of Jesus' love to dispel the darkness of our world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who suffer persecution for their religious beliefs may draw strength from the lives of the saints who walked before them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That each of us will recognize that all we have is a gift from God and pour ourselves out more fully in love and service to God and our neighbor, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the faithful departed may come to receive the promised reward of eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God, you are our refuge and our hope. We ask that you hear and answer our prayers, through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, November 28, 2017
(Lec. 504)

- 1) Daniel 2:31-45
- 2) Luke 21:5-11

TUESDAY OF
34TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Since we do not know the day or the hour when Jesus will return, we must be ready always.

Throughout history and up until today, many people continue to be fascinated with trying to predict when the end of the world will come – only to be wrong time and again. May we resist the temptation to focus on questions to which God alone has the answer. Instead, let us examine how we are living right now and ensure we are being faithful to God each and every day.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of how Daniel interprets the first of King Nebuchadnezzar's dreams. God provides Daniel with the words he needs. In the Gospel, Jesus reminds us that suffering, strife and hardship will continue in the world until he returns in glory to fully establish God's kingdom on earth.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) That all members of the Church may answer the call to evangelization and make known to the world the salvation that Jesus offers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the rulers of nations may work to promote a culture of life that protects the dignity and sanctity of life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who have been uprooted from their homes because of famine, war or political unrest may be blessed with places of safety and refuge, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That those of us gathered here may recognize that each day is a precious gift from God, and strive to live in a way that bears good fruit for him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died come to know perfect happiness, joy and peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Glorious God, you have sent your Son to save and redeem us. Hear our prayers and grant us the grace needed to lead lives which sing your praises. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, November 29, 2017
(Lec. 505)

- 1) Daniel 5:1-6, 13-14,
16-17, 23-28
- 2) Luke 21:12-19

WEDNESDAY OF
34TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Let us be prepared to be Jesus' disciples each day, even in the face of opposition.

How many of us would willingly choose persecution? Being imprisoned and called on to defend the name of Jesus in front of civil authorities may not be our preference, but Jesus promises powerful wisdom. It may be God's plan to use us to help bring salvation to these leaders. Let us be willing to be God's servants each and every day.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, King Belshazzar desecrates the gold and silver vessels of the Temple; Daniel translates the words a finger writes on the wall foretelling the collapse of the kingdom. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus prepares his followers for persecution, exhorting them to persevere.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we place our trust in God and rely on his mercy, let us lift up in prayer our needs, and those of the world.

- 1) For young people in our Church, may they generously respond to God's call to the priesthood and religious life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may they work to protect the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception until natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For protection for those facing persecution for their Christian faith, may the Lord grant them courage and strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may we turn to Jesus each day for the grace and strength needed to give a confident and courageous witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they come to join the company of all the angels and saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father in heaven, who is all good and deserving of our love, hear and answer our prayers which we offer you through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, November 30, 2017
(Lec. 684)

- 1) Romans 10:9-18
- 2) Matthew 4:18-22

**SAINT ANDREW,
APOSTLE
- FEAST**

FOCUS: Jesus calls each of us to lead lives of faithful discipleship.

Today's Gospel tells of how the first Apostles left everything behind to respond to Jesus' call to discipleship. Similarly, Jesus calls us each day to lead lives of faithful discipleship. May we strive to let go of anything which holds us back from loving and serving him with whole and undivided hearts.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading reminds us that Jesus is the Lord of all, enriching and blessing all those who place their faith and trust in him. In today's Gospel Jesus, while walking by the Sea of Galilee, calls Andrew and Peter, who were fishermen, to be his disciples by saying, *Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Striving to live as faithful disciples of Jesus, let us join in offering our prayers to God, who lovingly watches over us and provides for what we most truly need.

- 1) For Pope Francis, our bishops, clergy and lay leaders, may they continue to challenge us and lead us in the ways of holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may they work together cooperatively to find nonviolent solutions to conflicts and disputes, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are experiencing sorrow at the loss of a loved one, may the promise of eternal life bring them hope, comfort and consolation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the sick of our parish, may our prayers and outreach bring them strength and solace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they come to experience the fullness of life and love in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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