

OCTOBER

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2017

(Lec. 136)

- 1) Ezekiel 18:25-28
- 2) Philippians 2:1-11 or 2:1-5
- 3) Matthew 21:28-32

**TWENTY-SIXTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Jesus teaches us that God, who is Mercy, desires our obedience in word and deed.

Today's readings speak of our freedom to choose obedience or disobedience to God, and of the very real effects of our choices. God's love for us is such that while he desires our union with him, he allows us to respond to his love as we choose.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Ezekiel writes of the choice of each person to turn toward or away from virtue, and toward or away from wickedness. In this way, we choose life or death. Paul's letter to the Philippians encourages us to be united in heart and mind, and to act selflessly. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the two sons — one who is initially disobedient but ultimately chooses obedience to the father, and the other son who claims obedience but does not fulfil the will of the father.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in our merciful Father who hears our prayers and desires our obedience, we bring our prayers to him.

- 1) For the Holy Father and for all who teach the faith, may their obedience to God lead us all to holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our elected officials, may they lead with the virtues of humility and selflessness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, the oppressed and the marginalized, may they experience the peace of Christ through the tender compassion of others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our local community, may our daily choices always be away from wickedness and sin, and toward virtue and obedience, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they be welcomed into the fullness of the Eternal Banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, trusting that you know our hearts and our desires, we ask that you hear and answer our prayers, which we bring to you in your Son's holy name.

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Monday, October 2, 2017

(Lec. 455)

1) Zechariah 8:1-8

(Lec. 650)

2) Matthew 18:1-5, 10

MONDAY OF

26TH WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(OBL MEM

The Holy Guardian Angels)

FOCUS: Whoever humbles himself like a child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Children are among the most vulnerable members of society. They must rely completely on their parents. Today's Gospel teaches us that we must humble ourselves and approach the Lord as children, with complete trust and dependence. God protects us as only a loving Father can, and allows us to share in his kingdom.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In Zechariah's prophecy in the first reading, the Lord promises to rescue his people and bring them back to Jerusalem. They will be his people, and he will be their God. Matthew's Gospel begins with the disciples' question about rank. Jesus places a small child in their midst and says, *Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in our Father's mercy and protection, let us pray for the needs of the assembly, the Church and the world.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we reveal Christ's presence in the world by the ways in which we care for those who are most vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who hold positions of power, may they act with wisdom and justice as they address problems and conflicts among their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For children, especially those growing up without the guiding love of a parent, may angels guard and protect them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our parish preparing for sacraments, may they be strengthened by the Spirit and encouraged by the faith of our community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our faithful departed, may they bask in the perpetual light of our Father's love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we trust in your mercy and protection. Be with us as we establish Christ's kingdom here on earth. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Tuesday, October 3, 2017
(Lec. 456)

- 1) Zechariah 8:20-23
- 2) Luke 9:51-56

TUESDAY OF
26TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: As God's people, let us always be welcoming to others.

The two-fold lesson in today's Gospel is that we should be welcoming people, and when we ourselves are not welcomed, it is no cause for us to bring harm to others. It is as challenging today as it was in the time of Christ to live the Gospel as he taught us to live it. Let us seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to keep us on the path of life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The reading from Zechariah speaks of a gathering of people from many nations who will seek and ask favor of the Lord. In the Gospel of Luke, we hear about the inhospitality of the Samaritans, and learn a lesson from Jesus about how to treat those who do not treat us well.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us recall the loving mercy of God as we turn to him with all our needs.

- 1) That men and women of the Church may boldly live the Gospel as Jesus taught, with love for their neighbor, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That those who aspire to hold public office may recognize their responsibility to serve the needs of the people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who struggle with doubt in their faith lives may be open to hearing the witness of those who seek to spread the Good News, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all of us gathered here may rely on the grace of the Holy Spirit to keep us faithful to our calling to be Christ-like in word and deed, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may rest in eternal peace with God in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, hear and answer the prayers of your children, strengthening us for the work we are called to do. We ask this in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.

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Wednesday, October 4, 2017
(Lec. 457)

- 1) Nehemiah 2:1-8
- 2) Luke 9:57-62

WEDNESDAY OF
26TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Francis of Assisi)

FOCUS: Sacrificing for the sake of others is what the followers of Jesus do.

For those who do not know Jesus and his teachings, sacrifice seems like a negative thing. For those who do know Jesus and try to follow him, sacrifice becomes a way of life. Others come first, ego is muffled, God is recognized as the giver of all good things, and earth's rewards are fleeting. What a strange and wonderful way to live!

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Nehemiah speaks to the king about his desire to rebuild the city of Jerusalem, in the land of his ancestors. In the Gospel, Jesus makes it clear there are sacrifices required of those who truly want to follow him. He says, *No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us stand together and place our needs and the needs of the world before the Father, trusting in his loving providence.

- 1) That the Church may grow in its ability to serve the needs of those who choose to follow Jesus, recognizing the sacrifices they make for the sake of God's kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That business and industry leaders may act with fairness and integrity for the benefit of their workers and the wider community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who have had to flee their homelands because of war or unrest may look to God for help and comfort as they work to rebuild their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the members of this faith community may recognize God's empowering grace in the sacrifices made to help build up God's kingdom on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may they enjoy perfect peace and joy with all the saints and angels, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, hear our petitions and grant what is consistent with your will. We ask these and all things through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Thursday, October 5, 2017
(Lec. 458)

- 1) Nehemiah 8:1-4a,
5-6, 7b-12
- 2) Luke 10: 1-12

THURSDAY OF
26TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.)

Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos,
Priest)

FOCUS: One of the joys of discipleship is trusting that God will provide for us.

Discipleship comes with a heavy responsibility. However, with faith in God, the calling is one of joy since we can be assured that God will provide for our needs. Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, whom we honor today, knew this trust and responded to God's call to travel far from his home in Germany to minister to the needs of German immigrants in the United States.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading from Nehemiah, Ezra instructs the Hebrew people in the Law of God, in an assembly following their return from exile. Then, together with Nehemiah, he informs them that this is to be a time of joy and celebration. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus dispatches his disciples, without any provisions, to preach to the surrounding areas. He instructs them on how to respond to their reception.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us now turn to our heavenly Father, who lovingly helps us in our need.

- 1) For the Church and her leaders, may their trust in God and their joyful response to God's call to discipleship be an example to everyone, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may they work to bring justice and peace to their nations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the lonely, especially the homebound and those in nursing homes, may they know the love of God through our care for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our community, may we joyfully respond to the call to discipleship and work to serve our brothers and sisters, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may they enjoy the rewards of eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and eternal God, please hear our prayers, both spoken here and in the silence of our hearts. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, October 6, 2017
(Lec. 459)

- 1 Baruch 1:15-22
- 2) Luke 10:13-16

FRIDAY OF
26TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Bruno,
Priest;
Blessed Marie Rose Durocher,
Virgin)

FOCUS: Are we ready to listen, and follow, as God speaks to us?

Living with others would be more rewarding if we were better at listening and taking to heart what others have to say. Listening with our heart as well as our head does not come naturally. It is a skill we must learn, and one that is essential to our spiritual well-being. If we can listen to others, we can listen to God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Our reading from the prophet Baruch takes place during a period of exile. The prophet expresses the repentant nature of the people who have strayed from the word of God. In today's Gospel passage, Jesus describes the severe judgment that will result for those who hear his word yet choose to reject it.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust in God's love for us, let us offer our petitions to our merciful Father.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all who shepherd our Church, may they be blessed with the strength and wisdom to be heralds of God's message in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For governments throughout the world, may wisdom guide their decision-makers toward peace among nations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all human life, especially the most vulnerable, may God's word inspire each of us to work to defend its sanctity from the moment of conception to natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those without hope in our faith community, may the compassionate care of fellow parishioners and community members lead them to experience the loving hand of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they come to share in the fullness of Christ's glory in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, in faith we offer these and other prayers knowing that you hear us and will show us your mercy. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your son.

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Saturday, October 7, 2017
(Lec. 460)

- 1) Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29
- 2) Luke 10:17-24

SATURDAY OF
26TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Our Lady of the Rosary)

FOCUS: Mary, the Mother of God, helps us welcome within ourselves the grace of the mysteries of Christ's life.

From the Annunciation to Pentecost, Mary is a woman completely open to the will of God. Her obedient faith shapes her life. When we pray the rosary with this same faith, Mary helps us focus on the meaning of Christ in our own lives. With such a foundation, peace and reconciliation permeate our relationships and our world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Baruch names the infidelities of Israel, then invites people to reform their lives and repent. In the Gospel, Christ speaks about discipleship, which is centered on bringing forth the reign of God. He gives thanks to his heavenly Father because the disciples have grasped this message.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Gracious God, we humbly come before you and ask you to hear our prayers.

- 1) That Pope Francis and our bishops may be strengthened by God's grace as they work to promote peace throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That civil authorities entrusted with policy-making may always seek the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are alienated from loved ones and family may seek ways of reconciling and be healed, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That our faith community may experience the fruits of the rosary as a powerful form of prayer, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our beloved dead may rest in the peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious Father, we ask you to grant our prayers in the name of Jesus, your son.

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2017

(Lec. 139)

- 1) Isaiah 5:1-7
- 2) Philippians 4:6-9
- 3) Matthew 21:33-43

**TWENTY-SEVENTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: The God of peace is with us.

By God's grace, modern medicine and science have made great strides in helping people deal with anxiety. Today, we are encouraged to know that being grounded in a good prayer life can also go a long way toward lessening the anxieties that disrupt the quiet of our hearts.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah uses the beautiful image of the vineyard in describing the people of Israel. It takes work to have a good harvest, just as it takes work to remain faithful to the Lord. In the second reading, Saint Paul encourages us to turn our anxieties over to the God of peace. In the Gospel, Jesus also uses the image of the vineyard, saying that the vineyard – the kingdom of God – is for those who will produce its fruit.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let our hearts be still as we place our needs before our heavenly Father.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all Church leaders, may they guide us in living honorable and just lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civil authorities, may they govern with noble purpose and selfless hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all of us who have anxious moments in our lives, may we have the strength to give them over to the quietness of God's love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For men and women in our diocese discerning priesthood or religious life, may they be open to hearing God's call, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they experience the joys of the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of peace, hear our prayers of petition this day and ease the world's anxiousness and anger, that we may know calmness of heart. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, October 9, 2017
(Lec. 461)

- 1) Jonah 1:1–2:2, 11
- 2) Luke 10:25-37

MONDAY OF
27TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Denis,
Bishop,
and Companions,
Martyrs;
Saint John Leonardi,
Priest)

FOCUS: Let us be open to what the Lord is calling us to.

We have an inner voice that encourages us to accomplish things we may find difficult. That same voice can call us to be compassionate. That inner voice, or conscience, is one way the Lord speaks to us. We can flee from his voice as Jonah did initially, or be open to it as we see in the Gospel.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading concerns the initial flight of Jonah from what the Lord has called him to, and how he finally obeys. In the Gospel, Jesus answers the young scholar's question regarding what he should do to inherit eternal life, and presents the parable of the Good Samaritan as an example.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust in his loving mercy, let us present our petitions to our heavenly Father.

- 1) That all Church leaders may, through their example of faithful obedience to God's word, encourage and empower us to be compassionate and helpful to those in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That world leaders may seek opportunities of reconciliation and goodwill between nations, striving to create a more peaceful world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who suffer from mental distress or depression may find hope through the grace of the Holy Spirit, and from those who prayerfully offer their help, let us pray to the Lord
- 4) That we as a faith community may seek and listen to the Lord's guidance in choosing where to spend our time, talent and treasure, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our deceased friends and relatives may experience joy and be fed at the eternal banquet of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: We ask you, Father, to hear our prayers in the name of Jesus, your son.

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Tuesday, October 10, 2017
(Lec. 462)

- 1) Jonah 3:1-10
- 2) Luke 10:38-42

TUESDAY OF
27TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: *Be still and know that I am God.*

The busyness of our lives can be overwhelming, and we often feel stress because of our many responsibilities. Relying on God in prayer is essential in these times, for he helps us balance our necessary activity with moments of quiet – moments where we sit at his feet, listening to his word. At these moments, we can be still, and know he is God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading from Jonah, God instructs Jonah to warn the people of the great city of Nineveh that it will be destroyed, unless they repent. The king and people repent, saving the city. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus enters a village and is served by Martha. Meanwhile, Mary sits at his feet, simply listening.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Seeking to walk in the way of the Lord, let us join in offering our prayers to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) For the Church, the members of the mystical body of Christ, may we continue to reveal God's mercy and compassion to those who doubt it, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all leaders of nations and communities, may they strive to be good stewards of all creation and the resources God has given us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering from illness or pain, may God in his tenderness and compassion remain close to strengthen and uplift them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of believers baptized into Christ, may we always welcome the stranger and be generous to those in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For family members who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith, may they now share in the eternal life of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Wednesday, October 11, 2017
(Lec. 463)

- 1) Jonah 4:1-11
- 2) Luke 11:1-4

WEDNESDAY OF
27TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint John XXIII,
Pope)

FOCUS: Let us forgive one another as our Father forgives us.

Perhaps one of the most challenging tasks Jesus asks of us is forgiveness. We tend to approach people and situations by our standards of human justice. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus reminds us to seek the Lord's forgiveness as we forgive those in debt to us. Let us extend our Father's mercy to people in our lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Jonah is angry with the Lord for not punishing Nineveh. The Lord provides a plant to shade the prophet's head, then sends a worm to destroy it. He compares Jonah's concern over the plant to his concern over the city. In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches his disciples to pray by giving them the Lord's Prayer.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Jesus teaches us to turn to the Lord in prayer. Let us now offer him the following prayers and petitions.

- 1) For the Church, may we continue to imitate the love and mercy Christ models for us in the way we treat others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who work to feed the people of the world, may their fields be fertile and their crops produce an abundant harvest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those overwhelmed by addiction, may they work toward recovery through the power of prayer and the compassion of those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those preparing for the sacrament of reconciliation, may they experience the joy of our Father's love in seeking his forgiveness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our faithful departed, may they be raised to new life through our Lord's love and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we approach you with humble hearts. Look favorably on our prayers as we prepare for the coming of your kingdom. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Thursday, October 12, 2017
(Lec. 464)

- 1) Malachi 3:13-20b
- 2) Luke 11:5-13

THURSDAY OF
27TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God lifts up the lowly who are faithful to him and seek his aid in prayer.

Pride and humility have been at war with one another since the original sin of Adam and Eve. Today's readings praise the humble who follow God's law and approach him confidently in prayer, while giving warnings to the proud who reject God and his statutes.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading the prophet Malachi, speaking for God, praises the humble who follow the law of the Lord and warns the wicked. Jesus, in today's Gospel from Luke, encourages his disciples to be confident in prayer, knowing that God will supply all of their needs.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With Jesus' words about prayer from today's Gospel echoing in our ears, let us turn confidently to the Father with our needs.

- 1) For the Church, may the grace of the Holy Spirit enable her to become an ever more convincing witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our civic leaders, may Christ strengthen their conviction to seek justice for all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For believers around the world whose religious liberty is threatened, may God uphold them, and their freedom, in their need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish, may the Holy Spirit help us grow in love for one another and in our commitment to service in the broader community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may God fill them with his holiness this day and so welcome them into paradise, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, when we knock at your door in our need, you welcome us as your loving children and shower us with your providence. We give you thanks for answering our prayers this day, through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, October 13, 2017
(Lec. 465)

- 1) Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2
- 2) Luke 11:15-26

FRIDAY OF
27TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Let us always approach our merciful God with trust and humility.

Throughout the Old Testament, in the psalms and words of the prophets, we are told the Lord is merciful. Thus, our own personal laments should recall our mistakes and call on the mercy of God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Joel has a message for us today – to remember the times we have failed to trust God and follow his way, and to repent and return to God. Luke’s Gospel echoes Joel’s words in a plea to follow God – the God of all creation – through his son, Jesus Christ.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we look to you today for forgiveness, guidance and mercy as we bring you our petitions.

- 1) For the Church, may her leaders continue to serve as beacons of hope to people everywhere who seek the way of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civil servants, may their work be blessed and may they bring benefit to the people they are called to serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For refugees, immigrants and all those who are fleeing the dire circumstances of war and civil unrest throughout the world, may they reach places of safety and welcome, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may we strive to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to others through our words and actions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in Christ, may they have eternal rest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we ask for your loving mercy and guidance as we strive to follow in your ways. Through Christ our Lord,

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Saturday, October 14, 2017
(Lec. 466)

- 1) Joel 4:12-21
- 2) Luke 11:27-28

SATURDAY OF
27TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Callistus I,
Pope and Martyr;
Saturday in honor of BVM)

FOCUS: Blessed are those who hear God's word and observe it.

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives us a message: listen to the voice of God and follow it. The path of true discipleship is not an easy one. It requires prayer and sacrifice. Let's strive today to ensure our actions and words proclaim our devotion to God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading from the prophet Joel, the Lord sits in judgment on Judah's neighboring nations because of violence done to the people of Judah. Joel proclaims that Jerusalem will abide forever. In the Gospel, Jesus dismisses the woman who blesses the womb that bore him, saying instead that all who hear God's word and observe it are blessed.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Striving always to hear the word of God and also to observe it, we come before our Lord with our needs and the needs of the whole world.

- 1) That we, the Church, may be vibrant, strong and faithful in our example and our commitment to share the word of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That nations may be peaceful neighbors to one another, never more shedding innocent blood, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all parents, especially those with young children, may be given the support they need to guide their children in the ways of love and integrity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That this community of faith may be a place of welcome to all, so that no one who enters leaves a stranger, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our beloved dead may forever dwell with the angels and saints on God's holy mountain, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Glorious God, blessed are those who put their trust in you. Be gracious to your people, we pray, and answer our prayers as is your will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2017

(Lec. 142)

- 1) Isaiah 25:6-10a
- 2) Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20
- 3) Matthew 22:1-14 or
22:1-10

**TWENTY-EIGHTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: We must be prepared to heed God's loving call.

Today's readings provide both comfort and challenge. We are reminded that God is gracious and merciful, forgiving our sins and providing for our needs. But we must actively listen for his call and heed it when it comes, lest we be unprepared to enter the heavenly kingdom and join in the eternal wedding feast.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Isaiah celebrates the generous and merciful nature of God, who blesses his people with an abundance of good gifts and saves them from sin and death. In the second reading from Philippians, Saint Paul teaches that it is through our faith in Jesus that we draw strength. The Gospel parable finds a king inviting guests to his son's wedding banquet, only to realize that most are not fit to join the celebration.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God provides for our every need. Let us place our petitions before him, trusting in his love and mercy.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all the clergy, may they reflect God's love and mercy in their service to all entrusted to their care, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all local and world leaders, may they not be self-seeking, but instead seek to serve those most in need in their cities and communities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick and elderly in nursing homes, may they be given the care, attention and respect they deserve as God's sons and daughters, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the unborn and the terminally ill, during this month in which the Church observes respect for all life, from conception to natural death, may we strive to promote the Gospel of Life in our families and communities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they enjoy the eternal wedding feast in the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we rejoice in your saving power. Graciously hear and answer these prayers that we offer in the name of Jesus, your son.

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Monday, October 16, 2017
(Lec. 467)

- 1) Romans 1:1-7
- 2) Luke 11:29-32

MONDAY OF
28TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Hedwig,
Religious;
Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque,
Virgin)

FOCUS: Let us follow Jesus on his terms.

Just as the crowd wanted a sign from Jesus, people today demand proof – often a convenient excuse for unbelief. It seems we will follow Jesus, but only on our terms. Yet Jesus, himself, who died and rose for us, is our sign. The Ninevites heard the preaching of Jonah and repented. Are we willing to turn from sin and follow Jesus on his terms?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Paul addresses the community in Rome, and reminds them they are called, by God's grace, to be holy apostles. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus informs the crowd looking for a sign that they will be given only the sign of Jonah – that he himself is their sign.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As followers of Christ we are called to be holy and set apart for God. Trusting in God's love, let us join in presenting our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ, that in following the promptings of the Holy Spirit we may lead many souls to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may their hearts be swayed by God's law to respect life and lead with truth and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who struggle with depression and chronic disease, may they find courage and hope in the healing power of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may we be a loving sign to others, always pointing the way to Christ by our words and actions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died in faith, may they see God's face in glory and enjoy eternal rest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, we trust in your abundant love. Please hear and answer our prayers in your wisdom. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

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Tuesday, October 17, 2017
(Lec. 468)

- 1) Romans 1:16-25
- 2) Luke 11:37-41

TUESDAY OF
28TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Ignatius of Antioch,
Bishop and Martyr)

FOCUS: We are called to live in the truth.

As we see in today's Gospel, Jesus hated hypocrisy, and encouraged his followers to be kind to one another. External gestures are meaningless unless we have generosity of spirit and a genuine love for others. And our actions must attest to the greatness of our God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading reminds us that we are to worship the Creator, not the things he created. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches about hypocrisy, particularly in religious practices. He uses as an example the Pharisees' practice of ritually cleansing hands and dishes while holding evil in their hearts.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together, let us bring our petitions to the Father, confident of his loving care for us.

- 1) For all Church leaders, may they have the grace to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and show mercy and love to those in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civil and government leaders, may they work for the betterment of those they serve, and strive to protect the human dignity of all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those lost in the pursuit of wealth and possessions, may they open themselves to the Gospel message and see God as the rightful focus of their worship, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us gathered here, may we be conscious of our call to carry the teachings of Jesus into our everyday lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have passed on from this earthly life, may they live forever in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Holy God, we offer these petitions to you in faith and love. We ask that you grant them, as we pray in the name of Jesus the Lord.

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Wednesday, October 18, 2017
(Lec. 661)

- 1) 2 Timothy 4:10-17b
- 2) Luke 10:1-9

**SAINT LUKE,
EVANGELIST
- FEAST**

FOCUS: Like Saint Luke, we are called to bear witness to Jesus.

Today we celebrate one of the four evangelists whose Gospel is included in the canon of Scripture. Yet every Christian is called to be an evangelist. Like Saint Luke, we are called to bear witness to Christ – to be ready to share his message of God’s mercy and salvation. We are called to be faithful to the work God has called us to do.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Paul refers to Luke as a faithful companion in the journey and mission to proclaim the Gospel. In Luke’s Gospel, we hear how Jesus sent his disciples out in pairs, directing them to share his peace and proclaim the Gospel with those they encountered.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the guidance of the Holy Spirit, let us offer our petitions to our heavenly Father.

- 1) For all Christians, may we, like Saint Luke, be courageous and faithful in bearing witness to Christ in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all nations and peoples, may they come to realize that Christ has paid the ransom for their sins and so live in the freedom and peace of God’s children, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who grieve or despair in body or spirit, may their weeping be turned into rejoicing and their suffering give rise to hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of this faith community, may we work to restore relationships that are broken in our families and communities, seeking to bring reconciliation and forgiveness to all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they come to share in the heavenly kingdom with all who have been faithful to the Gospel and have died in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious Father, like Saint Luke and the other evangelists who heard your call, we offer our prayers in the name of Christ, our Lord.

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Thursday, October 19, 2017
(Lec. 470)

- 1) Romans 3:21-30
- 2) Luke 11:47-54

THURSDAY OF
28TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saints John de Brebeuf
and Isaac Jogues,
Priests,
and companions,
Martyrs)

FOCUS: We enter into a right and true relationship with God through faith in Christ.

In the New Testament, the Greek words for faith and belief occur nearly five hundred times. Saint Thomas Aquinas says, "In faith, the human intellect and will cooperate with divine grace." We do not simply believe *that* God is; we have faith *in* God and in his son, Jesus Christ, and that faith has an impact on how we live our daily lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Paul tells his readers that while all humans have sinned, God has made it possible for them to regain a right relationship with him through faith in Christ. In the Gospel, Jesus has harsh words for the Pharisees and scholars of the law because they are hypocrites. Their hostility toward him increases.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Mindful of our own needs, and those of our brothers and sisters, we ask our loving Father to hear our prayers.

- 1) That Pope Francis's proclamation of the faith may be heard and understood by all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the leadership of those who work in government may serve to enhance the dignity and freedom of all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all people throughout the world who are persecuted for their faith may be given the strength they need to live the Christian message, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That we in this faith community may rely on the grace of the Holy Spirit to keep us faithful to our calling to be Christ-like in our thoughts and actions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our beloved dead may abide in God's love for all eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father we ask you to hear and answer our prayers according to your will. Through Christ, our Lord.

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Friday, October 20, 2017
(Lec. 471)

- 1) Romans 4:1-8
- 2) Luke 12:1-7

FRIDAY OF
28TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Paul of the Cross,
Priest)

FOCUS: As authentic Christians, we must resist the temptation to live our faith only externally.

Jesus' warning should instill in all of us a healthy fear of giving in to hypocrisy. The temptation to care only about external appearances and what people think of us is a very real one. We should all strive to be authentic Christians because as Christ promises, in the end the truth will come to light.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In Paul's letter to the Romans, he assures them that if their faith is great, then they will be justified by it. In Luke's Gospel, we hear Jesus warning his Apostles against hypocrisy, and he calls them to have courage in time of persecution. He also reminds them that everything done in secret will be revealed.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us now present our petitions to God our loving Father, who knows the sincerity of our hearts.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, that, guided by the light of Christ, she will always be a beacon of hope for all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For people of faith throughout the world, that God's gift of hope may fill our hearts and lead us to seek the good of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who do not know Christ, and those who have not allowed the love of God to permeate their lives, may their hearts be opened to the grace of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, that from our commitment to the Gospel principles we may grow in faith, hope and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have passed from this life, may they now rejoice with God in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, we thank you for the gift of faith and reminding us of your greatness and love. We ask that you hear our prayers, through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, October 21, 2017
(Lec. 472)

- 1) Romans 4:13, 16-18
- 2) Luke 12:8-12

SATURDAY OF
28TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Saturday in honor of
BVM)

FOCUS: As we acknowledge God before others, that is how God will acknowledge us.

We are called to faithfulness. We are called to preach the truth of Christ to a world that may not want to hear it. In our humanity, we worry about what we should say or do. We would like words in advance, but are reminded that the Holy Spirit will provide the words when we need them.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In Romans, Saint Paul notes that righteousness is promised to Abraham and his descendants through faith, not observance of the law. In the Gospel from Luke, Jesus teaches that those who preach in his name will be rewarded and those who deny him will be denied. In defense of the faith, the Holy Spirit will provide the words.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Knowing that God is with us in our struggles, we offer him our prayers and petitions.

- 1) That we, the Church, may be filled with the Holy Spirit and spread the joy of the faith to all the earth, knowing that we will be given the words when we need them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That those in positions of authority may use this gift to protect and serve, to build up rather than to tear down, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are vulnerable because of illness, age or pain may be protected and comforted by those caring for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That those in our faith community who are estranged from family members because of bitterness, misunderstanding or lack of forgiveness may, through God's grace, experience reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our beloved dead may be acknowledged with all the angels of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, you alone know the depths of our hearts. Answer our prayers according to your will for us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2017

(Lec. 145)

- 1) Isaiah 45:1, 4-6
- 2) 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b
- 3) Matthew 22:15-21

**TWENTY-NINTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Let us strive to be people of faith, hope and love.

In the second reading, Saint Paul gives thanks to God for the assembly of Christians at Thessalonica, who were proving to be faithful disciples. The Gospel Paul preached to them, and the Gospel we hear today, is filled with the power of the Holy Spirit; let our lives bear witness to its truth and power.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Isaiah writes of God who knows us, loves us and calls us by name. We are reminded that there is no other God besides him. Saint Paul, beginning his Letter to the Thessalonians, affirms their work of faith and love, saying he knows they were chosen by God. In Matthew's Gospel, the Pharisees hope to trick Jesus with their question about paying taxes. Jesus tells them to pay to Caesar what is his, and to give to God what belongs to him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Father, you know us and call us each by name. As your children, we come to you with our prayers.

- 1) For the Church, may we hear God's call and answer it faithfully, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in public office, may they be just and merciful in their positions of leadership and in their decision-making, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from chronic illness, may they be comforted by the knowledge that they are children of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our local community, may we be beacons of light in a world that needs to know God's love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be welcomed into the paradise that God has prepared for those who love him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we bring you our petitions trusting that in your love and in your time, you will hear and answer them according to your will. We ask all of this through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, October 23, 2017
(Lec. 473)

- 1) Romans 4:20-25
- 2) Luke 12:13-21

MONDAY OF
29TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint John of Capistrano,
Priest)

FOCUS God allows us earthly wealth and possessions, to be used in service to him.

God gives us both the knowledge of his will in our lives and the gifts needed to accomplish that call. Abraham used God's promise as motivation, resulting in righteousness for himself and his descendants in the faith – us. Using our gifts to gather earthly wealth solely for wealth's sake, rather than for living a life of discipleship, will have no benefit when we are called home to the Lord.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the Letter to the Romans, Saint Paul tells us that Abraham did not doubt God's promise, but drew strength from it. The promise of righteousness was not just for Abraham, but also for his descendants. In Luke, Jesus preaches against the temptation to focus on wealth rather than that which matters to God.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence that our Father hears all of our prayers, we now turn to him in our need.

- 1) For the Church, may she continue to be blessed with many disciples who seek the wisdom of the Holy Spirit in order to share God's message of love with others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who hold civil authority, may they work to respect the dignity and sanctity of life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from chronic illness, may they allow Jesus, the Divine Physician, to comfort and walk with them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the poor among us in this faith community, may we have a greater awareness of their needs and may we be more willing to share the gifts we have been given, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, especially those with no one to pray for them, may they be at peace in the glory of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God, you give us everything we need. Hear the prayers we offer you today. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, October 24, 2017
(Lec. 474)

- 1) Romans 5:12, 15b,
17-19, 20b-21
- 2) Luke 12:35-38

TUESDAY OF
29TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Anthony Mary Claret,
Bishop)

FOCUS: Just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all.

Through the sin of Adam and Eve, sin and death entered the world – disrupting the original and perfect unity of Creation that God intended. God could have chosen to give up on us, but he did not. Rather, he set in motion a plan to save and redeem us – fulfilled in the gracious gift of the one man Jesus Christ, God’s only begotten son.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from Paul’s Letter to the Romans speaks of the utter reversal of our human fortune: through one man, sin and death entered the world; through one man, Jesus Christ, the power of sin and death are defeated. In the Gospel, Jesus reminds his disciples that they must remain prepared and vigilant in their service to others.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For Pope Francis, bishops and priests, may the power of the Holy Spirit work through them as they proclaim the Gospel throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who hold elected office, may they recognize not only the mandate from their communities, but a larger call to service to all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who feel cast off and downtrodden, may they experience the deep love and care God has for them through the outreach of committed Christians, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us here today, may the Spirit help us to overcome anything that hinders us from cultivating our God-given talents and sharing them with others, 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 our God, we proclaim your justice and mercy; hear the prayers we make in faith, through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, October 25, 2017
(Lec. 475)

- 1) Romans 6:12-18
- 2) Luke 12:39-48

WEDNESDAY OF
29TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: As Christians, we need to be prepared for our Lord to enter into our lives.

When we hear the words of Jesus about being prepared because we do not know when he will come, we usually think he is referring to his Second Coming. Though this is true, we also need to be ready for Jesus coming to us in those we meet every day, especially the poor, distressed and needy.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's reading from Romans, Saint Paul reminds us that freedom from the Law of Moses, the Torah, does not mean that we are then free to sin. Freedom in Christ means the freedom to do what is right. In the Gospel, Jesus urges us to be ready for his coming. Jesus wants us all to be with him in the kingdom because of his love for us.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Our Father in heaven has promised that he will hear and answer our prayers. Trusting in that promise, we bring him these petitions.

- 1) For those who shepherd the Church throughout the world, may they always lead us in the ways of charity, love, compassion and understanding, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in public office or with civic responsibilities, may the needs of the citizens they serve always be paramount and guide their actions and deeds, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are persecuted or discriminated against because of their faith in Christ, may they know that they drink from the cup of Christ's suffering and will one day share in his glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may we give witness to the Gospel by leading lives rooted in love and by inviting others to worship with us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they live in the presence of the Lord forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear the prayers of your faithful ones. We ask this in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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Thursday, October 26, 2017
(Lec. 476)

- 1) Romans 6:19-23
- 2) Luke 12:49-53

THURSDAY OF
29TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God has given us the gift of eternal life in his son, Jesus Christ.

Exchanging of gifts comes naturally and serves a higher purpose by expressing our gratitude for the other person. God is the original giver, having bestowed on us our very existence. And God's greatest gift is the promise of eternal life – the ultimate gift of love.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's passage from the Letter to the Romans, Saint Paul makes the case for choosing a way of life devoted to following God's way. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples the consequences of proclaiming the kingdom: the world aflame with the fire of the Spirit, division among believers and nonbelievers, and his baptism into death.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Having heard God's word, we now present our petitions for the needs of our sisters and brothers throughout the world.

- 1) For our Holy Father, and all who serve the Church in ministry, may the wisdom of the Holy Spirit continue to guide them in all they do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who serve in leadership positions in government, may their service reflect the virtues of integrity and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are in pain or are experiencing loss, may they be comforted and healed through the grace of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the young people in our parish, may they continue to grow in their love for Christ, and love one another as Christ loves each of them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they enter with joy into the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful God, we know you will always listen to our cries for help. We ask that you grant all that we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Friday, October 27, 2017
(Lec. 477)

- 1) Romans 7:18-25a
- 2) Luke 12:54-59

FRIDAY OF
29TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Now is the time to be reconciled with God.

In the Gospel, Jesus warns that this is the time to be reconciled to God, for one who does not reconcile must face the consequences of their actions. In other words, we must choose *what is right*, which requires action on our part. It requires we make a personal decision to follow Jesus.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's reading from the Letter to the Romans, Saint Paul describes the spiritual life of the Christian, focusing on the power of grace to help overcome sin despite the continual temptations that come from emotions and desires. In the Gospel, Jesus warns the crowd of their inability to recognize him as the Messiah, and the punishment that will result for those who do not.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We now turn to God, our heavenly Father, asking for his grace and mercy.

- 1) That all leaders in the Church may continue to be blessed with the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That Christians throughout the world may give witness to the Gospel message through our lives of generous service, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are sick or dying may experience God's comfort as they communicate their needs to him in prayer, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That married couples in our parish may grow in love and fidelity to one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our loved ones who have died may receive mercy for their sins and see God face to face in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear our prayers which we entrust to you today, through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Saturday, October 28, 2017
(Lec. 666)

- 1) Ephesians 2:19-22
- 2) Luke 6:12-16

**SAINTS SIMON
AND JUDE,
APOSTLES
- FEAST**

FOCUS: Jesus continues his mission through the Church.

Today we celebrate the feast of Saints Simon and Jude, two of the Twelve Apostles whom Jesus names in today's Gospel. These men brought the Gospel to new lands, helping to establish and unite the early Christian Church. Their martyrdom inspires us to continue the work of Christ with faithfulness and zeal.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul reminds the early Christians that despite their previous differences, they are united as members of the Household of God. Christ holds them together and makes them sacred. The Gospel from Luke describes how after spending a night in prayer, Jesus identifies the twelve men he calls to be his Apostles.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: United in Christ, we continue the mission Jesus passed on to the Twelve. Let us now bring our needs before the Lord.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all who shepherd our Church, may their gifts of spiritual leadership guide the work of the Church throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may their efforts toward building peaceful communities be fruitful, and help to bring about a just society, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who carry the cross of suffering, may they find comfort in the constant presence of God's love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our local parish, may it be a model of God's love and forgiveness in the wider community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be joyfully welcomed into the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear our prayers and grant us what we need to continue Christ's mission on earth. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2017

(Lec. 148)

- 1) Exodus 22:20-26
- 2) 1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10
- 3) Matthew 22:34-40

**THIRTIETH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Our love of God is best demonstrated by our love of neighbor.

Jesus underlines the close and inseparable bond between our love of God and of neighbor. Loving God is not simply a pious or cerebral act, but a lived reality, carried out in the events of daily life. It is our witness to the love of God that will draw others into the mystery of his loving presence in the world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The writer of Exodus reminds the Israelites of their duty toward the foreigner, the poor, the orphan and the widow in their midst. Saint Paul reminds us that it is the Spirit that turns the human heart away from worldly idols to faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus summarizes the Gospel message as love of God and love of neighbor.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With hearts full of humility and love, we make our prayers to the Father through the intercession of Christ, our Savior.

- 1) For Church leaders, may the Spirit continue to guide and inspire them and keep them faithful to Christ and his Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all civic leaders, may their efforts help ensure that all peoples can worship God in peace and freedom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are persecuted for their faith in Christ, may God's Holy Spirit uphold and strengthen them, and assure them of the prayers and support of their Christian brothers and sisters, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the sick in this faith community, may God's Holy Spirit restore them to the fullness of life and health and liberate them from all afflictions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they receive the reward of a life well spent and come to share in the fullness of Christ's glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and eternal God, our salvation comes from you alone. We ask that you hear our prayer, which we offer through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, October 30, 2017
(Lec. 479)

- 1) Romans 8:12-17
- 2) Luke 13:10-17

MONDAY OF
30TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Jesus wants to heal us of all our ills.

We all must guard against becoming isolated from others, and allowing ourselves to be imprisoned by physical or mental challenges we may face. The good news is that Jesus is ready to help us with our difficulties if we but ask him. He helps us by making us aware of the ways that we imprison ourselves and gives us the strength to reach out to others for help.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Paul tells us that we have been given a spirit of adoption. As heirs of heaven, we can call out to God with confidence. In the Gospel, Jesus sees a woman who has been bent over for eighteen years and frees her from her infirmity.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We bring our needs before God, who hears us and gives us what we need.

- 1) For Pope Francis, bishops and all leaders in the Church, may the Holy Spirit strengthen them in unity for the building of God's kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life in our diocese and in the greater Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are disabled in body, mind or spirit, may the Holy Spirit support them in their daily struggles and give them hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this assembled community, may we embrace the role of being Christ's hands and feet in the world, leading us to treat our brothers and sisters with compassion and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, who have received the spirit of adoption through Christ, may they now bear witness as children of God and heirs with Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: O God of mercy, you have given your Son to free us from our infirmities and make us co-heirs. Hear our prayers that we might one day rejoice with you in the heavenly kingdom. Through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, October 31, 2017
(Lec. 480)

- 1) Romans 8:18-25
- 2) Luke 13:18-21

TUESDAY OF
30TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God calls us to work alongside him.

The mustard seed and leaven are small things with great potential, but each requires action. They cannot fulfill their potential without human cooperation. Mustard seeds need planting. Leaven requires someone to mix it with flour. God invites us to join in building his kingdom. Will we cooperate?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Paul calls us to hope — as we live in a fallen world, we await the promise of our future freedom as children of God. In the Gospel, Jesus compares the kingdom of God to a mustard seed which grows into a large bush, and yeast which leavens a whole batch of dough.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As members of God's kingdom on earth, we await its perfect fulfillment in heaven. In joyful hope we offer our prayers to God, confident in his love for us.

- 1) For Pope Francis, our bishops, priests and deacons, may they continue, by God's grace, to lead us in faith hope and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may they work to protect the dignity and sanctity of life from the moment of conception to natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For victims of violence, may they experience healing in the compassionate presence of God, and comfort from those who aid them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may we faithfully cooperate in promoting God's kingdom on earth and shine as a light in the darkness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, marked with the sign of faith, may they share in the glorious freedom of the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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