

SEPTEMBER

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Friday, September 1, 2017

(Lec. 429)

- 1) 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8
- 2) Matthew 25:1-13

FRIDAY OF
21ST WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Striving for holiness must be our daily way of life.

As disciples of Jesus, we must focus every day on our efforts and desire for holiness. Being a Christian, giving our lives over to Jesus, is not just a special focus for Sundays or holy days, but every day. To accomplish this, we must keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and not get distracted by the world around us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul urges the Thessalonians to strive *even more* to please God and to live lives of morality and holiness. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the ten virgins, which reminds us of the importance of living our faith each and every day, so that when our time comes to stand before the Lord we may be judged worthy of eternal life.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Striving to lead lives which our holy and pleasing to God, let us join in offering our prayers for our needs and those of the world to the Lord.

- 1) For members of the Church, may we recommit ourselves each day to reflect the Gospel values in all that we do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who work this time of year to harvest our crops and bring food to our tables, may they be blessed with strength and grace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are lost and seeking to find their way, may they place their faith in Jesus and come to know the truth that will set them free, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all married couples in our parish, that through their lives of selfless devotion to God and one another, they might be witnesses of Christ's love for his Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they enjoy perfect peace and joy in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, our Father, you know our needs before we do. Hear our prayers and answer them in accordance with your will. We ask this in the name of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, September 2, 2017

(Lec. 430)

1) 1 Thessalonians 4:9-11

2) Matthew 25:14-30

SATURDAY OF

21ST WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(Saturday in honor of BVM)

FOCUS: Each of us is called to share our gifts to help build up the kingdom of God on earth.

Today's Gospel reminds us that we each have been given unique gifts and talents from God, and he expects us to continue to develop and use these gifts in love and service to others. Understanding this as faithful servants of God, let us seek to uphold the mission with which he has entrusted us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Paul reminds the Thessalonians to love one another and remain faithful to the Lord's teachings. In the Gospel parable, Jesus reminds his disciples, and us, that we must use the gifts and talents we have been given by God to bear good fruit for him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that God lovingly watches over us to protect us and provide for what we most truly need, let us join in offering our prayers to our Father in heaven.

- 1) That Pope Francis and all bishops and priests may challenge the faithful to continue building up the Church by sharing their unique gifts and talents, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That world leaders may turn to God for guidance in finding nonviolent solutions to conflicts that bring about lasting peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That the elderly and the marginalized among us may be comforted by God's love for them, and lifted up by our care and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That our faith community may continue to offer works of charity to those in need, and share with one another the blessings we have received, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the faithful departed, and all who have died, may rest in peace in the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2017

(Lec. 124)

- 1) Jeremiah 20:7-9
- 2) Romans 12:1-2
- 3) Matthew 16:21-27

**TWENTY-SECOND
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: We are to take up our cross each day and follow Jesus Christ.

Today's Gospel emphasizes what is required to follow Christ. We must set aside our selfish desires and take up our cross each day to help build up the kingdom of God. This involves sacrifice. Rather than conforming to what is popular in our present age, we must strive to do what is good and pleasing to the Lord each day.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of the inner struggles Jeremiah experienced in being faithful to God's call to serve as a prophet. The second reading exhorts us to lead lives that are holy and pleasing to God. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that all who desire to live as one of his disciples must take up their cross and follow him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God's goodness, let us join in offering our prayers to our generous Father in heaven.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we share the Gospel message by our example of responding to the needs of others and by assisting those who are in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who hold positions of authority, that they may serve others with justice and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from chronic illness, may Christ, the Divine Physician, bring them healing, strength, comfort and consolation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For married couples in our parish, may they be blessed with the grace needed to continue growing in their love for God and for one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they receive the promised reward of eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Monday, September 4, 2017

(Lec. 431)

- 1) 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- 2) Luke 4:16-30

MONDAY OF
22ND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Our hope in eternal life with the Lord far outweighs any struggles in this world.

Just as Jesus was rejected when he taught in his hometown, so, too, many disciples were rejected when they fearlessly proclaimed God's word through their witness. It is a great consolation, then, to hear Paul's message to the Thessalonians that those who follow Jesus will also live with him. In a world that can sometimes be so contrary to the Gospel, we can heartily rejoice in this hope.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading reminds us that just as Christ died and rose, so, also, if we persevere in faith, we will come to share eternal life in heaven. Today's Gospel tells of how the people in Jesus' hometown of Nazareth reject him after listening to him teach in the synagogue on the Sabbath.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence and trust, let us join in offering our prayers to God the Almighty Father.

- 1) That the Church may continue to be a prophetic voice, proclaiming justice and peace for all to a world rife with violence and indifference, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That leaders of nations may strive to alleviate poverty in their midst, and provide adequate water, food and shelter to all those in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are confined to their homes or nursing homes may find strength in their faith in Christ the healer, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That liturgists and musicians in our parish may be blessed with grace and strength to continue serving the Church and leading the faithful in joyful worship of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may rest in the eternal embrace of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we place our trust in you. Grant these petitions and those prayers deep within our hearts. We ask all this through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, September 5, 2017

(Lec. 432)

1) 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, 9-11

2) Luke 4:31-37

TUESDAY OF
22ND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Be ready for the Lord's return, for we don't know the day or the hour.

In a spirit of faith, hope and love, let us encourage one another as brothers and sisters in Christ in preparing for the coming of the Lord. At an unknown day and time, Christ will return and we must be alert and ever-ready, lest we get caught unprepared and miss out in sharing in the gift of eternal life in heaven.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading reminds us that the day of the Lord Jesus' return in glory to fully establish God's kingdom over all the earth will come like a thief in the night. In the Gospel, the people who listen to Jesus teach in the synagogue on the Sabbath in Capernaum respond with amazement to Jesus' teaching because he spoke with authority.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: United in Christ, let us confidently approach the Father and offer him our prayers.

- 1) For bishops, priests and deacons, may their example and teaching continue to encourage and assist all Church members in living as intentional and faithful disciples of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may they always strive to act with honesty and seek the truth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering from poverty and neglect, may their hardship be eased through efforts of committed Christians and people of goodwill, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may we seek to discern God's will for us so we can be more faithful and true to living out God's plan for our lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they come to know the fullness of life and love in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Wednesday, September 6, 2017

(Lec. 433)

- 1) Colossians 1:1-8
- 2) Luke 4:38-44

WEDNESDAY OF
22ND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: We can bear the fruit of the Gospel to others.

In every encounter, we have the opportunity to share the Gospel with those we meet. We may not have the opportunity to cure sickness or demonic possession, but we are called to live faithfully and lovingly within our communities. When we do this, others will know of our faith in Christ Jesus because of our love and kindness.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Paul commends the Colossians for their faithfulness and the fruit of their Gospel witness. In the Gospel, Jesus cures the mother-in-law of Simon, who had been ill with a severe fever.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With hearts open to receiving the saving power of God, we humbly offer these prayers.

- 1) For the whole Church and all her members, may each one of us be a beacon of hope and mercy to the discouraged and downhearted, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For first responders and all who put their lives on the line so that others may live, may they be protected from harm, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick and all who care for them, may they feel Christ's presence as healer and consoler, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may we always recognize the grace of God in our lives and so be a conduit of that grace to one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, especially those who have no one to pray for them, may they come to know perpetual 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. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, September 7, 2017
(Lec. 434)

- 1) Colossians 1: 9-14
- 2) Luke 5:1-11

THURSDAY OF
22ND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: True disciples live in Christ each and every day.

We tend to live our lives in separate ways. We may go to church and pray, but in everyday life, we don't think about living our lives each minute prayerfully. How can we do this? How can our lives be an unceasing prayer? By spending time in quiet prayer each day and by striving to live as God calls us to live every moment of every day.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Paul assures the Colossians that he never ceases praying for them — that they be filled with the knowledge of God's will. In the Gospel, Jesus instructs Simon Peter to set out into the deep water and lower his net for a catch. Simon does what Jesus asks him to do, and brings in a great number of fish.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence and trust, let us join in offering our prayers to the Lord.

- 1) That all members of the Church may open themselves to the wisdom and guidance of the Holy Spirit so they may lead more Christ-like lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That nations around the world may work together with greater understanding and cooperation to bring about peaceful resolutions to conflicts and disputes, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all those struggling in their faith and faltering in hope may seek the strength of the Holy Spirit and be inspired through the compassion of others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That those in our diocese who feel called by the Lord to leave everything and follow him through a vocation to the priesthood or religious life may be supported by their family and friends, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may come to enjoy perfect happiness and peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God and Father, hear our prayers and grant us the grace we need to pour ourselves out generously in love and service to others. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Friday, September 8, 2017
(Lec. 636)

**THE NATIVITY OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
- FEAST**

- 1) Micah 5:1-4a or
Romans 8:28-30
- 2) Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23 or
1:18-23

FOCUS: Today we celebrate the unique place of Mary in God's plan of salvation.

With the coming of Christ into our world, God enters into humanity in a new and dynamic way. Mary's role in this great drama as mother of Jesus is essential, and yet another example of how God has chosen and blessed the people who belong to him. With this Christ-filled blessing comes God's peace, and our adoption as children of God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from the Prophet Micah foretells that the Messiah will be born in Bethlehem. The responsorial psalm exhorts us to find delight in rejoicing in the Lord. Today's Gospel tells of how the birth of Jesus came about.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we celebrate the nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we place our hopes and prayers in the hands of our merciful Father.

- 1) For all members of the Church, that we will seek to imitate Mary's example of perfect fidelity and faithfulness to God by saying "yes" to all he asks of us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, that the Gospel message of love may inform and direct their decisions and actions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For women facing difficult pregnancies, may they receive the medical care and support they need, and choose life for their child, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the youth of our parish, may they know of God's everlasting and unconditional love for them as they grow in faith and wisdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they spend eternity in the presence of the angels and saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and ever-living God, hear and answer our prayers and grant us the grace to say "yes" to your will. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Saturday, September 9, 2017

(Lec. 436)

- 1) Colossians 1:21-23
- 2) Luke 6:1-5

SATURDAY OF
22ND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM USA:
Saint Peter Claver,
Priest)

FOCUS: In and through Christ we are reconciled, healed, saved and forgiven.

Today's first reading reminds us that Christ, by dying on the cross, won forgiveness for our sins and reconciled us to God the Father. We have been given new life in Christ by water and the Holy Spirit. So let us keep our eyes firmly fixed upon Christ, and live as his disciples.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Paul speaks of the reconciliation Jesus has accomplished for us through his death. In the Gospel from Luke, Jesus teaches that *the Son of Man is Lord of the sabbath*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Placing our trust in God, let us humbly turn to him and offer our petitions.

- 1) For all Church leaders, may they continue to tend to the pastoral needs of those entrusted to their care, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may they always act justly by carrying out their responsibilities with integrity and fairness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who carry the cross of suffering, may they find strength and comfort in Jesus and feel his blessing upon them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all the catechists in our parish, may they be blessed in their ministry as they pass along the faith to our young people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they come to be counted among the saints in the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

(Lec. 127)

- 1) Ezekiel 33:7-9
- 2) Romans 13:8-10
- 3) Matthew 18:15-20

**TWENTY-THIRD
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Let our lives be rooted in love.

Today's second reading reminds us that our lives are to be rooted in love, for love fulfills the law. More specifically, the more we are able to love God with our whole being and to love our neighbor as ourselves, the more we will keep the commandments and experience the blessings God wishes to bestow on us such as peace, joy and fulfillment.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of God appointing Ezekiel as watchman over Israel. Saint Paul tells the people of Rome that loving one another summarizes the many laws they have concerning how to get along with each other. In the Gospel, Jesus outlines a process to be followed when one Christian sins against another brother or sister in the Lord.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Seeking to love God with our whole being and love our neighbor as ourselves, let us join in offering our prayers to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) For Pope Francis, bishops, and priests, may they be blessed with the grace and strength needed to continue tending to the Lord's flock as good and faithful shepherds, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our civic leaders, may they work to bring opposing points of view around a common table in order to find solutions to the issues before us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are recovering from surgery or a prolonged illness, may they know the compassion of Christ through the work of their caregivers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our diocese who are contemplating priesthood or religious life, may they be open to God's call in their lives, and feel the love and support of this community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they, through God's grace and mercy, enter the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord and giver of all that is good, hear our prayers this day as we strive to follow your laws of love in our daily lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, September 11, 2017

(Lec. 437)

- 1) Colossians 1:24-2:3
- 2) Luke 6:6-11

MONDAY OF
23RD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Let us strive to see the face of Jesus in everyone we meet.

Today's Gospel reminds us that on each day of the week, including the Sabbath, that we are always to keep holy, we are called to love our neighbor — especially those most in need. This means we get no days off from living our faith. Understanding this, let's try to see the face of Jesus in everyone we meet and treat them with love and compassion.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In Colossians, Paul rejoices in the work God has given him – to make known to all the hope that we have in Christ. In the Gospel, Jesus restores a man's withered hand on the Sabbath, demonstrating that doing good is acceptable at all times.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident that God extends his love and mercy to us, let us lift up our needs and concerns to him.

- 1) For all those who shepherd our Church, may their wisdom and witness guide the faithful to lives of greater holiness and service, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may they work together to help set aside division and hostility among people and seek solutions that benefit the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For police officers, firefighters and all those who serve the public, may they remain safe as they work to meet the needs of our communities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may we give generously of our time, treasure and talent to help further the work and mission of the Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, especially those who died on this day in 2001, 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 Father, we ask that you hear and answer our prayers according to your will, in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.

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Tuesday, September 12, 2017

(Lec. 438)

1) Colossians 2:6-15

2) Luke 6:12-19

TUESDAY OF

23RD WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(Opt. Mem.

The Most Holy Name of Mary)

FOCUS: We are all called by name to have a share in Jesus' ministry of building the kingdom of God on earth.

Names and words have great power. In today's Gospel, we hear that Jesus spent the night in prayer and then *chose Twelve, whom he also named Apostles*. The word Apostle comes from the Greek, meaning "messenger" or "send forth." Jesus chose these Twelve by name, sending them forth to proclaim the Good News. Through our baptism, we, too, are called by name to be messengers of the Gospel.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the Letter to the Colossians, Saint Paul encourages those who have received Jesus Christ to walk in his name, rooted in Christ and *abounding in thanksgiving*, for in Christ we see the fullness of God, the *fullness of the deity*. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus spends the night in prayer, and then chooses the Twelve Apostles by name.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Never doubting the love our Father has for us, we bring these prayers and needs to him, confident that he will hear and answer them.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all the bishops of the Church, may they be blessed with the grace needed to continue shepherding us in the ways of Christian love and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of government, may they view improving the welfare of their citizens as the primary goal of their work, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have become disconnected from the life of the Church, may our invitation, our prayers and the grace of God lead them back to the active practice of the faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For lay ministers who serve the sick and bereaved, may their presence bring comfort and peace to those they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all of those who have died, may they rejoice with the angels 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 ask this through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, September 13, 2017

(Lec. 439)

- 1) Colossians 3:1-11
- 2) Luke 6:20-26

WEDNESDAY OF
23RD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM

Saint John Chrysostom,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church)

FOCUS: We die to sin with Christ and rise with him to new life by water and the Spirit.

The first reading reminds us that, in and through our baptism, we became new creations in Christ. We are called to love God above all things and move away from earthly vices. We do this by seeking to repent of our sinfulness so that, little by little, we may live more fully and faithfully as disciples of Jesus.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In our first reading, Saint Paul exhorts the Colossians to *put to death* the life of the flesh, to *think of what is above*, since they have been *raised with Christ*. In the Gospel, Jesus presents the many ways in which his disciples are blessed, including those who are insulted or hated because of him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that our loving God watches over us and provides for our needs, let us join in offering our prayers to the Lord.

- 1) For the Church, may all her members *think of what is above* as they continue their earthly pilgrimage of faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those yet to believe, may they open their hearts to God's grace and place their faith and trust in Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from addiction, may they draw strength from their faith and be blessed with the resources needed to begin the journey toward recovery, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all catechists in our parish, may the Holy Spirit grant them wisdom in their ministry of teaching the Good News of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they enjoy perfect peace 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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Thursday, September 14, 2017
(Lec. 638)

**THE EXALTATION
OF THE HOLY CROSS
- FEAST**

- 1) Numbers 21:4b-9
- 2) Philippians 2:6-11
- 3) John 3:13-17

FOCUS Christ came from the Father, and returned to the Father.

Christ was sent into this world, not to condemn it, but to save it. By his humble death on the cross, Christ raised the dead to new life, and made all things new. Raised by the Father, he was glorified by the Father, and returned to him. In all this, he gave us – all of us – access to the Father (CCC 661). Through him, we dare to call ourselves children of God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God sends serpents among the Israelites to punish them for their complaining, and many people die. Through Moses' intercession, God offers them a cure. The second reading reminds us that, at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bend. Jesus' words in today's Gospel tell us that all who believe in him are given the promise of eternal life.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so all who believe in him might have eternal life. Confident in so great a love, let us turn to the Father with our petitions.

- 1) That all members of the Church may be steadfast in faith and remain faithful to God's plan of salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That world leaders may work to create accord among nations, while respecting the inherent human dignity found in human beings of all languages and cultures, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who have been divorced or affected by divorce may be sustained and strengthened by their faith in God, and the support of loved ones as they journey toward healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That those who serve in our parish ministries may continue to be strengthened by the grace of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our beloved dead, may come to share in Christ's victory over the grave, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, you loved us so much that you sacrificed your only begotten Son. Accept our sacrifice of praise and hear these petitions which we make in the name of that same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Friday, September 15, 2017

(Lec. 441)

1) 1 Timothy 1:1-2, 12-14

(Lec. 639)

1) John 19:25-27 or

Luke 2:33-35

FRIDAY OF

23RD WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(OBL MEM

Our Lady of Sorrows)

FOCUS: God's love and mercy know no bounds.

God's love and mercy know no bounds. No matter what sin we've committed, the mercy of God is always available to us. All we need to do is turn to God with humble and contrite hearts, especially through the sacrament of reconciliation, and ask God to forgive our sins, and they will be forgiven.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In his letter to Timothy, Paul expresses his gratitude that God treated him mercifully despite his past, and called him to be an Apostle. In the Gospel, Mary experiences sorrow and anguish at the foot of the cross as her son suffers and dies for the salvation of the world.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in the mercy of God, let us offer him our prayers and our needs.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we desire and seek to conform to God's word in our lives trusting in his loving mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may they work to uphold the sanctity of life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the chronically ill, that in their daily struggles they may know the mercy of Jesus through the hands of those caring for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all members of our parish, that we may seek to be instruments of mercy and foster peace by our corporal and spiritual acts of mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead and all those who have died, may they enter into eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Saturday, September 16, 2017

(Lec. 442)

1) 1 Timothy 1:15-17

2) Luke 6:43-49

SATURDAY OF
23RD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saints Cornelius,
Pope,
and Cyprian, Bishop,
Martyrs)

FOCUS: Having a strong and personal relationship with Jesus is essential for leading a life of faithful discipleship.

We know that we must prepare for a big presentation or event in our lives if we want it to be successful. In the same way, as a follower of Jesus, we must intentionally build and maintain a strong and personal relationship with him if we want to be like the tree that bears good fruit. In order to do this, we may have to go back to “square one” in our relationship with God, and ask for his forgiveness or help, and then truly follow his directions.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading reminds us that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches: *A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With one voice, let us join in offering our petitions to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) That the Church may continue to proclaim the Gospel throughout the world, reaching the ears of those who struggle with belief, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the leaders of all nations may make wise and just decisions that bring peace to countries divided by war, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are estranged from their families because of past hurt or anger may turn to the Holy Spirit for grace and strength to forgive and foster healing and reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That each of us in this faith community may be ever grateful for the gifts God has given us, and use these gifts to lift up our brothers and sisters in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the faithful departed may come to join the rest of 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: Almighty God and Father, hear and answer the prayers we offer to you with humility and gratitude. Through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2017

(Lec. 130)

- 1) Sirach 27:30-28:7
- 2) Romans 14:7-9
- 3) Matthew 18:21-35

**TWENTY-FOURTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: As God has forgiven our sins, so we must forgive others.

Today's Gospel reminds us that God freely and generously pours out his love and forgiveness upon us through our faith in Jesus and the sacraments of the Church. These gifts are given to us, not only for our salvation, but so we may share them with others, and so peace may be built up more fully in the world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, we are reminded that we will be forgiven as we have forgiven others. In the second reading, Saint Paul tells us that we belong to God in both life and death. In the Gospel, Jesus uses a parable to illustrate that our generosity in forgiving those who have wronged us must be lavish if we are to hope for the same consideration from our heavenly Father.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Merciful Father, your love for us reaches even beyond death. We place our prayers and petitions before you, trusting that you will hear and answer us.

- 1) That the Church will serve as a model of forgiveness, healing and mercy for our world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That world leaders will seek peaceful resolutions to problems and reach out in a spirit of forgiveness rather than retaliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That we may reach out in charity to those in need in our community, offering them dignity and hope amidst their struggles, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That catechists will find strength in the model of Christ the teacher as they strive to teach our children the ways of faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may come to the fullness of life in God's presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, we are your children in both life and death. Hear and answer the prayers we offer in humble hope. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Monday, September 18, 2017

(Lec. 443)

- 1) 1 Timothy 2:1-8
- 2) Luke 7:1-10

MONDAY OF
24TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: We are called to pray for others, and to bring others to Christ.

In the first reading, we hear that Saint Paul is urging members of the early Church to behave virtuously and to conduct themselves as model citizens. In the same way today, we as Catholic Christians are called, by virtue of our baptism, to be Jesus' hands and feet on earth, and to bring others to Christ through our example of loving service.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, we are reminded to pray together without anger or argument. In today's Gospel reading, Jesus acts to heal a centurion's servant who was near death.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For all bishops and clergy, may they continue, by their words and example, to help build up the kingdom of God on earth by guiding the faithful to grow in love for the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all civic leaders, may they work to ensure that all people can worship God in peace and freedom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For our brothers and sisters who struggle in their gift of faith, may the prayers of this faith community help open their minds and hearts to trust in God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For each of us gathered here, may we strive to open our minds and hearts to the Holy Spirit so we may share the Gospel more fully through our words and deeds, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they come to share in the glory of the heavenly banquet, us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Tuesday, September 19, 2017

(Lec. 444)

1) 1 Timothy 3:1-13

2) Luke 7:11-17

TUESDAY OF
24TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Januarius,
Bishop and Martyr)

FOCUS: Jesus is our help in times of need.

In tough times, we tend to forget how compassionate Jesus is. He is fully human like us in all things but sin, and thus is readily able to understand the hardships we face. He is with us always, and ever-willing to give us a helping hand or a shoulder to lean on. Let us not forget to turn to him.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first reading outlines the personal qualities and virtues those aspiring to the office of deacon and bishop should have. In the Gospel, Jesus raises a young man from the dead and gives him back to his widowed mother.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that God lovingly watches over us and provides for our needs, let us join in offering our prayers and those of the world to the Lord.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we follow the example of Christ in seeking and finding the lost sheep and welcoming them back to the fold, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may they work to protect the dignity and sanctity of life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For widows, widowers and others suffering from the loss of a loved one, may they turn to their faith in God in their time of sorrow and draw strength and consolation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all members of this parish, may we strive always to serve the needs of others with love and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they may join with the angels and saints giving everlasting praise to God in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Wednesday, September 20, 2017
(Lec. 445)

- 1) 1 Timothy 3:14-16
- 2) Luke 7:31-35

WEDNESDAY OF
24TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM

Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gon,
Priest,
and Paul Chong Ha-sang and Companions,
Martyrs)

FOCUS: We are called to respond to God with love.

Although the people of Jesus' time made excuses to reject him and his teachings, we are called to respond to God's word with faith, love and action. Our response cannot be passive. Instead, we must find ways to bring kindness and compassion to others, helping to build up God's kingdom on earth.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, we hear that the Church is the household of God, and is proclaimed to all people, both Gentile and Jew. In the Gospel, Jesus says that the people of this generation will make excuses to reject John the Baptist as well as him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With one voice, let us now gather our petitions and offer them to the Father.

- 1) For Church leaders, may they continue to strengthen and give courage to all the faithful entrusted to their pastoral care, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in leadership positions and for policymakers, may wisdom guide their minds, their voices and their hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are homeless, may they find safe and affordable housing through the help of caring individuals, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the youth of our parish, may they earnestly seek to discern and respond to God's call for their life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they see God face to face in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we ask you to hear and answer the prayers which we offer you through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, September 21, 2017
(Lec. 643)

- 1) Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13
- 2) Matthew 9:9-13

**SAINT MATTHEW,
APOSTLE AND
EVANGELIST
- FEAST**

FOCUS: All of us are uniquely called, gifted and empowered by the Spirit to build up the Church.

There are a variety of ministers in the Church. Each is blessed with unique gifts so the Church is not lacking in its mission. We not only acknowledge and celebrate these gifts manifested in people's lives, we also seek to know our own Spirit-given gifts, develop them and offer them for the good of the Church.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul exhorts the Ephesians to lead lives worthy of the call they have received from the Lord, and to bear with one another through love. In the Gospel, Jesus calls Matthew the tax collector, who was sitting at the customs post, to follow him. Matthew responds to Jesus' call by getting up immediately and following him.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

PRIEST: Gathered together as brothers and sisters in the Lord, let us join in offering our prayers to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) That bishops, priests, deacons and lay ecclesial ministers may be blessed with the strength needed to continue diligently working to assist the faithful in growing in holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That missionaries around the world may be blessed with the strength and resources they need to continue preaching and teaching the Gospel so many may hear and believe, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who have been displaced from their homes by war or natural disaster may find safe haven from neighbors near and far, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That members of this parish may shine as a light to others by giving of our time, talent and treasure to assist those in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our beloved dead, and all who have died, may come to enjoy eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Friday, September 22, 2017

(Lec. 447)

1) 1 Timothy 6:2c-12

2) Luke 8:1-3

FRIDAY OF
24TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: From the perspective of the Gospel, wealth is a means to further God's kingdom, not the goal of life.

Saint Paul warns us in the first reading that the *love of money is the root of all evils*. The holy women who supported Jesus and the Apostles, however, are witnesses to how wealth can be used as a means to help build up the kingdom of God on earth. Understanding this, may we see wealth as a gift from God to be shared generously and used for good purposes.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading exhorts us to embrace our faith more fully and pursue a life of virtue. Today's Gospel tells of a group of women who traveled with Jesus and the Apostles and supported them from their wealth.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that God watches over us and provides for what we truly need, let us join in offering him our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For all members of the Church, that we will continue to open our hearts more fully to the Holy Spirit so we may give a more faithful and effective witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may they turn to God for guidance and strength to work tirelessly for justice and peace for all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For people living with an addiction, may they draw strength from their faith in God as they journey toward recovery, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish community, may we encourage one another to live more faithfully as true followers of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be welcomed into the heavenly kingdom by all the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear our prayers and grant us the strength we need to lead lives that are holy and pleasing to you. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, September 23, 2017

(Lec. 448)

1) 1 Timothy 6:13-16

2) Luke 8:4-15

SATURDAY OF

24TH WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(OBL MEM

Saint Pius of Pietrelcina,

Priest)

FOCUS: We must do our part to nurture the seeds of faith planted in our hearts so we may grow in holiness.

God planted the seeds of faith in our hearts when we were baptized. It is up to us to continue to nurture these seeds so we may continue to grow in faith and holiness. We do this by praying daily, reflecting upon sacred Scripture and by being responsive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul addresses Timothy in our first reading, encouraging him to keep God's commandments *without stain or reproach*. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the sower and the seed, which reminds us of the importance of continually tilling the soil of our hearts so the seeds of faith planted within us may bear good fruit for God.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Joined together as brothers and sisters in Christ, let us offer our prayers to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we grow in compassion toward one another as we live out God's commandment of love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations and governments, that they exercise good judgment in their decisions that affect the lives of their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For peace throughout the world, that warring factions may strive for reconciliation and forgiveness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all members of our parish, that the seeds of God's word sown into our hearts may bear the fruit of compassion and charity for others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they find eternal peace in the embrace of our heavenly father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful God, we ask that you grant these prayers spoken as well as those held within the silence of our hearts. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

(Lec. 133)

- 1) Isaiah 55:6-9
- 2) Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a
- 3) Matthew 20:1-16a

**TWENTY-FIFTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: God's ways are not our ways.

We must be mindful that the Lord's ways truly differ from our ways. They are wonderful and mysterious. This is shown in the fact that God loves us unconditionally, and is ever-willing to forgive. God continually works by the power of the Holy Spirit to draw all people closer to himself. And God is near to all who call upon him.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Isaiah exhorts sinners to repent and turn to the Lord for mercy. The second reading reminds us of the importance of conducting ourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the good employer, which speaks of how God freely and generously bestows his love and forgiveness on all who are open to receiving it.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us turn to God our Father, who desires only what is best for us, and offer our prayers.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we be inspired to give witness to the joy of the Gospel and share our faith with others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For people yet to believe in God, may they come to know God's saving love, mercy and forgiveness by placing their faith in Jesus, and in turn showing mercy and forgiveness to others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have lost hope, may hope be restored through God's grace and the goodness shown to them by God's people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For parish families, may they continually put God first in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may they experience the fullness of life and love in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, hear our prayers and grant us the grace needed to give a faithful and effective witness to the Gospel. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, September 25, 2017

(Lec. 449)

- 1) Ezra 1:1-6
- 2) Luke 8:16-18

MONDAY OF
25TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Let us hear and respond to God's word, that we might shine as a light before others.

The Israelites did not hear and listen to God's word as they should, and so were exiled into Babylon. The Lord gave them a second chance through King Cyrus. Though a pagan, he recognized and did what God commanded him to do, showing us that whoever hears God's word and acts on it reflects God's light to others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from the Book of Ezra tells of Cyrus, the king of Persia, being inspired by God to issue a proclamation that any of God's people living in his kingdom are free to return to Judah to build a house for the Lord in Jerusalem. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that a lamp should be placed where everyone can benefit from its light.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Grateful in the knowledge that the Lord has done great things for us, we humbly offer our prayers for all the people of the world.

- 1) That our Church will continue to be a light of God's love and mercy in our hurting world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That rulers of every nation will promote and protect religious liberty for everyone within their borders, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That families torn apart by conflict may turn to God for the grace to bring healing and reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all of us gathered here will strive to lift up those in our community of faith who are sick, forgotten or far from home by our prayers and service, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the faithful departed will come to enjoy perfect peace and joy in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Tuesday, September 26, 2017
(Lec. 450)

- 1) Ezra 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20
- 2) Luke 8:19-21

TUESDAY OF
25TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saints Cosmas and Damian,
Martyrs)

FOCUS: As disciples of Jesus, we must hear and act upon his word.

When we hear the word of God proclaimed at Mass, we are called to take it to heart and then put it into practice in our daily lives. It is not enough to worship God at church on Sunday. He wants us to give witness to the Gospel each and every day.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of the faithful Jews who returned from exile, reconstructed the Temple and dedicated it to the Lord. In the Gospel, Jesus' family comes to see him, but he tells the crowd that those who hear the word of God and act on it are his true family.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us acknowledge and give thanks for all the Father has given us, as we present to him our petitions and prayers.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we seek to share Christ's light and love with others by treating all we encounter with kindness, love and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who do not yet know Christ, that they may hear the Word and believe in him, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who mourn the loss of a loved one, may their faith in God's enduring love and mercy bring them consolation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may we be blessed with the humility to trust in God's mercy and place our lives in his hands, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead and all who have died, may they enjoy the eternal banquet of the Lord in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Wednesday, September 27, 2017
(Lec. 451)

- 1) Ezra 9:5-9
- 2) Luke 9:1-6

WEDNESDAY OF
25TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Vincent de Paul
Priest)

FOCUS: We are each called to discover and fulfill the unique mission God has for us.

The Lord entrusts each of us with a call and mission. Like Ezra and the Twelve Apostles, we are called to proclaim the Lord's message through our words and lifestyle. Today, we celebrate the feast of Saint Vincent de Paul, recognized for his charity and reformation of the clergy. His story teaches us that anything is possible when we trust in God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Ezra thanks the Lord for his mercy. Although the Israelites were punished, the Lord remains with them and allows them to rebuild. In the Gospel, Jesus sends the Twelve out on mission to proclaim that the kingdom of God is at hand and to cure the sick.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For all bishops, may they fruitfully continue the mission of the Twelve through their words and actions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may they support policies which protect the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception to natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have been displaced by acts of war or natural disaster, may they be fed and sheltered through the generosity and caring of others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our faith community who are nearing the end of their earthly journey, may the hope of the Resurrection give them strength and comfort, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they experience peace and joy for all eternity in the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Thursday, September 28, 2017

(Lec. 452)

- 1) Haggai 1:1-8
- 2) Luke 9:7-9

THURSDAY OF
25TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Wenceslaus,
Martyr;
Saint Lawrence Ruiz and Companions,
Martyrs)

FOCUS: We are called to lead lives that give glory to God.

We are called each day to live in a way that gives glory to God. We can do this by being his faithful disciples, by studying the Scriptures and obeying Jesus' teachings. Because God is continually working to draw us closer to him, let us strive to grow in our faith that we might live in love and unity with him.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of the Lord charging the prophet Haggai with the task of proclaiming to the Israelites that they needed to get to work rebuilding the Temple so that the Lord may receive his proper glory. In the Gospel, Jesus draws the attention of Herod, who desires to meet him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence, we place our needs before our merciful Father, who is always ready to provide for us.

- 1) For the Church, may she continue to courageously proclaim the Gospel and to be Christ's presence in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all those around the world who are persecuted or imprisoned for their faith in Christ, may the power of the Resurrection fill them with courage and hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, may their faith in God bring them strength, hope and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the teachers in our community, that they will lead their students into lives of virtue through both their words and actions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they experience the joys of the heavenly kingdom today and forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, please hear and answer the prayers we offer you today. We ask this through your son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Friday, September 29, 2017

(Lec. 647)

- 1) Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 or
Revelation 12:7-12a
- 2) John 1:47-51

**SAINTS MICHAEL,
GABRIEL AND RAPHAEL,
ARCHANGELS
- FEAST**

FOCUS: Our ultimate glory and purpose is to worship God forever with the angels and saints.

Today we look at the heavenly realms as we celebrate the Feast of the Archangels: Michael, Gabriel and Raphael. As we sing God's praise with them in the "Holy, Holy, Holy" of Mass, may we make it our hearts' greatest desire to live as faithful disciples of Jesus so that we may one day join all the angels and saints in singing God's praises in heaven.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Daniel has a vision that *one like a son of man* receives the heavenly gift of kingship over all the nations. In the Gospel, Jesus encounters Nathanael, promising him that he will see greater things: *the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With faith, we call upon the Lord and ask him to bless our prayers of petition.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we, as members of the Body of Christ, embrace lives of faithful service as we joyfully await the return of Christ in glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may they recognize families as the fundamental building block of society and seek to enact policies and programs that support and strengthen family life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who suffer chronic pain or serious illness, may they be encouraged and comforted by the healing mercy Jesus showed toward the sick, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may we experience the greatness of the love of God in the sacrament of reconciliation, 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: Almighty God, hear and answer the prayers of your people, which we now offer you, through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, September 30, 2017
(Lec. 454)

- 1) Zechariah 2:5-9, 14-15a
- 2) Luke 9:43b-45

SATURDAY OF
25TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Jerome,
Priest and Doctor
of the Church)

FOCUS: "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ."

Today we celebrate the feast of Saint Jerome, a priest and doctor of the Church. His great love for the word of God led him to translate the original Scriptures into Latin. His translation, known as the Vulgate, was used for more than one thousand years. Jerome's quote, that "ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ," reminds us of the importance of reading and reflecting upon Scripture in order to grow in our faith and love for Jesus.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Zechariah has a vision in which the Lord promises to protect and care for Jerusalem. In the Gospel, Jesus predicts his passion once again to his disciples. Despite this, they still are unable to understand that it is necessary for Jesus to suffer and die.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting God in all things, let us seek his help for our Church, our world and ourselves.

- 1) For Pope Francis, may he be blessed with the grace needed to continue to challenge each of us to live the Gospel message, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all missionaries who preach the Gospel throughout the world, may they be strengthened by the prayers and support of the Church as the people of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are incarcerated, may the Church's outreach assure them that God loves them unconditionally, and that God is ever-willing to forgive, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who are discerning a call to priesthood or religious life, may the Holy Spirit speak to their hearts and give them the courage to answer freely, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may they receive a place at the eternal banquet in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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