

APRIL

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**YEAR B
WEEKDAYS II**

SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 2018

(Lec. 42)

- 1) Acts 10:34a, 37-43
- 2) Colossians 3:1-4
or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8
- 3) John 20:1-9
or Mark 16:1-7 (41)

**EASTER SUNDAY
OF THE RESURRECTION
OF THE LORD
- SOLEMNITY**

FOCUS: Is it fact or fiction? The totality of our faith hinges on our fervent belief that the tomb is empty.

It all comes down to this. Jesus being raised from the dead gives purpose to his cross and ours. Without the Resurrection, all suffering is absurd, death is the end and we are lost.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Peter gives a summary of the Paschal Mystery in our reading from Acts. In the reading from Colossians, Paul reminds us that being raised in Christ calls us to a higher standard. In the Gospel, Mary Magdala does not go into the empty tomb right away. Instead, she seeks out Peter and the Beloved Disciple.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Full of confidence in the risen Christ, we place before the Father our humble needs.

- 1) For Pope Francis, may the Holy Spirit continue to inspire his mission to bring all to the risen Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may they have the resources they need in their work to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless and clothe the naked, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have not been baptized into the faith, may our witness of the risen Christ at work in our lives be a source of inspiration for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our gathering of family and friends this Easter, may it be a time of witness, growth and harmony, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those near death, may they soon be embraced by the risen Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God, as we gather to celebrate the resurrection of your Son, strengthen our desire to be good and faithful witnesses of the Gospel message of salvation. This we ask through Christ our Lord.

Monday, April 2, 2018

(Lec. 261)

1) Acts 2:14, 22-33

2) Matthew 28:8-15

MONDAY
WITHIN THE OCTAVE
OF EASTER

FOCUS: May the promise of the Holy Spirit fill our hearts.

The Gospel passage today describes the joy the disciples experienced upon seeing the empty tomb. They were fearful, but that fear was quickly relieved when they met Jesus on their way to announce his resurrection. A good question for us today is: Are we overjoyed by the Resurrection? Is our response to run and announce it to others?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the Acts of the Apostles, Peter chastises those who killed Jesus, reminding them of the testimony of David about the Messiah, and the reality that Jesus is exalted at the right hand of the Father. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus greets the two Marys as they leave his empty tomb, and the unfolding of the deception of the chief priests to cover up the resurrection of Christ is revealed.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in the Father and trust in his goodness, we offer our prayers for the whole Church and for our world.

- 1) For the Church, as the body of Christ here on earth, may we courageously proclaim the truth of his resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For farmers everywhere who are planting their fields, may the fruits of their labor bring abundance in due season, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those overwhelmed by depression or sadness, may eternal hope uplift them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For married couples in this faith community, may the Holy Spirit guide them to nurture and sustain the love that drew them together and united them as one, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they enter into the eternal life promised through Christ's resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, let our prayers be answered according to your will. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Tuesday, April 3, 2018
(Lec. 262)

- 1) Acts 2:36-41
- 2) John 20:11-18

TUESDAY
WITHIN THE OCTAVE
OF EASTER

FOCUS: May we recognize Christ in our daily lives and allow his Spirit to guide us.

Peter invites his listeners to receive both forgiveness and the Holy Spirit by turning from sin and being baptized. Mary Magdalene encounters the risen Christ only after she turns away from the empty tomb. We're also called to turn from the attitudes and habits that keep us from recognizing Christ and allowing his Spirit to guide our lives and relationships.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Urging his listeners to repent and be baptized, Peter invites them to become part of the community of believers and to receive the Holy Spirit and forgiveness through baptism. In the Gospel, Mary Magdalene weeps at the empty tomb. Once she turns around, she encounters the risen Jesus, who tells her to return to the other disciples.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God invites us to experience a closer relationship with him through our community of faith. Together, let us pray for the needs of our faith community and the world.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all bishops and clergy, may the Holy Spirit working through them strengthen the bonds of the Universal Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may the Spirit of God move them to work together to protect the rights of all, including the unborn, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering physically, emotionally or spiritually because of illness, persecution or neglect, may they find comfort through the efforts of a loving faith community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish family, may the Holy Spirit alive in us bless all those whose lives touch ours, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the deceased, especially those who have died this week, may they experience God's merciful love, through the power of the risen Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, you call us to live in communion with you and with each other. Hear the prayers of your people gathered here and grant our petitions in accordance with your will. Through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, April 4, 2018
(Lec. 263)

- 1) Acts 3:1-10
- 2) Luke 24:13-35

WEDNESDAY
WITHIN THE OCTAVE
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Pay attention to God's messages in our daily lives.

God often speaks to us in ways we don't expect: whether in the actions of strangers who can bring healing to a difficult situation, or through others who bring us a new perspective. Like the crippled man at the gate and the disciples on their way to Emmaus, we might encounter God if only we pay attention.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's readings continue the Easter spirit of joy and rebirth. In Acts, the man crippled from birth meets Peter and John, who give him much more than alms: the gift of being able to walk for the first time. In the Gospel, Jesus encounters the two men on the road to Emmaus and helps them see God's work in the seemingly hopeless event of his crucifixion.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us come before our merciful Father and humbly present our needs, and the needs of the whole Church.

- 1) For pastors, catechists, and all who teach the faith, may their prayerful witness open the eyes of the people they serve to God's love for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who work for peace throughout the world, may they receive God's grace, and may their efforts be blessed with the fruits of dialogue and creative answers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are estranged from family or friends, may God grant them understanding and reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those who entered the Church during the Easter Vigil, may the gifts of the Holy Spirit continue to guide them as they seek to follow God's will for their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they be blessed with eternal peace in the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of all glory and power, you brought Jesus to life after his resurrection. Bring to joy and peace those whose needs we have brought to you in the name of Jesus, your son.

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Thursday, April 5, 2018
(Lec. 264)

- 1) Acts 3:11-26
- 2) Luke 24:35-48

THURSDAY
WITHIN THE OCTAVE
OF EASTER

FOCUS: We are called, as were Peter and John, to witness to the risen Christ.

Peter and John were present when the risen Christ explained to the disciples how everything written about him in Scripture – including preaching repentance for the forgiveness of sins – must be fulfilled. They listened to his instructions, and began healing in his name and preaching the Gospel of repentance and forgiveness. Each of us is called to do the same: forgiving, healing and preaching the Gospel in both word and deed.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Peter addresses the crowd, who is amazed by his cure of a crippled man, proclaiming that it was the man's faith in Jesus that made him strong. He exhorts them to repent and be converted. In the Gospel, Jesus appears to the disciples, showing them his hands and feet. He then eats with them, and opens their minds to understand the Scriptures.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With faith in the name of Jesus, raised from the dead according to the Scriptures, we present our needs to the Father.

- 1) That Pope Francis and all bishops may receive the protection and favor of God as they minister in the name of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That many throughout the world may come to recognize the risen Christ through the witness of those who have faith in his name, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who feel hopeless and trapped in the darkness of sin may be open to the light of Christ and be reconciled with God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That catechists, lectors and all who proclaim God's Word may be granted the gifts of wisdom and understanding, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may enjoy forever the vision of God in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of justice and mercy, hear our prayers, we beseech you, and answer them according to your will. We ask this in the name of your son, Christ our Lord.

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Friday, April 6, 2018
(Lec. 265)

- 1) Acts 4:1-12
- 2) John 21:1-14

FRIDAY
WITHIN THE OCTAVE
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Christ fills our nets.

At times it is difficult to recognize Christ's presence in our lives. Yet, he is there – waiting to awaken our faith and shower us with blessings. The greatest of his gifts is salvation; this is found nowhere else. As disciples, we share in Christ's mission by proclaiming his name and partaking in the meal he prepares for us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Peter and John are questioned before the Sanhedrin in today's reading. They reveal it was in the name of Jesus that they healed a man. The Gospel begins with the disciples returning to shore after an unproductive night of fishing. Jesus tells them to cast their nets on the right side of the boat, and they catch many fish.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Our Lord responds to the needs of his people. Let us now offer him the prayers of our faith community.

- 1) For members of the Church throughout the world, may our witness of proclaiming Christ's promise of salvation bring others to believe, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those with the power to protect life through policy or legislation, may the Holy Spirit guide them in compassion and right judgment, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those with chronic pain or illness, may Jesus, the Divine Physician, grant them strength and comfort, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our sisters and brothers who came into the Church at Easter, may the light of Christ continue to burn brightly in their hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they receive the promise of eternal salvation made possible by Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear our prayers and generously fill our nets with what we need to do your work. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Saturday, April 7, 2018
(Lec. 266)

- 1) Acts 4:13-21
- 2) Mark 16:9-15

SATURDAY
WITHIN THE OCTAVE
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Jesus gives us what we need to live out our call of discipleship.

Although the disciples struggled to believe in Jesus' resurrection, Jesus still had faith in them, and told them to go out and boldly proclaim the Good News. In the same way, our heavenly Father asks us each day to live out our baptismal call and be his presence in the world. He gives us what we need to answer the call.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Sadducees were powerless toward Peter and John after they cured a man, so they threatened them not to speak of Jesus again. In the Gospel, Mark tells of the disciples' initial disbelief in Jesus' resurrection. Later, the disciples were called by Jesus himself to go out into the world and preach the Gospel.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We gather together in prayer as Easter people, turning to God with our needs.

- 1) For Pope Francis, that during this Easter season he may continue to inspire all believers, especially those newly baptized into the Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may Jesus' model of servant leadership be their guide as they work to foster peace and harmony among nations, let us pray to the Lord
- 3) For those burdened by chronic illness, may the Holy Spirit be with them and grant them the strength they need each day, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in small faith-sharing groups in our parish community, may God guide their efforts and lead them to a deeper relationship with him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all our dearly departed, may they enjoy the eternal dwelling place prepared for them by our loving Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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SUNDAY, APRIL 8, 2018

(Lec. 44)

- 1) Acts 4:32-35
- 2) 1 John 5:1-6
- 3) John 20:19-31

**SECOND SUNDAY
OF EASTER**

**or
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

FOCUS: Like the early Christians, let us be filled with gratitude and love for the Lord.

The Church continues to celebrate and give thanks for the mystery of the resurrection of Christ. We acknowledge that God has appointed the risen Jesus judge of all creation. Therefore, with hearts full of hope and faith, we seek to be reconciled in his divine mercy and to share in his eternal life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In Acts, Luke recalls how the early Christian community was filled with gratitude and love for the Lord, and was willing to share everything they had as a sign of that love. Saint John reassures the struggling community in the second reading that by loving God they have the strength to love each other and remain faithful to the Lord. In the Gospel, Jesus convinces Thomas of the truth of his resurrection.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in the risen Christ, let us ask him to bring our needs and petitions to the Father.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may our witness be a beacon of hope to the world, and an instrument of God's peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For policymakers, may the Spirit of God inspire them to respect the dignity and inherent worth of each person, let us pray to the Lord
- 3) For those who are near death, may the knowledge of Christ's resurrection give them strength and hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For peace in our homes, may we turn away from division and discord and work to foster reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may they come to share in the fullness of eternal life in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and eternal God, we ask you to hear our prayers and draw us ever closer to you. We ask this through Christ our risen Lord.

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Monday, April 9, 2018

(Lec. 545)

- 1) Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10
- 2) Hebrews 10:4-10
- 3) Luke 1:26-38

**THE ANNUNCIATION
OF THE LORD
- SOLEMNITY**

FOCUS: God's plan of salvation is revealed by an angel who visits Mary. Mary's obedient "yes" is a model for us all.

Today, we reflect on God the Father who lovingly reveals his plan for our salvation throughout the generations. Because of Mary's "yes," the world receives the gift of Jesus – God's promise of salvation.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Isaiah explains that God will send a true sign – through a young woman who will bear a child and call him Emmanuel. In the letter to the Hebrews, we hear that Jesus came to do the will of the Father. In the Gospel, Mary's "yes" to the angel Gabriel opens the door for the salvation of the world.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, trusting in your plan, we bring to you our prayers and petitions this day.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all the clergy, may their "yes" to the Lord's plan for their lives model for us the path of discipleship, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders and all in positions of power, may they imitate Mary's gentleness as they work as God's instruments in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are struggling today in mind, body or spirit, may their strength come from complete trust in God's plan, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here and for all in our faith community, may we witness to the Gospel in all we say and do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they experience the fullness of God's love this day, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, help us to always seek to follow your will and to imitate Mary's free and total "yes" to your plan. Hear and answer our prayers today according to your holy will, through your son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Tuesday, April 10, 2018
(Lec. 268)

- 1) Acts 4:32-37
- 2) John 3:7b-15

TUESDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Everyone who believes in Jesus will have eternal life.

The Holy Spirit inspires the testimony and communal sacrifices of those who witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Let us take our example from the early Church, and seek to live in love and unity with one another.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, the community of believers is described as witnessing to the resurrection of Jesus and living for one another. In John's Gospel, Jesus teaches Nicodemus that his testimony comes from heaven, and that through him, all believers will have eternal life.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in the power of the Holy Spirit, we lift our prayers to our heavenly Father.

- 1) For the Church, may every community of believers grow in openness to the power of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who suffer religious persecution, especially our Christian brothers and sisters in the Middle East, may their burdens be eased and their families welcomed in new places, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are grieving the death of a loved one, may the promise and hope of eternal life bring them comfort and consolation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For generous hearts in this faith community, may we be open to supplying the needs of all who struggle to find food and adequate shelter, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have passed from this life, may they take their place at the heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we ask you to send your Holy Spirit into the world to strengthen our Christian communities and answer our prayers. We ask this through your risen son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Wednesday, April 11, 2018
(Lec. 269)
1) Acts 5:17-26
2) John 3:16-21

WEDNESDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
OF EASTER
(OBL MEM
Saint Stanislaus,
Bishop and Martyr)

FOCUS: God so loved the world that he sent his only Son to redeem us.

The title *Son of God* holds a mystery. How can Jesus be *God* and also be the *Son of God*? We cannot fully comprehend it, but our belief in Jesus' divine sonship is fundamental to all Christians. With gratitude that God sent his only Son to redeem us, let us strive to grow in love of the Father, as we follow his beloved Son.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Apostles are put into jail for defying the Jewish leaders and continuing to teach about Jesus and his way. They are miraculously freed from jail and return to the Temple and their work. Today's Gospel teaches that God sent his only Son into the world to save everyone who follows his way.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Depending on God for all good things, let us place our needs and those of the world before him.

- 1) That we the faithful may be fearless in sharing the Gospel with others, trusting that the Holy Spirit will be with us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That parents and guardians may help their children come to know Christ as the way, truth and life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are in prison may find the freedom that comes from knowing that God loves them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That each of us here may give thanks to God for the precious gift of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may be welcomed into the joy of paradise, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Holy God, hear our prayers and grant what is in your will for us. We ask these and all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, April 12, 2018
(Lec. 270)

- 1) Acts 5:27-33
- 2) John 3:31-36

THURSDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: The Spirit of God energizes us for helping to fulfill Jesus' continuing mission on earth.

We spend lots of money and time looking for ways to boost our energy levels, whether in the form of caffeine or energy drinks. The potential energy from one drink is nothing compared to the energy we receive from God's Spirit. What is the cost of receiving God's Spirit? Time in prayer and communion with God. Joy and peace are its side effects.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Apostles are confronted by the Sanhedrin because they are still preaching about Jesus. They reply they cannot be stopped because the Spirit compels them. John's Gospel speaks of the same Spirit that urges one to speak the words of God, and says that those who believe will have eternal life.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Loving God, you give us all we need and so we ask you to hear our prayers today.

- 1) For the Church, may she continue to spread the Good News throughout the world, bringing hope to the hopeless, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the leaders of nations, may they hear the cries of the poor as the Lord hears them, and work toward lifting them up, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all missionaries, may the power of the Spirit settle upon them as it did on the Apostles, compelling them to reach out to all those in need of a healing word or touch, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us gathered in this assembly, may we truly know God's power at work in our lives and relate the wonder of God's love to those we meet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead who took refuge in the Lord during their lifetimes, may they be with God this day in the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: O God, our Father, hear our prayers that one day we might be with you, continually singing your praises. We ask this through your son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Friday, April 13, 2018
(Lec. 271)

- 1) Acts 5:34-42
- 2) John 6:1-15

FRIDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
OF EASTER
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Martin I,
Pope and Martyr)

FOCUS: The Lord feeds his people.

The multiplication of loaves is the only miracle to appear in all four Gospels. In it, we find the order for celebrating the Eucharist and the basis of our Christian faith – belief that Jesus truly is the Messiah. He shows us what is possible when we take what we have and offer it to him with expectant hope.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's reading, a Pharisee named Gamaliel warns the Sanhedrin to let the Apostles go. After being flogged, the Apostles continue preaching and proclaiming Jesus as Messiah. The Gospel describes the miracle in which Jesus feeds five thousand from five loaves of bread and two fish.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence that our Lord feeds his people and watches over them, let us now offer him the prayers of our faith community.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may God multiply what she offers to feed the souls of many, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in positions of power, may they courageously defend the dignity of human life against forces that threaten it, from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the poor and the unemployed, and those experiencing sadness and worry, may God give them hope and true knowledge that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, never abandons his sheep, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those recently welcomed into the Church, may God bless their efforts to proclaim the Good News and declare Jesus as their Messiah, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may the Lord greet them with mercy and compassion as their earthly pilgrimage comes to a close, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord, you feed your people with the bread of life. We trust you to hear our prayers and answer them according to your will. Through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, April 14, 2018
(Lec. 272)

- 1) Acts 6:1-7
- 2) John 6:16-21

SATURDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Jesus' disciples and the early Christian community yearn for peace and satisfaction.

In the middle of a storm, Jesus' disciples seek him out, but they become afraid when they see him. The early Christians seek out those who can fulfill their needs. They call on the first deacons of the Church to serve their people, so that the twelve Apostles may concentrate on prayer and the ministry of the word.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the early Christian community, at the behest of the twelve Apostles, selects seven men to serve the needs of the people. In the Gospel, Jesus implores his disciples to not be afraid, even though their boat is in the midst of a storm.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us now gather our prayers on behalf of the needs of the world, and bring them before our loving God.

- 1) For vocations to the priesthood, the religious life and lay ministry, may numbers increase of those who will dedicate their lives to serving God's holy people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who dispense justice, may the compassionate love of Jesus create in them a mind and heart that tempers justice with mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the hungry, may the support of their local community provide them with the resources they need, and may God's love bring them hope and strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who are receiving the sacraments of initiation during this Easter season, may the gifts of the Holy Spirit be a source of strength for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may they be welcomed into the halls of the heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, listen to the prayers we have made for the sake of our sisters and brothers. If it is your will, grant what we have asked. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 2018

(Lec. 47)

- 1) Acts 3:13-15, 17-19
- 2) 1 John 2:1-5a
- 3) Luke 24:35-48

**THIRD SUNDAY
OF EASTER**

FOCUS: Jesus is the fulfillment of Scripture.

The risen Christ made himself known to his disciples. After having revealed himself in Emmaus in the breaking of the bread, he encouraged the disciples in Jerusalem to look at and to touch his wounds. He reminded them of what Scripture had foretold, just as Peter reminded the community in the first reading.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Peter proclaims the Good News of Jesus' resurrection, calling his listeners to repentance and salvation. In today's Epistle, John encourages believers to trust Jesus, their Advocate, and show their love for God by keeping his commandments. Our Gospel reading presents the risen Christ making himself known to his disciples.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In the joy of the Resurrection, we bring our prayers to our merciful Father, who knows our every need.

- 1) For bishops, priests and deacons, may they be led by the Holy Spirit, proclaiming the risen Christ, to draw souls to God's kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the salvation of the world, that all people, from the ends of the earth to our own city, may hear the Gospel and believe, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who struggle with doubt and disbelief, that through our prayers and witness, they may know the love of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the people of this parish, may we live as an Easter people, advocating for the protection of all life, from conception to natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our departed brothers and sisters, may they enjoy eternal peace and happiness before the throne of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, you raised Jesus from the dead to restore us to life. Please hear our prayers this day, we ask in the name of your son, Christ our Lord.

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Monday, April 16, 2018
(Lec. 273)

- 1) Acts 6:8-15
- 2) John 6:22-29

MONDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Believe in the one whom God has sent.

The Church's first martyr, Saint Stephen, heard the call to preach the Good News of the Gospel, even under threat of death. Likewise, we are called to be Jesus' faithful disciples, working each day not for food that perishes, but *for the food that endures for eternal life*.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Stephen is called to preach the Gospel despite opposition. Stephen stands his ground, and his tormentors are presented with a face of great radiance and beauty, according to the account in Acts. In the Gospel, Jesus says that to do the work of God is to believe in him, whom the Father sent.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord in this Easter season, we bring our needs before him with hope and anticipation.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we be strengthened by God's grace to proclaim the Resurrection and the message of eternal life to all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For farmers and all those who provide food for the world, may their harvests be bountiful, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For victims of violence or abuse, may they know God's tender love as they strive to heal physically, emotionally and spiritually, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us gathered here, may our hearts be open to God's transforming love as we work to build the kingdom of God on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may they experience the fullness of the Lord's presence in the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, knowing you see our deepest needs and desires, we ask you to grant these petitions and those which remain unspoken, according to your will. Through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, April 17, 2018
(Lec. 274)

- 1) Acts 7:51—8:1a
- 2) John 6:30-35

TUESDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Jesus is the bread of life.

Life would be difficult if we did not have signs. The gift of flowers conveys our love and affection. A stop sign warns us of danger. The sign of the cross reminds us of our life in Christ. Because we sometimes fail to recognize the signs of God's love, Jesus, the light, illuminates our lives so that we will see them.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In our first reading, Stephen speaks bluntly to the people, elders and scribes about their failure to observe the law which they had accepted. In the Gospel, the crowd asks Jesus for a sign, and Jesus reveals to them that he is the bread of life.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Inspired by sacred Scripture, let us gather our prayers and offer them to our merciful God.

- 1) For the Church, may she flourish in holiness as she gives witness to the glory of the risen Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may God inspire their work so that all may be served with dignity and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For immigrants and refugees, may they be granted safety, shelter and welcome, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the newly baptized and confirmed, may the flame of the Holy Spirit grow within their hearts and minds, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rest in the peace of Christ for all eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful God, in faith we believe that your love overcomes all of our burdens. In faith, we ask that you grant these prayers in the name of Jesus, our Lord.

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Wednesday, April 18, 2018
(Lec. 275)
1) Acts 8:1b-8
2) John 6:35-40

WEDNESDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: *Everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life.*

The church in Jerusalem was persecuted and scattered, but it was not destroyed. Indeed, we hear Jesus say that it is the will of the Father that he not lose anything the Father gave him. Like a good shepherd who seeks out one lost sheep, Jesus cares about each and every one of us, and wants us to be in full communion with him. When we feel lost or scattered, let us turn to Jesus.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

After a severe persecution scatters the Church in Jerusalem, Philip goes to Samaria, proclaiming Christ to them and healing many people. Jesus proclaims to the crowds that he is the bread of life, come down from heaven to do the will of the Father.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Remembering the tremendous deeds of our God, we approach with confidence, offering our prayers of petition.

- 1) For the Church, may God inspire men and women to consider vocations to the priesthood and religious life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders throughout the world, may they be given resolve and insight to work to stop the cycle of human trafficking that plagues our world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer discrimination in any form, may they find strength in their faith and seek to find peace through forgiveness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in this faith community who do mission work, may God's grace be with them as they work to serve others and be the hands and feet of Jesus in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they experience eternal rest with all the saints and angels in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, with humble and hopeful hearts, we place our needs before you. Hear and grant them according to your will. This we ask through the risen Christ, our Lord.

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Thursday, April 19, 2018
(Lec. 276)

- 1) Acts 8:26-40
- 2) John 6:44-51

THURSDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Seek to spread the word of God each day by our actions and words.

In today's first reading, we hear of Philip converting a pagan. He was directed by the angel of the Lord to spread the Good News. It is not so different for us today. We are still called to do Jesus' work today by our witness.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Ethiopian became a believer and was baptized because of Philip's guidance and instruction. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that he was sent by the Father and that he is *flesh for the life of the world*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We come to you, our heavenly Father, with confidence that you will hear our prayers.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may the Holy Spirit continually renew us and equip us for our work of evangelization, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all world leaders, may they seek understanding which leads to peace in their nations and throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who face difficult or unplanned pregnancies, may they choose the gift of life for their unborn, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the sick and the homebound in our community, may they be graced with the gift of courage and be comforted by loving family and caregivers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be received into our Lord's loving arms in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we ask that you hear and answer our prayers of petition. We ask this in the name of your son, Jesus our Lord.

Friday, April 20, 2018
(Lec. 277)

- 1) Acts 9:1-20
- 2) John 6:52-59

FRIDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Let us be Jesus' presence in the world.

Saul's conversion can be described as *metanoia*, the Greek word for a radical change of heart. It means seeing with new eyes. It fuels our vision and has the potential to change our relationship with others. The Easter season calls us to live out the radical change we have experienced because of Jesus' resurrection, and be his witnesses in the world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saul thinks he is called to imprison Christians. On his way to Damascus, he experiences his own conversion when he is thrown to the ground and encounters the Lord. In the Gospel, Jesus tells us that whoever eats the flesh of the Son of Man *will live forever*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Gracious and merciful Father, we ask you to hear our prayers according to your will.

- 1) That Pope Francis and all bishops throughout the world may have the protection of the Holy Spirit as they witness to the truth of the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That all Christians throughout the world who are persecuted for their faith may find comfort in the loving hands of the Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That innocent victims of war and violence may find peace and healing through Jesus, the Divine Physician, let us pray to the Lord
- 4) That members of this Eucharistic community may be fully open to the Lord working in our lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the faithful departed may know the mercy and love of a compassionate God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for hearing our prayers in the name of your son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Saturday, April 21, 2018
(Lec. 278)

- 1) Acts 9:31-42
- 2) John 6:60-69

SATURDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
OF EASTER
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Anselm,
Bishop and Doctor of the Church)

FOCUS: Seek to lead lives pleasing to the Lord.

As followers of Jesus, sometimes we are called to lead lives that are countercultural to society's norms. The world often teaches us that what we want is most important. Our faith teaches us that following the Master's Way is of much greater importance.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the reading from Acts, we hear that the early Church continues to grow, and Peter continues to work miracles in the name of Jesus. In the Gospel, some followers choose to walk away from the Lord, but Peter says he has come to believe that Jesus has *the words of eternal life*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With joyful hearts filled with hope, we place our needs before our merciful Father.

- 1) That Pope Francis and all shepherds of the Church may be blessed as they lead us on the path of Christ's truth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the work of civil servants may be blessed and bring benefit to the people they are called to serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those experiencing depression or loneliness may experience God's love through our compassion and support, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all who serve as liturgical ministers may assist the assembly in giving God due praise, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may enjoy eternal rest along with the saints and angels in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of heaven and earth, hear the prayers we place before you with humble and joyful hearts. Through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 2018

(Lec. 50)

- 1) Acts 4:8-12
- 2) 1 John 3:1-2
- 3) John 10:11-18

**FOURTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER**

FOCUS: It is in and through Jesus alone that we can attain salvation.

Our world often tells us that we should be strong, secure and self-sufficient on our own. We may be able to do this in certain areas of our lives, but not when it comes to salvation. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who is our strength, our protection and our salvation.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Peter says, *there is no salvation through anyone else* but Jesus. In the reading from the First Letter of John, we are called children of God. In the Gospel, Jesus says that he is the Good Shepherd, and he will lay his life down for us, his sheep.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Knowing that Jesus is the Good Shepherd, let us bring before him our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all leaders in the Church, may they continue to witness with the heart of the Good Shepherd, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For judges and magistrates whose decisions affect the lives of many, may the Holy Spirit guide them to embrace the principles of fairness and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who feel lost or abandoned, may they feel the presence of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this worship community, may we model the love, mercy, and compassion of God to all whom we meet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may the Good Shepherd gather them into the eternal pastures of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, you never abandon us or lead us astray. Please provide for us today by answering our prayers, for we ask them through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Monday, April 23, 2018
(Lec. 279)

- 1) Acts 11:1-18
- 2) John 10:1-10

MONDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
OF EASTER
(Opt. Mem.
Saint George, Martyr;
Saint Adalbert, Bishop and Martyr)

FOCUS: Jesus is the gate to salvation.

The image of Jesus as the gate for the sheep gives us comfort and direction. We are promised that those who enter through him will be saved. It is a gift offered to all, given freely and with love. As Jesus tells us, *I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Peter explains the baptism of the Gentiles to his followers. He tells of his visions and openness to the Holy Spirit in the house of those who have accepted the Word of God. In the Gospel, Jesus makes it clear that he is the gate to salvation, and through him we will have abundant life.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Joining with the martyrs and saints, we bring forth our petitions and prayers to our heavenly Father.

- 1) For the leaders of our Church throughout the world, may their model of servant leadership strengthen us in our mission of evangelization, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For decision-makers and others in leadership positions, may they follow the guiding principles of the Gospel message as they create policies and enforce laws, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer loneliness or despair, may they feel relief and comfort from others who reach out to them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all those who joined in full communion with the Church on Easter, may their faith continue to grow and may their example draw others to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they know the joy of eternal life as they live on in the presence of our heavenly Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Dear Lord, knowing of your infinite mercy, we present our petitions on behalf of your children in need throughout the world. We ask this in the name of the Good Shepherd, our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Tuesday, April 24, 2018
(Lec. 280)

- 1) Acts 11:19-26
- 2) John 10:22-30

TUESDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
OF EASTER
(Opt. Mem.)

Saint Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest and Martyr)

FOCUS: Jesus and the Father are one.

At the core of our faith is the belief that Jesus is who he claims to be. When asked if he is the Messiah, Jesus says that his works testify to him. He and the Father are one. As Christians, we accept Jesus as our Savior and express our willingness to follow him by the way we live our lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, early missionaries of the Church disperse to preach the word. It is in Antioch that the disciples are first called Christians. The Gospel takes place at the Temple in Jerusalem during the Feast of the Dedication. Jesus is asked if he is the Messiah, and he answers that the Father and he are one.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Our Father holds us in the palm of his hand. Let us now turn to him in prayer for the needs of the assembly, the Church and the world.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we always trust in God's abiding love to guide us and keep us strong as we work to spread the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For nations troubled by war and violence, may God bring them the light of peace to dawn in their midst, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who face discrimination because of their belief in Christ, may they be treated with the dignity God bestows on all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our parish struggling with disbelief, may their faith be awakened by the voice of our Good Shepherd, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our faithful departed, may they rejoice in Christ's promise of eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, these are the prayers of your people. In your mercy, we ask you to give us what we need to do your will, through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Wednesday, April 25, 2018
(Lec. 555)

- 1) 1 Peter 5:5b-14
- 2) Mark 16:15-20

**SAINT MARK,
EVANGELIST
- FEAST**

FOCUS: We are commissioned, by our baptism, to go forth and share Christ with others.

Today's feast of Saint Mark, the Evangelist, celebrates his dedication to Christ during his lifetime, and to the post-resurrection Gospel message. As Jesus commands his disciples to go forth and proclaim the Gospel – to evangelize – so, too, are we instructed. Let us, like believers before us, stand firm and remain faithful in preaching the Gospel, whatever comes our way.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, the early Church is called to cast their worries upon God, to resist the Devil and remain steadfast in faith. In the Gospel, Jesus commissions the Eleven to preach and baptize. He promises to be with them along the way.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Gracious and loving Creator, we place our prayers before you.

- 1) That all members of the Church may, like Saint Mark the Evangelist, joyfully proclaim the Good News of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That all people may appreciate the beauty and riches of the earth, given to us by our Creator, and use them for our common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who suffer from chronic illness may experience God's healing touch upon them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That our community may set our hearts on things that are above as we work to build the kingdom of God on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our beloved dead may enjoy the heavenly banquet prepared for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: We ask you, merciful Father, to answer our prayers in the name of your son, Jesus, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

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Thursday, April 26, 2018
(Lec. 282)

- 1) Acts 13:13-25
- 2) John 13:16-20

THURSDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Let us joyfully answer our call to service.

In the Gospel, Jesus commissioned his disciples to continue the work he began. Through God's grace and the call of our baptism, we, too, can carry on Jesus' mission here on earth. By our words and actions, let us devote ourselves to serving Christ by serving others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Paul relates a brief history of the Jews' forty years in the desert, and then speaks of the preaching of John the Baptist, who proclaimed Jesus to be the one whose sandals he was unworthy to unfasten. In the Gospel, Jesus says to his disciples, *whoever receives me receives the one who sent me*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Relying on the Lord's promise to hear our prayers, we present our petitions.

- 1) That the life of the Church may be manifest by our works of corporal and spiritual mercy, let us pray to the Lord
- 2) That the Lord may lead all nations to understand the need for cooperation and reconciliation to resolve global problems, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That catechists and parish religious educators may grow in their love for the Lord, and model his teachings in words and deeds, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That as we continue our Easter celebration, we, as a faith community, may truly attempt to put our faith in these words and promises of Jesus: that *whoever receives me receives the one who sent me*, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our deceased friends and relatives may enjoy the presence of Jesus and all his saints at the eternal banquet in Paradise, let us pray to the Lord
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God, we ask that you hear and answer the prayers we bring before you this day. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, April 27, 2018
(Lec. 283)

- 1) Acts 13:26-33
- 2) John 14:1-6

FRIDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Jesus prepares our dwelling place in heaven.

No one knows for sure what heaven will be like, but Jesus told us there are many dwelling places there and that he has prepared a place for each of us. As he prepares our eternal home for us, let us prepare ourselves to join him. We do this by living as he taught us and loving one another.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Preaching in the temple in Antioch, Paul explains that the religious leaders failed to recognize Jesus as the promised Savior, and in doing so fulfilled the prophecies about him. In the Gospel Jesus asserts that he is the way, the truth and the life, and that only through him can anyone come to the Father.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As disciples of Jesus, let us place our prayers before the Father, trusting in his goodness and love.

- 1) That all members of the Church may continue to bear abundant fruit to build God's kingdom on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That government and cultural leaders may foster and model kindness and justice as we strive to live in fellowship with others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those whose lives are tested by worry and burdens may find strength and consolation in Jesus, the Suffering Servant, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That members of this faith community may daily strive to bring the light of Christ to others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may be welcomed into their glorious dwelling place in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God, hear our petitions, and grant what will bring us closer to you. We pray now and always in the name of Jesus the Lord.

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Saturday, April 28, 2018
(Lec. 284)

- 1) Acts 13:44-52
- 2) John 14:7-14

SATURDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
OF EASTER
(Opt. Mem.)

Saint Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr;
Saint Louis Grignion de Montfort, Priest)

FOCUS: God's Spirit works in and through us, empowering us to follow his plan for our lives.

Like the disciples, we're called to share the Good News of God's love by what we say and do. We don't have to do this on our own. We can trust that God works in us and through us when we rely on him and surrender to his plan for us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Despite rejection and persecution, Paul and Barnabas persist in sharing the Good News with all who would listen, as we see in our reading from Acts. In the Gospel, Jesus explains that he did not perform miracles on his own, but by means of the Father working through him – the same Father who would work through them.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting God to hear and answer the prayers we offer in Jesus' name according to his will, let us pray for the needs of his Church and for the whole world.

- 1) That, empowered by God's presence working through them, bishops, priests and deacons may inspire others to embrace the Good News of God's love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That leaders in all levels of government, inspired by the loving witness of the faithful, may work for justice and protect the rights of all, especially the unborn, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those needing material, emotional or spiritual support may find the healing sustenance they need through the loving outreach of our faith community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the community gathered here today may be strengthened by the Eucharist we share, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died, especially the recently deceased, may find rest in the welcoming embrace of the Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we place our needs before you. Please look favorably on these requests that we ask in the name of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2018

(Lec. 53)

- 1) Acts 9:26-31
- 2) 1 John 3:18-24
- 3) John 15:1-8

**FIFTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER**

FOCUS: Jesus teaches us to stay connected always to the Father, through whom all good things come.

The image of the vine and the branches is a clear reminder of our dependence on God for our every breath. If we hope to bear any good fruit in this world, we must stay close to the source of goodness – God himself.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saul, increasing in strength and fortitude, is preaching the truth that Jesus is the Christ. Barnabas brings him to the Apostles explaining that they need not fear, Saul is indeed converted. In John's Letter, he challenges us to love in deed and truth, and reminds us that our hearts are known by the Father. In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches that he is the vine and the Father is the vine grower. We must abide in him in order to bear good fruit.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Loving Father, confident that you know our hearts and hear our prayers, we bring forth our petitions this day.

- 1) For God's Church, may she remain always close to the Lord and his holy will, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders and those in positions of power, may they serve others selflessly and seek first the path of collaboration and cooperation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who grow the food we eat, may their fields be blessed with gentle rain and temperate weather, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here today, and for all those we love, may we abide ever more closely in the Lord and bear good fruit for the kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they bask in the light of the Lord in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, we trust that you will hear and answer these and all of our prayers in your time and according to your will. We ask this through your son, Christ our Lord.

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Monday, April 30, 2018
(Lec. 285)

- 1) Acts 14:5-18
- 2) John 14:21-26

MONDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
OF EASTER
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Pius V,
Pope)

FOCUS: The Spirit of God is upon us, guiding us to share the Good News with our brothers and sisters.

The Spirit of God is given to each of us in baptism and confirmation. If we allow it, this same Spirit enlightens our hearts and minds. Enlightened, we recognize the works of God. We discern which gifts the Spirit has given to each of us. We act to share these gifts with others so they may come to believe.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Our first reading recounts an episode in the ministry of Saints Paul and Barnabas to the Gentiles in which they are hailed as gods. In the Gospel, Jesus prepares his disciples for his eventual suffering and death, explaining that the Holy Spirit will come upon them.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us gather our prayers for the needs of our brothers and sisters throughout the world and place them before our merciful God.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may her ministers always give witness to the commandment of love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government officials, may they be inspired to act with integrity as they serve in their positions of leadership, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For refugees and immigrants, may they be treated with the dignity and respect they are due as children of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the sacredness of human life, may all our actions be directed to protect the unborn, the disabled and the elderly, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all of those who have died, may they rise with Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: O God, in faith we offer these petitions on behalf of those in need. If it be your will, grant these and all our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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