

AUGUST

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Wednesday, August 1, 2018

(Lec. 403)

1) Jeremiah 15:10, 16-21

2) Matthew 13:44-46

WEDNESDAY OF

17TH WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(OBL MEM

Saint Alphonsus Liguori,

Bishop and Doctor of the Church)

FOCUS: To seek and find the kingdom of heaven is to discover the greatness of God.

Today's parables make it clear that you and I can discover the kingdom of heaven today, and great joy will accompany this discovery. Everything changes when we encounter the kingdom of heaven.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Jeremiah complains to God about his suffering in light of his faithfulness, and God responds with uplifting words of restoration. In the Gospel of Matthew, we learn that the kingdom of heaven is like a treasure and a *pearl of great price*. Those who recognize the kingdom of heaven are willing to give their all for it.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With faith in his loving mercy, let us bring to our Father all our prayers and petitions.

- 1) That the missionary work of the Church may bear fruit among those who have left the faith or do not know God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the gift of salvation that comes through the death of Jesus on the cross will stir the hearts of those who govern, and bring hope to those in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That the freedom that comes through the sacraments of the Church may give relief to those who are oppressed by sin, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That our brothers and sisters living among us in the greater community may recognize the love of God in our words and actions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all the faithful departed may have a share in the eternal banquet of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, you walk with us through all of the challenges we face in this life. In the midst of these trials, let us be your light in the world. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.

Thursday, August 2, 2018
(Lec. 404)

- 1) Jeremiah 18:1-6
- 2) Matthew 13:47-53

THURSDAY OF
17TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Eusebius of Vercelli,
Bishop;
Saint Peter Julian Eymard,
Priest)

FOCUS: God is sovereign over our lives, both now and in the final judgment.

Today's Scripture reminds us of God's absolute sovereignty; God is the potter who fashions us according to his own designs. As clay in God's hands, let us work each day to be the disciples we are called to be.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Jeremiah does as the Lord asks. He goes to the potter's house and awaits God's message, which conveys the image of God as a potter, fashioning his people, Israel. In the Gospel, Jesus tells two parables about the kingdom of heaven.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Seeking to trust God's work in and through our lives, let us offer our prayers to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) For the pope, bishops and all Church leaders, may God bless their lives of service in leading others to see God's work in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For local and national leaders, may God grant them the wisdom to use their gifts and talents to pursue cooperation where there is mistrust and healing where there is division, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from chronic illness and for those who care for them, may they receive healing for their body, rest from their labors and freedom from anxiety, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the Spirit give us the grace to be vessels of God's all-embracing love, especially to those who are neglected or lonely, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they experience the fullness of life and joy in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, receive our prayers that we offer for ourselves and for all those who need your presence in their lives. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Friday, August 3, 2018

(Lec. 405)

- 1) Jeremiah 26:1-9
- 2) Matthew 13:54-58

FRIDAY OF
17TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God's Word does not always fall on hearts open to his message.

Answering the call to live a life of faith and obedience in the Lord is not easy. People in both the Old and New Testaments at times turned away from God's call. We face the same challenges today as we make daily choices to live out the Gospel.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Jeremiah is threatened with death as the people reject the message God told him to deliver. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus is likewise rejected. The people take offense that the *carpenter's son* should dare to teach in the synagogue. Jesus acknowledges their lack of faith and their failure to honor him as prophet.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As people of faith, let us unite our hearts and voices in one accord to our heavenly Father.

- 1) For the universal Church and those who minister to her members, may God's grace nourish and strengthen their mission, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may the pursuit of peace be their foundation and guide their decision-making, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who struggle with life choices, may the truth of the Gospel give them guidance, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may the Holy Spirit grant us grace to always welcome the stranger and seek out those who are lost, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they enter into eternal life with the Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of mercy and love, please hear these prayers offered on behalf of your children. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

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Saturday, August 4, 2018

SATURDAY OF

(Lec.

406) 17TH WEEK

1) Jeremiah 26:11-16, 24

2) Matthew 14:1-12

IN ORDINARY TIME

(OBL MEM

Saint John Vianney,

Priest;

Saturday in honor

of BVM)

FOCUS: We must speak the Lord's truth, no matter the consequences.

God sent Jeremiah to prophesy and to call the people to repentance. Jeremiah did so although it put his life in danger. We are likewise called to still our hearts and *listen to the voice of the Lord [our] God.*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Jeremiah is threatened by the people to whom he proclaimed the Word of God. He was eventually saved because some people believed him. The Gospel tells of the beheading of John the Baptist.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Striving to live our baptismal call each day, let us present our prayerful petitions to our merciful Father.

1) For those who lead our Church, may they be emboldened by God as they preach the truth of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord

2) For all public authorities, may they be graced with our heavenly Father's wisdom in their deliberation of policy, let us pray to the Lord.

3) For the neglected, scorned or poverty-stricken, may God bless them with the compassion of others who will help them in their need, let us pray to the Lord

4) For our own faith community, may the many gifts of the Holy Spirit enrich our own witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.

5) For all who have fallen asleep in Christ, may they share now and forever perfect peace in the presence of the King of Kings, let us pray to the Lord.

6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, we offer these prayers with confidence in your mercy and goodness. Through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, 2018

(Lec. 113)

- 1) Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15
- 2) Ephesians 4:17, 20-24
- 3) John 6:24-35

**EIGHTEENTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Only God can satisfy our longings.

Today's readings remind us of a fundamental truth about human beings: we are never satisfied. Nothing that the world provides – be it food, material things or fulfillment of desires – can ever be enough to make us truly content. In the end, only God can satisfy our longings.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, we hear of God's gracious, abundant provision to the Israelites of daily bread and meat. Paul encourages us to put away the futility of our old way of life and put on our new self in Christ. Jesus assures the crowd that follows him, seeking a sign, that he himself is the Bread of Life.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Since our gracious God provided manna and quail in the desert to feed the Israelites, we now trust that he will also provide for the needs we present to him.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may God enable us to bear abundant fruit for his kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may the Spirit embolden them as they seek resolutions to the problems that plague our world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the lonely, hungering for the love of others, may the grace of God move family and friends to reach out to them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For catechists in our parish, may God bless them in their zeal for the Gospel as they educate our students in the Word of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they join all the angels and saints in giving glory to God forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of Abundance, you who heard the prayers of your people in the desert, hear our prayers today and answer them according to your will. We ask this in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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Monday, August 6, 2018

(Lec. 614)

- 1) Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
- 2) 2 Peter 1:16-19
- 3) Mark 9:2-10

**THE TRANSFIGURATION
OF THE LORD
– FEAST**

FOCUS: Like Peter, James and John, we, too, are blessed to look upon the glory of God in the Eucharist.

The Transfiguration is a defining moment for the disciples. They see their beloved Jesus in dazzling white. Likewise, we are transformed each time we encounter Jesus in the Eucharist.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In our first reading, the Prophet Daniel gives us this glorious image of God as a precursor to the Transfiguration event in today's Gospel. The author of Second Peter encourages us to be attentive to God's Word. In the Gospel, Jesus is transfigured, and Peter, James and John hear the Father's words: *This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in the risen Christ, let us offer our prayers to the Father.

- 1) That Pope Francis and all the clergy may be strengthened by God in their Gospel witness, bringing us ever closer to the glory of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That world leaders may allow their hearts to grow in love for the people they are called to lead and serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That the hearts of those who have fallen away from the practice of the faith may be open to God's graces, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the lives of those of us gathered here may reflect the glory of God dwelling within us as we walk with our brothers and sisters, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died marked with the sign of faith may come to share eternal glory in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, you allow us to see the glory of your Son each time we gather here. Grant what we need this day so we might share our faith with the people we encounter along the way. We pray this through your son, Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, August 7, 2018

(Lec. 408)

- 1) Jeremiah 30:1-2, 12-15,
18-22
- 2) Matthew 14:22-36 or
15:1-2, 10-14

TUESDAY OF
18TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Sixtus II,
Pope;
and Companions,
Martyrs;
Saint Cajetan,
Priest)

FOCUS: The Lord calls us to stay focused on him.

During times of trouble, it is easy to blame God for giving us a rough time, or to doubt his love for us. But our entire salvation history shows that God has never been far from us – we are always the ones who retreat. Trusting in God's undeniable and unquenchable love for us will bring us through any difficulty.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lord tells Jeremiah that he has indeed allowed the Israelites to suffer, but he is still with them and will restore them. Jesus calls the disciples to trust in him and in his Word. Even when they retreat in fear, Jesus brings them back to belief.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With faith in our Lord's loving kindness, we come before him with our needs.

- 1) That those who shepherd our Church may be upheld by the prayers of all their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That world leaders may have hearts of compassion as they look upon the poor and those in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are burdened by fear of any kind may find trust in Jesus, who tells us to take courage and be not afraid, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That this Eucharistic assembly might listen to Christ calling us to an ever deeper union with him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our beloved dead, who have weathered the storms of this life, might know the joy of eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, you calm our fears and call us to a greater union with your Son. Hear our prayers that one day we might be with you in everlasting glory. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Wednesday, August 8, 2018
(Lec. 409)

- 1) Jeremiah 31:1-7
- 2) Matthew 15:21-28

WEDNESDAY OF
18TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Dominic,
Priest)

FOCUS: God's love is limitless and unconditional.

God's love is limitless. It is not based on where a person lives or what that person does for a living or any other criteria. He loves all his creation and asks us to love him in return. God will never break his covenant with us, even if we turn away from him and sin.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, the Israelites rejoice as God assures them of his age-old love. He reminds them that he will be their God and they will be his people. The Gospel tells of the Canaanite woman with tremendous faith, whose daughter Jesus heals.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Conscious that God is the source of all good things, let us present our petitions to him, trusting in his unending care for us.

- 1) That the teachings and prayers of the Church Universal may bring healing and forgiveness to the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That those in positions of leadership may be given the fortitude to defend the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those with chronic illnesses may be granted freedom from pain, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all of us gathered here may rejoice in the knowledge that we are God's chosen people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may know God's perfect love in the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Holy God, we ask you to hear our petitions and grant us your providential assistance. We pray for these and all things through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, August 9, 2018
(Lec. 410)

- 1) Jeremiah 31:31-34
- 2) Matthew 16:13-23

THURSDAY OF
18TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.)

Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross,
Virgin and Martyr)

FOCUS: The Lord is our God, and we are his people.

The new covenant the Lord made with his people comes to fulfillment in Jesus. Through Jesus, we have an intimate connection with, and knowledge of, the God who loves us. Through Jesus, we have a community – a Church – which nurtures us and sustains us in our journey toward the fullness of the kingdom of God. Let us give thanks for the eternal covenant God has bestowed upon us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

A new covenant will be made by God with the house of Israel, announces the Prophet Jeremiah. The law of the Lord will be placed within them and written on their hearts. In the Gospel, Simon Peter recognizes Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the Living God. Jesus tells Peter that he is the rock upon which Christ will build his Church.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With willing spirits and contrite hearts, we approach our God and present in confidence our prayers for ourselves and for the world.

- 1) That all who minister in our Church may be strengthened by God's love and by our prayers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That elected officials everywhere may be blessed with the gifts of righteousness and integrity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are alone or fearful may feel the tender touch of God through the compassionate concern of others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all of us gathered here today may be graced with the mind and Spirit of Christ, the Son of the living God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died may see God face-to-face in the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Creator God, by your Spirit you awaken us to new life in Christ. Increase in us the faith, hope and love we need so your peace will reign always in our hearts. Through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, August 10, 2018

(Lec. 618)

- 1) 2 Corinthians 9:6-10
- 2) John 12:24-26

**SAINT LAWRENCE,
DEACON AND MARTYR
– FEAST**

FOCUS: God will honor all those who serve him faithfully and with a joyful heart.

From the very beginning, martyrdom has been part of the Christian experience, reminding us that the cross is never too far away. But if the cross is part of the Christian life, so is the Resurrection. Saint Lawrence, whom we celebrate today, is honored for his life of service to Christ and the Church as a deacon and as a martyr.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul reminds the Corinthians that they must be generous in their witness to Christ, *for God loves a cheerful giver*. Using the image of the seed, Jesus teaches us in the Gospel that we must first die to be born again to eternal life.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence, let us bring our prayers and needs before the Father.

- 1) For the Church, as the Body of Christ, may we be emboldened by Christ as we proclaim him as Lord and Savior, and bring the world to share in God's gifts of eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may they serve with wisdom and integrity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the dying and for all who bear the burden of sickness, may they share in the peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who are discerning a call to vocation in the Church, may they be given the grace to respond with courage and generosity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all our beloved dead, may the fruits of their labors on earth gain them eternal happiness in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and eternal God, you sent your only Son as Lord and Savior. Hear our prayers and grant us the grace to be always steadfast in faith and joyful in hope. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, August 11, 2018
(Lec. 412)

- 1) Habakkuk 1:12–2:4
- 2) Matthew 17:14-20

SATURDAY OF
18TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Clare,
Virgin)

FOCUS: Nothing is impossible for those who have faith.

At the center of Christian faith is trust in Christ's Word – the new covenant he makes with the world. We must take the utmost care to preserve our faith, for Christ teaches us that when we have even the tiniest amount of faith, nothing is impossible.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's reading, the prophet Habakkuk complains to God about the terrible things happening, and God reassures him that the just and faithful will be saved. The power of faith is illustrated in the Gospel when Jesus heals the boy with a demon. He says if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, nothing will be impossible.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in our Lord's Word, let us now turn to him in prayer for the needs of our world.

- 1) For Pope Francis, may the seeds of faith that God planted in him enable him to do great work through his charity and obedience to Christ's Word, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our leaders, may God grant them wisdom and fortitude to defend the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from mental illness, may God's Holy Spirit watch over them and give them strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all members of this parish community, may the Eucharist, and our communion with one another, strengthen our faith and embolden us to be Christ's witnesses in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may Christ grant them victory over sin and death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear the prayers of your people gathered here today; grant us what we need to do your will. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 2018

(Lec. 116)

- 1) 1 Kings 19:4-8
- 2) Ephesians 4:30–5:2
- 3) John 6:41-51

**NINETEENTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Jesus, the Bread of Life, teaches us how to come to the Father.

The claims that Jesus makes about himself leave us with a choice: to receive him and be transformed, following him as he leads us to the Father, or to remain as we are.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In First Kings, we hear of Elijah's cry to the Lord when he prays for death. He is visited by an angel who tells him to eat and drink in order to be able to withstand his journey. In Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, he reminds us to remove evil and instead take on compassion and mercy. In today's Gospel, Jesus explains that receiving him, the Bread of Life, is the way to the Father in heaven.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence and trust in God's providential love, we now turn to him and voice our needs.

- 1) For the Church, may Pope Francis, our bishops and priests be blessed with health and vitality as they lead us toward the Father through the teachings of Jesus, his son, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may the hope for a better and peaceful tomorrow guide their work today, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are sick, may they experience the healing and peace that the Lord offers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our community of believers, may we accept the graces offered in the Blessed Sacrament in order to unite ourselves to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they rest in the presence of God and rejoice with the angels and saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord our God, hear and answer the prayers we bring you today and every day. We ask this in Jesus' name.

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Monday, August 13, 2018

(Lec. 413)

- 1) Ezekiel 1:2-5, 24-28c
- 2) Matthew 17:22-27

MONDAY OF
19TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saints Pontian, Pope
and Hippolytus, Priest,
Martyrs)

FOCUS: Jesus calls us, like Peter, to live freely – in the world, but not of it – trusting God to provide our needs.

There is an interesting interplay of Jesus' divinity and his humanity in this episode with Peter. Jesus divinely anticipates Peter's question about the Temple tax; and in his gentle humanity he avoids offending the Temple workers. Living in the world, we, like Jesus did, use things of the earth such as a fish or a coin. But in the end, as with Peter's miraculous catch, it is God who is the source of all things and who provides for our needs.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Ezekiel relates his amazing vision of four winged creatures and above them a brilliant figure he describes as *the likeness of the glory of the Lord*. In today's Gospel, Jesus tells Peter to pay the Temple tax, instructing him to catch a fish, which will provide the necessary coin.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God who gave his only Son for our salvation, let us present our needs and petitions to the Lord.

- 1) For the Church on earth, that inspired by the glory of our heavenly King, we may draw many souls to know and love him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may the virtue of justice guide their daily decision-making, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who suffer in war-torn regions of the world, may peace take root and reign forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all those gathered here today, may the wideness of God's love and mercy draw us to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ, his son, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, that passing from this world to the next, they may delight forever beholding the glory of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God, you provide abundantly for us. Please accept these petitions and answer them according to your most holy will. Through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, August 14, 2018

(Lec. 414)

- 1) Ezekiel 2:8–3:4
- 2) Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14

TUESDAY OF
19TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Maximilian Kolbe,
Priest and Martyr)

FOCUS: Jesus, the loving Shepherd, calls us to him.

We might find the words of Jesus strange. Who leaves ninety-nine sheep to find the one that is lost? But what if we are that one lost sheep? What a comfort to know that the Lord will search for us until he finds us. We are precious in his sight, and he will not rest until he brings us home.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Ezekiel is called to speak God's Word to Israel. He consumes a scroll containing words of lamentation, wailing woe. But it is like *honey in [his] mouth*. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that they must become like little children to enter the kingdom of heaven. He is the Shepherd who leaves ninety-nine sheep to find the one who is lost.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us present our needs to the Lord, who loves us beyond all measure.

- 1) That those who shepherd our Church may receive God's blessing of wisdom and strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That public authorities throughout the world may allow the Gospel to be preached to all men and women, so they may find salvation through Christ our Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those oppressed in mind or spirit will find healing and support from their Christian brothers and sisters, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That those in our faith community who are overcome by fear or doubt may experience the freedom of living in God's truth and love, let us pray to the Lord
- 5) That those we have loved who have gone before us may find joy and peace in God's loving embrace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father in heaven, we, your children, bring our needs before you. Please grant what we ask, according to your will. Through your son, Christ, our Lord.

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Wednesday, August 15, 2018

(Lec. 622)

- 1) Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab
- 2) 1 Corinthians 15:20-27
- 3) Luke 1:39-56

**THE ASSUMPTION
OF THE BLESSED
VIRGIN MARY
- SOLEMNITY**
(Holyday of Obligation)

FOCUS: Mary's Assumption helps us focus on the eternal life that awaits us.

Mary's Assumption reveals to us our own destiny: eternal glory with God in heaven. Mary's own life serves as an example of faithfulness as we strive for that goal in this life. By our baptism we are called to be saints, to be able to say with Mary, *My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord*. In the end of her earthly life and assumption into heaven, we see the power of God in lifting us above a world of sin and into the fullness of union with him.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the reading from Revelation, we hear of the vision of the woman and the dragon, and the proclamation that salvation and power have come. In the second reading, Paul explains that Christ's resurrection has destroyed death. Mary's *fiat* at the Annunciation shows us how to respond to God's plan for our lives – by saying *yes* to whatever he asks.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With faith in God's love and mercy, let us bring our needs to our heavenly Father.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may Mary's fiat inspire our own witness to the Gospel and hasten a renewal of active faith in our world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may the salvation and power of our God lead them to work for peace and unity in their lands, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who hunger for God's Word, may the words of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, lead them to his peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all families gathered here, may we always rejoice in the gift of our faith and let it bear good fruit in our daily lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they live forever in the rest that God's love promises, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, draw all people to yourself and bestow your blessings upon us today. We ask all these things through your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Thursday, August 16, 2018
(Lec. 416)

- 1) Ezekiel 12:1-12
- 2) Matthew 18:21-19:1

THURSDAY OF
19TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Stephen of Hungary)

FOCUS: Sin imposes a heavy burden on relationships; forgiveness relieves it.

When we are in a state of sin, it imposes a great burden on our relationship with God, and with one another. Our very soul is weakened and sick. Sin wounds and harms all parties. Forgiveness from God and forgiveness of others is the key to healing the injury.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the passage from Ezekiel, he foretells the defeat of the Hebrews and subsequent exile in Babylon through a series of symbolic actions. In the passage from Matthew, Jesus offers a parable about a servant who owed a great debt and was forgiven, but found his forgiveness rescinded when he refused to forgive a smaller debt owed to him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us now turn to our heavenly Father, who is the source of all mercy.

- 1) For the Church and her leaders, may God bless them in their ministry as bearers of God's mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may God's forgiveness of sin inspire them to carry out their duties with compassion and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are sick or suffering, may they experience anew God's care for them through our loving actions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish community, may we readily forgive one another, remembering the great debt we have been forgiven in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our faithful departed, may God in his infinite mercy forgive their sins and bring them into his glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, look with kindness upon our petitions presented here and in the silence of our hearts. Please grant them in accordance with your holy will. Through your son, Christ our Lord.

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Friday, August 17, 2018

(Lec. 417)

- 1) Ezekiel 16:1-15, 60, 63 or
16:59-63
- 2) Matthew 19:3-12

FRIDAY OF
19TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God will never desert us.

In spite of our lack of faithfulness, God never stops loving and caring for us. There is nothing we can do to make God stop loving us. Knowing this, let us consciously work at being faithful to him through prayer, and striving to be aware of his will for us each and every day.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first reading presents an allegory of Jerusalem's unfaithfulness to God, using the image of a woman who is loved and cared for but is not faithful to her husband. In the Gospel, Jesus answers the Pharisees' question about the lawfulness of divorce, saying that God intends marriage to be forever.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God's goodness, let us present our prayers to him.

- 1) That we, as members of the Church, may be a constant sign of God's presence and work in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That leaders of nations may seek and accept the wisdom of the Holy Spirit as they carry out their duties, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who suffer because of divorce may find healing in the constant and eternal love of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the Holy Spirit may inspire in us the strength to forgive others from our hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may be reunited with their departed loved ones at the eternal banquet of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, hear our prayers and provide for our needs according to your will. We ask these things through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, August 18, 2018

(Lec. 418)

- 1) Ezekiel 18:1-10, 13b, 30-32
- 2) Matthew 19:13-15

SATURDAY OF
19TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Saturday in honor
of BVM)

FOCUS: Jesus invites us to turn away from sin and return to God through him.

We may recall times in childhood when we did something wrong, yet blamed someone else. Maybe we were ashamed of what we had done. Or maybe the adults in our lives did not deal very well with forgiveness and mercy. God, on the other hand, is ready to pour out his mercy and forgiveness when we confess to him.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Ezekiel expounds on the merits of living the virtuous life in our first reading. He tells the Israelites to accept personal responsibility and to not blame others for the consequences of their sins. Jesus proclaims in the Gospel that the kingdom of heaven belongs to the little children.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us present our prayers to God for the needs of our brothers and sisters throughout the world.

- 1) For the Church, may she be graced with the fortitude to remain steadfast in preaching the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may the Spirit inspire them to carry out their responsibilities with integrity and honesty, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For victims of natural disasters, may they be blessed with the assistance they need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the unborn in our faith community, may the Lord protect and nurture their development in the womb, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be welcomed home to heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, pour out your mercy upon us and all those in need. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 19, 2018

(Lec. 119)

- 1) Proverbs 9:1-6
- 2) Ephesians 5:15-20
- 3) John 6:51-58

**TWENTIETH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: We grow in wisdom as we grow in our understanding of God.

Our human understanding limits us, and so Scripture and the Church provide teachings that help us to know, love and trust in God. In Jesus, we come to know the Father; and through Jesus, as the Bread of Life, we come to have eternal life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Wisdom has prepared her table for those seeking understanding. In the reading from Ephesians, we are instructed to live *not as foolish persons but as wise*. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the crowds that he is the bread from heaven, and that whoever eats of him will have eternal life.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we gather around the Eucharistic table, we offer our prayers and concerns to the Lord.

- 1) For all clergy, may they be blessed with the grace and strength to continue to give witness to God's love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may their hearts and minds be filled with the desire for peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all families undergoing trials, may their members be strengthened by love and mutual support, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our school communities starting a new academic year, may God bless this new beginning and their hard work so as to bear good fruit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls of the dearly departed, may they be at peace in eternal rest with our Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear our prayers and have mercy on us. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Monday, August 20, 2018

(Lec. 419)

- 1) Ezekiel 24:15-23
- 2) Matthew 19:16-22

MONDAY OF
20TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM

Saint Bernard,
Abbot and Doctor of the Church)

FOCUS: *If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.*

If Christian discipleship was only about checking off our successes at following the Ten Commandments each day, most of us would find it challenging, but not impossible. And while those commandments are essential to the Christian life, they are not the epitome of it: for Christ calls us to do all things out of love – which can be infinitely more difficult. But again, not impossible – with his help.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Ezekiel prophesies to an unrepentant people, telling them by his own actions that they are not to mourn when God allows them to be overthrown and put in exile – because they have brought it on themselves. In the Gospel, Jesus challenges a rich young man to go beyond keeping the commandments, and give up his wealth to follow him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust in God's promise to be with us always, we bring our prayers for ourselves and for those in need.

- 1) For all clergy, may God bless their leadership and devotion to the Gospel, and help them challenge us to live our baptismal call more fully, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may God enable their policymaking to pursue respect for life in all its stages, from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For young people discerning a call to the priesthood or religious life, may they have the grace to respond generously, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who mourn the loss of a loved one, may they find peace, hope and comfort in God's healing love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they gaze in joy on the face of God forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of compassion and mercy, hear the prayers we bring to you, both spoken and unspoken, and answer them according to your will. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Tuesday, August 21, 2018

(Lec. 420)

- 1) Ezekiel 28:1-10
- 2) Matthew 19:23-30

TUESDAY OF
20TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Pius X,
Pope)

FOCUS: Everlasting life is given to those who place God first in their lives.

We human beings are limited by what our senses detect or what our minds can construe. We all have different gifts: wisdom, business acumen, athletic prowess. But we are all human, and ought to be humble before God. When we forsake all things for God, we find that true life comes only from him.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Lord speaks to a prince who thought he was god-like, and warns him that he will soon die dishonorably. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that no one can enter the kingdom based on earthly wealth; rather, the kingdom of God is a gift.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust in our Lord, we offer our prayers for our needs and the needs of the whole Church.

- 1) That the work of priests and bishops may be blessed as they serve the needs of God's people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That all nations may turn away from the desire to raise weapons of war against each other, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who mourn may be comforted, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all of us gathered in this holy place may seek to understand the way of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may know eternal rest in God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: O God of goodness, in your kindness, listen to the prayers we have placed before you, for you are faithful to all generations. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Wednesday, August 22, 2018

(Lec. 421)

- 1) Ezekiel 34:1-11
- 2) Matthew 20:1-16

WEDNESDAY OF
20TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
The Queenship of the
Blessed Virgin Mary)

FOCUS: We enter God's kingdom not by what we do or don't do, but by the grace of God.

Today's Gospel reminds us that the laborers in the vineyard are equal in the eyes of God. It is God's limitless generosity that opens the gates of the kingdom for us, not our own stature or abilities.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the reading from Ezekiel, we hear of the Lord's displeasure that his sheep have been neglected. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the workers in the vineyard.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in his grace and mercy, we offer our prayers and petitions to our heavenly Father.

- 1) For the Church, may her shepherds model the actions of the Good Shepherd in pasturing the Lord's sheep, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in positions of authority, may they be blessed with the wisdom of God in making their decisions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who live in the darkness of sin, may they reach for the light of Christ and be comforted by his love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For catechists and teachers, may God's grace be with them as they begin a new year of forming young minds and hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they share in the glory of the risen Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, you sent your only Son for our salvation. Continue to bless us with your mercy, and answer our prayers according to your will. We pray through your son, Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, August 23, 2018
(Lec. 422)

- 1) Ezekiel 36:23-28
- 2) Matthew 22:1-14

THURSDAY OF
20TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Rose of Lima,
Virgin)

FOCUS: Allow God to purify you and give you new life.

A great verse in this passage from the Prophet Ezekiel is when God says, *I will sprinkle clean water upon you to cleanse you from all your impurities, and from all your idols I will cleanse you.* It is through the power of God that our own freedom from sin is made possible, bringing us to conversion and new life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Ezekiel describes God's plan for Israel's restoration, as he promises to reunite those nations that have been scattered. The Gospel of Matthew describes the parable of the wedding feast, which speaks of the banquet God offers to each of us.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our needs to the Lord, with confidence that he will answer them according to his will.

- 1) That priests and bishops will have the strength of the Good Shepherd in leading their flocks, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That world leaders may have the grace of fortitude in working tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of the poor and hungry in their midst, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are sick may experience the healing presence of Jesus in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That members of this faith community may be filled with gratitude for the many gifts God has given to us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died will see the face of God throughout all eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we turn to you, confident in the power of your love and help during our times of need. We ask that you hear and answer our prayers through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Friday, August 24, 2018

(Lec. 629)

- 1) Revelation 21:9b-14
- 2) John 1:45-51

**SAINT BARTHOLOMEW,
APOSTLE
– FEAST**

FOCUS: Christ knows us and seeks us, and invites us to follow him.

In today's Gospel, we consider the call of Nathanael (whom the Church identifies as Bartholomew), and the invitation by Philip to *come and see*. How do we respond to the invitation to "come and see"?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading the author of Revelation, using imagery from Ezekiel, describes the new Israel. Jerusalem will be the bride of the Lamb, gleaming with splendor. In the Gospel, Philip finds Nathanael to tell him that the Messiah has been found. In reality, it is Jesus who has found the disciples and who knows them, invites them and promises more than they can imagine.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that God knows our needs before we ask, let us offer our prayers to our heavenly Father.

- 1) For all Church leaders, that God may bless them in their answer to his call, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government and civic leaders, that God may grant them the virtue of integrity as they serve their communities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those whose faith is shaken or who have no faith at all, that God may provide them messengers who will witness to them of his love and faithfulness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our local church, that we may heed the invitation to "come and see," and grow in our community through word and example, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they may see "greater things" than they had ever imagined with Jesus and all those in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, receive our prayers which we entrust to you. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Saturday, August 25, 2018

(Lec. 424)

- 1) Ezekiel 43:1-7ab
- 2) Matthew 23:1-12

SATURDAY OF
20TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Louis;
Saint Joseph Calasanz,
Priest;
Saturday in honor of
BVM)

FOCUS: *The temple was filled with the glory of the Lord.*

The glory of the Lord entered the Temple of the Israelites, and chose to dwell there forever. God became man to dwell among us, and through the Holy Spirit remains with us forever. In our bodies, then, as temples of the Holy Spirit, the glory of the Lord *also* resides. Let us honor him through our service and humility, as Jesus instructs.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In a vision, Ezekiel sees the glory of the Lord enter the Temple where God will dwell among the children of Israel forever. In the Gospel, Jesus admonishes the crowds and his disciples to observe all that the scribes and Pharisees say, but not to follow their example. For the greatest must be the servant, and those who exalt themselves will be humbled.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us come before our loving God and humbly present our needs and wishes.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may God strengthen our faith through his Scriptures and our prayer, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who enact laws throughout the world, may they have the courage to honor the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who live with chronic hunger, may their needs be satisfied by caring and compassionate people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For charitable organizations in our community, may the Holy Spirit inspire and bless their efforts to care for the least among us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may the seeds of their faith sowed on earth gain them eternal happiness in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of our salvation, we bring you these prayers for our needs and the needs of the whole human family. We ask that you hear and answer them according to your will, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 26, 2018

(Lec. 122)

- 1) Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b
- 2) Ephesians 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32
- 3) John 6:60-69

**TWENTY-FIRST
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: We are called to serve Christ, for he *is the Holy One of God*.

Jesus calls his disciples to follow him, knowing some will abandon and betray him. Christ is gathering together a new people – committed to serving the Lord alone, nourished by the Bread of Life, and faithful and spotless like a bride.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

At Shechem, the newly established tribes of Israel make a solemn covenant with the Lord. They cannot reject the one who led them to freedom. In the second reading, we hear that just as Christ gave himself up for the Church, so a married couple should do for each other in marriage. In the Gospel, Peter declares his loyalty to Jesus, for there is no one else to go to.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Having listened to God's Word, let us with courage and faith bring our prayers and petitions before him.

- 1) For the Church drawn from all nations and languages, may God richly bless us as we proclaim the fidelity and praise of the Lord to all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all in civil power and authority, may the Lord use their leadership to bring peace to our world and justice to those in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those enduring trials and challenges in life, may they come to know the loving presence of God and the support and compassion of the community of faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the young people in our faith community, may the light of God's grace guide their decision-making, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they take their place at the eternal feast in the kingdom of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and eternal Father, you call us to share in the eternal life of your kingdom. Trusting that your desire for us is mercy and steadfast love, we make our prayers with confidence and hope, through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Monday, August 27, 2018

(Lec. 425)

- 1) 2 Thessalonians 1:1-5,
11-12
- 2) Matthew 23:13-22

MONDAY OF
21ST WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Monica)

FOCUS: Gratitude and prayerfulness are hallmarks of the Christian life.

Gratitude and prayerfulness are some of the essential characteristics of the Christian life. We give gratitude to God for each other, for all that God has given us, and for all that tests us and does not find us wanting. We pray for the grace to be worthy of the calling, and to live a life that reflects in our actions everything that we profess with our speech.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's reading, Paul praises the Thessalonians for their endurance of faith. He says their love for each other despite suffering is evidence they are worthy to enter the kingdom of heaven. In the Gospel, Jesus denounces the scribes and Pharisees for their sins. He says they lock the kingdom of heaven to others and themselves.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With humble hearts, we approach God with our prayers for the needs of this assembly, our Church and the world.

- 1) For Pope Francis, bishops and priests, may God use them as instruments of grace and conversion in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may they be granted wisdom to recognize their duty to protect and care for their most vulnerable populations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are sick, may the healing compassion of Christ be made present to them through the goodness and care of others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the Lord bless our efforts to be the face of Christ to one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our faithful departed, may they bask in the radiance of our Lord's perpetual light, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, make us worthy of your calling. Hear our prayers and bring to fulfillment every good purpose and effort of our faith. We ask this through your son, Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, August 28, 2018

(Lec. 426)

- 1) 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3a,
14-17
- 2) Matthew 23:23-26

TUESDAY OF

21ST WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(OBL MEM

Saint Augustine,

Bishop and Doctor of the Church)

FOCUS: Let us strive to draw people to Christ through our words and actions.

Few things bothered Jesus more than hypocrisy, especially on the part of religious leaders. Each of us is called to lead by example in our life of faith. Jesus is speaking to us when he teaches about making sure our hearts are as pure as our words would suggest.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Paul exhorts those he has taught not to be deceived by outsiders trying to give them false messages. In the Gospel, there are warnings for hypocrites who claim to be following the law, but neglect mercy, judgment and fidelity. Jesus also warns about giving the outward appearance of goodness while carrying filth in the heart.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us join our hearts and minds, and bring our prayers to our heavenly Father for the needs of the world.

- 1) That the Church may continue to be blessed with great teachers, such as Saint Augustine whose feast we celebrate today, to help strengthen our faith and our knowledge of God's truths, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That leaders throughout the world may be blessed with the fortitude to protect the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are suffering in mind or body may obtain the help they need to be relieved of their burdens, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all of us here may be led by the Spirit to reject any hypocrisy in our own lives, as we strive for honest devotion to God and love of our neighbor, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may come to know the fullness of God's mercy and love in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, hear our petitions and grant what will help us draw closer to you. We ask these and all things through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday August 29, 2018

(Lec. 427)

1) 2 Thessalonians 3:6-10,
16-18

(Lec. 634)

2) Mark 6:17-29

WEDNESDAY OF
21ST WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
The Passion of
Saint John the Baptist)

FOCUS: It is not easy to live a life faithful to Jesus.

Mark Twain once said: "Truth is stranger than fiction, but it is because fiction is obliged to stick to possibilities; truth isn't." John the Baptist is clearly no fictional character. He spoke truth to power and suffered greatly because of it. But that is the power of truth: it compels us, and upholds us. And in the case of Jesus Christ – the Way, the Truth, and the Life – the Truth saves us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul speaks of his fidelity to the Gospel and his love for the followers of Jesus. In the Gospel, John the Baptist pays the ultimate price for speaking the truth.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Prompted by our faith in Jesus Christ, we place our needs before our merciful Father.

- 1) That Pope Francis may be blessed with the peace of Christ as he speaks the truth of the Gospel to all who will listen, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That local and national leaders may be granted the gifts of fairness and honesty with the people they are called to serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are experiencing doubt about their faith may experience the comfort and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all members of this faith community may have the grace to recognize our gifts and talents and to share them for the greater glory of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our beloved dead may rejoice in the glory of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, your love and mercy know no bounds. Grant our petitions according to your will. This we pray through your son, Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, August 30, 2018

THURSDAY OF

(Lec.

428) 21ST WEEK

1) 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

2) Matthew 24:42-51

IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Do what is right and remain faithful to the Gospel.

What do we teach our children? Have we ever said, "Behave in a way that would make your grandmother proud if she were watching you"? We hear the same message in the Gospel today when basically, Jesus is saying, "Do what is right, what you should be doing, even if it is not obvious to you that the Father is watching." Even more than doing what is right, we must do the work we are called to do.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul tells us in his First Letter to the Corinthians that they are sustained by Jesus, who called them to *fellowship*. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus gives a stern warning that we need to be watchful and responsible in continuing the work we have been given to do, staying faithful even when God's presence is not readily apparent.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together, with one voice, let us turn our needs over to the Father, who hears all of our prayers.

1) For those throughout the world who have not heard the Good News of salvation, may the Church's proclamation of the Gospel reach them, let us pray to the Lord.

2) For judges and magistrates, may they be blessed with both wisdom and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.

3) For our brothers and sisters suffering from loneliness or depression, may they receive the help they need to overcome their struggles, let us pray to the Lord.

4) For our parish family, may we be a faith-filled community of true service, modeling ourselves after the life of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.

5) For those who have died, and for all the souls in purgatory, may they see the face of God, let us pray to the Lord.

6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, for our needs and those of others throughout the world, we ask you to provide according to your will. Through your son, Christ our Lord.

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Friday, August 31, 2018

(Lec. 429)

1) 1 Corinthians 1:17-25

2) Matthew 25:1-13

FRIDAY OF
21ST WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Live in holiness and be prepared, for we do not know when the Lord returns.

The message of the cross is that the death and resurrection of Jesus enables our salvation. The promise is there, but we do not know when Jesus is coming. Sin numbs us spiritually and separates us from God. We should strive to live a daily life of holiness in expectation of his return, whenever it comes.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In Paul's Letter to the Corinthians, he reminds the people that he preaches the message of the cross and calls for faith in God's wisdom. The Gospel of Matthew recounts the parable of the ten virgins, awaiting the coming of the bridegroom. Jesus likens it to the kingdom of heaven, where some will be prepared and some will not.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we strive to live in readiness for the Lord's coming, let us join our voices in offering our prayers to the Father.

- 1) For the Church, may she grow in grace and strength and continue to be a force for good in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the servant leaders in our local governments, may their work be blessed and fruitful, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the oppressed, the sick, and those who live in fear, may they be comforted by God's love given through the hands of his followers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For students returning to school and those who teach them, may they be enriched in mind, body and soul, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they rejoice in the kingdom of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Our loving Father, we offer these prayers to you, knowing that your wisdom is far beyond our own and that you will take care of the needs of your children. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your son.

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