

January

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**YEAR B
WEEKDAYS II**

MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2018

(Lec. 18)

- 1) Numbers 6:22-27
- 2) Galatians 4:4-7
- 3) Luke 2:16-21

**THE OCTAVE DAY
OF THE NATIVITY
OF THE LORD;
SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**
(not a Holyday of Obligation)

FOCUS: Let us celebrate Mary's yes to the Lord.

Today we celebrate and honor the Holy Mother of God, Mary, whose yes to the Lord's plan allows her to bear Jesus, the salvation of the world. We join the shepherds in their amazement at the goodness of God's plan for his people.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading from Numbers, we hear the priestly blessing in which the Lord tells Moses to offer a blessing to the people. In Saint Paul's Letter to the Galatians, he reminds the early Christians that God sent his Son born of Mary so that we may receive adoption into God's family. In the Gospel, the shepherds travel to Bethlehem to find Mary, Joseph, and Jesus and to make known the message that had been told to them about the Child.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: On this day that we celebrate Mary, Mother of God, who with trust said yes to God's plan, let us bring our petitions to the Lord, trusting that his plan will bring us the fullness of life.

- 1) For Pope Francis, our bishop, priests and all who serve the Church, may the Lord strengthen them in their mission of bringing the light of Christ to a weary world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our civic leaders and all who help formulate public policy, may the Holy Spirit guide them in all that they do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer in mind or body, may God reveal his plan to them and may they take comfort in knowing of his providence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community, may God grant us faith like Mary's to say yes to him when he asks us to surrender to his will, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may their faith, known by the Father, be rewarded with the fullness of his peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father from whom all goodness flows, hear our prayers and the prayers we hold in our hearts. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Tuesday, January 2, 2018
(Lec. 205)

- 1) 1 John 2:22-28
- 2) John 1:19-28

Saints Basil the Great
and Gregory Nazianzen
Bishops and
Doctors of Church
(OBL MEM)

FOCUS: Making resolutions? Do any of them have to do with eternal life?

The beginning of a new year is a good opportunity to reflect on how faithful we have been to Jesus and the Father, and how we are making that faith evident in our interactions with others. What are we doing to let God know our commitment to him? Nothing is more important, because on *this* will our eternity be based.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first reading encourages us to remain faithful to both the Father and the Son, for we have God's promise that such faith will bring us eternal life. In the Gospel, we hear John the Baptist explaining that the Messiah is close at hand. John makes it clear that his own role is to prepare the way of the Lord.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us now present our petitions to the Father, trusting in his goodness.

- 1) That young people in the Church may thrive with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and seek to model Jesus' way of love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That those in political or civic authority may be guided by God's grace as they work for the well-being of those under their care, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That people suffering as a result of war or violence may have their suffering alleviated by the efforts of compassionate people throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That we, the members of this parish, may use the turning of the calendar as a catalyst for renewing our commitment to the Christian life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died in God's grace may be forever happy in his presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear our prayers and grant what is consistent with your divine plan. We offer these petitions through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Wednesday January 3, 2018
(Lec. 206)

- 1) 1 John 2:29–3:6
- 2) John 1:29-34

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY
(Opt. Mem.
The Most Holy
Name of Jesus)

FOCUS: John baptized with water, but Christ baptizes with water and the Holy Spirit.

We are children of God, and our baptism marks each of us as one of Christ's own forever. We are called to share the Gospel and live holy lives, strengthened by sacramental grace and the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, John reminds us that we are children of God, and that we have responsibilities as such. In the Gospel, John proclaims Jesus as our Savior and stresses his importance among us.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Lord, we bring before you our needs, confident that you hear us.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we witness on behalf of Christ and testify to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For a greater respect for life throughout the world, from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who find it difficult to break with sinful habits, may God guide them and give them strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this gathered assembly, may the love and truth that God has poured into our hearts sustain us in all that we do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they who were faithful in life now rest in the eternal happiness promised to them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of truth and love, you have given us your Son in order to show us the way to you. We ask that you hear these prayers we offer, through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, January 4, 2018
(Lec. 207)

- 1) 1 John 3:7-10
- 2) John 1:35-42

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY
(OBL MEM
Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton,
Religious)

FOCUS: Lead others to Christ.

In each of our hearts is a desire for God. While we try to fill this void with wealth, accomplishments or other worldly pursuits, the void can be satisfied only through a relationship with Christ – the living God. Once we experience the peace and happiness of encountering Christ ourselves, we can lead others to him.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, John distinguishes between children of God and children of the devil. Whoever sins does not belong to God. In the Gospel, John the Baptist leads two disciples to Jesus after proclaiming he is the *Lamb of God*. One of the men, Andrew, believes Jesus is the Messiah, and brings his brother, Peter, to meet him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: John the Baptist and Andrew led others to Christ. Continuing their mission, let us bring our needs before the Lord.

- 1) For the Church, may our prayers and charity during the Christmas season reveal Christ's presence in our world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For individuals in positions of authority, may the Holy Spirit guide them to use their power to protect the lives of those most vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are in need of God's healing in mind or body, may they experience God's loving presence through our prayers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish, may we be strengthened in our desire to love and serve in ways that bring others to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may the Lord welcome them into the light of his kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear and answer the prayers of your children. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Friday, January 5, 2018
(Lec. 208)

- 1) 1 John 3:11-21
- 2) John 1:43-51

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY
(OBL MEM
Saint John Neumann,
Bishop)

FOCUS: *Let us love not in word or speech, but in deed and truth.*

God formed us in his image, and we are called to reflect that in how we treat one another and in how we choose to live our lives. We are given the example of Cain, whose murder of his brother is the exact opposite of the command given us to *love one another*. Let us strive to be more like Christ, who laid down his own life for others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, John reminds his community of the story of Cain and Abel, and tells them that love of one's brother and sister is central to the Christian way of life. In the Gospel, Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael to be his disciples.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in your mercy, we place our petitions before you, our loving God.

- 1) That Pope Francis and our bishops may be strengthened and fortified by our prayers as they guide us along our journeys of faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That government officials may discern wisely before making decisions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are brokenhearted over the loss of a loved one may feel God's healing love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That families in our faith community may be grounded in the love of Christ and strengthened by the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our beloved deceased may rest in the embracing arms of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious and loving God, we ask you to hear these petitions in the name of your son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit.

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Saturday, January 6, 2018
(Lec. 209)

- 1) 1 John 5:5-13
- 2) Mark 1:7-11
or Luke 3:23-28 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY
(Opt. Mem.
Saint André Bessette,
Religious)

FOCUS: Jesus Christ is the victor over the world.

The waters of baptism, the blood of the cross and the Holy Spirit testify that Jesus is the beloved Son of God. As members of the body of Christ, let us strive to live out our baptismal call and do our part to build up the kingdom of God on earth.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading proclaims how we establish the truth of Jesus' identity as Son of God. Water, blood and the Holy Spirit testify to this truth. In Mark's Gospel, we hear of Jesus' baptism in the Jordan and God's proclamation that Jesus is his beloved son.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together, we gather in prayer to ask the Father to grant our needs and those of our brothers and sisters.

- 1) For the Church, may she be a conduit of the truth and joy that Jesus brings, especially in this Christmas season, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For people throughout the world, may they come to know lasting peace through faith in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are lonely or lack peace in this Christmas season, may they find comfort and rest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the sick of our parish, may they persevere in faith and find relief in compassionate caregivers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they find peace in God's holy kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, you proclaimed to the world that Jesus is your beloved Son. Accept our prayers today. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2018

(Lec. 20)

- 1) Isaiah 60:1-6
- 2) Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
- 3) Matthew 2:1-12

**THE EPIPHANY
OF THE
LORD**

FOCUS: Seek Jesus diligently in your daily life.

The Magi in the Gospel sought the newborn King diligently, willing to travel from the East to find him. We can find Jesus in our daily lives so much more easily, just by being open to the many ways he is present to us. How diligent are we at finding Jesus in our own life?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading recounts the splendor of Jerusalem as it draws other nations to the glory of God. In his Epistle to the Ephesians, Saint Paul proclaims the Good News that the Gentiles are co-heirs of salvation with the people of Israel. The Gospel recounts the journey of the Magi to Bethlehem, where they worshipped the baby Jesus.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As heirs of salvation, we have confidence to approach God with the needs of our world.

- 1) For all Church leaders, may they be filled with joy in their mission to radiate God's love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all nations, may the witness of committed Christians foster an increased respect for human life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For women in crisis pregnancies, may they receive the support they need to carry their babies to term, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may we be inspired to deepen our faith and place our trust in God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they experience the glory of God forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of glory, we place these prayers in your hands, trusting that you will grant the people of our world what they most need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Monday, January 8, 2018
(Lec. 21)

**THE BAPTISM
OF THE LORD
- FEAST**

- 1) Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
or Isaiah 55:1-11
or Acts 10:34-38
or 1 John 5:1-9
- 2) Mark 1:7-11

FOCUS: Through his baptism by John in the Jordan, Jesus expresses his solidarity with all of humanity in their longing for the fulfillment of the kingdom of God.

We gather this day, the last day of the Christmas season, to affirm our faith in the coming of God's kingdom, offered to us in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Let us be renewed in our common baptismal vocation to share the Gospel with others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Isaiah foretells the coming of the Messiah – he will be the humble servant of the Lord and the Spirit of God will rest upon him. The Gospel from Mark recalls the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Gathered as a family united in faith and baptism, let us with confidence bring our needs and prayers before our loving God and Father.

- 1) For Pope Francis, our bishops and all who exercise authority in the Church, may they be guided by the Spirit of God as they lead the faithful to a deeper knowledge of the mystery of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For governments and world leaders, may the Gospel message of goodwill and hope for all inform and direct their decisions and actions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who struggle with addiction, may they be assisted in overcoming their challenges through the love of Christ, and the assistance of the community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For peace and justice in our homes and communities, may he who is acclaimed as *beloved Son* dwell in our hearts and fill us with his peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they come to share in the baptismal promise of new life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, look with favor on us your children as you looked with favor on your only Begotten Son. We offer these prayers through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, January 9, 2018
(Lec. 306)

TUESDAY OF
FIRST WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

- 1) 1 Samuel 1:9-20
- 2) Mark 1:21-28 or

When the Baptism of the Lord occurs on Monday of the First Week in Ordinary Time, the readings assigned to Monday may be joined to those of Tuesday so that the opening of each book will be read" (305).

- 1) 1 Samuel 1:1-8 (305) and 1 Samuel 1:9-20 (306)
- 2) Mark 1:14-20 (305) and Mark 1:21-28 (306)

FOCUS: Pray always.

The Lord never ignores our needs, and we are called to be unceasing and persistent in prayer for ourselves and others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In our first reading today, we hear of the answer to Hannah's prayer for a male child. She and her husband, Elkanah, had a male child who become the great prophet and judge, Samuel. The Gospel of Mark tells the story of Jesus casting an unclean spirit out of a man.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence and trust, let us make our petitions known to the Lord.

- 1) That the Church will continue to grow in holiness as she works to build God's kingdom here on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That public authorities may be led by the guidance of the Spirit in all their decision-making, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That families torn apart by conflict or distrust may strive for reconciliation and seek God's healing mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That this faith community may be blessed with the fruits of the Spirit in all our work and ministry, let us pray to the Lord
- 5) That our departed friends and relatives may join the angels and saints in enjoying everlasting life in Paradise with the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: We make these petitions to you, Father, with confidence in the name of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, January 10, 2018
(Lec. 307)

- 1) 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20
- 2) Mark 1:29-39

WEDNESDAY OF
FIRST WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: At times, we need the help of other people to hear God's call to us.

God calls to us in a variety of ways. Sometimes, like Samuel, we need the help of another, perhaps a spiritual director or friend, to let us know that God is calling us. Often, through prayer and a reflective heart, we can hear God speaking directly to us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God calls to Samuel several times in his sleep. It is only through the wisdom of Eli that Samuel realizes that God is calling him. In the Gospel, Jesus cures Simon's mother-in-law, and many others in the town.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God calls on us to care for our brothers and sisters around the world. Let us, then, approach God with our prayers for others and for ourselves.

- 1) For those entrusted with the spiritual care of others, may God grant them wisdom and compassion as they lead their charges into a deeper union with God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who minister in health care, may they serve with the humility and compassion of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are sick, may they be blessed with the care and support they need to help them heal and recover, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the young people in this faith community, may we encourage and support them as they seek to understand what is right and good with God as their guide, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may God lead them to their eternal home, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of compassion, you speak to our hearts and call us to care for one another. Hear these prayers that we bring out of concern for our world, through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, January 11, 2018
(Lec. 308)

- 1) 1 Samuel 4:1-11
- 2) Mark 1:40-45

THURSDAY OF
FIRST WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Rely on the Lord.

The elders of Israel asked themselves, rather than the Lord, why God had permitted them to be defeated by the Philistines. The leper went right to the Lord and asked to be cleansed. Asking God for what we need, and relying on his providence, is essential to our relationship with him. God always provides, and his generosity is without end.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Philistines defeat the Israelites in battle, and the elders of Israel direct that the Ark of the Lord be taken into a new battle. But the Philistines again defeat the Israelites and capture the ark. In the Gospel, Jesus heals a leper who begs for cleansing, directing him to show himself to the priest and tell no one of what had happened.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in our God alone to heal us and bring us peace, we approach in confidence, bringing with us our needs.

- 1) That those who lead our Church may receive God's guidance and strength, especially in their fiercest struggles, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That warring nations in every corner of the earth may be led by the Holy Spirit to strengthen their efforts for finding peace between them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That people who suffer from diseases that separate them from loved ones and community may be embraced by caring people and healed in mind, soul and body, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That our community of faith may be guided by the Holy Spirit in our tireless work to build up the kingdom of God on earth by our words and actions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died with their hope fixed on the Lord may be raised to new life in that same Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful God, you provide for all people and bring healing to those who call upon you. Hear the prayers we offer to you, we pray, and grant them as is your will, through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, January 12, 2018
(Lec. 309)
1) 1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a
2) Mark 2:1-12

FRIDAY OF
FIRST WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: The Lord knows what is best for us.

We are given a cautionary lesson in the First Book of Samuel today that it does not serve us well to always get our way. When the people insisted they be given a king, the Lord and Samuel tried to warn them of the injustices and changes they would face, but the people did not listen. History would prove God's warnings to be true.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the people insist on Samuel giving them a king, even after being warned of the rights the king has to rule them. In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus heals a paralytic, telling him to rise and walk, astounding the people and causing them to glorify God.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in God's love and care for us, let us turn to him with our prayers of petition.

- 1) That vocations to the priesthood, religious life and Church ministry may flourish in this New Year, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That those suffering oppression throughout the world may experience the peace of Christ in their lands, and in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are suffering because of addiction, abuse or other offenses against their dignity may find strength in the Body of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That leaders in our local community may be guided by the Gospel message to create and support policies that lift up the poor, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have passed into eternal rest may see the face of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we bring these needs before you, trusting that you will respond to our prayers, through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Saturday, January 13, 2018
(Lec. 309)

- 1) 1 Samuel 9:1-4,
17-19; 10:1a
- 2) Mark 2:13-17

SATURDAY OF
FIRST WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Hilary,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church,
Saturday in honor of
BVM)

FOCUS: Like Saul and Matthew, the Lord calls us to follow him and surrender to his will.

Today's readings tell the stories of the calling of two "giants" of the Bible: Saul and Matthew. Both were going about their lives without a thought to what God had in mind for them, but when he called, they answered. Like Saul and Matthew, we must open our ears and our hearts to God's call so that we can discern his will for our lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells the story of Saul's anointing as *commander over [the Lord's] heritage*. In the Gospel, Jesus eats with Levi and other tax collectors and sinners, drawing the interest of the Pharisees.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear our prayers we offer in faith and hope.

- 1) For the Holy Father, may God grant him health and stamina as he follows the call of God in his life and leads the Church in building God's kingdom on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders around the world, may they hear God's message of love and mercy and act upon it, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all the sick, especially those in hospice care, may they find strength in God's loving care for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may the call of our baptism lead us to go forth and share the Good News of Jesus with others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rest in the eternal peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: O, God, Creator of the Universe and source of all that is good in our world, hear our prayers and grant them according to your will. We pray through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2018

(Lec. 65)

- 1) 1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19
- 2) 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20
- 3) John 1:35-42

**SECOND SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: The Lord continually calls us – do we have ears to hear?

Samuel does not recognize God's voice, but he is alert and obedient, listening and ready for action. We hear that he *ran* when called, and another time he *rose*. Eli gives Samuel the correct response: *Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening*. We live in a world of noise and distraction. Are we ready to answer? Can we even hear?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Samuel does not recognize God calling his name; Eli instructs him to respond, *Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening*. In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul declares the body is to be used, not for sin, but to glorify God as a temple of the Holy Spirit. In today's Gospel, Andrew and Simon Peter begin to follow Jesus.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Andrew and Peter sought the Lord and stayed with him. Let us seek him with steadfast hearts as we offer our petitions this day.

- 1) For the Church, may God continue to raise up faithful men and women who will respond to his call with, "Speak, for your servant is listening," let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in missions at home and abroad, may God bless them with courage and wisdom to proclaim the Gospel of Christ, and bring salvation to the lost, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who feel trapped by sin, may they have the support of friends and counselors to find true freedom in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For guests and visitors to this faith community, may Christ be present to them during their time with us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who sleep in death, may they know eternal joy, seeing God face to face, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Monday, January 15, 2018
(Lec. 311)

- 1) 1 Samuel 15:16-23
- 2) Mark 2:18-22

MONDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Are we attentive to the ways in which the Lord speaks to us?

Today's readings challenge us to look beyond that which we know, and to be open to how the Lord is at work in our lives. Most of the Pharisees were rigid in their beliefs and expected everyone to be the same. There was no room for God to surprise them in unexpected ways. Are our hearts open for God's surprises?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saul is blind to the ways in which he did not follow God's instruction in the overthrow of the Amalekites. As he rejected the commands of the Lord, so the Lord rejects him as ruler of the people. In the Gospel, Jesus is questioned as to why he and his disciples do not fast as the disciples of the Pharisees and John did. Jesus answers them with an analogy to a bridegroom at a wedding feast and new wine in fresh wineskins.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us now present our needs to our loving and compassionate God.

- 1) That God may bless our Holy Father, Pope Francis, his bishops, priests and all the Church with the strength to follow the stirrings of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the leaders of nations may be guided by the Spirit, and work to enact laws that protect the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those suffering from mental illness may receive the support and care they need in order to share their gifts and talents with the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That this Eucharistic community may be granted the gifts of wisdom and fortitude to put away old ways of doing things and take on the new things from the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our beloved dead, believing in the saving power of God, may be with Christ forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: O everlasting God, who sent your Son to bring us new life, hear our prayers. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, January 16, 2018
(Lec. 312)

- 1) 1 Samuel 16:1-13
- 2) Mark 2:23-28

TUESDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God cares for us.

It may sound rather trite to say that “God cares for us,” but history is full of individuals and people who have either not understood what that meant, or have refused to believe it. We have been shown, time and again, from the Exodus to the Resurrection, that we are God’s chosen people and he cares for us. Let us believe, and trust in that message.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Samuel is called by the Lord to anoint a new king over Israel, and the one chosen is Jesse’s youngest son, David. In the Gospel, Jesus’ disciples are criticized for picking grain on the Sabbath, but Jesus reminds the Pharisees that the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in his mercy, we ask God to hear our prayers.

- 1) For the Church, may she be a conduit of grace and mercy to the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all nations, that God may lead those in power to a just governance and the gift to discern what is best for their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For victims of violence or abuse, may they find healing through the gentle assistance of others and through the power of God’s healing love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our parish who have recently sought the sacrament of anointing of the sick, may the graces granted in the signing with the Holy Oil bring relief in their suffering, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have gone before us in faith, may they experience the freedom of God’s mercy in the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God, giver of all freedom, we ask you to hear our prayers and show us your holy mercy, through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, January 17, 2018
(Lec. 313)

- 1) 1 Samuel 17:32-33
37, 40-51
- 2) Mark 3:1-6

WEDNESDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Anthony,
Abbot)

FOCUS: God works in his own way and in his own time.

God works according to his own plans. David was small, and just a youth, when he fought Goliath who was larger, and had many years of experience as a warrior. But the Lord protected David, and gave him the victory by means of a small stone and a sling. The Lord can do great things in our lives, when we allow him to be in charge.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading David, carrying only a slingshot, goes into battle against the heavily armed Philistine warrior, Goliath. The Lord delivers Goliath into his hands because of David's faith. In the Gospel, Jesus cures a man with a withered hand, and the Pharisees are outraged because the healing took place on the Sabbath.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us present our petitions to God, mindful of the many blessings he has bestowed upon us.

- 1) That all members of the Church may be open to the presence of Jesus in our lives, and continue to say "yes" to his invitation to follow him each day, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the Gospel may be proclaimed to the entire world, through word and deed, and by the example of the faithful, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are persecuted for their faith may be blessed with the courage and strength to follow the Lord in spite of hardship, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the youth of our parish may be inspired to embrace service to others, to God and to the Church by the witness of teachers, parents and all those who educate them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died in the light of faith may be judged mercifully and welcomed into the Lord's kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, look favorably on the prayers of your people. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

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Thursday, January 18, 2018
(Lec.314)

- 1) 1 Samuel 18:6-9; 19:1-7
- 2) Mark 3:7-12

THURSDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: We are called to make Jesus known to others.

Unlike the unclean spirits in the Gospel, we who have come to recognize and love Jesus as the Son of God are free to share our knowledge with the world. By our baptism, we are commissioned to ministry – to do the work of God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's reading from the First Book of Samuel, King Saul is moved to a murderous rage because the people are not giving him as much praise as they are giving David, his servant. Saul's son, Jonathan, brokers peace between them. In today's Gospel from Saint Mark, we hear of Jesus' ministry making him more and more widely known. He warns the unclean spirits not to make him known.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Our Lord Jesus tells us that the Father always desires to hear our prayers. Trusting in our Lord, we offer him our prayers and needs.

- 1) For all members of the Church throughout the world, both clergy and laity, may our shared mission of evangelization lead to the strengthening of God's presence in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may the servant Christ guide them in their decision-making, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are affected by adverse weather or difficult living conditions, may God relieve their suffering and provide neighbors and friends to reach out and assist them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the sick of our parish, may they discover God's loving goodness at the hands of devoted caregivers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died in Christ, may they enjoy eternity with him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we offer these prayers to you, confident that you will hear and answer them. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Friday, January 19, 2018
(Lec. 315)

- 1) 1 Samuel 24:3-21
- 2) Mark 3:13-19

FRIDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: We are called to use our God-given gifts to help build up the kingdom of God on earth.

Jesus spent much of his time on earth teaching his Apostles and other followers how to live out their faith in God once he returned to the Father. As his present-day followers, we are called to pass on our beliefs and faith traditions to those who will carry on when we are gone. It is part of our obligation as Christians.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells how David refused to harm Saul, even though they were enemies. In the Gospel, Jesus prays on a mountain and then appoints the Twelve Apostles whom he would send forth to preach and heal in his name.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We place our trust in God as we offer our prayers to him for our needs and the needs of the world.

- 1) For the Church, may she be enriched for her future by the wisdom, devotion and faith of dedicated Christians who have witnessed to their faith throughout the ages, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For young people throughout the world, may they be inspired by the example of parents, teachers and other mentors who exemplify personal responsibility and love for one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer chronic pain or serious illness, may they be encouraged and comforted by the healing mercy of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may God help us to honor one another and turn to each other for support and guidance in living out our faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they have a seat at the eternal banquet in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Holy God, hear us in our need. We ask these and all things through Christ our Lord.

Saturday, January 20, 2018
(Lec. 316)

- 1) 2 Samuel 1:1-4,
11-12, 19, 23-27
- 2) Mark 3:20-21

SATURDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Fabian,
Pope and Martyr;
Saint Sebastian,
Martyr;
Saturday in honor of
BVM)

FOCUS: Trust in the Lord's plan.

God's plan isn't always apparent to us. We face suffering and uncertainty in our lives, yet faith allows us to trust that these difficult times will eventually lead to a greater good. In today's readings, we witness the sorrow of David and the concern of Jesus' family. Both play parts in our Lord's plan for salvation.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's reading, David and his men mourn the deaths of Jonathan and Saul. He sings an elegy lamenting the loss of his beloved friend and the fallen king. The Gospel recounts a point in Jesus' ministry when such a large crowd gathers around him that he and his disciples cannot eat. His relatives think he is out of his mind.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Placing our needs in the hands of the Lord, let us now lift up our prayers to the heavenly Father.

- 1) For the Church, may she prosper in the sight of God as she strives to be a source of light and justice in a troubled world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For people throughout the world, may they be blessed with leaders who work diligently for peace and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those with mental illness, may they receive support and proper treatment, and be renewed in hope through our prayers and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish family, may our prayers and fellowship bring us into deeper communion with Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may the Lord greet them with mercy and compassion as they enter his heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear the prayers of your children. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2018

(Lec. 68)

- 1) Jonah 3:1-5, 10
- 2) 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
- 3) Mark 1:14-20

**THIRD SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Let us heed God's call.

How many times do we have to stumble and fall before we realize that following God's ways, and not our own, leads to happiness and salvation? Let us not resist the Lord, but answer his call.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the reluctant prophet Jonah gets a quick response today from the people of Nineveh. Saint Paul speaks with urgency, telling the Corinthians that time is running out. Jesus begins his ministry by calling four Apostles – changing the direction of their lives.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Heeding God's call, we place before the Lord our needs so that we might follow him.

- 1) For Church leaders, may the Holy Spirit continue to guide and inspire them and keep them faithful to Christ and his Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all civic leaders, may God provide them with the spiritual and practical resources necessary for their work to bring an end to violence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those discerning their vocation in life, may God honor them in their search and give them the grace to remain open to his invitation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For young people in our parish who face difficulty at home or school, may God provide them family, friends and others to offer guidance and support, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they live in glory forever with God and all the saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, we thank you for hearing our prayers, which we offer through Christ our Lord.

Monday, January 22, 2018
(Lec. 317)

- 1) 2 Samuel 5:1-7, 10
- 2) Mark 3:22-30

MONDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
USA: Day of Prayer for the
Legal Protection
of Unborn Children

For the Day of Prayer, any readings from the *Lectionary for Mass Supplement*, the Mass "For Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life," nos. 947A-947E, or the *Lectionary for Mass* (vol. IV), the Mass "For Peace and Justice," nos. 887-891

FOCUS: Jesus is the source of our unity.

Division causes weakness. Let us be united in our trust of God's powerful help, so we may accompany each other through the difficulties of today's world. And may we be open to the workings of the Holy Spirit, who strengthens our bond with Jesus.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, David is anointed king by the elders of Israel, and we are told he reigns for forty years. In today's Gospel, Jesus preaches against division within the kingdom and against blaspheming the Holy Spirit.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Raising our voices with trust in our heavenly Father, we present our prayers for ourselves and the world.

- 1) That our Holy Father, Pope Francis, may enjoy continued health and vitality, and be blessed with an abundance of grace to shine the light of Christ in our world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That elected officials may work to uphold the dignity and sanctity of life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all women facing difficult or unplanned pregnancies may receive compassionate care and the support they need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That those who have closed their hearts to God may be blessed with the certainty of God's love for them, and seek the grace to reconcile, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may find peace and rest in our Lord's loving care, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, you give power to the weak and guidance to the lost. Hear the prayers we offer today in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.

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Tuesday, January 23, 2018
(Lec. 318)

- 1) 2 Samuel 6:12b-15, 17-19
- 2) Mark 3:31-35

TUESDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Vincent,
Deacon and Martyr;
Saint Marianne Cope,
Virgin)

FOCUS: Strive to live faithfully and virtuously to follow the will of God.

Each of us is called to follow God's will so as to become members of Christ's family. How do we know we are following God's will? If we are in relationship with Jesus and strive to be faithful and virtuous, we can be confident that God will lead us on the path of life he sets forth.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, King David decides to move the ark to the City of David and place it within his tent. In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus identifies everyone who does the Father's will as his *brother and sister and mother*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our prayers to the Father, who knows us as sons and daughters.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may the Holy Spirit help us make a joyful and fruitful witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those throughout the world who do not yet know the blessing of being in the presence of God, may the love of Christians bring them to the faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all God's children who lack the basic necessities of life, may their needs be met and may they be blessed with the strength and support they need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our brothers and sisters within this faith community who feel invisible, may God hear their prayers and send companions who witness to his love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they experience the joys of the heavenly kingdom forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, hear and answer the prayers of your children according to your will. We ask you in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.

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Wednesday, January 24, 2018
(Lec. 319)

- 1) 2 Samuel 7:4-17
- 2) Mark 4:1-20

WEDNESDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Francis de Sales,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church)

FOCUS: Let us seek direction from the Lord, and then follow when he gives it.

When we have an idea that we believe will please the Lord, or if we wonder if a certain thought might be from God, let us pray for guidance as well as seek advice and discernment from a spiritual advisor. Let us also be open to whatever the answer might be. The Lord is the one in charge.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, David, who wanted to build a temple for the Lord, learns the Lord will honor him in other ways by having an everlasting dynasty through his descendants. The Gospel relates the parable of the seed that falls on different kinds of soil. Jesus explains to the Twelve and a few others that this represents the acceptance or disregard of the Word by various listeners.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us come humbly before the Lord and ask him to hear our petitions.

- 1) That all clergy may be strengthened and edified by the prayers of the Church throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That our elected officials may be led by the Holy Spirit to enact laws that uphold the dignity of all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That the spirits of the lonely and discouraged may be uplifted by the assurance of God's love and compassion for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That this faith community may be good soil that bears good fruit after hearing the Word of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all our dearly beloved who have died may enjoy the eternal happiness of Paradise with the Lord and all his saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: We pray these prayers with confidence to you, Father, in the name of your son, Jesus.

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Thursday, January 25, 2018
(Lec. 519)

- 1) Acts 22:3-16
or Acts 9:1-22
- 2) Mark 16:15-18

**THE CONVERSION
OF SAINT PAUL
the APOSTLE
- FEAST**

FOCUS: Through conversion, we learn to see in a new way – God’s way.

In the story of Saint Paul’s conversion, he spends time in blindness after encountering the risen Christ. When he is healed, Paul can see again – in a new way. We, too, are called to conversion throughout our lives, called to see in a new way – God’s way.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from Acts recounts Saint Paul’s conversion on the way to Damascus. In the Gospel, Jesus calls on his Apostles to spread the Good News of his kingdom.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God calls us all to have concern for our brothers and sisters around the world, so let us present him with our prayers.

- 1) For bishops throughout the world, may they be graced with Saint Paul’s zeal in teaching the Word of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all judges, may God grant them prudence to decide the cases before them with justice, mercy and wisdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who have suffered as a result of violence or abuse, may they be comforted and supported by God’s healing love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may we build up missionary disciples in our midst who will go and proclaim the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, especially the loved ones of those here present, may they enjoy eternal rest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, we know that you hear our prayers. We ask that you answer them according to your will, through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Friday, January 26, 2018

(Lec. 520)

1) 2 Timothy 1:1-8
or Titus 1:1-5

(Lec. 321)

2) Mark 4:26-34

FRIDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saints Timothy and Titus,
Bishops)

FOCUS: Sincere faith gives us the ability and the courage to proclaim the Gospel message.

Jesus explains to his disciples the meaning of his parables that describe the powerful growth of the kingdom of God. Let us also listen to Jesus' words and seek to understand. Only then can we nurture our own seeds of faith and find the courage to work for the kingdom.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul writes from prison and affectionately greets Timothy, for whom he constantly prays. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks in parables, comparing the kingdom of God to seeds that sprout overnight, and then to a mustard seed – the smallest of seeds that grows into the largest of plants.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Called by the Lord to open ourselves to the mysteries of the kingdom, we present with faithful hearts our prayers of petition.

- 1) For all who serve the Church, may God infuse them with joy and wisdom as they preach the Word of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may they seek ways to avoid conflict and violence by looking to the Gospel of Jesus, which fosters peace and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are persecuted for their faith, may God's Holy Spirit uphold and strengthen them and assure them of the prayers of their brothers and sisters in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For parents who struggle financially or emotionally to care for their children, may they be renewed in hope and guided to assistance, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they be with the risen Lord forever in the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, we bring our prayers before you with confidence that you will hear and answer them. Grant what we ask according to your will, through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, January 27, 2018
(Lec. 322)
1) 2 Samuel 12:1-7a, 10-17
2) Mark 4:35-41

SATURDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Angela Merici,
Virgin;
Saturday in Honor of
BVM)

FOCUS: Jesus calms the winds and waves of the storms and seas of our lives.

A life of discipleship does not mean a life free from suffering and trials. However, our faith in Jesus assures us that he is the sovereign Lord who can calm the storms of our lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Lord sends Nathan to David to tell him a parable about a rich and poor man. When David realizes he is the rich man in the parable, he repents. In Mark's Gospel, we hear about Jesus calming the sea, and then Jesus asks the disciples if they have faith.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God the Father, we bring to you these prayers, trusting through faith in your loving providence.

- 1) For Pope Francis, our bishop, priests and all who teach the faith, may God bless their every endeavor as they share the Gospel with people in all corners of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who serve in positions of authority, may they see themselves as servants for justice, seeking always the common good as they make decisions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick and those who are marginalized, may they be consoled by the peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may God strengthen our trust in him to be with us in the storms of our lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they see the face of God this day, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, you sent your Son for our salvation. Hear the prayers we bring to you today with trusting hearts, in his name.

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2018

(Lec. 71)

- 1) Deuteronomy 18:15-20
- 2) 1 Corinthians 7:32-35
- 3) Mark 1:21-28

**FOURTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: God's desire is to liberate his people so that they fulfill their holy destiny.

Liberation is at the heart of our Scriptures – a freedom that will liberate us from worldly anxieties and concerns, and from all that might hinder us in fulfilling our holy mission. Listening to and obeying God's Word prevents us from hardening our hearts and distancing ourselves from his presence in our lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Lord promises Israel that he will raise up a new prophet, one who will speak with his authority. Paul urges the Corinthians to remain free of worldly anxieties. In Mark's Gospel, it is the unclean spirit that recognizes Jesus' true identity and responds to his commands.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: The Lord is our Shepherd, and we are the people who belong to his pasture. With confidence, we bring our needs and petitions before the Lord.

- 1) For all who shepherd our Church, may God grant them fortitude as they follow the Lord's call, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may they be inspired to listen to God's Word and work for justice and peace in our world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For missionaries who face danger and persecution, may they be protected by the strength that comes from knowing and following God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For young people in our parish discerning a vocation to the priesthood or religious life, may they be confident in our love, support and prayers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, and all those who have died, may they know the forgiveness of God and come to share in the fullness of Christ's glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Eternal Father, all life and authority has its source in you and every good gift comes from you. Graciously hear and answer our prayers for these gifts. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Monday, January 29, 2018
(Lec. 323)

- 1) 2 Samuel 15:13-14, 30;
16:5-13
- 2) Mark 5:1-20

MONDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God's graces are abundant, even in the face of difficulties.

Both subjects in our readings today – David and the man with the unclean spirit – are miserable. As Christians, we wonder why there is suffering. It is not something inflicted on us by a vengeful God; rather it is a result of sin entering the world. It can be a means by which we draw closer to God as we seek his aid in enduring the many difficulties we encounter in this life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading from Samuel, David flees Jerusalem because his son seeks to overthrow him. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus frees a man who is possessed by many demons and instructs him to return home and tell his family of God's mercy.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For the Church and her leaders, may God sustain their faith and love as they strive to bring God's mercy to those who suffer, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may they be open to the workings of the Holy Spirit, and lead with justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer oppression, may God in his mercy give them the grace necessary to endure their many sorrows, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may God endow us with a spirit of mercy to others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our faithful departed, may they enjoy the rewards of eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Tuesday, January 30, 2018
(Lec. 324)

- 1) 2 Samuel 18:9-10, 14b,
24-25a, 30-19:3
- 2) Mark 5:21-43

TUESDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God gives us the freedom to choose between life and death.

We experience the gift of life in many forms: through the birth of a child or in the daily graces we are given, such as the friendships we share. We experience the brokenness of death in our own physical mortality, but also as a result of poor choices that diminish our growth or damage relationships. God desires for us to choose life over death, and to live it to the fullest in Christ Jesus.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Our first reading is the historical account of the death of Absalom by King David's own warriors. David mourns the loss of his son who had rebelled against him. The Gospel provides us with two parables: bringing Jairus' daughter back to life and the healing of the woman with hemorrhages.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us respond to God's Word by offering our prayers and petitions for those in need.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may our devotion to the Eucharist bear good fruit in the form of charity and service to others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government officials, may God guide them to actions that reflect his love for all of creation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer in mind, body or spirit, that through the love of Christ and the compassion of others they may bear their hardship and experience healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, who have received abundant gifts from the Lord, may we be moved to share his blessings with others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, especially those who will die today with no one to pray for them, may they be warmly welcomed by the angels and saints into God's heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, hear these and all the prayers we hold within our hearts. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, January 31, 2018
(Lec. 325)

- 1) 2 Samuel 24:2, 9-17
- 2) Mark 6:1-6

WEDNESDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint John Bosco,
Priest)

FOCUS: *A prophet is not without honor except . . . in his own house.*

Saddened that the crowd had no faith in his words or miracles, Jesus left them to the jealousy or stubbornness that veiled their hope and diminished their faith. He traveled on. Do we find ourselves to be like some of the Nazoreans or are we more like those of faith in the nearby towns?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of David choosing pestilence as punishment for numbering the people. He prays to be struck instead of the innocent people. Mark's Gospel relates how the people at Nazareth reject the words and miracles of Jesus.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Rejoicing and growing in God's gift of faith, let us pray for our needs and those of all creation.

- 1) That the Church may be emboldened by God in spreading her message of salvation to the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That leaders throughout the world may obtain from God the graces necessary to rule justly, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who experience rejection or failure may find hope and strength in the Gospel message, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all who minister to our faith community may continue to grow in hope and faith as they follow Christ and do his work, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may know the joy of eternal life in God's kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God, we rely on Jesus who is our way, our truth and our life. We offer these prayers through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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