

July

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SUNDAY, JULY 1, 2018

(Lec. 98)

- 1) Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24
- 2) 2 Corinthians 8:7, 9,13-15
- 3) Mark 5:21-43 or 5:21-24; 35b-43

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Approaching Jesus with great faith allows him to be at work in our lives.

Today we hear of the woman who had such faith that she wanted only to touch Jesus' cloak. Because of her faith, her brief encounter with Jesus was transformative in her life. It is her faith, and his divine power, that allowed her to be healed and changed. Jesus wants us to be healed as well – let us approach him with great confidence and faith, knowing that he can transform our lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading from the Book of Wisdom, we hear that God does not delight in death, but rather loves creation, and made us in his image. In Saint Paul's Letter to the Corinthians, Paul makes clear that we glorify God through our generosity. In Mark's Gospel, we hear about Jesus' encounter with a suffering sick woman who simply wants to touch his cloak. Jesus affirms the woman not only by healing her, but also by telling her that it was indeed her faith that saved her.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust in God's providential love for his people, let us offer these prayers and petitions.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all the clergy, may they grow in faith, hope and love and lead the faithful closer to God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may God's grace open their hearts to peaceful solutions to conflicts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick and all who suffer in our faith community, may God's Holy Spirit restore them to the fullness of life and health and liberate them from all afflictions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here and for all we love, may we approach the Lord with confidence and allow him to meet us in our brokenness and heal us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they enjoy the eternal reward of encountering the Lord forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, we bring all of our intentions to you this day, trusting that you hear and answer us, through your son, Christ our Lord.

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Monday, July 2, 2018
(Lec. 377)
1) Amos 2:6-10, 13-16
2) Matthew 8:18-22

MONDAY OF
13TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Jesus offers the path to salvation.

When we consider the redemption of humanity, and each of our individual moral struggles, we can only marvel at how profound a blessing it is that Christ unfailingly raises us to heaven through his offer of Divine Mercy. Let us heed God's commands and commit ourselves to following Christ.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In Amos, we hear a stern condemnation for Israel's many abominations against God, along with a promise of punishments to come that not even the strongest can withstand. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus shows those who wish to follow him the depth of commitment necessary to fulfill such an aspiration.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us now turn to our heavenly Father, who lovingly provides for our needs and the needs of the Church.

- 1) For all who shepherd our Church throughout the world, may God richly bless their call to prayer and service in helping others to walk the path of salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may God grant them the wisdom and courage to seek peace with one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer oppression, may God in his mercy help them to find refuge from their persecutors, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish community, may the life-giving presence of Jesus in our midst fill us with God's grace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our faithful departed, may they be brought to the light of God's glory in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Tuesday, July 3, 2018

(Lec. 593)

- 1) Ephesians 2:19-22
- 2) John 20:24-29

**ST. THOMAS,
APOSTLE
- FEAST**

FOCUS: Today we honor Saint Thomas, the Apostle, who shows us that we are blessed by our faith in Jesus.

Thomas had the courage to tell Jesus exactly what he needed Jesus to do in order to believe in him. He was blessed with Jesus' response, and so are we when we go in faith to the one whom we have not seen and ask for what we need.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In Ephesians, Paul tells us that we are not strangers, but rather united members of God's household, with Jesus as the cornerstone. John's Gospel relates the story of Thomas' need to see and touch the wounds of Christ in order to believe. Jesus responds by saying that those who believe without seeing are *blessed*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Following in the footsteps of Saint Thomas and all the Apostles, we put our faith in God as we bring forth our petitions.

- 1) For the universal Church, may her apostolic tradition continue to nurture and strengthen the faith of all members, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our national leaders, may they have the grace to make choices which honor the needs of our most vulnerable citizens, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those of all races and creeds, may they treat one another with the love and respect modeled for us by Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of our local community and beyond who struggle with belief, may God bless them with the gift of faith and a peace which surpasses all understanding, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful who have died, may they know the eternal joy of life in the kingdom of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, with deep faith and trust in your mercy, we place our prayers before you, confident that you know what we need. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.

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NOTE: for Independence Day, any readings from the *Lectionary for Ritual Masses* (vol. IV), the Mass "For the Country or a City," nos. 882-886, or "For Peace and Justice," nos. 887-891

Wednesday, July 4, 2018

(Lec. 379)

- 1) Amos 5:14-15, 21-24
- 2) Matthew 8:28-34

WEDNESDAY OF
13TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
Independence Day
in United States of America)

FOCUS: The Lord desires justice over sacrifice.

God continues to call us into right relationship with himself as well as with others. He asks much of us, but also gives us the grace we need to respond. In asking us to make conscious decisions about following him and doing his will, God wants the best from and for us. Through Word and sacrament, God liberates us to be fully alive, and transforms us to be his instruments of goodness and justice in the world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Amos tells the people that God seeks justice and goodness. In today's Gospel Jesus drives the demons out of two swineherds.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With complete trust in our loving God, we humbly stand before him and offer our needs.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all the bishops, priests and leaders in the Church, may they continue to faithfully call us to right relationship with God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of all nations, may they work to protect the sanctity of life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who pray that sickness or distress may leave them, may the power of Christ dwell in them and strengthen them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our parish community, may the Spirit cast from us anything that would separate us from God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our departed loved ones who sought good in this life, may they live with God in his kingdom for eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of justice and love, you continually call us to yourself that we might live by your truth and justice. Hear our prayers that one day we might live forever with you in your kingdom, through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, July 5, 2018
(Lec. 380)

- 1) Amos 7:10-17
- 2) Matthew 9:1-8

THURSDAY OF
13TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.)

Saint Anthony Zaccaria,
Priest;

USA: Saint Elizabeth of Portugal)

FOCUS: The Lord responds to the faith of his people.

No one is without sin. Yet the Lord responds to our sins with forgiveness and healing when we are mindful of what we have done wrong, and repent. We have been shown the path to eternal life, we need only choose to follow it.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In our first reading, the priest Amaziah sends word to Israel's king that Amos is conspiring against him. Amos claims the Lord sent him to deliver a message to Israel. In the Gospel, Jesus heals a paralyzed man that the people have brought to him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With faith in our merciful God, let us now join in prayer for the needs of our assembly, the Church and the world.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we grow in the holiness of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For national leaders, may they seek peace in those places troubled by conflict and violence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are challenged by chronic illness, may the Lord's healing grace and comfort help them to persevere, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish, may we embrace the unique gifts and talents people from all stages of life offer to our community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who died believing in Christ, may the Lord respond to their faithfulness with mercy and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, these are the prayers of your people. Grant us what we need to bring forgiveness and healing to our world, through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Friday, July 6, 2018

(Lec. 381)

- 1) Amos 8:4-6, 9-12
- 2) Matthew 9:9-13

FRIDAY OF
13TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Maria Goretti,
Virgin and Martyr)

FOCUS: Jesus has come to call sinners back to God, even those who have turned away.

The Lord God may have condemned those who did not live in righteousness, but blessed are those who do choose the way of truth. It is to sinners that Jesus has been sent, for he offers mercy to those in need of his kindness and compassion.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the prophet Amos warns both Israel and Judah that their duplicitous ways will incur the anger of the Lord God. In the Gospel, Jesus calls Matthew to follow him, indicating his mission to those in need of God's mercy.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For those who shepherd our Church, may the Spirit guide them in sowing the good seed of God's word in hearts where it can grow and produce good fruit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may the Holy Spirit empower them to choose the way of truth as they work for their communities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For victims of any type of abuse, may they be surrounded by God's care and protection, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us gathered here, may God bless us in our efforts as we work for the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may they be welcomed into the halls of the heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

Saturday, July 7, 2018

(Lec. 382)

- 1) Amos 9:11-15
- 2) Matthew 9:14-17

SATURDAY OF
13TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Saturday in honor
of BVM)

FOCUS: God will restore the lost and renew his people.

Today, we consider the encouragement God offers to those who mourn what is lost. God will provide abundant gifts to the people of Israel, who have lost so much. Likewise, Jesus will offer new gifts that cannot be contained in old ways of thinking or of clinging to things.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Amos concludes the exhortations in his book with encouragement to the people of Israel. He emphasizes how God will renew and restore the people and their land. In the Gospel, Jesus is challenged to explain why others fast, but not his disciples. He answers that the time to fast will come later, after his departure, but the present is the time for joy.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Seeking to become aware of the gifts God provides, let us join in offering our prayers to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) For all Church leaders, may they share the joy of the Gospel with their communities through their word and example, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may they be granted fortitude to foster justice for all through laws and policies, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are most vulnerable – the unborn, the sick, the elderly and the imprisoned – may people have the courage to speak on their behalf and to work for their protection, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our church community, may we share our God-given gifts in service to others in our community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they experience abundant joy with all the saints and angels in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, receive our prayers which we offer for ourselves and for others. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.

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SUNDAY, JULY 8, 2018

(Lec. 101)

- 1) Ezekiel 2:2-5
- 2) 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
- 3) Mark 6:1-6a

**FOURTEENTH
SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: As Christians, fidelity to Christ and the Gospel must be the hallmark of our lives.

At first glance our readings seem rather pessimistic. Ezekiel is entrusted with a difficult commission, Paul has a thorn in his side and Jesus is rejected by his own. But in another sense, each reading is a reminder that when our eyes are fixed on the Lord, not even the threat of danger can deter us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Ezekiel receives his commission as the Lord's prophet – he is to be faithful to the mission even if the people refuse to listen. Saint Paul speaks of his weakness and frailty, which is like a thorn in his side, but it reminds him to rely all the more on the Lord. In the Gospel, Jesus is rejected in his own hometown.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence and trust, let us bring our prayers and petitions before the Lord.

- 1) For Church leaders, may they continue to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit as they guide and lead the Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civil leaders, may they work to ensure that all people can worship God in peace and freedom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are persecuted for their faith in Christ, may God's Holy Spirit uphold and strengthen them and assure them of the prayers and support of the whole Christian family, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those who are sick, may their encounter with Jesus heal their hearts, minds, souls and bodies, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they receive the reward of a life well spent and come to share in the fullness of Christ's glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and eternal God, our salvation comes from you alone. As you watch over the lives of your people, let us once again experience the transforming and strengthening power of your Holy Spirit. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, July 9, 2018

(Lec. 383)

- 1) Hosea 2:16, 17b-18,
21-22
- 2) Matthew 9:18-26

MONDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Augustine Zhao Rong,
Priest
and Companions,
Martyrs)

FOCUS: Daily prayer enables our encounter with the Lord.

God is never too busy for us. Nothing we need or ask for is beyond his abilities. Faith allows us to reach out for God when we need him most, and to thank him for blessings given and mercies granted. In prayer, we encounter the living presence of God who seeks to enfold us within his love.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the poetic language of Hosea, the desert is where the Lord intends to speak to Israel's heart, and *espouse [her] in fidelity*. In the Gospel, a desperate woman reaches for Jesus' tassel and is healed, while a young girl is brought back to life by Jesus' touch.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Mindful of the presence of God at work in our lives, we place our needs before the Lord.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all pastoral leaders of the Church, may they continue to help us encounter Jesus each day, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may they find positive and uplifting ways to touch the lives of the most vulnerable among us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have fallen away from the practice of the faith, may the Spirit grant in them a new desire for Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our faith community who are grieving, may they find God's peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they experience the generosity of God for all eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, envelop us with your loving mercy and hear our prayers. This we pray through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, July 10, 2018

(Lec. 384)

1) Hosea 8:4-7, 11-13

2) Matthew 9:32-38

TUESDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: If we call upon the Lord, he will heal us. His love for us never ends.

When we read about the works of Jesus, it is tempting to believe they are all in the past. But Jesus continues to heal. He continues to be present and at work in our lives. All we need to do is call on him, open our hearts to him and allow him to transform us for the good of the world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Hosea foretells the punishment of Israel because they have forsaken the Lord by worshipping idols. In the Gospel, Jesus heals a mute, to the amazement of the crowd, and calls for laborers for the harvest.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in his loving mercy, let us ask our heavenly Father to hear our prayers.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may God grant us holiness in all that we do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the leaders of nations involved in conflict, may God give them wisdom and a heart for peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who lack food or shelter, may God provide eyes to see them and hearts to help them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For catechists and all who teach our faith, may God bless their efforts to instill in our children a deep belief in and love for God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, who were nourished at the table of the Lord, may they now enjoy the heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we lay our petitions at your feet, confident that you will answer our prayers, which we offer in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.

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Wednesday, July 11, 2018

(Lec. 385)

- 1) Hosea 10:1-3, 7-8, 12
- 2) Matthew 10:1-7

WEDNESDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Benedict,
Abbot)

FOCUS: Jesus, who commands his Apostles to take the message to the people, exhorts us to do the same.

Twelve ordinary men were called by Jesus to accompany him on the journey and to spread his Word among the people. It is in Jesus that they, and we, become so much more. He instructed the Apostles to proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is at hand. This instruction holds for us today, as well.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the prophet admonishes Israel for their idolatry, commanding them to turn back to the Lord. In today's Gospel, the Twelve are named and called "Apostles," which means "one who is sent." Jesus empowers them to cast out demons and to cure the sick, sending them out among the people of Israel to carry forth his message.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Seeking to join our voices to those of the Apostles, let us offer our prayers to our heavenly Father.

- 1) For the Holy Father, bishops and priests, who carry on the apostolic succession, may they continue to shepherd God's children, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who govern, may they seek God's counsel and trust in his ways as they render judgments, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have been affected by natural disasters, may the witness and generosity of friends and neighbors bring them relief, and may they know the intimate presence of Jesus with them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of our local community who suffer from poverty, illness or despair, may they feel the Father's love through the efforts of his followers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they experience the true peace of Christ in the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear these prayers offered by your children as we put our trust in you. We offer these in the name of your son, Jesus.

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Thursday, July 12, 2018

(Lec. 386)

- 1) Hosea 11:1-4, 8e-9
- 2) Matthew 10:7-15

THURSDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: The loving care we have received from God without cost must be offered to each other in return.

As God never turned away from his people, feeding them and healing them even as they turned their backs to worship idols, so Jesus commands the Apostles to cure the sick and drive out demons from all they meet. We, too, have received loving care from God without cost and so must offer it to each other in return.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Hosea proclaims the love God has for Israel as a parent to a child, even though the Israelites continued to turn their backs on the Lord. Jesus sends the Apostles to the towns to proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is at hand, to cure the sick and to drive out demons.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With our brothers and sisters in Christ, we present our needs to God, our Father.

- 1) For the Church, as the people of God, may the Holy Spirit keep us faithful to the mission of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may they work for justice in all lands torn apart by war, oppression and corruption, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For parents who struggle to support their families, may they experience the presence of God through the prayers and loving care of others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may we continue to answer the call of Jesus to bring peace and healing to everyone we meet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they come to share in the everlasting glory of the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of endless mercy, you are our hope and our salvation. Have pity on us and make us one with you, we pray. We ask that you hear and answer us through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Friday, July 13, 2018

(Lec. 387)

- 1) Hosea 14:2-10
- 2) Matthew 10:16-23

FRIDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Henry)

FOCUS: The Spirit of our Father will be with us on our journey.

Time and again in the Gospels, Jesus warns of persecutions, betrayals and suffering his followers may have to endure. Still, we follow; still, we pass on our faith to our children. We know, as Jesus has promised, that the Spirit of our Father will be with us on our journey.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, the Israelites are called to return to God, who promises to *heal their defection* and love them freely. In the Gospel, Jesus warns that his followers will be persecuted for his sake. They will be betrayed and hated, but whoever endures to the end will be saved.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together, let us offer our prayers for our needs and those of the Church and the world to our merciful Father.

- 1) That all members of the Church may be united in prayer as we help to build the kingdom of God on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That God may bless the efforts of leaders around the world as they work to bring peace and prosperity to their countries, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those persecuted for their faith may be bolstered by believing that God is with them and that he will give them the right words when challenged, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That our congregation, through the actions of the Holy Spirit, may grow in the love of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may know the peace of the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father in heaven, we bring our petitions to you, trusting in your loving care. We pray through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Saturday, July 14, 2018

(Lec. 388)

- 1) Isaiah 6:1-8
- 2) Matthew 10:24-33

SATURDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
USA: Saint Kateri
Tekakwitha, Virgin)

FOCUS: Those who acknowledge Christ before others will be acknowledged by Christ before the Father.

Most of us probably have a sense that God has called us ... but we are not always sure to *what* exactly. Today's Gospel gives us the courage to discern and explore. Jesus assures us that he will acknowledge those before the Father who acknowledge him before others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's reading describes Isaiah's vision of the Lord and seraphim. After the seraphim purifies Isaiah, the Lord asks whom he shall send. Isaiah says, *Send me!* In our Gospel, Jesus warns his disciples that they will be persecuted. He gives them courage and tells them not to be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that God provides all good things, let us offer him our prayers for those gathered here today and for the needs of others.

- 1) For the Church, may we exercise our prophetic mission proclaiming Christ through words and the testimony of our lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may they work to uphold the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those facing religious persecution, may the Lord give them courage to acknowledge their faith and protect them from harm, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may God open our ears to his Word so we may reflect his love through our actions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may Christ acknowledge them before our God as he welcomes them into his kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord, we proudly profess our faith in you. We trust you to answer our prayers in accordance with your will. Through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, JULY 15, 2018

(Lec. 104)

- 1) Amos 7:12-15
- 2) Ephesians 1:3-14 or 1:3-10
- 3) Mark 6:7-13

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: *God chose us in him, before the foundation of the world.*

God chooses us, despite our failures and shortcomings, to be his disciples. He sends us out into the world, not on our own, but in the companionship of our brothers and sisters in community. He does not leave us to our own devices, but gives power and authority through his name.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Amos was chosen, taken away from his work as *a shepherd and a dresser of sycamores*, to prophesy to the people of Israel. In writing to the Ephesians, Paul praises God and reminds his listeners that *God chose us in him, before the foundation of the world*. In the Gospel, the now-chosen Twelve are sent out to preach repentance and to bring healing.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our prayers and petitions before our loving Father.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we be guided by the courage and wisdom of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may the Holy Spirit inform their work together to sustain a vision of hope among their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are alone, may they know they are chosen and loved by God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our local community, may we receive and carry out the mission Jesus gives to us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they rest in the glory of God's kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord, you bring healing into the brokenness of our lives. Please hear and answer these prayers, for we ask them through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Monday, July 16, 2018

(Lec. 389)

- 1) Isaiah 1:10-17
- 2) Matthew 10:34–11:1

MONDAY OF

15th WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(Opt. Mem.)

Our Lady of Mount Carmel;
Saturday in honor of BVM)

FOCUS: Listen to the instruction of our God: *cease doing evil; learn to do good.*

If ever we are not clear about what God is asking from us, we need only check Scripture. From the Ten Commandments to Jesus' command to love one another, the instructions are straightforward. Life is not always so simple, though, right? So we need to remember that God is all-good, and the complete absence of evil. Therefore, following his ways and relying on his grace will enable us to follow his instructions with courage and integrity.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Isaiah admonishes the Israelites: cease doing evil and listen to God. Make justice your aim. This is the kind of sacrifice that pleases God. In today's Gospel passage, Jesus prepares the Apostles for their mission to the people of Israel with a series of commands that will guide them in their ministry.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident that the Father will hear our prayers, let us offer him our needs and the needs of all God's people.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may the Holy Spirit enhance the effectiveness of all who carry out the mission of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may God grant them the wisdom to act with prudence and justice in all their deliberations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering from the effects of war or violence, may they receive God's peace and the strength to rebuild their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may we show to one another the love Christ has shown to us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rest in eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, in faith we lift our voices to you, asking that you answer these and all our prayers in the name of Jesus, your son.

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Tuesday, July 17, 2018

(Lec. 390)

1) Isaiah 7:1-9

2) Matthew 11:20-24

TUESDAY OF
15TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God calls us to radical trust in the midst of challenges and hardships.

At various times in our lives, we all face challenges and hardship. It is at those times that we must rely on the goodness and love of God to see us through.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Isaiah encourages Ahaz, King of Judah, to *remain tranquil and do not fear* in the face of enemies who plan to conquer Israel. Jesus, in the Gospel, reproaches the people of the towns of Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum for failing to see the signs of God in Jesus' words and healing.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Isaiah reminds us to trust God at all times. With this deep trust, we offer to God the needs of our world and our community.

- 1) For the Church, may we be open to God's Word and action in our lives and proclaim God's love to the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For policy makers and elected officials, may the Lord bless and improve their efforts to defend the sanctity of human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who go to bed hungry, may they receive their share of the earth's food, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who are mourning the loss of a loved one in our faith community, may they find comfort and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our faithful departed, may they rejoice forever in the presence of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, you call us to trust in your providence. Hear the prayers we entrust to you, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Wednesday, July 18, 2018

(Lec. 391)

- 1) Isaiah 10:5-7, 13b-16
- 2) Matthew 11:25-27

WEDNESDAY OF
15TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem. USA
Saint Camillus de Lellis,
Priest)

FOCUS: Jesus is the fullness of God's revelation of himself.

Faith and reason are the bedrocks of our belief. It is not always just the *wise and the learned* who are guaranteed knowledge and understanding of God. It takes getting out of our own heads, and approaching God with childlike wonder and innocence, to allow faith and love to illuminate our knowledge and reason.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In Isaiah, we hear of God's wrath against the king of Assyria, who believes in his own power. In the Gospel, Jesus turns in prayer to the Father, revealing their intimate relationship and himself as the only way to know God the Father.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Gathered in the name of Jesus, we now present the needs of our community to our heavenly Father, who is gracious and powerful.

- 1) That the saving Word of God, revealed in the life of the Church, may reach those without faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That civic and governmental leaders may be guided by Christ's truth in their daily decision-making, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are suffering from depression or loneliness may experience God's love through their encounters with others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That these summer months may bring a period of rest and renewal for those who feel overwhelmed or burdened, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our beloved dead may be granted eternal rest and everlasting peace in the presence of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we know that your hand is upon us during times of trial and times of joy. Help us to trust you in all things. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Thursday, July 19, 2018
(Lec. 392)

- 1) Isaiah 26:7-9,
12, 16-19
- 2) Matthew 11:28-30

THURSDAY OF
15TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Take comfort in joining the mission of Christ.

In taking on the mission of Christ, we may perceive it as an arduous challenge. Yet Christ promises that uniting ourselves and our goals to him will give us comfort, rest and peace. He speaks to the weary and tells us that his *yoke is easy* and his *burden is light*.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah speaks to the Lord, affirming that the way of the Lord is level and smooth, and that our hearts yearn for God. In the Gospel, Jesus reiterates this message and further clarifies that the way of the Lord is learned through his own teaching and example.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us turn now to our loving God with our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For all who shepherd the Church, may they be continually rejuvenated in their holy work, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government officials, may they be blessed with the gifts of understanding and counsel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are weary, may they gain the peaceful perspective of one who is yoked to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our faith community who are beset with illness of body, mind, heart or soul, may they know the Lord's healing touch, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have gone before us into the next life, may they rest easy in God's eternal arms of peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of perfect peace, receive our prayers from the gentle and humble places of our hearts. Grant all good things in your great glory, through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, July 20, 2018

FRIDAY OF

(Lec.

393) 15TH WEEK

1) Isaiah 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8

2) Matthew 12:1-8

IN ORDINARY TIME

(Opt. Mem.

Saint Apollinaris,

Bishop and Martyr)

FOCUS:

The Lord hears the prayer of the one who trusts in him.

As Christians, we are called to be people of prayer. Yet developing and growing a life of prayer can be one of our greatest challenges. To begin we need to be honest before the Lord and to ask for divine help in our endeavors, remembering at all times that our prayer must be matched by our witness.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

King Hezekiah of Judah prays that he might be given more time, and his prayer is answered in a marvelous way. In the Gospel, Jesus reminds the Pharisees that the Sabbath was God's gift to humanity and never meant to be a burden on the people.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For the Church, drawn from all nations and languages, may we proclaim the fidelity and praise of the Lord to all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all in civil power and authority, may their leadership bring peace to our world and justice to all those in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are sick, may Christ, the Divine Physician, bring his healing touch to their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us here enduring trials and challenges, may we come to know the loving presence of God and the support and compassion of this community of faith, 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, through your Word you bring forth life and even more marvelously redeem it. Hear our prayers and answer them according to your holy will. We make our prayer through your son, Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, July 21, 2018

(Lec. 394)

- 1) Micah 2:1-5
- 2) Matthew 12:14-21

SATURDAY OF
15TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.)

Saint Lawrence of Brindisi,
Priest and Doctor of the Church;
Saturday in honor of BVM)

FOCUS: Jesus, the true God and Messiah, desires to heal us.

The same Jesus who, in today's Gospel, cures all of the people who follow him, desires our healing as well. Let us turn to him in prayer and ask for forgiveness and healing.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading from Micah, we hear about the justice that evildoers will face. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus withdraws from the crowd and when they follow him, he cures them and instructs them not to tell others. This, as Saint Matthew points out, fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah who wrote about the Messiah to come.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With grateful hearts, we come to the Lord in prayer for the needs of the world and our community.

- 1) For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, and all who teach the faith, may God strengthen them and encourage them as they witness to the truth that Jesus is Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of our community and our nation, may they embrace justice and mercy in the fulfillment of their duties, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are burdened and overwhelmed by life's challenges, may they find peace this day in the promises of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here today and for all of our families and friends, may we encounter Christ in a way that allows us to be healed, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they bask in the light of God's mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God we thank you for hearing these prayers and those we hold in the silence of our hearts. We bring these all to you in the name of Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, JULY 22, 2018

(Lec. 107)

- 1) Jeremiah 23:1-6
- 2) Ephesians 2:13-18
- 3) Mark 6:30-34

**SIXTEENTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: God wants us to be in his peace.

Our Lord insists that we take time to be still and rest in him. As difficult as it is to just stop and be still, it is important to make the time to be refreshed and to rest in the Lord's peace.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In Jeremiah, God discloses that bad shepherds will be punished and a good shepherd assigned to care for the people. The second reading talks about the peace we have in Jesus Christ. In the Gospel, Jesus insists that the Apostles take time to rest and be rejuvenated, for the need to care for the followers is great.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our needs before the Lord in confidence that he will hear and answer them according to his will.

- 1) For the Church, may she grow in grace and number as she continues to be a beacon of peace and hope for the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all world leaders, that God may bless them as they strive for unity in their countries and in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering with sickness and/or loneliness, may our Lord's care and peace fill them with hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may the Spirit inspire us with compassion in our support for those in our community who struggle with homelessness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be welcomed into the heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we thank you for your loving care, keep us close to you as we learn to rest in your peace, through your son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Monday, July 23, 2018

(Lec. 395)

- 1) Micah 6:1-4, 6-8
- 2) Matthew 12:38-42

MONDAY OF
16TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Bridget,
Religious)

FOCUS: Love goodness and walk humbly with your God.

We sometimes forget that God is very forgiving, and think we must go to extremes in asking for pardon. What the Lord wants is our humility, love and true repentance.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading Micah, the prophet, assures his listeners that the best repentance is to *do the right and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God*. In the Gospel, Jesus scolds some Pharisees who demanded signs to prove his claims of divinity. He told them that he was greater than Jonah, who preached repentance, and wiser than Solomon, who taught the queen of the south.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence and trust, we humbly present our petitions to our merciful Father.

- 1) That the Church, the mystical body of Christ, may prosper in its intimate union with Christ and grow in number for the salvation of the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That lawmakers may govern with integrity and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those suffering from poverty or continual illness may be comforted by the Lord's promises to heal and help them in their need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That we as a community of faith may be blessed with the many gifts of the Holy Spirit, to move forward in faith and to share it when the opportunity arises, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our beloved friends and relatives who have died may rest securely in the arms of our loving Savior, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, please hear our prayers and grant them according to your will. Through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, July 24, 2018

(Lec. 396)

1) Micah 7:14-15, 18-20

2) Matthew 12:46-50

TUESDAY OF

16TH WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(Opt. Mem.

Saint Sharbel Makhluḥ,

Priest)

FOCUS: Jesus welcomes all who do the will of the heavenly Father as members of his family.

Stretching out his hand, Jesus expresses a deep bond with his disciples. His inclusive gesture represents one of the key aspects of the Gospel message: Make room for more! Jesus expands the notion of family without necessarily excluding his relatives, just as God made his salvation known to all people, not just the Jews.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, God reveals himself as the shepherd who cared for their ancestors and continues to provide for his people and forgive their sins. In the Gospel, when Jesus' mother and brothers come to speak with him, he identifies all who do his Father's will as members of his family.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God's mercy and compassion, we present him with our needs.

- 1) For our Church, may she experience an increase in vocations to the priesthood, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may they have the courage to enact just laws, protecting the rights and dignity of the poor, the elderly and the unborn, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those battling addiction in any form, may the power of the cross and the help of caring professionals help free them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish family, may we receive and understand the depths of God's love and forgiveness, especially through the sacrament of reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our faithful departed, may they know the joy of praising God in company with the saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, you love and provide for your people. Please hear and answer our prayers this day according to your will. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, your son.

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Wednesday, July 25, 2018

(Lec. 605)

- 1) 2 Corinthians 4:7-15
- 2) Matthew 20:20-28

**SAINT JAMES,
APOSTLE
– FEAST**

FOCUS: The service of discipleship will bring the reward of being raised with Christ.

Today, we reflect on the challenges and rewards of being Jesus' disciple. Saint James, whom we remember and celebrate today, preached the Gospel and was executed by Herod Agrippa in Jerusalem in 44 AD. Tradition holds that he was the first of the Twelve Apostles to be martyred.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul reminds us about the challenges and difficulties of discipleship, but also that we can have confidence *knowing that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus*. In the Gospel, Jesus reminds James, John and their mother that *the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Searching for divine help to be Christ's disciples, let us bring our prayers to our heavenly Father.

- 1) For Church leaders, may they follow the example of Saint James and have the courage to preach the Gospel of Christ despite any personal cost, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders and public officials, may they maintain great respect for religious liberty and promote the individual right to worship in a just society, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For our Christian brothers and sisters who are being persecuted for their belief, may the Lord protect them and give them the strength to endure their challenges, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish, may we cherish our gift of faith and pass it on to our families and friends, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our deceased loved ones, may they be rewarded with a place of honor in the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, bless these prayers we offer on behalf of your children throughout the world, and grant them according to your will. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, July 26, 2018

(Lec. 398)

- 1) Jeremiah 2:1-3, 7-8,
12-13
- 2) Matthew 13:10-17

THURSDAY OF
16TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saints Joachim and Anne,
Parents of the Blessed
Virgin Mary)

FOCUS: Jesus explains his use of parables to reach those who are unable to understand.

We have heard the Good News, and we reflect on whether we have truly taken it to heart, and in an authentic way that honors the Lord. Let us endeavor to ensure that what we hear and see have not led us to false, shallow or self-serving understandings.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God admonishes Israel for turning her back on him and all that he offers. In the Gospel, the disciples ask Jesus why he uses parables. He explains that his parables are a tool to reach those who have not been able to understand or take to heart the Good News.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we open our hearts to the Lord, let us offer our prayers to the one who gives us all that is good.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we hear God's word and live out our unique vocations empowered by God's love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in law enforcement, may they serve with the power of God's mercy as they work to protect and keep people safe, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who may be blinded by greed, arrogance, fear or hatred, may they have a change of heart that leads them to a life of love and generosity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For young people from this faith community on summer vacation, may they grow ever closer to the Lord in this time of rest and leisure, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they find everlasting joy in the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Grateful for your loving mercy, patient Father, we ask that you hear our petitions. Through Christ our Lord.

Friday, July 27, 2018

(Lec. 399)

- 1) Jeremiah 3:14-17
- 2) Matthew 13:18-23

FRIDAY OF
16TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: May our hearts be open to letting God's love grow within us.

Many things can get in the way of our finding the truth of God's love. We may be distracted with other interests. We may not want to give up what we already have in order to grasp this love. We may find it hard to believe we are worthy of such love. Jesus came to help us let go of these things and allow God's love to grow in our hearts.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God calls his *rebellious children* to return to him, for he is their loving master. In the Gospel, Jesus explains the parable of the seed. There are four types of soil and it is in the *rich soil* that a person hears God's Word, understands it and then brings new people to know and accept it.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us humbly present our petitions to our heavenly Father.

- 1) For Church leaders, may God's Word grow in them and help bring more people to God's vineyard, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our nation's leaders, may the seeds of faith be planted in the rich soil of their hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who do not recognize God's love in their lives, may they come to know it through the actions and concern of people who do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish, may each of us enrich the soil of faith in the people we encounter each day, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they be welcomed into paradise for eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Hear us, O God, and grant what is in your divine plan for us. We pray through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, July 28, 2018

(Lec. 400)

- 1) Jeremiah 7:1-11
- 2) Matthew 13:24-30

SATURDAY OF
16TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Saturday in honor
of BVM)

FOCUS: God's people are saved not by formula, but by relationship with him.

God calls his people to reform so we may live with him. The people, living in sin, superstitiously called out *The temple of the Lord!* three times, as though it brought magic protection. We are called to live as authentic disciples in relationship with the one true God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading God rebukes the people for living wicked lives, trusting the Lord's Temple to save them, and calls them to live justly and show mercy. The Gospel tells the story of the man whose crop was sabotaged with weeds; to protect his crop he lets them grow together and separates them at the harvest.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Gathered here as God's people, let us join our hearts and voices, lifting up our needs and those of the whole world.

- 1) For all bishops, priests and deacons, that with God's love and mercy they may continue to renew and strengthen the Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may they use their authority and resources to uphold the dignity of all people, especially those most vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are sick, may the healing grace of Christ be upon them, and may they be comforted by the care of compassionate people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may we always strive to live in this world as wheat among the weeds, drawing souls to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they experience eternal joy in the presence of the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: We thank you, Father, for your steadfast love, and ask you to hear and answer these prayers according to your holy will. Through your son Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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SUNDAY, JULY 29, 2018

(Lec. 110)

- 1) 2 Kings 4:42-44
- 2) Ephesians 4:1-6
- 3) John 6:1-15

**SEVENTEENTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: It is not enough to count our blessings – we need to share them.

We have to fight the temptation to “not share” what we have with others for fear there may not be enough for us in the future. Jesus calls us to be more than spectators in the work of salvation. We must be agents of his love and mercy at all times.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Elisha takes twenty barley loaves and through God’s grace and by his promise, feeds a hundred people. Saint Paul, writing from prison, calls for unity among the Church of Ephesus. In the Gospel, Jesus feeds thousands with one boy’s five barley loaves and two fish.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in the God of miracles and blessings, we place before him our needs.

- 1) For Pope Francis, may his example as a gentle shepherd inspire us, his flock, to share our blessings, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may God bless them in their efforts to eliminate the scourge of hunger from the earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For farmers, bakers and all who provide the food for our tables, may they know our thanks and experience God’s blessing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our community who will go to bed hungry today, may relief soon be theirs in abundance, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they receive the promise of eternal life and rest in the peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, you provide us with all good things. Hear our prayer and help us to reflect your love by sharing what we have with others. We pray all these things through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, July 30, 2018

(Lec. 401)

- 1) Jeremiah 13:1-11
- 2) Matthew 13:31-35

MONDAY OF
17TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Peter Chrysologus,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church)

FOCUS: Jesus reveals the mysteries of his kingdom.

To help us understand our faith, the Lord often uses examples from everyday life. The kingdom of heaven is a mystery, even to believers. However, the comparisons in today's Liturgy of the Word bring to light the intimate relationship God has with his people and the promise of his kingdom, which continues to grow and expand.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the reading from Jeremiah, the Lord says that those who are wicked and fail to obey him are like a rotting loincloth –good for nothing. The Gospel compares the kingdom of heaven to a mustard seed, then to yeast. Jesus uses parables to reveal hidden truths, fulfilling earlier prophecies proclaiming the coming of the Messiah.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us now offer our petitions as we pray for the needs of our parish, our Church and our world.

- 1) For our holy, Catholic Church, may God bless us and keep us ever obedient to his Word and always faithful to his love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in positions of authority, may they always work to promote and defend the dignity of human life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those in need of food, shelter or clothing, may they find solace through caring actions of Christians, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those who serve in our parish ministries, may God bless them as they use their gifts of time, talent and treasure to help build his kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be cleansed of their sins and welcomed into heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, we trust in your boundless love, mercy and compassion. Hear our prayers and enable us to do your will. Through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, July 31, 2018

(Lec. 402)

- 1) Jeremiah 14:17-22
- 2) Matthew 13:36-43

TUESDAY OF
17TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Ignatius of Loyola,
Priest)

FOCUS: Faith in God will deliver us from the grip of evil.

Christ the sower is planting the seeds of love and mercy in the garden of earth. We cultivate these by our faith in God, and by repenting of our sins. The harvest grows with our willingness to keep the weeds of evil from our lives – by showing love and mercy to others and avoiding the temptations of the material world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Jeremiah prays to the Lord with repentance and begs God *spurn us not*. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus explains the parable of the weeds in the field. His words to his disciples answer Jeremiah's plea; the wicked will be tossed into *the fiery furnace* and *the righteous will shine like the sun*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence, we turn to our loving God with our petitions.

- 1) For bishops, priests, women religious and lay ministers, may the example of Saint Ignatius of Loyola help them in their work to spread the good news of salvation to all corners of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the leaders of all nations, may they seek dialogue and peaceful solutions to conflicts before resorting to war, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For women who face unplanned pregnancies, may they choose life for their unborn children, and may they receive the care and support they need for a successful delivery, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For young people in our parish discerning a call to religious life, may we prayerfully support them as they seek to answer and be faithful to God's will and plan for their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the dying and those who care for them, may God carry them in the palm of his mighty hand, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: We thank you Lord for our Church and our parish family, and ask for your grace as you hear our prayers, through Christ our Lord.

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