

MAY

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Tuesday, May 1, 2018

(Lec. 286)

- 1) Acts 14:19-28
- 2) John 14:27-31a

TUESDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
OF EASTER
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Joseph the Worker)

Or for Memorial (Lec. 559)

- 1) Genesis 1:26-2:3 or
Colossians 3:14-15, 17, 23-24
- 2) Matthew 13:54-58

FOCUS: Let the peace of Christ rule our hearts.

When we go about our day with the warmth of Jesus in our hearts, the lives of the people around us are better for it. We, too, will be happier when we let our faith in Jesus shine forth.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the reading from Colossians, Paul offers us a challenge: let the peace of Christ control our hearts. In the Gospel, Jesus experiences skepticism from his hometown, causing him to move on because of their lack of faith.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With Saint Joseph at our side, let us humbly petition our heavenly Creator to hear our needs today.

- 1) That all Church leaders may guide us with peace in their hearts as we strive to be one body in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That legislative bodies may enact just and fair laws that protect the rights of all God's people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are sick may find comfort in Christ's triumph over suffering, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That fathers, stepfathers and foster fathers in this faith community may strive to be honorable mentors to their children by heeding the example of Saint Joseph, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith may enjoy the rewards of eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God, Lord and lover of all souls, hear us as we approach you this day with our many needs. Through Christ our Lord.

Wednesday, May 2, 2018
(Lec. 287)

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

WEDNESDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
OF EASTER
(OBL MEM

Saint Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church)

FOCUS: By bearing much fruit, we glorify the Lord.

Today's Gospel challenges us to consider which branch we are most like: one that bears fruit, or one that is withered. To be fruitful, we must grow as part of the vine – united with Christ and with one another. This is how we become Christ's disciples. Apart from him, we can do nothing.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In Acts, Paul and Barnabas meet with early Church leaders to discuss whether Gentiles can embrace Christianity without being circumcised. The Gospel begins with Jesus identifying himself as the true vine, the Father as the vine grower and the disciples as branches. Whoever remains in him will bear much fruit.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Jesus promises we will receive whatever we ask in his name. Let us offer our petitions to the Father for the needs of this assembly and for the world.

- 1) For our holy Catholic Church, may we remain in Christ and become fruitful branches of the true vine, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in public office, may the Holy Spirit guide them to use their power and authority to bear the fruits of peace and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who feel hopeless or discouraged, may they feel the loving embrace of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the ministries in our parish, may they produce the fruits of love and charity to feed those who hunger, and to minister to those who are in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may our compassionate Lord welcome them into his heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear the prayers of your people and allow us to bear good fruit, so we may glorify your name. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Thursday, May 3, 2018

(Lec. 561)

1) 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

2) John 14:6-14

SAINTS PHILIP AND JAMES

- FEAST

FOCUS: We know the Father through the Son.

Who Jesus is and his intimate union with the father lies at the core of our Scripture readings today. We know the Father when we come to know Jesus, and believe in what is true: that Jesus died for our sins, was buried and was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Paul lays out before the Corinthians the core beliefs of our Christian faith: that Christ died for our sins, rose again and appeared to his disciples. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches the Apostles of the essential unity that exists between him and the Father.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

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

- 1) For the Church, as the body of Christ, may we boldly proclaim Christ as Lord and Savior, and bring the world to share in God's gifts of eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders throughout the world, may God bless their efforts to support the dignity and sanctity of life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord
- 3) For the dying and for all who bear the burden of sickness, may they be comforted by the knowledge that they share in the peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord
- 4) For young people in our parish discerning a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life, may they be graced with courage and fortitude, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all our beloved dead, may they live forever with joyous peace in the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Friday, May 4, 2018

(Lec. 289)

- 1) Acts 15:22-31
- 2) John 15:12-17

FRIDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Gospel love is not an emotion, but an action and a commitment.

Love, as spoken of in the Gospels, is not an emotion, but an action and a commitment. It is serious business. We are to see Jesus in every person, and love them as Jesus loves us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of the early Church leaders' decision to send helpers with Paul and Barnabas to the Gentile converts in Antioch. They delivered the news that minimum requirements would be imposed on the converts. In the Gospel, Jesus commands his followers to love one another as he loves them.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together, let us offer our petitions to the Father, conscious of his providential love for all creation.

- 1) For the faithful throughout the world, may we show our Christ-centered love by how we interact with others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in positions of authority, may their words and actions always seek the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who feel unloved and unlovable, that by God's grace and the efforts of compassionate people they may come to know both human and divine love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us here, may the Lord guide us to find ways to show love to each person we encounter today, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they experience the fullness of God's love as they are welcomed into their heavenly home, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we ask these things so our world may better reflect your love for all people. We pray through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Saturday, May 5, 2018
(Lec. 290)

- 1) Acts 16:1-10
- 2) John 15:18-21

SATURDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Jesus has chosen us to go into the world to spread the Good News.

Jesus tells his disciples that those who do the will of the One who sent him into the world will face resistance from all who belong to the world and not to God. Discipleship carries with it a cost – let us pray for the grace to be strong in faith when we are tested.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul and Timothy continue their missionary work, and as a result the early Church *grew stronger in faith and increased in number*. In the Gospel, Jesus warns his disciples that they will encounter resistance because they have been chosen by him and the one who sent him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us come before our loving God this day and humbly bring forth our needs and wishes.

- 1) That missionaries near and far may have the courage to spread the Good News of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That those corners of the world engulfed in darkness and hate may come to know God's love and kindness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who cry out to the Lord for help will receive his grace and find peace and understanding, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all families devoted to living a life of Christian discipleship will be afforded dignity and respect as they live out their commitment, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may know eternal rest with God and all the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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When the Ascension of the Lord is celebrated on the following Sunday, the Second Reading and Gospel from the Seventh Sunday of Easter (see Lec. 60) may be read on the Sixth Sunday of Easter.

SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2018

**SIXTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER**

(Lec. 56)

- 1) Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48
- 2) 1 John 4:7-10
- 3) John 15:9-17

FOCUS: Following the commands of the Lord brings life and joy.

The Lord's commands are not restricting or limiting, but rather are the way to our fulfilment in this life and the next. We can love and be loved by our Creator by following his commandments.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Peter speaks of fearing the Lord and doing his work, and the Holy Spirit comes upon the believers. Peter commands even the Gentiles who have received the Holy Spirit to be baptized. In John's First Letter, he writes of loving one another because God is love, and he abides in us when we love. Jesus explains in the Gospel that we are commanded to love as he has loved – by laying down our lives for each other.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of Jesus who offers us salvation and eternity with you. Hear our prayers this day that we bring to you in love.

- 1) For all of God's Church, may we obey the command to love by laying our lives down, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may they serve selflessly for the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the marginalized, the poor and the sick, may they know of the Lord's love through our witness and service, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may we find freedom and peace in the commands of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they enjoy the reward of their love and be united with God in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God in heaven, we offer you these and all of the petitions of our hearts. We ask that you hear and answer them through your son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Monday, May 7, 2018

(Lec. 291)

- 1) Acts 16:11-15
- 2) John 15:26–16:4a

MONDAY OF
SIXTH WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: The Spirit will testify on behalf of Jesus and will strengthen his disciples as *they* testify.

Today, we consider how God's Spirit can direct our lives, just as it strengthened and led the earliest disciples. Our path may be filled with trials and uncertainty, but the Spirit can act on our behalf and direct our actions.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul and Timothy travel to cities on the Aegean Sea. In Philippi, they speak with women gathered and meet Lydia, who is baptized with her household. In the Gospel, Jesus explains that the Spirit will be sent to strengthen the disciples, who will face persecution by those who think they know God, but who know neither the Father nor the Son.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Seeking to listen to God's Spirit at work in our lives, let us join in offering our prayers to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) For the pope, bishops and all Church leaders, may they continually seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they shepherd their communities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may they be attentive to a higher law in seeking justice and peace for all people, especially the most vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who struggle with depression, anger or fear, may God's Spirit heal their wounds and give them peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may we testify to God's love through our love and care for those most in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they experience abundant joy and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, receive our prayers, which we offer with humility for our sake and for the sake of the world. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Tuesday, May 8, 2018

(Lec. 292)

1) Acts 16:22-34

2) John 16:5-11

TUESDAY OF
SIXTH WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: The Holy Spirit remains to help us until Jesus returns.

The Holy Spirit is the Advocate that Jesus sent upon his ascension to heaven. With the guidance of the Spirit we can live the life of discipleship to which we are called. Jesus did not leave us alone when he ascended, and we should find consolation and comfort in that.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the Acts of the Apostles, Paul and Silas are jailed for their preaching. After prayer, the prison doors are opened by an earthquake, and the jailer is converted by their preaching. In John's Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that he will go to the Father, but will send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In faith that God knows our every need, we offer our prayers to the Lord.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may the Holy Spirit empower us to gently seek the lost and guide them to Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For judicial leaders, may they reflect God's wisdom in their decision-making and judgments, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are imprisoned, may they persevere in faith and experience the freedom of living in God's love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the sick and their caregivers, may patience, courage and love abound in their homes and in their hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be welcomed into eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of mercy and power, send the Holy Spirit to strengthen our Church in faith, hope and love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, May 9, 2018

(Lec. 293)

- 1) Acts 17:15, 22–18:1
- 2) John 16:12-15

WEDNESDAY OF
SIXTH WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Let the spirit of truth be our guide.

Our faith does not rely on the opinion of the crowd or the wisdom of philosophers. We receive the gift of faith through the grace of God. The Holy Spirit moves our hearts to recognize the truth when we hear it proclaimed or when we read it in the Scriptures.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul's preaching receives a lukewarm reception in Athens where only a few become believers. They are intrigued by his words until he speaks about the Resurrection. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks about the coming of the Holy Spirit to his disciples. He will be the Spirit of Truth, and the one who will guide them.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We come together in the presence of the Lord to pray for the needs of this assembly and all the world.

- 1) For those who shepherd our Church, may the wisdom of God be light for them as they lead their flock, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all diplomats, may they never tire in their efforts to seek peaceful resolutions to conflicts between nations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the unemployed, may they be blessed to find work to support their families and contribute to the needs of society, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For local volunteers, may the Lord continue to bless their good work in feeding the hungry, housing the homeless and serving others in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died with no one to pray for them, may they rest peacefully in the loving heart of Jesus through all eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, look kindly on the needs of your people and grant our petitions, which we ask for in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.

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NOTE: Regarding the Ascension of the Lord, the ecclesiastical provinces of Boston, Hartford, New York, Newark, Omaha, and Philadelphia have retained its celebration on the proper Thursday, while all other provinces have transferred this Solemnity to the Seventh Sunday of Easter, May 28. If transferred, Thursday, May 10, is observed as an Easter Weekday or as the following Optional Memorials: Saint Damien de Veuster, Priest. The following readings are used: Acts 18:1-8/John 16:16-20(294).

Thursday, May 10, 2018

(Lec. 58)

- 1) Acts 1:1-11
- 2) Ephesians 1:17-23 or
Ephesians 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13
- 3) Mark 16: 15-20

**THE ASCENSION
OF THE LORD
- SOLEMNITY**
(Holy Day of Obligation)

FOCUS: Go and preach the Gospel to the whole world.

Through his passion, death and resurrection Jesus has defeated sin and death. When Jesus ascends into heaven, he does not abandon us, but goes to that place for which we all long. He does not leave us orphans, but sends the gift of the Holy Spirit.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the disciples see Jesus being taken up to heaven on a cloud. In Saint Paul's letter to the Ephesians, he prays that the spirit of wisdom will be given to the audience he is addressing. In the Gospel, before his Ascension, Jesus tells his disciples to go out and preach the Gospel to the whole world.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With ever-faithful hearts, we gather our prayers for the Church and for the world, and present them to our heavenly Father.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we strive to build the kingdom of heaven on earth through our words and actions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may they be inspired to reach out across national boundaries and seek respect for all people regardless of ethnicity or religious beliefs, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who feel lost or forsaken, may the Holy Spirit fill them with the love and joy that Jesus brings, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may we prepare our hearts for a greater outpouring of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may they abide with Jesus in heaven forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, please hear and answer these prayers and petitions, for we ask them through your son, Jesus Christ, who sits in glory at your right hand.

***Optional Commentary for May 10, 2018**

Thursday, May 10, 2018

(Lec. 294)

- 1) Acts 18:1-8
- 2) John 16:16-20

THURSDAY OF
SIXTH WEEK OF EASTER

(Opt. Mem.
USA: Saint Damien de Veuster,
Priest)

FOCUS: Even when life is most difficult, we can trust that God is with us.

We cannot anticipate what life holds for us. But from the promises that God made through Jesus, we can trust that his grace and strength will sustain us through even the darkest times and lead us to a joyful reunion with him in heaven.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

When Paul preaches to the Jews in Corinth, and finds them unwilling to hear his message, he turns to sharing the message with the Gentiles. In the Gospel, the disciples are confused by Jesus' words, so he reassures them that their grief upon his leaving will one day turn to joy.

UNIVERSALPRAYER

PRIEST: Gathered as people of faith, we bring our prayers for the needs of the world before our merciful Father.

- 1) For the Church worldwide, may our joyful confidence in the Gospel message draw others to Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those caring for refugees, migrants and all displaced by war and natural disasters, may the wisdom and mercy of God guide them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those experiencing sorrow and grief following the death of loved ones, may they know God's comfort and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of our faith community, may God lead us to hear and respond to the needs of each other, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may they know the joy of the fullness of God's love in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Friday, May 11, 2018

(Lec. 295)

1) Acts 18:9-18

2) John 16:20-23

FRIDAY OF
SIXTH WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: When we call out to the Lord in our need, he will answer us.

We all like to be assured that when we take an action, it will be the right thing and we won't look foolish doing it. Today's readings ask us to do what Jesus would have us do – even if that takes courage. He will protect us and answer our call for help. That is assurance.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul hears the Lord tell him to stay in Corinth and continue his work despite threats from the Jewish community there. Paul trusts in God's word and stays. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples to be persistent, despite hardships, and they will one day know the joy of seeing him again.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Loving Father, confident in your providence, we place our needs before you.

- 1) That the Church may continue to fearlessly proclaim God's Word in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That world leaders may trust God's loving guidance in the hard work of diplomacy to bring about lasting peace and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That missionaries who preach the Word of God in difficult settings may be blessed with perseverance and hope in the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That we who are gathered here may have faith in the work of God who brings about good in due time, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may rejoice in the glory of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: O God, you provide for all of our needs, giving us your only Son who has shown us the path to you. Hear these prayers that one day our hearts might rejoice with you forever. We ask this through that same son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Saturday, May 12, 2018
(Lec. 296)
1) Acts 18:23-28
2) John 16:23b-28

SATURDAY OF
SIXTH WEEK
OF EASTER
(Opt. Mem.
Saints Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs;
Saint Pancras, Martyr)

FOCUS: Prayer is an essential component of our lives.

Jesus tells us in today's Gospel that whatever we ask in his name will be granted by God. Our prayers are inseparable from our lives. Let us turn to God in prayer so that we may know the joy of which Jesus speaks.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we hear of the travels of Apollos, who boldly preached the Gospel wherever he went. In the Gospel, Jesus promises that whatever we ask of God in Jesus' name will be given to us *so that [our] joy may be complete.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Knowing that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life, let us offer the Father our prayers of petition.

- 1) For the Church, may she be a shining beacon to all who seek the truth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may the Holy Spirit inspire them to continuously advocate for the protection of life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the homeless, the hungry and the hopeless, may God's love surround and fill them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the compassion of God light the paths of discipleship we walk, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may they live forever with joyous peace in the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we ask you to grant these petitions and those we hold quietly in our hearts. Through your son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

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NOTE: In those places where the observance of the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord has been transferred to this day, the Mass and readings of the Ascension are used: Acts 1:1-11/Ephesians 1:17-23/Matthew 28:16-20 (Lec. 58)

SUNDAY, MAY 13, 2018

**SEVENTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER**

(Lec. 60)

- 1) Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26
- 2) 1 John 4:11-16
- 3) John 17:11b-19

FOCUS: *Holy Father, keep them in your name.*

In today's Gospel, Jesus prays for his disciples as they go out into the world – that they be protected and unified, and filled with his joy. Our heavenly Father wishes the same for us as we face each day striving to be his faithful disciples.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the reading from Acts, we learn that the first order of business after the Ascension is for the Apostles to pick a replacement for Judas; Matthias is chosen. In our second reading, John reminds us that if we love one another, God remains in us. Jesus' farewell prayer in the Gospel before his impending death is for his disciples to be one as he and the Father are one.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: United in our common faith in Jesus Christ, we place before the Father our needs and the needs of the world.

- 1) For bishops, as successors to the Apostles, may they be protected and unified and filled with the joy of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those with civic responsibilities, may the truth and justice of God guide their decision-making, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering from addiction to opiates or other drugs, may they find healing and hope in Jesus on their way to recovery, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may we strive to be one in heart and mind as Jesus and the Father are one, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they praise God forever in the heavenly kingdom with the saints and angels, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, we give you thanks and praise for all you have given us. Help us to be the faithful people you call us to be. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, May 14, 2018

(Lec. 564)

1) Acts 1:15-17, 20-26

2) John 15:9-17

**SAINT MATTHIAS,
APOSTLE
- FEAST**

FOCUS: The more love we show to those around us, the more we grow like Jesus.

Jesus chose each of us to follow him, but it is up to us to accept his invitation. If we accept, we are commanded to love one another as Jesus loves us. This is demanding – for the love of Jesus has no limit. We can grow more like Jesus if we try each day to do one act of love beyond what we did the day before.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading recounts how the apostolic role of Judas was filled by Matthias. In the Gospel, Jesus makes it clear that he chose those who would lead his Church and carry on the work of bringing humankind to the Father. They, and all who follow Jesus, are commanded to love as Jesus loves.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God's power and love, let us place our petitions before him.

- 1) That the Church may be blessed with wisdom and be a source of truth and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That government, business and cultural institutions may be led by men and women who place concern for the common good above personal ambitions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those facing a difficult choice in their life may turn to God in their deliberation and accept his loving guidance, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all of us gathered here may manifest our love of God by our acts of love toward one another and the people of the wider community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may be welcomed into the splendor of God's love in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of Love, take our petitions and make them acceptable to you. We offer them in the name of Jesus our Lord.

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Tuesday, May 15, 2018

(Lec. 298)

- 1) Acts 20:17-27
- 2) John 17:1-11a

TUESDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
OF EASTER
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Isidore)

FOCUS: Stay strong in the face of hardships, giving witness and proclaiming the Gospel.

Oh, if we could only have the self-assurance of Paul about our own ministry and the work God calls us to do! Paul is so very strong in the face of hardships and stays true to giving witness and proclaiming the Gospel, no matter the circumstances. Let us pray today for that same perseverance as we respond to God's call.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul gives his final speech summarizing his service in witnessing to the Gospel in the face of persecution. He tells the people he is following the Holy Spirit, and indicates his ministry is his only priority. In the Gospel of John, the great prayer of Jesus reveals his unity with the Father as he prays for our protection.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that God loves each one of us, let us bring our needs to the Father in confidence.

- 1) That the power and grace of God in the sacraments of the Church, confirming Christ's victory over evil, will sustain us in hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the saving act of redemption accomplished by Jesus will bring those who labor in doubt and unbelief to true faith in God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are mourning the loss of a loved one may find solace and strength through their faith in Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That catechists and parents in this faith community will be guided by the Holy Spirit as they teach and form our children, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may live in eternal rest with the Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, you hold all creation in the palm of your hand. Draw our prayers close to your loving heart and hear and answer them according to your will. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Wednesday, May 16, 2018
(Lec. 299)

- 1) Acts 20:28-38
- 2) John 17:11b-19

WEDNESDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Let us endeavor to always choose the truth.

Saint Paul and Jesus, both knowing the difficulties to come, entrusted the faithful to God's care. Jesus prayed that they be protected by means of the truth. As believers, let's recognize the truth that lasting satisfaction doesn't come from accumulating possessions, fame, or what the world calls success. It comes through God's love and service to others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Paul warns the Ephesians of the challenges they will face after he's gone. Entrusting them to God's care, he reminds them to work in order to help those in need. In the Gospel from John, Jesus prays for his followers, who are in the world but not of it. He asks the Father to protect them from evil and dedicate them to the truth.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Entrusting ourselves to the protection of our heavenly Father, let us place our needs and the needs of the world before him.

- 1) That those who serve the Church, including Pope Francis, bishops, priests, deacons and lay ministers, may be inspired and strengthened by the truth of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That government officials, and all those in positions of authority, may be guided by truth as they work for the good of those they serve, protecting all human life from conception to natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all those who hunger in body, mind or spirit may have their needs met through the efforts of those who know it is more blessed to give than to receive, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That those gathered here today, inspired by the truth of God's love, will warmly welcome all to our faith community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have gone before us, especially the recently deceased, may be experiencing the peace of God's loving presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father in heaven, hear the prayers we place before you as we entrust our needs and the needs of our world to your loving care. We ask this through your son, Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, May 17, 2018
(Lec. 300)

- 1) Acts 22:30; 23:6-11
- 2) John 17:20-26

THURSDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Jesus leaves us with the task of bearing witness to others of his saving love for all of us.

Being a disciple of Jesus was never meant to be easy, as we can see from the example of Paul – called to be witness to Jesus not only in Jerusalem but in Rome. Just as we relied on Paul’s testimony to make the Gentiles – and us – aware of Jesus, so future generations depend on us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today’s reading from Acts, Paul’s witness to Jesus in front of the Pharisees and Sadducees leads to a dispute between the two groups. Jesus, in his prayer to the Father in the Gospel, wishes that all of us – his followers – might be one, as Jesus is one with God the Father and the Father is one with Jesus.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Jesus calls us to be one, as he is one with the Father. United with all God’s people, we make our prayer before the throne of God on behalf of others.

- 1) For the whole Church, may all of us be united in our faith and in our witness to Jesus, let us pray to the Lord
- 2) For all national leaders and all in authority, may they be blessed with the Spirit of wisdom in their deliberations and decision-making, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For people who go to bed hungry, may their suffering be relieved by God’s grace and the help of compassionate people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For families in our faith community who experience division, may they find unity and strength in their love for one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who will die today, may God be with them to give them peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of all compassion, hear these prayers we present before you and grant them as they conform to your will. We ask this in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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Friday, May 18, 2018
(Lec. 301)
1) Acts 25:13b-21
2) John 21:15-19

FRIDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
OF EASTER
(Opt. Mem.
Saint John I, Pope and Martyr)

FOCUS: We demonstrate our love for the Lord by tending to his sheep, as did Peter and Paul.

Jesus made very clear to Simon Peter that if he truly loved him, he would care for his sheep, no matter the cost. Saint Paul, understanding the cost, was in prison because he was zealous in spreading the Gospel. When we tend to our sisters and brothers, we are doing what Jesus asked of his disciples.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In our reading from Acts, Paul is held in the custody of Festus until Festus can send him to Caesar for judgment. In the Gospel, Jesus asks Simon Peter three times if he loves him, and then directs Peter to feed and tend his sheep.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As disciples of Jesus, we bring to our heavenly Father the prayers we hold in our hearts.

- 1) That Pope Francis may be inspired as he leads the Church in its role as a beacon of hope and reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That all judicial officials may be guided by the Holy Spirit to incorporate the principles of mercy into their judgments, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That nations plagued by war and violence may one day, through the grace of God and the courage of leaders, know precious and lasting peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That members of this community of faith may be inspired to care for and tend to the needs of the most vulnerable of the Lord's sheep, especially the elderly, the impoverished and the immigrant, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our loved ones who have died may enjoy the fullness of everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of glory and majesty, you have established your throne in heaven. Bind us together in love, we pray, and grant these our prayers according to your will. Through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, May 19, 2018
(Lec. 302)
1) Acts 28:16-20, 30-31
2) John 21:20-25

SATURDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Let go of all distractions and focus on the Lord.

It is easy to become distracted these days. We are surrounded by voices and images demanding our attention. Even the Apostles were distracted by things they did not understand, but Jesus tells them to focus on him alone. Paul is a good example of this. Imprisoned, he continues to proclaim the kingdom of God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul, under house arrest in Rome, speaks to the local Jewish leaders and continues to proclaim the Lord Jesus Christ throughout his two years of imprisonment. In the Gospel, Jesus tells Peter not to be concerned with or distracted by what he does not yet understand, but to continue to spread his eyewitness testimony.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us come before the Lord, letting go of all worldly distractions and concerns, and ask him to grant our petitions.

- 1) For the Church, the people of God, may we experience true conversion and reflect the compassion of Jesus Christ to the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For lawmakers, may they seek to enact legislation that is fair and focused on protecting the weak and the vulnerable, especially the unborn, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who seem lost and without purpose, may they allow God's Word to take root in their hearts and guide them according to his plans, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish, may we respond to Pope Francis' call to be a faith-filled family that reaches out to the broader community, invites them in and attends to their needs, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have gone before us, may they be rewarded with the joy of eternal life in the presence of their Savior, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, we beg you to consider the needs we have placed before you, and ask you to grant our prayers, through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, MAY 20, 2018

(Lec. 63)

- 1) Acts 2:1-11
- 2) 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Galatians 5:16-25
- 3) John 20:19-23 or John 15:26-26; 16:12-15

**PENTECOST SUNDAY
- SOLEMNITY**

FOCUS: The Christian life is a response to the invitation into the life of God – who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The same Christ who appeared to the disciples in the Upper Room is with us in the Mass today, offering us life with him today and for eternity. Let us respond to his invitation.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading from Acts, we hear of the first Pentecost when the mighty rush of wind and the Holy Spirit filled the house where the disciples gathered. In Paul's Letter to the Corinthians, he describes spiritual gifts which always spring from the one true God. In the Gospel from John, we hear of Jesus coming to the disciples, breathing on them and telling them to receive the Holy Spirit.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Lord, hear our prayers that we bring to you today with grateful and trusting hearts.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we be moved by the Spirit to serve the Church and the world with the spiritual gifts we have been given, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may they, too, be moved by the Spirit to serve in the world with the gifts God has given them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are suffering the pains of mental, physical or spiritual struggles, may they know the healing power of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may we call on the Holy Spirit to breathe the life of God into us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they see the face of God this day, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we ask that you hear and answer these prayers according to your holy will. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Monday, May 21, 2018
(Lec. 341)
1) James 3:13-18
2) Mark 9:14-29

MONDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Christopher Magallanes, Priest,
and Companions, Martyrs)

FOCUS: *I do believe, help my unbelief!*

Faith, like many things in life, will either grow or decline. In order for our faith to grow, we must be people of prayer. We must ask the Lord with trust and confidence for the things that we truly desire, and for people in our life who help us on our spiritual journeys.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint James reminds us that true humility, peace and mercy come from the wisdom that is found in God alone. Our Gospel recalls not just the healing of the boy possessed by a spirit, but more importantly, how this encounter with Jesus changes his father and brings forth a deeper faith.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Having listened to God's Word which brings forth life and hope, let us now with courage bring our prayers and petitions to the Father.

- 1) For the Church, drawn from all nations and languages, may we proclaim the fidelity and Word of the Lord to all peoples, 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 those enduring trials and challenges in life, may they come to know the loving presence of God and the support and compassion of the community of faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For catechists in our faith community, may their witness help bring our young people to the practice of the 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: Heavenly Father, we bring our petitions to you and trust in your loving response. We make our prayer through your son, Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, May 22, 2018
(Lec. 342)

- 1) James 4:1-10
- 2) Mark 9:30-37

TUESDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Rita of Cascia, Religious)

FOCUS: Selfishness separates us from God.

In today's readings, selfishness and greed lead to separation from God and each other. One cannot love the world and God at the same time. Practicing humility, however, brings one closer to God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, James teaches that selfishly motivated passions separate us from God, and that in order to draw closer to him, we must humbly submit ourselves. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples of his upcoming passion and explains that those wishing to be first *shall be the last of all and the servant of all*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we present our petitions to God, we are filled with the hope that our prayers will be pleasing to him.

- 1) For all members of the clergy, may their example of servant leadership continue to inspire men and women to consider vocations to the priesthood and religious life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all world leaders, may God inspire them to find peaceful resolutions to conflicts that plague their nations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who grieve the death of a loved one, may the hope and promise of eternal life bring them consolation and comfort, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For families in this faith community, may God strengthen and uphold them to be models of love and harmony for each other, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they have eternal joy and peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear our prayers and draw us closer to you. We ask this through your son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Wednesday, May 23, 2018
(Lec. 343)

- 1) James 4:13-17
- 2) Mark 9:38-40

WEDNESDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God has a plan for each of us to be fully alive in Christ Jesus every day of our lives.

We are familiar with sayings such as “eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow you may die.” As catchy as this sounds, this “get as much as I can” approach to life leads to a dead end. Jesus offers us a different approach to living in this life, and in his resurrection he offers us the fullness of life with him if we choose to follow him.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

We continue reading from the Letter of Saint James and hear his advice on how we should live our lives so as to follow God’s will in all that we do. In today’s Gospel passage, Jesus says that *whoever is not against us is for us*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Having heard God’s word in sacred Scripture, let us call to mind the needs of others and present them to God in prayer.

- 1) For Pope Francis, may the gifts of the Holy Spirit inspire his ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For peace in our world, may the grace of God help us to promote forgiveness and reconciliation within our homes, communities and our nations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have fallen away from Christ, may God move their hearts to return to his merciful presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us gathered here, may we have the courage to open ourselves more fully to Jesus’ love and his call each day to follow him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they experience the peace and joy of the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of mercy, we ask these prayers, and those held in the silence of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, May 24, 2018
(Lec. 344)

- 1) James 5:1-6
- 2) Mark 9:41-50

THURSDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: We are challenged to live uprightly and justly.

Our readings today challenge us to heed the spirit of the Gospel, and to avoid sinful behaviors that separate us from Jesus. Although this is never easy, the Christian life of discipleship demands that we try each day to love each other so that we may *have peace with one another*.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading from James, we hear a condemnation of those who focus on earthly wealth and who oppress the poor. In the Gospel, Jesus reminds his disciples of the temptations of sin, and the purifying effect of being his disciples.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Gathered as people of faith, let us present our petitions to our loving and merciful God.

- 1) That all members of the Church may rely on God, who makes all things possible, for guidance and strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That judges and magistrates throughout the world may be graced with fairness and honesty in their judgments, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That Jesus may be the source of strength for those who suffer from the heavy burdens of life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That we in this faith community will truly see those in need through the eyes of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our deceased beloved friends and relatives may enjoy the eternal dwelling place prepared for them by our loving Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God, we ask that you hear and grant our petitions in your loving kindness. Through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, May 25, 2018

(Lec. 345)

- 1) James 5:9-12
- 2) Mark 10:1-12

FRIDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.)

Saint Bede the Venerable, Priest and Doctor of the Church;
Saint Gregory VII, Pope;
Saint Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi, Virgin)

FOCUS: Speak the truth and commit to the Lord.

It can be a good exercise for us to study the lives of the saints, as it is helpful to learn about endurance and hardship from those who have experienced it firsthand. James reminds us in today's passage that we will one day face judgment by God and we should be steadfast in our faithful, human response, so as not to incur eventual condemnation.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

James encourages his followers in the first reading to look to the prophets who have gone before them as examples of perseverance in hardship. In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus teaches that two people who marry are joined in marriage by God.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that our heavenly Father is compassionate and merciful, let us turn to him now with our needs.

- 1) For all lay ministers, may their humble service in the Church bring comfort and peace to God's people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the work of the New Evangelization, may it energize the faithful and strengthen their commitment to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those in unhealthy relationships, may God heal what is broken and provide new pathways for their good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our faith community whose doubts have drawn them away from the Church, may they encounter the living Christ in others and be moved to return to the faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rejoice in the dawn of eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, we ask that you continue to pour out your grace upon us, and hear the prayers we offer you. Through your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Saturday, May 26, 2018
(Lec. 346)
1) James 5:13-20
2) Mark 10:13-16

SATURDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Philip Neri, Priest)

FOCUS: *The fervent prayer of a righteous person is very powerful.*

Persistent prayer allows our faith to permeate our daily lives. Prayer brings healing, and draws us closer to the Father. Let us be grateful for the opportunity to give thanks and praise, and for the forgiveness and merciful compassion of our God when we truly repent of our sins. May we in turn show that forgiveness to others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the Letter from James, we hear about the importance of prayer in our lives. In the Gospel, Jesus explains that only when we possess a childlike trust in God can we truly be his disciples.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As children of our heavenly Father, we gather together in prayerful petition for our needs and for the needs of the world.

- 1) For the pope and all the clergy, may they lift up those who are weary by their faithful proclamation of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all of us, may the tremendous witness of the saints who have gone before us inspire us to acts of loving service to others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those whose lives have been ravaged by war or violence, may Christ uplift and sustain them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish community, may the Word of God we heard today inspire us to reach out to the stranger or lonely one in our midst, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be welcomed by our Lord into his heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, thank you for answering our every need according to your will. Through your son, Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, MAY 27, 2018

(Lec. 165)

- 1) Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40
- 2) Romans 8:14-17
- 3) Matthew 28:16-20

**THE MOST HOLY TRINITY
- SOLEMNITY**

FOCUS: Jesus calls us all to relationship with the Triune God, and with one another.

Christ proclaims the three-fold unity of God and commands that we *make disciples of all nations*, baptizing them *in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit*.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Moses instructs the people to know, and fix in their hearts, that the Lord is God. They are to keep his statutes and commandments. In Romans, Paul reminds us that through the Spirit we are God's adopted children and joint heirs with Christ. In the Gospel, Jesus delivers the Great Commission, sending his disciples throughout the world to baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trustful hearts, we offer our prayers to our loving God.

- 1)
- 2) For the Church, God's family through adoption, that we may follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit and lead many souls to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civil leaders, may God guide them in their work to protect the rights of all people from conception to natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For victims of famine and war, that with the help of the body of Christ they may find protection and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the people of our parish, may we use the grace of our baptism and live our call as true disciples, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our departed brothers and sisters, may they experience the joy of seeing God face to face, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, you have called us to be your people, your holy Church. Please hear and answer our prayers this day according to your will, through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Monday, May 28, 2018

(Lec. 347)

- 1) 1 Peter 1:3-9
- 2) Mark 10:17-27

MONDAY OF
EIGHTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: The cost of discipleship is high.

Our relationship with God must come first. We are challenged by our readings today to make our witness to Christ our first priority. This is not easy, as the rich man discovered in today's Gospel. But if we wish to be his disciples, we must try each day to put the things of God above things of this earth.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the reading from the First Letter of Peter, we are reminded that we may have to go through trials, but we have received salvation from Jesus Christ. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks about what is necessary to enter the kingdom of God and inherit eternal life, and reminds his disciples that *all things are possible for God*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Joined together as a community of faith, let us place before the Lord our needs.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all clergy, may their insightful preaching and example lead us closer to the kingdom of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the leaders of nations, may they be blessed in their efforts to make the people of the world safe from war, pestilence and disease, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those discerning a vocation in life, may God open their hearts to hear his call, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all gathered here, may we be granted the gift of fortitude to rid ourselves of anything that impedes our journey toward the Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they enjoy eternal happiness with Jesus, the Good Shepherd, in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, hear the prayers we bring to you with humble hearts and complete faith in your will for us. We pray through your son, Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, May 29, 2018

(Lec. 348)

1) 1 Peter 1:10-16

2) Mark 10:28-31

TUESDAY OF
EIGHTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: We are called to holiness.

Because we believe the Good News of Christ's saving action, our hope is in God's promise of eternal life. We act on this hope by letting go of what impedes our faith in Jesus, and by giving priority to eternal values as we follow God's plan for us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Peter exhorts the community to accept God's call to holiness and to set their hopes solely on the grace of Jesus Christ. In the Gospel, Jesus indicates that following him and sharing the Good News has its challenges, but it is ultimately life-giving and leads to eternal life.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Setting our hopes on God's promise, let us entrust our needs, and the needs of the world, to his loving care.

- 1) That all who have answered God's call to preach the Gospel may be strengthened as they share God's love with their family of faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That those in all levels of government may come to value every stage of human life in every person, from the least to the greatest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are hopeless because of poverty, illness or oppression may receive relief and comfort through the efforts of those whose hope is in God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That those gathered here today, strengthened by the Eucharist we share, may grow in holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may experience the joy of eternal life with their family of faith in God's eternal kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Holy God, look with favor on these needs we place before you with hopeful hearts. We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord.

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Wednesday, May 30, 2018
(Lec. 349)

- 1) 1 Peter 1:18-25
- 2) Mark 10:32-45

WEDNESDAY OF
EIGHTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: We are called to serve one another with the love of Jesus in our hearts.

Abuse and misuse of power can occur with anyone with any degree of authority, which is why we all have to be vigilant and aware of our responsibilities to those we serve. We would do well to follow the example of Jesus, who came to serve rather than to be served.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the First Letter of Peter, we are reminded that Christ is our salvation as well as our example to follow. In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the Apostles, for the third time, about his impending passion, death and resurrection. He teaches them that true authority is about serving others, not self.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With one voice, let us offer our prayers to God for those in need.

- 1) For the Church, may God grant success to her efforts to witness to the Good News of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world peace; may the Holy Spirit inspire government leaders to negotiate conflicts in good faith and abide by their agreements, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick and the poor, may they find in God a haven of hope and a light in the darkness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us gathered here, may we strive to always be faithful followers of Christ and embrace the Good News with joy and gladness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may the Lord grant them peace in his arms, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, in faith we ask that you grant these and all prayers that we offer in the name of Jesus, your son.

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Thursday, May 31, 2018
(Lec. 572)

- 1) Zephaniah 3:14-18a
or Romans 12:9-16
- 2) Luke 1:39-56

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

FOCUS: Mary, God's humble servant, models for us faith and trust in God's plan.

Mary's "yes" to God was based on her deep love for and faith in the Father. She submitted to God's will despite any uncertainties she may have had. By her example, she teaches us to also accept the call of the Lord and live out the Gospel in our daily interactions with others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In Romans, Paul calls the community of believers to be fervent in spirit, to love and care for the needs of others, and to practice humility. Mary's visit to Elizabeth is relayed in Luke's Gospel. Mary praises God and expresses her humble joy at being chosen to be God's vessel, as his promise is fulfilled.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Following the example of Mary who put her faith in the Father, let us join our voices as we place our needs before him.

- 1) For our Holy Mother Church, may we continue to share Mary's example of love and care for God's children throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all those in leadership positions, may they have the strength and courage to make good decisions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those searching for answers, may their faith deepen and their wisdom grow, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our assembly who are separated by beliefs, viewpoints or ideas, may they listen openly and extend hands of peace to one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they rejoice with Mary and the saints in the presence of the Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, please hear the prayers of your children on behalf of all those in need as you open our hearts to your will. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your son.

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