

SEPTEMBER

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Saturday, September 1, 2018
(Lec. 430)

- 1) 1 Corinthians 1:26-31
- 2) Matthew 25:14-30

SATURDAY OF
21ST WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Saturday in honor of
BVM)

FOCUS: God chooses the lowly and the powerless to carry out his plan.

God is infinitely generous in pouring out his grace on us. Grace nurtures the gifts and talents that God has given us. Among the gifts with which we have been entrusted are the theological virtues: faith, hope and love. Let us allow God to nurture these and all of our gifts with his grace.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul addresses the people of Corinth, encouraging them to believe that God chooses people like themselves, the powerless and the lowly, to carry out God's will. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples the parable of the talents, teaching them how to care for the gifts they have received from God.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Inspired by God's sacred Word, let us call to mind the needs of others and offer them up to God.

- 1) For the Church, may Christ enliven her proclamation of the Gospel to touch the hearts of all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For national leaders, may God inspire their decisions on behalf of the people they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all people, may the Spirit awaken every heart and mind to promote the dignity of human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us gathered here, may we use the gifts God has given us to know him better, to love him more fully and to serve him with all our heart, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they rest in the eternal peace and comfort of our God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, pour out your mercy on all your children. We ask this in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2018

(Lec. 125)

- 1) Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8
- 2) James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27
- 3) Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Jesus, who is the fulfillment of God's laws and prophets, tells us how to live out God's commandments.

Today, we think about the best way to live out God's commandments, passed on to us through Moses, by witnessing God's blessings and presence in our midst. We can go beyond our human traditions and rituals by washing our hearts and getting rid of evil thoughts and desires. We practice it by caring for all who are vulnerable and in need.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Moses calls on God's people to witness God's blessings and presence in their midst by keeping his laws and commandments. In the second reading, James asks God's people to follow the Word of God and not the ways of the world. In the Gospel, Jesus warns the Pharisees, scribes and the crowd not to simply observe human tradition and rituals. Rather, they need to look into their hearts and clean out evil thoughts.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Searching for the best way to live out our call to discipleship, let us bring our prayers to our heavenly Father.

- 1) For the leaders of our Church, that through their lives of service and humility, they may help us, the faithful, live out our baptismal promises, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our public officials and law enforcement, that they may rely on God's divine law as a source of wisdom in finding solutions to problems in our society, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who struggle with addiction, may they turn to God for the grace and strength needed to begin the journey toward recovery, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may we be the doers of God's Word and not hearers only, and reach out to those less fortunate, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, that they may be blessed with eternal joy and peace in God's kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving 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, our Lord.

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Monday, September 3, 2018

(Lec. 431)

1) 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

2) Luke 4:16-30

MONDAY OF

22ND WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(OBL MEM

Saint Gregory the Great,

Pope and Doctor of the Church)

FOCUS: Let us be aware of the Lord speaking to us through Scripture or in prayer.

How often do we ignore the Lord speaking to us: through Scripture, through another person or in prayer, or through some ordinary happening of the day? Perhaps later we realize the Lord was warning us about something, but we ignored him, and then we pay the price for not being attentive. The Lord is always looking out for our good and our salvation! Let us practice being aware.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading from Corinthians, Paul reminds his readers that he spoke with the power of the Lord's Spirit, and not of his own human wisdom. In the Gospel, Jesus tells those attending synagogue that the prophets, Elijah and Elisha, helped foreigners because the people of the covenant would not listen to the Lord. This angers the congregation and they drive Jesus out of the town.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the Lord's love and mercy, let us present our petitions.

1) That our Church leaders may be fortified by God's Word working in them, let us pray to the Lord.

2) That all local, state and national legislative leaders may be blessed with wisdom in developing legislation that shows respect for life, from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.

3) That those who find the trials of life difficult to bear may experience a renewal of faith and hope through the power of the risen Christ, let us pray to the Lord

4) That those of us gathered here who need to hear God's Word may have the gift of others to speak it to us, let us pray to the Lord.

5) That our faithful departed may reign in glory with Jesus our Savior, let us pray to the Lord.

6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Tuesday, September 4, 2018

(Lec. 432)

1) 1 Corinthians 2:10b-16

2) Luke 4:31-37

TUESDAY OF
22ND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: The Holy Spirit gives us *the mind of Christ*.

The mind of Christ helps us to live as God intends, treating others with great love and compassion. In the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to love as Christ loved – to live in the freedom of the hope of our salvation.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul reminds us that we are given the Holy Spirit from God so that we may understand the things *freely given us by God*, namely love, mercy and salvation – for we have *the mind of Christ*. In the Gospel, a man possessed by an unclean spirit recognizes Jesus as the *Holy One of God*, and Jesus drives the demon from the man without harm. His actions astound those gathered in Capernaum to hear him preach.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In the spirit of Christ, let us lift our petitions to our heavenly Father and ask for his mercy.

- 1) For the Church, may we continue to have the *mind of Christ* through the Holy Spirit in promoting peace and justice in our world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our civic leaders, may Christ strengthen their conviction to achieve justice for all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For families torn apart because of past hurts or misunderstandings, may they be open to forgiving one another and reconciling differences, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may we be open to the workings of the Holy Spirit to be channels of God's love to our families, neighbors and friends, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls of all the faithful departed, may they rest in peace through the mercy of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we thank you for your continued mercy and grace and ask that you grant our petitions, through your son, Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, September 5, 2018

(Lec. 433)

1) 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

2) Luke 4:38-44

WEDNESDAY OF
22ND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: *We are God's co-workers.*

The crowds did not recognize who Jesus was, but the demons did! They knew Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God. The crowds knew only that Jesus could heal, so they tried to keep him from leaving and fulfilling his mission. Thinking only in temporal terms blinded them.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul admonishes the Corinthians for being infants in Christ, living, as they are, in rivalry and jealousy. In the Gospel, Jesus heals Simon's mother-in-law by rebuking her fever, and cures many others who are sick. When the crowds try to prevent him from leaving, Jesus tells them he must proclaim the Good News to other towns as well.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Led forth by the Spirit, let us bring our prayers to our loving and merciful God.

1) That Pope Francis may be blessed with health and vitality as he continues to lead the faithful, let us pray to the Lord.

2) That lawmakers may be guided by the gift of wisdom in working to secure safe working conditions and just wages for all laborers, let us pray to the Lord.

3) That those who suffer from chronic illness may feel the healing hands of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

4) That this community of believers may embrace the call of Saint Teresa of Calcutta to do even the smallest of things with the greatest of love, let us pray to the Lord.

5) That all who have died baptized in Christ may rise again in new life with him for eternity, let us pray to the Lord.

6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of heaven and earth, you are our help and our shield. Hear us, we pray, and answer our prayers as is your will. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thursday, September 6, 2018
(Lec. 434)

- 1) 1 Corinthians 3:18-23
- 2) Luke 5:1-11

THURSDAY OF
22ND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Jesus will be with us as we carry out his will.

What does it take for you and me to be fishers of men? To “put out into deep water” as Jesus instructed Simon Peter? Notice that Peter was working, doing what he normally did, when Jesus called him. If we leave ourselves open to the possibility – to opportunities – to encounter Jesus when he calls us, our faith, too, will attract others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In his Letter to the Corinthians, Paul gives a warning about self-deception and the temptation of thinking oneself wise. In the Gospel of Luke, Simon Peter, James and John receive from Jesus the mission of all disciples – to be fishers of men.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Gathered as people of faith, we rejoice in God’s Word and sacrament. Let us bring our needs, and the needs of all God’s children, before him.

- 1) That the proclamation of the Gospel by the Church throughout the world may bring about a renewal of faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the hearts of policymakers may be open to hearing the voices of those who cry out in support of human life and dignity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That family members who are experiencing division may find the strength for reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That those of us gathered here may successfully bring witness to the Gospel through our acts of charity in our workplaces, schools and homes, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may experience eternal peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, the joy you bring to each of our lives through your love and mercy sustains us. We ask that you hear and answer our prayers through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Friday, September 7, 2018
(Lec. 435)

- 1) 1 Corinthians 4:1-5
- 2) Luke 5:33-39

FRIDAY OF
22ND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: We are servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries.

There are many times in our lives when we are responsible for the security, safety or integrity of things or information. But nothing is of more infinite value than the obligation, and privilege, we have as a result of our baptism: to live our lives in service to Christ, and as witnesses to the Gospel – bringing hope and the promise of salvation to the world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In Corinthians, Paul proclaims that judgment will come from the Lord. God *will bring to light what is hidden in darkness*. Today's Gospel addresses a question about the practice of fasting. Jesus explains that wedding guests don't fast while the bridegroom is present, and then he illustrates how things that are old don't often coincide with those that are new.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God, we offer our petitions for the needs of our Church and the salvation of our world.

- 1) For Pope Francis, that he may lead others to God through his witness to Christ's mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, that God's wisdom may guide them as they work for peace and justice in places of violence and oppression, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who feel lonely or abandoned, may they find comfort in the presence of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For couples in this faith community preparing for marriage, may they imitate Christ's love in the way they serve one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they feast with Christ, the bridegroom, at our Lord's heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord, you bring to light what is hidden in darkness. Hear our prayers and help us to do your will, we ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, September 8, 2018
(Lec. 636)

**THE NATIVITY OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
– FEAST**

- 1) Micah 5:1-4a or
Romans 8:28-30
- 2) Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23

FOCUS: Blessed are we, the chosen people of a peaceful shepherd.

We are the chosen people of our God, who came to us as a humble child and taught us through his ministry with peace and strength.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Micah foretells of Jesus' ministry as the shepherd of peace and strength from God. In the Gospel, Matthew describes the infancy narrative of Jesus and how his birth came about with Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we gather together this day in celebration of our Holy Mother's birth, let us present our petitions to the Lord.

- 1) For Pope Francis, may God bless his efforts in shepherding the Church with strength and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our nation, may Our Lady continue to be a beacon of love and care over her children, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are sick and those caring for them, may they feel the peace of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish community, that devotion to Our Lady through the holy rosary may bear great fruit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be now at peace with God and our loving Mother, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, hear the prayers of your faithful gathered here before you and respond according to your will. We ask this through your son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2018

(Lec. 128)

- 1) Isaiah 35:4-7a
- 2) James 2:1-5
- 3) Mark 7:31-37

**TWENTY-THIRD
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: We are called to be open to God's Word penetrating our hearts today.

It is never a good idea for someone to close themselves off from others. It is never a good idea to close our ears or to be silent to the plight of the most vulnerable among us. *"Ephphatha! – that is – Be opened!"*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah tells the people to be strong and not be afraid, for great things are about to happen. In the second reading, we hear from Saint James to show no partiality toward those who enter our lives. In the Gospel, Jesus cures a man and then orders the crowd not to tell anyone.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We place before the Lord our needs and those of others.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we give witness to the Gospel as we serve as good stewards of God's gifts to us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may our prayers for them open their hearts and minds to seek peaceful solutions to conflict, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For farmers and farm workers, may they be blessed with an abundant harvest to feed themselves and others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all members of this faith community, may we always seek to place God first in our lives and strive to be his true disciples, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may they join the angels and saints in the heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, we acknowledge you as the source of all love. Look kindly on your children as we present our needs. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, September 10, 2018

(Lec. 437)

1) 1 Corinthians 5:1-8

2) Luke 6:6-11

MONDAY OF
23RD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Jesus calls us to live a life of loving service.

The actions of Jesus clearly demonstrate that the needs of God's people take priority. We are expected to follow this example as we turn away from evil and separate ourselves from those who practice immorality. Just as the "old yeast" must be replaced with the "new yeast," so we must dispel wickedness and embrace sincerity and truth.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul admonishes those who practice immorality and calls for the faithful to expel them from the community. In Luke's Gospel, the scribes and Pharisees are critical of Jesus for curing on the Sabbath. Jesus shows that satisfying human needs and doing works of mercy take precedence over the Sabbath rules.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As a community of believers, striving to live in the presence of the Lord, let us join our voices in prayer to our heavenly Father.

- 1) For our Holy Father, bishops and priests, may the Spirit of Christ sustain them as they continue to lead the faithful, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For police officers, those in the military and all who are commissioned to keep others safe, may they know God's protection as they carry out their duties, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the poor, the homeless and all those around the world who struggle to meet their basic human needs, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may God enliven our hearts to lead lives of service to others, no matter our chosen profession, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died and all those who mourn them, may they know the promise of eternal life fulfilled, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of love and compassion, please hear our prayers which we offer with humility and love. We trust that you know what we need and will take care of us always. Through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, September 11, 2018

(Lec. 438)

1) 1 Corinthians 6:1-11

2) Luke 6:12-19

TUESDAY OF
23RD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: *The Lord takes delight in his people.*

Today we reflect on who we are as Church: The mystical body of Christ; the people of God. Brothers and sisters in Christ; family. We are called to interact with one another in love, to resolve conflicts with patience and to have no divisions when it comes to Christ.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul chastises the Corinthians for bringing their fellow Christians to secular court. He reminds them that if they share the truth of heavenly things, they should discuss and resolve their own everyday matters. In the Gospel, after time in prayer, Jesus called forth his disciples and chose the Twelve Apostles.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us place our needs before the Lord, with confidence in his providence and generosity.

1) For all members of the Church, may we constantly be renewed through the Word of God alive in our hearts, let us pray to the Lord.

2) For judges and magistrates, may they come to know the saving love of our God, whose mercy is the best form of justice, let us pray to the Lord.

3) For all survivors of tragedy, violence, terrorism and hate, may they know God's healing touch, let us pray to the Lord.

4) For all those in this faith community who are facing difficult decisions, may the Holy Spirit guide them in prayerful discernment, let us pray to the Lord.

5) For all who have died, may they enter into the fullness of life with the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God, hear our petitions and grant us all that is good. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, September 12, 2018

(Lec. 439)

1) 1 Corinthians 7:25-31

2) Luke 6:20-26

WEDNESDAY OF

23RD WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(Opt. Mem.

The Most Holy Name of Mary)

FOCUS: Blessed be the Most Holy Name of Mary.

Today we celebrate the Most Holy Name of Mary, whom God chose from among the lowly to bear him who would be the Most High. Mary trusted completely in the promises of God, and allowed the hope of all people to reside within her. Let us give thanks for God's gift of her to us, and follow her example in building the kingdom of God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Paul encourages the Corinthians to remain as they are, married or single, believing Christ's return to be imminent and their time on earth to be brief. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus preaches the Sermon on the Plain, blessing the poor and hungry, and warning the rich not to be satisfied with earthly rewards.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God, who promises to feed the hungry and console the sorrowful, let us join our voices together in prayer.

1) For the Church throughout the world, may she grow in unity and holiness, by God's power and grace, let us pray to the Lord.

2) For our nation and its leaders, may they turn to God, and through the intercession of Mary, recognize the sanctity of life, from conception to natural death, let us pray to the Lord.

3) For all who suffer persecution for their belief in Jesus, may they remain steadfast in faith and experience the joy of salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

4) For members of this parish, may we recognize God's call to holiness in our vocation and state in life, and cooperate in building God's kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.

5) For our beloved dead, that free from earthly cares, they may rejoice in their heavenly reward, let us pray to the Lord.

6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: We thank you, Lord, for giving us Mary to be our mother, our model and our intercessor. Please hear the prayers we offer this day, through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, September 13, 2018

(Lec. 440)

1) 1 Corinthians 8:1b-7, 11-13

2) Luke 6:27-38

THURSDAY OF

23rd WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(OBL MEM

Saint John Chrysostom,

Bishop and Doctor of the Church)

FOCUS: Love is the supreme value in the kingdom of God.

Many virtues are valuable in our world: wisdom, knowledge, generosity, loyalty. But for Jesus, love is the supreme virtue – a love and generosity of spirit even to those who seem to be against us. A love that means taking actions that might seem to be overboard to others – walking the extra mile, turning the other cheek – or granting mercy and forgiveness when they appear unwarranted.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In writing to the Corinthians, Saint Paul urges those with a deeper understanding to take care not to offend the weaker consciences of others, to avoid leading them astray. In the Gospel, Jesus demands of us that we imitate his love: giving even more than asked to people whom we might see as enemies because they, too, are God's children.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God calls on us to love all people, so out of concern for their needs, we bring these prayers to our loving God.

1) For bishops, pastors and spiritual directors, may they guide those whom they serve to a deeper understanding of God, let us pray to the Lord.

2) For world leaders, may they seek justice, freedom and peace for all whom they serve, let us pray to the Lord.

3) For those who live with chronic illness, may they be graced with God's healing in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.

4) For all of us gathered here, may we have the courage to live the Christian life as we are called by God to do, let us pray to the Lord.

5) For all who have died, may they rejoice forever in the presence of God, the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.

6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God and Father of us all, hear the prayers we present on behalf of our brothers and sisters, and grant them in the way that will best reflect your will. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your son.

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Friday, September 14, 2018
(Lec. 638)

**THE EXALTATION
OF THE HOLY CROSS
– FEAST**

- 1) Numbers 21:4b-9
- 2) Philippians 2:6-11
- 3) John 3:13-17

FOCUS: Jesus transformed the cross, an instrument of death, into a symbol of life and love.

Every time we make the Sign of the Cross, we proclaim our belief in Jesus as our salvation. The cross, an instrument of torture and death, was the means to our redemption. As Jesus died on the cross, he transformed death into life eternal, and forever established the cross as a symbol of God's love.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, venomous serpents bite the ungrateful Israelites, killing many and leaving others to die. Life was restored to the dying by looking at a figure of the serpent on a pole, raised high by Moses. The great Philippian hymn speaks of the humility of Jesus, and calls us to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. In the Gospel, Jesus, just as the serpent in the desert, will be raised high on a cross and will bring life – eternal life.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Following the example of Jesus, let us humbly approach the Father with our needs and the needs of others.

- 1) For the Church, may she boldly serve with Christ-like compassion and love for those who are marginalized by society, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of our world, may God's peace guide their work each day, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick and injured, may the vision of Jesus on the cross offer them hope and consolation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all gathered here, may God grant us true conversion of heart as we respond to his grace in word and deed, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they rejoice in the eternal presence of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord our God, hear these petitions and, in your love and mercy, grant what we need. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, September 15, 2018

(Lec. 442)

1) 1 Corinthians 10:14-22

2) John 19:25-27 or

(Lec. 639)

Luke 2:33-35

SATURDAY OF

23RD WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(OBL MEM

Our Lady of Sorrows)

FOCUS: Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows.

Today we celebrate the dignity, fortitude and faithfulness of Mary, Our Lady of Sorrows. A mother who knew her child's destiny, who heard the prophecy of the difficulties she faced, and who never wavered in her belief and trust in God's promises.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Paul admonishes his listeners to have respect for the true Eucharistic Sacrament, and not be involved with other sacrifices which he warned could be demonic. In the Gospel, Mary and Joseph present Jesus in the Temple, and receive a blessing and prophecy from Simeon.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Knowing the Father's love and his promise to hear us, let us present our prayers.

1) That Pope Francis, bishops, priests and deacons may be blessed as they help us to recognize God present among us, let us pray to the Lord.

2) That legislators and lawmakers may be emboldened by God's divine providence in all they do, let us pray to the Lord.

3) That those in need of life's necessities may be blessed and lifted up through the support of others, let us pray to the Lord.

4) That all in our faith community may have the virtue of gratitude to the Lord for his many blessings, let us pray to the Lord.

5) That our deceased loved ones may meet Christ face to face in Paradise, let us pray to the Lord.

6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, source of all healing, we come to you with our needs and ask that you hear our prayers. Through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2018

(Lec. 131)

- 1) Isaiah 50:5-9a
- 2) James 2:14-18
- 3) Mark 8:27-35

**TWENTY-FOURTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: As the Christ, Jesus is the one that Israel has long waited for.

Scripture contains many important questions. Chief among them is the one Jesus asks today, *Who do you say that I am?* How we answer that question goes to the heart of our faith. Can we, like Peter, say *You are the Christ?* And how deep is our commitment to this confession of faith?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Describing the Servant of the Lord, Isaiah emphasizes his total trust in God, even in times of trial and persecution. Saint James emphasizes that our faith must always have a practical dimension to it. We can demonstrate what we truly believe only through our actions and deeds. Jesus chastises Peter for failing to understand the true purpose of his mission.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our needs to our heavenly Father and ask him to hear our prayers.

- 1) For Church leaders, may they continue to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit as they guide and lead their flock, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all civic leaders, may they be encouraged by the Gospel in their work of ensuring that all peoples can worship God in peace and freedom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who live in fear of violence or the terror of war, may they be given God's grace and protection, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the sick and all who suffer, may God's Holy Spirit restore them to the fullness of life and health, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they come to share in the fullness of Christ's glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious Father, we bring all our prayers to you, asking you to turn our hearts and minds to the fullness of your truth. Grant us the courage and strength to live according to your word. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Monday, September 17, 2018
(Lec. 443)
1) 1 Corinthians 11:17-26, 33
2) Luke 7:1-10

MONDAY OF
24TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Robert Bellarmine,
Bishop and Doctor of the Church)

FOCUS: Let us proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes again.

By our participation in the Eucharist, but also by our lives outside of these walls, we profess and proclaim what we believe. Do those professions and proclamations match? The body and blood of Christ transforms us, and our presence in the world should reflect our faith, just as the centurion's did.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Paul teaches the community in Corinth to be hospitable to all, and to not have factions among themselves. In today's Gospel, Jesus sees the centurion's great faith and heals his servant.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Our God is a protector and healer. Let us place our petitions before him in hope and trust.

- 1) For the Church, that God might increase our faith and help us to proclaim it with the confidence of the centurion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the world, that we may be blessed with wise and diplomatic leaders to lead us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For families and communities fractured by differences and quarrels, that God might heal their divisions and give them peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those assembled here, that we might open our hearts to all who come into our lives, as Jesus opened his heart to all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our deceased loved ones who sought the Lord in this life, may they exult with him in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: O faithful Father, you gave us your Son to show us how to love your people. Hear our prayers that one day we might enjoy the heavenly vision with you forever. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, September 18, 2018
(Lec. 444)

- 1) 1 Corinthians 12:12-14,
27-31a
- 2) Luke 7:11-17

TUESDAY OF
24TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: *Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts.*

Striving for the greatest spiritual gifts is not a competition. It does not mean we are all aiming for the same thing, and that whoever gets there first gets it. The Lord wants us to become who we are meant to be, the best of ourselves the way he has created us. We are to strive for the greatest gift *meant for us*, so that we might fulfill our perfect role in the entire body of Christ.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Paul says that the body of Christ is like a human body – many parts but still one body. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus raises a widow's son from the dead outside the gates of the city of Nain.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God who knows our every need, and gives us more than we could ever ask for or deserve, let us bring our petitions before him.

- 1) For Pope Francis and our Church leaders, may God bless them in their ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may they hear the voices of those who cry out for food, dignity and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer ailments of mind, body and soul, may they be comforted by the presence of the Lord and the care of those around them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our community, may we persevere in prayer and continue to grow in faith, hope and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they experience the fullness of God's kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Wednesday, September 19, 2018
(Lec. 445)

- 1) 1 Corinthians 12:31–13:13
- 2) Luke 7:31-35

WEDNESDAY OF
24TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Januarius,
Bishop and Martyr)

FOCUS: *The greatest of these is love.*

We are imperfect and undeserving of God's love. Yet we are the body of Christ, and he alone vindicates our sinful nature and perfects us in love. We are called to follow the way of love, expressed through the great sacrifice of Christ on the cross, and be attentive to what God is asking of us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul exhorts the Corinthians to *strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts*, especially love. In the Gospel, Jesus compares the people of his generation to children who cannot agree with one another.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With eager hearts filled with love, we present our needs to God.

- 1) For the Church, may she increase in faith, hope, and love through the power of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may the virtue of love inform all they do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering because they feel unloved, may they receive strength and courage through the transforming love of Christ and those they encounter, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us here, may Christ's sacrificial love embolden us to love others as he does, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they see God face to face and rest in his perfect love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, you showed your love for us by sending your only Son to die on the cross. Help us to perfect ourselves in his love. Please answer our needs according to your will, through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, September 20, 2018
(Lec. 446)

- 1) 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
- 2) Luke 7:36-50

THURSDAY OF
24TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn,
Priest,
and Paul Chŏng Ha-sang,
and Companions,
Martyrs)

FOCUS: Share the Word of God so that all will come to know the life of the risen Christ.

Preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ isn't reserved exclusively to the ordained. Through baptism, each of us receives the mandate to proclaim the Good News. Today we remember the Korean martyrs, Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, Paul Chŏng Ha-sang and their Companions, whose lives are an example for authentic witness to the message of salvation.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul addresses the Corinthians, recalling for their benefit the foundational Christian belief in the passion, death and bodily resurrection of Jesus. In the Gospel, invited by Simon the Pharisee to dine at his house, Jesus accepts. While Jesus reclines at table, the repentant woman shows Jesus such great love that he forgives all her sins.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In faith and with much love, let us present our needs and the needs of our brothers and sisters to our merciful God.

- 1) For those who shepherd our Church, may God grant them the strength and wisdom to lead the Church in truth and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government officials, may the Lord awaken their hearts to the Gospel message as they serve their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who suffer, may they see in our Lord Jesus a companion and helpmate as they carry their cross, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our praying community here, may the Eucharist in which we partake transform us for the good of the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may God grant them entrance into eternal life with the risen Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: O God, we believe in your unconditional love for each person. We ask that you show us your love and grant these prayers in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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Friday, September 21, 2018

(Lec. 643)

- 1) Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13
- 2) Matthew 9:9-13

**SAINT MATTHEW,
APOSTLE AND
EVANGELIST
– FEAST**

FOCUS: Matthew's call helps us know about God's unconditional love for us.

Saint Matthew's call as an Apostle teaches us that Jesus knows our defects and our sins, but loves us regardless of them. He wants us to be close to him, whatever imperfections we may bring to the relationship. There is no need for us to be defensive or guarded. We just need to be ourselves, and open our hearts to his love.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first reading calls for unity among believers, regardless of their ministerial differences. The people of Christ are to be one in body, spirit, hope and faith. In the Gospel, Jesus calls Matthew from his customs post, and then eats with him, along with some tax collectors and sinners. Jesus notes that he came to call sinners, not the righteous.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our petitions to the Father, trusting in his goodness and love.

- 1) That Church leaders may be strengthened by God's unconditional love, showing us how to love God more each day, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the leaders of the world may come to greater knowledge of God through our efforts of evangelization, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who feel unworthy to ask God's help may remember the story of Matthew's calling, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all of us here may grow in love for God and one another through participation in our parish and our community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may be welcomed into the communion of saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Holy God, hear these petitions, offered in humble reverence. Grant us what will bring us closer to you. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Saturday, September 22, 2018
(Lec. 448)

- 1) 1 Corinthians 15:35-37,
42-49
- 2) Luke 8:4-15

SATURDAY OF
24TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Saturday in honor of
BVM)

FOCUS: The word of God sown in us leads to the fullness of eternal life.

Seeds may look very similar when planted, but they look very different from each other when they break through the soil. How they grow, and by what they are fed, determines whether they bear fruit. Our earthly bodies may someday be raised to the fullness of heaven, but only if we embrace the Word of God with generous hearts sharing goodness and love.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul instructs the Corinthians on the resurrection of the dead, using the analogy of sowing a kernel of wheat. In the Gospel, Jesus uses a parable of sowing seed to illustrate the lasting effect of hearing the Word of God.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the message and mission of Jesus, we present with confidence our needs and concerns to our loving God.

- 1) For Church leaders, may they be blessed with the gift of fortitude and the knowledge of our prayers for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For rulers of each nation, may God give them resources to support justice and flourishing for their most vulnerable members, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For farmers, gardeners and those who in any way work the land, may their seeds fall always on rich soil and their harvest be ever abundant, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, that we may hear the Word of God with the ear of a good and generous heart, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they bear the image of the heavenly one in the newness of resurrected life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of abundance, lead us through the changing of the seasons and bless us with the grace to hear your Word and embrace it with generous hearts. This we ask through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2018

(Lec. 134)

- 1) Wisdom 2:12, 17-20
- 2) James 3:16 – 4:3
- 3) Mark 9:30-37

**TWENTY-FIFTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Jesus calls on us to set ourselves apart from the world and serve others.

Our world is full of arguments and conflicts. People fight and despise one another out of jealousy and selfish desires. Today, Jesus calls on us to be different from the world and learn to serve others. This is how we can be the greatest in his eyes.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, we hear how the wicked plan to revile and torture the just one, putting God to the test of defending him. In the second reading, James contrasts the character of those who have wisdom from above with those who are bound by earthly things. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples of his impending death and resurrection. When they fail to understand, he exhorts them to have an attitude of service to the least among them.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Out of care and humble service to one another, let us offer these prayers to our heavenly Father.

- 1) For Church leaders, may they have the spirit of humility and servanthood in their ministry for God's people, and inspire us to do the same, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the leaders of the world, may they learn to seek the way of peace and reconciliation and put an end to wars and conflicts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who face daily struggles in their lives, may God grant them the light of his hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish community, may we imitate the humble attitude of Jesus and serve the poor and the misfortunate among us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our deceased loved ones, may they find eternal peace and joy in God's kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, 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, your son and our Lord.

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Monday, September 24, 2018
(Lec. 449)

- 1) Proverbs 3:27-34
- 2) Luke 8:16-18

MONDAY OF
25TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Let us share the light of faith we have been given.

The beauty of the analogy between witnessing and a light that cannot be hidden is a great visual of how far one's faith can reach when it is made visible. So many of us feel inadequate in speaking about our faith and the fullness of life in the Church, but our living example of love and kindness can be a great testament.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Proverbs gives us insight into how we should treat others, such as being hospitable, peaceful, just and upright. In the Gospel, Jesus uses the parable of the lamp to emphasize that we are to share the light of faith we have been given.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence and hope, let us present our petitions to the Father, trusting that he will grant what we truly need.

- 1) For the Church, as the body of Christ in the world, may God's love be our guide and our strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For peace among nations, that Christ will bless leaders in their work to resolve conflict, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those living without an awareness of God, that they may see him in the witness of others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the Holy Spirit help us to show love and generosity to those in need around us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be welcomed into heaven and rest forever in God's peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we ask that you pour out your grace on us today and bring peace to our lives through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Tuesday, September 25, 2018
(Lec. 450)

- 1) Proverbs 21:1-6, 10-13
- 2) Luke 8:19-21

TUESDAY OF
25TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Jesus defines his family as *those who hear the word of God and act on it.*

By redefining his family as those who follow the Gospel, rather than merely by bloodlines, Jesus makes a radical social adjustment. Instead of kinship ties by birth and blood, whether or not one is a disciple of Jesus becomes the primary factor for prioritized relationship. This tenet becomes foundational for the early Church.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Proverbs are a collection of wise sayings; today's verses emphasize righteousness, justice and wisdom. In the Gospel, someone tells Jesus that his mother and brothers are near (since they could not reach him due to the crowds). Jesus responds by declaring that his family are those who hear and act on the Word of God.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With generous and loving hearts, let us ask the Father to hear our needs and petitions.

- 1) For our Holy Father, and all who serve the Church, may they continue to faithfully proclaim the Word of God to all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who govern, may they be led by God's wisdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those without adequate nutrition or housing, may the generosity of Christians offer hope and the fulfillment of their needs, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our midst who support this faith community with their time, talent or treasure, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may the life in Christ they lived here on earth be eternally theirs in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear our prayers and give us all that we need. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Wednesday, September 26, 2018

(Lec. 451)

1) Proverbs 30:5-9

2) Luke 9:1-6

WEDNESDAY OF

25TH WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(Opt. Mem.

Saints Cosmas and Damian,

Martyrs)

FOCUS: God's Word is everything we need.

Every word of God has been tested and shown to be perfect: nothing can improve upon them, and nothing better than his words will ever come to us. He has always been our refuge and our shield, and when we needed it most his Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Let us proclaim that Good News to the world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Proverbs reveals that God *is a shield to those who take refuge in him*, and that nothing can improve upon that. In today's Gospel, Jesus instructs the Twelve Apostles on going forth to proclaim the Good News and to heal all who are sick.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: The Word of the Lord lights our path. Let us pray for the needs of our Church and people everywhere.

1) For our Church throughout the world, that we may experience a deepened faith and the zeal to share this gift with others, let us pray to the Lord.

2) For public authorities, that they may be inspired by the Holy Spirit to bring about changes necessary for the good of the world, let us pray to the Lord.

3) For those who live in poverty, may they receive the food they need to nourish their bodies and revitalize their souls, let us pray to the Lord.

4) For all who are being educated in the faith and those who teach them, may the light of Christ's Word bear abundant fruit, let us pray to the Lord.

5) For those who have died, may they be cleansed of their sins and granted the fullness of redemption, let us pray to the Lord.

6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, you prepare us for our journey. Hear our prayers and help us to be faithful on that journey, sharing the Good News of salvation. We ask this in the name of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, September 27, 2018
(Lec. 452)

- 1) Ecclesiastes 1:2-11
- 2) Luke 9:7-9

THURSDAY OF
25TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Vincent de Paul,
Priest)

FOCUS: Jesus brings new life – eternal life.

As one generation passes and another comes, and we still have evil, wars, poverty and injustice in this world, we can easily fall into despair. Some might say this makes life meaningless, as nothing seems to change and we are forgotten and replaced over the years. But Jesus comes and offers salvation and eternal life, giving meaning and hope to our struggles here.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The reading from Ecclesiastes examines the purpose and value of life on earth. The author suggests that as generations come and go, life is futile and empty since *nothing is new under the sun*. In the Gospel, Herod is curious about the identity of Jesus as he sorts through rumors that he is John or Elijah raised from the dead.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As Jesus gives meaning to our lives and leads us to the Father, we turn to God with our needs and join our voices in prayer.

- 1) For the Church, may her message of salvation ring strong and clear to the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who hold public office, that they may be inspired to make selfless decisions in the interests of those they represent, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who live daily with mental or physical health issues, that Christ, the Divine Healer, may comfort and strengthen them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may we find joy in knowing that our Lord has called us to his table to help share the Good News with others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, that they may be secure in the arms of the Lord for eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we offer these petitions trusting in your goodness and generosity, and confident that you know what we need. Through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, September 28, 2018
(Lec. 453)

- 1) Ecclesiastes 3:1-11
- 2) Luke 9:18-22

FRIDAY OF
25TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Wenceslaus,
Martyr;
Saint Lawrence Ruiz
and Companions,
Martyrs)

FOCUS: Let us profess that Jesus is *The Christ of God*, as Peter did.

God is all-powerful, all-knowing, all-good. God's actions in this world are beyond the scope of human comprehension. Humanity is bound by the time of this world, and it is only in that time that human activity can take place. But God is not limited as human beings are.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

There is a time, known only to God, for human activity to take place. As the writer of Ecclesiastes notes, *There is an appointed time for everything*. In the Gospel, Jesus asks his disciples who the crowds say that he is, and then warns them of his death and resurrection.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together, let us bring to God our prayers for ourselves and for our world.

- 1) That the Church throughout the world may be blessed with a spirit of humility before the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That world leaders may be moved by God's spirit of peace in carrying out their duties, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those preparing to give birth, and those preparing to die, may find joy and consolation in the mystery of God's presence, blessed with an understanding only he can provide, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the earth, our common home, may prosper under our stewardship and care, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may come to rest in the eternal peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: O God, you are our Rock in whom we trust. In your mercy, take notice of us, and listen to our prayers that we have made through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, September 29, 2018
(Lec. 647)

- 1) Daniel 7:9-10 13-14 or
Revelation 12:7-12ab
- 2) John 1:47-51

**SAINTS MICHAEL,
GABRIEL AND RAPHAEL,
ARCHANGELS
– FEAST**

FOCUS: Our hope is to one day join the angels and archangels in worshipping God in his presence.

Scriptures are full of references to angels interacting with humanity. As they worship the Lord, they also protect us as we advance along the way of salvation. Far from being the soft, cuddly beings often portrayed in children's stories and art, they are awesome pure spirit – arrayed as a mighty army, a great host prepared to go to battle to fulfill the will of God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Daniel describes his vision of the glory of the Lord. Present before him is a host of angelic beings. (Or, The Book of Revelation describes the battle between good and evil- Michael and Satan.) In the Gospel, Jesus describes the angels ascending and descending as they serve the Son of Man.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us offer the Father our petitions for our needs and the needs of our Church.

- 1) For Church leaders, may God's Spirit sustain them as they strengthen and give courage to those entrusted to their pastoral care, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all civic leaders, may the virtues guide them as they work for justice, peace and truth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are alienated from God and his Church, may the Holy Spirit open their hearts to respond to Christ's message of love and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who are sick in this faith community, may God restore them to the fullness of life and health and liberate them from all that afflicts them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they 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, you sent your only Son as Lord and Savior. Hear our prayers and grant us the grace to be always steadfast in faith and joyful in hope. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

(Lec. 137)

- 1) Numbers 11:25-29
- 2) James 5:1-6
- 3) Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

**TWENTY-SIXTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: *Would that all the people of the Lord were prophets!*

Jesus says, *There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me.* By our baptism we are called to prophecy, and to share the good news of salvation. May we have the enthusiasm of Eldad, Medad and the unknown follower of the Gospel – having no fear in proclaiming the truth and not waiting to be told what to do.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Joshua protests to Moses in our first reading that two men who were not present when the Spirit of God came and rested upon the elders should not be prophesying. In the second reading, James tells us what happens to the things of this world. In the Gospel, John says to Jesus that someone not in their company was using the power of his name, and Jesus replies, *whoever is not against us is for us.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence, we bring our needs and the needs of others to the Father.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all pastoral leaders of the Church, may God bless them with health and the prayers of all people as they guide us in drawing ever closer to God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may the Spirit grant them the means to work toward the alleviation of poverty, hunger and homelessness from the earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For relief agencies around the world, may they have the resources they need to ease the suffering of those they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who gather here, may the love of God guide us to fulfilling the works of mercy within our community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who will meet Jesus today, may they draw strength and comfort from their faith in the risen Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, as we place our needs before you this day, guide us in drawing ever closer to you. This we ask through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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