

APRIL

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YEAR C
WEEKDAYS I

Monday, April 1, 2019
(Lec. 244)

- 1) Isaiah 65:17-21
- 2) John 4:43-54

MONDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: Helping others with the gift of faith.

What brings faith? Faith is a gift, we know. But how do we use that gift? Some people, as Jesus pointed out, need signs and wonders: big, giant, miraculous changes in something in order to believe what is right in front of them. Others have faith because we trust what is before us – we see and believe in the presence of Christ in the Eucharist. May our faith be a blessing and an inspiration to those who need the gift of faith.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, God calls his people to rejoice as he rejoices in the new creation – a world of joy, gladness and fulfillment. In the Gospel, Jesus returns to Cana where he heals the son of a royal official.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: The Lord is creating new heavens and a new earth. With confidence in the goodness of his plan, let us offer our prayers to him.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord guard the feet of those who are faithful to him and uphold the strength of those who serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials and all those in authority, may God lead them in their decision-making, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who suffer from chronic illness and those who care for them, may they have comfort and peace, through God's gracious mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may we grow ever deeper in our faith and in our desire for the Lord during this season of Lent, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the dead who trusted God in this life, may they delight in the glory of his heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of kindness and compassion, please hear and answer our prayers this day according to your holy will. We ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, April 2, 2019
(Lec. 245)
1) Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12
2) John 5:1-16

TUESDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
OF LENT
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Francis
of Paola, Hermit)

FOCUS: The symbolism of water helps us perceive the everlasting life Jesus offers us.

Spiritual writers often use physical objects to help us perceive mystical realities. Water is a favorite object used this way. In Scripture, both the Old and New Testaments, water tends to represent life and, specifically, everlasting life in heaven. Let us rejoice in the life Jesus offers us through the healing, cleansing and nourishing waters of his love.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Ezekiel has a vision of water flowing from the Temple and bringing life to everything it touches. In the Gospel, Jesus cures a man who has been trying for many years to reach a pool believed to have healing powers. Jesus did this on the Sabbath, which caused the religious leaders to begin persecuting him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Following the example of Jesus, let us bring our petitions to the Father, confident of his love and power.

- 1) For the Church, may the living water offered to us by Jesus Christ bring us to everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For nations devastated by war and famine, may the Lord of heaven and earth bring healing, restoration and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who struggle with difficult life decisions, may God's love and wisdom bring them clarity and peace of mind, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the members of this faith community, may the Lord bless us in our efforts to evangelize and spread the Good News, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be cleansed of their sins and welcomed into everlasting life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Holy God, hear our prayers and let your grace fill our lives. We ask these and all things through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, April 3, 2019
(Lec. 246)

- 1) Isaiah 49:8-15
- 2) John 5:17-30

WEDNESDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: We are all members of the family of God.

God loves us even more tenderly than a mother loves her baby. This might be hard for many of us to comprehend or accept. Yet once we do accept this truth, we are called to take on our own responsibilities as children of God: to be so united with God that, like Jesus, we accept God's will as our own.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah, in a lyrical passage, writes of God's great love for us and his willingness and desire to protect his children. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks of his union with God the Father, and his willingness to do and be whatever God asks of him as his beloved Son.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Knowing that God wills only what is best for all of us, we turn now and present to him the needs of our world.

- 1) For all who preach the Gospel in the Church, may the Lord be with them as he was with the earliest Apostles, creating in them a clean heart, and renewing a right spirit within them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may the God of peace sow seeds of hope in barren lands, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are imprisoned, may the Father of Mercy, who alone is the almighty judge, hear our prayers for them and their victims, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in this faith community who are hospitalized or facing a serious illness, may the compassionate and Sacred Heart of Jesus be their hope and their refuge, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, in the company of Christ may they now rest in the arms of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, you treat us with the tenderness of a Father or Mother. Please hear the prayers we present to you with compassion and concern, in the name of Jesus your Son.

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Thursday, April 4, 2019
(Lec. 247)

- 1) Exodus 32:7-14
- 2) John 5:31-47

THURSDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
OF LENT
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Isidore,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church)

FOCUS: Despite the fact the Israelites were a *stiff-necked people*, the Lord was always faithful to them – just as he is always faithful to us.

Just like the ancient Israelites, we can be stubborn and set in our ways, which can lead us to sin. When we are open to the movements of the Holy Spirit within our hearts, we may better follow God's commandments and believe ever more fully in him. Thankfully, God waits for us with open arms.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

God tells Moses that while he has been on Mount Sinai, the Israelites have fallen into idolatry. God threatens to destroy them, but Moses intercedes on their behalf and God relents. In the Gospel, Jesus explains to the Jews who and what testifies on his behalf: John the Baptist, Jesus' works, the Father and the Scriptures.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God's mercy as Moses did, we present our needs before God.

- 1) For missionaries, that they may be strengthened by the Holy Spirit as they testify to Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations whose people live in fear amidst violence and poverty, may the Holy Spirit breathe the fire of repentance and humility into their hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those struggling to find employment, and those struggling to make ends meet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those preparing to enter the Church, may God bless them with a fervor and an increasing desire for the fullness of communion with him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, especially those known only to God, may they rest in his everlasting peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we know you love us because you gave us your only-begotten Son. In your mercy, we ask you to look kindly upon our petitions, which we ask through Jesus Christ, your son.

Friday, April 5, 2019

(Lec. 248)

- 1) Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22
- 2) John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

FRIDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
OF LENT
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Vincent Ferrer,
Priest)

FOCUS: Jesus knows the Father, because he is sent by him. We can know the Father because we know Jesus.

In his time, Jesus was questioned and rejected by so many. He did not fit their understanding of the Messiah. And yet, Jesus speaks with a greater truth that they did not understand. He is sent by the Father, and because of this, he has true knowledge of the Father. We know Jesus, and because of this, we, too, have knowledge of the Father.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In our first reading from the Book of Wisdom, the wicked lament the just one, scheming for his downfall and putting God to the test. Similarly, in John's Gospel, people wonder whether Jesus is the Christ. Jesus responds that he does not come on his own, but is sent by the Father.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God's providence, we lift up our prayers together as one community.

- 1) That the Church may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That God, who alone is just and merciful, may guide those who are elected to serve us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who suffer in doubt may find comfort in God's healing presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That in this season of Lent, God may increase us in holiness through our prayer, fasting and almsgiving, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died may find peace in God's merciful care, let us pray to the lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: All knowing Father, we humbly place our prayers before you, aware that you are the true source of all. We ask this through your son, Christ the Lord.

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Saturday, April 6, 2019

(Lec. 249)

- 1) Jeremiah 11:18-20
- 2) John 7:40-53

SATURDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: Believe in the One who entrusts our cause to the Father.

As we journey toward the end of Lent, we begin to focus our gaze on the suffering of Christ. Christ, who some people believed was the true anointed one, and others did not. In this remaining time, we, too, have the opportunity to embody who Christ is for us: the Son of God who entrusts our cause to the Lord, who will never abandon us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Jeremiah recounts the perilous situation in which he had found himself, with murderous threats surrounding him. He entrusted his cause to the Lord. In the Gospel, a division occurs among the people and Pharisees as to whether or not Jesus is the Christ.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Knowing our God never abandons us, and is always attentive to our needs, let us bring before him our needs and the needs of others.

- 1) For Holy Mother Church, may God foster in her a love that abounds more and more, and fill her with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord
- 2) For all who hold authority in government or civic institutions, may the Holy Spirit give them the gifts they need to make just and godly decisions in their service to their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer for expressing or sharing their faith, may God relieve them of all persecution and give them strength in their trials, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us gathered here, may we be blessed by the Holy Spirit, who calls us to deeper conversion and commitment to each other, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the deceased members of our families, may the Lord enfold them in his mercy and bring them home to him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father we thank you for hearing our petitions and for answering them according to your will. We offer them through your son, Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2019

(Lec. 36)

- 1) Isaiah 43:16-21
- 2) Philippians 3:8-14
- 3) John 8:1-11

**FIFTH SUNDAY
OF LENT**

FOCUS: God is always doing something new – he is mercy and forgiveness for those who seek him.

Today's psalm speaks of the *great things* that God has done. Among them is his giving us the promise to forgive all who come before him with true contrition and who seek his mercy. Through and in Jesus we have the ability to do this, and when we do, we allow God to “re-create” in us – to do something new in us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah assures the people of Israel that the Lord is *doing something new*. Saint Paul professes to the community at Philippi that he considers all things as loss in comparison to knowing Jesus Christ and pursuing the goal of attaining the resurrection of the dead. In the Gospel, Jesus saves from stoning, and forgives, the woman caught in adultery.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In seeking to gain Christ and be found in him, let us offer our petitions to the Lord for the good of all.

- 1) For our Holy Father, our own bishop and for all who shepherd the Church, may they be blessed with God's Holy Spirit as they fulfill their vocation of leadership, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who lead nations and people, may God stir in them a desire that they might come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are sick, and for those who have no one to pray for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For families in this faith community, may the Holy Spirit strengthen us in compassion, love and grace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they come to dwell in the house of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and eternal Father, you desire not the death of the sinner but our conversion and healing. Hear our prayers this day that we make through your son, Christ our Lord.

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Monday, April 8, 2019

(Lec. 251)

- 1) Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62
or 13:41c-62
- 2) John 8:12-20

MONDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: The Holy Spirit helps us see the truth that God reveals to us.

Both the assembly in the first reading and the Pharisees in the Gospel are guided in their judgment by appearances. But when we are guided instead by the Holy Spirit or by the light of faith in Jesus, we are able to see through the blindness of our own preconceived ideas to the truth that God is revealing to us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Susanna is exonerated when Daniel, inspired by the Holy Spirit, exposes the false witness given by her accusers. In today's Gospel, the Pharisees obstinately refuse to accept Jesus' testimony that he is the light of the world. In doing so, they reveal their continued ignorance of God, and God's action in Jesus.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the Lord's care and concern for us, let us raise up to him our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For pastors and all Church leaders, may the truth of the Gospel be their comfort and strength as they minister among God's people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who govern, may the Spirit guide them with wisdom and truthfulness in their decision-making, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all whose burdens seem overwhelming or insurmountable, may the God of all mercies and consolations comfort them and bring them relief, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of this faith community, may the Holy Spirit continue to make visible to us what God has revealed, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died and gone before us in faith, may they enjoy eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving and faithful God, hear these prayers and petitions we have offered in humility. In Christ's name we pray.

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Tuesday, April 9, 2019
(Lec. 252)

- 1) Numbers 21:4-9
- 2) John 8:21-30

TUESDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: If we die with Jesus, we will be lifted to eternal life.

Jesus told those following him that when he was “lifted up” on the cross, they would realize that he was truly the Son of God. The people of his time had difficulty grasping what he was saying, but we have the Scriptures to guide us. Thus, we know how his passion, death and Resurrection occurred. We know we must die to ourselves, and unite ourselves with Christ, in order to reap the rewards of eternal life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading from Numbers, we see the Israelites grumbling about the *wretched food* God was providing them, and God’s response. In John’s Gospel, Jesus tells those following him that they will *die in [their] sin* if they do not come to believe that he is truly the Son of God.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in a Father who always provides, let us offer up our petitions to him.

- 1) For those who lead our Church, may God instill in them the fullness of joy in their vocation, and the strength and humility to faithfully live it, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may they have the strong arm of the Prince of Peace to guide them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who struggle with addiction, and for their loved ones and families, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those who are going through RCIA in preparation for entry into the Church, and all who seek full sacramental communion in the faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those in this community who have recently died, may they be lifted up to eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we humbly pray that you grant these petitions and prayers. We ask this in the name of your son, Jesus the Lord.

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Wednesday, April 10, 2019

(Lec. 253)

- 1) Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95
- 2) John 8:31-42

WEDNESDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: Jesus is the truth – and knowing him will set us free.

Jesus tells us, *remain in my word*, and we will be assured a place with him before God. As disciples of Christ, we will know the truth which promises salvation. We are invited to live in this truth and share it with others as we enjoy the spiritual freedom that comes with living God's message.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, three men are thrown into a fiery furnace by the king, but they are saved from death by an angel sent by God. In John's Gospel, Jesus says to those who were questioning him that he was sent by God to give them the message of truth.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Knowing that God calls us to the truth and promises us salvation, we present our petitions to him.

- 1) For members of the Church during this Lenten season, may we be blessed with a spirit of repentance and a contrite heart, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who hold elected office, may the providence of God direct their hearts and their actions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from hunger, poverty, sorrow or loneliness, may God in his divine mercy provide for their needs and comfort them in their affliction, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here on our Lenten journey, may the truth found in Jesus Christ help us to grow in faith and understanding, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they know salvation in the loving arms of the Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, please hear our prayers which we humbly offer, trusting that you know what we need. We offer this in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.

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Thursday, April 11, 2019
(Lec. 254)

- 1) Genesis 17:3-9
- 2) John 8:51-59

THURSDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
OF LENT
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Stanislaus,
Bishop and Martyr)

FOCUS: We can believe in the words and promises of God our Father and Jesus our Savior.

Everything promised or foretold by the Lord has come to pass. Abraham did become the father of many nations, and God is the God of those who keep his commands and honor his covenant. Jesus Christ is the incarnation of the covenant, and through him we have everlasting life. Faith allows us to believe in God's promises – and enables us to see him working in our lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, God makes a covenant with Abraham. Abraham will be the father of many nations and God will be their God if they keep his covenant. In John's Gospel, Jesus' admonition that *whoever keeps my word will never taste death* mystifies and angers those who are listening to him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Relying on God's promise to always hear our prayers, we offer our petitions to him.

- 1) That all members of the Church may be inspired and strengthened by the truth of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That all those with public authority may be blessed with the integrity and strength necessary to support justice and prosperity for all their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are homeless may experience God's providence through the efforts of his people, let us pray to the Lord
- 4) That we as individuals and as members of this faith community may be conformed ever more closely to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our deceased relatives and friends, who have died in the faith of Christ, may rest in his eternal light, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of power and might, we believe all things are possible through you. We ask that you hear and answer our petitions according to your will. Through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, April 12, 2019

(Lec. 255)

- 1) Jeremiah 20:10-13
- 2) John 10:31-42

FRIDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
OF LENT

FOCUS: Jesus is always faithful, always.

We can trust Jesus above all else, though naysayers will always be present, and others may dislike or even persecute us for our beliefs. Our faith will continue to strengthen us when we keep Jesus' word in our hearts.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the prophet Jeremiah praises the Lord for being with him and not allowing his enemies to triumph. In the Gospel, Jesus is in Jerusalem, accused of blasphemy by the Jews, who want to stone him. However, Jesus escapes from their power and crosses the Jordan, to those who believe and follow him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together as a family, we bring our concerns to the altar of our loving Father.

- 1) For the pope, may God bless his life of service in leading others to see God's work in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all nations, may the Holy Spirit lead them in embracing a culture that respects the dignity and sanctity of all human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick and suffering, that they may feel the peace and love of Jesus' healing touch, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For parents and all who serve as guardians for children, may the blessings of our heavenly Father give them strength and joy in their responsibilities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, that they may find peaceful rest in the arms of our Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Saturday, April 13, 2019
(Lec. 256)
1) Ezekiel 37:21-28
2) John 11:45-56

SATURDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
OF LENT
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Martin I,
Pope and Martyr)

FOCUS: God is faithful to his people.

As we approach the end of Lent and the start of Holy Week, we are reminded that holiness is a result of God's fidelity to us, his children, even in our sinfulness. In the death of Jesus, itself a result of the hardness of heart and betrayal of God's own people Israel, God is able to *gather into one the dispersed children of God* from all the nations.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the prophet Ezekiel relays God's promise to reunite and sanctify the scattered and sinful people of Israel by dwelling with them and establishing a covenant of peace with them under the reign of David. In the Gospel of John, we hear Caiaphas convince the Sanhedrin that *it is better for you that one man should die instead of the people*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that God our Father is faithful to us, just as he was faithful to his children of Israel, we offer him our intentions.

- 1) For the Church, that God may make his dwelling among us and unite us under the reign of our Lord, Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all those in positions of political power, that the Holy Spirit may give them the gifts to build authentic communities of peace on the foundation of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those separated from home or family, that God may comfort them in their time apart, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all those gathered here, that God may cast out our idols and take up his dwelling within us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they come to rest in the peace and love of God forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of hope and mercy, thank you for hearing the prayers that we offer, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2019

(Lec. 37)

1) Luke 19:28-40

(Lec. 38)

2) Isaiah 50:4-7

3) Philippians 2:6-11

4) Luke 22:14–23:56 or 23:1-49

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

FOCUS: We are invited to accompany Jesus as he faces betrayal, abandonment, suffering and death.

Today we commemorate the passion of Jesus. Through the Gospel reading, we are invited into the story, to be present with Jesus as he experiences his arrest, suffering and death. We reflect upon the various figures in the Gospel, those who actively contributed to his persecution, those who stood at a distance, and those who would not partake of the evil that was done. As Christians, we are called to remember the events of Palm Sunday whenever we encounter suffering, whether our own or others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the procession with palms, Luke recounts the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, where people proclaimed, *Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord*. In the first reading, Isaiah prophesies about the Lord's servant. In the second reading from Philippians, Paul quotes a hymn that tells of the "emptying" and subsequent exaltation of Christ. In the Gospel, Luke recounts the events of Christ's passion: from the meal with his Apostles, to his agony on the Mount of Olives, and then his arrest, crucifixion, death and burial.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we recall the suffering of Jesus, let us turn to the Father and offer our petitions for all in need in our world.

- 1) For all in positions of ministerial leadership, may the Lord richly bless them in their dedication to the Church and to the preaching of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For national and local leaders, may their policies and programs always be guided by God's love and reflect the love of neighbors, let us pray to the Lord
- 3) For the sick, the incapacitated and those suffering from addiction, that by our loving care and prayers, they may experience the grace of God's healing power, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, that the grace we receive through prayer and study may bring us spiritual growth, let us pray to the Lord
- 5) For all those who have died, that they may experience the paradise promised by Jesus in his last moments, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, we offer our prayers to you in union with the Holy Spirit and in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.

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Monday, April 15, 2019
(Lec. 257)

MONDAY OF
HOLY WEEK

- 1) Isaiah 42:1-7
- 2) John 12:1-11

FOCUS: Jesus is Lord and King, but he is also a servant, chosen to instill justice among all people.

God's justice comes to all people through the One who is sent, Jesus. It is his kingship that sets free the imprisoned and gives light to those in darkness. Rather than calling attention to himself, Jesus directs the attention of his followers to those who are most in need of God's mercy.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah foretells the coming of God's servant who *shall bring forth justice to the nations*. In the Gospel, Mary, the sister of Lazarus, anoints Jesus' feet with expensive oil, which bothers Judas.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident that no need goes unmet, let us now offer our prayers to the Lord, who is our light and our salvation.

- 1) For leaders in the Church, may they be blessed with the gifts of fortitude and knowledge, and find strength through the prayers of all the people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our political leaders, may God bestow upon them wisdom and discernment, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those society places on the margins, may their dignity and identity in the Lord give them strength and courage in the face of all challenges, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in this faith community in need of prayers, and for those who have no one to pray for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, especially those closest to our hearts, may the risen Christ greet them and bring them peace in the New Jerusalem, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of all goodness, we know that you are with us always. Kindly listen to and answer the prayers we have brought before you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, April 16, 2019

(Lec. 258)

1) Isaiah 49:1-6

2) John 13:21-33, 36-38

TUESDAY OF

HOLY WEEK

FOCUS: Jesus knows what is in our hearts, and chooses to lay down his life for us.

The readings of Holy Week set the stage for celebrating the Triduum, fully conscious of the magnitude of God's love. Today, as we sit at the table with Jesus as he tells the Apostles of the days to come, it is not hard to imagine *that [he] was deeply troubled*. Yet nothing his disciples *did*, nothing that we can *do*, changes his sacrificial act of laying down his life for us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Isaiah prophesies God's salvation coming not just to Israel but *to the ends of the earth*. In the Gospel, Jesus is dining with his disciples while Judas leaves to betray him, Peter is told he will deny Jesus, and Jesus reveals that now is when the Son of Man is glorified.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Knowing our imperfections, God's love remains steadfast. Let us turn to him with open hearts and offer these petitions.

- 1) For priests who faithfully continue to love and serve God's people as holy men of God, may they be inspired by his love for them and by the support of the faithful, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may God's providence guide them in serving their people with integrity and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have been hurt by betrayal or denial, may they experience the comfort and healing love of Jesus as they learn to trust again, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the Holy Spirit help us to grow in compassion and humility as we strive to be a light that draws others to the salvation of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be made glorious in the sight of the Lord and know joy with him forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, despite the ways we turn from you, you love us still. Hear our prayers today and grant them according to your will. We ask this through your son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Wednesday, April 17, 2019
(Lec. 259)

WEDNESDAY OF
HOLY WEEK

- 1) Isaiah 50:4-9a
- 2) Matthew 26:14-25

FOCUS: Preparing ourselves to celebrate the Triduum.

We are about to enter into the greatest days of the liturgical year. One way to prepare ourselves is to reflect on where we are found in these holy events as they unfold. We can find ourselves at different times as a betrayer, denier or one who runs from the truth. But with God's grace, we can help carry another's cross, wiping his or her face or helping to place him or her in the tomb.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah speaks of one who speaks with a well-trained tongue, even in the face of physical harm, because the Lord God is his help. In the Gospel, the room is made ready for the Passover Meal, and Judas accepts thirty pieces of silver as he prepares to turn Jesus over to the authorities.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We come as humble and faithful disciples to seek the Lord's assistance. Let us present our needs to him for our good and the good of the whole world.

- 1) For Pope Francis, servant-leader of the Church, may God bless his efforts to draw us closer to Jesus our Savior, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may they be guided in all their duties by Christ who glorified God in all things, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who will gather to celebrate the Triduum, may this time of blessing and grace fortify our Christian journey, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our faith community who will be baptized into, or who will enter into full communion with the Church on Easter, may the Holy Spirit inflame their hearts to seek God's will in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who will die today, may they soon be embraced by our loving Savior, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Most gracious God, hear the prayers of those who come before you with humble and contrite hearts this day. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, April 18, 2019

(Lec. 39)

- 1) Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14
- 2) 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
- 3) John 13:1-15

**THURSDAY OF
HOLY WEEK
(HOLY THURSDAY)**

FOCUS: Jesus, who is love itself, calls us to be like him and to love selflessly.

Simon Peter comes to understand that to have a part in the life of Christ, he, too, must serve others. As Christ saved, he also served. We are commanded to do for others as he has done for us: to attend to one another's needs in love and humility. May we lead lives of service and surrender to the Lord and his mercy, love and redemption.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the reading from Exodus, we hear about the institution of the memorial feast of Passover, as the Lord instructs Aaron and Moses in how to save the community of Israel from his judgment. In Paul's Letter to the Corinthians, he recounts the breaking of the bread and the establishment of the new covenant at the Last Supper. In today's Gospel, Jesus eats supper with his disciples and then washes their feet, telling them that by this he has given them *a model to follow*.

THE WASHING OF THE FEET

This symbolic action is a visual reminder of Christ's *mandatum* to humble service. As the ritual takes place we are asked to recommit ourselves to lives of loving service.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: On this day that we celebrate the Last Supper and the great gift of the Eucharist, we bring to the heavenly Father our needs and desires, trusting that he will always hear and answer us.

- 1) For our Holy Father Pope Francis, our bishops, and priests, may the Lord bless them in their prophetic witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may God pour out his grace on them and help them serve selflessly for the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick and for all those who suffer in mind, body or soul, that the Eucharist and God's holy Church may provide an increase of strength, hope and trust for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community gathered here today and for those we love, may the Lord grant to each of us what we need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, that through the mercy of God they may enjoy the fullness of his eternal feast, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we thank you for the gift of your Son and for his precious body and blood poured out for us. Hear and answer the prayers of your sons and daughters this day, through Christ our Lord.

PRESENTATION OF THE OILS (*Optional text may be spoken as each oil is presented.*)

The Oil of the Sick is used for the healing of body and spirit. It calls to mind the command of Jesus to his disciples to *cure every disease and illness* (Mt. 10:1). Our prayer is that all who are anointed with this oil will truly be *saved and raised up* to health in and through Christ Jesus.

The Oil of the Catechumens is used in ceremonies for the baptism of infants and for our adult catechumens. We are invited to reflect on the power of Christ who transforms us into new creatures and sets us free from the power of Satan.

Behold the Sacred Chrism consecrated by our Bishop earlier today. It is a mixture of olive oil and perfume and is used in baptism, in confirmation, and in ordinations. This Chrism is also used in the consecration of churches, sacred items, and vessels.

TRANSFER OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

After the Last Supper, Jesus led his Apostles to a quiet place of prayer. Our personal vigil with Christ begins now as we honor the Blessed Sacrament. Following age-old tradition, the table of celebration will be cleared in preparation for the service of the Lord's Passion. The starkness of the sanctuary should impress upon us that Jesus emptied himself totally for us on Good Friday only to fill us with his blessed joy on Easter morning.

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Friday, April 19, 2019

(Lec. 40)

- 1) Isaiah 52:13–53:12
- 2) Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
- 3) John 18:1–19:42

**FRIDAY OF
THE PASSION OF THE LORD
(GOOD FRIDAY)**

FOCUS: As we walk the Way of the Cross and hear the Passion narrative, we reflect on God's love.

Today as we hear the passion narrative, venerate the cross and receive Holy Communion, we remember how much God loves us. He loves us enough to suffer and die, to transform the cross into the tree of life and to abide with us in the sacraments.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's First Reading is a prophecy from Isaiah which speaks of the suffering servant. Because Jesus freely chose to suffer and die for us, *He became the source of salvation for all who obey him*, fulfilling the suffering servant prophecies. The Gospel provides us with the opportunity to reflect on the Passion narrative in its entirety.

VENERATION OF THE CROSS

As Catholics we revere the Cross and have our crucifixes bear the image of Christ crucified. With this powerful image we can be moved to join our own sufferings to His and, in this way, help further the salvation of the world. In the love of God for humanity manifested by the Cross, we can find ultimate meaning in both the joys and sorrows of life.

HOLY COMMUNION

In venerating the Cross with a touch or kiss we humbly recognized the Cross as the tree of life. Now, as we come forward to receive Holy Communion, we are fed by bread from heaven, the Lord himself, that we may continue to grow in our faith and conform our lives more to his.

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Saturday, April 20, 2019
(Lec. 41)

**HOLY SATURDAY
EASTER VIGIL**

FOCUS: We have a faithful, loving and generous God.

Throughout history, our heavenly Father has revealed to us his loving nature, even to the point of sacrificing his only Son to prove his love and faithfulness to us. Sin has constantly separated us from him, but his loving forgiveness brings us back every time.

I. SERVICE OF LIGHT

Jesus is the Light of the World. As we begin our Vigil, we seek His light—the light that dispels the darkness of sin. This is represented as we bless and light the Easter candle, then walk in procession and proclaim Christ as our Light.

II. LITURGY OF THE WORD

Nine readings are assigned to the Easter Vigil: seven from the Old Testament, and two from the New. If circumstances demand in individual cases, the number of prescribed readings may be reduced. Three selections from the Old Testament, both from the Law and Prophets, should be read before the Epistle and Gospel. In any case, the reading from Exodus about the escape through the Red Sea (reading 3) should never be omitted.

1) Genesis 1:1–2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a

God's countless acts of creation bring into existence that which does not yet exist. In the creation account from the Book of Genesis, *God said*, and so, it happened. Thus, we see the awesome power of our Creator in the world.

2) Genesis 22:1-18 or 22:1-2,9a, 10-13, 15-18

Abraham's faith in God was put to the supreme test. That a father would be willing to offer his only son as a sacrifice is unthinkable, yet, that is what God did for us.

3) Exodus 14:15–15:1

Water brings both life and death in this Scripture reading. Through the waters of the Red Sea the Israelites were brought to freedom and to new life, yet the Egyptians drowned in that same water. We receive the waters of new life in Baptism; may we never drown in our own sinfulness.

4) Isaiah 54:5-14

God called the Israelites to return to him and accept his generous and unconditional love. God once again reaffirms his promise to remain faithful to his covenant with Israel.

5) Isaiah 55:1-11

We can all partake of the life-giving waters and sumptuous meal that God offers to us. God invites the faithful to come to the feast; come and delight in the riches of the Lord.

6) Baruch 3:9-15, 32–4:4

God's generosity toward Israel was immeasurable. God gave Israel prudence so that its people would be able to choose right from wrong, wisdom from folly, and life over death.

7) Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28

God poured out clean water over the house of Israel for the sake of his holy name, even though they had profaned it. God's holiness is preserved, once again, by the renewal of his covenant with Israel.

New Testament Readings

8) Romans 6:3-11

9) Mark 16:1-7

Tonight, we shake off the sorrow and shock of the last few days with the horrific suffering and death of Jesus, and delight in the victory that Jesus has won for us. Because of Jesus' resurrection from the dead, we no longer have to fear death as our ultimate end for we know that life will triumph eternally. Alleluia!

III. LITURGY OF BAPTISM

It is through the waters of baptism that we are joined to Christ in his death, so that we can rise with him to new life. In confirmation, we are marked with the seal of the Holy Spirit, as we are anointed with the Oil of Chrism. Our initiation is complete as we become partakers in the sacred meal of the body and blood of Christ.

IV. UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Alleluia! Christ is risen! Let us turn to our triumphant God with our petitions in great trust that he cares for all of us.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may the Lord grant us patience for one another, bearing with one another in love with humble and gentle hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all those in positions of leadership, may they be strengthened with the help of God's grace to govern their people in truth and integrity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For people who still live in the darkness of sin and despair, or who yet find it hard to recognize and believe in the risen Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who have joined the Church tonight, that God may richly bless them with joy and encouragement as they continue in their journey of faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they experience the fullness of the Resurrection we celebrate tonight, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of glory and life, in your Son's Resurrection we find our hope. Hear our prayers, spoken and unspoken, in the name of Jesus, your son.

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SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2019

(Lec. 42)

- 1) Acts 10:34a, 37-43
- 2) Colossians 3:1-4
or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8
- 3) John 20:1-9
or Luke 24:1-12 (41)

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD - SOLEMNITY

FOCUS: The risen Christ seeks to transform and redeem our lives.

The resurrection of the Lord is the highest of all feasts – the day in which we celebrate the truth that Jesus conquers and redeems every darkness of life, even death itself. Truly this is a day of rejoicing! For even when events are unclear to us – when we do not understand what we see before us, like those who saw the empty tomb – we can be confident in the words and promises of God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, we hear Peter proclaiming the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In Paul's Letter to the Colossians, Saint Paul says if we've been raised with Christ we should seek the things of God; he reminds us that Jesus' resurrection transforms and redeems our whole lives. In John's Gospel, Mary Magdalene – upon arriving at the tomb and realizing that the stone had been rolled away – runs to Simon Peter and John to tell them that Jesus' body had been taken. They both go to the tomb, and while neither yet understands the Scripture that Jesus *had to rise from the dead*, John sees and believes.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we gather today to celebrate the victory of God's Son, we bring our prayers to the one who gave him to us.

- 1) For all who lead our Church, that the risen Jesus may continue to transform their hearts and lives according to his perfect will, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For political leaders around the world, that Christ's sacrificial love may inspire them in crafting policies and laws that protect the dignity and sanctity of human life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, the suffering and the marginalized, that the saving power of the risen Jesus may bring them healing and comfort, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, that the Lord may inspire us as a resurrection people who, with our lives, praise God for all he has done, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they enjoy the fullness of risen life with Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, we bring you these prayers today, trusting that your power, which overcame death itself, can overcome any darkness in our lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, April 22, 2019
(Lec. 261)

- 1) Acts 2:14, 22-33
- 2) Matthew 28:8-15

MONDAY
WITHIN THE OCTAVE
OF EASTER

FOCUS: The truth of the empty tomb compels us.

The tomb is empty. There is no pretending it is not real, like the chief priests and guards did. Our mission is clear: embrace the risen Christ and go proclaim the Good News. There will always be those who deny the Resurrection, but we cannot be afraid to say God raised Jesus, who is *exalted at the right hand of God*.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

At Pentecost, Peter explains Jesus' resurrection to the Jews, citing a psalm of David (Psalm 16) and showing that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise to David. In the Gospel, Mary Magdalene and another Mary encounter the risen Lord. The chief priests bribe the tomb's guards to lie about what happened to Jesus' body.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in Jesus' words, *Do not be afraid*, we confidently bring our needs and worries to our loving God.

- 1) For those discerning priesthood, that the Lord may bless them in their generous consideration of the call to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For public authorities, that they may be guided by the Holy Spirit in their policy- and decision-making, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who mourn, that they may be comforted by the hope in the Resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, that through our celebration of the sacraments we may grow in relationship with God and each other during these holy days of Easter, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, that they may join the risen Jesus at the heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, by raising Jesus from the dead you showed your power over all things. We humbly ask you to hear our prayers, which we ask in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.

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Tuesday, April 23, 2019
(Lec. 262)

- 1) Acts 2:36-41
- 2) John 20:11-18

TUESDAY
WITHIN THE OCTAVE
OF EASTER

FOCUS: The promise of salvation is for all of us, and the Holy Spirit helps us along the way.

When Christ rose from the dead, he did not abandon us. He and the Father gave us the Holy Spirit to remain with us, and to help us not be led astray. We are called to repent of any sinfulness in our lives, and then to rely on the gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as wisdom and fortitude, to help us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Saint Peter calls the people to repentance and baptism on the feast of Pentecost. John's Gospel tells of Mary Magdalene meeting Jesus after his resurrection and reporting it to the Apostles.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Relying on the Lord's promise to hear our every prayer, let us present our petitions to him.

- 1) That the grace and love found in the sacraments of the Church may help us draw closer to the astounding mercy of God's love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That all those in public authority may be moved by the Spirit to promote policies that benefit the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those suffering with sorrow or despair may be blessed with the consolation of God's peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That as a local faith community we may be empowered by our spiritual gifts and grow in holiness and generosity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our deceased loved ones may enjoy eternity in Paradise, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, we praise you for your mercy as we offer our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Wednesday, April 24, 2019
(Lec. 263)

- 1) Acts 3:1-10
- 2) Luke 24:13-35

WEDNESDAY
WITHIN THE OCTAVE
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Christ is the source of our hope, even in the dark moments of life.

As we continue to celebrate Easter, the Resurrection is more than an historical event; it is an ongoing one that is laden with hope for all who grieve and doubt. The risen Christ reveals himself to us along the pathway of life, encouraging us, listening to our pains and covering us with the joyful balm of his holy healing.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The reading from Acts recalls how the disciples, in the days after Pentecost, take up and continue the ministry of Jesus by healing *a man crippled from birth*. In the Gospel, two disciples encounter a man on the road to Emmaus and recognize him as Jesus only in the breaking of the bread at their meal.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in the risen Christ, let us ask him to bring our needs and petitions to the Father.

- 1) For the Church, that as the body of the risen Christ here on earth we may grow in number and holiness by faithfully and courageously proclaiming the truth of his resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who hold national or governmental office, that as leaders they may be blessed with a servant's heart and a self-sacrificial attitude for the good of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are persecuted for their faith in Christ, may the power of the Resurrection fill them with courage and hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For peace and justice in our homes and communities, that the Lord may guide us away from the ways of death, division and destruction and help us choose life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they come to share in the fullness of eternal life in the risen Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and eternal Father, your son, Jesus Christ, has won victory over sin and death. As we celebrate his victory, we ask you to hear our prayers and draw us ever closer to you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, April 25, 2019
(Lec. 264)

- 1) Acts 3:11-26
- 2) Luke 24:35-48

THURSDAY
WITHIN THE OCTAVE
OF EASTER

FOCUS: There is power in the name of Christ, who is truly risen from the dead.

With the Apostles, we are amazed and joyful at the appearances of the risen Christ. Though we cannot touch him in his human form like the Apostles, we are touched in various ways by his power that heals, blesses and forgives. We can share this joy and the good news of the Resurrection with others, as the Apostles did.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Peter tells the crowd that the crippled man was healed by faith in Christ, whose coming was foretold; this brings blessing and calls for repentance and conversion. In the Gospel, Christ appears to the Apostles and shows them he is truly risen. He explains his suffering as fulfillment of Scriptures, which also proclaim that forgiveness would be preached in his name to all nations.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With joy in the Resurrection, we offer our prayers to God who is the giver of all good things.

- 1) That leaders of the Church may be blessed with humility, joy and understanding as they preach to all nations in the name of the risen Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That nations in conflict may be guided by the peace of the risen Lord toward reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those crippled by disease of body or mind may find healing and strength through faith in Christ's name, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That members of this community of faith, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, may be peacemakers in our families and communities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the deceased may be touched by the eternal peace and joy of the risen Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, in celebrating the Resurrection of your Son, we profess your power over life and death. It is with this confidence that we offer these prayers before you, in the name of our risen Lord, your son, Jesus Christ.

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Friday, April 26, 2019
(Lec. 265)

- 1) Acts 4:1-12
- 2) John 21:1-14

FRIDAY
WITHIN THE OCTAVE
OF EASTER

FOCUS: The risen Lord is present among us.

We know that Jesus is present with us always. In today's readings, Christ's presence is recognized in his Apostles' healing, by Peter's subsequent preaching and in a shared meal. It reminds us to focus on how we experience the risen Lord at work in our lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Peter and John are questioned by Temple authorities about a healing they performed. Peter answers that there is salvation through no one other than Jesus Christ. In the Gospel, the risen Jesus appears to his disciples while they are fishing, and they share a meal.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in Christ's presence among us, we now place our petitions before the Lord.

- 1) For Pope Francis, may he be filled with the Holy Spirit, as was his predecessor Peter, when preaching the Good News, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who do not believe in Christ, may they come to know the risen Lord in whom alone salvation is found, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the children of the world, both the unborn and those already born, may the Lord help us all to nourish and protect them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all gathered here, may we be filled with the Holy Spirit as we go forth from this Eucharistic meal to be Christ's hands and feet in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may the risen Lord welcome them to share in his heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, you gave us your Son Jesus as healer and redeemer, and we ask that you hear our prayers and answer them according to your will, through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, April 27, 2019
(Lec. 266)

- 1) Acts 4:13-21
- 2) Mark 16:9-15

SATURDAY
WITHIN THE OCTAVE
OF EASTER

FOCUS: God calls Christians to boldly share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Peter and John could not keep the healing power of Jesus to themselves, and Mary Magdalene eagerly told the Apostles about the news of Jesus' resurrection. Peter, John and Mary did not possess an education or a high social status, and yet they helped to spread the word of God. Likewise, Jesus calls all Christians to proclaim the Gospel.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading recounts Peter and John's detainment by and dialogue with the Temple authorities after they healed a man in Jesus' name. The Temple authorities warn Peter and John to no longer preach or heal in the name of Jesus. In the Gospel, the resurrected Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene and two other disciples. Although they tell the others about what they seen, they do not believe until they see Jesus themselves. Jesus commissions his followers to spread the Gospel.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together, let us bring our petitions to the Father, trusting that he will hear the prayers of his people.

- 1) For the Church, her leaders and all the faithful, may the Holy Spirit embolden us to carry out Jesus' command to proclaim the Good News to every creature, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our elected officials and community leaders, may they be blessed with the wisdom and understanding to make just and compassionate decisions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who face persecution for proclaiming their faith, may God give them the strength and courage to endure, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our community who live under the threat of emotional or physical violence, may God protect and deliver these, our neighbors, to safety, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may their souls, through the mercy of God, rest in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we present these needs before you in the confidence and hope that you hear us and will provide what we need. Through your son, Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2019

(Lec. 45)

- 1) Acts 5:12-16
- 2) Revelation 1:9-11a,
12-13, 17-19
- 3) John 20:19-31

**SECOND SUNDAY
OF EASTER**

**or
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
- SOLEMNITY**

FOCUS: God's divine mercy is for all.

Jesus is God, and his mercy is both divine and eternal. His love is upon us for our sake and we, in turn, should grow in trust in our Savior.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Apostles performed many signs and wonders, and many came to believe. In Revelation, John, imprisoned, had a vision of Jesus in heaven and was commanded to write all that he saw. In the Gospel, the resurrected Jesus reveals himself to Thomas, who only then came to believe. Jesus said, *Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As believers in Jesus' resurrection, we gather and offer prayers for ourselves and those around us.

- 1) For the Church, throughout this Easter season, may we grow in grace in the light of God's divine mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, that they may have the spirit of humility to live as servant leaders, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are sick or suffering, and for those unemployed, may the Lord of all hopefulness be their strength in their time of trial, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For caregivers and health care providers in this faith community, may they be granted the peace and strength they need to offer comfort and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they know our Lord's merciful love now and forever in his presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, you raised Jesus from the dead to save us from our sins. Have mercy on us today, and every day. We ask this and all things in the name of Jesus, your son.

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Monday, April 29, 2019
(Lec. 267)

- 1) Acts 4:23-31
- 2) John 3:1-8

MONDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
OF EASTER
(OBL MEM

Saint Catherine of Siena,
Virgin and Doctor of the Church)

FOCUS: Those who are baptized, and born of water and the Holy Spirit, may see the kingdom of God.

The people of God can take refuge in knowing that we are claimed by God through our baptism. The Holy Spirit fills us, that we may be strengthened to be witnesses of Jesus. We can take solace in God, who protects us from those who are not able to see the wonders that God has done.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The early Christians take refuge in God, knowing that God is with them, even in the face of adversity at the hands of the chief priests and elders. In the Gospel, Jesus engages with Nicodemus the Pharisee, who is unable to see or understand the salvation that Jesus offers to those who believe in him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Blessed are those who take refuge in the Lord. With gratitude for all that God provides for us, let us now place our prayers before him.

- 1) For all of us in the mystical body of Christ, the Church, that we may come to perfect unity through the grace of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the salvation of the world, that those who do not yet believe in Christ may come to know the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are burdened by the cares of this world, may God comfort them in their distress and provide avenues of relief, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us here, that through the gifts of the Holy Spirit we may grow in our faith and be visible signs to one another of the kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be welcomed into the eternal rest of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: O Lord, maker of heaven and earth, listen to the pleas of your people, who take refuge in you. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, April 30, 2019
(Lec. 268)

- 1) Acts 4:32-37
- 2) John 3:7b-15

TUESDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
OF EASTER
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Pius V,
Pope)

FOCUS: Everyone who believes in the Son of Man may have eternal life.

We cannot always understand the mysteries of God, but we are given the gift of faith so that we may believe. Jesus reminds Nicodemus and us that he came from heaven and speaks of what he knows. We can trust what Jesus says, and believe in him so as to have eternal life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Luke describes the early Christian community, in which all shared possessions are entrusted to the Apostles to distribute according to needs. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches Nicodemus, a Pharisee, about the mystery of being reborn in the Spirit, though Nicodemus struggles to understand.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Humbly trusting in the Lord God who loves us, we bring our prayers and petitions to him.

- 1) For the Church, may she be blessed with more vocations to the priesthood, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders and elected officials, may God bestow upon them the gifts of wisdom and discernment, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer poverty, may the Lord make his face known to them in those who work to meet their needs, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the wisdom and power of God help us as we continue to grow more deeply in communion with Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved departed, that they may see God face to face and rest in eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Eternal Father, in your mercy look graciously upon the prayers of your family gathered here. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.

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