

AUGUST

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Thursday, August 1, 2019
(Lec. 404)

- 1) Exodus 40:16-21, 34-38
- 2) Matthew 13:47-53

THURSDAY OF
17TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Alphonsus Liguori,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church)

FOCUS: Choose the way of life, not the way of death.

Our lives are full of choices. And the Lord sets before us one very important choice: between *the way of life and the way of death* (Cf., Jer 21:8, Deut 30:19, The Didache). As God led Moses and the Israelites toward the Promised Land, so he leads us into the kingdom through the Son. This is the way of life. May we have the grace to choose it, and to follow it well so we are welcomed by the angels at the end of the age.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Moses followed the Lord's command to erect the Dwelling (dwelling-place, or tabernacle), into which he placed the ark containing the commandments. The glory of the Lord then filled the Dwelling, and covered it with a cloud. When the cloud lifted it led the Israelites on their continuing journey. Jesus compared the kingdom of heaven to a net collecting various fish, the good being put into buckets and the bad being thrown away.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God's loving mercy, we offer in confidence the prayers we hold deep in our hearts.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may God continue to transform our hearts and fill us with his love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For magistrates and judges, may the Lord guide their rulings in reflecting the virtue of justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those across our world without access to food, clean water, housing or health care, let us pray to the Lord
- 4) For this community of faith, through the intercession of Saint Alphonsus Liguori whom we memorialize today, may God help us to grow in love and compassion for one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they rest in peace in the eternal peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Mighty and ever-living God, your glory fills the earth and all that is in it. Lead us, we pray, to your eternal dwelling place so we may praise you forever with the angels and saints. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Friday, August 2, 2019
(Lec. 405)

- 1) Leviticus 23:1, 4-11,
15-16, 27, 34b-37
- 2) Matthew 13:54-58

FRIDAY OF
17TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Eusebius of Vercelli,
Bishop;
Saint Peter Julian Eymard,
Priest)

FOCUS: May the Holy Spirit enable us to see Jesus in the ordinary aspects of our lives.

Sometimes we judge others based on their family, career or hometown, just as the people in Jesus' hometown did. If only they had been open to the truth about who Jesus really is – the Son of God – they, too, could have experienced his miracles and preaching. Let us pray today that we are able to see Jesus in our everyday life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God prescribes specific holy days for the Jews to celebrate, including the types of offerings that should be carried out. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches in the synagogue of his native place, offending those who hear him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With infinite trust in God who is our help and strength, let us bring to him our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For those discerning a call to the priesthood or religious life, may God open their hearts to respond generously, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may the Holy Spirit provide them strength and wisdom as they govern, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who are seeking work, may God help them to live each day with hope and fortitude, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of our community here, may Christ grant us the grace to see him in all whom we encounter, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead and the souls of all the faithful departed, that they may be welcomed to the heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Eternal Father, look kindly upon the needs of your people gathered here today. We ask you to hear our prayers in the name of your son, Jesus, who is Christ the Lord.

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Saturday, August 3, 2019
(Lec. 406)

- 1) Leviticus 25:1, 8-17
- 2) Matthew 14:1-12

SATURDAY OF
17TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Saturday in honor
of BVM)

FOCUS: May we have the faith and love of John the Baptist.

In John the Baptist, we find inspiration for being a disciple, as we draw others to Jesus through our own words and actions. John's love and sacrificial courage reveal an immense depth of faith. As Herod said of John: *mighty powers are at work in him.*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the Book of Leviticus, a jubilee year is proclaimed, in which the harvester and his land shall take rest. In the Gospel of Matthew, Herod's fear of John the Baptist and his displeasure over John's rebuke of his illicit relationship motivated him to have John the Baptist arrested and killed.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence, let us bring our petitions to the Father in thanksgiving for all he does for us.

- 1) That the Church, through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon her, may continue to grow in holiness and conformity to God's will, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That our government leaders may be led by divine wisdom in working for the dignity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who lack food or shelter may be strengthened by God's love and assisted in their need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That this community of faith may be protected by God from all evil, and by his grace grow in the virtues of faith, hope and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may rejoice in heavenly glory with all the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we praise your name and joyfully anticipate your response to all of our needs. Through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 2019

(Lec. 114)

- 1) Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23
- 2) Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11
- 3) Luke 12:13-21

**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Following foolishly after the things of this world leads us in the wrong direction.

Temptation is all around us. It is tempting to get ahead at the expense of others, and we are tempted to put material wealth ahead of spiritual wealth. Following Christian virtues requires grace, and takes practice and hard work. Let us pray for that grace, *For what profit comes to man from all the toil and anxiety of heart if we are not rich in what matters to God?*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Our first reading speaks about of the foolishness of vanity, and misdirected labor. Saint Paul writes to the Colossians, instructing them not to return to their old way of life, but to *seek what is above*. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the crowd to *Take care to guard against all greed*, and then relates the parable of the foolish rich man.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Striving to lead lives that bear witness to God's kingdom, let us offer our prayers and petitions to the Father.

- 1) For all pastoral leaders, may the Lord open their hearts and give them strength as they face the challenges before the Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may God's grace lead them in their work of respecting life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For a removal of those obstacles in our lives that keep us from embracing fully the life of Christ in our hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the imprisoned in our community, may God grant this to be a time of resolve and conversion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may they, through the mercy of God, rest in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious Father, through your Son we are called to a new way of living. Help us to embrace this daily challenge through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, August 5, 2019
(Lec. 407)

- 1) Numbers 11:4b-15
- 2) Matthew 14:13-21

MONDAY OF
18TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
The Dedication of
The Basilica of Saint Mary Major)

FOCUS: Blessings are all around us.

God's generosity to us is sometimes lost in our everyday struggles. Even in hardship, we can find something for which to be thankful – if we look for it. Life can be difficult, but if we look for the blessings, our focus changes and the good things stand out more noticeably. Perspective can make a world of difference.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Moses complains to God that the Jews' grumbling following their freedom from Egypt was too burdensome for him. In the Gospel, Jesus' heart is moved with pity for the people. He cures their sick and feeds them with just five loaves and two fish, with an abundance left over.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As Jesus taught us, let us present our needs to the Father and trust in his providential love.

- 1) That our Church leaders may find strength and fortitude in Jesus as they serve the needs of their flocks, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That elected officials may be granted the gifts of understanding and wisdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who feel trapped by sin may be blessed with the knowledge of God's love and a spirit of repentance, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That members of this congregation may be consoled by the peace of Christ in the midst of any difficulties they may be experiencing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may experience the fullness of joy with the saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God, listen to the prayers of your children. Grant what we need and what may bring us closer to you. We ask these things through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Tuesday, August 6, 2019
(Lec. 614)

**THE TRANSFIGURATION
OF THE LORD
- FEAST**

- 1) Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
- 2) 2 Peter 1:16-19
- 3) Luke 9:28b-36

FOCUS: Jesus, transfigured before Peter, John and James, gives them and us a glimpse of his great glory.

God chooses to show us his face in the incarnate Christ, who reveals his glory in the Transfiguration. We see the glory that awaits us, through Jesus who offers the sacrifice at the Last Supper, brought to fulfillment on the cross, and given to us in the Eucharist.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the Book of Daniel, we hear of a dream in which he sees *one like a Son of man coming on the clouds of heaven*, who is given glory and dominion and is served by all nations. In the second reading, Peter boldly proclaims that he and other disciples were eyewitnesses of the majesty of Christ. In Luke's Gospel, Peter, James and John witness Jesus transfigured before them. A voice from above says, *This is my Beloved Son. Listen to him.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In his mercy, the Father reveals himself to us. Trusting in that same mercy, let us bring our prayers before him today.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all who teach the faith, may God continue to bless them in their service to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For public servants and elected officials, may the Holy Spirit guide their efforts in leading with humility, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, the suffering and the marginalized, that they may experience the transforming glory of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may God continually draw us closer to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, that they may experience the fullness of the glory of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we bring these and all of our petitions to you this day, asking you to hear and answer your sons and daughters, through your son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Wednesday, August 7, 2019

(Lec. 409)

- 1) Numbers 13:1-2, 25-14:1,
26-29a 34-35
- 2) Matthew 15:21-28

WEDNESDAY OF
18TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Sixtus II, Pope,
and companions,
Martyrs;
Saint Cajetan,
Priest)

FOCUS: Faith and trust in God bring great reward.

The invitation to us today is to enter into the mystery of God's offer of salvation. He leads the Israelites to the Land of Canaan, as promised, but they do not trust that they will be able to survive and thrive there. The consequences are that they must wait even longer, then, to enter. Conversely, a non-Jewish woman has great faith in what Jesus can do for her, and is rewarded immediately for that faith. Let us have trust and faith that where God leads us we can indeed thrive under his care.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the scouts that Moses sent to Canaan to survey return and report that the land is full of milk and honey and fruit. It is also populated by many tribes, a fact which discourages the people. In the Gospel, a Canaanite woman asks Christ for pity on behalf of her daughter. After initially not responding, Jesus is moved by the woman's faith and heals her daughter.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God invites us to draw to him ever more deeply in faith and hope. Let us offer our prayers to him.

- 1) For the Church, may God continue to bless and uphold her as a sign of God's mercy in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may they be guided by the Holy Spirit in guarding the well-being of all those they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the chronically ill, may the gentle touch of Jesus flow through their caregivers and bring them comfort, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may our encounter with the God of healing and love increase the virtues of charity and justice within us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they partake of the great feast in the heavenly Jerusalem, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of mercy and love, hear the prayers of your Church gathered here today and grant what we ask of you in faith and hope. Through Christ our Lord.

Thursday, August 8, 2019
(Lec. 410)

- 1) Numbers 20:1-13
- 2) Matthew 16:13-23

TUESDAY OF
18TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Dominic,
Priest)

FOCUS: God will provide blessings for those who follow his law.

The Israelites doubted God's love for them, but it is God who remained steadfastly faithful to the chosen people. For those who acknowledge God's holiness, blessings will be poured out upon them. Let us offer thanksgiving and praise to the one who showers those blessings down from the heavens.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The people of Israel complained to Moses and Aaron, contending that the Lord was not faithful to them, instead leading them into the desert to die. In the Gospel, Simon Peter acknowledges that Jesus is the *Christ, the Son of the living God*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Conscious of the needs of so many in our midst, let us bring our petitions to our loving Father.

- 1) That Saint Dominic, on his memorial, may intercede for us for the needs of the Church as she faithfully serves the people of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the Lord may provide his grace for the peaceful resolution of conflicts throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That the healing power of Jesus, the Divine Physician, may be with those who are suffering, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That those of us gathered here may be made ever more holy through the grace of the sacraments, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may be welcomed for eternity into heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, you have created us in your image to worship and adore you. May our prayers resonate in your holy presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, August 9, 2019
(Lec. 411)
1) Deuteronomy 4:32-40
2) Matthew 16:24-28

FRIDAY OF
18TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross,
Virgin and Martyr)

FOCUS: *Whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.*

Discipleship comes with rights and responsibilities. Whoever seeks to share in the life of Christ must be willing to share also in his death and resurrection. Like the Israelites of old, Christians must know who they are and what the Lord has done for them, and be willing to witness to him.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Moses reminds the Israelites not just of their unique status as God's Chosen People and the responsibilities that go with that identity, but all that the Lord has done for them. Jesus challenges his disciples to take up their cross and to follow him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Having listened to God's word that brings forth life and redemption, let us now with courage and faith bring our prayers and petitions to the Father.

- 1) For the Church drawn from all nations and languages, may the Holy Spirit guide and protect us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all in civil power and authority, may all that the Lord has done for them be reflected in their leadership, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For an end to the evils of prejudice, discrimination and persecution, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all married couples in this faith community, may God's love help them to grow in love and fidelity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they take their place at the eternal feast in the kingdom of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and eternal Father, through your word you bring forth life and even more marvelously redeem it. Hear our prayers and answer them according to your holy will. We make our prayer through your son, Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, August 10, 2019
(Lec. 618)

- 1) 2 Corinthians 9:6-10
- 2) John 12:24-26

**SAINT LAWRENCE,
DEACON AND MARTYR
- FEAST**

FOCUS: Let us allow the seed of God's word to bear good fruit in us.

Saint Paul makes a promise at the end of today's first reading: that God will *increase the harvest* of our righteousness by multiplying our seed. When we are willing to sow our lives to serve God and others, God will multiply our efforts and grace them with abundance. The seed of God's word in us will bear great fruit.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Paul writes that God always gives grace in abundance. Therefore, whatever they sow sparingly or bountifully they will reap accordingly. In the Gospel, Jesus explains to his disciples that unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it cannot produce fruit.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God works abundantly in our lives and in our prayers, so we bring these petitions to him with great confidence.

- 1) For our Holy Father, may the seeds of God's word continue to grow and bear great fruit in his life and ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials and policymakers, may the Lord open their hearts in defending the most vulnerable among us, especially the unborn, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all in our world who go to bed hungry at night, may God provide comfort and sustenance, and raise up disciples who will eliminate such need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our community of faith who suffer with disabilities or debilitating illness, may they experience the healing love of Christ through the work of their caregivers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, that they might enter into eternal rest and joy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God, you know the needs we bring before you, spoken aloud or in our hearts. Hear these prayers and answer them, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 2019

(Lec. 117)

- 1) Wisdom 18:6-9
- 2) Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19 or 11: 1-2, 8-12
- 3) Luke 12:32-48 or 12:35-40

**NINETEENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Find us ready, Lord!

Faithfully living the life of a disciple requires great trust in a God who can seem distant or even absent, depending on the circumstances of our lives. Sometimes we create the distance by giving priority to the distractions of the world, and sometimes tragic events beyond our control can cause us to doubt God's presence. Maintaining steadfast faith requires dedicated care and attention to our relationship with God. Jesus' example and the power of the Holy Spirit provide us the strength and guidance we need to remain ready to meet him when he comes again.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The reading from the Book of Wisdom recounts the faith of the forefathers on the night of Passover. The Letter to the Hebrews reminds us of Abraham's unwavering faith in things unseen. In the Gospel, Jesus uses a parable to teach the importance of right priorities – those who remain faithful and ready will be rewarded.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us join in offering our needs to God, asking him to bless us and those for whom we pray.

- 1) For Pope Francis, may the Holy Spirit give him strength as he boldly leads in wisdom and truth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who govern, may the decisions they make be guided by the love God expresses for all his creation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who struggle to believe in a loving God, may the love of God break through their darkness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us gathered here, may the Lord graciously look upon our every need and inspire us in our witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may God's kindness be upon those who have put their hope in him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, help us to trust in your love for us. We ask that you hear the prayers we offer today, through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Monday, August 12, 2019
(Lec. 413)

- 1) Deuteronomy 10:12-22
- 2) Matthew 17:22-27

MONDAY OF
19TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Jane Frances de Chantal,
Religious)

FOCUS: Practical action for the good of others can help us cope with overwhelming sorrow.

Today's Gospel confronts Peter with two realities: overwhelming grief after Jesus' foretelling of his death, and the practical matter of paying taxes. Sometimes, attending to the practical, worldly concerns we face can help us cope with other-worldly concerns. Moreover, practical action to serve the vulnerable aligns with God's concern for those in need.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Moses exhorts the people of Israel to fear the Lord, follow his ways, and love and serve him, especially with regard to those most in need. In the Gospel, Jesus foretells his passion and death, and then Peter is confronted with the practical matter of paying the Temple tax. Jesus acknowledges his exemption from the tax, but still instructs Peter to pay the tax for them both.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we seek to live *in* the world without being *of* the world, let us offer our prayers to our Father in heaven.

- 1) For priests, bishops and lay leaders of the Church, that the Holy Spirit may be their guide in all their decision making, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For national and local leaders, that God may lead them in the ways of justice and compassion for those most in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick and all those who suffer in mind or body, that God may grant them peace of mind and restoration of health, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our local community, that God may bless our efforts in caring for the dignity and sacredness of every life, especially those who are not yet born and the oldest among us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they may experience fullness of life and joy with God, and all those who have gone before them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we entrust our prayers to you in the holy name of your son, Jesus Christ.

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Tuesday, August 13, 2019
(Lec. 414)
1) Deuteronomy 31:1-8
2) Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14

TUESDAY OF
19TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saints Pontian, Pope,
and Hippolytus, Priest,
Martyrs)

FOCUS: We are called to rely on God, who will never fail or forsake us.

Today, we are reminded to be *brave and steadfast* in our dependence on God. Moses provided encouragement because he knew his people would face challenges entering into the Promised Land. Jesus points out that it is the humble children who will be first in his kingdom. We are called to rely on God, who will never fail or forsake us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Moses passes leadership to Joshua and offers words of encouragement to his people to prepare them for their entrance into the Promised Land. He reminds the Israelites of God's power and presence as he tells them to be *brave and steadfast*. In the Gospel, Jesus answers his disciples' question, *Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven?* by presenting a child to them, and saying, *Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As a community of believers, let us place our petitions before our merciful Father.

- 1) For the leaders of our Church, may God grant them humility and fortitude, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our civic leaders, may God lead them in efforts toward peace and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are victims of neglect or abuse, that God may provide safety and comfort to them in their time of need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the children in this faith community, may God guide and protect them from all evil and strengthen them in virtue, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may they come to enjoy the fullness of the kingdom of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God and Father, we humbly offer these prayers through the intercession of your son, Jesus, our Lord.

Wednesday, August 14, 2019
(Lec. 415)

- 1) Deuteronomy 34:1-12
- 2) Matthew 18:15-20

WEDNESDAY OF
19TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Maximilian Kolbe,
Priest and Martyr)

FOCUS: Let us pray for one another, and live well in Christian community.

As members of the body of Christ, we are commanded to love, to pray for one another, and if required to correct another in sin, to do so charitably. How easy it may be to do otherwise in the age of anonymity and social media! So let us speak in Christ's name and with humility, to live well in Christian community.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Moses reaches the end of his journey when the Lord shows him the land promised to the Israelites. The Israelites will then look to Joshua to continue the Lord's work. In the Gospel, Jesus instructs his disciples on how to live in community and pray for one another in the Church.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Recognizing our need for the Lord's guidance and direction, let us pray to our Father for our needs and the needs of the world.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we, through the grace of God, grow in holiness and bear good fruit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For lawmakers, may the Lord inspire them in discerning laws that are just and in the service of the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For widows and orphans, and all who struggle to survive each day, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all members of this faith community, may the Lord give us the grace to acknowledge our sins and to seek reconciliation where necessary, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have gone before us in faith, may they experience eternal joy in the presence of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people offered with sincere hearts, and answer them in accordance with your will. In Christ's name we pray.

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Thursday, August 15, 2019
(Lec. 622)

- 1) Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab
- 2) 1 Corinthians 15:20-27
- 3) Luke 1:39-56

**THE ASSUMPTION
OF THE BLESSED
VIRGIN MARY
- SOLEMNITY**
(Holyday of Obligation)

FOCUS: Let us strive to be, like Mary, faithful servants of our God.

Even though we recognize Mary as the Mother of God, we must also see her as the servant she was. Her *Magnificat* is a primer for us all, recognizing not only God's greatness, but the work he has called us to do – show mercy to others and care for those less fortunate.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading from Revelation, John writes of a heavenly vision of a woman giving birth to a son, and of hearing a voice call attention to the salvation and power of God. In Paul's first Letter to the Corinthians, he re-affirms not only Christ's resurrection, but also that all who live Christ's word will rise in the end. In the Gospel from Luke, Mary travels to visit Elizabeth who blesses Mary as the Mother of God. Mary responds with praise and glory to God in her *Magnificat*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As a community of believers, let us turn to our Father and offer our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For the Church, may she as the body of Christ on earth continue to grow in holiness and virtue in the ways Jesus has shown her, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For judges, may the Lord's wisdom guide them in applying judgments with compassion and prudence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are shut-in or lonely, may God's compassion comfort them through the presence of others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may God's grace be at work in our lives that we may bear good fruit for him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they join Mary and all the saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we ask that you accept these prayers that we offer in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.

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Friday, August 16, 2019
(Lec. 417)

- 1) Joshua 24:1-13
- 2) Matthew 19:3-12

FRIDAY OF
19TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Stephen of Hungary)

FOCUS: God is always present in the lives of his people, as he attends to their needs.

The people of Israel were richly blessed by their relationship with God. He watched over them and provided for their needs. Even in times of war and strife, God was there for them. As we face struggles and challenges in our lives, God's gifts of love and compassion are still available for us today.

LITURGY OF THE WORD:

In the first reading today, Joshua has gathered together the tribes of Israel. He speaks for the Lord, tracing a series of events where God has intervened over and over again to keep his people safe from harm. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus faces the Pharisees who challenge him to answer their questions about divorce.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Joined together in God's holy presence, we offer our petitions to the Father.

- 1) For members of the Church throughout the world, may the Lord guide and sustain us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in positions of leadership, may God bless them with compassion and integrity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all married couples, especially those who may be struggling, may God sanctify them in their love and vocation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all in this faith community who give generously of their time and talent, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they find joy and comfort in the presence of our heavenly Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, please hear these prayers we offer, confident in your love, and trusting that you will grant all that we need. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Saturday, August 17, 2019
(Lec. 418)

- 1) Joshua 24:14-29
- 2) Matthew 19:13-15

SATURDAY OF
19TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Saturday in honor
of BVM)

FOCUS: *You are my inheritance, O Lord.*

Throughout history, people have been faced with the choice of following God or following false gods. Earthly concerns may entice us away from him, but these will not matter in the end. We must have trust in God and turn away from those things that separate us from his love. There is true joy in serving God with everything that is within us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Our first reading from the Book of Joshua describes how he exhorted Israel to always follow God and to never bow to strange gods. In the Gospel, Jesus told his disciples to let the children come to him, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to them.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us turn to God, our heavenly Father, with our petitions and prayers.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may God's grace nourish and strengthen us to do his will, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government officials, may God give them fortitude as they govern in righteousness and with justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who struggle with poverty and despair, may Jesus lighten their burdens, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of this faith community who teach young people, may the Lord bless their service and dedication, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may Jesus welcome them into eternal rest in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 2019

(Lec. 120)

- 1) Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10
- 2) Hebrews 12:1-4
- 3) Luke 12:49-53

**TWENTIETH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: God's love is like a raging fire!

In today's Gospel, Jesus outlines many of the ways in which his coming into the world will cause division, and not peace. He comes to *set the earth on fire* – not to destroy it, but to emblaze it with the fullness of God's love for us. The divisiveness arises not from Jesus himself, but from peoples' response to him: choosing either to build up that fire, or to tamp it down. Let us be those who feed the fire of the kingdom, not extinguish it.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Jeremiah is imprisoned under the authority of King Zedekiah because the people are upset by his words. But a court official convinces the king to release him. The writer of Hebrews challenges the community to *rid [themselves] of every burden and sin* and to keep their *eyes fixed on Jesus*. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples he has come not to establish peace, but division.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For Church leaders, may the Spirit continue to guide and inspire them and keep them faithful to Christ and his Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civil leaders, may God guide them as they work to uphold the dignity of all human life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are persecuted for their faith in Christ, may the Holy Spirit uphold and strengthen them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in this faith community who are grieving the loss of a loved one, may God's saving love comfort and console, 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: Merciful Father, you hear the cry and the prayer of all who call out to you in time of need. Listen to our prayers and in your great mercy answer them according to your will. We pray this through your son, Christ our Lord.

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Monday, August 19, 2019
(Lec. 419)

- 1) Judges 2:11-19
- 2) Matthew 19:16-22

MONDAY OF
20TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint John Eudes,
Priest)

FOCUS: Christ invites us to go ever deeper and grow in our faith.

The children of Israel have abandoned their faith just one generation after *the God of their fathers, [had] led them out of the land of Egypt*. The Lord leads, but we must choose to follow. Jesus Christ invites each of us to grow in personal relationship with him, just as he challenges the rich young man to have faith and to follow him.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of how the Hebrew people begin to worship false gods and abandon their faith – even after the coaxing of the judges. In the Gospel, Christ is approached by a rich young man who asks how to *gain eternal life*. Jesus replies that to be perfect he must sell all he has and give it to the poor, and then come and follow him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As children of God, we now turn to him with our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord bless her with unity, healing and repentance, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our world, may God grant that peace may flourish and the seeds of justice grow, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering any hardship, may the God of all creation and goodness grant them relief, provision and strength in their time of need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the grace of God further open our hearts as we grow in faith and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they experience the fullness of joy with the angels and saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of faith, hope and love, hear our prayers and grant what we ask. We trust you and ask for your favor, through Christ our Lord.

Tuesday, August 20, 2019
(Lec. 420)

- 1) Judges 6:11-24a
- 2) Matthew 19:23-30

TUESDAY OF
20TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Bernard,
Abbot and Doctor
of the Church)

FOCUS: God calls us not on the basis of merit, but out of his love for us.

Peace can be found when we trust in God. Our discipleship does not depend on what we can do alone, but in what God can do through us. God is on the journey with us, and though that journey is difficult, God makes even the narrowest path passable. We find that through God nothing is impossible.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the reading from the Book of Judges, the Lord calls Gideon to deliver Israel from their oppressors. Although he feels unworthy, Gideon answers the call. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that the way is not easy, but those who follow God *will inherit eternal life*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Gathered together in Christ's name, let us offer our prayers to our loving Father.

- 1) That God may bless our Holy Mother Church in hearing his word and living in the light of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That God may bring peace to areas of the world suffering violence and discord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That Christ may give hope and encouragement to those who are considered least by our society, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the grace of the sacramental life we share in this community may continue to sustain us in all we do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have fallen asleep in the hope of God's kingdom may at last see eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, we ask that you hear the needs we have placed before you today. Through your son, Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, August 21, 2019
(Lec. 421)

- 1) Judges 9:6-15
- 2) Matthew 20:1-16

WEDNESDAY OF
20TH WEEK
(OBL MEM
Saint Pius X,
Pope)

FOCUS: God is a more generous king than any we might appoint over ourselves.

We hear two parables today which challenge and provoke our sense of what is right – of what is fair. They invite us to consider that we may not be the best ones to rule over our own lives, and to instead live with gratitude and responsibility for the gifts God has given us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Jotham tells a parable about trees who *anoint a king over themselves*. They settle on the buckthorn after the trees who produce good fruit all reject the offer. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the landowner who hires laborers at different times throughout the day but pays them each the same *usual daily wage*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Turning to our God who is more generous than we can imagine, we offer our prayers for the needs of the world.

- 1) For all bishops, priests, deacons and leaders in the Church, may the Holy Spirit sanctify them through their work and their prayer, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For public authorities, may God's wisdom guide them as they care for the needs of all they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all laborers and those in need of employment, and for more opportunities for dignified work, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, may God strengthen us in faith as we work in his vineyard, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rest eternally in God's peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our King, we know you see our needs and respond with abundance of life. Hear our prayers this day and teach us to trust in your generosity and to share your goodness generously. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, August 22, 2019
(Lec. 422)

- 1) Judges 11:29-39a
- 2) Matthew 22:1-14

THURSDAY OF
20TH WEEK
(OBL MEM
The Queenship of the
Blessed Virgin Mary)

FOCUS: God invites us, like the Blessed Virgin Mary, to faithfully participate in the deliverance and generosity of the kingdom of God.

In today's readings, we hear God's invitation to participate in the generosity and deliverance of the kingdom of God. We hear of those who reject or fail to trust in God's invitation. This can lead us to meditate on the faithful "yes" of the Blessed Virgin Mary as we seek to turn to God in our own lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of Jephthah, who loses confidence in God's protection and makes a vow leading to terrible consequences. His daughter urges her father be faithful to his vow to God, even though it costs her life. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the guests invited to a wedding banquet who reject the king's hospitality.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we seek to respond to God's invitation to participate in his kingdom, we pray for our needs and the needs of our world.

- 1) For all leaders in the Church, may God strengthen them and magnify their efforts in sharing the abundance of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For freedom and peace in our world, may the Lord guide those in positions of power as they attend to the rights and dignity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who struggle to trust God, may God's generosity and grace free them from all fear, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, may the grace of the Holy Spirit help us faithfully to respond to God's invitation to help build the kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rejoice in the heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of great mercy, we ask that you hear our prayers and deliver us from all that would keep us from saying "yes" to you. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Friday, August 23, 2019
(Lec. 423)

- 1) Ruth 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22
- 2) Matthew 22:34-40

FRIDAY OF
20TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Rose of Lima,
Virgin)

FOCUS: Loving God and neighbor is a daily choice.

Jesus' greatest commandments, to be fully devoted to God and to love our neighbor as ourselves, aren't laws that we obey once in a lifetime, but every day of our lives. Each day, we are faced with countless choices of how to spend our time, energy and money. With hearts and minds dedicated to God, we will be led to make the right choices.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading opens up the Book of Ruth, the story of a woman so devoted to her mother-in-law that she is willing to give up her home and religion to be with her in her time of need. In the Gospel, Jesus lays out the foundational two commandments: love of God and love of our neighbor.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In a spirit of humility and hope, let us approach God with our needs and the needs of those around us.

- 1) For the Church, God's sign of the kingdom on earth, may she receive the necessary graces in sharing the Good News with those who have not yet heard, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in authority, may God grant them fortitude in seeking nonviolent solutions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For immigrants, migrants and refugees in search of a home and a new life, may God keep them in his loving care, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our families, may the Holy Spirit guide them as they nurture love of God, of each other, and of those in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have gone to their eternal rest, may they come to share in the fullness of Christ's glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of all compassion, we entrust these requests and those within our hearts to your great mercy and love, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, August 24, 2019
(Lec. 629)

- 1) Revelation 21:9b-14
- 2) John 1:45-51

**SAINT BARTHOLOMEW,
APOSTLE
- FEAST**

FOCUS: What are we doing under the fig tree?

Was Nathanael praying under the fig tree, “God, send the Messiah,” or “If you are real, show me”? Scripture does not tell us, but the disciple was prepared to encounter Christ. He recognized the Son of God because he was seeking him. Are we seeking Jesus? If invited to *come and see*, will we be ready to encounter Jesus?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today’s first reading, an angel shows John the heavenly Jerusalem in splendor with names of the Twelve Apostles written on the foundation stones. The Gospel on this feast of Saint Bartholomew presents his first meeting with Christ; when Jesus tells Nathanael (Bartholomew) he saw him under the fig tree, Nathanael declares Jesus to be the Son of God.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As Bartholomew showed great faith, let us pray with confidence as we present our needs to the Lord.

- 1) For all members of the Church on earth, may God continue to draw many souls to him through Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials and those in public service, may God bless their efforts in protecting the dignity and sanctity of human life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For people who have no faith or who are plagued with doubt, may the light of the Holy Spirit shine into the darkness and lead them closer to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the Holy Spirit guide us as we answer the call to “come and see,” let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rejoice forever in the heavenly Jerusalem, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: We thank you, Lord, for your constant care. Please hear and answer our prayers this day according to your holy will. We pray in Jesus’ name.

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2019

(Lec. 123)

- 1) Isaiah 66:18-21
- 2) Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13
- 3) Luke 13:22-30

**TWENTY-FIRST
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: *Strive to enter through the narrow gate.*

Today we are given fair warning by Jesus that we should strive earnestly to enter the kingdom of God, and not simply assume a place will be reserved for us. So let's make an effort, as we travel the path of discipleship, to travel lightly, unencumbered by unnecessary attachments to the things of this world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God proclaims that he comes to gather all nations. The second reading exhorts the Christian community not to disdain discipline, as it originates from God's love. In the Gospel from Luke, Jesus tells his followers to strive for salvation through the narrow gate.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We gather together in faithfulness to offer our prayers and petitions to the Father.

- 1) For the Church, may God hear the prayers we offer for strength, unity and faithfulness in troubled times, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may God bless their efforts as they govern in peace and righteousness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering from illness, both mental and physical, may they feel the compassion of our Savior through the kindness of their caregivers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For married couples in our faith community, may God's presence in their relationship offer them strength and serenity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they find Jesus welcoming them in heaven with loving arms, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we thank you for gathering us together in your love. Help us to see our trials as signs of your presence strengthening us for eternity. We ask this through your son, Christ our Lord.

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Monday, August 26, 2019
(Lec. 425)

- 1) 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5,
8b-10
- 2) Matthew 23:13-22

MONDAY OF
21ST WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: May others see Christ in our words and actions.

Jesus' words calling out the scribes and Pharisees for their hypocrisy are relevant to us today. It is not always easy to align our words with our actions. But as members of Christ's Church on earth, we must strive to be his hands and feet in the world and continue the journey of living the Christian life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul marvels at God's work in the people of Thessalonica and their conversion *to God from idols*. In the Gospel, Jesus rebukes the scribes and Pharisees for their hypocrisy and blindness.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Mindful of the needs all around us, let us offer our petitions to our merciful Father.

- 1) For our Holy Father, may the Lord protect him and keep him in his service to the people of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who work for peace among nations, may the Holy Spirit guide their efforts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have known violence or trauma in their lives, may God's healing power grant them peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those seeking a relationship with Christ, may the Church provide holy guides to help them along their journey, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they know God's eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, hear our prayers and in your tender mercy, grant them through your son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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Tuesday, August 27, 2019
(Lec. 426)
1) 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
2) Matthew 23:23-26

TUESDAY OF
21ST WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Monica)

FOCUS: Live and preach the truth of the Gospel.

We are called to not only preach the Gospel, but also to live in a way that demonstrates our faith. Like Paul, we should take care to preach the Gospel out of love for God and others. Conversely, we should not behave like the Pharisees, placing greater importance on outward signs of piety while neglecting the state of our souls.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul recounts his ministry to the Thessalonians, during which time he says he and fellow missionaries preached the Gospel *with such affection*. Jesus speaks harshly against the Pharisees, accusing them of following rules and tithing but without also living holy, merciful lives.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: The Lord knows our hearts and needs before we even ask, so let us approach him confidently with our prayers.

- 1) For all missionaries, may God strengthen them as they continue to preach the Gospel of Christ in love and truth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For lawmakers, may they be guided by the Spirit in recognizing the dignity of all people, especially the most vulnerable among us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have never heard the Gospel, may Jesus touch their hearts through the lives and examples of Christians, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the Holy Spirit strengthen us in the virtues of faith, hope and charity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may they rest in eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we ask you to hear the prayers of your children in the name of Jesus your son, who is Lord forever and ever.

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Wednesday, August 28, 2019
(Lec. 427)

- 1) 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
- 2) Matthew 23:27-32

WEDNESDAY OF
21ST WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Augustine,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church)

FOCUS: The word dwells within us and gives us strength.

Our faith is not just a matter of words that we hear, but is built on the living word of God, made flesh, who dwelt among us and now dwells within us. He is what gives us strength in our lives and guides us in walking in a *manner worthy of ... God*.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul gives thanks that the people heard the word of God that he preached and that it is active within them. In the Gospel, Jesus once again goes after the Pharisees for being hypocrites, calling them *whitewashed tombs*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust in God's loving care, let us offer him our prayers.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may Christ help us to manifest his love in our everyday lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may God grant them fortitude as they work for justice for all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from chronic illness, may the healing presence of Christ in their lives bring them comfort, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the living word of God within us make us a stronger and holier people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they experience fullness of joy in the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, ever present to us, guide the steps we take. May we be intentional in serving you as we serve others this day. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, August 29, 2019
(Lec. 428)
1) 1 Thessalonians 3:7-13
(Lec. 634)
2) Mark 6:17-29

THURSDAY OF
21ST WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
The Passion of
Saint John the Baptist)

FOCUS: Let us encourage and build up the faith of one another.

Like John the Baptist and Paul, who suffered at the hands of God's enemies, many of us know what it is like to experience evil and affliction. Paul found reassurance through the faith of his brothers and sisters in Christ. We, too, can encourage and build up the faith of one another, to endure together during times of darkness and distress.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul expresses thanksgiving for the faith of the Thessalonians, which has reassured him in his distress; he hopes to visit them soon. In the Gospel, Herodias finds a way to have the imprisoned John the Baptist beheaded by order of her husband, Herod, during his birthday banquet.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Joined in prayer to encourage one another in faith, we offer our needs to our loving Father.

- 1) That Christ's Church may prevail as a force of goodness and life over evil and death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the Holy Spirit may inspire lawmakers and voters to support the dignity and sanctity of human life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That the peace of Christ may calm violence in our homes, schools, and streets, and guide public safety in their interventions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That those suffering distress and affliction may be encouraged by Christ through the faith of this community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the God of life may bring our beloved deceased into eternity with all his holy ones, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Living God, you conquered evil once and for all through the resurrection of Jesus, your only son. In your eternal goodness, hear and answer these and all our prayers, through our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.

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Friday, August 30, 2019
(Lec. 429)
1) 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8
2) Matthew 25:1-13

FRIDAY OF
21ST WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Let us cast off impurity and conduct ourselves in holiness.

No one likes to wait. But our role as disciples in waiting for Jesus' second coming is not a passive one. We are to prepare. Just as we would prepare for any other important event in our lives, we are to prepare for the unknown arrival of our bridegroom. And because our preparation has eternal consequences, we should be diligent, cast off impurity and act with holiness.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Paul exhorts the Thessalonians to cast off impurity and conduct themselves in holiness, especially in marriage and in the choosing of spouses. Jesus' parable in today's Gospel tells the story of the ten virgins, half of whom are found ready for the coming bridegroom and half of whom are unprepared. The latter are locked out from the wedding feast, for the bridegroom does not know them.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we strive to conduct ourselves in holiness, we bring our prayers and petitions before the Lord who makes us holy.

- 1) For all clergy and Church leaders, may God grant them vigilance and holiness as they witness to the Church in our world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For political authorities, may Jesus' example lead them in pursuing reconciliation through peaceful means, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have lost hope in this life, may God provide the consolation and friendship that lights a way in the darkness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of this faith community, may God find us prepared and waiting patiently and eagerly for our bridegroom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may they know the joy of complete union with God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we await your Son's arrival with eager expectation. Prepare us to love you and one another with sincerity of heart. We ask this through your son, Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, August 31, 2019
(Lec. 430)

- 1) 1 Thessalonians 4:9-11
- 2) Matthew 25:14-30

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

FOCUS: Let us use our gifts for the kingdom.

God has given us all good gifts. We cannot let the fruits and gifts of the Spirit stagnate in our lives, but rather, we need to build them up as the two worthy servants built up their silver pieces.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In his Letter to the Thessalonians, Paul notes the love they have for one another, and urges them *to progress even more*. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the talents.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God is the giver of all gifts. Confident of his love for us, we turn to him with our prayers and needs.

- 1) For all of us in the Church, may the Holy Spirit help us to build up the gifts and fruits he has given us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may Christ strengthen their conviction in working for the welfare and progress of the people they represent, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the poor, the homeless, the hungry and those with little in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may God's grace help us hold fast to what is good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith, may they abide in the presence of the Lord forever in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father in heaven, we present these prayers to you, confident you will answer them according to your will. Through your son, Christ our Lord.

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