

FEBRUARY

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Friday, February 1, 2019

(Lec. 321)

1) Hebrews 10:32-39

2) Mark 4:26-34

FRIDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: *[We] need endurance to do the will of God and receive what he has promised.*

We know from Scripture and our liturgical prayers that God has begun good works in us, and we pray that he will bring it to completion. A mustard seed does not simply become a large plant, or a seed automatically grow and yield fruit. The right conditions and the endurance to become what they are to become are essential. We, too, *need endurance to do the will of God and receive what he has promised.*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first reading encourages those who suffer for Christ's sake to remain strong, even though their reward seems to be far in the distance. In the Gospel, Jesus tells parables that give insight into how the kingdom of God grows on earth.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As children of God, let us seek his help for our needs and the needs of others.

- 1) For those in the Church who teach the faith, may Jesus' parables guide them in communicating God's truth today, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in leadership positions, may God open their hearts to fruitful dialogue with one another to solve the problems before them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering for the sake of the Gospel, may they be blessed with perseverance and fortitude, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the people of this faith community, may God's providential love for us encourage and sustain us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may the gift of salvation be theirs, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God, hear our prayers and answer them according to your holy will. We pray in the name of Jesus the Lord.

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Saturday, February 2, 2019

(Lec. 524)

- 1) Malachi 3:1-4
- 2) Hebrews 2:14-18
- 3) Luke 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

**THE PRESENTATION
OF THE LORD
- FEAST**

FOCUS: Let us strive to imitate the faithfulness of the Holy Family.

Mary and Joseph would have known the words of Malachi. That they understood and believed their son – God’s Son – to be the fulfillment of that prophecy is a testament to their faithfulness to God and his promises. May we listen to and hear God’s promises in Scripture, and trust in them with the same unfailing hearts.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading from Malachi, we hear that the Lord whom we seek will appear in the Temple. In the Letter to the Hebrews, we hear that Jesus took on our flesh in order to destroy the power of evil and to help those who suffer, as he himself suffered for us. In the Gospel account of the Presentation in the Temple, Simeon took the child in his arms, blessed God, and proclaimed to Mary that this was the Child *destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our needs and the needs of all people to the Father.

- 1) For all who shepherd our Church, may the Lord strengthen them with the gifts of the Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government officials, may God’s saving word inspire them to promote the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick and all who suffer, may they experience the love of God through our care and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our faith community who have closed their hearts to the Good News of the Gospel, may God open their hearts with his tender mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that God through his mercy may welcome them into the place he has prepared for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God, we humbly bring these petitions before you today, trusting that as our loving Father you will give us all we need in your time and according to your plan. We ask this through your son, Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2019

(Lec. 72)

- 1) Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19
- 2) 1 Corinthians 12:31–13:13
or 13:4-13
- 3) Luke 4:21-30

**FOURTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: We are witnesses to Jesus, primarily through our love for one another.

God calls some people, such as Jeremiah, to be prophets – to bring others to him by speaking God’s words to them. Most of us, however, are called to be witnesses through the love that we show each day in our actions and words. No matter what we do, it must always be expressed in love.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, we hear God’s call to Jeremiah and his assurance that he will always be with him, no matter how much others oppose him. In Paul’s Letter to the Corinthians, he speaks of the *more excellent way* of love, the very foundation of the Christian life. Jesus, in the Gospel, is not accepted in his own hometown.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Aware of so many needs in the world around us, and of God’s immense love, we present those needs to God with absolute trust in his mercy.

- 1) For all in the Church who are called to speak God’s word to us, may the Holy Spirit strengthen and nurture them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in civil authority, may the virtue of charity be their guide, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For families struggling with divorce, division, addiction, poverty or unemployment, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all in this faith community, may the Spirit guide us in living our call to love one another in our daily lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For eternal rest for the souls of the loved ones of all who are here present, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of great mercy, hear these prayers which come from our hearts, and answer them according to your will, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Monday, February 4, 2019
(Lec. 323)

- 1) Hebrews 11:32-40
- 2) Mark 5:1-20

MONDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: The power of God is at work in our lives.

Jesus performs a powerful miracle, delivering a man possessed by a demon. The man is grateful and wants to follow Jesus, but the locals are terrified and beg Jesus to leave. Our life of discipleship is determined by how we respond to the working of God's grace in and for us. A grateful heart for his many gifts allows his power to work through us for the good of the world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading describes the great and inspiring faith of many in the Old Testament. Jesus crosses the Sea of Galilee into the territory of the Gerasenes. Jesus casts out a demon from a man into a herd of swine. The terrified population begs Jesus to leave them.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our petitions to the Lord, knowing that his power is already at work in our lives.

- 1) For missionaries in the Church, may God sustain and uphold them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For diplomats, that God may grant them strength and patience as they seek peaceful solutions to conflict among nations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering from addiction, that the Lord will free them from their bondage, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the young people of our community, that God may lead them to discern his purpose for their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may they rest in peace in heaven with the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, please hear these prayers of your people and answer them according to your mercy and good will. We ask this in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

(Lec. 324)

- 1) Hebrews 12:1-4
- 2) Mark 5:21-43

TUESDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Agatha,
Virgin and Martyr)

FOCUS: Our faith in Jesus opens us to his saving power.

Our steadfast belief in Jesus can change rejection into acceptance, illness into wholeness and death into life, not only for ourselves, but for those who witness our belief in him.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the Letter to the Hebrews today, the author challenges the community to rise above and persevere in their trials by keeping their eyes fixed on Jesus. In Mark's Gospel, Jairus' daughter and a woman with a hemorrhage are given new life through faith.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Believing in the power of Jesus to heal and save, we ask God to hear our prayers.

- 1) For the Church, may God heal all division among his people by helping us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of our world, may God inspire them in their work for justice for those whom they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all children suffering from critical illnesses, may they find peace and healing in the gentle touch of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who are bold enough to seek healing from Jesus for their wounds, may the love of God bring them peace and wholeness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rejoice in heaven with all the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of comfort and healing, hear the prayers of your people who trust in your mercy and compassion. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

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Wednesday, February 6, 2019

(Lec. 325)

1) Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15

2) Mark 6:1-6

WEDNESDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Paul Miki
and Companions,
Martyrs)

FOCUS: *A prophet is not without honor except in his native place.*

It is likely that most of us have not only heard this phrase, but experienced it in some way. It can be difficult to witness to, or lead in discipleship, those who “know us best.” Instead of accepting this, however, we must persevere and let them know what God has done in his grace and mercy.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The author of Hebrews encourages the community not to fear challenges and trials, *for whom the Lord loves, he disciplines*. For the believer, these trials can become grace-filled moments of righteousness. In the Gospel, Jesus is amazed by the lack of faith in his native place.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For Church leaders, may they be blessed with strength as they minister to those entrusted to their pastoral care, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all civil leaders, may God give them fortitude to always seek justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are alienated from God and his Church, may the Holy Spirit open their hearts so they may respond to Christ’s message of love and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who are sick, may God restore them to the fullness of life and health and liberate them from all that afflicts them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they come to share in the fullness of Christ’s glory and enjoy his favor forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God, as you once heard the prayers of your son, Jesus Christ, hear now our prayers and in your great love answer them. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, February 7, 2019

(Lec. 326)

1) Hebrews 12:18-19, 21-24

2) Mark 6:7-13

THURSDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Jesus calls forth the Twelve Apostles and sends them out in pairs as an extension of his own mission.

The Twelve who are sent out by Jesus represent the twelve tribes of Israel. We ponder what it would have felt like to be charged with Jesus' mission to preach the Good News, yet be utterly dependent on God's providence – taking no food, money or bag.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading affirms that we have been blessed to approach the glory of the Lord: Jesus *the mediator of a new covenant*. The Gospel tells how Jesus commissioned the Apostles to go out in pairs to preach, anoint and heal, bringing nothing with them.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Mindful of the many needs in our hearts and those around us, let us bring our concerns to our heavenly Father.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may the Holy Spirit give us a fresh outpouring of his gifts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may God give them the strength to reject all forms of racism and division, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For victims of violence and war, may God's peace come to reign in their hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For parents and grandparents, may God imbue them with wisdom and love to reflect Christ's love to their children and grandchildren, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, 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 ask that you accept these prayers from your humble servants. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your son.

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Friday, February 8, 2019
(Lec. 327)

- 1) Hebrews 13:1-8
- 2) Mark 6:14-29

FRIDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Jerome Emiliani;
Saint Josephine Bakhita,
Virgin)

FOCUS: Proclaim the Good News with confident trust in God.

If we follow the commandments and act according to the instructions we find in Scripture, we can be confident that God is with us. Let us work to emulate John the Baptist, who proclaimed the kingdom of God without fear. Jesus, who is unchanging, will be our helper and will not abandon us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The author of Hebrews reminds his readers how to lead virtuous lives. He encourages them to imitate spiritual leaders. Saint Mark tells of John's beheading at the request of Herod's wife and daughter.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the Lord who is our helper, we bring our needs and petitions to him.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may the Holy Spirit grant us wisdom to discern and live out the Lord's call for our lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may God guide their actions toward mercy and charity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the poor and the homeless, may they receive the comfort of Christ's love through God's people who minister to them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may we be strengthened with the grace to share the Gospel with all, especially those who have not met Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they see the face of God and be welcomed to Paradise, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, you have promised that you will never forsake your children. We ask you to look with kindness upon our petitions, through Jesus Christ, your son.

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Saturday, February 9, 2019

(Lec. 328)

1) Hebrews 13:15-17, 20-21

2) Mark 6:30-34

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

FOCUS: *[God] guides me in right paths for his name's sake.*

Accepting God's will requires hard work and discipline. A consistent prayer life and reception of the sacraments affords us the grace to carry out his will in our lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The author of Hebrews reminds his readers to share what they have, and God will give them *all that is good*. Jesus calls the Apostles to come away and rest with him, for the people have many needs. He recognizes that the people are like lost sheep and begins to teach them.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With faith and trust, we come before our heavenly Father with our needs and those of our brothers and sisters.

- 1) For all pastoral leaders, may God give them understanding hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For this nation's leaders, may the Lord guide their policymaking toward respect for the sanctity and dignity of life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick and those who care for them, may Christ, the Divine Physician, bring them comfort and consolation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For teachers and educators in this faith community, may God's Holy Spirit guide their work and their service to their students, 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: Good and compassionate Father, hear our prayers placed before you this day with humble and grateful hearts, through your son, Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2019

(Lec. 75)

- 1) Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8
- 2) 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11
- 3) Luke 5:1-11

**FIFTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: With God's grace, let us follow as faithful disciples.

Today we consider the encounter between Jesus and Simon, who abandons all to follow the Lord. Like Simon, we are being called little by little, day by day, to say yes to Jesus. With God's grace, let us follow as faithful disciples.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading recounts the calling of Isaiah, how the seraphim of the Lord came to him with an ember, touched his lips with it, and said, *your wickedness is removed*. In the second reading, Paul recounts his own calling by the Lord, and outlines the faith that has been handed on to him, which he now hands on to the Corinthians. In the Gospel, we hear the account of Jesus' calling to discipleship Simon Peter, James and John.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we trust Christ's grace to work in our lives, let us present our petitions to our Father in heaven.

- 1) For the leaders of the Church, that God may continually purify their hearts, inspiring them to respond joyfully to his call, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our national and local leaders, that they may be granted the necessary gifts in their work for peace and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering from mental or physical distress, that God may ease their burdens and bring them full health of mind and body, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this Eucharistic assembly, may God enable us to always keep the Eucharist at the heart of our prayers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, that they may experience fullness of joy in the heavenly kingdom, 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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Monday, February 11, 2019

(Lec. 329)

1) Genesis 1:1-19

2) Mark 6:53-56

MONDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Our Lady of Lourdes)

FOCUS: God and all he creates is good.

God is pure goodness who created us out of that goodness and love, and wants only the good for us. Jesus is this perfect goodness in human form, the image of God's wisdom in the flesh. His goodness draws us to him and empowers us to imitate it.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the reading from Genesis, we hear of God's creation of the earth, the sky and the lights of the heavens. God sees that all he creates is good. In Mark's Gospel, people recognize Jesus in his goodness and bring their sick and suffering to him to be touched and healed.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: All that we have is given to us by a good and loving God. Let us bring our petitions to him for healing in our world.

- 1) For the Church, may God guide her leaders as they seek to imitate Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may God bless them with hearts and minds that seek to create only goodness in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are alone with no one to advocate for them, may God heal and comfort them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the sick in our faith community, may God provide them his healing touch, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our deceased loved ones, may they enjoy eternal happiness with Jesus, the Good Shepherd, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, we are grateful for your good works. Hear the prayers of your people and send your healing goodness for all our needs. We ask this through Jesus, your son.

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Tuesday, February 12, 2019

(Lec. 330)

1) Genesis 1:20–2:4a

2) Mark 7:1-13

TUESDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God calls us to have clean hearts that honor his commandments.

Outward rituals are meaningless if a person's heart is disobedient. God wants us to obey his word and to love him with all that is within us. Going through the motions of worship isn't enough. We must ask him to cleanse our hearts and then respond to his work within us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading is a continuation of the creation story, where all living creatures came into being and man was made in the divine image of God. God declared all of creation very good. In the Gospel, Jesus calls the Pharisees hypocrites because they worried about the outward cleansing of their hands but neglected God's commandments such as honoring one's father and mother.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With grateful hearts, let us ask our heavenly Father to hear our petitions.

- 1) For all leaders and teachers in the Church, may God graciously provide them with strength and love as they witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may God grant them fortitude to work to defend the dignity and sanctity of life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those seeking work, may they be blessed with employment and the resources they need to care for themselves and their loved ones, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may the Holy Spirit increase us in holiness and bless our efforts to bring the light of Christ to the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our departed loved ones, may they be united together in the presence of God and the saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we ask you to hear and answer our prayers according to your will. Through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, February 13, 2019
(Lec. 331)

WEDNESDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

- 1) Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-17
- 2) Mark 7:14-23

FOCUS: Our actions reveal whether or not our hearts are truly converted to the way of the Gospel.

There are many rules and guidelines about how to practice our faith. But today, Jesus reminds us that those external practices mean little when we haven't taken the time to start with what is the true source of obedience to God: the conversion of our own heart to the way of the Gospel.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today we hear how the Lord God formed and gave life to a man, and placed him in a bountiful garden with an expressed command about what he may and may not eat. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that the actions that stem from the heart are a clearer indication of obedience to God's commands than the observance of dietary laws.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In faith, let us bring to the Lord our prayers and petitions for ourselves and the needs of the world.

- 1) For the Church, that through the ministry of her people the Spirit may continue to strengthen our unity as the body of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our civic leaders, that they may always be guided by the commandments of God and the desire to promote the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are struggling to make ends meet, may they experience the Lord's care and presence in their struggle, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our community of faith, that all of us may be drawn closer to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, that their joy may now be complete in the Lord's eternal presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving and faithful God, hear these prayers we have humbly brought before you and fulfill them as your grace wills. In Christ's name we pray.

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Thursday, February 14, 2019
(Lec. 332)

- 1) Genesis 2:18-25
- 2) Mark 7:24-30

THURSDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saints Cyril, Monk,
and Methodius,
Bishop)

FOCUS: God is both Creator and Healer of humanity.

God's love and compassion is so abundant and plentiful that it overflows across boundaries, peoples and generations. The God who created us never hesitates to redeem and to heal those whom he has created, and who seek him out in love and repentance.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Genesis continues to tell the story of creation. God creates Eve from the flesh of Adam and presents her to him as a suitable partner. In the Gospel, Jesus' fame has gone before him as he encounters the Syrophenician woman who seeks healing for her daughter. Because of her faith in Jesus, her daughter is healed.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence, we bring our needs and petitions before the Lord.

- 1) For all those who minister in the Church, may God empower them to spread the Gospel throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all civil leaders, may they be inspired to listen to God's word, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are grieving the death of a loved one, may the promise of eternal life bring them comfort, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the sick in this faith community, may God's Holy Spirit restore them to full health, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they come to share in the fullness of Christ's glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Eternal Father, every good gift comes from you. May we be generous in using those gifts for the glory of your name. We ask this through your son, Christ our Lord.

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Friday, February 15, 2019

(Lec. 333)

- 1) Genesis 3:1-8
- 2) Mark 7:31-37

FRIDAY OF
FIFTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Trust that God gives us what we need.

Though God gave Adam and Eve fruit to eat from all the trees in the Garden of Eden except for one, they did not trust that this was all they needed. This distrust led to sin and shame. Conversely, people in the Gospel story today trusted Jesus to provide what the deaf man needed, which was healing. Trust allows us to accept God's promises and to have faith that he always gives us what we need.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the Garden of Eden, the serpent convinces Eve that if they eat the forbidden fruit, she and Adam *will be like gods*. They disobey God and, feeling ashamed, hide from him. In the Gospel, Jesus heals a man of his deafness and speech impediment.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the infinite goodness of our God, we gather our prayers to bring before him.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all who shepherd our Church, may they continue to be blessed with good health as they work to advance the kingdom of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all lawmakers, may the Lord bless and improve upon their efforts to support the dignity of every human life, especially those most vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the unemployed, may God graciously grant them sustainable work, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the Lord bless us with the grace to trust in his goodness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may they be at peace in the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Eternal Father, you provide everything your children require to grow in holiness. Please look with favor upon these petitions, which we pray through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Saturday, February 16, 2019

(Lec. 334)

1) Genesis 3:9-24

2) Mark 8:1-10

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

FOCUS: All sustenance comes from God, who created us in his image and likeness.

From the Creation accounts, we know that we were made in the image and likeness of God – that all things come from God and are given to us for our sustenance. Rejection of what God gives us leads to our separation from him – just as Adam and Eve were separated from God in their banishment from Eden. Jesus heals that separation. His very existence is the ultimate example of God's provision for us, providing both physical and spiritual nourishment.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

God recognizes that Adam has eaten fruit from the forbidden tree, and so, casts him and Eve out from the garden. In the Gospel, Jesus feeds a great crowd that has been following him for three days, in an act that anticipates the Eucharistic meal.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: My sisters and brothers, let us now bring before the Lord God our prayers for the world.

- 1) That God's Holy Spirit may bless those who shepherd our Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the Spirit may move world leaders to work toward nourishing all who hunger, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all workers and laborers may be blessed with just wages and fair working conditions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all of us gathered here may be given the wisdom to discern what is good and what is evil and live in righteousness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died marked with the sign of faith may come to share in the fullness of Christ's glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: O Lord, graciously listen to the prayers we have placed before you. This we ask through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2019

(Lec. 78)

- 1) Jeremiah 17:5-8
- 2) 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20
- 3) Luke 6:17, 20-26

**SIXTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: *Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord.*

Faith in the power of the Resurrection gives way to a righteous and fruitful life eternal. Trusting in the Lord, and striving to live the beatitudes in our everyday lives, yields much fruit.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, trusting in the Lord brings a refreshing life of abundance. Saint Paul, in the second reading, says that Christ's resurrection brings life to all who believe. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches the beatitudes.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With faith and trust, we come before our heavenly Father with our needs and those of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

- 1) For Church leaders, may the Lord continue to guide and inspire them and keep them faithful to his Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all world leaders, may the Prince of Peace bless their efforts to put aside divisions and inspire peace and cooperation between nations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are sick or lonely, may Christ's divine mercy bring them strength and comfort, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may God give us gratitude for those who teach and minister in our faith community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they find peace in the loving arms of Jesus for all eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, thank you for the gift of your Son's resurrection and the truth that is in you. May we always remain in your love. Through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, February 18, 2019
(Lec. 335)

- 1) Genesis 4:1-15, 25
- 2) Mark 8:11-13

MONDAY OF
SIXTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Jesus is never hidden from us.

The Pharisees asked Jesus for a sign of his relationship to God. Jesus refused. He had been giving them signs since he started his public ministry, but no number of cures, no miraculous feedings, not even testimony from John the Baptist would suffice. Those who do not want to see, never will see. But Jesus, and his relationship to the Father, is never hidden from us. We do not have to look hard, but simply open our eyes of faith.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells of the murder of Abel by his brother Cain, and the subsequent birth of another brother named Seth. The murder was the result of Cain's resentment of Abel. In the Gospel, Jesus refuses to give the Pharisees a sign that he has been sent by God. He reacts with a sigh *from the depth of his spirit*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God's loving care, let us offer him our prayers for our own needs and those of others.

- 1) That the Church may grow and thrive as it serves the needs of those whom others ignore or reject, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That world and local leaders may be blessed by the Spirit of God as they work to end the cycle of violence that afflicts so many, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those suffering for lack of adequate housing may be graced with the security and safety they need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That we here today may grow in our faith, and trust our most difficult decisions to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may rest in peace forever in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God, hear our prayers, which we bring to you through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Tuesday, February 19, 2019

(Lec. 336)

1) Genesis 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10

2) Mark 8:14-21

TUESDAY OF
SIXTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Trust in the power of God.

It can be difficult to trust in the power of God when we do not quite understand what it is God is doing for us. Jesus was surrounded by people who either misunderstood, or refused to see, what God was doing for them. We have the benefit of knowing that even when things are unclear here on earth, God's ultimate plan is for our salvation. We can trust in the power of God for that.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In our reading from Genesis, Noah obeys God, building an ark and filling it with animals according to God's instruction, and *the waters of the flood came upon the earth*. In today's Gospel, the disciples misunderstand as Jesus warns against the *leaven of the Pharisees*. He questions them, trying to draw their focus to heavenly, not earthly, realities.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust in God who provides bread for the hungry, let us offer him our prayers this day.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may God's grace strengthen us to proclaim the Good News of God's kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For public officials, may God grant them courage to pursue righteousness and justice, and to protect the most vulnerable among us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are spiritually blind or deaf, may God open their hearts to joyfully participate in the building of his kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish family, may we encounter Christ more deeply, through the power of the sacraments, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our faithful departed, especially those who will die this day, may they find favor with God and delight in seeing his face, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, the depth of your love is beyond understanding. In your infinite wisdom, please hear and answer our prayers this day. We ask through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Wednesday, February 20, 2019

(Lec. 337)

1) Genesis 8:6-13, 20-22

2) Mark 8:22-26

WEDNESDAY OF
SIXTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Our encounters with Christ can open our eyes to faith and open our hearts to receive the power of God's love.

In today's Gospel, we are drawn into an event that reveals the power of God's love and healing. As the blind man's sight is restored, we, too, can see how faith and an encounter with Christ can heal us from whatever burdens us. We also can see the love that Christ brings to us, and – through us – to the world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

As the story of Noah evolves in the Book of Genesis, Noah tests to see if the waters of the flood have dried up. After exiting the ark, he builds an altar to the Lord. In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus restores the sight of the blind man by putting spittle on his eyes and laying his hands on him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in the love of the Father, let us turn to him with all of our needs.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may the Lord abundantly bless her in her witness to God's love and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may God inspire them to strive for justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those whose living conditions do not support the dignity of life, may God bless them with compassionate individuals in their lives who work to assist them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our community who suffer from isolation, may God heal their loneliness through the kindness and compassion of others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they have eternal rest with God in the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, you know the sufferings of your children; ease their pain and help them to trust in you. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Thursday, February 21, 2019
(Lec. 338)

- 1) Genesis 9:1-13
- 2) Mark 8:27-33

THURSDAY OF
SIXTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Peter Damian,
Bishop and Doctor of the Church)

FOCUS: Jesus is *the Christ*, the anointed one, the Messiah who is God's promise fulfilled.

God blesses Noah and marks the skies with a rainbow to signify his covenant with the people. This is a new beginning, a solemn promise from God. Jesus carries the covenant forward: he is the anointed one, the Messiah fulfilling God's promise. He is our ultimate salvation, and his ministry teaches us how to live as members of God's sacred family.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from Genesis finds Noah, after the flood, in conversation with God who blesses Noah and his family and enters into a covenant with him and his descendants. Mark's Gospel shows Jesus traveling the road of his ministry with his disciples. He asks them, *Who do you say that I am?*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In union with Jesus, our Messiah, let us join together in prayer as we present these petitions to the Father.

- 1) That the presence of our Holy Church in the world may reveal the Good News of Jesus Christ to all the nations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That God's Holy Spirit may be the source of wisdom for those who govern and lead others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That the sick and the needy may be comforted and cared for by God's family here on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That those in our local community who struggle with addictions may receive the healing power of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died will rejoice in the presence of the Father, enjoying the life eternal earned for them by our Savior, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of mercy and love, we trust in your promises. Please accept our petitions which we offer in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Friday, February 22, 2019

(Lec. 535)

- 1) 1 Peter 5:1-4
- 2) Matthew 16:13-19

**THE CHAIR OF
SAINT PETER THE APOSTLE
- FEAST**

FOCUS: Tend to each other willingly and by example.

All who embrace the faith would do well to follow Saint Peter's advice to lead and tend to others in the faith by following the example of Christ. This means cultivating and demonstrating the gifts of humility and joyfulness. We, like Peter, are fellow witnesses to the suffering and glory of Christ. Announcing the Gospel to the world is our charge, and through the example of our lives lived in Christ we may bring others to him.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Peter exhorts early Christian leaders to tend their flocks willingly and eagerly, and to be an example to them. In the Gospel, Simon Peter declares that Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus then calls Simon "*Peter*," and states that he is the rock upon which Jesus will build his Church.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in Christ, the Son of the living God, we gather our prayers and petitions and offer them to God, for the good of the whole Church.

- 1) For all who shepherd our Church, that the Holy Spirit may continue to guide them in holiness and fidelity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may the Prince of Peace bestow his gifts upon them as they pursue solutions to conflicts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For our separated brothers and sisters in Christ, that the promptings of the Holy Spirit may lead them into full communion with the Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in this community who struggle with faith, may their hearts be softened by the Good Shepherd to hear his call, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they find rest in the glory of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, you have blessed us with your gift of the Church. We ask you to hear the prayers of your faithful gathered here today, through your son, Jesus our Lord.

Saturday, February 23, 2019

(Lec. 340)

- 1) Hebrews 11:1-7
- 2) Mark 9:2-13

SATURDAY OF
SIXTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Polycarp,
Bishop and Martyr)

FOCUS: We are the next generation of believers.

It is now our responsibility, and not another's, to witness our faith in Jesus Christ. Though we have not physically seen Jesus in his human form, we encounter him in the sacraments, and are called to do his will.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, we are reminded that Abel, Enoch and Noah all did the will of God because of their strong faith. Jesus is transfigured before Peter, James and John in today's Gospel passage.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As disciples of Jesus, let us call on our heavenly Father to provide for our needs and the needs of others.

- 1) For all those who shepherd our Church, may they be blessed with all the gifts necessary to guide us closer to the glory of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For governments worldwide, may the Holy Spirit grace their leaders with the gifts of fortitude and wisdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who do not know God, may the witness of our faith help bring them to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our faith community who suffer from economic hardship, may their burdens be lifted by God's grace and the aid of compassionate people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rest from their labors and find eternal peace in the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, you are the source of all good things. We ask that you hear and answer our prayers, through your son, Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2019

(Lec. 81)

- 1) 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9,
12-13, 22-23
- 2) 1 Corinthians 15:45-49
- 3) Luke 6:27-38

**SEVENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Jesus challenges us to act with love.

Being a Christian – truly following Jesus – isn't easy. Today's Gospel is a reminder of that fact. Jesus describes what it means to act with love. He challenges us to do what seems humanly impossible: to love our enemies and forgive those who hurt us. These are not easy tasks! Only with the help of Jesus can we truly do what he commands.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, David does not allow anyone to harm Saul when they have the opportunity to do so, and makes it clear to Saul's troops what he did. In Corinthians, Paul describes Jesus as the second Adam, the spiritual man. Jesus, in the Gospel, explains to his disciples all that the commandment "to love" entails.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God is with us through all the challenges of life, so we present to him our petitions for ourselves and those of our brothers and sisters.

- 1) For Church leaders, may they be given the fortitude to be authentic witnesses to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For nations in conflict with other nations, may God's spirit of peace reign upon them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have been hurt by others, may God grant them the strength and grace to forgive, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may God's wisdom show us how to be compassionate and forgiving toward others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died recently, that they might find eternal rest and joy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God and Creator of all, hear the prayers we present to you with mercy and kindness. We ask this in the name of your son, our Lord Jesus.

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Monday, February 25, 2019

(Lec. 341)

1) Sirach 1:1-10

2) Mark 9:14-29

MONDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: All wisdom comes from the Lord.

We learn in the first reading that all wisdom comes from the Lord. Our lives are sustained by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and one of these gifts is wisdom. Let us allow God's wisdom to guide us in our daily lives to follow his will, and to glorify him.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In our first reading, the author of the Book of Sirach proclaims how the wisdom of God was and is behind all of creation. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus casts out an evil spirit and explains that all things are possible to those who have faith.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With humble hearts, let us ask God, our Father, to hear our prayers.

- 1) That all members of the Church may be continually renewed by the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That all political leaders may be inspired and fortified by God's guidance and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those suffering illness may know the love of Christ through our witness to them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That God may speak wisdom to the hearts of those in our community who are discerning their vocation in life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our deceased loved ones may spend eternity with the angels and saints in our Father's presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Tuesday, February 26, 2019

(Lec. 342)

1) Sirach 2:1-11

2) Mark 9:30-37

TUESDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Jesus asks us to have the humble attitude of a servant.

Today, Jesus tells his disciples to have the humble attitude of a servant and the simple faith of a child to deal with all the trials and tribulations waiting for them. Humility, and simple faith and trust in the Lord, are hallmarks of Jesus' true disciples.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the author of the Book of Sirach shares his wisdom on how to prepare ourselves for trials. We are asked to be patient, steadfast, trusting and hopeful as we wait for the Lord to deliver us from our adversity. In the Gospel, Jesus welcomes an innocent child as an example of one who will be received in his name.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident that God loves each one of us, let us bring our prayers to our heavenly Father.

- 1) For the Church, may she continue to be blessed by young men and women who heed the call to priesthood and religious life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may God give them the gifts of wisdom and understanding to help them govern justly, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those whose faith is being tested due to illnesses, broken relationships or other life circumstances, may God's love and compassion bring them consolation and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the lonely in this faith community, may the Lord fill them with his loving presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our deceased loved ones, may they find eternal peace and joy in God's kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Wednesday, February 27, 2019

(Lec. 343)

1) Sirach 4:11-19

2) Mark 9:38-40

WEDNESDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: The Lord loves and gives good things to those who seek wisdom.

A simple takeaway for today is to seek the source and author of wisdom, our God, when we are searching for what is good and right. *[One] who holds [wisdom] fast inherits glory*, we heard. Wisdom is the gate through which one passes on the road to total obedience and love for the Lord.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, we see the rewards of seeking and obtaining the wisdom of the Lord, even when wisdom tests us. In the Gospel, Jesus instructs his followers not to hinder others from doing good works in his name.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We now turn to God our Father, all-merciful and loving, to ask for help in all our needs.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may God bless us and conform us ever closer to his Son, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may the Holy Spirit foster in them a desire for justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick and those who care for them, may the compassion of our God shine upon them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us gathered here, may God give us the strength to pick up our crosses each day and follow him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead and the souls of all the faithful departed, that through our prayers and God's grace, they may come to enjoy eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we believe in your love and care for us. Hear and answer our prayers according to your holy will. Through your son, Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, February 28, 2019

(Lec. 344)

- 1) Sirach 5:1-8
- 2) Mark 9:41-50

THURSDAY OF
SEVENTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Do away with whatever it is that causes sin.

The temptation to sin is powerful, but God has given us the free will to choose or ignore those temptations. A life filled with grace enables a strong will against sin. Therefore, we must strive to live a life a life worthy of belonging to Christ. Sin can lead to a life separated from God. And although God is merciful, his forgiveness is not ours if we do not repent and ask for it when we have sinned.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading reminds us not to delay our conversion to God, for neither human power nor strength can overcome sin. Only God can. The Gospel emphasizes that not only are we not to sin, we are not to cause others to sin.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As sisters and brothers in God, let us now offer him our prayers.

- 1) For the Church, may God's everlasting mercy be upon her in all her sins and graces, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may the Holy Spirit grant them understanding hearts, and ears to hear the voices of the vulnerable among us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those in need, may God provide for them physically and spiritually, especially through the efforts of their communities and neighbors, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in this faith community, may we grow in holiness each day, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they enter into God's heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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