

JANUARY

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**YEAR C
WEEKDAYS I**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2019

(Lec. 18)

- 1) Numbers 6:22-27
- 2) Galatians 4:4-7
- 3) Luke 2:16-21

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD;
THE OCTAVE DAY;
OF CHRISTMAS**
(Holyday of Obligation)

FOCUS: Mary receives the message of the angels through the shepherds and she reflects on it in her heart.

Mary reflected on what she heard. Other translations say that “she pondered what she heard,” which is more helpful. To ponder is not just to think about or reflect, but to feel the weight of something. Mary felt the weight of the shepherds’ message to her regarding her Son (foreshadowing the pain of the sword that would pierce her soul upon his death), and she embraced it and allowed it to become a part of her. We, too, can embrace God’s word in this way – feeling its weight and allowing it to truly become a part of us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Lord gives Moses the words of blessing for Aaron to use over the people of Israel. In the second reading, Saint Paul reminds the Galatians that God sent his Son, born of a woman, to save us and adopt us as his children. In today’s Gospel, the shepherds go to Bethlehem and find Mary, Joseph and the infant. They convey what they had been told about the Child. A few days later, the child is circumcised and given his name, Jesus.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God made salvation available through the coming of his Son who was born of Mary. Let us now approach him with our needs.

- 1) For Pope Francis and for all who teach the faith, may Mary’s obedience to God inspire them in their own “yes” to God’s will, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government officials, may they be perfected by God in their desire to do his will in their civil service, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick and the suffering, may they experience the healing presence of Christ through his Church, the body of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here and all whom we love, that through the intercession of Mary we may grow ever closer to our Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, that they may be welcomed into the fullness of eternal joy with our Blessed Mother and all of the saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father in heaven, we bring you these prayers and the intentions of our hearts this day, trusting that in your time and according to your will, you will hear and answer us through your son, Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, January 2, 2019
(Lec. 205)

- 1) 1 John 2:22-28
- 2) John 1:19-28

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY
(OBL MEM
Saints Basil the Great
and Gregory Nazianzen,
Bishops and Doctors of the Church)

FOCUS: Jesus is Son of God and Son of Mary.

Our observance of the Feasts of Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen is also a celebration of our doctrine of the two natures of Christ: human and divine. The early Church sometimes struggled to understand this, and through Jesus' own words (as found in Saint John today), and the theological work of these great saints and Doctors of the Church, we, today, are consoled by the revealed truth that God became one of us, for the purpose of our salvation.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint John writes that those who deny that Jesus is the Christ, and the Son of the Father, are liars; he also reminds us of the promise made to us – namely, eternal life. In the Gospel, the Levites and priests question John the Baptist as to who he really is, and John responds that he is *the voice of one crying out in the desert, "Make straight the way of the Lord."*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With hearts filled with joyful praise, we petition our loving God.

- 1) For all pastoral leaders in our Church, may Christ draw them ever closer to himself and intercede in their every need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may the Lord bless them with skills and talents to alleviate poverty in the communities they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For parents and catechists, may the Spirit be their guide as they teach our children in the ways of our faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those who face addictions, may God's grace give them courage in their struggles, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be with the Lord forever in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, hear the prayers of your people as we give thanks for the gift of your Son alive in our hearts and working in our lives. Through your son, Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, January 3, 2019
(Lec. 206)

- 1) 1 John 2:29–3:6
- 2) John 1:29-34

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY
(Opt. Mem.
The Most Holy Name
of Jesus)

FOCUS: Jesus is the true Son of God, and through God's extraordinary love, we are adopted children of God.

Throughout the Old Testament, the promises of God were offered exclusively to those people who were part of the covenant with him and who followed his laws. In the coming of Christ, we have the new covenant and the fulfillment of the law. All who come to know Christ – and through him, the Father – are adopted as God's own and receive the promise of salvation.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading reminds us that through the extraordinary love God has for us and the sacrifice of Jesus, we have been made children of God. In the Gospel, John the Baptist reveals Jesus as the true Son of God. He gives eyewitness testimony that the Holy Spirit came down and remained with Jesus as a sign that he is God's Son.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us join together to present our petitions to our heavenly Father.

- 1) For the Church, that God may endow each believer with the grace to live faithfully as his children, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the world, that the peace of Christ may touch all nations and lead them to understanding, harmony and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the nameless victims of religious persecution, that they may be certain God knows each of them by name and counts them as his precious children, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who live and worship in this faith community, that we may grow in all virtues through the Most Holy Name of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they may feel the love of their heavenly Father as he welcomes them into Paradise, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, your children cry out to you and trust in your loving care. Hear now our prayers which we offer through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Friday, January 4, 2019

(Lec. 207)

1) 1 John 3:7-10

2) John 1:35-42

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

(OBL MEM

USA: Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton,

Religious)

FOCUS: Jesus invites us, *Come, and you will see.*

John the Baptist proclaims, *Behold, the Lamb of God*, and two of his own disciples leave him to follow Jesus. Their faith in John's prophecy, and their belief in what they saw, compelled them to immediate discipleship. Their encounter with Christ changed their direction; turned them around (Lat., *conversio*) – converted them for his mission. At every Mass, we, too, behold the Lamb of God, and we also encounter Christ. May we also be converted for his mission.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the First Letter of John, a clear distinction is made between the children of God and the children of the Devil. In the Gospel of John, two disciples of John respond to Jesus' invitation, *Come, and you will see.* Andrew, one of the two, then brings his brother Simon to Jesus, and Jesus renames him Peter.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us turn to God in trust, confident that he will respond to our petitions.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may she grow in strength and number of disciples through the invitation of the Lamb of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in governmental leadership, may the witness of Saints Andrew and Peter guide them in their service, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from anxiety or depression, may the hope of Christ bring peace to their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may our faith in our loving Father be nurtured through the blessings we receive, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with them now and forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we trust always in your love and mercy, and we thank you for sending your son, Jesus to bring salvation to the world. Hear the prayers we offer today through your son, Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, January 5, 2019
(Lec. 208)

- 1) 1 John 3:11-21
- 2) John 1:43-51

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY
(OBL MEM
USA: Saint John Neumann,
Bishop)

FOCUS: Jesus calls us to share his love by serving others.

As we continue to celebrate the birth of Christ in time, we see that love is the core of God's greatest initiative. By becoming one with us in the flesh, Christ has placed this divine love in our very midst and has called us to share that love by serving others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint John reminds us that love is at the heart of the mystery of the Incarnation and the Christian life. It is both the truest hallmark of the believer and the greatest proof of God's presence in our lives. In the Gospel, Jesus calls his first disciples and promises that they will see great things if they follow him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For the Church, as the Body of Christ, may God bless her efforts to proclaim the kingdom of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all nations, may Jesus the Messiah and the salvation he has won for all bring them everlasting peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the dying and for all who bear the burden of sickness, may they share in and know the love of Christ at their time of difficulty, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, may all who have been called to vocation in the Church respond with courage and generosity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all our beloved dead, may they pass over from death to life and live eternally the reward promised to all who love God and neighbor, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 2019

(Lec. 20)

- 1) Isaiah 60:1-6
- 2) Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
- 3) Matthew 2:1-12

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

FOCUS: The Epiphany points the way toward life.

Today the Church celebrates the Epiphany of the Lord: the manifestation to the Gentiles (in the persons of the Magi) of the life of God himself. God, who in the person of Jesus, shared in our humanity in order to allow us to share in his divinity forever. Like the Magi, each person's journey to Christ has its own direction and trail; and for each who pays Christ homage and offers the treasures one holds, the reward is the same: a path away from the dangers of sin and death and toward life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah calls the people to rise up because the light (God) has come and they will praise the Lord with overflowing hearts. In Saint Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, we hear that the mystery which was not revealed to other generations has been made known and that all are co-heirs and co-partners in the work and promises of Christ. Today's Gospel is the account of the Magi who journey far as they seek out the long-awaited Christ, encountering King Herod in Jerusalem along the way, and then finding the child Jesus in Bethlehem.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: On this great day of Epiphany, we bring our petitions to God, confident that he hears and answers our prayers this day.

- 1) For the Holy Father, Pope Francis, those who serve the Church and for all people who preach and practice the Gospel of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For political leaders, that they may be blessed with integrity and humility as they serve the people they represent, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer in mind, body or soul, that they may know the love of Jesus through the tender care of others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our community, that the Lord may magnify the treasures we bring to Jesus, who gives us all that is good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they will be welcomed into the fullness of eternal joy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, as we join the Magi in adoration and praise, we bring you these and all of our intentions, trusting that you hear and answer your children. We ask this and all of our prayers through your son, Christ our Lord.

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Monday, January 7, 2019

(Lec. 212)

1) 1 John 3:22-4:6

2) Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

(Opt. Mem.)

Saint Raymond of Penyafort,

Priest)

FOCUS: Jesus Christ is the hope of the world.

Everyone who acknowledges Jesus Christ as God in the flesh belongs to God. We learn to know God by receiving the Eucharist and following his word. He commands us to love one another. God also gives us the wisdom to discern the spirits which are of the world as well as the Spirit of God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The reading from the First Letter of John explains that if we love God, we must follow his commandments. We belong to God, who is greater than anything or anyone else in the world. Today's Gospel from Saint Matthew describes Jesus' early ministry as he went throughout Galilee proclaiming the Gospel, as well as healing those with disease and illness.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Knowing that God loves us and hears us, let us turn to our Father with our petitions.

- 1) For our Holy Mother Church, may she increase in grace and holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders around the world, that God may give them the grace to work toward peace and charity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the unborn, that their sacred lives may be protected and valued, that let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish, may the Lord develop within us hearts of love and stewardship in order to draw ever closer to him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed of our faith community, may they rest in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we thank you for hearing our petitions. We ask that you grant them through your son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Tuesday, January 8, 2019

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

(Lec. 213)

- 1) 1 John 4:7-10
- 2) Mark 6:34-44

FOCUS: The fullness of God's love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ.

We are reminded throughout Scriptures that if we love God, we must also love one another. God loves us with a depth beyond our comprehension, and he demonstrates this love in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus, who died for our sins, giving us new life through him. This sacrificial love is the model for all Christian living.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint John reminds us that we are to love one another, because *love is of God*. In the Gospel, Jesus fed the five thousand through the multiplication of five loaves and two fish.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As our Lord has lovingly cared for us, his people, we humbly bring these petitions before him.

- 1) For the Church, that the Holy Spirit may lead us in loving one another as God loves us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all leaders of nations, that God may guide them in just and prudential decision-making, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For safety and protection against terrorism and violence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our community, that the Lord may bless and improve our efforts to conform our lives to him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they find eternal rest in heaven with all the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we thank you for the gift of life. We ask you to hear our prayers and answer them according to your will, through your son Jesus Christ.

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Wednesday, January 9, 2019

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

(Lec. 214)

- 1) 1 John 4:11-18
- 2) Mark 6:45-52

FOCUS: The Lord reveals himself to us in our daily lives.

In today's Gospel, Jesus reveals himself as Lord by calming the waters and the disciples' fears. But his disciples don't understand what they have witnessed. Their reaction challenges us to examine our own response to the ways Jesus continues to reveal himself as Lord today – do we understand what we witness?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, John reflects on the meaning of divine love as revealed through the saving work of Jesus, a love in which we must participate. In the Gospel, Jesus walks on water out to the boat in which his disciples are rowing, telling them not to be afraid for it is he, not a ghost they are seeing.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us join our hearts in prayer before the Lord.

- 1) For the Church, the people of God, may we continue to grow in the likeness of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may God bless their efforts to work for the betterment of all whom they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the ill and their caregivers, may they be comforted by the knowledge of the Lord's abiding presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all those in this faith community engaged in education, may the Lord bless their dedication and service, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they find eternal peace and joy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, hear these prayers which we offer with humble hearts, and answer them in accordance with your holy will. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

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Thursday, January 10, 2019

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

(Lec. 215)

- 1) 1 John 4:19–5:4
- 2) Luke 4:14-22a

FOCUS: Jesus fulfills God's commandment of love.

God's commandment of love has no caveats or exceptions. It demands that we live up to it by loving our brothers and sisters. Jesus makes that commandment a reality by his Incarnation, and his death and resurrection. He calls us to imitate his example by living a life of love.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, John reminds us how God loves us and commands us to conquer the world with the same love. We follow that commandment and show our love for God by loving our brothers and sisters. In the Gospel, Jesus goes to Synagogue and reads from the book of Isaiah, which prophesied his coming. At the end of the passage, he proclaims, *Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Searching for divine help to be Christ's disciples, let us bring our prayers to our heavenly Father.

- 1) For our Church leaders, may the power of the Holy Spirit and the example of Jesus provide the graces they need in this Christmas season and beyond, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our public officials and world leaders, may their policies and programs always be guided by God's love and reflect the love of neighbors, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those in need of family stability, especially children in the foster care system, may the Lord give them strength and open doors to loving homes for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all couples in our faith community who will be married or celebrate their wedding anniversary this month, may the Lord bless them with the grace to grow more deeply in his love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our deceased loved ones, may they experience God's love in the eternal life promised to God's faithful ones, 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 our Lord.

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Friday, January 11, 2019

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

(Lec. 216)

- 1) 1 John 5:5-13
- 2) Luke 5:12-16

FOCUS: Jesus' healing actions are complemented by his time in prayer.

Today we continue our Christmas celebration by reflecting on Jesus, the *victor over the world*, and how his prayer life fed his ministry. As the Son of God, his relationship with the Father is perfect, and Jesus nourishes that by attending to it in prayer and in completing healing actions of his ministry. With the healing of the leper, Jesus witnesses to us the importance of both tending to those at the outskirts of society, and attending to our relationship with the Father.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, John testifies to eternal life through Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In the Gospel, Jesus heals a leper and, despite his instructions to keep things quiet, the news of the miracle spreads and crowds gather to hear him and to be cured. In response, Jesus *would withdraw to deserted places to pray*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident that we are not alone on our journey, let us together offer our prayers to our merciful God.

- 1) For all who minister in the name of the Christ, may the Spirit of wisdom and truth give them strength to lead, teach and heal, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all in government positions who legislate and implement social services, may they see those they serve with the eyes of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For caregivers and health care providers, may they be granted the peace and strength they need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in this faith community suffering from severe illness, may they receive God's healing and comfort, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be brought to wholeness in the presence of the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of mercies, hear our prayers that we offer to you. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Saturday, January 12, 2019

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

(Lec. 217)

- 1) 1 John 5:14-21
- 2) John 3:22-30

FOCUS: Through our prayer and joy, others may come to believe in Jesus.

As Christians, we belong to God who protects us from the evil one. Through prayer and sharing the Gospel, others may also come to know that Jesus is Lord, remembering that faith is a gift from God. Like John the Baptist, we should be joyful regarding Jesus and others coming to know him.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint John the Evangelist concludes his letter by reminding readers of the importance of prayer, and drawing a firm distinction between the children of God and those under the influence of the devil. In the Gospel, John the Baptist restates that he is the herald of the Messiah, not the Messiah himself. He says that he rejoices at the bridegroom's arrival.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that *if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us*, we bring our prayers to the Lord.

- 1) For all who minister in the Church, that Christ's merciful love may be their guide and strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may God stir their hearts to always work for the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who are discouraged, may they experience consolation in the saving work of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the faithful gathered here, that we may be inspired by the Holy Spirit as we seek to be agents of God's mercy throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have fallen asleep in the hope of the Resurrection, that they may be welcomed into God's loving presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of compassion and love, you gave us the gift of your only begotten Son. We pray that you will hear our petitions and look favorably upon them, through your son, Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 2019

(Lec. 21)

- 1) Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
- 2) Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7
- 3) Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

**THE BAPTISM
OF THE LORD
- FEAST**

FOCUS: God's saving grace is found in Jesus Christ.

It can be easy to forget the tremendous blessings we enjoy because of God's love for us – perhaps even taking them for granted. It is good to spend time with Scripture, and at Mass, thanking God for his never-ending love. We are reminded in word and sacrament that God's saving grace is found in Jesus Christ.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah prophesies the Lord bringing peace and victory to Israel, and foretells the ministry of John the Baptist. Paul's Letter to Titus reminds his listeners of the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ. In Luke's Gospel, John the Baptist denies being the Messiah, and at the baptism of Jesus, the Holy Spirit appears in the shape of a dove. God the Father's voice is heard proclaiming Jesus as his beloved son.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) That the Church may grow in holiness and grace through the work of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That all political leaders may be led by the Lord's teachings in all their decision-making, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who cannot practice their faith openly may be upheld and strengthened by Jesus' promise that he is with us always, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That we as a community may be inspired by the example of John the Baptist in how we express our faith and in the way we live our lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our deceased friends and relatives will enjoy the vision of the Lord for all eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, we put our trust in you. Hear our prayer and grant us what we need according to your will. Through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, January 14, 2019

(Lec. 305)

1) Hebrews 1:1-6

2) Mark 1:14-20

MONDAY OF
FIRST WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Jesus calls us to repent and believe in the Gospel, for the time of fulfillment is at hand.

Jesus' very first words in the Gospel of Mark are direct and concise: *This is the time of fulfillment. The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel.* That is a bold opening statement – and one that even today we struggle with hearing and obeying. With those words, Jesus tells us that we have come to a turning point in salvation history – death will be overcome. It is our choice to follow him and live the life of discipleship that leads to eternal life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In our first reading from Hebrews, we are told that the time of fulfillment arrived in the person of Jesus Christ – the Son of God who is *far superior to the angels*. In the Gospel, Jesus announces the presence of the kingdom of God, and calls his first disciples, promising to make them *fishers of men*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us join together to offer our prayers and petitions to our merciful Father.

- 1) For all who serve in the Church, may they be graced with a penitential heart and an unwavering belief in the Gospel necessary to be *fishers of men*, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders across the world, may God bless their efforts to end wars and work toward world peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering from any affliction, may they find strength and peace through Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us in this community, may the Lord bless us and sustain us in our lives of discipleship, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they find peace in the arms of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petitions)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, trusting in your great love and mercy, we pray that you hear these prayers and those we hold in our hearts. We pray through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, January 15, 2019

(Lec. 306)

1) Hebrews 2:5-12

2) Mark 1:21-28

TUESDAY OF
FIRST WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Jesus begins his ministry with preaching and miracle working.

Jesus, in opening himself to the will of the Father, accepted his humanity and suffered and died for us. He calls us brothers and sisters as he begins his ministry, teaching and performing miracles among the people. We are called to embrace his message and share it with others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first reading from Hebrews reminds us that Jesus lived among us, sharing in our humanity, and that his suffering and death freed us. Mark's Gospel introduces us to events early in Jesus' public ministry. The people are astonished and amazed by Jesus' words and actions.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Following the example of Jesus, who sacrificed himself for our sins, let us join our voices in prayer as we ask the Father to hear our needs.

- 1) For all who shepherd our Church, that the Lord may richly bless them in their dedication to promoting healing and unity in the Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in leadership throughout the world, that the Holy Spirit may inspire them to work for peace and enact policies that foster justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the children of the world, both the unborn and those already born, may the Lord help us all to nourish and protect them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our local community who dedicate themselves in service to others, that they may be strengthened in their mission, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they come to enjoy perfect happiness and peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, in your goodness and wisdom, we ask that you hear and answer our prayers. Through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, January 16, 2019

(Lec. 307)

1) Hebrews 2:14-18

2) Mark 1:29-39

WEDNESDAY OF
FIRST WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Through his life, death and resurrection, Jesus has freed us from death.

During Jesus' life, he preached the kingdom of God, cured many and drove out demons. Through his Passion, death and resurrection, he conquered death, which was introduced to the world through sin. Therefore, we can be confident there is life beyond the grave, and we are free from the fear of death.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells us how Jesus became like the descendants of Abraham in every way so that as high priest he could expiate our sins and destroy the power of death. In the Gospel, Jesus cures illnesses, drives out demons and preaches, saying this is his purpose for coming.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Inspired by confidence in the God who frees us from death, we bring our prayers to him.

- 1) For all members of the Church, that we may be blessed with wisdom and fortitude as we proclaim the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, that they may be inspired by the Holy Spirit in their efforts to protect all human life from conception until natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are suffering any type of illness, that they may experience grace and healing through Jesus, the great Physician, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, that we may grow in grace and charity to serve our neighbors, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, that they may be welcomed into the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, you have power over all things. We humbly ask you to look favorably upon the prayers we bring to you, trusting in your infinite wisdom, through Jesus Christ your Son.

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Thursday, January 17, 2019
(Lec. 308)

- 1) Hebrews 3:7-14
- 2) Mark 1:40-45

THURSDAY OF
FIRST WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Anthony,
Abbot)

FOCUS: We are called on this day to become and remain a faithful partner of Christ.

Whether we have been attempting to follow God's ways for forty years, as the Israelites in the desert did, or have only started, we are called to remain faithful to God on this very day. We are not to let our hearts become hardened by ingratitude or by taking God's works for granted.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the Letter to the Hebrews, the writer reminds his readers of God's many works for the people of Israel after their exodus from Egypt – and of how their hearts were hardened to God's daily care for them. In the Gospel, Jesus proves his good will for the leper and makes him clean.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God wills what is best for all of his people, and so we are encouraged to present him with our petitions.

- 1) For all who teach the word of God, may they be led by the Spirit in their ministry of passing on the faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may they imitate the compassion of Jesus in their service to their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all of those across our world without access to adequate food, clean water, housing or health care, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, that through the Lord's grace and providence we may grow in the virtues of faith, hope and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may they rejoice with all the saints in the presence of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, confident that you know our needs and desire only our good, we offer to you these prayers, in the name of Jesus, your son and our Lord.

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Friday, January 18, 2019
(Lec. 309)

- 1) Hebrews 4:1-5, 11
- 2) Mark 2:1-12

FRIDAY OF
FIRST WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God heals those whose faith is steadfast.

Part of being human requires dealing with constant change. Life is always in flux. God, however, desires for us to remain steadfast in faith. Faith allows us to be in awe in God's presence, and also keeps us close to God in times of distress.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the Letter to the Hebrews, the community is encouraged to remain obedient to God's word and focused on entering into his rest. In Mark's Gospel, a paralytic is healed by Jesus. When questioned by the scribes, Jesus claims his authority to forgive sins. Everyone is in awe and they glorify God.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: My sisters and brothers, let us now bring our prayers before God, for a world in need of healing.

- 1) That the grace and love found in the sacraments of the Church may help all of us draw closer to the astounding mercy of God's love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That those who lead nations may be guided in all their duties by Christ, who glorified God in all things, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who are in need of healing may be surrounded by care and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That this community of believers may be strengthened by the Spirit for a life of obedience and compassion, following Christ's example, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may know eternal rest in God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Saturday, January 19, 2019
(Lec. 310)

- 1) Hebrews 4:12-16
- 2) Mark 2:13-17

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

FOCUS: Nothing is hidden from God and his mercy.

All that we are and think is visible to God. His son, Jesus, after going through the test of humanity himself, shows us mercy in our sinfulness. We can be assured that Jesus came to heal us in our weaknesses.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, we are assured that our confessions will be treated with grace and mercy from Jesus our high priest, who sympathizes with our weaknesses. In the Gospel, Mark tells the story of Jesus eating with tax collectors and sinners, saying that he came to heal the sinners.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident that God understands our weaknesses, we bring our prayers and needs to him today.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may the grace of the Holy Spirit strengthen us as we work to bring God's message of love and mercy to all the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all elected officials in our country, may the Spirit empower them with justice and charity so as to conduct their work with fairness and truth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are sick, and those caring for them, may they find strength in God's mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our families and loved ones, may the light of Christ dispel any darkness and the peace of Christ resolve any discord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may our Lord greet them with loving arms for all eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we trust in your mercy for us and ask that you answer our prayers for the good of all. Through your son, Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 2019

(Lec. 66)

- 1) Isaiah 62:1-5
- 2) 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
- 3) John 2:1-11

**SECOND SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: The Lord has betrothed himself to us in Christ Jesus and we are not abandoned.

The wedding at Cana has Jesus at the heart of the celebration. He is present now as we gather to celebrate. Here today he bestows upon us his blessings and his gifts – bringing forth faith and reassuring us of his fidelity and abundant grace.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In relating the words of the Lord to Israel, Isaiah uses the image of a marriage to describe the relationship between God and his Chosen People. Saint Paul reminds us that the Spirit gives many different gifts to be used to build up the community. The Gospel tells the story of Jesus' first miracle – turning water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With expectant faith and hope, we now bring before the Lord our prayers and concerns.

- 1) For all who lead the Church, may the Lord inspire them to lead with love and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may God give them the grace of fortitude to uphold the sanctity of marriage and family life and legislate for its protection and strengthening, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are sick, oppressed by addiction or in need, may they find in Christ the strength necessary to persevere and overcome, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all our homes and families, that the love of God may dwell there, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they enter into eternal life with the God who created them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious and loving Father, we come to you confident that you alone can answer our needs. Hear our prayers, and grant them according to your holy providence. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, January 21, 2019

(Lec. 311)

1) Hebrews 5:1-10

2) Mark 2:18-22

MONDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Agnes,
Virgin and Martyr)

FOCUS: Fasting can be an effective way to pray.

Many people limit the idea of fasting to abstaining from food, and indeed, that is how fasting usually is defined. But any time we sacrifice something good for a higher purpose we can consider it fasting. The sacrifice is the important part. What could I sacrifice today to show God I need – or the world needs – his help in a special way?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Letter to the Hebrews expresses the truth of Jesus as the perfect high priest whose sacrifice *became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him*. In the Gospel, Jesus explains that his disciples cannot fast while he is with them, but there will be time for fasting when he is gone.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident of the Father's goodness and love, let us bring our needs and the needs of the world to him.

- 1) That all members of this holy Church may be blessed by our almighty God in the service of his kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the world may be guided by Jesus' teaching of love for our neighbor, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who feel weak mentally, physically or spiritually may have the grace and consolation of the Lord and be strengthened by him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all of us here in the Lord's presence may grow in holiness and virtue through his sacrificial love for us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may recline for eternity at the heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear our prayers and continue to provide what we need. We ask these things through Christ our Lord.

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Note: Heb 6:10-20/Mk 2:23-28 (312) or, for the Day of Prayer, any readings from the *Lectionary for Mass Supplement*, the Mass “For Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life,” nos. 947A-947E, or the *Lectionary for Mass* (vol. IV), the Mass “For Peace and Justice,” nos. 887-891

Tuesday, January 22, 2019

(Lec. 312)

1) Hebrews 6:10-20

2) Mark 2:23-28

TUESDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(USA: Day of Prayer
for the Legal Protection
of Unborn Children)

FOCUS: Through faith and patience, we inherit the promises of God.

We must be patient and wait on the promises of God, for his word is trustworthy. Throughout our salvation history, God has been present and has provided. We are his children, and as a “sign of the irrevocable covenant” (CCC 2171), God created the Sabbath for us. As a day designed for resting in the Lord and his promises, we have an opportunity to grow in faith and patience.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God is faithful to his promise. In the Gospel, Jesus and his disciples walk through a field picking grain on the Sabbath. Jesus explains to the Pharisees, *the Sabbath was made for Man, not man for the Sabbath.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God’s gentle mercy, we now offer him our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord continue to bless her with fortitude in her protection of the unborn and all who are vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all government officials, may the Lord open their hearts to hear and respond in justice to the cries of those with no voice, especially the unborn, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all in our communities who may be struggling with pregnancy or childbirth, may the Holy Spirit guide them in charity and mercy and provide for their needs, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all families in this faith community, may God bless their sacred bonds and strengthen their love for one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they find peace and eternal rest through the mercy of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, thank you for the gift of life and the loving care you show us. Open us to your life within us, that we may come to know you more fully. Through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, January 23, 2019

(Lec. 313)

- 1) Hebrews 7:1-3, 15-17
- 2) Mark 3:1-6

WEDNESDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
USA: Saint Vincent,
Deacon and Martyr;
USA: Saint Marianne Cope,
Virgin)

FOCUS: Let us be open to receiving the goodness of God, who wants to heal us.

The Pharisees wanted a tidy and predictable God, not a Messiah who was poor, ate with sinners and didn't play by their rules. Jesus restored a man's hand: it was made useful and strong when the man obeyed Jesus. The Pharisees were spiritually withered. We have the choice to be willing or withered. Let us stretch out our hands and receive God's goodness.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Our reading from Hebrews recalls Abraham honoring the priest, Melchizedek – *made to resemble the Son of God, he remains a priest forever*. In today's Gospel Jesus heals a man with a withered hand, emphasizing God's design for the Sabbath as a day devoted to him – as such, it is allowed to do good and save life.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust in God who heals and provides for us with loving care, let us offer these prayers to our heavenly Father.

- 1) For all priests, that conformed to the image of Christ, our eternal high priest, they may serve with courage and joy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, that Christ may guide them in the use of their authority to serve and protect all people, especially the unborn, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those somehow debilitated in body or mind, may they experience the healing love of Christ through the prayers of their brothers and sisters, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in this faith community who are returning to the Church, may they know the love of Christ in its fullness as they make their journey, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who sleep in Christ, may they rejoice with all the saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we thank you for your unfailing love. Please hear and answer our prayers according to your will. Through your son, Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, January 24, 2019

(Lec. 314)

1) Hebrews 7:25–8:6

2) Mark 3:7-12

THURSDAY OF

SECOND WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(OBL MEM

Saint Francis de Sales,

Bishop and Doctor of the Church)

FOCUS: Jesus is the One who has redeemed us all.

It can be easy to take for granted all that Jesus has done for us. He not only suffered death for our sins, but mediates the new covenant we have with God that promises eternal life to all who believe. No longer are sacrifices and offerings what God wants, but our self-sacrifice and self-offerings in the building of the kingdom. May we always appreciate the gift of life that Jesus brings to us, and share that Good News with all the world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the author of Hebrews reminds us that Jesus, as perfect high priest, offered himself as sacrifice *once for all* and *is mediator of a better covenant, enacted on better promises*. In the Gospel, Mark describes how Jesus taught and healed the people, and warned evil spirits not to make him known as the Son of God.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in our merciful God, let us present our petitions to him.

- 1) For all Church leaders, may the Holy Spirit fortify them in the Gospel mission, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all politicians, may God's commands be at the root of their conscience as they enact legislation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering from any serious health or life experience, may the love of Christ console them in faith and trust, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our own faith community, may the grace we receive through prayer and study bring us spiritual growth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our loved ones who have fallen asleep in Christ, may they see the face of the Lord this day, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we make these prayers in the name of your son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Friday, January 25, 2019
(Lec. 519)

- 1) Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-22
- 2) Mark 16:15-18

**THE CONVERSION OF
SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE
-FEAST**

FOCUS: Proclaim the Gospel to the whole world.

Today we celebrate the conversion of Saint Paul, who persecuted Christians until his encounter with Christ on his way to Damascus. His zeal for his previous way of life was overshadowed by that for his new life. Our encounters with the risen Christ may not be as dramatic as Paul's, but the command is the same: go out into the world and proclaim the Gospel. Let us ask Saint Paul to assist us in our efforts, especially when our mission is particularly challenging.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Acts details the background of Paul (Hebrew name Saul). He was *zealous for God*, educated in ancestral law and willingly collaborated with the religious leaders of the time to find and persecute followers of Christ until his sudden conversion. In the Gospel, Jesus appears to the eleven disciples and commissions them to proclaim the Gospel to all, describing signs that will be present among those who believe.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we commit ourselves to continual conversion to the Son of God, let us offer our petitions to our Father in heaven.

- 1) For the leaders of the Church, may God bless them with joyful and wise hearts as they announce to others the love of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our national and local leaders, that the Holy Spirit might foster in them a thirst for peace and justice, especially for the weak and vulnerable among us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, and those worried about the health of loved ones, that God may protect them from anxiety and bring them health of mind and body, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our local community, that Christ's presence among us in word and sacrament will transform us for the good of the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, that they may experience fullness of joy with the saints in heaven, 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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Saturday, January 26, 2019

(Lec. 520)

1) 2 Timothy 1:1-8 or Titus 1:1-5

(Lec. 316)

2) Mark 3:20-21

SATURDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saints Timothy and Titus,
Bishops)

FOCUS: We do not make this Christian journey alone.

One of the attributes of Saint Paul is that he was often encouraging the Christian communities. And he exhorted them to support and encourage one another, which is at the heart of discipleship. We may not be perfect in our attempts to walk with one another, but when we do so in charity and with faith, we ensure each other that we do not make this Christian journey alone.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In our first reading, Timothy struggles with Paul's imprisonment, but Paul reminds him to be strong in faith like his grandmother and mother. In the Gospel, Jesus is confronted by relatives who think he is out of his mind.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the power and love of our benevolent God, let us place our petitions before him.

- 1) For Pope Francis, may the Lord continue to guide him as he shares the Gospel message with a world in need of healing and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in authority, may the benevolence of God govern their exercise of power, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For prisoners, may the love of Christ sustain them and call them to repentance where necessary, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the young people in our parish discerning a vocation to priesthood or religious life, may they be graced with fortitude and courage, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be welcomed this day by Jesus and the Communion of Saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, these are the prayers of your people. We ask that you answer them according to your holy will. Through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, 2019

(Lec.69)

- 1) Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10
- 2) 1 Corinthians 12:12-30
or 12:12-14, 27
- 3) Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

**THIRD SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: The fulfillment of the Scriptures is found in the person of Jesus.

We spend a lot of time waiting. Waiting for people; waiting for events; waiting for time to pass; waiting for the cable guy to show up. One thing we do not have to wait for is for God to fulfill his promise. That promise – of forgiveness and union – came in the person of Jesus Christ. And from the time of those who physically surrounded him to today, the message has been simple: repent and believe. And that seems a lot more fruitful than waiting around.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading recounts the ceremonial instructions for receiving God's law. Saint Paul urges the Corinthians to remember they are a part of the one Body of Christ, regardless of their individual gifts and differences. In the Gospel, before proclaiming that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Scriptures, Luke begins by underlining the importance of passing teachings to new believers.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With grateful hearts, let us offer our prayers to our merciful God.

- 1) For our holy mother Church, may she be strengthened for her mission through the Word of God and the Eucharist, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all those who govern at any level, may the Lord of all justice and peace bless them in their service, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For a deeper respect for the human dignity of those who are weak, defenseless, vulnerable or on the margins of society, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in this community who pass on the faith to our young people, may God grant them the gift of wisdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they find eternal rest with all the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: O God, you are our rock and redeemer. In your perfect love, kindly accept these prayers for ourselves and for this world. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, January 28, 2019

(Lec. 317)

1) Hebrews 9:15, 24-28

2) Mark 3:22-30

MONDAY OF

THIRD WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(OBL MEM

Saint Thomas Aquinas,
Priest and Doctor of the Church)

FOCUS: We were created to know and love God.

Saint Thomas Aquinas, whose feast we celebrate today, used the scientific method to analyze questions of theology, faith and Scripture. It was his way of using God's gift of reason to come to know who God is for us. This reason-infused knowledge complemented his faith, and it was his assertion that it is only with both that we truly come to know and love the God who has fully revealed himself to us in Jesus Christ. May his example help us find the path the Lord has in mind for us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading from Hebrews, Jesus is described as the *mediator of a new covenant*, since his death on the cross was our *deliverance from transgressions* under the first covenant God had with his chosen people. In today's Gospel reading from Mark, Jesus confronts scribes who describe him as *possessed by Beelzebul* by asking them a question that shows the fallacy of their accusations.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For Pope Francis and all our Church leaders, may the heart of the Good Shepherd be their guide in their Gospel witness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all government officials, may the infinite love of God the Father flow through their words and actions in their commitment to protect the lives of children and all young people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all Christians across the world who are hindered by the lack of religious freedom, may the strength of Jesus sustain and console them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all in this faith community, may the Holy Spirit guide us as we use our gifts and talents to build up the kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those deceased members of our parish who came to know and love God, may they reap the rewards of having followed God's path, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petitions)

PRIEST: Father, hear our prayers, for we trust in your kindness and compassion. Through your son, Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, January 29, 2019

(Lec. 318)

1) Hebrews 10:1-10

2) Mark 3:31-35

TUESDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Whomever does the will of God is a brother or sister to Christ.

Jesus is dedicated to doing the will of God in all things, even when it meant his death on the cross. In today's readings, we are reminded of the importance of embracing Jesus' message, and we are invited to join him on the journey. He assures those who answer yes to the call will be his family.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the Letter to the Hebrews, the people are reminded of the imperfect offering of animals to repent for their sins. Jesus, by doing the will of God, becomes the perfect sacrifice. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus says, *whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As brothers and sisters of God's son, Jesus, we join voices in prayer as we present these petitions to the Father.

- 1) That all who shepherd our Church may be guided by the Lord to remain strong in their vocation and single-minded in service to God's family here on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That those in leadership positions may be blessed by God with a purity of heart, mind and counsel as they focus on the needs of those whom they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who suffer the physical and emotional pain of long-term illnesses may be comforted and healed by Christ the Physician, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That families in this faith community may be strengthened in their bonds of love and healed of their differences through the graces of our benevolent God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died in the light of faith may join the family of God rejoicing in eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, we offer these prayers in gratitude and hope on behalf of your children who love you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your son.

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Wednesday, January 30, 2019

(Lec. 319)

1) Hebrews 10:11-18

2) Mark 4:1-20

WEDNESDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Let us open our hearts to the word of God.

As children of the new covenant, we do not offer ritual animal sacrifice for the remission of sins. Rather, Jesus the high priest offered himself as sacrifice once for all. With gratitude, let us respond with open hearts ready to hear God's word, allowing it to take root in our lives in order to bear fruit.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The reading from Hebrews reminds us that Jesus' sacrifice washed away our sins in a way that all the animal sacrifices of the old covenant could never accomplish. In the Gospel, Jesus tells a parable in which the kingdom of God is proclaimed, represented by seeds being sown. The quality of the soil where the seed falls determines how well the seed grows and how much fruit the plants bear.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Relying on Jesus, the great high priest, we gather our prayers and bring them before our loving God.

- 1) For an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life, that hearts may be open to invitation, and those who feel called may respond generously, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may they be blessed with the guidance of the Holy Spirit in enacting policies supporting the dignity of all human life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from hunger or malnutrition and lack the means to provide food for themselves and their loved ones, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, that the Holy Spirit may empower us to bear good fruit for the glory of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our departed brothers and sisters, that they may be welcomed into the presence of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, in your goodness we ask you to look kindly upon our petitions. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Thursday, January 31, 2019

(Lec. 320)

1) Hebrews 10:19-25

2) Mark 4:21-25

THURSDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint John Bosco,
Priest)

FOCUS: Let us strive to be a community that encourages one another in faithfulness.

The call to follow Jesus in our everyday lives is difficult, especially in times such as ours, when so many cultures seem to focus on values contrary to the Gospel – greed, selfishness, individualism. It is all the more important that we stay faithful to our communities and encourage one another as we follow the call of Jesus.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, we are encouraged to remain unwaveringly true to Jesus and to encourage one another in faithfulness to Jesus. In the Gospel, Jesus reminds us to be light for others and to measure out the gifts of our lives generously, for that will be the measure of the graces that we receive from God.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring to God our concerns and those of our brothers and sisters, trusting that he will respond generously.

- 1) For all who shepherd our Church, may the power of God's mercy accompany them everywhere in courageous and wise leadership, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all national and international leaders, may they, through the grace of God, be a light in the darkness for all whom they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For people who are disadvantaged in any way, through lack of food, employment, housing or education, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the lonely in this faith community, may the Lord fill them with his presence and console them with friendship and connectedness with those around them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who will face death today, that they may be guided to eternal life with God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord, listen to the prayers we bring to you today, spoken and unspoken, and answer them according to your will. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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