

JULY

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**YEAR C
WEEKDAYS I**

Monday, July 1, 2019
(Lec. 377)

- 1) Genesis 18:16-33
- 2) Matthew 8:18-22

MONDAY OF
13TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Junipero Serra,
Priest)

FOCUS: Grace allows us to live a life of faithful discipleship.

As we hear in the Gospel, people want to follow Jesus. What following Jesus entails, however, was probably not that clear to the scribe and the other disciple. We do not have the luxury of ignorance; we know what the rewards are, but we also know what the challenges are. May we have the grace to live a life of faithful discipleship.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading recounts Abraham interceding on behalf of the corrupt cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. In the Gospel passage, a scribe offers his allegiance and another disciple wants to follow Jesus, but asks to first bury his father. Jesus answers both of them with difficult truths.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: One in faith, united in baptism, let us offer our needs and petitions to our heavenly Father.

- 1) For the people of God, the Church, may the Lord keep us faithful to lives of holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our civic leaders, may wisdom guide them as they perform their duties in the service of others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering from post-traumatic stress, may they receive God's comfort and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of our young people, whether they are playing, working or studying, may God bless them with good health and strong faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they rest in the eternal peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Eternal Father, receive our prayers with our hearts full of hope. We present these to you through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Tuesday, July 2, 2019
(Lec. 378)

- 1) Genesis 19:15-29
- 2) Matthew 8:23-27

TUESDAY OF
13TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Trust in our merciful and omnipotent God.

Do we truly trust God? Our Lord can calm the stormy seas. In his mercy, he permitted Lot and his family to escape the destruction of Sodom. Yet we also see examples of a lack of trust in God, from Jesus' disciples and Lot's wife. We must strive to be more like Lot, relying on God's infinite mercy and power.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Abraham's nephew, Lot, and his family flee from Sodom to Zoar before God destroys the region. Lot's wife disobeys God and looks back on Sodom and Gomorrah and is turned into a pillar of salt. In the Gospel, Jesus' disciples fear the stormy sea while on a boat. Jesus rebukes the storm into calmness and questions the disciples' lack of faith.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the loving, merciful God who can calm all storms, we bring to him our cares and concerns.

- 1) For leaders of the Church, may they continue to be guided by the Holy Spirit in shepherding God's people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For Christians around the world, may they be blessed with the freedom to worship the Lord without fear, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those finding it difficult to trust in God, that the Lord of merciful love may bring them comfort and encouragement in their time of need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the members of this faith community, that we might be strengthened in trust and charity in serving God and our neighbor, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they be at rest in the peace of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, we trust in your unending goodness. Look kindly upon these prayers of your children, which we ask in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.

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Wednesday, July 3, 2019
(Lec. 593)

- 1) Ephesians 2:19-22
- 2) John 20:24-29

**SAINT THOMAS,
APOSTLE
- FEAST**

FOCUS: *My Lord and my God!*

What an expression of humility and faith we hear from Thomas today. Like many who are first beginning to understand the faith, Thomas was unsure about things. And then his encounter with the true, risen Christ made all things clear. Truth can never be denied, and the more we encounter Christ in our lives, the more his truth is alive in and through us. May we, through the intercession of Saint Thomas, Apostle, have the joy of saying in all things, *My Lord and my God!*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul writes to the Ephesians that they are each *fellow citizens ... and members of the household of God*. In the Gospel, Thomas had yet to see, or believe in, the risen Lord. So Jesus appears in their midst and instructs Thomas to touch him and believe. Thomas does, saying, *My Lord and my God!*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Reminded of God's steadfast love through the preaching of the Apostles, let us with confidence bring our prayers before the Lord.

- 1) For the Church, as the body of Christ, may the Lord help us to be like Thomas in boldly proclaiming Jesus as Lord and God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the salvation of the world, that through the power of the Holy Spirit all nations may come to know Jesus Christ as Lord, let us pray to the Lord
- 3) For all the sick and the dying, may they be comforted by the prayers and support of this community of faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those among us considering a vocation to the priesthood or religious life, may the God who calls all to union with him grant them peace in their discernment, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in Christ, may they rise with him to eternal life in glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and eternal God, we ask that you hear and answer our prayers according to your holy will. We make them through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, July 4, 2019
(Lec. 380)

- 1) Genesis 22:1b-19
- 2) Matthew 9:1-8

THURSDAY OF
13TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Independence Day
in United States of America)

Note: for Independence Day, any readings from the *Lectionary for Ritual Masses* (vol. IV), the Mass "For the Country or a City," Nos. 882-886, or "For Peace and Justice," nos. 887-891

FOCUS: Allow God to be God for us.

In the midst of the seemingly impossible, God is there. He does not demand of us more than he asked of his own Son; he has love for, forgives and heals us even at our worst moments. We simply have to allow him in, either on our own, the way Abraham says to God, *Here I am*, or through the faith and love of others, like the paralytic who was brought to Jesus.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Abraham hears God's instruction to sacrifice his only son. Before the sacrifice, however, God's messenger stops him and announces that he will be rewarded for his faith. In the Gospel, others carry a paralytic to Jesus in order that he may be healed. Jesus sees their faith, announces forgiveness of sins and heals the man.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together as one community, let us offer our prayers to our Father in heaven.

- 1) For the leaders of the Church, may the Lord bless them through their witness of faith and holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our national and local leaders, may the wise counsel of the Holy Spirit guide them as they make decisions that impact so many lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have lost some part of health, and for those who *fear* the loss of health, that God may bring them healing of body and of mind, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of believers, may the Lord look graciously upon us and bless our efforts to unite ourselves to the heart and mind of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, that they may be welcomed into the heavenly kingdom by the communion of saints, 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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Friday, July 5, 2019
(Lec. 381)

- 1) Genesis 23:1-4, 19;
24:1-8, 62-67
- 2) Matthew 9:9-13

FRIDAY OF
13TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Anthony Zaccaria,
Priest,
USA: Saint Elizabeth of Portugal)

FOCUS: God is present in the messiness of everyday life.

Abraham buries his wife and Jesus eats with tax collectors and sinners. These are uncomfortable and messy situations, and their stories exemplify the magnanimity of God, who is present in every moment of our lives. In Abraham's situation, God ensured his descendants would continue, as promised. For Matthew, God shows himself to be one who seeks out those who need him most.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Abraham buries his wife, Sarah, in Canaan. Later, his servant follows his directive to procure a wife for his son Isaac from Abraham's ancestral land. Thus Isaac marries Rebekah. In the Gospel, Matthew responds to Jesus' call to follow him, but when they are at table in his house, the Pharisees question why Jesus would eat with tax collectors and sinners. Jesus replies, *I did not come to call the righteous but sinners.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust in the healing power of the Lord, we approach and offer our prayers of petition for ourselves and for the world.

- 1) That bishops, priests and deacons may be sanctified in their lives of service to Jesus and his people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That world leaders may have the light of Christ to guide them in all their decision making, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those throughout the world suffering from disease and ill-health may be healed through the grace of Christ the physician, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That this community of prayer may be refreshed and renewed in our lives of discipleship through the graces of the sacraments, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our loved ones who have died may enjoy everlasting peace in the presence of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of goodness and mercy, visit us with your saving help. Fill our hearts with peace so that we may hear and follow your call. This we ask through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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Saturday, July 6, 2019
(Lec. 382)
1) Genesis 27:1-5, 15-29
2) Matthew 9:14-17

SATURDAY OF
13TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Maria Goretti,
Virgin and Martyr;
Saturday in honor
of BVM)

FOCUS: God can bring good from difficult times.

It sometimes seems like a platitude, but it is true that God often works in mysterious ways. He can work through our difficult times, betrayals or personal losses to bring blessings we could never have imagined. We need to trust God in our hardships and be on the watch for the good he will bring us through them.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first reading tells how Jacob obtained the birthright due to Esau. In the Gospel, Jesus answers the question about why his disciples do not fast as the Pharisees and the followers of John the Baptist do. He explains that there will be time for them to fast when he is no longer with them.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together with one voice, let us pray to the Father for our own needs and the needs of the world.

- 1) That all who shepherd God's people may be blessed by him with holy and sacrificial hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That government leaders may be graced with a spirit of grace and generosity in service to their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are suffering due to natural disasters or severe weather may obtain the help they need through the mercy of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all of us here may grow in the knowledge and love of God through his working in our lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may be welcomed into God's heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, hear our prayers and provide what we need. We pray always through your son, Jesus Christ.

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SUNDAY, JULY 7, 2019

(Lec. 102)

- 1) Isaiah 66:10-14c
- 2) Galatians 6:14-18
- 3) Luke 10:1-12, 17-20, or 10:1-9

**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: The Lord sends laborers to proclaim the kingdom.

Jesus appointed, instructed and sent seventy-two disciples to proclaim the kingdom of God. With his authority, they were able to spread the Gospel message, and it continues today. For we, too, are called, appointed, instructed and sent with authority. We are sent to engage the world and proclaim the kingdom. Like the early disciples, we are not sent alone: we have the Church as mother, and each other as co-travelers on the journey.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Isaiah instructs us to rejoice because the Lord assures us he will extend prosperity and comfort. In Paul's Letter to the Galatians, he writes that the cross of Jesus Christ has brought about a new creation, one which will bring peace and mercy to those who follow him. Luke's Gospel tells of Christ appointing and sending seventy-two followers out in pairs – *like lambs among wolves* – with instructions on how to labor in the field and proclaim the kingdom of God.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Our heavenly Father, who gives us all good things, hears the prayers of his sons and daughters. Let us approach him today with confidence and ask for what we need.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all who lead the Church, may the Lord richly bless them with health and vitality as they boldly proclaim God's kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For public authorities and government officials, that God may work in them as they seek and advance the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, the poor and the oppressed, may the love of Christ and his Church bring them healing and relief, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community gathered here, that Christ may draw us ever closer to him in our lives and through our relationships, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, that they may experience the joy of the kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we thank you for appointing us and sending us. We ask that you hear the cries of your children as we bring our petitions to you in faith, through your son, Christ our Lord.

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Monday, July 8, 2019
(Lec. 383)

- 1) Genesis 28:10-22a
- 2) Matthew 9:18-26

MONDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Though we may struggle to place our trust in God, God does not waver in his fidelity.

Like the men and women in today's readings, we may struggle to place our trust in God. Though we may waver in our trust, God does not waver in blessings. His fidelity is not dependent on ours. When we worry and hesitate to trust, demanding proof or reassurance, we need to reach out in trust to God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God promises Jacob land, plentiful descendants and protection for his risky journey. Surprised and delighted, Jacob anoints the spot and vows to worship God if God keeps his promises. In the Gospel, Jesus responds to an official's desperate request to save his daughter, while a hemorrhaging woman with great faith touches Jesus' cloak to be healed.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Placing our trust most fully and freely in God, we offer our prayers to the Lord.

- 1) That preachers, prophets and healers of the Church may receive the courage of Christ in the face of obstacles, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That nations in conflict may find God's blessings of peace and protection through the children of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who suffer hemorrhaging, bleeding and other disorders of the blood may be cured by Jesus' healing touch, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That God's fidelity to us may inspire our fidelity in marriage, religious life and other important relationships, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who die in faith may be taken by Christ's hand into eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Ever-faithful God, you are our refuge and fortress. We reach out to you in faith, trusting you to hear our prayers and grant your blessings through your son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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Tuesday, July 9, 2019
(Lec. 384)

- 1) Genesis 32:23-33
- 2) Matthew 9:32-38

TUESDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Augustine Zhao Rong,
Priest and Companions,
Martyrs)

FOCUS: We are called to spread the good news of the kingdom of God.

It is hard, sometimes, to relate to the experiences of people in Scripture. But while we may not wrestle a divine being in the desert, we, like Jacob, are called by God and given a (new) name in baptism. We become part of the children of Israel – the kingdom of God that Jesus came to inaugurate as the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel. And by our baptism, we are called to proclaim that same kingdom: teaching, preaching and healing where we can.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Jacob wrestles with *some man* (a divine being) all night, and the encounter leaves him both blessed with a new name – Israel – and wounded in his hip. In the Gospel, a demoniac is brought before Jesus, who drives the demon out. The people are amazed, the Pharisees misunderstand, and Jesus continues to travel around teaching, proclaiming the Gospel and curing.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Gathered as the people of God, we bring our prayers to the Father.

- 1) For those called to the vocation of holy orders or matrimony, may the Lord sanctify them in their sacramental life for the good of the whole Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who are lost and do not know Christ, may the Good Shepherd himself enter their hearts and lead them to the green pastures of the kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from physical disability or injury, may they receive healing in Jesus' name, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all gathered here, may our encounter with Christ in the Eucharist strengthen and inspire us in our daily lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they be rewarded in the heavenly kingdom for their labors in the harvest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we thank you for all the blessings you have bestowed on us. We humbly ask that you hear our prayers and answer them in the name of your son, Jesus.

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Wednesday, July 10, 2019
(Lec. 385)

- 1) Genesis 41:55-57;
42:5-7a, 17-24a
- 2) Matthew 10:1-7

WEDNESDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: We are all in need of the loving mercy of God.

The twelve sons of Jacob became the twelve tribes of Israel – the patriarchs of the Jewish people – and yet their lives were marred by animosity. God’s mercy, and eventually Joseph’s mercy toward his brothers, saw them through. God’s mercy found in Jesus Christ is what sees *us* through. Let us be thankful for the gift of the kingdom of heaven that Jesus and his disciples proclaimed, and to which we aspire.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Joseph is a governor of Egypt during the famine, and *all the world came to [him] to obtain rations of grain*, including his brothers. Joseph treats his brothers harshly, and they – not recognizing Joseph – begin to wonder if their treatment in Egypt is punishment for their past deeds. In the Gospel, Jesus gives the Twelve Apostles *authority over unclean spirits to drive them out and to cure every disease and every illness*. Then he sends them to the *lost sheep of the house of Israel*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God’s mercy is new every morning, and is never withheld from those who, in repentance, ask for it. So let us, with humble hearts, ask for God’s mercy on us and on the world.

- 1) For Pope Francis, the bishops, and all the clergy as they continue the mission that Jesus gave to the Twelve Apostles, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected leaders, may God provide them wisdom as they work to protect the dignity and sanctity of life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are sick, disabled or homebound, that God may grant them healing and peace during their time of suffering, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the Church gathered today, that God will continue to send messengers of healing and mercy into our midst, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, that God may lead them into the gates of paradise with joy and thanksgiving, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, look with favor upon the prayers we have offered, and grant them in the manner in which we need. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, July 11, 2019
(Lec. 386)

- 1) Genesis 44:18-21,
23b-29; 45:1-5
- 2) Matthew 10:7-15

THURSDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Benedict,
Abbot)

FOCUS: Our lives are in the service of the kingdom of God.

Like the Apostles, we are called to be in service to the kingdom of God, proclaiming the Good News and working to bring hope to those around us. Even when things are difficult, we know that God will bring about good from it, in service to the salvation of the world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Joseph reconciles with his estranged brothers, who had previously sold him into slavery. He tells them not to be distressed, for God had sent him to Egypt *for the sake of saving lives*. In the Gospel, Jesus sends his Apostles out to announce the kingdom of heaven, giving them instructions as he sends them forth to do his will.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us humbly bring our concerns to the Father, asking for his guidance and grace.

- 1) For the leaders of the Church, may God continue to uplift them in holiness and truth as they proclaim the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all those who serve in public life, may Christ the teacher guide them as they take care of those with the most urgent needs, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who are estranged from their families, may God's abundant love bring them to reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in this faith community suffering from painful illnesses, may Christ the Divine Physician heal their anguish, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may God bring them to the peace of everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, you sent your Son to announce the kingdom of God. May this message of our redemption bring us closer to you, through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, July 12, 2019

(Lec. 387)

- 1) Genesis 46:1-7, 28-30
- 2) Matthew 10:16-23

FRIDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God journeys with us amid our trials.

Though bearing witness to Christ can bring hatred and persecution, Jesus reminds us that we are not alone. The Spirit is with us, speaking through us amid our deepest challenges.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from the Book of Genesis tells the story of Jacob's joyful reunion with his beloved son, Joseph. In today's Gospel, Jesus warns his disciples that they will face animosity and persecution, even from one's family. Amid these trials, the Holy Spirit will provide words that bear witness to the Father's love for all.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We come before the Lord with confidence that he will hear our prayers.

- 1) For the faithful, may the Holy Spirit provide words of love and unity in the face of persecution and division, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the world, especially families, may God heal the wounds of separation from one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer for their allegiance to Jesus, may God instill in them the courage needed as they continue bearing witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For local faith communities, may they grow in virtue by God's provision of unity and goodwill, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may God bring them into eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, we know that you journey with us even through life's deepest challenges. Grant us the peace of mind and heart to offer these petitions, trusting your constant accompaniment. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, July 13, 2019
(Lec. 388)
1) Genesis 49:29-32;
50:15-26a
2) Matthew 10:24-33

SATURDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Henry;
Saturday in honor
of BVM)

FOCUS: God works all things for the good of those who love him, so we need not be afraid.

In today's readings we repeatedly hear the exhortation to "be not afraid." Joseph and Jesus both know suffering and the reality of evil, yet they also know that these are not bigger and stronger than God, who works all things for the good of those who love him. Let us consider what such a fearless faith would look like in our lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading is the conclusion of the Joseph story. After Jacob dies, Joseph forgives his brothers and ensures the survival of the people of Israel. In the Gospel, Jesus prepares his disciples for mission. He exhorts them to be not afraid in the face of persecution, for God knows all and cares for them.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence that God's love can cast all fear from our lives, let us bring our needs before him this day.

- 1) For the leaders of our Church, may the Lord give them grace to persevere in faith, especially in times of suffering and trials, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all elected officials, may the Lord inspire them as they provide for the needs of their people, especially the poor and vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who live in fear, may the Lord deliver them and give the gift of hope in his nearness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our community, may the Lord help us to live in his perfect love that casts out all fear, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died this day, may the Lord lead them through the valley of the shadow of death and into his eternal light, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petitions)

PRIEST: Father, you exhort us to be not afraid. Help us to follow this command through faith in your perfect love as found in your son, Jesus. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, JULY 14, 2019

(Lec. 105)

- 1) Deuteronomy 30:10-14
- 2) Colossians 1:15-20
- 3) Luke 10:25-37

**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: God's commandments are written in our hearts.

Today we are challenged to love God with our entire being and our neighbor as ourselves. On the face of it, these are difficult commandments to live out day after day, but Moses reminds us that they are written in our hearts. Our task is to listen to God's word and carry it out at each moment, in each situation we face.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Moses calls on the people to heed the voice of God written in their hearts. The second reading reminds us of Christ Jesus as *the image of the invisible God*, through whom all things were created and who made *peace by the blood of his cross*. In the Gospel, Jesus points to the Good Samaritan, with his unselfish works of mercy, as an example of a good neighbor.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Jesus calls on us to love our neighbor. Let us show that love by asking God to meet the needs of our neighbors near and far.

- 1) For all Church leaders, may the Lord bless them and strengthen them in virtue and holiness as they shepherd his flock, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who govern, may God grant them understanding and compassionate hearts in their service to their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For victims of violence, may God provide healing, peace and justice in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of prayer, may the light of Christ make visible his commandments in our hearts and draw us ever closer to him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they find peace through eternal rest with God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: O God, our Creator and Father, you know the hearts and needs of your people. Hear these prayers and the prayers still within our hearts, through your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Monday, July 15, 2019
(Lec. 389)

- 1) Exodus 1:8-14, 22
- 2) Matthew 10:34–11:1

MONDAY OF
15TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Bonaventure,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church)

FOCUS: God is worth more than anything we can be asked to sacrifice.

Do we love Jesus more than an easy, peaceful life, our families and our lives? Jesus tells us if we answer no, we are not worthy of him. We cannot achieve this proper ordering of our lives without the Holy Spirit. In both readings, we see following God can result in difficult circumstances, but we believe God is worth it.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading tells the story of a new king of Egypt (pharaoh) who knows nothing of Joseph, and sets out to decrease the number of Israelites through slave labor, then by killing newborn Hebrew boys. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his followers that there will be disunity because of him, but everyone must love him more than even their own family. Jesus reminds them that small acts of service reap great rewards.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With great confidence, let us turn to our loving Father to present him our needs.

- 1) For all priests and religious, that the Holy Spirit may continue to bless their service to God's people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who lead, guide and govern, that God may inspire them in enacting policies that promote peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from strained or broken relationships, that the Lord may grant them comfort and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, that we may be strengthened by the grace of Christ to see him in others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, that they may find eternal rest in the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, look kindly upon the prayers of your children before you. We ask this in the name of your son Jesus, who is Christ the Lord.

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Tuesday, July 16, 2019

(Lec. 390)

1) Exodus 2:1-15a

2) Matthew 11:20-24

TUESDAY OF

15TH WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(Opt. Mem.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel)

FOCUS: The signs of God's love surround us.

Moses, whose birth we hear of today, was a sign of God's providence to which the pharaoh was completely oblivious. Jesus performed many signs and deeds, but the people around him did not understand his purpose or his message, and did not repent. Through the paschal mystery, we have the grace and ability to read the signs of God's love all around us. Let us do so with thankfulness and repentance.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, we hear of Moses' birth to a Levite couple, and then his adoption by the pharaoh's daughter. He later kills an Egyptian in defense of his Hebrew kinsman and is forced to flee from pharaoh. In the Gospel, Jesus reproaches the towns where *his mighty deeds had been done* but the people had not repented. He compares them to Tyre, Sidon and Sodom, which had repented of their sins.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Calling to mind the faithfulness of God throughout all of time, let us bring our needs and the needs of the world before him.

- 1) That God may revive and encourage the hearts of all in the Church as we respond to the cries of those most in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That God may give our nation a spirit of repentance, forsaking greed and power for justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That God may strengthen those who carry heavy burdens of poverty, fear or hopelessness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the spirit of God may comfort and heal those among us who are afflicted in mind, body or spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That God's redemptive love may bring those who have died to eternal rest in his kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of all power and love, you never forsake us in our need. Hear our prayers before you today and answer them, we ask, through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, July 17, 2019
(Lec. 391)

- 1) Exodus 3:1-6, 9-12
- 2) Matthew 11:25-27

WEDNESDAY OF
15TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God is made known to his children.

Today's readings portray God's desire to be close to his children. However, Jesus reminds us that the Father has revealed these things only to the childlike. Like Moses, then, we need to take up a childlike wonder and curiosity that open to us the nearness and presence of God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Moses is surprised by the sight of a bush *on fire*, but *not consumed*. As he approaches, God calls out to him and tells him to keep his distance. Then God tells Moses to return to the pharaoh and lead God's people out of Egypt, promising that he will remain with Moses. In the Gospel, Jesus praises the Father for revealing things hidden to those who are childlike, and for the intimacy he shares with the Father.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With childlike humility and eagerness, let us turn to our Father and ask him to hear the cry of his children gathered here.

- 1) For the Church, may God increase in us both humility and wonder as we seek the face of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those entrusted with leadership around the world, may God bless their work to protect the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who do not yet know the love of the Father, may Christ the teacher make himself known to them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, may God bless our love for him and draw us ever closer to himself, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rest in God's presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of wonder and might, you know our needs and will always give us good gifts, so we ask that you hear and respond to our prayers, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, July 18, 2019
(Lec. 392)

- 1) Exodus 3:13-20
- 2) Matthew 11:28-30

THURSDAY OF
15TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
USA: Saint Camillus de Lellis,
Priest)

FOCUS: God reveals himself to us as a God who saves and longs to give us rest.

In today's readings, God answers the question, "Who are you?" God reveals himself as a God who is concerned about us, a God who understands the burdens we carry. God does not promise to magically remove our burdens, but rather he draws near to help us carry them.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Moses asks God, who appears in the burning bush, about his identity. God responds, *I am who am*, and identifies himself as the God of our fathers who is concerned about us. In the Gospel, Jesus calls all *who labor and are burdened*, telling us that his *yoke is easy and [his] burden light*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Turning to the God who is concerned with our needs, we offer these prayers with firm hope that Christ draws near to carry our burdens with us.

- 1) For all leaders in the Church, may Christ carry them as they bear the responsibility of shepherding God's people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may God give them the wisdom and the strength to combat slavery and oppression of every type, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all workers, for those in search of employment, and for those who are underemployed, may God ease their burdens and may they know God's presence in their toil, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, may God's comfort and help lead us to greater truth and to draw nearer to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rest in eternal peace with God in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of compassionate love, we thank you for drawing near to us. Help us to know your saving presence throughout this day. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Friday, July 19, 2019
(Lec. 393)

- 1) Exodus 11:10–12:14
- 2) Matthew 12:1-8

FRIDAY OF
15TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: *The Son of Man is Lord of the sabbath.*

As we hear the account of the instructions given for the celebration of Passover, it is impossible not to recall how our celebration of the Mass is rooted in this central Jewish feast. In our Eucharistic celebration, Christ Jesus, the Lamb of God, has been sacrificed to liberate us from the slavery of sin.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Our first reading lays out the particulars of how the people of Israel were to celebrate the great feast of Passover as they prepared for their liberation from slavery. In the Gospel, Jesus reminds the Pharisees that all liturgical celebrations must be grounded in the pursuit of mercy.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence and trust, let us bring our needs before God, who in his great love answers our prayers.

- 1) For Church leaders, may the Lord help them persevere with holiness and truth in the sacred task of guiding the Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civil leaders, may the God of wisdom lead them as servants of justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are alienated from God and his Church, may the Holy Spirit come upon their hearts and bring them Christ's message of love and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those who serve our faith community in countless ways, may God bless their efforts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, 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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Saturday, July 20, 2019

(Lec. 394)

- 1) Exodus 12:37-42
- 2) Matthew 12:14-21

SATURDAY OF
15TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Apollinaris,
Bishop and Martyr;
Saturday in honor
of BVM)

FOCUS: Work humbly and diligently for the Lord.

A wise priest once said, "If you want to know that you are doing something for the right reason, do not tell anyone you are doing it!" As Jesus cured everyone, he warned them not to *make him known*. This was not false modesty, but an acknowledgement that his time had not yet come.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the Book of Exodus, the Israelites leave Egypt in haste, carrying unleavened bread for the journey. In the Gospel of Matthew, the prophet Isaiah is quoted to remind us that Jesus, the chosen servant, comes in humility to do the work of his Father.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us humbly turn to the Lord and offer him our prayers for our needs and those of the world.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may God bless her proclamation of the Gospel so as to draw more people to herself in the love of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who govern others, may they be blessed with humility and a true servant's heart in the performance of their duties, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those in abusive relationships, may Christ the healer give them strength and courage, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith communities, may Christ increase in us Christian charity and joy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God may they rest in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving and merciful Father, we praise your name and thank you for your wisdom in caring for our needs. Hear the prayers we ask today in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.

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SUNDAY, JULY 21, 2019

(Lec. 108)

- 1) Genesis 18:1-10a
- 2) Colossians 1:24-28
- 3) Luke 10:38-42

**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Striking balance in our spiritual journey is a great challenge.

The attributes of both Martha and Mary are to be admired and imitated. By sitting at the feet of Jesus, we learn to accept the challenge to be of service to others. Christ remains the one to imitate in our daily interactions with others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Abraham gladly welcomes three strangers into his home. Saint Paul reminds us that it is always Jesus Christ we proclaim. In the Gospel, Martha and Mary welcome Jesus into their home in different ways.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our needs before God, confident that he hears and cares for each one of us.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all shepherds of the Church, may God look graciously upon them and sanctify them in their priestly ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of government and all who have political authority affecting the lives of others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the marginalized, through the mercy of God may they be treated with dignity and respect by those entrusted with their care, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For parents and catechists, may the Lord bless them with patience, wise counsel and knowledge as they train our youth in the ways of our faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they sit this day at the feet of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gentle Father, hear our prayers this day as we strive to lead lives of service to those we encounter. We ask this through your son, Christ our Lord.

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Monday, July 22, 2019
(Lec. 603)

**SAINT MARY MAGDALENE
- FEAST**

- 1) Song of Songs 3:1-4b
or 2 Cor 5:14-17
- 2) John 20:1-2, 11-18

FOCUS: Mercy, forgiveness and new life are available through the life, death and resurrection of Christ.

On this feast of Saint Mary Magdalene, may we have the joy of being witnesses and proclaimers of the new life in Christ.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In Song of Songs the bride says she seeks *him whom my heart loves*, and she finds him. In John's Gospel, he writes of Mary Magdalene's experience at the tomb of Christ. She arrives to find the stone has been rolled away; she tells Simon Peter and the beloved disciple that the Lord has been taken from the tomb; and she encounters two angels, and then Christ himself.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Our heavenly Father is good and gracious. Let us bring the desires of our hearts to him this day.

- 1) For the Holy Father, bishops, priests and all who teach the faith, may the Lord bless them and keep them as they lead others to the loving embrace of the risen Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may the Holy Spirit grace them with hearts for acting with courage and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer in mind, body or spirit, may they encounter the healing touch of the risen Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, may the Lord invite us ever more to his love through repentance and grace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that through God's mercy they may experience the fullness of eternal love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we bring you these and all of our intentions this day, trusting that you hear and answer us according to your will and in your time. We ask this through your son, Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, July 23, 2019
(Lec. 396)

- 1) Exodus 14:21–15:1
- 2) Matthew 12:46-50

TUESDAY OF
16TH WEEK
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Bridget,
Religious)

FOCUS: God forms us as his community, in which all who do his will are family in Christ.

Through God's servant, Moses, and his son, Jesus, we are powerfully formed as God's community. We are a redeemed community, freed from enslavement and oppression. We are a welcoming community, open to all who do the will of the Father, freed from restrictions to be like family in Christ.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God commands Moses to stretch out his hand, first to allow the *children of Israel* to pass through the divided sea, and next to drown pharaoh's army in the same sea as it returned to itself. Thus God freed the Israelites from enslavement in Egypt. In the Gospel, Jesus' mother and brothers seek his attention, but instead Jesus stretches out his hand to his disciples and proclaims that those doing the will of his Father are his family.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Formed as God's community and united like family in Christ, we offer the Lord our prayers.

- 1) That the Holy Spirit may guide the Church in all things toward doing God's will, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That our nation's leaders may be led by the Lord's command in honoring freedom of religion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That God may bring forth and inspire servant leaders who, like Moses, will lead enslaved peoples to freedom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That this faith community, in seeking to do God's will, may be led by the outstretched hand of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may enjoy eternal life in the company of all the angels and saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we trust in your saving power, and pray that you hear and answer us according to your divine will, through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, July 24, 2019
(Lec. 397)

- 1) Exodus 16:1-5, 9-15
- 2) Matthew 13:1-9

MONDAY OF
16TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Sharbel Makhlūf,
Priest)

FOCUS: God is a generous sower.

As God responded to the ungrateful hearts of the Israelites with generosity, so, too, does the Lord sow generously in our own lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Six weeks into their freedom from slavery in Egypt, the Israelites grumbled to Moses and Aaron about their hunger. Despite their churlishness, the Lord sends food from heaven to nourish them. In today's Gospel passage, Jesus tells the parable of the sower, who spreads seed on four different types of soil.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in the Lord's benevolence, we bring our needs before God.

- 1) For all of us in the Church, may the seeds God scatters generously and abundantly bring us closer to him and make us holy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For peace in the world, may God's reconciling power bridge divisions and strengthen bonds of community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from chronic illness, may God provide healing through the compassionate touch of others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our local faith communities, may God's charitable sowing bear visible fruit in our lives of faithfulness to him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have recently died, may they come to share in Christ's resurrection for eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, we come before you with humble hearts. Grant us the same generosity that you bestowed upon the Israelites in their time of need. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, July 25, 2019
(Lec. 605)

- 1) 2 Corinthians 4:7-15
- 2) Matthew 20:20-28

**SAINT JAMES
APOSTLE
- FEAST**

FOCUS: God's people are those who achieve greatness by humbly serving the needs of others.

Although all people are subject to death, it is through belief in Jesus and living his mission that we may be raised up. Death does not have power over life, for those who offer their lives in service to others will be exalted in heaven. These graces are given through the glory of God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul encourages his disciples to understand that through the dying of Jesus, the life of Jesus is manifested in our bodies. Those who believe in Jesus will be raised with him. In the Gospel, Jesus replies to the mother of Zebedee's sons, saying any who wish to be great and to be glorified must become servants. For the Son of Man came not *to be served, but to serve*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: My sisters and brothers, let us offer our prayers and petitions to the One who shows us how to humbly serve.

- 1) For the Holy Father, Pope Francis, may the Lord look graciously upon him, sanctify him and make him holy in his ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the salvation of the world, may the Holy Spirit come upon us to renew the face of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from any burden, especially those who suffer alone and unknown, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here today, may God transform our hearts for service to him and his kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rest in the eternal peace of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of all creation, you have chosen us to be your people. May you accept our prayers for the good of the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, July 26, 2019
(Lec. 399)

- 1) Exodus 20:1-17
- 2) Matthew 13:18-23

FRIDAY OF
16TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saints Joachim and Anne,
Parents of the
Blessed Virgin Mary)

FOCUS: The commandments were given to us by God to serve as moral standards for our lives.

The Ten Commandments were given to Moses and Israel to serve as standards by which to live. We, too, have these commandments, which should direct our lives in relationship to God and each other. Merely hearing them is not enough, as we know from the overall message of the Gospels. We must choose to let them grow within us, and act upon them in love. They are a gift from God himself.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading from Exodus, God delivers Ten Commandments for behavior in relationship to him, and to one another. In today's Gospel, Jesus explains the parable of the sower. The seeds that fall on rocky soil will wither, while those on good soil will grow and be fruitful.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us turn to our heavenly Father with our petitions and needs.

- 1) For Pope Francis and the leaders of our Church, may they be strengthened by the Holy Spirit as they guide the Church in word and deed, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who are in authority over the nations of the world, may the Lord lead them in governing with justice and wisdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are struggling physically, financially or emotionally, may they, through God's abundant mercy, receive the peace and resources they need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the Lord bless and improve upon our efforts in following his commandments, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be united with God in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we thank you for your love and passionate mercy. Thank you for hearing our prayers which we offer through your son, Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, July 27, 2019
(Lec. 400)

- 1) Exodus 24:3-8
- 2) Matthew 13:24-30

SATURDAY OF
16TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Saturday in honor
of BVM)

FOCUS: God, in his mercy, reads our hearts, knows our intentions – and understands our failures.

The people of Israel declared that they would obey God's commandments – yet, many times before and since that declaration, they fell into sin. How like them we still are – full of good intentions, but falling short. But God reads our hearts and is always ready to forgive our sins when we repent.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, with the affirmation of the people, Moses makes peace offerings to the Lord and enters into covenant with him. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the wheat and the weeds.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For the people of God, that through God's grace and mercy, we may remain faithful to the New Covenant established by Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For judges and juries and all who implement justice, may they be endowed with the wisdom of the Holy Spirit as they fulfill their role, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are plagued by anxiety, fear or guilt, may Christ the Physician have mercy and bring them peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the Lord bless us and guide us in our vocational and family commitments, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our loved ones who have died, may they enter into the rest and joy of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of all compassion, hear our prayers and the prayers of your family as we lift up the needs of our world. We ask that you answer them according to your will, through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, JULY 28, 2019

(Lec. 111)

- 1) Genesis 18:20-32
- 2) Colossians 2:12-14
- 3) Luke 11:1-13

**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: God is merciful to the faithful.

Faithfulness to God is blessed with grace and mercy. Jesus interceded for us, as Abraham did for Sodom, and salvation is ours through his cross. Righteous living, which is adhering to God's commands and caring for one another, is how we embrace our salvation. Let us pray for one another and for those who may not yet know the Lord – that salvation may be theirs as well. For God is merciful to the faithful.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God assures Abraham that he would be merciful to the righteous. In his Letter to the Colossians, Paul writes that Christ took our sins to the cross, so by faith we are forgiven all our transgressions. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches the disciples how to pray to the Father.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us raise our voices in petition and prayer as we place our needs before God.

- 1) For the Church, may God continue to be merciful to her and guide her with hope and faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all peoples and nations of the world, may the word of God come upon them and bring them salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who suffer persecution for their faith, may they receive from God's goodness the freedom and peace they need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this gathering of believers, may Christ whom we encounter in this liturgy transform us in faith and bring us to life along with him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our dead, may the Lord of all mercy gather them into his loving arms, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the good news of your mercy and faithfulness to your children. We ask that you hear our prayers, through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Monday, July 29, 2019
(Lec. 401)
1) Exodus 32:15-24, 30-34
(Lec. 607)
2) John 11:19-27 or
Luke 10:38-42

MONDAY OF
17TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Martha)

FOCUS: Do all things for and in the name of Christ.

It can be easy to find ourselves stressed and overburdened by our duties, work and obligations, as Martha does in the Gospel. And in the midst of that, it is easy to lose sight of what is most important in all this busyness – doing all things for and in the name of Christ.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Moses returns with the Ten Commandments and destroys them at the sight of the people reveling before a golden calf. Despite his anger, he pleads before God on their behalf. In the Gospel, Martha asks Jesus to intercede on her behalf and tell her sister to help her with the tasks of hospitality. But the Lord tells her she is *anxious and worried*, and that *Mary has chosen the better part*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we prepare ourselves for the gift of the Eucharist, let us first bring before the Lord our needs and the needs of the world.

- 1) For the Church, that the Lord may bless and strengthen her in her service to him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all government leaders, that the Lord may guide them in their efforts to protect the dignity and sanctity of life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are facing physical challenges, whether from ill health, injury or circumstance, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all members of this faith community, may the Lord help us to grow in charity and hospitality in our interactions with those who travel in our midst, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, that the Lord may welcome them at his eternal banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious and loving God, you hear and know all our needs. Grant these and all our petitions in accordance with your holy will. In Christ's name we pray.

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Tuesday, July 30, 2019
(Lec. 402)

- 1) Exodus 33:7-11;
34:5b-9, 28
- 2) Matthew 13:36-43

TUESDAY OF
17TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Peter Chrysologus,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church)

FOCUS: The Lord will separate the wheat from the weeds.

The world is populated with those who follow God's word, as well as those who don't. Today's Gospel tells us that won't change. What *can* change is which group we will be in when the Lord makes his final separation of the wheat (the righteous) and the weeds (the evildoers). To be the righteous, we must do as Moses did in today's first reading: repent and ask God to *pardon our wickedness*.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In our first reading from Exodus, God speaks with Moses *face to face as one man speaks to another*. Moses asks the Lord to forgive the sins of the Israelites, and then stays *with the Lord for forty days and forty nights*, fasting and writing *the words of the covenant*. In the Gospel, Jesus explains the parable of the weeds to his disciples – detailing how angels will come at the end of time to separate the righteous (wheat) from the evildoers (weeds).

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring to the Lord our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For Church leaders, may the Lord purify and sanctify them as they lead their flock, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our legislators, may God grant them wisdom and fortitude as they work for the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all of who have suffered the effects of violence, may God provide them comfort and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may Christ continue to conform us ever more to his heart, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died righteous in Christ, may they experience the joy of eternal rest as a reward, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we humbly ask you to bless these petitions laid before you, in the name of your son, Jesus our Lord.

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Wednesday, July 31, 2019
(Lec.403)

- 1) Exodus 34:29-35
- 2) Matthew 13:44-46

WEDNESDAY OF
17TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Ignatius of Loyola,
Priest)

FOCUS: The kingdom of heaven is a treasure beyond all others.

Radiant from being in God's presence, Moses shares the commandments with his people. Jesus invites us to the kingdom of heaven – a treasure of such value that we should give all we have to attain it. Today, we also remember Saint Ignatius of Loyola, whose conversion moved him to give up the life he knew to follow Jesus.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading from the Book of Exodus, Moses descends Mount Sinai carrying the tablets of the commandments, his face radiant from his encounter with God. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus uses simple parables to impress upon his disciples the supreme value of the kingdom of heaven. It is a treasure beyond all others.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Following the example of Saint Ignatius who entrusted all things to God, we join together in prayer as we present these petitions to our merciful Father.

- 1) For the Church and those who lead, may the Lord bless and keep them strong and faithful in their service to him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all those who live and work in positions of authority, may God center their lives on a deep desire to help others and see him in all things, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the poor and the marginalized, through the intercession of Saint Ignatius, may they find relief from their burdens, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all members of this faith community, may God open our hearts to hear his saving word, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they enjoy the ultimate repose in the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, please hear our petitions which we offer with deep devotion and love, knowing that you will provide whatever we need. We offer this in the name of Jesus, your son.

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