

# JUNE

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Saturday, June 1, 2019  
(Lec. 296)

- 1) Acts 18:23-28
- 2) John 16:23b-28

SATURDAY OF  
SIXTH WEEK  
OF EASTER  
(OBL MEM  
Saint Justin,  
Martyr)

FOCUS: What we ask the Father in Jesus' name will be given to us.

Jesus was always showing us the Father in new and uplifting ways. He taught us that we are children of God, giving us access to the Almighty in ways people never imagined possible. He taught that we could ask things of God and have confidence we would be heard and provided for. What an incredible gift this is!

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first reading tells of Apollos, who succeeded Paul in preaching to the Ephesians about Jesus and salvation. He learned from the disciples in Ephesus and went on to spread the Gospel further. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that whatever they ask of the Father in his name will be given: *Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.*

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident of God's providential love, let us bring our prayers to him.

- 1) That the Church may increase in number and fervor through the grace and power of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That God may move the hearts of legislators to help respect life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That peace, through the compassion of the Prince of Peace, may come to areas of the world where people have experienced longstanding hatred and distrust, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the people of this community may grow in faith, hope and love through our participation in and sharing of the sacraments, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have gone before us may be welcomed at the banquet of the Lord in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we ask that you hear our prayers, and in your goodness grant what we ask in faith. We pray through your son, Jesus Christ.

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**NOTE:** In those places where the observance of the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord has been transferred to this day, the Mass and readings of the Ascension are used: Acts 1:1-11/Ephesians 1:17-23/Matthew 28:16-20 (Lec. 58)

**SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2019**

(Lec. 61)

- 1) Acts 7:55-60
- 2) Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20
- 3) John 17:20-26

**SEVENTH  
SUNDAY  
OF EASTER**

**FOCUS:** Christ calls us to unity with him and the Father.

Jesus prays for his Church to be one, to be a visible sign of Christ to the world. In his great love, Jesus invites us into his own relationship with God the Father: *I in them and you in me*. God's powerful love enables believers to live in a unity so attractive it draws others into the love of God.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Stephen sees a heavenly vision before he is thrown out of the city and stoned by the crowd. In Revelation, John reveals Jesus' testimony as the Alpha and the Omega, and his invitation to receive *the gift of life-giving water*. In the Gospel from John, Jesus prays for his disciples and those who will follow, asking his Father to perfect them in unity.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

**PRIEST:** Trusting that God is always faithful to his promises, let us gather in unity as we offer our prayers to him this day.

- 1) For the pilgrim Church on earth, that strengthened by the prayers of all the saints, we may glorify God in our unity and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all in positions of leadership, may God inflame their hearts as they work for peace in this world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are persecuted for their faith in Jesus, may their witness be glorified by God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For unity in our faith community, may the God of all consolations heal any discord and division, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in faith, may they enjoy the first fruits of heaven as we await the fullness of God's kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** We thank you, Father, for hearing our prayers this day. Please bless us and answer them in your infinite wisdom, through Jesus Christ, your son.

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Monday, June 3, 2019  
(Lec. 297)  
1) Acts 19:1-8  
2) John 16:29-33

MONDAY OF  
SEVENTH WEEK  
OF EASTER  
(OBL MEM  
Saint Charles Lwanga  
and Companions,  
Martyrs)

FOCUS: We are an Easter people.

Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would teach and remind us of all that he had made known to us. We need first to grow in our knowledge and love of God and his Son; and second, from time to time to be reminded of what Jesus offers all by his death and resurrection. We know what promises await if we follow his word.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul travels to Ephesus where he encounters disciples of John the Baptist who have yet to receive the Holy Spirit. In the Gospel, on the night before his passion and death, Jesus seeks to strengthen the resolve and commitment of his disciples by reminding them that whatever happens, he will triumph and they will know and have his peace.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For the Church, the body of the risen Christ here on earth, may she be blessed with wisdom and fortitude in proclaiming the truth of the Resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who govern at any level, may the Lord, the giver of life, grant them the mind of Christ in their decision-making, especially regarding the most vulnerable among us, let us pray to the Lord
- 3) For the unborn, the infirm, the aged and all the voiceless, may God defend and protect them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For peace and justice in our homes and communities, may God help us to turn away from the ways of death, division and destruction, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they come to share in the glory of the Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

Tuesday, June 4, 2019  
(Lec. 298)  
1) Acts 20:17-27  
2) John 17:1-11a

TUESDAY OF  
SEVENTH WEEK  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Christ intercedes for us.

Today's readings both share the theme of Paul and Jesus concluding their ministry on earth and preparing to pass on the mission to the Christians that will continue on. Jesus wants eternal life for his disciples, and in his heartfelt prayer asks the Father to protect them and enfold them into God's unifying life of love.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul addresses the Church leaders in Ephesus. He reflects back on his time and ministry there, and shares his anxiety about continuing on to Jerusalem. Jesus beseeches the Father to glorify the Son so that the disciples may know the Father and be granted eternal life.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our prayers to the heavenly Father, confident that his glory can outshine any darkness.

- 1) For all of us in the Church, may Christ's intercessions for us lead us to holier and Spirit-filled lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the salvation of the world, and all those who do not yet know God, may the light of Christ penetrate their darkness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For children who have lost or been separated from parents, may our heavenly Father protect them and surround them with love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all teachers and students in this faith community, may the wisdom of the saints guide them in the pursuit of truth and lead them ever closer to God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they forever bask in the glory of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of all, receive our humble prayers and grant that which will reveal your glory. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Wednesday, June 5, 2019  
(Lec. 299)

- 1) Acts 20:28-38
- 2) John 17:11b-19

WEDNESDAY OF  
SEVENTH WEEK  
OF EASTER  
(OBL MEM  
Saint Boniface,  
Bishop and Martyr)

FOCUS: A firm foundation of faith is the best preparation for life.

God, through his word, continues to prepare us for what may come our way today and tomorrow. It is our task to continue to stay faithful and grow our faith in God's constant care.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul was leaving the Apostles, and spoke to them about the firmness of their faith foundation. Then they prayed together. In the Gospel, Jesus prayed to God to protect the disciples from the evil one and allow them to continue in their ministry.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Encouraged by our faith in God's promises, let us bring our prayers and petitions to him today.

- 1) For the pope and all priests and religious, may the Lord of all goodness bless and encourage them in their holy ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all nations, may the providence of God be upon them so that all may worship him freely in their homes and communities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick and suffering, may they feel the encouraging love and care from our Lord during their times of trial and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For students and new graduates in this faith community as they set out into the summer and new lives, may Christ the teacher be their continued guide and strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rest in Jesus and his peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear our prayers and have mercy on us. In the name of your son, Jesus Christ, we pray.

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Thursday, June 6, 2019

(Lec. 300)

- 1) Acts 22:30; 23:6-11
- 2) John 17:20-26

THURSDAY OF  
SEVENTH WEEK  
OF EASTER  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Norbert,  
Bishop)

FOCUS: The Lord blesses us and helps us to persevere.

How wonderful it is for us to hear Jesus speak of praying for us and for those who will come to him through us! We can be affirmed in our commitment as disciples, proclaiming his name to others, knowing that we have his prayers and blessing. Like Paul, we will be given the strength and direction to persevere.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we hear the dispute between the Pharisees and the Sadducees about belief in the resurrection and Paul's preaching of it. At the end of the reading, the Lord sends Paul beyond Jerusalem, to bear witness to all of Rome. In the Gospel of John, Jesus speaks of his unity with the Father, and prays for those whom he was given.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Living out our belief in the Resurrection, let us place all our needs before the Father.

- 1) That leaders of the Church throughout the world may be made more perfect in holiness as they proclaim the word of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That leaders of nations may be blessed with the grace to grow in steadfast faith and love as they perform their duties, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That the suffering among us may find comfort through the mercy of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That catechists and teachers in this faith community may be uplifted by the Spirit of Christ as they work among young people being formed in the faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died this day may rest in the eternal and loving arms of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, looking forward to the day of our own resurrection into eternal life, we thank you for the gift of salvation, through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Friday, June 7, 2019  
(Lec. 301)  
1) Acts 25:13b-21  
2) John 21:15-19

FRIDAY OF  
SEVENTH WEEK  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Both Paul and Peter bore the cost of discipleship.

Paul continued to profess that Jesus, who had died, was alive, in the face of condemnation to the point of death by his fellow Jews. Peter fearlessly cared for the Lord's flock after Jesus revealed that this would lead him where he did not want to go. The cost of discipleship can be high, but we know that we are not left alone in our efforts. The Holy Spirit is present among us as promised by the Father and Son.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Festus explains Paul's situation to King Agrippa and Bernice. Festus is holding Paul in custody, based on charges brought against him by the Jewish chief priests and elders, until he can be sent to Caesar. In the Gospel, the risen Jesus asks Simon Peter three times if Peter loves him and each time after Peter responds yes, Jesus directs him to care for his sheep.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God's loving care for us, let us present our petitions to him.

- 1) For bishops and priests, may God grant them contrite hearts and holy wisdom as they care for Jesus' flock, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who lead nations, may they be animated by the Lord's justice and mercy for all whom they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For prisoners, may they have hope and healing in repentance and God's forgiveness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all here today, as we eagerly await the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, may the Lord bind us to each other in love and service, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they come to join the company of angels and saints in God's heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, all glory, honor and dominion is yours. Deepen our devotion and strengthen our faith so we can better tend the flock that is your own. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, June 8, 2019

(Lec. 302)

- 1) Acts 28:16-20, 30-31
- 2) John 21:20-25

SATURDAY OF  
SEVENTH WEEK  
OF EASTER

FOCUS: Listen to Jesus and follow him.

Not everything Jesus did or said was captured in the Gospels, but everything we need to know about his life and mission can be found there. Love is the commandment, and we are instructed to follow him. Each healing, parable and sermon can give us new insights into how much God loves us, and how we can show love to those around us.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Paul begins his mission to the Romans, even though he is under house arrest. In the Gospel, there is confusion among the disciples about Jesus' words regarding the disciple *whom [he] loved*. John tells us that there are many more things that could be written about Jesus.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in his mercy and love, we ask God to answer our prayers and petitions.

- 1) That all members of our holy Church may be embraced by God's love and compassion in our journeys of discipleship in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That leaders of countries torn apart by ethnic violence may be guided by the Holy Spirit to embrace attitudes of tolerance and respect for differences, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who have suffered at the hands of others may be strengthened by God's everlasting mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That we in this faith community may be made holy in our sharing of the Gospel here together, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may have eternal rest in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Oh God, hear the prayers of your children and grant what we need. We ask these things in the name of Jesus the Lord.

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**SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2019**

(Lec. 63)

- 1) Acts 2:1-11
- 2) 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13  
or Romans 8:8-17
- 3) John 20:19-23  
or John 14:15-16, 23b-26

**PENTECOST SUNDAY  
- SOLEMNITY**

FOCUS: The outpouring of the Holy Spirit marks the birthday of the Church.

On Pentecost, the disciples go from fearful and hesitant to confident and bold. May we open ourselves to receiving the Holy Spirit so that we may live the fullness of discipleship.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading from Acts, we hear the account of the Holy Spirit coming to rest upon the disciples and followers, enabling them to proclaim the Gospel in many languages. In the second reading, Paul, writes to the Corinthians about the variety of gifts and service but one Spirit and Lord. He speaks of the Church as the body of Christ. In the Gospel (in a passage often referred to as “John’s Pentecost”), John gives an account of the disciples and their first experience of the risen Christ – Christ who breathes on them and tells them to *Receive the Holy Spirit*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Blessed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers to the Lord.

- 1) For Church leaders, may the Holy Spirit bless and strengthen them in their pastoral duties, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders and for leaders of this community, may the Lord of all creation give them a spirit of nurturing for the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who are sick and for those who care for them, may the healing touch of God transform their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here today, may the gifts the Lord longs to give us open our hearts and enliven our faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they be welcomed into the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father we thank you for giving us your Son and for pouring out your Spirit. We ask you to hear and answer our prayers, through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, June 10, 2019

(Lec. 572A)

- 1) Genesis 3:9-15, 20  
OR Acts 1:12-14
- 2) John 19:25-34

MONDAY OF  
TENTH WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM

The Blessed Virgin Mary,  
Mother of the Church)

FOCUS: As Eve became mother to all humanity, Mary became the mother of all the Church.

Eve, even in her sin, did not remove God's blessing from all of humanity, instead she became its mother. With the Incarnation of Christ, Mary became the mother not just of Christ, but of all who follow him. So when Jesus gives Mary to John to be his mother, Jesus is giving her to be *our* mother as well.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

After Adam and Eve eat the forbidden fruit, God condemns the serpent and tells of future opposition between the serpent and Eve's offspring. Eve becomes *the mother of all the living*. In the Gospel, as Jesus hangs on the cross, he gives John to Mary to be her son, and then entrusts his mother to John's care and protection.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the eternal goodness of God, we bring to him our needs and concerns.

- 1) For an increase in religious vocations in the Church, may God bless those who are discerning with open ears and generous hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations and communities, may the graciousness of our God encourage their own faithful stewardship of our earth and its resources, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the homeless and those struggling to keep their housing, may the God of all compassion provide for their needs, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For mothers and fathers, may they be strengthened by the Spirit as they strive to raise holy children, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, especially those known only to God, may they rest in eternal peace with Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, you willed that your children be reconciled to you through your Son. We ask you to hear these prayers, which we make in Jesus' holy name.

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Tuesday, June 11, 2019  
(Lec. 580)  
1) Acts 11:21b-26; 13:1-3  
(Lec. 360)  
2) Matthew 5:13-16

TUESDAY OF  
TENTH WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
Saint Barnabas,  
Apostle)

FOCUS: All Christians should be reflecting the Light of Jesus in all they do.

Today's readings deal with the importance of Christians being shining lights, and portray two outstanding examples of those whose lives shone the light of Jesus – Paul and Barnabas. These two saints listened to the Spirit and followed his promptings. They were responsible for much of the early conversions to Christianity. We are the ones now called to lead lives that shine the Light of Christ.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Barnabas converts many to Christianity, and the Holy Spirit directs the Church to send off Saul and Barnabas to do the work of the Lord. Matthew's Gospel relates the message of Jesus that salt trampled underfoot is worthless, and lights should not be hidden. Our light must shine.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God's promise to always hear our prayers, let us make known our petitions.

- 1) For the missionary work of the Church, may God bless all who work in places of darkness that need Christ's light, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected and appointed officials, may they be blessed and emboldened in courage by the prayers we offer, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the oppressed and downtrodden, may the Light of Christ brighten their darkness, through the presence of those who assist them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our local faith community, may the sacramental graces we receive help us to be more salt and light for one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our deceased relatives and friends, may they spend eternity before the throne of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: We thank you Lord, for hearing our every prayer. Grant these and all that we need, we ask through Christ our Lord.

Wednesday, June 12, 2019  
(Lec. 361)  
1) 2 Corinthians 3:4-11  
2) Matthew 5:17-19

WEDNESDAY OF  
TENTH WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God is the giver of all good things, and all that is accomplished in his name is due to him alone.

This passage from Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians can inspire us. It is a great help for us to offset any pride we might let seep in when we reflect on the things we are able to accomplish. Anything we have done in the name of Jesus is due to the gift of God.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In his Second Letter to the Corinthians, Paul points to God as the giver of all things. Significantly, he speaks of the Spirit who gives life to all. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus speaks of the need to follow the commandments, and his fulfillment of the covenant.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Thankful for all God has given us, we turn to him in confidence with our needs.

- 1) For lay ministers working in the Church, and for all who share their talents, using the gifts they have been given to uplift those they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who do not know the good news of salvation, may the Lord place within their paths some "living saints" who can share the faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For farmers who are planning for the upcoming season, through the goodness of God may their crops flourish, providing for a good harvest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those who volunteer in this community to benefit their neighbors, and all who give of themselves for the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died in the light of Christ, may the mercy of God be upon them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, gracious in love and mercy, we ask that you hear and answer our prayers according to your will, through your son Jesus Christ.

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Thursday, June 13, 2019

(Lec. 362)

- 1) 2 Corinthians 3:15–4:1, 3-6
- 2) Matthew 5:20-26

THURSDAY OF  
TENTH WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

(OBL MEM  
Saint Anthony of Padua,  
Priest and Doctor  
of the Church)

FOCUS: The glory of God is revealed in the righteousness of perfect love.

The Gospel today demands a righteousness that would be intimidating if we lost sight of the call to live in the Spirit that Saint Paul offers in the first reading. The Holy Spirit, who *is* love, has been given to us so that we might be bearers and sharers of the glory of God – the glory of perfect love.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the epistle, Paul invites us to “turn to the Lord,” Jesus Christ, who unveils the radiant glory of God. The Gospel tells of Jesus’ call to surpass the righteousness of even religious leaders in order to *enter into the Kingdom of heaven*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we seek the glory of perfect love, we rely completely on God’s help, and so we turn to God with our prayers.

- 1) For all leaders in the Church, may the light of Christ shine upon them and bring them joy in their ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our world, may the light of Christ bring hope to the darkness of violence and poverty, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those longing for justice and peace, may God’s grace move through his people to bring comfort to all suffering, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our local community who have dire needs, may God bring forth an abundance of helpers to serve them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may they rest in the communion of the Holy Trinity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of love, reveal your glory in us and draw us to a communion that reflects the perfection of your salvation. We pray this through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, June 14, 2019

(Lec. 363)

- 1) 2 Corinthians 4:7-15
- 2) Matthew 5:27-32

FRIDAY OF  
TENTH WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God's abundant grace allows us to overcome sin, and so glory in the life that is from God.

The earthen vessels that are human bodies are afflicted, perplexed, persecuted and struck down. Yet those who have the spirit of faith always manifest the presence of Jesus. It is this abundant grace, freely given, that allows us to overcome the death that is sin, and glory in the life that is from God.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul explains to the Corinthians that even though he and his fellow evangelizers are afflicted and persecuted, they are not abandoned or driven to despair because they have the spirit of faith, and know they will be raised with the Lord. In the Gospel, Jesus comments on the law against adultery, saying that looking *at a woman with lust* is committing adultery in the heart.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in our God, from whom all good things come, we present the prayers we hold deep in our hearts.

- 1) That the Church, as a sign of saving grace and merciful love, may be conformed ever more to Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That those who govern may be blessed with the wisdom of God in discerning what is divisive and in pursuing paths of reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That victims of domestic abuse, neglect or betrayal may be led, through the mercy of God, to sanctuary and new life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That teachers and students in this faith community may have the grace for renewal and refreshment during this summer recess, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our beloved dead may be raised with the Lord Jesus and placed in his heavenly embrace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of glory and majesty, you bestow your abundant grace upon your people. Strengthen in us your spirit of faith so that we may shine like lights in the world. This we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, June 15, 2019  
(Lec. 364)  
1) 2 Corinthians 5:14-21  
2) Matthew 5:33-37

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

FOCUS: As Christians, we are given the privilege of showing Christ's love to others.

Many people are in need of God's love and mercy. We are called to reach out to those people as Jesus Christ would. We are called to be his ambassadors. We may be the only ones to show some the love of God.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul tells the Corinthians that those who know Christ are ambassadors for him. In the Gospel, Jesus comments on the law regarding taking false oaths.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us turn to our Lord today and offer our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For the Church, that God may grant our leaders strength, perseverance and holiness in serving him and others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, that the wisdom and righteousness of God may direct their ways, helping all nations to be peaceful havens of God's love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering from hunger, homelessness, grief or despair, that through God's mercy he may provide ambassadors to minister to each one of them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the Holy Spirit continue to grow in our hearts and draw us further into a love that transforms, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they may find themselves in the presence of God for eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we thank you and praise you for your everlasting love. Help us always to do your will. We pray in the name of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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**SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2019**

(Lec. 166)

- 1) Proverbs 8:22-31
- 2) Romans 5:1-5
- 3) John 16:12-15

**THE MOST HOLY TRINITY  
- SOLEMNITY**

FOCUS: God is a God *for us*.

God created us in his image, dwelt among us and remains with us in truth and as our strength and guidance. Everything God does, *he does for us*. May we strive to live in relationship with one another as our Triune God does with us.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Our first reading is a poetic reflection on the wisdom of God being present in all that God does. Saint Paul tells the Romans that they *have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ*. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that they will come to understand his teachings more fully when they are filled with the Holy Spirit.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We call upon our Triune God to hear our prayers and to respond to our needs.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all pastoral leaders, may they have the steadfastness of the Spirit as they guide us in understanding God's limitless love for all of creation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all world leaders, may the Lord of all creation grant them fortitude as they work to protect our planet and all of its inhabitants, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For families separated by physical or emotional distance, may the God who reconciled us to him reconcile them to one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For catechists and all adult formation leaders as they continue to guide us in understanding the ways of our faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they be forever wrapped in the loving arms of our God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious Father, hear our pleas this day and respond to us with your loving kindness. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Monday, June 17, 2019

(Lec. 365)

- 1) 2 Corinthians 6:1-10
- 2) Matthew 5:38-42

MONDAY OF  
11<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Through God's grace, we are able to find reconciliation that goes beyond our human laws or understanding.

When we find discord in the world, or when we endure hardships or persecution, we are called to reconciliation. Through God's grace, we are able to bring love and peace to situations of injustice. The love of God moves us to go beyond our human understanding of fairness, to a justice that is reimagined by God.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul recounts the many hardships that are being endured for the faith. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that while the law allows for retribution in response to injustice, he calls those who follow him to a new vision of justice: justice through reconciliation with those who have afflicted us.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: One in faith, united in baptism, we offer our needs and the needs of all the world to God, our Father.

- 1) For the Church, may she be purified in the sight of the Lord and strengthened in her witness of the Gospel to the whole world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the world in conflict, that the Spirit of peace may bring reconciliation to all those in strife, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who experience persecution because of their faith, may God give them strength to continue their witness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us gathered here, that God may open our hearts to hear and respond to the needs of the most vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they experience the fullness of life with God in eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, grant us the grace to live in a manner which gives you honor and glory. We offer our prayer through your son, Jesus Christ.

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Tuesday, June 18, 2019  
(Lec. 366)  
1) 2 Corinthians 8:1-9  
2) Matthew 5:43-48

TUESDAY OF  
11<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Let us live with a generous heart.

Living with a heart of charity includes generosity like that of the Macedonians, but also involves loving all people, even those we don't particularly like. Jesus calls Christians to live ever more perfectly, distinct from the ways of the world. Let us pray for the grace to do so.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul tells the Corinthians of the generosity of Christians in Macedonia, who gave even though they were poor. Paul reminds the Corinthians that Christ became poor for our sake. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches his followers to love everyone, even one's enemies, as all are children of God. He challenges his followers to be perfect.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Relying on the loving generosity of our God, we humbly bring to him our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For our seminarians, may the Lord bless them and encourage them in their studies and priestly formation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For community leaders and all who work for the good of others, especially the most vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the poor and suffering, may they encounter the love of Christ through the generosity of his followers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our community of faith, that the Holy Spirit will inspire us in generous and faithful stewardship to one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, that they may dine with Christ at the wedding feast of the Lamb in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, in your mercy, look kindly upon the requests of your children. We ask this in the name of your son Jesus, who is Christ the Lord.

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Wednesday, June 19, 2019  
(Lec. 367)  
1) 2 Corinthians 9:6-11  
2) Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

WEDNESDAY OF  
11<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Romuald,  
Abbot)

FOCUS: *God loves a cheerful giver.*

Most people, when asked to support a worthy cause in the community or at church, will choose to do what is possible at the time. It can be difficult to do without fanfare for some, because our world honors charity and philanthropy. But it is better to do it quietly – for God’s glory and not for ours.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul uses the familiar image of sowing seeds. We can sow seeds and be overly cautious about it or we can be more generous in the process. He also reminds his readers that *God loves a cheerful giver*. In the Gospel, Jesus instructs us to go about doing good for others but warns us not to draw attention to ourselves when we do so

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us direct our hearts and minds to the Father and ask that he provide for our needs.

- 1) For Pope Francis, may the Spirit richly bless him with wisdom and the strength to defend all that is holy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders who are working together in sharing our planet’s resources so that all may benefit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the hungry of the world, may the Lord provide for bountiful harvests so they may be fed, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our faith community actively working to serve the needs of those who come to them in times of distress, may the Lord bless them and their work, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be at peace in the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, you are a most generous God. Help us to imitate your love and your generosity through your son, Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, June 20, 2019

(Lec. 368)

1) 2 Corinthians 11:1-11

2) Matthew 6:7-15

THURSDAY OF  
11<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God knows what we need before we ask.

Jesus tells us that God knows what we need before we ask him, and even gives us the perfect prayer to present our petitions to God. All of the good news of salvation is present in this prayer, for it reminds us that God loves us, is always present and will never forsake us.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul entreats the Corinthian community to listen to him rather than false apostles who preach a different Jesus. In the Gospel, Jesus instructs his listeners on prayer and teaches them the Lord's Prayer.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident that God loves us and will never forsake us, let us present our needs before him.

- 1) For those who shepherd the Church, may the Lord grant them the grace to attend to the truest needs of their flock, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in public office, may God move their hearts in creating policies that protect life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have no one to pray for them, may our prayers and the presence of the Holy Spirit comfort them in their need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all those gathered here, may the Lord grant us the grace of ever deeper and truer prayer, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our brothers and sisters who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith, may they and all who sleep in Christ rest in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of all goodness, hear these prayers we offer you today, We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Friday, June 21, 2019  
(Lec. 369)  
1) 2 Corinthians 11:18, 21-30  
2) Matthew 6:19-23

FRIDAY OF  
11<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
Saint Aloysius Gonzaga,  
Religious)

FOCUS: God turns poverty into eternal riches.

Today's readings usher us into the paradox of life in Christ. The world seems to urge us to brag about our wealth, comfort and status. But what is eternally valuable is faithfulness, trust in God and a poverty of spirit that allows for utter dependence upon God.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul asserts his legitimacy as a messenger of God, boasting *of the things that show [his] weakness*. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples not to store up earthly treasures but those *treasures in heaven*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In our poverty of spirit, we turn to God who hears our prayers and promises us mercy.

- 1) For the Church, that the Lord would richly bless us as we continue to proclaim the good news of God's mercy to the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, that the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit would guide them in governing with justice and integrity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For people who suffer isolation or illness, may they be comforted by God's compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, that the grace and peace of Jesus Christ may be a source of consolation and love to all in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they see God face to face and enjoy eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of mercy and compassion, hear the prayers we offer today. Let your kindness be made known in the way you care for the needs of the faithful. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, June 22, 2019  
(Lec. 370)  
1) 2 Corinthians 12:1-10  
2) Matthew 6:24-34

SATURDAY OF  
11<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Paulinus of Nola, Bishop;  
Saints John Fisher, Bishop  
and Thomas More, Martyrs;  
Saturday in honor  
of BVM)

FOCUS: Radical dependence on God frees us from worry.

Jesus instructs us to take our cue from nature. The Lord provides plentiful food for birds who simply set down to eat from the earth's bounty whenever they are hungry. If the Lord takes care of these humble creatures in such a magnanimous way, Jesus asks how much more will be provided to us, his children.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul declares that God's power *is made perfect in weakness*, therefore he can be content in the midst of hardship. The Gospel reading reassures disciples that one who is serving God and not mammon can live with the confidence that God will provide for one's needs today and into the future.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Seeking the kingdom and the righteousness of God, let us bring our prayers to the Lord this day.

- 1) For priests and those consecrated in religious life, and all who live a life of witness by placing God first in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those given authority over others, may the Lord bless them with a spirit of truth, justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those seeking refuge from violence and war, may they receive the mercy of God and be embraced with welcome and safety by caring communities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may the grace and peace of God our Father bring us ever closer to Jesus our brother, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they know the splendor of eternal life with God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, we place our cares and needs into your providential care. We ask that you hear our petitions through Christ, our Lord.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 2019**

(Lec. 169)

- 1) Genesis 14:18-20
- 2) 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
- 3) Luke 9:11b-17

**THE MOST HOLY  
BODY AND BLOOD  
OF CHRIST  
(Corpus Christi)  
- SOLEMNITY**

FOCUS: Christ fulfills in the Eucharist his promise to be with his people always.

As the source and summit of our faith, we celebrate Christ's enduring presence with us in the mystery of the Eucharist. Here we encounter his love and healing, here we are strengthened and nourished to live the Gospel and to hope for a share in his eternal life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Returning from battle, Abraham meets the king of Salem who invites him to offer bread and wine to the Lord. In what is the first written account of the Last Supper, Saint Paul reminds us that he is handing on what he received regarding the true meaning of the Eucharist. Jesus welcomes the crowd and feeds them in the Gospel, instructing his disciples to do the same.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

**PRIEST:** In giving us the Eucharist, Christ fulfills his promise to be with us through the ages. Confident of his abiding presence, we bring our prayers and petitions to the Father.

- 1) For the universal Church, as a Eucharistic people may the grace of God help us to be faithful communities united in love of God and neighbor, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who exercise authority in the world, and all who have responsibility for caring for those whom they govern, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are sick or in need, may they find comfort in the love of Christ and hope in the promise of eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who worship and share in communal life in this faith community, may the Lord draw and conform us ever closer to himself, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they enter into the fullness of life foreshadowed here in the celebration of the Eucharist, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** God of abundant love, as we bring our needs before you, we give you thanks for the Eucharist by which we are fed with the bread of angels. We offer our prayer through Christ our Lord.



Monday, June 24, 2019  
(Lec. 587)

- 1) Isaiah 49:1-6
- 2) Acts 13:22-26
- 3) Luke 1:57-66, 80

**THE NATIVITY OF  
SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST  
- SOLEMNITY**

FOCUS: We are called, like Elizabeth and Zechariah, to be obedient to God's instruction.

Today we celebrate the birth of John the Baptist, cousin to Jesus and one called by God to announce the coming of Christ. John, like Isaiah, has a unique mission. His parents cooperate with that mission by being obedient to God's instruction. We are called to do likewise, to listen for and follow God's direction in order to fulfill a role that no other person can fill.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Isaiah recounts how God called him from birth to be his servant, and announced his mission to be a light to the nations. In the second reading, Paul traces the lineage of Jesus to David and conveys how John heralded his coming. In the Gospel, Luke describes the events surrounding the naming of the son of Elizabeth and Zechariah: *he will be called John*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As brothers and sisters in Christ, let us bring our petitions to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) For the leaders of the Church, may the Lord bless and keep them as they bring the Gospel of salvation to the ends of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For national and local officials, that the promptings of the Spirit may give them the grace to lead with wisdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who seek relief from illness, for those who do not have access to dependable medical care, and for those who strive to remedy their situations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the unborn, the elderly, the poor and those who face discrimination, may this faith community, through the help of the Holy Spirit, provide a persuasive and eloquent voice on their behalf, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may they experience fullness of joy with John the Baptist and all 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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Tuesday, June 25, 2019  
(Lec. 372)  
1) Genesis 13:2, 5-18  
2) Matthew 7:6, 12-14

TUESDAY OF  
12<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Let God's law, as reflected in Scripture, shape and guide important choices in our lives.

Today's readings remind us that when making important choices in life, we shouldn't be guided solely by what seems a good choice on the surface, such as Lot did. Rather, we should consider whether our actions give proper reverence for what is sacred and for what demonstrates respect toward others, for this is the mandate of the Lord.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

After Abram and Lot part ways to prevent discord from coming between them, the Lord promises Abram a vast land and innumerable descendants. In the Gospel, Jesus urges us to treat what is holy with reverence and to treat others as we would have them treat us, reminding us that the road to fullness of life is a constricted one, with a narrow gate.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us now bring our prayers and petitions before the Lord, with open and trusting hearts.

- 1) For the pope and all Church leaders, may the Lord act in them that their work as shepherds and teachers may be holy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our civic leaders, may the wisdom of the Lord always guide them in making choices for the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For victims of violence and abuse, and those who struggle with addiction, may the Lord be a source of hope and courage, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the Lord make of us a living example of his call to treat others as we would have them treat us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may they enjoy fullness of life in the presence of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, our loving Father, hear these prayers we have brought before you and the prayers we hold in our hearts. We pray in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.

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Wednesday, June 26, 2019  
(Lec. 373)  
1) Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18  
2) Matthew 7:15-20

WEDNESDAY OF  
12<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Let us be wary of false prophets.

Moses warns the Israelites in one of his final discourses (Deuteronomy 13) to be wary of false prophets, and Jesus gives us the same warning in today's Gospel. We need to be able to distinguish God's truth from the ever-changing false truths of relativism. We can do this as we develop a well-formed conscience through the word of God and the teaching of the Church (CCC 1783-85).

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first reading from Genesis gives us the story of God making a covenant with Abram, promising him not only an heir in his old age, but descendants as numerous as the stars. In addition, the Lord says he will give those descendants a great land in which to live. In Matthew's Gospel, we hear Jesus telling us to be wary of false prophets, noting that good fruit cannot come from a bad tree.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us turn humbly to the Father and present our petitions and prayers.

- 1) For the Church, may God help us to remain strong in the face of false prophets as we continue to take the good news of Jesus Christ to all parts of the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all those in public office, may the Lord lead them in their work, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those struggling with the anguish of abortion, may they find peace and forgiveness in the loving arms of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of our faith community, may God guide us in our day-to-day activities by the light of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died after a life of faithfulness to God's covenant, may they enjoy eternal bliss in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petitions)

PRIEST: We praise you, Father, for all the blessings you have given us, and we implore you to grant us these petitions. We ask this in the name of your son, Jesus the Lord.

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Thursday, June 27, 2019

(Lec. 374)

- 1) Genesis 16:1-12, 15-16  
or Genesis 16:6b-12, 15-16
- 2) Matthew 7:21-29

THURSDAY OF

12<sup>TH</sup> WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(Opt. Mem.

Saint Cyril of Alexandria,  
Bishop and Doctor  
of the Church)

FOCUS: We are commanded to put God's words into action in our daily lives.

Jesus tells us that those who listen to his word and act on it are like the wise man who builds his house on rock, and not on sand. Just speaking the words of God is insufficient. We must accompany those words with action. This is how faith and a life of discipleship are lived out.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Having lost faith in God's promise that Abraham would father nations, Sarah intervenes by giving her slave, Hagar, to Abraham. Genesis relates the chaos that results as Hagar bears a son, Ishmael. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus explains that speaking God's word is not enough to gain salvation. We must live the will of the Father with our actions as well.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Joined together as members of the family of God, we present our petitions to the Father.

- 1) For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, and all the clergy, may the Lord bless them and purify them as they shepherd their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in leadership throughout the world who are working to foster peace and justice for their people, may the Holy Spirit bless their efforts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For children throughout the world, both the unborn and those already among us, and those who protect and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in this faith community who suffer from illness, mental or physical, may God strengthen and comfort them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the hope of Christ, may they rest in the kingdom of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we offer these prayers, knowing that your mercy is beyond our understanding. We ask that you fulfill our needs as only you can know them, through your son, Christ, our Lord.

Friday, June 28, 2019  
(Lec. 172)

- 1) Ezekiel 34:11-16
- 2) Romans 5:5b-11
- 3) Luke 15:3-7

**THE MOST SACRED HEART  
OF JESUS  
- SOLEMNITY**

FOCUS: The love that pours forth from the Sacred Heart of Jesus watches over his sheep.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus embodies Christ's divine love for his people. The love of God is poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. That love transforms us, so we may know the voice of the shepherd who cares for us in his mercy and compassion.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Ezekiel envisions God as a shepherd who leads his sheep. In particular, those who are lost or have wandered, those who are injured or sick, receive special attention. Saint Paul reminds us of Christ's sacrifice for us, which reconciled us to God. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that he is the shepherd who cares for every member of his flock with the love of God.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: My sisters and brothers, let us now turn to our loving God with our prayers for our world.

- 1) For the leaders of the Church, may the Holy Spirit protect them from all evil that they may faithfully lead their flocks, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the salvation of the world, and the repentance and conversion of all who have fallen away from Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from religious persecution, may God turn the hearts of their oppressors so that believers may once again be free to proclaim God's goodness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our friends and loved ones in this faith community, may God look graciously upon their every need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls of all the faithful departed, may they, through the mercy of God, rest in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of love and life, in your generous mercy, we ask you to listen to these prayers which we have made, through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, June 29, 2019  
(Lec. 591)

- 1) Acts 12:1-11
- 2) 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18
- 3) Matthew 16:13-19

**SAINTS PETER AND PAUL,  
APOSTLES  
- SOLEMNITY**

FOCUS: God worked in a special way through Peter and Paul – and continues to work through us.

Today we celebrate two men who could be considered the bedrock of the Church: Peter, the first pope, and Paul, the great evangelist who took the Gospel to the Gentiles. God worked through them in remarkable ways – and works remarkably through us, if we're open to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In Acts, we hear of Peter's miraculous rescue from prison through the intervention of an angel. In the second reading, Paul, also in prison, knows that he is facing death, but never wavers in his great faith. In the Gospel, Peter proclaims Jesus as the Son of God – and is given charge of Jesus' Church.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Relying on God as the source of our strength and faith, together we offer these prayers and petitions to him.

- 1) For our Holy Father, may the Lord bless him and grant him fortitude as he leads the Church in these challenging times, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who have been elected to international, national and local leadership, and for those who advise and work for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are unjustly imprisoned or caught in human trafficking, through the mercy of God may they soon find freedom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For families in this faith community facing the serious illness of a child, may they be blessed with support from medical staff, family members and friends, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the deceased family and friends of all present, that they may experience the eternal light of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God and Father of all, we trust in your faithfulness as we present these needs to you. We ask that you hear our prayer in the name of your son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 2019**

(Lec. 99)

- 1) 1 Kings 19:16b. 19-21
- 2) Galatians 5:1, 13-18
- 3) Luke 9:51-62

**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Jesus summons us to him and then sends us out as messengers to proclaim his kingdom.

The Christian life is one of following the way of Christ. Jesus calls us out of our worldliness, out of our habits and attachments, to follow his way. And after we encounter the Lord, he sends us out to proclaim the truth of his kingdom.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the reading from the First Book of Kings, the Lord tells Elijah to find Elisha and anoint him as *prophet to succeed [him]*. Elisha, though he wants to wait until he can say goodbye to his parents, nevertheless slaughters his oxen and follows. In the second reading, Paul writes to the Galatians about the freedom that Christ came to bring us which, if we live by the Spirit, allows us to not be controlled by the desires of the flesh. In the Gospel, Jesus is making his final journey to Jerusalem, and tells those who want to follow him that they must do so without delay.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we offer our prayers to our heavenly Father, let us be mindful of the needs of the Church and the world.

- 1) For Pope Francis, and all who show others the freedom, peace, and joy of a life lived with Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For political leaders, may the justice of God create in them a heart for the same as they seek true freedom for the people they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, that they may experience the comfort and healing of Christ the Physician, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith as we seek to follow Christ more closely, may the Spirit of Truth support and encourage us on the pilgrim way, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that through the Lord's infinite mercy they may enjoy the fullness of what he has prepared in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father in heaven, you call us to yourself so that we may experience true freedom. Increase our trust in you so that we can confidently place these and all of our intentions in your loving hands. We ask this and all of our prayers through Christ our Lord.

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