

OCTOBER

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**YEAR C
WEEKDAYS I**

Tuesday, October 1, 2019
(Lec. 456)

- 1) Zechariah 8:20-23
- 2) Luke 9:51-56

TUESDAY OF
26TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM

Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus,
Virgin and Doctor of the Church)

FOCUS: Our baptismal vocation is a purposeful journey to God.

In both of our Scriptures today, we hear of people on a journey – a journey with a simple but definitive destination. Living out our baptismal vocation is the same kind of journey: It is not an aimless wandering with no end in mind, but a purposeful walk ever closer to Christ.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Zechariah prophesies of the day when *many peoples* will make the journey to Jerusalem, seeking the Lord and asking his favor. In the Gospel, Jesus is *resolutely determined* to undertake his journey to Jerusalem. When the disciples are unwelcome in a Samaritan village, they ask to destroy it but Jesus rebukes them and continues on the journey.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we journey together to the Father, let us bring him our needs and petitions.

- 1) For our holy Mother Church, and for the needs of all her children, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, and all whom they serve, may the grace of God lead them in all they say and do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those struggling to make decisions, may the Holy Spirit help them in seeing clearly the path God invites them to walk, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may we be given the courage to follow Christ wherever he leads us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they find eternal rest in the loving arms of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of wonder and might, we thank you for inviting us to journey with you and to you. We ask that you hear and respond to our prayers, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, October 2, 2019
(Lec. 457)

1) Nehemiah 2:1-8

(Lec. 650)

2) Matthew 18:1-5, 10

WEDNESDAY OF
26TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
The Holy Guardian Angels)

FOCUS: Let us come to the Father with childlike humility and trust.

The Gospel reminds us that we must *become like children* – that is, to be humble and to receive one another in and with humility. We are also reminded today to trust in God's providence, much like Nehemiah did by praying to God before making his bold request to the king. May we have the virtue of humility, the gift of trust in our prayers to the Father, and childlike joy for all he has given us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Nehemiah, serving as cupbearer for King Artaxerxes, receives permission to rebuild Jerusalem in the kingdom of Judah. The king's support includes letters for free travel and timber. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples to be childlike and humble, for the angels of children are close to the Father. He encourages them to welcome children in his name.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With childlike trust in our loving Father, we bring him our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For seminarians and transitional deacons, may they continue to be strengthened in holiness and grace as they prepare for the priesthood, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may the Lord guide their actions in working for peace throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For refugees, may they experience the tender care of God as they seek security, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may our relationships with one another be strengthened through the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they enjoy everlasting life with God in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, look kindly upon the needs of your children, and in your mercy hear us. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thursday, October 3, 2019
(Lec. 458)

- 1) Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 5-6,
7b-12
- 2) Luke 10:1-12

THURSDAY OF
26TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Our call to discipleship brings us true joy.

Our call to discipleship is powerfully shaped by our understanding of our role in the kingdom of God. Just as Jesus instructed the first disciples, we, too, are called to announce the kingdom in our words and in our actions. This brings us true joy, rejoicing in this holy time.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Ezra reads from the book of the law to the people of rebuilt Jerusalem. Once they understand the words, they celebrate with great joy. In the Gospel, Jesus gives instruction to the disciples who may face acceptance or rejection in their proclamation of the kingdom of God.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In our openness to accepting the Word and receiving God's blessing, we offer our prayers to the Lord.

- 1) That all who lead the Church may be guided by the Holy Spirit in the proclamation of God's word, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That God's law may inspire nations in working for greater justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who are burdened by circumstances and difficulties may be blessed with consolation and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That our community of faith may grow in holiness and faith through Christ's presence in the sacraments, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died in the light of Christ may share with him the heavenly kingdom of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, your Word brings joy to our hearts. We trust that you hear our prayers and will respond to our needs, through your Son, the Living Word.

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Friday, October 4, 2019
(Lec. 459)

- 1) Baruch 1:15-22
- 2) Luke 10:13-16

FRIDAY OF
26TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Francis of Assisi)

FOCUS: Turn away from sin and toward God, the source of our life.

Today's readings warn of the dangers of blinding ourselves to the goodness of God, and failing to obey his words and repent. As human beings – whether Israelites at the time of the Babylonian exile, the people of Jesus' time or Christians today – we are prone to sin, to turning away from God. But God's word is meant for our good. He is the source of our life – the One who loves us into being and calls us to himself.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the reading from Baruch, the Babylonian exiles pray to God in a confession of sin, admitting their shame and guilt for not listening to him or his prophets, and for being disobedient. In the Gospel, Jesus reproaches the people of Chorazin and Capernaum for their lack of repentance.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Recognizing our deep need for God, we turn to him with the challenges and troubles of our world.

- 1) For members of the Church throughout the world, may God's power and grace help us to grow in unity and holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may God guide them in just and prudential decision-making, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For people who are hungry or homeless, and for those who have no one to care for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here and all whom we love, that through the intercession of Mary we may grow ever closer to our Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who will die today, may God have mercy on them and raise them to everlasting life with him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of all compassion, hear the prayers we offer you on behalf of our world and grant us your grace and mercy. We ask this in Jesus' name.

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Saturday, October 5, 2019
(Lec. 460)
1) Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29
2) Luke 10:17-24

SATURDAY OF
26TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
USA: Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos,
Priest;
Saturday in honor
of BVM)

FOCUS: To be grateful is to be humble, and to be like Jesus.

Humility and gratitude are virtues Jesus models for us throughout the Gospels. He does not allow his disciples to take credit for the healing miracles they have experienced, and he takes no credit for what he has done, either. Instead, he gives all credit and glory to the Father. When we are grateful, we are being humble, and living like Jesus.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, the prophet tells the people that if they call out to God, he will hear and save them, bringing enduring joy. In the Gospel, Jesus welcomes the 72 disciples back from their teaching and healing mission. He expresses his gratitude to the Father for the people who will carry on his mission.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us join our hearts and minds and, as one, present our petitions to the Father.

- 1) For the Church, may God endow her with all necessary gifts as she proclaims the Good News of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government officials, may God perfect in them a desire for doing his will in their civil service, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For people plagued by fear or anxiety, may God's never-ending love for them free them from their distress, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of believers baptized into Christ, may the Spirit of the Lord strengthen us in lives of deeper faith and hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may they be welcomed to the great banquet in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we are grateful for all you do for us. Hear us now and continue to provide for us. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ.

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2019

(Lec. 141)

- 1) Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4
- 2) 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14
- 3) Luke 17:5-10

**27TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: God's gift is not a spirit of timidity, but one of faith-filled courage.

Courage lies at the heart of all our readings today – the courage to be faithful before the Lord in all things. Like the disciples, we, too, should be unafraid to ask him for an increase in faith. For Jesus reminds us that even with the smallest amount of faith, we have the capacity to do great things in his name.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Habakkuk complains to the Lord, who responds that what Habakkuk awaits will come in time, and the just one shall live because of his faith. Saint Paul writes to Timothy and encourages him in his faithfulness to the Gospel. In the Gospel, the Apostles say to Jesus: *Increase our faith*. He responds by comparing faith to the size of a mustard seed, and expounding on the role of a good servant.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God knows our joys, hopes and fears. In complete trust, let us bring our needs and prayers before him.

- 1) For the Church, drawn from all nations and languages to proclaim the fidelity and praise of the Lord to all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may the Lord bless them with skills and talents necessary to care for the communities they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are sick, may Christ the healer bring his restorative touch to their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may our faith in our loving Father be nurtured through the blessings we receive, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may God grant them a place at the eternal feast in his kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, as we await the glory of your kingdom, help us to listen to your Word and lead lives worthy of your Son. Grant this, and all our prayers, we ask through your Son, Christ our Lord.

Monday, October 7, 2019
(Lec. 461)

- 1) Jonah 1:1–2:2, 11
- 2) Luke 10:25-37

MONDAY OF
27TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Our Lady of the Rosary)

FOCUS: Let us direct our lives in accord with God's divine law to love God and love our neighbor.

Throughout history, men and women have wrestled with following the path laid before them by the Lord. The direction God wants us to follow is one of mercy and compassion. There is no greater freedom than to live according to the way of the Lord.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lord instructed Jonah to go to Nineveh and preach against it. But Jonah resisted the promptings of the Lord, and tried to flee. No matter how far he fled, he found that he was not able to escape the Lord. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches a scholar that the way to love God and to love neighbor is to show mercy.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us join together and place our prayers before the Lord, on behalf of all the world.

- 1) For the Church, may the grace of the Holy Spirit keep her strong and protect her from all evil in her witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government officials, may God grant them the gifts of honesty and integrity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the dying and for all who bear the burden of sickness, may they share in and know the love of Christ at their time of difficulty, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who live and worship in this faith community, may we grow in virtue through the most holy name of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be surrounded by the infinite love of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of mercy, in your goodness, you show us the way to eternal life. May you keep us faithful to your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, October 8, 2019
(Lec. 462)

- 1) Jonah 3:1-10
- 2) Luke 10:38-42

TUESDAY OF
27TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Listen for the Lord's message in our lives.

Listening to the Lord's word in our lives is an important Christian practice through which God's grace can transform us to be more Christ-like. God can speak to us through other people who help us, or through time spent in prayer.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Jonah proclaims the Lord's message to the Ninevites, who upon hearing it, repent and turn away from their evil ways. Seeing their actions, the Lord shows them mercy. In the Gospel, Jesus is a guest at Martha's home. Jesus affirms Mary's choice to stay by his feet and listen while her sister Martha is busy serving.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the Lord's mercy and compassion, let us bring before him our prayers and petitions for the world.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may God bless her with an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all those who serve in public office, may the Lord strengthen their resolve in working for the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those whose hearts have hardened to the Gospel, may the Lord's love and healing care break through the barriers of their hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all families in our faith community, may the Lord's mercy and forgiveness heal any divisions and conflicts within them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may the Lord welcome them into his eternal banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Hear, merciful God, these petitions we have brought before you, and answer them, we humbly pray, in accordance with your will. In Christ's name we pray.

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Wednesday, October 9, 2019
(Lec. 463)

- 1) Jonah 4:1-11
- 2) Luke 11:1-4

WEDNESDAY OF
27TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saints Denis, Bishop,
and Companions,
Martyrs;
Saint John Leonardi,
Priest)

FOCUS: With humility we receive God's grace to meet the challenges in our lives.

Sometimes our first reaction when confronted by a difficult problem in our lives is to run the other way, as Jonah did in today's first reading. But we have the opportunity to grow in faith when we confront our challenges and, with humility, turn to God to help us overcome them.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Jonah becomes angry with God after he spares the lives of everyone in Nineveh because they repented for their sins. In the Gospel, the Apostles ask Jesus to teach them how to pray and he answers with the Lord's Prayer.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Secure in the knowledge of God's love for us, let us now offer him our prayers.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all bishops, may the Lord bless them with the gifts necessary for leading our Church in these difficult times, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may God guide them as they work to protect the sanctity of life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For women in troubled or difficult pregnancies, and for those who assist them in choosing life for their children, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all those in our community who are lonely or shut-in, and those who work to meet their needs, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the deceased members of our faith community, may they rest in eternal peace in God's loving arms, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Thursday, October 10, 2019
(Lec. 464)

- 1) Malachi 3:13-20b
- 2) Luke 11:5-13

THURSDAY OF
27TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Our heavenly Father hears our prayers and faithfully answers them.

God's love is constant, and his promise to answer our prayers is solid and unconditional. He is always there for us, but sometimes it requires that we be persistent in our prayer, patient as we await God's response, and accepting of the manner in which our prayers are answered.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Malachi tells the people that those who have rebuked the Lord will experience his wrath, while those who have remained true to him will know God's love and mercy. In the Gospel, Jesus uses examples to emphasize the Father's generosity to all those who ask him for things.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With God's assurance that he hears and answers our prayers, we join our voices to present our needs to the Father.

- 1) For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, may God help him remain strong in his witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our world in need of salvation, and for those in positions of authority, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those throughout the world who are hungry both spiritually and physically, may the Lord fill them with his presence and provide for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our neighbors who are suffering from loneliness, poverty or illness, may God's saving love comfort them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls of all the faithful departed, may they rest in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we offer these prayers knowing that you have promised to provide what we need to continue to live in your goodness and mercy. Through your Son, Jesus Christ.

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Friday, October 11, 2019
(Lec. 465)

- 1) Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2
- 2) Luke 11:15-26

FRIDAY OF
27TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint John XXIII, Pope)

FOCUS: God has given us his Son, Jesus Christ, so that we can walk in his freedom with joy and confidence.

Through his Son, God has assured us victory over evil. Jesus Christ is our Savior who brings us freedom through his death and resurrection. We can rely on him to be with us during difficult times.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from Joel calls Israel to repent and cry to the Lord *for the day of the Lord is coming*. In today's Gospel, after Jesus had cast out a demon, the crowd accuses him of working with Beelzebul. Jesus promises deliverance from evil spirits, and exhorts the people to stay in unity against the power of Beelzebul.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us turn to God, our heavenly Father, with our prayers, recognizing that he is the source of our hope.

- 1) For all members of our Church, may the Holy Spirit be our advocate in our work to bring about God's kingdom on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may God's laws be their model as they create regulations and policies, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those struggling with illness, fear or hopelessness, may Jesus bring them hope and consolation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may God, our deliverer and source of all hope, help us as we strive each day to live as his sons and daughters, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be surrounded by the heavenly host in the presence of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the freedom and joy we can have through Jesus Christ our Lord. We ask that you hear our intentions today and answer them in accordance with your will. Through your Son, Jesus Christ.

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Saturday, October 12, 2019
(Lec. 466)

- 1) Joel 4:12-21
- 2) Luke 11:27-28

SATURDAY OF
27TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Saturday in honor of
BVM)

FOCUS: Salvation is available for all who hear and observe the word of God.

God's saving plan is meant for all, even while certain people, such as Israel, had unique roles. This is so God's plan to reach all peoples and nations may be fulfilled. Thus Jesus proclaims God's blessing upon everyone – salvation is available for all who hear and observe God's word.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the prophet Joel proclaims that the Lord will judge nations. Jerusalem will be holy, and the violence done to Judah's people will be avenged. In the Gospel, Jesus says that all *who hear the word of God and observe it* are blessed.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us offer our prayers to the Lord, who seeks to bless and save us.

- 1) That Christ, the living Word, may animate Catholic missionaries in their witness to the ends of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That fear of the Lord and knowledge of his judgment may move nations from violence toward peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That through the intercession of our Blessed Mother, those who are struggling under the burden of doubt may have it lifted and replaced with a faithful "yes" to God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That we who hear the Word may have the grace of the Holy Spirit to observe it in daily life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died in Christ may dwell with him in the heavenly Jerusalem, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of all blessings, hear and answer our prayers, that we may rejoice and give thanks to your holy name. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2019

(Lec. 144)

- 1) 2 Kings 5:14-17
- 2) 2 Timothy 2:8-13
- 3) Luke 17:11-19

**28TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: The word of God is powerful enough to cleanse us of sickness and sin.

The first reading and the Gospel show us miraculous cures from the terrible disease of leprosy. Through faith and trust, those who were sick listened to and followed the direction of their healers and regained their lives and standing in the community. Nothing is beyond God's capabilities, including forgiving our most egregious sins.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Naaman is cured of his leprosy after following the prophet Elisha's instructions to plunge into the Jordan River seven times. In his Letter to Timothy, Paul notes that while he may be in chains, the word of God is not. All who are faithful to Christ will obtain salvation in him. In the Gospel, Jesus cleanses 10 lepers but only one of them – a Samaritan – returns to give glory and thanks to God.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In gratitude and trust, we approach God with the prayers of our hearts for the benefit of our neighbors near and far.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, and for all who seek the Good News of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in political, civic or juridical leadership, and for all who lead and work with them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For refugees and those seeking asylum, may God help them find a safe place to begin a new life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in this faith community who are sick, or suffering from any infirmity of body, mind or spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the souls of the faithful departed, especially those who have no one to pray for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of healing, mercy and love, hear these prayers we place before you, spoken and unspoken. We entrust them to you through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Monday, October 14, 2019
(Lec. 467)

- 1) Romans 1:1-7
- 2) Luke 11:29-32

MONDAY OF
28TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Callistus I,
Pope and Martyr)

FOCUS: We may seek signs to believe, but Jesus says the signs have already been given.

The crowds are asking for more signs to believe, but if the Ninevites can believe from Jonah's preaching, then this generation should believe when Jesus is speaking. Jesus is the Son of God before them, and before us today, calling us all to repentance. No signs are necessary – only faith.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul introduces himself and his message to the community of Rome. He calls himself an Apostle and tells them that the Gospel is available to all the Gentiles, including them. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the crowd that *this generation is an evil generation* because the people are seeking a sign from Jesus, but it has already been given to them.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In faith and humility, we humbly bring our prayers before the Lord.

- 1) For the Church, may the Holy Spirit open our hearts to hear the ways that we are called to repent, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the world, may God grant us mercy for the sins we have committed, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who carry the burden of poverty, may Christ the redeemer hear their cry and provide sustenance and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the Lord who created us in his image form us to be people of kindness and hospitality, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may God grant them salvation and joyful eternity in his presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, you hear our prayers before we can even speak a word. Hear now the needs of your faithful people gathered here. We ask through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, October 15, 2019
(Lec. 468)

- 1) Romans 1:16-25
- 2) Luke 11:37-41

TUESDAY OF
28TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Teresa of Jesus,
Virgin and Doctor of the Church)

FOCUS: The power of the Gospel is for our salvation.

Today's readings describe the struggle for wisdom and purity: the struggle between placing God first in our lives and giving thanks to him for all we have, and the temptation to exchange *the truth of God for a lie*. We sometimes lose sight of our maker and move from the wisdom of what God has revealed to impurity of thought and action. But the power of the Gospel is for our salvation – and those with faith will live.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul describes the effects of exchanging the truth of God for a lie, of worshiping creation instead of our creator. In the Gospel, Jesus responds to the Pharisees who are amazed he does not observe ritual washing: The outside may be clean, but inside is full of *plunder and evil*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our needs and our joys to our God, who gives us everything.

- 1) For all leaders in the Church, may the Holy Spirit fill them with wisdom and purity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For public authorities, may the fruits of the Holy Spirit perfect them in their duties toward God's creation and those most in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those struggling with grief, may they be filled with God's light and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, may God's grace conform our hearts and minds ever more fully to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rest in the light of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of wisdom, we offer you these prayers today with hearts full of gratitude for all you give. Teach us to trust in you and to allow you to guide us in all we do. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, October 16, 2019
(Lec. 469)

- 1) Romans 2:1-11
- 2) Luke 11:42-46

WEDNESDAY OF
28TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Hedwig,
Religious;
Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque,
Virgin)

FOCUS: A just judgment awaits all who are faithful to God.

Today's Scriptures provide some stern words about hypocrisy: for example, how following the hollow details of the law, void of love and compassion, is like being an unmarked grave upon which people unwittingly walk about. But in the midst of these words is the good-news reminder that *God* is the one who judges, and that just judgment awaits all who obey his truth and persevere in good works.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Paul writes that Jews and Greeks alike will be judged, each according to their individual works. He warns against passing judgment on others. In the Gospel, Jesus reproaches the Pharisees and scholars who pay tithes but pay no attention to loving God, and who impose burdens on others.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Mindful of our own shortcomings, let us bring to the Lord our needs and petitions.

- 1) For our Church leaders, may God give them courage in setting examples of mercy and humility, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who exercise power in our judicial system, may the God who judges give them wisdom in their judgments upon others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are imprisoned, and for all who have been wounded by them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the members of our faith community, and for the loved ones we hold so dear, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may they be enveloped in God's mercy and brought to everlasting peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of all, hear our petitions and grant them according to your will. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son.

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Thursday, October 17, 2019
(Lec. 470)

- 1) Romans 3:21-30
- 2) Luke 11:47-54

THURSDAY OF
28TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Ignatius of Antioch,
Bishop and Martyr)

FOCUS: It is not the law that saves, but rather faith in Jesus Christ.

When God sent his Son into the world, it was to reconcile us to himself. We are not saved as a reward for good behavior; we are saved because God chooses to forgive our sins. God is continually calling us to himself, and through faith we have the eyes to see how he is acting in our lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul writes to the Romans that all have sinned and none can be saved by the works of the law. Rather, God chose to save us by forgiving our sins through the *redemption in Christ Jesus*. In the Gospel, Jesus condemns the scholars of the law and compares the Apostles to the prophets, who were rejected in their time.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together as one voice, let us raise our petitions to our loving Father.

- 1) For bishops, may they be made worthy of the authority of their role and represent Christ's will to their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For lawyers and lawmakers, may their interpretation and enforcement of the law be guided by God's wisdom and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For Christians around the world who are persecuted because of their faith, may their suffering unite them to Christ and may he give them the endurance to persevere, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of believers, may we be inspired by the Apostles and prophets as we continue their work of preaching salvation in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they receive the salvation that has been won for them by Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, you have called us to yourself and desire all that is good for us. Hear the prayers we bring before you today and grant them according to your holy will. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord.

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Friday, October 18, 2019
(Lec. 661)

- 1) 2 Timothy 4:10-17b
- 2) Luke 10:1-9

**SAINT LUKE,
EVANGELIST
- FEAST**

FOCUS: Let us strive to be faithful witnesses to Christ.

As Christians, there are concrete things we can do to faithfully witness to Christ. These practical things are outlined in the Gospel today: Be a person of peace; wish well for others, not ill; don't complain but graciously receive what others offer you; accept hospitality; don't let restlessness keep you from persevering. Saint Luke, whose feast we celebrate today, models these and other Christian virtues.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul describes the hardships he has recently endured, with only Luke by his side. In the Gospel, Jesus sends out 72 disciples to towns he intends to visit, instructing them on how to conduct themselves during this mission.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we strive to be faithful companions to others in need, let us offer our petitions to our Father in heaven.

- 1) For all Church leaders, may God grant them a spirit of service and compassion for all those whom they shepherd, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For national and local leaders, may the Holy Spirit guide them in using their talents for peaceful resolution of conflicts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, for those struggling with depression, and for all worried about the health of loved ones, that through the intercession of Saint Luke the physician, God may grant healing and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the community gathered here, may this eucharistic meal strengthen us to be faithful companions to one another, especially those most in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may they experience fullness of joy with Saint Luke and all the saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we entrust our prayers to you knowing that you hear us and give us what we need. Grant these and all our petitions, we ask, in the holy name of your Son, Jesus Christ.

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Saturday, October 19, 2019
(Lec. 472)

- 1) Romans 4:13, 16-18
- 2) Luke 12:8-12

SATURDAY OF
28TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
USA: Saints John de Brébeuf
and Isaac Jogues,
Priests,
and Companions,
Martyrs)

FOCUS: The Holy Spirit will be faithful to all who strive to remain with Jesus.

Abraham was a model of faith as he hoped against hope in God's promise. He trusted, and believed. The faith of Abraham is the same faith we are given as gift by God. Exercising that faith, growing that faith, and living that faith is our choice, but requires that we be open to God's grace. This grace enables us to acknowledge Jesus before others, remain faithful in tribulation and trust the Holy Spirit to provide what is needed.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Paul lifts up Abraham as an example of how righteousness from God must come through faith rather than the law. In the Gospel, Jesus claims that all who acknowledge or deny him he will treat accordingly. He also states that blasphemy against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In our prayers together, we show our trust in the promises of God. Let us approach him now in faith.

- 1) For our Church, that the Holy Spirit may continue to call forth holy and prophetic voices among our bishops, priests, vowed religious and all people he calls to himself, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our government leaders, may the Lord lead them in creating policies that promote the common good and protect the most vulnerable among us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who have left their faith, may Christ the Good Shepherd draw them home to him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the Lord grant us abundant faith to be open to the ways he calls us to love each other and serve our community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may the Lord welcome them into his eternal joy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we thank you for receiving our prayers, and we ask that you grant them according to your holy will. Through your Son, Christ our Lord.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2019

(Lec. 147)

- 1) Exodus 17:8-13
- 2) 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2
- 3) Luke 18:1-8

**29TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Perseverance in prayer and fidelity to God's ways lead us to the kingdom.

Endurance runners need a great deal of perseverance. They cannot expend all their energy at the beginning or they won't be able to complete the race. Nor can they run the race without the proper training, fuel and clear direction as to the route. We, too, need a tremendous amount of perseverance to run a race of good faith. Prepared by sacraments, fueled by grace and headed toward Jesus, we can reach the kingdom.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Moses needs help in keeping his hands raised so that Joshua will be victorious. Saint Paul reminds Timothy to remain faithful to what he has learned. In the Gospel, Jesus uses the parable of the persistent widow to remind the disciples *to pray always without becoming weary*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God our Father never tires of hearing our prayers, and delights in us asking for his help. Let us bring our needs before him.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all who preach the Gospel, may the Holy Spirit give them courage and humility in their proclamation of the Good News, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of government, may the Lord grant them perseverance in doing what is right and just for their constituents, let us pray to the Lord
- 3) For those who face adversity, suffering or severe illness, and for those who love and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this assembly, may God be pleased with our prayers and grant us the grace to persist in our lives of faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may their steadfast faith bring them into the embrace of our heavenly Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Ever-present Father, guide our every step. Grant us the desire and perseverance we need to arrive safely home to you. This we ask through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Monday, October 21, 2019
(Lec. 473)

- 1) Romans 4:20-25
- 2) Luke 12:13-21

MONDAY OF
29TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God shows favor upon those who are faithful to his will.

As Abraham received a covenant from the Lord, so, too, do Jesus' followers enter into a covenant with him. If we follow his teachings, to love God and to love neighbor, we may receive our heavenly inheritance. Our focus ought to be on God, and not on earthly treasures.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul, in his Letter to the Romans, holds up Abraham as a model of fidelity to God. In the Gospel, Jesus is asked to settle a conflict between two brothers. He cautions his followers to guard against greed, and tells them a parable about a rich man with a bountiful harvest.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For Church leaders, may the Holy Spirit purify and sanctify them in their ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the salvation of the world, may the Lord bring into light those who are in darkness, and grant mercy to all who seek him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For families torn by conflict, may the intercession of the Holy Family help them in their difficulties, and lead them to reconciliation and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered in this holy place, may God help us be like Abraham, faithful to his covenant, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they rest in the peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, may you receive the prayers we have just offered, and answer them in your grace. We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, October 22, 2019
(Lec. 474)

- 1) Romans 5: 12, 15b,
17-19, 20b-21
- 2) Luke 12:35-38

TUESDAY OF
29TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint John Paul II,
Pope)

FOCUS: Christ is the new Adam, who justifies us and brings us eternal life.

Through one man – Adam – sin and death entered the world and all who followed him were subjected to both. Jesus Christ is the new Adam, who opened for us the way to a share in the eternal life of God. By his sacrifice on Calvary, he has paid the price that is rightly owed by all humanity. He has ensured that when he comes in glory, those who have been faithful and embraced his gift of grace will reign through his justification.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul writes that because of the sacrifice of Christ we, who were once condemned, now have the hope of new life. In the Gospel, Jesus challenges the disciples to be like faithful servants – vigilant and ready to serve, no matter the hour or the day.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For Church leaders, may the Lord continue to strengthen them and give them humility and courage in leading those entrusted to their pastoral care, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all civil leaders, may the grace of God be upon them and work through them in all they do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are alienated from God and his Church, may the Holy Spirit open their hearts and help them respond to Christ's message of love and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who share in this community of faith, may the graces we receive in the sacraments and Word bring us more closely to perfect love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they come to share in the fullness of Christ's glory and enjoy his favor forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God, hear our prayers and in your great love answer them. Let us experience once more your constant help and steadfast mercy. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, October 23, 2019
(Lec. 475)

- 1) Romans 6:12-18
- 2) Luke 12:39-48

WEDNESDAY OF
29TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint John of Capistrano,
Priest)

FOCUS: By grace we know of God's goodness, and with grace and virtue we await Christ's return.

Both Jesus and Saint Paul speak of the person who knows God's will, yet acts sinfully. We may understand this through our own experiences of temptation. Saint Paul and Jesus enjoin us not only to avoid sin, but to act in grace. Grace and virtue should direct all our ways, as we do not know the moment of Christ's return.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul encourages the Romans to not let sin reign over them, for they are no longer *under the law but under grace*. Jesus tells his disciples that they must be prepared, like good servants, for the return of the master.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Mindful of our need to be prepared for Christ's return, let us now make our needs known to God.

- 1) For the Church as we wait in hopefulness for Christ's return, may the Lord grant us the grace to stay true to his will, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civil authorities, may the Holy Spirit create in them the devotion of a servant's heart, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For clarity in discernment when light and darkness seem difficult to decipher, may the Lord provide the grace to know his will, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may God give us clarity and grace in all our decision-making, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the peace of Christ, may they rest in that peace for all eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, hear our prayers today, and graciously grant us what we ask in faith. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, October 24, 2019
(Lec. 476)

- 1) Romans 6:19-23
- 2) Luke 12:49-53

THURSDAY OF
29TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Anthony Mary Claret,
Bishop)

FOCUS: God's gift of eternal life is more than we deserve.

From the beginning, the result of sin has been death. When we sin, we separate ourselves from the source of life. Jesus' death restored humanity's relationship with God. Now, when we turn away from sin and obey God, we receive the gift of eternal life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul writes to the Romans that the natural consequence of sin is death, whereas a holy life lived in obedience to God leads to eternal life, which is God's gift. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that he has not come to bring peace on earth, but division.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: United as the body of Christ, we offer our prayers to the Father.

- 1) For the Church, may our hearts be set ablaze by the Holy Spirit as we share the Good News for the transformation of the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our world, may God's countenance shine upon the places where division and fighting are rampant and bring peace among peoples, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are unemployed or underemployed, may the Lord give them strength in their struggles and provide opportunities for meaningful work, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the power of the Holy Spirit unite us even more to Christ in all we say and do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they share in the glory of the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, you sent your Son into the world out of love for us, so that we who believe in him might have eternal life. Strengthen our faith, so that we may one day reach the peace of your kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, October 25, 2019
(Lec. 477)

- 1) Romans 7:18-25a
- 2) Luke 12:54-59

FRIDAY OF
29TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: With Jesus' help, we are called to work for what is good in our world.

Today's readings focus on the tension between good and evil. Paul desires to do what is right, but still struggles to do so. The people gathered to listen to Jesus are blind to the signs of Jesus. We, too, face these struggles. We must recognize what is good and right, and then choose to act accordingly. The readings today help us to understand that we need Jesus to guide us on the path of goodness.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul describes the conflict between his *inner self* and his *mortal body*. He desires to do what is good, but still does evil. In the Gospel, Jesus criticizes the crowds because they can interpret the signs of the weather, but not the signs of the times. He urges the crowd to make their relationships right before going before a judge.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the great providence of God, we humbly present our needs and the needs of others.

- 1) For the Church, may the Holy Spirit guide our ordained leaders as they interpret and respond to the signs of the times, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For lawmakers, judges, attorneys and law enforcement officers, may God grant them wisdom and courage in fostering and upholding justice in society, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For victims of injustice, may our merciful God give them the strength to endure and may he provide opportunities for a more just world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community gathered in prayer, may the Lord guide us through the daily struggle in choosing good over evil, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the deceased members of our community, may God grant them rest and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Thank you, Lord, for graciously hearing our prayers. Grant these things we brought before you today, and guide us along the path of goodness. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, October 26, 2019
(Lec. 478)

- 1) Romans 8:1-11
- 2) Luke 13:1-9

SATURDAY OF
29TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Saturday in honor
of BVM)

FOCUS: God calls us to repent so that we can live the full life he intends for us.

In today's Gospel, Jesus demonstrates "tough love" as he tells the crowds that they will perish if they do not repent. The true nature of mercy is that God calls us to repent so that we can live the full life he intends for us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In his Letter to the Romans, Saint Paul differentiates between the spirit and the flesh, stating that the spirit fosters life but the concern of the flesh is death. In the Gospel, Jesus instructs the crowds to not worry about others who may have sinned, but to focus on their own repentance so they will not perish.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together as one voice, let us turn to our merciful Father with our needs.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord inspire our pope, bishops and priests in lives of prayerful service marked by humility and repentance, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our world, may God bestow on all people the opportunity to live together in peace through his spirit of humility and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are burdened by the fear of suffering, may the Lord give them courage and strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the Holy Spirit draw us nearer to the Lord through this Mass and our life together, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, and all those in purgatory, may the Lord grant them eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord, you are the One who calls us into life. Hear our prayers and answer them according to your holy will. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2019

(Lec. 150)

- 1) Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18
- 2) 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
- 3) Luke 18:9-14

**30TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Relationship with the Lord requires us to recognize our dependence on him.

While pride is the root of much sin, humility is the soil in which a life of virtue can grow. The more we recognize our need for God and his mercy, the more we can open ourselves up to the grace he wishes to pour out on us. It is when we think ourselves independent of God that we close ourselves off to his saving mercy and grace.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sirach says that *the Lord is a God of justice* who is not partial, but does hear the cries and prayers of the most vulnerable. Saint Paul writes that he has *kept the faith* and looks forward to the *crown of righteousness*, noting that it was the Lord who rescued him from evil. In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the Pharisee and tax collector who go to the Temple to pray, noting the justification of the tax collector due to his humility.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We humbly bring our needs and desires to the Lord, asking him to hear and answer us, his children, who depend on him for all things.

- 1) For God's holy Church, may God's mercy and justice create in us lives of humility and dependence upon his love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may God give them a renewed respect for the dignity of life from conception to natural death as they support laws to protect the most vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, may God provide healing in mind, body and soul, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us gathered here and for those we love, may the Holy Spirit give us the grace to grow in humility and love of neighbor, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they experience the fullness of the kingdom for eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, hear these and all of our prayers this day, and have mercy on us, your sons and daughters. We ask this through your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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Monday, October 28, 2019
(Lec. 666)

- 1) Ephesians 2:19-22
- 2) Luke 6:12-16

**SAINTS SIMON AND JUDE,
APOSTLES
- FEAST**

FOCUS: We all belong to the household of God.

God is our strength and our foundation in life. He called us into being, and we belong to him. We have heard in our sacraments and in Scripture that he calls us by name. He knows us and he loves us. The Twelve Apostles were also called by name, and as their descendants in faith and by our priestly vocation through baptism, we are meant to call others to God as they did.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul writes to the Ephesians, telling them that they *are no longer strangers* but one household whose capstone is Christ. In the Gospel, Jesus chooses the Twelve Apostles from his disciples, calling them each by name.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As his chosen people, we come to the Father with all our needs.

- 1) For all priests and religious, may the intercession of Saints Simon and Jude give them strength and support in their ministries, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all the world, may God soften hearts and end hatred and terrorism, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, unemployed and those suffering with loneliness, may God provide communities that reach out to aid them in their time of need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may God graciously look upon us in our needs and help us grow in holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they find peace and rest in heaven for all eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of mercy, we thank you for choosing us as your children and caring for all our needs. Hear our prayers today, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, October 29, 2019
(Lec. 480)

- 1) Romans 8:18-25
- 2) Luke 13:18-21

TUESDAY OF
30TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: The fullness of glory awaits those who have faith.

No matter the difficulties we experience in our lives, the Lord promises the glory of rebirth, the joy of adoption as God's children, bound for the fullness of the kingdom. We wait in hope for that day, while still daily cultivating lives of faith directed in and toward the kingdom.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul writes to the Romans encouraging them to wait patiently, in hope, for the glory that awaits them through the fullness of adoption in God. In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast, as a way of explaining the kingdom of God.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust and confidence, let us present our needs before the Lord.

- 1) For the Church in places of isolation and strife, may God provide hope and relief as we await the coming of the kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may the Lord of justice bless them with wisdom and patience, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer the pain of injustice, may the kingdom of God be made manifest in their lives through practical acts of love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community and its needs, may Jesus bless our faith and leaven it with hope and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the recently deceased, may the Lord grant them eternal rest and peace in his kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we offer these petitions with confidence in your loving plan, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, October 30, 2019
(Lec. 481)

- 1) Romans 8:26-30
- 2) Luke 13:22-30

WEDNESDAY OF
30TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: The Holy Spirit intercedes for us and can give us strength.

We have heard in many different forms that it is difficult to enter the kingdom of God. The road is narrow, the gate is narrow, it is like a camel trying to go through the eye of a needle, etc. These descriptions are not meant to scare us, but to remind us that we do not have the ability to do it ourselves. First, it is Jesus who saves us – not we who save ourselves. Second, we have an advocate – the Holy Spirit – who intercedes for us, and who gives us the strength we need when we need it, as long as we are striving toward God in all we do.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Paul describes how the Spirit intercedes for us, and that *all things work for good for those who love God*. In the Gospel Jesus speaks of striving for the narrow gate so as to enter God's kingdom. Many will not have the strength to do so.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God has promised to hear our prayers, so let us make our needs known to him at this time.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord protect her and surround her with favor like a shield, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders around the world, may God give them the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge they need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are burdened by important decisions, may the Spirit guide their hearts and provide counsel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of our community burdened by doubt, may the consolation of faith calm and console their hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they enjoy a place at the banquet table in the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: O God, hear these prayers and mercifully grant us what we ask in faith according to your will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, October 31, 2019
(Lec. 482)

- 1) Romans 8:31b-39
- 2) Luke 13:31-35

THURSDAY OF
30TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Nothing can separate us from God's love.

Through Jesus' life, ministry, passion and death, the selfless and self-giving nature of God is made abundantly clear. Our God loves each of us, not for any kind of self-serving reason, but out of an outpouring of his own self and for the purpose of our own good. God pursues us, never ceasing to call us to himself.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Paul writes to the Romans that nothing – not even death – can separate us from the *love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord*. In the Gospel, the Pharisees warn Jesus about Herod's threat to him. Jesus tells them to go back and *tell that fox* that he will continue his mission, and he alludes to his upcoming death in Jerusalem.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Ever mindful of God's enduring love, let us bring our prayers and petitions before him.

- 1) For Church leaders, may God grant them courage in proclaiming the prophetic message of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For candidates running for political office, may the Holy Spirit endow them with humility, integrity and honor, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those overcome by suffering or difficulty, may the warm, guiding embrace of our Lord give them consolation and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our faith community involved in ministries that extend Christ's love to people in need, may their strength be renewed through the sacraments, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may they find heavenly rest within God's eternal love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, accept these prayers made by your pilgrim people. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ.

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