

SEPTEMBER

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	
<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	
<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	
<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	
<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

(Lec. 126)

- 1) Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29
- 2) Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a
- 3) Luke 14:1, 7-14

**TWENTY-SECOND
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Everyone who humbles himself will be exalted.

Baptism is our invitation to the eternal banquet of the kingdom. But like all invitations, it comes with an RSVP. Our response is found in the way we live our lives, in our gratitude for all that God has done, in our desire to serve God by serving others, and in our life of prayer and worship.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sirach describes humility as the hallmark of those who *find favor with God*. The Letter to the Hebrews reminds the community that Jesus is *the mediator of a new covenant*. In the Gospel, Jesus uses a parable to convey the importance of humility for his disciples.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As children of the heavenly Father, we stand before the throne of mercy, and with confidence and humility we bring our needs before our loving God.

- 1) For Church leaders, may they find favor with God in humility as they lead and guide their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all civil leaders, may the Lord direct their hearts in addressing the needs of those whom they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are persecuted for their faith in Christ, may God's Holy Spirit uphold and strengthen them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those within this community who are sick or who suffer, may Christ the physician restore them to the fullness of life and health, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they receive the reward of a life well spent and come to share in the fullness of Christ's glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, you invite us into your eternal presence to experience your love and care for us. Hear our prayers and answer them through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

* * * * *

Monday, September 2, 2019
(Lec. 431)

- 1) 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- 2) Luke 4:16-30

MONDAY OF
22ND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: We continue to believe because the Spirit of Christ is upon us.

As Jesus and Paul encountered skeptics, so do we. When faced with doubt, we are reminded that we believe because of Christ's Spirit, given through the sacraments. We are inspired by the Spirit to participate in Christ's works of mercy and be people of hope, trusting we shall always be with the Lord into eternal life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul reassures those in doubt that the dead indeed will rise, followed by the living, when Christ comes again. In the Gospel, Jesus declares Isaiah's prophesy fulfilled. The crowd in Jesus' hometown doubts his claim and drives him away when he cites Israel's history of rejecting prophets.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that we shall always be with Christ who comes to meet us, we present our prayers to our loving Father.

- 1) That Christ may raise prophets like Isaiah from among the anointed and ordained leaders of his Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the Spirit of the Lord may open the hearts and minds of world leaders to the wisdom of Scripture and its fulfillment in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That God may console those whose doubts overwhelm them and increase in them the gift of faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That reception of the Holy Spirit in the sacraments may sanctify us and make us fit for service to one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who fall asleep may rise with Christ and enjoy eternal life with him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of the prophets, you sent your son, Jesus to bring glad tidings and proclaim a year acceptable to you. Accept our prayers according to your holy will. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

* * * * *

Tuesday, September 3, 2019
(Lec. 432)

- 1) 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, 9-11
- 2) Luke 4:31-37

TUESDAY OF
22ND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Gregory the Great,
Pope and Doctor
of the Church)

FOCUS: Salvation is ours – to accept or not.

The prophets foretold that Jesus would come to free the oppressed. His ability to save reaches beyond the grave, as Paul reassures the Church at Thessalonica. Though we are destined to be saved, we must remain alert for we will all be judged on the last day.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul writes to the Church at Thessalonica that *the day of the Lord will come like a thief at night*. Calling them *children of the light*, he exhorts them to stay alert and to continue encouraging one another. In the synagogue in Capernaum, Jesus illustrates his power and authority by teaching and casting out a demon.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust in our merciful Father, we offer these petitions for our salvation and the salvation of the whole world.

- 1) That through the intercession of Saint Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church, we may be a servant Church, growing in holiness and virtue, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That political leaders may receive the gifts of wisdom and counsel in exercising their authority, with special concern for the poor and vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who suffer from addiction may experience the healing power of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That our worship community may be guided by the Holy Spirit and his encouragement in our journey of faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the souls in purgatory may be looked upon with favor by our merciful God and be brought to the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, your Son is the light that shines in the darkness. With humble hearts, we ask that you would hear our prayers and answer them in accordance with your will, through Christ our Lord.

* * * * *

Wednesday, September 4, 2019
(Lec. 433)

- 1) Colossians 1:1-8
- 2) Luke 4:38-44

WEDNESDAY OF
22ND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Jesus reveals the healing and saving power of our God.

God wants each of us to know the joy of wholeness and goodness that comes with loving him. Jesus reveals his power to heal and to save in his compassionate response to both the sick and those trapped by evil. His embrace of the goodness he has to share impels him to share it with the whole world. He calls us to do the same in gratitude for the wholeness we know because of his love.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul heaps praise on the Christians at Colossae in the first reading, giving thanks for their faith in Christ and love of the Spirit. In the Gospel, Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law, and has to rebuke demons he expels from those among the crowds that pursue him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident that God always wants to heal us, let us offer our prayers to him today.

- 1) That God may bless those who share the word of truth – the Gospel – with gratitude and joy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the Holy Spirit may guide civic leaders as they care for those in their communities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who struggle with mental illness may find healing and peace in the love of Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the love of God may uplift and draw the hearts of this worship community ever closer to him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may join the angels and saints praising God in heaven forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, your compassion and saving power is revealed in Jesus, your son. We trust that you will answer our prayers according to your will, through Christ our Lord.

Thursday, September 5, 2019
(Lec. 434)

- 1) Colossians 1:9-14
- 2) Luke 5:1-11

THURSDAY OF
22ND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: *Do not be afraid.*

Do not be afraid can be hard advice to follow. After all, the unknown and the things beyond our control can be anxiety-inducing, if not downright scary. But the good news is that we can pray for one another, as Saint Paul does, and we can ask for ourselves for strength, endurance and patience. Faith and hope in Jesus can give us the courage to be not afraid.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul prays for strength, endurance and patience for the Colossians as they journey in their new faith. In the Gospel, Jesus meets Simon Peter, James and John as he teaches the crowds. After helping them to catch an abundance of fish, Jesus calls them to leave their lives as fishermen and follow him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As members of Christ's family, let us bring our prayers for ourselves and the world to our Father in heaven.

- 1) For the Church as we continue to follow Jesus' call, may the word of God bring new inspiration and missionary zeal to our hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our political leaders, may God open their hearts and minds to the knowledge of his will, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are unemployed or underemployed, may God help them to find the resources they need to find dignity in their livelihoods, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those who are contemplating a vocation to the priesthood, religious life or lay ministry, may the Holy Spirit grant them endurance and patience as they discern their next steps, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those members in our community who have recently died, may God bring them to eternal rest with him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, open our hearts to better understand your presence, and help us to follow you more closely in all that we do. We ask this through your son, Christ our Lord.

* * * * *

Friday, September 6, 2019
(Lec. 435)

- 1) Colossians 1:15-20
- 2) Luke 5:33-39

FRIDAY OF
22ND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Jesus models for us a new way of living.

Like new wine that cannot be put into old wineskins, we are invited by Jesus to a new way of life – a life conformed to him in mind and heart. Jesus reconciles all to God through the blood of his cross, and that gift is one we are commanded to preach and share. By our lives, modeled after Jesus, we proclaim the Good News.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first reading from the Letter to the Colossians delineates the supremacy of Christ. Jesus is *the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation ... the head of the Body*, the great reconciler. In the Gospel, Jesus explains that there is no need for fasting for they are in the presence of the bridegroom. He uses the parable of the new cloth and wineskins to illustrate his point.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: The Lord is our help. Let us offer to him these prayers for the healing of the Church and our world.

- 1) For the leaders of our Church, may Jesus, the true head, guide them as they lead with humility and grace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our world, may we be reconciled to one another through peaceful action, guided by the sacrifice of the cross, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer in mind or body, may Jesus' healing touch be made manifest through the love of their community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our local Church, may God continue to inspire us in love for one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the dead, may God grant forgiveness and grace so that they may taste the fullness of the kingdom of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, please hear our prayers with your merciful and loving ear. We ask all these things in the name of Jesus, our Lord.

* * * * *

Saturday, September 7, 2019
(Lec. 436)

- 1) Colossians 1:21-23
- 2) Luke 6:1-5

SATURDAY OF
22ND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Saturday in honor
of BVM)

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

When the Pharisees question how Jesus' followers observe the Sabbath, Jesus states that *The Son of Man is lord of the sabbath*. He calls them to a deeper understanding of their law and a deeper understanding of who he is. He calls us to the same. When we let Jesus tell us who he is, he can lead us to a place of true Sabbath rest.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul encourages the Colossians to persevere in faith, reminding them that they have been reconciled to God through Christ. In the Gospel, the Pharisees question Jesus' followers for picking grain on the Sabbath: Jesus defends his followers' actions.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Knowing we have been reconciled to God through his Son, let us bring our needs before him this day.

- 1) For the Church, may he who is Lord of the Sabbath grant us peace in our day and deliver us from every evil, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our elected officials, may God look graciously upon them and their work, and bless their efforts in serving their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those seeking relief or rest, may the Lord strengthen them through their trials and give them what they need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the Lord use this Sabbath time of prayer and sacrament to grow us in love and holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may the Lord welcome them into his eternal rest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious Father, you gave us your Son as our savior and redeemer. In your mercy, hear the prayers we have offered today, through Christ our Lord.

* * * * *

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2019

(Lec. 129)

- 1) Wisdom 9:13-18b
- 2) Philemon 9-10, 12-17
- 3) Luke 14:25-33

**TWENTY-THIRD
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: To be a disciple we must carry our cross and follow him.

The cost of discipleship is real. To love Christ above family, self, possessions – this is difficult! And that is the cross we are to carry: the difficulty of prioritizing Christ when it would be easier not to. After all, what else is there? Only the cross. We carry our cross to become like the Master who carried his cross to death, victory and redemption.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In our first reading we learn that knowing God's ways and plans comes only through the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. In today's epistle, Paul urges Philemon to be merciful to his runaway slave, who served Paul in prison, and accept him back not as a slave but a brother. In the Gospel Jesus tells the crowds what is required to be his disciple: placing discipleship above relationships, possessions and their own lives.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in God's abundant love, let us present our needs this day.

- 1) For the pilgrim Church on earth, may the body and blood of Christ transform and sustain us in the light of truth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who govern or have authority over others, may the Lord of justice and mercy guide them in all that they do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, especially those struggling with mental illness, depression or anxiety, and for those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all those gathered here, may the Holy Spirit give us fortitude and grace in setting aside earthly cares and following Jesus as intentional disciples, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our faithful departed, as they followed Christ in this life, may they rejoice in his presence forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, in your wisdom please hear and answer our prayers this day. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your son.

* * * * *

Monday, September 9, 2019
(Lec. 437)

- 1) Colossians 1:24–2:3
- 2) Luke 6:6-11

MONDAY OF
23RD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
USA: Saint Peter Claver,
Priest)

FOCUS: We are called to act for good in the world, not for evil.

Jesus emphasizes *doing good* whenever possible. When faced with the ability to help someone, inaction is not a morally “neutral” position; we must choose to do good. Saint Peter Claver, whom we memorialize today, provides a vivid example. Facing the inhumanity of the slave trade, Peter refused to remain a neutral bystander, dedicating his life to its abolition and caring for those who were enslaved.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul tells the Colossians that he rejoices in his suffering on their behalf, and encourages them in his absence. In the Gospel, Jesus heals a man on the Sabbath, while the scribes and Pharisees watch, looking for a reason to accuse him. Jesus, however, questions them instead, saying, *I ask you, is it lawful to do good on the sabbath rather than to do evil, to save life rather than to destroy it?*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we seek to follow Peter Claver’s example of service to others, let us offer our prayers to our loving Father.

- 1) For the leaders of the Church, that Christ the healer and reconciler will guide them in holiness and truth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our national and local leaders, that the Holy Spirit will grace them with wisdom and charity in enacting policies, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those enslaved by human trafficking, that through the diligent work of God’s people they may find freedom and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, that God may bless each one of us in the use of our gifts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, that they may be welcomed into the heavenly kingdom by Saint Peter Claver and all the saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we entrust our prayers to you in the holy name of your son, Jesus Christ.

* * * * *

Tuesday, September 10, 2019
(Lec. 438)

- 1) Colossians 2:6-15
- 2) Luke 6:12-19

TUESDAY OF
23RD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Jesus has the power to heal us, and he wants to do so.

Jesus heals *a large number of* people of diseases and casts out unclean spirits. Similarly, he heals our relationship with God through his death and resurrection, in which we participate through baptism. As we have died and risen in Christ, we can rely on him as our Savior. There is no other way through which we can be saved.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul tells the Colossians to avoid false teachers and live their faith with thanksgiving. He also reminds them that through baptism, they are part of the body of Christ and that Christ's sacrificial death has paid the debt of their sins. In the Gospel, Jesus chooses the Twelve Apostles, then comes down from the mountain and heals many of both spiritual and physical infirmities.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With faith in the power of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, we confidently turn to him with our needs and petitions.

- 1) For all priests and ministers, that God will strengthen them as they proclaim the Gospel with joy and thanksgiving, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of our country, may the Lord inspire them in passing laws upholding the dignity of every human person, from conception to natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have gone astray, that the Holy Spirit may lead them back into relationship with Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of our faith community, may the Apostles intercede for us in our needs and inspire us in our lives of faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in Christ, may they rise to eternal life with him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, you are compassionate in all your works. We ask you to look kindly upon the prayers we humbly offer you, in the name of Jesus, your son.

* * * * *

Wednesday, September 11, 2019
(Lec. 439)

- 1) Colossians 3:1-11
- 2) Luke 6:20-26

WEDNESDAY OF
23RD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Seek what is above and live in Christ.

In the Letter to the Colossians, what Paul is really outlining is the challenge for all Christians – to resist the temptation to give into our worldly passions and focus only on what is right before us. Striving for Christ and his blessed ways is the proper foundation of our lives and will lead to eternal life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In Paul's Letter to the Colossians, he instructs them to think about what is above and to lay aside earthly passions that are deadly. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus gives the Sermon on the Plain, the Beatitudes.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that God provides for us at all times, let us bring all of our needs before him.

- 1) For Christians throughout the world, may the light of Christ within us guide us in seeking a life of fullness in him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For peace and justice among all nations and people, may the Lord guide the actions of their governing authorities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who died, and for those who lost loved ones in the attacks on this day in 2001, may the faithfulness of God bring them rest and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this gathering of believers, may the Holy Spirit help us resist temptation and focus on a life in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who were baptized in Christ and have now died in Christ, may God welcome them into his presence and give them rest in his eternal love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, you are with us in our sorrow and joy. On this day, we ask you to be with us in a special way through your son, Jesus Christ.

* * * * *

Thursday, September 12, 2019
(Lec. 440)

- 1) Colossians 3:12-17
- 2) Luke 6:27-38

THURSDAY OF
23rd WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
The Most Holy Name of Mary)

FOCUS: A good disciple practices forgiveness.

What makes a good disciple? Both Saint Paul and Jesus share with their listeners the many characteristics of God's chosen ones, but a primary one is that of forgiveness. Forgive *as the Lord has forgiven you*, says Paul. *Forgive and you will be forgiven*, says Jesus. Let us forgive, then, so to be true *children of the Most High*.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul exhorts the Colossians to forgive one another *as the Lord has forgiven [them]*, letting *the peace of Christ control [their] hearts* and the *word of Christ dwell* richly in them. Jesus directs his disciples to love their enemies and do good to them, to be merciful and not judge, to *give and gifts will be given* to them.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God calls us in the stillness of our hearts and promises to meet all of our needs. Let us turn to him, then, with our prayers.

- 1) That the word of Christ may dwell richly in all who minister in the Church as they teach and encourage the people of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That leaders of governments may be imbued with courage by the Holy Spirit in seeking peaceful solutions to conflict, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those burdened by any hardship may be blessed with courage, strength and relief of what troubles them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That this assembly of believers may, like the Blessed Virgin Mary, rejoice in God our Savior, proclaiming always the greatness of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our beloved dead may, as God's chosen ones, forever praise the Lord in the heavenly sanctuary, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful God, pour your peace into our hearts, that we may forgive others as you have forgiven us. Hear the prayers we offer you this day and grant them as is your gracious will, through Christ our Lord.

* * * * *

Friday, September 13, 2019

(Lec. 441)

- 1) 1 Timothy 1:1-2, 12-14
- 2) Luke 6:39-42

FRIDAY OF
23RD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint John Chrysostom,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church)

FOCUS: God is merciful; let us be merciful to one another.

It is no surprise that none of us is perfect. We sin. But God is merciful to us when we admit our shortcomings, express sorrow and repent. And the more we do this, the more we are able to extend mercy ourselves. We are *Church*, gathered together to help one another in our life in Christ.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul expresses gratitude to God for trusting him with his ministry. He admits he is a sinner and credits God's grace with showing him the love and grace that are in Jesus Christ. In the Gospel, Jesus reminds his disciples to look to their own sins before trying to correct other people.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Being humble children of God, let us bring our petitions to him.

- 1) For we who are the Church, may God richly bless us with gracious and contrite hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may the power of the Holy Spirit guide their efforts in bringing peace and civility into the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For prisoners, may the promise of God's love and forgiveness uplift them and encourage them toward a life in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may our love for one another grow in the light of God's mercy shown to us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, that they may rest in peace in God's heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: All-knowing and loving God, hear our prayers and answer them in ways that will bring us closer to you. We pray in the name of Jesus the Lord.

* * * * *

Saturday, September 14, 2019
(Lec. 638)

**THE EXALTATION
OF THE HOLY CROSS
- FEAST**

- 1) Numbers 21:4b-9
- 2) Philippians 2:6-11
- 3) John 3:13-17

FOCUS: The Holy Cross is exalted for its place as Jesus' final resting place before his death and resurrection.

The manger, the feeding trough for farm animals, served as the crib for the infant Jesus. At the end of his earthly life, Jesus again knew humility by hanging on a cross until he died. Through that death on a cross, Jesus saves the world that had condemned him.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lord saved those Israelites who looked upon the pole raised up by his servant Moses. Saint Paul writes that Jesus took the form of a slave, and was raised up on a cross, so that the world might be saved through him. In the Gospel, Jesus tells Nicodemus that all who believe in the Son of Man may have eternal life.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us now raise our prayers to the Lord, who raises us up to new life.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may the almighty and eternal God preserve us in faith and draw us ever more deeply into the glory of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For peace in the world, and for peace in the hearts of all people, let us pray to the Lord .
- 3) For all who suffer unjustly, may the Lord make known his solace in comforting them in mind, body and soul, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us gathered here who mourn the loss of a loved one, may Christ the Divine Physician bring them healing and strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have passed away in the light of Christ, and for all the dead who have no one to pray for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: O God of life, you raise your people up to new life through your generous mercy. We ask that you hear our prayers and answer them according to your will. Through Christ our Lord.

* * * * *

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2019

(Lec. 132)

- 1) Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14
- 2) 1 Timothy 1:12-17
- 3) Luke 15:1-32 or 15:1-10

**TWENTY-FOURTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: We are all sons and daughters of our merciful Creator God.

God the Father shows remarkable mercy to us when we stray from following him. When we sin, we are called to repentance and to accept God's gracious mercy. By the same token, when others stray, we are to welcome them back with joy when they repent. We are all sons and daughters of the same merciful Father.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Moses turns away God's wrath when the people of Israel create and worship a molten calf. Saint Paul, writing to Timothy, describes himself as the *foremost* of sinners – an example to others of God's merciful love. Jesus, in the Gospel, tells several parables to illustrate examples of God's mercy to sinners.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us approach our merciful Father with confidence, bringing the needs of our brothers and sisters in this world.

- 1) For Church leaders, may God continue to purify, sanctify and bless them in their ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all judges, may the Holy Spirit give them wisdom in balancing justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer injustice, may the grace of God give them strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in this faith community who are dying, may God's presence and love surround them in their final days, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our loved ones who have died, may they find eternal joy with God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of all graciousness and love, hear the prayers we bring to you for our brothers and sisters, your sons and daughters, and grant them through Christ our Lord.

* * * * *

Monday, September 16, 2019
(Lec. 443)

- 1) 1 Timothy 2:1-8
- 2) Luke 7:1-10

MONDAY OF
24TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saints Cornelius, Pope,
and Cyprian, Bishop,
Martyrs)

FOCUS: We are invited to pray with humility and faith not only for ourselves and loved ones, but for all people.

Although he is a man who commands great authority over people, the centurion brings his petition before Jesus with great humility and faith. It is an attitude of prayer we should all embrace as we bring our own prayers of petition and thanksgiving, for ourselves and for all people, before the Lord.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul urges us to pray for all people, for God wills the salvation of all and Christ sacrificed himself for all. In the Gospel, Jesus heals the sick slave of a centurion, recognizing the great faith the centurion showed in the power of Jesus' word.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we prepare to offer our great prayer of thanksgiving, let us first offer to the Lord our petitions for the needs of all people.

- 1) For the Church, may God's grace, shared through the ministry of Christ's saving work, continue to draw others to him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the leaders of all nations, may the Lord grant them wisdom in addressing the challenges they face, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the continued preaching of the Gospel to all nations and the salvation of the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of our parish community who have lost or struggle in their faith, may God hold them close so as to once again experience his love and care, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may they experience the glory of God's presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Eternal and loving God, hear these prayers we bring before you with humble hearts and answer them in accordance with your holy will. In Christ's name we pray.

Tuesday, September 17, 2019
(Lec. 444)

- 1) 1 Timothy 3:1-13
- 2) Luke 7:11-17

TUESDAY OF
24TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Robert Bellarmine,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church)

FOCUS: It is our Christian duty to act compassionately toward those in need.

Jesus wants us to keep our eyes open and take off our blinders as we go through life. Many of us respond positively when asked to help someone in need. But today, Jesus acts without being asked when he and his disciples come upon a funeral procession. His pity moves him to action, and serves as an example for us to act with compassion when we encounter those in need.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Saint Paul writes to Timothy and lists the character and faith requirements for those aspiring to be bishops or deacons. In today's Gospel, Jesus is moved with pity to raise a young man from the dead – the only son of a widow.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For Pope Francis and all bishops, may they be blessed with wisdom and fortitude in their leadership through these turbulent times, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all world leaders, may the Lord open their eyes to the destructiveness of war and guide them on the way to peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the homeless, may God have mercy on them and help them find permanent shelter, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the sick and the lonely in our faith community, may the Lord of compassion provide them the people and resources to help them through their difficulties, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may Christ raise them with him into his heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petitions)

PRIEST: Great and ever-loving Father, we ask you to accept our petitions in the name of your son, Jesus the Lord.

* * * * *

Wednesday, September 18, 2019
(Lec. 445)

- 1) 1 Timothy 3:14-16
- 2) Luke 7:31-35

WEDNESDAY OF
24TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Let us follow the ways of Jesus.

Jesus knows our hearts and struggles even when we complain or show impatience with his expectations. At times, we may be like the scribes and Pharisees – critical and hard to please. They turn away and are blind to the message of Jesus. We are challenged to denounce the example of the Pharisees, and instead, follow the ways of Jesus.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul writes to encourage Timothy in his responsibilities for the community (at Ephesus), and notes that he may be delayed in visiting. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus compares the people of his generation to children, difficult to please. He admonishes the Pharisees, who were critical of both John the Baptist and Jesus, himself.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As children of God, we turn our hearts and our trust to the Father, placing our petitions before him.

- 1) For the Church in the modern world, may she be protected from all evil and immune to the snares of the devil so as to flourish in a life with God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For politicians and government leaders throughout the world, may Christ the great reconciler bless their work toward a world filled with peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For people who are oppressed by fear, poverty, sickness or depression, may they be comforted by the love of Christ found in those who support them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our faith community who have experienced loss, may they be filled with the light of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rejoice in the presence of our loving Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we ask that you look favorably on these prayers offered with love from this assembly gathered here in your honor. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.

* * * * *

Thursday, September 19, 2019
(Lec. 446)

- 1) 1 Timothy 4:12-16
- 2) Luke 7:36-50

THURSDAY OF
24TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Januarius,
Bishop and Martyr)

FOCUS: God's love and forgiveness bring us closer to him and to eternal life with him in heaven.

God has given us the gift of salvation through his son, Jesus Christ. His abundant love has allowed us to turn to him when we have sinned and are in need of forgiveness. Because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, we have a pathway to heaven. Accepting that gift from God is an honor and privilege.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul encourages Timothy to stay true to the gift God has given him and to be diligent in doing what is right. The Gospel tells us of a sinful woman who cleans Jesus' feet with her tears and hair, and then anoints them with oil. He forgives her of her sin because of her faith.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With grateful hearts, let us turn to our heavenly Father who knows our needs.

- 1) For Church leaders, bishops, priests and religious, may the Holy Spirit bless them with both courage and humility, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may God look graciously upon them and their service to the people he has entrusted to them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who wrestle with physical or mental illness, may Christ's healing touch console them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us gathered here, may God draw us closer to him in humility and with adoration, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be welcomed into the presence of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of mercy and love, we humbly ask you to look with favor upon our petitions today, which we ask through your son, Christ our Lord.

* * * * *

Friday, September 20, 2019
(Lec. 447)

- 1) 1 Timothy 6:2c-12
- 2) Luke 8:1-3

FRIDAY OF
24TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn,
Priest,
and Paul Chŏng Ha-sang,
and Companions,
Martyrs)

FOCUS: Let us pursue righteousness and avoid all that is contrary to the Gospel.

Paul always had a deep and abiding concern for those who first heard the Gospel through his preaching. He demonstrates that concern today by challenging Timothy to pursue righteousness and fidelity. It is a good reminder that we, too, should watch out for one another, help each other remain faithful and support one another in proclaiming the kingdom.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Writing to his friend and protégé, Saint Paul advises Timothy to be faithful to the Gospel in both his preaching and in the manner of his own life. In the Gospel, Jesus continues to travel and to proclaim the kingdom. He is accompanied by both men and women, many of whom have received healing at his hands and who now support his ministry.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For Church leaders, may God continue to make them holy and pleasing in his sight as they care for those entrusted to them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civil leaders, may the Lord richly bless them with a heart for charity and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are alienated from God, may Christ's message of love and mercy reconcile them to his love and bring them home, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of this faith community, may God strengthen our commitment to serve one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they come to share in the fullness of Christ's glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

* * * * *

Saturday, September 21, 2019
(Lec. 643)

- 1) Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13
- 2) Matthew 9:9-13

**SAINT MATTHEW,
APOSTLE AND
EVANGELIST
- FEAST**

FOCUS: The gifts God gives us are for building the body of Christ.

Each and every one of us who is baptized has an important role in building the body of Christ. We each have gifts that are unique and particular to us, in that they have been designed for us by God. We do not have to search hard for them – we need simply to follow Jesus when called, and bring to him our entire selves. With God’s grace, these gifts will enable us to serve him well.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Paul writes to the Ephesians from prison, encouraging them to use the gifts they were given to build up the body of Christ. In the Gospel, Jesus calls Matthew the tax collector to follow him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Believing in a God who has graced each one of us with gifts to build up the body of Christ, let us place before him our needs.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all the successors of the Apostles, may God make holy their ministry among us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of government, may the Lord bless and improve upon their efforts in providing for the needs of the people they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who bear burdens that go unseen and unaddressed, may the grace of God dwelling within them bring them relief and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For parents and grandparents among us, and all who guide and care for children within families, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they soon rejoice with Jesus, his mother, the Apostles and all the saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and ever faithful God, hear the prayers we place before you this day. Help us in our resolve to be faithful disciples. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

* * * * *

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2019

(Lec. 135)

- 1) Amos 8:4-7
- 2) 1 Timothy 2:1-8
- 3) Luke 16:1-13 or 16:10-13

**TWENTY-FIFTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Jesus instructs us to serve only one master.

Many things compete for our attention on a daily basis. Some of the things we do, we do in light of our faith and in the service of God; other things may draw us away from both. Jesus exhorts us to pay attention to our actions and our motives, for we cannot serve both God and the things of this world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

From the prophet Amos comes a warning to the people of the Northern Kingdom of Israel that God sees those who take advantage of or mistreat the poor and needy, and he will not *forget a thing they have done*. In Paul's Letter to Timothy, he asks for prayers for those in authority – that they be pleasing to the Lord. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the dishonest steward, and says that a person must be trustworthy in matters big and small. For no one can *serve both God and mammon*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: United in our faith, let us ask our merciful Father to hear our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For the Church, the bride of Christ, may she be glorified in her service to God, and grow in holiness each day, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government officials throughout the world, may God call them into deeper conversion to his ways as they strive to represent the people they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, the marginalized and the homebound, may they experience the healing presence of the Lord this day, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our community of faith, may God alone be our guide in this world, blessing us in our service to him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may the God of mercy and justice welcome them into the heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we thank and praise you for being good and just. Hear and answer these and all of our prayers this day, as we ask them all through your son, Christ our Lord.

* * * * *

Monday, September 23, 2019
(Lec. 449)

- 1) Ezra 1:1-6
- 2) Luke 8:16-18

MONDAY OF
25TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Pius of Pietrelcina,
Priest)

FOCUS: Sharing God's word brings blessing and responsibility.

Both readings today reveal that those who hear and heed God's word will be given more blessings to share. Those who follow King Cyrus' lead to build a house for God in Jerusalem are promised, and then receive, blessings to help them fulfill their mission. Jesus further points out the responsibilities of hearing God's word.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, King Cyrus of Persia makes a proclamation for God's people to build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus illustrates how one uses a lampstand to maximize light. He then gives a caution as to how they hear, for to those who have, *more will be given*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in God's mercy, let us bring our needs before him.

- 1) For the pope, may God continue to bless and uphold him in holiness as he leads the Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our country, may the Lord give us wisdom in our civic decision making, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those in vulnerable situations, especially the homeless, through God's mercy may they soon have shelter and assistance for any other needs, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those who do not have, or who have lost their faith, may God's light penetrate their darkness and bring them to his side in fullness of joy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have gone before us in death, may they rest in the peace and security of God's eternal kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of Light, who knows no bounds, in your endless wisdom grant all that is good. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord.

* * * * *

Tuesday, September 24, 2019
(Lec. 450)

- 1) Ezra 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20
- 2) Luke 8:19-21

TUESDAY OF
25TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Acting on the word of God will bring us joy.

Following God's will should bring us great joy, as we both worship him and call Christ our brother. Though it took many years, the Jewish people were able to fulfill God's command to rebuild the Temple. We, too, should act on the word of God no matter the obstacles, rather than be passive listeners of the word.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Darius, king of Persia, decrees that the Jewish people should be allowed to continue construction on the Temple to God. When the Temple is complete, it was dedicated with hundreds of sacrifices. The Jews set up the priesthood and celebrated the Passover. In the Gospel, Jesus states that *my mother and my brothers* are those who follow the word of God.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Our Lord knows our needs before we even ask. Therefore, we turn with confidence to our loving Father with our petitions.

- 1) For all priests and bishops, may God bless their efforts in leading the faithful in right worship, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all political and civic leaders, may the Holy Spirit guide them in governing with justice and concern for all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For families struggling with division and strife, may the God of love move their hearts toward reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may we be strengthened by the gifts of the Holy Spirit as we welcome others into relationship with Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, especially those who have no one else to pray for them, may they rest in eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of love and mercy, we ask you to hear these petitions offered by your humble servants gathered here today in the name of your son, Jesus, who is Christ the Lord.

* * * * *

Wednesday, September 25, 2019
(Lec. 451)

- 1) Ezra 9:5-9
- 2) Luke 9:1-6

WEDNESDAY OF
25TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: The power of God is the only thing needed for proclamation of the word.

We often speak of the fact that Jesus sent his Twelve Apostles out with nothing, but they were armed with the power and authority of Christ, which would allow them to *proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick*.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the Book of Ezra, we learn that the Israelites were absorbing the ways of the people around them. Ezra was compelled to go before God in shame because of the guilt of the people. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus sends the Twelve out to *proclaim the Kingdom of God*, instructing them to take nothing with them.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us come before our Father, confident in his power to heal our wounds and provide for our needs.

- 1) For the Church, as the body of Christ, may God bless her efforts to proclaim the kingdom of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our government leaders, may God bestow upon them wisdom and discernment in providing for the underserved, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering from addiction, may the Lord give them strength and courage to triumph in their struggles, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our community who feel isolated, may Christ's presence through the care of their neighbors bring them comfort, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they enjoy eternal rest in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we turn to you in trust that you hear our prayers and provide for our needs, through your son, Jesus Christ.

* * * * *

Thursday, September 26, 2019
(Lec. 452)

- 1) Haggai 1:1-8
- 2) Luke 9:7-9

THURSDAY OF
25TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saints Cosmas and Damian,
Martyrs)

FOCUS: The power of Christ conquers sin and death.

The story in the Gospel today is one of fear and power. Herod fears Jesus Christ because he will take away his power. But the true power of Christ is one which conquers sin and death.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Haggai warns the governor of Judah and the high priest that the people must re-prioritize their ways. They are laboring and worrying over things which God does not desire for them. In the Gospel Herod seeks information about the identity of Jesus Christ.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Filled with trust that God hears our pleas, let us now give voice to our prayers.

- 1) For the Church, may each of us grow in God's grace as we witness to his message of love and salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may the Spirit guide them in their daily decisions in the service of peace and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who feel weak, mentally, physically or spiritually, may they have the grace and consolation of the Lord and be strengthened by him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, that through the Lord's grace and providence we may grow in the virtues of faith, hope and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may perpetual light shine upon them and they be granted eternal rest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of power, God of hosts, hear our prayers and grant that through your mercy we may receive that for which we pray. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Friday, September 27, 2019
(Lec. 453)

- 1) Haggai 2:1-9
- 2) Luke 9:18-22

FRIDAY OF
25TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Vincent de Paul,
Priest)

FOCUS: God fulfills his promises.

God constantly assures and reassures his people in the Old Testament that he will never abandon them. He promises them a greater glory and peace (*shalom*) than they have ever known. He fulfilled this promise in the person of Jesus Christ, for the Son of God suffered, died and was raised, so that all may be saved. We can always hope for and have confidence in the promises of God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The word of the Lord comes through the prophet Haggai, telling the people to take courage, that the Lord is with them, and peace will be theirs. In the Gospel, Jesus asks the disciples who they say he is. Peter answers: *the Christ of God*. After directing them not to tell anyone, Jesus foretells of his passion, death and resurrection.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident that God hears our every need, and never abandons us, we offer these petitions to him.

- 1) For all of us in the Church, may we grow in the virtues of faith, hope and love through our sacramental encounters with Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may God grant them a clear vision in enacting policies that uphold life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who have lost hope, may the saving power of the cross uplift them in their struggles, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who are gathered here, may the Lord grant us greater patience and trust in him as we wait for his promises to be fulfilled in our lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have gone before us in death, may they witness the glory of the heavenly Jerusalem, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, you are the giver of every good gift. Hear the prayers we offer you this day and answer them in accordance with your will, through your son, Christ our Lord.

* * * * *

Saturday, September 28, 2019
(Lec. 454)

- 1) Zechariah 2:5-9, 14-15a
- 2) Luke 9:43b-45

SATURDAY OF
25TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Wenceslaus,
Martyr;
Saint Lawrence Ruiz
and Companions,
Martyrs;
Saturday in honor
of BVM)

FOCUS: Jesus is our help in every way.

The disciples were confused by Jesus' prediction that he would be *handed over to men* and were afraid to question him about it. Like those disciples, we can be confused by events in our lives, but we should never be afraid to approach Jesus, through prayer, with our questions. Jesus is our help in every way throughout our lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Zechariah the prophet speaks to the Israelite people, just returned from exile, assuring them that the Lord is *coming to dwell among [them]*. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that the Son of Man would be *handed over to men*. The disciples did not understand, and were afraid to ask him what he meant.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: The Lord is our help and our salvation. Let us trust in him as we bring our prayers before him.

- 1) For Church leaders, may the Lord bless them, keep them holy and protect them from all evil, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders throughout the world, may the wisdom of the Holy Spirit guide them in governing and serving their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who live with depression or anxiety, may the power of Christ sustain and strengthen them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community gathered in faith, may God's grace enable us to grow ever more in our commitment to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may God lead them to their eternal home in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear the prayers of your people near and far. We ask this in the name of your son, Jesus our Lord.

* * * * *

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2019

(Lec. 138)

- 1) Amos 6:1a, 4-7
- 2) 1 Timothy 6:11-16
- 3) Luke 16:19-31

**TWENTY-SIXTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Lay hold of eternal life by keeping the commandments, and pursuing noble goods.

The readings today are a challenge for all believers to consider the eternal consequences of our actions. God, in his infinite love, both calls us to himself and gives us the freedom to accept or reject his invitation. We can allow comfort to make us complacent, or we can pursue noble goods and be persuaded by the One who was raised from the dead.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading from Amos, we hear a warning about comfort and *wanton revelry* leading to complacency, resulting in exile. Saint Paul writes to Timothy, instructing him to *lay hold of eternal life* by keeping the commandments and pursuing the goods such as love, righteousness and faith. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, who both receive what is just in eternal life.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God has revealed to us the truth of eternal life and how to order our lives around his love and mercy. Relying on that love and mercy, we bring our prayers before him today.

- 1) For each one of us as members of the body of Christ, the Church, may the Lord draw us nearer to him in our every word and deed, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For public officials, may the Gospel truth be the light that guides their decision making, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick and the suffering, may the hope and promise of eternal life bring comfort and peace to their days, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those who are gathered here today and for all those we love, may the Lord help us to cling to what is good, true and beautiful, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they be welcomed into the loving presence of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we bring you our petitions today and trust that in your goodness and in your time, you will hear and answer us, through your son, Christ our Lord.

* * * * *

Monday, September 30, 2019
(Lec. 455)

- 1) Zechariah 8:1-8
- 2) Luke 9:46-50

MONDAY OF
26TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Jerome,
Priest and Doctor
of the Church)

FOCUS: The Lord is our God and we are his people.

What does it mean to be a people of God? For the Israelites, it meant they would eventually return to Jerusalem. For us, it means that through Jesus Christ we have been reconciled to the Father. We are called to live a life that proclaims this good news, seeking to put others first and to rejoice when others seek to do the same.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the reading from Zechariah, God assures the Israelites that he will bring them back to Jerusalem. They will be his people, and he their God. In the Gospel from Luke, Jesus has two messages for his disciples: that the least is *the one who is the greatest* and that they should not prevent anyone from doing good work in Jesus' name.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us gather our prayers together and offer them to the Lord.

- 1) For all in positions of leadership in the Church, may God bless them with health, vitality and humility as they serve his people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who hold positions of authority in the legal and criminal justice system, may the Holy Spirit guide them in wisdom and fear of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who lack adequate food, shelter and love, especially those who have been displaced due to war and violence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all in our faith community, may God open our hearts to better see and embrace his works around us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rejoice in heavenly glory with our loving God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Faithful and loving God, we long to be your people. Hear our prayers and grant them according to your will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

* * * * *