

# AUGUST

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Saturday, August 1, 2020  
(Lec. 406)

- 1) Jeremiah 26:11-16, 24
- 2) Matthew 14:1-12

SATURDAY OF  
17<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
Saint Alphonsus Liguori,  
Bishop and Doctor  
of the Church)

FOCUS: God provides us with holy people to help us hear his truth.

The religious leaders of Israel verbally attack Jeremiah, and Herod has John the Baptist killed, because Jeremiah's prophecy and John's admonishment threaten their sinful way of life. The truth is sometimes hard to hear. But God provides us with holy people to help us, such as the prophets, and saints such as Alphonsus Liguori, whom the Church celebrates today. The patron saint of moral theologians, Saint Alphonsus founded the Redemptorist congregation, and is known for his practical approach to living as a Christian disciple.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Jeremiah defends his prophetic mission before the people of Israel and against the priests and false prophets, urging them all to listen and turn back to God. The Gospel recounts the martyrdom of John the Baptist, imprisoned and executed by Herod for denouncing his unlawful relationship with Herodias.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust in God's loving will, let us make our requests known to him.

- 1) For the Church, may the Holy Spirit strengthen each of us in our baptismal vocation as true disciples, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in authority, may God grant them the humility to be guided by his Word, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those facing addictions, and for their families and friends, may Christ the Physician bring them healing and hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the Lord continue to help us speak the truth in charity to one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may God welcome them into eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, you show us the path to endless joy. Hear our prayers and pour out your grace upon us, we ask through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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**SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2020**

(Lec. 112)

- 1) Isaiah 55:1-3
- 2) Romans 8:35, 37-39
- 3) Matthew 14:13-21

**18<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TME**

FOCUS: Christ gives us all we need to feed those he calls us to serve.

Today's readings call us, like the disciples, to feed others – but only after having been nourished ourselves. We are invited to delight in rich fare, feasting on the love of God that is stronger than death. In responding to God's call, we can trust that Christ will give us all we need to carry out his commands.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lord speaks through Isaiah, exhorting his people to come to the water and be renewed by the *everlasting covenant*. Paul tells the Romans that nothing can separate them from the love of Christ. In the Gospel, after hearing of the death of John the Baptist, Jesus heals the sick and feeds the 5,000 abundantly.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With hopeful hearts, we bring our needs to God whose love is stronger than death, and who nourishes us with the bread of life.

- 1) For the Church, may Christ continue to bless her with all she needs to bring his love to the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in positions of authority, may God grant them compassion and wisdom in their decision-making, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those traveling the long road of grief, may they know Christ's presence, and rest in the confidence that nothing can separate us from the love of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, may we be given the wisdom to discern what God is asking us to do, and the nourishment to answer that call with generosity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rest in God's eternal love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, we bring you these needs today, confident in the power of your love and the abundance of your generosity. Through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Monday, August 3, 2020  
(Lec. 407)

1) Jeremiah 28:1-17  
(Lec. 408)

2) Matthew 14:22-36

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

FOCUS: Trust in Jesus, who promises to be with us always.

When the wind picks up and the waters rage around us in the storms of life, we easily begin to doubt. Will I make it? Is God with me? In these moments of weakness, Jesus reaches out to us, providing the grace for us to continue – not through our own abilities, but through the strength of Christ.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading both Jeremiah, the true prophet of God, and Hananiah, who offers the Israelites false promises, speak to the people. In today's Gospel, Jesus walks out on the sea toward the disciples' boat, which *was being tossed about by the waves*, telling them not to be afraid. He commands Peter to come to him, but Peter is frightened and begins to sink.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in our loving God, we offer our prayers and petitions to him.

- 1) For our Church, may the Lord raise up holy men and women to humbly labor on her behalf, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may our God of justice guide them in working for the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are lonely or homebound, may Jesus' healing and consoling hand be upon them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may God's word continue to guide us in truth and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may the Lord welcome them into the fullness of the kingdom of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, grant to us that which we have presented to you, according to your will. We ask through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, August 4, 2020  
(Lec. 408)

- 1) Jeremiah 30:1-2,  
12-15, 18-22
- 2) Matthew 14:22-36  
or Matthew 15:1-2, 10-14

TUESDAY OF  
18<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
Saint John Vianney,  
Priest)

FOCUS: When we fix our eyes on Jesus, he can lead us across the water to him.

In response to Jesus' call, Peter miraculously walks on the water until he notices the wind and the waves which frighten him, and he begins to sink. The Lord calls each of us and gives us the grace to overcome anything that would seem to keep us from him. With our eyes fixed on him, we can accomplish what he asks of us, much like Saint John Vianney, whom we celebrate today, was able to do.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God speaks through Jeremiah of the Israelites' suffering because of their sins, and promises to console them. In the Gospel, Jesus walks on water to the disciples during a storm. Peter tries to walk to Jesus and begins to sink; the disciples call Jesus the Son of God.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together, let us join in offering our prayers to our heavenly Father.

- 1) For the Church and its leaders, may the Holy Spirit renew us each day to keep our eyes fixed on him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our elected and appointed leaders, may God give them eyes to see those in need and hearts to serve them first, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who are sick, may the Lord bring them healing, comfort, and strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community gathered here, may God make us witnesses to his transformative love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who will die this day, may the Lord bring them swiftly home to him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, hear the prayers we bring before you this day. Please answer them according to your holy will. Through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, August 5, 2020  
(Lec. 409)

- 1) Jeremiah 31:1-7
- 2) Matthew 15:21-28

WEDNESDAY OF  
18<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
The Dedication of the  
Basilica of Saint Mary Major)

FOCUS: God's blessings extend to all.

With Jesus' coming, the new covenant was inaugurated for all people. God's blessing and salvation extend to all who hear, repent, and believe – just as his healing power extended to the Canaanite woman's daughter. We, too, can trust in God and rejoice for the gift of faith we have been given.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Jeremiah prophesies the Israelites' return to Jerusalem from exile, telling them that the Lord will restore them and they *shall be rebuilt*. In the Gospel, a Canaanite woman asks Jesus to heal her daughter. Though Jesus tells her he was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, she continues to beg. Because of her faith, Jesus heals her daughter.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Inspired by the faith of the Canaanite woman, we, too, come to the Lord with our needs.

- 1) For all priests and religious, may the Lord continue to bless them in their vocations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For state and federal leaders, may the grace of the Holy Spirit empower them in their efforts in protecting all life from conception to natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who experience doubt that God hears their prayers, may the peace of Christ console them and strengthen their faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the Holy Spirit empower us to bear good fruit for the glory of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, particularly those who have no one else to pray for them, may they be welcomed into the heavenly Jerusalem, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of love and mercy, you know our every need. We ask you to graciously hear our prayers, in the name of your Son, who is Christ the Lord.

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Thursday, August 6, 2020  
(Lec. 614)

**THE TRANSFIGURATION  
OF THE LORD  
- FEAST**

- 1) Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
- 2) 2 Peter 1:16-19
- 3) Matthew 17:1-9

**FOCUS:** The Transfiguration is a sign of hope, a glimpse of the heavenly promise that awaits us.

*This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.* In a world filled with many competing voices, these words of the Father, telling us to listen to the words of Jesus and his message of eternal life, are full of hope. Our faith in Christ transforms us, and we see in the Transfiguration the promise of what awaits us in our heavenly home

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Daniel prophesies of *the Ancient One* taking his throne, with thousands ministering to him; and another *one like a Son of man* receiving kingship and *everlasting dominion*. In the second reading, Peter writes that what he and others had made known to the community about *the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ* was from hearing the Father's *voice come from heaven*. In the Gospel, Jesus takes *Peter, James, and his brother, John ... up a high mountain*, where he is *transfigured before them*. Moses appears, as does Elijah, and then a voice comes from the cloud, saying: *This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

**PRIEST:** Knowing that his words lead to eternal life, we turn to our Father in prayer.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may the voice of Christ be our guide, and lead us to further unity and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected leaders, may God help them grow in the virtue of charity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are sick, may the healing consolation of Christ touch them and comfort them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those who offer the gift of their time to this faith community, may God bless their efforts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they enjoy eternal life in heaven and behold the face of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** Almighty and ever-loving God, hear the prayers we bring before you today. We ask through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, August 7, 2020  
(Lec. 411)

- 1) Nahum 2:1, 3;  
3:1-3, 6-7
- 2) Matthew 16:24-28

FRIDAY OF  
18<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Sixtus II,  
Pope,  
and Companions,  
Martyrs;  
Saint Cajetan,  
Priest)

FOCUS: By denying ourselves, we will find new life in Jesus.

Today, Jesus calls us to faithful discipleship. This may mean emptying ourselves out to serve him with our whole heart, and it may be difficult at times. Let us pray for the strength to be a true disciple.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Nahum prophesies the Lord's restoration of *the vine of Jacob* and the destruction of the city of Nineveh. Jesus, in the Gospel, tells the disciples they must deny themselves and take up their cross to follow him: *For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.*

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we gather together with confidence in the Father's love, we bring our needs to him.

- 1) For the Church, may she grow in holiness and charity through the gracious mercy of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may Christ's example of servant leadership be their guiding light, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For family members who are estranged from one another, may the Holy Spirit strengthen them as they seek reconciliation with one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us gathered here, may the grace of this sacrament transform us in the image of Christ's love and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rejoice with all the angels and saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, please hear the prayers we offer this day, we ask through your Son, Christ our Lord.



Saturday, August 8, 2020  
(Lec. 412)

- 1) Habakkuk 1:12–2:4
- 2) Matthew 17:14-20

SATURDAY OF  
18<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
Saint Dominic,  
Priest)

FOCUS: With faith, *nothing will be impossible for [us]*.

Even the smallest amount of faith can have tremendous potential to be a force for good in this world. Jesus tells us that with faith, *nothing will be impossible for [us]*.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the passage from Habakkuk, the prophet laments the faithless and wicked. The Lord responds and tells him to *write down the vision, for it still has its time, presses on to fulfillment, and will not disappoint*. In the Gospel, Jesus heals a boy whom the disciples could not cure. Jesus tells them, *If you have faith the size of a mustard seed ... nothing will be impossible for you*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With the word of the Lord in our hearts and in our minds, let us place our needs before God.

- 1) For all members of the Order of Preachers – the Dominicans – on this, the feast of Saint Dominic, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who lead our communities, may the Lord give them the strength to govern wisely, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have suffered illness from the pandemic, may the power of the Holy Spirit grant them comfort and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For we who worship and share community here, may the Holy Spirit continue to enkindle in us the fire of his love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may Christ lead them to new life with the Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, in your mercy hear and answer the prayers we offer you today. We ask through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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**SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2020**

(Lec. 115)

- 1) 1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a
- 2) Romans 9:1-5
- 3) Matthew 14:22-33

**19<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: God is present with us always.

If we wait to be adrift upon a stormy sea in order to see that God is present with us, we will miss out on the grace and goodness that currently surrounds us. God's love is at work in us, in every sacrament; in every moment of prayer; in every gathering for worship; in every act of kindness. He is in the tiniest whisper, and in the outstretched hand of another.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Elijah heard God in a *tiny whispering sound*. Paul writes to the Romans that he has *great sorrow and constant anguish in [his] heart* for his own people. In the Gospel, Peter becomes frightened while walking on the water toward Jesus. Jesus catches him from sinking.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Aware of God's quiet presence at work in our lives, we place our needs before him.

- 1) For Pope Francis, successor of Peter, may God continue to bless him with good health and vitality, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may God graciously watch over them in their service to their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those sinking in the waters of pain or fear, may Christ the Divine Physician calm them and grant them peace of mind, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all gathered here today, may the Holy Spirit help us more firmly embrace our faith in a loving God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be welcomed into the eternal life God gives through his Son, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, hear our prayers as we seek to be the hands and feet of Jesus each day. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, August 10, 2020  
(Lec. 618)

- 1) 2 Corinthians 9:6-10
- 2) John 12:24-26

**SAINT LAWRENCE,  
DEACON AND MARTYR  
- FEAST**

FOCUS: Sacrificing and dying to self and others will bear much fruit.

Today, on the feast of Saint Lawrence, deacon and martyr, we ask for his intercession, as well as that of all other martyrs who exemplify faith, hope, and love. Jesus teaches that all who serve him must follow him – sacrificing and dying to self and others in order to bear much fruit.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Paul writes to the Corinthians that *whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly*. God, he says, *loves a cheerful giver* and is a God of abundance who supplies every need and multiplies every gift we give. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples that a grain of wheat remains a grain of wheat unless it falls to the ground and dies, and subsequently bears fruit. Likewise, he says, *Whoever serves me must follow me*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We come together as children of God and turn to him with our needs and the needs of the world.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all who teach the faith, may God shower them with the grace to give completely of themselves for his Kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in positions of leadership in the judicial system, may the Holy Spirit guide their hearts as they balance justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, may they experience God's healing and peace through his grace and our care, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may Christ help us selflessly give of ourselves for love of God and in service of others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be brought into the fullness of God's presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, hear and answer these prayers we have offered today. We ask through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Tuesday, August 11, 2020  
(Lec. 414)

- 1) Ezekiel 2:8–3:4
- 2) Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14

TUESDAY OF  
19<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
Saint Clare,  
Virgin)

FOCUS: Jesus invites us to trust in the Father's love.

Jesus invites us, his disciples, to become humble like children, and to trust that we are in God's hands. We also learn from Jesus that it is the will of our heavenly Father to not lose one of his children. He will always seek us out.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Ezekiel receives the call of the Lord and is sent forth to proclaim it to the house of Israel. Jesus instructs his disciples to *become like children* – humble and receptive to Christ's name. He offers the parable of a single stray sheep out of 100, and the man who will leave the 99 and go look for the one.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the Lord's love and care, let us pray for the needs of the world.

- 1) For members of the Church throughout the world, may the Lord give us the grace to be like children, open to and trusting in his Word, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may God fill them with a spirit of humility and service, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For children everywhere, especially those who suffer abuse, neglect, or violence of any kind, and those who advocate for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here today, may the Lord increase us in faith, hope, and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may the Lord welcome them into his Kingdom to rejoice with our Blessed Mother, and with Saint Clare and all the saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving and eternal Father, hear these prayers we humbly bring before you, and answer them in accordance with your holy will. We ask through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, August 12, 2020  
(Lec. 415)

- 1) Ezekiel 9:1-7; 10:18-22
- 2) Matthew 18:15-20

WEDNESDAY OF  
19<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Jane Francis de Chantal,  
Religious)

FOCUS: We are incorporated into the body of Christ at our baptism.

We hear today that the people in Jerusalem who did not participate in idolatry were marked and spared the fate of their fellow Israelites. We are marked with a cross at our baptism, and thus incorporated into the body of Christ. We are saved not only as individuals, but also as a community. For this reason, we are accountable to each other.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Ezekiel receives a vision of the Lord instructing a scribe to mark the foreheads of those not committing idolatry so they will be spared from God's fury. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks to his disciples of how they are to help one another in discipleship. He says he is present *where two or three are gathered together in [his] name*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For the Church, through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit may she continue to faithfully build God's kingdom on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may God increase in them the desire to protect life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are sick, may they experience the healing power of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may the grace of our baptism continue to help us witness to the truth of the Gospel in both word and deed, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died marked with the cross of Christ, may they be brought to new life with him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, through the waters of baptism, you have adopted us as your children. We ask that you hear and answer our prayers, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, August 13, 2020  
(Lec. 416)

- 1) Ezekiel 12:1-12
- 2) Matthew 18:21-19:1

THURSDAY OF  
19<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saints Pontian,  
Pope,  
and Hippolytus,  
Priest,  
Martyrs)

FOCUS: With God's help, we can imitate his generosity in forgiveness.

Jesus teaches that in the kingdom of God, there is generous mercy, compassion, and forgiveness. Where the servant was unforgiving in today's parable, the king was merciful. So is God merciful to us, no matter how much we might resemble the servant! And so we are called to learn from the servant's hypocrisy and mercilessness. There are no limits on how many times God forgives us; let us strive to be the same.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Lord tells the prophet Ezekiel to warn Israel of their coming exile because of their rebelliousness. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus answers Peter's question about how often he must forgive a brother who sins against him by saying, *not seven times but seventy-seven times*. Then Jesus tells the parable of the unforgiving servant.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Assured of the compassion and mercy of God, we offer our prayers today.

- 1) That the Lord may help all members of the Church grow in compassion and forgiveness of heart, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That civic leaders may be guided by the Holy Spirit in their efforts to care for the communities they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those whose sins separate them from loved ones may receive the grace of God for repentance, forgiveness, and reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That our faith community, guided by the teaching of Jesus, may continue to grow in charity and hospitality, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died may find peace and eternal rest in God's heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, you know our sins and all that separates us from you. In your mercy, hear the prayers we bring before you, through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, August 14, 2020  
(Lec. 417)

- 1) Ezekiel 16:1-15, 60, 63  
or 16:59-63
- 2) Matthew 19:3-12

FRIDAY OF  
19<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
Saint Maximilian Kolbe,  
Priest and Martyr)

FOCUS: God's love and mercy are always there for us if we live in faithful relationship with him.

God's mercy is freely given to all those who follow him and live in faithful relationship with him. Jesus is the Incarnation of the Father's love and mercy. Today, we also remember Saint Maximilian Kolbe, priest and martyr, who embodied the sacrificial love of God, freely giving of his own life to save another.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lord speaks through Ezekiel to the people who have broken their covenant with him: *I will remember the covenant I made with you ... [I will] pardon you for all you have done.* In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus answers the Pharisees' question about the lawfulness of a man divorcing his wife. He says, *what God has joined together, man must not separate.*

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Joined together in God's holy presence, we pray for the needs of this assembly, the Church, and the world.

- 1) For all members of our holy Church, may God look graciously upon our efforts and needs in serving his Kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may the Holy Spirit lead them in the ways of charity and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For married couples who face difficulties, may God's grace give them strength in their work toward reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community as we celebrate this feast of Saint Maximilian Kolbe, may God imbue in us a sacrificial love for one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they find eternal joy and comfort in the presence of God our Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we ask that you look favorably on the prayers of this assembly and grant them according to your will. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, August 15, 2020  
(Lec. 622)

- 1) Revelation 11:19a;  
12:1-6a, 10ab
- 2) 1 Corinthians 15:20-27
- 3) Luke 1:39-56

**THE ASSUMPTION  
OF THE  
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY  
- SOLEMNITY**  
[not a Holyday  
of Obligation this year]

FOCUS: Mary proclaims the greatness of the Lord.

During her visit to her kinswoman, Elizabeth, Mary notes that her soul *proclaims the greatness of the Lord* because of the great things he has done for her and for the people of Israel. In her assumption into heaven, she further shows the great things that God has done and continues to do for us.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading from Revelation, John writes about a vision he had of a woman clothed with the sun, laboring to give birth. A dragon awaits to devour the child when it is born, but the male child is *caught up to God and his throne*. Paul writes that Jesus being raised from the dead is *the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep*, and of how all will be brought to life in him. In the Gospel, Mary travels to visit Elizabeth, whose child leapt in her womb at the sound of Mary's voice. Elizabeth calls Mary blessed, and Mary *proclaims the greatness of the Lord*

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: On this feast of the Assumption, we raise our voices and prayers to our heavenly Father.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may Christ strengthen our hearts in our mission to spread the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For public officials, may God work in and through them as they carry out their duties, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For expectant mothers, may the Lord bless them with his never-ending love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may God's grace strengthen us as we build the kingdom of God on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they join Jesus and Mary in the everlasting joy of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of life and of all goodness, hear the prayers we present to you, through Christ our Lord.

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**SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2020**

(Lec. 118)

- 1) Isaiah 56:1, 6-7
- 2) Romans 11:13-15, 29-32
- 3) Matthew 15:21-28

**20<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: God's grace and mercy are promised to all.

The readings today wrestle with the questions of who is *in* and who is *out*. When it comes to God's grace, who will receive it? We learn that all who accept the gift of faith are incorporated into the covenant relationship with God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lord speaks through Isaiah, giving his promise that all who *hold to [his] covenant* will be brought to his *holy mountain*. In the second reading, Saint Paul tells the Gentiles that *God delivered all to disobedience, that he might have mercy upon all*. In the Gospel, a Canaanite woman asks Christ to have pity on her, for her *daughter is tormented by a demon*. In spite of initial rejection, the woman perseveres in faith and Jesus heals her daughter.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Recalling the faith of the Canaanite woman in today's Gospel, we lift our hearts to the Father with assurance that our prayers will be heard.

- 1) For the Church, may the grace and mercy of the Holy Spirit continue to strengthen her in faith and unity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations throughout the world, may God grant them a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For families experiencing strife, may the peace of Christ bring an end to division and repair broken relationships, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the Lord help us in using our gifts for his glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they experience the mercy of God and rest in his eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of mercy and love, you have extended your grace to all who call upon your name. Hear our prayers offered to you in faith, we ask through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Monday, August 17, 2020  
(Lec. 419)

- 1) Ezekiel 24:15-24
- 2) Matthew 19:16-22

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

FOCUS: May we put God first in our lives.

The first commandment directs us to place God above all other gods. And yet, people throughout all of history have placed a higher emphasis on objects, others, and even themselves, to the detriment of their relationship with God. Let us take a moment to ponder how we are doing in keeping God first in our lives.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Ezekiel's experience of losing his wife serves as a sign for the fall of Jerusalem and there being no time for mourning. In the Gospel, the rich young man walks away from Jesus in sadness, for he has many possessions.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

**PRIEST:** Let us now gather our prayers on behalf of the needs of the world and bring them before our loving God.

- 1) For the Church, may God strengthen her in her mission of spreading the Good News, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For national leaders, may the Holy Spirit guide them in seeking to promote peace on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who grieve, may the Holy Spirit bring them comfort and solace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For children and young people in this community of faith, may the Spirit lead them to grow in grace and knowledge of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they enjoy eternal life with our loving Father in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** Heavenly Father, in your goodness, hear our prayers and answer them according to your holy will. We ask this through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, August 18, 2020  
(Lec. 420)

- 1) Ezekiel 28:1-10
- 2) Matthew 19:23-30

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

FOCUS: The kingdom of God is built on self-giving.

Amid a culture of consumerism and a focus on self-advancement, the kingdom of God stands apart. We participate in God's kingdom not by amassing wealth or promoting ourselves, but by following Jesus first and foremost.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Ezekiel prophesies the downfall and death of the prince of Tyre, due to his thinking of himself as a god. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples of the difficult task of entering the kingdom of God, saying, *For men this is impossible, but for God all things are possible.*

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together, we lift up our hearts in prayer to God, who is always present with us.

- 1) For Pope Francis, may God give him strength as he shares Christ's message with the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the salvation of the world, may the love of God through the witness of the Church touch every heart on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have suffered trials of any kind because of the global pandemic, may the Lord look graciously upon their needs and grant them relief and consolation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the people of this faith community, may the Holy Spirit continue to inspire us in charity and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died or will die today, may they be welcomed into the light of God's kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving and merciful God, we put our trust in you and ask that you hear our prayer and grant us what we need according to your will. Through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, August 19, 2020  
(Lec. 421)

- 1) Ezekiel 34:1-11
- 2) Matthew 20:1-16

WEDNESDAY OF  
20<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint John Eudes,  
Priest)

FOCUS: Let us strive to share our God-given blessings with others.

The more we focus on our blessings as God's children, the easier it becomes to reject selfish, envious thoughts and behavior. May God's generosity and great love for us allow us to see more clearly what it means to build up the kingdom of God on earth by acting more lovingly toward others.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Ezekiel conveys to the leaders of Israel God's disfavor with them for their failure to properly shepherd their people, and that God himself will save his sheep. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the workers in the vineyard, who receive the same pay regardless of the hour they began work. Those who worked the most hours grumble at the generosity of the vineyard owner.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Secure in the knowledge of the Father's love for us, let us turn to him in prayer.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all bishops, may they be strengthened by the Holy Spirit in their priestly ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all world and national leaders, may the Lord open their eyes to the need to treat all their citizens with human dignity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering from illness or hurt, may they find strength in God's infinite love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the Spirit help us grow in faith and virtue, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may they find eternal happiness with Jesus, the Good Shepherd, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, we humbly pray that you grant us these petitions, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, August 20, 2020  
(Lec. 422)

- 1) Ezekiel 36:23-28
- 2) Matthew 22:1-14

THURSDAY OF  
20<sup>th</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
Saint Bernard,  
Abbot and Doctor  
of the Church)

FOCUS: Take advantage of the opportunities given to answer God's call.

Today's readings portray a gracious God. Through Ezekiel, God promises to restore Israel. Jesus depicts God as distributing invitations to the Kingdom. All are now invited: Jews, Gentiles, saints, and sinners. However, only those prepared for this call, and those who respond with repentance and righteousness, will be admitted.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lord speaks through Ezekiel and tells the exiled Israelites that he will bring them back to their own land, cleanse them, and *place a new spirit within [them]*. In the Gospel, Jesus tells a parable of a wedding feast, describing those who were invited and those who did and did not come. *Many are invited, but few are chosen.*

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As a people preparing for the heavenly banquet, let us place our needs before God.

- 1) That the Holy Spirit may graciously watch over Church leaders as they continue to lead their flocks in the way of Christ's peace and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That God may guide our civil leaders in working diligently to raise up the lowly within the communities they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who suffer from affliction in mind or body may be blessed with Christ's peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That God may strengthen this faith community, as the body of Christ, in doing his work on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may enjoy the eternal feast with all the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, you are the judge of all that is right and good. Hear our prayers and grant them according to your will. We ask this through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Friday, August 21, 2020  
(Lec. 423)

- 1) Ezekiel 37:1-14
- 2) Matthew 22:34-40

FRIDAY OF  
20<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
Saint Pius X,  
Pope)

FOCUS: Ezekiel's vision serves to show that God is the source of all life.

Ezekiel's vision of God restoring life to the dry bones serves to remind us that even when we feel we are without hope, God can restore us. In fact, in Jesus Christ he already has done so for eternity. But we still inhabit this world, and his promise in Ezekiel and fulfilled in Jesus sustains us when things are difficult. The commandments to love God and our neighbor are not just positive laws – these are things you “must do.” They are ways of naturally living out the life of Christ that is already within us.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Ezekiel prophesies twice over dry bones: First, to bring them together, and next to animate them with spirit. The Lord instructs Ezekiel to tell the people that the Lord will *bring [them] back to the land of Israel*. In the Gospel, a scholar of the law tests Jesus, and Jesus replies by stating two commandments, and saying that *the whole law and the prophets depend on [them]*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us turn to God, the source of life, and present our prayers to him.

- 1) That all members of the Church may be refreshed in faith by the same life-giving spirit that emboldened Pope Saint Pius X whom we celebrate today, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That those who exercise authority in our world may be blessed with wisdom and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those suffering from depression, grief, or hopelessness may experience the healing power of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the Holy Spirit may continue to transform every heart in this community to the fullness of love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may experience the new life promised by Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, hear and answer the prayers we bring before you this day. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, August 22, 2020  
(Lec. 424)

- 1) Ezekiel 43:1-7ab
- 2) Matthew 23:1-12

SATURDAY OF  
20<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
The Queenship  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

FOCUS: Mary our Mother, is queen of heaven and earth.

Today is the Feast of the Queenship of Mary. We celebrate the example she gave us by her complete and unwavering “yes” to God's will. As the mother of Christ, our King, we honor her as our queen and mother.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, the prophet Ezekiel sees a vision of a restored temple with the glory of the Lord filling it. A voice says, *Here I will dwell among the children of Israel forever.* In the Gospel, Jesus tells the crowds and his disciples not to follow the example of the scribes and Pharisees, *for they preach but they do not practice ... The greatest among you must be your servant.*

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With humble hearts, let us offer our petitions to our heavenly Father.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may God's grace continue to nourish and strengthen us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in governmental and political authority, may God lead them in their service to their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have lost employment or suffered from the effects of the economic downturn in recent months, may God uphold and strengthen them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of this faith community, may the Lord look graciously upon our every need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they join the heavenly choir in giving continual praise to God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, hear our prayers and answer them in your mercy. We pray in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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**SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2020**

(Lec. 121)

- 1) Isaiah 22:19-23
- 2) Romans 11:33-36
- 3) Matthew 16:13-20

**21<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

We are reminded in the reading from Romans that God is the ultimate authority. It is God who gives all, who creates all, and for whom all exists. Let us, then, through prayer and deeds, humbly and confidently acknowledge Jesus as the Son of the Living God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lord tells Shebna, the scribe, *I will thrust you from your office and pull you down from your station* and replace you with the honorable Eliakim. In the second reading, Paul writes to the Romans about the inscrutable judgments and unsearchable ways of God: *For from him and through him and for him are all things*. In the Gospel, Peter answers Jesus' question, saying, *You are the Christ, the Son of the living God*. Jesus blesses Peter and proclaims him as the rock upon whom he will build his Church.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us join together to bring our prayers before our Father in heaven.

- 1) For the leaders of the Church, may the Holy Spirit continue to work through them to bring others to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our national and local leaders, may God inspire them to find solutions to the needs facing their communities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, especially those struggling with chronic illness, may God bring them healing of mind and body, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may God's grace help us to affirm the dignity of every person, especially the unborn, the elderly, the refugee, and the poor, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they hear Jesus' voice as he welcomes them by name into the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we entrust our prayers to you, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Monday, August 24, 2020  
(Lec. 629)

**SAINT BARTHOLOMEW,  
APOSTLE  
- FEAST**

- 1) Revelation 21:9b-14
- 2) John 1:45-51

FOCUS: Jesus calls to each one of us.

Like Nathanael, we may doubt that Jesus is the one we are looking and longing for. But Jesus does not hesitate to make the first move. Calling out to us, Jesus recognizes and affirms us for who we are. This is what we need to trust, and open our hearts in faith to him.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, an angel shows John a vision of the *holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven*. On its gates *were inscribed the names of the twelve tribes* of Israel and on its wall, *names of the twelve Apostles of the Lamb*. In the Gospel, Philip tells Nathanael about Jesus, but Nathanael asks, *Can anything good come from Nazareth?* Jesus calls out to Nathanael, affirming him as a true Israelite, and Nathanael declares Jesus to be *the Son of God and King of Israel*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that in faith we will see great things, we offer our petitions to our merciful Father.

- 1) That the Holy Spirit may nurture in our bishops the missionary zeal of Bartholomew and the other Apostles in whose succession they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the peace of Christ may touch all nations and lead them to tolerance, understanding, and harmony, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those experiencing grief or emotional anguish may be freed by the Holy Spirit from all their distress, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That members of this faith community, in times of doubt and fear, may experience the strong and comforting hand of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may be called by Christ into the splendor of the heavenly Jerusalem, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of Glory, we praise you with the angels and saints, and thank you for hearing our prayers. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Tuesday, August 25, 2020  
(Lec. 426)

- 1) 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3a,  
14-17
- 2) Matthew 23:23-26

TUESDAY OF  
21<sup>ST</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Louis;  
Saint Joseph Calasanz,  
Priest)

FOCUS: God calls us to wholehearted worship centered on his loving heart.

Putting “first things first” is more than simply a principle for organizing our homes or our schedules: It is wisdom through which God takes his rightful place at the center of our lives. We know from today’s readings that we must not lose sight of the important things: right judgment, mercy, and fidelity to God. Let us work to eliminate what competes with God for the primary place in our thoughts, words, and deeds.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul urges the Thessalonians, *hold fast to the traditions that you were taught*. In the Gospel, Jesus admonishes the scribes and Pharisees for attending to less important parts of the law and ignoring *judgment and mercy and fidelity*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With faith and trust, we bring our needs and the needs of our brothers and sisters to the Lord.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may Christ keep us faithful to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all people of the world, may the Lord’s love and mercy be upon them and bring them to salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who live each day with fears and anxieties, may the Holy Spirit be their comfort and strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may God continue to fill us with his gifts and graces, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may the Lord welcome them into his eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, we thank you for always hearing our prayers. Please answer them according to your holy will, we ask, through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, August 26, 2020  
(Lec. 427)

WEDNESDAY OF  
21<sup>ST</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

- 1) 2 Thessalonians 3:6-10,  
16-18
- 2) Matthew 23:27-32

FOCUS: Saint Paul's leadership by example stands in contrast to the false holiness of the Pharisees and scribes.

Saint Paul draws attention to his own conduct and the sacrifices he has made for the Thessalonians so as to encourage them to live virtuously. The Pharisees and scribes, in contrast, put on a show of virtue but have rejected God in their hearts, just as they will reject Jesus and condemn him to death.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul exhorts the Thessalonians to imitate the example of orderly living he set for them, including working for one's own living. In the Gospel, Jesus denounces the hypocrisy of the scribes and Pharisees, whose righteousness is only a false appearance, calling them *the children of those who murdered the prophets*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the Lord of Peace to meet all of our needs, let us bring our petitions before him.

- 1) For the Church, may God grant within her people a purity of heart and genuine witness of his love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all in positions of governmental and civic leadership, may Christ inspire them in modeling self-sacrifice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer, may the Lord sustain them through his loving presence and the generosity of his people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may God look favorably and generously upon the work of our hands, that it may be for his glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they rejoice in the gift of everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Thursday, August 27, 2020  
(Lec. 428)

- 1) 1 Corinthians 1:1-9
- 2) Matthew 24:42-51

THURSDAY OF  
21<sup>ST</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
Saint Monica)

FOCUS: Live faithfully the Gospel and God's grace will keep you firm.

Saint Monica, whose memorial we celebrate today, was the mother of Saint Augustine. Her steadfastness and perseverance in prayer for him bore fruit with his eventual conversion. Like the Corinthians, the disciples, and Saint Monica, we do not know the day or the hour of the Second Coming of Christ. We prepare by living faithfully the Gospel and its commands, knowing that God's grace *will keep [us] firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul greets the community at Corinth, first by giving his authority to preach and then offering prayers of thanksgiving for the blessings they have received. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples to *stay awake*, and be prepared, for the Lord, *the Son of Man*, will come at an unexpected hour.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us approach our merciful Father with trust and faith and offer him our intentions.

- 1) For the Church, may Christ keep watch over her always, and make her holy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those entrusted with leadership, may God give them the grace to see and to be thankful for the gifts in those under their care, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who feel far from God, may he remove every obstacle to their sense of security in him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, may the Holy Spirit foster in us a constant desire to follow his promptings in our lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the dead, may they soon enter into the peace of the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, hear and answer our prayers, which we offer to you through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, August 28, 2020  
(Lec. 429)

- 1) 1 Corinthians 1:17-25
- 2) Matthew 25:1-13

FRIDAY OF  
21<sup>ST</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
Saint Augustine,  
Bishop and Doctor  
of the Church)

FOCUS: Let us stay vigilant and alert as we await the coming of the Lord.

Today the Church memorializes Saint Augustine, “the Doctor of Grace.” He spent all of his youth, and then his adult life until the age of 33, living in foolishness, as Paul might describe it. Through the prayers of his mother and the instruction of Saint Ambrose, Augustine was baptized and professed his faith. A masterful theologian, teacher, and homilist, his work continues to be a source of wisdom for the Church, helping us live fully and attentively the Christian life; helping us be vigilant in prayer and worship, until that great day when we will greet the Lord.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul tells the Corinthians that he is *to preach the Gospel – to proclaim Christ crucified*. This is foolishness to some, but is the wisdom of God for them and all *who are called*. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the 10 virgins, and the foolishness and wisdom they exhibit.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With our eyes and hearts fixed on the coming of the Lord in glory, let us bring our prayers and needs before him.

- 1) For the Church, may she grow and prosper in the Lord’s saving work, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who work in the legal and judicial systems, may God grant them wisdom in acting with justice and fairness for all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who struggle with sickness in all its many forms, may Christ’s healing be theirs this day and always, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may God continue to open our hearts to the message of his love, revealed to us in Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they soon come before the Lord and rejoice in his eternal presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and eternal Father, as we await the return of your Son in glory we ask you to hear our prayers and answer them according to your holy will. We make our prayer through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, August 29, 2020  
(Lec 430)  
1) 1 Corinthians 1:26-31  
(Lec. 634)  
2) Mark 6:17-29

SATURDAY OF  
21<sup>ST</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
The Passion  
of Saint John the Baptist)

FOCUS: *Whoever boasts, should boast in the Lord.*

The passage from Paul's Letter today ends with this precept for Christian living: *Whoever boasts, should boast in the Lord.* Not that Paul is encouraging anyone to boast at all, but that if it be done, it give credit to and point to the One through whom and in whom all things are: Jesus Christ. The Church remembers and celebrates John the Baptist in a particular way today. John's entire ministry pointed to Christ, including his steadfast faithfulness to God's law, which shamed the wise and the strong and, in the end, cost him his life.

#### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul tells the Corinthians to *consider [their] own calling* – and that though there were not many *powerful* or *of noble birth* among them, God chose them – foolish, weak, and lowly – *to shame the wise* and *the strong*. In the Gospel, John the Baptist is beheaded at the hands of Herod and Herodias, who resented the truth that John taught.

#### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us turn to our heavenly Father with these petitions, knowing that he loves us and hears our prayers.

- 1) For missionaries throughout the world, may they receive God's blessing and comfort as they make his love known, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For policymakers, may God grant them wisdom in decision-making, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For couples who are struggling with their marriage, may God's grace grant them courage in forgiveness and reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of this faith community, may the Holy Spirit guide us in all aspects of our lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they forever rejoice in the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of grace and peace, hear the prayers of your people. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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**SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2020**

(Lec. 124)

- 1) Jeremiah 20:7-9
- 2) Romans 12:1-2
- 3) Matthew 16:21-27

**22<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Trust in and follow the way of Jesus.

Peter can be excused for thinking as a human does, for he is human! But what gets him in trouble is his mistaken idea that he knows better than Jesus – that he knows better how Jesus ought to carry out his mission. This is reminiscent of the Fall: Pride in one's own knowledge over that of God's. We're all susceptible to that, and Jesus reminds Peter – and us – that *his way is the way*. All we need to do is trust, and follow.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Jeremiah accuses the Lord of duping him, for his prophecies are met with laughter and mocking, *derision and reproach*. Paul encourages the Romans *to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice*. In the Gospel, Jesus reveals that he must suffer greatly, and Peter attempts to dissuade him. Jesus accuses Peter of *thinking not as God does, but as human beings do*. He then tells his disciples that in order to follow him, they must take up their cross.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With hopeful hearts, we bring our requests to our loving God.

- 1) For Pope Francis, may the Holy Spirit continue to help him persevere in faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may God inspire them in working to protect the sanctity of life at all stages, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are lonely, may the Lord look with compassion upon their pain and bring them solace and comfort, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may God increase in us the virtues of faith, hope, and charity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they be welcomed by God into the eternal joy of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, you are Lord of all. We humbly ask you to listen to these our prayers and petitions, which we ask in the name of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

\* \* \* \* \*

Monday, August 31, 2020  
(Lec. 431)

- 1) 1 Corinthians 2:1-5
- 2) Luke 4:16-30

MONDAY OF  
22<sup>ND</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God gives us the gift of himself, pouring out his love upon us, so that we may live in him.

God is the source of every good thing: He is the power behind Saint Paul's words, the wisdom of the law, and the Holy Spirit that anoints Jesus and the whole body of Christ. God's word and the Holy Spirit descend upon us, seeking to enliven the world and draw it back to God.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul tells the Corinthians that when he came to them, he did so in a way that their faith *might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God*. In the Gospel, Jesus goes to the synagogue in Nazareth, and reads from a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. After this, he declares, *Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing*. The people question his authority, arise in fury, and drive him out of town.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us make our petitions to the Father, consoled by the knowledge of his love and care for us.

- 1) For the Church, may the outpouring of the Holy Spirit continuously refresh and renew her, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For public authorities, may God grant them strength to stand for goodness and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are depressed or troubled in mind, may the healing presence of Christ be upon them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all gathered here in worship, may the Holy Spirit guide us in nourishing one another in love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they abide forever in heaven with God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we come to you in faith as your children. Hear and grant these prayers according to your will, through your Son, Jesus Christ.

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