

# January

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**YEAR A  
WEEKDAYS II**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2020**

(Lec. 18)

- 1) Numbers 6:22-27
- 2) Galatians 4:4-7
- 3) Luke 2:16-21

**THE OCTAVE DAY  
OF THE NATIVITY  
OF THE LORD;  
SOLEMNITY OF MARY,  
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

FOCUS: We celebrate the place of Mary in God's plan of salvation. In her "yes," she accepts the invitation to bring the world its Savior.

With the birth of Jesus, God enters into human history in a new and dynamic way. Mary's role as mother is both essential and another example of how God has chosen and blessed the people who belong to him. With this Christ-filled blessing comes God's peace and our adoption as sons and daughters of God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

God tells Moses to speak to Aaron and his sons and tell them that God promises his blessing and peace to his people. Saint Paul writes to the Galatians about the mystery of the Incarnation – through it God has *sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts* to make us his adopted children. In the Gospel, the shepherds visit Mary, Joseph and the baby, and then glorify and praise God. Jesus is given his name.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our prayers before our God who promises us blessing and peace.

- 1) For the Church, may we, through the intercession of Mary, grow in our ability to bear Christ to the world with confidence and grace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For governments and world leaders, may the Gospel message of peace and blessing inform and direct their decisions and actions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick and the dying, may Christ the healer give them hope and courage, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us here, may the Lord bless us, keep us faithful, and make us ever more holy in this New Year, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they come to share in the fullness of Christ's glory and look upon the face of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and living God, we praise and glorify you for your steadfast and eternal mercy as we make these prayers through Christ, our Lord.

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Thursday, January 2, 2020  
(Lec. 205)

- 1) 1 John 2:22-28
- 2) John 1:19-28

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY  
(OBL MEM  
Saints Basil the Great  
and Gregory Nazianzen,  
Bishops and Doctors of Church)

FOCUS: There is one Christ, and we follow him.

Over time, God revealed himself to our ancestors in myriad ways, with his final and more perfect revelation coming in the form of his son, Jesus Christ. Jesus is the one who unites us to the Father, and who with the Father, gave us the Spirit to assist us in knowing the truth about God. What is true is of God, and what is false is not. We follow Jesus because he is the Truth.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, John writes to his community that the Antichrist is one who denies Jesus is the Christ. In the Gospel from John, Jewish leaders quiz John the Baptist about his identity. He admitted he was not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet, but *the voice of one crying out in the desert, "Make straight the way of the Lord."*

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us turn now to our merciful Father with our prayers.

- 1) For all Church leaders, may they be guided and strengthened by the gifts of the Holy Spirit in this New Year, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may God bless them with prudence and compassion as they address the need for all people to be treated with human dignity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For Christians across the world facing religious persecution, may they be filled with the fortitude of the Holy Spirit in staying true to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faithful assembly, may God of all mercy and goodness look graciously upon our every need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all of the faithful who have died in this past year, may they be rewarded with eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: O loving Father, in your love and compassion, hear our prayers, through your Son, Jesus our Lord.

Friday, January 3, 2020

(Lec. 206)

- 1) 1 John 2:29–3:6
- 2) John 1:29-34

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

(Opt. Mem.

The Most Holy Name  
of Jesus)

FOCUS: See what love the Father has bestowed on us.

Jesus has many names. Today, we hear John the Baptist call him the Lamb of God and the Son of God. Most of us have names we are called other than our given names – some we may like, some we may not. What a privilege, that among our names, *we may be called the children of God!*

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

John's Letter tells us we are children of God and when we act in righteousness, we remain in him, and will one day see him as he is. In the Gospel, John the Baptist sees Jesus and proclaims that he is the Lamb of God, the Son of God.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As God's beloved children, let us entrust our prayers to him.

- 1) That the Holy Spirit may guide the preachers and prophets of the Church with wisdom and courage as they testify to God's presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That God may inspire world leaders in serving with righteousness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all children who are in need of permanent homes may be blessed by God with loving, adoptive families, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the love of Jesus bestowed on us may help us grow in virtue, and avoid temptations of sin, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died may know the comfort and peace of being embraced as children of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God, you became one of us to express your unconditional love for us. Hear our prayers today and grant them according to your will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, January 4, 2020

(Lec. 207)

1) 1 John 3:7-10

2) John 1:35-42

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

(OBL MEM

USA: Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton,  
Religious)

FOCUS: We are children of God.

Through the grace of God and his son, Jesus Christ, we are made adopted children of God. Christ is sinless and righteous; he is the Lamb of God who took away our sins. In him and through him we have the grace to grow in holiness and the avoidance of sin, and increase our love for one another. For this is how children of God are made plain to others.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, John writes that *the Son of God was revealed to destroy the works of the Devil*. Children of God are righteous, and the children of the Devil commit sin. In the Gospel, Jesus invites Andrew and his companion to come and see. Andrew then brings his brother, Simon, who is recognized by Jesus and given a new name, Peter.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We offer our prayers to God, trusting that he listens and attends to the requests of his beloved children.

- 1) That all who serve the Church may be inspired and strengthened by the truth of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That government leaders may be moved by the Spirit in promoting policies that benefit the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who feel lost or overwhelmed by circumstances may be sustained and strengthened by God's love for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That those of us gathered here may grow in holiness and compassion through the grace of Word and sacrament this festive season, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died in Christ may be raised to celebrate with him in glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we are your adopted and beloved children. We lift these prayers to you through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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## SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2020

(Lec. 20)

- 1) Isaiah 60:1-6
- 2) Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
- 3) Matthew 2:1-12

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

FOCUS: Jesus is the Savior born for all.

Today, we celebrate the revelation of Jesus' coming to all as our Savior. That news is not received gratefully and joyfully by all – as we see by King Herod's reaction, and the actions of many today who do not believe. As Christians who have the grace of redemption through the paschal mystery of Christ, may our lives be a joyful and generous witness to others – that they, too, may come to share in it. May they, too, have an *epiphany*.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah prophesies that a light has come to Jerusalem, while darkness covers the earth. All will come to the city *bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the Lord*. Paul tells the Ephesians that Gentiles are coheirs of God, along with the people of Israel. In the Gospel, magi arrive in Jerusalem from the east in search of the *newborn king of the Jews*. Herod is troubled by this, and the magi visit Mary and her child and offer gifts.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Recognizing God's generous gift to us in his son, Jesus, let us bring before him our prayers for the world.

- 1) For missionaries, may the Lord bless them with generosity and boldness in sharing the love of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the heads of governments throughout the world, may God's gracious mercy be upon them and those they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are troubled in spirit, may they receive hope and healing through the grace of God and the efforts of their caregivers, let us pray to the Lord
- 4) For this community of faith, may the Lord bless our relationships, and grant us purity of heart and mind, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died in the light of faith, may they share in the resurrection of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of us all, we ask that you hear these prayers we offer in the name of your Son, Jesus.

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Monday, January 6, 2020

(Lec. 212)

1) 1 John 3:22–4:6

2) Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

(Opt. Mem.

USA: Saint André Bessette,  
Religious)

FOCUS: Jesus has brought the kingdom of God to us.

The kingdom of God is at hand for all of us, through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. No matter what darkness seems to surround us, we hold fast to Jesus, who leads us into the kingdom through the way of love.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's reading from the First Letter of John, he encourages his community to believe in the name of God's Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another. In today's Gospel, Jesus hears of John's arrest, and also begins proclaiming the Gospel *around all of Galilee*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We place our petitions into God's hands, with great confidence in his goodness.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may God continue to bless, purify and sanctify her in building his kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all political leaders and civil authorities, may the peace of Christ reign in their hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering in mind, body or spirit, may Jesus' healing presence bring them comfort and consolation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this local faith community, may God foster in each of us love and faith as we build the kingdom of God on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the recently deceased, may the Lord's mercy and grace lead them into everlasting peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God, you know our hearts better than we know ourselves. We lift these and all our prayers into your loving hands, through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, January 7, 2020

(Lec. 213)

1) 1 John 4:7-10

2) Mark 6:34-44

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

(Opt. Mem.

Saint Raymond of Penyafort,  
Priest)

FOCUS: The Incarnation reveals who God is and who we are called to be – a community defined by love.

God is love. By becoming one of us, God not only revealed who he is, but also enabled our participation in the life of the Trinity. As Christians, the love we have for one another is meant to emulate the self-emptying love God shows us. This love is made available to us here in the Eucharist.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

John writes that *God is love*. This is revealed by the fact that he sent his Son so that we might have life, and our sins can be forgiven. In the Gospel, Jesus feeds 5,000 with only five loaves and two fish. All eat and are satisfied, and there are 12 baskets left over.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We now offer our petitions to God, who is love.

- 1) That the pope and all bishops and priests may continually be strengthened by God's love as they shepherd their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That leaders of nations may be blessed by the Holy Spirit with wisdom, compassion and a heart open to the truth of God's word, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who are hungry may be satisfied through the grace and mercy of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That we who gather at this Eucharistic table may be united by God's grace, growing in love and holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may be welcomed to the heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, you made your love for us known by the Incarnation. Hear the prayers we bring before you today, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, January 8, 2020

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

(Lec. 214)

- 1) 1 John 4:11-18
- 2) Mark 6:45-52

FOCUS: The Lord comes to save us even when we do not recognize him.

After the miracle of feeding the crowd, the disciples still did not understand who Jesus was, and were terrified when he came to them on the water. In this Christmas season, we also celebrate Jesus' coming. With God's grace, we can grow in our understanding and recognition of Christ, who comes to save us.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint John commands his readers to love one another since God loved us. In the Gospel, after witnessing the feeding of the 5,000, Jesus' disciples see him walking on water, and are terrified. Jesus calms the storm and tells his disciples to not be afraid.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: The Lord hears us when we cry out to him. In faith, let us now bring our prayers and petitions to him.

- 1) For all Church leaders, may the Lord anchor them with his wisdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in public office, may God bless them and give them courage in making decisions for all whom they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are afraid or in danger this day, may the Lord come to them in their need to give them safety and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may God who is love stir in us an ever greater spirit of compassion and love for one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may the Lord welcome them into his eternal rest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, hear and grant these petitions according to your holy will. We ask this through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, January 9, 2020

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

(Lec. 215)

- 1) 1 John 4:19–5:4
- 2) Luke 4:14-22a

FOCUS: Jesus came to bring *glad tidings* – we can love because God first loved us.

Jesus came to bring *glad tidings* – good news. This is news we cannot keep to ourselves. It is news that demands to be shared, not as a burden, but with gladness. It is news that drives us to love as Jesus loves – to obey the Father and to serve our neighbor.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the First Letter of John, John reminds us that because God first loved us, *whoever loves God must also love his brother*, and keep the commandments. In the Gospel, Jesus enters the synagogue at Nazareth and reads from the scroll of Isaiah, saying, *today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In love, let us offer our needs, and the needs of our brothers and sisters, to the God who first loved us.

- 1) For the Church, may the Holy Spirit empower us as we proclaim the glad tidings of God's love to all the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those entrusted with leadership and public office, may God give them courage in their service to the poor or oppressed, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who struggle to receive or give love, may they be blessed with perfect knowledge of God's love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, may God give us the grace we need to make this New Year *acceptable to the Lord*, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rest eternally in the arms of the Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of Love, hear these prayers and petitions of your children, and answer them according to your gracious will. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Friday, January 10, 2020

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

(Lec. 216)

- 1) 1 John 5:5-13
- 2) Luke 5:12-16

FOCUS: We are witnesses to the life given in Jesus Christ.

We are witnesses to the life shared with us in Jesus Christ. We are called to faith with the help of the Holy Spirit. This faith finds its fullness when we say “yes” to a relationship with him.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, John writes about Christ, the victor over the world who calls us to faith through the witness of the Holy Spirit. In the Gospel, Jesus cures a man with leprosy.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our needs to the Lord with confidence and faith.

- 1) For every member of the Body of Christ, may God help us grow in faith and empower us in our witness to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For public authorities, may the Holy Spirit grant them prudence and wisdom in enacting policies that protect all life, especially those who are most marginalized and vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those struggling with illness, may God grant them healing and strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, may the grace of the Eucharist give us strength as we say “yes” to Christ present in our midst, 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: God of intimate love, hear our prayers today, we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, January 11, 2020

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

(Lec. 217)

- 1) 1 John 5:14-21
- 2) John 3:22-30

FOCUS: We rejoice when we hear the voice of the bridegroom.

John the Baptist says of Jesus: *He must increase; I must decrease*. Jesus is the Messiah; the one whom John has been teaching about. It is Jesus who has come as our bridegroom, and should take precedence in all our lives. Like John, we can rejoice in the voice of the bridegroom, put aside our worldly treasures and let Jesus become our focus.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, John writes that Jesus Christ is the one true God, and that we can have confidence that our prayers will be heard. In the Gospel, Jesus and John the Baptist are baptizing the people who come to them. John reminds those who question him that he is not the Christ.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As his faithful children, we turn to the Father in prayer to present our petitions to him.

- 1) For the Church, may God continue to bless her as she serves as a beacon of hope, love and truth to all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For public authorities, leaders of nations and governments, and those entrusted with the welfare of their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those in need of food or shelter, may the Lord grant them hope and relief, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our faith community who suffer from emotional or physical illness, may they receive God's healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they enjoy the eternal life earned for them through the sacrifice of our Savior, Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we ask that you hear our prayers, presented to you with confidence that you always take care of our needs. We offer them in the name of Jesus, your Son.

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## SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2020

(Lec. 21)

- 1) Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
- 2) Acts 10:34-38
- 3) Matthew 3:13-17

## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - FEAST

FOCUS: Through our baptism, we are called to a life of discipleship.

The Spirit of God descends upon Jesus at his baptism, and marks the beginning of his public ministry. At our baptism, through water and the Holy Spirit, we are sanctified and made children of God. By the grace of this sacrament, we are awakened to the power of the Spirit in our own lives.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah shares the Lord's promise of a servant of the Lord who will come forth and *bring justice to the nations*. In the second reading, Peter tells those gathered that God shows no partiality. All who fear him and act uprightly are acceptable to him. In the Gospel, Jesus is baptized by John, and the Spirit of God descends upon him.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Gathered as a family united in faith and baptism, let us with confidence bring our needs and prayers before our loving God and Father.

- 1) For all who lead the Church, may they be guided by the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For peace and justice in our nation and across the world, may he who is acclaimed as *beloved Son* dwell in the hearts of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are in need of God's healing in mind, body or spirit, may God graciously attend to their every need, and fill them with his loving presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the Lord fill us with love and truth and guide us in the ways of wisdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they come to share in the baptismal promise of new life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, look with favor on us, your children, and hear the prayers we ask this day. Through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Monday, January 13, 2020  
(Lec. 305)

- 1) 1 Samuel 1:1-8
- 2) Mark 1:14-20

MONDAY OF  
FIRST WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Hilary,  
Bishop and Doctor of the Church)

FOCUS: Jesus calls us to follow him each and every day.

When Jesus calls his Apostles, he does not promise them prestige or wealth. Instead, he says, *I will make you fishers of men*. In the same way, each of us has been called by our baptism to love and serve God, and participate in the discipleship needed to build the kingdom of God on earth.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Elkanah consoles his wife, Hannah, who is barren, and continually harassed by the other wife, Peninnah, who had a number of children. In the Gospel, Jesus comes to Galilee, *proclaiming the Gospel of God*. Then he calls his first four Apostles.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We offer our prayers to God with faith in his promises.

- 1) For an increase in religious vocations, may the Lord bless those discerning priesthood or consecrated life with generous and open hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all those in authority, may the Holy Spirit guide them in serving all under their charge, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering or burdened with difficulty, may the hope found in the Lord's faithfulness and promise bring them consolation and joy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our own faith community, may the Lord bless us with the eyes and heart of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they enjoy a life in communion with the Trinity and all the saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we offer these prayers to you, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, January 14, 2020

(Lec. 306)

1) 1 Samuel 1:9-20

2) Mark 1:21-28

TUESDAY OF  
FIRST WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God always hears our prayers.

In today's reading, the faith-filled prayer of Hannah is answered. Although our prayers are not always answered in the way we would like, we know that God has heard our pleas. And by our prayer we invite God's action in our lives. Our faith, then, allows us to accept God's response to our prayer and trust how he works in and through us.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Hannah weeps and cries out to the Lord, begging him to hear her prayer and give her a son. The Lord remembered her and she later bears a son, naming him Samuel. In the Gospel from Mark, Jesus enters the synagogue and teaches, leaving people astonished. He also rebukes and sends away an unclean spirit, amazing those in his presence.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring to God our needs, and the needs of all the world.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord guard and strengthen each one of us, his servants, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may God guide the leaders of all nations in the ways of peace and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, may the Lord who heals every wound grant peace and comfort to those who suffer in mind, body or spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, may the Lord's teaching shape our lives and his grace conform us ever more to his heart, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be at peace and rest in the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we ask you to hear our humble prayers this day as we bring them all to you through your Son, Christ our Lord.

Wednesday, January 15, 2020  
(Lec. 307)

- 1) 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20
- 2) Mark 1:29-39

WEDNESDAY OF  
FIRST WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: As servants, we are called to wait, listen and obey our Lord.

Today's readings describe to us what it means to be a servant of the Lord. Samuel and Eli show us that servants listen. Simon's mother-in-law and Jesus reveal that servants "wait" on their master: patiently remaining attentive until a job is given them. Then good servants act without hesitation, and not by their own power, but by the power of their master.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the young Samuel is called three times by the Lord during the night, presenting himself each time before the priest Eli. Eli recognizes what is happening and instructs Samuel to reply *Speak Lord, for your servant is listening*. In the Gospel, Jesus heals Simon's mother-in-law, and the ill and demon-possessed of the town, before retreating to pray alone before dawn.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As servants, let us approach the Lord with patience, humbly presenting our needs and intentions.

- 1) For all leaders in the Church, may the Lord grant them humility and strength as they strive to listen and obey him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all those in positions of authority, may Christ be their guide in serving their people and caring especially for those most in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are struggling with their faith, may God place guides in their life who, like Eli, can help them listen and respond, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, may God grant us the wisdom to serve through faithful listening, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be granted eternal rest of life in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we offer our desires, needs and hopes, and ask that you hear and answer our prayers, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, January 16, 2020  
(Lec. 308)

- 1) 1 Samuel 4:1-11
- 2) Mark 1:40-45

THURSDAY OF  
FIRST WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: The goodness found in Christ far surpasses anything we ask for.

Our readings today invite us into the mystery of God's will. They remind us that, while we don't always get exactly what we ask for, God still answers every prayer. He brings goodness that can transform even suffering. Christ redeems us not because we have earned it or asked for it persistently enough in prayer, but because he loves us.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Israelites and the Philistines go to battle with one another. In spite of bringing the Ark of the Lord to help them, the Israelites suffer a disastrous defeat. In the Gospel, a leper approaches Jesus who reaches out and touches him, assuring him of his desire to heal him, and the man is miraculously cleansed.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Remembering that prayer is a call to respond to God's intimate love, we bring our needs and our concerns to our merciful Father.

- 1) For leaders of the Church, may the grace of our almighty God pour forth in them a spirit of unity and truth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government officials, may the Holy Spirit give them courage and wisdom in meeting the needs of the poor and vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who feel defeated in whatever they face in their daily battles, and for all in need of any kind of healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, may the Lord strengthen and sustain our faith in all we do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rest in the joy of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of mercy, we come before you seeking your will. We ask that you hear our prayers, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Friday, January 17, 2020

(Lec. 309)

- 1) 1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a
- 2) Mark 2:1-12

FRIDAY OF  
FIRST WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
Saint Anthony,  
Abbot)

FOCUS: Saint Anthony lived a life of prayer and fasting, giving himself completely to God.

Today we remember Saint Anthony, the abbot, who lived a life of self-denial in the third century. As with the paralytic who Jesus cured in today's Gospel, his faith was strong. He was willing to give up all his worldly possessions to more fully follow Jesus. There is much for us to learn from him as we live our own faith journey.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading, from the Book of Samuel, relates the beginnings of the establishment of an Israelite monarchy that will eventually lead to the House of David. In today's Gospel, Jesus, moved by the faith of the paralytic and the four men who brought him forward, cures him in front of the scribes, who were filled with doubt and criticism.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together, we join our hearts and minds in the presence of the Father, and having complete faith in him, we offer these petitions.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may the Lord guide and prosper her and bestow upon her all heavenly graces, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the salvation of the world, through the mercy of God, may all come to know the Gospel message and the ways of righteousness and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all in this transitory life who are facing adversity, may God graciously look upon their needs and bring them comfort, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here today, may the Lord bless us and make us holy in his sight, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all of our brothers and sisters in faith who have died, may the Lord grant them eternal rest in his light and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we ask that you hear our prayers. We offer them with our love and belief that you will take care of our needs. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus.

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Saturday, January 18, 2020

(Lec. 310)

- 1) 1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19;  
10:1a
- 2) Mark 2:13-17

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

FOCUS: Christ personally invites each of us to follow him.

Levi was a tax collector whom Jesus called to follow him. This is a good reminder that, like Levi, we are all in need of God's mercy and love. Let us respond to this call in faith by our words and our actions.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saul follows his animals into a place he has never been. While there, he encounters God's prophet, Samuel, who anoints him to be the leader of Israel. In the Gospel, Christ calls Levi, a tax collector, to follow him.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

**PRIEST:** The Lord calls us to follow him as his friends and his disciples. Let us offer the prayers of this community to the one who knows what we need.

- 1) For the Church, for all who have been anointed as her leaders, and for all who share in the one baptism we profess, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For an increase in charity among elected officials, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all people who are seeking purpose and meaning in their lives, and for those who may be experiencing difficulty at any transitional stage of their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may the calling of Christ echo in our hearts, giving clarity to our desires and actions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our loved ones who have died in the light of Christ, may they enjoy forever the knowledge and love of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** Father of mercy, you call us into communion with you and with each other. We ask that you hear our prayers, and graciously grant what we ask in faith, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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**SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2020**

(Lec. 64)

- 1) Isaiah 49:3, 5-6
- 2) 1 Corinthians 1:1-3
- 3) John 1:29-34

**SECOND SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: By virtue of our baptism, we have been called to be servants for the Father's mission.

As followers of Jesus, we are duty-bound to bring the good news of salvation to a world very much in need of saving. As disciples of the one true God, we must find our voice and speak his holy truth even when it may be inconvenient or unwanted.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God reminds Isaiah that Israel is the Lord's servant. Paul greets the Church of Corinth, announcing he has been called to be an Apostle. In the Gospel, John announces Jesus as *the Lamb of God*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Called to be disciples, let us bring our needs before the Lord.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all pastoral leaders, may the Lord continue to bless them and guide them in the ways of discipleship, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our elected officials, may God help them in their work to protect the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from mental illness or emotional distress, and for all who love and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this family of believers, may the Lord continue to bless us and increase us in faith, hope and charity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died in faith, may Jesus, the Lamb of God, welcome them into the eternal kingdom of the Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear us this day as we place our needs before you. We ask this through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Monday, January 20, 2020

(Lec. 311)

- 1) 1 Samuel 15:16-23
- 2) Mark 2:18-22

MONDAY OF  
SECOND WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Fabian,  
Pope and Martyr;  
Saint Sebastian,  
Martyr)

FOCUS: Obedience is a mark of discipleship.

Those who follow the Lord are open to the Lord, putting aside their own self-interests or desires that stand in contradiction to that of the Lord. The hearts of those who seek to delight in the Lord are able to obey him, and receive a great reward.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Samuel hands down a message to Saul that the Lord has rejected him as the king of Israel for disobeying his commands. In the Gospel, Jesus answers those who question why his disciples do not fast by asking if wedding guests are to fast while the bridegroom is with them.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: My sisters and brothers, let us now bring our concerns for ourselves and for the world before the Father, who knows the stirrings of our hearts.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may the grace of God help us to be one and to work together to manifest his Kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our elected officials, may the Holy Spirit inspire them in governing with wisdom and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer because of cold weather or natural disasters, may the Lord comfort them and provide for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered in this holy place, may the Eucharist fill us with perfect grace while increasing our hunger for an ever more perfect union with God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they live eternally with Christ, the perfect bridegroom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of salvation, in your goodness you draw us to yourself. Please listen to the prayers we have made for the salvation of the world. We ask through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, January 21, 2020  
(Lec. 312)

- 1) 1 Samuel 16:1-13
- 2) Mark 2:23-28

TUESDAY OF  
SECOND WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
Saint Agnes,  
Virgin and Martyr)

FOCUS: The Lord looks beyond, and brings good from what is immediately visible to us.

In both readings today, we are reminded that God looks beyond what is immediately visible to us, such as the appearance of a person or the actions of another, and brings forth good. We, too, can be more discerning in our view of what surrounds us, always prioritizing the good of the person.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lord sends Samuel to anoint Saul's successor, reminding him that the Lord doesn't judge only on what can be seen, but rather judges on what lies in the heart. In the Gospel, Jesus challenges the Pharisees' interpretation of the Sabbath laws.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For all clergy, may the Holy Spirit continue to guide them in faith and hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For lawmakers, judges and lawyers, may the wisdom of the Lord imbue their work with compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are persecuted for their faith, may Christ strengthen them in the face of suffering or hardship, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all members of our faith community, may the Lord increase our faith and commitment to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they find eternal rest and joy in the presence of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Lord, hear the prayers of your people and answer them in accordance with your divine will. We make this prayer in the name of Christ, our Lord and Savior.

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NOTE: For the Day of Prayer, any readings from the *Lectionary for Mass Supplement*, the Mass “For Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life,” nos. 947A-947E, or the *Lectionary for Mass* (vol. IV), the Mass “For Peace and Justice,” nos. 887-891

Wednesday, January 22, 2020

(Lec. 313)

- 1) 1 Samuel 17:32-33,  
37, 40-51
- 2) Mark 3:1-6

WEDNESDAY OF  
SECOND WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(USA: Day of Prayer  
for the Legal Protection  
of Unborn Children)

FOCUS: Do what is right in the name of God.

Today the Church sets aside a Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. The readings help us make this prayer, by focusing on the overcoming of obstacles to God’s path of life for his people: As with David, age does not matter when it comes to fighting the good fight – old and young can make a difference when armed with faith. And Jesus allows no human law to stand between him and the right thing to do: curing the man on the Sabbath.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, David, *only a youth*, faces the mighty Philistine warrior, overcoming him armed only with his faith and a slingshot and stone. In the Gospel, Jesus cures a man with a withered hand, on the Sabbath. The Pharisees immediately conspire with the Herodians to put Jesus to death.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Placing our trust in our Father who sees the good in each of us, let us offer our prayers.

- 1) For our Church, may God continue to help us grow in holiness and strength as we nurture a culture of healing and life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For lawmakers, may God’s grace direct their hearts in proposing laws that protect the life and rights of all people, including those yet to be born, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those in crisis pregnancies, may God fill them with courage and provide the resources they need to choose life for their babies, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our midst in need of material or spiritual help, may the Lord provide what they need through our loving community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may they be welcomed into heaven to rest in God’s eternal bliss, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God, listen to our needs as a Father who takes delight in his children, and grant all that is good. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Thursday, January 23, 2020  
(Lec. 314)

- 1) 1 Samuel 18:6-9;  
19:1-7
- 2) Mark 3:7-12

THURSDAY OF  
SECOND WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
USA: Saint Vincent,  
Deacon and Martyr;  
USA: Saint Marianne Cope,  
Virgin)

FOCUS: As Christians, we are called to be peacemakers.

Conflict has always been part of human nature, but we can also bring about peace, helping people in conflict to understand one another's point of view. Jonathan serves as a great model, advocating to his father Saul on behalf of his friend David – and sparing David's life. As Christians, we are called to bring about peace.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saul, offended by the women of Israel praising David more than himself, turns against David and plans to kill him, but is appeased by the words of his son, Jonathan. In the Gospel, the crowds press upon Jesus and receive physical and spiritual healing from him, and even the unclean spirits testify about his identity.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God wills what is the best for all of us. Let us approach him with the needs of our world, confident of his love and concern.

- 1) For the holy Catholic Church, may God enable us to manifest his Kingdom by our actions and lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the leaders of nations, may the Prince of Peace guide them in pursuing peace and understanding in times of conflict, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are suffering from violence or hatred, may God restore peace and security again to their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the people of this faith community, may God's providential love for us encourage and sustain us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our loved ones who have died, may they experience eternal life in the love of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, you know our needs and the needs of the world more than we do. Please hear our prayers, which we make in the name of Jesus, your Son and our Lord.

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Friday, January 24, 2020

(Lec. 315)

1) 1 Samuel 24:3-21

2) Mark 3:13-19

FRIDAY OF  
SECOND WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM

Saint Francis de Sales,  
Bishop and Doctor of the Church)

FOCUS: We are called by name to follow Christ and share God with others.

Jesus calls each of us by name, as he called the Twelve Apostles to preach. We, too, are to share God with all whom we encounter. David speaks to Saul, calling upon the Lord, and Saul repents. God is waiting for each of us to respond likewise: with repentance, like Saul; and by coming to him, like the Apostles.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

King Saul hunts for David. When David has the opportunity to kill Saul, however, he chooses to only cut a piece of Saul's cloak. Afterward, David confronts Saul and Saul repents. In the Gospel, Jesus calls 12 men to be his Apostles, and they respond.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the goodness of the same God to whom Saint Francis de Sales dedicated his life, let us bring our petitions to him.

- 1) For those called to the priesthood or religious vocations, may God continue to grant them a spirit of faithfulness and fortitude, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may they be blessed with God's wisdom in policymaking and governing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all struggling with difficult family relationships, may the Holy Spirit guide them in reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may God bless us with a spirit of optimism and hope during these long winter days, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls of the faithful departed, may they have the joy of eternal life with the saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and merciful Father, look kindly upon these petitions we bring before you today. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus, who is Christ the Lord.

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Saturday, January 25, 2020

(Lec. 519)

- 1) Acts 22:3-16  
or Acts 9:1-22
- 2) Mark 16:15-18

**THE CONVERSION OF  
SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE  
- FEAST**

FOCUS: The Holy Spirit gives us the grace and power to proclaim the Gospel to all the world.

Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, the Apostle. Saint Paul was a man whose life was quite literally turned around by an encounter with Jesus, and in celebrating this feast we are encouraged to see that this conversion is possible for all who have an encounter with Jesus. We who receive him here in the Eucharist have the same grace and empowerment from the Holy Spirit to follow Christ's command to proclaim the Gospel to the whole world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saul speaks to the Jews in Jerusalem and recounts his conversion on the road to Damascus. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks *to the Eleven* and commands them to *Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust in God who calls us to salvation and healing, let us offer our petitions this day.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord bless her and keep her safe from all evil, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For public authorities, may the Holy Spirit help them in fulfilling their duties with courage, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the blind and the visually challenged, and all who struggle with circumstances that make navigating the physical world challenging, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community, may God help us to grow in faith, proclaiming the Gospel with confidence in God's healing power, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, that seeing the face of God, they may live in everlasting joy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: We thank you Lord, that as you called Saul on the road to Damascus, you call each of us. We ask you to hear our prayers this day, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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## SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2020

(Lec. 67)

- 1) Isaiah 8:23–9:3
- 2) 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17
- 3) Matthew 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

**THIRD SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: The life of a disciple calls for repentance and courage.

Jesus fulfills all prophecy and brings light to our darkness. He calls his disciples out of their way of life – from fishermen to fishers *of* men. He calls us to follow him, too, so as to bring light, truth and goodness into a world that needs repentance.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Isaiah writes of the day when all gloom is gone. Light will come to *the people who walked in darkness*, and they will rejoice. Saint Paul urges the Corinthians to have *no divisions among [them]*. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, calls Simon, Andrew, James and John to follow him. The brothers leave everything and follow Jesus.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As followers of Jesus, let us bring our prayers before our Father today.

- 1) For Pope Francis, all bishops, priests and those who teach the faith, may the Lord look favorably upon them in their discipleship and help them give witness to a life lived with Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may the Holy Spirit give them grace in governing with prudence, justice and fortitude, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, may the healing touch of the Lord Jesus bring them comfort and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the Lord increase our desire to become less attached to things of this world in order to follow him who is the way to perfect happiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they enter fully into the Kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father in heaven, we ask that you hear and answer these prayers today, and we trust that you do so in your time and according to your perfect plan. In your Son Jesus' name we pray.

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Monday, January 27, 2020  
(Lec. 317)

- 1) 2 Samuel 5:1-7, 10
- 2) Mark 3:22-30

MONDAY OF  
THIRD WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Angela Merici,  
Virgin)

FOCUS: God's kingdom can never be divided, nor will it ever fail.

All human civilizations fail eventually, but God is everlasting. It is fine to have respect for and allegiance to one's homeland – may we always remember, however, that this is not our home forever. We are pilgrims on a journey to God's kingdom.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading from the Second Book of Samuel, David is anointed king of Israel. In the Gospel, Jesus is accused by the scribes of casting out demons by the power of Beelzebul, the name given to Satan. Jesus responds by stating that a kingdom – a house – cannot be divided against itself or it will fall.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We come before the Lord with humble hearts, trusting him with our needs.

- 1) For the Church, may God bless her and increase her in unity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our country and all nations, may God's wisdom help to replace any division with a spirit of goodwill and cooperation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who struggle in faith, may the Lord console them with his promises and help them in any unbelief, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community and its needs, may God look with mercy upon us and guide us forward in increasing in faith, hope and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may God's love and mercy surround them and bring them to his everlasting kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: We give you thanks and praise, Father, for hearing our prayers. We ask that you respond to our needs, through your Son, Christ, our Lord.

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Tuesday, January 28, 2020  
(Lec. 318)

- 1) 2 Samuel 6:12b-15  
17-19
- 2) Mark 3:31-35

TUESDAY OF  
THIRD WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
Saint Thomas Aquinas,  
Priest and Doctor of the Church)

FOCUS: Jesus, fully present in the Eucharist, dwells among us.

All of Israel celebrates the Ark of the Covenant's entry into Jerusalem with dancing, shouting, music, sacrifices and a feast. What a model for us – to celebrate with joy the presence of Christ in the Eucharist. It is meant to transform us for the good of ourselves and the world.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

David brings the ark into the City of David, making sacrifices and dancing along the way. After the ark is in place, David makes offerings, blesses the people and distributes food. In the Gospel, when the mother of Jesus and his brothers come searching for him among the crowd, Jesus says that whoever does God's will is his *brother and sister and mother*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Like the crowd in today's Gospel, we have gathered to listen to Jesus' teaching. Having heard the call to do God's will, we now offer our petitions.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord bless us with an increase of vocations to the priesthood, so that the sacraments may be celebrated throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may Mary our Mother guide them in enacting policies that protect the rights of families, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For families in difficult circumstances, may God guide them through trials, and comfort them in their distress, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, especially students, may the intercession of Saint Thomas Aquinas help our pursuit of knowledge and lead us to the truth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they feast with the angels and saints in the presence of God the Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we thank you for the opportunity to gather in your holy presence. We ask that you hear our prayers through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, January 29, 2020

(Lec. 319)

1) 2 Samuel 7:4-17

2) Mark 4:1-20

WEDNESDAY OF  
THIRD WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: With God's grace, we can allow his Word to bear fruit in our lives.

Today's readings highlight the importance of listening to God's message. It is not enough just to hear it. We also have to let God's message take root in us so that our lives bear fruit for the kingdom of God.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the prophet Nathan receives a vision from God that he is to tell David: God promises King David an heir and a long line of descendants whom he will bless. In the Gospel, Jesus tells a parable about a sower and his seeds. Some seeds fell on fertile ground and bore fruit. Jesus explains that these *are the ones who hear the word and accept it*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us turn now to our loving and merciful Lord, bringing before him our needs.

- 1) For the Church, and all who lead it, may the Lord bless and uphold them in their labor for the kingdom of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the leaders of our local community and those of the nation, may God guide them toward justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who are sick or suffering from illness or disability, may God grant them endurance and comfort through their tribulation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the community gathered today, may the Holy Spirit continue to guide us in our daily lives and decisions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the peace of Christ, may God grant them eternal rest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, hear these prayers we offer to you today. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

\* \* \* \* \*

Thursday, January 30, 2020  
(Lec. 320)

- 1) 2 Samuel 7:18-19,  
24-29
- 2) Mark 4:21-25

THURSDAY OF  
THIRD WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Where God is, his grace abounds.

King David's praise of God, and his prayer that God fulfill his promise, exemplifies the dynamics of grace described by Jesus in the Gospel. To the one who has, more will be given; when God has already started a good work, he will continue to shower his grace when we ask and cooperate with him.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, King David praises the Lord for his promise to establish David's throne forever. In the Gospel, Jesus expounds on his parables, teaching that what is hidden is meant to be revealed, that more will be given to the one who already has, and that everyone with ears ought to hear.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We come before the Lord with prayers for our needs and those of others.

- 1) For all of us in the Church, may the Lord bless us and purify our hearts for the coming of the fullness of the Kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all elected and appointed officials, may God grant them favor and grace in working to protect life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who are absent from the life of the Church, may the Lord encourage them in their faith and deliver them from doubt, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the grace of the Holy Spirit help us to grow in further grace and virtue, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who die this day, may the Lord shine his face upon them and give them eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, you have given us ears to hear your Word. Hear us now and grant our petitions according to your holy will, through Christ our Lord.

\* \* \* \* \*

Friday, January 31, 2020  
(Lec. 321)

- 1) 2 Samuel 11:1-4a,  
5-10a, 13-17
- 2) Mark 4:26-34

FRIDAY OF  
THIRD WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
Saint John Bosco,  
Priest)

FOCUS: Let us yield fruit and work to bring others to the kingdom of God.

Today's memorial of Saint John Bosco provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the life of a man who dedicated himself to teaching and caring for others. Like the mustard seed in today's parable, his small, humble beginnings grew into something much bigger. His efforts changed lives and brought people into the kingdom of God.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first reading from the Second Book of Samuel tells the story of David's sin with Bathsheba and the death of her husband, Uriah, as a result of David's intervention. In the Gospel, Jesus uses the parable of the mustard seed to illustrate the kingdom of God. From a tiny seed grows a large plant with far-reaching branches.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As a community of faith, firmly trusting in God, we present our petitions to the Father.

- 1) That God may bless all members of the Church as we work to build up God's kingdom on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That our national and civic leaders may receive the grace and blessing of our almighty God in performing their duties for those whom they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who cannot practice their faith openly may be upheld and strengthened through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That those in our community suffering from illness or addiction may be strengthened and comforted in their battle, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may rejoice as they join the communion of saints in the fullness of God's kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we offer these prayers, trusting that you know what we need. Through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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