

JUNE

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Monday, June 1, 2020
(Lec. 572A)

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

MONDAY OF
NINTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
The Blessed Virgin Mary,
Mother of the Church)

FOCUS: *O blessed mother of the Church, you warm our hearts with the Spirit of your Son Jesus Christ.*

It is not good to be alone! This is true of our lives as individuals, and it is true of the life of the Church. As Church we have a desperate need to be fed, to be loved, and to be cared for by our Mother. We do not exist by our own efforts – we need her constant help.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the Acts of the Apostles, the disciples devote themselves *with one accord* to prayer together with Mary, the Mother of Jesus. In the Gospel, Jesus on the cross tells his mother and the disciple whom he loved: *Behold, your son*, and *Behold, your mother*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Acknowledging our neediness, we turn to God and offer him our prayers.

- 1) For Pope Francis, all bishops, priests, and deacons, may the Spirit draw them together to devote themselves with one accord to prayer, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government officials, may God give them eyes of mercy and hearts of truth to seek the common good and care for those they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all mothers, especially expectant mothers facing uncertainty or poverty, may God give them the grace they need to lovingly welcome their children into our world as Mary did, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community gathered here in worship, may the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary help us grow in grace, fortitude, and fear of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may all the angels and saints soon welcome them into the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear and answer the prayers we make with one accord. We pray through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, June 2, 2020
(Lec. 354)

- 1) 2 Peter 3:12-15a, 17-18
- 2) Mark 12:13-17

TUESDAY OF
NINTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saints Marcellinus and Peter,
Martyrs)

FOCUS: Let us seek to grow in grace as we await the coming of the Lord.

In the Gospel, Jesus changes the Pharisees and Herodians' question about the census tax into a question of identity. The denarius has Caesar's image, but we have the image of God inscribed on our very being. What claim, then, does it have on us when Jesus says to return to God what is God's?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Peter exhorts his readers to be vigilant and alert, waiting for the coming of the Lord. In the Gospel, the Pharisees and Herodians try to trap Jesus with a question about the census tax; he "amazes" them by instructing them to give to Caesar what is Caesar and to God what is God's.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Our Lord made us for himself and knows our needs. In confidence, let us bring our petitions to him.

- 1) For the Church, may the Holy Spirit instill in our bishops and priests the gifts of wisdom and holiness of life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected and appointed officials, may God move them to enact policies that lead to the flourishing of all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are uprooted from their homes, may God protect them and lead them to safety, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our community of faith, may the Lord allow his Word to grow in us through our worship and service together, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may the Lord welcome them into his peace and rest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, we are yours and we thank you for graciously hearing our prayers. Grant them according to your holy will, through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, June 3, 2020
(Lec. 355)

- 1) 2 Timothy 1:1-3, 6-12
- 2) Mark 12:18-27

WEDNESDAY OF
NINTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Charles Lwanga
and Companions,
Martyrs)

FOCUS: The love of Christ changes everything, transforming each one of us in grace.

God always is bigger than our imagination, our categories, our understanding. God is seeking to transform our lives today in ways we cannot imagine, if we will only let him. The love of Christ changes everything, transforming what is surrendered to him in love.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul encourages Timothy and exhorts him to *stir into flame the gift of God* he had received. In the Gospel, the Sadducees question Jesus about belief in resurrection of the dead by asking him about marriage laws. Jesus replies that those who *rise from the dead [will] neither marry nor [be] given in marriage*, for God is not a God of the dead, but of the living.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Recognizing that God always works for goodness beyond our imagination, we bring our needs to him.

- 1) For the Church, may God empower us in contributing to the transformation of the whole world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For governments around the world, may God guide their leaders to the truth, especially the truth of the dignity of every human person, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering from any serious health or life circumstances, may the love of Christ console them in faith and trust, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all those gathered here, may God open our minds and hearts to the work he is asking of us, and grant us the grace to respond in faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died in the hope of resurrection, may they rest in the peace of God's love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of infinite goodness, hear our prayers today we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, June 4, 2020
(Lec. 356)

- 1) 2 Timothy 2:8-15
- 2) Mark 12:28-34

THURSDAY OF
NINTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: With God's help, we can bear all things.

Jesus' passion and death are the exemplar of the first of all commandments: Love God and *love your neighbor as yourself*. Sacrifice and suffering are therefore intertwined with love in myriad ways, as each one of us assuredly knows. Paul's encouraging words to Timothy can reassure us as well, reminding us that with God's help we can bear everything.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Paul writes to Timothy, remarking on his own suffering and encouraging Timothy in his ministry. In the Gospel, a scribe inquires of Jesus as to *which is the first of all the commandments?* Jesus replies that it is to love God and *love your neighbor as yourself*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Our merciful Father hears the prayers of all who call upon his name. Let us bring our prayers before him.

- 1) For our Church, may the Holy Spirit help us in never ceasing to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to all the corners of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may God write upon their hearts the first of all commandments as they guide their people in their daily lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For prisoners, for persons incarcerated wrongly, and for political prisoners, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our community here, especially those who experience doubt, may the Lord's grace enkindle hearts of steadfastness and courage, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all our beloved dead, may they soon meet God face to face and live in his kingdom forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of mercy and justice, you have shown us that you will honor all covenants and keep all promises. Hear the prayers we lift to you today, through Christ our Lord.

Friday, June 5, 2020

(Lec. 357)

- 1) 2 Timothy 3:10-17
- 2) Mark 12:35-37

FRIDAY OF
NINTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Boniface,
Bishop and Martyr)

FOCUS: God gives us what we need to persevere and to spread his Word.

Paul writes to Timothy that to be a follower of Christ is to endure suffering. He himself has encountered resistance on many occasions. But, he writes, *the Lord delivered me*. His life serves as an example for others. He encourages Timothy to *remain faithful*, for all of Scripture equips us with what we need to persevere and to spread God's word.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul writes Timothy offering encouragement in the face of persecution for the sake of the Gospel. He tells him to draw strength from Scripture, which is inspired by God. In the Gospel, Jesus is teaching in the Temple and asks how the scribes can speak of the Christ as David's son.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us now turn to the Father with confidence as we present our prayers of petition.

- 1) That the Church may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the Lord may grant all nations prudent and compassionate leaders who strive to work together for the good of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who suffer for the sake of the Gospel may find consolation in God's promises, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That we, who gather around the Lord's Table today, may receive the grace of God's call to a deeper sense of holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may share in God's gift of eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, you sent your Son to bring us life. Hear the prayers we place before you today. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, June 6, 2020
(Lec. 358)

- 1) 2 Timothy 4:1-8
- 2) Mark 12:38-44

SATURDAY OF
NINTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Norbert,
Bishop;
Saturday in honor
of BVM)

FOCUS: Jesus is the Truth – let us respond with all that we have.

Absolute perfection and truth is found in Jesus Christ. This contradicts a world that wants us to believe that truth is found in wealth, power, pleasure, and honor. Saint Paul warned us almost 2,000 years ago that people would eventually turn from truth in favor of myths such as these. Let us respond to the Truth that is Jesus with our whole heart and soul.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul writes to Timothy telling him to be persistent and self-possessed in proclaiming the Word. In the Gospel, Jesus warns his listeners of the hypocrisy of the scribes. Then he observes, and tells his disciples about, a widow who gave to the treasury *all she had, her whole livelihood*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in our most merciful Lord, let us bring our prayers before him.

- 1) That the Church may receive the favor of the Lord and protection against the idols and false gods of our world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That all nations may prosper under the beneficent hand of God and be blessed with peaceful resolution to conflict, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who are poor, sick, imprisoned, or lonely may be delivered from their burdens through the healing wounds of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That God may bless all the men and women from our community serving in the armed services and return them safely to their families, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all our faithful departed may soon sit at the banquet of the Lord in his kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Ever-loving and gracious Father, we humbly offer these petitions to you today, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2020

(Lec. 164)

- 1) Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9
- 2) 2 Corinthians 13:11-13
- 3) John 3:16-18

**THE MOST
HOLY TRINITY
- SOLEMNITY**

FOCUS: God is one and yet three – a Trinity of pure love.

Today's feast is a celebration of God's self-revelation to us through the mystery of the Incarnation. For it is in Christ that we come to know that within the Godhead there is a Trinity of three divine persons to whom belong all glory, praise, and honor, and from whom all life flows.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

On Mount Sinai, Moses encounters the God of Israel as a God of compassion and kindness. Saint Paul urges the Corinthians to live in fellowship and peace as brothers and sisters, children of the one God. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that his mission is grounded in the total love of the Father for all of creation.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we celebrate the mystery of the Holy Trinity, let us bring our prayers before the Lord.

- 1) For the Church, drawn from all nations and languages, may our triune God guide and sustain us as we proclaim the Good News of the kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all in civil power and authority, may the Holy Spirit enkindle in them hearts for servant leadership, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those enduring trials and challenges in life, may they be uplifted by the loving presence of God and the support and compassion of the community of faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here in worship of the triune God, may the communion of love he outpours preserve us in faith and increase us in holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they take their place at the eternal feast in the kingdom of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: All Holy God, great and beyond our imaginings, we rejoice to call ourselves your sons and daughters. Hear the prayers we offer this day, through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, June 8, 2020
(Lec. 359)

- 1) 1 Kings 17:1-6
- 2) Matthew 5:1-12

MONDAY OF
TENTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: All blessings come from the Lord, who has created heaven and earth.

As with Elijah in the first reading, God cares for those who do as he commands. Those who trust in the Lord will be blessed on earth, and most assuredly, in heaven. God will provide in times of need for those who serve him. He will fill the souls of those who hunger and thirst for his help.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Elijah the Tishbite obeys the Lord's command to *go east and hide in the Wadi Cherith*. There, ravens bring him food and he drinks from the stream. In the Gospel, Jesus goes up the mountain and begins to teach the crowds and his disciples, starting with eight pronouncements of blessing.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: My sisters and brothers, let us now offer our prayers to our heavenly Father.

- 1) That the Lord may continue to bless and care for all the leaders of our Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the Holy Spirit may grant our civic authorities a clean heart to do God's work, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who hunger and thirst may be satisfied, through the generous mercy of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all who are gathered in this holy place may be brought ever closer to the heart and mind of Christ through his Word and sacraments, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may know the peace and comfort of God's eternal rest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, hear the prayers we offer with confidence and answer them according to your holy will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, June 9, 2020

(Lec. 360)

- 1) 1 Kings 17:7-16
- 2) Matthew 5:13-16

TUESDAY OF
TENTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

(Opt. Mem.
Saint Ephrem,
Deacon and Doctor of the Church)

FOCUS: May our faith be active and visible to the world.

It is tempting to make our faith a private matter between ourselves and God. But in today's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that our faith is meant to be active and make a difference in the world, as salt actively seasons food; and meant to be visible to others, as a lamp is meant to be. Only then can this gift we've been given lead others to God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Following the Lord's directive, the prophet Elijah seeks sustenance and shelter from a widow and her son during a time of drought and famine. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that they are *the salt of the earth* and *the light of the world*, that others may see and glorify God.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God's goodness and mercy, let us humbly bring our prayers and petitions before him.

- 1) For all priests and pastors, may the Lord continue to bless them and strengthen them in faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may the Spirit of wisdom guide their work of governance in justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who live in despair and darkness, may the Lord bring them comfort and healing of mind and spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all members of our family of faith, may the Lord's goodness continue to shine upon us and make us holy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may the Lord joyfully welcome them into his heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious Lord, hear the prayers of your people which we offer with sincere hearts, and answer them in accordance with your divine will. In Christ's name we pray.

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Wednesday, June 10, 2020
(Lec. 361)

- 1) 1 Kings 18:20-39
- 2) Matthew 5:17-19

WEDNESDAY OF
TENTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: *The Lord is God! The Lord is God!*

Jesus, as the fulfillment of the Law of Moses, is also the fullness of God's revelation. As God-become-man, Jesus perfects the imperfect sacrifice the Israelites offered in today's first reading, showing not only God's power and authority, but his justice and mercy. We, too, have the choice to follow the true God, or false gods who give us no acknowledgement or sustenance. With God's grace, may we say, as the people with Elijah did, *The Lord is God! The Lord is God!*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Elijah speaks to the people saying, *If the Lord is God, follow him; if Baal, follow him.* He sets up two altars, showing the power of God in one, and the falsity of Baal in the other. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that he has come to fulfill the law, not to abolish it, and that obeying and teaching the commandments are essential for the kingdom of heaven.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our prayers before God, who gives us everything we need.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord preserve and protect her, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of the world, may the Lord nourish in them virtues of selfless service, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are suffering from war, oppression, or any sins against justice and humanity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us here, may we be sanctified by the sacrament we receive and have the grace to persevere in faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may perpetual light shine upon them, and may they rest in eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Ever-living God, hear our prayers and grant all that we ask in your mercy. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

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Thursday, June 11, 2020

(Lec. 580)

1) Acts 11:21b-26; 13:1-3

(Lec. 362)

2) Matthew 5:20-26

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

FOCUS: May we replace conflict with reconciliation.

Jesus teaches us that the Fifth Commandment has a broader meaning than, *You shall not kill*. He says that treating others with anger, insult, hatred, and revenge is wrong as well. Before we bring our gifts to the Father, we must heal our broken relationships. We should seek to replace conflict with reconciliation.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Barnabas is sent to Antioch, where through his work a number of people were added to the Church. He and Paul were commissioned by the Holy Spirit to preach the Good News. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus says to his disciples that their *righteousness [must surpass] that of the scribes and Pharisees* in order to enter the Kingdom. He explains this by expanding on the meaning of *You shall not kill*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Called to bring healing and peace in our world, we bring our gifts to the Father and ask him to hear our prayers.

- 1) For the pope and all Church leaders, may the grace of God bear fruit in their ministry and increase them in holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations and all those in authority, may God give them wisdom and strength in carrying out all their duties let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, the lonely, the poor, and those who have been hurt by the actions of others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here today who are filled with anger toward others, may the Lord give them courage in seeking reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they know the joy of God's mercy as they enter into eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we place our petitions before you, knowing that your mercy is abundant and you will take care of your children. We offer this through Jesus, your Son.

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Friday, June 12, 2020
(Lec. 363)

- 1) 1 Kings 19:9a, 11-16
- 2) Matthew 5:27-32

FRIDAY OF
TENTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Look for God in the unexpected.

God can be present in the most unexpected places for us. It could be in a quiet moment. It could be in a new way of thinking that we had not opened ourselves up to before we realized it. God wants us to grow in our relationship with him, but we must be aware and alert to ways in which we can experience him.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the passage from First Kings, Elijah takes shelter in a cave, seeking the Lord. After dramatic signs of wind, earthquake, and fire, the Lord appears to Elijah in a *tiny whispering sound*, and commissions him to go back to his people. In the Gospel from Matthew, Jesus explains to his disciples about his new teaching, and how it fulfills the old law.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Uniting our minds and hearts as one, let us bring our prayers to the Lord.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may God's fulfilment of the law continue to inspire greater discipleship in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our local leaders, may God's justice guide them in their efforts to practice fairness to all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who face difficult family divisions, may God's love be with them as they seek healing for their wounds, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may God's call to service continue to bring us closer to one another and to him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may the Lord bring them to everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, you have commissioned us as your disciples to bring your Word to those we encounter. We ask that you hear and answer our prayers according to your will. Through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, June 13, 2020
(Lec. 364)

- 1) 1 Kings 19:19-21
- 2) Matthew 5:33-37

SATURDAY OF
TENTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Anthony of Padua,
Priest and Doctor of the Church)

FOCUS: Our actions and words should point to Christian truth.

If we are always living a genuine Christian life, our actions and words should always point to that. We should always be truthful, and always do what we promise to do. As the saying goes, “actions speak louder than words.” Our actions as Christians reflect not just on us, but on how well we uphold the truth of Christ.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Elijah chooses Elisha to serve him by placing his cloak over him. Elisha slaughters his oxen, burns his plow, and follows Elijah. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that it is not enough to simply *not take a false oath*, but that they should *not swear at all*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With hope rooted in faith, we turn to Almighty God with our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For those discerning priesthood or religious life, may the Holy Spirit strengthen them and give them wisdom in their decision-making, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For state and federal legislatures, may God inspire them in enacting policies that support human life and dignity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering from despair, may God’s peace comfort them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of this faith community, may the Holy Spirit fill us with a zeal for evangelization, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they enjoy eternal life in paradise, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, kindly hear the prayers we bring to you today through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2020

(Lec. 167)

- 1) Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a
- 2) 1 Corinthians 10:16-17
- 3) John 6:51-58

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

FOCUS: Through the Eucharist, Jesus gives us the strength we need on our journey through life to heaven.

Today we celebrate the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ and honor Jesus as the Bread of Life. Just as God led Moses and the Israelites out of Egypt and through 40 years of hardship and danger in the desert, so Jesus gives us the strength we need as we follow him through the spiritual dangers of this life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In Deuteronomy, Moses reminds the people of how God brought them out of Egypt and through 40 years in the desert. Saint Paul writes of our unity as Christians, *for we all partake of the one loaf*. Jesus tells the Jewish crowds that he is *the living bread that came down from heaven* so that eternal life may be found through him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Knowing God's great love for all of us, we can confidently bring our needs before him.

- 1) For Pope Francis, our bishop, priests and all who serve the Church, may the Lord strengthen them in their mission of bringing the light of Christ to a weary world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our civic leaders and all who help formulate public policy, may the Holy Spirit guide them in all that they do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For people in war-torn countries, may God bring them peace and security, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this gathered assembly, may the love and truth that God has poured into our hearts sustain us in all that we do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have completed their pilgrimage on earth, may they find eternal joy in their heavenly home, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, hear the needs of your people and respond with mercy and compassion. We ask through your Son and our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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Monday, June 15, 2020
(Lec. 365)

- 1) 1 Kings 21:1-16
- 2) Matthew 5:38-42

MONDAY OF
11TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: The new law brings mercy and justice.

It is a difficult thing to hear Christ say, when he tells us that if someone strikes our right cheek, we must offer the other. Our natural reaction would most likely be either a “fight or flight” response. But Jesus isn’t saying we must literally stand there and take this kind of physical abuse, but that the rules of vengeance and justice under the Old Testament law are not those of God’s mercy and justice in the new law.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Naboth refuses to give Ahab the king his vineyard. Jezebel, the queen, thus plots to have Naboth assassinated. In the Gospel, Jesus explains to his disciples a new and fuller understanding of the law that says, *An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us offer the Father our petitions for our needs and the needs of our Church.

- 1) For our Church, may the Lord increase her in faith, hope, and charity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For individuals in positions of authority, may the Holy Spirit guide them in how they use their power, and inspire them in protecting the lives of those most vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who struggle with addiction, may Christ the Physician be with them in their struggles and bring them hope and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may the grace of Word and sacrament deepen our faith and our trust in God, 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, hear the petitions we offer, and grant them according to your holy will. This we ask through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, June 16, 2020
(Lec. 366)

- 1) 1 Kings 21:17-29
- 2) Matthew 5:43-48

TUESDAY OF
11TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Each person we encounter is an opportunity for us to grow in love.

Jesus overturns the common societal expectation to hate one's enemies. In God's kingdom, there is no room for hatred, and no one is properly labeled "enemy." Instead, each and every person we encounter, even those we dislike or who dislike us, is an opportunity to grow in love.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, King Ahab repents of his evil ways after encountering God's message through the prophet Elijah. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples to *love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Out of care and humble service to one another, let us offer these prayers to our heavenly Father.

- 1) For the Church, may God draw us closer to himself, allowing our love for one another to help us grow in mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, that Jesus' teaching in today's Gospel may transform how they see others, especially those with whom they disagree, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are persecuted, may the Lord bring them reprieve and fortify their efforts in prayer and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the God of love inspire conversion of hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have passed from life into death, may the Lord bring them into life eternal with him and the communion of saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord, our God, you are gracious in listening to our prayers. Hear and answer them, we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Wednesday, June 17, 2020
(Lec. 367)

- 1) 2 Kings 2:1, 6-14
- 2) Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

WEDNESDAY OF
11TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: We aim for eternal, not temporal, rewards.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called not only to do good, but to do good for the right reasons. It is true that prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are outward signs of interior conversion in relation to God, oneself, and others (CCC 1434). But these outward signs exist as statements about God's work in us, not as visible means for us to seek temporal and earthly praise for our deeds. Jesus tells us we will be rewarded in the way we seek, so we should aim for eternal, not temporal, rewards.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

After Elijah is taken up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elisha tears his own garment and takes up Elijah's mantle, using it to part the Jordan River. In the Gospel, Jesus exhorts his followers not to give alms, pray, and fast for the purpose of being seen and praised, but to do these things in secret, and the Father who sees all will repay them.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God knows the prayers written on our hearts. Trusting in his loving will for us, we now offer our petitions as one body.

- 1) For the Church, may we receive the Holy Spirit's gift of prophecy as we strive to share the Good News, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who hold public office, may God grant them perseverance in working for the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are in need of God's healing in mind or body, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the Lord continue to transform us in his mercy and grace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they rest in the eternal peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, hear these prayers we offer on behalf of your children throughout the world and grant them according to your will. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son and our Lord.

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Thursday, June 18, 2020
(Lec. 368)

- 1) Sirach 48:1-14
- 2) Matthew 6:7-15

THURSDAY OF
11TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Through God's help and grace we have the power to live our faith

Words are important for faith, but actions bring those words to life. Jesus has given us the words to ask for God's help and grace, and through that help and grace we have the power to live our faith. As we see in the hymn of praise from Sirach, which tells of many of the deeds of the prophet Elijah, those actions on behalf the Lord are much needed in the world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading sings the praises of Elijah and Elisha. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches the disciples to pray using the Lord's Prayer.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us humbly turn to God now with our needs.

- 1) For the Catholic Church throughout the world, that God will continue to guide us in bringing his word to life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the leaders of nations, may God guide them in upholding human dignity in policy and practice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are poor, hungry, or thirsty, may God show compassion upon their suffering and enliven the community to meet their needs, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the Church gathered today, may God give us courage in leading lives of faithfulness in word and deed, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, especially members of this community, may God grant them mercy and everlasting peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Our Father in heaven, hear these prayers we have offered today, through your Son Christ, our Lord.

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Friday, June 19, 2020
(Lec. 170)

- 1) Deuteronomy 7:6-11
- 2) 1 John 4:7-16
- 3) Matthew 11:25-30

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

FOCUS: The image of the Sacred Heart is one that brings comfort and consolation.

The lanced heart of Christ reminds us of the depths of God's love for us. Sharing our stories of "falling in love with God" is an evangelization tool we can use to ignite a spark in the heart of another, enkindling in them a new relationship with the Lord.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Moses tells the people *the Lord set his heart on you and chose you*. John writes to the Christian community that *God is love* and that *if we love one another, God remains in us*. In the Gospel, Jesus says, *Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Knowing that we are loved by the Father, we bring before him our needs with the confidence that we will be heard.

- 1) For Pope Francis, our bishop, priests and all who serve the Church, may the Lord strengthen them in their mission of bringing the light of Christ to a weary world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic and community leaders, may the Holy Spirit help them to lead peacefully and work cooperatively, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who feel abandoned, unwanted, or rejected, may the compassionate love of God bring them hope, healing, and consolation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the Lord deepen our understanding of his love at work in our midst, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died in the light of Christ, may his Sacred Heart envelop them in his love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear our prayers and continue to answer them, giving us all that we need. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ.

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Saturday, June 20, 2020
(Lec. 370)
1) 2 Chronicles 24:17-25
(Lec. 573)
2) Luke 2:41-51

SATURDAY OF
11TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
The Immaculate Heart
of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

FOCUS: The maternal love of Mary is an all-consuming one.

We celebrate and honor, today, the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary. A heart so perfected in virtue and full of grace that she could not help but love God and her son with an all-consuming love. She shares that love with and for us, interceding for us and helping us to obtain purity of heart in our own lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Zechariah is stoned for his prophecy against Judah and Jerusalem, which are both subsequently invaded and conquered. In the Gospel, 12-year-old Jesus remains behind in Jerusalem after his parents leave. They anxiously look for him and when they find him, he says, *Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Knowing the Father's promise to hear our prayer, let us present our petitions to him.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may the Lord guide us in finding ways to show love to each person we encounter, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our national and local leaders, may God guide their words and actions in seeking to defend the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord
- 3) For those burdened with health issues, especially those struggling with addictions and anxiety, may God bring them healing of mind and body, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may we find freedom and peace in the commands of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may they experience the fullness of joy with the saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2020

(Lec. 94)

- 1) Jeremiah 20:10-13
- 2) Romans 5:12-15
- 3) Matthew 10:26-33

**TWELFTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: God knows even the hairs on our heads – we need not be afraid of anything.

Jesus exhorts: *Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid.* He calls us to proclaim his words *on the housetops*. We know that we are never left alone, and that through God's care and the help of the Holy Spirit we can testify to him by whose death and resurrection we are saved. Courage is a gift of the Holy Spirit.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Jeremiah, the prophet, praises the Lord in the midst of terror and persecution, trusting God's power to save. In his Letter to the Romans, Paul teaches that death came through Adam's sin, but Jesus brings the grace of God as a gift. In the Gospel, Jesus encourages the Twelve to *not be afraid*, even under persecution, trusting their Father who counts even the hairs on their heads.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the kindness of our heavenly Father, let us offer our prayers this day.

- 1) For the Holy Father, may he continue to grow in holiness and wisdom in his service to the living and true God, let us pray to the Lord,
- 2) For civic leaders and those in authority, may the Lord provide his grace for the peaceful resolution of conflicts in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For people throughout the world who are persecuted for their faith, may God's love give them courage as they stand for Christ in the darkness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, and visitors who have joined us, that sharing in the Eucharist, we may grow in unity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, that as the gracious gift of Jesus Christ overflows, they may taste the sweetness of life eternal, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: We thank you, Father, for your steadfast love. Please hear and answer our prayers this day, according to your wisdom. We ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ.

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Monday, June 22, 2020
(Lec. 371)

- 1) 2 Kings 17:5-8,
13-15a, 18
- 2) Matthew 7:1-5

MONDAY OF
12TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Paulinus of Nola,
Bishop;
Saints John Fisher, Bishop
and Thomas More,
Martyrs)

FOCUS: Acknowledging our own faults helps us accept and love others.

Jesus often called people out for being hypocrites. He taught that love of God and love of neighbor could not be separated, and when we refuse to acknowledge our own shortcomings we are doing neither adequately. As we look to love and help others, let us also ask God to show us our own faults and help us overcome them.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first reading recalls when the *king of Assyria took Samaria, and deported the children of Israel to Assyria*. This happened because the Israelites had been unfaithful to God. *Only the tribe of Judah was left* in the land. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples, *Stop judging, that you may not be judged*. He says *hypocrites* notice a splinter in another's eye before the large beam in their own.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident of the Father's providential care for us, let us present our petitions for our needs and those of others.

- 1) That members of the clergy may be strengthened and guided by the peace and mind of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That national leaders may be led by the Spirit of Life in promoting the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who have been harmed by people they trusted may find solace through the merciful care and blessings of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That each of us here may have God's help in repenting for our own sins and growing in holiness and virtue, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may be welcomed into Paradise to live in the fullness of God's presence forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God, we bring you our prayers today trusting that you will hear and answer them according to your will. Through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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Tuesday, June 23, 2020

(Lec. 372)

- 1) 2 Kings 19:9b-11,
14-21, 31-35a, 36
- 2) Matthew 7:6, 12-14

TUESDAY OF
12th WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: The gate to the way of life is narrow, but God's grace is there to help us.

Jesus fulfills the law, teaching and modeling the way to perfection. Following him ensures we do not get lost on the broad road *that leads to destruction*. For though the gate to the way of life is narrow, it is in no way impossible to enter. God's grace is there to help us follow his commands and lead a faithful life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Hezekiah goes to the Temple and prays in the Lord's presence, asking him to save them. Isaiah, son of Amoz, speaks the Lord's response, that he will defend the city to save it for his sake and for the sake of David. In the Gospel, Jesus instructs the disciples on holiness: To keep holy the things of the Lord, and to do unto others as they would have done to them.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our petitions to the Lord.

- 1) For all in the Church who teach the faith, may the perfection of God's grace be upon them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our community leaders, may the Holy Spirit guide them in justly serving those whom they represent, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are ill in mind, body, or spirit, may the Lord who is healer of all bring them comfort and relief, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may God's generous love strengthen us in charity and flow through us in all we do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they behold God face to face this day, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, hear and answer the prayers we bring before you, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Wednesday, June 24, 2020
(Lec. 587)

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

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

FOCUS: *To us this word of salvation has been sent.*

God first loved us. Through the ages, he has called prophets and kings to teach and remind us of his unconditional love. From before birth, John the Baptist was chosen to be the prophet to preach and prepare for the coming of the Messiah, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the reading from Isaiah, the prophet proclaims the Lord's call to him and the rewards he has enjoyed because of it. In the Acts of the Apostles, Paul reminds the Christian community of the role that John the Baptist played in preparing for the coming of Christ. In the Gospel, Elizabeth gives birth to a son whom she and Zechariah name "John." Zechariah is no longer mute, after this, and all the people wonder, *What, then, will this child be?*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: The Lord God calls each of us to share the gift of salvation. Let us turn to him in prayer.

- 1) For those who proclaim the Gospel, may God provide them wisdom and courage, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who lead nations and peoples, may they be guided by the mercy and compassion of Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those burdened by illness or poor health, may they be led and healed by the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all members of this community, may God's love inspire and increase in us our varied gifts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they experience true peace in the arms of Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of love, you sent your Son to save us. Hear our prayers we ask through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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Thursday, June 25, 2020
(Lec. 374)

- 1) 2 Kings 24:8-17
- 2) Matthew 7:21-29

THURSDAY OF
12TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Let us build our faith on the firm foundation of the Lord.

Staying faithful to the words of Jesus, and acting upon them, gives our lives a firm foundation. Let us never become complacent in our faith, but instead strive to live each day faithful to God's will.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Having done evil in the sight of the Lord, the king of Judah and most of its citizens and treasures are captured by Nebuchadnezzar and exiled to Babylon. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that one must do the will of the Father to enter the kingdom of heaven, and one must listen to and act on Jesus' words to build a firm foundation of discipleship.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With sincere and trusting hearts, let us bring our prayers and petitions before the Lord.

- 1) For the Church, the Body of Christ, may the Lord's call to deeper conversion bear fruit in all our hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government officials, may the Lord guide their decision-making in accordance with the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who have been displaced from their homes due to war, violence, or food scarcity, may the Lord give them hope and a safe haven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all members of our faith community, may the Lord help us continue to grow in charity and hospitality, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may the Father welcome them into his heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, listen to the prayers of your people, which we bring to you trusting that you will answer them in accordance with your divine mercy. In Christ's name we pray.

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Friday, June 26, 2020
(Lec. 375)

- 1) 2 Kings 25:1-12
- 2) Matthew 8:1-4

FRIDAY OF
12TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God always wills the good for us.

In the Gospel reading, the leper tells Jesus that if he wills it, Jesus can make him clean. We believe that Jesus always wills our good, even if daily events do not look as dramatic as this Gospel account. What does this mean for us? What can we learn from the confidence of the leper and his bold request?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Babylonians conquer Jerusalem, destroying the city and sending the Israelites into exile. In the Gospel, a leper approaches Jesus and says, *Lord, if you wish, you can make me clean*. Jesus touches him and the leper is immediately cleansed.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With faith and trust, let us bring our needs before the Lord.

- 1) For Pope Francis, may God continue to give him strength and good health as he leads the Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our elected leaders, may the power of God inspire them in their work for a just and lasting peace in our world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are sick, may Christ, the Divine Physician, see their need and bring strength and comfort, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community, may the Lord purify and sanctify us through his Word and sacrament, 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 know that you see our needs and will our good. Answer these prayers according to your holy will, through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, June 27, 2020
(Lec. 376)

- 1) Lamentations 2:2,
10-14, 18-19
- 2) Matthew 8:5-17

SATURDAY OF
12TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Cyril of Alexandria,
Bishop and Doctor of the Church;
Saturday in honor
of BVM)

FOCUS: Jesus praises the centurion, who asks for his servant's healing with humility, trust, and loving concern.

Our prayer before receiving the Eucharist is from the words of the centurion, who acknowledges his unworthiness and asks Jesus to heal his servant with the power of his word. Though our prayer asks for our own healing, we can include prayer for others, as did the centurion, for the Eucharist is a sharing of us all in Christ.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the author of Lamentations speaks to *daughter Jerusalem* and *daughter Zion*, telling them to cry out to God in their misery and guilt following the downfall of Jerusalem. In the Gospel, Jesus heals the sick and possessed including the centurion's servant, Peter's mother-in-law, and many who are brought to him. The centurion is praised for his faith in the healing power of Jesus' word.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We pour out our hearts in the presence of the Lord as we offer our prayers today.

- 1) That the Church may grow in number, holiness, and faith through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That those in authority may be led by the word of God in the use of their power, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who are ill and infirm, or suffering from any poverty or deprivation, may receive the healing power of Christ and the consolation of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all of us gathered here today may grow in the peace and love of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may enjoy eternal rest in Christ's heavenly kingdom; let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, hear the prayers we bring before you today, and grant them in your mercy. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2020

(Lec. 97)

- 1) 2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16a
- 2) Romans 6:3-4, 8-11
- 3) Matthew 10:37-42

**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Putting Jesus first is our challenge.

Once again Jesus discusses the challenge of living the Gospel. Faithful discipleship comes with demands. But we are not to keep the Gospel message to ourselves – it must be proclaimed and lived no matter what the cost. For those who are faithful, the reward will be newness of life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, *a woman of influence* who consistently offers hospitality to Elisha is rewarded with the promise of a son. Saint Paul reminds the Roman community that through baptism they share in the death and resurrection of Christ. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his Apostles that *whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in the abundance of the Father's love, we bring our prayers and petitions before him.

- 1) For Church leaders, may God look graciously upon them as they continue to strengthen and give courage to those entrusted to their pastoral care, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all civil leaders, may the God of peace and justice inform their efforts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are alienated from God and his Church, may Christ's message of love and healing penetrate their hearts and reconcile them to him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us here, may God restore in us whatever is necessary for fullness of life and health, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they come to share in the fullness of Christ's glory and enjoy his favor forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we rejoice in your Son, Jesus Christ, and in the gift of your Holy Spirit. Hear the prayers we offer this day, through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, June 29, 2020
(Lec. 591)

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

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

FOCUS: We are Christ's Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.

The Church has always faced challenges, from the behavior of those within to persecution by those without. Yet Jesus reassures us that we will prevail. We are founded by Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, and Truth cannot be defeated. A firm foundation of faith and an evangelizing spirit, combined with God's grace, bring the good news of Jesus and of God's love for us to the world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Herod has James killed, and Peter imprisoned. But an angel of the Lord frees Peter. In his Letter to Timothy, Paul writes: *The time of my departure is at hand. I have competed well; I have finished the race.* In the Gospel, Jesus says to Simon, *You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we celebrate the great Apostles, Peter and Paul, we come forward as Church to offer prayers to our heavenly Father.

- 1) For our pope, successor to Peter, may the Lord continue to protect and preserve him as he leads our Holy Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may the Holy Spirit grant them fortitude in their work for peace and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are persecuted for the sake of the Gospel, may they receive the strength, courage, and grace that they need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who worship here this day, may the light of Christ illumine any darkness we carry, and guide us in our daily lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our faithful departed, may they receive the crown of righteousness in the eternal kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, hear the prayers of your Church and grant them according to your will. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Tuesday, June 30, 2020
(Lec. 378)

- 1) Amos 3:1-8; 4:11-12
- 2) Matthew 8:23-27

TUESDAY OF
13TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
The First Martyrs
of the Holy Roman Church)

FOCUS: Turn to God and he will save us.

When we face trials, we can either turn to God or away from him. Ancient Israel turned from him, and God judged them accordingly. The disciples turned to God, begging Jesus for help. We, too, can ask Jesus to save us from any kind of difficulty, as well as from our own sins. We know he will answer.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Amos addresses Israel, God's chosen people, and rebukes them for their unfaithfulness. He has heard God and must share the prophecy: God will punish Israel. In the Gospel, Jesus is on a boat with the disciples. He sleeps as a storm tosses the vessel. His disciples wake him and Jesus calms the storm after asking why they are terrified.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the God whom the winds and the sea obey, we humbly turn to him with our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For the Church, may God inspire our leaders as true ministers of healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who lead nations and people, may the Holy Spirit give them fortitude and courage, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering in the storms of life, may the Lord bring them comfort through his body, the Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our worship community here, may God bless us and keep us free from all evil, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, particularly those who have no one to pray for them, may they live forever in the joy of the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Eternal Father, we praise you for your kindness and ask you to hear the prayers of your family, which we ask through your Son Jesus Christ.

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