

OCTOBER

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**YEAR A
WEEKDAYS II**

Thursday, October 1, 2020
(Lec. 458)

- 1) Job 19:21-27
- 2) Luke 10:1-12

THURSDAY OF
26TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM

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

FOCUS: God provides the means for building his Kingdom on earth.

We are here to serve the Savior, not be the savior. Surrendering to God in our efforts allows him to work in and through us. He will provide the means for building his Kingdom, even in ways that we may not understand, and which may challenge our own sense of what we need to be successful.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Job laments that his friends' advice is insufficient, for no one knows the ways of God; yet, he will trust God, regardless. In the Gospel, Jesus sends out disciples, two by two, to go ahead of him in curing the sick and preaching that the kingdom of God is near.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we strive to serve God, let us offer our prayers to our Father in heaven.

- 1) For Church leaders, may the Holy Spirit fortify them in their Gospel mission, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our world, may Christ's peace touch the hearts of leaders and influencers and lead them to harmony, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, the lonely, and those who live on the margins in our communities, 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 those who have died, may they be welcomed into the heavenly kingdom by Saint Thérèse of Lisieux and all the saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Friday, October 2, 2020

(Lec. 459)

1) Job 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5

(Lec. 650)

2) Matthew 18:1-5, 10

FRIDAY OF

26TH WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(OBL MEM

The Holy Guardian Angels)

FOCUS: Cultivate the virtue of humility.

We can easily become preoccupied with seeking to become greater or more powerful. Today's readings remind us the value of knowing we are not gods, and that we can learn from the example of the humility of a child.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lord asks Job if he [Job] has ever *commanded the morning or comprehended the breadth of the earth*. He commands Job to tell him things if he knows all. Job recognizes he is *of little account* and says he will speak no more. In the Gospel, the disciples ask Jesus, *Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven?* Jesus answers that they must *become like children* to enter the Kingdom.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Coming to our heavenly Father as a child would approach a loving parent, we bring our concerns and prayers to him.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord continue to bless her efforts of evangelization and outreach, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For public authorities, may the love of Christ penetrate their hearts as they seek to govern with justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who battle the sin of pride, may the Holy Spirit increase in them his gift of humility, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered in this holy place, may God create in each one of us a contrite spirit that is pleasing to him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they look upon the face of our heavenly Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Eternal Father, you created the world and all that is in it. We entrust our needs and concerns to you, who love us into being, in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, October 3, 2020

(Lec. 460)

- 1) Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17
- 2) Luke 10:17-24

SATURDAY OF
26TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Saturday in honor
of BVM)

FOCUS: God is present with us, and gives us the Holy Spirit to help us.

In whatever pain or struggle we bring to this day, God who made the stars and set them in their place is with us. In carrying out the mission Christ has entrusted to us, we have the help of the Holy Spirit.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Job tells the Lord that he knows that the Lord *can do all things*, and he disowns what he has previously said. The Lord blessed Job with even more than he had before. In the Gospel, the disciples return to Jesus, rejoicing at having seen God's power through their driving out demons in Jesus' name. Jesus gives praise to the Father for all that the Father has revealed.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Longing to see God's face, we turn to God who reveals himself to us in love, with our needs and petitions.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may each one of us be filled with faith as we live out our mission to share Christ's peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may they be given the grace to be instruments of peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who struggle with doubt, who long to see what the disciples saw, may they be strengthened by God's infinite love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community, may we taste and see God's goodness in the Eucharist, and so be empowered to carry out the mission entrusted to us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have passed away, may they rest in the eternal peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, you come to us in our struggles. We entrust these needs to you, remembering that you can do all things, through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2020

(Lec. 139)

- 1) Isaiah 5:1-7
- 2) Philippians 4:6-9
- 3) Matthew 21:33-43

**27TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Nothing we have is truly our own. It is all a gift from God.

As humans, we can be possessive of our worldly goods and take credit for our talents. Yet, everything we have is a gift from God – even the work we do to earn our living is done through the energy and talents that God gave to us. Like the tenants in today’s Gospel, we owe everything to God, our divine Landlord.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah tells of a friend’s vineyard, a friend who does everything possible to tend to his vineyard, only to find that it produces wild grapes. Paul encourages the Philippians to be not anxious, but pray with thanksgiving and to think about what is true, just, and lovely. Jesus tells a parable in the Gospel about vineyard tenants who kill the servants who come to claim the produce.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God’s merciful and abundant love, let us bring him our petitions.

- 1) For all bishops, may the Holy Spirit continue to guide them in holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For lawmakers, may the God of justice guide them in living out their duty with wisdom and a sense of service to all, 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 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 beloved dead, may they be welcomed into God’s kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of all graces, everything we have comes from you. We entrust to you the concerns of our world, in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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Monday, October 5, 2020
(Lec. 461)

- 1) Galatians 1:6-12
- 2) Luke 10:25-37

MONDAY OF
27TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.)

USA: Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos,
Priest)

FOCUS: Our Lord reminds us that anyone in need is our neighbor, and should be treated with kindness.

It is one thing to hear “go and do likewise,” it is another to freely love and freely accept this command, and carry it out. But the Lord never commands of us something that is impossible – we need only to trust that what we have and know is from him. We can trust that with his grace, we can live the true Gospel and obey his will.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul writes to the Galatians to admonish them for forsaking what they were taught for a *different gospel*. The Gospel he proclaimed to them is from Jesus Christ. In the Gospel, Jesus is challenged by a scribe to clarify, *Who is my neighbor?* Jesus answers with the parable of a robbery victim helped by a Samaritan.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As those called to see everyone as our neighbor worthy of love, let us offer our prayers to the Lord.

- 1) That our holy mother Church may continue to receive the help of Christ in using her prophetic voice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That judges, juries, and law enforcement may be guided by God in balancing judgment with mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That victims of violence or racism may find healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That this faith community may grow in holiness and a spirit of thanksgiving, through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith may find peace in God’s presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, hear the prayers we offer you today and answer them in your kindness. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, October 6, 2020

(Lec. 462)

- 1) Galatians 1:13-24
- 2) Luke 10:38-42

TUESDAY OF
27TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Bruno,
Priest;
USA: Blessed Marie Rose Durocher,
Virgin)

FOCUS: Though we often want to *do* things for God, the most important thing is simply to *be with* God.

This familiar story of Martha and Mary is an important reminder that we cannot earn God's favor by righteous deeds. God's favor already rests upon us. The ultimate goal is to recognize and rest in the presence of the Lord, even as we go about our busy lives of service and work.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Paul reminds the Galatians that they heard of his former way of life where he *persecuted the Church of God beyond measure*; and that God's grace revealed his Son to him so he might *proclaim him to the Gentiles*. In the Gospel, Jesus visits Martha and Mary. He replies to Martha, who complains she is burdened by serving while her sister spends time with Jesus, that *Mary has chosen the better part*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For the people of God, may the Spirit of Christ bring unity and peace to every heart and relationship, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the world, may God help guide our priorities in protecting and serving one another, especially those most vulnerable, 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 community of faith, may the love of Christ continue to help us grow in faith and charity as we bear witness of the Gospel to the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may Jesus welcome them into the Kingdom with open arms, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, hear the prayers we bring before you today, we ask through your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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Wednesday, October 7, 2020
(Lec. 463)

- 1) Galatians 2:1-2, 7-14
- 2) Luke 11:1-4

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

FOCUS: Jesus and Mary are models for discipleship who have taught us how to pray.

When Jesus' disciples see him praying in today's Gospel, they ask him to teach them how. He teaches them the prayer we know as the Our Father. This prayer is foundational, because it comes from Christ himself. Today, we celebrate the memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary, another prayer that is based in Scripture and central to our Catholic faith.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In his Letter to the Galatians, Paul narrates events around the Council of Jerusalem, at which he is entrusted with the mission to the Gentiles. He also writes of opposing Peter at Antioch for his inconsistency about eating with Gentiles. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus' disciples ask him to teach them how to pray. He teaches them the Lord's Prayer.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Jesus has taught us to call God our Father. As children of God, we offer these petitions through Jesus, our brother.

- 1) For the whole Church may the guidance of the Holy Spirit be our strength during these difficult times, let us pray to the Lord
- 2) For those in positions of political power, may they be blessed with the zeal and eagerness of Paul in serving their communities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who hunger, may the Lord fill their every physical and spiritual need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the community gathered here today, may God continue to guide us as we strive to do his will, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they rest in eternal peace with God in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, we rely on you for all that sustains us in life. Hear and answer the prayers we offer through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, October 8, 2020
(Lec. 464)

- 1) Galatians 3:1-5
- 2) Luke 11:5-13

THURSDAY OF
27TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Persevere in faith and prayer.

The readings today reveal the importance of persistence in the Christian life. The Galatians' reversion to the Mosaic Law would amount to a denial of Christ's efficacious redeeming death and a loss of grace. It is persistence in faith and confident prayer that bring down God's blessings, chiefly that of the Holy Spirit.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul calls the Galatians *stupid*, and asks who has *bewitched* them, and whether the Spirit comes from faith or the law. Jesus tells his disciples a parable of someone, initially reluctant to help a friend, who eventually responds favorably to his friend's requests because of the latter's perseverance. Far exceeding the generosity of parents to their children, God grants the Spirit to those who hold fast to their faith.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in God's generosity, let us present our petitions to the Lord.

- 1) For the Church, may God always increase in her the gifts of the Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may God guide their hearts in making just and wise decisions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who feel alone or abandoned, may the Lord strengthen and comfort them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of our community of faith, may the Holy Spirit enkindle in us a more pure love for our neighbor, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they experience the abundance of heavenly blessings, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, giver of every good gift, hear and answer in your holy will the prayers we bring before you today. We ask through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Friday, October 9, 2020
(Lec. 465)

- 1) Galatians 3:7-14
- 2) Luke 11:15-26

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

FOCUS: Faith in Jesus brings us into the kingdom of God, and into his very body.

We follow Jesus through the gift of faith. It is a gift available to all, but we know that not all accept it. Through baptism and the other sacraments, our faith grows, and we also grow in grace and virtue. We receive forgiveness and healing. The power of Jesus is stronger than anything the world or the devil can do.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul reminds the Galatians that it is those who have faith who are the children of Abraham, including the Gentiles. In the Gospel, Jesus responds to those who doubt his authority to cast out demons, saying, *if it is by the finger of God that I [do this], then the Kingdom of God has come upon you.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us join together as the Body of Christ, and offer our prayers to the Father.

- 1) For the Church, may all her members be strengthened by the Holy Spirit in the universal call to holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may God guide them in their efforts to protect the dignity and sanctity of life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those oppressed by sin, may Christ's mercy and forgiveness bring them healing and consolation, 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 the repose of the souls of all the deceased, especially those who have been forgotten, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we offer our prayers and our hearts to you, through your Son, Jesus Christ.

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Saturday, October 10, 2020
(Lec. 466)

- 1) Galatians 3:22-29
- 2) Luke 11:27-28

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

FOCUS: To observe the word of God is to live in knowledge of one's freedom.

Jesus Christ urges his followers to observe the word of God. To observe the word of God is to live in a relationship with God, a relationship called *faith*, and with faith comes the freedom of Christ.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul tells the Galatians that where they were once under the power of sin and the law, they are now *justified by faith*. There are no longer distinctions among them but they *are all one in Christ Jesus*. In the Gospel, Jesus responds to a woman who refers to his mother as *blessed* by saying, *blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In faith and hope, let us give voice to the prayers we offer to our God.

- 1) For leaders in the Church, may Christ, the source of their wisdom, strengthen their hearts as they teach God's law in our world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For public officials, may the Lord make his presence known to them as they carry out their duties, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from chronic illness, may the Lord bring them healing, comfort, and strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may the Holy Spirit guide us as we work together to make our community a welcoming and loving place, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they soon enjoy God's embrace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of life, hear the prayers we offer this day in humility and trust, we ask through Christ our Lord.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2020

(Lec. 142)

- 1) Isaiah 25:6-10a
- 2) Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20
- 3) Matthew 22:1-14 or 22:1-10

**28TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: We are invited to live in the house of the Lord for all eternity.

As we move to the end of another liturgical year, our readings begin to speak to us about the end times. Full of hope and encouragement, they are meant to spur us on to faithful Gospel living no matter what befalls us in this life. Set among them is the responsorial psalm for today, Psalm 23, where the Lord is our shepherd who leads us to green pastures.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Isaiah tells of the great banquet the Lord will prepare for his people at the end of time. Paul writes to the Philippians, assuring them that he knows how to live in different sets of circumstances, and that *I can do all things in him who strengthens me*. In the Gospel, Jesus tells a parable likening the kingdom of heaven to a king hosting a wedding feast for his son.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust in God's merciful and abundant love, let us make our requests known to him.

- 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 all who are sick, may they know the healing power of Christ, who is our Divine Physician, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us here, may the Lord continue to help us speak the truth in charity to one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they find a place at the banquet of life in the eternal Kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and eternal God, our salvation comes from you alone. As you watch over the lives of your people, hear the prayers we offer this day and answer them according to your will. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, October 12, 2020
(Lec. 467)

- 1) Galatians 4:22-24,
26-27, 31-5:1
- 2) Luke 11:29-32

MONDAY OF
28TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: A self-absorbed vision can lead to spiritual blindness.

Like the crowds of Jesus' time, we can be overly focused on wanting God to fulfill our needs and desires in the manner we think is best. This risks missing the greater plans God is seeking to enact in our lives, and can result in a spiritual blindness to the goodness around us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul explains to the Galatians that the mothers of Abraham's sons allegorically represent two covenants. He tells them that in Christ we have been set free and no longer live in slavery. In the Gospel, Jesus calls the crowd to task for seeking signs, yet failing to see that in Jesus' preaching and ministry they are witnessing something even greater. This blindness will mean their condemnation.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in the Lord's love and care for us, let us bring before him our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For the Church, may the Holy Spirit continue to lead us to a deeper conversion and faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may the Lord guide their work of serving the needs of their communities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who are oppressed, may God deliver them to safety and freedom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the grace of this sacrament bring us closer to Christ and one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have gone before us in faith, may they find eternal rest and joy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, hear these prayers which we humbly bring before you and answer them in accordance with your holy will. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Tuesday, October 13, 2020
(Lec. 468)

- 1) Galatians 5:1-6
- 2) Luke 11:37-41

TUESDAY OF
28TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: *Only faith working through love* counts for anything.

True faith does not come from, nor is it exhibited by, going through prescribed motions. Rather, true faith is reflected in the living word of God, effective in us and helping us discern our path. Faith rooted in Christ leads to purity of heart. And the only faith that counts for anything is faith working through love.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul exhorts the Galatians to be mindful of what truly reflects righteousness. Justification comes not from law, but from *faith working through love*. In the Gospel, Jesus admonishes a Pharisee for being more focused on cleansing rituals than what truly matters: a clean heart rooted in faith.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the Lord's mercy, we bring our prayers before the Lord.

- 1) For Pope Francis as he continues to lead the Church, may God look graciously upon his every need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our local and national leaders, may Christ show them the way of authentic servant leadership, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all of those who struggle to provide for themselves and their families, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community gathered here today, may Christ's peace reside in our hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all of those who have died, may God's light shine upon them as they enter his Kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and ever-living Father, hear our prayers today and answer them in your abundant generosity. We ask this through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, October 14, 2020
(Lec. 469)

- 1) Galatians 5:18-25
- 2) Luke 11:42-46

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

FOCUS: Reliance on the Holy Spirit produces true holiness.

The Pharisees and law scholars think they can achieve righteousness by their strict observance of Jewish law, but their self-reliance leads only to pride. In reality, as Saint Paul tells us, the Holy Spirit makes us righteous by crucifying our sinful desires and bringing forth his own fruits in us if we are willing to follow him.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul contrasts *works of the flesh*, which are sins which lead those who do them to life outside the kingdom of God, with the *fruit of the Spirit*, in those who belong to Christ Jesus. In the Gospel, Jesus rebukes the Pharisees and scholars for caring more about the finer points of the law than about loving God and their people.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together with one voice, let us offer God our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For the Church, may the Holy Spirit animate each of her members with new joy and zeal for Christ's mission, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in authority, may God give them the grace of humility, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those burdened by poverty, hopelessness, or sickness, may God give them peace and provide relief for their burdens, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the community gathered here, may God preserve us in harmony and humility through the gifts of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they find endless love, joy, and peace in God's embrace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, hear our prayers and in your grace answer them according to your will, we ask through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, October 15, 2020
(Lec. 470)

- 1) Ephesians 1:1-10
- 2) Luke 11:47-54

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

FOCUS: We are called to live a life in Christ as we strengthen our relationship with him through prayer.

Jesus has redeemed us and promises forgiveness of sins for those who repent. We live and grow most fully through a prayerful relationship with God. It is in nurturing our prayer life that we can best know God's plan for us and have the strength and grace to answer his call.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, he tells the community that, through Jesus Christ, they have been adopted by the Father. In him, they have redemption and forgiveness of sins. In today's Gospel, Jesus confronts the scribes and Pharisees, admonishing them for not following the prophets. They, in turn, begin to plot against Jesus.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Filled with love for the Father and confident in his promises, we join together to present our needs to him.

- 1) For the Holy Catholic Church, may she continue to receive the help of Christ in using her prophetic voice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected and appointed officials, may God give them favor and grace in working to protect the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those 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 here, may the intercession of Saint Teresa help us strengthen our prayer and deepen our relationship with God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all of the faithful who have died, may they find joy in the presence of our Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we ask you to hear our prayers offered to you with love and trust, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Friday, October 16, 2020

(Lec. 471)

- 1) Ephesians 1:11-14
- 2) Luke 12:1-7

FRIDAY OF
28TH WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(Opt. Mem.)

Saint Hedwig, Religious;
Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque,
Virgin)

FOCUS: We are not afraid because we are beloved and valuable in the sight of God.

God knows everything about us, even those things we seek to keep hidden in the dark. And yet, we should not be afraid. We have been chosen by Christ, given the Holy Spirit, and to God we are worth very much.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the Letter to the Ephesians, Paul writes that they, too [Gentiles], have been chosen by Christ and sealed with the Holy Spirit. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the gathered crowd to beware of hypocrisy, that all will be revealed, and to not be afraid – *you are worth more than many sparrows*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us offer our prayers to the Lord, knowing he attends to even the smallest of our concerns.

- 1) For members of the Church throughout the world, may the outpouring of the Holy Spirit sanctify each one of us in our daily lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations and all those in authority, may God grant them fortitude in governing wisely, with justice and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are afraid, may God give them peace in the knowledge of his love for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, may the love of Christ enfold us and strengthen our confidence and belief in his forgiveness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be embraced by the love of Jesus and rest in eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, we know that we should not be afraid. Hear and answer our prayers according to your will. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, October 17, 2020
(Lec. 472)

- 1) Ephesians 1:15-23
- 2) Luke 12:8-12

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

FOCUS: The movement of the Spirit encourages us in our relationship with God.

If we seek to know God, we will rightly revere him. With the eyes of faith, we can see the glorious truths of our faith, especially Jesus' resurrection. As disciples, we should be open to the promptings of the Spirit to defend our faith. If we falter, such as by denying Christ, we must ask for and accept forgiveness.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul tells the Ephesians that he prays in thanksgiving for their faith. He also prays that God may give them *a spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him*. In the Gospel, Jesus warns that whoever denies him *will be denied before the angels of God*. He also tells them that blasphemy against the Holy Spirit *will not be forgiven*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYERS

PRIEST: As the Body of Christ, we can be assured that our Father hears our prayers. Inspired by this confidence, we bring him our petitions.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord strengthen and protect each one of us, his servants, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in oppressed regions of the world, may God deliver them and bring them freedom and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who feel they cannot be forgiven, may the grace of the Holy Spirit help them know the mercy of God, 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 from COVID-19, may they know the peace and joy of God's love through all eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of love and mercy, we humbly ask you to look favorably upon these our prayers, which we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ.

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2020

(Lec. 145)

- 1) Isaiah 45:1, 4-6
- 2) 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b
- 3) Matthew 22:15-21

**29TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: We are God's; we belong to him.

Our primary allegiance is not to a particular nation, kingdom, or institution, but to God. We belong to him in whose image we are made and whose law is inscribed on our hearts. We must give back to God what is his, thus we give him our love, our first fruits, and our very selves, in union with Christ.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Lord says *to his anointed, Cyrus ... I have called you by your name.* Through Cyrus, all will know there is no God besides the Lord. In the second reading, Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy greet the Thessalonian Church with thanksgiving and affirmation. In the Gospel, Jesus' opponents question him about the lawfulness of paying taxes. Jesus sees their hypocrisy and answers, *repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We offer our prayers to the One in whose image we are made and whose law is inscribed on our hearts.

- 1) That all clergy may be strengthened and edified by the prayers of the Church throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That all leaders of state may be guided by the Almighty in the just use of power, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That the Holy Spirit may give hope to refugees and displaced persons without home or country, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That Christ may have a place in the hearts and homes of those gathered here, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may rest eternally in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of all goodness, hear and answer the prayers of those you claim as your own, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, October 19, 2020
(Lec. 473)

- 1) Ephesians 2:1-10
- 2) Luke 12:13-21

MONDAY OF
29TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
USA: Saints John de Brébeuf
and Isaac Jogues,
Priests,
and Companions,
Martyrs)

FOCUS: Grace from God is free, undeserved, and available to all of us.

Grace from God is a gift; it is favor, free and undeserved (CCC 1996). By grace, we have been *saved through faith*. It is neither owed to us, nor earned through works – for that would lead to boasting, the sin of pride. The supernatural assistance of grace obtained in prayer and the sacraments assists us in our “sanctification and its end, eternal life” (CCC 1995).

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In his Letter to the Ephesians, Paul writes that it is a merciful God who gives new life in Christ. *By grace you have been saved through faith*, he says. *It is not from works, so no one may boast*. In the Gospel, Jesus tells a parable of a rich man, a prideful fool, who stored goods for many years so as to one day *rest, eat, drink, and be merry*. Instead, his life was demanded of him that very night.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In calling upon our most merciful Lord, let us offer him our prayers.

- 1) For all Church leaders, may they be guided by the Holy Spirit in leading their flocks, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, international organizations, and for all who seek an increase in charity throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all God’s children who lack the basic necessities of life, may their needs be met and may they be blessed with the strength and support they need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the Holy Spirit guide our actions in making this house of worship a welcoming place, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died in the light of faith, may they rest in the peace and love of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Ever-loving and gracious Father, we humbly ask that you hear and answer the petitions we place before you today, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, October 20, 2020
(Lec. 474)

- 1) Ephesians 2:12-22
- 2) Luke 12:35-38

TUESDAY OF
29TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.

USA: Saint Paul of the Cross,
Priest)

FOCUS: Be vigilant and prepared for Christ to come again.

Today's readings give us an indication of how we are to understand our lives as Christians. We are member of God's household; citizens of the Kingdom. We *are being built together into a dwelling place of God in the Spirit*. Our responsibility is to cooperate with the one who has reconciled us to himself, while remaining vigilant and prepared for Christ to come again.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Paul reminds the Ephesians that through Christ and his sacrifice they are now *fellow citizens ... and members of the household of God*. In the Gospel, Jesus exhorts his disciples to be like servants awaiting the return of their master. If they are prepared and vigilant, the master will serve them upon his arrival.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our needs to the Father, in anticipation of his bountiful providence.

- 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 all those who govern, may the Holy Spirit bless them with an abundance of understanding and prudence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who see no way forward in their lives, may the hope of Christ wash away their despair and the Spirit inspire them on a grace-filled path, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the young people of our community, may God's voice always resound clearly in their hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they enjoy the fullness of eternal life with God in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of all, look kindly upon our prayers and grant all that will bring us peace. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son.

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Wednesday, October 21, 2020

(Lec. 475)

- 1) Ephesians 3:2-12
- 2) Luke 12:39-48

WEDNESDAY OF
29TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Be prepared for the coming of the Son of Man.

Today, we hear Jesus say that the Son of Man will come *at an hour you do not expect*. These are not words to scare us, but facts made clear to us out of love: Because we do not know, we should always be ready. In our own lives, we make plans for what we anticipate may happen: from saving money for a trip to having a safety checklist in case of a powerful storm. If we do all that for this life, should we not be just as diligent for the next? For, *more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more*.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's Letter to the Ephesians, Paul explains that he *became a minister by the gift of God's grace*, to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles. In the Gospel, Jesus instructs his disciples to be prepared for the coming of the Son of Man. When Peter asks if that parable is meant for them or for everyone, Jesus expounds on it, asking, *Who, then, is the faithful and prudent steward whom the master will put in charge of his servants?*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God's merciful and abundant love, we bring our prayers and petitions to him today.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all bishops, may God grant them strength and courage as they continue preaching the truth of Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government officials across the world, may God's mercy be on them and those they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those burdened by the pressures of anxiety, may Jesus bless them with his peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all those in this community struggling with their faith, may the Holy Spirit provide the wisdom and understanding necessary to find their way, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the recently deceased, may they rest in Jesus' arms for all of eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, we humbly pray that you grant our prayers and petitions, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, October 22, 2020
(Lec. 476)

- 1) Ephesians 3:14-21
- 2) Luke 12:49-53

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

FOCUS: We can do far more than we can imagine when we are rooted and grounded in Jesus' love.

Jesus, who came *to set the earth on fire*, expects much of his followers – but he gives us whatever we need to set our own world on fire with God's love. Paul encourages us to be strengthened in our inner selves through the power of God, so that we can make a difference in our world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul prays that the Ephesians might be strengthened with the power of the Spirit. Jesus says, *I have come to set the earth on fire* with the truth of God's love. This message will bring division.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together with one voice, let us bring our prayers and petitions before our compassionate God.

- 1) For missionaries throughout the world who suffer persecution, may the Lord grant them courage and strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For people who wield political, military, or monetary power, may the Holy Spirit direct them in the ways of justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who live daily with the threat of war or other forms of violence, may God deliver them and bring peace to their lands, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those who are held captive by their addictions, may they find recovery and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they bask in the breadth and depth of God's love in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of all power and compassion, hear these prayers that we bring before you, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Friday, October 23, 2020
(Lec. 477)

- 1) Ephesians 4:1-6
- 2) Luke 12:54-59

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

FOCUS: What is our call and how do we live it? Love.

As Christians, we are urged to live in a manner worthy of our call. Love lived well produces a unity which is irresistible, drawing the interest of nonbelievers. We need the help of the *one Spirit*. We require a constant infusion of grace from the Holy Spirit to empower this love and preserve the bond of peace.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul urges the Ephesians to *live in a manner worthy of the call [they] have received*, reminding them of their call to *one Lord, one faith, one baptism*. In the Gospel from Luke, Jesus reproaches the crowds for being hypocrites who can interpret the weather but not the *present time*. He also gives them instructions on settling grievances with one another, among themselves.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God, the Father of us all, we offer our prayers this day.

- 1) For the Pilgrim Church on earth, that through the power and grace of the Holy Spirit, we may grow in strength and unity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our national and local leaders, may God grant them compassion and insight in showing special care for the most vulnerable in our society, especially the unborn, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who feel defeated in whatever their daily battles are, and for all in need of any kind of healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us gathered here, may the Lord continue to help us grow in faith, hope, and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have gone before us in faith, may they rejoice forever, beholding God face to face, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, please hear and answer our prayers this day according to your holy will, we ask through your Son, Jesus Christ.

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Saturday, October 24, 2020
(Lec. 478)

- 1) Ephesians 4:7-16
- 2) Luke 13:1-9

SATURDAY OF
29TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Anthony Mary Claret,
Bishop;
Saturday in honor
of BVM)

FOCUS: God expects us to bear fruit from the gifts he gives us by growing more like him and building up his Church.

The Gospel parable of the fig tree tells us that God shows us mercy and provides for us with the expectation that we will respond by bearing fruit. Christ's gifts to each of us are meant to help us grow in understanding and love and build up the body of Christ.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul writes to the Ephesians, saying, *Grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift*. The gifts he gave equip all *for the work of ministry and for building up the Body of Christ*. In the Gospel, Jesus exhorts all who are listening that they must repent, or they will perish as others have. He then tells the parable of a fig tree whose owner will cut it down if it fails to bear fruit.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For Christ's body, the Church, may his gifts unite his members more closely in truth and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in public office, may God's truth guide them in promoting justice and solidarity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For victims of oppression and racism, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, may the grace of our Lord help each of us do the work for which he has equipped us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may the Lord soon receive them into his house to live among the saints forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, you never fail to provide for us. Hear and answer the prayers we bring to you today, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2020

(Lec. 148)

- 1) Exodus 22:20-26
- 2) 1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10
- 3) Matthew 22:34-40

**30TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Fidelity to God's two great commandments sets a good example for others to follow.

The Old Testament lists more than 600 laws by which the Israelite people were to live. Jesus, in fulfilling the law, tells us that *the whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments*: loving God, and loving our neighbor as ourselves. Living by God's law is the best advertisement in drawing others to want to know and follow Jesus Christ. Our actions really do speak louder than our words.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Lord tells the Israelites the laws regarding treatment of aliens, widows, and orphans, and the lending of money to the poor. Paul compliments the Thessalonians for their faith and for becoming *a model for all the believers ... not only in Macedonia and in Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has gone forth*. In the Gospel, a scholar of the law tests Jesus, regarding the *greatest commandment in the law*. Jesus answers with two commandments, concerning love of God and love of neighbor.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God's merciful love, let us bring him our prayers today.

- 1) For the Church, may God help us remain faithful to all of his commandments and grow in the fullness of the truth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all those in positions of power, may they be given prudence and courage in serving with justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are ill with the virus, may Jesus, the Divine Physician, offer them hope and provide healing, 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 gone before us in faith, may they enjoy eternal peace in the presence of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, hear our prayers and answer them according to your will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, October 26, 2020
(Lec. 479)

- 1) Ephesians 4:32–5:8
- 2) Luke 13:10-17

MONDAY OF
30TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Be imitators of God, bound by love.

Paul advises, *be imitators of God*, since we are God's children. As *children of light*, our lives ought to manifest the goodness of God. Jesus brings that light to the woman he heals in today's Gospel. He is bound by God's love (not Sabbath law) to do good for another. This is who we are called to be as well.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul writes to the Ephesians, *be kind to one another*. He encourages them to forgive as they have been forgiven in Christ, and to let no *immorality ... even be mentioned among [them]*. Instead, they are to *live as children of light*. Jesus cures a crippled woman on the Sabbath, resulting in an indignant response from the leader of the synagogue. Jesus replies, calling the leader a hypocrite, for they do good works on the Sabbath.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us, as children of light, present our petitions to the Father.

- 1) For the Church in today's world, as she continues to serve as the fullness of truth, goodness, and beauty, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who lead nations, may they be guided by God's spirit of love and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are ill or infirm and for those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our community of faith, may the light of Christ guide us in our discipleship, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rest in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, listen to the prayers we place before you today and answer them in your goodness. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, October 27, 2020
(Lec. 480)

- 1) Ephesians 5:21-33
- 2) Luke 13:18-21

TUESDAY OF
30TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed or yeast, which – despite its small size – blossoms into abounding love in the world.

A small, almost imperceptible amount of love can go a long way. Jesus knew that every act of love matters, that every gift of self makes the kingdom of God real on earth. The seed or yeast grows because, as we know well, love is attractive; love multiplies itself. So, too, it is with God's kingdom. Once we experience it, we want more of it – for ourselves and for others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul provides instructions for husbands and wives to love one another in a way that imitates the subordination of the Church to Christ and the sacrificial love of Christ for the Church. Jesus, in today's Gospel, likens the kingdom of God first to a mustard seed that grows large, and then to yeast, which grows and permeates within its dough.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For Church leaders, may God grant ample wisdom, patience, and love for all who lead the people of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civil authorities, may God grant them compassion and wisdom in their decision-making, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For our loved ones who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, may Christ's healing hand rest upon them and bring them relief, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all members of this community, may the love of Jesus flow through us to one another in small and large ways, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the beloved dead and for those who have no one to mourn their death, may they soon be welcomed into the fullness of the Kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, you gave us the example of true self-gift through the death of your Son. Hear the prayers we bring to you in his name, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Wednesday, October 28, 2020

(Lec. 666)

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

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

FOCUS: The twelve Apostles were chosen by Christ to be the foundation of the Church.

In Luke's Gospel, Jesus prays before decisive moments in his ministry, uniting his human will to God's will. The twelve Apostles were chosen by God to be a strong foundation upon which the Church continues to build. Apostolic succession is a gift from God that ensures the Church's continued faithfulness to the teachings of Jesus.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Letter to the Ephesians describes the Church as the household of God, with the Apostles and prophets as its foundation and Christ as its capstone. The members of this structure are held together by Christ, to be built into a dwelling place for God. In the Gospel, after going up the mountain and *[spending] the night in prayer to God*, Jesus chooses twelve Apostles.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As brothers and sisters in Christ, we offer these petitions to the Father.

- 1) That God may continue to raise up faithful men and women who will respond to his call for consecrated life, 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 all refugees and asylum seekers may find safe shelter and be welcomed into their new communities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all gathered here may be blessed with the courage of Saints Simon and Jude to respond to Christ's call to discipleship, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died may be welcomed home as beloved members of God's family, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we thank you for the gifts of faith and the Church. In our gratitude, we ask you to hear and answer the prayers we bring you today, through your Son, Jesus Christ.

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Thursday, October 29, 2020
(Lec. 482)

- 1) Ephesians 6:10-20
- 2) Luke 13:31-35

THURSDAY OF
30TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: The Christian life entails battle against evil spirits.

Today's readings present the life of a faithful follower of God as a fight against evil forces. Jesus faces opposition from both human and demonic powers. Saint Paul advises the community in Ephesus to arm themselves with God's weapons and armor in their spiritual battles. Ultimately, trust in God is necessary for success in this warfare.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In his Letter to the Ephesians, Paul describes the armor of God that the Christian must employ in the spiritual battle *against the tactics of the Devil*. He asks for prayers *for all the holy ones*, and especially himself. In the Gospel, Jesus defies King Herod's death threat, announcing his intention to continue casting out demons and healing the sick. *For it is impossible that a prophet should die outside of Jerusalem*, he says.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in our loving and merciful Lord, we present our petitions to him.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may God bestow unity among all her peoples, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those elected to public office, may the Holy Spirit assist them in balancing justice and mercy in their service to the people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who struggle with homelessness, may the Lord in his mercy help them find adequate shelter, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may God help us grow in our understanding of his love for us, and transform us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they soon rest in God's eternal light and life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, look with compassion on our petitions, and grant them according to your holy will. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ.

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Friday, October 30, 2020
(Lec. 483)

- 1) Philippians 1:1-11
- 2) Luke 14:1-6

FRIDAY OF
30TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Any time is a good time to help someone in need.

For Jesus, there was never a bad time to help someone in need. He cured people on the Sabbath, in the middle of a dinner party, on the road – whenever and wherever there was a need. Likewise, the Great Commandment to love one's neighbor as oneself calls each of us to do what we can, whenever we can, for others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul and Timothy give thanks to God for the work he is doing through and within the Philippians as they grow in faith. In the Gospel, Jesus cures a man of dropsy, on the Sabbath. He questions the *Pharisees and the people [who] were observing him carefully*, whether it is lawful or not to cure on the Sabbath, for who among them would not care for a son or oxen who was in trouble on the Sabbath?

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us ask the Father to hear our prayers, offered for ourselves and others throughout the world, confident in his providential love.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may the grace of this Eucharist help us bear good fruit in our lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all civic leaders, may God provide them with the spiritual and practical resources necessary for their work to bring an end to violence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are sick or suffering from physical or mental illness, may Christ, the Divine Physician, grant them comfort and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For ourselves, and our families and loved ones, may the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon us conform us ever more to the heart and mind of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they soon gaze forever upon the face of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, hear our prayers and provide for our needs as you see them. We ask all things in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ.

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Saturday, October 31, 2020
(Lec. 484)

- 1) Philippians 1:18b-26
- 2) Luke 14:1, 7-11

SATURDAY OF
30TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Saturday in honor
of BVM)

FOCUS: Placing God's will before our own.

Paul is writing to the Philippians from prison. And yet, he is full of joy for the community and its growth and faith, and is detached from any worry about his own fate. He hopes only that he *shall not be put to shame in any way*. He knows that whatever God wills of him, he will do – happily, even as he recognizes it may result in his death. Paul's detachment from worldly concerns and humility in the service of the Gospel are great examples for us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Paul writes to the Philippians, continuing to rejoice that *Christ is being proclaimed*. He says he is caught between longing to *depart this life and be with Christ* and *remain[ing] in the flesh* and continued service of all of them. In the Gospel, Jesus tells a parable of a wedding banquet, pointing out the concerns over the place of honor at the table. He says, *everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident of God's providence, let us bring him our prayers.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all our bishops, may they be sanctified by the gifts of the Holy Spirit for the good of the world, let us pray to the Lord
- 2) For government officials, may they be filled with God's wisdom as they respond to the needs of the poor in their countries and communities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who feel despair, may God lift the cloud of darkness and fill them with hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all members of our faith community, may the Lord increase our charity and commitment to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may the Lord shine his face upon them and give them eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Ever-loving and gracious Father, we humbly pray that you hear and answer the petitions we place before you today, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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