

SEPTEMBER

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Tuesday, September 1, 2020
(Lec. 432)

- 1) 1 Corinthians 2:10b-16
- 2) Luke 4:31-37

TUESDAY OF
22ND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God loves us and calls us to be his own.

As humans, we are both physical and spiritual beings. Though nature points to God's existence, we cannot know God by natural reason alone. God has revealed himself to us in and through Jesus Christ. He loves us, and calls us to be his own. The grace and gifts of the Holy Spirit help us to know and love God in return.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul writes to the Corinthians that only the Spirit of God can know what pertains to God. The spiritual person has received the Spirit of God and can therefore judge everything. In the Gospel, Jesus casts out *the spirit of an unclean demon* from a man in Capernaum. Those who witness it are amazed at his authority and the power of his word.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Having received the Spirit of God, we now bring our petitions before the Father.

- 1) That bishops, priests, and deacons may receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in their ministry of preaching, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That political leaders in every nation may be led by God's justice and mercy as they serve their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That God may relieve and grant assistance to all who are suffering from the physical, practical, and financial effects of sickness and ill health, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the Holy Spirit may increase the gifts of understanding and wisdom in this community of faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died in the light of Christ may now rest in his heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, hear the prayers we have offered this day, and answer them according to your will. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, September 2, 2020
(Lec. 433)

- 1) 1 Corinthians 3:1-9
- 2) Luke 4:38-44

WEDNESDAY OF
22ND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: We are God's co-workers in the vineyard.

Throughout the Scriptures, we repeatedly hear references to trees and plants that bear fruit. God is the vineyard owner; the planter of the seed; the creator of the gardens. He is the one with the power to make things grow. In the same way that Paul and Apollos were co-workers with God in the vineyard of the Lord, so we, too, by our baptism are co-workers of God, proclaiming the Good News with our lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul addresses the *jealousy and rivalry* that have divided the Corinthian community, where some of the believers say they *belong to Paul*, and others to Apollos. In the Gospel, Jesus cures many people, including Simon's mother-in-law. Then he left for other towns saying, *I must proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God, because for this purpose I have been sent.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: The Lord is the one who makes all things grow, in due time and season. We raise these prayers before him, trusting in his provision.

- 1) For the Church and her shepherds, may God's grace continue to protect and guide them as they share the good news of the kingdom of God with others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all those serving in positions of public authority, may the wisdom of God lead them in decisions of justice and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering from physical or emotional illness, may the healing hand of Jesus rest upon their bodies and minds, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the members of this worshipping community, may the Holy Spirit help us to bear great fruit as co-workers in God's vineyard, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died in the peace of Christ, may they one day rise with him to eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, hear the prayers we have brought before you, and be gracious to us as you answer our needs. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

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Thursday, September 3, 2020
(Lec. 434)

- 1) 1 Corinthians 3:18-23
- 2) Luke 5:1-11

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

FOCUS: *Put out into deep water* and trust in the Lord.

In seeing Jesus call his first Apostles to leave everything and follow him, we recognize that he calls us as well. Jesus invites us to *put out into deep water*, trusting in him and his provision for us. Saint Gregory the Great, whom we celebrate today, was one who listened to Jesus' call and became a great fisher of men.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul tells the Corinthians that to be wise, one must *become a fool ... For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in the eyes of God*. In the Gospel, Jesus tells Simon to *put out into deep water*. The fishermen obey him and catch an overabundance of fish. Afterward, Simon, James, and John *left everything and followed [Jesus]*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As followers of the Lord, let us join together to present our needs to the Father who loves us.

- 1) For our holy Church, may the Lord protect her from all evil and sanctify her for his glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all those in public, corporate, and civic leadership, may the Lord guide their hearts and minds in the ways of charity and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those oppressed by poverty, illness, depression, or hopelessness, may the Lord be their sustenance and strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here today, through the intercession of Saint Gregory the Great may we continue to grow in holiness and virtue, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God may they eternally rejoice in his presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear the prayers we have offered in love and with trust in your care for your children. We ask this in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son.

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Friday, September 4, 2020
(Lec. 435)

- 1) 1 Corinthians 4:1-5
- 2) Luke 5:33-39

FRIDAY OF
22ND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: The new covenant of Jesus brings the freedom of forgiveness and hope to all who live it.

The images in today's Gospel of old and new wine and wineskins, and patching old cloaks with new material, are meant to help us conform to Christ. Christ initiated a new covenant that brought salvation to *all* people, and in so doing gives us the choice to accept the life that is new, or to be satisfied with the old. In other words, we are invited to turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul writes that he should be regarded as a servant of Christ and steward of God's mysteries. In the Gospel, Jesus answers a question about fasting by asking his own question regarding the behavior of wedding guests in the presence of the bridegroom. He then tells the scribes and Pharisees a parable, saying, *no one pours new wine into old wineskins.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For the Church, the servant of Christ and steward of God's mysteries, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who exercise political or judicial power in our nation, and for those seeking to bridge political divides, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are sick, may they know God's healing presence in their lives and be consoled by the support and prayers of others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all gathered here who seek a deeper relationship with Christ and his Church, may the grace of the Holy Spirit transform them for his purpose, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died marked with the sign of faith, may the angels and saints lead them to the new, heavenly Jerusalem, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and ever-loving God, hear our prayers and grant them in your generous mercy, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, September 5, 2020
(Lec. 436)

- 1) 1 Corinthians 4:6b-15
- 2) Luke 6:1-5

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

FOCUS: Let us walk with Jesus as a disciple, even amid trials and hardship.

Saint Paul teaches us that we must bear our share of suffering for the sake of the Gospel. Pride, boastfulness, and self-satisfaction are not hallmarks of a disciple of Jesus. Rather, we must be strong in the face of hardship and be *wise in Christ*.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul admonishes the Corinthians for their pride and boasting, claiming they are acting like kings, while the Apostles must persevere through hunger, toil, and persecution. In the Gospel, Jesus defends his disciples against the Pharisees who claim it is unlawful to pick and eat grain on the Sabbath. He tells them, *The Son of Man is lord of the sabbath*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that the Lord is near to all who call on him, we give voice to our prayers this day.

- 1) That God may continue to bless his Church with holy and sacrificial servants, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the Son of Man, Jesus – Lord of the sabbath – may deliver the whole world from the evils that abound in it, let us pray to the Lord,
- 3) That the Lord may be pleased to shower his tender compassion upon those who are hungry or mired in poverty, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That God's bountiful love may help members of this faith community heal any divisions in our families or relationships, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died in Christ may inherit with him the riches of his Kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, you sent your Son Jesus to dwell among us as your Word. Look graciously upon the prayers we have offered to you this day, we ask in his name, who is Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

(Lec. 127)

- 1) Ezekiel 33:7-9
- 2) Romans 13:8-10
- 3) Matthew 18:15-20

23RD SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Love your neighbor as yourself.

Our readings today work together to teach us about the real obligations of the law, which include gently correcting one another so that our communities may be in harmony. Paul explains how we must do this, and do all things, with love. And Jesus promises to remain with us always.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Lord tells Ezekiel that he will be held responsible for the death of the wicked one if he does *not speak out to dissuade [him] from his way*. In the Letter to the Romans, Paul writes that *the one who loves another has fulfilled the law*. In the Gospel, Jesus gives instructions for correcting another, gives authority to bind and loose, and promises *where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Drawn together in faith, we bring our needs to God with confidence and hope.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord graciously preserve and protect her as a sign of his Truth to the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all nations, may their leaders be governed by the power of the Holy Spirit in love of and service to one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those blinded by sin, may the compassionate mercy of God lead them to goodness and repentance, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of worship, through the grace of this sacrament may we be drawn ever more deeply into unity with one another and our Triune God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died from the effects of the coronavirus, may they rest in the peace of God's perfect love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of love and truth, you lead us deeper into relationship with you through every prayer we offer. We ask that you hear the prayers we offer today, through Christ our Lord.

Monday, September 7, 2020
(Lec. 437)

- 1) 1 Corinthians 5:1-8
- 2) Luke 6:6-11

MONDAY OF
23RD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Grace enables us to love God and one another as we should.

In the midst of the challenges we face each day, it is important that we have Christ at the center of our lives. Christ's words and deeds have taught us to love God and to love neighbor – these are the priorities for Christian living. But it is only with his grace that we are able to put into practice what he has taught: To turn away from sin, and to love one another.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul admonishes the community at Corinth for allowing *the immorality ... of a man living with his father's wife*. He urges them to live as a community of truth and not wickedness. In the Gospel, Jesus heals a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath, upsetting the scribes and the Pharisees who *watched him closely*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Gathered here as one community, let us place our needs before the Lord.

- 1) For the Church, may Christ continue to be her refuge and strength against the evil present in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For political leaders in our nation and our community, may God give them the courage to lead in sincerity and truth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who struggle within the bondage of sin, may the power of the Lord Jesus deliver them from its grasp and grant them a contrite heart, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For teachers and catechists beginning a new academic year, may God be their guide as they share the Gospel message, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may the Lord have mercy on them and gather them to his side for eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, you have shown us the example of how to live by giving us your only Son as an example to follow. Hear the prayers we bring before you today, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, September 8, 2020
(Lec. 636)

- 1) Micah 5:1-4a
or Romans 8:28-30
- 2) Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23
or 1:18-23

**THE NATIVITY
OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
- FEAST**

FOCUS: We celebrate and give thanks for the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

On the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, we celebrate and give thanks for her birth. She whom God chose from all women to bear his Son, is also the mother of us all – the Church. Through her God entered into human history, and she is the dawning of the fullness of salvation that Christ brings to the world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Micah prophesies that from Bethlehem-Ephrathah *shall come forth for [the Lord] one who is to be ruler in Israel*. The Gospel lists *the genealogy of Jesus Christ* and how his birth took place.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our needs before God, whose will it is that all humanity should be saved.

- 1) For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, may the Lord in his divine goodness watch over and care for him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For peace in the world, may God's love and justice guide those in power and authority, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering from any affliction, may Jesus give them peace and strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this congregation of faith, may the Lord make us holy as the Blessed Virgin Mary was holy and full of grace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they rest in the eternal peace of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of mercy and love, as we celebrate today the feast of the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we bring these prayers to you through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, September 9, 2020
(Lec. 439)

- 1) 1 Corinthians 7:25-31
- 2) Luke 6:20-26

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

FOCUS: The Lord made us for a blessedness that is not of this world.

The beatitudes from Luke's Gospel demonstrate that God's ways are not our ways. God made us for his eternal blessedness, yet we often settle for the world's happiness, which will pass away. What would our lives look like if we, too, sought our happiness in the sight of the Lord?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Paul advises the Corinthians about choosing a state in life [marriage or not] for *the time is running out ... the world in its present form is passing away*. In the Gospel [part of his sermon on the plain], Jesus declares as *blessed* all who are poor, weeping, hungry, and hated.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: The Lord desires joy for all his people and sees us in our need. Let us bring our petitions before him.

- 1) For our Church leaders, may God continue to conform them to himself, empowering them with a wisdom that is not their own, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our elected and appointed leaders, may the Holy Spirit guide them in their efforts to protect the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who are sorrowful, hungry, or cast out, may God provide hope and healing, and relieve them of their burdens, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may the sacrament we receive help us grow in holiness and goodness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may the Lord bring them to his everlasting joy this day, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, hear the prayers we bring before you today, and please answer them according to your holy will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, September 10, 2020
(Lec. 440)

THURSDAY OF
23RD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

- 1) 1 Corinthians 8:1b-7
11-13
- 2) Luke 6:27-38

FOCUS: We are called to radical love because that is how God loves us.

Jesus commands us to imitate God's mercy, radically loving and forgiving others, lending without expectation of repayment, and giving beyond what is asked – especially in dealings with those with whom we don't get along. We are called to radical love because that is how God loves us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul responds to the Corinthians' prior question about eating meat sacrificed to idols. He encourages them to ensure that their personal choices build up the faith community in love, and never cause a brother or sister to sin. In the Gospel, Jesus gives instruction to his disciples on the love of enemies, doing good to those who hate them and blessing those who curse them. He says, *Be merciful, just as also your Father is merciful.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As brothers and sisters in Christ, we are called to build each other up in faith. Therefore, let us bring to God our prayers not only for ourselves but also for others.

- 1) For our seminarians, may God richly bless their studies and give them wisdom and courage as they discern the priesthood, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For community leaders, may the Lord inspire them in acting with mercy and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are lonely or isolated, may the Lord fill them with his presence and console them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all students and teachers as the school year resumes, may the love of God direct their hearts and light their every step, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they enjoy eternity with the risen Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of love and mercy, we praise you for your goodness. In your kindness, please hear our petitions which we bring through Jesus, your Son and our Lord.

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Friday, September 11, 2020
(Lec. 441)

- 1) 1 Corinthians 9:16-19
22b-27
- 2) Luke 6:39-42

FRIDAY OF
23RD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Strive to be “all in” in living for Christ.

To be “all in” on something means to give whatever it is everything we’ve got. We hear it all the time regarding athletes and artists at their craft; or about people with ideas and adventures on which to follow through. How often do we hear it, or think about it, with regard to our faith? And yet, as we see in Paul’s Letter today, nowhere else is being “all in” more important than in how we live for Christ.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul tells the Corinthians of his *obligation* to preach the Gospel, and to do all that he does for its sake and for *an imperishable* crown. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples a parable about the blind leading the blind; and hypocrites calling out a splinter in another’s eye before removing the beam from their own.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us now turn to God, the Father of us all, with the needs of our neighbors and our world.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may God continue to bless, purify, and sanctify her in building his Kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in public office, may God bless their efforts in defending the dignity and sanctity of life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For victims of violence, war, and hatred, may the Lord grant them healing and strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, may God, who is love, grow in us an ever greater spirit of compassion and love for one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they rejoice forever in the presence of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, we offer these prayers to you in complete trust in your love and compassion, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, September 12, 2020
(Lec. 442)

- 1) 1 Corinthians 10:14-22
- 2) Luke 6:43-49

SATURDAY OF
23RD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
The Most Holy Name of Mary;
Saturday in honor
of BVM)

FOCUS: Listening to the voice of Christ is the foundation for a life full of good fruit.

Today's readings are an invitation to trust God to lead us to the good we desire at the deepest level of our being. Only by listening to the voice of Christ calling us to eternal good can we build our lives on the rock that will support us through the storms of the world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul exhorts the Corinthians to reject idolatry and to participate in single-hearted love of Christ. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples to judge what is good by its fruit. To bear good fruit, one must listen to Christ and follow, and so build a life on the rock of salvation.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God who leads us to the good we desire, we bring our prayers before him.

- 1) For every member of the body of Christ, may God help us grow in faith and empower us in our witness to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in positions of authority, may God guide them in their decisions and awaken in them a heart for justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are struggling in the storms of life, may the Spirit guide them in finding rest on the rock of salvation in Christ's love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, may the light of truth call us to place our trust in God alone, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rest in the perfect goodness of God's presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of goodness, we offer you these prayers today, trusting in your perfect care, through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

(Lec. 130)

- 1) Sirach 27:30–28:7
- 2) Romans 14:7-9
- 3) Matthew 18:21-35

**24TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Forgiveness is a choice that leads to life.

Life always offers us choices – will we hold onto anger or choose to forgive? Will we live with a spirit of compassion or withhold mercy? Will we hold onto hurts and grievances or extend a hand in peace? Living out the commands of God is no easy task, but if we show mercy and forgiveness to others, we are assured of the same from our heavenly Father.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sirach tells the people, *Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight*. Thus, they are to forgive their neighbor as they wish to be forgiven by the Lord. Paul tells the Romans, *None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord*. In the Gospel, Jesus answers Peter's question of how often he must forgive by telling him the parable of the unforgiving servant.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God's mercy and compassion, we offer our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord bless her and keep her safe from all evil, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For harmony and justice in our nation and across the world, may the Prince of Peace dwell in the hearts of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are holding on to past hurts and grievances, may the Lord give them the grace to forgive, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this family of faith, may the Lord fill us with love and truth and guide us in the ways of wisdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they know the loving embrace of our merciful Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of mercy and compassion, look beyond our sins and hear the prayers we offer you with contrite and repentant hearts. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Monday, September 14, 2020
(Lec. 638)

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

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

FOCUS: *God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.*

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is both profound, and humbling. For the cross, the ultimate sign of our faith and the means by which Christ saves us, is also a representation of the torturous method of execution that Christ underwent on our behalf. We hail not the death the cross inflicted, but the life which arose from it, making it holy and saving the world from sin and death.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the people are complaining that Moses led them out into the desert to die. In punishment, the Lord sent serpents – when they bit the people, many died; later, the people would look upon them mounted on a pole and live. Paul writes to the Philippians that Christ, *though he was in the form of God ... humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross.* In the Gospel, Jesus tells Nicodemus that *God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we stand in the shadow of the cross, we ask our loving Father to hear our prayers.

- 1) For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, and all who shepherd our souls, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may they be blessed by the Holy Spirit with a heart open to the truth of God's word, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For caregivers and counselors, and all who help to carry the cross of those who are ill or have sorrow, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may the Lord bless our relationships, and grant us purity of heart and mind, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be held this day by the crucified and risen Son of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, we humbly place our needs before you. Hear and answer them according to your holy will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, September 15, 2020

(Lec. 444)

1) 1 Corinthians 12:12-14,
27-31a

(Lec. 639)

2) John 19:25-27
or Luke 2:33-35

TUESDAY OF
24TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Our Lady of Sorrows)

FOCUS: Mary suffered seven sorrows as the mother of Jesus.

The Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows honors the spiritual martyrdom of Mary, who suffered seven sorrows as the mother of Jesus. We are reminded of her compassion and her faithfulness in the midst of unspeakable evil.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul writes to the Corinthians that as a body has many parts, and all parts make up a body, so also in Christ. They *are Christ's Body, and individually parts of it*, each with different gifts and roles. In the Gospel, while on the cross, Jesus commends the care of his mother, and his beloved disciple, to each other.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord, the giver of all spiritual gifts, bestow on her every good thing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our civil leaders, may God shepherd them in their governance of those whom they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who grieve, may they find solace through the intercession of Mary, Our Lady of Sorrows, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here in this holy place, may the Lord continue to help us grow closer to him in all that we do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may their souls be received into the eternal life and peace of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Wednesday, September 16, 2020
(Lec. 445)

- 1) 1 Corinthians 12:31–13:13
- 2) Luke 7:31-35

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

FOCUS: Focusing on love as the highest virtue and pursuit helps us grow in relationship with God.

It is easy to become set in our ways of thinking and miss the very things God is showing us in order to help us grow in relationship with him. But today's readings give us insight into overcoming this difficulty. Focusing on love – as the highest virtue and pursuit – will make it easier for us to receive and comprehend the wisdom God intends for us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul describes to the Corinthians the true practice of love, and emphasizes its importance above all other virtues and pursuits. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the crowd that although they neither accepted the asceticism of John the Baptist nor agree with the table fellowship of Jesus, the actions of both John and Jesus are rooted in wisdom.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us unite our hearts and lift up our prayers to the Lord, who is loving and merciful.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may the Lord increase in us the virtues of faith, hope, and charity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who govern, may the Spirit of wisdom guide them in their service, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all families who are facing brokenness and discord, may the Lord strengthen them in their commitment to love one another through times of joy and challenge, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the Lord continue to draw us into greater communion with each other, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved departed, may Saints Cornelius and Cyprian, and all the angels, saints, and martyrs, greet them with our Lord in his Kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving and eternal Father, hear and answer these prayers we have brought before you in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Thursday, September 17, 2020
(Lec. 446)

- 1) 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
- 2) Luke 7:36-50

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

FOCUS: If we seek God's forgiveness and mercy, we will receive it.

Throughout the Gospels, we often hear Jesus say to people who have thrown themselves at his mercy: "Your faith has saved you." It is frequently associated with the healing of a physical disease or deformity, but sometimes, like today, it is an inner healing – a cleansing of the soul. If we repent, we will be forgiven.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Paul reminds the Corinthians of the Gospel he preached to them, through which they are being saved if they hold fast to it: *That Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures*. In the Gospel, Jesus dines with a Pharisee in his home. While there, a sinful woman repents and, through her actions and faith, is forgiven of her sins by Jesus.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us now offer our humble petitions to the Lord.

- 1) For the Church, may Christ the Good Shepherd lead all lost sheep back to the fold, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders across the globe, may their hearts be swayed by God's law to respect life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those whose loved ones have suffered from the effects of the global pandemic, may God console them in their grief, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the students in our faith community, may the Holy Spirit enlighten them in truth and give them joy in their studies, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have recently died, may they enjoy eternal life through the mercy of our loving God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, we ask you to accept our petitions in the name of your Son, Jesus the Lord.

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Friday, September 18, 2020

(Lec. 447)

1) 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

2) Luke 8:1-3

FRIDAY OF
24TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: As disciples of Jesus, let us proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God.

In today's first reading, Paul points out the paradox and logical fallacy that the Corinthians are living when they proclaim Christ's resurrection while simultaneously arguing there can be no bodily resurrection. His message, while specific to that particular community, is also universal: By our profession of faith we proclaim a truth that we are meant to live and embody.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul asks the Corinthians how it is they can say *there is no resurrection of the dead*. For he has preached Christ as risen, and their *faith is vain* otherwise. In the Gospel, Jesus continues traveling and preaching the Gospel while accompanied by the Twelve and several women, including Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Susanna.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident that the Lord hears us with compassion, let us pray for the needs around us.

- 1) That the Lord may bless and graciously watch over his Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That Christ may guide the hearts and minds of those who govern, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who suffer persecution may find freedom through Christ's mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That teachers and catechists in our community may be blessed with a joyful heart and a spirit of wisdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may someday rise in glory with Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God in heaven, you sent your Son to show us the way. Hear the prayers we now bring before you, and grant them according to your holy will. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, September 19, 2020
(Lec. 448)

- 1) 1 Corinthians 15:35-37,
42-49
- 2) Luke 8:4-15

SATURDAY OF
24TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Januarius,
Bishop and Martyr;
Saturday in honor
of BVM)

FOCUS: Through God's mercy and our faith, we will be remade in Christ's image.

In answering the Corinthians' question regarding how the dead are raised, Paul uses an agricultural analogy: The form of what is sown (*a bare kernel of wheat, perhaps*) is not the form of what is reaped. In God's great mercy, and through our perseverance in faith, our resurrected bodies will be more like Christ's body, the source of life. To conform to Christ, our hearts must be rich soil. We must hear the word of God and act on it.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul writes to the Corinthians that just as what they sow must die to bring forth new life, so will their natural bodies be transformed after their death. In the Gospel, Jesus tells a crowd the parable of the sower and explains its meaning to the disciples. Those who embrace the word of God will *bear fruit through perseverance*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With humble hearts, we come before the Lord, trusting him with our needs and petitions.

- 1) For the Church, may the seeds of the Gospel planted within her be nourished by the Spirit and bear much fruit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may the Holy Spirit guide their decision-making and help them grow in charity and generosity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For farmers, may the Lord bless their hard work and loving care for the land and reward them with a bountiful harvest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may the word of God find in us a rich soil for bearing good fruit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all our loved ones who have gone before us in faith, may they one day rise to new life with Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, you have planted the seed of the Word in our hearts and nourished our faith. Hear the prayers we bring before you in that faith, we ask through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

(Lec. 133)

- 1) Isaiah 55:6-9
- 2) Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a
- 3) Matthew 20:1-16a

**25TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: God's love and mercy are never-ending.

Isaiah advises us to *seek the Lord*, an activity we might think of as being complete as soon as we come to believe in him. But really, this is an invitation to grace – a grace that is constant, always available, and generous in its forgiveness. It is a promise of deep and perpetual care by a God who is completely different from us in his thoughts and ways, and yet never-ending in his love and mercy.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah encourages his people to *seek the Lord* and ask for his mercy – God whose thoughts are so far above their own. Saint Paul tells the Philippians that *Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death*. And though Paul longs to be with Jesus in the next life, it is better that he remains with them. In the Gospel, Jesus tells a parable about workers in a vineyard, emphasizing the generosity of the landowner to all who labored.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us turn to God, who is generous in mercy and forgiveness, presenting the needs of the world before him.

- 1) For all who have sought and found the Lord in his holy Church, and for those who are in the process of finding their way, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For political and national leaders, and for all who assist them in exercising their authority, may God open their hearts to his guidance, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are unemployed or underemployed, and for those who seek to help them, may the Lord provide for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who cannot be physically present with us today in this sacred assembly, may the Lord's peace come upon them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they experience the eternal joy of the heavenly Kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of abundance and generosity, we ask that you hear our prayers and grant them according to your holy will, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Monday, September 21, 2020
(Lec. 643)

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

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

FOCUS: Jesus came not to call the righteous, but sinners.

In honoring Saint Matthew, we recall that every Christian has been called by Christ Jesus and been given gifts to assist in the work of salvation. Let us pray that we will each have the courage to respond to Christ's invitation with the same immediacy and commitment as Matthew, who left all and followed him.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul urges the Ephesians to *live in a manner worthy of the call [they] have received*, for each of them has been given grace for *building up the Body of Christ*. In the Gospel, Jesus tells Matthew the tax collector to follow him, and says to the Pharisees, *I did not come to call the righteous but sinners*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Having listened to God's word, let us bring our prayers to the Father with courage and faith.

- 1) For Church leaders, may the peace and mind of Christ be their guide and their strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all in civil power and authority, may Christ strengthen their conviction for peace and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are facing difficult trials and challenges in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the outpouring of the Holy Spirit continue to make us holy in the sight of God, 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: Almighty and eternal Father, as we celebrate Saint Matthew, we ask that you hear our prayers and answer them according to your holy will. Through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, September 22, 2020
(Lec. 450)

- 1) Proverbs 21:1-6, 10-13
- 2) Luke 8:19-21

TUESDAY OF
25TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: *Those who hear the word of God and act on it* are members of the family of God.

The word of God is living and true, so it is as applicable today as when it was written. By receiving the gift of God's commands and living accordingly, we become members of the family of God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In a collection of proverbs, the author warns that the arrogant, lying, and wicked will find ruin. The Lord prefers right actions to empty sacrifices. While Jesus is teaching a crowd, his family tries to see him. Jesus says, *My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and act on it.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together, let us turn our hearts in prayer to our loving Father.

- 1) For the faithful throughout the world, may the Lord increase in us the virtues of faith, hope, and charity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For policymakers, may the Holy Spirit inspire them in working for the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are burdened by the need for safety, shelter, and sustenance, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish family, may the Lord strengthen our identity as one family in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may the Lord welcome them to the eternal joy of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, you never cease to love us. Graciously hear our prayers, which we bring to you through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, September 23, 2020
(Lec. 451)

- 1) Proverbs 30:5-9
- 2) Luke 9:1-6

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

FOCUS: Depend on God and take refuge in his Word.

The Twelve sent by Christ did not need to carry provisions; the Word they shared from village to village was enough to sustain them and inspire the hospitality of those who converted. If we carry with us more than we need, we forget that we depend on God and his Word in Christ.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Proverbs says that God *is a shield to those who take refuge* in him. The author prays for help in refraining from lying or giving falsehood, and to receive only the food he needs. In the Gospel, Jesus sends the Twelve *to proclaim the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick*. They take nothing for the journey, relying on the hospitality of those who accept the Word.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Relying on God and his Word as the source of all we need, we offer our prayers to the Lord.

- 1) That the Word of God alive in his Church may raise up more missionaries and charity workers for the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That leaders of nations may be moved by the Holy Spirit to depend more on God than on worldly power, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are overwhelmed by difficulties may be blessed with the Lord's consolation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That our faith community may continue to grow in faith and love as we work to spread the good news of God's kingdom on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may be given eternal refuge with Christ in his Kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, our refuge and shield, grant us what we need for our journey of faith, we ask through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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Thursday, September 24, 2020
(Lec. 452)

- 1) Ecclesiastes 1:2-11
- 2) Luke 9:7-9

THURSDAY OF
25TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God helps us grow in our faith and knowledge of him.

During this Ordinary Time in the Church calendar, we have the privilege of learning more and more about Jesus' life and ministry. Seeing him in his daily interactions as God-made-man helps us grow in our faith. Where Ecclesiastes addresses futility and emptiness, Jesus speaks of salvation and God's promise fulfilled – drawing many, including Herod – to *[try] to see him*.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The author of Ecclesiastes cries out that *All things are vanity!* speaking to the futility and emptiness of the life as they are living it. In Luke's Gospel, Herod grapples with what to think when he hears about Jesus in the aftermath of John the Baptist's beheading.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Filled with hope and trust in the Father, let us join in love to present our petitions to him.

- 1) For our Holy Father and other Church leaders, may the grace of God sustain them as they guide their flocks, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in leadership positions throughout the world, may the Holy Spirit inspire them in working for peace instead of war, and charity instead of greed, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from chronic illness and those who care for them, may the Lord relieve their pain and uplift their spirits, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us here, may the hope of Christ burn in our hearts and inspire our sharing of God's message of salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed who have left this world to join the communion of saints, may they rejoice in the loving embrace of the Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we offer these petitions with gratitude and love, asking that you receive them in your gracious mercy, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Friday, September 25, 2020
(Lec. 453)

- 1) Ecclesiastes 3:1-11
- 2) Luke 9:18-22

FRIDAY OF
25th WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: If we follow Jesus, we, too, can proclaim the truth that he is *the Christ of God*.

Christ asks his friends who the crowds believe him to be, and it is clear the crowds know their people's history because they have claimed him to be an important Scripture figure of the past. But Christ represents the future, and Peter, who has followed him and come to know him, rightly speaks the truth when he answers. Jesus' friends have come to know his identity through what God has revealed to them, and because of the time they have spent with him.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the author of Ecclesiastes says *There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every thing under the heavens*. He then gives numerous examples. In the Gospel, Jesus asks his disciples, *Who do the crowds say that I am?* They give many answers in reply, but Peter responds to the question of who *he* says Jesus is by saying, *[you are] the Christ of God*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We lift our joys and our sorrows to our merciful Father, and ask that he hear our prayers.

- 1) For the pope, our bishop, the clergy, and lay ministers, may the Holy Spirit continue to guide them in faith and hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials and those who advise them, may the wisdom of the Lord imbue their work for the common good and care for the vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are suffering because of violence or hatred, may God restore peace and security again to their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may God give us the courage to use our gifts to bear good fruit for the Kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died knowing that Jesus is *the Christ of God*, may they enjoy the light of God's love for eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we turn to you with our prayers and petitions. Have mercy on us and grant what we ask of you, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, September 26, 2020
(Lec. 454)

- 1) Ecclesiastes 11:9–12:8
- 2) Luke 9:43b-45

SATURDAY OF
25TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saints Cosmas and Damian,
Martyrs;
Saturday in honor
of BVM)

FOCUS: We all experience joy and suffering in life, and can trust God through it all.

Today we reflect on both the joys and the sufferings that are part of our earthly lives. The reading from Ecclesiastes provides images that describe the beauty that life holds, as well as the loss. Jesus embodies this contrast: While he heals and cures, and people are amazed at his miracles, he also faces terrible suffering and death. We all experience joy and suffering in life, and can trust God through it all.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The author of Ecclesiastes provides contrasting images of life: Encouraging the listener to rejoice in its good things and to be aware of and prepare for aging and death. In the Gospel, Jesus predicts his own suffering, but his disciples do not understand him and are afraid to ask about it further.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us turn to our Creator and loving Father with our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For the leaders of the Church, may the Holy Spirit continue to sustain and inspire them in their ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the world, may God guide all people in their efforts to combat and treat global health threats, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, especially those struggling with chronic illness, anxiety, or depression, and for those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our local community, and for all who work to ensure its health and safety, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls of the faithful departed, may they be welcomed into the heavenly kingdom by the communion of 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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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

(Lec. 136)

- 1) Ezekiel 18:25-28
- 2) Philippians 2:1-11 or 2:1-5
- 3) Matthew 21:28-32

**26TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: In love, God waits for us to turn to him.

The Father calls each of us, daughters and sons, to participate in his work. Will we go to his vineyard? Even if we have said “no” 10 times, we can turn around! With the Father’s help, we can turn from disobedience to obedience – from sinfulness to grace. The Father waits patiently, and is always welcoming.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In our first reading, the Lord speaks to Israel through the prophet Ezekiel and tells them that the wicked who turn from sin shall live. In today’s Epistle, Paul exhorts the Philippians to live in unity, taking Jesus as their example of humility. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the two sons whose father asks them to work in the vineyard; the first son refuses, but later obeys.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Called to be disciples, let us offer our prayers to the Lord in confidence.

- 1) For the holy Church on earth, may the power of the Holy Spirit help us to love one another and live in unity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in positions of authority, may the Lord lead them in their efforts toward protecting all human life from conception to natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the unemployed and underemployed, may God in his goodness help them find work that will provide for their needs, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may we grow in mercy and compassion, joyfully imitating Christ our Savior, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith, may they rejoice with the saints in God’s everlasting kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: We thank you, Father, for your steadfast love and abundant grace. Please hear and answer our prayers this day according to your holy will. We ask through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Monday, September 28, 2020

(Lec. 455)

- 1) Job 1:6-22
- 2) Luke 9:46-50

MONDAY OF
26TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Wenceslaus,
Martyr;
Saint Lawrence Ruiz and Companions,
Martyrs)

FOCUS: God's love is unconditional, timeless, and boundless.

Job's fidelity and faithfulness to God was not dependent on the blessings of his prosperity; it was predicated on the simple fact that God is God. *Blessed be the name of the Lord!* he cries out during what were probably the worst moments of his life. In doing so, Job demonstrated a love of God that mirrored God's love for him: Unconditional, timeless, and boundless.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Satan and the Lord discuss the faithfulness of Job, and God allows Satan to test that faithfulness. But Job continues to bless the Lord even as he grieves the sudden loss of his wealth and children. In the Gospel, the disciples argue among themselves as to who is the greatest. John complains about someone *casting out demons in [Jesus'] name*. Jesus responds, *Do not prevent him, for whoever is not against you is for you.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With humble and faithful hearts, we call upon the Lord our God to hear our prayers.

- 1) That God may continue to look graciously upon his holy Church and fill her people with spiritual gifts and graces, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the Lord may rescue the world from the ravages of evil and sin, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That God may comfort those who are grieving the death of a loved one, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the unconditional and boundless love of God may help those of us gathered here to love one another in the same manner, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died in baptism with Christ may find lasting peace and eternal refuge at God's right hand, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful God, incline your ear to us and hear our words of prayer. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, September 29, 2020
(Lec. 647)

- 1) Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
or Revelation 12:7-12a
- 2) John 1:47-51

**SAINTS MICHAEL,
GABRIEL AND RAPHAEL,
ARCHANGELS
- FEAST**

FOCUS: We are not left alone in the struggle between good and evil.

Today's first reading is a microcosm of every superhero story ever told. In fact, it is the *original* tale of good defeating evil. Michael and his archangels defeat the power of Satan – a cosmic representation of Christ's defeat of sin and death. And while, because of our sinfulness, the struggle between good and evil still exists, we find strength as citizens of the kingdom God established. Knowing we do not fight temptation alone – that grace abounds and that we have recourse to it – helps us to choose good over evil and so one day rejoice with these saints and angels in the fullness of God's kingdom.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Michael and his angels fight the serpent-dragon. The devil is defeated by Michael, and there is rejoicing in the establishment of God's kingdom. In the Gospel, Jesus calls Nathanael, who recognizes him as the Messiah. Jesus promises his new disciple that he will see great things, such as angels with the Son of Man.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Gathered as one to celebrate all we have received from God, we humbly offer our prayers before him.

- 1) That God may send his angels and archangels to protect the Church from the snares of the devil, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That nations and peoples divided by war may be led by the Spirit in seeking common ground and nonviolent solutions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who cannot practice their faith openly may be upheld and strengthened through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the grace of the Eucharist may strengthen us to choose good over evil in our daily lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our beloved dead may be welcomed by Christ to their heavenly home, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God, you triumphed over evil and established your Kingdom forever. In your eternal goodness, hear and answer our prayers, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Wednesday, September 30, 2020
(Lec. 457)

- 1) Job 9:1-12, 14-16
- 2) Luke 9:57-62

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

FOCUS: Recognizing the priority of Christ in our lives.

Jesus' words in today's Gospel were meant to remind his listeners that following him was not something to do without total commitment. Committing first to Christ results in all other aspects of one's life being put naturally into proper order. The things we do, the familial obligations we have, are not set as prerequisites to following Jesus, but are conformed to the life of discipleship and given purpose and meaning because of it.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Job asks, *how can a man be justified before God?* For the might and strength of God and his command of all of creation are *beyond reckoning*. In the Gospel, Jesus tells those who wish to follow him to *let the dead bury their dead*. For, *No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the Kingdom of God*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord raise up for her glory modern saints and scholars in the likeness of Saint Jerome, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the whole world, may it know the peace and salvation of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For families in difficult circumstances, may God guide them through trials and comfort them in their distress, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all gathered here today, may the Lord help us to be more attentive in understanding his Word and putting it into action, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they know the fullness of God's love this day, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, hear the prayers of all who seek to follow your ways in a life pleasing to you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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