

# AUGUST

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**SUNDAY, AUGUST 1, 2021**

(Lec. 113)

- 1) Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15
- 2) Ephesians 4:17, 20-24
- 3) John 6:24-35

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

FOCUS: Do not work for food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life.

As we listen to the Discourse on the Bread of Life, we are reminded that on the journey of life, no matter its twists and turns, the Lord continues to travel with us and to care for us, nourishing us with heavenly food as he once fed the Israelites in the desert.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

As the Israelites wander through the desert, the Lord hears their cry and feeds them with bread from heaven. Saint Paul challenges the Ephesians to walk in the way of *righteousness and holiness of truth* so that their lives are different from nonbelievers. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the people not to work for food that perishes, saying, *I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As God's holy people, we acknowledge his kindness and faithfulness throughout the generations as we bring our needs before him.

- 1) For the Church, may the gift of the Eucharist nourish our souls and help us work together to seek the fulfillment of the reign of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who exercise authority, may the Holy Spirit guide them in right judgment, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For refugees who have fled their homelands for safety, may God grant them relief through the kindness of his people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the elders of our community, especially those who are isolated, may the Lord grant them perseverance in faith and hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they be welcomed to the eternal banquet in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, listen to the prayers of your people. If it is your will, grant what we have asked. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, August 2, 2021  
(Lec. 407)

- 1) Numbers 11:4b-15
- 2) Matthew 14:13-21

MONDAY OF  
18<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Eusebius of Vercelli,  
Bishop;  
Saint Peter Julian Eymard,  
Priest)

FOCUS: God satisfies our every hunger.

Today's readings reveal God's great love for us through the power of miracles. In our hunger, God does not abandon us, but rather provides for us. In faith, we trust that God is with us. Through him, we are nourished and fed.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Israelites lament, recalling their previous life and the food they regularly ate, even though God has provided them manna. In the Gospel, Jesus miraculously feeds the crowd of five thousand from just five loaves and two fish. The entire crowd eats, and there are still leftovers.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Knowing that God provides for our every need, we bring our prayers together with one voice.

- 1) For the Church in its ministry to those who hunger, may God continue to pour out his abundant grace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For peace in the world, and for the salvation of souls, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are hungry or face food insecurity, may the Lord meet their needs and bring us to respond with compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may God help us encourage one another in faith through our prayers and presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may God's light lead them to his everlasting kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of abundance, you have provided for our every need throughout salvation history. Listen to our longings today, we ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, August 3, 2021  
(Lec. 408)

- 1) Numbers 12:1-13
- 2) Matthew 14:22-36  
or Matthew 15:1-2, 10-14

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

FOCUS: We fix our eyes on Jesus, the guiding star amid the storm.

Doubt is part of the human condition. Our vision often is blurry; we do not see God as we ought. Nevertheless, Jesus reaches out to us, as he did to rescue Peter from the stormy water. Jesus never ceases to be our guiding star if we have the courage to weather the storm and fix our eyes on him alone.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Miriam and Aaron complain and speak against Moses, which angers the Lord. He turns Miriam into a leper, but Moses pleads on her behalf. In the Gospel, Jesus comes to meet the disciples in their boat by *walking on the sea*. They are afraid, but he tells them to *take courage*. Peter attempts to walk on the water, but begins to sink out of fear. Those in the boat say, *Truly, you are the Son of God*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With God as our loving Father, let us bring our prayers before him.

- 1) For all those in leadership in the Church, may they be guided by the Holy Spirit in their efforts to share the Gospel message, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For local, state, and national leaders, may they protect the dignity of life at all stages when making laws and policies, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those experiencing doubt, may Jesus reveal himself and assure them of his abiding love and presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the members of this faith community, may the light of Christ shine upon us and those we encounter, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked by the sign of faith, may God grant them pardon and eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of heaven and earth, you know what is best for each of us. We entrust our petitions into your loving care, through your Son, Jesus Christ.

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Wednesday, August 4, 2021  
(Lec. 409)

- 1) Numbers 13:1-2, 25-14:1,  
26-29a, 34-35
- 2) Matthew 15:21-28

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

FOCUS: Finding our strength in faith.

Our Liturgy of the Word today explores what it means to have faith, revealing a marked contrast between the feeble faith of the Israelites in the first reading and the tremendous faith of the Canaanite woman in the Gospel. Both readings demonstrate the impact our faith can have on our lives.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Israelites are greatly worried after seeing the strength of the people occupying the land of Canaan, and they grumble against the Lord. The Lord rebukes them and gives them 40 more years in the desert. In the Gospel, Jesus encounters a Canaanite woman who asks him for help. Because of her faith, her daughter is healed.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In faith, let us bring our prayers together before the Lord.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all his brother bishops around the world, may the Lord bless and protect them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For police, firefighters, first responders, and others who keep our communities safe, may the Lord protect and guide them in all they do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who care for the sick or infirm, may the Lord give them strength in their daily work, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us gathered here, may the Lord increase our faith and help us when we falter, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may the Lord shine his light of peace upon them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, we ask you to hear and answer our prayers according to your will, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, August 5, 2021  
(Lec. 410)

- 1) Numbers 20:1-13
- 2) Matthew 16:13-23

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

FOCUS: Let us take the time to see God's glory prominent in our own lives.

Each of today's readings have a story reflecting God's glory: from a rock comes living water; upon the rock of Peter will be the living water of the Church. One way we can grow in faith is to take the time to see God's glory prominent in our own lives. That we live, and breathe, and have being at all is due to the Lord. Yet there are other "rocks" in our foundation that show the Lord's marvelous works. As we reflect on these and express our gratitude, we can grow closer to God.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the community grumbles against Moses and the Lord, concerned over their struggles and lack of water. The Lord instructs Moses to bring forth water from a rock. In the Gospel, Peter declares Jesus to be *the Christ, the Son of the living God*. Jesus commends Peter and says that the Church will be built upon him. But soon after, Jesus rebukes Peter for his refusal to accept what must happen to Jesus.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Longing for peace, we bring our concerns before God together with one voice.

- 1) For the holy Church and its mission to build God's kingdom on earth, may Christ's glory shine in her, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all of those who hold elected office, may they be led by the Gospel in their development of policies, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all of those who hunger or thirst, may God satisfy their every need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us called to witness to Christ's glory, may God increase our understanding to do his will, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they soon find their place at the table of Christ's heavenly feast, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, you sent your only Son to bring us redemption. Hear our prayers that we place before you today, we ask through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Friday, August 6, 2021  
(Lec. 614)

**THE TRANSFIGURATION  
OF THE LORD  
- FEAST**

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

FOCUS: The glory of our Lord Jesus Christ is real.

On this feast of the Transfiguration, we celebrate that “Christ, Head of the Church, manifests what his Body contains and radiates in the sacraments: ‘the hope of glory’ (CCC 568). The vision in Daniel of the Son of Man receiving dominion and kingship prefigures the Transfiguration: a moment when Christ is revealed as God’s word fulfilled, and whose glorious appearance gives us hope for our own resurrection into eternal life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the author speaks of a vision, where *the Ancient One took his throne*. He was ministered to by multitudes of thousands, and *one like a Son of Man* came to him and *received dominion, glory, and kingship*. In the second reading, Peter recounts witnessing Jesus’ majesty and hearing God’s voice declare Jesus as his Son with whom he is *well pleased*. In the Gospel, Jesus is transfigured before Peter, James, and John, while Elijah and Moses appear to them. Peter wishes to make tents for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah, but Jesus instructs them to tell no one of what they had seen.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we celebrate our one true Savior, we bring our needs to our merciful Father.

- 1) For the pope and all those who shepherd the body of Christ, may the Lord bless and strengthen them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all public servants, may the Holy Spirit inspire them to protect and defend the dignity and sanctity of human life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who struggle with depression or abandonment, may they know God’s constant presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the young people in this faith community, may the Holy Spirit fill them with a zeal for the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they soon find eternal peace in the glory of God’s presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Saturday, August 7, 2021  
(Lec. 412)

- 1) Deuteronomy 6:4-13
- 2) Matthew 17:14-20

SATURDAY OF  
18<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Sixtus II, Pope,  
and Companions, Martyrs;  
Saint Cajetan, Priest;  
Saturday in honor  
of BVM)

FOCUS: Love, serve, and trust in God no matter what is happening in your life.

Today's readings caution against forgetting God when things are going well (thus forgetting to thank God for his gifts) or losing faith when faced with difficulty or illness, like the disciples who were unable to drive out the demon. Moses reminds us we must love God completely at all times and teach others to do likewise.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Moses commands the Israelites to love God with all their heart, soul, and strength. He also reminds them not to forget the Lord who brought them out of Egypt and slavery. Jesus heals a boy whom the disciples could not heal. Jesus tells them it is because of their *little faith*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the same Jesus who healed the sick, we bring our prayers to our heavenly Father.

- 1) For the Church, as the Mystical Body of Christ, may she grow and prosper in the Lord's saving work, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all in leadership positions, may the Lord guide them in using their talents for the good of all they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For victims and survivors of human trafficking, may they find hope in God's love and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the Holy Spirit continue to increase our love for the Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may the Lord welcome them into his heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we praise you for your goodness. Look with favor on the petitions we bring you today, which we ask in the name of Jesus, your Son.

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**SUNDAY, AUGUST 8, 2021**

(Lec. 116)

- 1) 1 Kings 19:4-8
- 2) Ephesians 4:30-5:2
- 3) John 6:41-51

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

FOCUS: God gives us bread to inspire and sustain us.

Today's readings give much encouragement for those times when we feel like giving up on ourselves or on God. Whether our murmuring is negative self-talk or sarcastic memes on social media, consider taking a break from negativity. Get up, take and eat the bread of life, and live in Christ's love.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Elijah prays for death. But an *angel of the Lord* tells him to *get up and eat*. Elijah does, then walks for 40 days and nights to Mount Horeb. Saint Paul urges the Ephesians to *be imitators of God*. In the Gospel, Jesus declares that he is the bread of life which he will give *for the life of the world*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Taking comfort in God's bountiful provisions, let us bring our prayers to the Lord.

- 1) For all baptized in the Church, may the Holy Spirit aid us in our imitation of Christ's sacrificial love and forgiveness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who are serving in government and civic leadership, may the Lord give them hearts of compassion and wisdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those overwhelmed by life's circumstances and difficulties, may the peace of Christ bring them relief and consolation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For each of us here, may the Lord help us grow in compassion toward one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they soon bask in the eternal light of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, listen to our prayers and grant all that is good. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Monday, August 9, 2021  
(Lec. 413)

- 1) Deuteronomy 10:12-22
- 2) Matthew 17:22-27

MONDAY OF  
19<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross,  
Virgin and Martyr)

FOCUS: The law of the Lord is justice and love.

Today's reading from Deuteronomy presents an understanding of God's law as an expression of reciprocal love. God provides the law for our own well-being, and we show our love for God by following his commandments and serving our neighbors.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Moses summarizes what the Lord asks of his people: to love and serve the Lord with their whole being and to keep the commandments. They are also to imitate God's love for orphans, widows, and aliens. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that the Son of Man will be killed and then *raised on the third day*. Then Jesus and Peter discuss the obligation to pay the temple tax.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Remembering all that the Lord has done for us, we now bring our petitions to him.

- 1) That Christian missionaries may be kept safe, and that their work may always reflect the goodness of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That leaders throughout the world may be blessed with the integrity and strength necessary to seek justice for all their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That our care for today's orphans, widows, and aliens may imitate God's love for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That we who are gathered here may experience conversion of heart to love and serve the Lord with our whole being, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died may be welcomed into the heavenly kingdom to dwell forever in God's presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, we entrust our prayers to you in the hope that what we have asked in faith we may obtain, through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, August 10, 2021  
(Lec. 618)

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

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

FOCUS: God honors those who serve him.

Sow bountifully ... reap bountifully. God, the giver of all good gifts, has given us everything; what we give him in return he will multiply for the sake of the world. As with a grain of wheat, the Lord will bring forth great fruit from our dying to self and serving him.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul exhorts the Corinthian community to cheerful generosity in response to the abundant generosity of God. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it cannot produce fruit.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust in our loving God, let us bring him our prayers.

- 1) For Pope Francis and Church leaders, may the Lord give them holy vision and courage in ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all legal professionals, attorneys, and judges, may God bless their efforts to seek truth and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from addiction, may the Holy Spirit give them strength in finding peace in their lives and help for their pain, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may God give us the grace to become cheerful givers to our Church and to those in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may God grant them eternal rest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord, your grace and mercy are all we need, yet you lovingly receive our requests. Hear these petitions and answer them according to your holy will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, August 11, 2021  
(Lec. 415)

- 1) Deuteronomy 34:1-12
- 2) Matthew 18:15-20

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

FOCUS: Jesus tells us that when we are gathered together in his name, he is in our midst.

Jesus assures us that he is with us when we come together in worship and prayer. In building a community in his name, with Jesus among us, there is no end to what we can accomplish. We are called to offer forgiveness to those who have hurt us, and to invite others to join us on our mission.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Moses' mission to lead the children of Israel to the Promised Land is complete, but he will not be allowed to enter and so he dies in the land of Moab. Joshua is now the leader of the Israelites. In the Gospel, Jesus instructs his disciples on how to deal with sins and faults between them, as whatever they bind and loose on earth shall also be done so in heaven. He assures them, *where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.*

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We know that God is with us as we gather in his name. And so we join together in prayer as we place our petitions before him.

- 1) For our Holy Father, bishops, and all who lead our communities of faith, may they be strengthened by God's love and mercy in their lives of service, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For politicians and government leaders throughout the world, may God's peace come upon them and the nations they lead, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have been impacted by natural disaster, war, or extreme illness, may God bless them with strength and courage, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our community who have experienced the loss of a loved one, may God's light show them the way through the darkness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may God open his arms to them as they pass over into eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we ask that you look with favor on these petitions offered by this assembly gathered to honor you. We ask this through Jesus, your Son.

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Thursday, August 12, 2021  
(Lec. 416)

- 1) Joshua 3:7-10a, 11, 13-17
- 2) Matthew 18:21-19:1

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

FOCUS: Forgive unceasingly, lest we be judged by our own measure of mercy.

How many of us have had experiences with others that have tried our patience? Or perhaps we ourselves hurt others with our words and actions? Jesus' command to forgive seventy-seven times is meant for every one of these situations. Each small, even internal gesture of patience and mercy could be the training we need to cultivate a divine magnanimity.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Joshua and the children of Israel finally enter into the Promised Land of Canaan. They do so by crossing the Jordan River, which has been miraculously dried up and halted by the presence of the Ark of the Covenant in its waters. In the Gospel, Jesus tells Peter that he must forgive *not seven times, but seventy-seven times*, then tells a parable about a master showing a servant mercy.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Standing firmly in the shelter of the Lord, let us present our needs to him this day.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may she grow in unity, mercy, and holiness, by God's power and grace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may the Holy Spirit guide them in their creation of legislation protecting the unborn, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are alone, may God's merciful love enfold and encourage them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the Lord inspire us in the use of our time, talent, and treasure, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, especially those who have no one to pray for them, may they rest in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, hear our earnest prayers through your abundant mercy. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, August 13, 2021  
(Lec. 417)

- 1) Joshua 24:1-13
- 2) Matthew 19:3-12

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

FOCUS: The Lord is good and merciful, watching over his people, keeping them from the grasp of their enemies.

Today's Scriptures are a reminder of the watchful and protective nature of the Lord. Joshua offers a short history of the Lord's care of Israel, offering them their enemies and their lands. Jesus himself evades the snare of his enemies by deftly answering a question on marriage that the Pharisees use to test him.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Joshua gathers the people of Israel and recounts the deliverance of their enemies and their lands into their possession. In the Gospel, the Pharisees test Jesus by asking him, *Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause whatever?*

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us now offer our prayers to the Lord, whose mercy endures forever.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we be ever united in the mission of spreading the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For diplomats, ambassadors, and other government officials who strive to bring about peace among nations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For families who face the challenges of illness, addiction, or division, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may we have the grace to be faithful to Jesus' command to love one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they joyfully claim their citizenship in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, we give thanks to you, for your endless mercy. We ask that you listen to the prayers we offer to you, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, August 14, 2021  
(Lec. 418)

- 1) Joshua 24:14-29
- 2) Matthew 19:13-15

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

FOCUS: Children are models for Christian discipleship.

Today in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus holds children up as examples of citizens of the kingdom of heaven. One way young children differ from adults is their lack of preconceived notions. What faults in our ways of thinking keep us from experiencing and sharing the joy of heaven on earth?

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, as Joshua's final days approach, he gathers all of the tribes of Israel and renews the covenant with all who recommit to turn away from other idols and to serve the Lord. In the Gospel, Jesus dismisses the rebuke of those who brought children to him, saying, *let the children come to me, and do not prevent them.*

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With the openness and humility of a child, let us offer our prayers to our heavenly Father, confident in his love for us.

- 1) For consecrated religious men and women, may the Spirit set their hearts ablaze as they continue to grow in holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who serve in public office, may they be blessed with wisdom and judgment in promoting the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who struggle to find meaning in their lives, may the peace of Christ light their way, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our community seeking a deeper faith, may the infinite dimensions of Christ's love fill them with the fullness of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they live again in the perpetual light of our Father's love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Mighty God, all glory and power is yours. We beseech you to hear and answer our prayers through Christ, our Lord.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 2021**

(Lec. 622)

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

**THE ASSUMPTION  
OF THE  
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY  
- SOLEMNITY**

FOCUS: Mary, cause of our joy, pray for us.

The infant Jesus in Mary's womb was a cause for joy for Elizabeth and John, her unborn son. Christ is present in us through the gift of the Eucharist. Where is our joy? Does it overflow and draw others to know and love Mary's Son, Jesus? Mary is our model and our aid. She delights to intercede that all may trust Jesus.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

John's vision from Revelation tells of a great sign, a woman clothed with the sun and the dragon who stood ready to devour her child. God protected both mother and son. In the second reading, Paul encourages the Corinthians: as Christ has destroyed death, so through his resurrection, his believers, will be brought to life at the proper time. In the Gospel, Mary travels to visit Elizabeth. When Mary greets her, the infant in Elizabeth's womb *leaped for joy*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us turn to the Father with prayers for our Church and for the needs of the world.

- 1) For the Church on earth, may we, through the intercession of Mary, our Mother, continue to grow in faith, hope, and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders and all those entrusted with creating policy, may the Spirit of wisdom guide their decisions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are hungry for community and friendship, may the Lord provide for them, encouraging relationships of love and care, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For families in this faith community, may their daily interactions be animated by the Spirit of peace and unity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they know the joy of the resurrection as they see God's face in glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, your love for us is unfailing. Please answer our prayers this day according to your holy will, through Jesus Christ, your Son.

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Monday, August 16, 2021  
(Lec. 419)

- 1) Judges 2:11-19
- 2) Matthew 19:16-22

MONDAY OF  
20<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Stephen of Hungary)

FOCUS: God calls us to abandon false gods who cannot satisfy, and draws us to true fulfillment in him.

When we are tempted to turn to idols – things we find more important than God in our lives – and when we have difficulties, we can trust that God never rests in his pursuit of his people. God sent judges to the Israelites and he sends his beloved Son to us. Jesus longs to satisfy our ever-hungry hearts, and he meets us in Scripture and the sacraments.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Israelites turn again and again to false idols while God continues to send judges to restore his people. In the Gospel, the rich young man asks how to gain eternal life, but goes away sad when Jesus tells him to sell his many possessions and come, follow him.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident that our heavenly Father will hear our prayers, we bring him our petitions today.

- 1) For the pope and all those in the Church who serve the people of God, may the Lord bless them and keep them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected leaders, may the Lord's gracious mercy and generosity inform them in their civic duties, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering violence in their countries, communities, or homes, may God's peace overcome the turmoil and bring comfort and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may God show us the way to greater peace and unity as we strive to follow him and proclaim his Word, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rejoice in the treasure of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of mercy, hear our prayers and grant us all that we need. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

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Tuesday, August 17, 2021  
(Lec. 420)

- 1) Judges 6:11-24a
- 2) Matthew 19:23-30

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

FOCUS: Let us place our hope in Christ Jesus rather than in the things of this world.

God wants us to be happy. However, we are mistaken if we hope our possessions or human relationships will satisfy the longing of our hearts. Only God is the Creator and satisfier of our soul. As he promises, *everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands for the sake of my name will receive a hundred times more!*

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Gideon is visited by an angel and is sent by God to save Israel from their enemies. Gideon offers sacrifice in return. In the Gospel, Jesus warns his disciples about how difficult it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God, but also promises that for God all things are possible.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in the God through whom all things are possible, we offer these prayers today.

- 1) For leaders in the Church, may the Holy Spirit work through them in spreading the Good News, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For public authorities, may they be given courage and right judgment to bring about justice for all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who struggle with the idolatry of wealth or possessions, may they be freed from attachment and rest in Christ's abundant care, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may we be moved to generosity and a deeper trust in God, through the power of this sacrament, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they be granted eternal rest in the perfection of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Generous and loving God, we offer you these prayers today, and ask that you hear and answer them according to your will. Through Christ, our Lord.

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Wednesday, August 18, 2021  
(Lec. 421)

- 1) Judges 9:6-15
- 2) Matthew 20:1-16

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

FOCUS: God is always generous, offering salvation to whom he wills.

The kingdom of God is a gift, offered out of God's generosity. We are not the owners of this gift or the judges of who may be included. Exerting effort to compare ourselves to others or set forth expectations of God can lead to fruitless bitterness, because we see only the imperfections of human beings rather than the abundant mercy of God.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the citizens of Shechem and Beth-millo make Abimelech their king. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the generous landowner, who pays each a full day's wage despite the number of hours worked.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we prepare to celebrate the Eucharist, let us first bring our needs and intentions to our loving Father.

- 1) For our Church, may God continue to call forth servant leaders who exemplify love, humility, and an unwavering commitment to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our national and local leaders, may God awaken in them a special care for the most vulnerable among us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the anxious, the sick, and those suffering from addictions of any kind, may God protect them and grant them full health of mind and body, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may God unite us as sisters and brothers in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they experience fullness of joy with God and the saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Thursday, August 19, 2021  
(Lec. 422)

- 1) Judges 11:29-39a
- 2) Matthew 22:1-14

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

FOCUS: God desires the best for us, and wisdom helps us listen to him.

Today we see how Jephthah's rash vow gained him a military victory, but at the cost of his only child. The guests invited to the king's wedding feast responded with indifference and even violence. If nothing else, these two examples show us that God's desires for us are better than anything we can achieve on our own, and the wisdom to rely upon him and listen to him is a grace we need.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Jephthah makes a vow of a human sacrifice to gain a military victory. He ends up sacrificing his daughter. In the Gospel, Jesus tells a parable of a wedding feast, in which invitees ignore the king's invitation, even killing his servants. The king does away with them and invites others; one of them is expelled for not wearing a wedding garment.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God's bountiful goodness, let us bring our petitions to him.

- 1) For the leaders of the Church, may the Holy Spirit grant them his gift of prudence to shepherd his flock well, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civil authorities, may God give them the grace to carry out their duties with integrity and wisdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For single parents, may God bless them with the strength and support they need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may God inspire us with the spirit of stewardship in furthering his kingdom on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may the divine King greet them with joy at his heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, we look to your mercy and generosity to obtain these and all our needs, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Friday, August 20, 2021  
(Lec. 423)

- 1) Ruth 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22
- 2) Matthew 22:34-40

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

FOCUS: Love of God and neighbor are forever bound together as one.

“It is impossible to do one thing without the other.” This is a well-used phrase, and each one of us may have a particular example in mind when we hear it. Jesus says the same thing to us today, but with different words: *The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.* We cannot truly love God if we do not love our neighbor; and we cannot truly love our neighbor if we do not love God.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Ruth loses her husband, yet decides to go back to Judah with her mother-in-law, Naomi, instead of returning to her native land of Moab. In the Gospel, Jesus tells a scholar of the law that the greatest commandments are to love the Lord *with all your heart*, soul, and mind; and to *love your neighbor as yourself*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us turn now to the Lord with our petitions.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord continue to bless her with fortitude in her protection of the unborn and the dignity of all human life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders throughout the world, and for the prosperity and peaceful coexistence of all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are shut-in or lonely, may the Lord fill them with his presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us assembled here, and for the those who are part of our community but unable to be present with us today, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they rejoice forever with God in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of all power and compassion, we pray that you accept these prayers in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, August 21, 2021  
(Lec. 424)

- 1) Ruth 2:1-3, 8-11;  
4:13-17
- 2) Matthew 23:1-12

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

FOCUS: Like Ruth, we are called by God to live humble lives of service.

Ruth, a foreigner, and the great-grandmother of King David, is presented as an exemplary person. Welcomed into Boaz's house, she becomes his wife and gives birth to a son named Obed, *the father of Jesse, the father of David*. Through her humble life, salvation history continues to unfold toward the birth of Jesus.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Ruth, a Moabite, gathers grain in the field of Boaz. Because of her good reputation, he invites her to join his household and eventually marries her. Their son, Obed, will be the grandfather of King David. In the Gospel, Jesus compares the example of the scribes and Pharisees with their teaching and says to follow their teaching, not their example.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Knowing that God provides for us as he did for Ruth, let us present our prayers of petition.

- 1) For Pope Francis, may the gifts of the Holy Spirit continue to inspire his ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may their hearts be swayed by God's law to respect life and lead in truth and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who struggle to find meaning and direction in their lives, may Christ shine forth to light the path of hope in their search, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the people gathered here, may the grace of our baptism bear fruit in our lives as true disciples, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith, may they come to enjoy eternal rest in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of all people, hear our prayers today and answer them in your goodness. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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**SUNDAY, AUGUST 22, 2021**

(Lec. 122)

- 1) Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b
- 2) Ephesians 5:21-32  
or 5:2a, 25-32
- 3) John 6:60-69

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

FOCUS: The immense love God has for his people prompts us to love in return.

The theme for today's readings is fidelity between God and his people. How loyal are we to Jesus? Are we able to take Peter's words as our own? *Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.* How well do we even know the words of Jesus? Let us recommit ourselves to deepening our knowledge and love of the Lord.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Joshua and the tribes of Israel state their fidelity to the Lord God. In his Letter to the Ephesians, Saint Paul draws a parallel between a spousal relationship and the radical love between Christ and the Church. In the Gospel, Jesus proclaims that his words are *Spirit and life*, after which only some of his followers continued as disciples.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Secure in God's desire for our happiness and well-being, let us offer up our prayers for our neighbors, ourselves, and the world.

- 1) For priests and religious, may the Spirit shield them and strengthen them for the building of God's kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For an end to all war, and for those who work to secure peace among nations and people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are suffering from illness, may Christ, the Divine Physician, bring them complete healing and comfort, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who offer their time and talent in our faith community, may the Lord bless them and encourage them in their work, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls of the faithful departed, may they soon come to rest in the everlasting peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of unbroken promises, hear the humble prayers that we bring to you today. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Monday, August 23, 2021  
(Lec. 425)

- 1) 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 8b-10
- 2) Matthew 23:13-22

MONDAY OF  
21<sup>ST</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Rose of Lima,  
Virgin)

FOCUS: Jesus makes clear that those who profess faith in word are called to live faith in deeds.

Saint Paul's encouragement to the Thessalonians is an encouragement to us, too. When we live genuine and authentic lives of faith, we become witnesses to the truth that Jesus is Lord. However, as Jesus warns in the Gospel, it is easy to become hypocritical. His words should remind us to take seriously our actions and choices, and to examine if we are living the truths that we proclaim. The Gospel is good news – let us live it in word and deed!

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul greets his readers with peace and expresses his gratitude for their work and their faith in Jesus. He then shares with the Thessalonians the good fruit of their work – the faith of Christ spreading and others declaring Jesus as Lord. In the Gospel, Jesus offers stern warnings to scribes and Pharisees. He particularly warns against them being hypocrites.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our prayers to God, seeking what we need to be faithful to his ways.

- 1) For the holy Catholic Church, may the Lord continue to bless her as a pure and faithful presence in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may they be emboldened by God's divine providence in working for the good of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, the marginalized, and the oppressed, may the Lord graciously grant them healing and relief, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us gathered here today, may we be guided by the Spirit of wisdom and understanding in all that we do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they experience the true peace of Christ in the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, thank you for making us your sons and daughters. Hear our prayers this day as we bring them to you in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ.

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Tuesday, August 24, 2021  
(Lec. 629)

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

**SAINT BARTHOLOMEW,  
APOSTLE  
- FEAST**

FOCUS: Jesus invites us to witness the kingdom of God.

We, too, are invited to “come and see.” Jesus knows us before we know him. He beckons us to come and follow him, and tells us we will see great things. If we believe in him, we will one day see the new Jerusalem, the heavenly kingdom.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

John receives a vision of *the holy city Jerusalem*. It was radiant, with a high wall and twelve gates, and twelve foundation stones. In the Gospel, Philip brings Nathanael to Jesus, who tells Nathanael he saw him under the fig tree. When Nathanael then declares Jesus to be the Son of God, Jesus predicts he will see greater things.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With humble confidence in our gracious God, let us turn to him in prayer.

- 1) For our bishops, may the Holy Spirit continue to guide them in lives of holy service and leadership, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may they be blessed with the guidance of the Holy Spirit in making policies supporting the dignity and sanctity of life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick and suffering, may the Lord bring them healing of body and spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For each of us, may the Holy Spirit conform our hearts and minds ever more to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may the Lamb of God welcome them into the heavenly Jerusalem, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and ever-living Father, we ask you to look kindly upon the needs we bring before you today, in the name of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Wednesday, August 25, 2021  
(Lec. 427)  
1) 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13  
2) Matthew 23:27-32

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

FOCUS: *Walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into his Kingdom and glory.*

Jesus searches and knows our hearts. He indicts those who hide their inner evil by appearing outwardly righteous. He affirms those who humbly acknowledge their weakness and need for his guidance. His word is at work in those who believe, guiding them to walk in a blameless and worthy manner.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul reminds the Thessalonians of his hard labor and blameless behavior as he preached to them the word of God, now at work within them. In the Gospel, Jesus issues "Woe to you" indictments against the scribes and Pharisees, this time for their hypocrisy.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With humble hearts, we bring our prayers and petitions to the Father.

- 1) That the Church throughout the world may be blessed with a spirit of humility before the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That world leaders may be granted wisdom and courage by the Holy Spirit as they formulate laws and policies, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That anyone suffering because of poor health or chronic pain may feel the healing touch of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all of us here may have the gifts of the Spirit so as to announce the Gospel in word and deed, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died may be called by God into his kingdom and glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: All-knowing and merciful God, you search us and know our hearts; grant us what you know we need, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, August 26, 2021  
(Lec. 428)

- 1) 1 Thessalonians 3:7-13
- 2) Matthew 24:42-51

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

FOCUS: *Strengthen your hearts.*

Our readings today reflect the need to prepare ourselves before the Lord – to constantly nurture and grow our faith. We are encouraged to *strengthen [our] hearts and be blameless in holiness before our God.*

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Paul writes to the Thessalonian community of his support for them as they seek to increase their faith. He encourages them to strengthen their hearts. In the Gospel, Jesus urges readiness before the coming of the Lord. He emphasizes this with the parable of the faithful and unfaithful servants.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Mindful of the need for God in our lives, let us together bring our prayers before him.

- 1) For the Church in her work to build the kingdom of God on earth, may God guide her in this holy call, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who are in leadership in our communities, may God give them courage in their professions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who struggle with unbelief, may God's presence in their lives increase their faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here today, may God help us to always be prepared for his coming again, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have passed away from this life in the hope of eternal life, may God's peace be with them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, every gift we have is from you. Hear the prayers we offer and answer them, we ask, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Friday, August 27, 2021  
(Lec. 429)  
1) 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8  
2) Matthew 25:1-13

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

FOCUS: Remain vigilant as we await the Lord's return.

The Lord reminds us that we should remain vigilant and ready to welcome him upon his return. We should be prudently prepared as were the wise virgins. We can look to Paul's exhortations to avoid what is immoral and to pursue the path of holiness to guide us in how best to remain alert and ready.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul exhorts the Thessalonians to increase their efforts to conduct themselves in a manner that is pleasing to God, which is avoiding immorality and pursuing holiness. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples a parable about ten virgins waiting for the bridegroom and advises them to *stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.*

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For seminarians throughout the world, may the Holy Spirit continue to guide their discernment and sustain them in their formation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all civic leaders, may the Lord bless them with a hunger for justice and truth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For compassionate caregivers, may the Lord strengthen and encourage them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our community of faith, may the Holy Spirit help us to persevere in prayer and grow in holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may God, together with the saints, welcome them into the heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving and eternal God, hear these petitions we have brought before you, and answer them, we pray, in accordance with your holy will. Through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, August 28, 2021  
(Lec. 430)

- 1) 1 Thessalonians 4:9-11
- 2) Matthew 25:14-30

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

FOCUS: *You yourselves have been taught by God to love one another.*

Saint Augustine is best known for the story of his conversion to Christianity. As a young man he tasted all the fruits of this life and yet was never satisfied. In his yearning for truth, he first encountered Christ through the words of Scripture and then, in a more personal and life-changing manner, in his own prayer. Noted for his wisdom and learning, Augustine bears witness to the truth of Paul's words that in Christ, we have been taught to love one another.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul writes to the Thessalonians about the need for fraternal charity, tranquil living, and hard work within the community. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the talents to teach the lesson that to those who are faithful in small matters, greater responsibilities will be entrusted.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence and trust in God's mercy and providence, we bring our prayers and petitions before him.

- 1) For an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For governments and world leaders, may the Gospel message of hope and justice inform and direct their decisions and actions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For peace and justice in our homes and communities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the grace of this sacrament transform us as witnesses of Christ's love and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they rest in the eternal peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and living God, you alone can change hearts and fill us with hope and lasting joy. We ask you to hear our prayers and answer them through Christ our Lord.

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**SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 2021**

(Lec. 125)

- 1) Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8
- 2) James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27
- 3) Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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

FOCUS: *Be doers of the word and not hearers only.*

We are called to be doers of the word, not hearers only. The statutes of God are provided for our benefit; they guide us in the ways of living with and loving one another. All good giving and every perfect gift is from above, and pure-hearted persons return that love in caring for the weakest and most vulnerable among them.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Moses proclaims the statutes of the Lord to the people, that they may have both life and land. In the second reading, James instructs believers to be *doers of the word*, caring for orphans and widows, and keeping *oneself unstained by the world*. In the Gospel, Jesus confronts the Pharisees and scribes with their hypocrisy, noting that what makes a person unclean comes from within, not from without.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As children of God, we bring our cares to our loving Father.

- 1) For Pope Francis, bishops, and all spiritual leaders, may God give them a Spirit of wisdom in their decisions and actions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the salvation of the world, may the Lord grant mercy to all who have turned away from him and bring them out of darkness into light, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are struggling with poor health, mental anguish, or addiction, and for those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the Lord help us to embrace those things that endure forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they experience fullness of joy with God and the saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Monday, August 30, 2021  
(Lec. 431)

- 1) 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- 2) Luke 4:16-30

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

FOCUS: Eternal life through Jesus is offered to everyone.

Not all of the Thessalonians were Israelites, and yet since Christ came for all, Paul preached the Gospel to all. The Lord was revealed to this community through Paul, just as he chose to reveal himself to the widow in Zarephath and Naaman the Syrian, through his prophets. Saint Paul's words, that those who believe in Jesus will rise again, are not just to the Thessalonians, but to all of us.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul tells the Thessalonians to have hope that the faithful who have already died will rise again in Christ. In the Gospel, Jesus reads a scroll from the prophet Isaiah at the Nazareth synagogue, saying it is fulfilled. Others were amazed, but then Jesus points out that earlier prophets were sent to non-Israelites. Angered, they attempt to kill him but he escapes.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in God's goodness, let us turn to him with our needs.

- 1) For all who are discerning a call to a religious vocation, may the Holy Spirit give them the courage and grace to respond generously, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For policymakers, may the Lord of life inspire in them a desire to protect life in all stages, from conception to natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who grieve, may the hope of life in Christ bring them comfort and consolation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may Christ lead us to an ever-deepening love for one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the departed faithful, may they soon be in the presence of God with full joy and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Eternal Father, look with favor we pray upon the petitions we bring you in the name of your Son, who is Christ the Lord.

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Tuesday, August 31, 2021  
(Lec. 432)

- 1) 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, 9-11
- 2) Luke 4:31-37

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

FOCUS: *For all of you are children of the light.*

Today's readings shine a light on the witness of Christ. As disciples, we have witnessed his power and authority. His teachings and his miracles have transformed us. To be a disciple is to live what we have witnessed. We are called to be vigilant in our life of discipleship and to encourage each other on our respective journeys.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul writes to the Thessalonians that they *are not in darkness*, but are *children of the light and children of the day*. Therefore, they must be vigilant and work to encourage each other. In the Gospel, Jesus heals a man of a demon in Capernaum. The crowd that witnesses it is amazed at his authority and power, and word of him spreads.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in God's loving mercy, we bring our prayers before him.

- 1) For our Church, may the Holy Spirit guide each of us in living Jesus' message of love and forgiveness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who hold political office, may God strengthen their commitment to those whom they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who struggle with illness or suffering, may God's compassion bring them peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here today, may the Holy Spirit empower us to bear good fruit for the glory of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have entered eternal rest, may God's light shine upon them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, listen to our prayers this day and grant what we need for our journey of discipleship. We ask this through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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