

JULY

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**YEAR B
WEEKDAYS 1**

Thursday, July 1, 2021
(Lec. 380)

- 1) Genesis 22:1b-19
- 2) Matthew 9:1-8

THURSDAY OF
13TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(USA: Opt. Mem.
Blessed Junipero Serra,
Priest)

FOCUS: God is worthy of our complete trust, no matter what he asks us to do or sacrifice.

Abraham is blessed because his trust in God was so complete, he would not even withhold his beloved son Isaac, through whom God had already promised to make of Abraham a great nation. God is worthy of our complete trust, for we know that his promises to Abraham were fulfilled. We are inheritors of that promise through Christ Jesus.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

God tests Abraham, asking him to sacrifice his beloved son Isaac. Just before slaughtering Isaac, Abraham is stopped by an angel, who tells him God will bless him abundantly for his faithfulness. Jesus forgives a paralytic's sins, bidding him to rise. The man is healed. Some believe Jesus is blaspheming by forgiving sins, while others glorify God for Jesus' action.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With the same trust in God's mercy that Abraham and the paralytic had, let us now bring our needs and prayers to God.

- 1) For Pope Francis, may God bless him with strength and good health as he leads the Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may the Holy Spirit inspire their hearts and guide their actions for justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those burdened with any physical or spiritual ailment, may the Lord bring them peace and, if it is his will, healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may Jesus use us always as his hands and feet in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the holy souls in purgatory, may God welcome them into paradise, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Eternal Father, we ask you to look favorably upon the prayers brought to you today, through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, July 2, 2021
(Lec. 381)

FRIDAY OF
13TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

- 1) Genesis 23:1-4, 19;
24:1-8, 62-67
- 2) Matthew 9:9-13

FOCUS: *I desire mercy, not sacrifice.*

God's promises to us reveal his deep love and mercy for us. In the Old Testament, God reveals his love and mercy through establishing the covenants from generation to generation. In the New Testament, Jesus shows us God's incredible mercy by spending time with those who need him the most. We are called to practice this mercy and love in our lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Sarah dies and is buried. Rebekah is chosen as a wife for Isaac and they are married. In the Gospel, after Jesus invites Matthew to follow him, he is criticized by the Pharisees for spending time with sinners.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in God's abiding promises to us, we bring our prayers before him.

- 1) For the Church, may the Holy Spirit continue to guide and protect her, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all elected officials, may God inspire their work in serving those most in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are victims of prejudice and bias, may God be with them as they work for justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us present, may the Holy Spirit continue to help us grow in faith, hope, and love as we live our baptismal call to discipleship, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have passed away from this life in the hope of eternal life, may they soon abide in God's endless mercy and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, your promise of love and mercy has been with us throughout salvation history. Hear our prayers today as we seek to follow you more closely. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, July 3, 2021
(Lec. 593)

- 1) Ephesians 2:19-22
- 2) John 20:24-29

**SAINT THOMAS,
APOSTLE
- FEAST**

FOCUS: *My Lord and my God!*

Often referred to as doubting Thomas, today we celebrate one whose honesty, openness, and faith allowed the risen Christ to touch his very heart and to change doubt and pain into hope and belief. In that moment of encounter, Thomas embraced his destiny and began to live completely for Christ and the Gospel.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul tells the Ephesians that they are citizens and members of God's household, and together they are being built into a dwelling place of God. In the Gospel, Thomas has a life-changing encounter with the risen Christ and makes a powerful declaration of faith.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) That the Lord may continue to graciously bless and watch over his holy Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the Holy Spirit may work through our leaders to bring about and preserve peace among all nations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all Christians who suffer persecution for their fidelity to Christ and his Church may be fortified by God in their faithfulness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That Christ's presence among us may give us hope when we are hopeless and strength when we falter, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died may encounter the risen Christ and come to the fullness of life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear these our prayers and grant them according to your holy will, through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, JULY 4, 2021

(Lec. 101)

- 1) Ezekiel 2:2-5
- 2) 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
- 3) Mark 6:1-6a

**14TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: *My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.*

We are a world full of social division and unrest – not unlike the rebellious house of Israel in the first reading. But God never abandons us: He sends prophets; he also chooses the seemingly most unlikely of people, such as Paul, to proclaim the Good News. And in our own faults and weaknesses, he has the power to work through us if we but direct our efforts toward Christ and allow his grace to transform us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the prophet Ezekiel is sent by God to the rebellious house of Israel. In the second reading, Paul explains to the Corinthians that he had asked for an affliction of his to be removed, but the Lord had said to him, *My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.* In the Gospel, Jesus faces opposition in his native place and is amazed by the people's lack of faith.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We now bring our prayers before the Lord, who hears our every need.

- 1) For the Church and all who are served by her witness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For nations plagued by civil unrest or war, may God bring enduring peace and justice to their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are weak in body, mind, or spirit, may they be strengthened by the power of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may the Lord heal all divisions and wounds within us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they rest in the eternal peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful God, hear the prayers that we have brought to you and have mercy on us in our needs. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, July 5, 2021
(Lec. 383)

- 1) Genesis 28:10-22a
- 2) Matthew 9:18-26

MONDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Anthony Zaccaria,
Priest;
USA: Saint Elizabeth of Portugal)

FOCUS: God provides healing for people of great faith.

While Jacob is inspired to greater faith by a supernatural experience, the faith of a humble woman and a desperate official prompt Jesus' miraculous healing response. How can our depth of faith bring healing to our world? May we always persevere, even at times when obstacles seem insurmountable.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Jacob stops overnight at a shrine on the way to Haran. The Lord communicates with Jacob in a dream, and the next morning Jacob anoints a stone for God's abode. In the Gospel, Jesus cures a hemorrhaging woman and raises an official's daughter who had been declared dead.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With one voice, let us offer prayers to our merciful Father for the needs of our Church and the world.

- 1) For the Church, may she be filled with spiritual gifts and graces, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected leaders, may Christ guide their hearts and minds in working to protect the dignity and right to life of all, especially the unborn, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who have been physically, financially, or otherwise affected by the pandemic, may the Lord fill them with his compassionate presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may the Holy Spirit stir in us an aversion to sin and a heart for the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they soon see the glory of the Lord and be met with great rejoicing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear our prayers, which we bring to you with absolute faith in your goodness. Grant us all that we need. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, July 6, 2021
(Lec. 384)

- 1) Genesis 32:23-33
- 2) Matthew 9:32-38

TUESDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Maria Goretti,
Virgin and Martyr)

FOCUS: God blesses those who continually seek his face.

The first reading is a story of hope for anyone who has struggled with their faith. Jacob physically wrestles a man whom he recognizes as having divine origins, refusing to give up the fight until he has received a blessing. The Lord does bless him, and he becomes both Israel's patriarch and a symbol for the Israelites' striving toward God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

After Jacob is left alone, *a man wrestled with him until the break of dawn*, injuring Jacob's hip. Jacob demands a blessing, and the man names him Israel. In the Gospel, Jesus casts a demon out of a person who was mute. He teaches, heals, and proclaims the Kingdom, having pity on the crowds, who are like sheep without a shepherd. He tells the disciples to ask God to send laborers into the harvest.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our prayers before the Lord, who blesses us with everything we need.

- 1) For the Church, may God continue to send laborers into the harvest, calling holy and compassionate men to shepherd us as bishops, priests, and deacons, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For religious and political leaders, may the Holy Spirit help them cooperate in pursuing the common good for all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are struggling with their faith, may God grant them fortitude, understanding, wisdom, and knowledge to persevere in their striving, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may God keep us faithful to our baptismal promises, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they soon see God face- to-face and rest in his everlasting goodness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, hear our prayers today and answer them according to your gracious mercy. We ask this through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, July 7, 2021
(Lec. 385)

- 1) Genesis 41:55-57;
42:5-7a, 17-24a
- 2) Matthew 10:1-7

WEDNESDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Jesus commissions his disciples, and us, to participate in his saving work.

God can use our past, our weaknesses, and our limitations to further his Kingdom. We are called to help proclaim the Gospel of Christ, as the first disciples were called to be part of his ministry to the world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Joseph, now in charge of distributing grain during a great famine, encounters his own brothers in need. He conceals his identity from them and orders them to bring their youngest brother to him. The brothers fear a time of reckoning for their treatment of Joseph. In the Gospel, Jesus summons the Twelve Apostles, gives them authority over unclean spirits and to cure disease, and sends them out to proclaim the kingdom of heaven.

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 Holy Father, Pope Francis, and for blessing upon his leadership of the Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our national and local leaders, may the Lord be their guide in responding to the cries of those most in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick or disabled, may Christ, the Divine Physician, give them strength in their suffering and restore them to full health of mind and body, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our community of faith, may God grant us the grace to be Christ's hands in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they experience fullness of joy with Christ and his mother, Mary, 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, July 8, 2021
(Lec. 386)

- 1) Genesis 44:18-21,
23b-29; 45:1-5
- 2) Matthew 10:7-15

THURSDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Love is the greatest reward, the ultimate currency.

The reconciliation experienced by Joseph and his brothers, after years of estrangement, is priceless. Their reunification rewards them with the gift of brotherly love. Similarly, the disciples have received something of infinite value from Jesus, which they are called to share, free of cost. Love is the ultimate currency.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Joseph reveals his identity and is reconciled with his brothers. In the Gospel, Jesus instructs his disciples to depart on mission without material provisions, proclaiming the kingdom of heaven.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We bring our prayers to the Father, who is the giver of all good gifts.

- 1) For the Church, may the Holy Spirit guide all believers toward loving one another with perfect love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For public authorities, may God help them govern justly and promote peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer the violation of basic human rights, and for those working to bring them comfort and assistance, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our brothers and sisters who cannot be present in this sacred assembly, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God may they rest in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6 (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, please listen and respond to our prayers, according to your will. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Friday, July 9, 2021
(Lec. 387)

- 1) Genesis 46:1-7, 28-30
- 2) Matthew 10:16-23

FRIDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Augustine Zhao Rong,
Priest,
and Companions,
Martyrs)

FOCUS: God is with us on our journey.

Both of today's readings describe a journey of being sent by God. While both Jacob and the disciples face challenges along the way, the Scriptures assure us of God's abiding presence. Jesus calls us to endure in our faith until the end. Whatever obstacles we face on our journey, God will always be with us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God tells Jacob to go to Egypt, where a great nation will be made for him. There he is reunited with his son Joseph, whom he had thought dead for so long. In the Gospel, Jesus sends the disciples out to do his work, but he warns them against the persecutions they could face. He assures them they need not worry about what to say, for the Spirit of their Father will speak through them.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Mindful of our need for God in our lives, we bring our prayers before him.

- 1) For the Church and her efforts to make missionary disciples, may God provide for every need in this holy work, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who serve in government, may the blessing of God be upon them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who face persecution, may God grant them fortitude and aid in the face of hardships, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may God strengthen each of us on our journey toward him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died in the hope of eternal life, may God bring them to rest with him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, hear our prayers that we bring before you through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, July 10, 2021
(Lec. 388)

- 1) Genesis 49:29-32;
50:15-26a
- 2) Matthew 10:24-33

SATURDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Saturday in honor
of BVM)

FOCUS: God the Father cares deeply for us.

Each of our readings today has actors who respond to great fear. All of us have faced anxieties in our life. The Gospel teaches that in the end, God the Father cares deeply for us. We are not forgotten by him, and he is ever mindful of us. We can find consolation in his incredible love for us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Joseph's brothers fear retaliation from him after their father's death. Joseph assures them that they have been reconciled and there is nothing to fear. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples not to be afraid. For the Father cares for them and knows them intimately. Whoever acknowledges Jesus, he will acknowledge before the Father; whoever denies Jesus will be denied before the Father.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Mindful of the world's need for God's mercy and grace, let us bring our prayers before him.

- 1) For the Church in her mission of discipleship and building God's kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders and civil servants, may God bless them with a purity of heart, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who face crippling fear and anxieties, may God bring them peace and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may God help us witness the fullness of his love to one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may God's peace be with them as they enter the heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we ask that you hear and answer our prayers in your gracious mercy. Through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, JULY 11, 2021

(Lec. 104)

- 1) Amos 7:12-15
- 2) Ephesians 1:3-14 or 1:3-10
- 3) Mark 6:7-13

**15TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Share the Good News with all who will listen.

In the first reading and the Gospel, Amos and the Apostles are sent to convey God's perfect message, which tends to make sinners feel uneasy. Like Amos, confronting sin may not have been on our original to-do list. But how else can we open our hearts to receive the grace to boldly go forth to share the Good News to all who might listen?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Amaziah tries to move the prophet Amos away from the royal temple. Saint Paul praises God for his adoption of all people *to himself through Jesus Christ*. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus sends the Twelve out in pairs, giving them instructions on how to approach their ministry with simplicity.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that God will provide all that we need to do his will, let us bring our concerns to him.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord guide and strengthen our leaders as they share the Good News through their words and service, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For first responders, may they have the protection of Saint Michael as they serve, protect, and heal, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who suffer from any form of addiction, may the Holy Spirit guide them on a path of recovery and give them strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the youth in this faith community, may they grow ever deeper in their faith and desire for the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be received in the merciful embrace of our God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, receive our petitions and grant all that is pleasing to you. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Monday, July 12, 2021
(Lec. 389)

- 1) Exodus 1:8-14, 22
- 2) Matthew 10:34-11:1

MONDAY OF
15TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Following Jesus requires that we put him first and take up our cross in his name.

Living as a disciple of Jesus means that we must continually examine our priorities. God should come first. In order to be worthy of him, Jesus tells us to follow him and serve others in his name.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the children of Israel in the land of Egypt are oppressed under a new king and reduced to slavery. Pharaoh, threatened by the size of their community, orders that all their male children be put to death. In the Gospel, Jesus instructs his Apostles that he, and the one who sent him, must come first above all others: *Whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we seek to follow Jesus, let us join our voices in prayer as we present our needs before the Lord.

- 1) For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, may the Lord empower him with wisdom and mercy as he shepherds the Church throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in leadership around the world, may God, in his love and mercy, inspire them in tending to the needs of those in their care, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the poor and needy in our midst, may Christ banish every affliction and answer all their needs, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us gathered here, may we grow in faith, love, devotion, and reverence for God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may God welcome them home to eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we place these prayers before you, knowing you will hear us and give us what we need. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son.

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Tuesday, July 13, 2021
(Lec. 390)

- 1) Exodus 2:1-15a
- 2) Matthew 11:20-24

TUESDAY OF
15TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Henry)

FOCUS: Never fear turning to the Lord in your need.

Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live, the psalmist tells us today. Turning to the Lord means knowing him, recognizing him, and believing in him. This is what the people of Chorazin and Bethsaida fail to do, and Jesus reproaches them for it. We know who it is we meet here in this Eucharist. Jesus comes to us; let us never be afraid to turn to him.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from the Book of Exodus tells the story of the birth and adoption of Moses, and later, his killing of an Egyptian who had been beating one of Moses' kinsmen. In today's Gospel, Jesus reproaches the towns where he had performed his deeds, *since they had not repented*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our petitions to the Father, confident of his love and power.

- 1) For the Church, may her sacramental life continue to empower all to live as witnesses to the truth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For nations devastated by war or food shortages, may the Lord of heaven and earth bring healing, restoration, and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who struggle with difficult life decisions, may God's love and wisdom bring them clarity and peace of mind, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the Lord increase in us a spirit of repentance wherever necessary, and bless us with his mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they be cleansed of their sins and welcomed into everlasting life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father in heaven, we thank you for your great love for us. Please hear and answer these prayers of your sons and daughters. We ask this through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, July 14, 2021
(Lec. 391)

- 1) Exodus 3:1-6, 9-12
- 2) Matthew 11:25-27

WEDNESDAY OF
15TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Kateri Tekakwitha,
Virgin)

FOCUS: Knowing Jesus, we know our heavenly Father.

Each of us has a mission: If we trust in our heavenly Father, he will help us accomplish it. God spoke to Moses through a burning bush and he speaks to us through his Son, Jesus. In knowing Jesus, we know our heavenly Father. Confident in this knowledge, we can accomplish whatever the Lord asks us to do.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the angel of the Lord appears to Moses in a burning bush. God sends Moses to free the Israelites from the Egyptians. In the Gospel, Jesus praises the Father for revealing himself to the childlike. The Son is now known through the Father and the Father through the Son.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we gather today, trusting in God's care for us, we present our needs in prayer.

- 1) For all missionaries, may they be strengthened by the Holy Spirit as they testify to Jesus in serving others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For nations throughout the world, may the God of peace sow seeds of hope in barren lands, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the lonely and despairing, and those who endeavor to relieve their burdens, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the Holy Spirit empower us to bear good fruit for God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may the Lord greet them and lead them to their eternal rest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we thank you for the gift of your Son and humbly ask you to hear and answer our prayers, through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, July 15, 2021
(Lec. 392)

- 1) Exodus 3:13-20
- 2) Matthew 11:28-30

THURSDAY OF
15TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Bonaventure,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church)

FOCUS: The God of our ancestors cares for us and draws near to make our burdens light.

Our God who freed the Israelites from the might of Egypt wants to carry our burdens *with us*, so close that the weight becomes light. *Come to me*, Jesus says. In the intimacy of the Eucharist, we are strengthened to carry our yoke, resting in Christ's strength as we walk toward heaven.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God assures Moses of his power and care for the Israelites, giving his name and his promise to deliver his people from slavery. In the Gospel, Jesus invites all who are burdened to come to him and rest, saying, *For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in God's love and compassion, we bring our prayers and needs to him today.

- 1) For Church leaders, may they be given the grace to hear the voice of God and respond in faith as Moses did, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For public authorities, may they be guided by the Holy Spirit to protect all who are weak or vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are burdened, may Christ the healer banish all difficulties and carry them in their struggle, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all those gathered here, may God help us to rest in Christ and offer all our labors to him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have passed away, may they rest in the perfect peace of eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, we entrust our burdens and our petitions to you today. Hear and answer them through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, July 16, 2021
(Lec. 393)

- 1) Exodus 11:10–12:14
- 2) Matthew 12:1-8

FRIDAY OF
15TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel)

FOCUS: *The Son of Man is Lord of the sabbath.*

Moses and Aaron perform wonders for Pharaoh and the Son of God walks among the Pharisees – but they are all unmoved. Pharaoh was stubborn, so God moved to set his people free. The Pharisees were too focused on the law, so God sent his Son to teach them. God saves his people.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the Book of Exodus, Pharaoh refuses to let the Israelites go, so God gives the Israelites instructions for preparing the Passover feast. In the Gospel, the Pharisees accuse the disciples of Jesus of violating the law when they pick the heads of grain on the Sabbath, and Jesus responds.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God who always knows and meets our needs, we bring these prayers and petitions to him today.

- 1) For the Church and our leaders, may we be blessed with wisdom and understanding, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in positions of responsibility and power, may our just and merciful God guide them in their service, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who struggle to see beauty or goodness in their lives, may the truth of God's love and care for them shine forth in their hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For we who are gathered here, may our hearts grow in holiness and reverent awareness of the gift of God's presence in this most holy sacrifice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be welcomed into the light of the Kingdom and see the wonders of God face-to-face, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of mercy, hear and answer the prayers we offer today, through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, July 17, 2021

(Lec. 394)

- 1) Exodus 12:37-42
- 2) Matthew 12:14-21

SATURDAY OF
15TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Saturday in honor
of BVM)

FOCUS: God leads us from slavery to freedom.

God led the Israelites out of the slavery of Egypt, and through his Son, he leads us out of the slavery of sin. Our freedom is found in Christ, who is God's suffering servant, proclaiming justice to God's chosen people and the Gentiles.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Israelites are led by the Lord out of slavery in Egypt. In the Gospel, the Pharisees plot to put Jesus to death. Jesus withdraws from them and tells his followers not to make him known, which fulfills what Isaiah had prophesied.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Our God desires our freedom and leads us to it. In confidence, let us bring our prayers to him.

- 1) For the Church, may the Holy Spirit be upon our leaders in their efforts to bring deeper freedom to all God's people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For public officials, may God guide them to be agents of his justice for all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those enslaved by sin and fear, may the Lord set them free, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may God make us a powerful instrument of his peace and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may God welcome them into eternal rest in him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, thank you for hearing our prayers. Answer them now according to your holy will, through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, JULY 18, 2021

(Lec. 107)

- 1) Jeremiah 23:1-6
- 2) Ephesians 2:13-18
- 3) Mark 6:30-34

**16TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: We are sheep who follow the Good Shepherd, who is here for us and has much to teach us.

Today's readings highlight the glory of Christ's ministry, which was foretold by the prophets and inclusive of all people. The crowds followed Jesus, seeking his teaching and his healing. We, too, are members of this body whom he shepherds; we are taught, fed, and healed. How can we pass on this joyful message of comfort to those around us?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Lord holds past leaders accountable for the scattering of God's people. Jeremiah prophesies the return from exile and restoration of a noble king. Paul shares the good news that through Christ Jesus, all people are reconciled to God and *have access in one Spirit to the Father*. In the Gospel, Jesus and the Apostles seek to get away from the crowds and rest, but they cannot. Jesus' heart is *moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Gathered as one people, we voice our concerns to the Lord, who always listens.

- 1) For the Church, may the Holy Spirit continue to fill her with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who hold authority in government or civic institutions, and for those who enact policies, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer for expressing or sharing their faith, may God relieve them of all persecution and give them strength in their trials, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us gathered here, may we be blessed by the Holy Spirit, who calls us to deeper conversion and commitment to each other, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they bask in the eternal sunshine of God's glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear and answer our prayers with your unending compassion. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ.

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Monday, July 19, 2021
(Lec. 395)
1) Exodus 14:5-18
2) Matthew 12:38-42

MONDAY OF
16TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God is greater than any human or natural power.

Today's readings remind us that we are not in control. The Egyptian army was surely capable of capturing the unarmed Israelites. Yet the Lord fought for them and promised to lead them through the sea. Jesus, in predicting his death and resurrection, rightly claimed to be greater than either Jonah or Solomon. God is mightier than any created entity.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Israelites are pursued by the Egyptians after they flee Egypt. The people panic, but Moses assures them of God's deliverance. In the Gospel, Jesus responds to a demand for a sign by saying that the only sign he gives will be that of Jonah, that is, *the Son of Man [will] be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Recognizing God's sovereign power, we bring our needs before him, trusting in his providence.

- 1) For the bishops of the Church, may the Lord continue to bless them with courage and charity in proclaiming the truth of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected authorities, may God bless their work to protect the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception to natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all whose burdens seem overwhelming or insurmountable, may the God of all mercies and consolations comfort them and bring them relief, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For families in this faith community, may God bless their sacred bonds and strengthen their love for one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may the Lord Jesus give them a share in his resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, your providential care extends to all of creation, and you know our every need. Grant these petitions through your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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Tuesday, July 20, 2021
(Lec. 396)

- 1) Exodus 14:21–15:1
- 2) Matthew 12:46-50

TUESDAY OF
16TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Apollinaris,
Bishop and Martyr)

FOCUS: Jesus calls all of us to discipleship and obedience to the will of the Father.

Moses followed the instructions of the Lord, and the Lord delivered Israel from slavery and the pursuit of the Egyptians. We who do the will of the Father also will be delivered: from slavery to sin and from evil that pursues us. Through our discipleship we are united in Christ, who models perfect obedience and gives us the grace to persevere.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God frees the Israelites from slavery. He parts the Red Sea, allowing them to escape from the throes of Egyptian forces. In the Gospel, Jesus says that all who do the will of the Father are his sisters and brothers.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us offer our prayers and petitions to our heavenly Father.

- 1) For Pope Francis and bishops across the world, may they be guided by the Holy Spirit in shepherding their flocks, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may the providence of God direct their hearts and their actions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from hunger or poverty, may God in his divine mercy provide for their needs and comfort them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may the truth found in Jesus Christ help us to grow in faith and understanding, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they know salvation in the loving arms of the Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we pray that you grant these petitions, in the name of Jesus, your Son.

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Wednesday, July 21, 2021
(Lec. 397)

- 1) Exodus 16:1-5, 9-15
- 2) Matthew 13:1-9

WEDNESDAY OF
16TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Lawrence of Brindisi,
Priest and Doctor
of the Church)

FOCUS: God provides for us so that we may produce an abundant harvest.

In Exodus, the Israelites continue their journey in the wilderness on the way to Mount Sinai. The Lord responds to their grumbling by sending manna and quail to feed them. Jesus' parable speaks of the potential for God's word, planted in our hearts, to produce an abundant harvest but we must be open to it.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Israelites grumble against Moses and Aaron because they miss the food they had in Egypt. God provides manna and quail, assuring them, *I, the Lord, am your God*. In the Gospel, Jesus compares God's word to the sower and the seed – whether it will flourish depends on how it is received in the hearts of believers.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We turn now to God, the giver of all good things, to present our petitions.

- 1) For the Church on her journey of faith, may God's word guide and nourish her, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations and communities, called to shepherd God's people, may the Spirit of the Lord lead them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who hunger and those who produce the harvest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our own faith community, may God bless our gathering this day to be fed in Word and sacrament, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, called home at the end of their faith journey, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, hear our prayers this day as you lead us on our journey to your eternal presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, July 22, 2021
(Lec. 603)

**SAINT MARY MAGDALENE
- FEAST**

- 1) Song of Songs 3:1-4b
or 2 Corinthians 5:14-17
- 2) John 20:1-2, 11-18

FOCUS: When we find the one whom our hearts love, we must share our joy.

Mary of Magdala had a love for Christ that was pure and unadulterated, and it was to her that Jesus first appeared after his resurrection. Her desire to hold on to him, and to that moment, is understandable after all the disciples had been through. But Christ's words to her, and to us, challenge us not to cling to what seems safe but to share the Good News with the world – to let all see the joy we have in finding the one whom our hearts love.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the bride seeks and finds *him whom my heart loves*. In the Gospel, Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene as she weeps by his empty tomb. He asks her not to hold on to him, but to go to his disciples and share the message that he will ascend to the Father.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Calling upon the name of the Lord, we offer him our prayers and petitions.

- 1) That the Holy Spirit may continue to lead Christ's bride – the Church – as she shares the Gospel message with the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That God may bless our national and local leaders with a spirit of righteousness and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who weep and mourn may be comforted by Christ's presence and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the Lord may sow seeds of peace where there is discord within our families and our community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may ascend with Christ to the Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, our souls thirst for you and your kindness. Grant us what we need to do your will, through your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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Friday, July 23, 2021
(Lec. 399)

- 1) Exodus 20:1-17
- 2) Matthew 13:18-23

FRIDAY OF
16TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Bridget,
Religious)

FOCUS: God sows the seeds of authentic freedom in his commandments and invites us to hear and understand.

The commandments can be thought of as the first of many seeds that God sowed among his people. From these beginnings came the law, and then the fulfillment of the law in Christ. When we hear and understand the Word that God has given us, we find our freedom in Christ and gain the ability to bear fruit for the Kingdom.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God delivers *all these commandments* so that the Israelites would know how to honor him and how to behave toward one another. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the sower, explaining that what happens to the seed – and *the word of the Kingdom* – depends on where it is sown.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the care of God who protects us and bring us to goodness, we offer these prayers today.

- 1) For the Church, may she grow in holiness and charity in her service to the living and true God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the world, may God's Spirit of truth bring all people to set aside violence and greed and work for the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who grieve the loss of a loved one, may they find hope in the promise of Christ's resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our faith community who are struggling financially or are unemployed, may they find strength and courage in their faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they rest in the eternal light of God's truth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we offer these prayers framed in love and hope for your generous mercy. Through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, July 24, 2021
(Lec. 400)

- 1) Exodus 24:3-8
- 2) Matthew 13:24-30

SATURDAY OF
16TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Sharbel Makhlūf,
Priest;
Saturday in honor
of BVM)

FOCUS: Those who bear fruit for the Kingdom will be gathered unto God at the end of time.

Jesus teaches that we will be judged on the fruit that we bear. The enemy, the evil one, comes in darkness to plant weeds that destroy and deceive. We are to stay awake and vigilant, not allowing the evil one to do his work. At the end of time, the ones who bear good fruit – the wheat – will be gathered and welcomed into the kingdom of heaven.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Moses writes God's ordinances, erects an altar and pillars, has young men offer sacrifices, reads the ordinances, and sprinkles the sacrificed blood. The people agree to do as God has commanded. In the Gospel passage, Jesus explains the parable of the weeds among the wheat. He points out that the enemy comes while everyone is asleep and plants weeds. The master chooses to let the weeds grow alongside the wheat so as not to uproot the wheat.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that our heavenly Father cares for us, let us bring our concerns and needs to him.

- 1) For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, may he be blessed as he continues to model God's love, mercy, and compassion for all God's children, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For public leaders, may the Lord grant them a spirit and posture of humility and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are suffering in mind, body, or spirit, may God's grace and love offer them strength and consolation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may we increase in holiness through God's abundant blessings and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may God's mercy be poured out upon them and bring them to everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we thank you for your gifts and graces. Hear these prayers that we bring to you today through your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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SUNDAY, JULY 25, 2021

(Lec. 110)

- 1) 2 Kings 4:42-44
- 2) Ephesians 4:1-6
- 3) John 6:1-15

**17TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Offer your gift, however inadequate, with thanksgiving, trusting the power of God.

Today's sign from John's Gospel, the feeding of the five thousand, shows the power of God. The boy gave five loaves and two fish. It was a small amount, but it was all he had. Jesus took the loaves and gave thanks, and God provided food for many. We, too, can benefit from these three steps: Offer what we have. Give thanks. Expect God to act.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Elisha the prophet directs his protesting servant to give his barley loaves to the people to eat. The Lord multiplies this offering and feeds a hundred people, with some left over. Paul urges the Ephesians to live in humility, working to preserve unity. In the Gospel, Jesus feeds five thousand people with five barley loaves and two fish.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust in God's generous provision, let us offer our prayers this day.

- 1) For the pilgrim Church on earth, may the Holy Spirit continue to protect her and preserve her, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in public office, may the Lord bless their efforts to protect the dignity and sanctity of life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who hunger for God, and for all who seek to provide them their daily bread, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, as we celebrate the Eucharist, may the Holy Spirit help us grow in unity and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died in the light of Christ, may they rejoice in fellowship with the saints in glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Monday, July 26, 2021
(Lec. 401)
1) Exodus 32:15-24, 30-34
2) Matthew 13:31-35

MONDAY OF
17TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saints Joachim and Anne,
Parents of the
Blessed Virgin Mary)

FOCUS: God uses *what is* to bring about *what can be*.

Mustard seeds and yeast are both small in comparison to their context – that is, a plot of land and a loaf of bread – yet mighty in their ability to transform themselves and the things around them. If those two things can make such a difference, how could each one of us not do the same? For God uses *what is* to bring about *what can be*.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Moses descends the mountain with God's commandments. His anger is aroused by the sins the people are committing. He goes before the Lord, interceding on their behalf. In the Gospel, Jesus likens the kingdom of heaven to a mustard seed and to yeast.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us now offer our prayers to God, for our needs and the needs of our world.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may God grant us fortitude in facing the daily challenges that come with being a disciple of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in civil authority, may the grace of God guide them in their leadership roles, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are sick, may the Lord pour out his mercy on their hearts and give them hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all present, may we grow in faith, hope, and love through the grace of our baptism and these sacred mysteries, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they come to know refreshment, rest, and peace in the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of salvation, we give thanks to you. In your goodness, listen kindly to the prayers we have offered, through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, July 27, 2021
(Lec. 402)

- 1) Exodus 33:7-11;
34:5b-9, 28
- 2) Matthew 13:36-43

TUESDAY OF
17TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: We are to live in the presence of God, listening to his words and carrying them out.

Today's readings show us the value of living in God's presence – encountering God throughout the day as Moses did, face-to-face, in his tent. Through this prayerful daily posture, we can come to know God; listen to his voice through prayer, Scripture, and our circumstances; and follow his commandments.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Moses encounters God, comes to know of his graciousness and mercy, and intercedes for the people so that God might once again claim them as his own. In the Gospel, Jesus explains the parable of the weeds and the wheat. At the end of time, all will be judged according to their actions and their obedience to God's word.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As a people claimed by God, we have the confidence to approach him with our needs.

- 1) That all the clergy and religious may be strengthened in their witness to God's kingdom, and that he may raise up many vocations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That public servants may possess the virtues of honesty and integrity in their work, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are marginalized or overlooked by society may be blessed with the certainty that Jesus loves and knows each of them by name, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the goodness of the Lord may be revealed through us as we place ourselves in service to one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died may soon rest in peace in God's eternal kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful and gracious God, with trust we place before you the needs of your people around the world. Please listen to our prayers and answer them according to your will, through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, July 28, 2021
(Lec. 403)

- 1) Exodus 34:29-35
- 2) Matthew 13:44-46

WEDNESDAY OF
17TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Let an encounter with God change you.

Moses' encounter with God resulted in an outward change: His face became so radiant, it concerned other Israelites. The people in Jesus' parable were moved to sell all they had to acquire the field with treasure or the pearl of great price, which represent the kingdom of heaven. Knowledge of God and his kingdom should lead to visible changes in us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

After speaking with the Lord on Mount Sinai, Moses' face is radiant. Other tribal leaders were afraid because of this change, so Moses veiled his face when he was not speaking with God. In the Gospel, Jesus tells two parables of the kingdom of heaven having great worth: a treasure that is buried in a field and a pearl of great price that a person sells everything to acquire.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our concerns and needs to our heavenly Father.

- 1) For our priests and religious, may the Holy Spirit continue to strengthen them in their mission of spreading the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may the humility of Christ lead them in their governance of the people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For people plagued by fear, anxiety, or depression, may they know God's never-ending love for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the word of God transform us and empower us in service to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may God welcome them to the eternal joy of his heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we thank you for your goodness. Please hear the needs of your children brought before you today, which we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus, our Lord.

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Thursday, July 29, 2021
(Lec. 404)

- 1) Exodus 40:16-21, 34-38
- 2) John 11:19-27
or Luke 10:38-42 (Lec. 607)

THURSDAY OF
17TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saints Martha,
Mary, and Lazarus)

FOCUS: Martha's words remind us to place our faith in Jesus Christ and his promise of eternal life.

In the face of the death of a loved one, it is normal to be filled with sorrow and not unusual to be angry with the Lord for not intervening to save our loved one. But Martha's example in the Gospel reminds us to trust in the Lord's ultimate promise of eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Following God's instructions, Moses set up the tabernacle, placing the Ark of the Covenant in it and covering it with a tent. The Lord's presence filled the tabernacle and guided the Israelites' journey. In the Gospel, even as she grieves her brother's death, Martha expresses her faith in the Resurrection and affirms that Jesus is the Christ.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our petitions before the Lord, trusting in his mercy and compassion.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may she increase in number and holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who govern, may the Lord enlighten their hearts and minds as they fulfill their obligations to those they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who suffer from chronic pain, may the Lord strengthen and encourage them in hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all in our faith community who feel lonely and isolated, may the Lord touch their hearts and lift up their spirits, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may the Lord reward them with eternal joy in his presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, hear these prayers we have brought before you in faith and answer them in accordance with your divine will. In Christ's name we pray.

Friday, July 30, 2021
(Lec. 405)

- 1) Leviticus 23:1, 4-11,
15-16, 27, 34b-37
- 2) Matthew 13:54-58

FRIDAY OF
17TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Peter Chrysologus,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church)

FOCUS: Christ can work in us for the good of the world.

Jesus experienced rejection from some of the people who had known him his whole life. He knew he was not accepted by those in his own town and did not perform many signs there because of their lack of faith. But for those who do believe, his power is astonishing. We believe, so let us allow his words to work in us for the good of the whole world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Lord says to Moses: *These are the festivals of the Lord which you shall celebrate*, and gives him instructions for when and how they will take place. In the Gospel, Jesus returns to his hometown, Nazareth, to preach to the people. He experiences rejection from many who have always known him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together in faith, let us present our prayers to the Father.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all the clergy, may the Holy Spirit be their guide in leading the faithful, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may our heavenly Father grant them wisdom and strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are burdened by conflict or violence, may God protect and strengthen them and bring them peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all gathered in this holy place, may we trust in our gracious God who knows our every need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all of our dearly departed, may God welcome them into their heavenly resting place, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we place our needs before you with a deep faith and trust, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, July 31, 2021
(Lec. 406)
1) Leviticus 25:1, 8-17
2) Matthew 14:1-12

SATURDAY OF
17TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Ignatius of Loyola,
Priest)

FOCUS: God's providence helps us to remain humble and to extend forgiveness and mercy.

Today's readings juxtapose God's justice with worldly justice. A jubilee year is a time to forgive all debts and rest in God's providence, recognizing that all we have comes from the Lord. Worldly justice, as practiced by Herod, is often filled with vindictive spite, as John the Baptist suffered because he called out the sin of Herod's family. Attending to what God is asking of us, rather than what sin might be calling us to, gives us the grace to remain humble and extend forgiveness and mercy.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lord gives Moses instructions on observing a jubilee every 50th year. In the Gospel, Herod questions whether Jesus is really John the Baptist – whom he had killed – raised from the dead.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident that God is always listening, let us bring the needs of this faith community to the Lord.

- 1) For religious orders, especially the Jesuits on this feast of Saint Ignatius, may the Lord richly bless them in their work for the Kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For people and nations of the world, may the power of the Prince of Peace bring justice and reconciliation where it is needed, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are unjustly imprisoned, may the Lord comfort them and swiftly bring truth to light for the sake of justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the parents and guardians of children among us, may God's selfless love guide them in their nurturing presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls of the faithful departed, may they soon enjoy an eternal jubilee with the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, hear the prayers we have offered for the concerns of our world. We ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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