

# JANUARY

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**YEAR B  
WEEKDAYS I**

**Friday, January 1, 2021**

(Lec. 18)

- 1) Numbers 6:22-27
- 2) Galatians 4:4-7
- 3) Luke 2:16-21

**THE OCTAVE DAY  
OF THE NATIVITY  
OF THE LORD;  
SOLEMNITY OF MARY,  
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD  
(Holyday of Obligation)**

FOCUS: *Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.*

The Solemnity of Mary brings life into the Church and into each of us. Living creatures are not stagnant – they change and grow. Mary carried Jesus in her womb; we carry him in our hearts. Like Mary, we treasure and reflect. We are also called, like the shepherds, to praise and proclaim and – with Mary, to glorify God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Lord gives Moses a benediction to bless God's people, the Israelites. Saint Paul speaks to the Galatians about our adoption as children of God: *Born of a woman, Jesus came to ransom those under the law.* In Luke's Gospel, the shepherds praise and glorify God after finding Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

**PRIEST:** With the faith and trust modeled by Mary, the Mother of God, let us offer our prayers to God this day.

- 1) For the Holy Father, may God bless him with a year of good health as he leads the Church in wisdom and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For public authorities, may the Lord strengthen them in integrity and courage for leadership that safeguards all human life from conception to natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who lack hope, may the promise of the Lord's faithfulness bring them consolation and joy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may Christ, who came in flesh to save us, be born anew in our hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died in faith, may they soon rejoice in God's presence, glorifying and praising him for all eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** Heavenly Father, in your wisdom, please hear and answer our prayers this day. We ask through Jesus Christ, your Son.

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Saturday, January 2, 2021  
(Lec. 205)  
1) 1 John 2:22-28  
2) John 1:19-28

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY  
(OBL MEM  
Saints Basil the Great  
and Gregory Nazianzen,  
Bishops and Doctors  
of the Church)

FOCUS: Share the Gospel.

It's not enough to simply not deny Jesus; instead, we are called to proclaim that Jesus is the Christ. Like John the Baptist, we may sometimes feel like we are voices crying out in the desert. However, by sharing the truth of Jesus with others, we are living the Gospel that we received and remaining in God.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint John writes that a liar is anyone who *denies that Jesus is the Christ*. Those who remain in Christ have the promise of eternal life. In the Gospel, John the Baptist states his role as the one preparing the way for the Messiah.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us approach the throne of the Father and offer him our needs.

- 1) For all bishops and priests, may the peace and love of Jesus be theirs in a special way this Christmas season, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all nonbelievers, may the Holy Spirit soften their hearts and kindle a fire of love for the Gospel message, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering loneliness or personal difficulties, may the Lord hold them close and bring them comfort, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may Christ's dwelling within us increase our joy this Christmas season, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all our beloved dead, may they soon be welcomed to the wedding feast of the Lamb, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of mercy and love, we thank you for your goodness. Hear our needs that we bring before you today in the name of Jesus, your Son.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2021**

(Lec. 20)

- 1) Isaiah 60:1-6
- 2) Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
- 3) Matthew 2:1-12

**THE EPIPHANY  
OF THE LORD**

**FOCUS:** The eternal gifts of joy, hope, and peace are bestowed on those who choose to live in the light of Christ.

The voices of the prophet Isaiah, the Apostle Paul, and the three kings – Balthazar, Caspar, and Melchior – resound today in one joyful chorus. They are reminding us that Christ, our Light, has come to dispel the darkness of sin and death and to remain with us forever.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

Isaiah joyfully foretells of the light that emerges from darkness at the coming of Christ. In the second reading, Saint Paul reminds his listeners that, whether Gentile or Jew, they are all a part of the one body of Christ, the Church. In the Gospel, the three wise men visit the Christ-child, bearing gifts to pay him homage.

**UNIVERSAL PRAYER**

**PRIEST:** Let us approach our merciful Father and humbly offer him our prayers.

- 1) That the Church may continue to be graced with shepherds after Christ's own heart who lead his Church with loving care, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That national and international leaders may be empowered by the Holy Spirit in serving their people as Christ came to serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those whose lives are darkened by the shadow of sin or doubt may be drawn into the light of forgiveness and peace through the grace and mercy of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That this Christmas season may be a time of growing in the gifts God has given us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our beloved dead may be welcomed into Christ's heavenly kingdom and rest in eternal joy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** Father, you have lovingly bestowed on us your gifts of peace, hope, and joy. We ask that you hear the prayers we present today through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Monday, January 4, 2021  
(Lec. 212)

- 1) 1 John 3:22–4:6
- 2) Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY  
(OBL MEM  
Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton,  
Religious)

FOCUS: Jesus, the fulfillment of all the promises of God, remains in us.

Just as the night cannot stand when the dawn breaks over the horizon, Jesus, who is the light, will dispel any darkness in our lives. Let us always strive to live in the light.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the First Letter of Saint John, he writes that we are commanded to believe in Jesus Christ and *love one another*. Remaining in him helps us discern truth and deceit. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus begins his public ministry by healing many and inviting all to repentance.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As one voice, we confidently bring our needs to the Father, who gave us his light in Christ.

- 1) For leaders in the Church, may the Holy Spirit strengthen their ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For public authorities, may the light of Christ illumine their decisions and lead them to protect those who are most in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are sick or suffering, may Christ's healing presence bring them relief and consolation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, may we be comforted in our worries by the abiding peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rest in the eternal light of God's love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, you gave your Son, Jesus Christ, to us as our light and our salvation. Hear our prayers we offer today in his holy name.

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Tuesday, January 5, 2021  
(Lec. 213)  
1) 1 John 4:7-10  
2) Mark 6:34-44

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY  
(OBL MEM  
USA: Saint John Neumann,  
Bishop)

FOCUS: Loving one another is a sign of God's love.

God's love was revealed to us in his sending of his only Son. We imitate this love through our selfless and sacrificial love for one another. In offering ourselves and our gifts to God, and in service to one another, we strengthen the bonds of the Church and bear the Good News for the salvation of the world.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint John writes that *love is of God*, and *God is love*. His love was revealed to us through his Son, through whom we have life and *expiation for our sins*. In the Gospel, Jesus is moved with compassion for the thousands following him and he feeds them miraculously with much left over.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together, we bring before our heavenly Father our needs and concerns.

- 1) For Pope Francis, as he continues to lead Christ's Church with the message of God's love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For first responders and healthcare workers, may the Lord protect them and bless them in their work, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are struggling to find employment, may God's love bring them hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may God's Spirit bind us more closely to each other and bring relief to those suffering in our midst, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may our compassionate God soon welcome them into eternal happiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we love you and thank you for your compassion toward us. Hear and answer the prayers we bring before you, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, January 6, 2021  
(Lec. 214)  
1) 1 John 4:11-18  
2) Mark 6:45-52

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY  
(Opt. Mem.  
USA: Saint André Bessette,  
Religious)

FOCUS: Jesus comforts our fears and calms the storms in our lives.

The Christmas season continues as today's readings provide us with a blueprint for how we are to live as Christians. It is in loving that we find the foundation for our life in Christ. Jesus also offers us the gift of freedom from fear when we hold close his message and live out his commands.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, John writes of the foundation of the life of a disciple: to believe in God's love and live it with each other. In the Gospel, Jesus walks on a stormy sea, frightening the disciples. He reveals to them it is he, and exhorts them not to be afraid. The wind dies down as he gets into their boat.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we continue the Christmas season, we turn our hearts to the Lord and present our needs to him.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we continue to grow in faith, hope, and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all public authorities, may God grant them the humility to be guided by his Word, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who feel alone during this season of joy, may the love of the newborn King bring them hope and comfort, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our faith community who feel anxious or afraid, may the calming presence of the Lord bring them peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls of all the faithful departed, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we ask that you hear our prayers and trust that you will give us what we need. Through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, January 7, 2021  
(Lec. 215)  
1) 1 John 4:19–5:4  
2) Luke 4:14-22a

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Raymond of Penyafort,  
Priest)

FOCUS: When we have faith in Jesus, he has the freedom to act in our hearts.

As we heard in today's Gospel, *the Spirit of the Lord* is upon Jesus, who came to grant freedom from sin and death. *Gracious words* came from his mouth as he spoke in the synagogue. As we seek to grow closer to Jesus through study of the Scriptures and through prayer, let us heed the words he speaks to us and give him the freedom to act in our hearts.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint John expounds upon a commandment of God: Loving God is impossible without loving others and keeping God's commandments. In the Gospel, Jesus is teaching in the synagogue, and reads a passage from Isaiah. He then states, *Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.*

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the Lord's goodness, let us go to him with our prayers.

- 1) For vocations to the priesthood and religious life, may the Lord bless the Church with committed men and women, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the world, that the peace of Christ may touch all nations and lead them to understanding and cooperation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all struggling with mental illnesses, may the Lord bless them with the help and support they need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those within our faith community who are unemployed, may the Lord in his mercy provide for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died in the hope of rising with Christ, may they soon rest in his peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, in the Incarnation you gave us more than we could ever hope for. Grant these prayers according to your holy will, in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Friday, January 8, 2021  
(Lec. 216)

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

- 1) 1 John 5:5-13
- 2) Luke 5:12-16

FOCUS: The foundation of our faith is Jesus Christ.

The foundation of our faith is that Jesus Christ is the incarnate Son of God, and our hope of eternal life. But he is not just our hope for the future, he is our help now and in ages past. He is there for every need we have. He lives in and among us, granting and sustaining us in life.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, John speaks of the testimony of *the Spirit, the water, and the Blood*. The testimony is this: *God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son*. In the Gospel, Jesus heals a leper. News of this leads to *great crowds* seeking to listen to him and be healed by him.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our prayers and petitions before our loving God, trusting in his compassion and mercy.

- 1) For Church leaders, may the Holy Spirit continue to draw them ever closer to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all those in healing professions, may the Spirit sustain them as they work to provide compassionate care to others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are sick, especially those who suffer the effects of COVID-19, may the Lord comfort and strengthen them in their time of struggle, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all members of this faith community, may the Lord renew and deepen our faith and lead us to greater joy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may the Lord welcome them to his eternal banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful and compassionate God, listen, we pray, to the prayers we bring before you, and answer them in accordance with your divine will. Through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, January 9, 2021  
(Lec. 217)

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

- 1) 1 John 5:14-21
- 2) John 3:22-30

FOCUS: Submitting our lives to God's will is the key to both happiness and a fruitful prayer life.

The First Letter of John exhorts us to pray in accordance with God's will and to guard against idols, or anything that could compete with God in our hearts. John the Baptist is an example of humility for us, rejecting any implication that he and Jesus are in competition and rejoicing to see God's will being accomplished.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint John writes of how all belong to God, and we will receive whatever we ask for according to his will. In the Gospel, Jesus' disciples begin baptizing near John the Baptist, who rejoices that his own ministry is giving way to that of Jesus.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Knowing that all we receive is given from heaven, let us present our needs with confidence to God.

- 1) For God's holy Church, may he bless her with continued growth in number and holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who exercise leadership or influence, may Christ guide them in their lives and their work, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, the destitute, and those experiencing loneliness and sadness in this season, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may God strengthen us against temptation and graciously hear our prayers for one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the light of faith, may God soon welcome them into his Kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, you hear our prayers and know our needs. Please grant whatever we ask according to your will. Through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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**SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2021**

(Lec. 21)

- 1) Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
- 2) Acts 10:34-38
- 3) Mark 1:7-11

**THE BAPTISM  
OF THE LORD  
- FEAST**

FOCUS: May our lives always reflect the powerful grace of our baptism.

God reveals the sacrament of baptism with dynamic power. The heavens are torn. The Spirit descends; the Father's voice is heard. Two brief verses paint a vivid picture depicting the unity of the Holy Trinity. Through our baptism, we are joined to the family of God and welcomed into the intimacy of the Trinity. Take hold of this gift.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah presents the Suffering Servant, sent to save God's people. In the Book of Acts, Peter declares salvation is available to all people, and is not restricted to the Israelites. In today's Gospel, Jesus is baptized by John. The heavens open, the Holy Spirit descends like a dove, while God the Father calls Jesus his *beloved Son*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God who sent his own Son for our salvation, let us offer our prayers this day.

- 1) For the Church, may Christ continue to bless her with all she needs to bring his love to the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the salvation of the world, and for men and women of faith willing to proclaim the Gospel to the ends of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For women facing challenging pregnancies, may God look graciously upon them and grant them strength, hope, and a community of support, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those among us preparing for baptism, may the Lord continue to deepen their faith as they grow in their knowledge and love of him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, as they died with Christ in baptism, may they now rejoice and live with him forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, please hear and answer our prayers this day according to your holy will, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Monday, January 11, 2021  
(Lec. 305)

- 1) Hebrews 1:1-6
- 2) Mark 1:14-20

MONDAY OF  
FIRST WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Jesus offers authentic love and freedom.

When we have a true encounter with the living Jesus, it is near impossible for our hearts to not be converted. Jesus' authentic love and freedom attracts each of us. In responding to him, we follow the example of Jesus' first disciples, who left everything behind when Jesus called.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the author writes about the many ways God has spoken to his people through the years, including through the prophets, and now through his Son. In the Gospel, Jesus comes to Galilee, proclaiming the Gospel of God. There, he calls his first four Apostles.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As Jesus invites us to follow him, we turn our hearts and minds to the Father and present our petitions before him.

- 1) For those in the Church entrusted with the spiritual care of others, may God grant them wisdom and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may God continue to convert their hearts to the beauty of peace and justice for all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are suffering in mind, body, or spirit, may the loving hand of Jesus provide consolation, even amidst continued hardship, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may God's grace help us as we respond to Jesus' call to participate in building the kingdom of God on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died in the light of faith, may the mercy of our loving Father usher them into the fullness of eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, thank you for listening to our prayers, as you do each day. Hear and answer them according to your holy will, we ask through Christ our Lord.

Tuesday, January 12, 2021  
(Lec. 306)  
1) Hebrews 2:5-12  
2) Mark 1:21-28

TUESDAY OF  
FIRST WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Jesus' word is powerful.

The Letter to the Hebrews describes Jesus as the one to whom all things are subject, though he was made lower than the angels for a little while. Because he took on our humanity, we are Jesus' "brothers." Yet, Jesus' word carries authority because he is also divine; he is God's Son. This is the power of the Gospel – that God walked among us in order to save us.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The author of the Letter to the Hebrews speaks of us seeing *Jesus "crowned with glory and honor,"* because it is through his suffering that he leads all to salvation. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus begins his ministry in Capernaum, teaching in the synagogue and casting out an unclean spirit on the Sabbath.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We now bring our petitions to the Father, who hears our every need.

- 1) For Pope Francis, bishops, priests, and deacons, may the Holy Spirit enkindle the fire of his love in their hearts as they preach the Good News, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the world, may the Lord have mercy on the suffering and trials of all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are so deeply affected by the coronavirus, and its resulting social, economic, and physical destruction, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of believers, may the Lord defend us from the influence of evil, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they be reunited in glory with Christ, our Savior and Brother, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God, as you once heard the prayers of your Son, Jesus Christ, hear now our prayers and petitions. Through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, January 13, 2021  
(Lec. 307)

- 1) Hebrews 2:14-18
- 2) Mark 1:29-39

WEDNESDAY OF  
FIRST WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Hilary,  
Bishop and Doctor  
of the Church)

FOCUS: Jesus meets us in our human nature.

In these early days of Ordinary Time, our readings give us insight into the significance of the Incarnation. Emmanuel, God with us, comes to us sharing in our human nature. With deep empathy and humility, he brings redemption to each and every one of us. We are called to a life of holiness, following his profound example.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the Letter to the Hebrews, the author explains why Jesus came to share with the people in blood and flesh. In this way, he could destroy the power of death over the people and free them from sin. In the Gospel from Mark, Jesus heals Simon's mother-in-law, and all the ill and demon-possessed of the town, before retreating to pray. Soon, Simon and others find him and say, *Everyone is looking for you*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Mindful of our needs this day, let us offer our prayers to our heavenly Father.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may God bestow unity among all her peoples, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who hold elected office, may Jesus inspire in them a greater respect for the inherent dignity of every human being, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are sick and for those who love them, may Christ's healing presence be with them in their difficult time, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us gathered here, may the grace of the Eucharist transform us in the image of Christ's love and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have passed away, may Christ's eternal light shine upon them and grant them eternal rest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, you sent your Son to walk with us and redeem us. Hear our prayers today, and every day. We ask this through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, January 14, 2021  
(Lec. 308)

- 1) Hebrews 3:7-14
- 2) Mark 1:40-45

THURSDAY OF  
FIRST WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Faith and fidelity allow the power of God to work in and through us.

Today's readings show the beauty of trusting in God's saving power, and acting on that faith. This saving power protected the Israelites of the Exodus until their infidelity and hardness of heart broke their relationship with God. The leper had the courage to petition Christ confidently because he believed in and trusted what Christ could do. Faith and fidelity allow the power of God to work in and through us.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The writer of Hebrews exhorts his readers to refrain from having *an evil and unfaithful heart*, and to take care daily to avoid being hardened by sin. In the Gospel, Jesus heals a leper who approached him and said, *if you wish, you can make me clean*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As the leper in today's Gospel reading trusted in Jesus to heal him, let us also confidently present our petitions to the Lord.

- 1) That the Church throughout the world may be sanctified through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That political authorities may receive the grace and blessing of our almighty God in working to protect and defend the sanctity of life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who suffer from disease or illness that separates them from the community may feel the Lord's healing embrace and be consoled in their time of suffering, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That our faith community may grow in faith, hope, and love, and be transformed by grace to a life of Gospel fidelity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all the faithful departed may rest in eternal peace in God's heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, in your steadfast love, receive and grant our petitions according to your will. Through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Friday, January 15, 2021  
(Lec. 309)

- 1) Hebrews 4:1-5, 11
- 2) Mark 2:1-12

FRIDAY OF  
FIRST WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Faith and perseverance in the way of Christ leads to radical healing.

Both of today's readings remind us to keep our sights focused on Christ as we tirelessly make our way to perfect union with him. Let us cultivate in ourselves the faith and determination of the paralytic and his helpers, who go to great lengths to encounter Jesus and receive healing.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The author of Hebrews encourages his readers to be on guard against failure in disobedience, and to *strive to enter into [the Lord's] rest*. In the Gospel, Jesus is preaching in a home that is soon filled to capacity. Because of the crowd, a paralytic is lowered through the roof to Jesus. Jesus forgives the man's sins, and after his authority in doing so is challenged, he has the man get up and walk as a sign of his healing.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in the Lord's mercy, let us present to him our needs and petitions.

- 1) For our Church, may her members continue to grow in holiness and strength as we journey together to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our elected leaders, may God help them in always serving with selfless wisdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For refugees fleeing violence or poverty, may the Lord look graciously upon them and provide them a place of welcome and respite, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our midst who are suffering great loss, may they be filled with God's consolation and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they enjoy the eternal rest for which they strived in their life of faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Eternal Father, we ask that you hear the prayers of your people. Through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, January 16, 2021  
(Lec. 310)  
1) Hebrews 4:12-16  
2) Mark 2:13-17

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

FOCUS: Jesus calls us to place our trust in him and to follow him.

Responding to the call of discipleship is not always easy, but we have a model in Levi. He was going about his business when Jesus called him. But he placed his trust in Jesus and responded to the call. God loves us unconditionally, and gives us the grace to overcome our fears and doubts and walk in his ways.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the author speaks of the word of God as a two-edged sword, *penetrating even between soul and spirit*. Jesus, who was like us in all things but sin, knows us and therefore we may approach him with confidence for mercy, grace, and help. In the Gospel, Jesus passes by Levi at his customs post and says to him, *follow me*. Levi does, and they dine together, drawing the attention of the scribes.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our intentions to God, asking him to have mercy on our needs and the needs of the world.

- 1) For the Church, may the Father of all mercies grant her members the grace to grow in love and forgiveness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the leaders of our nation, may Christ be their guide in enacting and upholding just laws, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those expecting a child, may they be blessed with good health and strength as they nurture the child within them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those experiencing financial hardship in our faith community, may God in his tender mercy help them find the resources they need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked with the sign of faith, may their souls soon enter the joy of the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, we lift our prayers to you with humble hearts. We ask that you hear and answer them according to your will. Through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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**SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2021**

(Lec. 65)

- 1) 1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19
- 2) 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20
- 3) John 1:35-42

**SECOND SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: In both our first reading and the Gospel, we hear how God calls people to serve.

The youth Samuel hears God's voice but does not recognize it at first. But God keeps calling and with Eli's help, Samuel is finally able to hear God's word. The disciples of John the Baptist follow Jesus at his invitation, and bring along Simon Peter. We often come to serve the Lord through the invitation of others. We can offer that same invitation to those who have not yet heard the Gospel message.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lord keeps calling Samuel, who does not answer him, until Eli advises him how to respond the next time he hears the Lord. Samuel is to say, *Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening*. Saint Paul writes the Corinthians, telling them that their bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit and they ought to therefore glorify God in their body. In the Gospel, John the Baptist sees Jesus and declares him to be the *Lamb of God*. Andrew leaves John to follow Jesus, and brings his brother Simon Peter.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us present our petitions to our loving God.

- 1) That those who lead our Church may receive God's guidance and strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That those suffering oppression throughout the world may experience the peace of Christ in their lands, and in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who struggle with chronic physical ailments may grow strong under the gentle and nurturing hand of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That Jesus' love may conform us ever more to his own heart, as we strive to follow him more closely, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the souls of the faithful departed may find eternal peace in God's presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, hear the prayers of your people who have been called to follow your Son. Answer them in your goodness. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Monday, January 18, 2021  
(Lec. 311)

- 1) Hebrews 5:1-10
- 2) Mark 2:18-22

MONDAY OF  
SECOND WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Because of the cross, true joy and love have entered the world for eternity.

Jesus is the only high priest without sin, thus bringing about reconciliation between God and God's people. This reconciliation occurs not through an act of strength or self-promotion, but through the weakness of the cross. Because of the cross, true joy and love have entered the world for eternity.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Letter to the Hebrews explains how Jesus is the culmination and fulfillment of the line of Hebrew high priests, for Jesus' sacrifice brought forgiveness of all sin. In the Gospel, Jesus answers the question of why his disciples do not fast, using the imagery of new wine in old wineskins, and the presence of a bridegroom at a wedding feast.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

**PRIEST:** As the Father sent his Son to heal and redeem us, we now ask him to hear and answer these prayers that we may be comforted in any affliction.

- 1) For all Church leaders, may the example of Jesus inspire them in humble service of love for God's people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the leaders of nations and our world, may God's desire for unity be brought to greater fruition, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those isolated in nursing homes and treatment facilities, may Christ be present to them as they make their own way of the cross, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this local community of faith, may we be joyful recipients of the new life that God offers us through this Eucharist, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the deceased, through the mercy of God, may they rejoice at the eternal wedding feast, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** Gracious Lord, we give you thanks and praise for listening to the prayers of your people. We offer them in confidence, assured of your tender care for us, through Christ, our Lord.

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Tuesday, January 19, 2021  
(Lec. 312)  
1) Hebrews 6:10-20  
2) Mark 2:23-28

TUESDAY OF  
SECOND WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God gives us the Sabbath as a gift.

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus reminds the Pharisees of the original intent of the Sabbath, which is to remember God's creative work and liberation of the Hebrews from slavery. We could use a similar reminder ourselves. God gives us this day of rest to remember the purpose of work, to serve our neighbor, and to celebrate our salvation.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the writer exhorts the community to imitate the faith of Abraham, who received what God promised after waiting patiently; and *to hold fast to the hope that lies before us*. In the Gospel, when the Pharisees question Jesus about his disciples' actions, he tells them: *The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Mindful of our dependence on God, let us humbly place our petitions before him.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord help us honor him, and his creation, by keeping holy the Sabbath, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may the Holy Spirit empower them in putting the needs of their people before their own desires, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are burdened by work, especially those who must work on Sundays, may God give them the restorative rest they need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this worshiping community, may this celebration of the Eucharist increase our gratitude and respect for all that God has given us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they be reunited in heaven with all who have gone before them in faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, giver of every perfect gift, we ask you to hear our prayers and answer them according to your will, through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, January 20, 2021  
(Lec. 313)

- 1) Hebrews 7:1-3, 15-17
- 2) Mark 3:1-6

WEDNESDAY OF  
SECOND WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Fabian,  
Pope and Martyr;  
Saint Sebastian,  
Martyr)

FOCUS: Jesus is our model for ministry.

We know when it is a time to do the right thing, even if it costs us something: time, prestige, money, etc. As there is no beginning or end to Christ as high priest – so there is no limit to how we might follow his example in our lives, and in our ministry. Good must always counter evil, and care must always come before indifference and complacency. Jesus is our model, and with his help we can serve as he did.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the Letter to the Hebrews, the author quotes the passages from Genesis that tell of the meeting between Abraham and the high priest Melchizedek. He then speaks of another priest *raised up ... by the power of a life that cannot be destroyed*. In the Gospel, Jesus restores the withered hand of a man, in the synagogue, on the Sabbath. He is angry with the Pharisees, *and grieved at their hardness of heart*. They, in turn, begin to make plans *to put him to death*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Uniting our hearts and minds together as one, let us place our prayers before God.

- 1) For the Holy Father Pope Francis, may Christ continue to guide his leadership of the Church throughout the whole world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all of those who serve the law, may God's guidance inspire in them a renewed commitment to the value of human life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all of those who struggle with disabilities, may God's strength accompany them in their hardships, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may the Lord strengthen and sustain our faith in all we do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may they soon find peace and joy in God's presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, hear our needs today, and help us through your most gracious mercy. We ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, January 21, 2021  
(Lec. 314)

- 1) Hebrews 7:25–8:6
- 2) Mark 3:7-12

THURSDAY OF  
SECOND WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
Saint Agnes,  
Virgin and Martyr)

FOCUS: Jesus, the compassionate high priest, understands what it means to be human.

When we face difficulties or trials, it often helps to speak to somebody who identifies with what we're going through. In Jesus, the high priest, we have one who knows our human nature. Even in his divinity, he experienced the difficulties and challenges of being human. We can come to him with all of our needs, knowing that he understands.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the author writes about Jesus as the eternal high priest, our mediator with God, who has experienced all that comes with being human, except sin. In the Gospel, Jesus shows his power as the compassionate Son of God, healing people by his touch and his mere presence.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us present our petitions to our gracious God, who knows the needs of our hearts.

- 1) For our Holy Father and all bishops and priests, may the Lord continue to bless them as they lead the faithful, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who make decisions that affect the lives of others, may they be guided by compassion and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who live in poverty, may God in his mercy provide for their needs and grant them relief, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of this faith community, may God bless us and sustain us in our lives of discipleship, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they be welcomed by the Lord to an eternal life of joy and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, you show your compassion to all who are in need. Hear now the prayers we offer in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord.

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NOTE: For the Day of Prayer, any readings from the *Lectionary for Mass Supplement*, the Mass "For Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life," nos. 947A-947E, or the *Lectionary for Mass* (vol. IV), the Mass "For Peace and Justice," nos. 887-891  
Friday, January 22, 2021  
(Lec. 315)

- 1) Hebrews 8:6-13
- 2) Mark 3:13-19

FRIDAY OF  
SECOND WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(USA: Day of Prayer  
for the Legal Protection  
of Unborn Children)

FOCUS: We are a chosen people – called by the Lord and sent out with his Word.

By creating us in his own image and likeness, God has stamped his imprint upon every human heart. We are made for greatness and for a share in eternal life as one of God's chosen and holy people.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the author reminds us that it was the Lord God himself who promised a new covenant with Israel – one not in stone but written on the human heart. In the Gospel, Jesus appoints, and names, the Apostles – Twelve of his followers. They would be with him and also go forth and preach, and would have the power and authority over demons.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we pray for the legal protection of the unborn in our nation, let us bring our prayers before the Lord.

- 1) For vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life – for a generous response to the Lord's call, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who govern, may the Lord grant them wisdom and a moral heart in their work to protect the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who live in situations where they are oppressed, intimidated, or scared, may God's grace and courage fill their hearts and give them strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all gathered here, may we, through the Lord's grace and providence, grow in the virtues of faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, family and friends who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith, may they enter into the fullness of life in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, you created us in your image and likeness, and even more wonderfully redeemed us through your Son. Hear the prayers we now offer and answer them according to your holy will. Through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, January 23, 2021

(Lec. 316)

1) Hebrews 9:2-3; 11-14

2) Mark 3:20-21

SATURDAY OF

SECOND WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(Opt. Mem.

USA: Saint Vincent,

Deacon and Martyr;

USA: Saint Marianne Cope,

Virgin;

Saturday in honor

of BVM)

FOCUS: Jesus is the one and only true sacrifice who brings about our salvation.

We have all heard the phrase "you're out of your mind!" with regard to someone doing something unique or beyond our understanding. Even some of Jesus' own family say this about him as he goes about preaching and healing. In the secular world in which we live, priorities are very different for those who want a deeper relationship with Christ versus those who chase after things that in the end turn to dust. We follow Jesus because he is the one and only true sacrifice who brings about our salvation.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading from the Letter to the Hebrews, the author writes that *when Christ came as high priest*, he passed through a greater tabernacle than any previous high priest, and entered forever into the sanctuary, for our redemption. In the Gospel, the crowds around Jesus continue to grow and his relatives say, *he is out of his mind*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

**PRIEST:** As faithful believers in Christ, the high priest who brings about our salvation, we present our petitions to the Father who sent him.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all pastoral leaders, may the Lord continue to bless them and guide them in the ways of discipleship, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our elected officials, may they be led by the Holy Spirit in creating policies and procedures that affirm the dignity of every person, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who suffer from illness, may the compassionate touch of Jesus be upon them in the hands of those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the grace of the sacraments deepen our commitment to prayer and our understanding of God's will, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died alone, may God's legion of angels welcome them into paradise this day, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** Heavenly Father, hear our prayers that we offer. We pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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**SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2021**

(Lec. 68)

- 1) Jonah 3:1-5, 10
- 2) 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
- 3) Mark 1:14-20

**THIRD SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Prepare each day for the end of our earthly lives.

There is an ancient practice of reflection on mortality that goes as far back as Socrates: *Memento Mori*, or, *Remember, thou art mortal*. Today's Scriptures are perfect for the Christian spiritual practice of thinking about our life, and eventual death – a reminder that our ultimate goal in faith is to live with God after this life. Awareness of our own mortality should spur us to act righteously each day.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

At God's command, Jonah goes to Nineveh, prophesying destruction. The citizens of Nineveh repent and are spared. Saint Paul urges the Corinthians to act in a way that reflects the passing away of this world. In the Gospel, Jesus arrives in Galilee, proclaiming the *time of fulfillment* has arrived, and that all are to *repent, and believe in the Gospel*. The Apostles Simon, Andrew, James, and John leave their lives as fishermen to follow him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With the same trust the first Apostles had to follow Jesus, let us turn to God and bring him our needs.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may we, through God's grace, continue to grow in the likeness of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our nation's leaders, may the Holy Spirit inspire them in promoting justice for all, especially the marginalized, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those nearing the end of their earthly lives, may Jesus bring them comfort, peace, and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this gathered family of faith, may God bless us and protect us in this new year, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may our merciful Savior welcome them to paradise, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of mercy and love, we turn to you with trust in your infinite goodness. We ask that you hear the prayers we bring you in the name of Jesus, your Son.

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Monday, January 25, 2021  
(Lec. 519)

- 1) Acts 22:3-16  
or Acts 9:1-22
- 2) Mark 16:15-18

**THE CONVERSION  
OF SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE  
- FEAST**

**FOCUS:** On this feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, let us join him in sharing the Good News with others.

Saint Paul was transformed from persecutor of Christians to defender of the Gospel after his encounter with Christ. As the “Apostle to the Gentiles,” he was a powerful force in the early Christian communities. His preaching, particularly on Christ crucified, baptism, Christians as the Body of Christ, and our relationship to the divine (and God’s to us) helped the Church develop much of its theology.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

In the first reading, Saul – who seeks to bring anyone *back to Jerusalem in chains* who belongs *to the way* – instead hears the voice of Christ and is struck blind in the encounter. After a few days he is healed, baptized, and begins proclaiming Jesus as the Son of God. In Mark’s Gospel, Jesus appears to the Eleven and instructs them to *go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature*.

**UNIVERSAL PRAYER**

**PRIEST:** As a community of faith, let us join together in prayer as we present our petitions to God.

- 1) For our Holy Mother Church, may the Holy Spirit continue to bless and preserve her as she guides her children in faith and with love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all those in positions of authority, may God help them use their time, their talent, and their resources to best help those in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those in need of healing, may the faithfulness of our heavenly Father bring them hope and relieve their suffering, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all in our faith community who have fallen away from the Lord, may the Holy Spirit steady their feet and direct their path in return, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they rest in the eternal presence of our heavenly Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** Gracious God, we place our petitions before you and trust that you will provide all we need. We offer these prayers in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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Tuesday, January 26, 2021  
(Lec. 520)  
1) 2 Timothy 1:1-8  
or Titus 1:1-5  
(Lec. 318)  
2) Mark 3:31-35

TUESDAY OF  
THIRD WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
Saints Timothy and Titus,  
Bishops)

FOCUS: Encourage one another in love and affection, for we are all Christ's brothers and sisters.

We can often be limited by our own definitions of words – even simple words such as family. The word usually makes us think of those people to whom we are related by blood or adoption. But Jesus tells us today that we need to look at all Christians as our family.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul writes to Timothy with great affection, calling him *my dear child*, and encouraging him to bear any hardship *with the strength that comes from God*. In the Gospel, Jesus, after being told that his mother and brothers and sisters were asking for him, said, *whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Gathered as a family united in faith and baptism, let us with confidence bring our needs and prayers before our loving God and Father.

- 1) For all Church leaders, may they be blessed with the wisdom and courage of the Holy Spirit to lead us through difficult times, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government officials across the world, may God open their hearts and minds to his will for all people to be treated with basic human dignity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those hindered by financial difficulties, physical burdens, or other damaging effects and circumstances due to COVID-19, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us here, through the intercession of Saints Timothy and Titus, may we have the grace to live a life of service in God's name, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all those who have died, may God accept them with loving arms into his heavenly family, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, hear the prayers we offer today. We ask through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, January 27, 2021  
(Lec. 319)

- 1) Hebrews 10:11-18
- 2) Mark 4:1-20

WEDNESDAY OF  
THIRD WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Angela Merici,  
Virgin)

FOCUS: The love and mercy of our extravagant Lord are freely given and fully redeeming.

Christ gives himself freely and fully out of love for us, extravagant in his giving and forgiving. He puts his law in our hearts, writes it upon our minds, and forgets when we sin and fall short. He sows his Word widely and freely, hoping it bears fruit. To him we are worth the extravagance.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the author writes that Christ made *one sacrifice for sins*. The Lord has put his law in the hearts of his people, and remembers their sins no more. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the sower who scatters seeds widely, some of which bear fruit. Jesus likens the fruitful seeds to those who hear and accept his Word.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We offer our petitions to our gracious and forgiving Lord.

- 1) That God may accept the offering of ourselves united to Christ through the Church's holy sacrifice of the Mass, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the law of our land may be inspired by the law of the Lord that has been written upon our minds and put in our hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That the hearts of those heavy with guilt or shame may be touched by the extravagant mercy and love of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the word of God sown in the hearts of this faith community's catechumens, candidates, and religious education students may find rich soil and bear abundant fruit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may soon rejoice with Christ and all the angels and saints in the eternal kingdom of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful God, we come to you in our need and surrender ourselves to your grace. Hear the prayers we offer today through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, January 28, 2021  
(Lec. 320)  
1) Hebrews 10:19-25  
2) Mark 4:21-25

THURSDAY OF  
THIRD WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
Saint Thomas Aquinas,  
Priest and Doctor  
of the Church)

FOCUS: God made us for a generosity that mirrors his own.

We are exhorted to cling to our faith because God is trustworthy. We trust in him because of who he is, knowing that he will always be with us doing the work he's called us to. When we give as he's called us to, he goes with us and beyond us, demonstrating and inviting us to generosity of total self.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the author exhorts the Hebrews to have absolute trust in God, and *to hold unwaveringly to [their] confession that gives [them] hope*. In the Gospel, Jesus asks his disciples whether a light ought to be placed under a basket rather than on a lampstand, as a way of introducing several truths, including, *Nothing [is] hidden except to be made visible*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us turn to our generous God and bring him our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For our Church leaders, may the Lord conform them to his generosity in their faith and service, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our civic leaders, may God grant them wisdom and courage in working for racial justice in our communities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who are living in fear, may the Lord comfort them with the firm knowledge of his presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may the Lord increase the measure of faith given us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have gone before us in the hope of eternal life, may the Lord soon bring them into his loving embrace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, receive our prayers and answer them according to your holy will. Through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, January 29, 2021  
(Lec. 321)

- 1) Hebrews 10:32-39
- 2) Mark 4:26-34

FRIDAY OF  
THIRD WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: We have confidence in God's providence.

God takes humble things and transforms them into marvels and wonders that offer sustenance and shelter. He does this in ways that are beyond our understanding and knowledge. We are encouraged to remain confident in God's providence, that in whatever ways the kingdom of God is in our midst – as tiny seeds or as flowering buds – it will one day be ready for harvest.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The author of the Letter to the Hebrews commends them in their endurance of suffering for the faith, and says, *do not throw away your confidence; it will have great recompense*. In the Gospel, Jesus says the kingdom of God is like seed, scattered on land, which sprouts and grows *of its own accord*. The man who scatters the seed *knows not how* this happens.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us present to our loving God the needs of our community, and those of the world.

- 1) For God's holy Church, may she be strengthened by the Holy Spirit to follow the Lord with focus and zeal, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the world, may God guide the leaders of all nations in protecting the dignity and sanctity of human life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who suffer from feeling inadequate or unworthy, may they find peace in God's providence and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For peace and justice in our homes and communities, may he who is acclaimed as beloved Son dwell in our hearts and fill us with his peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they soon rest in the eternal light and peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear the prayers we bring to you in humility, and answer them in your gracious mercy. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, January 30, 2021  
(Lec. 322)  
1) Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19  
2) Mark 4:35-41

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

FOCUS: Those who believe the promises of God demonstrate this by their actions.

Abraham's faith was an active one; he believed in God and his promises. He is the perfect example of what someone with faith does. The disciples in the Gospel, by contrast, show a lack of faith and understanding when they question Jesus' care for them in the storm.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the author of Hebrews writes about the activity of faith: realizing what is hoped for, and serving as evidence of what is not seen. He recalls the faithful actions of Abraham. In the Gospel, Jesus and his disciples are caught in a storm at sea, which terrifies the disciples. Jesus calms the sea and the wind, and questions the disciples' level of faith.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With hope and faith in God's promises, let us bring our needs to him.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may our Lord bring her safely through all the storms and trials she faces, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our leaders, may God as architect direct their actions to build a more just society, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those enduring suffering, confusion, or fear in their lives, may Christ protect them and give them his peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may God's Holy Spirit inspire us in loving and forgiving one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our loved ones who have died, may God's merciful embrace welcome them home, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we believe in your loving care for us and we ask you to hear the prayers we offer. Through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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**SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2021**

(Lec. 71)

- 1) Deuteronomy 18:15-20
- 2) 1 Corinthians 7:32-35
- 3) Mark 1:21-28

**FOURTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Those who witness Jesus' authority and healing power are amazed.

In today's Gospel account of Jesus entering Capernaum, those who heard his teaching and witnessed him drive out an unclean spirit are astonished. Their amazement is due to the authority of Christ, who is God himself. Are we, too, in awe at the work of God in our lives?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Moses tells the people that God will raise up a prophet and put his own words in the prophet's mouth. This prophet will speak all that God commands him to. Saint Paul encourages the Corinthians to be free from anxieties and be *without distraction* so that they may be fully devoted to the Lord. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches in a synagogue in Capernaum. As he speaks, and as he drives out an unclean spirit, the crowd is *amazed* by his authority.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We bring our intentions to the Father this day, amazed at the work he does in our lives.

- 1) For the Holy Father and all bishops and priests, may they encounter the bountiful blessings of the Spirit as they teach and lead the faithful, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all government officials, may God grant them the courage to make decisions out of love, mercy, and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For families in conflict, may the grace of God move in and through them to bring about healing and reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the Lord sow seeds that bear much fruit in building up his Kingdom on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they soon experience the fullness of God's kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father in heaven, thank you for every good gift. Hear our prayers as we gather in faith today, confident in your love for us. We ask this through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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