

OCTOBER

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YEAR B WEEKDAYS I

Friday, October 1, 2021
(Lec. 459)

- 1) Baruch 1:15-22
- 2) Luke 10:13-16

FRIDAY OF
26TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM

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

FOCUS: Choose the way of the Lord.

Today's readings call us to pause and examine our lives, for we know that rejecting the Son means rejecting the Father. The people of Judah failed to listen to the words of God, and we at times fail to uphold the promises we made at our baptism. We always have the choice to follow the way of the Lord or not. Let us recommit ourselves to choosing the way of the Lord.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the prophet Baruch acknowledges the justice of God and the tendency of the people of Judah to ignore God's words and go their own way. In the Gospel, Jesus reprimands the people of Chorazin and Bethsaida for being unrepentant, and says also to Capernaum, *whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the God of Justice, we bring before him the needs of our neighbors and our world.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all clergy, may God grant them strength and courage in teaching the word of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For a greater respect for life throughout the world, from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For people struggling with addictions, may God's grace and courage fill their hearts and give them strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may Jesus strengthen us as we seek to build God's kingdom here on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they soon be welcomed into the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of Justice and Love, all we have is from you. Hear our prayers and grant them according to your will, in the name of Jesus, your Son and our Lord.

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Saturday, October 2, 2021
(Lec. 460)
1) Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29
(Lec. 650)
2) Matthew 18:1-5, 10

SATURDAY OF
26TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
The Holy Guardian Angels)

FOCUS: *Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven.*

Jesus tells us in the Gospel to *become like children*, and that the angels of children look upon the face of the Father. Let us, then, approach our Father in heaven with childlike humility and joy, trusting completely that he who loves us will save us and give us what we need for salvation.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Baruch tells the Israelites God allowed them to be conquered as a punishment, but God will not forsake them. If they turn to God, he will save them. In the Gospel, Jesus says, *unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the Kingdom of heaven.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With childlike confidence in the goodness of our heavenly Father, let us bring him our prayers.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may the Holy Spirit bless us with spiritual gifts and a childlike countenance, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For political leaders, may God move their hearts toward justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who feel abandoned by God, may Christ bring them the consolation of his presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may God bless us and make us holy in his sight, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may Christ Jesus welcome them into the eternal kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of mercy and love, kindly look with favor upon the needs brought to you by your children. We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus, who is Christ the Lord.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2021

(Lec. 140)

- 1) Genesis 2:18-24
- 2) Hebrews 2:9-11
- 3) Mark 10:2-16
or 10:2-12

**27TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: God has joined us to one another and to himself.

When we bring our questions, doubts, and concerns to God, even when we try to challenge him with the letter of the law, he responds in love, by revealing his plan of salvation. This plan is lived out in the sacrament of marriage, and in joining ourselves in faith and love to God no matter our state in life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God creates a suitable partner for the man – a woman. The man calls her *bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh*. In the Letter to the Hebrews, the author writes of the one who, *“for a little while” was made “lower than the angels,” that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone*. In the Gospel, the Pharisees ask Jesus about the law regarding divorce. Jesus answers, *what God has joined together, no human being must separate*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As his faithful children, we turn to the Father in prayer to present our petitions to him.

- 1) For Church leaders, may the Holy Spirit fortify them in their witness to the Gospel of life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may God provide them with the resources necessary for their work in bringing an end to violence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, may they experience the healing touch of Jesus, the Divine Physician, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in this faith community who struggle emotionally, financially, or physically, may the Lord send his spirit to be with them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they, through the mercy of God, rest in eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and eternal God, in your infinite mercy please hear our prayers, we ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, October 4, 2021
(Lec. 461)

- 1) Jonah 1:1–2:2, 11
- 2) Luke 10:25-37

MONDAY OF
27TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Francis of Assisi)

FOCUS: We are called to love God by being good neighbors.

In Jesus' response to the scholar of the law, he changes the nature of the question from who deserves our care to who we are called to be. We are called to respond to God's love by loving our neighbor. No matter our state or place in life, we are to be good neighbors by showing compassion for others, even those who do us wrong.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

After Jonah runs from the mission the Lord assigned, he volunteers to be thrown overboard the ship he has embarked, and is swallowed by a large fish. In the Gospel, a scholar of the law asks Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life and who his neighbor is. Jesus answers with a parable about a man who was robbed and the reactions of three passersby.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Remembering God's mercy, we now offer these prayers to the Father.

- 1) That all leaders of the Church may be blessed with fortitude in their proclamation of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That all nations may be under the protection of the Lord and be at peace with one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all women facing difficult or unplanned pregnancies may receive compassionate care and the support they need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That this community of faith may continue to be cleansed and perfected through the love of God manifest in this Eucharist, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died may inherit eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, you have shown us your tender care. Hear and answer the prayers of your children, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, October 5, 2021

(Lec. 462)

- 1) Jonah 3:1-10
- 2) Luke 10:38-42

TUESDAY OF
27TH WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(Opt. Mem.

Saint Faustina Kowalska,
Virgin;

USA: Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos,
Priest)

FOCUS: When blinded by our own concerns, we fail to enjoy God's mercy and grace.

Like Martha, it is easier to judge others than to realize and accept our own mistakes. We can be blinded by our own concerns. When we let go of those concerns, it opens us to God's mercy and enables us to enjoy the goodness and grace God wishes to share with us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Jonah is sent to warn Nineveh of impending punishment. The city repents and turns from evil, thus God forgives and relents. In the Gospel, Martha complains to Jesus that Mary is not helping. Jesus responds by contrasting Martha's anxiety and worry with Mary's choice of the better part: to sit and listen to him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Open to his mercy and trusting in his goodness, we offer our petitions to the Lord.

- 1) That God may grant the Church a spirit of faithfulness and fortitude in her mission of spreading the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That cities and nations living in the darkness of sin may be led by the Gospel message to repentance for the sake of salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That the Holy Spirit may remove all burdens and obstacles from those who find it difficult to see God's goodness and grace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all who minister to our faith community may continue to grow in hope and faith as they follow Christ and do his work, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That Jesus may welcome into his heavenly home the souls of all the faithful departed, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of Mercy, hear and answer our prayers according to the grace and goodness of your holy will, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, October 6, 2021
(Lec. 463)

- 1) Jonah 4:1-11
- 2) Luke 11:1-4

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

FOCUS: Jesus teaches us to pray with trust.

Jesus teaches us how to pray. The words don't have to be complicated or elaborate, and the prayer doesn't have to be long. What Jesus encourages us to do is to recognize our need for and dependence on God and to express confidence in God's mercy, and trust in his goodness.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Jonah is angry that God has shown mercy to Nineveh. God engages Jonah to show him he has no reason to be angry. In the Gospel, one of Jesus' disciples asks him to teach them how to pray. Jesus instructs them to pray with an invocation and petitions for daily food, forgiveness, and protection from the final test.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in his mercy and compassion, let us bring our prayers and petitions to the Lord.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may the Holy Spirit strengthen us in lives of holiness in service to the kingdom of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of all nations, may the Lord fill them with wisdom and courage in their decision-making, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For families in difficult circumstances, may God guide them through trials, and comfort them in their distress, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all members of this faith community, may the grace of the sacraments make our hearts grow in humility and repentance, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have gone before us in faith, may the Lord shine perpetual light upon them and grant them eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious and merciful God, hear, we pray, these simple prayers, and answer them in accordance with your divine will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Thursday, October 7, 2021
(Lec. 464)

- 1) Malachi 3:13-20b
- 2) Luke 11:5-13

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

FOCUS: We are called to pray with the promise that God will hear and answer our needs.

Today as we memorialize Our Lady of the Rosary, we are called to prayer. We are promised that those who seek God will find him, and those who knock on his door will be invited in. He will rescue those who believe in him and will send his Holy Spirit to provide the guidance needed by his people to live out his plan.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Malachi assures the people of God that the day of the Lord is coming, and those who fear the Lord will know his healing ways. In the Gospel, Jesus tells a parable of a man who seeks assistance from his friend, ending with the assurance that all who ask of the Father will receive.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Knowing that our Father will hear and answer our prayers, we join together to present our petitions to him.

- 1) For the Holy Catholic Church, may God infuse her with his wisdom and grace, empowering all to spread his love throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who are in positions of leadership, may God's love and grace inform their choices as they care for those they lead, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those burdened with poverty, sickness, or loneliness, may God comfort them and provide what they need to heal and prosper, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may we continue to be conformed ever more to the teachings and the heart of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may God's mercy envelop them and bring them to eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, hear our prayers which we offer with confidence that you will provide what we need. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son.

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Friday, October 8, 2021

(Lec. 465)

1) Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2

2) Luke 11:15-26

FRIDAY OF
27TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: The reign of God overcomes sin.

Today's readings tell of the battle against evil in the day of the Lord and the arrival of the kingdom of God in the person of Jesus. Jesus expels demons and wipes out sin, overthrowing Satan's reign. Our response in faith is one of penance and complete devotion to Christ. God's power overcomes that of sin and hell.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Joel calls the people to repentance, warning of the day of the Lord, which is coming. In the Gospel, Jesus is accused of driving out demons by Beelzebul. He refutes the charge, saying, *whoever is not with me is against me*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Mindful of God's power to overcome every evil, we make our humble petitions to him.

- 1) That God may continue to empower the Church to proclaim the Gospel without fear and with love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the Holy Spirit may guide civic legislators in enacting laws that protect human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That God may grant patience in suffering to those weighed down by disease, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all who suffer grief from the loss of a loved one may be consoled by the gift of hope and the grace of understanding, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That God may show his abundant mercy, along with his justice, toward the faithful departed, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: All-powerful God, we bring our needs to you, knowing that your goodness enfolds us completely. We ask you to hear our prayers, through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, October 9, 2021
(Lec. 466)

- 1) Joel 4:12-21
- 2) Luke 11:27-28

SATURDAY OF
27TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Denis, Bishop,
and Companions,
Martyrs;
Saint John Leonardi,
Priest;
Saturday in honor
of BVM)

FOCUS: *Blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it.*

It's laudable to know Scripture well. But what the Lord wants from us is to take his Word and structure our lives around it. Mary's blessedness is not because she physically carried Jesus in her womb, but because she said "Yes" to God's will. In living the words of Scripture, we, too, say "Yes."

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Joel prophesies the day when Israel's enemies are defeated and God resides in Zion. In the Gospel, Jesus says, *blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us now take our prayers and petitions to our merciful Father.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may the Holy Spirit help us make a joyful and fruitful witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may God grant them strength, compassion, and wisdom in their duties, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who live in situations where they are oppressed or scared, may God's grace and courage fill their hearts and give them strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For we who worship and share community in this space, may the Holy Spirit continue to enkindle in us the fire of his love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may God welcome them into his loving arms in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2021

(Lec. 143)

- 1) Wisdom 7:7-11
- 2) Hebrews 4:12-13
- 3) Mark 10:17-30 or 10:17-27

**28TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Discipleship requires courage.

God's call to faithful discipleship promises unimaginable blessings and requires radical trust in God's providence. Like the rich young man, we have futures to get ready. We cannot do it alone – for it is only with God that all things are possible.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, King Solomon entreats and encounters Wisdom and is granted blessings that pale only in comparison to Wisdom herself. In the second reading, the author writes, *the word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword*. In the Gospel, Jesus has an exchange with a young man of many possessions, who asks what he must do *to inherit eternal life*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that the Lord provides for our needs, let us bring all the burdens of our hearts to our Father in heaven, who loves us.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord continue to bless her and protect her from all evil, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all nations and peoples, may the peace of Christ turn all swords into plowshares, resulting in healing and reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who bear financial responsibility for family, may God's providence free them from any anxiety, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For anyone in this faith community living through a time of strife, may the Holy Spirit bring peace and unity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have passed from this life into the next, may they be swiftly ushered into the eternal banquet of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, hear the prayers we offer to you in the trust that you fulfill all our needs. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, October 11, 2021
(Lec. 467)

- 1) Romans 1:1-7
- 2) Luke 11:29-32

MONDAY OF
28TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint John XXIII,
Pope)

FOCUS: Christ is the sign by which we live.

A sign is something that points to a more significant truth. For us as Christians, we live by the sign Christ has given to us – himself. His earthly ministry, including the Paschal Mystery, showed the ways in which God’s love for us is made manifest – the ways in which “a sign is given” to us. Today’s readings help us reflect on what it means to see that which is right before us: the love of God in Christ.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul greets the Churches at Rome, telling them he has been called to be *an Apostle and set apart for the Gospel of God*. In the Gospel, Jesus addresses those who are seeking a sign. Using the story of Jonah, he tells them that the Son of Man will be a sign to this generation.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the abundant hope of Christ, let us bring our prayers together with one voice.

- 1) For the Church, and all who lead it, may the Lord bless and uphold them in their labor for the kingdom of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who have been elected to serve our communities, may God embolden them with hearts for servant leadership, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who struggle with depression or anxiety, may God’s peace be with them in their hardship, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community gathered here today, may the Lord fill us with love and truth and guide us in the ways of wisdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have recently passed away from this life, may God bring them to eternal rest with him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, your Son is a sign for all generations throughout time. Hear the prayers we offer today through his holy name.

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Tuesday, October 12, 2021
(Lec. 468)

- 1) Romans 1:16-25
- 2) Luke 11:37-41

TUESDAY OF
28TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Out of perfect love, God went to great lengths to draw us to himself.

Our salvation is a tremendous gift, born out of the divine love of God. Everything God has revealed to us is meant to conform our souls to him. Jesus is God's perfect revelation and is the example of how to be in relationship with God, and how to reflect God's goodness both inside and out.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul writes that the Gospel is *the power of God*, and it is *for the salvation of everyone who believes*. In the Gospel, Jesus dines at the house of a Pharisee and scolds him for focusing on external cleanliness while being *filled with plunder and evil*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For an increase in religious vocations, may the Lord bless those discerning priesthood or consecrated life with generous and open hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all public authorities, leaders of nations and governments, and those entrusted with the welfare of their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are dealing with the scars of war, conflict, or violence, may the healing power of Christ restore their hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the community gathered today, may the Holy Spirit continue to guide us in our daily lives and decisions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all 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: Father, source of all goodness, hear our prayers and grant them according to your holy will. We ask this through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, October 13, 2021

(Lec. 469)

1) Romans 2:1-11

2) Luke 11:42-46

WEDNESDAY OF
28TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Judgment belongs to God.

Condemning the actions and behaviors of others is easy and tempting. But today's readings remind us that judgment belongs to God and we, too, will face the Lord's judgment. We are responsible not only for our own actions, but for whether we have led others closer to love of God, led them astray, or whether we have impeded their spiritual progress.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul instructs his audience about God's judgment, which *will repay everyone according to his works*. Jesus warns the Pharisees that they are misleading others and warns the scholars of the law for imposing heavy burdens on others – burdens they themselves do not shoulder.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For Pope Francis and all the bishops of the Church, may the Holy Spirit grant them wisdom in shepherding his flock on the path of salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For peace throughout the world, may the Lord guide us in finding ways to resolve conflicts and disputes, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are facing difficulties in their lives, may the peace of Christ that is beyond all understanding bring them comfort and resolution, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the children and young people in this faith community, may the Lord protect them from all evil and bless them with his joy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have gone before us in faith, may the Lord welcome them into his heavenly banquet and grant them eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Thursday, October 14, 2021
(Lec. 470)

- 1) Romans 3:21-30
- 2) Luke 11:47-54

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

FOCUS: Christ himself transforms and empowers us to do as he commands.

In the time before the Incarnation, God called a chosen people to be his own, but not all of the people followed the law and the prophets. As the early Christians learn to live as a community, questions arise regarding who may be included and what practices they ought to follow.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul instructs the early Christian community in Rome that both Gentile and Jewish Christians receive the gift of faith, for they all worship the same God. In the Gospel, Jesus castigates the Pharisees for continuing a history of persecution against God's prophets.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For leaders of the Church, may God's grace enable them in their ministry of spreading the Good News to the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For a greater respect for life throughout the world, from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are imprisoned, may the light of Christ bring about transformation in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the people of this faith community, may God's providential love for us encourage and sustain us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they know rest and peace in heaven and behold the face of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of mercy, we give thanks to you for the redemption you offer to us. In your goodness, listen kindly to the prayers we have made through Christ our Lord.

Friday, October 15, 2021
(Lec. 471)

- 1) Romans 4:1-8
- 2) Luke 12:1-7

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

FOCUS: God saves us because he loves us intimately and asks only that we say yes to this gift.

We do not earn salvation through our works. God saves us because God loves us enough to know the number of hairs on our head. God asks only that we say the “yes” of faith to this gift. Salvation is given in the *relationship* – receiving the freely given, intimate love of Christ and responding by giving ourselves in our “yes.”

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul tells the Churches of Rome about the faith of Abraham, which was credited to him as righteousness apart from works. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks to a gathered crowd about hypocrisy, the fear of God, and God's intimate care for them, such that the hairs on their head are counted.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust in God's care for us, we offer these prayers today.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord continue to bless her and protect her from all evil, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may they be given the vision to see and respond to the needs of every person, especially the most vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who feel defeated in whatever their daily battles are, and for all in need of any kind of healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may the Holy Spirit continue to help us grow in faith, hope, and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the light of faith, may they be welcomed into God's glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, hear and answer these prayers. We offer them with our love and belief that you will take care of our needs. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, October 16, 2021
(Lec. 472)

- 1) Romans 4:13, 16-18
- 2) Luke 12:8-12

SATURDAY OF
28TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Hedwig, Religious;
Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin;
Saturday in honor
of BVM)

FOCUS: The Holy Spirit comes to our aid in times of need.

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks to the essential role of the Holy Spirit, whom his disciples must acknowledge and trust. It is the Spirit who will intimately accompany them and provide for their needs at each particular moment. So, too, for us – how can we acknowledge and trust the Holy Spirit's work in our lives?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Paul explains that Abraham received God's promise through faith rather than the law, ensuring that salvation would be a gift. In the Gospel, Jesus exhorts his disciples to acknowledge him and his Holy Spirit, who will come to their aid when they are tried before the authorities.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us now join together in prayer as we bring our needs before God.

- 1) For the Church, may the Holy Spirit conform each one of us to God's will and give us the grace to follow it, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all appointed and elected officials, may Christ show them the way of truth and justice in their leadership, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are facing persecution for their faith, may the Lord give them the words and strength they need at the moment of their trial, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our community of faith, may the Holy Spirit kindle in us the fire of his love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they soon rest in the eternal peace of Christ in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, we thank and praise you for your goodness. Hear and answer these prayers according to your holy will, we ask through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2021

(Lec. 146)

- 1) Isaiah 53:10-11
- 2) Hebrews 4:14-16
- 3) Mark 10:35-45 or 10:42-45

**29TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Christ came to give his life as a ransom for many.

As Jesus reveals that he is the Suffering Servant who must suffer and die, so we, his disciples, can expect to follow him along the road to Calvary. Yet even in light of this painful truth, we have a marvelous hope: the hope that the now glorified Suffering Servant will intercede for us before the throne of God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah prophesies the servant who, through his suffering, will justify many. In the Letter to the Hebrews, Jesus is described as the *great high priest who has passed through the heavens*. In the Gospel, James and John ask Jesus to allow them to sit at his right and left hand in his glory.

UNIVERSAL PRAYERS

PRIEST: With confidence and trust, let us ask God for what we need.

- 1) For Church leaders, may the voice of the Holy Spirit be their guide as they lead the faithful, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all civic leaders, may God grant them a heart of humility in service to their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick and all who suffer, may the Holy Spirit restore them to the fullness of life and health, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all members of this faith community, may the Lord increase our love for and commitment to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they come to share in the fullness of Christ's glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and eternal God, our salvation comes from you alone. Hear the prayers we offer today through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, October 18, 2021
(Lec. 661)

- 1) 2 Timothy 4:10-17b
- 2) Luke 10:1-9

**SAINT LUKE,
EVANGELIST
- FEAST**

FOCUS: Like the disciples, we are called to prepare the way for Christ.

The disciples are sent ahead of Jesus into hostile territory to prepare for his coming. They are to greet the people with peace and the message that salvation is near, but also to expect that their peaceful greeting could be rejected. Whether our message is accepted or rejected, we, too, are called to proclaim the Kingdom until Christ comes again.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul writes to Timothy that his companions have all abandoned him except Luke. In the Gospel, Jesus sends pairs of disciples ahead of him with instructions to carry no money, sack, or sandals. They are to greet each household with peace.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For the Church, may the love of Christ uphold her in her mission of proclaiming the kingdom of God to the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all nations engaged in conflict, may the Lord bring reconciliation and peace to their lands, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering with chronic illness, may Christ the healer bring them physical and spiritual healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all gathered here, may the Holy Spirit bring healing and reconciliation wherever it is needed, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the light of faith, may the mercy of God usher them into the fullness of eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, graciously hear and answer the prayers we have brought before you today. Through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, October 19, 2021
(Lec. 474)

- 1) Romans 5:12, 15b,
17-19, 20b-21
- 2) Luke 12:35-38

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

FOCUS: Redeemed by Christ's sacrifice, we are called to be ready for his return in glory.

The Lord tells his disciples to be always vigilant, anticipating his return in glory. As we commemorate the North American Martyrs today, we ask that through their intercession and inspired by their example we may stand firm in our faith and lead lives that witness to the goodness of God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul writes that while death came into the world through the sin of Adam, redemption was achieved by the sacrifice of Jesus. The salvation brought by Jesus restores all to righteousness before God. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples to be vigilant, for the day of his return is not known by anyone.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We turn now to the Father with petitions for the Church and for the world.

- 1) That our holy Mother Church may continue to receive God's grace in using her prophetic voice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That our political leaders may be blessed and encouraged in their work to protect human life at all its stages, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who suffer from any burden or difficulty may be strengthened and consoled through the power of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That our community of faith may be blessed with an abundance of hope as we await the Lord's return, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may soon find a place of rest in God's presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful God, hear the prayers we present to you today and answer them in your goodness. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, October 20, 2021
(Lec. 475)

- 1) Romans 6:12-18
- 2) Luke 12:39-48

WEDNESDAY OF
29TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
USA: Saint Paul of the Cross,
Priest)

FOCUS: The faithful steward, at any hour, is found using the gifts and responsibilities he has in a manner pleasing to his master.

Today we reflect on the gifts that God has given us, and how these gifts are not earned but are given freely by God. Jesus' parable about the faithful steward reminds us that at any hour, we may be called to give an accounting of how we use what God has given us. Have we squandered his gifts? Have we used them to take advantage of others? Or have we used them in service of God's kingdom?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul exhorts the Romans to become *slaves of righteousness*, rather than slaves of sin and death. In the Gospel, Jesus warns the disciples to be ready at any time for the Son of Man to come, and tells them that *Much will be required of the person entrusted with much*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we seek to be faithful stewards of God's gifts, let us offer our prayers to our Father in heaven.

- 1) For the leaders of the Church, may the Lord continue to bless them with vitality and health, and growth in holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our national and local leaders, may Christ direct their hearts in serving the needs of the most vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who live daily with the threat of violence, may God deliver them and bring them his peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may Jesus strengthen us as we seek to build God's kingdom here on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they be welcomed into the heavenly kingdom by the Communion of Saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Thursday, October 21, 2021
(Lec. 476)

- 1) Romans 6:19-23
- 2) Luke 12:49-53

THURSDAY OF
29TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Be on fire for Jesus!

Jesus comes with fire! Fire heats, warms, and gives light. It refines and purifies, separating gold from dross. When we say, "Joe's really on fire," or "Mary burns with passion," we describe zeal, enthusiasm, or great love. We are called to separate ourselves from the world and all that keeps us from following Jesus without reserve.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul instructs the Romans to leave sinful ways and use their bodies for righteousness, receiving the gift of eternal life. In the Gospel, Jesus says, *I have come to set the earth on fire*. His followers will be divided against their own families.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God offers the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. With confidence in his goodness, let us offer him our prayers this day.

- 1) For the Church, and all who preach the Good News of God's mercy and the promise of eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of government who value justice and integrity, may the Lord assist them in their efforts to protect all human life from conception to natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those trapped in sin and addiction, may God's mercy help them take confident steps toward freedom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may the calling of Christ echo in our hearts, giving clarity to our desires and actions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our departed loved ones, as they walked with Christ in this life, may they enjoy eternal life with him in the next, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we thank you for your mercy and grace. Please hear and answer our prayers this day according to your wisdom, through your Son, Jesus Christ.

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Friday, October 22, 2021

(Lec. 477)

1) Romans 7:18-25a

2) Luke 12:54-59

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

FOCUS: In light of God's justice, we must align our lives to the righteousness of Christ.

How often is our attention and energy concerned with insignificant things versus that which really matters? So many things pull us in so many directions, and after a while we may question whether our actions truly match up with our most deeply held convictions. Let us call upon God's mercy to keep us focused on the path of Christ.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul writes of his inner battle of virtue against sin. He is saved from his weakness through Jesus. In the Gospel, Jesus is critical of those who can read the environment to predict the weather, but they are not able to recognize his divine presence. He tells listeners to set things right before they encounter the imminent justice of God.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Seeking to follow the Lord in all his ways, let us offer our prayers for ourselves and all those in need.

- 1) For the Church, that led by the Spirit, she may increase in holiness and in unity throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all nations and peoples, may the Lord help establish harmony and cooperation among them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are afflicted by the burden of addiction, may they find freedom in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in this worship community who teach the faith to others, may the Lord bless their service and commitment, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they bask in God's glory for all eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Creator, from whom all blessings flow, hear the prayers we offer you this day, we ask through Jesus, our Lord.

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Saturday, October 23, 2021
(Lec. 478)

- 1) Romans 8:1-11
- 2) Luke 13:1-9

SATURDAY OF
29TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint John of Capistrano,
Priest;
Saturday in honor
of BVM)

FOCUS: Allow the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts and be fruitful.

Everyone experiences bodily death, but spiritual death is the result of living according to the flesh. With the Holy Spirit dwelling within them, followers of Christ have the hope of eternal life. However, it isn't enough to be a Christian in name only; empowered by the Spirit, we must produce fruit through our good works and spiritual lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul assures the Romans that those who belong to Christ have the Holy Spirit dwelling within them, and that the Spirit will raise them from the dead. In the Gospel, Jesus warns the people to repent or they will suffer death. He tells a parable about a fig tree that will be cut down if it does not produce fruit.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God and the Spirit that dwells within us, we ask him to hear the prayers we offer.

- 1) For missionaries who bring the light of the Gospel to distant lands, may they be blessed with the Spirit of Wisdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For local leaders, may the Holy Spirit inspire them in actions to strengthen the community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For farmers and all those who work the land, may God bless their efforts as they bring in the year's harvest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this worship community, may God continue to help us grow in love for one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, especially those who have no one else to pray for them, may they rest in eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Eternal Father, please hear and answer our prayers this day according to your will. We ask in the name of Jesus, your Son and our Lord.

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2021

(Lec. 149)

- 1) Jeremiah 31:7-9
- 2) Hebrews 5:1-6
- 3) Mark 10:46-52

**30TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Jesus invites us to follow him and make God's way our own.

As we respond in faith to God's call, our way becomes less our own and more of one united to his love. Jesus invites us to follow him, and when our spiritual blindness interferes with our ability to do so, Jesus heals and redeems us through his compassionate love. Jesus guides his disciples and they support one another.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Jeremiah foretells the return of the remnant of Israel from exile, carefully gathered and guided back by the Lord. In the second reading, Christ is described as a high priest called by God to make an offering for our sins. In the Gospel, Jesus heals the blind beggar Bartimaeus, who then follows Jesus *on the way*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Like Bartimaeus, let us cry out in our need for the Lord to hear and take pity on us.

- 1) That all clergy may be strengthened and edified by the prayers of the Church throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That God may protect people and communities in exile due to war, poverty, or oppression, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That Jesus' healing may touch those who are blind or visually impaired, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the Holy Spirit may form this house of worship into a welcoming and supportive community for all who seek God's way, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may be filled with joy in the sight of God's heavenly glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, you have done great things for us; deliver us from our need by granting us what we ask, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

Monday, October 25, 2021
(Lec. 479)

- 1) Romans 8:12-17
- 2) Luke 13:10-17

MONDAY OF
30TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: We are the adopted children and heirs of God.

We are God's adopted children and heirs. Yet our inheritance comes not through being spared of suffering, but by joining ourselves to Jesus' cross. For in his suffering is his glory, and ours as well.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul writes to the Romans that God has adopted us as sons and daughters, as heirs of Christ's suffering and glory. In the Gospel, Jesus heals a woman on the Sabbath, inciting the scorn of the Pharisees. The woman is set free, and the Pharisees are revealed as hypocrites.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God wills what is the best for all of us. Let us approach him with the needs of our world, confident of his love and concern.

- 1) For the Church, may she prosper in the sight of God as she strives to be a source of light and justice in a troubled world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the world and its leaders, may the Spirit of God bring peace and compassion into their hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those burdened by physical and emotional wounds, may Jesus' healing hand rest upon them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may the Lord fill us with love and truth and guide us in the ways of wisdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the light of faith, may God's mercy bring them to everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Thank you, Father, for making us your adopted sons and daughters. We ask that you hear our prayers, in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, October 26, 2021
(Lec. 480)

- 1) Romans 8:18-25
- 2) Luke 13:18-21

TUESDAY OF
30TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: We have faith there is more glory to come.

In his time on earth, Jesus preached that the kingdom of God is at hand. He taught his disciples how to build the Kingdom on earth by following his example of love and sacrifice. Today's readings remind us that our work of discipleship leads us to a greater glory to come. We work with endurance and hope.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul says the glory to come will be greater than any suffering we face on earth. To get there, we must have hope and endurance. In the Gospel, Jesus compares the kingdom of God to a mustard seed or yeast that grows beyond measure.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in God's care for all of his creation, we place our prayers before him.

- 1) For the holy Church in her work to build God's kingdom on earth, may the Lord continue to bless her with wisdom and endurance, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For peace and justice in our nations and across the world, may he who is acclaimed as Beloved Son dwell in the hearts of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who struggle to find hope in their daily lives, may the Lord console them with his promises of greater glory to come, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of our community of faith, may the Holy Spirit enkindle in us a more perfect love for our neighbor, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may the Lord lift their soul to eternal life with him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, your Son announced that your Kingdom was at hand. Hear our prayers this day as we work toward your greater glory. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, October 27, 2021
(Lec. 481)

- 1) Romans 8:26-30
- 2) Luke 13:22-30

WEDNESDAY OF
30TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: *Strive to enter through the narrow gate.*

Questions about the kingdom of God resurface throughout the Gospels, and hearing about the narrow gate can be challenging for believers to hear. Such passages prompt self-reflection and encourage us to examine our lives according to the purposes of God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul instructs the Romans that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us in prayer and that God calls all *according to his purpose*. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks about the kingdom of God being like a narrow gate. Many will try to enter, but only a few will pass.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we strive for holiness by following God's commandments, we turn to him with our prayers.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may God give us the strength to live in his truth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may God grant them ears to hear the cries of the poor and help them to act with mercy toward those in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who feel lost or abandoned, especially those suffering from depression, may God provide comfort and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may God continue to lead us toward the narrow gate with hearts full of joy and gratitude, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have gone before us in faith, may God grant them peace and eternal rest in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we lift these prayers to you. Look with favor upon them and grant them according to your holy will. Through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, October 28, 2021
(Lec. 666)

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

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

FOCUS: In Christ, we are sanctified and transformed through the Spirit.

Today we celebrate the feast of Saints Simon and Jude, two of the Apostles upon whose witness and proclamation the Church, the household of God, is built. Today's readings show us that, in Christ, the ordinary men and women he calls, including us gathered today, are sanctified and transformed through the Spirit that dwells within them.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul instructs the Ephesians regarding their rightful place in God's household, which continues to grow in Christ and is held together in him. In the Gospel, after spending the night in prayer, Jesus chooses Twelve from among his disciples whom he names as Apostles.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in the Lord, let us pray for the needs of the Church, the world, and our community.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all the bishops, may the Lord help them shepherd his flock with wisdom, courage, and humility, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who govern nations, may the Holy Spirit fill their hearts and minds with a thirst for righteousness, justice, and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those among us facing financial or physical hardship, may the Lord's providence and gracious mercy bring us relief, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all families in this faith community, may Christ continue to build them up into dwelling places of his love and forgiveness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may the Lord have mercy on them and receive them into his eternal Kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, hear our humble prayers and answer them in accordance with your providence. Through Christ, our Lord, we pray.

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Friday, October 29, 2021
(Lec. 483)

- 1) Romans 9:1-5
- 2) Luke 14:1-6

FRIDAY OF
30TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Jesus' healing is a gift we should not miss.

In this Gospel, many people miss who Jesus is and the healing Jesus brings. And yet, he still reaches out to heal and to teach. This same Christ is reaching out to us today to heal us of whatever would separate us from his love.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul writes that he has great sorrow for the children of Israel in their unbelief, stating that theirs is the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the law, and the patriarchs. In the Gospel, Jesus goes to dine at the house of a Pharisee, heals a man on the Sabbath, and asks those around him if they would not help their son or an ox on the Sabbath.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting the goodness of God who sees our brokenness and offers healing, we offer these prayers today.

- 1) For the pope, bishops, and all leaders in the Church, may the Lord bless them, and keep them, and protect them from all evil, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may the workings of the Holy Spirit help them in leading with both justice and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering from any illness or physical difficulty, may the Lord look graciously upon them and grant relief to their every need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community, may the Lord open our hearts to receive his gifts, and so be made instruments of God's healing for one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they enjoy eternal peace in the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of goodness and generosity, receive these prayers we offer you today, through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, October 30, 2021
(Lec. 484)

- 1) Romans 11:1-2a,
11-12, 25-29
- 2) Luke 14:1, 7-11

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

FOCUS: *The Lord will not abandon his people.*

God has revealed himself to his people through prophets, signs, and wonders – and most fully in the person of his Son, Jesus Christ. Through him salvation is offered to all people. This truly is good news! Even though the call is universal, those who seek Jesus can find him only with a spirit of humility.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul explains that *through their [the Jews'] transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles*. In the Gospel, Jesus dines *at the home of one of the leading Pharisees*. While there, he is under great scrutiny and tells them a parable about being invited to a wedding banquet.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us lift our prayers to the Father, who hears our every need.

- 1) For the Church, that through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, she may weather difficult times with holiness and strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For an end to violence and war in the world, may the peace of Christ bind up all division, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those gripped by fear or anxiety, may the love of our Triune God fill their hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all families in this faith community, may their Domestic Church grow in the grace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls in purgatory, may they soon come to the joy of the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: O God, source of all that is good, hear our prayers and grant them according to your holy will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2021

(Lec. 152)

- 1) Deuteronomy 6:2-6
- 2) Hebrews 7:23-28
- 3) Mark 12:28b-34

**31ST SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: The road to the Kingdom is paved with love for God and for our neighbor.

The greatest commandments are these; to love God first with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength, and then to love our neighbor as ourselves. Jesus tells us there are none greater than these, and understanding and living these commands brings us ever closer to the kingdom of God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Moses speaks to the people, telling them to observe the commands of God and to love him with all their heart, soul, and strength. In the second reading, Jesus is acknowledged as the perfect sacrifice who has redeemed us. In the Gospel, Jesus proclaims the two greatest commandments are to love God completely and *to love your neighbor as yourself*.

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 leaders of the Church, may God send his spirit to love and strengthen them as they minister to his people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all in authority, may God infuse them with his wisdom and grace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who live with the burden of hatred or racism, may God grant them his loving comfort, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, may the Lord's teaching shape our lives and his grace conform us ever more to his heart, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our loved ones who have died, may God invite them into their final resting place in his presence for eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of love, we place these needs before you and trust in your promises to love us and give us what we need. Through Christ our Lord.

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