



FREE DIGITAL  
SAMPLE FOR

August 19-25,  
2018



DAILY  
UNIVERSAL  
PRAYER  
AND COMMENTARY





**SUNDAY, AUGUST 19, 2018**

(Lec. 119)

- 1) Proverbs 9:1-6
- 2) Ephesians 5:15-20
- 3) John 6:51-58

**TWENTIETH  
SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

**FOCUS:** We grow in wisdom as we grow in our understanding of God.

Our human understanding limits us, and so Scripture and the Church provide teachings that help us to know, love and trust in God. In Jesus, we come to know the Father; and through Jesus, as the Bread of Life, we come to have eternal life.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

In the first reading, Wisdom has prepared her table for those seeking understanding. In the reading from Ephesians, we are instructed to live *not as foolish persons but as wise*. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the crowds that he is the bread from heaven, and that whoever eats of him will have eternal life.

**UNIVERSAL PRAYER**

**PRIEST:** As we gather around the Eucharistic table, we offer our prayers and concerns to the Lord.

- 1) For all clergy, may they be blessed with the grace and strength to continue to give witness to God's love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may their hearts and minds be filled with the desire for peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all families undergoing trials, may their members be strengthened by love and mutual support, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our school communities starting a new academic year, may God bless this new beginning and their hard work so as to bear good fruit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls of the dearly departed, may they be at peace in eternal rest with our Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** Heavenly Father, hear our prayers and have mercy on us. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.



**FREE DIGITAL WEEK OF DAILY UNIVERSAL PRAYER  
FROM FAITH CATHOLIC**



Monday, August 20, 2018  
(Lec. 419)

- 1) Ezekiel 24:15-23
- 2) Matthew 19:16-22

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

**FOCUS:** *If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.*

If Christian discipleship was only about checking off our successes at following the Ten Commandments each day, most of us would find it challenging, but not impossible. And while those commandments are essential to the Christian life, they are not the epitome of it: for Christ calls us to do all things out of love – which can be infinitely more difficult. But again, not impossible – with his help.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

In the first reading, Ezekiel prophesies to an unrepentant people, telling them by his own actions that they are not to mourn when God allows them to be overthrown and put in exile – because they have brought it on themselves. In the Gospel, Jesus challenges a rich young man to go beyond keeping the commandments, and give up his wealth to follow him.

**UNIVERSAL PRAYER**

**PRIEST:** With trust in God's promise to be with us always, we bring our prayers for ourselves and for those in need.

- 1) For all clergy, may God bless their leadership and devotion to the Gospel, and help them challenge us to live our baptismal call more fully, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may God enable their policymaking to pursue respect for life in all its stages, from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For young people discerning a call to the priesthood or religious life, may they have the grace to respond generously, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who mourn the loss of a loved one, may they find peace, hope and comfort in God's healing love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they gaze in joy on the face of God forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** God of compassion and mercy, hear the prayers we bring to you, both spoken and unspoken, and answer them according to your will. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.



**FREE DIGITAL WEEK OF DAILY UNIVERSAL PRAYER  
FROM FAITH CATHOLIC**



Tuesday, August 21, 2018  
(Lec. 420)

- 1) Ezekiel 28:1-10
- 2) Matthew 19:23-30

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

**FOCUS:** Everlasting life is given to those who place God first in their lives.

We human beings are limited by what our senses detect or what our minds can construe. We all have different gifts: wisdom, business acumen, athletic prowess. But we are all human, and ought to be humble before God. When we forsake all things for God, we find that true life comes only from him.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

In the first reading, the Lord speaks to a prince who thought he was god-like, and warns him that he will soon die dishonorably. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that no one can enter the kingdom based on earthly wealth; rather, the kingdom of God is a gift.

**UNIVERSAL PRAYER**

**PRIEST:** With trust in our Lord, we offer our prayers for our needs and the needs of the whole Church.

- 1) That the work of priests and bishops may be blessed as they serve the needs of God's people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That all nations may turn away from the desire to raise weapons of war against each other, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who mourn may be comforted, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all of us gathered in this holy place may seek to understand the way of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may know eternal rest in God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** O God of goodness, in your kindness, listen to the prayers we have placed before you, for you are faithful to all generations. We ask this through Christ our Lord.



**FREE DIGITAL WEEK OF DAILY UNIVERSAL PRAYER  
FROM FAITH CATHOLIC**



Wednesday, August 22, 2018  
(Lec. 421)

- 1) Ezekiel 34:1-11
- 2) Matthew 20:1-16

WEDNESDAY OF  
20<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
The Queenship of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary)

**FOCUS:** We enter God's kingdom not by what we do or don't do, but by the grace of God.

Today's Gospel reminds us that the laborers in the vineyard are equal in the eyes of God. It is God's limitless generosity that opens the gates of the kingdom for us, not our own stature or abilities.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

In the reading from Ezekiel, we hear of the Lord's displeasure that his sheep have been neglected. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the workers in the vineyard.

**UNIVERSAL PRAYER**

**PRIEST:** With confidence in his grace and mercy, we offer our prayers and petitions to our heavenly Father.

- 1) For the Church, may her shepherds model the actions of the Good Shepherd in pasturing the Lord's sheep, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in positions of authority, may they be blessed with the wisdom of God in making their decisions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who live in the darkness of sin, may they reach for the light of Christ and be comforted by his love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For catechists and teachers, may God's grace be with them as they begin a new year of forming young minds and hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they share in the glory of the risen Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** Heavenly Father, you sent your only Son for our salvation. Continue to bless us with your mercy, and answer our prayers according to your will. We pray through your son, Christ our Lord.



**FREE DIGITAL WEEK OF DAILY UNIVERSAL PRAYER  
FROM FAITH CATHOLIC**



Thursday, August 23, 2018  
(Lec. 422)

- 1) Ezekiel 36:23-28
- 2) Matthew 22:1-14

THURSDAY OF  
20<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Rose of Lima, Virgin)

**FOCUS:** Allow God to purify you and give you new life.

A great verse in this passage from the Prophet Ezekiel is when God says, *I will sprinkle clean water upon you to cleanse you from all your impurities, and from all your idols I will cleanse you.* It is through the power of God that our own freedom from sin is made possible, bringing us to conversion and new life.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

The prophet Ezekiel describes God's plan for Israel's restoration, as he promises to reunite those nations that have been scattered. The Gospel of Matthew describes the parable of the wedding feast, which speaks of the banquet God offers to each of us.

**UNIVERSAL PRAYER**

**PRIEST:** Let us bring our needs to the Lord, with confidence that he will answer them according to his will.

- 1) That priests and bishops will have the strength of the Good Shepherd in leading their flocks, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That world leaders may have the grace of fortitude in working tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of the poor and hungry in their midst, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are sick may experience the healing presence of Jesus in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That members of this faith community may be filled with gratitude for the many gifts God has given to us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died will see the face of God throughout all eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** Heavenly Father, we turn to you, confident in the power of your love and help during our times of need. We ask that you hear and answer our prayers through your son, Jesus Christ.





Friday, August 24, 2018  
(Lec. 629)

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

**SAINT BARTHOLOMEW,  
APOSTLE  
– FEAST**

**FOCUS:** Christ knows us and seeks us, and invites us to follow him.

In today's Gospel, we consider the call of Nathanael (whom the Church identifies as Bartholomew), and the invitation by Philip to *come and see*. How do we respond to the invitation to "come and see"?

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading the author of Revelation, using imagery from Ezekiel, describes the new Israel. Jerusalem will be the bride of the Lamb, gleaming with splendor. In the Gospel, Philip finds Nathanael to tell him that the Messiah has been found. In reality, it is Jesus who has found the disciples and who knows them, invites them and promises more than they can imagine.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

**PRIEST:** Trusting that God knows our needs before we ask, let us offer our prayers to our heavenly Father.

- 1) For all Church leaders, that God may bless them in their answer to his call, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government and civic leaders, that God may grant them the virtue of integrity as they serve their communities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those whose faith is shaken or who have no faith at all, that God may provide them messengers who will witness to them of his love and faithfulness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our local church, that we may heed the invitation to "come and see," and grow in our community through word and example, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, that they may see "greater things" than they had ever imagined with Jesus and all those in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** God our Father, receive our prayers which we entrust to you. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.



**FREE DIGITAL WEEK OF DAILY UNIVERSAL PRAYER  
FROM FAITH CATHOLIC**



Saturday, August 25, 2018  
(Lec. 424)

- 1) Ezekiel 43:1-7ab
- 2) Matthew 23:1-12

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

(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Louis;  
Saint Joseph Calasanz, Priest;  
Saturday in honor of BVM)

**FOCUS:** *The temple was filled with the glory of the Lord.*

The glory of the Lord entered the Temple of the Israelites, and chose to dwell there forever. God became man to dwell among us, and through the Holy Spirit remains with us forever. In our bodies, then, as temples of the Holy Spirit, the glory of the Lord *also* resides. Let us honor him through our service and humility, as Jesus instructs.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

In a vision, Ezekiel sees the glory of the Lord enter the Temple where God will dwell among the children of Israel forever. In the Gospel, Jesus admonishes the crowds and his disciples to observe all that the scribes and Pharisees say, but not to follow their example. For the greatest must be the servant, and those who exalt themselves will be humbled.

**UNIVERSAL PRAYER**

PRIEST: Let us come before our loving God and humbly present our needs and wishes.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may God strengthen our faith through his Scriptures and our prayer, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who enact laws throughout the world, may they have the courage to honor the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who live with chronic hunger, may their needs be satisfied by caring and compassionate people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For charitable organizations in our community, may the Holy Spirit inspire and bless their efforts to care for the least among us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may the seeds of their faith sowed on earth gain them eternal happiness in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of our salvation, we bring you these prayers for our needs and the needs of the whole human family. We ask that you hear and answer them according to your will, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

