

# JULY

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**YEAR A  
WEEKDAYS I**

Saturday, July 1, 2023  
(Lec. 376)

- 1) Genesis 18:1-15
- 2) Matthew 8:5-17

SATURDAY OF  
12<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
USA: St. Junípero Serra,  
Priest;  
Saturday in honor  
of BVM)

FOCUS: God continuously invites us to receive his healing and merciful love.

We are not worthy of God's mercy, his healing, or his love, and yet he pours out his graces on us, his beloved sons and daughters. Even more, he gives us his body, blood, soul, and divinity in the Eucharist that we might be conduits of his mercy to others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Abraham bows before the three men that appear to him and asks the Lord not to pass him by. Abraham asks Sarah to make a meal for the visitors. The visitors promise a son to Abraham and Sarah even though they have advanced in age and are unable to have children. In the Gospel, as a centurion approaches Jesus to ask for healing for his servant, he acknowledges his unworthiness. Jesus marvels at the man's faith and heals the servant.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we seek to follow Christ to fullness of life, we turn to him with our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For the Holy Father and all bishops and priests, may the Holy Spirit help them in being good shepherds who lead their flocks to Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the freedom of all to hear the Gospel and obtain the salvation Christ won for us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, may the healing love of Jesus pour out upon them and bring them comfort and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the Lord increase in us a desire to live in communion with him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they soon be welcomed into the place prepared for them in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to show us your love. Hear and answer the prayers we entrust to you this day in his holy name.

**SUNDAY, JULY 2, 2023**

(Lec. 97)

- 1) 2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16a
- 2) Romans 6:3-4, 8-11
- 3) Matthew 10:37-42

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

FOCUS: We are called to carry our cross and follow Jesus.

The readings today reflect on what we gain through sacrifice. Sacrifice is not just about what we give up, but rather what we discern to be unnecessary or in vain. When we put these things aside, we then can find what is most important. Jesus teaches us that through sacrifice, we find our true reward with him.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Elisha is warmly received by a *woman of influence*. In recognition of her hospitality, he promises her a baby son. In the second reading, Saint Paul tells the community that, by dying with Christ, we find our way to new life. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches his Apostles that those who lose their life for his sake will ultimately find fulfillment.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For the Church, may God strengthen her holy mission to bear abundant fruit in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For peace throughout the world, may the saving grace of Jesus Christ permeate every heart, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who struggle in carrying their cross, may the spirit of consolation give them strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here and our call to be hospitable to those around us, may the Lord help us be better stewards of our blessings, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the light of faith, may our merciful Father welcome them into his heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God, your Son showed us the way to you, exemplifying sacrifice in his life and in his death. Hear our petitions that we bring you this day, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, July 3, 2023  
(Lec. 593)

**SAINT THOMAS,  
APOSTLE  
- FEAST**

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

FOCUS: The Lord meets us where we are in order to draw us more deeply into his love.

Saint Thomas is often referred to as the doubter, but after his encounter with the risen Jesus he makes a great profession of faith, and tradition tells us he became an exceptional missionary. The Lord doesn't wait for us to have great faith to come to us; he meets us where we are and then takes us further along the path of holiness.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Paul tells the Ephesians that they are now part of the household of God, where God's Spirit dwells. In the Gospel, Thomas does not believe that Jesus has risen; Jesus appears to him and invites him to touch his wounds. Thomas acknowledges him as *My Lord and my God!*

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us join together and bring our prayers and petitions before the Lord.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all leaders of the Church, may God grant them vision and great faith to do the work he has entrusted to them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders throughout the world, may the Holy Spirit inspire them in working for the good of all people, especially those who are most vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who struggle to believe in the Lord and his goodness and mercy, may his grace open their ears to hear his Good News, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may God grant us the grace to become the saints he has made us to be, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked with the sign of faith, may the Lord welcome them into his eternal rest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, thank you for always hearing our prayers. We ask that you answer them according to your holy will, through Christ our Lord.

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Note: for Independence Day, any readings from the *Lectionary for Ritual Masses* (vol. IV), the Mass "For the Country or a City," Nos. 882-886, or "For Peace and Justice," nos. 887-891

Tuesday, July 4, 2023

(Lec. 378)

1) Genesis 19:15-29

2) Matthew 8:23-27

TUESDAY OF  
13<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(USA: Independence Day)

FOCUS: Reach for Jesus' hand and witness his mighty power to save.

When we choose Christ, we know it will not always be easy. The disciples start out right when they follow Jesus into the boat. But then their fears overtake them. When we are overcome by trials, let us not try to fix them on our own but rather surrender and cry out for the Lord to save us.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's reading from Genesis brings us Lot and his family escaping the punishment of Sodom. The angels take their hands and lead them to safety. In the Gospel from Matthew, the disciples wake Jesus as their boat is being swamped by a violent storm. Jesus rebukes the wind and the sea to the amazement of the disciples.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in his faithfulness, let us offer our prayers to God, whom even the winds and waves obey.

- 1) For the pilgrim Church on earth, may God in his mercy draw many souls to freedom in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For public servants in all lines of work, may God protect them spiritually and physically, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who feel burdened by sin, may God, in his mercy, draw them near to him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all gathered here, may our partaking of the Eucharist today strengthen us in our efforts to spread the Gospel message, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have gone before us in faith, may Jesus lead them to rejoice forever before his Father's throne, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, please hear and answer these prayers according to your will, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, July 5, 2023  
(Lec. 379)

- 1) Genesis 21:5, 8-20a
- 2) Matthew 8:28-34

WEDNESDAY OF  
13<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Anthony Zaccaria,  
Priest;  
USA: Saint Elizabeth of Portugal)

FOCUS: Trust that God will always provide.

Hagar roamed aimlessly in the wilderness. Who can relate? At the end of her own resources, she gave up. She looked every direction but up. In her need, Hagar did not think to ask for God's help and guidance. God heard her child's cry and rescued them. Are we trusting our own abilities and resources, or are we trusting God to provide?

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading Sarah is jealous of Ishmael, fearing he will share Isaac's inheritance. She drives Hagar and her son into the wilderness, where God cares for them. In the Gospel, Jesus drives the demons out of two Gadarene demoniacs, sending the demons into a herd of swine.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: The Lord is generous with his children. Trusting in his kindness, let us offer our prayers this day.

- 1) For bishops, priests, and deacons, may God provide them with strength and courage in leading his people in the way of truth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may God deliver them from any lust for power and inspire them in working for lasting peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the homeless, may God provide safe shelter and the support of loving brothers and sisters, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our community here, may God enable us to be the hands, feet, and voice of his Son, Jesus, reaching out to a wounded world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our faithful departed, as they walked with Christ in this life, may he bless them with everlasting joy in the next, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, your power is beyond our comprehension. Please hear and answer our prayers in your love and wisdom, through your Son, Jesus Christ.

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Thursday, July 6, 2023  
(Lec. 380)

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

THURSDAY OF  
13<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Maria Goretti,  
Virgin and Martyr)

FOCUS: God keeps his promises.

Isaac carries the wood for the fire upon which he will be offered. Jesus carries the wood of the cross on which he will die for us. An angel intervenes to save Isaac. Christ obeys unto death. For Abraham's obedience, God promises him that all nations shall find blessing in his descendants. In Christ this promise is fulfilled.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

God tests Abraham by asking him to offer Isaac as a burnt offering. Abraham does as he is instructed, but a messenger of the Lord stops him from killing Isaac. Because of his obedience, the Lord promises to bless him abundantly. In the Gospel reading, Jesus heals and forgives the sins of a paralytic in his hometown.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In faith, let us place our petitions before God the Father, who fulfills all his promises.

- 1) That we, as members of the Church, may share the saving message of Jesus through our compassionate outreach to others and by lives of faithful witness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That people of all nations may receive God's blessings upon their every need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That anyone struggling with persistent sin may be blessed with the Lord's forgiveness and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That Christ may have a place in the hearts and homes of all those gathered here, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all the faithful departed may be rewarded abundantly for their faith and obedience and receive new life with God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we place our trust in you. Look with favor upon the petitions we have offered in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Friday, July 7, 2023  
(Lec. 381)

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

FRIDAY OF  
13<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: We are called to be with God because he loves us unconditionally.

We know as humans that we are all sinners. Whether our sins are dramatic or commonplace, however, they keep us from knowing fully the warmth of God's love. Jesus came to tell us the Good News: Whether our sins are great or small, we are God's beloved and are welcome to spend eternity in his kingdom.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Abraham establishes ownership of land in Canaan and insists his son Isaac marry within his own tribe, thus keeping the land as his tribe's heritage. In the Gospel, Jesus calls Matthew, a tax collector, as one of his followers. When the Pharisees object, Jesus notes that he did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together, let us offer our petitions to the Father, who loves us unconditionally.

- 1) That the Church may flourish in the light of God's love and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That peace and kindness may be established, through the power of the Holy Spirit, in every part of the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those suffering as a result of natural or man-made disasters may be consoled and relieved of burden through the Spirit of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all of us here may have the grace of knowing we are eternally loved by God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, may obtain eternal happiness in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father in heaven, hear these prayers and answer them according to your holy will. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Saturday, July 8, 2023  
(Lec. 382)  
1) Genesis 27:1-5, 15-29  
2) Matthew 9:14-17

SATURDAY OF  
13<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Saturday in honor  
of BVM)

FOCUS: Christ is God's greatest and final revelation for the salvation of humanity.

Wine is one of God's special blessings to his people. In Scripture it symbolizes life, blessing, and joy, as we see at the wedding at Cana. Here today, Jesus uses the image of the wineskins to remind us that he is God's final and greatest revelation for the salvation and joy of all. With him, we are called to set aside old ways and, like new wineskins, embrace with rejoicing the new and life-giving ways of the kingdom.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Jacob tricks his father, Isaac, into giving him the blessing intended for his brother Esau. In the Gospel, Jesus uses the image of wineskins to explain how the kingdom requires new eyes and an open heart.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For the Church, may the Holy Spirit strengthen and sustain her as she proclaims the Good News of salvation in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For an end to all violence and war in the world, may the love of Christ bring peace and salvation to all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are separated from loved ones because of disagreements or differences, may the Lord give them the grace to live in justice and harmony, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all in this community who are elderly, disabled, sick, or homebound, may they be comforted and strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, especially those who have no one to remember them in prayer, may the love of God bring them into his eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, we bless you for your goodness to us. In your infinite mercy, please hear our prayers, we ask, through Christ our Lord.

**SUNDAY, JULY 9, 2023**

(Lec. 100)

- 1) Zechariah 9:9-10
- 2) Romans 8:9, 11-13
- 3) Matthew 11:25-30

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

FOCUS: *Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened.*

Many Jews expected a militarily strong messiah who would lead them into battle to be free of the Romans. Instead, Jesus humbly submitted to the will of his Father, even unto death. Yet he said his burden was light. Motivated by love of God and neighbor, our burdens can be lighter when carried with Jesus.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

A prophecy from Zechariah tells of the Messiah coming into Jerusalem riding a donkey, proclaiming peace. His kingdom will stretch over the whole world. Saint Paul encourages the Romans to live according to the Spirit, not worldly desires. In the Gospel, Jesus praises his Father for the wisdom of revealing himself to the meek. Those who are burdened can find rest in him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With humble trust in our loving Father, we bring to him our needs and petitions.

- 1) For the Church, may God help us in being meek and humble warriors for Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who lead governments and communities, may the Lord grant them wisdom in serving their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who battle addiction and substance abuse, may the Holy Spirit grant them strength and fortitude, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the love of Jesus inspire us in taking up his yoke, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they be welcomed by the angels into heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Eternal Father, kindly look with favor upon the needs of your children, brought to you in the name of Jesus, your Son.

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Monday, July 10, 2023  
(Lec. 383)

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

MONDAY OF  
14<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: *In you, my God, I place my trust.*

In the reading from Genesis, God said to Jacob: *Know that I am with you.* We see this strong faith in the official and the woman in the Gospel, who trust completely that Jesus can heal. Let us always strive to remember that God fulfills his promises.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God makes a covenant with Jacob. In the Gospel, Jesus raises a young girl from the dead and heals a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for 12 years.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In faith and confidence, we come before our loving Father with our needs.

- 1) For the leaders of the Church, may the Lord help them be attentive to his voice and obedient to his commands, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may Christ give them hearts of humility in serving their constituents and striving to promote the common good for all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering from illness or from grief, may God reveal his loving presence in ways that ease their pain and restore their hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the needs of this community and those we love, may the Lord look graciously upon us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they soon be welcomed into God's eternal kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, hear these prayers and answer them according to your will. We ask this through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, July 11, 2023

(Lec. 384)

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

TUESDAY OF  
14<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
Saint Benedict,  
Abbot)

FOCUS: *The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few.*

Jesus saw and responded to the needs of those around him. He cared for and healed those whom others brought to him. The fields awaiting his mercy and grace were, and are still, large – and we, like the first disciples he called, are meant to be laborers in those fields. In baptism we are named for Christ, and through him and the power of the Holy Spirit we can continue to reap the harvest for the kingdom.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Jacob wrestles with an angel and then is given a new name: Israel. In the Gospel, Jesus drives out a demon from a demoniac, takes pity on his people, and asks his disciples to pray so he can send laborers out for the harvest.

### 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 the Church, may the Good News of Jesus find root in all parts of the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may the Holy Spirit guide them in working to protect the dignity and sanctity of human life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are sick, may they be blessed with the care and support they need to help them heal and recover, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us here, may God bless us and help us in being faithful laborers for his harvest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked as Christ's own, may they join Jesus at the heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Ever-loving and gracious Father, we humbly pray that you bless the petitions we place before you today. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, July 12, 2023  
(Lec. 385)

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

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

FOCUS: God's mercy is at hand.

Joseph is merciful to his brothers even though they do not know who he is or recognize the evil that they had done. God is merciful to us in the same way – and he has given us the Church and her sacraments to bestow grace upon us and guide us on our journey.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the tragedy of famine leads to honest self-evaluation and to the profound healing that mercy brings. In the Gospel, Jesus sends his followers out as God's merciful hands to heal and transform.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As followers of Jesus, let us call upon our merciful God for the healing of the world.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may God enable us to manifest his kingdom by our actions and by our lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected and community leaders, may the Lord grant them perfect vision in recognizing the needs of those they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who suffer at the hands of others due to violence, neglect, or oppression, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community gathered here, may the mercy of God fill our hearts and empower us in mercy toward others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they soon rest in the eternal peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, we humbly ask that, in your compassion and mercy, you hear the prayers of your people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, July 13, 2023  
(Lec. 386)

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

THURSDAY OF  
14<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Henry)

FOCUS: Throughout history, God has continually saved his people.

Joseph and his brothers had no idea what lay in store for them when they sold Joseph into slavery. Here today we see that God has brought forth goodness from their evil deed. Joseph forgives his brothers and tells them to *not be distressed, for it was really for the sake of saving lives that God sent me here ahead of you.* The Father sent *his* Son, as a sign of forgiveness, to prepare the way ahead of *us*, and to save us: *The Kingdom of heaven is at hand.* And, as Joseph demonstrates and Jesus instructs, *without cost you have received; without cost you are to give.*

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Judah recounts to Joseph the interactions he and his brothers have had with Joseph in asking for food and relief from the famine. Joseph reveals himself to be their brother and forgives them for what they had done to him. In the Gospel, Jesus sends his Apostles out to proclaim the kingdom of heaven by curing the sick and offering peace to those who will accept it.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our prayers to the Lord who loves and provides for us.

- 1) That the Holy Spirit may inspire Church leaders in being righteous in faith and in living their baptismal promise to be God's messengers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the Lord may guide all nations and peoples to salvation in his kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That the Lord may console and bring peace to all who have been burdened by physical, financial, or emotional difficulties, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the Holy Spirit may help each one of us here grow in our expression of his gifts to 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: O God, in your goodness we ask you to receive the prayers we have offered through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, July 14, 2023  
(Lec. 387)

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

FRIDAY OF  
14<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
USA: Saint Kateri Tekakwitha,  
Virgin)

FOCUS: God calls us to follow him despite the challenges we might endure.

In our first reading, God calls Jacob to travel to Egypt without being afraid. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the Apostles that they will be sent out like sheep among the wolves. Just as with Jacob and the Apostles, God calls us to follow him despite what others may think or the challenges we might face.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God calls out to Jacob asking him for deep faith and commitment to follow him to Egypt. Jacob responds, *Here I am*. In the Gospel, Jesus reminds us that challenges will arise, but we are called to follow him and to not be afraid: *For it will not be you who speak but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.*

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Recognizing the merciful love of our Father, we turn to him, in full confidence, with our prayers and intentions.

- 1) For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons, may the Holy Spirit continue leading and guiding them in their ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For national and local leaders, may the Lord empower them in enacting laws that promote the dignity of human life and integrity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all the sick and suffering, especially those who have no other community or persons to pray for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the Spirit of the Father speak through us in all we say and do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they rest in peace in the fullness of God's grace and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Most merciful and loving God, hear our prayers and answer them in your compassion. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, July 15, 2023  
(Lec. 388)

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

SATURDAY OF  
14<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
Saint Bonaventure,  
Bishop and Doctor  
of the Church)

FOCUS: Forgiveness and trust help Christians to deepen their relationships with God and one another.

Joseph's ability to forgive his brothers and welcome them to Egypt with hospitality is a striking example of the power of forgiveness. The Gospel, in turn, challenges us to consider the afterlife and the role faith plays in our lives. This emphasis on forgiveness and trust invites us to deepen our own relationships with God and others through honest dialogue.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first reading concludes Joseph's story with his brothers. Joseph's brothers feared he would retaliate against them, but Joseph is able to forgive and care for his family. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples to not be afraid of bodily death, for his followers are cherished by God and their souls will be cared for.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Raising our voices as one, we entrust to the Lord the needs of this community.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may God guide each of us in seeking healing and reconciliation in times of difficulty, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders within the judicial system, may God provide them with wisdom and courage in balancing justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who have endured the effects of domestic violence, may God provide healing and solace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community gathered today, may God empower us in building relationships of trust and encouragement with one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the light of Christ, may God in his mercy grant them eternal rest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, hear and answer these prayers we have offered today, we ask through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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**SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2023**

(Lec. 103)

- 1) Isaiah 55:10-11
- 2) Romans 8:18-23
- 3) Matthew 13:1-23 or 13:1-9

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

FOCUS: *The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower.*

The image of the seed that Jesus offers in today's parable can call us to see more clearly and to listen more carefully. This seeing and hearing requires a posture of wonder, a posture of careful attentiveness. Can we slow down and marvel, watching with anticipation to see what God will do?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading speaks of God's word, like rain, doing his will and achieving the end for which it is sent. In the second reading, we hear that creation is groaning, but that *we have the firstfruits of the Spirit* while we wait for redemption. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the sower and the seed that fell on rich soil.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Just as the rain comes down to make the earth fertile and fruitful, let us ask for God's gifts to be showered upon us as we bring our prayers to him today.

- 1) For the Church, may God give us the grace to sow seeds of goodness and tend the soil of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders in government, may God grant them hearts of understanding and conversion to the Gospel of life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For farmers and all who work to grow and produce the food we eat, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the community gathered here, may God open our eyes and ears so we can hear his voice in all we do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may God welcome them to eternal rest in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God, you have granted us knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. Grant these requests we bring before you, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Monday, July 17, 2023  
(Lec. 389)

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

MONDAY OF  
15<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Choosing Christ and the Christian life means taking up our cross daily and following him.

The challenges of discipleship continue to dominate our readings. Like the Israelites of old who struggled under the harsh regime of a Pharaoh, the challenges to discipleship can come from a variety of sources, even from family and friends. But the rewards of discipleship are abundant and available to all who are faithful and generous.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Our first reading recalls the struggle of the Israelites in Egypt. With the memory of Joseph having faded, the new Pharaoh began to see them as a threat and so ordered that they be enslaved, and all first-born sons be killed. In the Gospel, Jesus continues to instruct his followers on the demands of discipleship.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our prayers before the Lord, who rewards all who are faithful.

- 1) For all the Church, may the Lord guide us in using our gifts and talents to follow Christ faithfully, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all elected to public office, may the outpouring of the Holy Spirit come upon them as they work to uphold the dignity and sanctity of life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all families and communities who struggle with disunity or division, may the Lord offer his peace and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the Lord raise holy men and women in our midst with generous hearts to respond to God's invitation to serve him in religious or ordained life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in Christ, may they receive the rewards for a life spent in faithful service of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear and answer the prayers we bring to you today. We ask through your Son, who is Lord for ever and ever.

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Tuesday, July 18, 2023

(Lec. 390)

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

TUESDAY OF

15<sup>TH</sup> WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(Opt. Mem.

USA: Saint Camillus de Lellis,  
Priest)

FOCUS: Strive to step away from complacency and call upon the Lord's mercy.

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus delivers a wake-up call with harsh words for the towns that have not shown repentance. It can be easy to grow complacent in our sinful conditions, even though we are witnesses to God's daily miracles of life, love, and healing. What actions can we take today to step away from our weaknesses and call upon the Lord's mercy?

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading begins with Moses' humble and blessed start as a baby hidden among the reeds and rescued by Pharaoh's daughter. By the end of the reading, he aligns himself with the Hebrews and flees from Pharaoh to Midian. In the Gospel, Jesus chastises the towns that have witnessed his work but have failed to repent.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us turn to our heavenly Father with these petitions, knowing he loves us and hears our prayers.

- 1) For the Church, may Christ's light always inspire holiness and repentance, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may God's wisdom and mercy guide their every decision, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who struggle with doubt or complacency, may the Holy Spirit enkindle in them a fire for love and justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For new parents in this faith community, may our heavenly Father help them nurture unconditional love and unwavering faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they be welcomed into the peace and happiness of everlasting life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God, we bring our prayers to you with humility and contrition. Grant us all that we need according to your holy will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, July 19, 2023  
(Lec. 391)

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

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

FOCUS: Moses answers the call from the Lord despite his self-doubt and fear, and trusts that God will be with him.

Moses opens himself up to the Lord's call and allows himself to be God's instrument in freeing the Israelites from captivity in Egypt. God calls us, too. Though our tasks are surely not as momentous as those of Moses, we might still question our own abilities to do the right thing. We must remember that God promises to be with us always.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, God calls to Moses from the burning bush. God tells him that he has heard the cry of his people and plans to use Moses to deliver them from Egypt. In the Gospel, Jesus gives praise to the Father and says that he reveals himself most fully to those who are childlike.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God has promised to be with us always. Trusting his word, we present our petitions to him.

- 1) For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, and all who lead the Church, may God grant them wisdom and strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in positions of authority, may God infuse them with his spirit of unselfish love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who live with disillusionment or despair, may God strengthen them with his love and feed them with his grace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our community who are challenged with chronic physical, emotional, or mental illness, may God send his comfort to lighten their burden, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked with the sign of faith, may God welcome them into their eternal home, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we feel your Spirit's presence in our daily life. With gratitude and trust, we ask you to hear these petitions placed before you, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, July 20, 2023  
(Lec. 392)

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

THURSDAY OF  
15<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Apollinaris,  
Bishop and Martyr)

FOCUS: *The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.*

To follow Jesus with our whole hearts, we must choose daily whether to enslave ourselves to idols or to yoke ourselves to a compassionate God who leads us to freedom.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God surprises Moses with the personal message that God himself, the source of all that is, cares for and will liberate an enslaved people. In the Gospel reading, Jesus perhaps surprises his own listeners by insisting that being yoked to him, and therefore to God himself – the powerful source who led them from Egypt – his followers will find only compassion and humility.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring the needs of the world to our God who loves us.

- 1) For the Church, may the Holy Spirit imbue her with compassion, gentleness, and humility, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who serve in governments throughout the world, may God give sight to their eyes to apprehend all that their people need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are sick or suffering in any way, may the healing and strength of our Lord Jesus Christ come upon them and given them comfort, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For each one of us in this community, may the yoke that Christ shares keep us steady on our road of discipleship, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died in faith, may they be crowned with the glory of everlasting life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, hear our prayers today, we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Friday, July 21, 2023  
(Lec. 393)

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

FRIDAY OF  
15<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Lawrence of Brindisi,  
Priest and Doctor  
of the Church)

FOCUS: The old covenant Passover foretells new covenant worship.

The first reading describes the Passover ritual feast that is reflected in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Both include sacrifice of a male lamb (Lamb of God) and eating it and unleavened bread. This connects to the Gospel where Jesus, in essence, reveals that his disciples are priests of the new covenant – comparing them to old covenant priests who offer worship in the temple on the sabbath.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

God prepares Moses and Aaron for the final plague by instructing them how faithful families should ritually mark the day and seal their doorposts. In the Gospel, the hungry disciples pick grain on the sabbath. The Pharisees try to rebuke them, but Jesus corrects the Pharisees, saying that *the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As God's people, we draw near his throne with confidence that he will hear our prayers.

- 1) For priests and deacons, may the Holy Spirit bless their ministry as they lead, guide, and serve God's people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For lawmakers, may the Lord inspire each of their hearts in enacting laws that uphold the sanctity of life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those experiencing hunger, may God in his provision ensure they have the food and water they need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For parents in this faith community, the first teachers of the faith, may the Spirit guide their efforts in instructing their children, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they, through the mercy of God, receive their heavenly reward, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of love and mercy, hear these prayers from your people, we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, July 22, 2023  
(Lec. 603)

**SAINT MARY MAGDALENE  
- FEAST**

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

FOCUS: The Lord calls us to be witnesses to the Resurrection.

At the tomb, Mary Magdalene recognizes Jesus when he calls her name. He then instructs her to bring a message to the disciples. She tells them she has seen the Lord. As with Mary Magdalene, Jesus knows us and calls us by name. He invites us to partner in his mission to share the Good News of his Resurrection with the world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In his Second Letter to the Corinthians, Paul writes that Christ died for all so that all may live for him. Whoever is in Christ is a new creation, no longer living according to the flesh. In John's Gospel, Mary Magdalene is the first person to see Jesus after the Resurrection. She recognizes him when he calls her name.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We have been brought to new life in Christ. Let us offer our petitions to the Father through him.

- 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 all people throughout the world may know the saving power of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That the spirits of the lonely and discouraged may be uplifted by the assurance of God's love and compassion for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That Christ may have a place in the hearts and homes of those gathered here, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died may be brought to new life with Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, you make all things new. Look with favor upon the prayers we offer you through your Son, our Lord and brother, Jesus Christ.

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**SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2023**

(Lec. 106)

- 1) Wisdom 12:13, 16-19
- 2) Romans 8:26-27
- 3) Matthew 13:24-43 or 13:24-30

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

FOCUS: Jesus encourages us to persevere in faith even in challenging circumstances.

In our daily lives, it can be challenging to persevere in faith, in charity, and in kindness when dealing with people who appear to be the opposite – mean, vengeful, thoughtless. But Jesus reminds us that it is still possible to bear fruit under these conditions, and that even a small seed of faith can yield abundant fruit.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The author of the Book of Wisdom ponders the mystery of God's power, which he exercises with justice and leniency. In the second reading, Paul describes how the Holy Spirit helps us pray. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches his disciples about the kingdom of heaven through a series of parables.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

**PRIEST:** Trusting in the Lord's care and compassion, let us bring before him our prayers and petitions for ourselves and for the world.

- 1) For all the people of God, may God's grace strengthen our commitment in giving witness to the Gospel in our daily lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may the Holy Spirit grant them wisdom and prudence in their service to those they govern, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all families broken by divorce or separation, may the Lord bring them forgiveness and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all members of this faith community, may the presence of Christ in the Eucharist continue to nourish us in faith, hope, and charity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may God's perpetual light shine upon them in his eternal kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** Gracious God, hear these prayers we have brought before you and answer them, we ask, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Monday, July 24, 2023  
(Lec. 395)  
1) Exodus 14:5-18  
2) Matthew 12:38-42

MONDAY OF  
16<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Sharbel Makhlof,  
Priest)

FOCUS: Trust in God and in his vision for life.

Faith is often defined as the assurance that the things revealed and promised in God's word are true, even though unseen, and it gives the believer a conviction that what he expects, in faith, will come to pass. Faith cannot depend solely on signs, for the believer must come with an open heart and desire to know God in all his mystery.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Exodus recalls how the Israelites are pursued by Pharaoh's men and how Moses responds with courage. In the Gospel, using events from Jewish history, Jesus refuses the request by the Pharisees for a sign. He knows that no sign will satisfy them as their hearts are closed to his words and suspicious of his deeds.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the Lord and in his steadfast concern, let us bring our needs before him.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we experience the outpouring of the Holy Spirit to help us live in a manner worthy of our calling, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those elected to public office, may they be fortified by God in exercising their authority with justice and respect for all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are struggling with illness or physical burdens, may the Lord strengthen them and bring them relief, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may the Lord help us show our faithful and intentional discipleship in our words and deeds, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they be embraced in the eternal love and life of the risen Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of mercy and love, hear and answer the prayers of your sons and daughters. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, July 25, 2023  
(Lec. 605)

- 1) 2 Corinthians 4:7-15
- 2) Matthew 20:20-28

**SAINT JAMES,  
APOSTLE  
- FEAST**

FOCUS: Live the life of self-gift as modeled by Jesus.

The temptation after hearing today's readings is to reduce them to a lesson about the afterlife – that eternal life is only possible through earthly death. Yet Jesus offers us something even more valuable, yearning for us to take hold of abundant life right now, right here on earth. This is the life of self-gift, of sacrificial love, modeled by Jesus himself.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first reading from Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians describes the paradox of the Gospel: The life of Jesus is made manifest in affliction, persecution, and even death. In the Gospel, Jesus affirms this paradox and reveals the deeper secret, that true life is grasped through a life of service.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

**PRIEST:** Let us turn our attention to the Lord's provision for us, entrusting these prayers to his will.

- 1) For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, may the Holy Spirit continue to guide and protect him in his blessed ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may they be strengthened in their efforts to protect the dignity of all life, from conception to natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who suffer injustice at the hands of others, may God's compassionate concern bring them healing and recompense, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the members of this faith community, may Christ's example of service become the bedrock of our daily lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls of the faithful departed, may the mercy of God soon usher them into the eternal banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** God of salvation, in your goodness you draw us to yourself. Please listen to the prayers we have made for the salvation of the world, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, July 26, 2023  
(Lec. 397)

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

WEDNESDAY OF  
16<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
Saints Joachim and Anne,  
Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

FOCUS: *Whoever has ears ought to hear.*

Today's readings include a powerful miracle that witnesses to the power of God, and Jesus teaching people about how to receive his message. Both ask us to pay close attention to the signs God has given to us. If we do, we will notice the abundance in our lives.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In Exodus, the Israelites grumble about their condition, and the Lord responds with a heavenly miracle of bread to sustain them. In the Gospel from Matthew, Jesus uses the parable of the sower to explain how the word of God is received. He urges them to hear his message.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us present our prayers to our loving Father and ask his blessing on our world.

- 1) For the Church's work of evangelization, may God inspire her efforts to yield great abundance, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For community leaders, may God steer them to a greater understanding of those most in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who have endured trauma in their lives, may the tender compassion of our God bring them peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us here, may God create in our hearts a deepening reverence for the sacredness of all life, especially for the unborn and those on the margins, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked as Christ's own, may God lift them up to their heavenly reward, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Eternal Father, all life and authority has its source in you, and every good gift comes from you. Graciously hear and answer our prayers, we ask, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, July 27, 2023  
(Lec. 398)

- 1) Exodus 19:1-2,  
9-11, 16-20b
- 2) Matthew 13:10-17

THURSDAY OF  
16<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: *Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth.*

Sometimes the Lord's presence in our lives seems glaringly obvious. Other times it may seem as if he is hidden in the mist and clouds around the mountains. Whether we see him clearly, or understand his words, says more about us than him – for God is always here with us and ready to help us grow in love and faith.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the people of God continue on their journey from slavery and the Lord God speaks to them from Mount Sinai. In the Gospel, Jesus explains why he speaks in parables.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In faith and confidence in God's care, we present our prayers to him.

- 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 government leaders, may the Lord grant them every grace in addressing the many challenges their people face, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who struggle with trials or crises of faith, may God assure them he is their sure hope and source of all blessings, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us here today, may the Lord continue to bless us and guide us in our every word and deed, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may God welcome them to the eternal banquet of heaven to live in his presence forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we entrust these prayers to you with humble hearts. We ask that you answer them according to your will, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Friday, July 28, 2023  
(Lec. 399)

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

FRIDAY OF  
16<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Let the word of God bear fruit in your own life.

It is easy to be seed sown on the path or rocky ground. We want to be planted in rich soil. What makes soil fertile? Not the distractions of this world, but the word of God. To make the soil of your heart rich, spend time with Scripture. Ask God to open your heart to his word, and there will his life bear fruit in your own life.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Lord pronounces a set of commandments for the people to follow. In the Gospel Jesus explains the parable of the sower to his disciples. Seeds that fall on the path, rocky ground, or thorns are swept away by the cares of the world. Seed sown on rich soil is a person who hears and understands the word and bears much fruit.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: The Lord desires only good for his people. With trust in our Father's love, let us offer our prayers.

- 1) For all who preach the Gospel, may the Holy Spirit inspire their words and empower them in delivering the Good News to all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may God grant them courage in protecting the sanctity of all human life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the unemployed and under-employed, may God encourage them and guide them to fruitful employment, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith family, may Jesus make us fertile ground to receive his word and joyfully live the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, as they trusted him in this life, may God grant them eternal delight in his presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord, your ways are loving and wise. Please hear and answer our prayers according to your holy will, we ask in Jesus' name.

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Saturday, July 29, 2023

(Lec. 400)

1) Exodus 24:3-8

(Lec. 607)

2) John 11:19-27  
or Luke 10:38-42

SATURDAY OF  
16<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
Saints Martha, Mary  
and Lazarus)

FOCUS: *I am the resurrection and the life.*

As a true friend of Jesus, Martha was willing to listen to him, to believe him, and to heed his words: *I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you ... Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ.* By her faith, she gives room for Jesus to work miracles in her sight.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Moses ratifies the covenant of the Lord with the people of Israel by sprinkling half the blood from the offering on the altar and the other half on the people. In the Gospel, Martha makes a profession of faith in Jesus after her brother Lazarus has died.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us respond to God's word by offering our prayers and petitions for those in need.

- 1) For leaders of the Church, may their ministry be fueled by Christ's love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civil authorities, may God help them in creating greater peace in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, may they be filled with the hope of the Resurrection and comforted by Christ's presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all those gathered here, may we be drawn more deeply into true friendship with Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they rejoice in the presence of God in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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**SUNDAY, JULY 30, 2023**

(Lec. 109)

- 1) 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12
- 2) Romans 8:28-30
- 3) Matthew 13:44-52 or 13:44-46

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

**FOCUS:** God, who loves us and entrusts us with his purpose, provides us with what we need to fulfill it.

Like the new king, Solomon, when God entrusts us with great opportunities and responsibilities, he gives us what we need to succeed. This relationship of trust with God is a treasure of love beyond price and compare; it is the kingdom of heaven.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

In the first reading, God gives Solomon a wise and understanding heart to govern God's people. In the second reading, Paul teaches that all things work for good for those in loving relationship with God. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that the kingdom of heaven is like a treasure; once found, it is all we want and worth all we have.

**UNIVERSAL PRAYER**

**PRIEST:** Trusting in our Lord's love for us, we make our requests for his gifts and his grace.

- 1) That the Lord may give wise and understanding hearts to those entrusted with leading his Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the Lord may instruct lawmakers and leaders to love and observe his commands, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That we may find in Christ the treasure of love and joy that is the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all of us here may be strengthened in love through participation in the word and sacraments, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those God called from this life may be justified and glorified by him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** Lord our God, as you gave to Solomon what he asked of you, give us what we need to fulfill our purpose according to your call, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Monday, July 31, 2023  
(Lec. 401)

- 1) Exodus 32:15-24, 30-34
- 2) Matthew 13:31-35

MONDAY OF  
17<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
Saint Ignatius of Loyola,  
Priest)

FOCUS: God invites us to look at the small things that either draw us closer to faith or pull us away from his love.

Life may be lived large by many, but it is often in the smallest of acts, or things, that meaning and change can be found. Consider the mustard seed, which can bloom into a verdant faith that welcomes the Holy Spirit to dwell in its branches. Also consider that in small moments of choosing one thing over another, our relationship with God can grow, or at times suffer the worst damage. Allow the small moments to lead you toward God, not away from him – that is truly living large.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Moses comes down from the mountain to find that the people have created a golden calf to be their leader. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast that leavens the whole batch of bread.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our prayers with confidence to our heavenly Father who sees our struggles and draws near in mercy.

- 1) For Church leaders, may God give them the grace to be mediators of mercy and forgiveness to all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may they be inspired to care for the details that lead to the flourishing of all human life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the lonely and discouraged, may their spirits be uplifted by the assurance of God's love and compassion for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered in this holy place, may God's Holy Spirit bestow upon us the gift of piety, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the dead, may all who have died in the light of faith be granted a place at the heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of all goodness, lead us in every moment and hear these prayers we offer you today, through Christ our Lord.

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