

DAILY UNIVERSAL PRAYER

Opening & Closing Prayers

Monday, July 1, 2024

- O: Gathering our needs and petitions, we bring them before our Father's heavenly throne.
C: Merciful Father, we thank you for your faithfulness. Please look with kindness upon the petitions we bring to you this day, through Christ our Lord.

Tuesday, July 2, 2024

- O: Let us bring all of our intentions to the Lord, trusting in his goodness and justice.
C: Father, we entrust all of these intentions to you, through Christ our Lord.

Wednesday, July 3, 2024

- O: Remembering that we are citizens in God's house, let us bring our needs before the Lord.
C: God our Father, please hear and answer the prayers we have brought before you today, we ask through Christ our Lord.

Thursday, July 4, 2024

- O: As we place our trust fully in the Lord, we offer him our petitions.
C: Lord God, hear these prayers and answer them according to your will, we ask through Christ our Lord.

Friday, July 5, 2024

- O: With trust in God's loving will, let us make our requests known to him.
C: Almighty Father, your mercy knows no bounds. Hear our petitions, we ask, through Christ our Lord.

Saturday, July 6, 2024

- O: Let us bring our prayers and petitions before our loving God, trusting in his compassion and mercy.
C: Merciful Father, we offer our prayers and humbly ask that you look kindly upon your faithful servants, through Christ our Lord.

SUNDAY, JULY 7, 2024

- O: Let us bring our petitions for the Church and for the world before the Lord.
C: Loving and eternal Father, we ask that you hear our prayers and answer our petitions in accordance with your divine will, through Christ our Lord.

Monday, July 8, 2024

- O: With confidence, we entrust our intentions to our loving God.
C: Father, we ask you to hear and answer the prayers we have offered, through Christ our Lord.

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

- O: Let us now present our petitions to the Father, trusting in his goodness.
C: Loving Father, we bring you these needs in the full trust that you will hear and answer our prayers, through Christ our Lord.

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

- O: Turning to our loving Father, we offer him our prayers and petitions.
C: Most merciful Father, we know that you always hear our prayers. Please grant these according to your holy will, we ask through Christ our Lord.

Thursday, July 11, 2024

- O: Together, let us bring our needs to the Father, trusting in his love for us.
C: Almighty God, hear our prayers and answer them in your great kindness. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Friday, July 12, 2024

- O: Mindful of our human frailties, we humbly bring our needs to the Lord this day.
- C: Just and merciful God, hear the prayers we have brought before you this day, we ask through Christ our Lord.

Saturday, July 13, 2024

- O: With confidence in our merciful God, let us now offer him our petitions.
- C: Almighty and eternal God, in your infinite mercy please hear our prayers, we ask through Christ our Lord.

SUNDAY, JULY 14, 2024

- O: Let us approach the Lord with confidence and offer our needs and our prayers.
- C: Generous and loving God, hear and answer these prayers we offer you today, we ask through Christ our Lord.

Monday, July 15, 2024

- O: With one heart and one voice, let us lift up to the Lord our needs and the needs of our neighbors.
- C: Heavenly Father, we put our prayers before you, confident that you will respond with the mercy and love we need. We ask through Christ our Lord.

Tuesday, July 16, 2024

- O: Blessed with the gift of faith, let us bring our prayers and needs before the Lord.
- C: Loving God, hear our prayers and answer them in your mercy. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Wednesday, July 17, 2024

- O: With childlike trust in God, we bring before him our needs.
- C: Lord God, hear these prayers and petitions that we bring before you with humble hearts and answer them in accordance with your holy will. We ask through Christ our Lord.

Thursday, July 18, 2024

- O: We now place our prayers before the Lord, trusting in his justice and mercy.
- C: Heavenly Father, hear our prayers and grant them in your generous mercy, we ask through Christ our Lord.

Friday, July 19, 2024

- O: As Jesus invites us to follow him, we turn our hearts and minds to the Father and present our petitions before him.
- C: God our Father, please hear and answer our prayers, we ask through Christ our Lord.

Saturday, July 20, 2024

- O: As his faithful children, we turn to the Father in prayer to present our petitions to him.
- C: Gracious God, please hear our prayers and answer them according to your holy will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

SUNDAY, JULY 21, 2024

- O: Bringing our prayers together with one voice, let us offer them to our merciful Father.
- C: God of abundance, you hear our every need and desire. We ask that you listen to and answer our prayers, through Christ our Lord.

Monday, July 22, 2024

- O: With trust in the power of the risen Christ, let us boldly offer God our prayers and our needs this day.
- C: Good and gracious God, please hear these prayers we offer you, through Christ our Lord.

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

- O: With complete trust in the merciful compassion of our Father, we bring our needs to him.
- C: Eternal and merciful Father, we ask you to hear the prayers we offer today, through Christ our Lord.

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

O: Grateful for all God does for us, let us ask him to hear our prayers.

C: Almighty and eternal God, our salvation comes from you alone. As you watch over the lives of your people, we ask that you hear the prayers we offer this day, through Christ our Lord.

Thursday, July 25, 2024

O: Let us bring our petitions before our loving Father, who listens to our prayers.

C: Father, we ask you to look graciously upon the prayers we have offered and answer them according to your will, through Christ our Lord.

Friday, July 26, 2024

O: Trusting in God's providence, we bring our petitions to him.

C: Almighty Father, you always give good things to us in abundance. We beg you to hear and grant our petitions, through Christ our Lord.

Saturday, July 27, 2024

O: Confident that the Lord hears our prayers, we bring him our intentions today.

C: Good and gracious God, we humbly place our needs before you. Please hear and answer them according to your holy will, we ask through Christ our Lord.

SUNDAY, JULY 28, 2024

O: Let us offer our prayers to God, who answers all our needs.

C: Father, you provide food for the journey. Hear and answer the prayers we offer you this day, we ask through Christ our Lord.

Monday, July 29, 2024

O: Trusting that the Lord will look favorably upon our needs, we offer our petitions.

C: Lord God, hear the prayers we have brought before you this day, we ask through Christ our Lord.

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

O: With confidence, we now turn to our loving Father with our prayers and petitions.

C: Father, we bring you our prayers this day. Please grant them according to your most holy will, we ask through Christ our Lord.

Wednesday, July 31, 2024

O: Confident in God's love for us, we entrust these prayers to him.

C: Almighty Father, your Son revealed your greatness to us in his words and his actions. Listen to the prayers we bring before you, we ask, through Christ our Lord.

JULY

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	
<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	
<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	
<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	
<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	
<u>31</u>				

**YEAR B
WEEKDAYS II**

Monday, July 1, 2024
(Lec. 377)

- 1) Amos 2:6-10, 13-16
- 2) Matthew 8:18-22

MONDAY OF
13TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
USA: Saint Junípero Serra,
Priest)

FOCUS: Prioritizing Jesus may mean sacrifice.

Following Jesus requires putting him first, before ourselves and even our families. Truly being a disciple may mean sacrificing comforts or having to make difficult decisions. We must trust that by prioritizing God, he will take care of our eternal souls. God is faithful, as he has proven for thousands of years.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Through the prophet Amos, the Lord declares the works he has done for Israel and names the ways in which Israel has sinned against the Lord. The day of Israel's judgment is coming. In the Gospel, Jesus tells a would-be disciple that following him is more important than even the highest obligations to family, and that there are no guarantees for worldly comforts.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Gathering our needs and petitions, we bring them before our Father's heavenly throne.

- 1) For all bishops, may the example of Jesus inspire them in humble service for God's people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For nations engaged in conflict, may the Prince of Peace lead them to peaceful resolutions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For unhoused people, may God provide resources for them to find a place to call home, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all members of this faith community, may our heavenly Father bless our outreach efforts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls of the faithful departed, may they enjoy the eternal peace of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, we thank you for your faithfulness. Please look with kindness upon the petitions we bring to you this day, through Christ our Lord.

Tuesday, July 2, 2024
(Lec. 378)

- 1) Amos 3:1-8;
4:11-12
- 2) Matthew 8:23-27

TUESDAY OF
13TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Jesus asks his followers to have faith in him.

It can be easy to doubt God's plan and to question his ways, but Jesus invites us to have faith and to trust in him. The Lord is the Lord of justice – one who grants mercy but brings justice where it is due. He is the one who calms the seas around us, the one who can save us from our fears and, in some sense, from ourselves when we falter. Have faith in the one who has authority over all things.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Lord reveals his plans to the prophets and says that Israel will be punished. In today's Gospel, Jesus' disciples follow him out on the sea and grow afraid of the storm that rages while Jesus sleeps. They wake him and ask him to save them, and Jesus asks why they have such little faith. He then rebukes the winds and the sea.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring all of our intentions to the Lord, trusting in his goodness and justice.

- 1) For the Church, may the Father of all mercies grant her members the grace to grow in love and forgiveness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For public authorities, may God be their guide in leading their communities with concern for the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those in ill health, may the healing power of Jesus bring them relief and consolation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the Lord help us live as witnesses to his saving power, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they soon enter into the fullness of God's kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we entrust all of these intentions to you, through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, July 3, 2024
(Lec. 593)
1) Ephesians 2:19-22
2) John 20:24-29

**SAINT THOMAS,
APOSTLE
- FEAST**

FOCUS: *Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.*

Today's feast of Saint Thomas the Apostle reminds us that faith is a work in progress. Just as Thomas needed help to believe in the risen Christ, we also may struggle at times with strengthening our faith. May we be open to the grace to help deepen our faith as members of God's house.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Paul writes that the faithful have been transformed from being lost to finding a home in God. In the Gospel, Thomas refuses to believe the disciples who have seen the risen Christ. Jesus appears before Thomas and he believes. Jesus calls those blessed who have not seen and still believed.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Remembering that we are citizens in God's house, let us bring our needs before the Lord.

- 1) For the Church and her mission to preach the risen Christ to all nations, may the Holy Spirit bring new life to her work, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who hold political office, may God inspire them to uphold justice in every situation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who struggle in grief, may God bring them consolation and comfort, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may God give us encouragement and zeal in our work as disciples, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have passed away, may God's perpetual light shine upon them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, please hear and answer the prayers we have brought before you today, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, July 4, 2024
(Lec. 380)

- 1) Amos 7:10-17
- 2) Matthew 9:1-8

THURSDAY OF
13TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(USA: Independence Day)

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

FOCUS: Trust the Lord's word and never doubt his mercy.

God will never fail us. Through his forgiveness, we are strengthened and renewed. His love for us surpasses all things, and he tends to us especially in our suffering. He has a plan for each of us and there is no doubt he desires our good. Have courage and trust in the Lord, who offers healing and salvation.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Amos faces insults and accusations from the priest of Bethel for doing the Lord's work and spreading his word. In the Gospel, Jesus heals a paralytic while the scribes look on. Jesus explains that he has the authority to heal the spirit of the paralytic by healing his body.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we place our trust fully in the Lord, we offer him our petitions.

- 1) For the growth of the Church, may the Lord pour out his Spirit to inspire hearts, drawing more people to know and love him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For an end to war, may world leaders be guided by the Holy Spirit to bring peace to all corners of the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are burdened by stress or anxiety, may God grant them relief and hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may the Lord shower his grace upon us, meeting our needs and bringing comfort where it is sought, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the peace of Christ, may they reside eternally with God in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Friday, July 5, 2024

(Lec. 381)

- 1) Amos 8:4-6, 9-12
- 2) Matthew 9:9-13

FRIDAY OF
13TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.)

Saint Anthony Zaccaria,
Priest;
USA: Saint Elizabeth of Portugal)

FOCUS: God comes not for the righteous but the sinner.

We are all sinners in need of mercy. The Church is our sacramental home, and Jesus says, *I did not come to call the righteous but sinners*. It makes sense that we who gather here are still on the journey to wholeness and holiness. We ask the Lord to help us see where we fail and grant us the courage to correct our paths.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God issues a warning through the prophet Amos that there will be harsh penalties for those who *trample upon the needy* and prosper through unholy deceit. In the Gospel, Jesus is hospitable toward Matthew and those considered sinners and cheats. He challenges the Pharisees to ponder the words, *I desire mercy, not sacrifice*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust in God's loving will, let us make our requests known to him.

- 1) For the Church, may God's healing mercy be upon each one of us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may the Spirit of peace and love guide their rhetoric and policies, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those in need of food or shelter, may the Lord's mercy bring forth hospitality to meet their every need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this Eucharistic assembly, may God's grace help us to keep the Eucharist at the center of our lives and prayer, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they soon rejoice in the gift of everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, your mercy knows no bounds. Hear our petitions, we ask, through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, July 6, 2024

(Lec. 382)

- 1) Amos 9:11-15
- 2) Matthew 9:14-17

SATURDAY OF
13TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Maria Goretti,
Virgin and Martyr;
Saturday in honor
of BVM)

FOCUS: The Lord brings peace and restoration.

Today's readings help us to more deeply explore and understand that God is one who restores peace and brings joy. God wills only what is good for his children. If we turn to him with trust and repentance for our sins, we will be made new.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Amos prophesies that a time of destruction will be followed by a time of peace and restoration. In the Gospel, Jesus explains that his followers do not fast while in his presence because he is like the bridegroom.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) That the Church may be emboldened by God in spreading her message of salvation to the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That elected officials may be guided by the Spirit in working to enact laws that protect the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That refugees and others who are displaced from their homes may obtain the help and support they need to live with dignity, 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 those who have died in Christ may return with the Lord to his glorious kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, we offer our prayers and humbly ask that you look kindly upon your faithful servants, through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, JULY 7, 2024

(Lec. 101)

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

**14TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: We are called to share our faith near and far.

In today's Gospel we find Jesus proclaiming the Good News in *his native place*. Although his message was not well received by most, there were a few who came to believe. We, too, are called to share our faith near and far. Sometimes our efforts will bear little fruit, but at other times, by God's grace, someone may come to faith and that possibility should encourage us to persevere in this endeavor.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lord sends Ezekiel to speak his word to the Israelites who have rebelled against God. Paul shares how Christ's power is revealed through his own personal weaknesses. In the Gospel, Jesus is teaching in the synagogue in *his native place*, but is only able to perform a few healings because those who hear him do not believe.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our petitions for the Church and for the world before the Lord.

- 1) For priests and deacons, may the Lord renew them in their vocation to proclaim the Gospel with charity and truth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all in the world who do not have faith in Christ, may the Holy Spirit open their hearts to his invitation into communion with him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who care for a loved one who is elderly or infirm, may our Savior strengthen and comfort them when their burden is heavy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this Eucharistic assembly, may the grace of the Sacrament give us the courage to speak God's truth to others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may God, in his mercy, joyfully receive them into his heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving and eternal Father, we ask that you hear our prayers and answer our petitions in accordance with your divine will, through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, July 8, 2024

(Lec. 383)

- 1) Hosea 2:16,
17c-18, 21-22
- 2) Matthew 9:18-26

MONDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Jesus is our Lord and God.

Jesus has the power to heal, and out of love and mercy he heals those who come to him with faith. Even those who have faith on behalf of a loved one experience Jesus' healing power firsthand.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Hosea prophesies that God will *espouse* himself to Israel with justice, judgment, loyalty, and fidelity. In the Gospel, Jesus raises the dead daughter of an official and cures a woman of a long-time hemorrhage.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence, we entrust our intentions to our loving God.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may God allow our witness to be a beacon of light in a weary world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government officials, may the Lord help them in using their power according to his plan, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick and the suffering, may they know the power of Jesus' healing touch, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here today, may the Holy Spirit guide us in the ways of faith, hope, and charity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they rest forever in God's presence in the fullness of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we ask you to hear and answer the prayers we have offered, through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, July 9, 2024

(Lec. 384)

- 1) Hosea 8:4-7, 11-13
- 2) Matthew 9:32-38

TUESDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

(Opt. Mem.
Saint Augustine Zhao Rong,
Priest,
and Companions,
Martyrs)

FOCUS: As Christians, we are called to consider whether we are following God's laws or our own whims.

As we go about our daily lives, it's helpful to pause now and then to ask God if we're following his ways or our own ways. The people of Israel in Hosea's time felt they were doing God's work by building altars and sacrificing – but they weren't following what God wanted. Let us try to be mindful that our goal is to emulate Jesus and always do the will of God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Hosea challenges the people of Israel not to go their own ways and worship idols. Even the altars they built were not pleasing to God. In the Gospel, Jesus does God's will: driving out a demon, preaching, and healing out of compassion. He asks the disciples to pray for more laborers in the field to do God's work.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us now present our petitions to the Father, trusting in his goodness.

- 1) For all who are called to serve the Church as laborers for God's harvest, may the Spirit help them to respond generously, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government and business leaders, may God's wisdom guide their decisions for the needs of the people they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For individuals and families who must do without some basic necessities, may the Lord in his generosity provide the support and material goods they need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all in this faith community who work in healing professions, may Jesus, the Healer, mold them in their compassion for those who are ill, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the light of faith, may they rest in eternal peace in heaven with all the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we bring you these needs in the full trust that you will hear and answer our prayers, through Christ our Lord.

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

(Lec. 385)

- 1) Hosea 10:1-3, 7-8, 12
- 2) Matthew 10:1-7

WEDNESDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: By virtue of our baptism, we are called to go forth proclaiming the kingdom.

In today's Gospel we hear the summoning of the Twelve disciples. Jesus calls the Twelve to be his closest disciples – to learn from him and then to go out proclaiming *the Kingdom of heaven is at hand*. By virtue of our baptism, we are brought into the family of Christ as priest, prophet, and king. We, too, are called to go forth proclaiming the kingdom.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Hosea prophesies the consequences of Israel's idolatry, the judgment they will face, and God's call for repentance in order to receive his mercy and righteousness. In the Gospel, Jesus summons the Twelve disciples and commissions them to go out on mission, proclaiming *the Kingdom of heaven is at hand*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Turning to our loving Father, we offer him our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For our Holy Father and all bishops throughout the world, may the Holy Spirit guide their ministry with charity and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For national leaders, may the Lord of mercy and righteousness guide their decisions and policy-making, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For families who struggle with divorce, division, or poverty, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this assembly, may God's abiding love encourage us to always support the dignity of all human life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked with the sign of the cross, may they soon see the face of God and live with him forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Most merciful Father, we know that you always hear our prayers. Please grant these according to your holy will, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, July 11, 2024
(Lec. 386)
1) Hosea 11:1-4, 8e-9
2) Matthew 10:7-15

THURSDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Benedict,
Abbot)

FOCUS: Simplicity is a needed attribute for all disciples of Jesus.

The ideals of missionary zeal and humility, spelled out by Jesus when he commissioned the Apostles, are also exemplified by the life of Saint Benedict, whom we celebrate today. Simplicity in how we conduct our lives and in our efforts to share the Gospel is a necessary attribute if we wish to attract people to the love of Jesus.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, the prophet Hosea uses the image of parent and child to describe the relationship between God and Israel. Although cared for by God, Israel rejects him. He will not destroy them, though, because he knows they are only human. In the Gospel, Jesus commissions the Apostles to teach, cure the sick, cast out demons, and raise the dead. They are to go simply and not seek payment for the gifts they give.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together, let us bring our needs to the Father, trusting in his love for us.

- 1) For Catholic missionaries, may the Spirit guide their hearts and their words, and protect them from harm, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For peacemakers throughout the world, may their work be blessed and take root in troubled lands, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who do not know the true love Jesus offers them, may the Lord open their ears and hearts to the Gospel message, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this worship community, may the Lord help us be true to our calling of sharing the Good News of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they be welcomed into the eternal happiness of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God, hear our prayers and answer them in your great kindness. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, July 12, 2024

(Lec. 387)

1) Hosea 14:2-10

2) Matthew 10:16-23

FRIDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God is always with us and for us.

Today we ponder how our relationship with God is dynamic. When we admit to our guilt and false idols, the Lord is ready to renew us with his compassion. When we give witness to this boundless love, we can expect to be challenged and even persecuted by others. When this happens, the Lord is close by us as we stand by his truth.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Hosea calls the people to repentance and gives an assurance of the Lord's healing forgiveness for the humble and sorrowful. In the Gospel, Jesus warns his Apostles that they can expect great opposition from officials and family alike. He declares that the Spirit will aid their speech and calls for them to be steadfast.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Mindful of our human frailties, we humbly bring our needs to the Lord this day.

- 1) For the Church, may she always be a sign of divine reconciliation and mercy for the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may the Spirit give them words of wisdom in their efforts to promote the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the victims of religious persecution, may the Lord protect them from all suffering, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For each of us here, may God guide us in our words and deeds as we pursue the path of holiness, 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: Just and merciful God, hear the prayers we have brought before you this day, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, July 13, 2024

(Lec. 388)

1) Isaiah 6:1-8

2) Matthew 10:24-33

SATURDAY OF
14TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Henry;
Saturday in honor
of BVM)

FOCUS: With the Lord beside us, we can do his will.

Jesus gives us ample warnings throughout the Gospel about the difficulty of getting to heaven, but we must continue to preach his Word regardless of the obstacles placed in front of us. He tells us not to be afraid because we are special in God's eyes and he will protect and guide us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Lord calls Isaiah to be a prophet and Isaiah willingly accepts God's mission for him. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his Apostles that there will be great challenges for them in proclaiming his Word, but that their reward will be great.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in our merciful God, let us now offer him our petitions.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord grant her the grace to grow in number and in holiness, for the sake of his kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may the Lord help them to choose well and wisely when caring for their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those around the world who have experienced natural disasters, may the Lord provide for their every need and offer them hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may the Holy Spirit kindle in us a willing spirit and a generous heart to do all God asks of us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the light of faith, may they soon rest in the eternal light of God's kingdom, 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 through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, JULY 14, 2024

(Lec. 104)

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

**15TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: God sends us on mission and provides us with the riches of his grace.

We heard in the second reading that God has lavished the riches of his grace upon us. He calls us, and he accompanies us in that call. God will ask much of us, but let us not be afraid, for God's call is an invitation to live fully, richly, and generously.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Amos is called a prophet by a priest of Bethel. He responds that God took him *from following the flock* as a shepherd and sent him to prophesy. In the epistle, Paul writes that we are chosen and that God has blessed us in Christ with *every spiritual blessing*. In the Gospel, Jesus sends the Twelve out *two by two* and instructs them to take nothing for their journey.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us approach the Lord with confidence and offer our needs and our prayers.

- 1) For the Church and all her leaders, may the Spirit move mightily to bring healing and peace through God's servants, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders throughout the world, may the Lord grant them wisdom and insight, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are sick or beset by burdens, may God provide resources and people to aid them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may we be given all we need to answer God's call with courage and zeal, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the hope of rising again, may they rejoice in the riches of God's presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Generous and loving God, hear and answer these prayers we offer you today, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, July 15, 2024

(Lec. 389)

1) Isaiah 1:10-17

2) Matthew 10:34–11:1

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

FOCUS: God calls us to turn away from sin and put him, and those in need, first in our lives.

Jesus' words in the Gospel today are meant to get our attention. Jesus calls us to turn away from our lives as we know them, and especially our sins, to embrace the life he desires to give us. This turning *away* calls us to turn *toward* our neighbor in need.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah vividly describes the consequences of worship without repentance and commitment to conversion. In the Gospel, Jesus says that to be his disciple means putting him first above families and our own desires. When we do so, we will see to the needs of our neighbors and our world.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With one heart and one voice, let us lift up to the Lord our needs and the needs of our neighbors.

- 1) For the Church, may God grant her vision and clarity of purpose in her mission to spread the Gospel message, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For young people throughout the world, may they be inspired by the example of parents, teachers, and other mentors who exemplify personal responsibility and love for one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have no voice, may the Lord grant them a stronghold of faith and people to be their advocates, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may God grant us the grace to repent of our sins and put Jesus first in our lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked with the sign of faith, may God grant them peace in eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we put our prayers before you, confident that you will respond with the mercy and love we need. We ask through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, July 16, 2024
(Lec. 390)
1) Isaiah 7:1-9
2) Matthew 11:20-24

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

FOCUS: *If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*

Trusting in the Lord and in his promises and mercy lies at the heart of our Christian faith. If we do not have that trust, we can find ourselves like the towns Jesus speaks of in the Gospel today: relying on our own resources and faulty human vision and refusing to repent. Let us accept the grace God is offering us, and walk in the ways of the Lord.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God instructs Isaiah to counsel King Ahaz to stand firm in faith and to trust only in the Lord. In the Gospel, Jesus condemns the towns of Capernaum, Chorazin, and Bethsaida for their lack of faith and their failure to repent.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Blessed with the gift of faith, let us bring our prayers and needs before the Lord.

- 1) For Church leaders, may the Spirit continue to strengthen and renew them in faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For a greater respect for life from the first moment of conception to natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the elderly and homebound, may God grant them healing and the gift of peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this assembly, may the Lord continue to deepen our faith and lead us in ways that better serve him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls of the faithful departed, may they, through the mercy of God, rest in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, hear our prayers and answer them in your mercy. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, July 17, 2024

(Lec. 391)

- 1) Isaiah 10:5-7, 13b-16
- 2) Matthew 11:25-27

WEDNESDAY OF
15TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Humble, childlike trust in God is greater than any earthly power.

All power and knowledge belong to God, and he gives these gifts to whomever he wills, for his purposes. When we are his instruments, giving him glory and credit, only good can come of it. But selfishness and pride, as the example of the king of Assyria shows, lead to unfavorable outcomes. We cannot accomplish what God can, nor is what we accomplish to our own credit. The Lord of all is the source of all good, and we do well to honor him.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Isaiah speaks of how God punished Israel through Assyria, whose king attributed the success to himself. God rebukes his haughtiness and threatens to punish him. In the Gospel, Jesus praises the Father and thanks him for giving knowledge of himself to the childlike rather than to the wise and learned.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With childlike trust in God, we bring before him our needs.

- 1) For the Church, may the Holy Spirit grant her an abundance of vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may God give them the humility to acknowledge him as the source of their power, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who live with the burden of violence or abuse, may the Lord deliver and heal them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who serve this faith community well, may the Lord continue to bless their efforts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, especially those who have no one else to pray for them, may they rest in the peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, hear these prayers and petitions that we bring before you with humble hearts and answer them in accordance with your holy will. We ask through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, July 18, 2024
(Lec. 392)
1) Isaiah 26:7-9, 12, 16-19
2) Matthew 11:28-30

THURSDAY OF
15TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
USA: Saint Camillus de Lellis,
Priest)

FOCUS: *The way of the just is smooth, and the Lord makes level their path.*

As humans, we strive for wholeness. Satisfaction cannot be achieved through material goods or wealth. The just yearn for God, who is the desire of their souls. As the *Catechism* states, “No one is without a family in this world: the Church is a home and family for everyone, especially those who ‘labor and are heavy laden’” (1658).

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah prophesies that the Lord makes level the way of the just, and brings about salvation. In the Gospel, Jesus calls for all who labor and are burdened to come to him so that he may give them rest.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We now place our prayers before the Lord, trusting in his justice and mercy.

- 1) For the Church, may she always be a haven for those who labor and are heavily burdened, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may the Spirit of God guide and empower them in ways of charity, justice, and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who labor to provide for their loved ones, may the Lord bless them and protect them from harm, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered in this holy place, may God’s grace enable us always to give thanks to him who shows us the path to salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they rise to new life in the glory of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear our prayers and grant them in your generous mercy, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, July 19, 2024

(Lec. 393)

- 1) Isaiah 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8
- 2) Matthew 12:1-8

FRIDAY OF
15TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: We follow Jesus Christ, who is the fulfillment of the law.

As is often the case in the Gospels, the Pharisees are concerned with the letter of the law but have lost sight of the spirit of the law. Jesus fulfills the law – he, and he alone, is all we need to follow. Jesus comes to heal, convert, and save. In sharing his message of salvation we participate in his mission, witnessing to God’s promises manifested in his Son.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Isaiah warns Hezekiah about his imminent death and Hezekiah prays and weeps. The Lord answers his prayer for a longer life. In the Gospel, the Pharisees question Jesus about his disciples picking grain on the Sabbath. Jesus tells them there is something greater than the temple here and that he is the *Lord of the sabbath*.

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 all clergy, may the Holy Spirit continue to conform them ever more to Christ in their ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For public officials, may the Lord guide them in honoring the dignity of every human being from conception to natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, may the Lord give them grace in their suffering, united with the suffering of Christ, and help them to trust in his plan, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the Lord help us to grow in our love for him and for one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our brothers and sisters in faith that have died, may they soon enjoy the fullness of life with God in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, please hear and answer our prayers, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, July 20, 2024

(Lec. 394)

1) Micah 2:1-5

2) Matthew 12:14-21

SATURDAY OF
15th WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Apollinaris,
Bishop and Martyr;
Saturday in honor
of BVM)

FOCUS: Embrace humility and strive for forgiveness.

As followers of Christ, we strive for humble hearts that beg for God's mercy. In the sacrament of reconciliation, we humble ourselves and ask for forgiveness; this is when we experience God's mercy and healing.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Micah warns against *those who plan iniquity and work out evil*. In the Gospel, Jesus cures all those following him. He warns them not to tell anyone who he is.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For the Church, may the Holy Spirit continue to fill her people with courage to spread the Good News, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For political and religious leaders, may wisdom and the Lord's guidance help them promote peace in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For Christians around the world persecuted for their beliefs, may the Lord continue to grant them fortitude, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all members of this community of faith, may Christ have a place in our hearts and in our homes, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all of the souls in purgatory, may they soon enter into eternal rest in God's heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, please hear our prayers and answer them according to your holy will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, JULY 21, 2024

(Lec. 107)

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

**16TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: The Lord is our shepherd, guiding and protecting us, and providing for all things.

From the time of Creation the Lord has watched over us and guided us, judging our needs and our care for one another. When no one could shepherd us back to himself, he sent his Son to reconcile us to himself and free us from the bonds of sin. He sees who and where we are and knows what we need, providing for all things.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Jeremiah proclaims that the Lord sees the misdeeds of the shepherds who shepherd his people and will punish them. He will appoint shepherds who will shepherd his people so they *no longer fear and tremble*. Saint Paul writes that through the sacrifice of Christ, we have become close to God. In the Gospel, the Apostles and Jesus go off to rest and are followed by a vast crowd. Moved by their lack of a shepherd to guide them, Jesus teaches them many things.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Bringing our prayers together with one voice, let us offer them to our merciful Father.

- 1) For bishops, may God guide them in their work as shepherds for the many people they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who lead our communities, may God's justice illuminate their decisions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who have no one to guide and shepherd them in the ways of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community and our efforts to be attentive to the needs around us, may God show us where he calls us to serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the light of Christ, may God bring them to eternal peace with him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of abundance, you hear our every need and desire. We ask that you listen to and answer our prayers, through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, July 22, 2024
(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: God sent people into our lives to share his Good News with us, and he sends us to others in turn.

We are here because someone was sent to us, because Jesus spoke someone's name in love, because someone held tightly to Christ, and heeded his words when he said, "go." We are here because Christ knows us and, in his love, guided his "sent ones" to us to share the Good News of his love and presence with us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading from the Song of Songs, the Bride seeks and finds him who her heart loves. In the Gospel, Mary Magdalene goes to the tomb and, as she stands outside weeping, Jesus comes to her. She recognizes him when he speaks her name, and he sends her to the disciples to announce that he is alive.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust in the power of the risen Christ, let us boldly offer God our prayers and our needs this day.

- 1) For the Church, may the Holy Spirit fortify her in supporting the dignity and flourishing of all human life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders in government and society, may they be given the grace to learn from the wisdom of others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who grieve, may they be given hope in the living Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may the Holy Spirit guide and enlighten us in all we say and do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they be welcomed into the presence of our loving Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, please hear these prayers we offer you, through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, July 23, 2024
(Lec. 396)
1) Micah 7:14-15, 18-20
2) Matthew 12:46-50

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

FOCUS: Call on the Lord for guidance.

Micah asks the Lord to shepherd his people – for there is no one like God who removes guilt and pardons sin. The Israelites were surrounded by pagan cultures and gods, and they could see the folly of false worship. They knew to appeal to truth – the truth in our one true God. It is a reminder that no matter what we face, there is one to call on who is waiting for our prayer.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Micah offers a prayer asking God to shepherd his people, and praises God with confidence in his compassion. In the Gospel Jesus says, *whoever does the will of my heavenly Father is my brother, and sister, and mother.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With complete trust in the merciful compassion of our Father, we bring our needs to him.

- 1) For those discerning a vocation to the priesthood or religious life, may the Lord bless them with generous and open hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all nations and peoples at war, may the Holy Spirit inspire and guide them to peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are struggling with habitual sin, may Jesus give them the strength and grace to overcome it, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the Lord help us always trust in his loving promises, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls of the faithful departed, may they, through the mercy of God, rest in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Eternal and merciful Father, we ask you to hear the prayers we offer today, through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, July 24, 2024
(Lec. 397)

- 1) Jeremiah 1:1, 4-10
- 2) Matthew 13:1-9

WEDNESDAY OF
16TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Sharbel Makhlūf,
Priest)

FOCUS: Help those around us to know God's love.

The Gospel is free – there is no charge for hearing and learning about the Good News of God, and yet many people don't have the opportunity to receive it, and some who do are outright hostile to it. These are the places where the ground is rocky or is overrun with weeds. Can we cultivate that ground to make it "good ground" for God's word?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Jeremiah speaks of his calling as a prophet. He thought he was too young but the Lord commanded him to have no fear. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of a sower whose seeds fell on rocky ground, among weeds, and on good ground.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Grateful for all God does for us, let us ask him to hear our prayers.

- 1) For Church leaders, may the heart of the Good Shepherd be their guide as they seek to lead lives of holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For peace in the world, may the Holy Spirit mend the wounds of division and hatred and build bridges of unity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who believe they are too far from God to return to his loving arms, may he open their hearts to seeing how close he really is, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here today, may the Lord cultivate in us a healthy and generous spirit of sowing his word, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in God's grace, may they soon rest eternally in his heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and eternal God, our salvation comes from you alone. As you watch over the lives of your people, we ask that you hear the prayers we offer this day, through Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, July 25, 2024
(Lec. 605)
1) 2 Corinthians 4:7-15
2) Matthew 20:20-28

**SAINT JAMES,
APOSTLE
- FEAST**

FOCUS: We are redeemed through suffering and death.

To be human is to suffer. No matter the circumstances into which we are born, suffering of some kind is inevitable. Sometimes we offer our suffering on behalf of another, or even choose to suffer for the sake of others. Faith in Christ gives our suffering meaning; we are united to his suffering on our behalf, and it has a purpose in the redemption of the world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul writes to the Corinthians that we carry in our bodies *the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body*. In the Gospel, the mother of the sons of Zebedee asks Jesus for her sons to sit at his right and left in his kingdom. Jesus tells the disciples that those who wish to be the greatest must become servants.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our petitions before our loving Father, who listens to our prayers.

- 1) That ministers of the Church may continue to be inspired and led by Christ's example of humble service, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the leaders of nations may be guided by the Spirit in working to enact laws that protect the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who suffer in mind or body may receive new life by uniting their suffering with Christ's, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the Holy Spirit may help members of this assembly recognize the abundance of grace we have received and glorify God with thanksgiving, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died with Christ may be raised to new life in his presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we ask you to look graciously upon the prayers we have offered and answer them according to your will, through Christ our Lord.

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Friday, July 26, 2024

(Lec. 399)

- 1) Jeremiah 3:14-17
- 2) Matthew 13:18-23

FRIDAY OF
16TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM

Saints Joachim and Anne,
Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

FOCUS: Through Saints Joachim and Anne, God made fruitful his promises to Israel.

Today's first reading, which promises the return of a remnant of Israel to Zion, also makes a strange prediction. The ark of the covenant will be forgotten. That is, they will begin to move from physical symbols as an expression of faith to a more personal relationship with God as embodied presence. On the feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, we recall that their blessed daughter Mary is the new ark of the covenant, far superior to the old, and containing Jesus Christ himself.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Jeremiah prophesies a return to Zion. There they will have wise and prudent leaders and will forget the ark of the covenant. In the Gospel, Jesus explains the parable of the sower. There are four types of soil, representing four kinds of people who encounter the Word. Only one kind produces a rich harvest.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God's providence, we bring our petitions to him.

- 1) That the Holy Spirit may raise up wise and prudent shepherds to lead the Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That all who exercise authority may, through God's help, guide their people wisely, lovingly, and patiently, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That the Lord may provide abundantly for those driven from their homes due to natural disasters or manmade circumstances, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That Christ may give to our faith community the grace to evangelize and reap a great harvest of souls for the kingdom of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our beloved dead may be led by the Good Shepherd to the heavenly Zion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, you always give good things to us in abundance. We beg you to hear and grant our petitions, through Christ our Lord.

Saturday, July 27, 2024

(Lec. 400)

1) Jeremiah 7:1-11

2) Matthew 13:24-30

SATURDAY OF
16TH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Saturday in honor
of BVM)

FOCUS: With God's grace we can grow and bear good fruit.

Keeping our eyes fixed on the Lord helps us attain two of the thematic goods in our readings: reforming any of our ways and deeds that need it, and sharing the Good News of God's just judgment. The Lord does not toss us away before the time of his harvest of wheat. We, and all sinners, have the awesome opportunity and power of repentance while we inhabit the kingdom here on earth. With his grace we can grow and bear good fruit.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading the Lord speaks through Jeremiah, who calls all of Judah to reform their ways and deeds. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the weeds and the wheat.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident that the Lord hears our prayers, we bring him our intentions today.

- 1) For our bishop and all priests, may they be strengthened and upheld in their ministry as they serve the people of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For local and state leaders, may the guidance of the Holy Spirit help them enact laws and legislation that promote the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are homeless or without adequate housing, may the Holy Spirit bring forth people and resources to fulfill their needs, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this assembly, may the graces of this liturgy transform our hearts to become more like Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may God bring them to their eternal reward in heaven with all the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, we humbly place our needs before you. Please hear and answer them according to your holy will, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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SUNDAY, JULY 28, 2024

(Lec. 110)

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

**17TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: God provides for us.

Today's readings relate two feeding miracles – one performed by Elisha and one by Jesus. Of course, we know that the source of all miracles is God himself. In each story, the Lord goes beyond providing what is needed, multiplying what is offered so abundantly that there is food left over. As he provides for us, so we offer ourselves for him to use, and multiply what we offer, for others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Elisha feeds 100 people from 20 barley loaves and there is some left over. Paul writes to the Ephesians encouraging them to live in a manner worthy of their call, with an emphasis on preserving unity. In the Gospel, Jesus feeds 5,000 from five barley loaves and two fish, and there are 12 baskets left over.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us offer our prayers to God, who answers all our needs.

- 1) That the Holy Spirit may help all members of the Church to live in a manner worthy of their baptismal call, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the Lord may grant peace among nations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That our generous God may ensure that all who are hungry be fed, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the Lord may help those of us gathered here to bear wrongs patiently, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died may be invited to the heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, you provide food for the journey. Hear and answer the prayers we offer you this day, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, July 29, 2024

(Lec. 401)

1) Jeremiah 13:1-11

(Lec. 607)

2) John 11:19-27

or Luke 10:38-42

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

FOCUS: Those who trust in the Lord will never die.

When we set aside pride and push away worldly distractions, we can open our hearts and listen fully to the Lord. If we trust in the Lord and invite him into our hearts, we will find he exceeds any expectations we have for this life and we will share eternal life with him in the next.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Lord compares a rotting loincloth to the pride of Judah, saying that they have turned away from him in wickedness. In the Gospel Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha, has died and Jesus consoles Martha saying, *Whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that the Lord will look favorably upon our needs, we offer our petitions.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may we witness on behalf of Christ and testify to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For appointed and elected leaders, may God give them a spirit of humility and generosity in leadership, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all mourning the loss of a loved one, may they be granted the peace and consolation of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may Jesus' love conform us every more closely to his heart, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they soon know eternal life with Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, hear the prayers we have brought before you this day, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, July 30, 2024
(Lec. 402)
1) Jeremiah 14:17-22
2) Matthew 13:36-43

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

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

In the Gospel, Jesus explains the difference between the wheat and the weeds. The weeds are the things that cause us to sin, but the choice is always before us to strive to be the good seed – the wheat – sown by God and cultivated in our hearts by God’s grace and the power of prayer.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Jeremiah makes a plea of lament to the Lord. He recognizes the sins of his people against the Lord and asks for the Lord’s mercy and to remember his covenant. In the Gospel, Jesus explains the parable of the weeds and wheat. The Son of Man sows the good seeds, and *the weeds are the children of the Evil One.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence, we now turn to our loving Father with our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For God’s holy Church, may the Lord bless her and help her grow in grace and virtue, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our national leaders, may the Holy Spirit guide them in selflessness and in promoting truth with charity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For families who suffer discord, may God’s mercy work in and through them to bring about healing and reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us here, may the graces of this sacrament guide us in the ways of truth and light, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may they come to share in the fullness of Christ’s glory forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we bring you our prayers this day. Please grant them according to your most holy will, we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, July 31, 2024
(Lec. 403)

- 1) Jeremiah 15:10, 16-21
- 2) Matthew 13:44-46

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

FOCUS: The Lord protects us and brings us great joy.

On this feast of Saint Ignatius Loyola, our readings expound on God's greatness. His kingdom is a treasure worth any sacrifice, and the Lord protects us from the deepest hardship. Saint Ignatius left us a rich tradition of exercises for spiritual growth, helping us to more fully reflect on and understand God's greatness.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Jeremiah struggles with his calling and the Lord responds that he will rescue and deliver him from his hardship. In the Gospel, Jesus says that the kingdom of heaven *is like a treasure buried in a field, or a merchant searching for fine pearls.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in God's love for us, we entrust these prayers to him.

- 1) For the Church and her work to build the kingdom of God here on earth, may the Lord help her accomplish this holy mission, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders everywhere, may the Holy Spirit strengthen them in their efforts to protect human life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are suffering from chronic or debilitating illness and for those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the members of this community of faith, may God's holy wisdom be upon us as we grow in our understanding of him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they be welcomed this day into God's heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, your Son revealed your greatness to us in his words and his actions. Listen to the prayers we bring before you, we ask, through Christ our Lord.

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