

# OCTOBER

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**YEAR A  
WEEKDAYS I**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2023**

(Lec. 136)

- 1) Ezekiel 18:25-28
- 2) Philippians 2:1-11 or 2:1-5
- 3) Matthew 21:28-32

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

FOCUS: Turn away from sin and follow Christ.

In today's Gospel parable there is a model son, who gives honor to his father by verbally assenting to his father's wishes. But his words are hollow, and his virtue is a mirage. How does our own reality measure up to our Christian ideals? Loving our neighbor sounds like a lovely sentiment until they cut us off on the highway. May Christ who calls us always to conversion help us root out any hollowness and hypocrisy in our own lives that we may truly confess that Jesus is Lord.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's readings are tied together by the theme of conversion. Ezekiel assures that those who turn away from sin shall not die. The Letter to the Philippians encourages unity in turning away from selfishness to emulate Christ. And Jesus' parable favors the son who shamefully indicated defiance, but changed his mind and was obedient.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With the word of the Lord in our hearts, let us bring him our prayers.

- 1) For the Church, may the Holy Spirit continue to strengthen her in her witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may they be guided by wisdom, humility, and a deep sense of responsibility in all they do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the chronically ill, may the God of all mercy provide them with healing and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may the Lord inspire us in being his missionaries of joy wherever we find ourselves today, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they soon enter into the light of God's kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, hear the prayers of our hearts and grant us all that is good. We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Monday, October 2, 2023  
(Lec. 455)  
1) Zechariah 8:1-8  
(Lec. 650)  
2) Matthew 18:1-5, 10

MONDAY OF  
26<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
The Holy Guardian Angels)

FOCUS: The Lord exhorts us to depend completely on him.

Children are entirely dependent on the adults in their lives to provide for their needs. As adults, the Lord exhorts us to learn from children when it comes to our relationship with him – to depend completely on him and humbly recognize our true dependence and need for him.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Zechariah prophesies the Lord will bring his people back to Jerusalem. Responding to the disciples' question in the Gospel, Jesus explains that in order to enter the kingdom of heaven, one must be child-like and welcoming of children. He explains that the greatest in the kingdom of heaven is the one who humbles himself like a child.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With humility and trust, let us bring our prayers and petitions before the Lord.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord strengthen us in hope and courage to faithfully live and proclaim the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For peace throughout the world, may the Holy Spirit bring reconciliation and forgiveness where there is division and strife, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those carrying crosses in their daily lives, may Christ make his presence known and fill them with hope and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all members of this faith community, may the grace of the sacraments increase our gratitude and respect for all that God has given us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may God, our Blessed Mother, and all the angels and saints joyfully welcome them into the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful God, incline your ear to our petitions and answer them, we ask, in accordance with your holy will. In Christ's name, we pray.

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Tuesday, October 3, 2023  
(Lec. 456)  
1) Zechariah 8:20-23  
2) Luke 9:51-56

TUESDAY OF  
26<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Christ invites us to witness his loving presence.

We are made to seek the Lord, just as the inhabitants of many cities sought the Lord in today's first reading. We were made in his image, we know he is with us, and our hearts long to remain in him. Jesus is seeking us today as purposefully as when he entered the Samaritan village in the Gospel today – meeting us where we are. And he calls us to follow him just as he called James and John, that we might, in turn, lead others to him. May others say of each of us, *Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.*

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the prophet tells of inhabitants of many cities seeking the Lord because they have heard that God is with the Jewish people. In the Gospel, Jesus determines to journey to Jerusalem and is not welcomed in a Samaritan village due to his destination. James and John ask about calling down fire in punishment but are rebuked by Jesus.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Having listened to God's word, let us now bring our needs and our worries to the Lord with confidence in his merciful presence.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may the Holy Spirit help us make a joyful and fruitful witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For peoples of every nation, may all be drawn into the light of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are brokenhearted over the loss of a loved one, may they feel God's healing love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, may we be given humility to hear Christ's words and the grace to follow where he leads, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the light of faith, may Christ lead them to new life with the Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful God, we come today having listened to your Word and seeking your presence. Hear the prayers we offer you in faith, through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, October 4, 2023  
(Lec. 457)

- 1) Nehemiah 2:1-8
- 2) Luke 9:57-62

WEDNESDAY OF  
26<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
Saint Francis of Assisi)

FOCUS: Following Jesus entails going where Jesus goes – even to the most challenging places.

*I will follow you wherever you go.* These are the words from a disciple in today's Gospel. While well-intended, the words are naïve, for the disciple does not fully understand where Jesus is headed. Jesus goes to the challenging places we would rather avoid: to the poor, to the downcast, to the sinner, even to the cross.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Nehemiah makes a bold request of the king, to travel to his home in Judea and rebuild the city. The king grants Nehemiah's appeal. In the Gospel, Jesus explains to his followers that the road of discipleship requires both dedication and sacrifice. He asks them to follow him and not look back.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We come before the Lord with confidence that he hears our prayers.

- 1) For the Church may the Holy Spirit provide courage and strength so that all may respond fully and faithfully to Christ's call of discipleship, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For greater respect for life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer because of their allegiance to Jesus, may God instill in them the fire to continue bearing witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the members of this worshiping community, may the grace of God help us to follow in the footsteps of saints such as Francis of Assisi, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may Christ bring them to eternal life at the heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of mercy and love, we thank you for your goodness. We offer these petitions through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, October 5, 2023  
(Lec. 458)

- 1) Nehemiah 8:1-4a,  
5-6, 7b-12
- 2) Luke 10:1-12

THURSDAY OF  
26<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.

Saint Faustina Kowalska,  
Virgin;  
USA: Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos,  
Priest)

FOCUS: Share the Good News with all the world.

Jesus instructs his disciples in today's Gospel to begin each encounter with peace. In our call to be missionary disciples of Christ, how can we be more intentional about greeting others with peace so that the peace of Christ may permeate every person and open every heart to the kingdom of God?

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Ezra publicly presents the law for many hours. The people respond with joy and weeping. Nehemiah, Ezra, and the Levites encourage joy and celebration. In the Gospel, Jesus sends out 72 disciples to proclaim that *the Kingdom of God is at hand*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us present our petitions to God, mindful of the many blessings he has bestowed upon us.

- 1) For the Church, may the Spirit send forth jubilant laborers to reap the abundant harvest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the salvation of the world, may God's mercy permeate every corner and may all come to know the Gospel message, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For wherever ignorance breeds hatred and discord, may the Lord grant education, knowledge, and wisdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in this faith community who are facing new challenges, may they draw strength from listening to Jesus in prayer, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked with the sign of the cross, may they rest in the eternal peace and mercy of our Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Eternal Father, we offer you these prayers confident in the power of your love and the abundance of your generosity. We pray through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Friday, October 6, 2023  
(Lec. 459)

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

FRIDAY OF  
26<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Bruno, Priest;  
USA: Blessed Marie Rose Durocher,  
Virgin)

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

We can all recall instances where we or a loved one have strayed from the Lord. And we know that while selfishness and greed may lead to moments of gratification, sin leaves suffering in its wake in this life as well as the next. Let us take a moment to ponder how our actions have led to or not remedied suffering for others, and perhaps how they may have led to moments of misery for us.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Both readings today deal with the severe realities of turning away from God. In the passage from Baruch, those exiled in Babylon reflect on their sins that earned them God's justice. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus addresses the towns of Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum. He announces harsh judgment in the afterlife for those who reject him.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With humility, mindful of our faults and failings, we bring to the Lord our prayers.

- 1) For an increase in religious vocations, may the Lord bless those discerning priesthood or consecrated life with generous and open hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all elected and appointed officials, may God work through their efforts in creating a more just society, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the imprisoned, may the Lord call the guilty to repentance and impart his mercy in return, and may the innocent be granted hope and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For each of us here, as we discern the daily decisions that make up our lives, may the Lord grant us prudence and a servant's heart, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they soon be exalted in heaven with the choirs of angels, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Everlasting Father, we bring you our petitions, confident in your mercy. Hear us, we humbly pray, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, October 7, 2023  
(Lec. 460)  
1) Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29  
2) Luke 10:17-24

SATURDAY OF  
26<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
Our Lady of the Rosary)

FOCUS: Jesus is with us in prayer, ready to help us know the Father's will for our lives.

When the 72 disciples return to Jesus after being sent out, Jesus teaches them that the power behind their words, deeds, signs, and wonders was not theirs but that of the Father. The prayer of praise he offers to the Father models for us how to respond to God for all he does through us.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the prophet encourages a suffering people, telling them that God is with them and desires to replace their sorrow with joy. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the 72 disciples that the deeds they witnessed are the fruit of Jesus' prayer for them to the Father: that they see, hear, and respond in accordance with the Father's will.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For Church leaders, may God grant them wisdom in responding faithfully to the needs of their communities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the leaders of our world, may God continue to convert their hearts to the beauty of peace and justice for all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer in body, mind or spirit, may God grant them relief and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may God give us the strength to persevere when times are difficult, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may God grant them everlasting joy in seeing him face to face, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God, we come to you with confidence that you hear us and ask that you answer our prayers, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2023**

(Lec. 139)

- 1) Isaiah 5:1-7
- 2) Philippians 4:6-9
- 3) Matthew 21:33-43

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

FOCUS: If we remain in Christ, we will bear fruit.

Both the first reading and the Gospel describe the people of Israel as a vineyard. God has given them everything they need, sending prophets and even his own Son. Yet the vines have yielded wild grapes, and the prophets and the Son have been killed. The kingdom of God will be taken away from those who reject Christ and given instead to believers in Christ, who will produce its fruit.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah sings of the vineyard that yielded wild grapes. Paul writes to the Philippians that they will have peace from God if they make their requests known to him and think about things that are worthy of praise. Jesus tells a parable about a vineyard whose tenants killed the landowners' servants and son. He tells the chief priests and elders that the kingdom of God will be taken from them and given to a people that will produce its fruit.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us lift up our voices and make our requests known to God.

- 1) That the evangelizing work of the Church may bear fruit for the glory of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That all people may have their hearts opened to the word of God spoken by his messengers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who suffer from anxiety may find comfort and peace in Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all of us gathered here may be strengthened by our communion in Christ, the true vine, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died may be at peace in God's heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of peace, we ask that you look with favor upon the petitions we offer, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Monday, October 9, 2023  
(Lec. 461)

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

MONDAY OF  
27<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Denis, Bishop,  
and Companions, Martyrs;  
Saint John Leonardi, Priest)

FOCUS: *Love one another as I have loved you.*

Jesus reminds us today that our “neighbor” is anyone in need. It is a tall order to always care for others the way Jesus asks us in today’s Gospel. *Go and do likewise*, he says – go out of your way to be merciful and help others. Although it may seem daunting to follow this command, we must trust that with God’s grace, we can be up to the challenge to obey his will.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading from the Book of Jonah, we see God’s forgiveness in action. Jonah disobeys the Lord’s command, but prays to God and is granted forgiveness. In the Gospel selection from Luke, we hear the well-known parable of the Good Samaritan who goes out of his way to save a stranger.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As servants, let us approach the Lord with patience, humbly presenting our needs and intentions.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all bishops, may God continue to give them the strength and courage necessary to preach the truth of Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government officials across the world, may they be blessed with God’s wisdom in their daily work, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those weighed down by any burden, may the Lord grant them strength and comfort in their time of need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community as we gather in prayer before the Lord, may he deepen our love for him and for one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may God’s love and mercy surround them and bring them to his everlasting kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, we humbly pray that you grant our prayers and petitions, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, October 10, 2023  
(Lec. 462)

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

TUESDAY OF  
27<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

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

In today's readings we are reminded of the importance of turning to the Lord. Jonah brings the message of the Lord to the city of Nineveh exhorting them to repent and return to God. Jesus, in the Gospel, tells Martha she has many anxieties and that *Mary has chosen the better part.*

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Jonah walks through the city of Nineveh to proclaim the message of the Lord. The king puts on sackcloth and calls the city to repentance, and the Lord does not carry out the evil he had threatened. In the Gospel, Jesus enters a village where Martha and Mary welcome him. He reminds Martha that worry and anxiety take our attention away from the Lord.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together we join our hearts and minds in the presence of the Father and offer these petitions.

- 1) For the Church, may the Holy Spirit continue to lead each one of us ever closer to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For state and local leaders, may God in his providence grant them every grace and virtue necessary for their work, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who may be affected by unemployment or underemployment, may the Lord be their strength and provide for their every need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here in prayer, may the mercy of the Lord touch our hearts, convicting us of his tender love and care that knows no bounds, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may the merciful light of Jesus shine upon them and bring them into the fullness of eternal life, let us pray to the Lord
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, we ask that you hear our needs and petitions and grant them according to your holy will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, October 11, 2023  
(Lec. 463)

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

WEDNESDAY OF  
27<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint John XXIII, Pope)

FOCUS: *Lord, you are merciful and gracious.*

In our chaotic and unpredictable world, we often need to be reminded, as Jonah was, of a difficult reality – that we are not in control even of our own lives. In teaching us how to pray, Jesus reminds us instead to pray for God’s kingdom, God’s way in the world, and to trust that God will provide for us.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, we hear of Jonah’s displeasure in God’s forgiveness of the Ninevites and in God taking away the gourd plant that he had given Jonah. In the Gospel, Jesus shows us a new way: He teaches the disciples and us a powerful prayer that recognizes God and his ways as supreme over our thoughts and desires.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Jesus teaches us to pray for our daily bread, and so we bring to God our needs and the needs of those around the world.

- 1) For catechists, pastors, parents, and all who pass on the faith, may the gifts of the Holy Spirit continue to empower and sustain them in their ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the leaders of nations, may Christ be their guide in upholding the dignity and sanctity of human life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those whose hearts are burdened by sin, and who struggle to trust in God’s mercy and forgiveness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the people of this faith community, may God's providential love for us encourage and sustain us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may the Lord welcome them into his peaceful presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, you are abounding in kindness. Please hear and answer the prayers we offer through Jesus Christ, your Son.

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Thursday, October 12, 2023  
(Lec. 464)

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

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

FOCUS: We are called to persevere in faith.

Now, as in ancient Israel, some choose to follow the attractions of the world rather than God. Although those who did evil seemed to prosper and be favored, their time was short. Even when it seems like those following “the world” are experiencing only good things, we know that one day, God will separate the just and the wicked. Therefore, we must persevere on the road of discipleship.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Through the prophet Malachi, the Lord notes Israel’s shortcomings and tells of a coming judgment. He promises to take care of those who serve him, but evildoers will be met with fire. Jesus uses parables to show the importance of prayerful persistence and the Father’s generosity. Our heavenly Father gives abundantly to his children.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the Father who loves his children, we dare to bring him our needs.

- 1) For the Holy Father, Pope Francis, may the Lord bless him with continued strength and good health, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may God inspire their hearts in working for the common good of all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those afraid to knock, ask, or seek, may the Holy Spirit grant them the courage to step out in faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our faith community, may the Spirit move us to seek what is just and pleasing to God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, especially those who have no one else to pray for them, may they soon taste of the banquet feast of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of love and mercy, we thank you for listening to the prayers you have placed in our hearts. Look with favor upon these prayers, which we ask in the name of Jesus, your Son.

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Friday, October 13, 2023

(Lec. 465)

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

2) Luke 11:15-26

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

FOCUS: The day of the Lord is drawing near for the fullness of the kingdom of God.

God's people ought to prepare themselves for the coming of the Lord, into whose fullness of the kingdom they hope to be welcomed. Although there is evil in the world, Jesus has come to drive out the demons which have taken root. God's people must take heart to not let the demons overpower them.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Joel offers good news, that the day of the Lord draws near. He calls on the people of God to prepare themselves. In the Gospel, Jesus drives demons away so that the kingdom of God might come. He cautions that the demons will return in greater numbers.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: United in God's love, we now offer up to the Lord our prayers for ourselves and for the world.

- 1) For Church leaders, may the Holy Spirit continue to inspire them in faithfully shepherding his people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may God be their source for justice and for governing their people with equity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who struggle with difficulties in their mental or physical health, may Jesus, the Divine Healer, help them find strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered in this holy place, may the Eucharist we are about to receive help us grow in understanding of God's merciful love for us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the light of faith, may the Lord welcome them into his eternal light, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special intention/s)

PRIEST: O God, whose kingdom is here and yet whose fullness is to come, listen with mercy upon the prayers of your people, which we have made through Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, October 14, 2023  
(Lec. 466)

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

SATURDAY OF  
27<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Callistus I,  
Pope and Martyr;  
Saturday in honor  
of BVM)

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

When someone in the crowd called out a blessing upon Jesus' mother, he turned that blessing into another – blessing those who hear God's word and act upon it. We know that those who believe and act upon God's calling may encounter adversity, but we also know the Lord is with us and will strengthen us during difficult times.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Joel's speech is one of hope for divine intervention, that the Lord will destroy Judah's enemies so his people may abide peacefully in him. In the Gospel, Jesus blesses those who not only hear the word of God, but act upon it.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For the Church and her pastoral leaders, may the Lord continue to guide them in their lives of service and ministry to his people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected and appointed officials, may the wisdom of God inform their efforts toward creating a more just society, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are alienated from their faith, may God bring upon them his faithful and healing presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the calling of Christ echo in our hearts so we may act upon his Word, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked as Christ's own, may they, through the mercy and grace of God, rest in his eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, hear the prayers of your Church that we offer today through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2023**

(Lec. 142)

- 1) Isaiah 25:6-10a
- 2) Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20
- 3) Matthew 22:1-14  
or 22:1-10

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

FOCUS: Let us always rejoice in the abundance the Lord provides.

As followers of Jesus, we cannot allow the challenges of everyday life to take our attention from the sumptuous abundance of our lives in God's family. Each day we return our focus to rejoicing, provided for by God *in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus*.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

From Isaiah's rich description of the abundance God intends to provide us for all time, to Paul's reminder that God constantly provides for our good, to Jesus' parable encouraging us in dramatic terms to accept God's feast rather than relying on ourselves alone, all of our readings lead us to celebrate being gracious receivers of God's generous love.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Rejoicing in God's constant desire to give abundantly to his children, we bring to him the needs of our world.

- 1) For the Church, may the promptings of the Spirit lead us to constantly give thanks for the abundance God provides, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those holding office in governments throughout the world, may the Lord steady his hand upon them as they serve and lead their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are sick or suffering in any way, may the Lord's abundant love and care bring them peace and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may the light of God's love guide our every word and action, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the light of Christ, may they be welcomed to eternal rest and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special intention/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, hear and answer the prayers we have brought before you through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Monday, October 16, 2023  
(Lec. 467)

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

MONDAY OF  
28<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Hedwig,  
Religious;  
Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque,  
Virgin)

FOCUS: *Through [Jesus] we have received the grace of apostleship.*

When we pray for certain favors, is it possible we sound surprisingly like the people who asked Jesus for a sign of his divinity? Although this is a common human fault, let us be confident that Jesus can do anything, but actually does only what is best for us.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans he summarizes the mystery of all that Jesus is, providing a powerful introduction to his letter. In the Gospel, Jesus refuses to give another sign of his divinity, and chastises the people who ask for one. The sign they will have will come with his resurrection from the dead.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us ask God to hear our prayers of petition, as we trust him to provide all that we need.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord continue to enable her as a beacon of truth and justice for the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the blessing of almighty God upon all people of the world, and freedom for all people to worship him without fear, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who live under threat of violence, oppression, war, or famine, may the Lord provide for their every need and keep them from harm, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the Lord help us to trust that his loving providence will sustain us in all we do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they soon rest forever in the loving arms of the Father in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Tuesday, October 17, 2023  
(Lec. 468)

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

TUESDAY OF  
28<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
Saint Ignatius of Antioch,  
Bishop and Martyr)

FOCUS: *[The Gospel] is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.*

God leaves a divine thumbprint upon all of creation, so it is no wonder people make idols out of various good things around us. It can seem like a fine line between appreciating God's creation and worshipping creation over God. Let us endeavor to make the Lord our highest priority above all other responsibilities and pleasures.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Paul denounces worship of anything that is not God. In the Gospel, the Pharisees are scandalized that Jesus does not observe the ritual washing, meant to promote holiness. Jesus rebukes them for prioritizing something inconsequential over a much more important reality: the presence of Christ himself.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With our eyes fixed on Jesus, let us bring our needs to the Father who delights in our prayers.

- 1) For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, may the Lord continue to bless him with wisdom and vitality, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may they be guided by the peace of Christ in their efforts to promote justice and eliminate violence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who harbor doubts or have fallen prey to misguided understanding, may God's wisdom help them in the way of truth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us here, may the Lord equip us in handling every challenge we face with faith and trust in him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls of the faithful departed, may they be blessed forever in the company of all the saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of justice, please grant the prayers we have brought before you today. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Wednesday, October 18, 2023**

(Lec. 661)

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

**SAINT LUKE,  
EVANGELIST  
- FEAST**

FOCUS: The Lord strengthens us and sends us out to proclaim his kingdom.

Our journeys as disciples are full of joy, but they are not without their challenges. We have received the gift of the Gospel, and we know it is our responsibility to share it with others through our words and our actions. It may not be easy, but the Lord gives us strength and the ability to carry out his call.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Paul explains that through his difficult times, the Lord stands by and gives him strength. In the Gospel, Jesus selects 72 disciples and sends them forth in pairs. Giving them instructions on how to conduct themselves, their purpose is to proclaim the kingdom of God is at hand.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in God's care for us, let us bring our needs together before him with one voice.

- 1) For the Church and her work of cultivating missionary discipleship, may the Holy Spirit be our guide, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who hold elected positions, may the Lord give them a discerning spirit of wisdom and humility, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who struggle to live out their vocation of spreading the Gospel, may the Lord rekindle in their hearts the fire of discipleship and desire for holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those of us gathered here who feel restless or anxious, may the Lord's comfort bring stillness to our hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the peace of Christ, may the Father bring them to eternal rest in him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we humbly ask you to hear our prayers and answer them in your great mercy. Through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Thursday, October 19, 2023  
(Lec. 470)

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

THURSDAY OF  
28<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(OBL MEM  
USA: Saints John de Brébeuf  
and Isaac Jogues, Priests,  
and Companions, Martyrs)

FOCUS: *With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.*

Today's Gospel, part of a longer passage from Luke, marks a critical point in the growing hostility of the Pharisees to Jesus and his teachings. From this point on, they begin to look for evidence to trap Jesus and denounce him before the people. In return, Jesus highlights how they and Jewish leadership of old mistreated the prophets and tried to silence their message. By over-emphasizing their own works, they have ignored the truth that salvation is a gift from God.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul teaches that in Christ Jesus salvation is now open to all, Jew and Gentile alike. In the Gospel, Jesus denounces the Pharisees for their legalistic and cold-hearted approach to faith, and identifies them as opponents of God's prophets and rejecters of his will.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With hope in our hearts, let us present our needs before the Lord.

- 1) For our Holy Father and all who minister in the Church, may the Lord bless them with wisdom and faith as they serve and lead God's people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government officials, may the Spirit guide them in protecting the most vulnerable among us, especially the unborn and the elderly, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all whose hearts are burdened with sin and the struggles of life, may the Lord grant them the courage to trust in his mercy and providential care, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may the salvation won for us by Jesus fill us with hope and inspire in us a life of service, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked with the sign of faith, may the mercy of God grant them everlasting life in his kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, hear these prayers we bring before you and answer them according to your will. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Friday, October 20, 2023  
(Lec. 471)

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

FRIDAY OF  
28<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
USA: Saint Paul of the Cross,  
Priest)

FOCUS: *May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us; who have put our hope in you.*

God's eternal care for us transforms our hearts to receive his great love every day. Let this knowledge be a comfort to us and give us the strength we need to proclaim the kingdom of God, as Jesus asks us to do.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Paul explains the faith of Abraham to the Romans, saying Abraham's faith was *credited to him as righteousness*, separate from works. In today's Gospel, we are reminded of the deep care and love God has for us, that he even knows the number of hairs on our heads.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in the loving mercy of our God, we entrust to him our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, and all bishops and priests, may the promptings of the Holy Spirit be their guide as they shepherd and lead the faithful, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all nations and peoples of the world, may human pride and worldly idols fall before the presence and majesty of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all whose lives are afflicted with war or violence, may they find healing through the gentle assistance of others and through the power of God's healing love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may we be strengthened in our desire to love and serve in ways that bring others to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls of the faithful departed, may they – through the mercy of God – come to rest in his eternal light and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, we offer you our prayers and petitions with thanksgiving and trust, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Saturday, October 21, 2023  
(Lec. 472)

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

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

FOCUS: We can trust in God's promises.

Faith is not intellectual belief in a set of propositions about God, but trust in a God who is faithful. After a lifetime of religious devotion, Abraham's faith was put to the test and he chose to trust, *hoping against hope that he would become the father of many nations*. Similarly, we are called to trust in God's promises, made real through the work of the Spirit.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, Paul tells the Romans that God's covenant with Abraham was made possible by Abraham's faith, not his observance of the law. In the Gospel, Jesus warns against blaspheming the Holy Spirit.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in the Lord's benevolence, we bring our needs before him.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may God help us grow in the gifts and fruits of his Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For peace in the world, may Christ's example of selfless giving inspire nations and peoples to be reconciled with one another and end all division, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are sick in mind, body, or spirit, may God provide healing and consolation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may Christ's example of servant leadership inspire our daily interactions with others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they rest in paradise with all the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, hear and answer the prayers we have offered today, we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2023

(Lec. 145)

- 1) Isaiah 45:1, 4-6
- 2) 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b
- 3) Matthew 22:15-21

## 29<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Let us build communities of peace and justice.

Christ came to restore our relationship with God and one another: *There is no God besides [him]*. Christians cannot be content to lead prayerful lives in private. We have a right and a responsibility to build communities of peace and justice in our homes and nations.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah reveals to King Cyrus of Persia that the Lord has called him by name so all may know there is no other God. Paul gives thanks for the Thessalonians' *work of faith and labor of love and endurance in hope*. Jesus tells the Pharisees they should *repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the fidelity of our God who is Lord of all the nations, we bring our prayers to him today.

- 1) For the Church, may God's Holy Spirit inspire us in building the kingdom of God on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in public office, may the Lord grant them humility and courage in working for the good of their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those living in exile or as refugees, may God provide safe restoration to their homeland and communities according to their desire, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may the Lord sanctify us in lives of fidelity to him, and love for one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they soon be welcomed into the kingdom of God through the mercy of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, we bring you these prayers today, confident in your love for us. Hear and answer us, we pray, through your Son, Jesus Christ.

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Monday, October 23, 2023  
(Lec. 473)

- 1) Romans 4:20-25
- 2) Luke 12:13-21

MONDAY OF  
29<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint John of Capistrano,  
Priest)

FOCUS: We are called to depend upon God and share our gifts.

Abraham's faith in God's promises was credited to him as righteousness. He trusted in the Lord and all that he had promised. The parable that Jesus tells in today's Gospel reminds us of our dependence on God, who gives and takes away. God's bounty is not meant to be stored for personal use, but to be shared.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul tells the Romans that Abraham did not doubt God's promise and it was credited to him as righteousness. It will also be credited to those who believe in the One who raised Jesus from the dead. In the Gospel, Jesus tells a parable about guarding against greed. The one who stores up treasure for himself will have his life demanded of him.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us place our trust in the Lord, the giver of every good gift, as we present our petitions.

- 1) That the Church may be empowered by faith to give glory to the God of Abraham, who raised Jesus from the dead, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That wealthy nations may be protected from the temptations of greed and be blessed with a generosity of spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who struggle with doubt and insecurity in the presence of the Lord may be blessed with abundant joy and faith in the confidence of God's promises, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That this community of faith may be rich in what matters to God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have gone before us in the light of faith may receive the inheritance of eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of abundance, look with favor on these petitions and answer them according to your will. This we ask through Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, October 24, 2023  
(Lec. 474)

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

TUESDAY OF  
29<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
(Opt. Mem.  
Saint Anthony Mary Claret,  
Bishop)

FOCUS: We are committed to following Christ's example of love.

Being faithful to Jesus is not a passive way of living. It requires moment-by-moment consciousness of what he taught and how he told us to live. That awareness must lead to action, whether that means active prayer, giving help to others, or otherwise loving those we encounter. It takes commitment, but the reward is heavenly.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first reading teaches that, just as sin entered the world through the sin of one person, so it has been redeemed by one person – Jesus. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his followers to remain faithful and prepared for his return, whether that be soon or at a distant time. Those who are faithful will be richly rewarded.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together we lift up our voices and ask the Father to hear and answer our petitions.

- 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 the wisdom of the Holy Spirit may guide community leaders in working for the betterment of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are in mourning may be consoled by God in their grief and made confident in the hope of resurrection for their loved ones, 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 carry out his work, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died may soon be welcomed into the everlasting joy of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God, hear the prayers we bring to you today, and grant all that we need. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Wednesday, October 25, 2023  
(Lec. 475)

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

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

FOCUS: Let us ask God for grace to obey him and live in righteousness.

Can our bodies be *weapons for righteousness*? In a world plagued by sin, it is not difficult to succumb to worldly pleasures. We must make a choice: Whom will we serve? Choose the path of freedom – make a conscious choice to serve the Lord. God supplies power and grace, but we need to cooperate freely.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul instructs the community to use their bodies for righteousness. God raised us from death to life, freeing us to live under grace. In the Gospel, Jesus warns his followers to be ready for his coming. The prudent steward is blessed, while the unruly servant is punished.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: The Lord has entrusted to us the riches of faith. With confidence in his mercy, let us offer our prayers.

- 1) For the Church, may the Holy Spirit increase her in faithfulness and holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For public officials, may God direct those entrusted with authority to lead with integrity and righteousness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who are overwhelmed by suffering, may the Lord pour his grace upon them and bring them relief, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For God's people gathered here, may Jesus empower us to joyfully live our calling as daughters and sons of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, as they served him in this life, may our heavenly Father grant them abundant happiness in the next, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

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Thursday, October 26, 2023  
(Lec. 476)

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

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

FOCUS: *The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Today, Jesus speaks passionately of the kingdom as a purifying fire, and says that by following him we are going to face rejection. But we will be accompanied by the Holy Spirit and strengthened and fortified with his gifts in order to endure and bear fruit in the world.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul contrasts the freedom from righteousness his readers had before Christ with the salvation that attends the freedom from sin that is the gift of God in Christ. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks of the fire he will cast on the earth and the baptism he will undergo. Because of him, households will be divided.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With hope in the abundant goodness of our loving God, we bring to him our cares and concerns.

- 1) That the Holy Spirit may enrich the Church with an abundance of vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That those suffering oppression throughout the world may experience the peace of Christ in their lands and in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who cannot practice their faith openly may be upheld and strengthened through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That Christ may heal any divisions we may experience in this faith community, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died may be united with Christ in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, we bring these requests to you in trust and humility, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Friday, October 27, 2023  
(Lec. 477)

- 1) Romans 7:18-25a
- 2) Luke 12:54-59

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

FOCUS: God's grace enables us, like Paul, to overcome the law of sin.

In our sinfulness, can we not feel with Saint Paul the frustration and dismay that he endures? Do we not experience the exasperation of wanting to do what's right but continuing to sin? Let us take comfort in knowing that such a great saint struggled with the same faults that we do, and with God's grace came out victorious.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul bemoans the conflict he experiences in his mind's desire to do what is right, but being bound by the law of sin in his flesh. In the Gospel, Jesus berates his hearers for being able to interpret the weather but not the present time. He warns them to settle accounts with their opponents before going to court and risking prison.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With faith that God desires only our good, we come to him with our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For the Church, may God empower us to be his agents of love and mercy in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all nations and peoples, may the Light of Christ shine upon them and his mercy be on all who seek him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all whose sins tempt them to despair, may the Lord grant them consolation and hope in the infinite mercy of the Savior, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our community of faith, may the Spirit of Christ be upon us and conform us ever closer to the perfection of the Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died in faith, may Jesus, the Lamb of God, welcome them into the eternal kingdom of the Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God, we bring our petitions to you, confident in your mercy and care for us. Hear and answer them, we ask, through Christ our Lord.

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**Saturday, October 28, 2023**

(Lec. 666)

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

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

FOCUS: We rejoice to be members of the household of God.

We are called as community to be *a dwelling place of God in the Spirit*, a call in which we rejoice because we never again have to be alone on our path, as strangers or sojourners. Since this communal identity runs counter to the individualism that dominates our society, we must consciously renew our commitment to it each day.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In our first reading, Paul envelops us in a vision of the Universal Church as a temple. His imagery teaches us that we grow each day in holiness together, as one body that is *the dwelling place of God*. In the Gospel, Jesus spends the night in prayer and then *call[s] his disciples to himself*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we seek to grow in holiness, we bring our needs to our merciful Father.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord keep us ever mindful of our identity as a temple sacred in him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all serving in governments throughout the world, may God enkindle in them each day a commitment to seek the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are sick or suffering in any way, may God's comforting presence be with them, granting them strength and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this assembly, may God deepen our love for one another, strengthen our bonds of fellowship, and empower us to be witnesses of Christ's love through our words and actions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may God welcome them into his loving embrace, granting them peace and eternal rest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful Father, we ask that you hear our petitions and answer them according to your perfect will. Through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2023

(Lec. 148)

- 1) Exodus 22:20-26
- 2) 1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10
- 3) Matthew 22:34-40

## 30<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: God gives us all we need to answer his call to love others.

If we are to do any good for others, if we are to discern where God is calling us to serve, if we are to have the resources necessary to fulfill such a call, we *must* begin by seeking God and God's help first. We must start at the source of all generous love. We must be filled from the eternal font if we are to pour out to others.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God commands his people not to oppress the weak. In the second reading, Paul commends the Thessalonians for placing their faith in God and becoming a model for others. In the Gospel, Jesus says the greatest commandment is to love the Lord your God and the second is to love your neighbor as yourself.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Called to love our neighbor as ourselves, let us bring our needs and the needs of those around us before our loving God.

- 1) For all leaders in the Church, may the Lord continue to strengthen them and bless them in their ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may God grant them wisdom and courage in attending to and protecting the most vulnerable especially the unborn, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are marginalized and in need, may God bless them with abundance and provision, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the Lord open our hearts to receive his love so we can generously serve others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they be given the peace of Christ's eternal love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and eternal God, you sent your only Son into the world to enlighten our hearts and fill us with hope and faith. Hear our prayers, we ask, through Christ our Lord.

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Monday, October 30, 2023  
(Lec. 479)

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

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

FOCUS: With Christ on our side, we are no longer slaves to sin but heirs to the kingdom of heaven.

Healing is central to Jesus' message and ministry. In today's Gospel he heals a crippled woman, a devoted *daughter of Abraham*. But this is not just a physical healing, it is equally a spiritual healing. Now this woman can stand upright before God and others and enjoy all this world offers, and do so with hope and joy in her heart.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint Paul uses the image of adoption to describe how God has called and chosen us to be his sons and daughters and given us the right to address him as *Abba, Father*. Jesus heals the crippled woman and earns the ire of the leader of the synagogue. But he defends his actions, and the people rejoice.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us present our needs and those of the world to our merciful and gracious God.

- 1) For the Church, may the love of Christ strengthen her in her mission to proclaim the healing love of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For a greater respect for the gift of life throughout the world, from conception to natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are sick, especially those who suffer chronic ailments, may God grant them healing and hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may God grant us the courage to respond generously to our baptismal call to holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they be embraced in the eternal life and love of the Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God and Father of all, you have called and adopted us to be your sons and daughters. Hear our prayers and in your tender mercy, answer them according to your holy will. We pray this through your Son, Christ our Lord.

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Tuesday, October 31, 2023  
(Lec. 480)

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

TUESDAY OF  
30<sup>TH</sup> WEEK  
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: We rejoice in the kingdom with all of creation.

Despite the struggles of the world, we can rejoice, knowing that we have hope in the redemption that has been promised to us. This redemption is not something "out there" as if far away and out of sight, but a gift in which we are already participating and helping to grow and share. God can take even the smallest amount we have to offer and nurture it to encompass all that he desires, for the good of many.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Paul emphasizes our oneness with all of God's creation. Just as what we do affects all, so we all wait together for God's redemption. We can be confident of that redemption, Jesus teaches in the Gospel, even if we see only small signs of it now. For as with leaven in dough and tiny seeds that grow into large trees, what God nurtures comes to great fruition.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: United as the body of Christ, we turn to our Lord with prayers for the good of our assembly, the Church, and the world.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord continue to bless and protect her for all time, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who serve in governments throughout the world, may God continue to convert their hearts to the beauty of peace and justice for all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those carrying crosses in their daily lives, may Christ make his presence known to them with hope and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may we continue to grow in faith, hope, and love in our daily lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked as Christ's own forever, may they soon enter the heavenly banquet and be at peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, we ask that you hear the prayers we offer today, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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