

JANUARY

1 2 3 4 5 6

7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14 15

16 17 18 19

20 21 22 23

24 25 26 27

28 29 30 31

**YEAR A
WEEKDAYS I**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2023

(Lec. 18)

- 1) Numbers 6:22-27
- 2) Galatians 4:4-7
- 3) Luke 2:16-21

**THE OCTAVE DAY
OF THE NATIVITY
OF THE LORD;
SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

FOCUS: The birth of Christ is manifestation of God's unending love for humanity.

To express his love for all humanity, God takes on our human nature by being born of a woman, Mary. As she is the mother of Jesus, we honor Mary as our spiritual mother, the mother of all God's adopted sons and daughters. Through the Son's Spirit sent by God, Christ dwells in our hearts and we can't help but share this Good News, as the shepherds did, by praising and glorifying God in our lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the Book of Numbers, the Lord instructs Moses to tell Aaron and his sons that he will bless them. In his Letter to the Galatians, Saint Paul explains that they are now adopted children because God sent his Son to be born of a woman. In the Gospel, after seeing the infant Jesus, the shepherds share the message they heard from the angels and praise and glorify God. Mary keeps *all these things ... in her heart*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As adopted sons and daughters of God through Christ, let us bring our prayers to our loving Father.

- 1) For Pope Francis and all the bishops, may the Lord continue to bless them with wisdom and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may the Holy Spirit guide them in serving with integrity and fairness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who live on the margins of society, may the love of God embrace them and provide for their needs, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all in this faith and worship community, may the Holy Spirit help us grow in love and virtue, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they know the embrace of the risen Lord this day, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we rejoice in your love for us. We trust you to hear and answer our prayers, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

* * * * *

Monday, January 2, 2023
(Lec. 205)

- 1) 1 John 2:22-28
- 2) John 1:19-28

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY
(OBL MEM
Saints Basil the Great
and Gregory Nazianzen,
Bishops and Doctors
of the Church)

FOCUS: *Sing joyfully to the Lord, all you lands.*

Praying and/or singing today's psalm is a beautiful way to engage with the message found in today's readings: Remain in the Lord, be faithful to the truth you know, and proclaim the coming of Christ. The Lord has done wondrous deeds, winning victory for us. *He has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness* and has brought us salvation. *Sing joyfully to the Lord, all you lands.*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, John exhorts his community to watch out for the false teachers trying to lead new Christians away from the truth. In the Gospel, John the Baptist says he is neither Elijah nor the Christ, but is *the voice of one crying out in the desert.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For our Church, may God continue to help us grow in holiness and strength as we nurture a culture of healing and life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all nations and peoples, may the saving power of God be their light and their joy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For Christians across the world who lack religious freedom, may the strength of Jesus help them stay firm in their beliefs, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our faith community, may God continue to open our hearts to the message of his love, let us pray to the Lord
- 5) For all who have died marked with the sign of faith, may the Lord bring them to his side in the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, hear our prayers, for we trust in your kindness and compassion. We ask through your Son, Christ our Lord.

* * * * *

Tuesday, January 3, 2023
(Lec. 206)

- 1) 1 John 2:29–3:6
- 2) John 1:29-34

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY
(Opt. Mem.
The Most Holy Name
of Jesus)

FOCUS: *The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us.*

God sent prophets to herald the coming of Jesus, who would proclaim the kingdom of God. After Jesus' brief time on earth, his followers have continued to proclaim that kingdom. We must strive to act in righteousness and to live in purity, so that one day we may be found worthy to attain our place in the kingdom.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, John writes that Jesus came to take away sins, and that he himself was without sin. Those who follow him ought to live free from sin. In the Gospel, John the Baptist announced that Jesus would be the one to take away the sin of the world, and that he would be able to do so because he is the Son of God.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Filled with gratitude that God sent Jesus to free us from sin, let us now offer him our prayers for ourselves and for the world.

- 1) That missionaries may be graced with the gift of fortitude to proclaim the saving power of God to all the ends of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That leaders of nations may be guided by the Holy Spirit in all their words and deeds, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That families torn apart by conflict or distrust may strive for reconciliation and seek God's healing mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all gathered here in prayer may be given the strength to remain in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may enter the heavenly Jerusalem, joining the angels and saints in giving glory to God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, you call us to live in righteousness, as you yourself are righteous. In your mercy, please hear and answer these prayers we have offered through Christ our Lord.

* * * * *

Wednesday, January 4, 2023
(Lec. 207)

- 1) 1 John 3:7-10
- 2) John 1:35-42

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY
(OBL MEM
USA: Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton,
Religious)

FOCUS: Be righteous and holy and share the Good News.

Righteous actions and love – these show we belong to God. One of the first examples of this in John's Gospel is when Andrew brings his brother to Jesus. This is indeed loving and righteous, for nothing is better for a person than to know the Lord. Jesus is the Lamb of God. Do not fear bringing others to him, for their sake and for the sake of the world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Saint John writes that *no one who fails to act in righteousness* or who fails to love their brother or sister *belongs to God*. In the Gospel, John the Baptist identifies Jesus as *the Lamb of God*, and Jesus tells two of John's disciples to follow him. One of those disciples, Andrew, brings his brother – Simon Peter – to Jesus, whom Jesus renames Cephas (or Peter).

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With humble hearts, let us now bring our prayers before the Lord.

- 1) For all of us in the Church, may the Lord bless us and purify our hearts for the coming of the fullness of the kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may the Lord help them be men and women of righteousness, attentive to the people they are called to serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering from physical or mental illness, may the healing presence of the Lord be upon them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For each of us here, may the Holy Spirit empower us in our commitment to discipleship, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they rest and rejoice in the glory of our heavenly Father's house, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, you know the needs of your children. Hear the prayers we offer today in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

* * * * *

Thursday, January 5, 2023
(Lec. 208)

- 1) 1 John 3:11-21
- 2) John 1:43-51

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY
(OBL MEM
USA: Saint John Neumann,
Bishop)

FOCUS: True discipleship is a commitment to love and a readiness to experience God's glory.

In baptism, we pass through death to new life in Christ. We live out our baptism when we love as Christ witnessed for us in his earthly life. As Jesus demonstrated through his victory over the cross and grave, participation in God's radical love is not only a duty and an honor, it is also a foretaste of the eternal kingdom.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, John writes that the way we came to know love was that Jesus laid down his life for us. In the Gospel, Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael. Nathanael moves from skepticism to belief, and Jesus assures him that there will be greater wonders ahead.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring the needs of our community and the world before our merciful Father.

- 1) For all Church leaders, may the example of Jesus inspire them in humble service of love for God's people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For public authorities, may God lead them in working to protect the dignity and sanctity of life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from doubt or despair, may the Lord open their eyes to the truth and fill them with his love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in our community experiencing hard times, may the Lord surround them with the support they need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may God in his mercy bring them to everlasting rest at his side, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of love and mercy, hear our prayers, we ask, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

* * * * *

Friday, January 6, 2023
(Lec. 209)

- 1) 1 John 5:5-13
- 2) Mark 1:7-11
or Luke 3:23-28 or
Luke 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY
(Opt. Mem.
USA: Saint André Bessette,
Religious)

FOCUS: *[God] has testified on behalf of his Son.*

When it comes to trusting someone or trusting information we hear, we usually require a reference or a citation, or some affirmation that what we see before us is true. We seek testimony, as it were, to the goodness of something. Both Scriptures today speak of God testifying to his Son. Our very creator has both given us, and is testifying to, what is true and good.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the First Letter of John, John proclaims that there are three things that testify to Jesus as Lord and Savior: Blood, water, and the Spirit. In the Gospel, John the Baptist proclaims the coming of one who is mightier than him, and then baptizes Jesus in the Jordan. The Spirit descends upon Jesus and a voice says, *You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us turn to the Lord to offer our needs and petitions this day.

- 1) For Pope Francis, the bishops, and all the clergy, may the Spirit guide them and help them in speaking the truth in love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the leaders of nations, may God give them understanding and compassionate hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who live under oppression, or with intimidation or fear, may the Holy Spirit fill their hearts with courage and relieve them of their burden, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in this faith community discerning a vocation to the priesthood or religious life, may they be confident in our love, support, and prayers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may God grant them rest and peace in eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of truth and love, we ask that you hear these prayers we offer, through Christ our Lord.

Saturday, January 7, 2023
(Lec. 210)

- 1) 1 John 5:14-21
- 2) John 2:1-11

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Raymond of Penyafort,
Priest)

FOCUS: Listen to and do what the Lord tells you.

The wedding feast at Cana reminds us of God's generosity. He sent his Son for our salvation, and the Spirit accompanies us and helps us in all matters, large and small. At Cana, the servers did as Jesus said, because they knew him to be someone who had the wedding couple's good in mind. We do well to listen to him also, for he desires only our good.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

John writes of sins that are deadly, and those that are not. He warns his community to *be on [their] guard against idols*. In the Gospel, Jesus attends a wedding and instructs the servers to fill *six stone water jars* with water – which then becomes wine. The headwaiter tells the bridegroom that he has kept the good wine until then.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together let us bring our petitions to the Father, confident in his providential love.

- 1) For all priests and religious, may the Lord continue to bless them in their vocations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the world, may the Holy Spirit help to unite people across cultures, races, and religions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are struggling with addictions of any kind, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all who worship in this place, may God's grace help us grow in perfection in faith and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they soon be welcomed into the peace and glory of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

* * * * *

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2023

(Lec. 20)

- 1) Isaiah 60:1-6
- 2) Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
- 3) Matthew 2:1-12

**THE EPIPHANY
OF THE LORD
- SOLEMNITY**

FOCUS: The Lord shines his light on each of us for the good of all.

Today's feast illuminates God's particular revelations for the good of all. God chose one nation, the people of Israel, to be a light for all peoples. God revealed Jesus as king to the Magi in a feast we celebrate today. As God continues to touch and bless each of us, let us consider how his light may shine through us to others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Isaiah shares a vision of God's light shining upon Jerusalem and drawing nations toward it. Saint Paul writes of God's revelation to the Gentiles as co-heirs of the Gospel. In the Gospel, the Magi seek the king of the Jews and pay homage to the child Jesus.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: The Lord, in his goodness, makes himself known to us. We call upon him now to give us what we need.

- 1) For vocations to the priesthood and religious life, may the Lord bless the Church with committed men and women, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the salvation of the world, through the mercy of God may all come to know the Gospel message and the ways of righteousness and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are sick and for those who love and care for them, may Christ's healing presence be with them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may God strengthen us in our relationship with Christ as our king, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the light of Christ, may they experience the eternal joy of the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and eternal Father, we entrust these prayers to you. Hear and answer them according to your holy will. Through your Son, Christ our Lord.

* * * * *

Monday, January 9, 2023

(Lec. 21)

- 1) Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
or Acts 10:34-38
- 2) Matthew 3:13-17

**THE BAPTISM
OF THE LORD
- FEAST**

FOCUS: Jesus' baptism introduces a new reality, and is an invitation for all of us.

As Jesus is baptized, the heavens open and the Spirit of God descends. Heaven and earth meet – and we are invited to join in. Through baptism we, too, are beloved sons and daughters receiving God's Spirit; we are members of God's family. Let us live the grace of our baptism.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the Book of Acts, Peter preaches the Gospel message to Gentiles gathered with Cornelius. He proclaims Jesus of Nazareth anointed by the Holy Spirit and Lord of all. In the Gospel, John baptizes Jesus. As the heavens open, the Spirit of God descends like a dove, and a voice declares Jesus *my beloved Son*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: God sent his Son to live as one of us, demonstrating unconditional love. Trusting in his goodness, let us offer him our prayers this day.

- 1) For bishops, priests, and deacons, may the Holy Spirit inspire and strengthen them as they lead souls to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may God move their hearts in working for religious freedom in all countries and territories, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those whose faith is tenuous, may God strengthen them, giving them faith and courage to trust in his promises, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all gathered here, may God enable us to live the grace of our baptism as children of our merciful Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in Christ, may he receive them with joy into his heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, you know our needs before we do. Please answer these prayers according to your wisdom. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ.

* * * * *

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

(Lec. 306)

1) Hebrews 2:5-12

2) Mark 1:21-28

or

(Lec. 305)

1) Hebrews 1:1-6

2) Mark 1:14-20

TUESDAY OF
FIRST WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: We can trust and obey the authority of Jesus, who calls us brothers and sisters.

In Ordinary Time, we meditate on the life of Christ and tell the stories of Jesus' authority and goodness throughout his earthly ministry. As we tell these stories, we are reminded that all things are subject to him: the wind and the waters and even unclean spirits. And we are thankful that Jesus invites each one of us to be his brother and sister.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The author of the Letter to the Hebrews writes that all things are subject to Christ, for whom all things exist. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches as *one having authority* and drives out an unclean spirit who recognizes him as *the Holy One of God*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We raise our voices in prayer to God and lift up our petitions for ourselves and for others.

- 1) For the Church and all who dwell within her, may the voice of Christ always be our guide, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic and institutional leaders and all who exercise authority in our communities, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the homebound or those who feel isolated, may Christ make his presence known to them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community gathered here, and for those we live with and serve, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they be welcomed into perfect union with God and all the angels and saints in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we thank you for your faithfulness. Look kindly, we pray, upon these petitions we bring before you, in the name of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

* * * * *

Wednesday, January 11, 2023
(Lec. 307)

- 1) Hebrews 2:14-18
- 2) Mark 1:29-39

WEDNESDAY OF
FIRST WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Jesus came to reconcile us to the Father.

The physical healings Jesus performs in today's Gospel serve as a sign of the reconciliation that is to come through his death and resurrection. Jesus, who did not sin, endured the effects of sin, sharing in our trials even to the point of death, in order to overcome it for our sake.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Letter to the Hebrews states that Jesus came to be a high priest, *to expiate the sins of the people*. In the Gospel, after Jesus heals Simon's mother-in-law, the whole town gathers outside her door. Jesus heals many who are sick and casts out many demons, and then goes to a deserted place to pray before preaching throughout Galilee.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Thankful for the healing and reconciliation the Lord offers, we now bring our petitions to him.

- 1) For all priests in the Church, may Christ, the high priest, bless them in their ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the world, may the Lord bring peace and unity to warring and divided lands, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For anyone experiencing the influence of evil, may Christ our light cast out the darkness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us here present, may Christ be our help in every trial, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may God in his gracious mercy soon seat them at his heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, please hear and answer the prayers we offer you through your Son, Jesus Christ.

* * * * *

Thursday, January 12, 2023
(Lec. 308)

- 1) Hebrews 3:7-14
- 2) Mark 1:40-45

THURSDAY OF
FIRST WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

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

In today's Gospel, Jesus wastes no time healing the leper. Jesus is moved with compassion, longing for the end of the leper's physical suffering and his social stigma as an outcast. The author of Hebrews says to *encourage yourselves daily while it is still "today" to become partners of Christ.*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Letter to the Hebrews warns the community against having *an evil and unfaithful heart*, and instructs them to encourage themselves so that none *may grow hardened by the deceit of sin*. In the Gospel, a leper approaches Jesus and tells him, *if you wish you can make me clean*. Jesus heals him and sends him to show the priest he is cleansed.

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 Pope Francis, may the Holy Spirit continue to guide his leadership of the Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For political leaders everywhere, may God give them hearts for peace and unity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick and outcast of our world, may Christ's healing touch and compassion bring them relief and a community of belonging, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all gathered here, may the love of Christ guide our every word and deed, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may God's mercy be upon them and grant them eternal rest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, please answer these prayers according to your perfect will, through your Son, Christ our Lord.

* * * * *

Friday, January 13, 2023
(Lec. 309)
1) Hebrews 4:1-5, 11
2) Mark 2:1-12

FRIDAY OF
FIRST WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Hilary,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church)

FOCUS: Let Jesus heal you.

Jesus can heal anyone, with any wound or infirmity, if only they come to him. The friends of the paralytic helped bring him to Jesus. Each one of us also needs others to help us on our journeys of faith. Let us keep our sights focused on encountering Jesus and allowing him to heal us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The author of the Letter to the Hebrews urges the community to heed the Good News and believe. They will one day enter God's rest, which was denied to others because of their disobedience. In the Gospel, a paralyzed man is brought to Jesus for healing. Jesus forgives his sins, prompting the scribes to accuse him of blasphemy. Jesus then commands the paralytic to walk.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Inspired by confidence in our loving Lord, we bring to him our needs and petitions.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord raise up holy men and women as faithful disciples and stewards, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may the Holy Spirit guide them in promoting justice and equity for all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who suffer from physical burdens, may Christ bring them healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may the love of Jesus conform each of us more closely to him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they now enjoy the fullness of life with God in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of mercy and love, we humbly ask you to look kindly upon these needs, which we pray in the name of Jesus, your Son.

* * * * *

Saturday, January 14, 2023
(Lec. 310)

- 1) Hebrews 4:12-16
- 2) Mark 2:13-17

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

FOCUS: The Lord is eager to pour his grace and help upon us.

We should never fear the Lord's penetrating gaze upon what truly lies in our hearts. For the Lord has nothing but sympathy and mercy for us and is always eager to pour his grace and help upon us and to draw us into closer friendship.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The author of the Letter to the Hebrews writes that *the word of God is living and effective*, and that *we have a great high priest in Jesus, the Son of God*. In the Gospel, Levi responds to Jesus' call to follow him by leaving his customs post. When the scribes and Pharisees question Jesus' judgment of eating with tax collectors and sinners, he responds that he has come to call sinners.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Confident in the Lord's loving mercy, let us now bring our petitions before him.

- 1) For those discerning a vocation to the priesthood, may the Holy Spirit guide them in wisdom and understanding, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who do not know Christ, may the grace of God enable them to hear his message of mercy and forgiveness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who feel alone, may the Lord's friendship lift them up and lead them to where they might experience welcome and fellowship, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all members of our faith community, may the word of God penetrate our hearts and lead us to repentance for our sins, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may the Lord's eternal light shine upon them and fill them with his peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Merciful God, hear these prayers we have brought before you, and answer them in accordance with your divine providence. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

* * * * *

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2023

(Lec. 64)

- 1) Isaiah 49:3, 5-6
- 2) 1 Corinthians 1:1-3
- 3) John 1:29-34

**SECOND SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: God's call is an invitation to service, honor, and holiness.

Today's readings center on God's call. All of those called – Isaiah, Saint Paul, Sosthenes, and John the Baptist – have a special vocation from God to bear witness to his name and foster holiness among his people. God equips those so chosen with grace, honor, and strength to carry out their mission. He calls and equips us, too.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah prophesies a servant who will restore Israel and be *a light to the nations*. In the second reading, Paul and Sosthenes send greetings *to the church of God that is in Corinth*. In the Gospel, John the Baptist sees Jesus and proclaims him to be *the Lamb of God*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Mindful of our calling from God, let us confidently bring our petitions to him.

- 1) For the Church, may God send abundant laborers to tend and serve in his vineyard, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may God keep them faithful to their responsibilities to uphold the dignity and sanctity of human life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those burdened by poverty or hunger, may God look graciously upon their every need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in this faith community discerning a vocation to the priesthood or religious life, may they be confident in our love, support, and prayers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may Christ's eternal light shine upon them and grant them eternal rest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, hear and kindly answer the prayers we bring to you through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

* * * * *

Monday, January 16, 2023
(Lec. 311)

- 1) Hebrews 5:1-10
- 2) Mark 2:18-22

MONDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Jesus is both high priest and the bridegroom of the Church.

The images of Jesus as high priest and bridegroom tell of an eternal love story. As high priest, Jesus offered his life to us through an agonizing death, but he's also the faithful bridegroom who brings joy to our lives every day by his very presence. Let us in turn give Jesus the gift of our lives, our love, and our presence.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The author of the Book of Hebrews writes that no one takes the honor of high priest for himself, but does so only when called by God. In the Gospel, Jesus is asked why his disciples do not fast and he answers that while *they have the bridegroom with them they cannot fast*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As a community of faith, firmly trusting in God, we present our petitions to the Father.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord fortify and sustain her in her prophetic witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders around the world, may the Spirit guide them in building communities of safety, justice, and mutual caring, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are looking for meaningful work, and for those who are responsible for hiring and paying employees, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community gathered in prayer today, may the Holy Spirit enkindle in us a fire for saying yes to what God asks of us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may the Lord soon welcome them to his heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of love, in your mercy hear and answer these prayers that we present to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

* * * * *

Tuesday, January 17, 2023
(Lec. 312)

- 1) Hebrews 6:10-20
- 2) Mark 2:23-28

TUESDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Anthony,
Abbot)

FOCUS: God's covenant with us is one of hope, and is an anchor for the soul.

The oath and promise in today's first reading are two immutable things of God. To be immutable is to be unchangeable, ageless, and permanent. God's oath in his own name and his promise are bedrocks of our faith, given to Abraham and handed down to all his heirs in faith. The creator of heaven and earth has made a covenant with us – to be our God, and we his people. In this lies our hope; it is an anchor for our soul.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Letter to the Hebrews encourages the community and cites God's oaths as cause to hold onto hope. In the Gospel, the Pharisees condemn Jesus and the disciples for violating the sabbath by making a path and picking grains. Jesus questions them in return and declares, *the sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Anchored to God's promise of salvation, we bring our prayers to him who is our hope and our strength.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may the Lord guide and prosper her and bestow upon her all heavenly graces, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For lawyers and judges, may God guide them in serving truth and divine justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are persecuted for matters of conscience or faith, may the Lord give them courage and keep them from harm, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us here, may the steadfast love and mercy of God draw us ever closer to him through the life and death of his Son, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the souls of all the faithful departed, may they, through the mercy of God, rest in eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God, whose love knows no bounds, hear the prayers we bring you today and grant all that is pleasing to you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord.

* * * * *

Wednesday, January 18, 2023
(Lec. 313)
1) Hebrews 7:1-3, 15-17
2) Mark 3:1-6

WEDNESDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Jesus has come as a priest, one who brings hope, healing, and salvation.

Today's readings speak to Jesus' priesthood. The first presents Jesus as priest not by birth but in power as in the order of Melchizedek, a priest of righteousness and peace. In the Gospel, Jesus shows us what that means. He is a priest who brings hope, who heals, who saves.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the author writes of Melchizedek who, *without father, mother, or ancestry ... remains a priest forever*. In the Gospel, Jesus asks the Pharisees, who were watching him closely, if it is *lawful to do good on the sabbath*. He then restores the withered hand of a man.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Coming together before our merciful Father, let us offer him our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For the Church, may God grant her fidelity in living as witnesses to Jesus, our most high priest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the world's leaders, may the Lord help them serve their people and lead with compassion and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who struggle with difficult family relationships, may Christ, the Prince of Peace, guide them in reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may the Holy Spirit guide us in being agents of Christ's healing in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may the Lord grant them peace in eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear our prayers we offer this day in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ.

* * * * *

Thursday, January 19, 2023
(Lec. 314)

- 1) Hebrews 7:25—8:6
- 2) Mark 3:7-12

THURSDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Jesus makes possible our communion with God.

Jesus sacrificed himself in multiple ways. As the eternal high priest, he offered himself to the Father in the perfect sacrifice. That sacrifice established a new covenant, making possible an intimate communion between God and humanity. Jesus also sacrificed himself in becoming man, serving others, and healing all who came to him.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The author of Hebrews writes that Jesus fills and surpasses the office of the high priest. Instead of offering repeated sacrifices on earth, Jesus offered himself once and for all in the heavenly sanctuary. In the Gospel, the crowds flock after Jesus, who cures all kinds of ailments. The sick tried to touch him to be healed and evil spirits cried out upon seeing him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As Jesus invites us to follow him, we turn our hearts and minds to the Father and present our petitions before him.

- 1) For the universal Church, may the Lord help us grow in our witness to the Good News, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may God inspire them in taking special care of the poor and downtrodden, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who have experienced violence or trauma in their lives, may God bless them with peace and healing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all members of this community of worship, may the Lord increase our faith and commitment to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked with the sign of faith, may the Lord in his mercy bring them into his eternal rest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear our prayers as we humbly make them in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

* * * * *

Friday, January 20, 2023
(Lec. 315)
1) Hebrews 8:6-13
2) Mark 3:13-19

FRIDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Fabian,
Pope and Martyr;
Saint Sebastian,
Martyr)

FOCUS: Go up the mountain and spend time with Jesus.

Jesus calls each of us to love him and serve him. He summoned the disciples to be with him before he sent them out into the world. If we are struggling, and our faith seems dry and unproductive, the Lord will help us conquer that mountain. We need only go to him and spend time with him.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, we hear of a *better covenant, enacted on better promises*. God will put his laws on people's minds and write them upon their hearts. In the Gospel, Jesus goes up the mountain and appoints the Twelve Apostles, giving them authority to preach and drive out demons.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in our heavenly Father's love, let us offer our prayers this day.

- 1) For the pilgrim Church on earth, may God truly write his law on our hearts and teach us to love each person we encounter, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders who profess the Christian faith, may Jesus give them the grace to serve with righteousness and integrity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those burdened by sin and despair, may God's mercy reach their hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all gathered here as disciples, may Christ's love overflow, guiding us in all we do, 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 Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, please hear and answer the prayers we have brought to you. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

* * * * *

Saturday, January 21, 2023
(Lec. 316)

- 1) Hebrews 9:2-3, 11-14
- 2) Mark 3:20-21

SATURDAY OF
SECOND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Agnes,
Virgin and Martyr)

FOCUS: Jesus' priestly ministry as the Son of God is the means of our salvation.

Jesus is not simply a great moral teacher. Jesus is the very Son of God, the great high priest who offers himself to cleanse us from our sins. Knowing full well the story of Israel's failure to follow the law, Jesus asks not for belief in some set of ideas, but for belief in *himself*.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The author of the Letter to the Hebrews writes that *Christ came as high priest*, offering the sacrifice of his own blood for our redemption. In the Gospel, Jesus' relatives set out to seize him, saying, *he is out of his mind*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Humbled by all that God has given us, we bring our prayers before him.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, may the Holy Spirit renew her each day, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For state and national leaders, may our God of justice guide them in their efforts toward building a more just society, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those suffering grief from the loss of a loved one, may Christ bring them hope and consolation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the community gathered here, may we be given eyes to see the truth of the Incarnation and recognize Jesus at work in our world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may the blood of Christ cleanse them from all sin and draw them to heaven to worship the living God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, hear and answer these prayers we bring to you through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

* * * * *

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2023

(Lec. 67)

- 1) Isaiah 8:23—9:3
- 2) 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17
- 3) Matthew 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

**THIRD SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Our salvation is at hand.

In today's Liturgy of the Word, we read about God's power to fulfill promises. Acknowledging the darkness of life prior to the Messiah, the prophets assure us that there has always been the promise of our salvation. The Gospel proclaims this direct fulfillment of the words in Isaiah, and we know that it is only the beginning of what Jesus sets out to do. Our salvation is at hand.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah proclaims a new time, where once there was darkness and despair there will now be light and joy. In the second reading, Paul urges unity among the community in Corinth, reminding them that the Church is one Church in Christ. In the Gospel, Jesus begins his ministry in Galilee, preaching that the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: The Lord has promised to hear the prayers of the faithful. In faith we lift our hearts and intentions to him.

- 1) For the Church and her mission to proclaim the kingdom of God in the world today, may the Holy Spirit continue to guide this holy work, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who hold elected office, may God strengthen their efforts in protecting life at all stages, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who suffer from the pain of division or disunity, may God's peace prevail and renew a sense of oneness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may God help us proclaim the Gospel well with our words and actions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have passed away from this life, may God soon welcome them into his kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty Father, we ask that you listen to our needs this day and answer them in accordance with your will. Through your Son, Christ our Lord.

* * * * *

Monday, January 23, 2023
(Lec. 317)
1) Hebrews 9:15, 24-28
2) Mark 3:22-30

MONDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(USA: Day of Prayer
for the Legal Protection
of Unborn Children;
USA: Opt. Mem.
Saint Vincent, Deacon and Martyr;
USA: Saint Marianne Cope, Virgin)

Or for the Day of Prayer, any readings from the Mass, "For Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life" (Lectionary for Mass Supplement, 947A-947E), or the Mass "For Justice and Peace" (887-891)

FOCUS: Satan's evil ways will not prevail against us if we walk with Jesus.

Jesus not only told us what God expects of us but showed us by his own life. We are to protect one another, love all people and things God created, and rely on God to help us when things get difficult. God is all-powerful and all-good, and Satan's evil ways will not prevail against us if we walk with Jesus.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the author writes that *Christ is mediator of a new covenant* and he appears *before God on our behalf*. In the Gospel, some unbelievers try to attribute Jesus' power to the devil, but Jesus asks how Satan can drive out Satan.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our prayers to the Lord, asking the Father to provide all that we need.

- 1) For the Church, may the Holy Spirit guide her in her sacred mission of proclaiming Christ to the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may they be enlightened by the Holy Spirit in enacting laws and actions that promote the sanctity of life from conception to natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For women in difficult pregnancies, may God's love guide them in solving the issues that trouble them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may the Lord's mercy be upon us in all we say and do, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they soon see God face to face, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear the prayers we offer today and grant us whatever we need to fulfill your will. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ.

* * * * *

Tuesday, January 24, 2023
(Lec. 318)

- 1) Hebrews 10:1-10
- 2) Mark 3:31-35

TUESDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Francis de Sales,
Bishop and Doctor of the Church)

FOCUS: Through the Holy Spirit we live as children of God.

Today we are reminded of the importance of doing the will of God. Not by pompous acts or burnt offerings – rather, with a humble and contrite heart. Through the grace of the Holy Spirit upon our baptism, we become adopted members of the body of Christ. It is then that we find ourselves living as children of God

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading we hear: *By this “will,” we have been consecrated through the offering of the Body of Jesus Christ once for all.* In the Gospel Jesus says, *for whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in God who sent his own Son for our salvation, let us offer our prayers this day.

- 1) For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, may Christ continue to bless him in shepherding the Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may God’s wisdom inspire them in protecting life at all stages, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are suffering from physical or financial burdens, especially those who have no one to support them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all members of this faith community, may the Lord bestow upon us a spirit of unity, charity, and service to those around us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, especially those who have no one else to pray for them, may the mercy of God bring them to everlasting peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, please hear our prayers and petitions, fulfilling them according to your most holy will. We ask this through your Son, Christ our Lord.

Wednesday, January 25, 2023
(Lec. 519)

- 1) Acts 22:3-16
or Acts 9:1-22
- 2) Mark 16:15-18

**THE CONVERSION
OF
SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE
- FEAST**

FOCUS: *Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature.*

Relying on God's power, the Apostles are sent into the world. On the road to Damascus, Saint Paul is invited into this ministry. We, too, are given a share in this call and the power to respond. Let us proclaim the Gospel to those to whom we are sent.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul describes his encounter with Christ on the road to Damascus and his meeting with Ananias. In the Gospel, Jesus sends the Eleven *into the whole world* to proclaim the Gospel, and promises them the power to carry out their call to teach, to heal, and to baptize.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We bring our prayers before the Lord today, confident in his gracious mercy toward us.

- 1) For all in the Church who continue the ministry entrusted to the Apostles, may they be empowered daily by God's gifts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may their hearts be converted by the Spirit who pours out truth and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who struggle with questions and doubts, may the Spirit draw them more deeply into the heart and peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this worshiping community, may we receive all we need to carry the Good News to those in our lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may their souls, through the mercy of God, rest in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God, you send us into the world, filled with your power and love. Hear and answer our prayers today, we ask through Christ our Lord.

* * * * *

Thursday, January 26, 2023
(Lec. 320)

- 1) 2 Timothy 1:1-8
or Titus 1:1-5 (Lec. 520)
- 2) Mark 4:21-25

THURSDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saints Timothy and Titus,
Bishops)

FOCUS: *A lamp to my feet is your word, a light to my path.*

“Light of the world” is a description used by Jesus in the Gospels of Matthew and John that appeals to our sense of sight. We can visualize him as we follow him. The Lord asks us to use our sense of hearing as well. He wants us to listen more intently, and the more we do so, the more insight into his word he will give us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Paul encourages Timothy to be strong in proclaiming the Lord’s word and accepting any hardship that may accompany his preaching. In the Gospel Jesus asks: Should a lamp be placed under a bushel basket or put on a lampstand? He encourages his disciples to take care what they hear.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For Church leaders, may they be blessed with wisdom and courage as they shepherd the people of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government officials across the world, may the Lord increase their respect for the dignity of all human beings, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those struggling with financial hardship, may the God of all kindness look with favor upon their every need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For members of this faith community who have fallen away from the Lord, may the light of Christ guide them back home, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked with the sign of faith, may God soon welcome them into his heavenly home, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of life, in your goodness and compassion, we ask that you grant us our petitions, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

* * * * *

Friday, January 27, 2023
(Lec. 321)
1) Hebrews 10:32-39
2) Mark 4:26-34

FRIDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(Opt. Mem.
Saint Angela Merici,
Virgin)

FOCUS: Faith needs time to grow. Nurture your faith and you will possess life.

Faith is a gift from God that is freely given by the one who is love. Those who endure in their faith may be tested by the world, who does not know God. The faithful must trust that God will come, though the hour is not known.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The author of the Letter to the Hebrews offers encouragement to those who have experienced suffering and abuse because of their faith. In the Gospel, Jesus tells two parables about the kingdom of God: *It is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land, and it is like a mustard seed* that is the smallest of seeds but grows to become the largest of plants.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Aware of God's presence in our lives and in the world, we place our needs before him.

- 1) For missionaries, may God grant them the gift of endurance to live and share their faith when they face adversity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For the needs of the world, may the Lord have mercy on the suffering and trials of all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are sick, may the Lord bring them healing, comfort, and strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, may the Holy Spirit increase in us a spirit of conversion and openness to his work in our lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the light of Christ, may the God of compassion bring them to everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Eternal Father, hear our prayers and shower us with your grace. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ.

* * * * *

Saturday, January 28, 2023

(Lec. 322)

1) Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19

2) Mark 4:35-41

SATURDAY OF
THIRD WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint Thomas Aquinas,
Priest and Doctor
of the Church)

FOCUS: In the storms of life, we need a strong faith.

The disciples asked each other: *Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?* It is a question that every person of faith must ultimately ask: Who is this Jesus and what difference does he make in our lives? He is more than a great prophet; he is, as our psalm tells us, our mighty Savior, who shows us the very mercy of God and who is the source of our faith and our hope.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The author of the first reading writes, *Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen.* He focuses on the faith and witness of Abraham, the father of faith. In the Gospel, Jesus stills the storm on the Sea of Galilee, filling his disciples with great awe and wonder.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

- 1) For Church leaders, may the Lord continue to guide and bless them and keep them faithful to his Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For public authorities, may the Holy Spirit guide them in fulfilling their duties with courage and integrity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are persecuted for their faith in Christ, may God's Holy Spirit uphold and strengthen them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of believers, may we grow in the gifts of the Holy Spirit, through word and sacrament, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they soon come to share in the fullness of Christ's glory in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

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

* * * * *

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2023

(Lec. 70)

- 1) Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13
- 2) 1 Corinthians 1:26-31
- 3) Matthew 5:1-12a

**FOURTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: From a beatitude perspective, discipleship is worth the cost, and suffering will not have the last word.

Jesus gives us a different point of view on suffering and discipleship through the beatitudes. Suffering will not have the last word; rather, those who suffer will be blessed. Discipleship is not without cost, but it will be rewarded. With a beatitude perspective, we are reassured and inspired to press onward with rejoicing rather than fear.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the prophet speaks of the humble and righteous remnant of Israel. In the second reading, Paul explains that God calls the weak and lowly so there can be only boasting in the Lord. In the Gospel Jesus goes up a mountain, where his disciples follow him, and he teaches them with a series of statements promising blessings and rewards for those who suffer, especially for his sake as disciples.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us take refuge in the Lord and offer our petitions in his holy name.

- 1) That Christ may make of his Church a humble and lowly remnant, who takes refuge in the name of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That God's justice may move all nations and peoples to observe his law and do no wrong, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who suffer from any burden may receive reassurance of comfort and love from the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That Jesus may help each one of us live faithfully and eagerly the life of discipleship, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died in the light of faith may be judged mercifully and welcomed into the Lord's kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, through your Son you promised blessing and redemption. Hear and answer the prayers we bring before you, we ask through Christ our Lord.

* * * * *

Monday, January 30, 2023
(Lec. 323)
1) Hebrews 11:32-40
2) Mark 5:1-20

MONDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Though we face strife and challenges in our lives, we have been given the gift of faith which conquers all.

Faith is the lesson of the day. Living by faith turns our fears into motivation and our despair into hope. Our faith in God gives meaning to our lives and helps us face the challenges that knock on our doors. Faith gives us strength when we need it and helps us to frame our vision. Our faith reminds us that nothing is impossible with God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the author writes of the faith of ancestors who endured persecution and exile. In the Gospel, Jesus cures a man who lived with an unclean spirit within him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As a community of faith, filled with the promise of eternal life, we join together to present our petitions to our Father.

- 1) For the Church striving to be a beacon of peace and light, may our loving Father infuse his wisdom and grace into the hearts of those who lead us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all in leadership throughout the world, may God guide them in their mission, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who know the pain of hatred or prejudice, may God strengthen them with his love and comfort, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered in this holy place, may God's Holy Spirit bestow upon us the gift of piety, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may perpetual light shine upon them and may they rest in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, we lay our needs before you and ask that you grant us what we need, through your Son, Jesus Christ.

* * * * *

Tuesday, January 31, 2023
(Lec. 324)
1) Hebrews 12:1-4
2) Mark 5:21-43

TUESDAY OF
FOURTH WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME
(OBL MEM
Saint John Bosco,
Priest)

FOCUS: Jesus is our hope in suffering.

In today's Gospel, Jesus encounters two women at the point of death. One has suffered from her condition for 12 years. The other is 12 years old. In both cases, he not only restores their lives, but also their capacity to bear life. There is no suffering that cannot bring new life in Jesus' name.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The author of the first reading encourages Christians to persevere in running the race of faith. Just as Jesus endured the cross before entering his glory, so we are to resist sin even to the point of shedding blood. In the Gospel, Jesus heals a woman who had a hemorrhage for 12 years and raises a 12-year-old girl from the dead.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Keeping our eyes fixed on Christ, we now offer our petitions for the sake of the world.

- 1) For the Church, may God bless her and increase her in unity for his glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may they be blessed with God's wisdom in policy-making and governing, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For at-risk youth, may the love of Christ be a shield of protection and mercy for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may our participation in this Eucharistic celebration grant us perseverance to run the race before us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they be welcomed into Christ's kingdom where there will be no more suffering, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, we ask that you graciously hear and answer our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

* * * * *