

FREE DIGITAL
SAMPLE FOR
the week of
June 25, 2017

BONUS DAYS
THROUGH
JULY 4TH!

DAILY
UNIVERSAL
PRAYER
AND COMMENTARY

CELEBRATING

50

YEARS IN PRINT



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



SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2017

(Lec. 94)

- 1) Jeremiah 20:10-13
- 2) Romans 5:12-15
- 3) Matthew 10:26-33

**TWELFTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FOCUS: Let us strive to openly proclaim the Gospel message with joyful hearts.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Jeremiah reminds his listeners that he lives under constant threat from outsiders, but he is confident the Lord is with him. Saint Paul reminds the Romans that Adam brought sin and death into the world, but Jesus' sacrificial act brought new life and a new creation. In Matthew's Gospel, Christ reminds his disciples to remain steadfast in their witness to the truth.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As Christ's disciples, let us confidently approach the Father with our petitions.

- 1) That all members of the Church will testify to the truth of Christ and the salvation that he has won for all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That all those who govern will hear the cries of the poor and protect the least among us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all missionaries who risk their lives in service to the Gospel may be emboldened through the courage and wisdom of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That those who teach religious education and sacramental preparation in our parish may help children grow in his wisdom, knowledge and faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our beloved dead, and all who have died, may find eternal rest in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious Lord, in your great mercy, turn toward us, and in your great love, answer us, according to your will. We ask this through Christ our Lord.



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MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2017

(Lec. 371)

- 1) Genesis 12: 1-9
- 2) Matthew 7:1-5

MONDAY OF

12TH WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of the old law.

In the reading today, Jesus warns against passing judgement on others, and spoke of the detrimental things that can happen if we do so. For one thing, it takes the focus off our call to live as Christ calls us to live. As the fulfillment of the old law, Jesus challenges us to examine our own shortcomings before we point out the faults of others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading from the Book of Genesis tells of God's call of Abraham to a land God will show him, and his promise to make of him a great nation. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches us to stop judging others that we may not be judged.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Brothers and sisters, let us bring our needs before God, trusting that he will hear and answer them.

- 1) For bishops and priests who shepherd the Church, may they turn to the Holy Spirit for the grace to continue proclaiming the mercy of God to all peoples and places, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in the world who have yet to believe in the Gospel, may they open their hearts to God's grace and come to place their faith and trust in Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are experiencing difficulty or hardship in their families, may they seek guidance from the Holy Spirit and find peace and reconciliation in bringing their problems to Christ and the Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those in this community who are suffering from cancer and other forms of serious illness, may they be assisted by caring health care professionals and comforted by compassionate caregivers, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be received into the kingdom of heaven with the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Good and gracious God, hear us and answer our petitions. We ask this through Christ our Lord.





TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2017

TUESDAY OF

(Lec. 372)

12TH WEEK

1) Genesis 13:2, 5-18

IN ORDINARY TIME

2) Matthew 7:6, 12-14

(Opt. Mem. Saint Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop and Doctor of the Church)

FOCUS: Jesus challenges us to enter through the narrow gate and follow the path of life.

Jesus tells us in today's Gospel that we must enter through the narrow gate, which is not easy. It requires us to make the choice and commitment to live as a disciple of Jesus, and to practice his teachings in our daily lives. Although these are daunting challenges, we needn't be discouraged. Through daily prayer, the graces of the sacraments, and the Holy Spirit who is ever-present as our helper and advocate, we receive the grace and strength needed to keep our feet planted on the road that leads to life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, as Abram and Lot's people outgrow the land and tension increases among them, Abram seeks to avoid strife and offers Lot the first choice of land to settle. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that we are to strive to enter through the narrow gate because the gate that leads to destruction is wide, and those who pass through it are many.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Calling to mind the burdens and cares that we carry in our hearts, we offer these petitions to our merciful God.

- 1) That the example of Church leaders throughout the world will continue to draw all people together in the love of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That nations and their leaders will use the golden rule as a foundation for treating their neighbors with respect, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who suffer from terminal illness will find comfort in turning to Jesus, who offers the promise and hope of eternal life, and in the compassion of those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all members of our parish will increase their commitment and resolve to work to protect the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our loved ones, and all who have died, may rest in the peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: O God, in your mercy, hear and answer our prayers. For we offer them to you through Jesus Christ, our Lord.





WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2017

(Lec. 373)

- 1) Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
- 2) Matthew 7:15-20

WEDNESDAY OF

12TH WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(Obl. Mem. Saint Irenaeus, Bishop and Martyr)

FOCUS: Trust in God's promises to his people.

Promises can sound sweet, but unless they are kept, they are shallow and empty. We can trust in God's promises because he has shown us time and time again that what he promises, he delivers. God promised to send us a Savior, and in the fullness of time he sent his son, Jesus, to save and redeem us and offer us the promise and hope of eternal life in heaven.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading today, God establishes the covenant with Abraham, because Abraham has faithfully trusted him. In the Gospel, Jesus warns his disciples of false prophets, who will come amongst them as wolves dressed in sheep's clothing. These false prophets can be known and recognized by the bad fruit they bear.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting that God provides for what we most truly need, we confidently offer him our prayers.

- 1) That all members of the Church will continue to grow in holiness and in their commitment to share the Gospel message with others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That world leaders may strive to make decisions based on what is best for the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who have been harmed by violence in any form may find strength and comfort in their faith in Jesus, and may the prayers and outreach of family and friends hasten their recovery, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That members of our parish will heed the Gospel message and serve as examples of honesty and integrity in their neighborhoods and places of work, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died might come to enjoy the fullness of life and love in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious and loving God, hear and answer our prayers, which we offer to you with humility and trust, through Christ our Lord.





THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 2017

(Lec. 591)

- 1) Acts 12:1-11
- 2) 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18
- 3) Matthew 16:13-19

**SAINTS PETER
AND PAUL, APOSTLES**

-SOLEMNITY

FOCUS: On today's Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, we are challenged to respond more fully to our own call to discipleship.

Jesus questions his disciples about who he is, and he asks us as well: Who do you say that I am? Today, if other things in our lives come before God, let us proclaim as Peter did, that truly, Jesus is Lord, and allow him to reign as king of our hearts. Let us also pray each day, and ask the Lord to direct our hearts in his ways of love.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading recalls King Herod arresting members of the early Church to harm them. The second reading exhorts us to turn to the Lord for the strength and grace to persevere in faith and enter into eternal life. In today's Gospel, Peter acknowledges Jesus as the Messiah and Son of the living God, and gives him the keys of heaven.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Seeking to live more fully and faithfully as disciples of Jesus, let us offer our petitions to our loving Father.

- 1) For our Holy Father and all leaders of the Church, may they continue to be the face of mercy to all who seek God's forgiveness with a sincere heart, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all Christians, may they grow in their commitment to sharing the Gospel and giving witness so many may come to believe and be saved, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are rebuilding their lives after tragedy, disaster or storm, may they be assisted by many helping hands, and find comfort through their faith in Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those discerning a priestly vocation in our parish, that they may follow the example of Saints Peter and Paul, and lay down their lives for the Lord and his will, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, that they may bask in the light of God's love for all eternity in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God and Father, we ask that you hear and answer our prayers, which we offer you through Christ our Lord.





FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 2017

(Lec. 375)

1) Genesis 17:1, 9-10, 15-22

2) Matthew 8:1-4

FRIDAY OF

12TH WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

(Opt. Mem. The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church)

FOCUS: Let us turn to Jesus for healing and forgiveness.

Jesus' healing of the leper in today's Gospel demonstrates his compassion for one who was suffering. While we often turn to Jesus in prayer for healing from physical ailments, let's also ask him for healing and forgiveness when we sin – when we grow lax in our commitment to being his disciples.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the Book of Genesis, God reveals to Abraham how he plans to bring to fulfillment the promises he made to him through the covenant. In the Gospel, Jesus heals a leper who asks to be made clean. Jesus asks him not to tell others, as his time has not yet come.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Grateful for the gifts of new life, healing and salvation that God bestows on us in Christ, let us join in offering our prayers to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) For Church leaders throughout the world, may their example of faithfulness to the Gospel inspire Christians to be more effective witnesses of the Good News, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations and communities, may they work for nonviolent solutions to conflicts and disputes, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who do not yet know God, may they open their hearts and experience the joy and peace of God's love at work in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may we be generous in sharing our gifts of time, talent and treasure within our parish, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may they have life everlasting with God in heaven, along with all the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, we trust in you and praise your name. Hear our prayers and answer them according to your will. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.





SATURDAY, JULY 1, 2017

(Lec. 376)

1) Genesis 18:1-15

2) Matthew 8:5-17

(Opt. Mem. Saint Junipero Serra, Priest; Saturday in honor of BVM)

SATURDAY OF

12TH WEEK

IN ORDINARY TIME

FOCUS: Let us welcome God into our lives.

Abraham welcomed the Lord actively, eagerly and immediately. He ran to greet the visitors and pressed them to accept his hospitality. Do we welcome the Lord with this kind of enthusiasm? Are we eager to invite Jesus into our lives, our activities and our homes? Let us pray for open hearts.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lord appears to Abraham as three visitors in the reading from Genesis, and Abraham honors them with hospitality. The Lord tells Abraham and Sarah they will have a son. The centurion in today's Gospel trusts that his servant will be healed by Jesus' word. Jesus, amazed by his faith, heals the servant from afar.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust in God's love and faithfulness, we offer him our petitions.

- 1) That the Church, strengthened by the grace of the Holy Spirit, will continue to be a sign and instrument of God's healing and saving love in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That government leaders work to protect the poor and vulnerable in their midst, especially those who have no voice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who struggle each day to meet their basic needs of food, water and shelter may be strengthened by the generosity of many helping hands, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That this parish may be a place of hospitality, generously welcoming visitors as Abraham welcomed strangers in his midst, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may see the face of the Lord in glory and enjoy perfect peace and joy in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving Father, all power and glory are yours. In your goodness and wisdom hear and answer our prayers. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.





SUNDAY, JULY 2, 2017

**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

(Lec. 97)

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

FOCUS: The Lord rewards his faithful disciples with the gift of life.

As believers, we share in the death and resurrection of Christ. He is our hope and our salvation. While Jesus' words in the Gospel might seem challenging or even cold, he is making the point that discipleship must be our priority, and the lens through which we see all aspects of life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Elisha rewards his host with a great blessing. In the Letter to the Romans, Paul describes the Gospel as a dynamic force — to be baptized is to receive the Spirit of Christ into ourselves. In today's Gospel, Jesus explains to his disciples the conditions and rewards of discipleship.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With grateful hearts, we offer our prayers to our loving Father in heaven.

- 1) For the Church throughout the world, through the witness and devotion of her people and ministries, may she always be a source of welcome to all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For leaders of nations, may they work to foster a greater understanding and spirit of cooperation when seeking to resolve conflicts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are sick or who are nearing the end of their days, may they know the peace of Christ and the comfort of family and friends, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For our parish community, may we reflect the goodness of the Lord by our dedication to serve those around us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may they come to enjoy perfect happiness and peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and eternal God, giver of life and salvation, hear and answer our prayers according to your will. Through Christ our Lord.





MONDAY, JULY 3, 2017

ST. THOMAS,

(Lec. 593)

APOSTLE

1) Ephesians 2:19-22

FEAST

2) John 20:24-29

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

The Apostle Thomas, after encountering the risen Lord, was changed and transformed and went to proclaim the Gospel with courage and zeal — traveling as far as India where, according to tradition, he was martyred. Thomas' life and example remind us of the importance of bringing our struggles and doubts to the Lord so he can strengthen our faith and we can give more effective witness to the Gospel.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Saint Paul tells the Ephesians that they are citizens of God's household, which is built on the foundation of the Apostles and held together by Christ. In John's Gospel, we hear about "doubting Thomas" who, in his great courage, asked Jesus to show him who he was. When Christ reveals his wounds, Thomas declares, My Lord and my God!

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Ever-mindful of God's providence, love and mercy, we bring our prayers to our Father.

- 1) For all members of the Church, that we may be true disciples of Christ who invite him into our lives and our hearts, and declare him to be our Savior and Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For public authorities and government officials throughout the world, that they may recognize the value of all human life, especially the most vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the homeless, that they may experience the peace of Christ through the generous love of Christians who assist them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For each of us, may we seek to grow ever stronger in our faith through prayer and reflection upon sacred Scripture so we may bear a more effective witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead and all who have died, that they may experience the joys of heaven for all eternity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, in your mercy hear and answer our prayers. We ask this in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.





TUESDAY, JULY 4, 2017

TUESDAY OF

(Lec. 378)

13TH WEEK

1) Genesis 19:15-29

IN ORDINARY TIME

2) Matthew 8:23-27

(Opt. Mem. Independence Day in United States of America)

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

FOCUS: God is faithful to us, and he calls us to continue growing in our faithfulness.

Each of us will experience trials and tribulations at different times and points in our lives. During such occasions, we might be tempted to think that Jesus has left us to fend for ourselves. This is false, of course, as Jesus is with us always and will give us the strength and guidance we need to navigate life's stormy seas if we turn to him and ask.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading from Genesis, God destroys the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. In the Gospel, the disciples are afraid when a sudden storm comes up when they are at sea, in a boat with Jesus. Jesus calms the storm.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us join in offering our prayers for our needs and those of the world before our loving and faithful God.

- 1) That Pope Francis, bishops and priests may continue to encourage the faithful to stay true to the Gospel message through their witness and example, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That those living in war-torn areas of the world may come to know peace, and may turn to God for healing and reconciliation with their neighbors, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That families who are estranged from one another because of past disagreements or injuries may seek God's grace and begin the process of healing and forgiveness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That our parish community may see an increase in vocations to the priesthood, consecrated life and lay ecclesial ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may come to enjoy eternal peace in heaven with the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious God, hear our prayers and strengthen us with your grace so we may lead lives that are holy and pleasing to you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

