



FREE DIGITAL  
SAMPLE FOR  
the week of  
February 18, 2018

DAILY  
UNIVERSAL  
PRAYER  
AND COMMENTARY

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



**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2018**

(Lec. 23)

- 1) Genesis 9:8-15
- 2) 1 Peter 3:18-22
- 3) Mark 1:12-15

**FIRST SUNDAY  
OF LENT**

FOCUS: *The kingdom of God is at hand.*

*Repent and believe in the Gospel.* These sound like simple words from our short Gospel today. But it is fitting that Jesus begins his earthly ministry with this powerful message after the Spirit descended upon him at his baptism. He asks us to believe in the Gospel and embrace its message of humble service and discipleship.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the reading from Genesis, God establishes a covenant with Noah, declaring the rainbow as the reminder to all his people. In the second reading, we hear that the eight who had been saved by water in the story of Noah prefigure our baptism, which saves us now. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus begins his Galilean ministry by proclaiming the need to repent and believe.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Loving Father, we trust in your covenant, which makes us your sons and daughters. We ask that you hear the prayers we bring to you today.

- 1) For the Church, may we confidently proclaim the Good News of the Gospel and share our faith with others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in public office, may they embrace servant leadership and strive to be steadfast in speaking the truth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are in prison, may they use this difficult time to grow closer to God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here, may we respond boldly to the call to discipleship and mission, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they experience the fullness of God's love and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, hear the prayers we bring you today, and all the intentions we hold in our hearts. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.



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



**Monday, February 19, 2018**

(Lec. 224)

- 1) Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18
- 2) Matthew 25:31-46

**MONDAY OF  
FIRST WEEK  
OF LENT**

FOCUS: Let us seek first to be holy in all things.

We have the Scriptures to guide us through life. They are the paths we should follow. Jesus was very clear about what lies ahead eternally for those who follow his words, and for those who refuse to follow his words. Let us look for opportunities to reach out to one another in love.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In our first reading from Leviticus, God instructs Moses to tell the people to be holy as God is holy. Then he gives them commandments to follow. In the Gospel, Jesus describes the final judgment for those who do, and for those who do not, follow his commandments.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Remembering that each of us has been called to serve, let us ask the Lord in confidence to hear our petitions for our needs and the needs of those we are asked to serve.

- 1) That the Church, as she continues to bring the message of Jesus to all, may be blessed with more and more listeners who heed his words, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That integrity and honesty may be the hallmarks of all who hold elected office or formulate public policy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who have been victimized by prejudice or hatred may be affirmed and comforted by our love, acceptance and support, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That we as a faith community will be open to the grace of the Holy Spirit during this Lenten period as we prepare to welcome the risen Christ at Easter, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all of our beloved friends and relatives who the Lord has called home will rest eternally in the Lord's presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: We offer these prayers to you with thanksgiving, Father, in the name of Jesus, your son.



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



**Tuesday, February 20, 2018**

(Lec. 225)

- 1) Isaiah 55:10-11
- 2) Matthew 6:7-15

**TUESDAY OF  
FIRST WEEK  
OF LENT**

FOCUS: God wants what's best for us.

God is a generous and loving Father who wants only what is best for his children. God showers down rain to make the seed grow, and gives us his word to bring us grace. But God also expects us to be generous and loving toward all his children – to forgive them from our hearts. We are called to be like God.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the passage from Isaiah, God promises that his word will be as fruitful and fertile as the earth after a rain. God's will – what is best for us – will be achieved. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches us to pray to God with absolute trust that he knows what we need and will give it to us.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

**PRIEST:** Jesus taught us to trust God with all our needs, and so we present these petitions to our heavenly Father.

- 1) For clergy around the world, may the Holy Spirit guide them as they lead their people through this most sacred season, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For farmers and all who work the land throughout the world, may they receive what they need to produce an abundant harvest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, the homebound and the suffering, that God's healing touch may bring them peace and comfort, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may our lives bear witness to the Lord during this Lenten journey, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who will die today, and all the faithful departed, may they enter into their eternal rest, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** God our Father, you are always ready to give us what we need. Hear our prayer for ourselves and those most in need. We ask this through your son, our Lord Jesus Christ.



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



**Wednesday, February 21, 2018**

(Lec. 226)

- 1) Jonah 3:1-10
- 2) Luke 11:29-32

**(Opt. Mem. Saint Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church)**

**WEDNESDAY OF  
FIRST WEEK  
OF LENT**

FOCUS: Let us heed Jesus' message of salvation today.

The people of Nineveh were evil, yet Jonah had just started through their city preaching repentance when they began to fast and turn from their evil ways. The crowds in Jesus' time had the Lord himself preaching to them and still did not believe. Jesus is our sign; let us waste no time in repenting and believing.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

After the Lord called to Jonah a second time in the first reading, the prophet went to Nineveh announcing that God would destroy the city in forty days. Because they turned away from evil, God relented of the destruction. In the Gospel, Jesus brands the crowd an evil generation for not repenting as did the Ninevites at the preaching of Jonah.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With contrite and humbled hearts, we approach our compassionate God, offering our prayers for ourselves and for the world.

- 1) That Church leaders may be blessed with a fruitful harvest in their call to the faithful to be active in sharing their faith with others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That elected officials may have the graces of integrity, honesty and compassion in enacting laws and decrees that benefit all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who lack the basic necessities to survive the long winter months may be helped by abundant generosity and love from others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That our catechumens and elect may be strengthened on their journey to Easter, and may God build them into his kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That our beloved dead may be welcomed into the heavenly kingdom with all the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Gracious and merciful God, create in us a clean heart and steadfast spirit, that we may repent and turn away from all evil. Hear the prayers we bring you as we begin our Lenten journey. Through Christ our Lord.



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



**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2018**

(Lec. 535)

- 1) 1 Peter 5:1-4
- 2) Matthew 16:13-19

**THE CHAIR  
OF SAINT PETER the APOSTLE  
- FEAST**

**FOCUS:** The Church stands strong on the apostolic foundation of Peter and his confession of faith.

Jesus chooses Peter to be the rock on which he builds his Church, and promises that the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Peter recognizes his mission as one of service and love, not domination and power. We are called to imitate this mission.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, we hear that proper leadership is not about dominance, but should be focused on service and love. The Gospel relates Jesus' bestowal of the keys to the kingdom on Peter.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

**PRIEST:** With hope and trust, we bring our prayers and petitions before our heavenly Father.

- 1) That the Church, through the grace and guidance of the Holy Spirit, may bring the hope of Christ to all who seek the truth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That community leaders may be filled with wisdom and humility, and embrace servant leadership, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who are grieving the loss of a loved one may be comforted and strengthened by the love of God reflected in each of us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That those in our faith community in need of forgiveness may be inspired to seek the grace of the sacraments in order to restore peace in their hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may share in the eternal peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** Loving God, accept our prayers we offer today. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.



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



**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2018**

(Lec. 228)

- 1) Ezekiel 18:21-28
- 2) Matthew 5:20-26

**FRIDAY OF  
FIRST WEEK  
OF LENT**

**(OBL MEM Saint Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr)**

FOCUS: The Christian life becomes virtuous as we turn away from sin.

Today we learn from both of our readings that following the commandments – our moral framework for the Christian life – is necessary for those who desire to live in Christ. This way of life is lived through our direct relationship with our brothers and sisters, and learning to reconcile and forgive one another.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the reading from Ezekiel, we are reminded of the danger of turning away from virtue toward sin, and the mercy of God when we strive to turn away from sin and live a virtuous life. In the Gospel from Matthew, Jesus teaches about the importance of reconciliation.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

**PRIEST:** With confidence and trust, we turn to our Father with prayerful petitions for our needs and those of our brothers and sisters.

- 1) That we the faithful, baptized into the one Lord, may hear the voice of the Shepherd calling us to discipleship in his name, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That leaders throughout the world may have virtuous hearts in seeking to understand people of diverse cultures and practices, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who struggle with addiction may be freed from what enslaves them and come to see God as their refuge, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That this community of faith may be guided by the Holy Spirit so as to use our talents and gifts for the greater glory of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may be welcomed into the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** God, giver of all good gifts, we ask that you hear our prayers, through your son, Jesus Christ.



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



**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2018**

(Lec. 229)

- 1) Deuteronomy 26:16-19
- 2) Matthew 5:43-48

**SATURDAY OF  
FIRST WEEK  
OF LENT**

FOCUS: The commandments guide us on the path of discipleship.

Today's readings remind us that, as people of God, we must keep the commandments of the Lord with our whole heart and our whole soul and walk in the ways of God, no matter how difficult it may be. As members of the body of Christ, we are called to share God's love with everyone, even those who make it challenging to love them.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Moses reminds us to observe the laws of the Lord. In the Gospel, Jesus asks us to go beyond loving our neighbor, and to love our enemies as well. When we do this, we are reflecting the perfection of our heavenly Father.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Oh God, we come before you in gratitude for all you have given us, and ask for your mercy in granting our petitions according to your will.

- 1) For Church leaders and our holy father, Pope Francis, may they be strengthened by our prayers as they continue to spread the message of God's love throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For countries torn apart by violence and hatred, may they experience a new dawn of peace and reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those whose hearts have turned away from God, may they, in this season of Lent, find new hope in the promise of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this faith community, may we be graced with the heart and mind of Christ so as to welcome the stranger and the traveler, and spread the fruits of hospitality and generosity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the faithful departed, may they behold God face-to-face in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God and Father, you give us everything we need. We ask you to grant our petitions according to your will, through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.



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