

Pastoral Patterns

Autumn 2021

August 1 to November 25



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How to Use *Pastoral Patterns*

Pastoral Patterns is a book of suggested patterns and models to assist priests, deacons, initiation ministers, and liturgy planners in crafting liturgical language. *The Roman Missal* outlines the points in the Mass that can accommodate the priest's own words. Each community must search the day's or season's Scriptures, its own soul, and the realities of the wider world in order to craft appropriate language for the liturgy.

Prayer of the Faithful

Each weekly set of petitions in *Pastoral Patterns* does not include petitions that should be prayed on a weekly basis. Here are some examples of "every week" petitions.

That all catechumens, especially those in our parish, *N.*, *N.*, and *N.*, may be reborn in the image and likeness of their Creator, we pray to the Lord.

– or –

That the candidates for full communion, especially *N.*, *N.*, and *N.*, may grow daily in the desire for perfection, we pray to the Lord.

That the newly baptized, especially *N.*, *N.*, and *N.*, may be drawn ever more deeply into the mystery of the Christian way of life, we pray to the Lord.

For the newly confirmed (or: For those received into the full communion of the Catholic Church), especially *N.*, *N.*, and *N.*, that they may benefit from our affectionate support in their life of faith, we pray to the Lord.

That the newly married, especially *N.* and *N.*, may grow each day in harmony and wisdom, we pray to the Lord.

– or –

For *N.* and *N.*, and for all who are newly married, that they may shine as witnesses to the love of God and the ways of heaven, we pray to the Lord.

That the sick, especially *N.*, *N.*, and *N.*, and all the sick of our parish community, may be healed in body and spirit, we pray to the Lord.

– or –

For the sick of the parish, especially *N.*, *N.*, and *N.*, and for all who are sick: May they be freed from danger, relieved of suffering, and embraced with compassion in the gentle arms of the Good Shepherd, we pray to the Lord.

– or –

For the sick, especially *N.*, *N.*, and *N.*, that this season may bring them comfort and health in the company of their Savior, we pray to the Lord.

That the dead, especially *N., N., and N.*, may be gathered into paradise by Jesus, the Bridegroom and lover of our souls, we pray to the Lord.

– or –

That the dead, especially our departed sisters and brothers *N., N., and N.*, may be with their Savior in paradise, we pray to the Lord.

– or –

That the dead, especially *N., N., and N.*, may attain the fullness of life within the endless festival of the kingdom, we pray to the Lord.

Other Texts

Pastoral Patterns offers models for introductions to the Liturgy of the Day. These may be spoken by a commentator or cantor before Mass, or by the presider following the greeting and opening dialogue. Many parishes employ introductions to the Liturgy of the Word. Spoken by the presider before the first reading, these introductions are designed to spark the imagination of the assembly and prepare them to listen to the word. Likewise, the short introduction to the Eucharistic Prayer, proclaimed by the presider, prepares the assembly for the great prayer of thanksgiving. Models are offered for the Penitential Act and/or Sprinkling Rite.

A Dismissal of Catechumens (and Candidates) is included for each Sunday. These dismissals follow the pattern found in the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* and, like all the texts in *Pastoral Patterns*, are inspired by the biblical themes of the day's liturgy.

Homily Helps

Also included are "Homily Helps." The three bullet points provide a starting point for priests and deacons looking for assistance in writing their weekly homilies. These may also be useful for liturgy planning groups who may give ideas to their priests on passages from the week's readings that they found interesting, inspiring, or moving.

Question of the Week

The "Question of the Week" is intended to inspire thought and conversation. This question reflects on the scriptures and applies those themes to daily life.

Reminders and Suggestions

Proper or otherwise appropriate texts from *The Roman Missal* are suggested, as well as other liturgical reminders related to specific feasts and seasons.

Calendar

The days of the Roman calendar are listed alongside national holidays, days of historical significance, Jewish festivals, and weeks dedicated to a specific intention.

August 1, 2021

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

These texts need to be adapted by each community of faith.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day

When we come together today, as we do each Sunday, we receive the Lord—the Bread of Life—in the Eucharist. He satisfies our hunger, be it material or spiritual. When we receive the Lord, in the Eucharist and into our hearts, he brings fullness, mission, God’s grace, and the promise of everlasting life into our poor, imperfect, and needy human lives. He enables us to “put away the old self” and “put on the new self.” Joined together with our brothers and sisters in faith, let us celebrate the generosity of our Lord.

Penitential Act C

Lord Jesus, you are the bread of life: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you sustain us with your body and blood:

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you satisfy the hunger and thirst of every human heart:

Lord, have mercy.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Word

#113

Exodus 16:2–4, 12–15

I will rain down bread from heaven for you.

Psalms 78

“The Lord gave them bread from heaven.”

Ephesians 4:17, 20–24

Put on the new self that has been created in God’s way.

John 6:24–35

*Whoever comes to me will never hunger,
and whoever believes in me will never thirst.*

We hear Jesus today tell the crowds that he is the bread of life, that those who look to him will never hunger or thirst. Before that, we hear the Lord satisfy the hunger of the Chosen People when they were starving in the desert. In between, Saint Paul challenges us to change from our old self and “put on (our) new self” now that we have learned the truth in Jesus. Listening to today’s readings, let us reflect on how God satisfies our hunger.

Dismissal of Catechumens (and Candidates)

Dear friends, your search for the way to eternal life has brought you to this place, a place where the Lord Jesus speaks to us in his holy word. As you continue to hunger for the Eucharist, take that holy word to heart and continue to meditate on its meaning for your life. We await with anticipation that day when you will share with us at the Lord’s table. Now go in peace.

Prayer of the Faithful

Jesus assures us that whoever comes to him will never hunger and so we come to him today with our prayers, assured that we will be satisfied.

For the Church, that we may be driven to feed the hungry: those afflicted with spiritual hunger, who seek purpose and mission in life, as well as those suffering from material hunger, who long for full stomachs and adequate nutrition, let us pray to the Lord.

For our leaders, that they respond to those in need with compassion and assistance, let us pray to the Lord.

That God's generosity from age to age to all who call upon the Lord may be a model for us as we are called upon by those in need, let us pray to the Lord.

For all who have been assailed by storms this summer—hurricanes or tornadoes, floods or droughts—and for all who help them in their time of trauma, let us pray to the Lord.

For all of us, that as we follow Saint Paul's charge to put on our new selves, we may resolve with the grace of God to live our lives in righteousness and truth, let us pray to the Lord.

For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord.

Gracious God,
you sent the Bread of Life
to nourish us always.
Instill in us such generosity and thankfulness
that the bread we offer to those in need
may reflect our thankfulness to you
for all that we have received.
Hear these and all the prayers we make
through your Son,
the true bread from heaven,
our Lord for ever and ever.

Introduction to the Eucharistic Prayer

With hearts longing for the bread of life, food that will endure for eternal life, we raise our hearts and voices in the great prayer of thanksgiving.

Reminders and Suggestions

Texts: Preface VI of the Sundays of Ordinary Time or Preface I or II of the Most Holy Eucharist. Solemn Blessing 11 or 12, or Prayer over the People 2 or 9.

Liturgy and Life: Many parishes have begun the practice of gathering all liturgical ministers for a time of reflection and spiritual nourishment some time in the late summer or early autumn. Bringing in an outside speaker to lead this reflection is a good idea, since those who normally lead the parish's liturgical life could benefit from this experience.

Homily Helps

- It is easy to scoff at the Israelites grumbling to Moses about the hardship they faced in the desert. How ridiculous to say they'd rather be enslaved again! How ungrateful they are to God and to Moses for leading them out of slavery in the first place! But anyone who has truly known what it's like to be hungry day after day with no end in sight can appreciate their cries. When someone has an acute physical need that is not met, reason and reasonableness are lost. Think back to how you felt when you were significantly ill or injured. Pain and chronic agony take over. Nothing else can even be contemplated. This is how it became for this formerly enslaved people wandering in the desert without food or water. Every minute of every day their thoughts were consumed by their misery.
- When uncertain of what to believe, it is natural to look for signs. We look for some insight into the truth. In his Gospel, John referred to Jesus' miracles as signs. The crowd in today's Gospel passage saw his sign of the loaves and fish and now ask for a sign "that we may see and believe" (John 6:30). We may ask ourselves what signs we need to see in order to believe. Perhaps we would be better off asking ourselves what signs we can provide so that others may believe. How can we multiply what we have in order to nourish more people than we can imagine? How can we give life to the world? How can we point the way to the truth by what we do?
- We have a huge advantage over both the crowd in the desert and the one in Capernaum. We know the ending. The Israelites make it to the Promised Land. The Bread of Life is the food of our redemption. Today when we are faced with an uncertain future and problems that appear to be unsolvable, let us take comfort in knowing that God continues to watch over us, forever satisfying our hunger and thirst.

Question of the Week

How can I be a sign to others of the nourishment I've found in the bread of life?

Calendar

- | | | |
|---|------|---|
| 2 | Mon. | Optional Memorial of St. Eusebius of Vercelli
Optional Memorial of St. Peter Julian Eymard |
| 4 | Wed. | Memorial of St. John Vianney |
| 5 | Thu. | Optional Memorial of the Dedication of the Basilica
of St. Mary Major |
| 6 | Fri. | Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord
First Friday |
| 7 | Sat. | Optional Memorial of St. Sixtus II and Companions
Optional Memorial of St. Cajetan
Optional Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary
First Saturday |

August 8, 2021

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

These texts need to be adapted by each community of faith.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day

Sunday after Sunday we are drawn here to worship God, to listen to God's word, and to receive Christ in the Eucharist. Jesus reminds us in the Gospel that like all good things, this unconscious prompt that draws us together each Sunday comes from the Father. As we celebrate together today, let us thank God for the wonderful gift of faith, which animates our lives and drives us to undertake Christ's mission.

Penitential Act C

Lord Jesus, you are the living bread that came down from heaven:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you were sent by the Father to bring life to your people:
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the way to everlasting life: Lord, have mercy.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Word

#116

1 Kings 19:4-8

*Strengthened by that food,
Elijah walked to the mountain of God.*

Psalms 34

"Taste and see the goodness of the Lord."

Ephesians 4:30-5:2

Walk in love, just like Christ.

John 6:41-51

I am the living bread that came down from heaven.

Today we continue hearing Jesus explain to the disciples, the curious, and the skeptical that he is the bread of life, sent from heaven to give his body so that we may have life forever. First we hear Elijah, one of the greatest figures in the centuries before Christ, literally pray for death because of his desperate circumstances. He is saved by an angel of the Lord, who gives him what he needs to sustain him on his journey to God. May we today be nourished by God's word so that we may be sustained on our own journeys.

Dismissal of Catechumens (and Candidates)

Dear friends, today you have been nourished at the table of God's holy word. You will one day share in the nourishment of the table of the Eucharist. We pray that your hunger for the Eucharist is growing day by day, week by week. For now, we send you forth to reflect on God's word. We look forward to the day when you will remain here and share fully at the Lord's table. Now go in peace.

Prayer of the Faithful

God sent food to Elijah to sustain him on his journey and the Bread of Life to all humankind to sustain us on ours. Therefore it is with confidence that we express our needs to the source of our sustenance.

For the Church, that we may always reach out in Christ's name to offer bread to those who hunger, drink to those who thirst, and life to those in despair, let us pray to the Lord.

For those who serve in public office, that guided by the ideals of justice and respect for life, they may uphold the sanctity of all human life, let us pray to the Lord.

For all who are traveling, that they may find their journeys rewarding and may be kept safe until their return home, let us pray to the Lord.

For all who are ill in body, mind, or spirit, that they may experience God's healing touch through the care and treatment they receive from those who have dedicated their time and expertise to the care of others, let us pray to the Lord.

For our parish community, that we may be imitators of God: kind, compassionate, and forgiving of one another, let us pray to the Lord.

For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord.

Loving God,
you looked after your faithful servant, Elijah,
and your only begotten Son
on their journeys to you.
Sustain us on our journeys
so we not lose heart
as you listen to the prayers we make
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Introduction to the Eucharistic Prayer

Christ loved us and handed himself over for us as a sacrificial offering to God. We join our prayer to the Lord Jesus and, in thanksgiving, offer this sacrifice of praise.

Reminders and Suggestions

Texts: Preface III of the Sundays in Ordinary Time or Preface I or II of the Most Holy Eucharist. Solemn Blessing 11, or Prayer over the People 2 or 9.

Catechesis and Communication: Remind the assembly of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which occurs next Sunday.

Initiation: Those directly involved in initiation in the parish might benefit from a visit to that section of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* that deals with the so-called “minor rites.” These rites include Minor Exorcisms, Blessings of the Catechumens, and Anointing of the Catechumens (#81–103). The Rite’s vision is that all meetings of those in the initiation process take place in the context of prayer. These simple yet powerful rites are designed to be celebrated mainly during the formation sessions. They provide wonderful prayers for the initiation leaders and teams to weave into the sessions. Perhaps those involved in the parish’s liturgy could come together in collaboration with the initiation leaders to examine these rites, coming up with suggestions for their celebration. With the exception of the Anointing of Catechumens, a catechist may preside at these rites.

Homily Helps

- In the first reading we hear how God provided food to Elijah at his darkest moment, when he prayed for death. He had fled to the desert because the king’s wife, Jezebel, had called for his execution. The kingdom had just suffered through drought and famine and Elijah was starving and despairing. Nourished by the food God sent, Elijah completed his journey to the mountain of God. In the Gospel, Jesus reveals himself as the bread of life come down from heaven, sent to sustain us on our journey to God.
- Elijah got up at once to eat and drink the food the angel brought, but then he immediately lay down again under the tree. The angel had to return and order him to eat enough to finish his journey. He needed a second nudge in order to go from just having his hunger satisfied to being nourished enough to sustain a lengthy journey. Our journey through life is winding and difficult. The mission we have been given is demanding. We too may need a second nudge to do more than just enable our journey, but to make it into a mission that will lead us to God.
- Our journeys are rarely smooth and easy. The hardships we encounter can be difficult to overcome, especially when we face them with anger and bitterness. We would be wise to heed Paul’s advice to the Ephesians, being kind, compassionate, and forgiving of those who make our lives difficult. “Live in love,” as Paul wrote, so that we can see the good in everyone we encounter (Ephesians 5:2).

Question of the Week

How does receiving Jesus in the Eucharist strengthen me on my journey? When have I needed a second nudge to go on?

Calendar

9	Mon.	Optional Memorial of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein) International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples
10	Tue.	Feast of St. Lawrence
11	Wed.	Memorial of St. Clare
12	Thu.	Optional Memorial of St. Jane Frances de Chantal
13	Fri.	Optional Memorial of Ss. Pontian and Hippolytus
14	Sat.	Memorial of St. Maximilian Kolbe

August 15, 2021

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

These texts need to be adapted by each community of faith.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day

Every so often a solemnity like the Assumption falls on a Sunday, giving more prominence to this special feast of Mary. At the end of her earthly life God drew Mary home, assuming her into heaven where she would reign as queen until the end of time. From the beginning of her life on earth, when she was immaculately conceived, until the end, the Blessed Virgin Mary conformed her life to God's will. Let us look to her as a model as we endeavor to discern God's will for us.

Penitential Act C

Lord Jesus, you have done great things for us: Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, your mercy reaches to every generation: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are prompt in forgiving: Lord, have mercy.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Word

Vigil Mass

#621

*1 Chronicles 15:3-4,
15-16; 16:1-2*

*They brought in the ark of God and set it within the tent
which David had pitched for it.*

Psalms 132

*"Lord, go up to the place of your rest,
you and the ark of your holiness."*

1 Corinthians 15:54b-57

God gave us the victory through Jesus Christ.

Luke 11:27-28

Blessed is the womb that carried you!

Mass during the Day

#622

*Revelation 11:19a;
12:1-6a, 10ab*

*A woman clothed with the sun,
with the moon beneath her feet.*

Psalms 45

*"The queen stands at your right hand,
arrayed in gold."*

1 Corinthians 15:20-27

Christ, the firstfruits; then those who belong to him.

Luke 1:39-56

*The Almighty has done great things for me:
he has raised up the lowly.*

When the angel Gabriel visited the young virgin Mary with the momentous, shocking news that she would be the mother of God's Son, she responded faithfully, "May it be done to me according to your word." When a woman spontaneously praised his mother, Jesus told the crowd, "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it." As we listen to God's word today, let us consider how we assent to God's will and incorporate God's word in our lives.

Dismissal of Catechumens (and Candidates)

Dear friends, in your formation in the Catholic way of life you are learning the important role the Blessed Virgin Mary plays in our spiritual and devotional life. As we celebrate one of her greatest feasts, we urge you to begin to turn to her in your need, asking that she intercede on your behalf with her son, the Lord Jesus. We send you forth now to reflect on the mystery of the Assumption of Mary. We look forward to the day when you will share with us at the Lord's table. Now go in peace.

Prayer of the Faithful

Let us ask the Blessed Virgin Mary, who reigns in heaven for all eternity, to intercede on our behalf before the Lord.

For the Church, that we may continue to grow in holiness as we hear the word of God and observe it, as did Mary, the Mother of God, let us pray to the Lord.

For all those who are lowly and hungry, that they may be lifted up and filled with good things, now and always, let us pray to the Lord.

For women around the world, that they may receive the honor and respect that is due to all children of God, let us pray to the Lord.

For young people, that they may respond generously and willingly if the Lord calls them to ordained or consecrated life, let us pray to the Lord.

That we may each strive to bring Christ into our world, imitating the Blessed Virgin Mary in taking on this responsibility, let us pray to the Lord.

For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord.

Almighty God,
you have blessed us with great things
and holy is your name.
Come to our aid
and grant the needs we bring before you,
through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Introduction to the Eucharistic Prayer

The table of plenty is spread before us. Here we will have a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. Let us offer thanks to God who has done great things for us.

Reminders and Suggestions

Texts: Preface of the Assumption. Solemn Blessing 15, or Prayer over the People 1, 2, 3, or 17.

Catechesis and Communication: Suggest imitating Mary's visit to Elizabeth in her home by visiting the sick at home and in hospitals and nursing homes.

Initiation: Following up on this idea of suggesting visits to the homebound, why not include the parish's catechumens and candidates in this invitation? When the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* was promulgated, much of its core vision was taken from the Second Vatican Council's document *Ad Gentes*. The vision was that the initiation process should follow an apprenticeship model. Catechumens and candidates need to spend time experiencing firsthand the ministries of the parish. To this end, why not invite them to accompany ministers who bring Communion to the sick or who visit shut-ins or nursing homes and long-term care facilities? For additional ideas for including catechumens in the ministries of the parish, consider obtaining a copy of *Apprenticed to Christ: Activities for Practicing the Catholic Way of Life*, published by GIA, available by calling 800 GIA-1358 (442-1358) or at giamusic.com.

Homily Helps

Vigil Mass

- When Jesus hears the woman call out in thanksgiving to his mother, he immediately refocuses her blessing on all those who observe the word of God. The Blessed Virgin Mary carried our Lord in her womb and nursed him at her breast, and those roles were indeed unique. However, we all have the ability to internalize the word of God in our hearts and nurture God's word in the world through what we do and how we do it.

Mass during the Day

- Mary was not the only person the angel Gabriel visited. Six months earlier he was sent to Zechariah, Elizabeth's husband, to whom he announced that she would soon conceive a son as well. He chose not to believe the angel, and as a consequence was rendered mute until God's promise to him and Elizabeth was fulfilled. Mary, however, chose to believe and consent to this unusual and troubling proposal. Though not as dramatic, every day we too make choices to accept or not accept God's will.
- We do not know how Zechariah would have reacted to Mary's visit had he been able to speak, but we know what he said once his son was born and he was able to speak once again: "you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways" (Luke 1:76). It took nine months, but the Holy Spirit moved him as well and he gladly and freely consented to God's will. We all can appreciate second chances.

Either Mass

- Christ has accomplished the victory over sin and death. By baptism, we have been promised a share in this victory, a victory beyond our own ability. This feast celebrates the Blessed Virgin Mary's assumption into heaven, body and soul. Mary has shown us the way. She trusted in God from the start, willingly consented to God's will, became her Son's first disciple, mourned him at the foot of the cross. May her heavenly reward be ours. In Mary's assumption we get a glimpse of the heavenly reward God has planned for all who hold Christ dear in their hearts.

Question of the Week

What would I choose to include in my own Magnificat? For what great things would I praise God?

Calendar

16	Mon.	Optional Memorial of St. Stephen of Hungary Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time begins
19	Thu.	Optional Memorial of St. John Eudes World Humanitarian Day
20	Fri.	Memorial of St. Bernard
21	Sat.	Memorial of St. Pius X

August 22, 2021

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

These texts need to be adapted by each community of faith.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day

Today we hear Joshua ask the tribes of Israel which god they will serve. They had other options, for their neighbors worshiped other gods. We have other options as well. We could choose to serve wealth or status or power or pleasure, allowing something else to lead us and drive us in another direction. But we come here today, along with our families, our friends, our neighbors, as a sign of our commitment to serve the Lord. Let us recommit ourselves to serve God, to follow Christ on our journey through this life to the life promised to us in baptism.

Penitential Act C

Lord Jesus, you are the bread of life: Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you alone have the words of everlasting life:
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the Holy One of God: Lord, have mercy.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Word

#122

*Joshua 24:1–2a,
15–17, 18b*

We will serve the LORD, for he is our God.

Psalms 34

"Taste and see the goodness of the Lord."

*Ephesians 5:21–32
or 5:2a, 25–32*

*This is a great mystery,
regarding Christ and the church.*

John 6:60–69

To whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Today's readings emphasize the need to make a commitment. The tribes of Israel are asked to commit themselves to the god that they choose to serve. Paul speaks about spouses' commitments to their partners as a parallel to the relationship between Christ and the church. Jesus asks the Twelve if they will commit to continue to follow him. As we listen to God's word, let us consider how we would answer each challenge and pray that our commitment to our faith be strengthened.

Dismissal of Catechumens (and Candidates)

Dear friends, we send you forth now to reflect on the word that is Spirit and life. In today's Gospel we heard that many chose not to follow Christ. You have undertaken your journey of faith, your eyes fixed on the Lord Jesus, who is the way to everlasting life. We eagerly anticipate the day when you will join us at his table. Now go in peace.

Prayer of the Faithful

Trusting in the goodness of the Lord, we call to mind our needs and the needs of the world.

For the Church, that together we may nourish it by giving witness to God's grace and cherish it by our devotion to each other on our journeys to God's kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.

For those in positions of authority, that they use their power to put God's mercy into action through the decisions they make and the policies they implement, let us pray to the Lord.

For all who will be returning to school in the coming days and weeks as they begin a new academic year, that they may be filled with curiosity and aspiration, let us pray to the Lord.

For families who are homeless, or living in poverty, or fleeing desperate circumstances, that they may be blessed by the generosity of those who have plenty, let us pray to the Lord.

For a strengthening of our baptismal commitment, so that like the tribes of Israel we will always pledge to serve the Lord and like the Twelve Apostles we will choose to remain always with Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord.

Loving God,
you led your people to the Promised Land
and sent your Son to lead us home to you.
Guide us in your ways as you listen to our needs
and grant them through your Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ.

Introduction to the Eucharistic Prayer

Committed to sharing the bread of life with those who hunger for the Lord, we offer this prayer of thanksgiving.

Reminders and Suggestions

Texts: Preface VIII of the Sundays in Ordinary Time. Prayer over the People 10 or 13.

Liturgy and Life: In many places school is getting back into full swing. Chapter 5 in the *Book of Blessings* is the Order for Blessing Students and Teachers. (Surely the other members of the school staff would be blessed as well, although the text needs some careful editing.)

Homily Helps

- Joshua (a variant of the name *Jesus*) gives his people three options. The gods “beyond the River” (24:15) are their distant ancestors’ gods, from before Abraham and Sarah. Nostalgia would inspire this choice. “The gods of the Amorites” (24:15) are those of their current non-Jewish neighbors. Choosing this option would ease their acceptance as foreigners. But they all choose to remain loyal to the LORD. After all, their God led them out of slavery, gave them hope during their hardships in the desert, and guided them to the Promised Land. By our baptism, God has rescued us from the slavery of sin, given us the hope of eternal life, and guided us along right paths. Alternate paths may be easier or more socially acceptable, but our moral conscience tells us that these are not the values that will lead us to our eternal home.
- Today’s second reading begins with an unfortunate analogy too reflective of its time, but the second half is the point. Christ is the head of the Church. This is why we often call the Church the body of Christ. Like a married couple’s love, which leads one spouse to sacrifice their own desires for the other, Christ’s love for us—the Church—led him to sacrifice himself for our salvation. His body is the living bread that gives us life eternal.
- A little context might help in today’s Gospel, which begins with “This saying is hard; who can accept it?” (John 6:60). What saying? What did we miss? This: Jesus had just told them that he is the living bread and that in order for them to have life they must eat his flesh and drink his blood. Yes, this is much harder to handle than the multiplication of the loaves and fish, which must have seemed like a lifetime ago. Sadly, but unsurprisingly, many of his disciples bailed. But no matter how confused or shocked the Twelve may have been, Peter drills down at once to the essential truth: “You have the words of eternal life” (6:68). Each time we respond *Amen* we affirm our acceptance of Jesus’ challenging words.

Question of the Week

What specific action can I take to show my commitment to remain a disciple of our Lord?

Calendar

23	Mon.	Optional Memorial of St. Rose of Lima
24	Tue.	Feast of St. Bartholomew
25	Wed.	Optional Memorial of St. Louis Optional Memorial of St. Joseph Calasanz
27	Fri.	Memorial of St. Monica
28	Sat.	Memorial of St. Augustine

August 29, 2021

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

These texts need to be adapted by each community of faith.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day

The greatest gift each of us has ever received was the gift of life itself. That gift was given to us most directly by our parents, whose life in turn was given to them by their parents, and so on. But ultimately the author of all life, the giver of every great gift, is God. We come together today in thanksgiving for that precious gift, which led to the gift of eternal life, promised by God's Son to all who follow him.

Penitential Act C

Lord Jesus, you are justice for the poor: Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the word made flesh: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the everlasting Son of the Father: Lord, have mercy.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Word

#125

*Deuteronomy 4:1–2,
6–8*

*You shall not add to what I command you . . .
keep the commandments of the Lord.*

Psalms 15

*"The one who does justice will live
in the presence of the Lord."*

*James 1:17–18,
21b–22, 27*

Be doers of the word.

*Mark 7:1–8, 14–15,
21–23*

*You disregard God's commandments
but cling to human tradition.*

Do we take God's word to heart and act upon it? Moses—about to reveal the commandments—calls on the people to observe God's word carefully and faithfully. In his letter, James asks us to welcome God's word and put it into action. In the Gospel, Jesus warns the scribes and Pharisees that they confuse human tradition with God's commands. Listening to God's word, let us consider how it guides our actions.

Dismissal of Catechumens (and Candidates)

Friends, we send you forth to consider and humbly welcome the word that has been planted within you. Each week you join us around the table of the word, and are fed by God's very presence in that word. We pray with St. James that you will be doers of the word and not hearers only. We eagerly anticipate the day when you will share fully with us at the table of Eucharist. Now go in peace.

Prayer of the Faithful

Saint James tells us that all good giving and every perfect gift come from above, so we call upon God's generosity as we express our needs and the needs of the whole world.

For the Church, that we may be doers of the word, putting our faith into action as we fulfill the mission Christ has left us, let us pray to the Lord.

For leaders of nations, that they may work to end arms sales around the world and bring a just and peaceful world to fruition, let us pray to the Lord.

For all the residents of our country, that they may be given the opportunity and the encouragement to reach their potential, let us pray to the Lord.

That God may purify the hearts of all, driving out what defiles us, protecting those who suffer from greed, malice, theft, and deceit, let us pray to the Lord.

For students, teachers, administrators, and staff at the beginning of a new school year, that their commitment to the vocation of education may be rewarded by an atmosphere of fruitful learning, let us pray to the Lord.

For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord.

God of love and mercy,
you rain down your blessings on us all.
Listen to the prayers we make to you today
and purify our hearts and wills
as you grant our needs
through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Introduction to the Eucharistic Prayer

Let us offer this great prayer of thanksgiving with Christ, who comes to us today in word and sacrament to transform us into his body and blood for the life of the world.

Reminders and Suggestions

Texts: Preface III or VII of the Sundays in Ordinary Time. Solemn Blessing 11, or Prayer over the People 4 or 17.

Initiation: Many initiation “programs” are getting into full swing. A national study on initiation practices by the U.S. bishops shows that in about 85 percent of parishes, the initiation process follows the school year or academic model. This is one example of the way our culture dictates our approach to the spiritual life. God’s grace simply cannot be “calendared.” Initiation leaders are encouraged to examine their programs to see if it would be possible to reshape them into more flexible, year-round processes that would welcome people at any time. What happens when phone calls come in the week after Easter from eager inquirers wishing to learn more about the Catholic faith, expressing intense joy at this new discovery of God in their lives? Is our response something like, “I’ll take your name and number and we’ll call you back in September when our program starts”? If so, we probably need to take a good hard look at our pastoral practice. Did you ever think that perhaps those people may go in a different direction by September? Many parishes have converted academic year “programs” into initiation processes that are able to welcome people at any time. To discover ways to move in this direction, consider *The Spirit at Work* by Michael H. Marchal available at giamusic.com or by calling 800 GIA-1358 (442-1358).

Homily Helps

- Jesus quotes Isaiah when responding to the Pharisees and scribes: “This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me” (Mark 7:6). How do we honor the Lord with our hearts rather than our lips? For Moses, it was by obedience. Obedience to God’s commandments, whole and entire, is what he demanded from the people. Living in accord with God’s commands was possible when one took God’s word to heart. It would then in turn inspire nonbelievers because they would recognize the wisdom and intelligence behind these laws after seeing the justice and well-being of the Chosen People.
- Jesus paints a vivid picture of hypocrisy by quoting Isaiah’s contrast between lips and hearts, between giving lip service and being moved in our hearts to do something. It is not that what we say is unimportant, but it is not nearly as important as our impulses and motivations within our hearts. Jesus lists all sorts of detestable impulses that can come from within our hearts, qualities and behavior that defile our purity much more seriously than failing to purify our hands or our belongings. If your outward cleanliness does not reflect your inner attitude, it has lost its meaning.
- How do we show our gratitude to someone who’s given us something wonderful? We may give them something in return or we can share it with someone else. James tells us that every perfect gift comes from God and in fact God has planted the word of truth in each of us. What should we do with that word of God in us? James is clear: “Be doers of the word and not hearers only” (James 1:22). To thank God for giving us the word, we share it, we put it into action.

Question of the Week

What will I do this week to put God’s word into action? Has God’s word truly penetrated my heart?

Calendar

Sep. 1	Wed.	World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation
3	Fri.	Memorial of St. Gregory the Great First Friday
4	Sat.	Optional Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary First Saturday

September 5, 2021

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

These texts need to be adapted by each community of faith.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day

On this Labor Day weekend, let us take a welcome rest from our labors—be they in a factory or field, store or office, school or home—and appreciate the time we take with the One who promised that his yoke was easy and his burden light. Today let us pray especially for those whose own burden is difficult: those who need to work more than one job to support their families, those who do not receive the gratitude and compensation they deserve for their work, and those who are unemployed or underemployed.

Penitential Act C

Lord Jesus, you are the Holy One of God: Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you make the deaf hear and the mute speak:
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you love the just: Lord, have mercy.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Word

#128

Isaiah 35:4–7a

*The ears of those who are deaf will be cleared;
and the tongue of those who are mute will sing.*

Psalms 146

"Praise the Lord, my soul!"

James 2:1–5

Did not God choose the poor to be heirs of the kingdom?

Mark 7:31–37

He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.

Our God is a transformative God, bringing life to the wasteland and giving hope to people who appeared to be abandoned. Isaiah, the prophet and poet, spoke to a society that equated deficiency with sinfulness, prophesying that God would transform the deaf, the blind, the disabled, and the mute. Jesus does just that in the Gospel. In between, James calls us to change the way we judge strangers we encounter. Listening to today's readings, note the transformations we witness.

Dismissal of Catechumens (and Candidates)

Dear friends, as you go forth from this assembly, we invite you to reflect on the word of God we have heard here today. May the eyes and ears of your hearts be opened to deeper faith in the Lord Jesus. We anticipate the day when you will approach the table of the Eucharist with us. Now go in peace.

Prayer of the Faithful

Confident in God, who brings streams to the desert and springs of water to dry ground, we give voice to our needs and the needs of the world.

For the Church, that we may be a consistent witness to our faith, leading others to realize God's grace through our words and actions, let us pray to the Lord.

For our nation's leaders, that they may look with favor upon the neglected and the needy and work to enact policies that can transform their lives, let us pray to the Lord.

For all who labor, that the work they do may bring purpose to their lives and make a difference in the lives of others, and for those who are looking for work, that their patience and persistence may be rewarded, let us pray to the Lord.

For all whose lives were forever changed twenty years ago on September 11, 2001, and for the thousands of victims who died in the attacks, that they may be at peace, comforted in the heart of God, let us pray to the Lord.

For all of us gathered here in this parish, that we may welcome the stranger and the outsider without partiality, without judgment, without reservations, let us pray to the Lord.

For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord.

God of all,
you bring hope to those without hope,
love to those without love,
life to those without life.
Look with favor on your children
and fulfill our most precious needs
with the hope, love, and life
that only you can bring
through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Introduction to the Eucharistic Prayer

In thanksgiving for healing in times of sickness, and for the gift of reconciliation, we offer this prayer of gratitude and praise.

Reminders and Suggestions

Texts: Preface V or VI of the Sundays in Ordinary Time. Solemn Blessing 12, or Prayer over the People 13 or 17.

Catechesis and Communication: Announce the Mass schedule for Labor Day and encourage Mass attendance. Some proper Mass texts for Labor Day are among the weekday Masses in WLP worship resources.

Liturgy and Life: Saturday marks the twentieth anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. *Pastoral Patterns* always includes a “Service of Prayer for Peace.” (page 69). Consider preparing a service for peace on Saturday evening.

Last month we celebrated the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This week we celebrate the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and next week we will celebrate the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows. *Blessed Art Thou* contains striking images of the Mother of God, created by Brother Michael O’Neill McGrath. Each image is accompanied by an original prayer penned by Fr. Richard Fragomeni. This book is a must for every Catholic family and all who have a devotion to the Blessed Mother. Contact our Customer Service Department at 800 GIA-1358 (442-1358) or visit our website at giamusic.com.

Homily Helps

- Like an angel in the Gospels, whose first words are invariably, “Do not be afraid,” Isaiah begins this passage with the simple words “Fear not!” to all “whose hearts are frightened” (Isaiah 35:4). These are not just idle words. Though this chapter of Isaiah may have been written later than the passages around it, it was placed here in the midst of Israel’s fall and Judah’s capitulation to Assyria. The people of Judah sorely needed words of hope. Often so do we. Amidst the tumult of current events, it is comforting to hear that the LORD’s first message is, “Be strong, fear not!” How much sweeter the words of God’s saving power sound once we’ve been brought back from the edge.
- It is human nature to make judgments about others, though we normally call it keen perception or common sense. It can happen in many ways; a person with “gold rings and fine clothes” (James 2:2) could just as easily be labeled as haughty or selfish. Whether it’s the rich, well-dressed stranger or the poor, shabby one, we may shun both, preferring to keep to our own kind. But once we start down the road of discriminating between acceptable and unacceptable people, it’s a short distance to judging people by their background, class, ethnicity, or just their perceived distance from “people like us.” Jesus accepted all people and set a model for his disciples, then and now.
- It is noteworthy that the first words the man in the Gospel hears, presumably in his entire life, were the words of Jesus. His ears have been opened to hear God’s word and his tongue has been loosened to proclaim God’s grace. The *Ephphetha* rite in the sacrament of baptism recalls this event. By virtue of our baptism we are all this man, touched by God’s grace, made ready to speak God’s word to the world.

Question of the Week

Am I open to hearing God’s word, even from unexpected sources? How do I live out my baptismal call to proclaim God’s word?

Calendar

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|----|------|---|
| 6 | Mon. | Labor Day (U.S. and Canada) |
| 7 | Tue. | Rosh Hashanah 5782 |
| 8 | Wed. | Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary |
| 9 | Thu. | Memorial of St. Peter Claver |
| 11 | Sat. | Optional Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Patriot Day |

September 12, 2021

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

These texts need to be adapted by each community of faith.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day

Often we hear what we want to hear, not what we need to hear. It's only human; even Saint Peter showed this tendency. When Jesus told his disciples that he would suffer and be killed, Peter immediately drew him aside and criticized him. Not only did Jesus rebuke him, he told the crowd that everyone who follows him must suffer as well, must willingly take up their cross. Let us pray for the courage to take up our crosses, comforted with the knowledge that God always accompanies us in our struggles.

Penitential Act C

Lord Jesus, you are the Christ, the anointed one of God: Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the eternal Son of the Father: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, by your cross we have been saved from sin: Lord, have mercy.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Word

#131

Isaiah 50:4c–9a

I gave my back to those who beat me.

Psalms 116

*"I will walk before the Lord,
in the land of the living."*

James 2:14–18

Faith, if it does not have works, is dead.

Mark 8:27–35

You are the Christ . . . the Son of Man must suffer greatly.

Living the disciple's life is not easy. Isaiah is proud to serve the LORD, but it's been difficult. Facing opposition and abuse, he relies on God's help. James preaches that faith obligates us to do good, to actually act on our beliefs. Jesus tells the crowd that whoever follows him must take up his or her cross. Listening to today's readings, let us reflect on how our faith both challenges us to do more and comforts us as we act in the Lord's name.

Dismissal of Catechumens (and Candidates)

Dear friends, today the Lord Jesus asks you the question, "Who do you say that I am?" As you spend time now reflecting on the word of God, ponder that question. You have gradually grown in your relationship with the Lord Jesus. Today you are given the opportunity to ponder who the Lord Jesus is in your own life. Invite the Lord into your heart and pray for wisdom and strength. Know of our prayerful support as you go forth. We anticipate the day when you will remain here to share in the eucharistic banquet. Now go in peace.

Prayer of the Faithful

The Lord God is our help and so we give voice to our needs and the needs of the world, knowing that our cries are heard.

For the Church, that we may always reach out with the necessities of the body to those who have nothing to wear, or no food for the day, or a place to call home, let us pray to the Lord.

For world leaders, that they may lead their people with humility, recognizing the common dignity of all humanity, and establishing and promoting policies that lift up those who are marginalized and forgotten, let us pray to the Lord.

That a change in priorities and interests around the globe may lead to a commitment to heal the planet, bringing transformative effects to our climate and environment, let us pray to the Lord.

For our grandparents, living and deceased, that all they have done for their children and grandchildren may be appreciated and that they may be respected and revered by their loved ones, let us pray to the Lord.

For our parish, that we may welcome strangers and neighbors alike, reaching out to satisfy their physical or spiritual needs, let us pray to the Lord.

For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord.

Loving God,
you sent your only Son to suffer and die for us.
Help us as we follow
in the way of the Cross
as we deny ourselves
and bear our own crosses.
Listen to our prayers
and grant them according to your will
through our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord.

Introduction to the Eucharistic Prayer

In the Eucharistic Prayer, we recall the marvelous deeds God has accomplished throughout history. Let us remember the one act that stands above all others: the saving death of Christ upon the cross. For this great gift we offer praise and thanks.

Reminders and Suggestions

Texts: Preface VII of the Sundays in Ordinary Time. Solemn Blessing 11 or Prayer over the People 5.

Initiation: If the parish has had people inquiring about the faith for a period of time and if these folks are ready to celebrate either the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens (for the unbaptized—*RCIA* 41–74), The Rite of Welcoming the Candidates (for the already baptized but uncatechized—*RCIA* 411–433), or the rite in its combined form (*RCIA* 507–529), this would be a wonderfully appropriate Sunday for this celebration. Since the rites focus heavily on the cross and following in the footsteps of Christ, the scriptures for today are most appropriate.

Homily Helps

- Throughout Old Testament history, God’s name was often invoked to smite the enemy or call for deliverance. But Isaiah does not call upon God to hurt those who beat him or deliver him from his suffering. No, Isaiah calls upon God in solidarity, sure that he is doing the right thing despite the abuse he’s received, confident that he is carrying out God’s will. He does not feel the need to call upon God for help because he knows that God is already on his side, or to put it another way, that he is on God’s side.
- Hearing God can be a double-edged sword. The deaf man whom we heard Jesus heal last week immediately got to hear the praise and wonder of his neighbors. Isaiah, however, who attests that “the Lord GOD opens my ear that I may hear” (50:4), is beaten and spat at by those who do not want to hear his criticism. Peter hears Jesus say he would suffer greatly and be killed, then immediately gets an earful when he rejects Jesus’ shocking prediction. We are blessed to be able to hear the word of God and recognize what God is calling us to do, but there is no guarantee that what we hear will be will welcome or easy. After all, Jesus follows his tongue-lashing of Peter with a warning to everyone: “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me” (Mark 8:34). Openness to God’s voice requires an openness to God’s will.
- But once we accept Jesus’ command, we truly live out our faith. Living out our faith, says James in his letter, means doing something concrete to show it. If we truly believe that all people are made in the image of God and that God’s Son came to save the multitudes, then that faith should drive us to care for our neighbor, especially those in need of material assistance.

Question of the Week

How do I put my faith into action? When do I resist putting my faith into action?

Calendar

12	Sun.	Grandparents Day
13	Mon.	Memorial of St. John Chrysostom
14	Tue.	Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
15	Wed.	Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows
16	Thu.	Memorial of Ss. Cornelius and Cyprian Yom Kippur Independence Day (Mexico)
17	Fri.	Optional Memorial of St. Robert Bellarmine Optional Memorial of St. Hildegard of Bingen
18	Sat.	Optional Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary

September 19, 2021

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

These texts need to be adapted by each community of faith.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day

This time of year is one of transition. The casual rhythms of the summer, often marked by leisure and vacation activities, give way to a new school year and a more rigorous schedule. The Gospel passages from last week and this week hint at a transition for Jesus and his disciples as well. Jesus tells them that soon he will be handed over to authorities who will kill him but that after three days he would rise. The days of traveling around Galilee—far from Jerusalem—are ending. As we anticipate the coming of fall, let us each resolve to carry our own cross through all life's rhythms, reassured by the promise of resurrection.

Penitential Act C

Lord Jesus, you are the Prince of Peace: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you are the Holy One of God: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the way to everlasting life: Lord, have mercy.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Word

#134

Wisdom 2:12, 17–20

Let us condemn him to a shameful death.

Psalms 54

"The Lord upholds my life."

James 3:16–4:3

The fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace.

Mark 9:30–37

*The Son of Man is to be handed over . . .
Whoever wishes to be first will be the servant of all.*

Today's readings can be quite unpleasant. Envious instigators plot revenge against a righteous soul. James explains that greed and envy are at the root of conflict between people. Jesus again warns his disciples that soon he will be handed over to men intent on killing him. But there is a loving Christian response to all this. Listening to today's readings, note the difference selflessness can make.

Dismissal of Catechumens (and Candidates)

Dear friends, as you go forth from this community of faith, we pray that you will embrace the messages contained in today's readings. Learn to know what it means to be a follower of Christ. Learn to place the needs of others above your own. Learn what it means to be humble of heart. Know of our anticipation to share one day with you at the table of the Eucharist. Now go in peace.

Prayer of the Faithful

God calls us together to this holy place, so now we now call upon God to hear our prayers for all those in need.

For our Church, that we may grow in holiness and mercy by God's grace, and that those virtues may be manifested in good fruits to benefit those most in need, let us pray to the Lord.

For world leaders, that they may cultivate peace inside and outside their nations so that the fruit of righteousness blossoms and flourishes throughout their region, let us pray to the Lord.

For our planet, that we may exercise loving care for our common home, protecting it from harm and working to ensure its richness for generations to come, let us pray to the Lord.

For those who have been mistreated or oppressed, that they may receive justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For our children, who are dependent on grownups for care and support, that they may be kept safe and healthy as they learn values of kindness, mercy, and forgiveness, let us pray to the Lord.

For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord.

Gracious God,
your Son called us to be the last of all,
the servant of all.
Help us to be servants to each other,
passing your gifts on to those in need,
for whom we entreat you today,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Introduction to the Eucharistic Prayer

In this great thanksgiving prayer, we remember the death and resurrection of Christ. When he predicted these saving events, his disciples refused to believe him. With hearts brimming, not with refusal, but with belief, let us join ourselves to Christ and pray in spirit and in truth.

Reminders and Suggestions

Texts: Preface II of the Sundays in Ordinary Time, or Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation I. Solemn Blessing 10, 11, or 12, or Prayer over the People 23.

Catechesis and Communication: The Gospel today gives one hallmark of discipleship: hospitality toward children. Inspire parishioners to contribute time, ability, and faith to religious education. Inspire parish households to become the foundation and center of Christian formation. Formation means the sharing of the Catholic way of life, and many people maintain that this life is nurtured first and foremost around the home table.

Today is Catechetical Sunday. A resource packet is available from the Publishing Office of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: 800 235-8722 or usc-publishing.org. The "Order for the Blessing of Those Appointed as Catechists" appears in Chapter 4 and the "Order for the Blessing of Students and Teachers" appears in Chapter 5 of the *Book of Blessings*.

The eight-day Jewish festival of Sukkot begins Monday evening. Sukkot (singular, sukkah) are rickety shacks set up in the fields. Harvesters live in them while "bringing in the sheaves." Elaborately ornamented sukkot built in back yards became symbols of one of the richest and most wonderful of the Jewish festivals.

Homily Helps

- James identifies the ultimate sources of conflict in the very first line of today's passage: jealousy and selfishness. Just look at the other two readings. The instigators in the first reading attack the just one out of jealousy. They say they want to prove that God will take care of him. But they really don't believe that in the first place; they just want to torture and kill him. The disciples in the Gospel selfishly argue among themselves about which one was the greatest. In this way, they've betrayed their own ambition and jealousy.
- Children, like the one Jesus embraced, are totally dependent on grownups. Adults provide them food, clothing, and shelter; security, guidance, and love. In Jesus' time, children, like servants, had no legal rights and no real social status. To be willing to place yourself in that position requires that you excise jealousy, else you would be jealous of all grownups. Jesus promises that doing so brings you not only him, but the One who sent him, the author of life and all that is in it.
- Children can also teach the disciples what it was like to feel free to reveal one's own ignorance. The disciples did not understand Jesus' prediction, but they were afraid to let him know this, so they remained in the dark. Just as children do not fear losing legal rights or social status they do not have, they do not fear losing their reputation. The disciples did, so they chose to misunderstand rather than betray their ignorance. As James put it, they asked wrongly—just to sound knowledgeable, not to really be enlightened.

Question of the Week

What can I do to be received into the kingdom with open arms?

Calendar

19	Sun.	Catechetical Sunday
20	Mon.	Memorial of Ss. Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, Paul Chŏng Ha-sang, and Companions
21	Tue.	Feast of St. Matthew Sukkot (sundown Sept. 20–sundown Sept. 27) International Day of Peace
22	Wed.	Autumn begins
23	Thu.	Memorial of St. Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)
25	Sat.	Optional Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary

September 26, 2021

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

These texts need to be adapted by each community of faith.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day

We gather together today to listen to God's word and to share in the Eucharist. In today's first reading we hear the story of two of Moses's friends, Eldad and Medad, who missed the gathering when the LORD bestowed the spirit of prophesy on all the elders. Yet the spirit of the Lord came to rest on them as well. Let us keep in mind all those who are not with us today, for whatever reason, and pray that the Holy Spirit may bear fruit in them as well as all of us.

Penitential Act C

Lord Jesus, your word is truth, sharper than any two-edged sword:
Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you are the way that leads us to salvation:
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you call us away from sin and into new life with you:
Lord, have mercy.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Word

#137

Numbers 11:25–29

Are you jealous for my sake?

Would that all the people of the LORD were prophets!

Psalms 19

"The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart."

James 5:1–6

Your wealth has rotted away.

*Mark 9:38–43,
45, 47–48*

Whoever is not against us is for us.

If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off.

Joshua stands ready to condemn those who prophesy without God's authority, but Moses praises God's generous gift of the spirit, no matter on whom it might come to rest. Jesus similarly tells John that anyone doing mighty deeds in his name should be welcomed. May the Holy Spirit, bestowed on us in baptism, lead us to speak and do great things.

Dismissal of Catechumens (and Candidates)

Dear friends, today's readings serve as a reminder that each and every one of us, whether we are being formed for the first time in the Christian way of life or have been struggling to live this life for decades, is called to reexamine our priorities constantly on our faith journey. As we send you forth from this place, we pray that today's word will inspire you to deeper conversion. As we keep you in prayer, we ask that you also pray for us, for we are all companions on this journey. Know of our eagerness to share one day the great gift of the Eucharist with you. Now go in peace.

Prayer of the Faithful

We imagine a better world and ask for God's grace in bringing it to reality, knowing that God's generosity exceeds even our imaginations.

For the Church, that we may have the courage to shine a light on our own faults and failings, excising what causes us to sin, let us pray to the Lord.

For our nation, that we may always strive to live up to our ideals, taking special care of those without political or economic power and working for the common good, let us pray to the Lord.

That the cries of those whose labor contributes to the wealth of society—but whose wages do not reflect that—may be heard so that all workers receive a just wage that allows them to live decently, let us pray to the Lord.

For an increase of the blessings of humility and self-sacrifice among all people, so that we may be increasingly willing to assist those in need, let us pray to the Lord.

For all the priests who have ministered faithfully and honorably throughout our lives and the life of this parish, that they may know our appreciation on this Priesthood Sunday, let us pray to the Lord.

For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord.

God of all blessings,
send down your spirit on us always
to strengthen our faith and increase our humility.
Give us the wisdom
to see your hand in the goodness that comes
into our lives,
into our world,
and into our future,
as you answer these prayers we make
through Jesus Christ our Lord

Introduction to the Eucharistic Prayer

We are now ready to offer this great prayer of thanksgiving. The healing, reconciling love of God will be made present to us. Let us offer this prayer, seeking strength and courage.

Reminders and Suggestions

Texts: Preface VI of the Sundays in Ordinary Time. Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation II. Solemn Blessing 10, or Prayer over the People 4, 10, or 17.

Catechesis and Communication: Some parishes employ the weekend closest to the Memorial of St. Vincent de Paul to give an annual report detailing the successes and challenges of the parish's various programs of outreach.

Initiation: Consider inviting members of your parish's St. Vincent de Paul Society (or other charity and justice ministries) to speak with your catechumens and candidates about the Church's outreach to the poor. Perhaps this may be a welcome opportunity to have the catechumens and candidates sign up for a justice project themselves.

Homily Helps

- It is much easier—and more enjoyable—to judge others rather than ourselves. Two esteemed figures from scripture demonstrate this phenomenon. Joshua, Moses's second-in-command, and John, Jesus' beloved disciple, each were quick to point fingers at folks whom they judged unfit. Moses, stop Eldad and Medad! They didn't bother to attend the orientation. Jesus, stop that guy! He's just a copycat. Joshua and John each had to be instructed that they should look for God's grace in the results before making judgments. Additionally, they—and we—should look at our own features and judge them by what they lead us to do. If they lead us to sin, not virtue, they must go.

- "Whose side are you on?" is a common refrain in relationships, politics, and society. We disagree with each other and then we divide ourselves by where we stand on issues, by whom we want to associate with. Jesus strove to bridge those divides. The Church has not grown through exclusivity or competition. Recall, Moses opined, "Would that the LORD might bestow his spirit on them all!" (Numbers 11:29). Well, that's exactly what happened. The Holy Spirit animates and sanctifies all creation, bringing us into a unity that supersedes whatever divisions we have created. Disagreement need not lead to division.

- No doubt Jesus did not want people literally cutting off their hands or feet, even though those were two of the examples he used. But like a malignant tumor in one part of the body, sometimes major surgery is required. For most of us, that surgery would involve an important part of our self. It may be our personality or our drive or our temperament or our attitudes, all of which could be healthy in others but which have grown malignant in us.

Question of the Week

What aspect of my selfhood leads me to sin? What must I do to remove that aspect?

Calendar

26	Sun.	Priesthood Sunday
27	Mon.	Memorial of St. Vincent de Paul Last Day of Sukkot
28	Tue.	Optional Memorial of St. Wenceslaus Optional Memorial of St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions
29	Wed.	Feast of Ss. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael
30	Thu.	Memorial of St. Jerome
Oct. 1	Fri.	Memorial of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus First Friday
2	Sat.	Memorial of the Holy Guardian Angels First Saturday

October 3, 2021

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

These texts need to be adapted by each community of faith.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day

The Holy Spirit draws us each Sunday to this holy place. We gather together as the body of Christ to celebrate the Eucharist. We pray that we may be made worthy of the call we received in baptism to witness to God's saving power in what we say and what we do. As we hear from the author of Hebrews today, we have been consecrated in the Lord, and in fact have been made the Lord's brothers and sisters. Let us raise our voices in song and prayer as sisters and brothers of our Savior.

Penitential Act C

Lord Jesus, you bring peace and pardon to the sinner: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you give us the gift of the Spirit to strengthen us on our Christian journey: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you call us to faithful love: Lord, have mercy.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Word

#140

Genesis 2:18–24

The two of them become one flesh.

Psalm 128

"May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives."

Hebrews 2:9–11

He who consecrates and those who are being consecrated all have one origin.

*Mark 10:2–16
or 10:2–12*

*Therefore what God has joined together,
let no human being separate.*

Today we travel back in time to when God created humankind. Realizing that the first human needed a suitable partner, God formed a woman out of the man's own body. In the Gospel, Jesus quotes the line that ends the first reading—that husband and wife are formed as one flesh—to speak of this new entity. He follows this lesson by welcoming children, telling the disciples that one must accept the kingdom of God like a child. Listening to scripture today, let us embrace the innocence and wonder of a new being.

Dismissal of Catechumens (and Candidates)

Friends, today we have shared a Gospel message that challenges many of society's commonly held notions about marriage. No doubt, throughout your journey of conversion, you have begun to reevaluate some of the behaviors and attitudes espoused by our culture. Know of our prayerful support as you continue to align your lives with the gospel of Christ. As you go forth to reflect on God's word, we pledge our continued prayer and express once again our eagerness to share with you at the eucharistic table. Now go in peace.

Prayer of the Faithful

If we love one another, God remains in us. Out of love for one another we make these prayers, that through our love, God's love may be brought to perfection.

For the Church, that we, the bride of Christ, may be a living sign of his self-sacrificial love through our selfless commitment to care for our neighbor, let us pray to the Lord.

That our nation's leaders may truly value the welfare of all its people, working constantly to fight injustice, poverty, and conflict, let us pray to the Lord.

That God may strengthen our relationships with those whom we love, so that we may more closely reflect God's love for humanity, let us pray to the Lord.

For all human life, especially for those who are most vulnerable, that we may witness to its importance through our love and care for those whose lives are not universally respected, let us pray to the Lord.

For those who are living in difficult relationships, those whose marriage is the source of anguish and hurt, let us pray to the Lord.

For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord.

Creator of all,
you have formed us into one family,
connected as sisters and brothers,
descended from one flesh.
Help us to realize this
and treat each other with love and care
as we make these prayers
for ourselves and our world
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Introduction to the Eucharistic Prayer

United as God's cherished children, let us offer this great prayer of thanksgiving.

Reminders and Suggestions

Texts: Preface V of the Sundays in Ordinary Time or any of the three prefaces for marriage. Solemn Blessing 11, or the Solemn Blessing from the Ritual Mass for the Celebration of Marriage C, or Prayer over the People 13.

Context: Today is Respect Life Sunday, sponsored by the Bishops' Committee for Pro-Life Activities. The observance emphasizes concern for all human life, especially that of the unborn, the elderly, persons with disabilities, the terminally ill, and others whose lives are easily threatened. The United States Catholic Bishops have an excellent information page on their website: usccb.org/prolife.

Initiation: Catechumens and candidates in the parish's initiation process should be formed in the Church's stance of respect for life. Initiation leaders would do well to connect them with the parish's Respect Life leaders.

Catechesis and Communication: The Memorial of St. Francis of Assisi is celebrated on Monday of this week and is a customary day to bless animals. WLP's *Prayer Services for Parish Life* includes an order for the Blessing of Pets. This book includes a CD-ROM containing the leader's texts as well as downloadable worship sheets for the assembly. Visit our website at giamusic.com for more information.

Homily Helps

- In today's passage from Genesis—the second story of creation—the first woman is created out of a combination of the human and the divine. She is created from the rib of the first human and built up by the LORD God. Many generations later, Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit (the divine) and born of the Blessed Virgin Mary (the human). The church, upon whom Jesus sent the Holy Spirit, is the bride of Christ, the human joined to the divine. Jesus speaks to the Pharisees about a husband and wife, but let us apply this lesson to Jesus and the Church. "What God has joined together, no human being must separate" (Mark 10:9).
- God can be found in relationships, in the kind and selfless love that we express with those with whom we are closest. It is found in relationships between wife and husband, between parent and child, between two close friends. When we sacrifice our own needs and desires for the needs and desires of another, we mirror Jesus' mission to us. Like Jesus lowering himself to wash his disciples' feet at the Last Supper, we marry the divine and the human when we lower our own needs below the needs of those we love.
- Human nature is imperfect, and so are human relationships. Marriages can become painful and traumatic, often because one partner neglects or even hurts the other when they no longer care for the other's needs. Children can become uncared for and even unloved, which is especially tragic since they have so many needs. May our awareness that we all stand in need of God's love and care make us sensitive to others' needs.

Question of the Week

What can I do to put the needs of those I love, of those who depend on me, above my own needs this week?

Calendar

- | | | |
|---|------|---|
| 3 | Sun. | Respect Life Sunday |
| 4 | Mon. | Memorial of St. Francis of Assisi |
| 5 | Tue. | Optional Memorial of St. Faustina Kowalska
Optional Memorial of Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos |
| 6 | Wed. | Optional Memorial of St. Bruno
Optional Memorial of Bl. Marie Rose Durocher |
| 7 | Thu. | Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary |
| 9 | Sat. | Optional Memorial of St. Denis and Companions
Optional Memorial of St. John Leonardi
Optional Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary |

October 10, 2021

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

These texts need to be adapted by each community of faith.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day

Living as a disciple is a daunting task. Jesus challenges us and the way we live our lives. In today's Gospel, Jesus explains that keeping the commandments is not enough to inherit eternal life; a disciple must give what they have to the poor and follow him. The man who asked the question walked away sad. Even his disciples couldn't believe how difficult it was to get to heaven. Only then did Jesus comfort them. Though we cannot save ourselves, with God all things are possible. Let us give thanks to God today for enabling us to achieve what we cannot do ourselves.

Penitential Act C

Lord Jesus, your word is living and effective: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, your word penetrates the soul: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, your word judges the thoughts of the heart:

Lord, have mercy.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Word

#143

Wisdom 7:7–11

I deemed riches nothing in comparison to wisdom.

Psalms 90

"Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!"

Hebrews 4:12–13

The word of God discerns reflections and thoughts of the heart.

*Mark 10:17–30
or 10:17–27*

Sell what you have, and follow me.

The author of Wisdom, having been given the spirit of wisdom, rhapsodizes on the greatness of this gift, better than riches, power, and even well-being, which are all transitory. In Hebrews we hear God's word described as a double-edged sword, ready to penetrate our very being. Jesus' words do so in the Gospel: "Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." Let us allow God's word to penetrate our hearts.

Dismissal of Catechumens (and Candidates)

Dear friends, each week you are sent forth by this community to reflect on God's word. Today we are told that that word is living and effective, able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart. We pray that God's word will continue to be planted deep within your heart, leading you along the road to conversion. Just as the rich young man approached Jesus, we pray that you approach the Lord with your joys and sorrows, your accomplishments and disappointments. As you go forth from this place, be assured of our eagerness to share with you at the table of the Eucharist. Now go in peace.

Prayer of the Faithful

Jesus taught his disciples that all things are possible with God and so we dare to call upon the Lord with needs that may seem impossible to us.

For the Church, that the spirit of wisdom may take root in us, emboldening us to give what we have to the poor for the sake of the gospel, enabling us to more closely follow Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

That the commandments that God gave us may guide all nations in the way they treat their people and their neighbors, respecting life, honesty, and goodness, let us pray to the Lord.

For descendants of indigenous peoples in this country and around the world, that their heritage may be treasured and valued and they be treated with respect and dignity, let us pray to the Lord.

For those who undergo persecution for the sake of the gospel, that Jesus' promise of a hundredfold reward may give them courage and comfort, let us pray to the Lord.

That the word of God may penetrate our very being, burrowing between our joints and marrow, so that we may live in accordance with the gospel each and every day, let us pray to the Lord.

For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord.

All-powerful God,
your Son taught us
that all things are possible for you.
May that assurance
give us the confidence to face our trials,
follow the gospel,
and transform our lives
as we appeal to you with our needs,
through Christ our Risen Lord.

Introduction to the Eucharistic Prayer

These gifts of bread and wine will soon be transformed into the life-giving body and blood of Christ. As we offer this great prayer of thanksgiving, let us pray that we too will be transformed and become Christ for the world.

Reminders and Suggestions

Texts: Preface V of the Sundays in Ordinary Time. Solemn Blessing 11 or 13, or Prayer over the People 9.

Homily Helps

- Jesus asks the eager inquirer in today's Gospel to do two things to inherit eternal life. One is already habit, but the other requires a complete transformation. One is straightforward, but the other seems impossible. The first requires keeping the commandments. He eagerly tells Jesus that he has done this since he was a kid. The second requires him to "Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor . . . then come, follow me" (Mark 10:21). This leads him to go the other way, back home again. He is not willing to leave his lifestyle behind or pay the price Jesus requires. He preferred what he already had to what he could have had. Any change requires letting go of something. A transformation demands a radical abandonment of part of the past. To follow Jesus is the greatest treasure of all, but it is easier to choose the treasures we already have.

- Before asking him to make this radical transformation, Mark tells us that "Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said . . ." (10:21). The phrase *loved him* consists of only two words in this rather lengthy Gospel passage, but Mark thought these two words significant enough to include them. It is not a stretch to include them in what Jesus asks of us. We know the commandments and have tried to keep them for a long time. So before asking any of us to render the cost of following him, Jesus assures us that he loves us.

- Even the disciples, who had indeed left their families, homes, and possessions behind to follow the Lord, couldn't fathom that anyone could possibly inherit eternal life. Jesus acknowledges that it is impossible for any of us to do it on our own. But it is not a matter of *doing* but in *being*: being a disciple. With God all things are possible. God is the doer. God offers to do it for us as well. We are called to be open to it, to be disciples. We pray that God's living word penetrate our hearts, opening them up to a transformation, readying us for God's saving grace.

Question of the Week

What am I willing to leave behind in order to follow Jesus more fully?

Calendar

11	Mon.	Optional Memorial of St. John XXIII Columbus Day (observed) Indigenous Peoples' Day Thanksgiving Day (Canada)
14	Thu.	Optional Memorial of St. Callistus I
15	Fri.	Memorial of St. Teresa of Jesus National Boss's Day
16	Sat.	Optional Memorial of St. Hedwig Optional Memorial of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Optional Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary

October 17, 2021

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

These texts need to be adapted by each community of faith.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day

Today we hear Jesus ask James and John, “What do you wish me to do for you?” Their response betrays their self-centeredness. We ought to remind ourselves that what Jesus has already done for us exceeds all we could possibly ask. Rather than following the example of these two disciples, let us look to the author of Hebrews, who called us to approach Jesus to receive mercy and to find grace. Let us do so as we receive him in the Eucharist.

Penitential Act C

Lord Jesus, you are the great high priest who has passed through the heavens: Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the Son of God who has given his life as a ransom for many: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are seated at the right hand of God, interceding on our behalf: Lord, have mercy.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Word

#146

Isaiah 53:10–11

*If he gives his life as an offering for sin,
he shall see his descendants in a long life.*

Psalms 33

*“Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.”*

Hebrews 4:14–16

Let us confidently approach the throne of grace.

*Mark 10:35–45
or 10:42–45*

The Son of Man came to give his life as a ransom for many.

Today’s readings, with their focus on Jesus’ ultimate sacrifice, recall the readings of Holy Week. Today’s passage from Isaiah is part of the longer passage we hear on Good Friday, describing the Suffering Servant, whose voluntary suffering atones for the sins of many. Today’s Gospel foreshadows Holy Thursday’s Gospel, with Jesus telling his disciples that he came to serve, not to be served. As the author of Hebrews says, let us look to Jesus for timely help.

Dismissal of Catechumens (and Candidates)

Dear friends, for the past several weeks, you have been listening to the living word of God, which has asked much of all of us. Today the Lord Jesus asks that whoever among us wishes to be first should become the servant of all. In a society where being in first place is espoused as a great value, this teaching seems difficult to embrace. We pray that, as you reflect on today’s word, you will be strengthened in your resolve to become servants of others, especially the poor. We eagerly await the day when you will share fully with us at the table of the Eucharist. Now go in peace.

Prayer of the Faithful

Assured that we can approach the throne of grace for timely help, we call upon the Lord to hear our prayers and respond with grace and mercy.

That the Church throughout the world may find comfort in knowing that Jesus has been tested in every way and now accompanies us throughout our trials and hardships, let us pray to the Lord.

For leaders around the world, that they may embrace their mission to serve others, especially those who have been neglected by society, giving them respect, dignity, and hope, let us pray to the Lord.

For an end to war and terrorism, that conflict and differences may be resolved by peaceful means, let us pray to the Lord.

For those for whom every day is a burden due to illness, abuse, poverty, or other trauma, that they may be served by those who can make a difference in their lives, showing them a way through their pain and suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

For all of us, that we may heed the call to serve others in whatever capacity we are able to, let us pray to the Lord.

For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord.

Gracious and merciful God,
you sent your Son
not to be served but to serve.
Inspire in us that spirit of service
so that we can be Christ for our neighbor
and see your will accomplished
through the work of our hands.
We ask this and all our prayers in his name,
who is our Lord for ever and ever.

Introduction to the Eucharistic Prayer

We have been called to follow the Lord Jesus. Like the disciples, we often stumble on the way, seeking to serve ourselves rather than others. As we offer this great prayer of thanksgiving, let us pray that we will become more and more like Christ, who is our way to the Father.

Reminders and Suggestions

Texts: Preface I, IV, and VII of the Sundays in Ordinary Time. Solemn Blessing 10 or 11, or Prayer over the People 13.

Homily Helps

- Not only did Isaiah write centuries before the birth of Jesus, he also wrote centuries before the promise of resurrection. Yet in the course of the three sentences we hear today, he appears to foresee both. The Suffering Servant, the subject of a number of his poems, is a wonderful characterization of our Lord. Like Jesus, he offered his life to save us from our sins. He bore the guilt of humanity, lived his life to serve others, and his suffering saved many. But when Isaiah says that though the Suffering Servant gave up his own life he can still see his descendants, he suggests a life beyond the tragic one he embraced. Though his days were dark, filled with affliction and suffering, "he shall see the light in fullness of days" (53:11). May we, no matter how dark our suffering, see the light of a life beyond all human understanding.

- Mark calls them, casually, "James and John, the sons of Zebedee" (10:35), but we call them, formally, "Saint James, Apostle" and "Saint John, Apostle." As saints, we take it on faith that they are in heaven, in the presence of God. As two of the original apostles, if we were to imagine their place in heaven, we could certainly imagine them close to the "throne of grace" (Hebrews 4:16). Yet Jesus' response to them, his words to all the disciples, and pretty much everything he ever said, all imply that this is the last place where they would be. They misunderstood *glory* in the same way many misunderstood *kingdom*. The glory these future saints imagined is not one of recognition for their status, for in the kingdom, just to be in the eternal presence of God is glorious.

- To be a disciple means being a servant of all, serving our neighbor to the extent that we can. This is our mission. We can do this through works of charity, both far-reaching and close to home. We can do this by continually looking for what we can do for others. Perhaps our common refrain as a disciple should be, "What can I do?" This attitude of service makes us true disciples.

Question of the Week

What can I do this week to put myself selflessly at the service of others?

Calendar

18	Mon.	Feast of St. Luke
19	Tue.	Memorial of Ss. John de Brébeuf, Isaac Jogues, and Companions
20	Wed.	Optional Memorial of St. Paul of the Cross
22	Fri.	Optional Memorial of St. John Paul II
23	Sat.	Optional Memorial of St. John of Capistrano Optional Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary

October 24, 2021

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

These texts need to be adapted by each community of faith.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day

Today is World Mission Sunday, when we focus on the mission of the Church, which is to bring the Good News to the whole world. When we think of missionaries, we think of men and women who have dedicated their lives to bringing the gospel to people in Third World countries. But we are all missionaries, witnessing by our own lives to the good news we have come to know in the Lord. Let us recommit ourselves to that mission as we celebrate the Eucharist.

Penitential Act C

Lord Jesus, you are the great high priest: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you heal the sick and bring pardon to sinners:

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the Son of David who bestows mercy on us:

Lord, have mercy.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Word

#149

Jeremiah 31:7-9

*The blind and the lame I will bring back:
I will console them.*

Psalms 126

*"The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy."*

Hebrews 5:1-6

*You are a priest forever
according to the order of Melchizedek.*

Mark 10:46-52

Master, I want to see.

Whereas last Sunday the readings focused on the trials and sufferings of our Lord and the service to which we are all called, today's readings celebrate the joy that our faith in God brings. Jeremiah tells how God will gather the Chosen People from the ends of the earth. Hebrews reminds us that God calls all who lead the church, and in fact sent the great high priest, Jesus Christ, into the world. In the Gospel, Jesus heals blind Bartimaeus, who leaves his former way of life behind to follow Jesus. May we be blessed with his courage.

Dismissal of Catechumens (and Candidates)

Dear friends, perhaps in your spiritual journey you too have felt like Bartimaeus, the blind man in today's Gospel. We all have moments in our lives when we want to cry out to the Lord: "Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me." This is a natural inclination on the part of all of us, for we are all sinners. As you go forth to reflect on the word we have shared today, we pray that you will learn to turn more readily to the Lord Jesus in your time of need. We anticipate with you the day when you will approach the table of the Eucharist, where healing and reconciliation abound. Now go in peace.

Prayer of the Faithful

The Lord has done great things for us and so we look to God now to satisfy our needs and the needs of the world.

For the Church, that we all may be imbued with true missionary spirit, and be given the courage to proclaim the good news in what we say and what we do, near and far, to the neighbor we know and the neighbor we haven't yet met, let us pray to the Lord.

For leaders around the world, that they may be committed to the pursuit of justice for all peoples, especially those who are persecuted for their faith, culture, or background, let us pray to the Lord.

That we may transform the wasteland of discord, selfishness, and lies to meadows of peace, generosity, and truth, let us pray to the Lord.

For missionaries, who dedicate their lives to bringing Christ's message and love to people all around the world, let us pray to the Lord.

That we will follow the example of Jesus, responding to the cries of those in need, let us pray to the Lord.

For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord.

God of all,
you embrace us in your loving care
and satisfy our most fervent needs.
In your everlasting mercy
listen to our cries
and the cries of our sisters and brothers
through your Son Jesus Christ,
our Lord for ever and ever.

Introduction to the Eucharistic Prayer

In this great prayer of thanksgiving, God offers us the way of his light and love. All we need do is become like Bartimaeus and call out to the Lord for mercy. In offering this prayer, may we discover the light of Christ and share it with others.

Reminders and Suggestions

Texts: Preface I of the Sundays in Ordinary Time. Solemn Blessing 13 or Prayer over the People 5 or 17.

Catechesis and Communication: World Mission Sunday is a Church celebration on which funds are collected to be distributed by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Materials are available from the National Office, The Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 70 West 36th Street, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10018; 212 563-8700. The society has an informative website, filled with useful information about the Church's missionary efforts worldwide: propofaith.net.

Initiation: Are there religious congregations in your area whose charisms include missionary work? Consider inviting a missionary to a session with your catechumens and candidates.

Homily Helps

- The Israelites “departed in tears” (Jeremiah 31:9), but the LORD brought them back in joy. In the psalm, “they go forth weeping,” but “come back rejoicing” (Psalm 126:6). Blind Bartimaeus went to the roadside seeking pity but left sighted with Jesus. Into times of pain and suffering our transformative God brings hope and joy. But the latter can't happen without the former.
- Two weeks ago we heard a rich man ask Jesus how he could inherit eternal life. Jesus told him that he must sell all he has and follow him. He declined. He walked away. Today we hear a blind man ask Jesus to give him the ability to see. A beggar, he has already thrown away his only possession: a cloak, which would have held all the coins he collected. Jesus tells him to go on his way, but instead he follows Jesus on the Way. Both men have faith in God and look to Jesus for help, but the prosperous man is unwilling to leave what he already has. His wealth weighs him down. The poor man immediately sacrifices what little he has to follow Jesus. His poverty had set him free.
- A contrast can be made with last Sunday's Gospel as well. Jesus asks virtually the same question to Bartimaeus (son of Timaeus) that he asked James and John (sons of Zebedee) a few verses before: “What do you wish/want me to do for you?” (Mark 10:36, 51). The apostles, not seeing what they were asking for, ask for glory, something Jesus is neither able nor willing to give; the blind man, seeing who Jesus truly is, asks to be made whole, exactly what Jesus can and will give. One last contrast: Bartimaeus's physical sight was impaired, but his spiritual sight was clear. Even before Jesus cured him he threw away his cloak—essential for his occupation—and immediately after he was cured he followed Jesus on the way.

Question of the Week

What aspect of my life needs healing? What do I want Jesus to do for me?

Calendar

24	Sun.	World Mission Sunday United Nations Day
28	Thu.	Feast of Ss. Simon and Jude
30	Sat.	Optional Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary

October 31, 2021

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

These texts need to be adapted by each community of faith.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day

Tomorrow we celebrate the solemnity of All Saints, when we recognize those many men and women who we believe have gained the eternal reward and are forever in the presence of God. Today we hear Jesus tell a scribe, "You are not far from the kingdom of God," suggesting that this anonymous functionary was close to being a saint. To be a saint should be our goal, so let us listen to the Gospel and pray that we take Jesus' words to heart and put them into action.

Penitential Act C

Lord Jesus, you are the Lord of love and compassion: Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you offered yourself as a sacrifice to save us from sin:

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, your love reaches into the depths of our hearts:

Lord, have mercy.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Word

#152

Deuteronomy 6:2–6

Hear, O Israel!

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart.

Psalms 18

"I love you, Lord, my strength."

Hebrews 7:23–28

*Because he remains forever,
he has a priesthood that does not pass away.*

Mark 12:28b–34

Love the Lord your God. Love your neighbor.

Moses knew the power of God, since it flowed through him as he led the Chosen People out of captivity and toward a land flowing with milk and honey. Therefore, he enthusiastically exhorted his people to love God with all their heart, soul, and strength. Jesus repeats this directive in the Gospel, adding its complement: love your neighbor as yourself. Let us embrace these commandments as the foundation of our life.

Dismissal of Catechumens (and Candidates)

Friends, throughout your journey of faith you have come to recognize that God loves you with an everlasting love. You, in turn, have responded by learning to love God with your whole heart, with all your understanding, and all your strength. Rooted in God's love, you have learned to love your neighbor as yourself. Be assured of our support as you continue to grow in God's love. As you go forth now to reflect on the word of God, know of our eagerness to have you remain here one day to share in the celebration of the Eucharist. Now go in peace.

Prayer of the Faithful

Our Lord, whose generosity knows no bounds, invites us to a land flowing with milk and honey and ultimately to a kingdom of eternal life with God, so we eagerly bring forth our prayers and those of our neighbor.

For the Church, that through what we say and do we may show how we love God with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind, and all our strength, and love our neighbor as ourselves, let us pray to the Lord.

For leaders in government, labor, and business, that they may work together to build a world in which all people may grow and prosper in justice and peace for generations to come, let us pray to the Lord.

For an end to wars, terrorism, and conflicts caused by religious beliefs and religious differences, that all people may find a way to love their neighbor, let us pray to the Lord.

For all who have dedicated their lives to serving those without material wealth, those who serve in shelters and soup kitchens, those who work with people who are homeless, long-term unemployed, and impoverished, let us pray to the Lord.

That children and families may enjoy a safe Halloween holiday, let us pray to the Lord.

For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord God,
soften our hearts,
allowing them to be molded
around the love you call us to carry
for you, for our neighbor, for ourselves.
Hear this plea
and all our cries to you
through your Son,
our teacher and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Introduction to the Eucharistic Prayer

God has given us his Son Jesus to show us the way of love. In the spirit of that same love, we offer praise and thanksgiving. This great prayer gives us the opportunity to thank God for every good gift. With hearts open to receiving the Lord, let us offer thanks.

Reminders and Suggestions

Texts: Preface I, II, or V of the Sundays in Ordinary Time. Solemn Blessing 10 or 11, or Prayer over the People 2, 5, or 13.

Liturgy and Life: The Solemnity of All Saints is celebrated on Monday. After a month-long blitz in preparation for Halloween, something's decidedly off-kilter if All Saints and All Souls are anything but vibrant days of celebration in the parish and parish school. Perhaps the parish school and those entrusted with religious education can treat October as something other than a month-long observance of Halloween, which is what the card stores do but makes no sense in a Catholic school. Instead, energy (and some appropriate Halloween imagery) can go into the keeping of early November.

Catechesis and Communication: If a parish doesn't know its dedication anniversary or if the anniversary falls at an inappropriate time for celebration (such as Lent), the Sunday before All Saints Day may be observed every year as the solemnity of the anniversary of the dedication (*General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar*, 3818). Use the prayer texts for the Anniversary of the Dedication of a Church.

Remind the people that the clock "falls back" one hour next Saturday night.

Homily Helps

- The passage from Deuteronomy we hear today provides a bit of the context for the original formulation of what becomes "the first of all the commandments" (Mark 12:28). Unlike Jesus, Moses is not responding to a question. Moses is wrapping up his presentation of the terms of the covenant between God and the Chosen People. After detailing the ten commandments the Lord gave him on the mountain, Moses tries to impress upon the people the importance of their fidelity to this covenant. Fidelity demands an absolute faithfulness. The emphasis is not so much on *heart*, *soul*, and *strength* as separate entities, but on the repeated word *all*. Fidelity requires a commitment from their whole being.
- The scenes prior to this one shine some light on the way the scribe questioned Jesus in this passage. First, a Pharisee, trying to trap him, asked him about paying the census tax to Caesar. Then, a Sadducee, using the conundrum of a woman widowed by seven brothers to deride the idea of resurrection. Each of them addressed Jesus as "teacher," but hypocritically. This scribe used the title with respect. Like many others, he saw Jesus as a teacher, a rabbi. Jesus here quotes Moses, the preeminent teacher of the covenant and the law, placing himself firmly in that tradition. The remaining authorities present, seeing Jesus' success in responding to both sincere and insincere questions, chose to ask this true teacher no more questions.
- The reading of Hebrews reminds us that Jesus was much more than a teacher, more than a successor of Moses. Because he made the ultimate sacrifice and sits at God's right hand for eternity, he is always able to intercede for us to God. Continual fidelity to the greatest commandments is a challenge, even with the best of intentions, but Jesus' sacrifice for all forever can "save those who approach God through him" (Hebrews 7:25).

Question of the Week

Do I think Jesus would tell me that I am "not far from the kingdom of God?" What should I do to become closer?

Calendar

31	Sun.	Halloween
Nov. 1	Mon.	Solemnity of All Saints (not a holy day of obligation this year)
2	Tue.	Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day) Election Day
3	Wed.	Optional Memorial of St. Martin de Porres
4	Thu.	Memorial of St. Charles Borromeo
5	Fri.	First Friday
6	Sat.	Optional Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary First Saturday
7	Sun.	Daylight Saving Time ends: Set clocks back 1 hour

November 1, 2021 Solemnity of All Saints

These texts need to be adapted by each community of faith.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day

Role models guide us as we live our lives. They may be family members showing us the way to be better parents or siblings; mentors in our profession, helping us improve in our field; or personal heroes, whose example make us better human beings. Saints are role models that make us better Christians, holy women and men who help us better live out our common mission. Furthermore, because they are eternally in God's presence, they intercede for us before God. Let us pray today to the saints, to whom we look for guidance and grace.

Penitential Act C

Lord Jesus, you are the delight of the saints: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you are the Lamb of God who takes away our sins:
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the joy of every heart: Lord, have mercy.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Word

#667

Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14 *I had a vision of a great multitude,
which no one could count,
from every nation, race, people, and tongue.*

Psalms 24 *"Lord, this is the people
that longs to see your face."*

1 John 3:1-3 *We shall be like God.*

Matthew 5:1-12a *Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward will be great in heaven.*

Before a potential saint is canonized, this holy person is beatified, at which point he or she is formally known as Blessed. What better Gospel passage to hear today, then, than the one in which Jesus specifically tells us who is blessed in the eyes of the Lord. Line after line of the Beatitudes list the people whom Jesus calls blessed. Listening to God's word on this holy day, let us learn how we may be blessed as well.

Dismissal of Catechumens (and Candidates)

Dear friends, this Solemnity of All Saints is dear to the hearts of the faithful, for it gives us a glimpse of God's promise of eternal life for all who put their hope in the Lord. As you continue to be built up into the Body of Christ, pattern your life on the Beatitudes, which were proclaimed in today's Gospel. Now we send you forth and look forward to the day when you will join us in prayer, with the angels and saints, around the eucharistic table. Now go in peace.

Prayer of the Faithful

We appeal to God through the intercession of all the saints, assured that as children of God our voices will be heard.

For the Church, that we may find role models in the lives of the saints as we aspire to live lives of goodness, holiness, and charity, let us pray to the Lord.

That justice, righteousness, and peace may reign over every region of the world, allowing all people to live in harmony with their sisters and brothers, let us pray to the Lord.

For those who live in great distress, in hardship and suffering, that they may be comforted and receive hope in God's promise of the kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.

That those who are persecuted or oppressed because of their faith may soon enjoy the freedom of worship, eradicating their fears and relieving their anxieties, let us pray to the Lord.

For all of God's faithful people, that we may enjoy a foretaste of the kingdom of heaven in our world here and now, with the promise of eternal inheritance of the kingdom to come, let us pray to the Lord.

For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken: May they be united in the Holy Spirit with those of the saints, who dwell with you internally in the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.

Heavenly Father,
you are the source of all holiness,
the holiness of thousands of exemplary men and women.
Continue to shower that holiness upon us
so that we may all live exemplary lives
and join the saints in glory
with your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Introduction to the Eucharistic Prayer

In this eucharistic banquet we will be given a foretaste of the riches of the heavenly banquet. With expectant hearts, joyfully waiting for Christ's coming, we offer this prayer of thanksgiving.

Reminders and Suggestions

Texts: Preface of All Saints. Solemn Blessing 18 or Prayer over the People 27.

Context: November 1 is the greatest day on the Church's autumn calendar, and a festival day deserves full celebration not only in splendid liturgy but in other ways, including holiday gatherings, special meals, dancing, and other celebration.

Sign and Symbol: All the usual materials associated with Thanksgiving—gourds and pumpkins and sheaves of grain—are perfect throughout November, not just at Thanksgiving.

Preparation: Today and tomorrow are especially fitting days to schedule parish Evening Prayer. There is much in the mood of these days that seems best experienced in darkness.

Homily Helps

- November is the final month of the liturgical year. It is also the month in which we remember those who have gone before us, beginning with the special days of All Saints and All Souls. The Holy Spirit connects us with all those who have gone before us, all the saints in heaven, whether or not we have recognized them through canonization. This is the communion of saints. It may be the final month, but there is no finality in the lives of those whom we honor and remember, for in the presence of the Lord they join with the living Church for all eternity.

- It is early in Jesus' ministry that he sits down and teaches the Beatitudes. This lesson begins the first of the five discourses of Jesus that form the backbone of Matthew's Gospel. Yet the Gospel passages from Mark we have heard recently show that the disciples did not learn these lessons well. Blessed are the meek? The disciples argue about who gets to sit at Jesus' right hand in glory. Blessed are the merciful? They try to prevent parents from bringing their children to Jesus. Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness? Peter rebukes Jesus when he says he will be persecuted. Yet, Peter and the disciples are saints. They may not have taken Jesus' lessons to heart quickly or easily, but over time they did and they now enjoy the kingdom of heaven. There is hope for each and every one of us.

- In Jesus' presence the kingdom is built. The verbs used in the Beatitudes are usually in the future tense, but the first and last are in the present tense. The kingdom is not yet here, but in Jesus, its presence is extended into the present. The kingdom of heaven is within the grasp of the poor (Luke's version), the poor in spirit, and the persecuted. God's merciful care of those most in need, which Jesus taught us by word and example, teaches us this.

Question of the Day

How can I, in communion with the saints, bring the Lord's merciful care to the poor, the poor in spirit, and those suffering injustice?

November 2, 2021

Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)

These texts need to be adapted by each community of faith.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day

Today we recall all those who have gone before us, who we pray that in the fullness of time will live in the blessed company of the angels and saints in the presence of the Lord. We come together today, seeking God's compassion in our grief for those whose passing we mourn. However, we remember not only the dead, but also Jesus' triumph over death. His resurrection redeemed us, opening the gates of heaven to all who love him. Let us pray on this holy day for our dearly departed, that they may receive divine mercy for their sins and rest in eternal peace with the Lord.

Penitential Act C

Lord Jesus, you are the way to eternal life: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you are the living bread come down from heaven:
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you will raise us up on the last day: Lord, have mercy.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Word

#668

On this day the readings and psalm are chosen from the Masses for the Dead (Lect. 1011–1016) or the options given at Lect. 668. From the many options, Pastoral Patterns suggests the following:

Wisdom 3:1–9 (1)

No torment shall touch the souls of the just.

Psalms 23 (1)

*"The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want."*

Romans 5:5–11 (1)

*Justified by his blood,
we will be saved through Christ from the wrath.*

John 6:37–40 (8)

Everyone who believes in the Son will have eternal life.

When a loved one dies, we look to God for comfort and hope. In God's word we can find assurance to overcome our doubt, consolation to overcome our grief, and promise to overcome our despair. Prophecy and wisdom from the ancients assert that God watches over those who have died. The psalms console us as we mourn. Saint Paul's letters proclaim that Christ's sacrifice makes us worthy of eternal life. In the Gospels Jesus promised his disciples that death is not the end. Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life. In this, we find comfort and hope.

Dismissal of Catechumens (and Candidates)

Dear friends, on this day of solemn remembrance, held dear by the Church for centuries, we send you forth to reflect more deeply on the Scriptures we have shared together. We look forward to the day when your voices will join ours, when together with the angels and saints, we will lift up our hearts at the eucharistic table. Now go in peace.

Prayer of the Faithful

We look to the Lord in our time of need, and so we turn to God now, assured that our prayers will be heard.

For the Church, that we may always be a sign of God's redemption, guiding our sisters and brothers to the loving embrace of our God, let us pray to the Lord.

For all those who mourn the death of a loved one, especially those who have lost close family or friends over the past year, that they may find consolation and hope in the promise of the resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.

For all those who care for those who are dying: doctors, nurses, chaplains, caregivers, and all those who work in hospice care, that they may be strengthened and sustained in their ministry, let us pray to the Lord.

For all those who care for those who have died and their loved ones in mourning: funeral directors, cemetery workers, parish ministers, and grief counselors, that they may be blessed and treasured in their ministry, let us pray to the Lord.

For all those who have died, that in the fullness of time they may be raised up to eternal life in the presence of our Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord.

Merciful God,
you sent your only Son to lead us all to eternal life with you.
May we and all of our loved ones be welcomed into your kingdom
with your Son and our Savior,
through whom we make this prayer,
for he is Lord for ever and ever.

Introduction to the Eucharistic Prayer

On this day of remembrance, we do what the Lord commanded: we take bread and wine and offer our prayer of thanksgiving. At this holy table we catch a glimpse of the heavenly banquet. It is here that we are most closely united with those who have gone before us to the other side of life. For this immense gift, we offer this prayer of thanksgiving.

Reminders and Suggestions

Texts: There are five prefaces for the dead, and while the first is most often used, on All Souls' Day the fourth also seems fitting. Other texts: Solemn Blessing 20 or Prayer over the People 1.

Propose the honored custom of visiting cemeteries this day (and throughout the month) and of praying for the departed. An Order for Visiting a Cemetery on All Souls' Day appears in Chapter 57 of the *Book of Blessings*.

Sign and Symbol: Many parishes have developed ritual actions to honor the memories of the dead during the service for All Souls. The names of parishioners who have died in the last year are solemnly proclaimed. As the name is announced, a family member or friend is invited to come forward, light a candle from the paschal candle, and place the candle in a shrine set up for this purpose. As part of the shrine, an enthroned book in which are inscribed the names of the dead would be appropriate. At the conclusion of this ritual action, the lights will glow and stand as a reminder of the communion of saints around the throne of God.

In many Mexican-American communities, All Souls' Day is traditionally kept as the "Day of the Dead." Families visit the graves of their loved ones, decorating the grave site with flowers and candles. The celebration may include a picnic at the cemetery and social interaction with others gathered for the commemoration. The deceased's favorite food and drink is often shared by family members.

Liturgy and Life: All Souls' Day reminds us of the importance of caring for the bereaved. In one parish, cards are sent to loved ones at the one-month, six-month, and one-year anniversaries of the death. The cards include an expression of comfort for the grieving, as well as the phone number for the parish bereavement support group. Can personal invitations to the All Souls' Day Mass be mailed to the loved ones of those parishioners who have died in the past year? *Your Morn Shall Rise* is a collection of music and prayers for consolation published by WLP. WLP also publishes prayer cards for the time of death and a special remembrance card.

Homily Helps

- Look around today and you will see a community of people united in faith: family members and friends, neighbors and acquaintances, loved ones you've known your entire life and folks you don't even recognize. Now close your eyes and imagine the people gathered in churches all around the world, imbued in other cultures, perhaps speaking different languages, probably looking unfamiliar, but still part of this one family of faith. Now take one more step and imagine this assembly one or two generations ago. Many have since passed away while today's children and young folks have not yet been born. All these people, here and around the world, now and years ago, centuries ago, are still present in the entire Christian community: the people of God, the Church, the communion of saints. We remain linked with all the faithful, alive and dead, all part of the body of Christ.
- Though we strive to be saints, we often fall short. Our loved ones who have died often also fell short. But we are comforted because we know that God's mercy is stronger than anything human beings have the power to do. God forgave entire cities (e.g., Nineveh). Jesus forgave sinners, even on the cross. No sin and no sinner are beyond the mercy of God. With remorse in our hearts, we repent for our failures as we find consolation in God's infinite mercy.
- When we die our life is changed, not ended. Our relationships as well. That relationship we had—child to parent, spouse to spouse, parent to child, friend to friend—has not ended. The one whom we've lost is still present to us, just in a different way. There need not be unfinished business or a sense of finality. We still can unite with them in prayer. Forever.

Question of the Day

Can I promise today to pray for all the loved ones I've lost, sustaining my relationships with them beyond their passing?

November 7, 2021

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

These texts need to be adapted by each community of faith.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day

During November, we remember and honor all those who have preceded us in death. We recall especially those who have passed away this past year. It is normal to struggle with one's faith when in the throes of grief. Death comes with trauma and questions that we can never answer satisfactorily. Why was she taken so soon? Why did he suffer so much? How will our family get through this? We come together today, and each Sunday, as a family of faith to be nourished at the table of the Word and the table of the Eucharist. May the resurrected Lord, whom we receive in the Eucharist, strengthen and comfort us as we pray for those we have lost.

Penitential Act C

Lord Jesus, you died to take away our sins: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you rose again to bring new life to your people:
Christ have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you call us to generosity of heart: Lord, have mercy.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Word

#155

1 Kings 17:10–16

The widow made a little cake from her flour and gave it to Elijah.

Psalms 146

"Praise the Lord, my soul!"

Hebrews 9:24–28

Christ was offered once to take away the sins of many.

*Mark 12:38–44
or 12:41–44*

This poor widow put in more than all the others.

The readings today focus on two women whose powerful faith sustains them in their grief. Though we know very little about their backgrounds, both women are widows, so they have lost their husbands, bringing both emotional and financial pain. One widow has no food but a handful of flour and a little oil. The other has no money but two small coins. Yet each is willing to offer what little she has to God's work. The sacrifice each makes portends the sacrifice Christ himself makes on the cross for us all.

Dismissal of Catechumens (and Candidates)

Friends, today the poor widow teaches us to offer our gifts for the sake of others. She did not give out of her surplus. Instead she offered what little she had. You have sacrificed much to enter the journey of faith and conversion. Know of our support as you continue to become more and more like Christ. As you ponder his holy word, pray that you will become good stewards of all God's gifts. We look forward to the day when you will remain here with us to share at the Eucharistic table. Now go in peace.

Prayer of the Faithful

We heard in the psalm that God brings justice to the oppressed, food to the hungry, and freedom to those in captivity, so let us turn to God with our needs and the needs of the world.

For the Church, that we may reach out to the poor and destitute with the generosity of the widows in today's readings, the generosity of generations of faithful people eager to help our brothers and sisters, let us pray to the Lord.

That the riches of this bountiful world and the people in it may be used to eradicate hunger and poverty so that never again will anyone live with the anxiety of being unable to afford to feed their families or themselves, let us pray to the Lord.

For widows and widowers, that they may be comforted in their loss and supported in their hardship, let us pray to the Lord.

That we may always be open to the Lord's call to service and respond willingly and generously to that call, let us pray to the Lord.

For all those we serve through our charitable giving, and that our commitment to stewardship may grow, cheerfully giving back to God from the many gifts we have received, let us pray to the Lord.

For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord.

Generous God,
you have given us life, given us love,
and through the sacrifice of your Son,
given us salvation from our sins.
Impel us to pass on what we have received
as we encounter your Son in the hungry,
the homeless, the naked, the imprisoned, and the poor,
as we pray for all our needs,
through Christ our Lord.

Introduction to the Eucharistic Prayer

The widow in today's first reading prepared a cake for Elijah to eat. She used the last of her flour and oil, yet for a year her jar of flour never went empty and her jug of oil never went dry. In this Eucharistic Prayer, we pray for an outpouring of the Spirit so that we will never be empty of the life promised us in Christ Jesus.

Reminders and Suggestions

Texts: Preface I, II, or V of the Sundays in Ordinary Time. Solemn Blessing 11 or 12, or Prayer over the People 2, 5, or 13.

Catechesis and Communication: Today begins National Vocation Awareness Week. Contact your diocesan vocations office for materials to promote vocations.

Thursday, the “eleventh day of the eleventh month,” was chosen for the armistice that ended the Great War in 1918. Most European nations as well as Canada observe the day as “Memorial Day” for those killed in war, an extension of All Souls’ Day, very much within the Catholic keeping of November.

Sign and Symbol: The worship environment from All Saints to Thanksgiving should look mostly the same. After all, Christ the King serves up the same imagery for our delight as All Saints. Notice that Advent continues our preoccupation with the “last things.” Advent is the final “movement” in the Church’s autumn.

Homily Helps

- Elijah, one of the greatest prophets of the Old Testament, makes his first appearance in the Bible in the midst of a terrible drought and famine. The LORD, however, has promised to watch over him. But this does not mean that Elijah can sit back and wait for food and water to magically appear. No, God sends him out on a mission. God calls him to persuade the people who have lost their faith in God and begun to worship Baal, the Canaanite god of rain, storms, and fertility. At the same time, God deputizes others to care for Elijah. In the passage preceding today’s reading, ravens—associated with the spirit world—help lead him to a stream of running water and feed him bread and meat. Today we hear of a widow who shares what she thinks will be her last morsel of food with him. In a foreign land, Elijah is taught by God to rely on generous, hospitable strangers to sustain his life.
- The two widows we meet today are faces of Christ, particularly of the ultimate sacrifice he will make. These widows had no “safety net” to rely on, from either government assistance or institutional programs. Without an income or social standing, they were left to rely on the generosity of others. Yet, it was their own generosity that made them models of Jesus’ self-sacrifice. Each willingly gives her only asset, “her whole livelihood,” to the Lord (Mark 12:44). In our acquisitive culture, in which society judges us by our possessions and we are always encouraged to buy the newest, the latest, the hottest, giving from our want is countercultural, even crazy.
- As Jesus leaves the temple in the very next verse of Mark’s Gospel, he tells his disciples that the temple will soon be destroyed. They realized only later that he was referring to the temple of his body. In a sense, then, this poor widow was doing the same thing: giving her whole life to the body of Christ, the Church, the people of God. If we saw Jesus himself—in his human body—sitting down opposite the collection box, we certainly would increase our offering, perhaps even to more than we think we can afford. We need to be reminded that what we do for the least of our sisters and brothers, we do for him. Anna, another widow of immense faith, encountered the infant Jesus during his first appearance in the temple. This widow stood in the presence of the Messiah, the Christ, during his final appearance there.

Question of the Week

What can I give that demonstrates my acceptance of Jesus’ challenge to his disciples, to give without reservation?

Calendar

7	Sun.	National Vocation Awareness Week begins (November 7–13) Daylight Saving Time ends: Set clocks back 1 hour
9	Tue.	Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
10	Wed.	Memorial of St. Leo the Great
11	Thu.	Memorial of St. Martin of Tours Veterans Day Remembrance Day (Canada)
12	Fri.	Memorial of St. Josaphat
13	Sat.	Memorial of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

November 14, 2021

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

These texts need to be adapted by each community of faith.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day

Today we are reminded that one day Jesus will return in glory as the world comes to an earth-shattering conclusion. As frightening as the warnings are in today's readings, they are accompanied by assurances that God remains with us. Always. Indeed, soon we will be reminded that Emmanuel means "God is with us." Jesus—Emmanuel—will return in glory at the end of time. Let us pray in thanksgiving today for God's abiding presence with us here on earth.

Penitential Act C

Lord Jesus, you are the eternal high priest, pleading for us at the right hand of the Father: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you are the just judge of the nations: Christ have mercy.

Lord Jesus, when you come in glory, you will show us the fullness of joy in your presence: Lord, have mercy.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Word

#158

Daniel 12:1–3 *At that time your people shall escape.*

Psalms 16 *"You are my inheritance, O Lord!"*

Hebrews 10:11–14, 18 *By one offering, Christ has made perfect forever those who are being consecrated.*

Mark 13:24–29 *The Son of Man will gather his elect from the four winds.*

If a film were made of today's readings, it would include some terrific special effects, but also some quite tender images. Daniel's prophetic vision imagines those who lead others to justice shining like stars in the sky, beacons to a new life. Hebrews visualizes Jesus' enemies as his footstool. Jesus warns his disciples that at the end of time the stars would fall from the sky and the sun would go dark. Let today's readings remind us always to remain vigilant, for we cannot know the day nor the hour.

Dismissal of Catechumens (and Candidates)

Dear friends, when we approach the end of any liturgical year, we listen to the kinds of readings that we heard proclaimed today. We are given images of the fulfillment of God's kingdom and are warned to be ready for the coming of the Lord Jesus in glory. We pray that, as you ponder these words, you will be strengthened in your commitment to follow Christ. We await the day when you will share in his body and blood at the Holy Eucharist. Now go in peace.

Prayer of the Faithful

Assured of God's tender care even if heaven and earth should pass away, we call out in faith with our needs and the needs of the world.

For the Church, that our vigilance in keeping watch for the day when the Son of Man will return in glory may lead us to redouble our efforts to feed, clothe, welcome, and accompany all those in need, let us pray to the Lord.

For our leaders, that by heeding the prophetic voices that shine brightly in the firmament, they may lead many to justice during times of darkness and tribulation, let us pray to the Lord.

For the safety of missionaries the world over as they fulfill their commitment to preach and live out the gospel in neglected and distressed communities, let us pray to the Lord.

For those who have been victimized by the horrible actions or disgraceful inaction of those in authority, that they may experience healing and hope, let us pray to the Lord.

For our loved ones who have died, that they may forever shine in the light of eternal life in the splendor of the firmament, let us pray to the Lord.

For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord of all,
you hold us, your children,
in your loving embrace.
Listen to the needs we voice today
the needs we hold in our hearts,
and the needs known only to you,
and grant them through your Son,
Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Introduction to the Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord Jesus, our great High Priest, offered himself as a sacrifice for our sins. In thanksgiving for this gift of redemption, we raise our hearts and voices in prayer.

Reminders and Suggestions

Texts: Preface I or IV of the Sundays in Ordinary Time. Solemn Blessing 13, or Prayer over the People 1.

Homily Helps

- Daniel begins the prophecy we hear today warning of a terrible time, “a time unsurpassed in distress” (Daniel 12:1), but immediately assures his audience that God’s chosen will escape, aided by those who lead them like the stars in the sky. Before GPS or even electricity, stars were used to guide travelers to their destination. We are called to be those stars now, beacons of light, reflecting Christ our Light for others to follow to justice, to life forever. We also seek out the light that others provide as they reflect Christ in the way they live their lives. Let us be as the angels Jesus describes in the Gospel, assisting the Lord by drawing others to justice, drawing them to peace.
- Nothing can focus our minds like a deadline. Knowing a project must be finished by a certain day means that one cannot ignore it in the time leading up to that deadline. Vigilance focuses our minds as well, but it can be difficult to sustain. If you don’t know the day or hour of the deadline, it is difficult to remain vigilant. However, Jesus will not come to us only at the end of time. Jesus will come to us at any hour and on any day. We just need to recognize him. He may come as a stranger in need or a friend in pain. He may come into our hearts at a significant time or when we least expect it. It may not seem glorious in the least, but Jesus comes in ways great and small every day. Let us be vigilant in keeping watch for him.
- Jesus comes to us in this hour on this day in the Eucharist. In the simple gifts of bread and wine, which are made holy in imitation of that first Eucharist twenty centuries ago, Jesus is present in a special way every time we celebrate Mass. Let us receive him in the Eucharist, conscious of his presence within us—and within our neighbor—as we live this day made holy in his coming.

Question of the Week

How can I remain vigilant in looking for Jesus over this coming week?

Calendar

15	Mon.	Optional Memorial of St. Albert the Great
16	Tue.	Optional Memorial of St. Margaret of Scotland Optional Memorial of St. Gertrude
17	Wed.	Memorial of St. Elizabeth of Hungary
18	Thu.	Optional Memorial of the Dedication of the Basilicas of Ss. Peter and Paul Optional Memorial of St. Rose Philippine Duchesne
20	Sat.	Optional Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary

November 21, 2021

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

These texts need to be adapted by each community of faith.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day

Today we recognize Jesus' role as the Lord of all, the ruler over all humanity, the king of the eternal heavenly kingdom. To his followers, Jesus referred to this kingdom as the kingdom of God or his Father's kingdom, but through his ultimate act of self-sacrifice he became the firstborn of this kingdom, ready to show us the way. Let us pray that when our day comes, we will be found worthy and ready for the kingdom.

Penitential Act C

Lord Jesus, you are the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you came to testify to the truth: Christ have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the one who is and who was and who is to come, the almighty: Lord, have mercy.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Word

#161

Daniel 7:13–14

*The dominion of the Son of man
is an everlasting dominion.*

Psalms 93

"The Lord is king; he is robed in majesty."

Revelation 1:5–8

*The ruler of the kings of the earth
has made us into a kingdom,
priests for his God and Father.*

John 18:33b–37

You say I am a king.

Throughout history Jesus Christ has been acknowledged as King. Even before he was born to Mary, Daniel prophesied that one like a Son of man would come from heaven to earth and be regarded as King and Lord. The author of Revelation calls him the faithful witness of the kingdom. In the Gospel we hear him witness to the kingdom in front of Pilate. That scene gives us an insight into his kingship, which is anchored in the truth, and to which he testified during his entire time on earth. Let us open our hearts to the truth, which continues to be revealed by Christ the King.

Dismissal of Catechumens (and Candidates)

Dear friends, this community now sends you forth to ponder the readings we have shared with you today. The Lord Jesus defined his own kingship in terms of being one who testifies to the truth. We pray that, in imitation of Christ, you are becoming bearers of the truth that will lead you to the freedom of the children of God. We joyfully await the day when you will share fully with us at the table of the Lord Jesus Christ our King. Now go in peace.

Prayer of the Faithful

Our God is the one who is, who was, and who is to come and so we always can turn to heaven for God's generous assistance.

For the Church, that we may listen to the voice of our Savior as he testifies to the truth, and that inspired by the Holy Spirit, we may discern the truth and apply it to our lives, let us pray to the Lord.

That all around the world rulers may strive for justice and peace as they lead their nations with humility and benevolence, let us pray to the Lord.

For those who live under repressive regimes, and all who are oppressed by unjust authorities, that they may be sustained daily in hope during their time of trial, let us pray to the Lord.

That those who have harmed others may feel truly remorseful for their actions and be moved to repent for their sins and be given the chance to show their remorse, let us pray to the Lord.

That those seeking the source of all goodness may find the face of Christ the King reflected in the witness of our faith community, let us pray to the Lord.

For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord.

Eternal God,
you created us in your image,
sent your Son to redeem us,
and continue to watch over us always.
Graciously hear the prayers we make
today and every day
through your Son,
our Lord and King, Jesus Christ.

Introduction to the Eucharistic Prayer

Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to the voice of Christ the King. As we offer this prayer of thanksgiving over these gifts, let us listen for the voice of Christ, who calls us out of the darkness of this world and into the splendor of his kingly light.

Reminders and Suggestions

Texts: Preface of Christ the King. Solemn Blessing 9 or 10, or Prayer over the People 13 or 27.

Context: Most solemnities are focused on biblical events. In contrast, “Christ the King” is focused on an idea. The original motivation for the feast was to celebrate the dominion of Christ that transcends national boundaries and that makes war a sacrilege against Christ’s body. Today as at its inception, war and terrorism torment many areas of the world. On this solemnity, we pray for these nations, we pray for victims of acts of terror and of war.

Catechesis and Communication: The collection for the Campaign for Human Development is usually taken up on the Solemnity of Christ the King. Visit uscgb.org/cchd.

Thursday is Thanksgiving Day. Announce the parish’s worship schedule for the holiday. Also announce any ecumenical worship services in the area.

Homily Helps

- Jesus tells Pilate that if his kingdom belonged to this world, his people would fight to prevent his persecution. Because his kingdom is not of this world, he does not have followers fighting to save him. His only weapon in his fight against this terrible injustice is truth. Jesus came to testify to the truth. As his disciples, we belong to the truth, so we are called to listen for his voice, seek the truth, and fight against injustice. In so doing, we can be, as the author of Hebrews wrote, made into a kingdom by Christ Jesus.
- We know that Pilate refused to accept the truth, but a few hours earlier another weak man also failed to face the truth. That man was Saint Peter. Peter’s fear of what might happen to him won out over his love of Jesus, his loyalty, and the truth. Pilate’s desire for power prevented him from accepting the truth, but fear also made him ignore the pursuit of truth and justice. He feared that the mob could lead to his downfall with his superiors. We talk of speaking truth to power as if that would change minds, but it does not always succeed. Peter eventually faced the truth, weeping in remorse, but Pilate chose to ignore it to the end.
- Embracing the truth no matter where it leads us can be challenging. What truths has Jesus taught us? He calls us, not to personal glory or power, but to serve others. He tells us to sell all we have and give it to the poor, then follow him. He instructs us to deny ourselves and take up our cross. He claims that the kingdom comes to the poor in spirit. Jesus has testified to the truth and it is revolutionary.

Question of the Week

Can I live according to the truth, the truth to which Jesus has testified?

Calendar

- | | | |
|----|------|--|
| 22 | Mon. | Memorial of St. Cecilia
Thirty-fourth or Last Week in Ordinary Time begins |
| 23 | Tue. | Optional Memorial of St. Clement I
Optional Memorial of St. Columban
Optional Memorial of Bl. Miguel Agustín Pro |
| 24 | Wed. | Memorial of St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc and Companions |
| 25 | Thu. | Optional Memorial of St. Catherine of Alexandria
Thanksgiving Day |
| 27 | Sat. | Optional Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary |

November 25, 2021

Thanksgiving Day

These texts need to be adapted by each community of faith.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day

We are a thankful people because we are a eucharistic people: the Greek word *eukharistia*, after all, means “thanksgiving.” And so gathered together today to celebrate the Eucharist, we are naturally predisposed to give thanks. We give thanks to the Father, who created humankind in the likeness of God. We give thanks to the Son, who redeemed us from our sin through his great act of self-sacrifice. We give thanks to the Holy Spirit, who inspires and animates our lives. We give thanks for all we have been given in this world—our families, friends, and neighbors; all that is inside of us; all that is part of our world outside—as we look forward to the fulfillment of the promise of eternal life with the Lord. May our sharing of this eucharistic meal remind us of our abiding spirit of thankfulness and lead us to give thanks to all those we meet.

Penitential Act C

Lord Jesus, you have shown us the way to eternal life: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you are the Lord of the harvest: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the splendor of the Father: Lord, have mercy.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Word

Today's readings and psalm may be chosen from the Proper texts "In Thanksgiving," (Lect. 943–947) or from the weekday Mass for Thursday in the last week in Ordinary Time (Lect. 506). The following are suggested from among the many options.

1 Kings 8:55–61 (943-1); Psalm 145 (945-4); 1 Corinthians 1:3–9 (944-1); Luke 1:39–55 (947-4)

Thankful for the word of God, which inspires and guides us as God's faithful people, we listen to readings that express gratitude to God for all that has been done for us. As God's word is proclaimed, let us listen to how that gratitude is expressed. May it inspire us to give thanks to God by sharing the gifts we have received with those in need.

Dismissal of Catechumens (and Candidates)

Dear friends, on this day of thanks, we turn to you now and offer our thanks for your continued persistence on your journey of conversion. You inspire us with your dedication to your faith and you lift our spirits by your presence here among us. We send you forth now to reflect more deeply on the word we have shared today. We look forward to the day when you will share with us at the Lord's table of the Eucharist. Now go in peace.

Prayer of the Faithful

With thankful hearts we turn to our generous God, aware that many remain in need.

For God's holy Church, that we may be ever grateful for the blessings we have received from God and share that bounty with all those in need, let us pray to the Lord.

That all nations may work for justice, rejecting policies that oppress those without power, and embrace peace, settling differences with others without aggression, let us pray to the Lord.

For the environment, that all people will work together to care for our common home so that it may be enjoyed by generations to come, let us pray to the Lord.

For the hungry, the unemployed, and the homeless, that political leaders, communities, charities, and individuals may work to find them food, work, and homes, let us pray to the Lord.

For all who will gather together around our Thanksgiving tables, for our loved ones who have died, and for all others who are not able to be with us today, let us pray to the Lord.

For our parish community, that we will share our wealth, our empathy, and our prayers with those in material, emotional, and spiritual need, let us pray to the Lord.

For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord.

God of abundant generosity,
we thank you for the bountiful blessings
you have poured down upon us.
May we be inspired to such generosity
in imitation of your Son,
who is our Lord for ever and ever.

Introduction to the Eucharistic Prayer

Later today we will gather around Thanksgiving tables, feasting on the bounty of our land. At this moment we gather around this sacred altar and lift our voices in a great prayer of praise and thanksgiving. By virtue of our Baptism it is our duty and our delight always and everywhere to give thanks and praise on behalf of the world.

Reminders and Suggestions

Texts: Preface of Thanksgiving Day, although Preface V of the Sundays in Ordinary Time is also appropriate. Prayer over the People 5.

Liturgy and Life: As a sign of thankfulness for the blessings we have received, today's preparation rite might include the gathering of money, food, and clothing for those in need.

Catechesis and Communication: Call attention to the prayers for this day in *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*. Chapter 58 in the *Book of Blessings* is a Blessing of Food for Thanksgiving Day. What is envisioned in the rite is that families bring some of the food for their meal for the blessing, as at Easter. At Mass the blessing takes place as part of the Prayer of the Faithful. Simply done, on the previous Sunday you can suggest that families bring a basket of bread for the Thanksgiving blessing.

Another idea is to invite people to bring a wrapped loaf of bread with them to the Thanksgiving Day Mass. The bread is placed in large baskets and placed in the sanctuary. Following the Prayer after Communion, the bread is blessed and distributed to those at Mass. People receive a loaf brought by someone else. Members of the parish are encouraged to share this bread at the Thanksgiving table, keeping in mind the people of the entire parish.

Homily Helps

- Being a thankful person can be a challenge. Sometimes it seems that every day deals another obstacle for us to overcome. There is no end to our worries and anxieties. Even when things seem to be going well, something will happen to rain on our parade. Other days are a struggle from start to finish. Life is difficult. Our imperfect world is full of pain and suffering. We need to be reminded from time to time—continually, perhaps—that our imperfect world is full of joy and wonder as well. The world that put God's only Son to death is the same world that he redeemed from sin. The world that is full of sin and hurt is the same world on which God showers forgiveness and mercy. The world that ends in death for all living beings is the same world that is imbued with the promise of eternal life. For all this, we are eternally thankful.
- Since the Greek word *eukharistia* is translated as thanksgiving, it is appropriate that we gather here on this day to celebrate the Eucharist. Jesus gave us his body and blood, his very life, to redeem us and we give thanks every time we share that gift in memory of him. We cannot forget Jesus' other action at that first Eucharist. Before he shared his body and blood, he lowered himself to one knee to wash his friends' feet. He gave of himself to perform the act of the lowliest servant. Giving thanks is not all we do today. We go forth to give service to others as Jesus did. We turn thanks into giving.
- Thanksgiving Day is perhaps the closest holiday we have to a secular holy day, in that people all across the country gather together with their loved ones around a table, freely speaking of blessings and God's goodness. Together we reverently give thanks for our health, our loved ones, and all the wonderful things we have. Together we give thanks for God's generosity, which makes our lives blessed.

Question of the Day

What am I thankful for today? How will I turn my thanks to God into giving to others?

Liturgy for Marriage

These texts need to be adapted by each community of faith.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day

God's Holy Spirit gathers us in joy this day to give witness to a great mystery. It is the mystery of a woman, (*full name of bride*), and a man, (*full name of groom*), who have been drawn together in love. That mystery, so Saint Paul tells us, offers us a genuine insight into the workings of God and the ways of heaven. Today also come together family and friends, colleagues and acquaintances, and even more than we can imagine; for in this holy house, in spirit the Church gathers—all the angels and saints, the dead, and even those yet to be born—so important and so wonderful is the mystery of God's love.

Liturgy of the Word

*Readings from the Ritual Mass for Marriage:
Lectionary #801–805*

Prayer of the Faithful

We turn to the Lord, who is ever-faithful and loving, and who hears us when we pray. Let us offer our petitions to God, saying: Lord, hear our prayer.

That all Christians may reflect Jesus' love, and thus inspire their neighbors to a more generous life, we pray to the Lord.

That world and national leaders may promote what is necessary for strong and stable family life in today's society, we pray to the Lord.

That day by day *N.* and *N.* grow ever stronger in bonds of love and fidelity, we pray to the Lord.

That the marriage of *N.* and *N.* be a blessing for their families, their friends, and for all their neighbors, we pray to the Lord.

That this day of marriage may be filled with wonder and, in time, be a source of inspiring and happy moments, we pray to the Lord.

That God will assist all married couples and give them joy, we pray to the Lord.

That all of us gathered here will be filled with a spirit of love and respect, kindness and generosity, patience and forgiveness, we pray to the Lord.

Loving God, you are the author of marriage,
and so we ask you to watch over all married couples,
especially *N.* and *N.*
May each day of married life bring them closer to you
because of your continuing guidance and care.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Introduction to the Eucharistic Prayer

We come together united by the Holy Spirit to offer thanks to God around this holy table. We give God praise especially for the love of *N.* and *N.*, whose wedding this day joins all of us in Christ's love, a love that will last always.

Reminders and Suggestions

Texts: Prefaces I–III of Marriage. Three proper Solemn Blessings. Other appropriate texts: Prayer over the People 3, 7, or 17.

Of course, the norms for good liturgy and congregational participation apply to this liturgy. Ordinarily, the couple would share in the selection of readings, psalm, and other sung prayer. As in any liturgy, readers, cantors, and other liturgical ministers should be capable and trained for their role.

As the liturgy begins, encourage participation, especially in song. One form of participation is prayerful witness. The congregation stands for the entrance procession.

The ritual Mass for Marriage (or any ritual Mass) is not permitted on days ranked as solemnities. Unless diocesan law states otherwise, on solemnities or the privileged *feriae* the Mass for the day may be used for a wedding, although one reading for marriage may be substituted for one of the day's readings. On these Sundays and on solemnities that are days of obligation, the day's readings and prayers must be used without substitution.

When marriage is celebrated outside of Mass, the nuptial blessing may become the presider's concluding prayer of the Prayer of the Faithful.

Funeral Mass

These texts need to be adapted by each community of faith.

Greeting

My friends, in love and in sorrow we have come together to bury our *sister/brother N*. May the Father of mercies, the God of all consolation, be with you.

Liturgy of the Word

Readings from the Ritual Mass for the Dead:

Lectionary #1011–1026

Prayer of the Faithful

My friends, on this holy day of sorrow and of remembrance, in peace, we pray to the Lord: Lord, hear our prayer.

That the Church may be a comforting witness to Christ, our resurrection and our life, we pray to the Lord.

That those who are burdened by their loss may be blessed with courage, strength, and patience, we pray to the Lord.

That those who mourn the loss of *N*. may be embraced by consolation and peace, we pray to the Lord.

That *N*. and all who have died may be judged in mercy on the last day, and may all of us, the living and the dead, rise in glory and grace on that great day, we pray to the Lord.

For the prayers we hold in our hearts, united in the Holy Spirit with those of Mary the Mother of God, *our patron N.*, and all the saints in light, we pray to the Lord.

Lord God of justice and mercy, hear our prayers.
Give our beloved dead the reward of their labors
and grant us your consolation in our loss.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Invitation to Prayer of the Final Commendation

My dearest friends, when Jesus died, his friends came together to anoint his body and to carry it to the place of burial. With reverent sorrow we too have come together to bury *N*. On the great and final day of the Lord, may *N*. be judged in mercy and *his/her* sins forgiven. May the Lord Jesus, the Good Shepherd, carry *N*. gently in his arms to the fields of paradise. May all of us be raised with Christ into glory.

Reminders and Suggestions

Texts from the Order of Christian Funerals may be used at all Masses for the Dead. Prefaces I–V for the Dead. Solemn Blessing 20 or Prayer over the People 1, 11, 15, or 25.

Of course, the norms for good liturgy and congregational participation apply to this liturgy. The family may share in the selection of prayers, readings, psalm, and hymns. Liturgical ministers should be prepared for their tasks.

It's a wise parish that provides a full spectrum of ministries to assist the grieving. One ministry too often lacking is that of cantor or other music minister at the vigil (wake) in the funeral home or church itself. That liturgy also requires communal song and prepared ministers.

"Funeral Mass" is the correct title for the Mass celebrated prior to burial and is the proper term to use in death notices. The term "Mass of the Resurrection" should be reserved to refer only to Easter (Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy, April 1973, vol. 9, no. 4).

Service of Prayer for Peace

Hymn

Greeting

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R/. Amen.

May abundant grace and the abiding peace of God be with you all.

R/. And with your spirit.

Dear friends, we gather this *day/night* to bring our fears and concerns before God. In this time of strife, in this time when terror grips the hearts of many, we take the time to ask the God of peace to bring peace to this earth. As we listen to the living word of God, let us pray that peace will begin right here, in our hearts, within this holy place, and that the power of our prayer will help peace spread throughout the world. Let us now pause in silent prayer.

Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

God of peace,
in this time of turmoil,
we turn to you with hearts longing for peace.

As fear grips us,
we ask for your blessed assurance.

Keep us close to your Son,
whose first Easter greeting was one of peace.

We ask this in his name, the Prince of Peace,
who is Lord forever and ever.

R/. Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

Isaiah 11:1–10 (Lect. 4) No harm or ruin on my holy mountain.

Psalms 72 (Lect. 4) "Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace for ever."

John 20:19–23 (Lect. 63) Peace be with you.

Reflection

Song

An appropriate song may be sung to conclude the reflection following the readings.

Prayer of the Faithful

Let us turn to God in this time of need. God always hears the prayer of those who cry out in humility. As wars rage around this planet, we place our trust in God, the source of peace and justice.

That the Church will never shrink from its obligation to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we pray to the Lord.

That those who lead nations will find peaceful solutions to solve disagreements over borders, religious preference, or ethnic diversity, we pray to the Lord.

That the people of _____, and all places in our world currently experiencing war, will soon know the peace of God's holy mountain, we pray to the Lord.

That we will face the challenge of the Gospel: to love our enemies and do good to those who persecute us, we pray to the Lord.

Let us pause now in silence to pray for our enemies . . . (*allow significant time for silence*) . . . that we will work together to break down barriers that divide, we pray to the Lord.

Let us pause now in silence to pray for the victims of war and injustice . . . (*allow significant time for silence*) . . . that they will be welcomed into the eternal peace of heaven, we pray to the Lord.

Finally, let us pause in silence to pray for peace in our world, our country, our neighborhoods, our church, our families, and in our hearts . . . (*allow significant time for silence*) . . . that the reign of peace inaugurated by Christ's coming will take root and flourish, we pray to the Lord.

Let us gather all our prayers into one by praying the words that the Lord Jesus, the giver of peace, taught us. **Our Father** . . .

Closing Prayer

O God of love and tender mercy,
your people cry out to you in time of strife.

We fear for the safety of those we love,
and the miles that separate family members
cause us to worry.

Comfort us in our time of need.

We suffer with those whose lives are destroyed by war.
May they be helped by our efforts.

We long for the reign of peace promised by your Son.
Bring that peace to earth again.

May we never grow complacent, O God;
may we never see the world's wars
as events that do not affect us,
for we know that we are all your children,
entrusted with this fragile earth
to be a place of harmony, peace, and justice.

Hear our prayer, which we voice in the name of your Son,
Jesus Christ, who is Lord forever and ever.

R/. Amen.

Blessing

May God's peace, which is beyond all understanding, descend upon
us and enter our hearts and the hearts of all. In the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R/. Amen.

Sign of Peace

To conclude this service of prayer, let us turn to one another and share
a sign of Christ's peace.

Beginning of the School Year

These texts need to be adapted by each community of faith.

Introduction

The Holy Spirit brings us together in love and with high hopes for this new school year. May it be a year of grace and blessings and fine accomplishments.

Penitential Act C

Lord Jesus, you bring us to this day of new beginnings: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you fill us with hope: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you welcome us and make us glad: Lord, have mercy.

Liturgy of the Word

Choices may be made from any readings in the Lectionary or in the Lectionary for Masses with Children, which offers readings and a psalm (#492–495) in the weekday volume for the Beginning of the School Year: 2 Thessalonians 3:6–12, 16; Psalm 95; Matthew 13:44–46 or Matthew 25:14–30 or John 14:23–26.

Prayer of the Faithful

On this happy day we ask God to listen to our requests.

For the Church, we pray to the Lord.

For a good school year filled with blessings, we pray to the Lord.

For students and teachers and principals, we pray to the Lord.

For our school and everyone in it, we pray to the Lord.

For everyone who ever attended or worked in our school, we pray to the Lord.

For our parish, we pray to the Lord.

For all of us gathered here, we pray to the Lord.

For the prayers we hold in our hearts, united in the Holy Spirit with those of Mary the Mother of God, *our patron N.*, and all the saints in light, we pray to the Lord.

Loving God, bless this new school year.

May it bring us closer to you.

Help us to keep each other's spirits up
and to encourage and support one another
in all that we do.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Reminders and Suggestions

The *Directory for Masses with Children* provides groundwork in principles for all liturgy and in particular for liturgy with children. Notice that the document is titled "with Children" and not "for Children." There really is no such thing as a "school Mass." By definition, the Eucharist of the Church must be prepared so that neither adults nor children are made unwelcome and excluded from participation in the liturgy.

A Litany of the Saints

The litany of the saints customarily is used as processional song, for example, during the procession to the baptismal font at the Easter Vigil, or, at a funeral, during the procession from the church to the cemetery. The traditional litany of the saints may be lengthened to include the names of other saints, and so the litany found here is a bit longer than usual. But you will need to add some more. Especially fitting is the addition of local saints and of patron saints of the church, the place, and the people. Names are added in the proper category: Mary and her titles; angels; patriarchs, matriarchs, and prophets (including John the Baptist and Joseph); apostles, evangelists, and other disciples of the Lord; martyrs, bishops, and doctors; priests and religious; all holy women and men.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.

Saint Michael, Saint Gabriel, and Saint Raphael, pray for us.

Holy angels of God, pray for us.

We call upon the prophets and ancestors of our faith:

Saint Abraham and Saint Sarah, pray for us.

Saint Moses and Saint Miriam, pray for us.

Saint Ruth and Saint Naomi, pray for us.

Saint Elijah of Tishbe, pray for us.

Saint John the Baptist, pray for us.

Saint Anne and Saint Joachim, pray for us.

Saint Simeon and Saint Anna, pray for us.

Saint Joseph, pray for us.

All holy prophets and ancestors, pray for us.

We call upon the disciples of Jesus:

Saint Peter and Saint Paul, pray for us.

Saint Andrew, pray for us.

Saint John and Saint James, pray for us.

Saint Thomas, pray for us.

Saint Matthew, pray for us.

Saint Mary Magdalene, pray for us.

Saint Mary, Saint Martha, and Saint Lazarus of Bethany, pray for us.

Saint Luke, Saint Mark, and Saint Barnabas, pray for us.

All holy apostles, disciples, and evangelists, pray for us.

We call upon the martyrs:
Saint Stephen, pray for us.
Saint Ignatius of Antioch, pray for us.
Saint Polycarp, pray for us.
Saint Irene, pray for us.
Saint Justin, pray for us.
Saint Lawrence, pray for us.
Saint Perpetua and Saint Felicity, pray for us.
Saint Agnes, pray for us.
Saint Cyprian, pray for us.
Saint Boniface, pray for us.
Saint Stanislaus, pray for us.
Saint Thomas Becket, pray for us.
Saint John Fisher and Saint Thomas More, pray for us.
Saint Paul Miki and companions, pray for us.
Saint Isaac Jogues, Saint John de Brébeuf, and companions, pray for us.
Saint Peter Chanel, pray for us.
Saint Charles Lwanga and companions, pray for us.
Saint Maria Goretti, pray for us.
All holy martyrs of Christ, pray for us.

We call upon the bishops and the doctors of the Church:

Saint Leo and Saint Gregory, pray for us.
Saint Ambrose, pray for us.
Saint Jerome and Saint Paula, pray for us.
Saint Augustine, pray for us.
Saint Athanasius, pray for us.
Saint Basil and Saint Gregory of Nazianzus, pray for us.
Saint John Chrysostom, pray for us.
Saint Martin, pray for us.
Saint Patrick, pray for us.
Saint Cyril and Saint Methodius, pray for us.
Saint Charles Borromeo, pray for us.
Saint Francis de Sales, pray for us.
Saint Catherine of Siena, pray for us.
Saint Teresa of Jesus, pray for us.
All holy bishops and doctors, pray for us.

We call upon priests, monks, and religious:

Saint Anthony of Egypt, pray for us.
Saint Benedict and Saint Scholastica, pray for us.
Saint Bernard, pray for us.
Saint Francis and Saint Dominic, pray for us.
Saint Clare, pray for us.
Saint Thomas Aquinas, pray for us.
Saint Ignatius Loyola, pray for us.
Saint Francis Xavier, pray for us.
Saint Vincent de Paul, pray for us.
Saint John Mary Vianney, pray for us.
Saint John Bosco, pray for us.
Saint Rose of Lima, pray for us.
Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, pray for us.
All holy priests and religious, pray for us.

We call upon the entire company of heaven:
Saint Monica, pray for us.
Saint Louis of France, pray for us.
Saint Isidore and Saint Maria, pray for us.
Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, pray for us.
All holy men and women, pray for us.
Lord, be merciful: Lord, save your people.
From all evil: Lord, save your people.
From every sin: Lord, save your people.
From everlasting death: Lord, save your people.
By your coming as man: Lord, save your people.
By your death and rising to new life: Lord, save your people.
By your gift of the Holy Spirit: Lord, save your people.
Be merciful to us sinners: Lord, hear our prayer.
Guide and protect your holy Church: Lord, hear our prayer.
Keep the pope and all the clergy in faithful service to your Church:
 Lord, hear our prayer.
Bring all peoples together in trust and peace: Lord, hear our prayer.
Strengthen us in your service: Lord, hear our prayer.
Jesus, Son of the living God: Lord, hear our prayer.
Christ, hear us: Christ, hear us.
Lord Jesus, hear our prayer: Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.

Respect for Life

These texts need to be adapted by each community of faith.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day

Today the Holy Spirit gathers us in love to give thanks for the gift and the mystery of life. We say that life is one of God's gifts. And we say that no one has the right to deny another this gift. Throughout our history we have seen a slow but gradual growth of respect for life, for mercy, for compassion. But we also have seen destruction, which in our own day seems to shake heaven itself with cries for justice. We gather in love, but we also come together in trembling and in awe. Our God sees our troubles. Our God listens to our cries.

Penitential Act C

Lord Jesus, you give us a new birth into hope: Lord, have mercy.
Christ Jesus, you are the salvation that awaits us: Christ, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you give us life that will never end: Lord, have mercy.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Word

Choices may be made from any readings in the Lectionary, in particular, the weekday or Sunday readings or readings from the Masses for Various Occasions.

Prayer of the Faithful

We trust in the Lord who gives us life and breath. We put ourselves and our needs in the care of the Lord, who will hear and respond.

That the Church may continue to proclaim life's value and dignity, and that our lives may manifest the conviction of this teaching, we pray to the Lord.

That the peoples of the earth may be filled, not with bitterness and anger, but with a rebirth in holiness, we pray to the Lord.

That those in authority may ever remember that Jesus calls us to live in freedom, we pray to the Lord.

That the laws of the land may reflect the challenging responsibility of the gospel, we pray to the Lord.

That those who are easily denied life and opportunity—especially the unborn and the elderly, the poor and persons with disabilities, the ill and the addicted, the illiterate and the foreign-born—may receive justice, compassion, and life in abundance, we pray to the Lord.

That those whom we have hurt by our indifference, selfishness, disrespect, or hatred may receive from our parish the gifts of mercy and mutual forgiveness, we pray to the Lord.

That the prayers we hold in our hearts may be united in the Holy Spirit with those of Mary the Mother of God, *our patron N.*, and all the saints in light, we pray to the Lord.

O God, good and gracious Savior,
you have set before us life and death.

The whole world awaits our witness as your children.

May our choice be a passage from death to life,
from slavery into freedom.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Reminders and Suggestions

Texts: Preface I, V, or VI of the Sundays in Ordinary Time or Preface IV for the Dead. Or use the Eucharistic Prayer for Masses for Various Needs and Occasions: IV. Jesus, Who Went About Doing Good. Solemn Blessing 5 or 11, or Prayer over the People 13.

Catechesis and Communication: The Office for Pro-Life Activities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops annually prepares materials for use in the parish. Write the office at 3211 Fourth St., N.E., Washington, DC 20017-1194 or call 202 541-3070 for information and materials. Its excellent website can be accessed at uscbb.org/prolife.

Blessings and Prayers

A Prayer When One Cannot Receive Communion

Diana Macalintal
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My Jesus,
I believe that even before I was born, you have been with me
knitting my very being, day by day, into the garment of your love,
clothing me with grace every moment of my life.
And on the day of my baptism you poured your love into my heart
through the Holy Spirit who unites me eternally to you.
Through that same Spirit I pledge my love and adore you,
present in your Most Holy Body and Blood.
Though I cannot consume you in this sacred banquet
let me be consumed by your complete desire for me
so that my longing for you may be filled by your love alone
and your mercy overflow through me into this world so in need.
On that joyful day when I do receive you in the Eucharist,
may I remember that this precious gift is still but a foretaste
of the holy gifts that await your holy people at your heavenly altar.
There, with the saints and angels, we shall see you face to face
and give you perfect praise for ever. **Amen.**

Table Grace

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This prayer may be printed in the November 21 bulletin for use on Thanksgiving Day.

O God, you are the giver of every good gift.
Through your goodness we enjoy the fruits of the earth
and share the loving gifts of family and friendship.
We ask your blessing on [our guests,] our table and our home.
We offer thanks for the love
with which this festive meal was prepared,
and for the love and joy that bring us together to partake of it.
In gratitude for your continued care for us,
make us mindful of the needs of others.
May we show our thankfulness in the manner of our living.
May our hearts be filled with love and praise.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer at Harvest and Thanksgiving

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O God, source and giver of all things,
you manifest your infinite majesty, power and goodness
in the earth about us;
we give you honor and glory.
For the sun and the rain,
for the fruits of our fields,
for the increase of our herds and flocks,
we thank you.
For the enrichment of our souls with your grace,
we are grateful.

Supreme Lord of the harvest,
graciously accept us and the fruits of our toil,
in union with Jesus, your Son,
whose death, burial and resurrection
have brought atonement for our sins.

In your love foster the growth of your Church.
Grant peace in our homes and salvation for all the world.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Respect for Life

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God of life and love,
you created us in your image
and sent your Son to bring us life.
Instill in us a respect for all life,
from conception to natural death.
Empower us to work for
justice for the poor.
Nourish us that we may
bring food to the hungry.
Inspire us to cherish
the fragile life of the unborn.
Strengthen us to bring comfort
to the chronically ill.
Teach us to treat the aging
with dignity and respect.
Bring us one day
into the glory of everlasting life.

We ask this
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

The Memorial of St. Francis is October 4.

Lord, make me an instrument
of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
O divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning
that we are pardoned,
it is in dying
that we are born to eternal life.

For a New School Year

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Spirit of God,
fill our hearts with a desire
to seek truth and rejoice in beauty.
Help us to know
what is pleasing to you
and to understand what is right
and good in your sight.
Give us the spirit of learning
that we may please you
by our thoughts
and love you in your creation.
Give all teachers
your constant encouragement
and guide them in their work.
Spirit of God,
make us effective witnesses
of your truth
to all whose lives we touch.

We ask this in the name
of Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing of Pets

God our Creator,
you made all things good.
In love look now on us
and on our pets
and on all the creatures
you have made.
As you once sent your angel Raphael
to guide your servant Tobiah
and his faithful dog,
send your angel to watch over us
and our pets.
Keep them in health and safety,
secure in our care
to be our comfort and joy.
Remember them for life,
for you delight in life.
We ask this
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Praying the Rosary

1. Begin on the crucifix and say the **Apostles' Creed** (page 80).
2. On the first bead, say the **Our Father**.
3. On each of the next three beads, say the **Hail Mary**.
4. On the next bead, say the **Glory Be**.
5. Reflect on the first mystery in the group of mysteries selected for meditation for the day and say the **Our Father** on that bead.
6. On each of the next ten beads, say the **Hail Mary**. Follow these with the **Glory Be**.
7. Repeat Steps 5 and 6 for each of the five mysteries.

The Our Father

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those

who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Amen.

The Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.

Amen.

The Glory Be

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

The Mysteries of the Rosary

The Joyful Mysteries

*(recited Mondays, Saturdays,
and Sundays of Advent)*

1. The Annunciation
2. The Visitation
3. The Nativity
4. The Presentation of the Lord
5. The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

The Sorrowful Mysteries

*(recited Tuesdays, Fridays,
and Sundays of Lent)*

1. The Agony in the Garden
2. The Scourging at the Pillar
3. The Crowning with Thorns
4. The Carrying of the Cross
5. The Crucifixion and Death

The Glorious Mysteries

*(recited Wednesdays and Sundays
outside of Advent and Lent)*

1. The Resurrection
2. The Ascension
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit
4. The Assumption
5. The Coronation of the Blessed Virgin

The Luminous Mysteries

(recited Thursdays)

1. The Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan
2. The Wedding Feast at Cana
3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom
4. The Transfiguration
5. The Institution of the Eucharist

Prayer after the Rosary

O God, whose only-begotten Son,
by his life, death, and resurrection,
has purchased for us the rewards
of eternal life.

Grant, we beseech you,
that by meditating
upon these mysteries
of the Most Holy Rosary
of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
we may imitate what they contain
and obtain what they promise,
through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Profession of Faith: Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. **Amen.**

Profession of Faith: Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. **Amen.**