

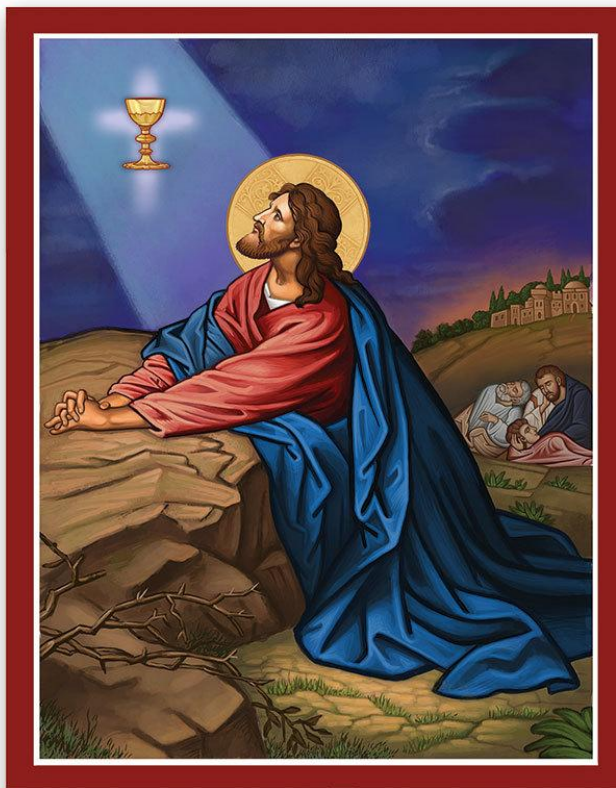
CODEX LUMEA

An Inner Prayer Book of Ecclesia Lumentum



Ecclesia Lumentum

A Light Among The Nations.



The Mass Of The Grail

INVOCATION

P: BRETHREN, THE HOUR HAS COME TO
CELEBRATE THE MASS OF THE HOLY GRAIL.

C: GLORY BE TO GOD!

P: MAY THE LORD GUARD OUR STEPS!

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Everyone stands

P: LORD, WE CELEBRATE THIS MASS
ESPECIALLY FOR...N *(description of feast day and
special prayer follows if appropriate).*

EVERLIVING LORD OF LIFE, WE OPEN OUR
EYES TO THE GLORY OF THY SACRED, EVER-
PRESENT AND IN-DWELLING REALITY,

AND WE GATHER IN CONSCIOUSNESS WITH
ALL THY HOSTS OF AWAKENED BEINGS,
INVOKING THE OVERLIGHTING PRESENCE OF
ALL THY GREAT ONES WHO SERVE THE DIVINE
WILL AND WAY, AND WHO INITIATE AND
GUIDE ALL NATURE AND HUMANITY
THROUGH THY PROFOUND MYSTERIES OF
INTERIOR TRANSFORMATION AND SPIRITUAL
EVOLUTION.

WE GATHER WITH YOU, FAITHFUL AND HOLY
ONES OF ALL GENERATIONS AND ALL WORLDS,

TO ENACT AND CELEBRATE THE ETERNAL
MYSTERIES OF GOD MOST HIGH, AND TO
PARTICIPATE IN THE JOYOUS UNIVERSAL
FELLOWSHIP OF ALL SOULS IN THE LIGHT
AND PEACE THAT PASSETH HUMAN
UNDERSTANDING, WHICH IS KNOWN ONLY BY
THE HEART.

WE DRAW NEAR UNTO THY HEART, O' LORD,
AND STAND WITH THEE AT THE CENTER OF
ALL UNIVERSES WHICH SURROUND US IN
SEVEN CONCENTRIC SPHERES REPRESENTING
ALL PLANES, ALL WORLDS, AND THE RADIANT
AND LUMINOUS SPACE OF ALL REALITY.

THIS IS THE DIVINE AEON OF AEONS, THE
WORLD THAT HAS BEEN, IS NOW, AND
EVERMORE SHALL BE.

All sign + and say:

P & C: AMEN

ASPERGES

P: IN THE NAME OF CHRIST MELCHIZEDEK, BE
YE CLEANSED AND CONSECRATED FOR
WORSHIP.

LAUDAMUS

C:
I WILL LIFT UP MINE EYES UNTO THE HILLS,
FROM WHENCE COMETH MY HELP.

MY HELP COMETH EVEN FROM THE LORD,
WHO HATH MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH.

HE SHALL NOT SUFFER MY FOOT TO BE
MOVED,
HE THAT KEEPETH ME, SLEEPETH NOT.

BEHOLD, HE THAT KEEPETH ISRAEL NEITHER
SLUMBERS NOR SLEEPS.

THE LORD HIMSELF IS MY KEEPER,
THE LORD IS MY DEFENSE AND MY RIGHT
HAND,

THE LORD SHALL PRESERVE ME FROM ALL
EVIL.
YEA, IT IS EVEN HE THAT KEEPETH MY SOUL,

THE LORD PRESERVES MY GOING OUT AND MY
COMING IN, NOW AND FOR EVERMORE.
AMEN.

CONFITEOR

All kneel and say together

P & C:

O LORD OF LIFE, WHO DWELLS IN THE CENTER
OF OUR VERY BEING;

THOU HAST CREATED US TO BE IMMORTAL
AND MADE US TO BE AN IMAGE OF THINE OWN
ETERNITY;

YET OFTEN WE FORGET THE GLORY OF OUR
HERITAGE AND WANDER FROM THE PATH
WHICH LEADS TO RIGHTEOUSNESS;

BUT THOU, O LORD, HAST MADE US FOR
THYSELF AND OUR HEARTS ARE EVER
RESTLESS TILL THEY FIND THEIR REST IN
THEE;

LOOK UPON US WITH THE EYES OF THY LOVE
AND FILL US WITH THE BRIGHTNESS OF THE
EVERLASTING LIGHT,
THAT WE MAY BECOME AN UNSPOTTED
MIRROR OF THY POWER;

AND THE IMAGE OF THY GOODNESS,
THROUGH CHRIST OUR INDWELLING LORD.
AMEN.

ABSOLUTION

P:
IN THE NAME OF THE MYSTERY OF THE
FULLNESS, THAT HATH EXISTED BEFORE ALL
BEGINNINGS;
ETERNAL AND REDEEMING LOGOS;
HOLY SPIRIT, CELESTIAL BRIDE AND
REVEALER OF THE CONCEALED MYSTERIES:
BE BLESSED + AND PURIFIED THAT YE MAY
OVERCOME THE POWERS OF THE ARCHONS OF
THE WORLD AND BE AS ONE.

KYRIE

P & C:

KYRIE ELEISON,
KYRIE ELEISON,
KYRIE ELEISON.

CHRISTE ELEISON,
CHRISTE ELEISON,
CHRISTE ELEISON.

KYRIE ELEISON,
KYRIE ELEISON,
KYRIE ELEISON.

SURSUM CORDA

All rise.

P: WE LIFT UP OUR HEARTS

C: WE LIFT UP OUR HEARTS

P: WE AWAKEN OURSELVES

C: WE AWAKEN OURSELVES

P: WE EVOKE THE ETERNAL FLAME OF THE
CHRIST WITHIN.

C: WE EVOKE THE ETERNAL FLAME OF THE
CHRIST WITHIN.

P: WITH PRAISE AND WITH PRAYER SHALL OUR
TEMPLE BE BUILT!

C: TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY.

EXORDIUM

P: BRETHREN, UNTO YOU BE THE BEAUTY AND THE GRACE.

C: AND MAY THE WORLD BE FILLED WITH THEIR MYSTERY.

Congregation sits

P: THUS, SAYEST THE LOGOS: I AM A LAMP TO THEE WHO SEEST ME.

C: AMEN.

P: I AM A MIRROR TO THEE WHO UNDERSTANDETH ME.

C: AMEN.

P: I AM A DOOR TO THEE WHO KNOCKEST AT ME.

C: AMEN.

P: SEE THYSELF IN ME WHO SPEAKS AND WHEN THOU HAST SEEN WHAT I DO, KEEP SILENCE ON MY MYSTERIES. IN ME KNOW THOU THE WORD OF WISDOM. WHAT I AM NOW SEEN TO BE, THAT I AM NOT; BUT WHAT I AM, THOU SHALT SEE WHEN THOU COMEST.

C: AMEN.

P: BRETHREN, A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST.

C: GLORY BE TO GOD.

THE GOSPEL

*The Gospel announced, all sign + Brow + Lips +
Heart*

All stand.

READER: HERE ENDETH THE READING.

C: PRAISE BE TO THEE, O CHRIST;

P: AND WITH OPEN HEARTS MAY YE PROCEED.

AN ACT OF GNOSIS

The people stand

P: BRETHREN, LET US LOVE ONE ANOTHER
THAT WITH ONE MIND WE MAY DECLARE:

P & C:

WE AFFIRM THAT GOD IS LOVE AND POWER
AND TRUTH AND LIGHT:
THAT PERFECT JUSTICE RULES THE WORLD;
THAT ALL HIS SONS SHALL ONE DAY REACH
HIS FEET, HOWEVER FAR THEY STRAY;
WE HOLD THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD,
THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN;
WE KNOW THAT WE DO SERVE HIM BEST,
WHEN BEST WE SERVE OUR BROTHER MAN;
SO WILL HIS BLESSING REST ON US AND
PEACE FOR EVERMORE.
AMEN.

ORATES FRATRES

P: LET US PRAY.

All kneel

P. & C: WE HAVE LAID BEFORE THEE, O LORD,
THIS BREAD AND THIS WINE AS CHANNELS
FOR THY POWER AND LIGHT. FOR HERE WE
OFFER AND PRESENT OURSELVES, OUR SOULS
AND BODIES, TO BE HOLY AND CONTINUAL
CHANNELS FOR THY LOVE.
TO WHOM BE ASCRIBED ALL HONOR AND
GLORY NOW AND FOREVER.
AMEN.

PREFACE

P:
O LORD OF LIFE, WE KNOW OURSELVES AS
INDIVIDUAL RAYS FROM THY ONE HEART;
WE SEE THY RADIANCE JOINING OUR HEARTS
WITH THINE; AND ALL OTHERS IN AN INFINITE
WEB-WORK OF DIVINE LIGHT; AND FIRE THAT
PERMEATES ALL SPACE WITH UNFOLDING
STREAMS OF SOUL AND CONSCIOUSNESS;
AND WE SING UNTO THEE IN THE HOLINESS
OF THIS BLESSED VISION.

SANCTUS

P & C:
SANCTUS, SANCTUS, SANCTUS,
DOMINUS DEUS SABAOth.
PLENI SUNT CÆLI ET TERRA
GLORIA TUA.
HOSANNA IN EXCELSIS.
✚ BENEDICTUS QUI VENIT IN NOMINE DOMINI.
HOSANNA IN EXCELSIS.
AMEN.

OR

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, LORD GOD OF HOSTS:
HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE FULL OF THY GLORY:
GLORY BE TO THEE, O LORD MOST HIGH.

✙ BLESSED IS HE THAT COMETH IN THE NAME
OF THE LORD. HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST.
AMEN.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

P:

WHEREFORE, O MOST LOVING FATHER,
WE THY SERVANTS DO PRAY THEE TO RECEIVE,
TO PURIFY AND TO HALLOW THESE
OBLATIONS AS EARTHLY CHANNELS FOR THY
WONDROUS POWER AND MIGHT.

WE PRAY FOR THY HOLY CHURCH UNIVERSAL,
FOR ALL BISHOPS, CLERGY AND FAITHFUL,
AND FOR ALL HERE PRESENT, AS ALSO FOR
THOSE WHO ARE ABSENT **N N**,

REMEMBERING THE WORLDLY AUTHORITY OF
OUR COUNTRY, THE PEOPLE AND
INSTITUTIONS OF OUR LAND.

WE DO ALSO CALL TO MIND ALL, WHO IN THIS
TRANSITORY LIFE ARE IN TROUBLE, SORROW,
NEED, SICKNESS OR ANY OTHER ADVERSITY,
ESPECIALLY **N N**,

LIKEWISE, DO WE PRAY FOR ALL THOSE THY
CHILDREN WHOM IT HATH PLEASED THEE TO

DELIVER FROM THE BURDEN OF THE FLESH **N**
N,

FREED FROM EARTHLY TOIL AND CARE, THEY
MAY ENJOY THE FELICITY OF THY PRESENCE,
EVERMORE PRAISING THEE IN WORD AND
DEED,
O GOD, EVERLASTING, LIVING AND TRUE.

COMMEMORATION OF THE SAINTS

All stand

P: BRETHREN LET US PRAY.

ETERNAL FATHER, WE COMMEMORATE THOSE
OF OLD WHO ADORED THEE AND MANIFESTED
THY GLORY UNTO MEN, THE HOLY AND
ENLIGHTENED TEACHERS;
AND ALL WHO HAVE STRIVED AND ARE
STRIVING TO CARRY THE FLAME OF LIGHT,
LOVE AND PEACE.

HEAR YE ALL SAINTS OF THE TRUE CHURCH IN
EVERY AGE, NOW ESSENTIALLY PRESENT IN
OUR MIDST,
OF YOU WE CLAIM HEIRSHIP,
WITH YOU WE CLAIM COMMUNION,
AND FROM YOU WE CLAIM BENEDICTION AND
INTERCESSION ... NOW AND FOREVER.
C: AMEN.

ANAMNESIS

P: LET US PRAY.

O LORD OF LIFE, SACRED HEART OF THE
UNIVERSE,
THOU HAST BROUGHT FORTH THY BELOVED
CHILD JESUS, AND SET HIM BEFORE US AS AN
ELDER BROTHER,
AND MASTER, THAT WE MAY FOLLOW THE
EXAMPLE OF HIS LIFE AND TEACHING,
AND LISTEN WITH OUR HEARTS TO THE INNER
GUIDANCE OF HEAVEN,

TO FOLLOW YOUR WAY, IMITATE YOU, AND
RIPEN INTO DIVINE AND PERFECTED BEINGS
IN A NEW, POWERFUL, AND SANCTIFIED
FLESH.

WE GIVE THEE THANKS FOR JESUS AND FOR
ALL THE LORDS, MASTERS, AND
ENLIGHTENED ONES WHO HAVE BROUGHT US
THY DIVINE TEACHING THROUGHOUT THE
AGES,
AND ESPECIALLY FOR THE SACRED
MYSTERIES THAT WE NOW ENACT THROUGH
THE HIGH PRIESTHOOD OF THE LORD CHRIST
MELCHIZEDEK.

ON THE EVE OF THE PASCHAL MOON, THE
MASTER JESUS REVEALED THE SACRED
MYSTERY OF THE HOLY GRAIL:

THE BODY AND BLOOD OF THE CHRIST

WHICH IS THE SEED OF DIVINE LOVE
INCARNATE IN THE FLESH AND BLOOD OF ALL
HUMANITY THAT HAS EVER LIVED,
OR EVER SHALL LIVE IN THIS WORLD AND ALL
OTHERS.

HE REVEALED UNTO US THE HOLY CHALICE
OF THE HEART, WHICH IS THE TEMPLE OF GOD,
THE REALITY OF OUR INDIVIDUAL BEING, AND
THE HOLY FLAME THROUGH WHICH EACH OF
US DRAWS ALL HUMANITY UNTO THE DIVINE
UNITY WE SHARE WITH ALL BEINGS, GREAT
AND SMALL, VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE.

NOW, O' LORD, WE KNOW OURSELVES AS ONE
WITH THEE AND ALL THY UNIVERSE. WE LIFT
UP OUR HEARTS AND CONTEMPLATE,
THROUGH THE SINGLE EYE OF THE HEART,
THINE INDWELLING GLORY INCARNATE IN
ALL THAT MANIFESTS, RETURNING UNTO OUR
ESSENTIAL DIVINE NATURE AND LOOKING
WITHIN UNTO THY SUBTLE WORLDS AND
HIGHER REALITIES, GUIDED BY THE INTERIOR
LIGHT OF THY HOLY GRAIL.

WE SANCTIFY THE OUTER WORLD AS CHRISTS
IN FLESH, AND WE HELP CREATE AND BUILD
THE NEW HEAVENS AND THE NEW EARTH. FOR
WE ARE ALL ONE BODY AND ONE BLOOD IN
THEE.

All sign: +

EPIKLESIS

P: WHEREFORE WE CALL UPON THEE
C: WHEREFORE WE CALL UPON THEE

P: O' ETERNAL LORD CHRIST
C: O' ETERNAL LORD CHRIST

P: O' MASTER JESUS OUR HIGH PRIEST
C: O' MASTER JESUS OUR HIGH PRIEST

P: O' ARISEN ONES AND ADEPTS
C: O' ARISEN ONES AND ADEPTS

P: WITH ALL THE HOSTS OF HEAVEN
C: WITH ALL THE HOSTS OF HEAVEN

P: POUR OUT THY DIVINE SPIRIT UPON US
C: POUR OUT THY DIVINE SPIRIT UPON US

P: KINDLE THE PURE FLAME OF OUR HEARTS
WITHIN US
C: KINDLE THE PURE FLAME OF OUR HEARTS
WITHIN US

P: RAISE UP THE CHRIST WITHIN US
C: RAISE UP THE CHRIST WITHIN US

P: FILL US WITH THY HEAVENLY FEAST
C: FILL US WITH THY HEAVENLY FEAST

P: AND BLESS + (the host and chalice)
C: AND BLESS + (self)
P: SANCTIFY + (the host and chalice)

C: SANCTIFY + (self)

P: AND CONSECRATE + (the host and chalice)

C: AND CONSECRATE + (self)

P: ALL WORLDS, THE PLANET, AND ALL
HUMANITY

C: ALL WORLDS, THE PLANET, AND ALL
HUMANITY

P: MYSTICALLY UNITED IN THESE HOLY
ELEMENTS

C: MYSTICALLY UNITED IN THESE HOLY
ELEMENTS

P: AND CELEBRATE FOR ALL SOULS

C: AND CELEBRATE FOR ALL SOULS

P: AND CREATE ANEW WITHIN ALL SOULS

C: AND CREATE ANEW WITHIN ALL SOULS

P: THE SACRED MYSTERIES OF THINE
ETERNAL BODY AND BLOOD

C: THE SACRED MYSTERIES OF THINE
ETERNAL BODY AND BLOOD.

P & C: AMEN

P:

ALL LOVING AND EVER-LIVING LORD OF LIFE,
WE CONSECRATE UNTO THEE IN EUCHARIST
THE INCARNATE FLESH AND ALL INVISIBLE
BODIES THAT THOU HAST GIVEN UNTO EACH
OF US.

WE PURIFY AND DEDICATE ALL THOUGHT,
WORD, AND DEED UNTO THE LIBERATION AND
SANCTIFICATION OF ALL BEINGS IN LOVING
SERVICE FOR LOVE'S SAKE ONLY.

AND WE SEND FORTH THY HOLY BLESSING
UNTO ALL WORLDS, THE PLANET, AND ALL
HUMANITY;
IN THE NAME OF OUR OWN HEARTS.

P & C: AMEN

P: BELOVED FATHER AND SON OF ALL WORLDS,
CONSECRATE UNTO THEE IN THE EUCHARIST
THE SACRED INTERIOR LIFE + (the host and
chalice) THAT THOU HAST APPORTIONED
INDIVIDUALLY UNTO EACH OF US;

WE KINDLE THE FLAME OF THY DIVINE SPIRIT
WITHIN OUR HEARTS (touch heart)
WE BUILD AND STRENGTHEN OUR BRIDGE
UNTO THEE FOR ETERNAL GUIDANCE,
INSPIRATION, AND COMMUNION WITH THY
HIGHER WORLDS.

LET THE CHALICE OF OUR HEARTS (palm of R H.
on heart)
BE FILLED WITH THINE HEAVENLY NECTAR
AND FRAGRANCE THAT OUR SOULS MAY BE
NURTURED WITH THINE EVOLUTIONARY AND
TRANSFORMING ENERGIES OF HIGHER LIGHT,
LOVE AND WISDOM.

P & C: AMEN

THE SALUTATION OF PEACE

P: O INDWELLING CHRIST, WHO DOST EVER
SAY TO THY DISCIPLES:

"PEACE I LEAVE WITH YOU, MY PEACE I GIVE
UNTO YOU", GIVE US THAT PEACE AND UNITY
WHICH ARE AGREEABLE TO THY HOLY WILL
AND COMMANDMENT.

P: LET US PRAY

P and C:

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 THEM THAT TRESPASS
AGAINST US.
AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION,
BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL.

FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM,
THE POWER AND THE GLORY,
FOR EVER AND EVER.
AMEN.

P: THE LORD BE WITH YOU

C: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

THE MYSTERY OF THE CHALICE

P: (Elevate host)

TAKE AND EAT; THIS IS MY BODY, WHICH IS YOUR BODY.

HENCEFORTH I SHALL BE KNOWN TO YOU IN THE BREAKING OF THIS BREAD;

FOR IF YOU KEEP MY WORD, I SHALL DWELL IN YOU, AND YOU IN ME;

AND WE SHALL BECOME ONE BODY AND ONE HEART (C: + on heart)

(Fraction the host and drop a particle in the chalice)

THEREFORE: DO ON EARTH AS I HAVE DONE, THAT ALL HUMANITY MAY REMEMBER US AND LEARN OF OUR LOVE.

P: (Elevate chalice)

DRINK YE OF THIS CUP; THIS IS MY BLOOD.

FOR THIS CUP RENEWS THE ETERNAL COVENANT OF DIVINE LOVE (C: + on heart)

IN THE LIFE THAT WE SHALL POUR OUT FOR THE LIBERATION OF ALL HUMANITY.

THEREFORE, SHOW FORTH THE LOVE THAT I HAVE TAUGHT YOU, AND BECOME A LIVING MEMORY FOR ALL HUMANITY, OF THE TRUE LIFE THAT LIES HIDDEN WITHIN EACH SOUL.

ADORO TE DEVOTE

All kneel

P & C:

ADÓRO TE DEVÓTE, LÁTENS DÉITAS,
QUAE SUB HIS FIGÚRIS, VERE LÁTITAS:
TIBI SE COR MEUM TOTUM SÚBJICIT,
QUIA, TE CONTÉMPLANS, TOTUM DÉFICIT.

VISUS, TACTUS, GUSTUS, IN TE FÁLLITUR,
SED AUDÍTU SOLO TUTO CRÉDITUR:
CREDO QUIDQUID DÍXIT DEI FÍLIUS;
NIL HOC VERBO VERITÁTIS VÉRIUS.

IN CRUCE LATÉBAT SOLA DÉITAS,
AT HIC LÁTET SIMUL ET HUMÁNITAS:
AMBO TÁMEN CRÉDENS ÁTQUE CÓNFITENS,
PETO QUOD PETÍVIT LATRO PENITENS.

PLAGAS, SICUT THOMAS, NON INTÚEOR,
DEUM TÁMEN MEUM TE CONFÍTEOR.
FAC ME TIBI SÉMPER MÁGIS CRÉDERE,
IN TE SPEM HABÉRE, TE DILÍGERE.

O MEMORIÁLE MORTIS DÓMINI,
PANIS VIVUS, VITAM PRAESTANS HÓMINI,
PRAESTA MEAE MENTI DE TE VÍVERE,
ET TE ILLI SEMPER DULCE SÁPERE.

PIE PELLICÁNE, JESU DÓMINE,
ME IMMÚNDUM MUNDA TUO SÁNGUINE,
CUJUS UNA STILLA SALVUM FÁCERE,
TOTUM MUNDUM QUIT AB ÓMNI SCÉLERE.

JESU, QUEM VELÁTUM NUNC ASPÍCIO,

ORO FÍAT ILLUD, QUOD TAM SÍTIO:
UT, TE REVELÁTA CERNENS FÁCIE,
VISU SIM BEÁTUS TUAE GLÓRIAE.
AMEN.

*1. Godhead here in hiding, whom I do adore,
Masked by these bare shadows, shape and nothing
more,
See, Lord, at thy service low lies here a heart
Lost, all lost in wonder at the God thou art.*

*2. Seeing, touching, tasting are in thee deceived:
How says trusty hearing? that shall be believed;
What God's Son has told me, take for truth I do;
Truth himself speaks truly or there's nothing true.*

*3. On the cross thy godhead made no sign to men,
Here thy very manhood steals from human ken:
Both are my confession, both are my belief,
And I pray the prayer of the dying thief.*

*4. I am not like Thomas, wounds I cannot see,
But can plainly call thee Lord and God as he;
Let me to a deeper faith daily nearer move,
Daily make me harder hope and dearer love.*

*5. O thou our reminder of Christ crucified,
Living Bread, the life of us for whom he died,
Lend this life to me then: feed and feast my mind,
There be thou the sweetness man was meant to find.*

*6. Bring the tender tale true of the Pelican;
Bathe me, Jesu Lord, in what thy bosom ran---
Blood whereof a single drop has power to win*

All the world forgiveness of its world of sin.

*7. Jesus, whom I look at shrouded here below,
I beseech thee send me what I thirst for so,
Some day to gaze on thee face to face in light
And be blest for ever with thy glory's sight.
Amen.*

All stand

P: BRETHREN DRAW NIGH AND RECEIVE THIS
MOST PRECIOUS GIFT.

YE ARE ALL WELCOME TO PARTAKE OF THE
DIVINE LIGHT WHICH LIGHTETH EVERY MAN
THAT COMETH INTO THE WORLD.

Each person sits after receiving the Communion

COMMUNIO

All stand

P: O HOLY FATHER, AS THE FRUITS OF THE
FIELD AND VINE WERE GATHERED FROM AFAR
TO COME TOGETHER AND BLESSED IN THIS
SACRAMENT OF BREAD AND WINE,
SO LET ALL HUMANITY BE BROUGHT
TOGETHER, SANCTIFIED, AND MADE ONE
WITH THEE IN THINE ETERNAL RULE.

C: AMEN!

C: BLESSING, AND GLORY, AND WISDOM, AND
THANKSGIVING, AND HONOR, AND POWER,
AND MIGHT,
BE UNTO GOD FOREVER AND EVER.
AMEN.

POSTCOMMUNIO

P: LET US PRAY.

P. & C:

LET THE LIGHT OF THE DIVINE SOUL
ILLUMINE US, THAT WE MAY BE GUARDED
FROM DISTRESS AND WANT: THAT ALL OUR
DAYS BE PERFECT, HOLY AND PEACEFUL:
THAT WHAT IS GOOD AND PROFITABLE FOR
OUR SOULS
AND FOR THE PEACE OF THE WORLD MAY BE
GRANTED US: THAT THE REST OF OUR LIVES
MAY BE SPENT IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF TRUTH.
SO LET THE LIGHT OF THE DIVINE GNOSIS
ILLUMINE US.
AMEN.

P: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

C: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

P: ITE MISSA EST.


C: DEO GRATIAS.



Ecclesia Lumentum


THE MASS OF MARY

INVOCATION

Celebrant: IN the Name of the FATHER,  and of the SON, and of the HOLY SPIRIT.

R: Amen.


ASPERGES

Celebrant: MAY the LORD  purify me that I may worthily perform His service. IN the strength of the LORD do I repel all evil from this His holy altar and sanctuary, and from this House, wherein we worship Him:

And I pray our Heavenly FATHER that He will send His holy Angel to build for us a spiritual Temple through which His strength and blessing may be poured forth upon His people. Through CHRIST our LORD.

R. Amen.

CONFITEOR



 O LORD, Thou hast created us to be immortal, and made us to be images of Thine own eternity; yet often we forget the glory of our heritage, and wander from the path which leads to righteousness. But thou, O LORD, hast made us for Thyself, and our hearts are ever restless till they find their rest in Thee.

Look with the eyes of Thy love upon our manifold imperfections, and pardon all our shortcomings, that we may be filled with the brightness of the everlasting light, and become the unspotted mirror of Thy power and the image of Thy goodness. Through CHRIST our LORD.

R: Amen. 

ABSOLUTION



Celebrant: GOD the FATHER, GOD the  SON,
GOD the HOLY SPIRIT, bless preserve, and sanctify
you; the LORD in His loving kindness, look down upon
you and be gracious unto you; the LORD  absolve
you from all your sins, and grant you the grace and
comfort of the HOLY SPIRIT.

R: Amen. 

KYRIE


Return to centre, bow.



All sing:

KYRIE eleison.
Kyrie eleison
Kyrie eleison.




CHRISTE eleison.
Christe eleison.
Christe eleison.


KYRIE eleison.
Kyrie eleison.
Kyrie eleison. 




GLORIA IN EXCELSIS.





All sing:

Glória  in excelsis  Deo, 
et in terra pax homínibus,
bonæ voluntátis.

Laudámus te,
benedícimus te,
 adorámus te,

 glorificámus te,
 grátias ágimus tibi,
 propter magnam glóriam tuam,

Dómine Deus, Rex cæléstis,
Deus Pater omnípotens.
Dómine Fili unigénite, Jesu Christe,
Dómine Deus, Agnus Dei, Fílius Patris,
qui tollis peccáta mundi, miserére nobis;
qui tollis peccáta mundi,  súscepe deprecatióem
nostram. 

Qui sedes ad délixteram Patris, miserére nobis.
Quóniam tu solus Sanctus, tu solus Dóminus,
tu solus Altíssimus, Jesu Christe, cum Sancto Spíritu:
✚ in glória Dei Patris.

Amen

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you; we bless you; we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory,

Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;



You are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

COLLECTS

Please all join me in saying....



Celebrant: ALMIGHTY GOD, whom made the Blessed Virgin Mary, pure and immaculate, let her lead us to perfectly love Thee and worthily magnify Thy Holy Name; through her son, CHRIST our

LORD.  R: Amen. 

GRADUAL

Face altar at the epistle end. Bless incense and move missal to the Gospel side after the people have sung their first line.



Celebrant: Who so loveth wisdom loveth life.


All: And they that seek her early shall be filled with joy. Teach me O Lord the way of Thy statutes: and I shall keep it unto the end.

Give me understanding, and I shall keep Thy law; yea, I shall keep it with my whole heart.

The path of the just is as the shining light, shining more and more unto the perfect day.



MUNDA COR MEUM

(If the Celebrant reads Gospel, intone Munda and Blessing at centre facing altar without kneeling) or, at centre, face altar.  Gospeller kneels at epistle side.

 **Gospeller:** CLEANSE my heart and my lips, O GOD, who by the hand of Thy Seraph didst cleanse the lips of the prophet Isaiah with a burning coal from Thine Altar, and in Thy loving kindness so purify me that I may worthily proclaim Thy holy gospel. Through CHRIST our LORD.

R: Amen.



Celebrant: MAY the LORD be in your (my)  heart and on your (my)  lips, that through your (my) heart the love of GOD may shine forth, and through your (my) lips His power be made manifest.
R. Amen.

GOSPEL



Gospeller: THE LORD be with you 

All: AND with your spirit.

Gospeller moves to Gospel end, faces people, touching book with left hand palm down

announces Gospel and signs book + with right thumb at the beginning of the text.

All: GLORY be to thee, O LORD.

Immediately the Gospeller places his left hand on his breast, and all sign their + brow, + lips and + heart with small crosses. Gospel book is then censed (centre, left, right). At the end of Gospel, the reader touches the end and then briefly places right hand palm down over beginning of text, saying:

Gospeller: *For the Gospel of Our Lord ...*

All: PRAISE be to thee, O CHRIST.

Gospeller then censes Celebrant. Gospeller and servers go to the centre of footpace, genuflect and return to their places.

Celebrant: MAY the WORD OF THE LORD
nourish our mind, soul and body.

REGINA CAELI

Chorus: Regina caeli, laetare, alleluia,
Alleluia, alleluia x2
Alleluia!

Verse 1: Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia,
Alleluia, alleluia x2
Alleluia!






Verse 2: Resurrexit sicut dixit, alleluia,
Alleluia, alleluia x2
Alleluia!

Verse 3: Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia,
Alleluia, alleluia x2
Alleluia!



O Queen of heaven, be joyful, alleluia,
For He whom you have humbly borne for us, alleluia,
Has arisen, as He promised, alleluia,
Offer now our prayer to God, alleluia.

ACT of FAITH


Please all join me in saying

 *All:* WE believe  that  GOD is Love  and
Power and Truth and Light; that perfect justice rules
the world; that all shall one day reach His Feet,
however how far we stray. We hold the Fatherhood of
GOD, the unity of all that lives; we know that we do
serve Him best in service freely given. So shall His
blessing rest on us  and peace for evermore.

R: Amen.

 *Celebrant:* The Lord be with you 
R: And with thy spirit.

OFFERTORY PRAYERS

Celebrant: WE adore Thee, O GOD, Who art the
source of all life and goodness, and with true and
thankful hearts we offer unto Thee this token of
Thine own life-giving gifts bestowed upon us, Thou 
Who art the giver of all.

According to immemorial custom we now mix water with this wine praying Thee, O LORD, that we may evermore abide in CHRIST and He in us.

WE offer unto Thee, O LORD, this chalice with joy and gladness; may the worship which we offer ascend before Thy Divine Majesty as a sacrifice, pure and acceptable in Thy sight.

Through CHRIST our LORD.

R. Amen.

LAVABO

Celebrant: I will wash my hands in innocency, O LORD: so will I Go to Thine altar. That I may show the voice of thanksgiving; and tell of all Thy wondrous works. LORD, I have loved the habitation of Thy house; and the place where Thine honour dwelleth. My foot standeth right: I will praise the LORD in the congregations.


Glory be to the FATHER, and to the SON: and to the HOLY SPRIT. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end.

Amen.




ORATE FRATRES





Celebrant: FRIENDS ... pray that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to GOD the FATHER



Almighty. 

All: MAY the LORD receive the sacrifice at your hands, and sanctify our lives in His service.






 *Celebrant:* WE lay before Thee, O LORD, these
Thy creatures of bread and wine, praying Thee to
receive through them our sacrifice of praise and
thanksgiving; for here we  offer and present unto
Thee ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a holy and
continual sacrifice unto Thee. 

 May our strength be spent in Thy service, and
our love poured forth upon Thy people, Thou Who
livest for ever and ever. 
R. Amen.

THE CANON

 *Celebrant:* THE LORD be with you. 
All: AND with thy spirit.

SURSUM CORDA

 *Celebrant:* LIFT up your hearts. 
All: WE lift them up unto the LORD.
  *Celebrant:* LET us give thanks unto our LORD GOD.
All: IT is meet and right so to do. 

PREFACE



Celebrant: IT is very meet, right and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto thee, O LORD, holy FATHER, almighty everlasting GOD.

WE should praise and bless, and proclaim THEE, **in this day of the blessed Mary, ever-Virgin, the New Eve, Ark of the New Covenant and Light Bearer.**

Who also conceived Thine only-begotten SON by the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit, and the glory of her virginity still abiding, gave forth to the world the everlasting Light, Jesus Christ our LORD.

Therefore, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones, Dominations, Princedoms, Virtues, Powers, with Cherubim and Seraphim and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Thy glorious Name, evermore praising THEE and saying:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS



All: HOLY, holy, holy, LORD GOD of HOSTS, heaven and earth are full of Thy glory; glory be to

Thee, O LORD most high.  BLESSED  is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION



Celebrant: O LORD, these our oblations have served as tokens and channels of our love and devotion towards Thee; but now we pray Thee to + receive, to + purify and to + hallow them as earthly channels of Thy wondrous power.



We desire to offer this holy Sacrifice especially for Thy holy catholic Church, for our Pope N, for our Presiding Bishop N, for all our Bishops, clergy and faithful, for those here present, and for all who in this transitory life are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, especially those known to us, for whom we personally pray N N;



We pray for those who are about to enter this earthly life through the portal of birth and likewise we pray for their mothers-to-be, especially those known to us, for whom we personally pray and and



Likewise, do we offer it for all those Thy children have been delivered from the burden of the flesh, that freed from earthly toil and care, they may enjoy the felicity of Thy presence, evermore praising Thee in word and deed, O GOD, everlasting, living, and true.

WHEREFORE, O holy LORD, FATHER ALMIGHTY, we pray Thee to look down on and accept as a channel these offerings, and with Thy HOLY SPIRIT and Word, to + bless, + approve, and + ratify them that they may become for us the most precious + Body and + Blood of Thy SON.

Who on the day before He suffered took bread into His holy and venerable hands, and with His eyes lifted up to heaven unto Thee, GOD, His Almighty FATHER, giving thanks to Thee, He + blessed, brake, and gave it to His disciples, saying:



Take and eat ye all of this, for

THIS IS MY BODY

Celebrant: In like manner, after He had supped, taking also this noble chalice into His holy and venerable hands, again giving thanks to Thee, He + blessed it and gave it to His disciples, saying:



Take and drink ye all of this, for

THIS IS MY BLOOD


As oft as ye shall do these things, ye shall do them in remembrance of Me.



Celebrant: WHEREFORE, O LORD and heavenly FATHER, we Thy humble servants bearing in mind the

ineffable sacrifice of Thy SON, do offer unto Thee this, the most precious gift which Thou hast bestowed upon us, in token of our + love, and of the perfect + devotion and + sacrifice of our +

minds and + hearts to Thee; and we pray that Thou wouldst command Thy holy Angel to bear

our oblation to Thine Altar on high, there to be offered by Him Who, as the eternal High Priest, for ever offers Himself as the eternal Sacrifice. 





And we do pray for Thy servant who ministers at this altar, that, meetly celebrating the mysteries of the most holy + Body and + Blood of Thy SON, he

may be + filled with Thy mighty power and blessing.



Likewise, we pray Thee to sanctify Thy people here present with these Thy heavenly gifts, and through these mysteries do Thou + hallow, + quicken, and

+ bless them,  that both in their hearts and in their lives, they may show forth Thy praise and glorify Thy holy Name .

All these things do we ask, O FATHER, in the Name and through the mediation of Thy most blessed SON, for we acknowledge and confess with our hearts and lips that + by Him were all things made, yea, all things both in heaven and earth; + with Him as the indwelling Life do all things exist, and + in Him as the transcendent Glory all things live and move and have their being:

To Whom with thee O mighty + FATHER, in the unity of the HOLY + SPIRIT, be ascribed all honour and glory, throughout the ages of ages.

R. Amen.

ADORE TE DEVOTE

Adóro te devóte, látens Déitas,
Quae sub his figúris, vere látitas:
Tibi se cor meum totum súbjicit,
Quia, te contémplans, totum déficit.

Visus, tactus, gustus, in te fállitur,
Sed audítu solo tuto créditur:
Credo quidquid díxit Dei Fílius;
Nil hoc verbo veritátis vérius.

In cruce latébat sola Déitas,
At hic látet simul et humánitas:
Ambo támen crédens átque cónfitens,
Peto quod petívit latro pEnitens.

Plagas, sicut Thomas, non intúeor,
Deum támen meum te confíteor.
Fac me tibi sémper mágis crédere,
In te spem habére, te dilígere.

O memoriále mortis Dómini,
Panis vivus, vitam praestans hómini,
Praesta meae menti de te vívere,
Et te illi semper dulce sápere.

Pie pellicáne, Jesu Dómine,
Me immúndum munda tuo sáanguine,
Cujus una stilla salvum fácere,
Totum mundum quit ab ómni scélere.
Jesu, quem velátum nunc aspício,
Oro fiat illud, quod tam sítio:
Ut, te reveláta cernens fácie,
Visu sim beátus tuae glóriæ.
Amen.


FRACTION

O SON of GOD, Who showest Thyself this day upon a thousand altars and yet art one and indivisible, in token of Thy great Sacrifice, we break this Thy Body, praying that by this action, ordained from of old, Thy + strength, Thy + peace, Thy + blessing, which Thou dost give us in this holy Sacrament, may be spread abroad upon Thy world; and as Thou, O LORD CHRIST, wast made known to Thy disciples in the breaking of bread, so may Thy many children know themselves to be one in Thee, even as Thou art one with the FATHER.

R: Amen.

Face people and say:



Celebrant: The peace of the LORD be always with you. 

All: And with your spirit.

Genuflect or reverently bow: Say private prayer of preparation for Holy Communion. Then rise, saying:

Would you all please join me in saying:

UNTO Thee, O perfect one, the LORD and lover of all, do we commend our life and hope. For Thou art the heavenly bread, the life of the whole world; Thou art in all places and endurest all things, the treasury of endless good and the well of infinite compassion.

THE COMMUNION

Celebrant: ✝ The Body of our LORD CHRIST keep me unto life eternal. Amen.

✝ The Blood of our LORD CHRIST keep me unto life eternal. Amen.

Facing the people, the celebrant says:

All those of you who wish to partake of the Body and Blood draw nigh, and receive this Most holy Sacrament. All are welcome to the Table of the Lord.

Celebrant says to each Communicant:

The Body and Blood of Our Lord Christ keep you unto life eternal.

Cover Chalice. Leave Ablutions until afterwards, saying

人 *Celebrant:* Under the veil of earthly things now have we communion with our LORD JESUS CHRIST; soon with open face shall we behold Him and, rejoicing in His glory, be made like unto Him. Then shall His true disciples be brought by Him with exceeding joy before the presence of His FATHER'S glory.


COMMUNIO


Move missal stand to Epistle side, face altar.


Celebrant: Would you all please join me in saying the Communion Prayer.

人 *All: AMEN.* Blessing and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our GOD for ever and ever. Amen.

POST COMMUNIO


 *Celebrant:* Let us pray:




 We who have been refreshed with Thy heavenly gifts do pray Thee, O LORD, that Thy grace may be so grafted inwardly in our hearts, that it may continually be made manifest in our lives. Through

CHRIST our LORD. 

R: Amen. 



 *Celebrant:* The LORD be with you.

All: And with thy spirit. 

  *Celebrant:* Ite missa est. 

All: Deo Gratias.

SALVE REGINA

  Salve, Regina, Mater misericordiae,
vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra, salve.
Ad te clamamus exsules filii Hevae,
Ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes in hac
lacrimarum valle.


Eia, ergo, advocata nostra, illos tuos
misericordes oculos ad nos converte;
Et Jesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui,
nobis post hoc exsilium ostende.
O clemens, O pia, O dulcis Virgo Maria

Hail holy Queen, Mother of Mercy;
Hail our life, our sweetness and our hope!
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve;

To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and
weeping in this vale of tears.
Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of
mercy toward us, and after this our exile, show unto
us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary!

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of
Christ.

PRAYER TO ST MICHAEL, ARCHANGEL

 Sancte Michael Archangele, defende nos in
proelio,
contra nequitiam et insidias diaboli esto praesidium.
Imperet illi Deus, supplices deprecamur:
tuque, Princeps militiae caelestis, in virtute Dei,
in infernum detrude satanam aliosque spiritus
malignos,
qui ad perditionem animarum pervagantur in mundo.
Amen.

Holy Michael Archangel, defend us in the day of
battle;
be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares
of the devil.
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray:
and do thou, Prince of the heavenly host, by the
power of God thrust down to hell Satan and all
wicked spirits, who wander through the world for the
ruin of souls.
Amen

BENEDICTION

Face people.



Celebrant: O God, our refuge and our strength,
look down in mercy on Thy people who cry to Thee;
and by the intercession of the glorious and
Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of God, of St.
Joseph her Spouse, of Thy blessed Apostles Peter and
Paul, and of all the Saints, in mercy and goodness
hear our prayers for the conversion of sinners, and for
the liberty and exaltation of our holy Mother the
Church. Through the same + Christ our Lord

R. Amen.

OR



Celebrant: Almighty and everlasting God, Who by
the working of the Holy Spirit didst prepare both
body and soul of the glorious Virgin Mother, Mary,
that she might deserve to be made a worthy dwelling
for Thy Son, grant that we who rejoice in her memory,
may, by her loving intercession, be delivered from
present evils and from lasting death. Through the
same + Christ our Lord


R. Amen.

*Turn to altar by the RIGHT. Bow. Descend
to the footpace.*



Ecclesia Lumentum
THE MASS OF
ARCHANGELS
INVOCATION

Stand at the foot of the altar steps. Remove biretta. Genuflect.

Celebrant: IN the Name of the FATHER,  and of the SON, and of the HOLY SPIRIT.
R. Amen.

The Celebrant lights one at a time the four Archangelic Votive lights, which are evenly placed along the back of the altar in the following sequence- yellow, red, blue and green. With each candle the Celebrant intones the particular Archangelic invocation:

Celebrant: By rites ancient and powerful do we prepare this place and ourselves. Now, therefore, by ancient calling do we summon the great Archangelic hosts.

Green: In the name of Light arising, do we invoke Raphael, the Healer, guardian of Air and Wind and Tempest, to guard this company and bear witness to this rite. Come mighty Raphael, and grace us with thy presence.

Red: In the name of Light increasing, we invoke Michael, the Defender, Lord of Fire and Prince of the Legions of Heaven. May he guard this company and bear witness to this rite. Come, mighty Michael, and grace us with thy presence.

Blue: In the name of Light descending, we likewise invoke Gabriel, Lord of Water, and Heavenly Herald, who didst bring glad tidings to Our Blessed Lady.

May this company be guarded and our rite here witnessed. Come mighty Gabriel, and grace us with thy presence.

Purple: In the name of Light returning, we also invoke Uriel, Dark Lord of Earth, who bringest all at last unto the Nether Shore, Companion of all who offer up their lives in the defense of others, guard this company and bear witness to this rite. Come, mighty Uriel, and grace us with thy presence.

Celebrant: Beloved Lord our Almighty Heavenly Father, You have established in heaven the orders and hosts of angels and archangels to minister to Your glory. Grant that the holy angels may enter with us, that together we may serve and glorify Your goodness.

For to You belongs all glory, honour, and worship, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

All: We gather together outside time, in a place not of earth. As our ancestors before us bade, we join together and are One of purpose. By Thy Blessed Apostles, by all Thy Holy Angels; by all Powers of Light and Shadow, we call Thee to guard and defend us from all perils, O Most High. Thus it is and ever has been, thus it will be for all times to come. **PER OMNIA SAECULA SAECULORUM.**

The celebrant lights the central pillar candle or Pascal Candle.

Celebrant: O Holy Jesus, Thou who art all Love and Compassion, we Thy children, dedicated to Thy service, approach Thee in faith and the power of the Holy Spirit, the unseen companion of the heart.

Prepare us, O Lord, to drink of the living waters of life, soon to be made manifest to us; open our eyes that we may see, and our hearts that we may understand. Make the way plain, O Lord, that we fail not in Thy service. May we be a channel whereby Thy Holy Ones may approach the World. May we be a centre of radiation of Thy power.

Teach us to travel light as do all who travel upon the path; to give ourselves entirely to Thy service; to attune ourselves to Thy will; to suffer gladly for Thy sake; to lay down the small personal life in the great cosmic life, and to love with the love of God.

ASPERGES

Celebrant: MAY the LORD ✝ purify me that I may worthily perform His service. IN the strength of the LORD do I repel all evil from this His holy altar and sanctuary, and from this House, wherein we worship Him:

And I pray our Heavenly FATHER that He will send His holy Angel to build for us a spiritual Temple through which His strength and blessing may be poured forth upon His people. Through CHRIST our LORD.

R. Amen.

CONFITEOR

人 O LORD, Thou hast created us to be immortal,
and made us to be images of Thine own eternity; yet
often we forget the glory of our heritage, and wander
from the path which leads to righteousness. But thou,
O LORD, hast made us for Thyself, and our hearts are
ever restless till they find their rest in Thee.
Look with the eyes of Thy love upon our manifold
imperfections, and pardon all our shortcomings, that
we may be filled with the brightness of the
everlasting light, and become the unspotted mirror of
Thy power and the image of Thy goodness.
Through CHRIST our LORD.

R: Amen. 卍

ABSOLUTION



Celebrant: GOD the FATHER, GOD the ☩ SON,
GOD the HOLY SPIRIT, bless preserve, and sanctify
you; the LORD in His loving kindness, look down upon
you and be gracious unto you; the LORD ☩ absolve
you from all your sins, and grant you the grace and
comfort of the HOLY SPIRIT.

R: Amen. 人

KYRIE

Return to centre, bow.



All sing: KYRIE eleison.

Kyrie eleison

Kyrie eleison.

CHRISTE eleison.

Christe eleison.

Christe eleison.

KYRIE eleison.

Kyrie eleison.

Kyrie eleison.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS.



All sing:

Glória in excelsis Deo,
et in terra pax homínibus,
bonæ voluntátis.

Laudámus te,
benedícimus te,


adorámus te,

glorificámus te,

grátias ágimus tibi,

propter magnam glóriam tuam,

Dómine Deus, Rex cæléstis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.
Dómine Fili unigénite, Jesu Christe,
Dómine Deus, Agnus Dei, Fílius Patris,
qui tollis peccáta mundi, miserére nobis;

qui tollis peccáta mundi,  súscipe
deprecatiónem nostram.

Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserére nobis.
Quóniam tu solus Sanctus, tu solus Dóminus,
tu solus Altíssimus, Jesu Christe, cum Sancto
Spíritu: ✚
in glória Dei Patris.
Amen

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to
people of good will. We praise you; we bless you; we
adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your
great glory,

Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God,
Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the
sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away
the sins of the world, receive our prayer;

You are seated at the right hand of the Father, have
mercy on
us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the
Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with
the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

COLLECTS

Please all join me in saying...



Celebrant: ALMIGHTY GOD, whom made the **Archangels**, your blessed messengers to humanity, may they guide and protect us; even as we perfectly love Thee and worthily magnify Thy Holy Name;

through CHRIST our LORD.

R: Amen.

GRADUAL

Face altar at the epistle end. Bless incense and move missal to the Gospel side after the people have sung their first line.



Celebrant: **Who so loveth wisdom loveth life.**

All: And they that seek her early shall be filled with joy. Teach me O Lord the way of Thy statutes: and I shall keep it unto the end.

Give me understanding, and I shall keep Thy law; yea, I shall keep it with my whole heart.

The path of the just is as the shining light, shining more and more unto the perfect day.

MUNDA COR MEUM

(If the Celebrant reads Gospel, intone Munda and Blessing at centre facing altar without kneeling) or, at centre, face altar. *Gospeller kneels at epistle side.*



Gospeller: **CLEANSE** my heart and my lips, O GOD, who by the hand of Thy Seraph didst cleanse

the lips of the prophet Isaiah with a burning coal from Thine Altar, and in Thy loving kindness so purify me that I may worthily proclaim Thy holy gospel. Through CHRIST our LORD.

R: Amen.



Celebrant: MAY the LORD be in your (my) + heart and on your (my) + lips, that through your (my) heart the love of GOD may shine forth, and through your (my) lips His power be made manifest.

R. Amen.

GOSPEL



Gospeller: THE LORD be with you 

All: AND with your spirit.

Gospeller moves to Gospel end, faces people, touching book with left hand palm down announces Gospel and signs book + with right thumb at the beginning of the text.

All: GLORY be to thee, O LORD.

Immediately the Gospeller places his left hand on his breast, and all sign their + brow, + lips and + heart with small crosses. Gospel book is then censed (centre, left, right). At the end of Gospel, the reader touches the end and then briefly places right hand palm down over beginning of text, saying:

Gospeller: *For the Gospel of Our Lord*

All: PRAISE be to thee, O CHRIST.





Gospeller then censures Celebrant. Gospeller and servers go to the centre of footpace, genuflect and return to their places.

Celebrant: MAY the WORD OF THE LORD
nourish our mind, soul and body.

ACT of FAITH

Please all join me in saying




All: WE believe  that  GOD is Love  and
Power and Truth and Light; that perfect justice rules
the world; that all shall one day reach His Feet,
however how far we stray. We hold the Fatherhood of
GOD, the unity of all that lives; we know that we do
serve Him best in service freely given. So shall His
blessing rest on us  and peace for evermore.

R: Amen.



Celebrant: The Lord be with you 
R: And with thy spirit.

OFFERTORY PRAYERS

Celebrant: WE adore Thee, O GOD, Who art the
source of all life and goodness, and with true and
thankful hearts we offer unto Thee this token of
Thine own life-giving gifts bestowed upon us, Thou 
Who art the giver of all.

According to immemorial custom we now mix water
with this wine praying Thee, O LORD, that we may
evermore abide in CHRIST and He in us.
WE offer unto Thee, O LORD, this chalice with joy and
gladness; may the worship which we offer ascend

before Thy Divine Majesty as a sacrifice, pure and acceptable in Thy sight.

Through CHRIST our LORD.

R. Amen.

LAVABO

Celebrant: I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD: so will I Go to Thine altar. That I may show the voice of thanksgiving; and tell of all Thy wondrous works. LORD, I have loved the habitation of Thy house; and the place where Thine honour dwelleth. My foot standeth right: I will praise the LORD in the congregations.

Glory be to the FATHER, and to the SON: and to the HOLY SPRIT. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end.

Amen.

ORATE FRATRES





Celebrant: FRIENDS ... pray that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to GOD the FATHER



Almighty.

All: MAY the LORD receive the sacrifice at your hands, and sanctify our lives in His service.





Celebrant: WE lay before Thee, O LORD, these Thy creatures of bread and wine, praying Thee to receive through them our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving;



for here we  offer and present unto Thee ourselves,
our souls and bodies, to be a holy and continual
sacrifice unto Thee. 




 May our strength be spent in Thy service, and our
love poured forth upon Thy people, Thou Who livest
for ever and ever. 
R. Amen.

THE CANON


 *Celebrant:* THE LORD be with you. 
All: AND with thy spirit.

SURSUM CORDA

 *Celebrant:* LIFT up your hearts. 
All: WE lift them up unto the LORD.

  *Celebrant:* LET us give thanks unto our LORD GOD.
All: IT is meet and right so to do. 

PREFACE

 *Celebrant:* IT is very meet, right and our bounden
duty, that we should at all times and in all places give
thanks unto thee, O LORD, holy FATHER, almighty
everlasting GOD.
Therefore, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones,
Dominations, Princedoms, Virtues, Powers, with
Cherubim and Seraphim and with all the company of

heaven, we laud and magnify Thy glorious Name,
evermore praising THEE and saying:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS



All: HOLY, holy, holy, LORD GOD of HOSTS,
heaven and earth are full of Thy glory; glory be to
Thee, O LORD most high.

BLESSED + is He that cometh in the Name of
the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION



Celebrant: O LORD, these our oblations have served
as tokens and channels of our love and devotion
towards Thee; but now we pray Thee to + receive, to
+ purify and to + hallow them as earthly channels
of Thy wondrous power.



We desire to offer this holy Sacrifice especially
for Thy holy catholic Church, for our Pope **N**, for our
Presiding Bishop **N**, for all our Bishops, clergy and
faithful, for those here present, and for all who in this
transitory life are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness,
or any other adversity, especially those known to us,
for whom we personally pray **N N**;



We pray for those who are about to enter this
earthly life through the portal of birth and likewise
we pray for their mothers-to-be, especially those
known to us, for whom we personally pray and and



Likewise, do we offer it for all those Thy children have been delivered from the burden of the flesh, that freed from earthly toil and care, they may enjoy the felicity of Thy presence, evermore praising Thee in word and deed, O GOD, everlasting, living, and true.

WHEREFORE, O holy LORD, FATHER ALMIGHTY, we pray Thee to look down on and accept as a channel these offerings, and with Thy HOLY SPIRIT and Word, to **+** bless, **+** approve, and **+** ratify them that they may become for us the most precious **+** Body and **+** Blood of Thy SON.

Who on the day before He suffered took bread into His holy and venerable hands, and with His eyes lifted up to heaven unto Thee, GOD, His Almighty FATHER, giving thanks to Thee,
He **+** blessed, brake, and gave it to His disciples, saying:



Take and eat ye all of this, for

THIS IS MY BODY

Celebrant: In like manner, after He had supped, taking also this noble chalice into His holy and venerable hands, again giving thanks to Thee, He **+** blessed it and gave it to His disciples, saying:





Take and drink ye all of this, for



THIS IS MY BLOOD

As oft as ye shall do these things, ye shall do them in remembrance of Me.



Celebrant: WHEREFORE, O LORD and heavenly FATHER, we Thy humble servants bearing in mind the

ineffable sacrifice of Thy SON,  do offer unto Thee this, the most precious gift which Thou hast bestowed upon us,  in token of our + love, and of the perfect + devotion and + sacrifice of our +



minds and + hearts to Thee; and  we pray that Thou wouldst command Thy holy Angel to bear our oblation to Thine Altar on high, there to be offered by Him Who, as the eternal High Priest, for ever offers Himself as the eternal Sacrifice. 



And we do pray for Thy servant who ministers at this altar, that, meetly celebrating the mysteries of the most holy + Body and + Blood of Thy SON, he may be + filled with Thy mighty power and blessing.



Likewise, we pray Thee to sanctify Thy people here present with these Thy heavenly gifts, and through these mysteries do Thou + hallow, +

quicken, and + bless them,  that both in their hearts and in their lives, they may show forth Thy praise and glorify Thy holy Name .

All these things do we ask, O FATHER, in the Name and through the mediation of Thy most blessed SON, for we acknowledge and confess with our hearts and

lips that + by Him were all things made, yea, all things both in heaven and earth; + with Him as the indwelling Life do all things exist, and + in Him as the transcendent Glory all things live and move and have their being:

To Whom with thee O mighty + FATHER, in the unity of the HOLY + SPIRIT, be ascribed all honour and glory,

throughout the ages of ages.

R. Amen.

ADORE TE DEVOTE

Adóro te devóte, látens Déitas,
Quae sub his figúris, vere látitas:
Tibi se cor meum totum súbjicit,
Quia, te contémpans, totum déficit.

Visus, tactus, gustus, in te fállitur,
Sed audítu solo tuto créditur:
Credo quidquid díxit Dei Fílius;
Nil hoc verbo veritátis vérius.

In cruce latébat sola Déitas,
At hic látet simul et humánitas:
Ambo támen crédens átque cónfitens,
Peto quod petívit latro pEnitens.

Plagas, sicut Thomas, non intúeor,
Deum támen meum te confíteor.
Fac me tibi sémper mágis crédere,
In te spem habére, te dilígere.

O memoriále mortis Dómini,
Panis vivus, vitam praestans hómini,
Praesta meae menti de te vivere,
Et te illi semper dulce sápere.

Pie pellicáne, Jesu Dómine,
Me immúndum munda tuo sángine,
Cujus una stilla salvum fácere,
Totum mundum quit ab ómni scélere.

Jesu, quem velátum nunc aspício,
Oro fiat illud, quod tam sítio:
Ut, te reveláta cernens fácie,
Visu sim beátus tuae glóriæ.
Amen.

FRACTION

O SON of GOD, Who showest Thyself this day upon a thousand altars and yet art one and indivisible, in token of Thy great Sacrifice, we break this Thy Body, praying that by this action, ordained from of old, Thy + strength, Thy + peace, Thy + blessing, which Thou dost give us in this holy Sacrament, may be spread abroad upon Thy world; and as Thou, O LORD CHRIST, wast made known to Thy disciples in the breaking of bread, so may Thy many children know themselves to be one in Thee, even as Thou art one with the FATHER.

R: Amen.

Face people and say:



Celebrant: The peace of the LORD be always with you.




All: And with your spirit.

Genuflect or reverently bow: Say private prayer of preparation for Holy Communion. Then rise, saying:

Would you all please join me in saying:

UNTO Thee, O perfect one, the LORD and lover of all, do we commend our life and hope. For Thou art the heavenly bread, the life of the whole world; Thou art in all places and endurest all things, the treasury of endless good and the well of infinite compassion.

THE COMMUNION

Celebrant:  The Body of our LORD CHRIST keep me unto life eternal. Amen.

 The Blood of our LORD CHRIST keep me unto life eternal. Amen.

Facing the people, the celebrant says:

All those of you who wish to partake of the Body and Blood draw nigh, and receive this Most holy Sacrament. All are welcome to the Table of the Lord.

Celebrant says to each Communicant: The Body and Blood of Our Lord Christ keep you unto life eternal.

Cover Chalice. Leave Ablutions until afterwards, saying




Celebrant: Under the veil of earthly things now have we communion with our LORD JESUS CHRIST; soon with open face shall we behold Him and,

rejoicing in His glory, be made like unto Him. Then shall His true disciples be brought by Him with exceeding joy before the presence of His FATHER'S glory.

COMMUNIO

Move missal stand to Epistle side, face altar.

Celebrant: Would you all please join me in saying the Communion Prayer.

 *All: AMEN.* Blessing and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our GOD for ever and ever. Amen.

POST COMMUNIO

 *Celebrant:* Let us pray:



We who have been refreshed with Thy heavenly gifts do pray Thee, O LORD, that Thy grace may be so grafted inwardly in our hearts, that it may continually be made manifest in our lives. Through

CHRIST our LORD.



R: Amen.



Celebrant: The LORD be with you.

All: And with thy spirit.



Celebrant: Ite missa est.



All: Deo Gratias.

BENEDICTION

Face people.



Celebrant: MAY the Holy Ones, whose pupils you aspire to become, show you the light you seek; give you the strong aid of their compassion and their wisdom. There is a peace that passeth understanding; it abides in the hearts of those who live in the eternal; there is a power that maketh all things new; it lives and moves in those who know the self as one. May that peace brood over you, that power uplift you, till you stand where the One Initiator is invoked, till you see his + Star shine forth. *R.* Amen.

DISMISSAL

The Priest then goes to the altar and extinguishes the votive Archangelic Candles, in the same order in which they were lit, saying:

Green:

Hail, mighty Raphael, Archangel of the Air, Healer and Guardian of Wind and Tempest. We thank thee for thine attendance and protection here, and before thou departest for thine airy realms, we bid Thee hail and farewell.

Red:

Hail, mighty Michael, the Defender, Lord of Fire and Prince of the Legions of Heaven. We thank thee for thine attendance and protection here, and before thou departest for thine fiery realms, we bid Thee hail and farewell.

Blue:

Hail, mighty Gabriel, Lord of Water, and Heavenly Herald, who didst bring glad tidings to Our Blessed Lady. We thank thee for thine attendance and protection here, and before thou departest for thine watery realms, we bid Thee hail and farewell.

Purple:

Hail, mighty Uriel, Dark Lord of Earth, who bringest all at last unto the Nether Shore, Companion of all who offer up their lives in the defense of others. We thank thee for thine attendance and protection here, and before thou departest for thine earthy realms, we bid Thee hail and farewell.

The Priest extinguishes the Centre or Pascal Candle, faces the congregation with hands joined and says:

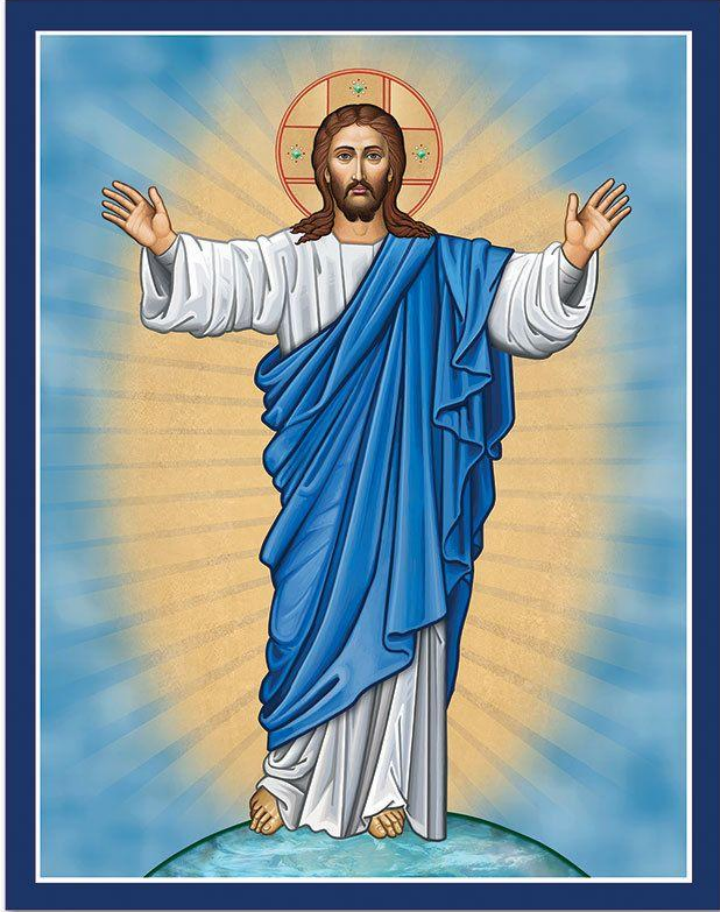
Celebrant: The Mass is ended, go in Peace to love and serve the Lord, and each other.

All: Thanks be to God.

Turn to altar by the RIGHT.  Bow.  Descend to the footpace." data-bbox="167 583 800 648"/>

Easter Sunday Dates 2000-2099

23rd April 2000	20th April 2025	10th April 2050	7th April 2075
15th April 2001	5th April 2026	2nd April 2051	19th April 2076
31st March 2002	28th March 2027	21st April 2052	11th April 2077
20th April 2003	16th April 2028	6th April 2053	3rd April 2078
11th April 2004	1st April 2029	29th March 2054	23rd April 2079
27th March 2005	21st April 2030	18th April 2055	7th April 2080
16th April 2006	13th April 2031	2nd April 2056	30th March 2081
8th April 2007	28th March 2032	22nd April 2057	19th April 2082
23rd March 2008	17th April 2033	14th April 2058	4th April 2083
12th April 2009	9th April 2034	30th March 2059	26th March 2084
4th April 2010	25th March 2035	18th April 2060	15th April 2085
24th April 2011	13th April 2036	10th April 2061	31st March 2086
8th April 2012	5th April 2037	26th March 2062	20th April 2087
31st March 2013	25th April 2038	15th April 2063	11th April 2088
20th April 2014	10th April 2039	6th April 2064	3rd April 2089
5th April 2015	1st April 2040	29th March 2065	16th April 2090
27th March 2016	21st April 2041	11th April 2066	8th April 2091
16th April 2017	6th April 2042	3rd April 2067	30th March 2092
1st April 2018	29th March 2043	22nd April 2068	12th April 2093
21st April 2019	17th April 2044	14th April 2069	4th April 2094
12th April 2020	9th April 2045	30th March 2070	24th April 2095
4th April 2021	25th March 2046	19th April 2071	15th April 2096
17th April 2022	14th April 2047	10th April 2072	31st March 2097
9th April 2023	5th April 2048	26th March 2073	20th April 2098
31st March 2024	18th April 2049	15th April 2074	12th April 2099



Sunday and Weekday Readings

First Sunday of Advent
Theme: The Announcement of Jesus According
to Mark

MK 1:2-8

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“Behold, I am sending my messenger
ahead of you;
he will prepare your way.
A voice of one crying out in the desert:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.’”

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

John was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: “One mightier than I, is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the holy Spirit.”

First Week of Advent

Monday

Theme: Annunciation of Mary

Proto-evangelium of James: 4:1-2, 4

Then, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared and said to her, “Anna, Anna, the Lord has heard your prayer. You will conceive a child and give birth, and your offspring will be spoken of throughout the entire world.”

Anna replied, “As the Lord God lives, whether my child is a boy or a girl, I will offer it as a gift to the Lord my God, and it will minister to him its entire life.”

Behold, two angels came to her, saying, “See, your husband Joachim is coming with his flocks.” For an angel of the Lord had descended to him and said, “Joachim, Joachim, the Lord God has heard your prayer. Go down from here; for see, your wife Anna has conceived a child.”

And behold, Joachim came with his flocks and Anna stood beside the gate and saw him coming; and running up to him she hung on his neck and said, “Now I know that the Lord God has blessed me abundantly. For see, the widow is no longer a widow and the one who is childless has conceived a child.”

Tuesday
Theme: Birth of Mary

Proto-evangelium of James: 5:2

Some six months came to completion for Anna; and in the seventh month she gave birth. She asked the midwife, "What is it?" The midwife replied, "A girl."

Anna said, "My soul is exalted today." And she laid the child down. And when the days came to completion, Anna washed off the blood of her impurity, gave her breast to the child, and named her Mary.

Wednesday
Theme: Anna's Praise Of The Lord

Proto-evangelium of James: 6:2-3

When the child had her first birthday, Joachim held a great feast and invited the chief priests, priests, scribes, council leaders, and all the people of Israel. Joachim brought the child out to the priests and they blessed her, saying, "May the God of our fathers bless this child and give her a name that will be famous forever, to all generations."

And all the people replied, "Let it be so! Amen."

And Anna made a song to the Lord God, saying,
"I sing a holy song to the Lord my God,
for he has visited me and removed from me the
reproach of my enemies.

The Lord God has given me his righteous fruit,
unique and abundant before him.
Who will report to the sons of Reuben that Anna is
now nursing a child?
Listen closely, you twelve tribes of Israel: Anna is
nursing a child!"

Thursday

Theme: Mary The Consecrated Virgin In The Temple

Proto-evangelium of James: 7:1,3, 8:2-3

When she turned two, Joachim said, "Now we should take her up to the temple of the Lord, to fulfill the promise we made; otherwise, the Master may send some harm our way and our gift be deemed unacceptable."

And the priest of the Lord received her and gave her a kiss, blessing her and saying, "The Lord has made your name great for all generations. Through you will the Lord reveal his redemption to the sons of Israel at the end of time." He set her on the third step of the altar, and the Lord God cast his grace down upon her. She danced on her feet, and the entire house of Israel loved her.

But when she reached her twelfth birthday, the priests held a council and said, "See, Mary has become twelve years old in the Lord's temple. What then shall we do with her, to keep her from defiling the sanctuary of the Lord our God?"

They said to the chief priest, “You have stood on the Lord’s altar. Go in and pray about her, and we will do whatever the Lord God reveals to you.” The chief priest went in, taking the robe with twelve bells into the Holy of Holies; and he prayed about her.

And behold, an angel of the Lord appeared and said to him, “Zacharias, Zacharias, go out and gather the widowers of the people, and have each of them bring a rod; she will become the wife of the one to whom the Lord God gives a sign.” And the heralds went out to all the countryside of Judea and the trumpet of the Lord was blown, and everyone came running.

Friday
Theme: Joseph Betrothed To Mary

Proto-evangelium of James: 9:1-3

Joseph cast aside his carpenter’s axe and went to their meeting. When they had gathered together, they went to the chief priest, bringing their rods. And when he had taken everyone’s rods he went into the temple and prayed.

When he finished his prayer, he took the rods, went outside, and gave them back. And no sign appeared among them. But Joseph took the last rod, and behold! A dove came out of the rod and flew onto Joseph’s head.

The priest said to Joseph, “You have been called to take the Lord’s virgin into your safe-keeping.” But Joseph refused, saying, “I have sons and am an old

man; she is but a child. I do not want to become a laughingstock to the sons of Israel.”

The priest replied, “Fear the Lord your God, and remember everything that he did to Dathan, Abiram, and Korah, how the earth split open and they were all devoured because of their dispute. Now, Joseph, you should be afraid of this happening to your house as well.” Joseph was afraid and took her into his safe-keeping.

Saturday
Theme: The Annunciation

Proto-evangelium of James: 11:1-3

Mary took a pitcher and went out to fetch some water. And behold, she heard a voice saying, “Greetings, you who are favoured. The Lord is with you. You are blessed among women.”

Mary looked around, right and left, to see where the voice was coming from. She then entered her house frightened and set the pitcher down.

And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before her and said, “Do not fear, Mary. For you have found favour before the Master of all, and you will conceive a child by his Word.” But as she listened, she was asking herself, “Am I to conceive from the living Lord God and give birth like every other woman?”

The angel of the Lord said to her, “Not so, Mary. For the power of God will overshadow you. Therefore, the

one born from you will be called holy, the Son of the Highest. And you will name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

Mary replied, “Behold the slave of the Lord is before you. May it happen to me as you have said.”

Second Sunday of Advent
Theme: The Genealogy of Jesus

MT 1:1-17

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham became the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers. Judah became the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar. Perez became the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab. Amminadab became the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab. Boaz became the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth. Obed became the father of Jesse, Jesse the father of David the king.

David became the father of Solomon, whose mother had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon became the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asaph. Asaph became the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, Joram the father of Uzziah. Uzziah became the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah. Hezekiah became the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amos, Amos the father of Josiah. Josiah became the father of Jechoniah and his brothers at the time of the Babylonian exile.

After the Babylonian exile, Jechoniah became the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, Zerubbabel the father of Abiud. Abiud became the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, Azor the father of Zadok. Zadok became the father of Achim, Achim the father of Eliud, Eliud the father of Eleazar. Eleazar became the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Of her was born Jesus who is called the Messiah.

Thus, the total number of generations from Abraham to David is fourteen generations; from David to the Babylonian exile, fourteen generations; from the Babylonian exile to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

Second Week of Advent

Monday

Theme: In Praise Of The Lord

Odes of Solomon Song 7

As anger moves over evil,
so joy moves over the beloved
and floods us with her fruit.
My joy is the lord, and I move toward him.
The way is excellent. My helper is the lord,
who in candour lets me know him intimately.
His kindness has humbled his magnitude.
He became like me so I might receive him.
He thought like me so I could become him,
and I do not tremble when I look at him,
for he is gracious to me.

He assumed my nature so I could learn from him.
He assumed my form so I would not turn away.
The father of knowledge is learning's word.
He who created wisdom is wiser than his works.
He who created me knew how to attend me
when I came into being.
From his abundant grace he has found mercy for me
and lets me request and receive his sacrifice.
He is incorruptible,
the perfection of the worlds, and our father.
He lets himself be seen in his works
and be recognized as their creator,
and none will think his works are self-made.
Over what he has done, from the beginning
and to the end, is the gaze of his light.
He was resting in his son and found pleasure in his
son,
and through his salvation the lord possessed all
things.

Tuesday
Theme: The Clay Sparrows

Gospel of Infancy 2: 1-4

When this child Jesus was five years old, he was playing by the ford of a stream; and he gathered the flowing waters into pools and made them immediately pure. These things he ordered simply by speaking a word. He then made some soft mud and fashioned twelve sparrows from it. It was the Sabbath when he did this. A number of other children were also playing with him. But when a certain Jew saw what Jesus had done while playing on the Sabbath,

he left right away and reported to his father, Joseph, “Look, your child at the stream has taken mud and formed twelve sparrows. He has profaned the Sabbath!” When Joseph came to the place and saw what had happened, he cried out to him, “Why are you doing what is forbidden on the Sabbath?” But Jesus clapped his hands and cried to the sparrows, “Be gone!” And the sparrows took flight and went off, chirping.

Wednesday
Theme: Arise Zenon

Gospel of Infancy 9: 1-3

Some days later Jesus was playing on a flat rooftop of a house, and one of the children playing with him fell from the roof and died. When the other children saw what had happened, they ran away, so that Jesus stood there alone. When the parents of the one who died arrived, they accused him of throwing him down. But Jesus said, “I certainly did not throw him down.” But they began to abuse him verbally.

Jesus leapt down from the roof and stood beside the child’s corpse, and with a loud voice he cried out, “Zenon!” (for that was his name) “rise up and tell me: did I throw you down?” And right away he rose up and said, “Not at all Lord! You did not throw me down, but you have raised me up!” When they saw this, they were astounded. The parents of the child glorified God for the sign that had occurred, and they worshiped Jesus.

Thursday
Theme: Sowing A Single Grain Of Wheat

Gospel of Infancy 12: 1-2

When it later became time for sowing, the child went out with his father to sow wheat in their field. And when his father sowed, the child Jesus also sowed a single grain of wheat. When he harvested and threshed the grain, it produced a hundred large bushels. He called all the poor people of the village to the threshing floor and gave them the wheat; and Joseph took what was left of it. He was eight years old when he did this sign.

Friday
Theme: Raising The Dead Worker

Gospel of Infancy 18: 1-2

Sometime later a house was being built and there was a great disturbance. Jesus got up and went out to the place. He saw a man lying down, dead; taking his hand he said, "I say to you, O man, rise up and do your work." Immediately he rose up and worshiped him. When the crowd saw, it was amazed and said, "This child comes from heaven. For he has saved many souls from death—his entire life he is able to save them."

Saturday
Theme: Finding At The Temple

Gospel of Infancy 19: 1-5

When he was twelve years old his parents made their customary trip to Jerusalem, in a caravan, for the Passover feast. After the Passover they returned home. While they were returning, the child Jesus went back up to Jerusalem. But his parents thought he was in the caravan.

After their first day of travel, they began looking for him among their relatives and were upset not to find him. They returned again to the city to look for him. And after the third day they found him sitting in the Temple in the midst of the teachers, both listening and asking them questions. Everyone was attending closely, amazed that though a child, he questioned the elders and teachers of the people sharply, explaining the chief points of the Law and the parables of the prophets.

When his mother Mary came up to him she said, “Why have you done this to us, child? See, we have been distressed, looking for you.” Jesus replied to them, “Why are you looking for me? Don’t you know that I must be with those who are my Father’s?”

The scribes and Pharisees said, “Are you the mother of this child?” She replied, “I am.” They said to her, “You are most fortunate among women, because God has blessed the fruit of your womb. For we have never seen or heard of such glory, such virtue and wisdom.

Jesus got up from there and followed his mother, and he was obedient to his parents. But his mother kept to herself all these things that had happened. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and grace.

To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.



**Third Sunday of Advent
(Gaudete Sunday)
Theme: The Annunciation**

LK 1:26-38

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God."

Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Third Week of Advent

Monday

Theme: The Magnificat

LK 1:46-55

Mary said:

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my saviour.

For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness;
behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed.

The Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him.

He has shown might with his arm,
dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart.

He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones
but lifted up the lowly.

The hungry he has filled with good things;
the rich he has sent away empty.

He has helped Israel his servant, remembering his
mercy,

according to his promise to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Tuesday
Theme: The Announcement Of John The
Baptist's Conception

LK 1:5-17

In the days of Herod, King of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah of the priestly division of Abijah; his wife was from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both were righteous in the eyes of God, observing all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blamelessly. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren and both were advanced in years.

Once when he was serving as priest in his division's turn before God, according to the practice of the priestly service, he was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to burn incense. Then, when the whole assembly of the people was praying outside at the hour of the incense offering, the angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right of the altar of incense. Zechariah was troubled by what he saw, and fear came upon him.

But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall name him John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He will drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will be filled with the holy Spirit even from his mother's womb, and he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will

go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah to turn the hearts of fathers toward children and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to prepare a people fit for the Lord.”

Wednesday
Theme: A Sign For Zechariah

LK 1:18-25

Then Zechariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.” And the angel said to him in reply, “I am Gabriel, who stand before God. I was sent to speak to you and to announce to you this good news. But now you will be speechless and unable to talk until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled at their proper time.”

Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah and were amazed that he stayed so long in the sanctuary. But when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He was gesturing to them but remained mute. Then, when his days of ministry were completed, he went home. After this time his wife Elizabeth conceived, and she went into seclusion for five months, saying, “So has the Lord done for me at a time when he has seen fit to take away my disgrace before others.”

Thursday
Theme: The Visitation

LK 1:39-45

During those days Mary set out and travelled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

Friday
Theme: The Birth Of John The Baptist

LK 1:57-64, 66

When the time arrived for Elizabeth to have her child, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy toward her, and they rejoiced with her. When they came on the eighth day to circumcise the child, they were going to call him Zechariah after his father, but his mother said in reply, "No. He will be called John."

But they answered her, "There is no one among your relatives who has this name." So they made signs,

asking his father what he wished him to be called. He asked for a tablet and wrote, “John is his name,” and all were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened, his tongue freed, and he spoke blessing God. All who heard these things took them to heart, saying, “What, then, will this child be?” For surely the hand of the Lord was with him.

Saturday
Theme: The Canticle Of Zechariah

LK 1:67-80

Then Zechariah his father, filled with the holy Spirit, prophesied, saying:

“Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
for he has visited and brought redemption to his people.

He has raised up a horn for our salvation
within the house of David his servant,
even as he promised through the mouth
of his holy prophets from of old:
salvation from our enemies and from
the hand of all who hate us,
to show mercy to our fathers
and to be mindful of his holy covenant
and of the oath he swore to Abraham our father,
and to grant us that, rescued from the hand of
enemies, without fear we might worship him in
holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
And you, child, will be called prophet of the Most
High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
to give his people knowledge of salvation

through the forgiveness of their sins,
because of the tender mercy of our God
by which the daybreak from on high will visit us
to shine on those who sit in darkness and
death's shadow,
to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he
was in the desert until the day of his manifestation to
Israel.

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Theme: The Word Made Flesh

JN 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God.
All things came to be through him,
and without him nothing came to be.
What came to be through him was life,
and this life was the light of the human race;
the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.
A man named John was sent from God.
He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that
all might believe through him.
He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.
The true light, which enlightens everyone, was
coming into the world.
He was in the world,
and the world came to be through him,
but the world did not know him.
He came to what was his own,
but his own people did not accept him.
But to those who did accept him he gave power to
become children of God, to those who believe in his
name, who were born not by natural generation nor
by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God.
And the Word became flesh
and made his dwelling among us,
and we saw his glory,
the glory as of the Father's only Son,

full of grace and truth.

Fourth Week of Advent
Theme: The Elect One Dwelling Amongst Us

Monday
1Enoch 45:2-3

And into the heaven they shall not ascend,
And on the earth, they shall not come:
Such shall be the lot of the sinners
Who have denied the name of the Lord of Spirits,
Who are thus preserved for the day of suffering and
tribulation.

On that day Mine Elect One shall sit on the throne of
glory
And shall try their works,
And their places of rest shall be innumerable.
And their souls shall grow strong within them when
they see Mine elect ones,
And those who have called upon My glorious name

Tuesday
1Enoch 45:4-5, 46:1

Then will I cause Mine Elect One to dwell among
them. And I will transform the heaven and make it
an eternal blessing and light, And I will transform
the earth and make it a blessing: And I will cause
Mine elect ones to dwell upon it: But the sinners and
evil-doers shall not set foot thereon.

And there I saw One, who had a head of days,

And His head was white like wool,
And with Him was another being whose countenance
had the appearance of a man,
And his face was full of graciousness, like one of the
holy angels.

Wednesday
1Enoch 46:3-6

This is the Son of Man who hath righteousness,
With whom dwelleth righteousness,
And who revealeth all the treasures of that which is
hidden,
Because the Lord of Spirits hath chosen him,
And whose lot hath the pre-eminence before the Lord
of Spirits in uprightness for ever.

And this Son of Man whom thou hast seen shall raise
up the kings and the mighty from their seats,
And the strong from their thrones
And shall loosen the reins of the strong,
And break the teeth of the sinners;
And he shall put down the kings from their thrones
and kingdoms. Because they do not extol and praise
Him, Nor humbly acknowledge whence the kingdom
was bestowed upon them.
And he shall put down the countenance of the strong,
And shall fill them with shame.
And darkness shall be their dwelling,
And worms shall be their bed,
And they shall have no hope of rising from their beds,
Because they do not extol the name of the Lord of
Spirits.

Thursday
1Enoch 48:2-6

And at that hour that Son of Man was named
In the presence of the Lord of Spirits,
And his name before the Head of Days.
Yea, before the sun and the signs were created,
Before the stars of the heaven were made,
His name was named before the Lord of Spirits.
He shall be a staff to the righteous whereon to stay
themselves and not fall,
And he shall be the light of the Gentiles,
And the hope of those who are troubled of heart.
All who dwell on earth shall fall down and worship
before him, And will praise and bless and celebrate
with song the Lord of Spirits. And for this reason
hath he been chosen and hidden before Him, Before
the creation of the world and for evermore.

Friday
1Enoch 49:1-4

For wisdom is poured out like water,
And glory faileth not before him for evermore.
For he is mighty in all the secrets of righteousness,
And unrighteousness shall disappear as a shadow,
And have no continuance;
Because the Elect One standeth before the Lord of
Spirits,
And his glory is for ever and ever,
And his might unto all generations.
And in him dwells the spirit of wisdom,
And the spirit which gives insight,
And the spirit of understanding and of might.

And the spirit of those who have fallen asleep in righteousness.
And he shall judge the secret things,
And none shall be able to utter a lying word before him;
For he is the Elect One before the Lord of Spirits according to His good pleasure.

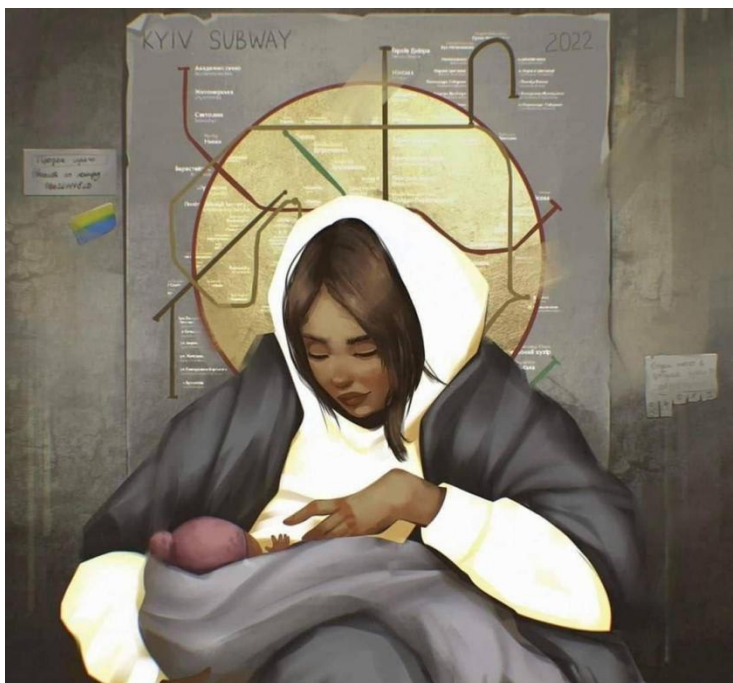
Saturday
1Enoch 51:1-4

And in those days shall the earth also give back that which has been entrusted to it, And Sheol also shall give back that which it has received,
And hell shall give back that which it owes.
For in those days the Elect One shall arise,

And he shall choose the righteous and holy from among them: For the day has drawn nigh that they should be saved.

And the Elect One shall in those days sit on My throne, And his mouth shall pour forth all the secrets of wisdom and counsel: For the Lord of Spirits hath given (them) to him and hath glorified him.

And in those days shall the mountains leap like rams, And the hills also shall skip like lambs satisfied with milk, And the faces of all the angels in heaven shall be lighted up with joy. And the earth shall rejoice, And the righteous shall dwell upon it, And the elect shall walk thereon.



The Virgin of The Kiev Metro

Circumcision of The LORD
(First Sunday after Christmas)
Theme: The Name of Jesus

LK 2:21, 40

When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

First Week After Christmas

Monday
Theme: The Visit of The Shepherds

LK 2:15-19

When the angels went away from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So, they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them.

Tuesday
Theme: Nunc Dimittis

LK 2:25-32

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, 28he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying:

“Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.”

Wednesday
Theme: Simeon's Prophecy

LK 2:33-35

The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted (and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”

Thursday
Theme: Anna's Prophecy

LK 2:36-38

There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.

Friday
Theme: The Flight To Egypt

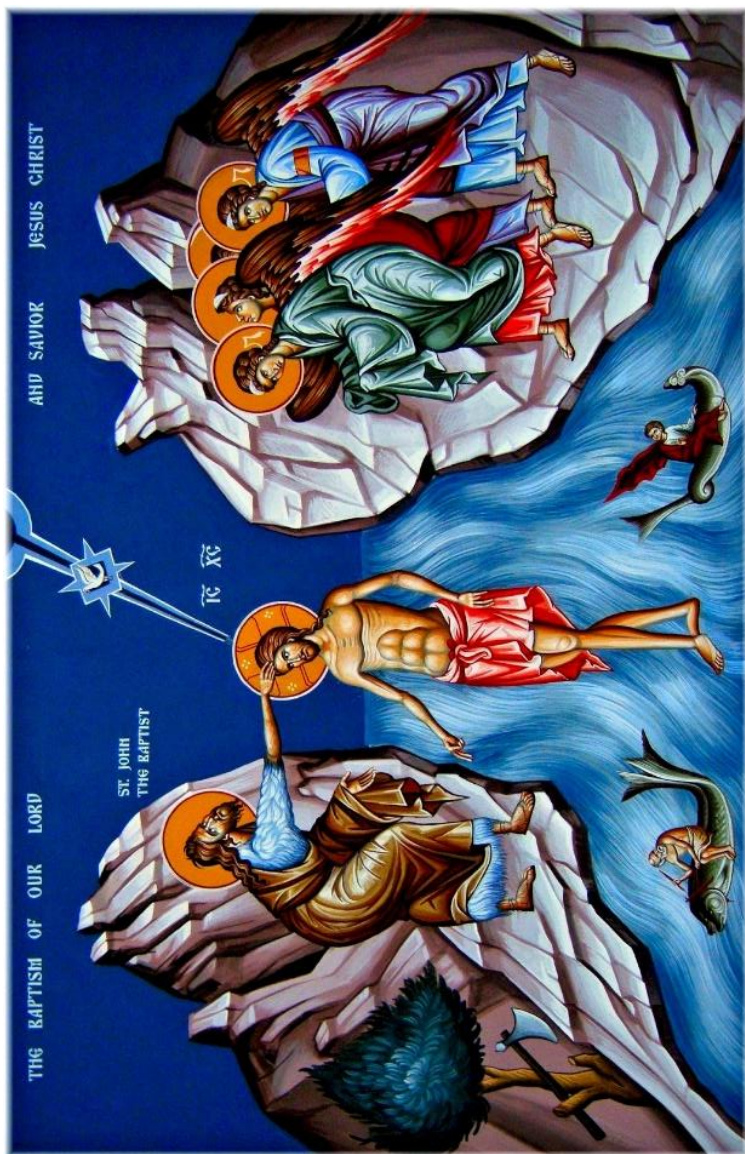
MT 2:13-15

When they had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him." Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

Saturday
Theme: The Return From Egypt

MT 2:19-23

When Herod had died, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” He rose, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go back there. And because he had been warned in a dream, he departed for the region of Galilee. He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He shall be called a Nazorean.”



Baptism of the LORD
(Second Sunday after Christmas)
Theme: The Testimony of John The Baptist

JN 1:19-34

And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, “Who are you?” He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, “I am not the Messiah.” So they asked him, “What are you then? Are you Elijah?” And he said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” He answered, “No.” So they said to him, “Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?”

He said:

“I am ‘the voice of one crying out in the desert,
“Make straight the way of the Lord,” ’
as Isaiah the prophet said.”

Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah or Elijah or the Prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie.”

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and said,
“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, ‘A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.’ I did not know him, but the reason

why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known to Israel.”

John testified further, saying,
“I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from the sky and remain upon him. I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the holy Spirit.’ Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God.”

Second Week After Christmas

Monday

Theme: John The Baptist’s Testimony

JN 1:15-18

John testified to him and cried out, saying,
“This was he of whom I said, ‘The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.’ ”

From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father’s side, has revealed him.

Tuesday
Theme: John The Baptist's Preaching

LK 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert.

He went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:

“A voice of one crying out in the desert:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.
Every valley shall be filled
and every mountain and hill shall be made low.
The winding roads shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

Wednesday
Theme: Every Tree That Does Not Produce
Good Fruit

LK 3:7-9

He said to the crowds who came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruits as evidence of your repentance; and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe lies at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

Thursday
Theme: John's Conversion Of People

LK 3:10-14

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two tunics should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise."

Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He answered them, "Stop collecting more than what is prescribed."

Soldiers also asked him, "And what is it that we should do?"

He told them, “Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages.”

Friday
Theme: Are You The Messiah?

LK 3:15-17

Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Messiah.

John answered them all, saying,
“I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Saturday
Theme: My Beloved Son

LK 3:21-22

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove.

And a voice came from heaven,
“You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.

Third Sunday After Christmas
Theme: Call of the Disciples

JN 1:35-51

The next day John was there again with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon.

Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

The next day he decided to go to Galilee, and he found Philip. And Jesus said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the town of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, and also the prophets, Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth."

But Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Here is a true Israelite. There is no duplicity in him." Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel."

Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this." And he said to him, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you will see the sky opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

Third Week After Christmas

Monday

Theme: Coming Of The Holy Great One

1 Enoch 1:3-8

Concerning the elect I said, and took up my parable concerning them:

The Holy Great One will come forth from His dwelling,

And the eternal God will tread upon the earth, on Mount Sinai,

And appear in the strength of His might from the heaven of heavens.

And all shall be smitten with fear,

And the Watchers shall quake,

And great fear and trembling shall seize them unto the ends of the earth.

And the high mountains shall be shaken.
And the high hills shall be made low,
And shall melt like wax before the flame
And the earth shall be wholly rent in sunder,
And all that is upon the earth shall perish,
And there shall be a judgement upon all.

But with the righteous He will make peace,
And will protect the elect,
And mercy shall be upon them.
And they shall all belong to God,
And they shall be prospered,
And they shall all be blessed.
And He will help them all,
And light shall appear unto them,
And He will make peace with them.

Tuesday

Theme: Call Of Simon, Andrew, John and James

MT 4:18-22

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen.

He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."

At once they left their nets and followed him.

He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets.
He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him.

Wednesday
Theme: The Early Preaching

MT 4:23-25

He went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness among the people. His fame spread to all of Syria, and they brought to him all who were sick with various diseases and racked with pain, those who were possessed, lunatics, and paralytics, and he cured them. And great crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan followed him.

Thursday
Theme: Depart From Me, I am A Sinful Man

LK 5:1-11

While the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret. He saw two boats there alongside the lake; the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, he asked him to

put out a short distance from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.” Simon said in reply, “Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets.”

When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. They signalled to their partners in the other boat to come to help them. They came and filled both boats so that they were in danger of sinking.

When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, “Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man.” For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him and all those with him, and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners of Simon.

Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.” When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him.

Friday
Theme: The Call Of Levi (Matthew)

LK 5:27-32

After this he went out and saw a tax collector

named Levi sitting at the customs post. He said to him, “Follow me.” And leaving everything behind, he got up and followed him.

Then Levi gave a great banquet for him in his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were at table with them. The Pharisees and their scribes complained to his disciples, saying, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?”

Jesus said to them in reply, “Those who are healthy do not need a physician, but the sick do. I have not come to call the righteous to repentance but sinners.”

Saturday

Theme: In The Name Of Jesus Rise!

Acts 3:1-10

Now Peter and John were going up to the temple area for the three o'clock hour of prayer. And a man crippled from birth was carried and placed at the gate of the temple called “the Beautiful Gate” every day to beg for alms from the people who entered the temple. When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked for alms. But Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, “Look at us.”

He paid attention to them, expecting to receive something from them. Peter said, “I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have I give you: in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean, rise and walk.”

Then Peter took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles grew strong. He leaped up, stood, and walked around, and went into the temple with them, walking and jumping and praising God. When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized him as the one who used to sit begging at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, and they were filled with amazement and astonishment at what had happened to him.



The Wedding At Cana

Fourth Sunday After Christmas
Theme: The First Miracle of Jesus

JN 2:1-12

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."

Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you."

Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water."

So they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it. And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from (although the servers who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now."

Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him. After this, he and his mother,

his brothers, and his disciples went down to Capernaum and stayed there only a few days.

Fourth Week After Christmas

Monday

Theme: Be Quiet Satan!

LK 4:31-37

Jesus then went down to Capernaum, a town of Galilee. He taught them on the sabbath, and they were astonished at his teaching because he spoke with authority.

In the synagogue there was a man with the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out in a loud voice, “Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”

Jesus rebuked him and said, “Be quiet! Come out of him!”

Then the demon threw the man down in front of them and came out of him without doing him any harm.

They were all amazed and said to one another, “What is there about his word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out.” And news of him spread everywhere in the surrounding region.

Tuesday
Theme: Cure Of Peter's Mother In Law

MK 1: 29-34

On leaving the synagogue he entered the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John. Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever. They immediately told him about her. He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them.

When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him.

Wednesday
Theme: Everyone Is Looking For You

MK 1: 35-39

Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. Simon and those who were with him pursued him and on finding him said, "Everyone is looking for you."

He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." So he went into their synagogues, preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.

Thursday
Theme: Cure Of The Unclean Man

MK 1:40-45

A leper came to him and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean."

Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean." The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean. Then, warning him sternly, he dismissed him at once.

Then he said to him, "See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them."

The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly. He remained outside in deserted places, and people kept coming to him from everywhere.

Friday
Theme: Your Sins Are Forgiven

MK 2:1-12

When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it became known that he was at home. Many gathered together so that there was no longer room

for them, not even around the door, and he preached the word to them.

They came bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. Unable to get near Jesus because of the crowd, they opened up the roof above him. After they had broken through, they let down the mat on which the paralytic was lying.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Child, your sins are forgiven.”

Now some of the scribes were sitting there asking themselves, “Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming. Who but God alone can forgive sins?”

Jesus immediately knew in his mind what they were thinking to themselves, so he said, “Why are you thinking such things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, pick up your mat and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth”— he said to the paralytic, “I say to you, rise, pick up your mat, and go home.”

He rose, picked up his mat at once, and went away in the sight of everyone. They were all astounded and glorified God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this.”

Saturday
Theme: Enoch's Declaration To The Fallen
Angels

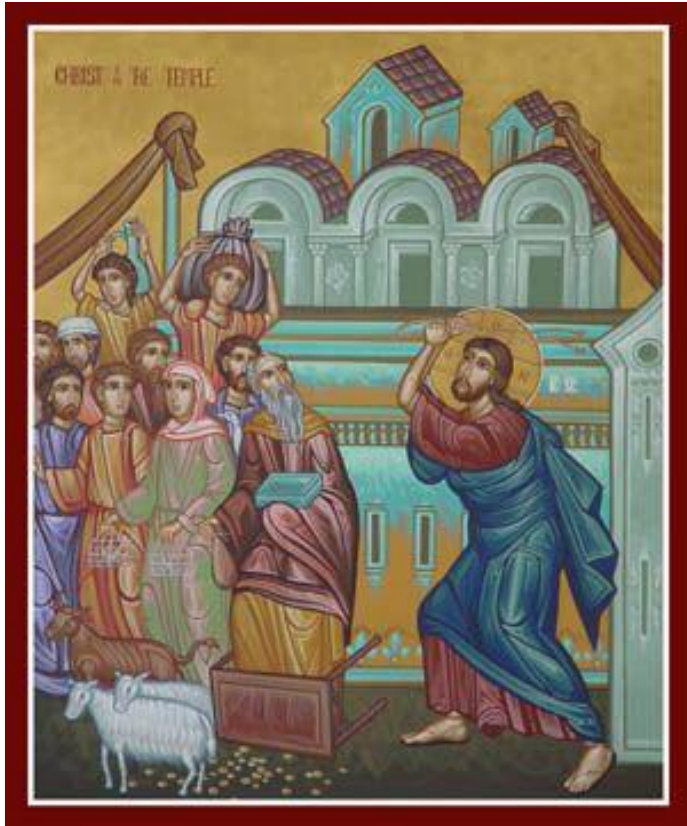
1 Enoch 12:1-6

Before these things Enoch was hidden, and no one of the children of men knew where he was hidden, and where he abode, and what had become of him. And his activities had to do with the Watchers, and his days were with the holy ones.

And I, Enoch, was blessing the Lord of majesty and the King of the ages, and lo! the Watchers called me – Enoch the scribe – and said to me:

‘Enoch, thou scribe of righteousness, go, declare to the Watchers of the heaven who have left the high heaven, the holy eternal place, and have defiled themselves with women, and have done as the children of earth do, and have taken unto themselves wives:

“Ye have wrought great destruction on the earth: And ye shall have no peace nor forgiveness of sin: and inasmuch as they delight themselves in their children, The murder of their beloved ones shall they see, and over the destruction of their children shall they lament, and shall make supplication unto eternity, but mercy and peace shall ye not attain.”



Cleansing The Temple

Fifth Sunday After Christmas
Theme: Cleansing of the Body and Soul

JN 2: 13-25

Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables, and to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace."

His disciples recalled the words of scripture, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

At this the Jews answered and said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?"

Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."

The Jews said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?"

But he was speaking about the temple of his body. Therefore, when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they came to believe the scripture and the word Jesus had spoken.

While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, many began to believe in his name when they saw the signs he was doing. But Jesus would not trust himself to them because he knew them all, and did not need anyone to testify about human nature. He himself understood it well.

Fifth Week After Christmas

Monday

Theme: Prepare The Way For The Lord

MT 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”

It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said:

“A voice of one crying out in the desert,
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.’”

John wore clothing made of camel’s hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming

wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

Even now the axe lies at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Tuesday
Theme: The Temptation Of Christ

MT 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry.

The tempter approached and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread."

He said in reply, "It is written:
'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes forth
from the mouth of God.' "

Then the devil took him to the holy city, and made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you' and 'with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus answered him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.'"

Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me."

At this, Jesus said to him, "Get away, Satan! It is written: 'The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.'"

Then the devil left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him.

Wednesday
Theme: A Great Light

MT 4:12-17

When he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of

Zebulun and Naphtali, that what had been said through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled:

“Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,
the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles,
the people who sit in darkness
have seen a great light,
on those dwelling in a land
overshadowed by death
light has arisen.”

From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say,
“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Thursday
Theme: Curing Of The Sick

MT 4:23-25

He went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness among the people. His fame spread to all of Syria, and they brought to him all who were sick with various diseases and racked with pain, those who were possessed, lunatics, and paralytics, and he cured them. And great crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan followed him.

Friday
Theme: Sermon On The Mount

MT 5:1-12

When he saw the crowds, he went up the mountain,
and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him.
He began to teach them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are they who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the land.
Blessed are they who hunger and thirst
for righteousness,
for they will be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the clean of heart,
for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are they who are persecuted
for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute
you and utter every kind of evil against you because
of me.
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in
heaven. Thus, they persecuted the prophets who were
before you.

Saturday
Theme: God's Response To The Petition Of The
Fallen Angels

1Enoch 14:24-15:7

And until then I had been prostrate on my face, trembling: and the Lord called me with His own mouth, and said to me: 'Come hither, Enoch, and hear my word.' And one of the holy ones came to me and waked me, and He made me rise up and approach the door: and I bowed my face downwards.

And He answered and said to me, and I heard His voice: 'Fear not, Enoch, thou righteous man and scribe of righteousness: approach hither and hear my voice. And go, say to the Watchers of heaven, who have sent thee to intercede for them: "You should intercede for men, and not men for you: Wherefore have ye left the high, holy, and eternal heaven, and lain with women, and defiled yourselves with the daughters of men and taken to yourselves wives, and done like the children of earth, and begotten Nephilim as your sons.

And though ye were holy, spiritual, living the eternal life, you have defiled yourselves with the blood of women, and have begotten children with the blood of flesh, and, as the children of men, have lusted after flesh and blood as those also do who die and perish.

Therefore, have I given them wives also that they might impregnate them, and beget children by them, that thus nothing might be wanting to them on earth.

But you were formerly spiritual, living the eternal life, and immortal for all generations of the world. And therefore, I have not appointed wives for you; for as for the spiritual ones of the heaven, in heaven is their dwelling.

Sixth Sunday After Christmas
Theme: Born of the Holy Spirit

JN 3: 1-21

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. He came to Jesus at night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you are doing unless God is with him.”

Jesus answered and said to him, “Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”

Nicodemus said to him, “How can a person once grown old be born again? Surely, he cannot re-enter his mother’s womb and be born again, can he?”

Jesus answered, “Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of flesh is flesh and what is born of spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I told you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it wills, and you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Nicodemus answered and said to him, “How can this happen?”

Jesus answered and said to him, “You are the teacher of Israel and you do not understand this? Amen,

amen, I say to you, we speak of what we know and we testify to what we have seen, but you people do not accept our testimony. If I tell you about earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?

No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.”

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.

Sixth Week After Christmas

Monday

Theme: Today This Is Fulfilled

LK 4:16-30

He came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the sabbath day. He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring glad tidings to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.”

Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him.

He said to them, “Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.”

And all spoke highly of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They also asked, “Isn’t this the son of Joseph?”

He said to them, “Surely you will quote

me this proverb, 'Physician, cure yourself,' and say, 'Do here in your native place the things that we heard were done in Capernaum.' ”

And he said, “Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place. Indeed, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah when the sky was closed for three and a half years and a severe famine spread over the entire land. It was to none of these that Elijah was sent, but only to a widow in Zarephath in the land of Sidon.

Again, there were many lepers in Israel during the time of Elisha the prophet; yet not one of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.”

When the people in the synagogue heard this, they were all filled with fury. They rose up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town had been built, to hurl him down headlong. But he passed through the midst of them and went away.

Tuesday
Theme: Legion

MK 5:1-20

They came to the other side of the sea, to the territory of the Gerasenes. When he got out of the boat, at once a man from the tombs who had an unclean spirit met him. The man had been dwelling among the tombs, and no one could restrain him any longer, even with a chain. In fact, he had frequently been bound with

shackles and chains, but the chains had been pulled apart by him and the shackles smashed, and no one was strong enough to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and on the hillsides he was always crying out and bruising himself with stones.

Catching sight of Jesus from a distance, he ran up and prostrated himself before him, crying out in a loud voice,

“What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me!” (He had been saying to him, “Unclean spirit, come out of the man!”)

He asked him, “What is your name?”

He replied, “Legion is my name. There are many of us.”

And he pleaded earnestly with him not to drive them away from that territory. Now a large herd of swine was feeding there on the hillside. And they pleaded with him, “Send us into the swine. Let us enter them.”

And he let them, and the unclean spirits came out and entered the swine. The herd of about two thousand rushed down a steep bank into the sea, where they were drowned. The swineherds ran away and reported the incident in the town and throughout the countryside. And people came out to see what had happened.

As they approached Jesus, they caught sight of the man who had been possessed by Legion, sitting there clothed and in his right mind. And they were seized with fear. Those who witnessed the incident explained to them what had happened to the possessed man and to the swine.

Then they began to beg him to leave their district. As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed pleaded to remain with him.

But he would not permit him but told him instead, “Go home to your family and announce to them all that the Lord in his pity has done for you.”

Then the man went off and began to proclaim in the Decapolis what Jesus had done for him; and all were amazed.

Wednesday
Theme: Do You Fast?

LK 5:33-39

And they said to him, “The disciples of John fast often and offer prayers, and the disciples of the Pharisees do the same; but yours eat and drink.”

Jesus answered them, “Can you make the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come, and when the bridegroom is taken away from them, then they will fast in those days.”

And he also told them a parable. “No one tears a piece from a new cloak to patch an old one. Otherwise, he will tear the new and the piece from it will not match the old cloak.

Likewise, no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins, and it will be spilled, and the skins will be ruined. Rather, new wine must be poured into fresh wineskins. No one who has been drinking old wine desires new, for he says, ‘The old is good.’ ”

Thursday

Theme: The Seed Grows of Itself.

MK 4:26-29

He said, “This is how it is with the kingdom of God; it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land and would sleep and rise night and day and the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how. Of its own accord the land yields fruit, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the grain is ripe, he wields the sickle at once, for the harvest has come.”

Friday

Theme: Picking Grain On A Sabbath

LK 6:1-5

While he was going through a field of grain on a sabbath, his disciples were picking the heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands, and eating them.

Some Pharisees said, “Why are you doing what is unlawful on the sabbath?”

Jesus said to them in reply, “Have you not read what David did when he and those who were with him were hungry? He went into the house of God, took the bread of offering, which only the priests could lawfully eat, ate of it, and shared it with his companions.”

Then he said to them, “The Son of Man is Lord of the sabbath.”

Saturday
Theme: The Fate Of The Nephilim

1 Enoch 15:8-12

And now, the Nephilim, who are produced from the spirits and flesh, shall be called evil spirits upon the earth, and on the earth shall be their dwelling. Evil spirits have proceeded from their bodies; because they are born from men, and from the holy Watchers is their beginning and primal origin; they shall be evil spirits on earth, and evil spirits shall they be called.

As for the spirits of heaven, in heaven shall be their dwelling, but as for the spirits of the earth which were born upon the earth, on the earth shall be their dwelling. And the spirits of the Nephilim afflict, oppress, destroy, attack, do battle, and work destruction on the earth, and cause trouble: they take

no food, but nevertheless hunger and thirst, and cause offences.

And these spirits shall rise up against the children of men and against the women, because they have proceeded from them.



Angel Of The LORD

Seventh Sunday After Christmas
Theme: The Holy One from Above

JN 3: 22-36

After this, Jesus and his disciples went into the region of Judea, where he spent some time with them baptizing. John was also baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was an abundance of water there, and people came to be baptized, for John had not yet been imprisoned. Now a dispute arose between the disciples of John and a Jew about ceremonial washings. So they came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, the one who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you testified, here he is baptizing and everyone is coming to him.”

John answered and said, “No one can receive anything except what has been given him from heaven. You yourselves can testify that I said I am not the Messiah, but that I was sent before him. The one who has the bride is the bridegroom; the best man, who stands and listens to him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom’s voice. So this joy of mine has been made complete. He must increase; I must decrease.”

The one who comes from above is above all. The one who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of earthly things. But the one who comes from heaven is above all. He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony. Whoever does accept his testimony certifies that God is trustworthy. For the one whom God sent speaks the words of God. He does not ration his gift of the Spirit. The Father loves the Son

and has given everything over to him. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever disobeys the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains upon him.

Seventh Week After Christmas

Monday

Theme: A Cure On A Sabbath

LK 6: 6-11

On another sabbath he went into the synagogue and taught, and there was a man there whose right hand was withered. The scribes and the Pharisees watched him closely to see if he would cure on the sabbath so that they might discover a reason to accuse him.

But he realized their intentions and said to the man with the withered hand, "Come up and stand before us." And he rose and stood there.

Then Jesus said to them, "I ask you, is it lawful to do good on the sabbath rather than to do evil, to save life rather than to destroy it?"

Looking around at them all, he then said to him, "Stretch out your hand." He did so and his hand was restored. But they became enraged and discussed together what they might do to Jesus.

Tuesday
Theme: The Beatitudes According To Luke

LK 6:20-26

And raising his eyes toward his disciples he said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for the kingdom of God is yours.

Blessed are you who are now hungry,
for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who are now weeping,
for you will laugh.

Blessed are you when people hate you,
and when they exclude and insult you,
and denounce your name as evil
on account of the Son of Man.

Rejoice and leap for joy on that day! Behold, your
reward will be great in heaven. For their ancestors
treated the prophets in the same way.

But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

But woe to you who are filled now,
for you will be hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now,
for you will grieve and weep.

Woe to you when all speak well of you,
for their ancestors treated the false
prophets in this way.

Wednesday
Theme: Love Your Enemies

LK 6:27-36

“But to you who hear I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

To the person who strikes you on one cheek, offer the other one as well, and from the person who takes your cloak, do not withhold even your tunic.

Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same.

If you lend money to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit [is] that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, and get back the same amount.

But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Thursday
Theme: Judge Not

LK6:37-42

“Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.”

And he told them a parable, “Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit? No disciple is superior to the teacher; but when fully trained, every disciple will be like his teacher. Why do you notice the splinter in your brother’s eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own? How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me remove that splinter in your eye,’ when you do not even notice the wooden beam in your own eye? You hypocrite! Remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter in your brother’s eye.

Friday
Theme: The Fruit Of A Tree

LK 6:43-45

A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known

by its own fruit. For people do not pick figs from thornbushes, nor do they gather grapes from brambles. A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks

Saturday

Theme: Judgement on the Watchers and the Nephilim

1Enoch 16:1-4

From the days of the slaughter and destruction and death of the Nephilim, from the souls of whose flesh the spirits, having gone forth, shall destroy without incurring judgement – thus shall they destroy until the day of the consummation, the great judgement in which the age shall be consummated over the Watchers and the godless, yea, shall be wholly consummated.”

And now as to the Watchers who have sent thee to intercede for them, who had been aforetime in heaven, say to them: “You have been in heaven, but all the mysteries had not yet been revealed to you, and you knew worthless ones, and these in the hardness of your hearts you have made known to the women, and through these mysteries women and men work much evil on earth.”

Say to them therefore: “You have no peace.”



Saint Photini, The Samaritan

Septuagesima Sunday
(Third Sunday Before Lent)
Theme: All Are Called

JN 4:4-42

He had to pass through Samaria. So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well. It was about noon. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.

The Samaritan woman said to him, "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans.

Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

The woman said to him, "Sir, you do not even have a bucket and the well is deep; where then can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his children and his flocks?"

Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the

water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

Jesus said to her, “Go call your husband and come back.”

The woman answered and said to him, “I do not have a husband.”

Jesus answered her, “You are right in saying, ‘I do not have a husband.’ For you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true.”

The woman said to him, “Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain; but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem.”

Jesus said to her, “Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You people worship what you do not understand; we worship what we understand, because salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; and indeed, the Father seeks such people to worship him. God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth.”

The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Anointed; when he comes, he will tell us everything."

Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking with you."

At that moment his disciples returned, and were amazed that he was talking with a woman, but still no one said, "What are you looking for?" or "Why are you talking with her?"

The woman left her water jar and went into the town and said to the people, "Come see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he possibly be the Messiah?" They went out of the town and came to him. Meanwhile, the disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat."

But he said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know."

So the disciples said to one another, "Could someone have brought him something to eat?"

Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work. Do you not say, 'In four months the harvest will be here'? I tell you, look up and see the fields ripe for the harvest. The reaper is already receiving his payment and gathering crops for eternal life, so that the sower and reaper can rejoice together. For here the saying is verified that 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap what you have not worked for; others have

done the work, and you are sharing the fruits of their work.”

Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told me everything I have done.” When the Samaritans came to him, they invited him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. Many more began to believe in him because of his word, and they said to the woman, “We no longer believe because of your word; for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the saviour of the world.”

Septuagesima Week

Monday

Theme: Calling of Everyone

MK 5:21-34

When Jesus had crossed again to the other side, a large crowd gathered around him, and he stayed close to the sea. One of the synagogue officials, named Jairus, came forward. Seeing him he fell at his feet and pleaded earnestly with him, saying, “My daughter is at the point of death. Please, come lay your hands on her that she may get well and live.” He went off with him, and a large crowd followed him and pressed upon him.

There was a woman afflicted with haemorrhages for twelve years. She had suffered greatly at the hands of many doctors and had spent all that she had. Yet she was not helped but only grew worse. She had heard

about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak.

She said, “If I but touch his clothes, I shall be cured.” Immediately her flow of blood dried up. She felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction.

Jesus, aware at once that power had gone out from him, turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who has touched my clothes?”

But his disciples said to him, “You see how the crowd is pressing upon you, and yet you ask, ‘Who touched me?’ ” And he looked around to see who had done it.

The woman, realizing what had happened to her, approached in fear and trembling. She fell down before Jesus and told him the whole truth. He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has saved you. Go in peace and be cured of your affliction.”

Tuesday
Theme: Do Not Be Afraid, Have Faith

MK 5:35-43

While he was still speaking, people from the synagogue official’s house arrived and said, “Your daughter has died; why trouble the teacher any longer?”

Disregarding the message that was reported, Jesus said to the synagogue official, “Do not be afraid; just have faith.”

He did not allow anyone to accompany him inside except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they arrived at the house of the synagogue official, he caught sight of a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly.

So he went in and said to them, “Why this commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but asleep.”

And they ridiculed him. Then he put them all out. He took along the child’s father and mother and those who were with him and entered the room where the child was. He took the child by the hand and said to her, “Talitha koum,” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise!”

The girl, a child of twelve, arose immediately and walked around. They were utterly astounded. He gave strict orders that no one should know this and said that she should be given something to eat.

Wednesday
Theme: Who Is My Mother, Who Are My
Brothers And Sisters

MK 3:20-22, 31-35

He came home. Again, the crowd gathered, making it impossible for them even to eat. When his relatives heard of this, they set out to seize him, for they said, “He is out of his mind.”

The scribes who had come from Jerusalem said, “He is possessed by Beelzebul,” and “By the prince of demons he drives out demons.”

His mother and his brothers arrived. Standing outside they sent word to him and called him. A crowd seated around him told him, “Your mother and your brothers are outside asking for you.”

But he said to them in reply, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” And looking around at those seated in the circle he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

Thursday

Theme: Faith Of The Syro-Phoenician Woman

MK 7:24-30

From that place he went off to the district of Tyre. He entered a house and wanted no one to know about it, but he could not escape notice. Soon a woman whose daughter had an unclean spirit heard about him. She came and fell at his feet. The woman was a Greek, a Syrophenician by birth, and she begged him to drive the demon out of her daughter.

He said to her, “Let the children be fed first. For it is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs.”

She replied and said to him, “Lord, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s scraps.”

Then he said to her, “For saying this, you may go. The demon has gone out of your daughter.”

When the woman went home, she found the child lying in bed and the demon gone.

Friday
Theme: Follow Me

MT 8:18-22

When Jesus saw a crowd around him, he gave orders to cross to the other side. A scribe approached and said to him, “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.”

Jesus answered him, “Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head.”

Another of his disciples said to him, “Lord, let me go first and bury my father.”

But Jesus answered him, “Follow me, and let the dead bury their dead.”

Saturday
Theme: Take Up Your Cross

MK 8:34-38

He summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “Whoever wishes to come after me must

deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it.

What profit is there for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? What could one give in exchange for his life?

Whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this faithless and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

Sexagesima Sunday
(Second Sunday Before Lent)
Theme: Faith in Jesus' Word

JN 4:46-54

Then he returned to Cana in Galilee, where he had made the water wine. Now there was a royal official whose son was ill in Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and asked him to come down and heal his son, who was near death.

Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will not believe."

The royal official said to him, "Sir, come down before my child dies."

Jesus said to him, "You may go; your son will live."

The man believed what Jesus said to him and left. While he was on his way back, his slaves met him and told him that his boy would live. He asked them when he began to recover. They told him, "The fever left him yesterday, about one in the afternoon."

The father realized that just at that time Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live," and he and his whole household came to believe. This was the second sign Jesus did when he came to Galilee from Judea.

Sexagesima Week

Monday

Theme: Faith in Jesus

LK 7:1-10

When he had finished all his words to the people, he entered Capernaum. A centurion there had a slave who was ill and about to die, and he was valuable to him. When he heard about Jesus, he sent elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and save the life of his slave. They approached Jesus and strongly urged him to come, saying, "He deserves to have you do this for him, for he loves our nation and he built the synagogue for us."

And Jesus went with them, but when he was only a short distance from the house, the centurion sent friends to tell him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof. Therefore, I did not consider myself worthy to come to you; but say the word and let my servant be healed. For I too am a person subject to authority, with soldiers subject to me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come here,' and he comes; and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it."

When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him and, turning, said to the crowd following him, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." When the messengers returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.

Tuesday
Theme: The Widow of Nain

LK 7:11-17

Soon afterward he journeyed to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd accompanied him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. A large crowd from the city was with her.

When the Lord saw her, he was moved with pity for her and said to her, "Do not weep." He stepped forward and touched the coffin; at this the bearers halted, and he said, "Young man, I tell you, arise!"

The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, exclaiming, "A great prophet has arisen in our midst," and "God has visited his people."

This report about him spread through the whole of Judea and in all the surrounding region

Wednesday
Theme: John's Disciples

LK 7:18-23

The disciples of John told him about all these things. John summoned two of his disciples and sent them to the Lord to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"

When the men came to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you to ask, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?’ ”

At that time he cured many of their diseases, sufferings, and evil spirits; he also granted sight to many who were blind.

And he said to them in reply, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me.”

Thursday
Theme: Who Was John?

LK 7:24-30

When the messengers of John had left, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John. “What did you go out to the desert to see—a reed swayed by the wind? Then what did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine garments? Those who dress luxuriously and live sumptuously are found in royal palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom scripture says:

‘Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, he will prepare your way before you.’

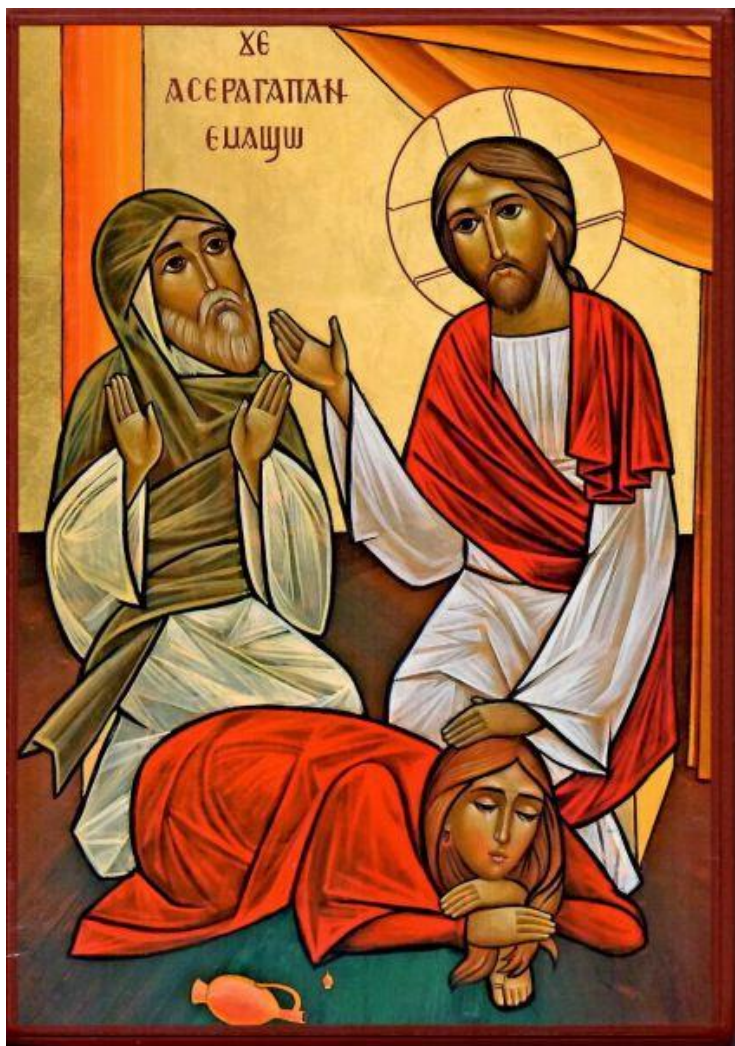
I tell you, among those born of women, no one is greater than John; yet the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

All the people who listened, including the tax collectors, and who were baptized with the baptism of John, acknowledged the righteousness of God; but the Pharisees and scholars of the law, who were not baptized by him, rejected the plan of God for themselves.

Friday
Theme: The People of This Generation

LK 7:31-35

Then to what shall I compare the people of this generation? What are they like? They are like children who sit in the marketplace and call to one another, ‘We played the flute for you, but you did not dance. We sang a dirge, but you did not weep.’ For John the Baptist came neither eating food nor drinking wine, and you said, ‘He is possessed by a demon.’ The Son of Man came eating and drinking and you said, ‘Look, he is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ But wisdom is vindicated by all her children.”



The Sinful Woman

Saturday
Theme: Love More, Love Less

LK 7:36-50

A Pharisee invited him to dine with him, and he entered the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. Now there was a sinful woman in the city who learned that he was at table in the house of the Pharisee.

Bringing an alabaster flask of ointment, she stood behind him at his feet weeping and began to bathe his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them, and anointed them with the ointment.

When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, that she is a sinner."

Jesus said to him in reply, "Simon, I have something to say to you."

"Tell me, teacher," he said.

"Two people were in debt to a certain creditor; one owed five hundred days' wages and the other owed fifty. Since they were unable to repay the debt, he forgave it for both. Which of them will love him more?"

Simon said in reply, "The one, I suppose, whose larger debt was forgiven."

He said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? When I entered your house, you did not give me water for my feet, but she has bathed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but she has not ceased kissing my feet since the time I entered. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she anointed my feet with ointment. So I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence, she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little."

He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

The others at table said to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

But he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

**Quinquagesima Sunday
(Sunday Before Lent)
Theme: Jesus, Son of The Father**

JN 5:1-18

After this, there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem at the Sheep Gate, a pool called in Hebrew Bethesda, with five porticoes. In these lay a large number of ill, blind, lame, and crippled. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years.

When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been ill for a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be well?"

The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; while I am on my way, someone else gets down there before me."

Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your mat, and walk."

Immediately the man became well, took up his mat, and walked. Now that day was a sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who was cured, "It is the sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to carry your mat."

He answered them, "The man who made me well told me, 'Take up your mat and walk.'" They asked him, "Who is the man who told you, 'Take it up and walk?'"

The man who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had slipped away, since there was a crowd there.

After this Jesus found him in the temple area and said to him, “Look, you are well; do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse may happen to you.”

The man went and told the Jews that Jesus was the one who had made him well. Therefore, the Jews began to persecute Jesus because he did this on a sabbath.

But Jesus answered them, “My Father is at work until now, so I am at work.”

For this reason the Jews tried all the more to kill him, because he not only broke the sabbath but he also called God his own father, making himself equal to God.

First Week of Lent

Shrove Monday

Theme: Who is the Son of David?

LK 22:41-46

While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus questioned them, saying, “What is your opinion about the Messiah? Whose son is he?”

They replied, “David’s.”

He said to them, “How, then, does David, inspired by the Spirit, call him ‘lord,’ saying:

‘The Lord said to my lord,

“Sit at my right hand until I place your enemies under your feet” ’?

If David calls him ‘lord,’ how can he be his son?”

No one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Shrove Tuesday

Theme: Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath

MT 12:1-8

At that time Jesus was going through a field of grain on the sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick the heads of grain and eat them. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, “See, your disciples are doing what is unlawful to do on the sabbath.”

He said to them, “Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry, how he went into the house of God and ate the bread of offering, which neither he nor his companions but only the priests could lawfully eat? Or have you not read in the law that on the sabbath the priests serving in the temple violate the sabbath and are innocent?”

I say to you, something greater than the temple is here. If you knew what this meant, ‘I desire mercy,

not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned these innocent men. For the Son of Man is Lord of the sabbath."

Ash Wednesday
Theme: Dependence on God

LK 12:22-34

He said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life and what you will eat, or about your body and what you will wear. For life is more than food and the body more than clothing. Notice the ravens: they do not sow or reap; they have neither storehouse nor barn, yet God feeds them. How much more important are you than birds!

Can any of you by worrying add a moment to your life-span? If even the smallest things are beyond your control, why are you anxious about the rest?

Notice how the flowers grow. They do not toil or spin. But I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of them. If God so clothes the grass in the field that grows today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, will he not much more provide for you, O you of little faith?

As for you, do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not worry anymore. All the nations of the world seek for these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these other things will be given you

besides. Do not be afraid any longer, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom.

Sell your belongings and give alms. Provide money bags for yourselves that do not wear out, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven that no thief can reach nor moth destroy. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.

Thursday

Theme: The Suffering Son of The Father

MT 16:21-23

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised. Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, “God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you.”

He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do.

Friday

Theme: Coming of the Kingdom of God

LK 17:20-21

Asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he said in reply, “The coming of the kingdom of God cannot be observed, and no one will

announce, 'Look, here it is,' or, 'There it is.' For behold, the kingdom of God is among you."

Saturday
Theme: Coming of the Son of Man

LK 17:22-37

Then he said to his disciples, "The days will come when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it.

There will be those who will say to you, 'Look, there he is,' 'Look, here he is.' Do not go off, do not run in pursuit.

For just as lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in his day. But first he must suffer greatly and be rejected by this generation.

As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be in the days of the Son of Man; they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage up to the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Similarly, as it was in the days of Lot: they were eating, drinking, buying, selling, planting, building; on the day when Lot left Sodom, fire and brimstone rained from the sky to destroy them all.

So it will be on the day the Son of Man is revealed. On that day, a person who is on the housetop and whose belongings are in the house must not go down to get them, and likewise a person in the field must

not return to what was left behind. Remember the wife of Lot. Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses it will save it.

I tell you, on that night there will be two people in one bed; one will be taken, the other left. And there will be two women grinding meal together; one will be taken, the other left.”

They said to him in reply, “Where, Lord?”

He said to them, “Where the body is, there also the vultures will gather.”



Christ The Bridegroom

First Sunday of Lent
Theme: Jesus, The Anointed King

JN 12:1-11

Six days before Passover Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. They gave a dinner for him there, and Martha served, while Lazarus was one of those reclining at table with him. Mary took a liter of costly perfumed oil made from genuine aromatic nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and dried them with her hair; the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.

Then Judas the Iscariot, one of his disciples, and the one who would betray him, said, "Why was this oil not sold for three hundred days' wages and given to the poor?" He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief and held the money bag and used to steal the contributions.

So Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Let her keep this for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

The large crowd of the Jews found out that he was there and came, not only because of Jesus, but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. And the chief priests plotted to kill Lazarus too, because many of the Jews were turning away and believing in Jesus because of him.

Second Week of Lent

Monday

Theme: Who is Jesus?

MT 14:1-2

At that time Herod the tetrarch heard of the reputation of Jesus and said to his servants, "This man is John the Baptist. He has been raised from the dead; that is why mighty powers are at work in him."

Tuesday

Theme: Does the King (Jesus) Have to Pay Taxes?

MT 17:24-27

When they came to Capernaum, the collectors of the temple tax approached Peter and said, "Doesn't your teacher pay the temple tax?" "Yes," he said.

When he came into the house, before he had time to speak, Jesus asked him, "What is your opinion, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth take tolls or census tax? From their subjects or from foreigners?"

When he said, "From foreigners," Jesus said to him, "Then the subjects are exempt. But that we may not offend them, go to the sea, drop in a hook, and take the first fish that comes up. Open its mouth and you will find a coin worth twice the temple tax. Give that to them for me and for you."

Wednesday
Theme: Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven
MT 18:1-5

At that time the disciples approached Jesus and said,
“Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”

He called a child over, placed it in their midst, and said,
“Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me.

Thursday
Theme: Son of David Have Mercy on Me
MK 10:46-52

They came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a sizable crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind man, the son of Timaeus, sat by the roadside begging. On hearing that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, son of David, have pity on me.”

And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he kept calling out all the more, “Son of David, have pity on me.”

Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.”

So they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take courage; get up, he is calling you." He threw aside his cloak, sprang up, and came to Jesus.

Jesus said to him in reply, "What do you want me to do for you?"

The blind man replied to him, "Master, I want to see."

Jesus told him, "Go your way; your faith has saved you." Immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way.

Friday
Theme: Entrance to Jerusalem According to
Mark
MK 11:1-11

When they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately on entering it, you will find a colt tethered on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone should say to you, 'Why are you doing this?' reply, 'The Master has need of it and will send it back here at once.'"

So they went off and found a colt tethered at a gate outside on the street, and they untied it. Some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?"

They answered them just as Jesus had told them to, and they permitted them to do it. So they brought the

colt to Jesus and put their cloaks over it. And he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. Those preceding him as well as those following kept crying out:

“Hosanna!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come!

Hosanna in the highest!”

He entered Jerusalem and went into the temple area. He looked around at everything and, since it was already late, went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

Saturday

Theme: Cleansing of Temple (Mark's version)

Jesus is King of the Temple

MK 11:15-19

They came to Jerusalem, and on entering the temple area he began to drive out those selling and buying there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves. He did not permit anyone to carry anything through the temple area.

Then he taught them saying,

“Is it not written:

‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples’?

But you have made it a den of thieves.”

The chief priests and the scribes came to hear of it and were seeking a way to put him to death, yet they feared him because the whole crowd was astonished at his teaching. When evening came, they went out of the city.

Second Sunday of Lent
Theme: The Coming of The Hour of The Lord

JN 12:20-36

Now there were some Greeks among those who had come up to worship at the feast. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we would like to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.

Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honour whoever serves me.

"I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name."

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again."

The crowd there heard it and said it was thunder; but others said, "An angel has spoken to him."
Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come for my sake but for yours. Now is the time of judgment

on this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself.”

He said this indicating the kind of death he would die. So the crowd answered him, “We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever. Then how can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?”

Jesus said to them, “The light will be among you only a little while. Walk while you have the light, so that darkness may not overcome you. Whoever walks in the dark does not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of the light.”

Third Week of Lent
Theme: Apocalypse of Weeks,
The history and future of mankind

Monday
1Enoch 93: 1-4

And after that Enoch both gave and began to recount from the books. And Enoch said:

‘Concerning the children of righteousness and concerning the elect of the world, And concerning the plant of uprightness, I will speak these things, Yes, I Enoch, will declare unto you, my sons:
According to that which appeared to me in the heavenly vision, And which I have known through the

word of the holy angels, And have learnt from the heavenly tablets.'

And Enoch began to recount from the books and said:
'I was born the seventh in the first week,
While judgement and righteousness still endured.

And after me there shall arise in the second week
great wickedness, And deceit shall have sprung up;

And in it there shall be the first end. And in it a man
shall be saved; And after it is ended unrighteousness
shall grow up, And a law shall be made for the
sinners.

Tuesday **1Enoch 93:5-6**

And after that in the third week at its close
A man shall be elected as the plant of righteous
judgement. And his posterity shall become the plant
of righteousness forevermore.

And after that in the fourth week, at its close,
Visions of the holy and righteous shall be seen.
And a law for all generations and an enclosure shall
be made for them.

Wednesday **1Enoch 93:7-8**

And after that in the fifth week, at its close,
The house of glory and dominion shall be built for
ever.

And after that in the sixth week all who live in it shall be blinded, And the hearts of all of them shall godlessly forsake wisdom. And in it a man shall ascend; And at its close the house of dominion shall be burnt with fire, And the whole race of the chosen root shall be dispersed.

Thursday
1 Enoch 93:9-14

And after that in the seventh week shall an apostate generation arise, And many shall be its deeds, And all its deeds shall be apostate. And at its close shall be elected The elect righteous of the eternal plant of righteousness, To receive sevenfold instruction concerning all His creation.

For who is there of all the children of men that is able to hear the voice of the Holy One without being troubled? And who can think His thoughts? and who is there that can behold all the works of heaven?

And how should there be one who could behold the heaven, and who is there that could understand the things of heaven and see a soul or a spirit and could tell thereof, or ascend and see all their ends and think them or do like them?

And who is there of all men that could know what is the breadth and the length of the earth, and to whom has been shown the measure of all of them?
Or is there anyone who could discern the length of the heaven and how great is its height, and upon what it

is founded, and how great is the number of the stars,
and where all the luminaries rest?

Friday
1Enoch 91:12-13

And after that there shall be another, the eighth week, that of righteousness, And a sword shall be given to it that a righteous judgement may be executed on the oppressors, And sinners shall be delivered into the hands of the righteous.

And at its close they shall acquire houses through their righteousness, And a house shall be built for the Great King in glory for evermore, And all mankind shall look to the path of uprightness.

Saturday
1Enoch 91:14-17

And after that, in the ninth week, the righteous judgement shall be revealed to the whole world, b. And all the works of the godless shall vanish from all the earth, c. And the world shall be written down for destruction.

And after this, in the tenth week in the seventh part, There shall be the great eternal judgement, In which He will execute vengeance amongst the angels.

And the first heaven shall depart and pass away, And a new heaven shall appear, And all the powers of the heavens shall give sevenfold light. And after that there will be many weeks without number forever,

And all shall be in goodness and righteousness, And
sin shall no more be mentioned forever.

Third Sunday of Lent
Theme: The New Commandment

JN 13:31-35

When he had left, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and he will glorify him at once.

My children, I will be with you only a little while longer. You will look for me, and as I told the Jews, ‘Where I go you cannot come,’ so now I say it to you.

I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Fourth Week of Lent

Monday
Theme: Mercy to Sinners, Salvation for Sinners

LK 19:1-10

He came to Jericho and intended to pass through the town. Now a man there named Zachaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man, was seeking to see who Jesus was; but he could not see him because of the crowd, for he was short in stature.

So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way. When

he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house.” And he came down quickly and received him with joy.

When they all saw this, they began to grumble, saying, “He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner.”

But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over.”

And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost.”

Tuesday
Theme: Follow the Word of God
LK 11:27-28

While he was speaking, a woman from the crowd called out and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that carried you and the breasts at which you nursed.”

He replied, “Rather, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it.”

Wednesday
Theme: Wealth is Not Everything
LK 12:13-15

Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to share the inheritance with me.”

He replied to him, “Friend, who appointed me as your judge and arbitrator?”

Then he said to the crowd, “Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one’s life does not consist of possessions.”

Thursday
Theme: Settlement Among Yourselves
LK 12:57-59

“Why do you not judge for yourselves what is right? If you are to go with your opponent before a magistrate, make an effort to settle the matter on the way; otherwise, your opponent will turn you over to the judge, and the judge hand you over to the constable, and the constable throw you into prison. I say to you, you will not be released until you have paid the last penny.”

Friday
Theme: Forgiving Sins
MT 18:15-20

“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother. If he does not listen,

take one or two others along with you, so that ‘every fact may be established on the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If he refuses to listen to them, tell the church. If he refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector.

Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Again, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

Saturday
Theme: Forgiving Your Brother
MT 18:21-35

Then Peter approaching asked him, “Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him? As many as seven times?”

Jesus answered, “I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times.

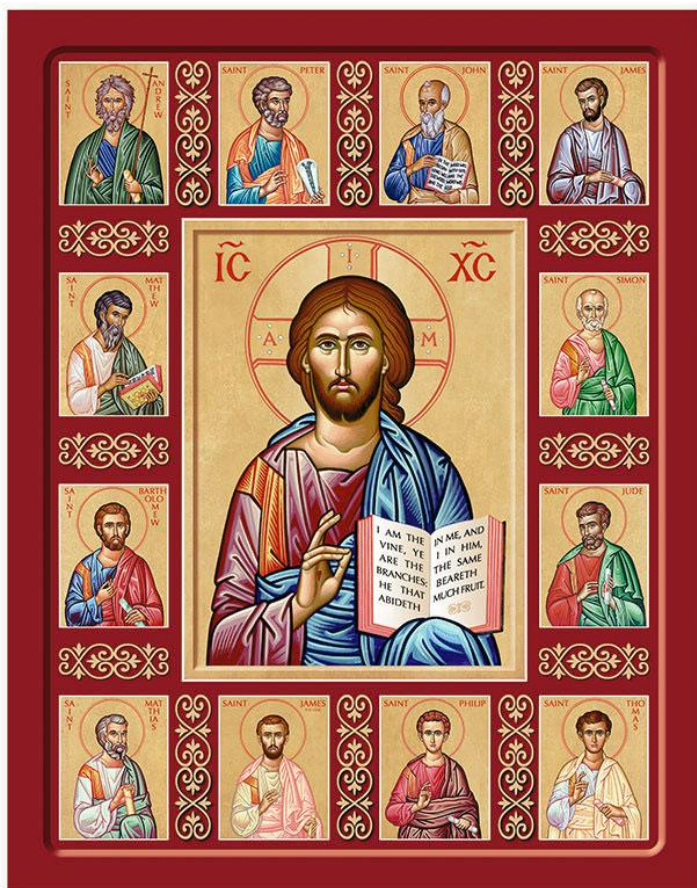
That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount.

Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt. At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.' Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan.

When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount. He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, 'Pay back what you owe.' Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.'

But he refused. Instead, he had him put in prison until he paid back the debt. Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair.

His master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?' Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt. So will my heavenly Father do to you unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart."



Icon of Christ The True Vine

**Fourth Sunday of Lent
(Laetare Sunday)
Theme: Remain in Me**

JN 15:1-17

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you.

Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned.

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. This is my commandment:

love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another.

Fifth Week of Lent

Theme: The Passion of Our Lord According to Luke Part 1

Monday LK 22:7-20

When the day of the feast of Unleavened Bread arrived, the day for sacrificing the Passover lamb, he sent out Peter and John, instructing them, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover."

They asked him, "Where do you want us to make the preparations?"

And he answered them, "When you go into the city, a man will meet you carrying a jar of water. Follow him into the house that he enters and say to the master of the house, 'The teacher says to you, "Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with my

disciples?” ’ He will show you a large upper room that is furnished. Make the preparations there.”

Then they went off and found everything exactly as he had told them, and there they prepared the Passover.

When the hour came, he took his place at table with the apostles. He said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, for, I tell you, I shall not eat it until there is fulfilment in the kingdom of God.”

Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and said, “Take this and share it among yourselves; for I tell you that from this time on I shall not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”

Then he took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me.”

And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you.

Tuesday
LK 22:21-30

“And yet behold, the hand of the one who is to betray me is with me on the table; for the Son of Man indeed goes as it has been determined; but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed.”

And they began to debate among themselves who among them would do such a deed.

Then an argument broke out among them about which of them should be regarded as the greatest.

He said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them and those in authority over them are addressed as ‘Benefactors’; but among you it shall not be so. Rather, let the greatest among you be as the youngest, and the leader as the servant. For who is greater: the one seated at table or the one who serves? Is it not the one seated at table? I am among you as the one who serves. It is you who have stood by me in my trials; and I confer a kingdom on you, just as my Father has conferred one on me, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom; and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Wednesday LK 22:31-38

“Simon, Simon, behold Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed that your own faith may not fail; and once you have turned back, you must strengthen your brothers.”

He said to him, “Lord, I am prepared to go to prison and to die with you.”

But he replied, “I tell you, Peter, before the cock crows this day, you will deny three times that you know me.”

He said to them, "When I sent you forth without a money bag or a sack or sandals, were you in need of anything?" "No, nothing," they replied.

He said to them, "But now one who has a money bag should take it, and likewise a sack, and one who does not have a sword should sell his cloak and buy one.

For I tell you that this scripture must be fulfilled in me, namely, 'He was counted among the wicked'; and indeed, what is written about me is coming to fulfilment."

Then they said, "Lord, look, there are two swords here."

But he replied, "It is enough!"

Thursday **LK 22:39-46**

Then going out he went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. When he arrived at the place he said to them, "Pray that you may not undergo the test."

After withdrawing about a stone's throw from them and kneeling, he prayed, saying, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me; still, not my will but yours be done." And to strengthen him an angel from heaven appeared to him. He was in such agony and he prayed so fervently that his sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground.

When he rose from prayer and returned to his disciples, he found them sleeping from grief. He said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not undergo the test."

Friday
LK 22:47-53

While he was still speaking, a crowd approached and in front was one of the Twelve, a man named Judas. He went up to Jesus to kiss him.

Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

His disciples realized what was about to happen, and they asked, "Lord, shall we strike with a sword?" And one of them struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear.

But Jesus said in reply, "Stop, no more of this!" Then he touched the servant's ear and healed him.

And Jesus said to the chief priests and temple guards and elders who had come for him, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? Day after day I was with you in the temple area, and you did not seize me; but this is your hour, the time for the power of darkness."

Saturday
LK 22:54-65

After arresting him they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest; Peter was following at a distance. They lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat around it, and Peter sat down with them. When a maid saw him seated in the light, she looked intently at him and said, "This man too was with him."

But he denied it saying, "Woman, I do not know him."

A short while later someone else saw him and said, "You too are one of them"; but Peter answered, "My friend, I am not."

About an hour later, still another insisted, "Assuredly, this man too was with him, for he also is a Galilean." But Peter said, "My friend, I do not know what you are talking about."

Just as he was saying this, the cock crowed, and the Lord turned and looked at Peter; and Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." He went out and began to weep bitterly.

The men who held Jesus in custody were ridiculing and beating him. They blindfolded him and questioned him, saying, "Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?" And they reviled him in saying many other things against him.

Passion Sunday
(Fifth Sunday of Lent)
Theme: Jesus Consecrates Us to The Father –
The Farewell Prayer
(The High Priestly Prayer)

JN 17:1-26

When Jesus had said this, he raised his eyes to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you, just as you gave him authority over all people, so that he may give eternal life to all you gave him. Now this is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ.

I glorified you on earth by accomplishing the work that you gave me to do. Now glorify me, Father, with you, with the glory that I had with you before the world began. “I revealed your name to those whom you gave me out of the world. They belonged to you, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you gave me is from you, because the words you gave to me I have given to them, and they accepted them and truly understood that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for the ones you have given me, because they are yours, and everything of mine is yours and everything of yours is mine, and I have been glorified in them.

And now I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to you. Holy Father,

keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are. When I was with them I protected them in your name that you gave me, and I guarded them, and none of them was lost except the son of destruction, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you. I speak this in the world so that they may share my joy completely. I gave them your word, and the world hated them, because they do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world.

I do not ask that you take them out of the world but that you keep them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth.

As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world. And I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth. "I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me.

And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me.

Father, they are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my

glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me. I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them.”

Sixth Week of Lent
Theme: The Passion of Our Lord According to
Luke Part 2

Monday
LK 22:66-71, 23:1-12

When day came the council of elders of the people met, both chief priests and scribes, and they brought him before their Sanhedrin.

They said, “If you are the Messiah, tell us,” but he replied to them, “If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I question, you will not respond. But from this time on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.”

They all asked, “Are you then the Son of God?”

He replied to them, “You say that I am.”

Then they said, “What further need have we for testimony? We have heard it from his own mouth.” Then the whole assembly of them arose and brought him before Pilate. They brought charges against him,

saying, "We found this man misleading our people; he opposes the payment of taxes to Caesar and maintains that he is the Messiah, a king."

Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He said to him in reply, "You say so."

Pilate then addressed the chief priests and the crowds, "I find this man not guilty." But they were adamant and said, "He is inciting the people with his teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to here."

On hearing this Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean; and upon learning that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod who was in Jerusalem at that time. Herod was very glad to see Jesus; he had been wanting to see him for a long time, for he had heard about him and had been hoping to see him perform some sign. He questioned him at length, but he gave him no answer.

The chief priests and scribes, meanwhile, stood by accusing him harshly. Even Herod and his soldiers treated him contemptuously and mocked him, and after clothing him in resplendent garb, he sent him back to Pilate. Herod and Pilate became friends that very day, even though they had been enemies formerly.

Tuesday
LK 23:13-25

Pilate then summoned the chief priests, the rulers, and the people and said to them, "You brought this man to me and accused him of inciting the people to revolt. I have conducted my investigation in your presence and have not found this man guilty of the charges you have brought against him, nor did Herod, for he sent him back to us. So no capital crime has been committed by him. Therefore, I shall have him flogged and then release him."

But all together they shouted out, "Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us." Now Barabbas had been imprisoned for a rebellion that had taken place in the city and for murder. Again Pilate addressed them, still wishing to release Jesus, but they continued their shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

Pilate addressed them a third time, "What evil has this man done? I found him guilty of no capital crime. Therefore, I shall have him flogged and then release him."

With loud shouts, however, they persisted in calling for his crucifixion, and their voices prevailed. The verdict of Pilate was that their demand should be granted. So he released the man who had been imprisoned for rebellion and murder, for whom they asked, and he handed Jesus over to them to deal with as they wished.

Wednesday
LK 23:26-32

As they led him away, they took hold of a certain Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country; and after laying the cross on him, they made him carry it behind Jesus. A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him.

Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children, for indeed, the days are coming when people will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed.’ At that time people will say to the mountains, ‘Fall upon us!’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us!’ for if these things are done when the wood is green what will happen when it is dry?”

Now two others, both criminals, were led away with him to be executed.

Thursday
LK 23:33-43

When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.”

They divided his garments by casting lots. The people stood by and watched; the rulers, meanwhile, sneered

at him and said, "He saved others, let him save himself if he is the chosen one, the Messiah of God."

Even the soldiers jeered at him. As they approached to offer him wine they called out, "If you are King of the Jews, save yourself."

Above him there was an inscription that read, "This is the King of the Jews."

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us."

The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Friday
LK 23:44-49

It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this he breathed his last.

The centurion who witnessed what had happened glorified God and said, "This man was innocent beyond doubt."

When all the people who had gathered for this spectacle saw what had happened, they returned home beating their breasts; but all his acquaintances stood at a distance, including the women who had followed him from Galilee and saw these events.

Saturday
LK 23:50-56

Now there was a virtuous and righteous man named Joseph who, though he was a member of the council, had not consented to their plan of action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea and was awaiting the kingdom of God. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

After he had taken the body down, he wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb in which no one had yet been buried. It was the day of preparation, and the sabbath was about to begin.

The women who had come from Galilee with him followed behind, and when they had seen the tomb and the way in which his body was laid in it, they returned and prepared spices and perfumed oils. Then they rested on the sabbath according to the commandment.



The Passion

Palm Sunday
(Sixth Sunday of Lent)
Theme: The Passion of Our Lord According To
Matthew

Prelude
MT 21:1-11

When they drew near Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find an ass tethered, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them here to me. And if anyone should say anything to you, reply, 'The master has need of them.' Then he will send them at once."

This happened so that what had been spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled:

"Say to daughter Zion,
'Behold, your king comes to you,
meek and riding on an ass,
and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'"

The disciples went and did as Jesus had ordered them. They brought the ass and the colt and laid their cloaks over them, and he sat upon them. The very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and strewed them on the road.

The crowds preceding him and those following kept crying out and saying:

"Hosanna to the Son of David;

blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord;
hosanna in the highest.”

And when he entered Jerusalem the whole city was shaken and asked, “Who is this?” And the crowds replied, “This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The Passion **MT 26:36-75, 27:1-56**

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” He took along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to feel sorrow and distress. Then he said to them, “My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me.”

He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will.”

When he returned to his disciples he found them asleep. He said to Peter, “So you could not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Withdrawing a second time, he prayed again, “My Father, if it is not possible that this cup pass without my drinking it, your will be done!” Then he returned once more and found them asleep, for they could not keep their eyes open.

He left them and withdrew again and prayed a third time, saying the same thing again. Then he returned to his disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Behold, the hour is at hand when the Son of Man is to be handed over to sinners. Get up, let us go. Look, my betrayer is at hand."

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a large crowd, with swords and clubs, who had come from the chief priests and the elders of the people. His betrayer had arranged a sign with them, saying, "The man I shall kiss is the one; arrest him."

Immediately he went over to Jesus and said, "Hail, Rabbi!" and he kissed him.

Jesus answered him, "Friend, do what you have come for." Then stepping forward they laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.

And behold, one of those who accompanied Jesus put his hand to his sword, drew it, and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his ear.

Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its sheath, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot call upon my Father and he will not provide me at this moment with more than twelve legions of angels? But then how would the scriptures be fulfilled which say that it must come to pass in this way?"

At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,
“Have you come out as against a robber, with swords
and clubs to seize me? Day after day I sat teaching in
the temple area, yet you did not arrest me. But all
this has come to pass that the writings of the
prophets may be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples left
him and fled.

Those who had arrested Jesus led him away to
Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the
elders were assembled. Peter was following him at a
distance as far as the high priest’s courtyard, and
going inside he sat down with the servants to see the
outcome.

The chief priests and the entire Sanhedrin kept
trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus in order
to put him to death, but they found none, though
many false witnesses came forward. Finally, two
came forward 61who stated, “This man said, ‘I can
destroy the temple of God and within three days
rebuild it.’”

The high priest rose and addressed him, “Have you no
answer? What are these men testifying against you?”
But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him,
“I order you to tell us under oath before the living
God whether you are the Messiah, the Son of God.”

Jesus said to him in reply, “You have said so. But I
tell you: From now on you will see ‘the Son of Man
seated at the right hand of the Power’ and ‘coming on
the clouds of heaven.’”

Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has blasphemed! What further need have we of witnesses? You have now heard the blasphemy; what is your opinion?" They said in reply, "He deserves to die!" Then they spat in his face and struck him, while some slapped him, 68saying, "Prophecy for us, Messiah: who is it that struck you?"

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. One of the maids came over to him and said, "You too were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it in front of everyone, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about!"

As he went out to the gate, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This man was with Jesus the Nazorean." Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man!" 73*A little later the bystanders came over and said to Peter, "Surely you too are one of them; even your speech gives you away."

At that he began to curse and to swear, "I do not know the man." And immediately a cock crowed. Then Peter remembered the word that Jesus had spoken: "Before the cock crows you will deny me three times." He went out and began to weep bitterly.

When it was morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate, the governor.

Then Judas, his betrayer, seeing that Jesus had been condemned, deeply regretted what he had done. He returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, "I have sinned in betraying innocent blood."

They said, "What is that to us? Look to it yourself." Flinging the money into the temple, he departed and went off and hanged himself.

The chief priests gathered up the money, but said, "It is not lawful to deposit this in the temple treasury, for it is the price of blood." After consultation, they used it to buy the potter's field as a burial place for foreigners. That is why that field even today is called the Field of Blood.

Then was fulfilled what had been said through Jeremiah the prophet, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of a man with a price on his head, a price set by some of the Israelites, 10eand they paid it out for the potter's field just as the Lord had commanded me."

Now Jesus stood before the governor, and he questioned him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so."

And when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he made no answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they are testifying against you?" But he did not answer him one word, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now on the occasion of the feast the governor was accustomed to release to the crowd one prisoner whom they wished. And at that time, they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So when they had assembled, Pilate said to them, "Which one do you want me to release to you, Barabbas, or Jesus called Messiah?" For he knew that it was out of envy that they had handed him over.

While he was still seated on the bench, his wife sent him a message, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man. I suffered much in a dream today because of him." The chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas but to destroy Jesus.

The governor said to them in reply, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" They answered, "Barabbas!" Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus called Messiah?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!"

But he said, "Why? What evil has he done?" They only shouted the louder, "Let him be crucified!"

When Pilate saw that he was not succeeding at all, but that a riot was breaking out instead, he took water and washed his hands in the sight of the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood. Look to it yourselves." 25And the whole people said in reply, "His blood be upon us and upon our children."

Then he released Barabbas to them, but after he had Jesus scourged, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus inside the praetorium and gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped off his clothes and threw a scarlet military cloak about him. Weaving a crown out of thorns, they placed it on his head, and a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat upon him and took the reed and kept striking him on the head. 31 And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him off to crucify him.

As they were going out, they met a Cyrenian named Simon; this man they pressed into service to carry his cross.

And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of the Skull), they gave Jesus wine to drink mixed with gall. But when he had tasted it, he refused to drink. After they had crucified him, they divided his garments by casting lots; then they sat down and kept watch over him there. And they placed over his head the written charge against him: This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.

Two revolutionaries were crucified with him, one on his right and the other on his left. Those passing by reviled him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, if you are the Son of God, come down from the cross!"

Likewise the chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him and said, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. So he is the king of Israel! Let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now if he wants him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" The revolutionaries who were crucified with him also kept abusing him in the same way.

From noon onward, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. 46w*And about three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders who heard it said, "This one is calling for Elijah." Immediately one of them ran to get a sponge; he soaked it in wine, and putting it on a reed, gave it to him to drink. But the rest said, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to save him."

But Jesus cried out again in a loud voice, and gave up his spirit. And behold, the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth quaked, rocks were split, tombs were opened, and the bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised. And coming forth from their tombs after his resurrection, they entered the holy city and appeared to many.

The centurion and the men with him who were keeping watch over Jesus feared greatly when they saw the earthquake and all that was happening, and they said, "Truly, this was the Son of God!" There were many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to

him. Among them were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

Holy Week

Monday

Theme: Entrance to Jerusalem According to John

JN 12:12-19

On the next day, when the great crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, they took palm branches and went out to meet him, and cried out:

“Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the king of Israel.”

Jesus found an ass and sat upon it, as is written:

“Fear no more, O daughter Zion;
see, your king comes, seated upon an ass’s colt.”

His disciples did not understand this at first, but when Jesus had been glorified, they remembered that these things were written about him and that they had done this for him. So the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from death continued to testify.

This was why the crowd went to meet him, because they heard that he had done this sign. So the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are

gaining nothing. Look, the whole world has gone after him.”

Tuesday
Theme: Believe in The Father

JN 12:44-50

Jesus cried out and said, “Whoever believes in me believes not only in me but also in the one who sent me, and whoever sees me sees the one who sent me. I came into the world as light, so that everyone who believes in me might not remain in darkness.

And if anyone hears my words and does not observe them, I do not condemn him, for I did not come to condemn the world but to save the world. Whoever rejects me and does not accept my words has something to judge him: the word that I spoke, it will condemn him on the last day, because I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. So what I say, I say as the Father told me.”

Wednesday
Theme: The World in Opposition to The Father

JN 15:18-25, 16:1-4

If the world hates you, realize that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, the world would love its own; but because you do not belong to the world, and I have chosen you out of the world, the world hates

you. Remember the word I spoke to you, 'No slave is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. And they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know the one who sent me.

If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin; but as it is they have no excuse for their sin. Whoever hates me also hates my Father. If I had not done works among them that no one else ever did, they would not have sin; but as it is, they have seen and hated both me and my Father. But in order that the word written in their law might be fulfilled, 'They hated me without cause.'

"I have told you this so that you may not fall away. They will expel you from the synagogues; in fact, the hour is coming when everyone who kills you will think he is offering worship to God. They will do this because they have not known either the Father or me. I have told you this so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you.



The Last Supper

Maundy Thursday
Theme: His Command: Humility and Service

JN 13:1-19

Before the feast of Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to pass from this world to the Father. He loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end. The devil had already induced Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot, to hand him over. So, during supper, fully aware that the Father had put everything into his power and that he had come from God and was returning to God, he rose from supper and took off his outer garments. He took a towel and tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel around his waist.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Master, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing, you do not understand now, but you will understand later."

Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet."

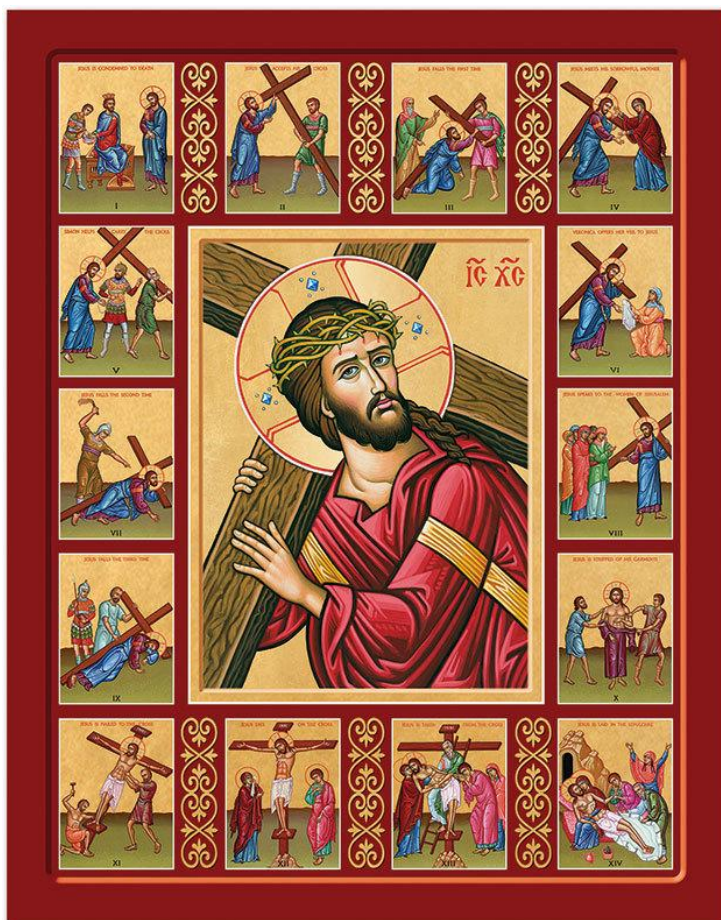
Jesus answered him, "Unless I wash you, you will have no inheritance with me."

Simon Peter said to him, "Master, then not only my feet, but my hands and head as well."

Jesus said to him, "Whoever has bathed has no need except to have his feet washed, for he is clean all over; so you are clean, but not all." For he knew who would betray him; for this reason, he said, "Not all of you are clean."

So when he had washed their feet and put his garments back on and reclined at table again, he said to them, "Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do.


Amen, amen, I say to you, no slave is greater than his master nor any messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you understand this, blessed are you if you do it. I am not speaking of all of you. I know those whom I have chosen. But so that the scripture might be fulfilled, 'The one who ate my food has raised his heel against me.' From now on I am telling you before it happens, so that when it happens you may believe that I AM.



The Stations Of The Cross

Good Friday Service

Invocation

Celebrant: IN the Name of the FATHER,  and of the SON, and of the HOLY SPIRIT.

R: Amen.

In silence, let us remember the passion of our LORD Jesus, the Christ. Calling to mind our transgressions against God, fellow man and all living things.

Passion of Our Lord According To John

JN 18:1-40, 19:1-37

When he had said this, Jesus went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to where there was a garden, into which he and his disciples entered. Judas his betrayer also knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. So Judas got a band of soldiers and guards from the chief priests and the Pharisees and went there with lanterns, torches, and weapons.

Jesus, knowing everything that was going to happen to him, went out and said to them, "Whom are you looking for?"

They answered him, "Jesus the Nazorean."
He said to them, "I AM."

Judas his betrayer was also with them. When he said to them, "I AM," they turned away and fell to the ground.

So he again asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" They said, "Jesus the Nazorean."

Jesus answered, "I told you that I AM. So if you are looking for me, let these men go."

This was to fulfil what he had said, "I have not lost any of those you gave me."

Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus.

Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its scabbard. Shall I not drink the cup that the Father gave me?"

So the band of soldiers, the tribune, and the Jewish guards seized Jesus, bound him, and brought him to Annas first. He was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had counselled the Jews that it was better that one man should die rather than the people.

Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Now the other disciple was known to the high priest, and he entered the courtyard of the high priest with Jesus. But Peter stood at the gate outside. So the other disciple, the acquaintance of the high priest, went out and spoke to the gatekeeper and brought Peter in.

Then the maid who was the gatekeeper said to Peter, "You are not one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not."

Now the slaves and the guards were standing around a charcoal fire that they had made, because it was cold, and were warming themselves. Peter was also standing there keeping warm.

The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his doctrine. Jesus answered him, "I have spoken publicly to the world. I have always taught in a synagogue or in the temple area where all the Jews gather, and in secret I have said nothing. Why ask me? Ask those who heard me what I said to them. They know what I said."

When he had said this, one of the temple guards standing there struck Jesus and said, "Is this the way you answer the high priest?"

Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong; but if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Now Simon Peter was standing there keeping warm. And they said to him, "You are not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not."

One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the one whose ear Peter had cut off, said, "Didn't I see

you in the garden with him?” Again Peter denied it. And immediately the cock crowed.

Then they brought Jesus from Caiaphas to the praetorium. It was morning. And they themselves did not enter the praetorium, in order not to be defiled so that they could eat the Passover. So Pilate came out to them and said, “What charge do you bring against this man?”

They answered and said to him, “If he were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.” At this, Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves, and judge him according to your law.”

The Jews answered him, “We do not have the right to execute anyone,” in order that the word of Jesus might be fulfilled that he said indicating the kind of death he would die.

So Pilate went back into the praetorium and summoned Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

Jesus answered, “Do you say this on your own or have others told you about me?”

Pilate answered, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?”

Jesus answered, “My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants would be fighting to keep me from being

handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here.”

So Pilate said to him, “Then you are a king?”

Jesus answered, “You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

Pilate said to him, “What is truth?”

When he had said this, he again went out to the Jews and said to them, “I find no guilt in him. But you have a custom that I release one prisoner to you at Passover. Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?”

They cried out again, “Not this one but Barabbas!”
Now Barabbas was a revolutionary.

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged. And the soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and placed it on his head, and clothed him in a purple cloak, and they came to him and said, “Hail, King of the Jews!” And they struck him repeatedly.

Once more Pilate went out and said to them, “Look, I am bringing him out to you, so that you may know that I find no guilt in him.” So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple cloak.

And he said to them, “Behold, the man!”

When the chief priests and the guards saw him they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!"

Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him. I find no guilt in him."

The Jews answered, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God."

Now when Pilate heard this statement, he became even more afraid, and went back into the praetorium and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" Jesus did not answer him.

So Pilate said to him, "Do you not speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you and I have power to crucify you?"

Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it had not been given to you from above. For this reason, the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin."

Consequently, Pilate tried to release him; but the Jews cried out, "If you release him, you are not a Friend of Caesar. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar."

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and seated him on the judge's bench in the place called Stone Pavement, in Hebrew, Gabbatha. It was preparation day for Passover, and it was about noon. And he said to the Jews, "Behold, your king!"

They cried out, "Take him away, take him away!
Crucify him!"

Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your king?"

The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus, and carrying the cross himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle.

Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus the Nazorean, the King of the Jews." Now many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that he said, 'I am the King of the Jews.'"

Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four shares, a share for each soldier. They also took his tunic, but the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top down. So they said to one another, "Let's not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it will be," in order that the passage of scripture might be fulfilled:

“They divided my garments among them,
and for my vesture they cast lots.”
This is what the soldiers did.

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

After this, aware that everything was now finished, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I thirst.”

There was a vessel filled with common wine. So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth.

When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, “It is finished.” And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit.

Now since it was preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the sabbath, for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and they be taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus.

But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one

soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out.

An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true; he knows that he is speaking the truth, so that you also may believe. For this happened so that the scripture passage might be fulfilled:

“Not a bone of it will be broken.”

And again another passage says:

“They will look upon him whom they have pierced.”

GLORY BE TO THE LORD!

ADESTE DOMINI

All kneel

ADESTE DOMINI, ADESTE DOMINI,
GOLGOTHA PEPENDIT SALVATOR MUNDI;
AQUILA CLAMAT: HORROR MUNDO.

ADESTE DOMINI, ADESTE DOMINI,
LONGA ET MOLESTA EST VIA AD CALVARIAM;
UBI ESSET, NISI NOBISCUM.

ADESTE DOMINI, ADESTE DOMINI,
PRINCEPS MUNDI GAVISUS EST, PRINCIPES
IUBILANT;
SED IN HOC DEBITUM SOLVITUR.

ADESTE DOMINI, ADESTE DOMINI,
POSTREMA PLAGA TEMPLUM PENETRAT,
SANGUIS ET AQUA;
MUNDUM EMUNDA, TESTE.

ADESTE DOMINI, ADESTE DOMINI,

VELUM REDDITUR, MUNDUS EST UNUS;
REGNUM CAELO NUNC IUNGITUR TELLURI;

ADESTE DOMINI, ADESTE DOMINI,
SEPULCHRUM INANE MANET, CAELI DOMINUM;
SERVO DOLORI JACET FRIGIDUM SEPULCRUM.

ADESTE DOMINI, ADESTE DOMINI,
AD PEDEM CRUCIS, FAMULI TUI ORATE.
MISERERE NOSTRI, EXSPECTANTES FILIUM
RESURGENS

Adeste Domini, Adeste Domini,
At Golgotha, hung the Saviour of the World,
The Eagle cries: Horror to the World.

Adeste Domini, Adeste Domini,
The Road to Calvary is long and painful,
Where else would THY be, except with us.

Adeste Domini, Adeste Domini,
The prince of the world gloats, The rulers jubilate,
But in this, the debt of the world is paid.

Adeste Domini, Adeste Domini,
The final blow pierces the Temple, Blood and Water
flow,
To cleanse the World, as foretold.

Adeste Domini, Adeste Domini,
The veil is now rendered, The world is one,
The Kingdom Heaven, now joined to the Earth,

Adeste Domini, Adeste Domini,

An empty tomb awaits, The Lord of Heaven,
A cold tomb lies for the Suffering Servant.

Adeste Domini, Adeste Domini,
At the foot of the cross, Thy servants pray.
Have mercy on us, as we await the Rising Son!

Preparation of the Communion

All stand

The communion table is prepared with the Pre-sanctified Hosts. During the preparation the following is sung:

Vexilla Regis

VEXILLA REGIS PRODEUNT:
FULGET CRUCIS MYSTERIUM
QUO CARNE CARNIS CONDITOR,
SUSPENSUS EST PATIBULO.

O CRUX AVE, SPES UNICA,
HOC PASSIONIS TEMPORE
AUGE PIIS JUSTITIAM,
REISQUE DONA VENIAM.

TE, SUMMA DEUS TRINITAS,
COLLAUDET OMNIS SPIRITUS:
QUOS PER CRUCIS MYSTERIUM
SALVAS, REGE PER SAECULA. AMEN.

The Royal Banner forward goes,
The mystic Cross refulgent glows:
Where He, in Flesh, flesh who made,
Upon the Tree of pain is laid.

O Cross! all hail! sole hope, abide
With us now in this Passion-tide:
New grace in pious hearts implant,
And pardon to the guilty grant.

Thee, mighty Trinity! One God!
Let every living creature laud;
Whom by the Cross Thou dost deliver,
O guide and govern now and ever! Amen

ADORO TE DEVOTE

All kneel

P & C:

ADÓRO TE DEVÓTE, LÁTENS DÉITAS,
QUAE SUB HIS FIGÚRIS, VERE LÁTITAS:
TIBI SE COR MEUM TOTUM SÚBJICIT,
QUIA, TE CONTÉMPLANS, TOTUM DÉFICIT.

VISUS, TACTUS, GUSTUS, IN TE FÁLLITUR,
SED AUDÍTU SOLO TUTO CRÉDITUR:
CREDO QUIDQUID DÍXIT DEI FÍLIUS;
NIL HOC VERBO VERITÁTIS VÉRIUS.

IN CRUCE LATÉBAT SOLA DÉITAS,
AT HIC LÁTET SIMUL ET HUMÁNITAS:
AMBO TÁMEN CRÉDENS ÁTQUE CÓNFITENS,
PETO QUOD PETÍVIT LATRO PENITENS.

PLAGAS, SICUT THOMAS, NON INTÚEOR,
DEUM TÁMEN MEUM TE CONFÍTEOR.
FAC ME TIBI SÉMPER MÁGIS CRÉDERE,
IN TE SPEM HABÉRE, TE DILÍGERE.

O MEMORIÁLE MORTIS DÓMINI,
PANIS VIVUS, VITAM PRAESTANS HÓMINI,
PRAESTA MEAE MENTI DE TE VÍVERE,
ET TE ILLI SEMPER DULCE SÁPERE.

PIE PELLICÁNE, JESU DÓMINE,
ME IMMÚNDUM MUNDA TUO SÁNGUINE,
CUJUS UNA STILLA SALVUM FÁCERE,
TOTUM MUNDUM QUIT AB ÓMNI SCÉLERE.

JESU, QUEM VELÁTUM NUNC ASPÍCIO,
ORO FÍAT ILLUD, QUOD TAM SÍTIO:
UT, TE REVELÁTA CERNENS FÁCIE,
VISU SIM BEÁTUS TUAE GLÓRIAE.
AMEN.

All stand

P: Brethren draw near and receive this most precious gift. All are welcome to partake of the DIVINE LIGHT which lights every man that comes into the world.

Each person sits after receiving the Communion

COMMUNIO

All stand

P: O Holy FATHER having partaken of Thy SONs body on this day of ultimate sacrifice, may we await him.

C: AMEN!

C: Blessing, and Glory, and wisdom, and
Thanksgiving, and Honour, and Power, and Might be
unto GOD forever and ever.
AMEN.

POSTCOMMUNIO

P: Let us pray.

P. & C:

Let the LIGHT of the Divine Soul Illuminate us. That
we may be guarded from distress and want.
That all our days be perfect, holy and peaceful;
That what is good and profitable for our souls and for
the peace of the World may be granted us.

That the rest of our lives may be spent in the
knowledge of truth. So let the light of the Divine
Gnosis Illuminate us.
AMEN.

P: The LORD be with you

C: And with thy spirit

P: Go and Await the Resurrection!

C: DEO GRATIAS.

Holy Saturday
Theme: Jesus in The Tomb
JN 19:38-42

After this, Joseph of Arimathea, secretly a disciple of Jesus for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate if he could remove the body of Jesus. And Pilate permitted it. So he came and took his body.

Nicodemus, the one who had first come to him at night, also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes weighing about one hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and bound it with burial cloths along with the spices, according to the Jewish burial custom.

Now in the place where he had been crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had yet been buried. So they laid Jesus there because of the Jewish preparation day; for the tomb was close by.

Easter Vigil
Theme: The LORD Is Risen

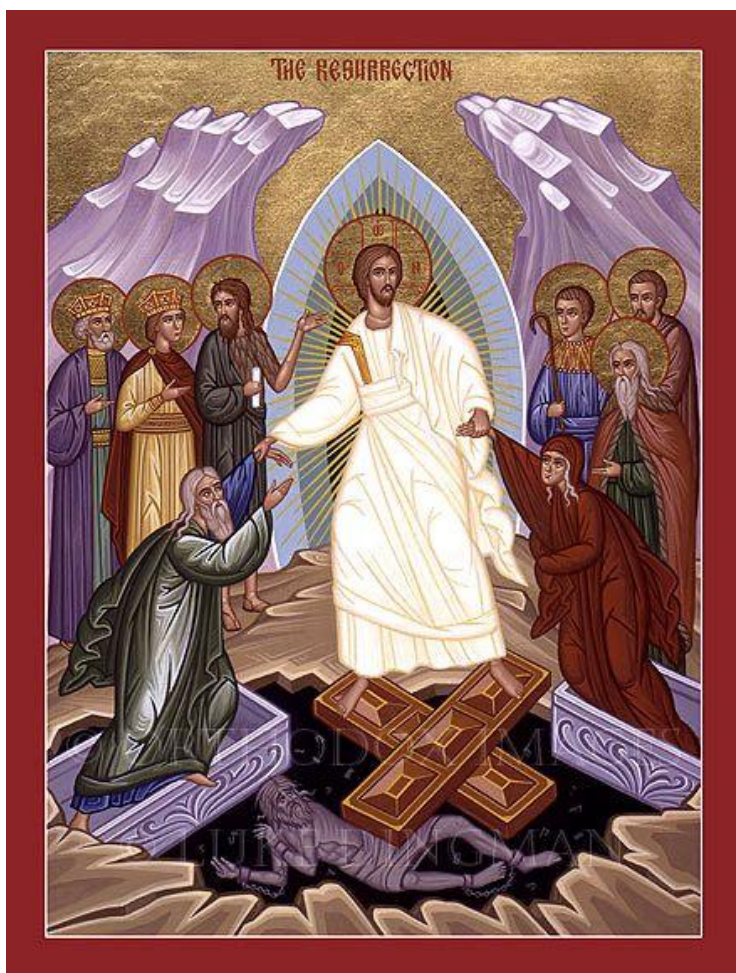
MT 28:1-10

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing was white as snow. The guards were shaken with fear of him and became like dead men.

Then the angel said to the women in reply, “Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ Behold, I have told you.”

Then they went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce this to his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them on their way and greeted them. They approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage.

Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”



Icon of the Resurrection

Easter Sunday of The Resurrection
Theme: Do Not Hold On To Me

JN 20:1-18

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him."

So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the scripture that he had to rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned home.

But Mary stayed outside the tomb weeping. And as she wept, she bent over into the tomb and saw two angels in white sitting there, one at the head and one at the feet where the body of Jesus had been. And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken my Lord, and I don't know where they laid him."

When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus there, but did not know it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?"

She thought it was the gardener and said to him, "Sir, if you carried him away, tell me where you laid him, and I will take him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary!"
She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni," which means Teacher.

Jesus said to her, "Stop holding on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them, 'I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary of Magdala went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and what he told her.

First Week of Easter

Easter Monday Theme: The Empty Tomb

MK 16:1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go and anoint him. Very early when the sun had risen, on the first day of the week, they

came to the tomb. They were saying to one another, “Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?”

When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back; it was very large. On entering the tomb they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a white robe, and they were utterly amazed. He said to them, “Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Behold, the place where they laid him. But go and tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you.’”

Then they went out and fled from the tomb, seized with trembling and bewilderment. They said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Easter Tuesday
Theme: Look Among The Living

LK 24:1-12

But at daybreak on the first day of the week they took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb; but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

While they were puzzling over this, behold, two men in dazzling garments appeared to them. They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground. They said to them, “Why do you seek the living one among

the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised. Remember what he said to you while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners and be crucified, and rise on the third day.”

And they remembered his words. Then they returned from the tomb and announced all these things to the eleven and to all the others. The women were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James; the others who accompanied them also told this to the apostles, but their story seemed like nonsense and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb, bent down, and saw the burial cloths alone; then he went home amazed at what had happened.

Easter Wednesday
Theme: The Guard's Lie

MT 28:11-15

While they were going, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had happened. They assembled with the elders and took counsel; then they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, telling them, “You are to say, ‘His disciples came by night and stole him while we were asleep.’ And if this gets to the ears of the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” The soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has circulated among the Jews to the present.

Easter Thursday

Odes of Solomon Song 28

Like the wings of the doves over their infant doves
whose mouths lift to their mothers' mouths,
so are the wings of the spirit over my heart.
My heart is happy and leaps
like the infant who moves happy in her mother's
womb.

I believed. I was peaceful.
My faith was in him whom I trusted.
He hugely blessed me.
My mind is with him.
No sword nor scimitar divides us:
I prepared before destruction came.
I am in his arms that do not know death.
Deathless life hugged and kissed me.
That spirit is in me; it cannot die. It lives.

They marvelled at me because I was persecuted.
They supposed me swallowed up.
To them I seemed lost.
My oppression was my salvation.
They scorned me because in me was no anger.
Because I did good I was hated.
They surrounded me like mad dogs
who stupidly attack their masters.
Their thought is corrupt, their mind perverted.
I carried water in my right hand.
With sweetness I endured the bitter.
I didn't perish. I wasn't their brother.
My birth was other.
They sought my death. They failed.

I was older than their memory.
They cast lots against me. They failed.
Those who came later
tried to destroy the memory of him before them.
No one foretells the thought from the one in the sky.
His heart surpasses wisdom.

Easter Friday

Odes of Solomon Song 41

All who see me will be astonished,
for I am an alien among you.
The father of truth remembered me.
He possessed me from the beginning.
Through his riches and thought in his heart
he engendered me.

His word is our way.
The saviour makes us alive and doesn't forget our
souls.
The humbled
are exalted in him.
The son of the highest one
appeared in the father's perfection.
Light found daybreak in the word
that was earlier his.
The messiah is one,
known before the foundation of the world.
He saves souls in his truth and name.
Let us sing to the lord. We love him.

Easter Saturday
Theme: The Road To Emmaus

LK 24:13-25

Now that very day two of them were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.

He asked them, “What are you discussing as you walk along?” They stopped, looking downcast.

One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?”

And he replied to them, “What sort of things?”

They said to him, “The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of

angels who announced that he was alive. Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see.”

And he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?”

Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the scriptures. As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over.”

So he went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning [within us] while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?”

So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, “The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!” Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.



**Low Sunday
(Divine Mercy Sunday)**

Theme: One Week After The Resurrection

JN 20:19-29

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you."

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail-marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you."

Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe.”

Thomas answered and said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

Jesus said to him, “Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

Second Week of Easter

Monday

Theme: Jesus Alive!

LK 24:36-43

While they were still speaking about this, he stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you.” But they were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost.

Then he said to them, “Why are you troubled? And why do questions arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have.”

And as he said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While they were still incredulous for joy and were amazed, he asked them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of baked fish; he took it and ate it in front of them.

Tuesday
Theme: The Great Commission

MT 28:16-20

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

Wednesday
**Theme: Jesus' Miracle of the Deluge of Fishes
and Breaks bread with the Apostles, A
Metaphor for The Drawing of All Humanity to
HIM in The Holy Eucharist**

JN 21:1-14

After this, Jesus revealed himself again to his disciples at the Sea of Tiberias. He revealed himself in this way. Together were Simon Peter, Thomas called Didymus, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, Zebedee's sons, and two others of his disciples. 3z*Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We also will come with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

When it was already dawn, Jesus was standing on the shore; but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to them, “Children, have you caught anything to eat?”

They answered him, “No.”

So he said to them, “Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something.”

So they cast it, and were not able to pull it in because of the number of fish. So the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord.” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he tucked in his garment, for he was lightly clad, and jumped into the sea. The other disciples came in the boat, for they were not far from shore, only about a hundred yards, dragging the net with the fish. When they climbed out on shore, they saw a charcoal fire with fish on it and bread.

Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you just caught.”

So Simon Peter went over and dragged the net ashore full of one hundred fifty-three large fish. Even though there were so many, the net was not torn.

Jesus said to them, “Come, have breakfast.”

And none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they realized it was the Lord.

Jesus came over and took the bread and gave it to them, and in like manner the fish. This was now the third time Jesus was revealed to his disciples after being raised from the dead.

Thursday
Theme: Follow Me

JN 21:15-19

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?”

He said to him, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

He said to him, “Feed my lambs.”

He then said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?”

He said to him, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

He said to him, “Tend my sheep.”

He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was distressed that he had said to him a third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted; but when you

grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.”

He said this signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when he had said this, he said to him, “Follow me.”

Friday

Theme: The Beloved Disciple, A Metaphor for Us

JN 21:20-23

Peter turned and saw the disciple following whom Jesus loved, the one who had also reclined upon his chest during the supper and had said, “Master, who is the one who will betray you?”

When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, “Lord, what about him?”

Jesus said to him, “What if I want him to remain until I come? What concern is it of yours? You follow me.”

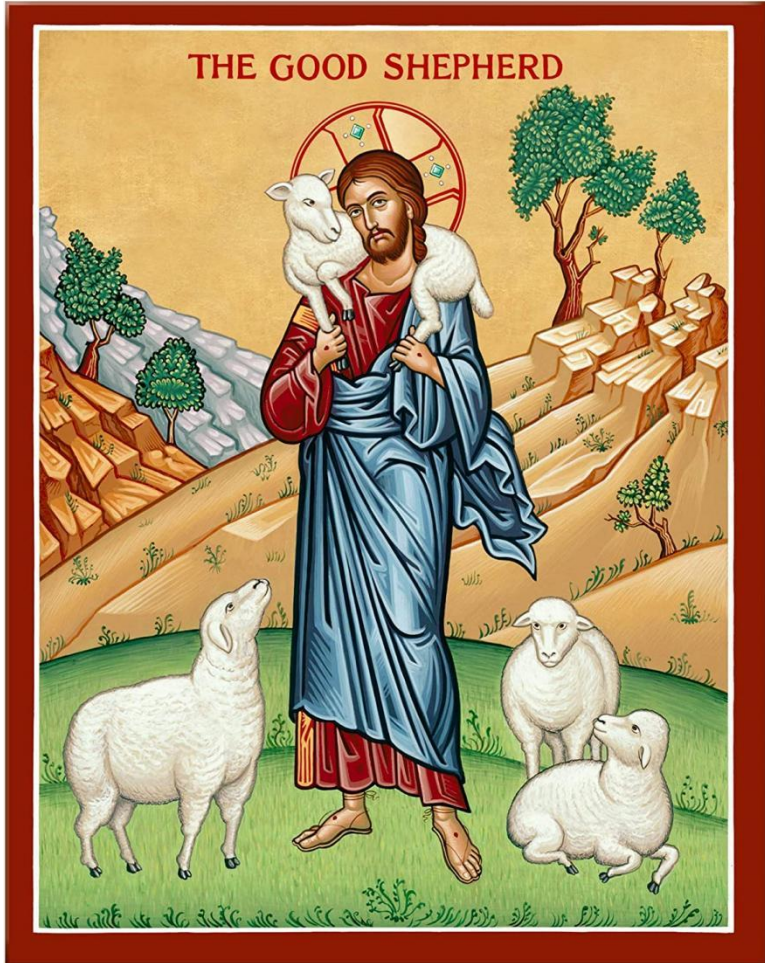
So the word spread among the brothers that that disciple would not die. But Jesus had not told him that he would not die, just “What if I want him to remain until I come? What concern is it of yours?”

Saturday
Theme: Conclusion of Jesus Deeds On Earth

JN 20:30-31, 21:21-25

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

It is this disciple who testifies to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. There are also many other things that Jesus did, but if these were to be described individually, I do not think the whole world would contain the books that would be written.



The Good Shepherd

**Misericordia Sunday
(Third Sunday of Easter)
Theme: Jesus, The Good Shepherd**

JN 10:1-18

“Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever does not enter a sheep-fold through the gate but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber. But whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice. But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers.” Although Jesus used this figure of speech, they did not realize what he was trying to tell them.

So Jesus said again, “Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.

I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and

the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd.

This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again. This command I have received from my Father.”

Third Week of Easter

Monday

Theme: I came to call sinners

MT 9:9-13

As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the customs post. He said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him.

While he was at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat with Jesus and his disciples. The Pharisees saw this and said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

He heard this and said, “Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ I did not come to call the righteous but sinners.”

Tuesday
Theme: Judging Others

MT 7:1-5

“Stop judging, that you may not be judged. For as you judge, so will you be judged, and the measure with which you measure will be measured out to you.

Why do you notice the splinter in your brother’s eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own eye?

How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me remove that splinter from your eye,’ while the wooden beam is in your eye?

You hypocrite, remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter from your brother’s eye.

Wednesday
Theme: The Lost Sheep

MT 18:10-14

See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father. What is your opinion? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them goes astray, will he not leave the ninety-nine in the hills and go in search of the stray? And if he finds it, amen, I say to you, he rejoices more over it than over the ninety-nine that did not stray. In just the same way, it is not the will of your heavenly Father that one of these little ones be lost.

Thursday
Theme: Looking For Lost Sheep on The Sabbath

MT: 12:9-13

Moving on from there, he went into their synagogue. And behold, there was a man there who had a withered hand. They questioned him, “Is it lawful to cure on the sabbath?” so that they might accuse him.

He said to them, “Which one of you who has a sheep that falls into a pit on the sabbath will not take hold of it and lift it out? How much more valuable a person is than a sheep. So it is lawful to do good on the sabbath.”

Then he said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and it was restored as sound as the

other. But the Pharisees went out and took counsel against him to put him to death.

Friday
Theme: The Chosen Servant

MT 12:15-21

When Jesus realized this, he withdrew from that place. Many people followed him, and he cured them all, but he warned them not to make him known.

This was to fulfil what had been spoken through Isaiah the prophet:

“Behold, my servant whom I have chosen,
my beloved in whom I delight;
I shall place my spirit upon him, and he will proclaim
justice to the Gentiles.
He will not contend or cry out, nor will anyone hear
his voice in the streets.
A bruised reed he will not break,
a smouldering wick he will not quench,
until he brings justice to victory.
And in his name the Gentiles will hope.”

Saturday
Theme: A conclusion to the Good Shepherd

Gospel of Thomas: 107-108

Yeshua said,
The kingdom is like a shepherd who had a hundred sheep. One of them, the largest, went astray. He left the ninety-nine and looked for the one until he found

it. After so much trouble he said to the sheep, “I love you more than the ninety-nine.”

Whoever drinks from my mouth will become like me. I myself shall become that person, and the hidden things will be revealed to that one.



Icon of The Prodigal Son

Jubilate Sunday
(Fourth Sunday of Easter)
Theme: Jubilation When We Return To GOD

LK 15:11-32

Then he said, “A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of your estate that should come to me.’ So the father divided the property between them. After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation.

When he had freely spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he found himself in dire need. So he hired himself out to one of the local citizens who sent him to his farm to tend the swine. And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any.

Coming to his senses he thought, ‘How many of my father’s hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger. I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers.” ’

So he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him.

His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.'

But his father ordered his servants, 'Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.' Then the celebration began.

Now the older son had been out in the field and, on his way back, as he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what this might mean. The servant said to him, 'Your brother has returned and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' He became angry, and when he refused to enter the house, his father came out and pleaded with him.

He said to his father in reply, 'Look, all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends. But when your son returns who swallowed up your property with prostitutes, for him you slaughter the fattened calf.'

He said to him, 'My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.' "

Fourth Week of Easter

Monday

Theme: God, Our Father

MT 6:9-15

“This is how you are to pray:
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and do not subject us to the final test,
but deliver us from the evil one.

If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions.



Tuesday
Theme: The Sower

MT 13:1-9

On that day, Jesus went out of the house and sat down by the sea. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd stood along the shore. And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying:

“A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up.

Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep, and when the sun rose it was scorched, and it withered for lack of roots.

Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it.

But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold. Whoever has ears ought to hear.”

Wednesday
Theme: Hear but do not understand, Look but never see

MT 13:10-15

The disciples approached him and said, “Why do you speak to them in parables?” He said to them in reply,

“Because knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted. To anyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because ‘they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand.’

Isaiah’s prophecy is fulfilled in them, which says: ‘You shall indeed hear but not understand, you shall indeed look but never see. Gross is the heart of this people, they will hardly hear with their ears, they have closed their eyes, lest they see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and be converted, and I heal them.’

Thursday

Theme: Doxology and Explanation of The Sower

MT 13:16-23

But blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear.

Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

“Hear then the parable of the sower. The seed sown on the path is the one who hears the word of the kingdom without understanding it, and the evil one comes and steals away what was sown in his heart.

The seed sown on rocky ground is the one who hears the word and receives it at once with joy. But he has no root and lasts only for a time. When some tribulation or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away.

The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word, but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit.

But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold.”

Friday
Theme: Wheat and Weeds

MT 13:24-30

He proposed another parable to them. “The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everyone was asleep his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat, and then went off.

When the crop grew and bore fruit, the weeds appeared as well. The slaves of the householder came to him and said, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where have the weeds come from?’

He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ His slaves said to him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’

He replied, 'No, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until harvest; then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters, "First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn."

Saturday
Theme: Explanation of The Parable Wheat and Weeds

MT 13:34-43

All these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables. He spoke to them only in parables, to fulfil what had been said through the prophet:

"I will open my mouth in parables,
I will announce what has lain hidden
from the foundation of the world."

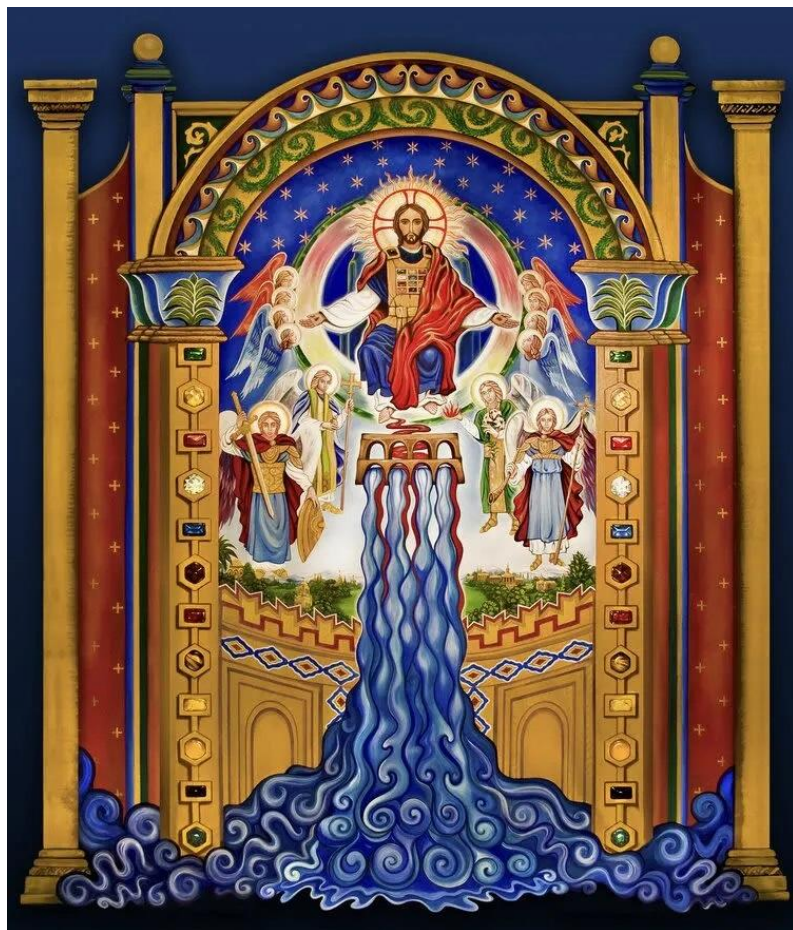
Then, dismissing the crowds, he went into the house. His disciples approached him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field."

He said in reply, "He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil.

The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. Just as weeds are collected and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of

his kingdom all who cause others to sin and all evildoers. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.

Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears ought to hear.



Christ The River of Life

Cantate Sunday
(Fifth Sunday of Easter)
Theme: I AM Preparing A Place For You

JN 14:1-7

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way.”

Thomas said to him, “Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?”

Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Fifth Week of Easter

Monday

Theme: The Call To Salvation

LK 19:1-10

He came to Jericho and intended to pass through the town. Now a man there named Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man, was seeking to see who Jesus was; but he could not see him because of the crowd, for he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way.

When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house."

And he came down quickly and received him with joy.

When they all saw this, they began to grumble, saying, "He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner."

But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over."

And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost."

Tuesday
Theme: Light of The World, Salt of The Earth

LK 11:33-36, 14:34-35

“No one who lights a lamp hides it away or places it under a bushel basket, but on a lampstand so that those who enter might see the light.

The lamp of the body is your eye. When your eye is sound, then your whole body is filled with light, but when it is bad, then your body is in darkness. Take care, then, that the light in you not become darkness. If your whole body is full of light, and no part of it is in darkness, then it will be as full of light as a lamp illuminating you with its brightness.”

“Salt is good, but if salt itself loses its taste, with what can its flavour be restored? It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out. Whoever has ears to hear ought to hear.”

Wednesday
Theme: The Call to The Gentiles

Acts 10:1-16

Now in Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of the Cohort called the Italica, devout and Godfearing along with his whole household, who used to give alms generously to the Jewish people and pray to God constantly. One afternoon about three o'clock, he saw plainly in a vision an angel of God come in to him and say to him, “Cornelius.”

He looked intently at him and, seized with fear, said, "What is it, sir?"

He said to him, "Your prayers and almsgiving have ascended as a memorial offering before God. Now send some men to Joppa and summon one Simon who is called Peter. He is staying with another Simon, a tanner, who has a house by the sea." When the angel who spoke to him had left, he called two of his servants and a devout soldier from his staff, explained everything to them, and sent them to Joppa.

The next day, while they were on their way and nearing the city, Peter went up to the roof terrace to pray at about noontime. He was hungry and wished to eat, and while they were making preparations he fell into a trance.

He saw heaven opened and something resembling a large sheet coming down, lowered to the ground by its four corners. In it were all the earth's four-legged animals and reptiles and the birds of the sky. A voice said to him, "Get up, Peter. Slaughter and eat."

But Peter said, "Certainly not, sir. For never have I eaten anything profane and unclean."

The voice spoke to him again, a second time, "What God has made clean, you are not to call profane." This happened three times, and then the object was taken up into the sky.

Thursday

Theme: Peter and Cornelius

Acts 10:17-33

While Peter was in doubt about the meaning of the vision he had seen, the men sent by Cornelius asked for Simon's house and arrived at the entrance. They called out inquiring whether Simon, who is called Peter, was staying there. As Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said, "There are three men here looking for you. So get up, go downstairs, and accompany them without hesitation, because I have sent them."

Then Peter went down to the men and said, "I am the one you are looking for. What is the reason for your being here?"

They answered, "Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, respected by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to summon you to his house and to hear what you have to say." So he invited them in and showed them hospitality.

The next day he got up and went with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa went with him. On the following day he entered Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and, falling at his feet, paid him homage. Peter, however, raised him up, saying, "Get up. I myself am also a human being."

While he conversed with him, he went in and found many people gathered together and said to them, “You know that it is unlawful for a Jewish man to associate with, or visit, a Gentile, but God has shown me that I should not call any person profane or unclean. And that is why I came without objection when sent for. May I ask, then, why you summoned me?”

Cornelius replied, “Four days ago at this hour, three o’clock in the afternoon, I was at prayer in my house when suddenly a man in dazzling robes stood before me and said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your almsgiving remembered before God. Send therefore to Joppa and summon Simon, who is called Peter. He is a guest in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea.’ So I sent for you immediately, and you were kind enough to come. Now therefore we are all here in the presence of God to listen to all that you have been commanded by the Lord.”

Friday

Theme: God Has No Favourites

Acts 10:34-43

Then Peter proceeded to speak and said, “In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word [that] he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of

Nazareth with the holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Saturday

Theme: The Holy Spirit Descends on Gentiles

Acts 10:44-49

While Peter was still speaking these things, the holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the word. The circumcised believers who had accompanied Peter were astounded that the gift of the holy Spirit should have been poured out on the Gentiles also, for they could hear them speaking in tongues and glorifying God.

Then Peter responded, “Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people, who have received the holy Spirit even as we have?” He ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for a few days.



Icon of The Ascension

Vocem Jucunditátis Sunday
(Sixth Sunday of Easter)
Theme: My Father And I Will Dwell In Him

JN 14:15-24

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it. But you know it, because it remains with you, and will be in you.

I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him.”

Judas, not the Iscariot, said to him, “Master, what happened that you will reveal yourself to us and not to the world?”

Jesus answered and said to him, “Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; yet the word you hear is not mine but that of the Father who sent me.

Sixth Week of Easter

Monday

Theme: The Commission

MK 16:15-18

He said to them, “Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages.

They will pick up serpents with their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

Tuesday

Theme: Go Make Disciples

MT 28:16-20

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted.

Then Jesus approached and said to them, “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I

have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

Wednesday
Theme: Anticipating the Ascension

LK 24: 50-53

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, raised his hands, and blessed them. As he blessed them, he parted from them and was taken up to heaven. They did him homage and then returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple praising God.

Ascension Thursday
Theme: Anguish To Joy, Ask And Receive

JN 16:19-28

Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, “Are you discussing with one another what I said, ‘A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me’?”

Amen, amen, I say to you, you will weep and mourn, while the world rejoices; you will grieve, but your grief will become joy. When a woman is in labour, she is in anguish because her hour has arrived; but when she has given birth to a child, she no longer remembers the pain because of her joy that a child has been born into the world. So you also are now in anguish.

But I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you. On that day you will not question me about anything.

Amen, amen, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you. Until now you have not asked anything in my name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.

“I have told you this in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures but I will tell you clearly about the Father. On that day you will ask in my name, and I do not tell you that I will ask the Father for you. For the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have come to believe that I came from God. I came from the Father and have come into the world. Now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father.”

Friday
Theme: Prelude to The Ascension

Acts 1:1-5

In the first book, Theophilus, I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught 2buntil the day he was taken up, after giving instructions through the holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

While meeting with them, he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for “the promise of

the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the holy Spirit.”

Saturday
Theme: Narrative of The Ascension

Acts 1:6-12

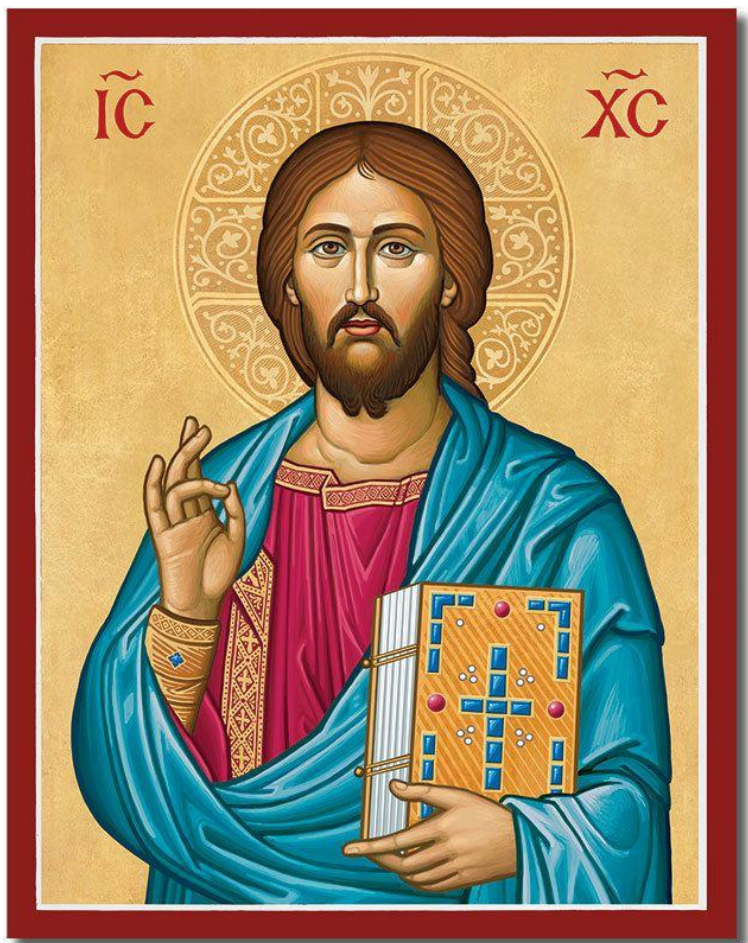
When they had gathered together, they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

He answered them, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. But you will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them.

They said, “Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven.”

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olive, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away.



Pascha Rosarum
(Seventh Sunday of Easter)
Theme: Peace I Give To You

JN 14:26-31

The Advocate, the holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name—he will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.

You heard me tell you, ‘I am going away and I will come back to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father; for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it happens, so that when it happens you may believe.

I will no longer speak much with you, for the ruler of the world is coming. He has no power over me, but the world must know that I love the Father and that I do just as the Father has commanded me. Get up, let us go.

Seventh Week of Easter

Monday

Theme: Peace Be With You

LK 24:36-43

While they were still speaking about this, he stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you."

But they were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. Then he said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do questions arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have."

And as he said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

While they were still incredulous for joy and were amazed, he asked them, "Have you anything here to eat?"

They gave him a piece of baked fish; he took it and ate it in front of them.

Tuesday
Theme: The Promise of My Father, Power From High

LK 24:44-49

He said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled.”

Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. And he said to them, “Thus it is written that the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

You are witnesses of these things. And behold I am sending the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

Wednesday
Theme: I Have Conquered The World

JN 16:31-33

Jesus answered them, “Do you believe now? Behold, the hour is coming and has arrived when each of you will be scattered to his own home and you will leave me alone. But I am not alone, because the Father is with me. I have told you this so that you might have

peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world.”

Thursday

Theme: The Slain Lamb, The Lion of Judah

Rev 5:1-7

I saw a scroll in the right hand of the one who sat on the throne. It had writing on both sides and was sealed with seven seals. Then I saw a mighty angel who proclaimed in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to examine it. I shed many tears because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to examine it.

One of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. The lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David, has triumphed, enabling him to open the scroll with its seven seals.”

Then I saw standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and the elders, a Lamb that seemed to have been slain. He had seven horns and seven eyes; these are the seven spirits of God sent out into the whole world. He came and received the scroll from the right hand of the one who sat on the throne.

Friday
Theme: Worthy is The Lamb

Rev 5:8-14

When he took it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each of the elders held a harp and gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the holy ones. They sang a new hymn:

“Worthy are you to receive the scroll
and to break open its seals,
for you were slain and with your blood
you purchased for God
those from every tribe and tongue,
people and nation.
You made them a kingdom and priests
for our God, and they will reign on earth.”

I looked again and heard the voices of many angels who surrounded the throne and the living creatures and the elders. They were countless in number, and they cried out in a loud voice:

“Worthy is the Lamb that was slain
to receive power and riches, wisdom and strength,
honour and glory and blessing.”

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, everything in the universe, cry out:

“To the one who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour, glory and might, forever and ever.”

The four living creatures answered, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Saturday
Theme: The Lamb and The Saints

Rev 14:1-5

Then I looked and there was the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with him a hundred and forty-four thousand who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. I heard a sound from heaven like the sound of rushing water or a loud peal of thunder. The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing their harps. They were singing a new hymn before the throne, before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn this hymn except the hundred and forty-four thousand who had been ransomed from the earth.

These are they who were not defiled with women; they are virgins and these are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They have been ransomed as the first fruits of the human race for God and the Lamb. On their lips no deceit has been found; they are unblemished.



Icon of Pentecost

Pentecost
Theme: The Spirit of Truth

JN 16:4-15

“I have told you this so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you. I did not tell you this from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to the one who sent me, and not one of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ But because I told you this, grief has filled your hearts. But I tell you the truth, it is better for you that I go. For if I do not go, the Advocate will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes he will convict the world in regard to sin and righteousness and condemnation: sin, because they do not believe in me; righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me; condemnation, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

“I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming. He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine; for this reason I told you that he will take from what is mine and declare it to you.

Pentecost Week

Pentecost Monday

Theme: The Coming Of The Holy Spirit

Acts 2:1-13

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem. At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language. They were astounded, and in amazement they asked, “Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his own native language? We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites, inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene, as well as travellers from Rome, both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs, yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God.”

They were all astounded and bewildered, and said to one another, "What does this mean?" But others said, scoffing, "They have had too much new wine."

Pentecost Tuesday
Theme: I Will Pour Out My Spirit

Acts 2:14-21

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed to them, "You who are Jews, indeed all of you staying in Jerusalem. Let this be known to you, and listen to my words. These people are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning.

No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

'It will come to pass in the last days,' God says,
'that I will pour out a portion of my spirit upon all
flesh.

Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your young men shall see visions,
your old men shall dream dreams.

Indeed, upon my servants and my handmaids
I will pour out a portion of my spirit in those days,
and they shall prophesy.

And I will work wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below:
blood, fire, and a cloud of smoke.

The sun shall be turned to darkness,
and the moon to blood,

before the coming of the great and
splendid day of the Lord,
and it shall be that everyone shall be
saved who calls on the name of the Lord.'

Pentecost Wednesday
Theme: You Have Made Known To Me The
Paths Of Life

Acts 2:22-28

You who are Israelites, hear these words. Jesus the Nazorean was a man commended to you by God with mighty deeds, wonders, and signs, which God worked through him in your midst, as you yourselves know. This man, delivered up by the set plan and foreknowledge of God, you killed, using lawless men to crucify him. But God raised him up, releasing him from the throes of death, because it was impossible for him to be held by it.

For David says of him:
'I saw the Lord ever before me,
with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.
Therefore my heart has been glad and my
tongue has exulted;
my flesh, too, will dwell in hope,
because you will not abandon my soul to the nether
world,
nor will you suffer your holy one to see corruption.
You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence.'

Pentecost Thursday
Theme: Jesus Exalted At The Right Hand

Acts 2:29-36

My brothers, one can confidently say to you about the patriarch David that he died and was buried, and his tomb is in our midst to this day. But since he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants upon his throne, he foresaw and spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that neither was he abandoned to the netherworld nor did his flesh see corruption.

God raised this Jesus; of this we are all witnesses. Exalted at the right hand of God, he received the promise of the holy Spirit from the Father and poured it forth, as you see and hear. For David did not go up into heaven, but he himself said:

“The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies your footstool.” ’
Therefore let the whole house of Israel know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Pentecost Friday
Theme: Repent And Be Baptised

Acts 2:37-41

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and they asked Peter and the other apostles, “What are we to do, my brothers?”

Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the holy Spirit. For the promise is made to you and to your children and to all those far off, whomever the Lord our God will call.”

He testified with many other arguments, and was exhorting them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand persons were added that day.

Pentecost Saturday
Theme: The First Church In Jerusalem

Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their

property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one's need.

Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favour with all the people. And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

**First Sunday After Pentecost
(Trinity Sunday)**

Theme: The SON and The FATHER

JN 5:19-30

Jesus answered and said to them,
“Amen, amen, I say to you, a son cannot do anything
on his own, but only what he sees his father doing; for
what he does, his son will do also. For the Father
loves his Son and shows him everything that he
himself does, and he will show him greater works
than these, so that you may be amazed.

For just as the Father raises the dead and gives life,
so also does the Son give life to whomever he wishes.
Nor does the Father judge anyone, but he has given
all judgment to his Son, so that all may honour the
Son just as they honour the Father. Whoever does not
honour the Son does not honour the Father who sent
him.

Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever hears my word
and believes in the one who sent me has eternal life
and will not come to condemnation, but has passed
from death to life.

Amen, amen, I say to you, the hour is coming and is
now here when the dead will hear the voice of the Son
of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the
Father has life in himself, so also he gave to his Son
the possession of life in himself.

And he gave him power to exercise judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not be amazed at this, because the hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and will come out, those who have done good deeds to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked deeds to the resurrection of condemnation. I cannot do anything on my own; I judge as I hear, and my judgment is just, because I do not seek my own will but the will of the one who sent me.

First Week After Pentecost

Monday

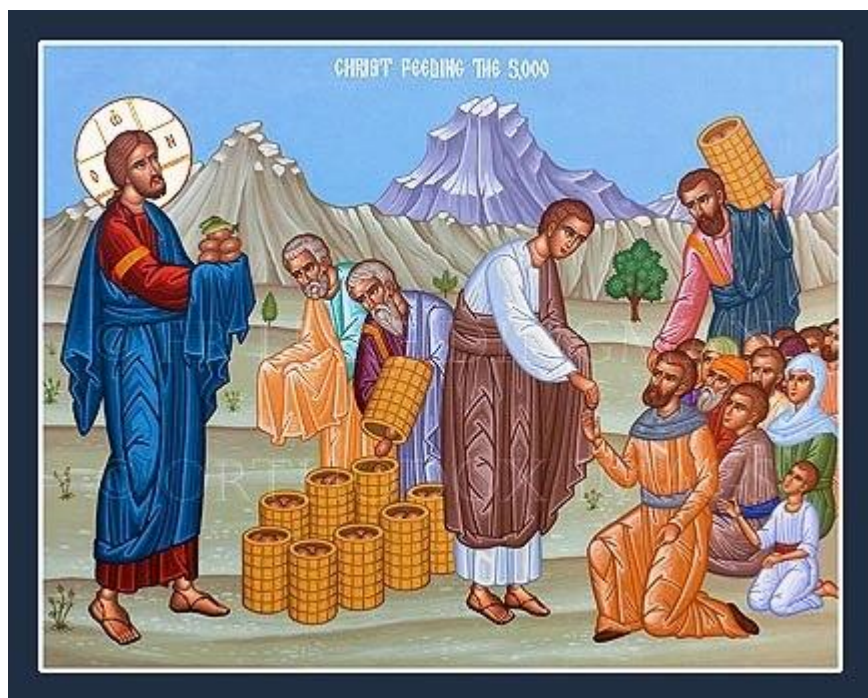
**Theme: Jesus Feeds 5 Thousand
(Prelude to the bread of life)**

JN 6:1-13

After this, Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee. A large crowd followed him, because they saw the signs he was performing on the sick. Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples.

The Jewish feast of Passover was near. When Jesus raised his eyes and saw that a large crowd was coming to him, he said to Philip, "Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?"

He said this to test him, because he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred days' wages worth of food would not be enough for each of them to have a little."



One of his disciples, Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, said to him, “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?”

Jesus said, “Have the people recline.”

Now there was a great deal of grass in that place. So the men reclined, about five thousand in number. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining, and also as much of the fish as they wanted.

When they had had their fill, he said to his disciples, “Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted.” So they collected them, and filled twelve wicker baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves that had been more than they could eat.

Tuesday
Theme: Do Not Be Afraid
(Walking on Water)

JN 6:14-21

When the people saw the sign, he had done, they said, “This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world.” Since Jesus knew that they were going to come and carry him off to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain alone.

When it was evening, his disciples went down to the sea, embarked in a boat, and went across the sea to Capernaum. It had already grown dark, and Jesus

had not yet come to them. The sea was stirred up because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they began to be afraid.

But he said to them, “It is I. Do not be afraid.” They wanted to take him into the boat, but the boat immediately arrived at the shore to which they were heading.

Wednesday
Theme: Work For Food That Endures

JN 6:22-29

The next day, the crowd that remained across the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not gone along with his disciples in the boat, but only his disciples had left.

Other boats came from Tiberias near the place where they had eaten the bread when the Lord gave thanks. When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into boats and came to Capernaum looking for Jesus. And when they found him across the sea they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?”

Jesus answered them and said, “Amen, amen, I say to you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled. Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will

give you. For on him the Father, God, has set his seal.”

So they said to him, “What can we do to accomplish the works of God?”

Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent.”

Solemnity of Corpus Christi
Theme: The Bread of Life

JN 6:30-40

So they said to him, “What sign can you do, that we may see and believe in you? What can you do? Our ancestors ate manna in the desert, as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’ ”

So Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

So they said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst. But I told you that although you have seen me, you do not believe.

Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me, because

I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me. And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him on the last day.”

Friday

Theme: The Bread That Comes From Heaven

JN 6:41-51

The Jews murmured about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven,” and they said, “Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph? Do we not know his father and mother? Then how can he say, ‘I have come down from heaven’?”

Jesus answered and said to them, “Stop murmuring among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him, and I will raise him on the last day.

It is written in the prophets:
‘They shall all be taught by God.’

Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.

I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.”

Saturday
Theme: Concluding The Discourse

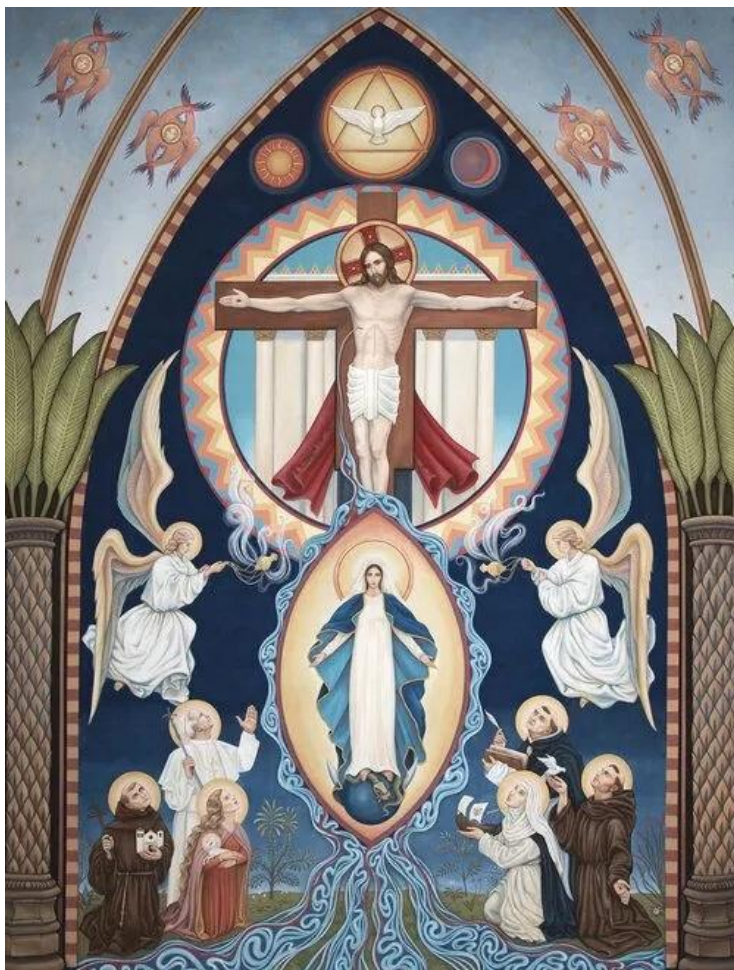
JN 6:52-59

The Jews quarrelled among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”

Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink.

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever.”

These things he said while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.



Christ The Eternal Sacrifice

Second Sunday After Pentecost
Theme: The Words of Eternal Life

JN 6:60-71

Then many of his disciples who were listening said, "This saying is hard; who can accept it?"

Since Jesus knew that his disciples were murmuring about this, he said to them, "Does this shock you? What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe."

Jesus knew from the beginning the ones who would not believe and the one who would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father."

As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him.

Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?"

Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."

Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you twelve? Yet is not one of you a devil?”

He was referring to Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot; it was he who would betray him, one of the Twelve.

Second Week After Pentecost

Monday

Theme: By Your Deeds, You are the Light

MT 5:13-16

“You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.

Tuesday

Theme: The Law Remains

MT 5:17-20

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter

will pass from the law, until all things have taken place.

Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven. I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Wednesday
Theme: Put Aside Your Anger

MT 5:21-26

“You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, ‘You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment.’

But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment, and whoever says to his brother, ‘Raqa,’ will be answerable to the Sanhedrin, and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ will be liable to fiery Gehenna.

Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Settle with your opponent quickly while on the way to court with him. Otherwise, your opponent will hand you over to the judge, and the judge will

hand you over to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Amen, I say to you, you will not be released until you have paid the last penny.

Thursday

**Theme: Better Lose A Part Of Your Body Then
To Lose Your Whole Body To Sin.**

MT 5:27-30

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’

But I say to you, everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body thrown into Gehenna. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body go into Gehenna.



The Sacred Heart Of Christ

Friday
Solemnity of The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Prayer

“Joyful heart of Jesus, Bless us!”

Round Dance of The Cross (song)

Jesus told us to form a circle and hold each other's hands, and he himself stood in the middle, and said, “Respond to me with ‘Amen.’”

So he began by singing a hymn and declaring,

“Glory to you, father.”

And we circled around him and responded to him, “Amen.”

“Glory to you, word. Glory to you, grace.”

“Amen.”

“Glory to you, spirit. Glory to you, holy one. Glory to your glory.”

“Amen.”

“We praise you, father. We give thanks to you, light, in whom no darkness is.”

“Amen.”

“

Why we give thanks, I declare: I will be saved and I will save.”

“Amen.”

“I will be released and I will release.”

“Amen.”

“I will be wounded and I will wound.”

“Amen.”

“I will be born and I will bear.”

“Amen.”

“I will eat and I will be eaten.”

“Amen.”

“I will hear and I will be heard.”

“Amen.”

“I will be kept in mind, being all mind.”

“Amen.”

“I will be washed and I will wash.”

“Amen.”

“I will play the flute. Dance, everyone.”

“Amen.”

“I will mourn. Lament, everyone.”

“Amen.”

“A realm of eight sings with us.”

“Amen.”

“The twelfth number dances on high.”

“Amen.”

“The whole universe takes part in dancing.”

“Amen.”

“Whoever does not dance does not know what happens.”

“Amen.”

“I will flee and I will stay.”

“Amen.”

“I will adorn and I will be adorned.”

“Amen.”

“I will be united and I will unite.”

“Amen.”

“I have no house and I have houses.”

“Amen.”

“I have no place and I have places.”

“Amen.”

“I have no temple and I have temples.”

“Amen.”

“I am a lamp to you who see me.”

“Amen.”

“I am a mirror to you who perceive me.”

“Amen.”

“I am a door to you who knock on me.”

“Amen.”

“I am a way to you, you passerby.”

“Amen.”



The Immaculate Heart Of Mary

Saturday

Solemnity of The Immaculate Heart of Mary

Prayer

“Open your heart to us, O Mother of God”

Round Dance of The Cross (explanation)

“If you respond to my dance, see yourself in me as I speak, and if you have seen what I do, keep silent about my mysteries. You who dance, understand what I do, for yours is this human passion I am to suffer.

You could by no means have comprehended what you suffer unless I had been sent as the word to you by the father. You who have seen what I suffer have seen me as suffering, and when you have seen it, you have not stood firm but were completely moved.

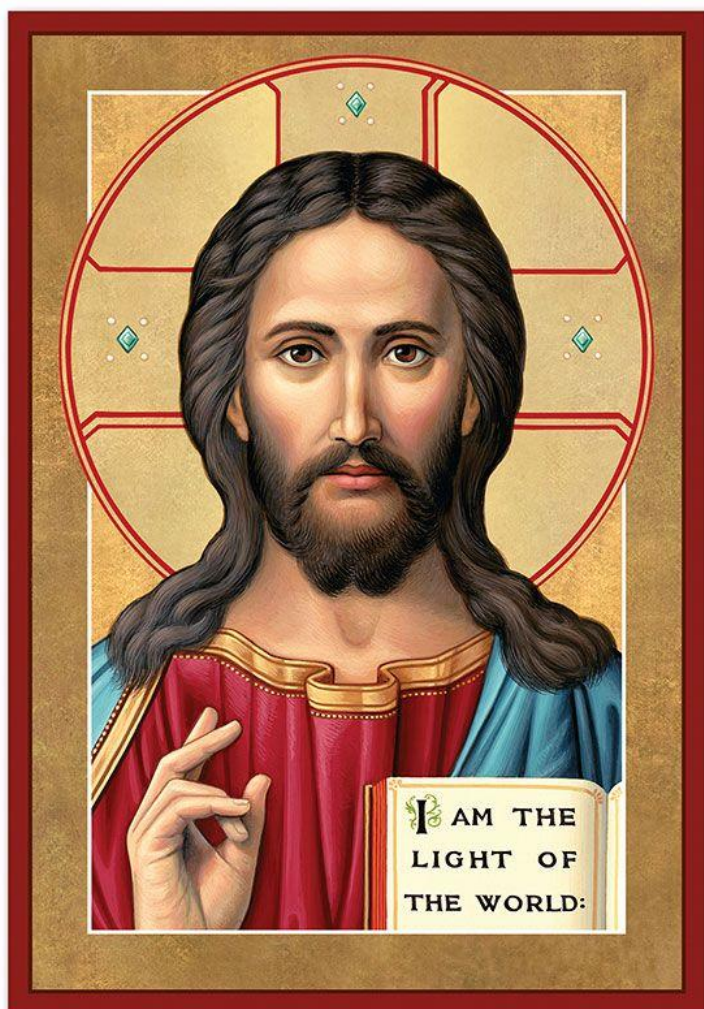
You were moved to become wise, and you have me for support. Rest in me. Who I am you will know when I depart.

What now I am seen to be I am not. You will see when you come. If you knew how to suffer, you would have been able not to suffer. Learn about suffering, and you will be able not to suffer.

What you do not know I myself shall teach you. I am your god, not the traitor's. I want holy souls to be in harmony with me. Know the word of wisdom.
Say again with me,

Glory to you, father.
Glory to you, word.
Glory to you, spirit.
Amen.

“If you want to know what I was, once I mocked
everything with the word,
and I was not put to shame at all. I leaped. But
understand everything, and when you have
understood, declare,
Glory to you, father.
Amen.



Third Sunday After Pentecost
Theme: The Light of The World

JN 8:12-20

Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

So the Pharisees said to him, “You testify on your own behalf, so your testimony cannot be verified.”

Jesus answered and said to them, “Even if I do testify on my own behalf, my testimony can be verified, because I know where I came from and where I am going. But you do not know where I come from or where I am going. You judge by appearances, but I do not judge anyone. 16oAnd even if I should judge, my judgment is valid, because I am not alone, but it is I and the Father who sent me. Even in your law it is written that the testimony of two men can be verified. I testify on my behalf and so does the Father who sent me.”

So they said to him, “Where is your father?”

Jesus answered, “You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.”

He spoke these words while teaching in the treasury in the temple area. But no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

Third Week After Pentecost

Monday

Theme: Mean What You Say

MT 5:33-37

“Again you have heard that it was said to your ancestors, ‘Do not take a false oath, but make good to the Lord all that you vow.’

But I say to you, do not swear at all; not by heaven, for it is God’s throne; nor by the earth, for it is his footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Do not swear by your head, for you cannot make a single hair white or black. Let your ‘Yes’ mean ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No’ mean ‘No.’ Anything more is from the evil one.

Tuesday

Theme: Turn The Other Cheek

MT 5:38-42

“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’

But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on your right cheek, turn the other one to him as well.

If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic, hand him your cloak as well. Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go with him for two miles.

Give to the one who asks of you, and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow.

Wednesday
Theme: Love Your Enemies

MT 5:43-48

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.’

But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust.

For if you love those who love you, what recompense will you have? Do not the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brothers only, what is unusual about that? Do not the pagans do the same? So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Thursday
Theme: Do Not Show Off Your Good Deeds

MT 6:1-4

Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father.

When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others.

Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

Friday
Theme: Divorce and Remarriage

MT 5:31-32

“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife must give her a bill of divorce.’ But I say to you, whoever divorces his wife (unless the marriage is unlawful) causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Saturday
Theme: Let No Man Put Asunder

MK 10:1-12

He set out from there and went into the district of Judea and across the Jordan. Again, crowds gathered around him and, as was his custom, he again taught them.

The Pharisees approached and asked, “Is it lawful for a husband to divorce his wife?” They were testing him. He said to them in reply, “What did Moses command you?”

They replied, “Moses permitted him to write a bill of divorce and dismiss her.”

But Jesus told them, “Because of the hardness of your hearts he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together; no human being must separate.”

In the house the disciples again questioned him about this. He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost
Theme: The World Hates Me
JN 7:1-10

After this, Jesus moved about within Galilee; but he did not wish to travel in Judea, because the Jews were trying to kill him. But the Jewish feast of Tabernacles was near. So his brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea, so that your disciples also may see the works you are doing. No one works in secret if he wants to be known publicly. If you do these things, manifest yourself to the world." For his brothers did not believe in him.

So Jesus said to them, "My time is not yet here, but the time is always right for you. The world cannot hate you, but it hates me, because I testify to it that its works are evil. You go up to the feast. I am not going up to this feast, because my time has not yet been fulfilled."

After he had said this, he stayed on in Galilee. But when his brothers had gone up to the feast, he himself also went up, not openly but in secret.

Fourth Week After Pentecost
Monday
Theme: Pray in Sincerity and in Secret

MT 6:5-8

"When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on

street corners so that others may see them. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward.

But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

In praying, do not babble like the pagans, who think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them. Your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Tuesday
Theme: Fast in Secret

MT 6:16-18

“When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward.

But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not appear to others to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden. And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you.

Wednesday
Theme: Pearls Before Swine

MT 7:6

“Do not give what is holy to dogs, or throw your pearls before swine, lest they trample them underfoot, and turn and tear you to pieces

Thursday
Theme: Treasure in Heaven

MT 6:19-21

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroy, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.

Friday
Theme: Serving One Master

MT 6:24

“No one can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Saturday
Theme: Trust in God To Provide

MT 6:25-34

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are not you more important than they?

Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your life-span? Why are you anxious about clothes? Learn from the way the wild flowers grow. They do not work or spin. But I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was clothed like one of them.

If God so clothes the grass of the field, which grows today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, will he not much more provide for you, O you of little faith?

So do not worry and say, ‘What are we to eat?’ or ‘What are we to drink?’ or ‘What are we to wear?’

All these things the pagans seek. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides. Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself. Sufficient for a day is its own evil.

Fifth Sunday After Pentecost
Theme: Teaching From The Father

JN 7:14-31

When the feast was already half over, Jesus went up into the temple area and began to teach. The Jews were amazed and said, “How does he know scripture without having studied?”

Jesus answered them and said, “My teaching is not my own but is from the one who sent me. Whoever chooses to do his will shall know whether my teaching is from God or whether I speak on my own. Whoever speaks on his own seeks his own glory, but whoever seeks the glory of the one who sent him is truthful, and there is no wrong in him. Did not Moses give you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill me?”

The crowd answered, “You are possessed! Who is trying to kill you?”

Jesus answered and said to them, “I performed one work and all of you are amazed because of it. Moses gave you circumcision—not that it came from Moses but rather from the patriarchs—and you circumcise a man on the sabbath. If a man can receive circumcision on a sabbath so that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because I made a whole person well on a sabbath? Stop judging by appearances, but judge justly.”

So some of the inhabitants of Jerusalem said, “Is he not the one they are trying to kill? And look, he is speaking openly and they say nothing to him. Could the authorities have realized that he is the Messiah? But we know where he is from. When the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from.”

So Jesus cried out in the temple area as he was teaching and said, “You know me and also know where I am from. Yet I did not come on my own, but the one who sent me, whom you do not know, is true. I know him, because I am from him, and he sent me.”

So they tried to arrest him, but no one laid a hand upon him, because his hour had not yet come. But many of the crowd began to believe in him, and said, “When the Messiah comes, will he perform more signs than this man has done?”

Fifth Week After Pentecost

Monday

Theme: Ask and Receive

MT 7:7-11

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

Which one of you would hand his son a stone when he asks for a loaf of bread, or a snake when he asks for a

fish? If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask him.

Tuesday
Theme: The Golden Rule

MT 7:12

“Do to others whatever you would have them do to you. This is the law and the prophets.

Wednesday
Theme: The Narrow Gate

MT 7:13-14

“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and those who enter through it are many. How narrow the gate and constricted the road that leads to life. And those who find it are few.

Thursday
Theme: False Prophets

MT 7:15-20

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but underneath are ravenous wolves. By their fruits you will know them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Just so, every good tree bears good fruit, and a rotten tree

bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a rotten tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. So by their fruits you will know them.

Friday
Theme: True Disciples

MT 7:21-23

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name? Did we not drive out demons in your name? Did we not do mighty deeds in your name?’

Then I will declare to them solemnly, ‘I never knew you. Depart from me, you evildoers.’

Saturday
Theme: The Foundation of Rock

MT 7:24-29

“Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock.

And everyone who listens to these words of mine but does not act on them will be like a fool who built his house on sand. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. And it collapsed and was completely ruined.”

When Jesus finished these words, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost
Theme: Living Water

JN 7:37-52

On the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood up and exclaimed, “Let anyone who thirsts come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as scripture says: ‘Rivers of living water will flow from within him.’ ”

He said this in reference to the Spirit that those who came to believe in him were to receive. There was, of course, no Spirit yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Some in the crowd who heard these words said, “This is truly the Prophet.” Others said, “This is the Messiah.” But others said, “The Messiah will not come from Galilee, will he? Does not scripture say that the Messiah will be of David’s family and come from Bethlehem, the village where David lived?”

So a division occurred in the crowd because of him. Some of them even wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him. So the guards went to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, “Why did you not bring him?”

The guards answered, “Never before has anyone spoken like this one.” So the Pharisees answered them, “Have you also been deceived? Have any of the authorities or the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd, which does not know the law, is accursed.”

Nicodemus, one of their members who had come to him earlier, said to them, “Does our law condemn a person before it first hears him and finds out what he is doing?”

They answered and said to him, “You are not from Galilee also, are you? Look and see that no prophet arises from Galilee.”

Sixth Week After Pentecost

Monday

Theme: The Mustard Seed

MT 13:31-32

He proposed another parable to them. “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants. It becomes a large bush, and the ‘birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches.”

Tuesday

Theme: The Yeast

MT 13:33

He spoke to them another parable. “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed with three measures of wheat flour until the whole batch was leavened.”

Wednesday
Theme: Treasure in a Field

MT 13:44

“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Thursday
Theme: The Pearl of Great Price

MT 13:45-46

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price he goes and sells all that he has and buys it.

Friday
Theme: The Net of Fish

MT 13:47-50

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea, which collects fish of every kind. When it is full they haul it ashore and sit down to put what is good into buckets. What is bad they throw away.

Thus it will be at the end of the age. The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.

Saturday
Theme: Treasures Old and New

MT 13:51-52

“Do you understand all these things?”
They answered, “Yes.”

And he replied, “Then every scribe who has been instructed in the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old.”



Seventh Sunday After Pentecost
Theme: Condemn Not

JN 8:1-11

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. But early in the morning he arrived again in the temple area, and all the people started coming to him, and he sat down and taught them.

Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and made her stand in the middle. They said to him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?” They said this to test him, so that they could have some charge to bring against him.

Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”

Again he bent down and wrote on the ground. And in response, they went away one by one, beginning with the elders. So he was left alone with the woman before him. Then Jesus straightened up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”

She replied, “No one, sir.”

Then Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin anymore.”

Seventh Week After Pentecost

Monday

Theme: Come to Me

MT 11:28-30

“Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”

Tuesday

Theme: Do Not Blaspheme Against The Spirit

MT 12:22-32

Then they brought to him a demoniac who was blind and mute. He cured the mute person so that he could speak and see.

All the crowd was astounded, and said, “Could this perhaps be the Son of David?”

But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, “This man drives out demons only by the power of Beelzebul, the prince of demons.”

But he knew what they were thinking and said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself will be laid waste, and no town or house divided against itself will stand. And if Satan drives out Satan, he is

divided against himself; how, then, will his kingdom stand? And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your own people drive them out? Therefore, they will be your judges. But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

How can anyone enter a strong man's house and steal his property, unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can plunder his house. Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

Therefore, I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven; but whoever speaks against the holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

Wednesday
Theme: Fruits of A Tree

MT 12:33-37

“Either declare the tree good and its fruit is good, or declare the tree rotten and its fruit is rotten, for a tree is known by its fruit. You brood of vipers, how can you say good things when you are evil? For from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks.

A good person brings forth good out of a store of goodness, but an evil person brings forth evil out of a store of evil. I tell you, on the day of judgment people

will render an account for every careless word they speak. By your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”

Thursday
Theme: The Sign of Jonah

MT 12:38-42

Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to him, “Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.”

He said to them in reply, “An evil and unfaithful generation seeks a sign, but no sign will be given it except the sign of Jonah the prophet. Just as Jonah was in the belly of the whale three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights.

At the judgment, the men of Nineveh will arise with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and there is something greater than Jonah here. At the judgment the queen of the south will arise with this generation and condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and there is something greater than Solomon here.

Friday
Theme: Return of The Unclean Spirit

MT 12:43-45

“When an unclean spirit goes out of a person it roams through arid regions searching for rest but finds none. Then it says, ‘I will return to my home from which I came.’ But upon returning, it finds it empty, swept clean, and put in order. Then it goes and brings back with itself seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they move in and dwell there; and the last condition of that person is worse than the first. Thus it will be with this evil generation.”

Saturday
Theme: Bring Them Here To Me

MT 14:13-21

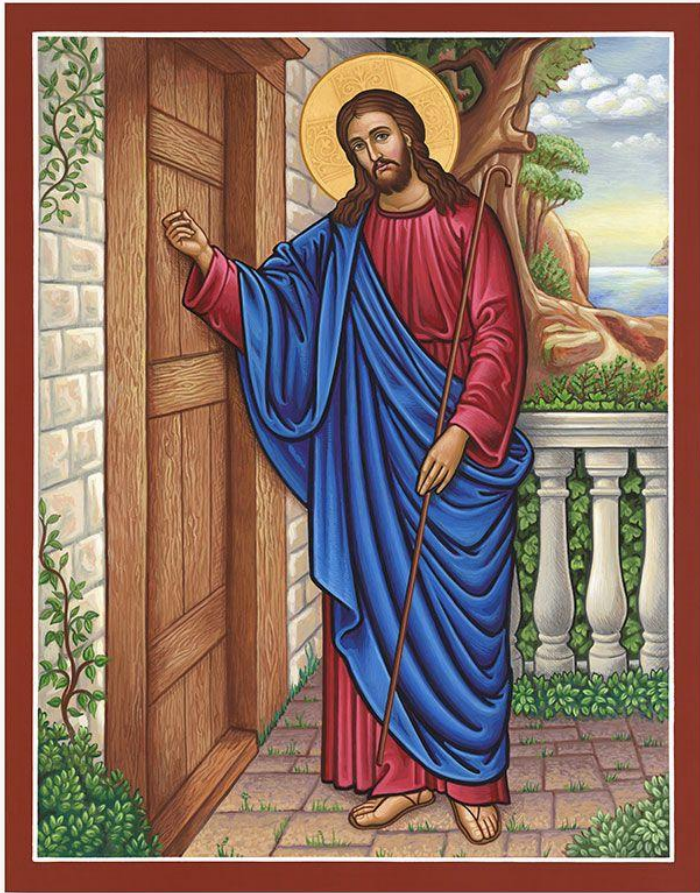
When Jesus heard of it, he withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. The crowds heard of this and followed him on foot from their towns. When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, and he cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples approached him and said, “This is a deserted place and it is already late; dismiss the crowds so that they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves.”

Jesus said to them, “There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves.”

But they said to him, “Five loaves and two fish are all we have here.”

Then he said, “Bring them here to me,” and he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. They all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up the fragments left over—twelve wicker baskets full.

Those who ate were about five thousand men, not counting women and children.



I AM At The Door

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost
Theme: I AM (Who I AM)

JN 8:21-30

He said to them again, "I am going away and you will look for me, but you will die in your sin. Where I am going you cannot come."

So the Jews said, "He is not going to kill himself, is he, because he said, 'Where I am going you cannot come'?"

He said to them, "You belong to what is below, I belong to what is above. You belong to this world, but I do not belong to this world. That is why I told you that you will die in your sins. For if you do not believe that I AM, you will die in your sins."

So they said to him, "Who are you?"

Jesus said to them, "What I told you from the beginning. I have much to say about you in condemnation. But the one who sent me is true, and what I heard from him I tell the world."

They did not realize that he was speaking to them of the Father. So Jesus said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I AM, and that I do nothing on my own, but I say only what the Father taught me. The one who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, because I always do what is pleasing to him."

Because he spoke this way, many came to believe in him.

Eighth Week After Pentecost

Monday
Theme: It is I

MT 14:22-33

Then he made the disciples get into the boat and precede him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. After doing so, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When it was evening, he was there alone. Meanwhile the boat, already a few miles offshore, was being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against it. During the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified. "It is a ghost," they said, and they cried out in fear.

At once Jesus spoke to them, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter said to him in reply, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."

He said, "Come."

Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw how strong the wind was he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”

After they got into the boat, the wind died down. Those who were in the boat did him homage, saying, “Truly, you are the Son of God.”

Tuesday
Theme: Things That Defile

MT 15:1-11

Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, “Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They do not wash their hands when they eat a meal.”

He said to them in reply, “And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? For God said, ‘Honour your father and your mother,’ and ‘Whoever curses father or mother shall die.’

But you say, ‘Whoever says to father or mother, “Any support you might have had from me is dedicated to God,” need not honour his father.’ You have nullified the word of God for the sake of your tradition. 7

Hypocrites, well did Isaiah prophesy about you when he said: ‘This people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me;

in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines human precepts.’ ”

He summoned the crowd and said to them, “Hear and understand. It is not what enters one’s mouth that defiles that person; but what comes out of the mouth is what defiles one.”

Wednesday
Theme: Blind Leading The Blind

MT 15:12-14

Then his disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?”

He said in reply, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides [of the blind]. If a blind person leads a blind person, both will fall into a pit.”

Thursday
Theme: Evil Thoughts of The Heart

MT 15:15-20

Then Peter said to him in reply, “Explain this parable to us.”

He said to them, “Are even you still without understanding? Do you not realize that everything that enters the mouth passes into the stomach and is

expelled into the latrine? But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile. For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, unchastity, theft, false witness, blasphemy. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”

Friday
Theme: A Sign From Heaven

MT 16:1-4

The Pharisees and Sadducees came and, to test him, asked him to show them a sign from heaven.

He said to them in reply, “In the evening you say, ‘Tomorrow will be fair, for the sky is red’; and, in the morning, ‘Today will be stormy, for the sky is red and threatening.’ You know how to judge the appearance of the sky, but you cannot judge the signs of the times. An evil and unfaithful generation seeks a sign, but no sign will be given it except the sign of Jonah.”

Then he left them and went away.

Saturday
Theme: Teaching of The Pharisees and Sadducees

MT 16:5-12

In coming to the other side of the sea, the disciples had forgotten to bring bread. Jesus said to them,

“Look out, and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”

They concluded among themselves, saying, “It is because we have brought no bread.”

When Jesus became aware of this he said, “You of little faith, why do you conclude among yourselves that it is because you have no bread? Do you not yet understand, and do you not remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many wicker baskets you took up? Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many baskets you took up? How do you not comprehend that I was not speaking to you about bread? Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”

Then they understood that he was not telling them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Nineth Sunday After Pentecost
Theme: The TRUTH Will Set You Free

JN 8:31-38

Jesus then said to those Jews who believed in him, “If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How can you say, ‘You will become free’?”

Jesus answered them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin. A slave does not remain in a household forever, but a son always remains. So if a son frees you, then you will truly be free. I know that you are descendants of Abraham. But you are trying to kill me, because my word has no room among you. I tell you what I have seen in the Father’s presence; then do what you have heard from the Father.”

Nineth Week After Pentecost

Monday
Theme: Who Do You Say I am?

MT 16:13-20

When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

They replied, “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 1

Simon Peter said in reply, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus said to him in reply, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father.

And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.

I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Messiah.

Tuesday
Theme: The Transfiguration

MT 17:1-8

After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white

as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him.

Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, “Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.”

When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Rise, and do not be afraid.”

And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone.

Wednesday
Theme: Elijah Has Come

MT 17:9-13

As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, “Do not tell the vision to anyone until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

Then the disciples asked him, “Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?”

He said in reply, “Elijah will indeed come and restore all things; but I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him but did to him

whatever they pleased. So also will the Son of Man suffer at their hands.”

Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them of John the Baptist.

Thursday
Theme: Faith The Size of A Mustard Seed

MT 17:14-20

When they came to the crowd a man approached, knelt down before him, and said, “Lord, have pity on my son, for he is a lunatic and suffers severely; often he falls into fire, and often into water. I brought him to your disciples, but they could not cure him.”

Jesus said in reply, “O faithless and perverse generation, how long will I be with you? How long will I endure you? Bring him here to me.”

Jesus rebuked him and the demon came out of him, and from that hour the boy was cured. Then the disciples approached Jesus in private and said, “Why could we not drive it out?”

He said to them, “Because of your little faith. Amen, I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

Friday
Theme: Eunuchs For The Kingdom

MT 19:10-12

His disciples said to him, "If that is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry."

He answered, "Not all can accept this word, but only those to whom that is granted. Some are incapable of marriage because they were born so; some, because they were made so by others; some, because they have renounced marriage for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Whoever can accept this ought to accept it."

Saturday
Theme: Render On To Caesar

MT 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees went off and plotted how they might entrap him in speech. They sent their disciples to him, with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. And you are not concerned with anyone's opinion, for you do not regard a person's status. Tell us, then, what is your opinion: Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?"

Knowing their malice, Jesus said, "Why are you testing me, you hypocrites? Show me the coin that pays the census tax."

Then they handed him the Roman coin.

He said to them, “Whose image is this and whose inscription?”

They replied, “Caesar’s.”

At that he said to them, “Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.”

When they heard this they were amazed, and leaving him they went away.

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost
Theme: Children of Abraham

JN 8:39-47

They answered and said to him, “Our father is Abraham.”

Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing the works of Abraham. But now you are trying to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God; Abraham did not do this. You are doing the works of your father!”

They said to him, “We are not illegitimate. We have one Father, God.”

Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and am here; I did not come on my own, but he sent me. Why do you not understand what I am saying? Because you cannot bear to hear my word. You belong to your father the devil and you willingly carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he speaks in character, because he is a liar and the father of lies.

But because I speak the truth, you do not believe me. Can any of you charge me with sin? If I am telling the truth, why do you not believe me? Whoever belongs to God hears the words of God; for this reason, you do not listen, because you do not belong to God.”

Tenth Week After Pentecost

Monday

Theme: Whose Authority Do You Do These Things

MT 21:23-27

When he had come into the temple area, the chief priests and the elders of the people approached him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things? And who gave you this authority?”

Jesus said to them in reply, “I shall ask you one question, and if you answer it for me, then I shall tell you by what authority I do these things. Where was John’s baptism from? Was it of heavenly or of human origin?”

They discussed this among themselves and said, “If we say ‘Of heavenly origin,’ he will say to us, ‘Then why did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we fear the crowd, for they all regard John as a prophet.”

So they said to Jesus in reply, “We do not know.”

He himself said to them, “Neither shall I tell you by what authority I do these things.

Tuesday
Theme: The Two Sons

MT 21:28-32

“What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He came to the first and said, ‘Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.’

He said in reply, ‘I will not,’ but afterwards he changed his mind and went.

The man came to the other son and gave the same order.

He said in reply, ‘Yes, sir,’ but did not go.

Which of the two did his father’s will?”

They answered, “The first.”

Jesus said to them, “Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you. When John came to you in the way of righteousness, you did not believe him; but tax collectors and prostitutes did. Yet even when you saw that, you did not later change your minds and believe him.

Wednesday

Theme: The Dried Up Fig Tree (A metaphor for the dried up Pharisees and Sadducees).

MT 21:18-22

When he was going back to the city in the morning, he was hungry. Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went over to it, but found nothing on it except leaves. And he said to it, "May no fruit ever come from you again." And immediately the fig tree withered. When the disciples saw this, they were amazed and said, "How was it that the fig tree withered immediately?"

Jesus said to them in reply, "Amen, I say to you, if you have faith and do not waver, not only will you do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' it will be done. Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive."

Thursday

Theme: The Wedding Feast (Jesus tells the Pharisees and Sadducees their time is over)

MT 22:1-14

Jesus again in reply spoke to them in parables, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. He dispatched his servants to summon the invited guests to the feast, but they refused to come. A second time he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those invited: "Behold, I have prepared my banquet, my calves and

fattened cattle are killed, and everything is ready; come to the feast.”’ Some ignored the invitation and went away, one to his farm, another to his business. The rest laid hold of his servants, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged and sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city.

Then he said to his servants, ‘The feast is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy to come. Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find.’

The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike, and the hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to meet the guests he saw a man there not dressed in a wedding garment. He said to him, ‘My friend, how is it that you came in here without a wedding garment?’ But he was reduced to silence.

Then the king said to his attendants, ‘Bind his hands and feet, and cast him into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.’ Many are invited, but few are chosen.”

Friday
Theme: Life After The Resurrection

MT 22:23-33

On that day Sadducees approached him, saying that there is no resurrection. They put this question to

him, saying, “Teacher, Moses said, ‘If a man dies without children, his brother shall marry his wife and raise up descendants for his brother.’ Now there were seven brothers among us. The first married and died and, having no descendants, left his wife to his brother. The same happened with the second and the third, through all seven. Finally the woman died. Now at the resurrection, of the seven, whose wife will she be? For they all had been married to her.”

Jesus said to them in reply, “You are misled because you do not know the scriptures or the power of God. At the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage but are like the angels in heaven. And concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not the God of the dead but of the living.”

When the crowds heard this, they were astonished at his teaching.

Saturday
Theme: The Ten Virgins

MT 25:1-13

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise.

The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with

their lamps. Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

At midnight, there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps.

The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise ones replied, 'No, for there may not be enough for us and you. Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.'

While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked. Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!'

But he said in reply,
'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.'

Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost
Theme: Whoever Keeps My Word Will Never See Death

JN 8:48-59

The Jews answered and said to him, “Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and are possessed?”

Jesus answered, “I am not possessed; I honour my Father, but you dishonour me. I do not seek my own glory; there is one who seeks it and he is the one who judges. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever keeps my word will never see death.”

The Jews said to him, “Now we are sure that you are possessed. Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, ‘Whoever keeps my word will never taste death.’ Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? Or the prophets, who died? Who do you make yourself out to be?”

Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is worth nothing; but it is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’ You do not know him, but I know him. And if I should say that I do not know him, I would be like you a liar. But I do know him and I keep his word. Abraham your father rejoiced to see my day; he saw it and was glad.

So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old and you have seen Abraham?”

Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, before Abraham came to be, I AM.”

So they picked up stones to throw at him; but Jesus hid and went out of the temple area.

Eleventh Week After Pentecost

Monday Theme: David's Son

MT 22:41-46

While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus questioned them, saying, “What is your opinion about the Messiah? Whose son is he?”

They replied, “David's.”

He said to them, “How, then, does David, inspired by the Spirit, call him ‘lord,’ saying:

‘The Lord said to my lord,
“Sit at my right hand until I place your enemies
under your feet” ’?
If David calls him ‘lord,’ how can he be his son?”

No one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Tuesday
Theme: Servant Leadership

MT 23:1-12

Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples, saying, “The scribes and the Pharisees have taken their seat on the chair of Moses. Therefore, do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you, but do not follow their example. For they preach but they do not practice.

They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on people’s shoulders, but they will not lift a finger to move them. All their works are performed to be seen. They widen their phylacteries and lengthen their tassels. They love places of honour at banquets, seats of honour in synagogues, greetings in marketplaces, and the salutation ‘Rabbi.’

As for you, do not be called ‘Rabbi.’ You have but one teacher, and you are all brothers. Call no one on earth your father; you have but one Father in heaven.

Do not be called ‘Master’; you have but one master, the Messiah. The greatest among you must be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

Wednesday
Theme: Locking The Kingdom of Heaven

MT 23:13-14

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites.
You lock the kingdom of heaven before human beings.
You do not enter yourselves, nor do you allow
entrance to those trying to enter.

Thursday
Theme: Conversion To False Teaching

MT 23:15

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites.
You traverse sea and land to make one convert, and
when that happens you make him a child of Gehenna
twice as much as yourselves.

Friday
Theme: Gold or The Temple

MT 23:16-17

Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘If one swears by
the temple, it means nothing, but if one swears by the
gold of the temple, one is obligated.’

Blind fools, which is greater, the gold, or the temple
that made the gold sacred?

Saturday
Theme: The Gift or The Altar

MT 23:18-22

And you say, 'If one swears by the altar, it means nothing, but if one swears by the gift on the altar, one is obligated.'

You blind ones, which is greater, the gift, or the altar that makes the gift sacred?

One who swears by the altar swears by it and all that is upon it; one who swears by the temple swears by it and by him who dwells in it; one who swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who is seated on it.

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost
Theme: Blindness and The LIGHT

JN 9:1-41

As he passed by he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

Jesus answered, “Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him. We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world I am the light of the world.”

When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, “Go wash in the Pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed, and came back able to see.

His neighbours and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said, “Isn’t this the one who used to sit and beg?” Some said, “It is,” but others said, “No, he just looks like him.”

He said, “I am.”

So they said to him, “How were your eyes opened?”

He replied, “The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and told me, ‘Go to Siloam and

wash.’ So I went there and washed and was able to see.”

And they said to him, “Where is he?”
He said, “I don’t know.”

They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a sabbath. So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. He said to them, “He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see.”

So some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, because he does not keep the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a sinful man do such signs?” And there was a division among them.

So they said to the blind man again, “What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?”
He said, “He is a prophet.”

Now the Jews did not believe that he had been blind and gained his sight until they summoned the parents of the one who had gained his sight. They asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How does he now see?”

His parents answered and said, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. We do not know how he sees now, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him, he is of age; he can speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone acknowledged him as the Messiah, he would be

expelled from the synagogue. For this reason his parents said, "He is of age; question him."

So a second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give God the praise! We know that this man is a sinner."

He replied, "If he is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see."

So they said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

He answered them, "I told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?"

They ridiculed him and said, "You are that man's disciple; we are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but we do not know where this one is from."

The man answered and said to them, "This is what is so amazing, that you do not know where he is from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if one is devout and does his will, he listens to him. It is unheard of that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he would not be able to do anything."

They answered and said to him, "You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?" Then they threw him out.

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

He answered and said, “Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?”

Jesus said to him, “You have seen him and the one speaking with you is he.”

He said, “I do believe, Lord,” and he worshiped him.

Then Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind.”

Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not also blind, are we?”

Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, ‘We see,’ so your sin remains.

Twelfth Week After Pentecost

Monday

Theme: Tithes and More Important Things

MT 23:23- 24

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You pay tithes of mint and dill and cummin, and have

neglected the weightier things of the law: judgment and mercy and fidelity. These you should have done, without neglecting the others. Blind guides, who strain out the gnat and swallow the camel!

Tuesday

Theme: Cleaning The Inside

MT 23:25-26

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You cleanse the outside of cup and dish, but inside they are full of plunder and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee, cleanse first the inside of the cup, so that the outside also may be clean.

Wednesday

Theme: Whitewashed Tombs

MT 23:27-28

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You are like whitewashed tombs, which appear beautiful on the outside, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and every kind of filth. Even so, on the outside you appear righteous, but inside you are filled with hypocrisy and evildoing.

Thursday
Theme: Tombs of The Righteous

MT 23:29-33

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the memorials of the righteous, and you say, ‘If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would not have joined them in shedding the prophets’ blood.’

Thus you bear witness against yourselves that you are the children of those who murdered the prophets; now fill up what your ancestors measured out! You serpents, you brood of vipers, how can you flee from the judgment of Gehenna?

Friday
Theme: Blood of The Martyrs

MT 23:34-36

Therefore, behold, I send to you prophets and wise men and scribes; some of them you will kill and crucify, some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and pursue from town to town, so that there may come upon you all the righteous blood shed upon earth, from the righteous blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar.

Amen, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

Saturday
Theme: The Destruction of Jerusalem

MT 23:37-39, 24:1-2

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how many times I yearned to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her young under her wings, but you were unwilling!

Behold, your house will be abandoned, desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’ ”

Jesus left the temple area and was going away, when his disciples approached him to point out the temple buildings.

He said to them in reply, “You see all these things, do you not? Amen, I say to you, there will not be left here a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down.”

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Theme: The Father and I Are One

JN 10:22-42

The feast of the Dedication was then taking place in Jerusalem. It was winter. And Jesus walked about in the temple area on the Portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

Jesus answered them, "I told you and you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify to me. But you do not believe, because you are not among my sheep. My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

The Jews again picked up rocks to stone him.

Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from my Father. For which of these are you trying to stone me?"

The Jews answered him, "We are not stoning you for a good work but for blasphemy. You, a man, are making yourself God."

Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, "You are gods"? If it calls them gods to whom the

word of God came, and scripture cannot be set aside, can you say that the one whom the Father has consecrated and sent into the world blasphemes because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? If I do not perform my Father's works, do not believe me; but if I perform them, even if you do not believe me, believe the works, so that you may realize that the Father is in me and I am in the Father."

They tried again to arrest him; but he escaped from their power. He went back across the Jordan to the place where John first baptized, and there he remained. Many came to him and said, "John performed no sign, but everything John said about this man was true." And many there began to believe in him.

Thirteenth Week After Pentecost

Monday

Theme: Followers of Christ

LK 9:57-62

As they were proceeding on their journey someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."

Jesus answered him, "Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head."

And to another he said, "Follow me."
But he replied, "Let me go first and bury my father."

But he answered him, "Let the dead bury their dead. But you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

And another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but first let me say farewell to my family at home."

Jesus said, "No one who sets a hand to the plough and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God."

Tuesday
Theme: The Abundant Harvest

LK 10:1-12

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit.

He said to them, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest. Go on your way; behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves. Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals; and greet no one along the way. Into whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this household.'

If a peaceful person lives there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you. Stay in the same house and eat and drink what is offered to you, for the labourer deserves his payment. Do not move about from one house to another.

Whatever town you enter and they welcome you, eat what is set before you, cure the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God is at hand for you.'

Whatever town you enter and they do not receive you, go out into the streets and say, 'The dust of your town that clings to our feet, even that we shake off against you.' Yet know this: the kingdom of God is at hand. I tell you; it will be more tolerable for Sodom on that day than for that town.

Wednesday

Theme: Whoever Rejects Me, Rejects The One Who Sent Me

LK 10:13-16

"Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty deeds done in your midst had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would long ago have repented, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you.

And as for you, Capernaum, 'Will you be exalted to heaven? You will go down to the netherworld.'

Whoever listens to you listens to me. Whoever rejects you rejects me. And whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me."

Thursday
Theme: Names Written in Heaven

LK 10:17-20

The seventy-two returned rejoicing, and said, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us because of your name.”

Jesus said, “I have observed Satan fall like lightning from the sky. Behold, I have given you the power ‘to tread upon serpents’ and scorpions and upon the full force of the enemy and nothing will harm you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”

Friday
Theme: Mary’s Choice

LK 10:38-42

As they continued their journey, he entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary who sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak.

Martha, burdened with much serving, came to him and said, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me.”

The Lord said to her in reply, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is

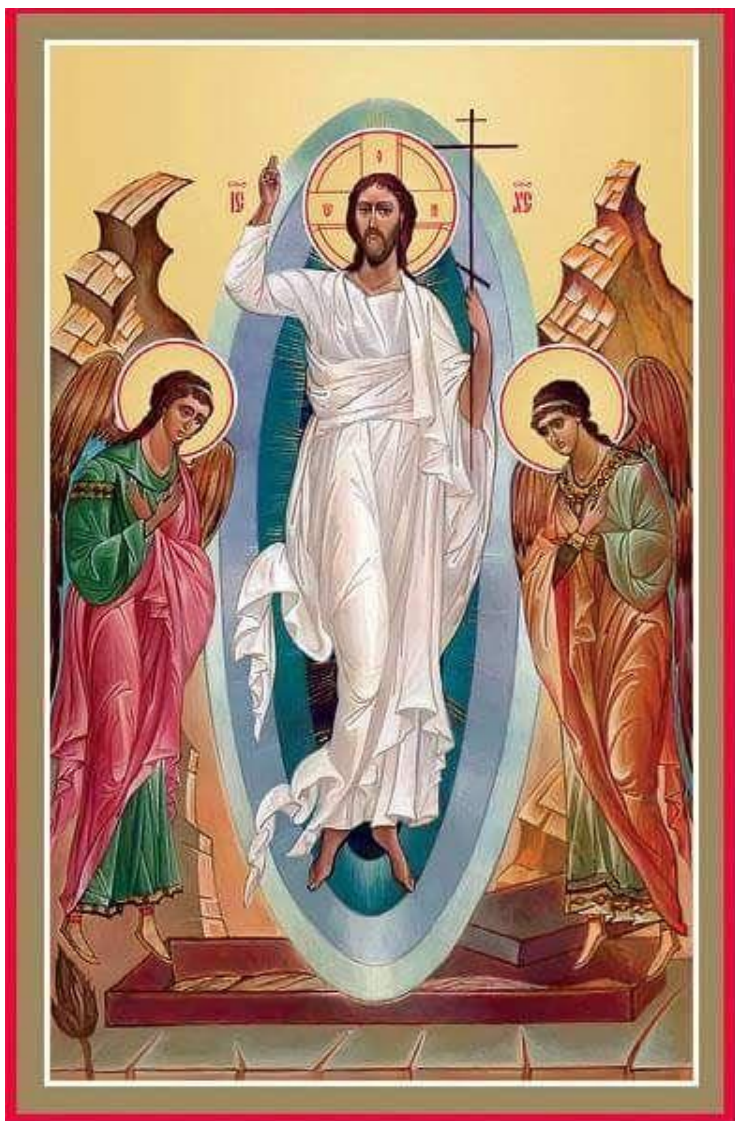
need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her.”

Saturday
Theme: True Blessedness

LK 11:27-28

While he was speaking, a woman from the crowd called out and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that carried you and the breasts at which you nursed.”

He replied, “Rather, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it.”



I AM The Resurrection And The Life

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Theme: I am the Resurrection and the Life

JN 11:1-44

Now a man was ill, Lazarus from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who had anointed the Lord with perfumed oil and dried his feet with her hair; it was her brother Lazarus who was ill. So the sisters sent word to him, saying, "Master, the one you love is ill."

When Jesus heard this he said, "This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that he was ill, he remained for two days in the place where he was. ⁷Then after this he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just trying to stone you, and you want to go back there?"

Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in a day? If one walks during the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if one walks at night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him."

He said this, and then told them, "Our friend Lazarus is asleep, but I am going to awaken him."

So the disciples said to him, “Master, if he is asleep, he will be saved.”

But Jesus was talking about his death, while they thought that he meant ordinary sleep. So then Jesus said to them clearly, “Lazarus has died. 15And I am glad for you that I was not there, that you may believe. Let us go to him.”

So Thomas, called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go to die with him.”

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away. And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home.

Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you.”

Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise.”

Martha said to him, “I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day.”

Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary secretly, saying, "The teacher is here and is asking for you." As soon as she heard this, she rose quickly and went to him. For Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still where Martha had met him. So when the Jews who were with her in the house comforting her saw Mary get up quickly and go out, they followed her, presuming that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?"

They said to him, "Sir, come and see." And Jesus wept.

So the Jews said, "See how he loved him."
But some of them said, "Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?"

So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone."

Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days."

Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?"

So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me."

And when he had said this, he cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So

Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go."

Fourteenth Week After Pentecost

Monday

**Theme: Be Afraid Of The One Who Has The
Power To Cast Into Hell**

LK 12:2-5

"There is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known. Therefore, whatever you have said in the darkness will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be proclaimed on the housetops.

I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body but after that can do no more. I shall show you whom to fear. Be afraid of the one who after killing has the power to cast into Gehenna; yes, I tell you, be afraid of that one.

Tuesday

Theme: Worth More Than Sparrows

LK 12:6-9

Are not five sparrows sold for two small coins? Yet not one of them has escaped the notice of God. Even the hairs of your head have all been counted. Do not be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows.

I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before others the Son of Man will acknowledge before the angels of God. But whoever denies me before others will be denied before the angels of God.

Wednesday

Theme: Riches On Earth, Riches In Heaven

LK 12:16-21

Then he told them a parable. "There was a rich man whose land produced a bountiful harvest. He asked himself, 'What shall I do, for I do not have space to store my harvest?'

And he said, 'This is what I shall do: I shall tear down my barns and build larger ones. There I shall store all

my grain and other goods and I shall say to myself, “Now as for you, you have so many good things stored up for many years, rest, eat, drink, be merry!”’

But God said to him, ‘You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?’ Thus will it be for the one who stores up treasure for himself but is not rich in what matters to God.”

Thursday
Theme: Be Prepared

LK 12:35-40

“Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master’s return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks.

Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival. Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them.

And should he come in the second or third watch and find them prepared in this way, blessed are those servants.

Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”

Friday
Theme: Blessed Is The Servant

LK 12:41-48

Then Peter said, “Lord, is this parable meant for us or for everyone?”

And the Lord replied, “Who, then, is the faithful and prudent steward whom the master will put in charge of his servants to distribute the food allowance at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master on arrival finds doing so. Truly, I say to you, he will put him in charge of all his property.

But if that servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed in coming,’ and begins to beat the menservants and the maidservants, to eat and drink and get drunk, then that servant’s master will come on an unexpected day and at an unknown hour and will punish him severely and assign him a place with the unfaithful.

That servant who knew his master’s will but did not make preparations nor act in accord with his will shall be beaten severely; and the servant who was ignorant of his master’s will but acted in a way deserving of a severe beating shall be beaten only lightly. Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more.

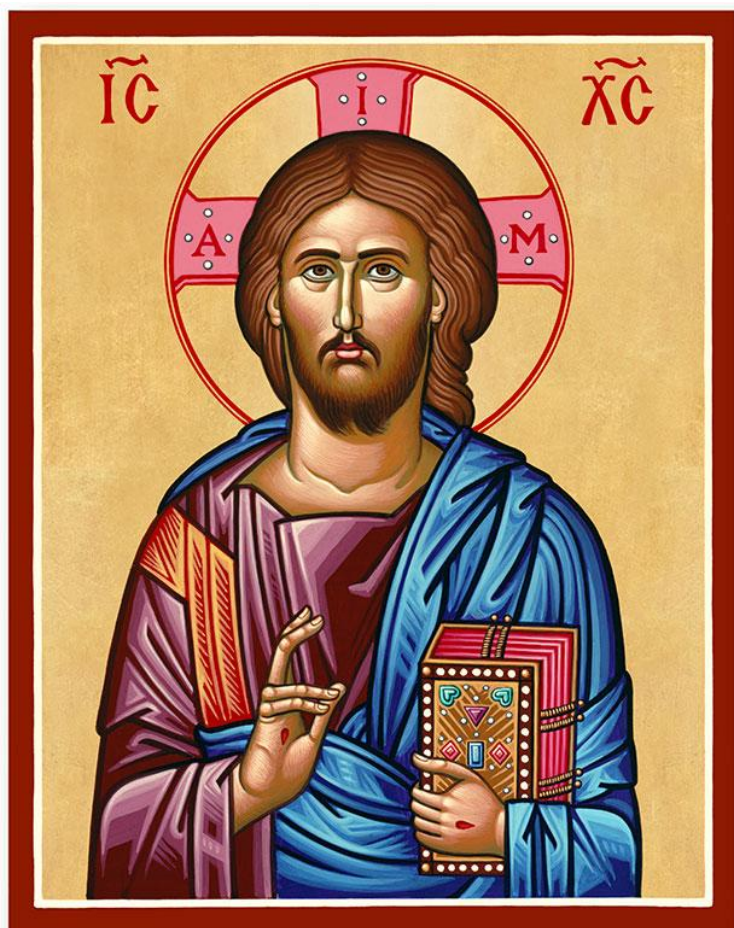
Saturday
Theme: I Have Come To Set The World Ablaze

LK 12:49-53

“I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished!

Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.

From now on a household of five will be divided, three against two and two against three; a father will be divided against his son and a son against his father, a mother against her daughter and a daughter against her mother, a mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and a daughter in-law against her mother-in-law.”



Christ The Lifegiver

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Theme: Praises To The Father

LK 10:21-24

At that very moment he rejoiced [in] the holy Spirit and said, “I give you praise, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.”

Turning to the disciples in private he said, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. For I say to you, many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.”

Fifteenth Week After Pentecost

Monday
Theme: Repent Or Perish

LK 13:1-5

At that time some people who were present there told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with the blood of their sacrifices.

He said to them in reply, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way, they were

greater sinners than all other Galileans? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!

Or those eighteen people who were killed when the tower at Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than everyone else who lived in Jerusalem? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!”

Tuesday

Theme: The Barren Fig Tree

LK 13:6-9

And he told them this parable: “There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none, he said to the gardener, ‘For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. Cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?’

He said to him in reply, ‘Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not you can cut it down.’”

Wednesday

Theme: Curing A Woman On The Sabbath

LK 13:10-17

He was teaching in a synagogue on the sabbath. And a woman was there who for eighteen years had been

crippled by a spirit; she was bent over, completely incapable of standing erect.

When Jesus saw her, he called to her and said, “Woman, you are set free of your infirmity.” He laid his hands on her, and she at once stood up straight and glorified God.

But the leader of the synagogue, indignant that Jesus had cured on the sabbath, said to the crowd in reply, “There are six days when work should be done. Come on those days to be cured, not on the sabbath day.”

The Lord said to him in reply, “Hypocrites! Does not each one of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger and lead it out for watering? This daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound for eighteen years now, ought she not to have been set free on the sabbath day from this bondage?”

When he said this, all his adversaries were humiliated; and the whole crowd rejoiced at all the splendid deeds done by him.

Thursday
Theme: Carrying Your Cross

LK 14:25-27

Great crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and addressed them, “If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot

be my disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

Friday

Theme: Finishing A Tower

LK 14:28-30

Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion? Otherwise, after laying the foundation and finding himself unable to finish the work the onlookers should laugh at him and say, 'This one began to build but did not have the resources to finish.'

Saturday

Theme: Considering Your Strength

LK 14:31-33

Or what king marching into battle would not first sit down and decide whether with ten thousand troops he can successfully oppose another king advancing upon him with twenty thousand troops?

But if not, while he is still far away, he will send a delegation to ask for peace terms. In the same way, everyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple.

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Theme: Prayer to the Father

LK 11:1-13

He was praying in a certain place, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples.”

He said to them,
“When you pray, say:
Father, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come.
Give us each day our daily bread
and forgive us our sins
for we ourselves forgive everyone in
debt to us,
and do not subject us to the final test.”

And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend to whom he goes at midnight and says, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, for a friend of mine has arrived at my house from a journey and I have nothing to offer him,’ and he says in reply from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked and my children and I are already in bed. I cannot get up to give you anything.’ I tell you, if he does not get up to give him the loaves because of their friendship, he will get up to give him whatever he needs because of his persistence.

“And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to

you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

What father among you would hand his son a snake when he asks for a fish? Or hand him a scorpion when he asks for an egg? If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the holy Spirit to those who ask him?"

Sixteenth Week After Pentecost

Monday

Theme: By Faith In His Name

Acts 3:9-16

When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized him as the one who used to sit begging at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, and they were filled with amazement and astonishment at what had happened to him. As he clung to Peter and John, all the people hurried in amazement toward them in the portico called "Solomon's Portico."

When Peter saw this, he addressed the people, "You Israelites, why are you amazed at this, and why do you look so intently at us as if we had made him walk by our own power or piety? The God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our ancestors, has glorified his servant Jesus whom you handed over and denied in Pilate's presence, when he had decided to release him.

You denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. The author of life you put to death, but God raised him from the dead; of this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, this man, whom you see and know, his name has made strong, and the faith that comes through it has given him this perfect health, in the presence of all of you.

Tuesday

Theme: Will Your Sins Be Wiped Away

Acts 3:17-26, 4:1-4

Now I know, brothers, that you acted out of ignorance, just as your leaders did; but God has thus brought to fulfilment what he had announced beforehand through the mouth of all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be wiped away, and that the Lord may grant you times of refreshment and send you the Messiah already appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the times of universal restoration of which God spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old.

For Moses said:

‘A prophet like me will the Lord, your

God, raise up for you

from among your own kinsmen;

to him you shall listen in all that he may say to you.

Everyone who does not listen to that prophet will be cut off from the people.’

Moreover, all the prophets who spoke, from Samuel and those afterwards, also announced these days. You are the children of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your ancestors when he said to Abraham, 'In your offspring all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' For you first, God raised up his servant and sent him to bless you by turning each of you from your evil ways."

While they were still speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple guard, and the Sadducees confronted them, disturbed that they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. They laid hands on them and put them in custody until the next day, since it was already evening. But many of those who heard the word came to believe and the number of men grew to five thousand.

Wednesday

Theme: No Salvation Through Anyone Else

Acts 4:5-12

On the next day, their leaders, elders, and scribes were assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly class. They brought them into their presence and questioned them, "By what power or by what name have you done this?"

Then Peter, filled with the holy Spirit, answered them, "Leaders of the people and elders: If we are

being examined today about a good deed done to a cripple, namely, by what means he was saved, then all of you and all the people of Israel should know that it was in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead; in his name this man stands before you healed.

He is 'the stone rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.' There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved."

Thursday

**Theme: It Is Impossible For Us Not To Speak
About What We have Heard**

Acts 4:18-22

So they called them back and ordered them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

Peter and John, however, said to them in reply, "Whether it is right in the sight of God for us to obey you rather than God, you be the judges. It is impossible for us not to speak about what we have seen and heard."

After threatening them further, they released them, finding no way to punish them, on account of the people who were all praising God for what had happened. For the man on whom this sign of healing had been done was over forty years old.

Friday
Theme: Through The Name of Jesus

Acts 4:23-31

After their release they went back to their own people and reported what the chief priests and elders had told them. And when they heard it, they raised their voices to God with one accord and said,

“Sovereign Lord, maker of heaven and earth and the sea and all that is in them, you said by the holy Spirit through the mouth of our father David, your servant: ‘Why did the Gentiles rage and the peoples entertain folly?

The kings of the earth took their stand and the princes gathered together against the Lord and against his anointed.’

Indeed, they gathered in this city against your holy servant Jesus whom you anointed, Herod and Pontius Pilate, together with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do what your hand and your will had long ago planned to take place.

And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and enable your servants to speak your word with all boldness, as you stretch forth your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are done through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

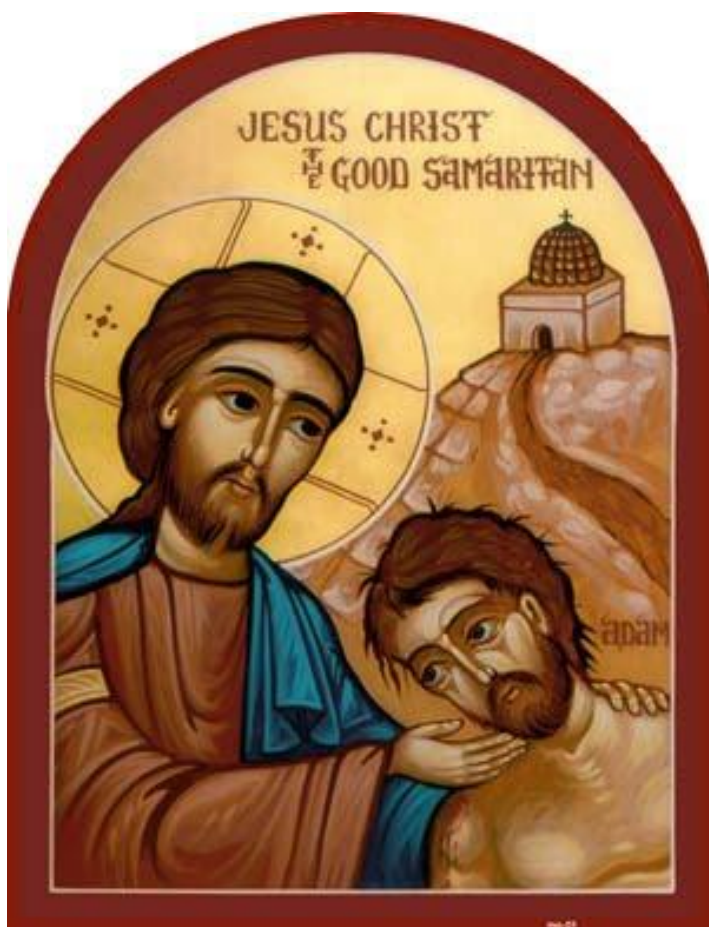
As they prayed, the place where they were gathered shook, and they were all filled with the holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

Saturday
Theme: The First Christian Community

Acts 4:32-37

The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common. With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favour was accorded them all.

There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need. Thus Joseph, also named by the apostles Barnabas (which is translated “son of encouragement”), a Levite, a Cypriot by birth, sold a piece of property that he owned, then brought the money and put it at the feet of the apostles.



The Good Samaritan

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost
Theme: Love The Lord and Love Thy Neighbour

LK 10:25-37

There was a scholar of the law who stood up to test him and said, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Jesus said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read it?"

He said in reply, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself."

He replied to him, "You have answered correctly; do this and you will live."

But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?"

Jesus replied, "A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side.

But a Samaritan traveller who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached

the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn and cared for him.

The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, 'Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.' Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbour to the robbers' victim?"

He answered, "The one who treated him with mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Seventeenth Week After Pentecost

Monday

Theme: Do Not Lie To The Spirit

Acts 5:1-11

A man named Ananias, however, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property. He retained for himself, with his wife's knowledge, some of the purchase price, took the remainder, and put it at the feet of the apostles.

But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart so that you lied to the holy Spirit and retained part of the price of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain yours? And when it was sold, was it not still under your control? Why did you contrive this deed? You have lied not to human beings, but to God."

When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last, and great fear came upon all who heard of it. The young men came and wrapped him up, then carried him out and buried him.

After an interval of about three hours, his wife came in, unaware of what had happened. Peter said to her, “Tell me, did you sell the land for this amount?”

She answered, “Yes, for that amount.”

Then Peter said to her, “Why did you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Listen, the footsteps of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out.”

At once, she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men entered, they found her dead, so they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.

Tuesday
Theme: Peter's Shadow

Acts 5:12-16

Many signs and wonders were done among the people at the hands of the apostles. They were all together in Solomon's portico. None of the others dared to join them, but the people esteemed them. Yet more than ever, believers in the Lord, great numbers of men and women, were added to them.

Thus, they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and mats so that when Peter came by, at least his shadow might fall on one or another of them. A large number of people from the towns in the vicinity of Jerusalem also gathered, bringing the sick and those disturbed by unclean spirits, and they were all cured.

Wednesday
Theme: We Must Obey God

Acts 5:27-32, 40-42

When they had brought them in and made them stand before the Sanhedrin, the high priest questioned them, We gave you strict orders to stop teaching in that name. Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and want to bring this man's blood upon us."

But Peter and the apostles said in reply, "We must obey God rather than men. The God of our ancestors raised Jesus, though you had him killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as leader and saviour to grant Israel repentance and forgiveness of sins. We are witnesses of these things, as is the holy Spirit that God has given to those who obey him."

After recalling the apostles, they had them flogged, ordered them to stop speaking in the name of Jesus, and dismissed them. So they left the presence of the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they had been found worthy

to suffer dishonour for the sake of the name. And all day long, both at the temple and in their homes, they did not stop teaching and proclaiming the Messiah, Jesus.

Thursday
Theme: The First Deacons

Acts 6:1-7

At that time, as the number of disciples continued to grow, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution.

So the Twelve called together the community of the disciples and said, "It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table. Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

The proposal was acceptable to the whole community, so they chose Stephen, a man filled with faith and the holy Spirit, also Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles who prayed and laid hands on them. The word of God continued to spread, and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly; even a large group of priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

Friday
Theme: Simon, The Samaritan Mage

Acts 8:9-25

A man named Simon used to practice magic in the city and astounded the people of Samaria, claiming to be someone great. All of them, from the least to the greatest, paid attention to him, saying, “This man is the ‘Power of God’ that is called ‘Great.’ ”

They paid attention to him because he had astounded them by his magic for a long time, but once they began to believe Philip as he preached the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, men and women alike were baptized. Even Simon himself believed and, after being baptized, became devoted to Philip; and when he saw the signs and mighty deeds that were occurring, he was astounded.

Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who went down and prayed for them, that they might receive the holy Spirit, for it had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them and they received the holy Spirit.

When Simon saw that the Spirit was conferred by the laying on of the apostles’ hands, he offered them money and said, “Give me this power too, so that

anyone upon whom I lay my hands may receive the holy Spirit.”

But Peter said to him, “May your money perish with you, because you thought that you could buy the gift of God with money. You have no share or lot in this matter, for your heart is not upright before God. Repent of this wickedness of yours and pray to the Lord that, if possible, your intention may be forgiven. For I see that you are filled with bitter gall and are in the bonds of iniquity.”

Simon said in reply, “Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may come upon me.” So when they had testified and proclaimed the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem and preached the good news to many Samaritan villages.

Saturday
Theme: Philip And The Ethiopian

Acts 8:26-40

Then the angel of the Lord spoke to Philip,
“Get up and head south on the road that goes down
from Jerusalem to Gaza, the desert route.”

So he got up and set out. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, that is, the queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury, who had come to Jerusalem to worship, and was returning home. Seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.

The Spirit said to Philip, "Go and join up with that chariot."

Philip ran up and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

He replied, "How can I, unless someone instructs me?"

So he invited Philip to get in and sit with him. This was the scripture passage he was reading:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who will tell of his posterity?

For his life is taken from the earth."

Then the eunuch said to Philip in reply, "I beg you, about whom is the prophet saying this? About himself, or about someone else?"

Then Philip opened his mouth and, beginning with this scripture passage, he proclaimed Jesus to him. As they travelled along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look, there is water. What is to prevent my being baptized?" Then he ordered the chariot to stop, and Philip and the eunuch both went down into the water, and he baptized him.

When they came out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away, and the eunuch saw him

no more, but continued on his way rejoicing. Philip came to Azotus, and went about proclaiming the good news to all the towns until he reached Caesarea.



CHRIST AND THE RICH YOUNG RULER

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Theme: Riches in Heaven

MK 10:17-31

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before him, and asked him, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

Jesus answered him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; you shall not defraud; honour your father and your mother.’ ”

He replied and said to him, “Teacher, all of these I have observed from my youth.”

Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said to him, “You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.”

At that statement his face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!”

The disciples were amazed at his words.

So Jesus again said to them in reply, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

They were exceedingly astonished and said among themselves, “Then who can be saved?”

Jesus looked at them and said, “For human beings it is impossible, but not for God. All things are possible for God.”

Peter began to say to him, “We have given up everything and followed you.”

Jesus said, “Amen, I say to you, there is no one who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not receive a hundred times more now in this present age: houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and eternal life in the age to come. But many that are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

Eighteenth Week After Pentecost

Monday

Theme: The Lost Coin

LK 15:8-10

“Or what woman having ten coins and losing one would not light a lamp and sweep the house, searching carefully until she finds it?

And when she does find it, she calls together her friends and neighbours and says to them, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found the coin that I lost.’

In just the same way, I tell you, there will be rejoicing among the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Tuesday

Theme: The Persistent Widow

LK 18:1-8

Then he told them a parable about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary. He said, “There was a judge in a certain town who neither feared God nor respected any human being. And a widow in that town used to come to him and say, ‘Render a just decision for me against my adversary.’

For a long time the judge was unwilling, but eventually he thought, ‘While it is true that I neither

fear God nor respect any human being, because this widow keeps bothering me I shall deliver a just decision for her lest she finally come and strike me.’ ”

The Lord said, “Pay attention to what the dishonest judge says. Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night? Will he be slow to answer them?

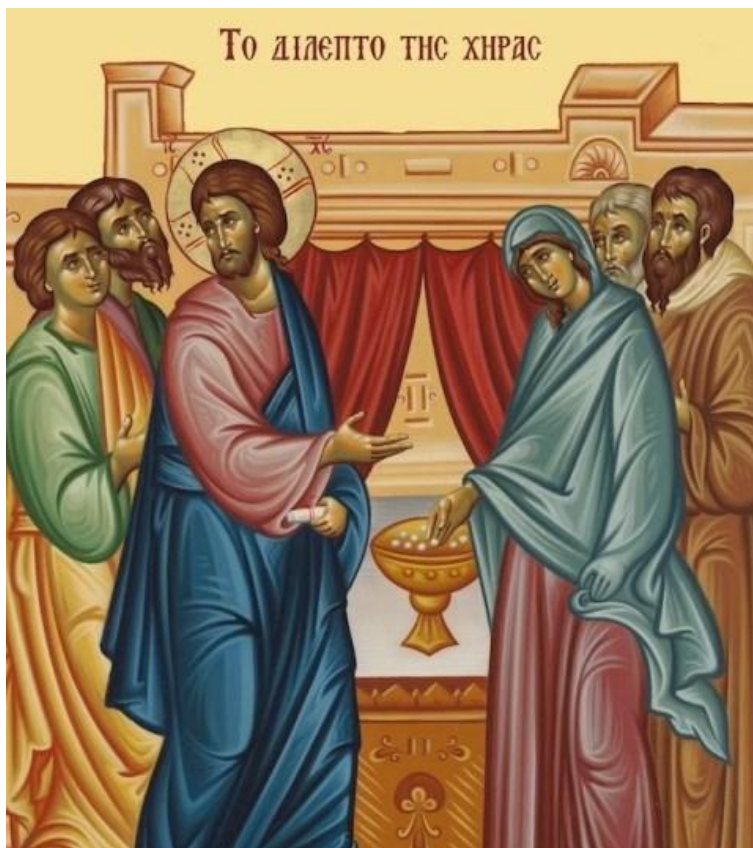
I tell you; he will see to it that justice is done for them speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

Wednesday
Theme: The Widow's Mite

MK 12:41-44

He sat down opposite the treasury and observed how the crowd put money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow also came and put in two small coins worth a few cents.

Calling his disciples to himself, he said to them, “Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood.”



THE WIDOWS MITE

Thursday
Theme: The Empty Jar

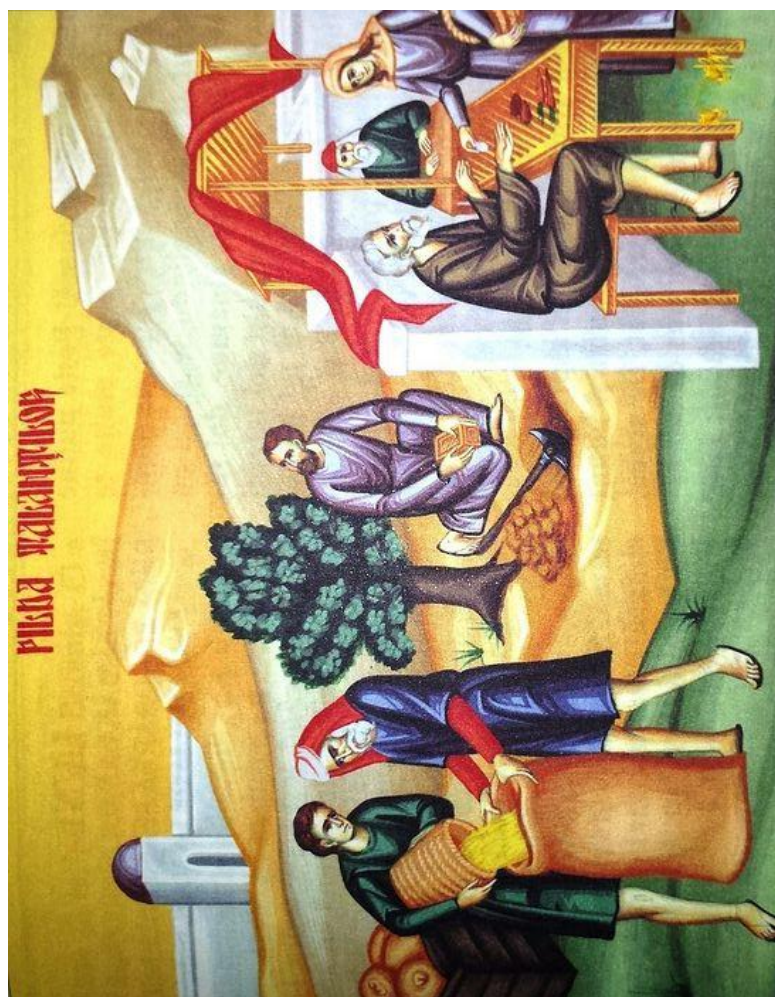
Gospel of Thomas Saying 97

Yeshua said,
The father's kingdom is like a woman who was carrying a jar full of meal.
While she was walking along a distant road, the handle of the jar broke and the meal spilled behind her along the road. She did not know it. She noticed no problem. When she reached her house, she put the jar down and found it empty

Friday
Theme: The Lost Treasure

Gospel of Thomas Saying 109

Yeshua said,
The kingdom is like a person who had a treasure hidden in his field. He did not know it, and when he died, he left it to his son. The son did not know about it. He took over the field and sold it. The buyer was ploughing and found the treasure, and began to lend money at interest to whomever he wished.



Saturday
Theme: The Parable of Talents

MT 25:14-30

“It will be as when a man who was going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents; to another, two; to a third, one—to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

Immediately the one who received five talents went and traded with them, and made another five. Likewise, the one who received two made another two. But the man who received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried his master’s money.

After a long time, the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. The one who had received five talents came forward bringing the additional five. He said, ‘Master, you gave me five talents. See, I have made five more.’

His master said to him, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master’s joy.’

Then the one who had received two talents also came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two talents. See, I have made two more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master’s joy.’

Then the one who had received the one talent came forward and said, 'Master, I knew you were a demanding person, harvesting where you did not plant and gathering where you did not scatter; 25so out of fear I went off and buried your talent in the ground. Here it is back.'

His master said to him in reply, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I did not plant and gather where I did not scatter? Should you not then have put my money in the bank so that I could have got it back with interest on my return?'

Now then! Take the talent from him and give it to the one with ten. For to everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And throw this useless servant into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.'

Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Theme: The Narrow Gate

LK 13:22-30

He passed through towns and villages, teaching as he went and making his way to Jerusalem.
Someone asked him, "Lord, will only a few people be saved?"

He answered them, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough.

After the master of the house has arisen and locked the door, then will you stand outside knocking and saying, 'Lord, open the door for us.'

He will say to you in reply, 'I do not know where you are from.' And you will say, 'We ate and drank in your company and you taught in our streets.'

Then he will say to you, 'I do not know where you are from. Depart from me, all you evildoers!'

And there will be wailing and grinding of teeth when you see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God and you yourselves cast out. And people will come from the east and the west and from the north and the south and will recline at table in the kingdom of God. 30xFor behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

Nineteenth Week After Pentecost

Monday

Theme: The Covenant of Abraham

Acts 6:15, 7:1-8

All those who sat in the Sanhedrin looked intently at him and saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Then the high priest asked, “Is this so?”

And he replied,

“My brothers and fathers, listen. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was in Mesopotamia, before he had settled in Haran, and said to him, ‘Go forth from your land and your kinsfolk to the land that I will show you.’

So he went forth from the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran. And from there, after his father died, he made him migrate to this land where you now dwell. Yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot’s length, but he did promise to give it to him and his descendants as a possession, even though he was childless.

And God spoke thus, ‘His descendants shall be aliens in a land not their own, where they shall be enslaved and oppressed for four hundred years; but I will bring judgment on the nation they serve,’ God said, ‘and after that they will come out and worship me in this place.’

Then he gave him the covenant of circumcision, and so he became the father of Isaac, and circumcised him on the eighth day, as Isaac did Jacob, and Jacob the twelve patriarchs.

Tuesday

Theme: Descend Into Egypt

Acts 7:9-21

“And the patriarchs, jealous of Joseph, sold him into slavery in Egypt; but God was with him and rescued him from all his afflictions. He granted him favour and wisdom before Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, who put him in charge of Egypt and of his entire household. Then a famine and great affliction struck all Egypt and Canaan, and our ancestors could find no food; 12zbut when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent our ancestors there a first time. The second time, Joseph made himself known to his brothers, and Joseph’s family became known to Pharaoh. Then Joseph sent for his father Jacob, inviting him and his whole clan, seventy-five persons; and Jacob went down to Egypt. And he and our ancestors died and were brought back to Shechem and placed in the tomb that Abraham had purchased for a sum of money from the sons of Hamor at Shechem.

“When the time drew near for the fulfilment of the promise that God pledged to Abraham, the people had increased and become very numerous in Egypt, until another king who knew nothing of Joseph came to power. He dealt shrewdly with our people and

oppressed our ancestors by forcing them to expose their infants, that they might not survive. At this time Moses was born, and he was extremely beautiful. For three months he was nursed in his father's house; but when he was exposed, Pharaoh's daughter adopted him and brought him up as her own son.

Wednesday
Theme: Moses

Acts 7:22-34

Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in his words and deeds.

“When he was forty years old, he decided to visit his kinsfolk, the Israelites. When he saw one of them treated unjustly, he defended and avenged the oppressed man by striking down the Egyptian. He assumed his kinsfolk would understand that God was offering them deliverance through him, but they did not understand. The next day he appeared to them as they were fighting and tried to reconcile them peacefully, saying, ‘Men, you are brothers. Why are you harming one another?’ Then the one who was harming his neighbour pushed him aside, saying, ‘Who appointed you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?’ Moses fled when he heard this and settled as an alien in the land of Midian, where he became the father of two sons.

“Forty years later, an angel appeared to him in the desert near Mount Sinai in the flame of a burning

bush. When Moses saw it, he was amazed at the sight, and as he drew near to look at it, the voice of the Lord came, 'I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob.'

Then Moses, trembling, did not dare to look at it. But the Lord said to him, 'Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground. I have witnessed the affliction of my people in Egypt and have heard their groaning, and I have come down to rescue them. Come now, I will send you to Egypt.'

Thursday
Theme: The Disobedience Of Israel

Acts 7:35-43

This Moses, whom they had rejected with the words, 'Who appointed you ruler and judge?' God sent as both ruler and deliverer, through the angel who appeared to him in the bush. This man led them out, performing wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, at the Red Sea, and in the desert for forty years. It was this Moses who said to the Israelites, 'God will raise up for you, from among your own kinsfolk, a prophet like me.'

It was he who, in the assembly in the desert, was with the angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai and with our ancestors, and he received living utterances to hand on to us.

"Our ancestors were unwilling to obey him; instead, they pushed him aside and, in their hearts, turned

back to Egypt, saying to Aaron, 'Make us gods who will be our leaders. As for that Moses who led us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has happened to him.'

So they made a calf in those days, offered sacrifice to the idol, and revelled in the works of their hands. Then God turned and handed them over to worship the host of heaven, as it is written in the book of the prophets:

'Did you bring me sacrifices and offerings for forty years in the desert, O house of Israel? No, you took up the tent of Moloch and the star of your god Rephan, the images that you made to worship. So I shall take you into exile beyond Babylon.'

Friday

Theme: God Does Not Live In Houses Built By Human Hands

Acts 7:44-50

Our ancestors had the tent of testimony in the desert just as the One who spoke to Moses directed him to make it according to the pattern he had seen. Our ancestors who inherited it brought it with Joshua when they dispossessed the nations that God drove out from before our ancestors, up to the time of David, who found favour in the sight of God and asked that he might find a dwelling place for the house of Jacob. But Solomon built a house for him. Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made by human hands. As the prophet says:

'The heavens are my throne,
the earth is my footstool.
What kind of house can you build for me?
says the Lord,
or what is to be my resting place?
Did not my hand make all these things?'

Saturday
Theme: The Martyrdom of Stephen

Acts 7:51-60

“You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always oppose the holy Spirit; you are just like your ancestors. Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They put to death those who foretold the coming of the righteous one, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become. You received the law as transmitted by angels, but you did not observe it.”

When they heard this, they were infuriated, and they ground their teeth at him. But he, filled with the holy Spirit, looked up intently to heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

But they cried out in a loud voice, covered their ears, and rushed upon him together. They threw him out of the city, and began to stone him. The witnesses laid down their cloaks at the feet of a young man named Saul.

As they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”

Then he fell to his knees and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them”; and when he said this, he fell asleep.

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost
Theme: Prudence

LK 16:1-13

Then he also said to his disciples, “A rich man had a steward who was reported to him for squandering his property. He summoned him and said, ‘What is this I hear about you? Prepare a full account of your stewardship, because you can no longer be my steward.’

The steward said to himself, ‘What shall I do, now that my master is taking the position of steward away from me? I am not strong enough to dig and I am ashamed to beg. I know what I shall do so that, when I am removed from the stewardship, they may welcome me into their homes.’

He called in his master’s debtors one by one. To the first he said, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ He replied, ‘One hundred measures of olive oil.’

He said to him, ‘Here is your promissory note. Sit down and quickly write one for fifty.’

Then to another he said, ‘And you, how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘One hundred kors of wheat.’

He said to him, ‘Here is your promissory note; write one for eighty.’ And the master commended that dishonest steward for acting prudently.

“For the children of this world are more prudent in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. I tell you, make friends for yourselves with dishonest wealth, so that when it fails, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones; and the person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones. If, therefore, you are not trustworthy with dishonest wealth, who will trust you with true wealth? If you are not trustworthy with what belongs to another, who will give you what is yours?

No servant can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

Twentieth Week After Pentecost

Monday

Theme: Saul The Persecutor

Acts 8:1-3

Now Saul was consenting to his execution. On that day, there broke out a severe persecution of the church in Jerusalem, and all were scattered throughout the countryside of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. Devout men buried Stephen and made a loud lament over him. Saul, meanwhile, was trying to destroy the church; entering house after

house and dragging out men and women, he handed them over for imprisonment.

Tuesday
Theme: Saul's Conversion

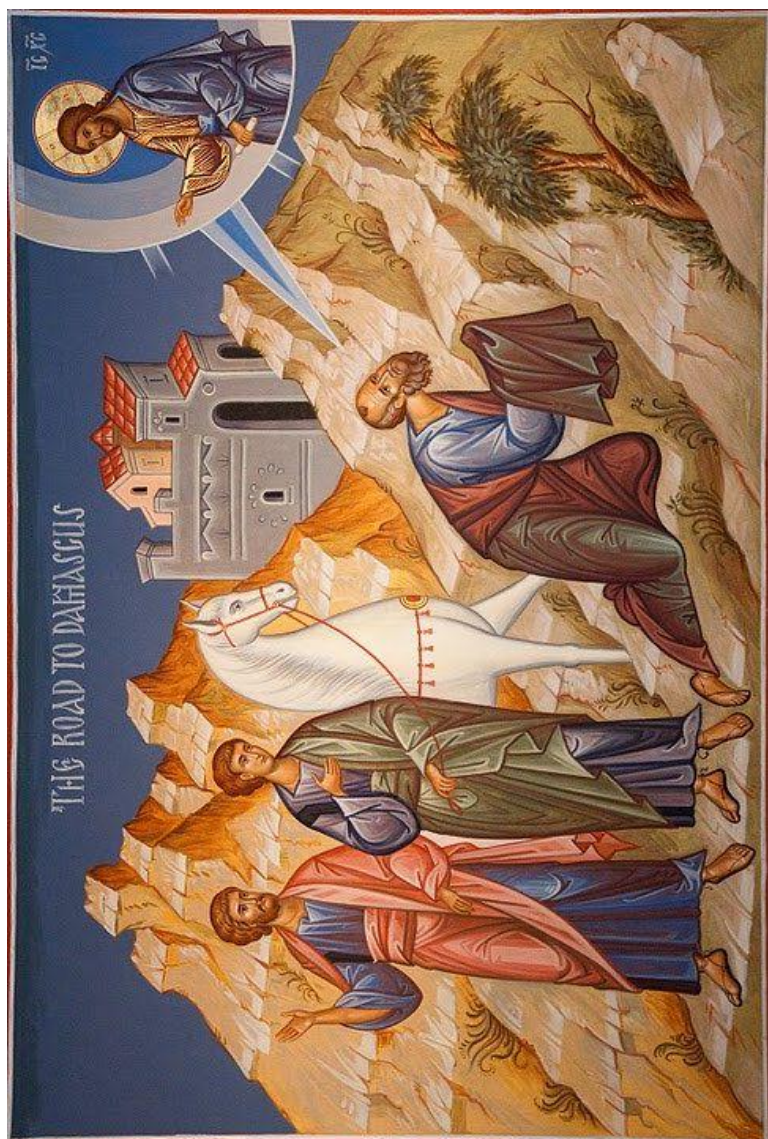
Acts 9:1-9

Now Saul, still breathing murderous threats against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, that, if he should find any men or women who belonged to the Way, he might bring them back to Jerusalem in chains.

On his journey, as he was nearing Damascus, a light from the sky suddenly flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

He said, "Who are you, sir?"
The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. Now get up and go into the city and you will be told what you must do."

The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, for they heard the voice but could see no one. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him to Damascus. For three days he was unable to see, and he neither ate nor drank.



Wednesday
Theme: Saul's Baptism

Acts 9:10-19

There was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias, and the Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord."

The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight and ask at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is there praying, and he has seen a man named Ananias come in and lay hands on him, that he may regain his sight."

But Ananias replied, "Lord, I have heard from many sources about this man, what evil things he has done to your holy ones in Jerusalem. And here he has authority from the chief priests to imprison all who call upon your name."

But the Lord said to him, "Go, for this man is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before Gentiles, kings, and Israelites, and I will show him what he will have to suffer for my name."

So Ananias went and entered the house; laying his hands on him, he said, "Saul, my brother, the Lord has sent me, Jesus who appeared to you on the way by which you came, that you may regain your sight and be filled with the holy Spirit."

Immediately things like scales fell from his eyes and he regained his sight. He got up and was baptized, and when he had eaten, he recovered his strength.

Thursday
Theme: Saul Preaches Christ

Acts 9:20-25

He stayed some days with the disciples in Damascus, and he began at once to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God. All who heard him were astounded and said, "Is not this the man who in Jerusalem ravaged those who call upon this name, and came here expressly to take them back in chains to the chief priests?" But Saul grew all the stronger and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus, proving that this is the Messiah.

After a long time had passed, the Jews conspired to kill him, but their plot became known to Saul. Now they were keeping watch on the gates day and night so as to kill him, but his disciples took him one night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket.

Friday
Theme: The Church At Peace

Acts 9:26-31

When he arrived in Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. Then Barnabas

took charge of him and brought him to the apostles, and he reported to them how on the way he had seen the Lord and that he had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus. He moved about freely with them in Jerusalem, and spoke out boldly in the name of the Lord. He also spoke and debated with the Hellenists, but they tried to kill him. And when the brothers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him on his way to Tarsus.

The church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria was at peace. It was being built up and walked in the fear of the Lord, and with the consolation of the holy Spirit it grew in numbers.

Saturday
Theme: Peter's Healings

Acts 9:32-42

As Peter was passing through every region, he went down to the holy ones living in Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been confined to bed for eight years, for he was paralyzed. Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and make your bed."

He got up at once. And all the inhabitants of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which translated means Dorcas). She was completely occupied with good deeds and almsgiving. Now during those days she fell sick and died, so after washing her, they laid her out in a room upstairs.

Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay."

So Peter got up and went with them. When he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs where all the widows came to him weeping and showing him the tunics and cloaks that Dorcas had made while she was with them.

Peter sent them all out and knelt down and prayed. Then he turned to her body and said, "Tabitha, rise up."

She opened her eyes, saw Peter, and sat up. He gave her his hand and raised her up, and when he had called the holy ones and the widows, he presented her alive. This became known all over Joppa, and many came to believe in the Lord.



Icon of The Pharisee and The Tax Collector

Twenty-first Sunday After Pentecost
Theme: Justification

LK 18:9-14

He then addressed this parable to those who were convinced of their own righteousness and despised everyone else. “Two people went up to the temple area to pray; one was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector.

The Pharisee took up his position and spoke this prayer to himself, ‘O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity— greedy, dishonest, adulterous—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on my whole income.’

But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed, ‘O God, be merciful to me a sinner.’

I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”



Saints Peter And Paul

Twenty-first Week After Pentecost

Monday

Theme: The Prayer of Paul

The Prayer of Paul (Nag Hamadi Codex 1)

Grant me your mercy.
My redeemer, redeem me,
for I am yours.
I came from you.

You are my mind:
give me birth.
You are my treasure:
open for me.
You are my fullness:
accept me.
You are my rest:
give me unlimited perfection.

I pray to you,
you who exist and pre-existed,
in the name exalted above every name,
through Jesus the anointed,
lord of lords,
king of the eternal realms.

Give me your gifts, with no regret,
through the human child,
the spirit,
the advocate of truth.

Give me authority, I beg of you,

give healing for my body, as I beg you,
through the preacher of the gospel,
and redeem my enlightened soul forever, and my
spirit,
and disclose to my mind the firstborn of the fullness
of grace.

Grant what eyes of angels have not seen,
what ears of rulers have not heard,
and what has not arisen in the hearts of people,
who became angelic,
and after the image of the animate god
when it was formed in the beginning.

I have the faith of hope.
And bestow upon me
your beloved, chosen, blessed majesty,
you who are the firstborn, the first-conceived,
and the wonderful mystery of your house.

For yours is the power and the glory and the praise
and the greatness,
forever and ever.
Amen.

Tuesday

Theme: The Persecution of Herod Agrippa 1

Acts 12:1-19

About that time King Herod laid hands upon some
members of the church to harm them. He had James,
the brother of John, killed by the sword, and when he
saw that this was pleasing to the Jews, he proceeded

to arrest Peter also. It was the feast of Unleavened Bread.

He had him taken into custody and put in prison under the guard of four squads of four soldiers each. He intended to bring him before the people after Passover. Peter thus was being kept in prison, but prayer by the church was fervently being made to God on his behalf.

On the very night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter, secured by double chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while outside the door guards kept watch on the prison. Suddenly the angel of the Lord stood by him and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and awakened him, saying, "Get up quickly."

The chains fell from his wrists. The angel said to him, "Put on your belt and your sandals." He did so. Then he said to him, "Put on your cloak and follow me."

So he followed him out, not realizing that what was happening through the angel was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed the first guard, then the second, and came to the iron gate leading out to the city, which opened for them by itself. They emerged and made their way down an alley, and suddenly the angel left him.

Then Peter recovered his senses and said, "Now I know for certain that the Lord sent his angel and

rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people had been expecting.”

When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John who is called Mark, where there were many people gathered in prayer. When he knocked on the gateway door, a maid named Rhoda came to answer it. She was so overjoyed when she recognized Peter’s voice that, instead of opening the gate, she ran in and announced that Peter was standing at the gate.

They told her, “You are out of your mind,” but she insisted that it was so. But they kept saying, “It is his angel.”

But Peter continued to knock, and when they opened it, they saw him and were astounded. He motioned to them with his hand to be quiet and explained how the Lord had led him out of the prison, and said, “Report this to James and the brothers.” Then he left and went to another place.

At daybreak there was no small commotion among the soldiers over what had become of Peter. Herod, after instituting a search but not finding him, ordered the guards tried and executed. Then he left Judea to spend some time in Caesarea.

Wednesday
Theme: The Death of Herod Agrippa 1

Acts 12:20-24

He had long been very angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon, who now came to him in a body. After winning over Blastus, the king's chamberlain, they sued for peace because their country was supplied with food from the king's territory. On an appointed day, Herod, attired in royal robes, and seated on the rostrum, addressed them publicly.

The assembled crowd cried out, "This is the voice of a god, not of a man."

At once the angel of the Lord struck him down because he did not ascribe the honour to God, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last. But the word of God continued to spread and grow.

Thursday
Theme: The Blinding of Elymas (The False Prophet)

Acts 13:4-12

So they, sent forth by the holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and from there sailed to Cyprus. When they arrived in Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. They had John also as their assistant. When they had travelled through the whole island as far as Paphos, they met a magician named Bar-Jesus who was a Jewish false

prophet. He was with the proconsul Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence, who had summoned Barnabas and Saul and wanted to hear the word of God. But Elymas the magician (for that is what his name means) opposed them in an attempt to turn the proconsul away from the faith.

But Saul, also known as Paul, filled with the holy Spirit, looked intently at him and said, “You son of the devil, you enemy of all that is right, full of every sort of deceit and fraud. Will you not stop twisting the straight paths of the Lord? Even now the hand of the Lord is upon you. You will be blind, and unable to see the sun for a time.”

Immediately a dark mist fell upon him, and he went about seeking people to lead him by the hand. When the proconsul saw what had happened, he came to believe, for he was astonished by the teaching about the Lord.

Friday

Theme: Paul's Address In Antioch of Psidia

Acts 13:16-31

So Paul got up, motioned with his hand, and said, “Fellow Israelites and you others who are God fearing, listen. The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and exalted the people during their sojourn in the land of Egypt. With uplifted arms he led them out of it and for about forty years he put up with them in the desert. When he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their

land as an inheritance at the end of about four hundred and fifty years.

After these things he provided judges up to Samuel the prophet. Then they asked for a king. God gave them Saul, son of Kish, a man from the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. Then he removed him and raised up David as their king; of him he testified, 'I have found David, son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will carry out my every wish.'

From this man's descendants God, according to his promise, has brought to Israel a saviour, Jesus. John heralded his coming by proclaiming a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel; and as John was completing his course, he would say, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. Behold, one is coming after me; I am not worthy to unfasten the sandals of his feet.'

"My brothers, children of the family of Abraham, and those others among you who are God-fearing, to us this word of salvation has been sent. The inhabitants of Jerusalem and their leaders failed to recognize him, and by condemning him they fulfilled the oracles of the prophets that are read sabbath after sabbath.

For even though they found no grounds for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him put to death, and when they had accomplished all that was written about him, they took him down from the tree and placed him in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead, and for many days he appeared to those who

had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem.
These are his witnesses before the people.

Saturday
Theme: We Now Turn To The Gentiles

Acts 13:32-47

We ourselves are proclaiming this good news to you that what God promised our ancestors he has brought to fulfilment for us, their children, by raising up Jesus, as it is written in the second psalm, 'You are my son; this day I have begotten you.'

And that he raised him from the dead never to return to corruption he declared in this way, 'I shall give you the benefits assured to David.'

That is why he also says in another psalm, 'You will not suffer your holy one to see corruption.'

Now David, after he had served the will of God in his lifetime, fell asleep, was gathered to his ancestors, and did see corruption. But the one whom God raised up did not see corruption.

You must know, my brothers, that through him forgiveness of sins is being proclaimed to you, and in regard to everything from which you could not be justified under the law of Moses, in him every believer is justified. Be careful, then, that what was said in the prophets not come about:

'Look on, you scoffers,

be amazed and disappear.
For I am doing a work in your days,
a work that you will never believe
even if someone tells you.’ ”

As they were leaving, they invited them to speak on these subjects the following sabbath. After the congregation had dispersed, many Jews and worshipers who were converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who spoke to them and urged them to remain faithful to the grace of God.

On the following sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and with violent abuse contradicted what Paul said.

Both Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first, but since you reject it and condemn yourselves as unworthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us, ‘I have made you a light to the Gentiles, that you may be an instrument of salvation to the ends of the earth.’ ”



Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost
Theme: Generosity

MT 25:31-46

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’

Then the righteous will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’ And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’

Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a

stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.'

Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?'

He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.' And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

Twenty-Second Week After Pentecost

Monday

Theme: Paul and Barnabas at Lystra (How Fickle Is Men?)

Acts 14:8-20

At Lystra there was a crippled man, lame from birth, who had never walked. He listened to Paul speaking, who looked intently at him, saw that he had the faith to be healed, and called out in a loud voice, "Stand up straight on your feet." He jumped up and began to walk about. When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they cried out in Lycaonian, "The gods have come down to us in human form."

They called Barnabas "Zeus" and Paul "Hermes," because he was the chief speaker. And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was at the entrance to the city,

brought oxen and garlands to the gates, for he together with the people intended to offer sacrifice.

The apostles Barnabas and Paul tore their garments when they heard this and rushed out into the crowd, shouting, “Men, why are you doing this? We are of the same nature as you, human beings. We proclaim to you good news that you should turn from these idols to the living God, ‘who made heaven and earth and sea and all that is in them.’ In past generations he allowed all Gentiles to go their own ways; yet, in bestowing his goodness, he did not leave himself without witness, for he gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, and filled you with nourishment and gladness for your hearts.”

Even with these words, they scarcely restrained the crowds from offering sacrifice to them.

However, some Jews from Antioch and Iconium arrived and won over the crowds. They stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. But when the disciples gathered around him, he got up and entered the city. On the following day he left with Barnabas for Derbe.

Tuesday
Theme: The Council of Jerusalem

Acts 15:1-21

Some who had come down from Judea were instructing the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the Mosaic practice, you cannot be

saved.” Because there arose no little dissension and debate by Paul and Barnabas with them, it was decided that Paul, Barnabas, and some of the others should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and presbyters about this question. They were sent on their journey by the church, and passed through Phoenicia and Samaria telling of the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers.

When they arrived in Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church, as well as by the apostles and the presbyters, and they reported what God had done with them. But some from the party of the Pharisees who had become believers stood up and said, “It is necessary to circumcise them and direct them to observe the Mosaic law.”

The apostles and the presbyters met together to see about this matter. After much debate had taken place, Peter got up and said to them, “My brothers, you are well aware that from early days God made his choice among you that through my mouth the Gentiles would hear the word of the gospel and believe. And God, who knows the heart, bore witness by granting them the holy Spirit just as he did us. He made no distinction between us and them, for by faith he purified their hearts. Why, then, are you now putting God to the test by placing on the shoulders of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? On the contrary, we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they.”

The whole assembly fell silent, and they listened while Paul and Barnabas described the signs and wonders God had worked among the Gentiles through them.

After they had fallen silent, James responded, “My brothers, listen to me. Symeon has described how God first concerned himself with acquiring from among the Gentiles a people for his name.

The words of the prophets agree with this, as is written:

‘After this I shall return
and rebuild the fallen hut of David;
from its ruins I shall rebuild it
and raise it up again,
so that the rest of humanity may seek out the Lord,
even all the Gentiles on whom my name is invoked.
Thus says the Lord who accomplishes
these things, known from of old.’

It is my judgment, therefore, that we ought to stop troubling the Gentiles who turn to God, but tell them by letter to avoid pollution from idols, unlawful marriage, the meat of strangled animals, and blood. For Moses, for generations now, has had those who proclaim him in every town, as he has been read in the synagogues every sabbath.”

Wednesday

**Theme: Paul in Philippi (Believe in the Lord
Jesus and you and your household will be saved)**

Acts 16:16-40

As we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl with an oracular spirit, who used to bring a large profit to her owners through her fortune-telling.

She began to follow Paul and us, shouting, “These people are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation.”

She did this for many days. Paul became annoyed, turned, and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” Then it came out at that moment.

When her owners saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them to the public square before the local authorities. They brought them before the magistrates and said, “These people are Jews and are disturbing our city and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us Romans to adopt or practice.”

The crowd joined in the attack on them, and the magistrates had them stripped and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After inflicting many blows on them, they threw them into prison and instructed the jailer to guard them securely. When he received these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and secured their feet to a stake.

About midnight, while Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God as the prisoners listened, there was suddenly such a severe earthquake that the foundations of the jail shook; all the doors flew open, and the chains of all were pulled loose. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, thinking that the prisoners had escaped.

But Paul shouted out in a loud voice, "Do no harm to yourself; we are all here." He asked for a light and rushed in and, trembling with fear, he fell down before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you and your household will be saved." So they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to everyone in his house.

He took them in at that hour of the night and bathed their wounds; then he and all his family were baptized at once. He brought them up into his house and provided a meal and with his household rejoiced at having come to faith in God. But when it was day, the magistrates sent the lictors with the order, "Release those men."

The jailer reported these words to Paul, "The magistrates have sent orders that you be released. Now, then, come out and go in peace."

But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us publicly, even though we are Roman citizens and have not

been tried, and have thrown us into prison. And now, are they going to release us secretly? By no means. Let them come themselves and lead us out.”

The lictors reported these words to the magistrates, and they became alarmed when they heard that they were Roman citizens. So they came and placated them, and led them out and asked that they leave the city. When they had come out of the prison, they went to Lydia’s house where they saw and encouraged the brothers, and then they left.

Thursday
Theme: Paul in Athens

Acts 17:22-33

Then Paul stood up at the Areopagus and said: “You Athenians, I see that in every respect you are very religious. For as I walked around looking carefully at your shrines, I even discovered an altar inscribed, ‘To an Unknown God.’

What therefore you unknowingly worship, I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and all that is in it, the Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in sanctuaries made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands because he needs anything. Rather it is he who gives to everyone life and breath and everything.

He made from one the whole human race to dwell on the entire surface of the earth, and he fixed the ordered seasons and the boundaries of their regions,

so that people might seek God, even perhaps grope for him and find him, though indeed he is not far from any one of us.

For 'In him we live and move and have our being,' as even some of your poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' Since therefore we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the divinity is like an image fashioned from gold, silver, or stone by human art and imagination.

God has overlooked the times of ignorance, but now he demands that all people everywhere repent because he has established a day on which he will 'judge the world with justice' through a man he has appointed, and he has provided confirmation for all by raising him from the dead."

When they heard about resurrection of the dead, some began to scoff, but others said, "We should like to hear you on this some other time."

And so Paul left them. But some did join him, and became believers. Among them were Dionysius, a member of the Court of the Areopagus, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

Friday
Theme: Paul In Ephesus

Acts 19:1-17

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul travelled through the interior of the country and came down to Ephesus where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the holy Spirit when you became believers?"

They answered him, "We have never even heard that there is a holy Spirit."

He said, "How were you baptized?"
They replied, "With the baptism of John."

Paul then said, "John baptized with a baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus."

When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul laid his hands on them, the holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. Altogether there were about twelve men.

He entered the synagogue, and for three months debated boldly with persuasive arguments about the kingdom of God. But when some in their obstinacy and disbelief disparaged the Way before the assembly, he withdrew and took his disciples with him and began to hold daily discussions in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. This continued for two years with the

result that all the inhabitants of the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord, Jews and Greeks alike.

So extraordinary were the mighty deeds God accomplished at the hands of Paul that when face cloths or aprons that touched his skin were applied to the sick, their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them.

Then some itinerant Jewish exorcists tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those with evil spirits, saying, “I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches.”

When the seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish high priest, tried to do this, the evil spirit said to them in reply, “Jesus I recognize, Paul I know, but who are you?”

The person with the evil spirit then sprang at them and subdued them all. He so overpowered them that they fled naked and wounded from that house. When this became known to all the Jews and Greeks who lived in Ephesus, fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in great esteem.

Saturday

Theme: Paul In Troas (Eutychus Raised)

Acts 20:6-12

We sailed from Philippi after the feast of Unleavened Bread, and re-joined them five days later in Troas, where we spent a week. On the first day of the week when we gathered to break bread, Paul spoke to them

because he was going to leave on the next day, and he kept on speaking until midnight. There were many lamps in the upstairs room where we were gathered, and a young man named Eutychus who was sitting on the window sill was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on. Once overcome by sleep, he fell down from the third story and when he was picked up, he was dead.

Paul went down, threw himself upon him, and said as he embraced him, "Don't be alarmed; there is life in him."

Then he returned upstairs, broke the bread, and ate; after a long conversation that lasted until daybreak, he departed. And they took the boy away alive and were immeasurably comforted.



The Ten Lepers

Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost
Theme: Thankfulness

LK 17:11-19

As he continued his journey to Jerusalem, he travelled through Samaria and Galilee. As he was entering a village, ten lepers met him. They stood at a distance from him and raised their voice, saying, "Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!"

And when he saw them, he said, "Go show yourselves to the priests."

As they were going they were cleansed. And one of them, realizing he had been healed, returned, glorifying God in a loud voice; and he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. He was a Samaritan.

Jesus said in reply, "Ten were cleansed, were they not? Where are the other nine? Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?"

Then he said to him, "Stand up and go; your faith has saved you."

Twenty-Third Week After Pentecost

Monday

Theme: Paul In Miletus

Acts 20:17-38

From Miletus he had the presbyters of the church at Ephesus summoned. When they came to him, he addressed them, “You know how I lived among you the whole time from the day I first came to the province of Asia. I served the Lord with all humility and with the tears and trials that came to me because of the plots of the Jews, and I did not at all shrink from telling you what was for your benefit, or from teaching you in public or in your homes. I earnestly bore witness for both Jews and Greeks to repentance before God and to faith in our Lord Jesus. But now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem.

What will happen to me there I do not know, except that in one city after another the holy Spirit has been warning me that imprisonment and hardships await me. Yet I consider life of no importance to me, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to bear witness to the gospel of God’s grace.

“But now I know that none of you to whom I preached the kingdom during my travels will ever see my face again. And so I solemnly declare to you this day that I am not responsible for the blood of any of you, for I did not shrink from proclaiming to you the entire plan of God.

Keep watch over yourselves and over the whole flock of which the holy Spirit has appointed you overseers, in which you tend the church of God that he acquired with his own blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come among you, and they will not spare the flock.

And from your own group, men will come forward perverting the truth to draw the disciples away after them. So be vigilant and remember that for three years, night and day, I unceasingly admonished each of you with tears.

And now I commend you to God and to that gracious word of his that can build you up and give you the inheritance among all who are consecrated. I have never wanted anyone's silver or gold or clothing. You know well that these very hands have served my needs and my companions. In every way I have shown you that by hard work of that sort we must help the weak, and keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

When he had finished speaking, he knelt down and prayed with them all. They were all weeping loudly as they threw their arms around Paul and kissed him, for they were deeply distressed that he had said that they would never see his face again. Then they escorted him to the ship.

Tuesday
Theme: The Prophecy Of Warning

Acts 21:7-14

We continued the voyage and came from Tyre to Ptolemais, where we greeted the brothers and stayed a day with them. On the next day we resumed the trip and came to Caesarea, where we went to the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the Seven, and stayed with him. He had four virgin daughters gifted with prophecy.

We had been there several days when a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. He came up to us, took Paul's belt, bound his own feet and hands with it, and said, "Thus says the holy Spirit: This is the way the Jews will bind the owner of this belt in Jerusalem, and they will hand him over to the Gentiles."

When we heard this, we and the local residents begged him not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul replied,
"What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? I am prepared not only to be bound but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

Since he would not be dissuaded we let the matter rest, saying, "The Lord's will be done."

Wednesday
Theme: Paul And James In Jerusalem

Acts 21:18-26

The next day, Paul accompanied us on a visit to James, and all the presbyters were present. He greeted them, then proceeded to tell them in detail what God had accomplished among the Gentiles through his ministry.

They praised God when they heard it but said to him, “Brother, you see how many thousands of believers there are from among the Jews, and they are all zealous observers of the law. They have been informed that you are teaching all the Jews who live among the Gentiles to abandon Moses and that you are telling them not to circumcise their children or to observe their customary practices. What is to be done? They will surely hear that you have arrived.

So do what we tell you. We have four men who have taken a vow. Take these men and purify yourself with them, and pay their expenses that they may have their heads shaved. In this way everyone will know that there is nothing to the reports they have been given about you but that you yourself live in observance of the law.

As for the Gentiles who have come to believe, we sent them our decision that they abstain from meat sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals, and from unlawful marriage.”

So Paul took the men, and on the next day after purifying himself together with them entered the temple to give notice of the day when the purification would be completed and the offering made for each of them.

Thursday

Theme: Paul's Defence Before The Jews

Acts 22:1-21

“My brothers and fathers, listen to what I am about to say to you in my defence.” When they heard him addressing them in Hebrew they became all the more quiet.

And he continued, “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city. At the feet of Gamaliel I was educated strictly in our ancestral law and was zealous for God, just as all of you are today. I persecuted this Way to death, binding both men and women and delivering them to prison. Even the high priest and the whole council of elders can testify on my behalf. For from them I even received letters to the brothers and set out for Damascus to bring back to Jerusalem in chains for punishment those there as well.

“On that journey as I drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from the sky suddenly shone around me. I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’

I replied, ‘Who are you, sir?’

And he said to me, 'I am Jesus the Nazorean whom you are persecuting.'

My companions saw the light but did not hear the voice of the one who spoke to me. I asked, 'What shall I do, sir?'

The Lord answered me, 'Get up and go into Damascus, and there you will be told about everything appointed for you to do.'

Since I could see nothing because of the brightness of that light, I was led by hand by my companions and entered Damascus.

"A certain Ananias, a devout observer of the law, and highly spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, came to me and stood there and said, 'Saul, my brother, regain your sight.' And at that very moment I regained my sight and saw him. Then he said, 'The God of our ancestors designated you to know his will, to see the Righteous One, and to hear the sound of his voice; for you will be his witness before all to what you have seen and heard. Now, why delay? Get up and have yourself baptized and your sins washed away, calling upon his name.'

"After I had returned to Jerusalem and while I was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance and saw the Lord saying to me, 'Hurry, leave Jerusalem at once, because they will not accept your testimony about me.'

1But I replied, 'Lord, they themselves know that from synagogue to synagogue I used to imprison and beat those who believed in you. And when the blood of your witness Stephen was being shed, I myself stood by giving my approval and keeping guard over the cloaks of his murderers.'

Then he said to me, 'Go, I shall send you far away to the Gentiles.'

Friday

Theme: Paul's Defence Before The Sanhedrin

Acts 23:1-11

Paul looked intently at the Sanhedrin and said, "My brothers, I have conducted myself with a perfectly clear conscience before God to this day."

The high priest Ananias ordered his attendants to strike his mouth.

Then Paul said to him, "God will strike you, you whitewashed wall. Do you indeed sit in judgment upon me according to the law and yet in violation of the law order me to be struck?"

The attendants said, "Would you revile God's high priest?"

Paul answered, "Brothers, I did not realize he was the high priest. For it is written, 'You shall not curse a ruler of your people.'"

Paul was aware that some were Sadducees and some Pharisees, so he called out before the Sanhedrin, “My brothers, I am a Pharisee, the son of Pharisees; I am on trial for hope in the resurrection of the dead.”

When he said this, a dispute broke out between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the group became divided. For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection or angels or spirits, while the Pharisees acknowledge all three.

A great uproar occurred, and some scribes belonging to the Pharisee party stood up and sharply argued, “We find nothing wrong with this man. Suppose a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?”

The dispute was so serious that the commander, afraid that Paul would be torn to pieces by them, ordered his troops to go down and rescue him from their midst and take him into the compound.

The following night the Lord stood by him and said, “Take courage. For just as you have borne witness to my cause in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness in Rome.”

Saturday
Theme: Paul Before Felix

Acts 24:10-21

Then the governor motioned to him to speak and Paul replied, “I know that you have been a judge over this nation for many years and so I am pleased to make

my defence before you. As you can verify, not more than twelve days have passed since I went up to Jerusalem to worship. Neither in the temple, nor in the synagogues, nor anywhere in the city did they find me arguing with anyone or instigating a riot among the people. Nor can they prove to you the accusations they are now making against me. But this I do admit to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our ancestors and I believe everything that is in accordance with the law and written in the prophets.

I have the same hope in God as they themselves have that there will be a resurrection of the righteous and the unrighteous. Because of this, I always strive to keep my conscience clear before God and man.

After many years, I came to bring alms for my nation and offerings. While I was so engaged, they found me, after my purification, in the temple without a crowd or disturbance. But some Jews from the province of Asia, who should be here before you to make whatever accusation they might have against me— or let these men themselves state what crime they discovered when I stood before the Sanhedrin, unless it was my one outcry as I stood among them, that 'I am on trial before you today for the resurrection of the dead.' ”

Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost
Theme: Faithfulness

LK 19:11-27

While they were listening to him speak, he proceeded to tell a parable because he was near Jerusalem and they thought that the kingdom of God would appear there immediately.

So he said, “A nobleman went off to a distant country to obtain the kingship for himself and then to return. He called ten of his servants and gave them ten gold coins and told them, ‘Engage in trade with these until I return.’

His fellow citizens, however, despised him and sent a delegation after him to announce, ‘We do not want this man to be our king.’

But when he returned after obtaining the kingship, he had the servants called, to whom he had given the money, to learn what they had gained by trading.

The first came forward and said, ‘Sir, your gold coin has earned ten additional ones.’ He replied, ‘Well done, good servant! You have been faithful in this very small matter; take charge of ten cities.’

Then the second came and reported, ‘Your gold coin, sir, has earned five more.’ And to this servant too he said, ‘You, take charge of five cities.’

Then the other servant came and said, 'Sir, here is your gold coin; I kept it stored away in a handkerchief, for I was afraid of you, because you are a demanding person; you take up what you did not lay down and you harvest what you did not plant.'

He said to him, 'With your own words I shall condemn you, you wicked servant. You knew I was a demanding person, taking up what I did not lay down and harvesting what I did not plant; 23why did you not put my money in a bank? Then on my return I would have collected it with interest.'

And to those standing by he said, 'Take the gold coin from him and give it to the servant who has ten.'

But they said to him, 'Sir, he has ten gold coins.'

'I tell you, to everyone who has, more will be given, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. Now as for those enemies of mine who did not want me as their king, bring them here and slay them before me.' "

Twenty-Fourth Week After Pentecost

Monday

Theme: Paul Before King Herod Agrippa 2

Acts 26:1-23

Then Agrippa said to Paul, “You may now speak on your own behalf.”

So Paul stretched out his hand and began his defence. “I count myself fortunate, King Agrippa, that I am to defend myself before you today against all the charges made against me by the Jews, especially since you are an expert in all the Jewish customs and controversies. And therefore, I beg you to listen patiently. My manner of living from my youth, a life spent from the beginning among my people and in Jerusalem, all the Jews know. They have known about me from the start, if they are willing to testify, that I have lived my life as a Pharisee, the strictest party of our religion. But now I am standing trial because of my hope in the promise made by God to our ancestors.

Our twelve tribes hope to attain to that promise as they fervently worship God day and night; and on account of this hope I am accused by Jews, O king. Why is it thought unbelievable among you that God raises the dead? I myself once thought that I had to do many things against the name of Jesus the Nazorean, and I did so in Jerusalem. I imprisoned many of the holy ones with the authorization I

received from the chief priests, and when they were to be put to death, I cast my vote against them.

Many times, in synagogue after synagogue, I punished them in an attempt to force them to blaspheme; I was so enraged against them that I pursued them even to foreign cities. "On one such occasion I was traveling to Damascus with the authorization and commission of the chief priests. At midday, along the way, O king, I saw a light from the sky, brighter than the sun, shining around me and my traveling companions. We all fell to the ground and I heard a voice saying to me in Hebrew, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goad.' And I said, 'Who are you, sir?'

And the Lord replied, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. Get up now, and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness of what you have seen and what you will be shown. I shall deliver you from this people and from the Gentiles to whom I send you, to open their eyes that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may obtain forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been consecrated by faith in me.'

"And so, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision. On the contrary, first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem and throughout the whole country of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached the need to repent and turn to God, and to

do works giving evidence of repentance. 21zThat is why the Jews seized me [when I was] in the temple and tried to kill me. But I have enjoyed God's help to this very day, and so I stand here testifying to small and great alike, saying nothing different from what the prophets and Moses foretold, that the Messiah must suffer and that, as the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles."

Tuesday

**Theme: May All Who Listen To Me Today
Become As I Am Except For These Chains**

Acts 26:24-32

While Paul was so speaking in his defence, Festus said in a loud voice, "You are mad, Paul; much learning is driving you mad."

But Paul replied, "I am not mad, most excellent Festus; I am speaking words of truth and reason. The king knows about these matters and to him I speak boldly, for I cannot believe that any of this has escaped his notice; this was not done in a corner. King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you believe."

Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You will soon persuade me to play the Christian."

Paul replied, "I would pray to God that sooner or later not only you but all who listen to me today might become as I am except for these chains."

Then the king rose, and with him the governor and Bernice and the others who sat with them. And after they had withdrawn, they said to one another, "This man is doing nothing that deserves death or imprisonment." And Agrippa said to Festus, "This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar."

Wednesday
Theme: Shipwreck And Salvation

Acts 27:6-44

There the centurion found an Alexandrian ship that was sailing to Italy and put us on board. For many days we made little headway, arriving at Cnidus only with difficulty, and because the wind would not permit us to continue our course, we sailed for the sheltered side of Crete off Salmone. We sailed past it with difficulty and reached a place called Fair Havens, near which was the city of Lasea.

Much time had now passed and sailing had become hazardous because the time of the fast had already gone by, so Paul warned them, "Men, I can see that this voyage will result in severe damage and heavy loss not only to the cargo and the ship, but also to our lives."

The centurion, however, paid more attention to the pilot and to the owner of the ship than to what Paul said. Since the harbour was unfavourably situated for spending the winter, the majority planned to put out

to sea from there in the hope of reaching Phoenix, a port in Crete facing west-northwest, there to spend the winter.

A south wind blew gently, and thinking they had attained their objective, they weighed anchor and sailed along close to the coast of Crete. Before long an offshore wind of hurricane force called a "Northeaster" struck. Since the ship was caught up in it and could not head into the wind we gave way and let ourselves be driven. We passed along the sheltered side of an island named Cauda and managed only with difficulty to get the dinghy under control. They hoisted it aboard, then used cables to undergird the ship. Because of their fear that they would run aground on the shoal of Syrtis, they lowered the drift anchor and were carried along in this way.

We were being pounded by the storm so violently that the next day they jettisoned some cargo, and on the third day with their own hands they threw even the ship's tackle overboard. Neither the sun nor the stars were visible for many days, and no small storm raged. Finally, all hope of our surviving was taken away.

When many would no longer eat, Paul stood among them and said, "Men, you should have taken my advice and not have set sail from Crete and you would have avoided this disastrous loss. I urge you now to keep up your courage; not one of you will be lost, only the ship. ²³For last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood by me and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You are destined to stand before Caesar; and behold, for your sake, God

has granted safety to all who are sailing with you.’ Therefore, keep up your courage, men; I trust in God that it will turn out as I have been told. We are destined to run aground on some island.”

On the fourteenth night, as we were still being driven about on the Adriatic Sea, toward midnight the sailors began to suspect that they were nearing land. They took soundings and found twenty fathoms; a little farther on, they again took soundings and found fifteen fathoms. Fearing that we would run aground on a rocky coast, they dropped four anchors from the stern and prayed for day to come. The sailors then tried to abandon ship; they lowered the dinghy to the sea on the pretext of going to lay out anchors from the bow. But Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, “Unless these men stay with the ship, you cannot be saved.” So the soldiers cut the ropes of the dinghy and set it adrift.

Until the day began to dawn, Paul kept urging all to take some food. He said, “Today is the fourteenth day that you have been waiting, going hungry and eating nothing. I urge you, therefore, to take some food; it will help you survive. Not a hair of the head of anyone of you will be lost.”

When he said this, he took bread, gave thanks to God in front of them all, broke it, and began to eat. They were all encouraged, and took some food themselves. In all, there were two hundred seventy-six of us on the ship. After they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship by throwing the wheat into the sea.

When day came they did not recognize the land, but made out a bay with a beach. They planned to run the ship ashore on it, if they could. So they cast off the anchors and abandoned them to the sea, and at the same time they unfastened the lines of the rudders, and hoisting the foresail into the wind, they made for the beach. But they struck a sandbar and ran the ship aground. The bow was wedged in and could not be moved, but the stern began to break up under the pounding of the waves.

The soldiers planned to kill the prisoners so that none might swim away and escape, but the centurion wanted to save Paul and so kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and get to the shore, and then the rest, some on planks, others on debris from the ship. In this way, all reached shore safely.

Thursday
Theme: The Conversion of Malta

Acts 28:1-10

Once we had reached safety, we learned that the island was called Malta. The natives showed us extraordinary hospitality; they lit a fire and welcomed all of us because it had begun to rain and was cold.

Paul had gathered a bundle of brushwood and was putting it on the fire when a viper, escaping from the heat, fastened on his hand. When the natives saw the snake hanging from his hand, they said to one another, "This man must certainly be a murderer;

though he escaped the sea, Justice has not let him remain alive.”

But he shook the snake off into the fire and suffered no harm. They were expecting him to swell up or suddenly to fall down dead but, after waiting a long time and seeing nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and began to say that he was a god.

In the vicinity of that place were lands belonging to a man named Publius, the chief of the island. He welcomed us and received us cordially as his guests for three days. It so happened that the father of Publius was sick with a fever and dysentery. Paul visited him and, after praying, laid his hands on him and healed him. After this had taken place, the rest of the sick on the island came to Paul and were cured. They paid us great honour and when we eventually set sail they brought us the provisions we needed.

Friday
Theme: Paul's Final Testimony

Acts 28:17-20, 23-31

Three days later he called together the leaders of the Jews. When they had gathered, he said to them, “My brothers, although I had done nothing against our people or our ancestral customs, I was handed over to the Romans as a prisoner from Jerusalem.

After trying my case the Romans wanted to release me, because they found nothing against me deserving

the death penalty. But when the Jews objected, I was obliged to appeal to Caesar, even though I had no accusation to make against my own nation. This is the reason, then, I have requested to see you and to speak with you, for it is on account of the hope of Israel that I wear these chains.”

So they arranged a day with him and came to his lodgings in great numbers. From early morning until evening, he expounded his position to them, bearing witness to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus from the law of Moses and the prophets. Some were convinced by what he had said, while others did not believe.

Without reaching any agreement among themselves they began to leave; then Paul made one final statement.

“Well did the holy Spirit speak to your ancestors through the prophet Isaiah, saying:

‘Go to this people and say:

You shall indeed hear but not understand.

You shall indeed look but never see.

Gross is the heart of this people;

they will not hear with their ears;

they have closed their eyes,

so they may not see with their eyes

and hear with their ears

and understand with their heart and be converted,

and I heal them.’

Let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen.”

He remained for two full years in his lodgings. He received all who came to him, and with complete assurance and without hindrance he proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.

Saturday
Theme: The People Of God

Dan 2:31-45

“In your vision, O king, you saw a statue, very large and exceedingly bright, terrifying in appearance as it stood before you. Its head was pure gold, its chest and arms were silver, its belly and thighs bronze, its legs iron, its feet partly iron and partly clay.*

While you watched, a stone was hewn from a mountain without a hand being put to it, and it struck its iron and clay feet, breaking them in pieces. The iron, clay, bronze, silver, and gold all crumbled at once, fine as the chaff on the threshing floor in summer, and the wind blew them away without leaving a trace. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

“This was the dream; the interpretation we shall also give in the king’s presence. You, O king, are the king of kings; to you the God of heaven has given dominion and strength, power and glory; human beings, wild beasts, and birds of the air, wherever they may dwell, he has handed over to you, making you ruler over them all; you are the head of gold. Another kingdom

shall take your place, inferior to yours, then a third kingdom, of bronze, which shall rule over the whole earth. There shall be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron; it shall break in pieces and subdue all these others, just as iron breaks in pieces and crushes everything else. The feet and toes you saw, partly of clay and partly of iron, mean that it shall be a divided kingdom, but yet have some of the hardness of iron. As you saw the iron mixed with clay tile, and the toes partly iron and partly clay, the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. The iron mixed with clay means that they shall seal their alliances by intermarriage, but they shall not stay united, any more than iron mixes with clay.

In the lifetime of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed or delivered up to another people; rather, it shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and put an end to them, and it shall stand forever. That is the meaning of the stone you saw hewn from the mountain without a hand being put to it, which broke in pieces the iron, bronze, clay, silver, and gold. The great God has revealed to the king what shall be in the future; this is exactly what you dreamed, and its meaning is sure."

Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost
Theme: The Rewards of The Faithful

MT 20:1-16

“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. Going out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, ‘You too go into my vineyard, and I will give you what is just.’ So they went off.

He went out again around noon, and around three o’clock, and did likewise. Going out about five o’clock, he found others standing around, and said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’

They answered, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You too go into my vineyard.’

When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Summon the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first.’

When those who had started about five o’clock came, each received the usual daily wage. So when the first came, they thought that they would receive more, but each of them also got the usual wage. And on receiving it they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who bore the day’s burden and the heat.’

He said to one of them in reply, 'My friend, I am not cheating you. Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what is yours and go. What if I wish to give this last one the same as you? Am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?' Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Twenty-Fifth Week After Pentecost

Monday

Theme: The Two Faithful Witnesses

Rev 11:1-13

Then I was given a measuring rod like a staff and I was told, "Come and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count those who are worshiping in it. But exclude the outer court of the temple; do not measure it, for it has been handed over to the Gentiles, who will trample the holy city for forty-two months.

I will commission my two witnesses to prophesy for those twelve hundred and sixty days, wearing sackcloth." These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. If anyone wants to harm them, fire comes out of their mouths and devours their enemies. In this way, anyone wanting to harm them is sure to be slain.

They have the power to close up the sky so that no rain can fall during the time of their prophesying.

They also have power to turn water into blood and to afflict the earth with any plague as often as they wish.

When they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the abyss will wage war against them and conquer them and kill them. Their corpses will lie in the main street of the great city, which has the symbolic names “Sodom” and “Egypt,” where indeed their Lord was crucified.

Those from every people, tribe, tongue, and nation will gaze on their corpses for three and a half days, and they will not allow their corpses to be buried. The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and be glad and exchange gifts because these two prophets tormented the inhabitants of the earth.

But after the three and a half days, a breath of life from God entered them. When they stood on their feet, great fear fell on those who saw them. Then they heard a loud voice from heaven say to them, “Come up here.”

So they went up to heaven in a cloud as their enemies looked on. At that moment there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell in ruins. Seven thousand people were killed during the earthquake; the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

Tuesday
Theme: First Defeat of The Dragon

Rev 12:1-18

A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was with child and wailed aloud in pain as she laboured to give birth. Then another sign appeared in the sky; it was a huge red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on its heads were seven diadems. Its tail swept away a third of the stars in the sky and hurled them down to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman about to give birth, to devour her child when she gave birth.

She gave birth to a son, a male child, destined to rule all the nations with an iron rod. Her child was caught up to God and his throne. The woman herself fled into the desert where she had a place prepared by God, that there she might be taken care of for twelve hundred and sixty days.

Then war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels battled against the dragon. The dragon and its angels fought back, but they did not prevail and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. The huge dragon, the ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, who deceived the whole world, was thrown down to earth, and its angels were thrown down with it.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:

“Now have salvation and power come,
and the kingdom of our God
and the authority of his Anointed.
For the accuser of our brothers is cast out, who
accuses them before our God day and night.
They conquered him by the blood of the
Lamb and by the word of their testimony;
love for life did not deter them from death.
Therefore, rejoice, you heavens,
and you who dwell in them.
But woe to you, earth and sea,
for the Devil has come down to you in great fury,
for he knows he has but a short time.”

When the dragon saw that it had been thrown down
to the earth, it pursued the woman who had given
birth to the male child. But the woman was given the
two wings of the great eagle, so that she could fly to
her place in the desert, where, far from the serpent,
she was taken care of for a year, two years, and a
half-year.

The serpent, however, spewed a torrent of water out
of his mouth after the woman to sweep her away with
the current. But the earth helped the woman and
opened its mouth and swallowed the flood that the
dragon spewed out of its mouth.

Then the dragon became angry with the woman and
went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring,
those who keep God's commandments and bear
witness to Jesus. It took its position on the sand of
the sea.

Wednesday
Theme: The First Beast

Rev 13:1-9

Then I saw a beast come out of the sea with ten horns and seven heads; on its horns were ten diadems, and on its heads blasphemous names. The beast I saw was like a leopard, but it had feet like a bear's, and its mouth was like the mouth of a lion. To it the dragon gave its own power and throne, along with great authority.

I saw that one of its heads seemed to have been mortally wounded, but this mortal wound was healed. Fascinated, the whole world followed after the beast. They worshiped the dragon because it gave its authority to the beast; they also worshiped the beast and said, "Who can compare with the beast or who can fight against it?"

The beast was given a mouth uttering proud boasts and blasphemies, and it was given authority to act for forty-two months. It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling and those who dwell in heaven.

It was also allowed to wage war against the holy ones and conquer them, and it was granted authority over every tribe, people, tongue, and nation. All the inhabitants of the earth will worship it, all whose names were not written from the foundation of the world in the book of life, which belongs to the Lamb who was slain.

Whoever has ears ought to hear these words:
Anyone destined for captivity goes into captivity.
Anyone destined to be slain by the sword shall be
slain by the sword. Such is the faithful endurance of
the holy ones.

Thursday
Theme: The Second Beast

Rev 13:11-18

Then I saw another beast come up out of the earth; it
had two horns like a lamb's but spoke like a dragon.

It wielded all the authority of the first beast in its
sight and made the earth and its inhabitants worship
the first beast, whose mortal wound had been healed.

It performed great signs, even making fire come down
from heaven to earth in the sight of everyone.

It deceived the inhabitants of the earth with the signs
it was allowed to perform in the sight of the first
beast, telling them to make an image for the beast
who had been wounded by the sword and revived.

It was then permitted to breathe life into the beast's
image, so that the beast's image could speak and
could have anyone who did not worship it put to
death.

It forced all the people, small and great, rich and poor,
free and slave, to be given a stamped image on their

right hands or their foreheads, so that no one could buy or sell except one who had the stamped image of the beast's name or the number that stood for its name.

Wisdom is needed here; one who understands can calculate the number of the beast, for it is a number that stands for a person. His number is six hundred and sixty-six.

Friday

**Theme: The Harvest of The Earth (Virtuous)
and The Tramping of The Grapes (Sinful)**

Rev 14:14-20

Then I looked and there was a white cloud, and sitting on the cloud one who looked like a son of man, with a gold crown on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. Another angel came out of the temple, crying out in a loud voice to the one sitting on the cloud, "Use your sickle and reap the harvest, for the time to reap has come, because the earth's harvest is fully ripe." So the one who was sitting on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.

Then another angel came out of the temple in heaven who also had a sharp sickle. Then another angel came from the altar, who was in charge of the fire, and cried out in a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, "Use your sharp sickle and cut the clusters from the earth's vines, for its grapes are ripe." So the angel swung his sickle over the earth and cut the

earth's vintage. He threw it into the great wine press of God's fury. The wine press was trodden outside the city and blood poured out of the wine press to the height of a horse's bridle for two hundred miles.

Saturday

Theme: The Victors Over The Beast Rejoice

Rev 15:2-4

Then I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire. On the sea of glass were standing those who had won the victory over the beast and its image and the number that signified its name. They were holding God's harps, and they sang the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb:

“Great and wonderful are your works,
Lord God almighty.
Just and true are your ways,
O king of the nations.
Who will not fear you, Lord,
or glorify your name?
For you alone are holy.
All the nations will come
and worship before you,
for your righteous acts have been revealed.”



Anatoly Venedyukhin (Russian, 1938-), *Wicked Vinegrowers*, 1999

Twenty-Sixth Sunday After Pentecost
Theme: The Fate of The Faithless

MT 21:33-46

“Hear another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a hedge around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went on a journey. When vintage time drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to obtain his produce. But the tenants seized the servants and one they beat, another they killed, and a third they stoned.

Again, he sent other servants, more numerous than the first ones, but they treated them in the same way. Finally, he sent his son to them, thinking, ‘They will respect my son.’

But when the tenants saw the son, they said to one another, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and acquire his inheritance.’ They seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. What will the owner of the vineyard do to those tenants when he comes?”

They answered him, “He will put those wretched men to a wretched death and lease his vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the proper times.”

Jesus said to them, “Did you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone;
by the Lord has this been done,
and it is wonderful in our eyes’?

Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit. The one who falls on this stone will be dashed to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they knew that he was speaking about them. And although they were attempting to arrest him, they feared the crowds, for they regarded him as a prophet.

Twenty-Sixth Week After Pentecost

Monday

Theme: The Woman on The Beast

Rev 17:1-6

Then one of the seven angels who were holding the seven bowls came and said to me, “Come here. I will show you the judgment on the great harlot who lives near the many waters. The kings of the earth have had intercourse with her, and the inhabitants of the earth became drunk on the wine of her harlotry.”

Then he carried me away in spirit to a deserted place where I saw a woman seated on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names, with seven heads and ten horns. The woman was wearing purple

and scarlet and adorned with gold, precious stones, and pearls. She held in her hand a gold cup that was filled with the abominable and sordid deeds of her harlotry.

On her forehead was written a name, which is a mystery, “Babylon the great, the mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth.” I saw that the woman was drunk on the blood of the holy ones and on the blood of the witnesses to Jesus.

Tuesday
Theme: The Meaning of The Vision

Rev 17:7-18

The angel said to me, “Why are you amazed? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, the beast with the seven heads and the ten horns.

The beast that you saw existed once but now exists no longer. It will come up from the abyss and is headed for destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world shall be amazed when they see the beast, because it existed once but exists no longer, and yet it will come again. Here is a clue for one who has wisdom.

The seven heads represent seven hills upon which the woman sits. They also represent seven kings: five have already fallen, one still lives, and the last has not yet come, and when he comes he must remain

only a short while. The beast that existed once but exists no longer is an eighth king, but really belongs to the seven and is headed for destruction.

The ten horns that you saw represent ten kings who have not yet been crowned; they will receive royal authority along with the beast for one hour. They are of one mind and will give their power and authority to the beast. They will fight with the Lamb, but the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and king of kings, and those with him are called, chosen, and faithful.”

Then he said to me, “The waters that you saw where the harlot lives represent large numbers of peoples, nations, and tongues. The ten horns that you saw and the beast will hate the harlot; they will leave her desolate and naked; they will eat her flesh and consume her with fire. For God has put it into their minds to carry out his purpose and to make them come to an agreement to give their kingdom to the beast until the words of God are accomplished. The woman whom you saw represents the great city that has sovereignty over the kings of the earth.”

Wednesday
Theme: The Fall of Babylon

Rev 18:1-8

After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth became illumined by his splendour. He cried out in a mighty voice:

“Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great.
She has become a haunt for demons.
She is a cage for every unclean spirit,
a cage for every unclean bird,
a cage for every unclean and
disgusting beast.
For all the nations have drunk the wine of her
licentious passion.
The kings of the earth had intercourse with her,
and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her
drive for luxury.”

*Then I heard another voice from heaven say:
“Depart from her, my people, so as not to take part in
her sins and receive a share in her plagues, 5mfor her
sins are piled up to the sky,
and God remembers her crimes.
Pay her back as she has paid others.
Pay her back double for her deeds.
Into her cup pour double what she poured.
To the measure of her boasting and
Wantonness repay her in torment and grief;
for she said to herself,
‘I sit enthroned as queen;
I am no widow,
and I will never know grief.’

Therefore, her plagues will come in one day,
pestilence, grief, and famine; she will be consumed by
fire. For mighty is the Lord God who judges her.”

Thursday
Theme: The Woes of Babylon

Rev 18: 9-20

The kings of the earth who had intercourse with her in their wantonness will weep and mourn over her when they see the smoke of her pyre. 10They will keep their distance for fear of the torment inflicted on her, and they will say:

“Alas, alas, great city,
Babylon, mighty city.
In one hour your judgment has come.”

The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn for her, because there will be no more markets for their cargo: their cargo of gold, silver, precious stones, and pearls; fine linen, purple silk, and scarlet cloth; fragrant wood of every kind, all articles of ivory and all articles of the most expensive wood, bronze, iron, and marble; cinnamon, spice, incense, myrrh, and frankincense; wine, olive oil, fine flour, and wheat; cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and slaves, that is, human beings.

“The fruit you craved has left you.
All your luxury and splendour are gone, never again will one find them.”

The merchants who deal in these goods, who grew rich from her, will keep their distance for fear of the torment inflicted on her. Weeping and mourning, they cry out:

“Alas, alas, great city, wearing fine linen, purple and scarlet, adorned [in] gold, precious stones, and pearls. In one hour this great wealth has been ruined.”

Every captain of a ship, every traveller at sea, sailors, and seafaring merchants stood at a distance and cried out when they saw the smoke of her pyre, “What city could compare with the great city?”

They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and mourning:

“Alas, alas, great city, in which all who had ships at sea grew rich from her wealth. In one hour she has been ruined. Rejoice over her, heaven, you holy ones, apostles, and prophets. For God has judged your case against her.”

Friday
Theme: The Final Fall

Rev 18: 21-24, 19:1-4

A mighty angel picked up a stone like a huge millstone and threw it into the sea and said: “With such force will Babylon the great city be thrown down, and will never be found again. No melodies of harpists and musicians, flutists and trumpeters, will ever be heard in you again. No craftsmen in any trade will ever be found in you again. No sound of the millstone will ever be heard in you again.

No light from a lamp will ever be seen in you again.
No voices of bride and groom will ever be heard in you again.

Because your merchants were the great ones of the world, all nations were led astray by your magic potion. In her was found the blood of prophets and holy ones and all who have been slain on the earth.”

After this I heard what sounded like the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying:
“Alleluia! Salvation, glory, and might belong to our God, for true and just are his judgments. He has condemned the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her harlotry. He has avenged on her the blood of his servants.”

They said a second time:
“Alleluia! Smoke will rise from her forever and ever.”

The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, “Amen. Alleluia.”

Saturday
Theme: The Victory Song

Rev 19:5-10

A voice coming from the throne said:
“Praise our God, all you his servants, and you who revere him, small and great.”

Then I heard something like the sound of a great multitude or the sound of rushing water or mighty peals of thunder, as they said:

“Alleluia!

The Lord has established his reign,
our God, the Almighty.

Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory.
For the wedding day of the Lamb has come,
his bride has made herself ready.

She was allowed to wear

a bright, clean linen garment.”

(The linen represents the righteous deeds of the holy ones.)

Then the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who have been called to the wedding feast of the Lamb.”

And he said to me, “These words are true; they come from God.”

I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “Don’t! I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brothers who bear witness to Jesus. Worship God. Witness to Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”



The Ancient Of Days

**Twenty-Seventh Sunday After Pentecost
(Or Eight Sunday After Christmas)
Theme: Mighty God, Elect One**

Odes of Solomon Song 4

O my god, no one can seize your holy place
nor alter it, for no one has such power.
You designed your sanctuary before you drew the
world.

What is older will not be undone by the younger.
You gave your heart to your believers, O lord,
and will not stumble or be fruitless.

One hour of your faith is more precious than all days
and years.

Who can feel pain by wearing your grace?
Your seal is known.
Creatures know it.
Archangels are robed in it.

You gave your fellowship. Not you, but we, were in
need.

Distill your dews upon us.
Open your rich fountains and let milk and honey pour
out.

You hold back nothing that you promise
and know the ends and give freely
so you might withdraw and give us again.
You know all, God, and from the beginning fix order.
And you, O lord, make all things.

**Twenty-Seventh Week After Pentecost
(Or Eight Week After Christmas)**

**Monday
Theme: The Elect One**

1Enoch 61:1-7

And I saw in those days how long cords were given to those angels, and they took to themselves wings and flew, and they went towards the north.

And I asked the angel, saying unto him: 'Why have those (angels) taken these cords and gone off?' And he said unto me: 'They have gone to measure.'

And the angel who went with me said unto me:
'These shall bring the measures of the righteous,
And the ropes of the righteous to the righteous,
That they may stay themselves on the name of the
Lord of Spirits forever and ever.

The elect shall begin to dwell with the elect,
And those are the measures which shall be given to
faith And which shall strengthen righteousness.

And these measures shall reveal all the secrets of the
depths of the earth,
And those who have been destroyed by the desert,
And those who have been devoured by the beasts,
And those who have been devoured by the fish of the
sea,
That they may return and stay themselves
On the day of the Elect One;

For none shall be destroyed before the Lord of Spirits,
And none can be destroyed.

And all who dwell above in the heaven received a
command and power and one voice and one light like
unto fire.

And that One with their first words they blessed,
And extolled and lauded with wisdom,
And they were wise in utterance and in the spirit of
life.

Tuesday

Theme: The Elect One on The Throne of Glory

1 Enoch 61:8-13

And the Lord of Spirits placed the Elect One on the
throne of glory. And he shall judge all the works of
the holy above in the heaven, And in the balance shall
their deeds be weighed. And when he shall lift up his
countenance To judge their secret ways according to
the word of the name of the Lord of Spirits, And their
path according to the way of the righteous judgement
of the Lord of Spirits, Then shall they all with one
voice speak and bless, And glorify and extol and
sanctify the name of the Lord of Spirits.

And He will summon all the host of the heavens, and
all the holy ones above, and the host of God, the
Cherubin, Seraphin, and Ophannin, and all the
angels of power, and all the angels of principalities,
and the Elect One, and the other powers on the earth
and over the water.

On that day shall they raise one voice, and bless and glorify and exalt in the spirit of faith, and in the spirit of wisdom, and in the spirit of patience, and in the spirit of mercy, and in the spirit of judgement and of peace, and in the spirit of goodness, and shall all say with one voice: "Blessed is He, and may the name of the Lord of Spirits be blessed for ever and ever."

All who sleep not above in heaven shall bless Him:
All the holy ones who are in heaven shall bless him,
And all the elect who dwell in the garden of life:
And every spirit of light who is able to bless, and glorify, and extol, and hallow Thy blessed name,
And all flesh shall beyond measure glorify and bless Thy name forever and ever.

For great is the mercy of the Lord of Spirits, and He is longsuffering,
And all His works and all that He has created
He has revealed to the righteous and elect,
In the name of the Lord of Spirits.'

Wednesday
Theme: The Elect One Judges

1Enoch 62:1-5

And thus the Lord commanded the kings and the mighty and the exalted, and those who dwell on the earth, and said: 'Open your eyes and lift up your horns if ye are able to recognize the Elect One.'

And the Lord of Spirits seated him on the throne of
His glory, And the spirit of righteousness was poured
out upon him, And the word of his mouth slays all the
sinners, And all the unrighteous are destroyed from
before his face.

And there shall stand up in that day all the kings and
the mighty,
And the exalted and those who hold the earth,
And they shall see and recognize
How he sits on the throne of his glory,
And righteousness is judged before him,
And no lying word is spoken before him.

Then shall pain come upon them as on a woman in
travail, when her child enters the mouth of the womb,
And she has pain in bringing forth.

And one portion of them shall look on the other,
And they shall be terrified,
And they shall be downcast of countenance,
And pain shall seize them,
When they see that Son of Man
Sitting on the throne of his glory.

Thursday
Theme: The Elect One is Worshipped

1Enoch 62:6-16

And the kings and the mighty and all who possess the
earth shall bless and glorify and extol him who rules
over all, who was hidden. For from the beginning the
Son of Man was hidden, And the Most High preserved

him in the presence of His might, And revealed him to the elect. And the congregation of the elect and holy shall be sown, And all the elect shall stand before him on that day.

And all the kings and the mighty and the exalted and those who rule the earth Shall fall down before him on their faces, And worship and set their hope upon that Son of Man, And petition him and supplicate for mercy at his hands.

Nevertheless, that Lord of Spirits will so press them That they shall hastily go forth from His presence, And their faces shall be filled with shame, And the darkness shall grow deeper on their faces. And He will deliver them to the angels for punishment, To execute vengeance on them because they have oppressed His children and His elect. And they shall be a spectacle for the righteous and for His elect:
They shall rejoice over them,
Because the wrath of the Lord of Spirits resteth upon them, And His sword is drunk with their blood.

And the righteous and elect shall be saved on that day, And they shall never thenceforward see the face of the sinners and unrighteous. And the Lord of Spirits will abide over them, And with that Son of Man shall they eat And lie down and rise up forever and ever. And the righteous and elect shall have risen from the earth, And ceased to be of downcast countenance. And they shall have been clothed with garments of glory, And they shall be the garments of life from the Lord of Spirits: And your garments shall

not grow old, Nor your glory pass away before the Lord of Spirits.

Friday

Theme: Bless The Elect One, King of Kings

1Enoch 63:1-4

In those days shall the mighty and the kings who possess the earth implore Him to grant them a little respite from His angels of punishment to whom they were delivered, that they might fall down and worship before the Lord of Spirits, and confess their sins before Him. And they shall bless and glorify the Lord of Spirits, and say:

‘Blessed is the Lord of Spirits and the Lord of kings,
And the Lord of the mighty and the Lord of the rich,
And the Lord of glory and the Lord of wisdom;

And splendid in every secret thing is Thy power from generation to generation,
And Thy glory for ever and ever:
Deep are all Thy secrets and innumerable,
And Thy righteousness is beyond reckoning.
We have now learnt that we should glorify
And bless the Lord of kings and Him who is King over all kings.’

Saturday
Theme: Fate of the Unbelievers

1 Enoch 63:5-12

And they shall say:
'Would that we had rest to glorify and give thanks
And confess our faith before His glory!
And now we long for a little rest, but find it not:
We follow hard upon (it) and obtain (it) not:
And light has vanished from before us,
And darkness is our dwelling-place for ever and ever:

For we have not believed before Him,
Nor glorified the name of the Lord of Spirits, [nor
glorified our Lord]
But our hope was in the sceptre of our kingdom,
And in our glory.

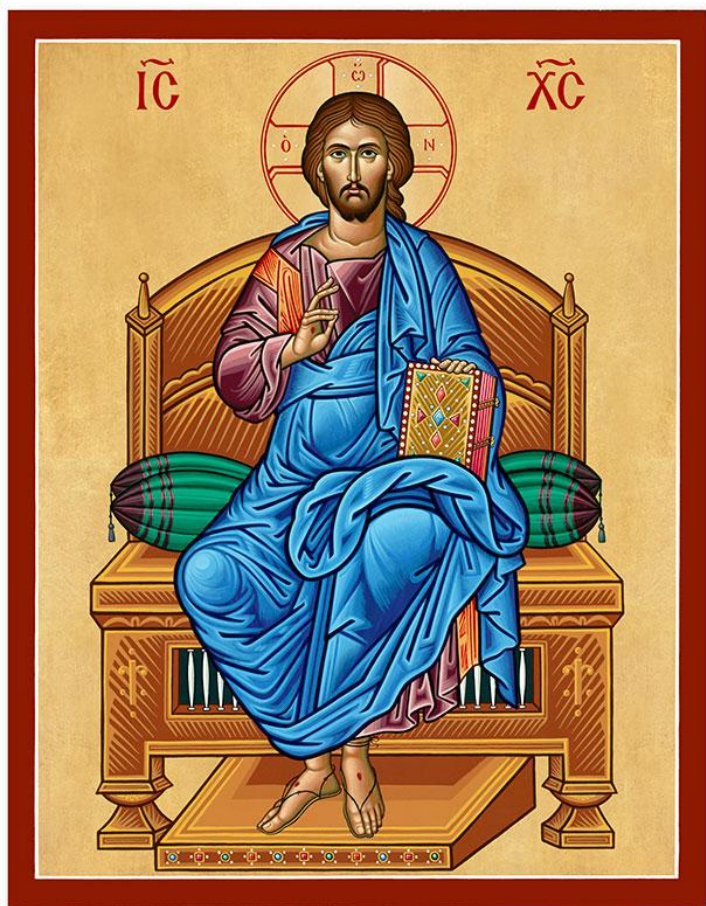
And in the day of our suffering and tribulation He
saves us not,
And we find no respite for confession,
That our Lord is true in all His works, and in His
judgements and His justice;
And His judgements have no respect of persons.

And we pass away from before His face on account of
our works,
And all our sins are reckoned up in righteousness.'

Now they will say unto themselves: 'Our souls are full
of unrighteous gain, but it does not prevent us from
descending from the midst thereof into the burden of
Sheol.'

And after that their faces shall be filled with
darkness And shame before that Son of Man,
And they shall be driven from his presence, And the
sword shall abide before his face in their midst.

Thus spake the Lord of Spirits: 'This is the ordinance
and judgement with respect to the mighty and the
kings and the exalted and those who
possess the earth before the Lord of Spirits.'



Christ The King

Feast of Christ The King
Theme: Christ, Eternal King

Rev 19: 11-21

Then I saw the heavens opened, and there was a white horse; its rider was called "Faithful and True." He judges and wages war in righteousness. His eyes were like a fiery flame, and on his head were many diadems. He had a name inscribed that no one knows except himself. He wore a cloak that had been dipped in blood, and his name was called the Word of God. The armies of heaven followed him, mounted on white horses and wearing clean white linen. Out of his mouth came a sharp sword to strike the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod, and he himself will tread out in the wine press the wine of the fury and wrath of God the Almighty.

He has a name written on his cloak and on his thigh, "King of kings and Lord of lords." Then I saw an angel standing on the sun. He cried out in a loud voice to all the birds flying high overhead, "Come here. Gather for God's great feast, to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of military officers, and the flesh of warriors, the flesh of horses and of their riders, and the flesh of all, free and slave, small and great."

Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered to fight against the one riding the horse and against his army. The beast was caught and with it the false prophet who had performed in its sight the signs by which he led astray those who had accepted the mark of the beast and those who

had worshiped its image. The two were thrown alive into the fiery pool burning with sulphur. The rest were killed by the sword that came out of the mouth of the one riding the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

Week before Advent

Monday

Theme: The First Resurrection

Rev 20: 1-6

Then I saw an angel come down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the abyss and a heavy chain. He seized the dragon, the ancient serpent, which is the Devil or Satan, and tied it up for a thousand years and threw it into the abyss, which he locked over it and sealed, so that it could no longer lead the nations astray until the thousand years are completed. After this, it is to be released for a short time.

Then I saw thrones; those who sat on them were entrusted with judgment. I also saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, and who had not worshiped the beast or its image nor had accepted its mark on their foreheads or hands. They came to life and they reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were over. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over these; they will be priests of

God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for the thousand years.

Tuesday
Theme: The Final Judgement

Rev 20: 11-15

Next, I saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it. The earth and the sky fled from his presence and there was no place for them. I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened. Then another scroll was opened, the book of life.

The dead were judged according to their deeds, by what was written in the scrolls. The sea gave up its dead; then Death and Hades gave up their dead. All the dead were judged according to their deeds. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire. (This pool of fire is the second death.) Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the pool of fire.

Wednesday
Theme: New Heaven and New Earth

Rev 21: 1-5

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a

loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them as their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away.”

The one who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” Then he said, “Write these words down, for they are trustworthy and true.”

Thursday
Theme: The New Jerusalem

Rev 21: 6-12

He said to me, “They are accomplished. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water. The victor will inherit these gifts, and I shall be his God, and he will be my son. But as for cowards, the unfaithful, the depraved, murderers, the unchaste, sorcerers, idol-worshippers, and deceivers of every sort, their lot is in the burning pool of fire and sulphur, which is the second death.”

One of the seven angels who held the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come here. I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” He took me in spirit to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. It gleamed with the splendour of God. Its radiance was like that of a precious stone,

like jasper, clear as crystal. It had a massive, high wall, with twelve gates where twelve angels were stationed and on which names were inscribed, the names of the twelve tribes of the Israelites.

Friday

Theme: God and The Lamb With The Faithful For Eternity

Rev 22: 1-5

Then the angel showed me the river of life-giving water, sparkling like crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of its street. On either side of the river grew the tree of life that produces fruit twelve times a year, once each month; the leaves of the trees serve as medicine for the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there anymore. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will look upon his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. Night will be no more, nor will they need light from lamp or sun, for the Lord God shall give them light, and they shall reign forever and ever.

Saturday

Theme: Behold, I Am Coming

Rev 22: 12-17

” Behold, I am coming soon. I bring with me the recompense I will give to each according to his deeds. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

Blessed are they who wash their robes so as to have the right to the tree of life and enter the city through its gates. Outside are the dogs, the sorcerers, the unchaste, the murderers, the idol worshipers, and all who love and practice deceit.

“I, Jesus, sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the root and offspring of David, the bright morning star.”

The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” Let the hearer say, “Come.”



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CALENDAR OF FEAST DAYS

DECEMBER

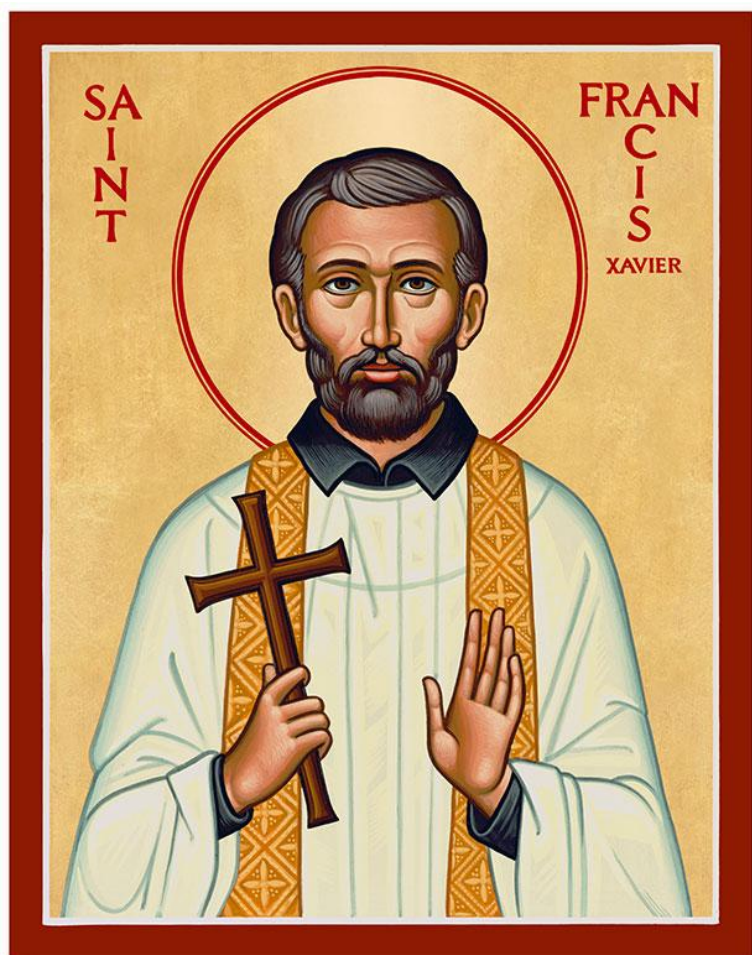
**Saint Simon of Cyrene
Helper of Jesus
1 December**

Prayer

“Saint Simon of Cyrene,
A stranger who carried the burden of the cross,
Show us the way to the LORD

**Reading:
MK 15: 21**

They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross.



Saint Francis Xavier
Priest, Patron Saint of Missions
3 December

Prayer

“Saint Francis Xavier, most illustrious son of Loyola,
Pray for our mission, and the people of Asia,
Especially Melaka, where you once walked.”

Reading
MT 28: 16-20

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

**Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary
8 December**

(The Mass of Mary is offered today)

**Reading
Proto-evangelium of James 4:1-4**

Then, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared and said to her, “Anna, Anna, the Lord has heard your prayer. You will conceive a child and give birth, and your offspring will be spoken of throughout the entire world.” Anna replied, “As the Lord God lives, whether my child is a boy or a girl, I will offer it as a gift to the Lord my God, and it will minister to him its entire life.”

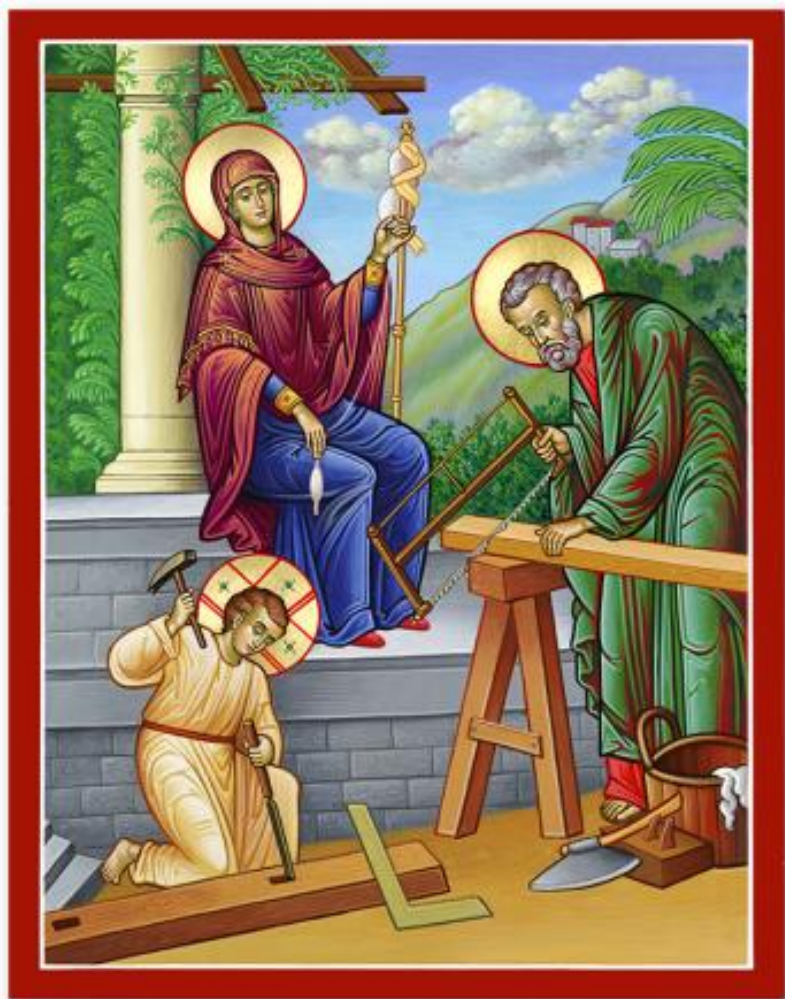
Behold, two angels came to her, saying, “See, your husband Joachim is coming with his flocks.” For an angel of the Lord had descended to him and said, “Joachim, Joachim, the Lord God has heard your prayer. Go down from here; for see, your wife Anna has conceived a child.”

Joachim immediately went down and called his shepherds and said, “Bring me here ten lambs without spot or blemish, and they will be for the Lord God; and bring me twelve young calves, and they will be for the priests and the council leaders; and bring a hundred male goats, and they will be for all the people.”

And behold, Joachim came with his flocks and Anna stood beside the gate and saw him coming; and

running up to him she hung on his neck and said,
“Now I know that the Lord God has blessed me
abundantly.

For see, the widow is no longer a widow and the one
who is childless has conceived a child.” Then Joachim
rested that first day in his home.



The House Of Nazareth

Our Lady of Loreto
(Translation of the Holy Family home from
Nazareth to Loreto, Italy)
10 December
(The Mass of Mary is offered today)

Prayer

“O Holy House of Nazareth
Humble Abode, blessed by the LORD,
May we and our refuges be blessed too!”

Reading
LK 2:41-51

Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it.

Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him.

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers.

When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, “Son, why have you done this

to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety.”

And he said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?”

But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favour before God and man.



Our Lady of Guadalupe
12 December
(The Mass of Mary is offered today)
Prayer

Reading
MT 15: 21-28

Then Jesus went from that place and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman of that district came and called out, "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon."

But he did not say a word in answer to her. His disciples came and asked him, "Send her away, for she keeps calling out after us."

He said in reply, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But the woman came and did him homage, saying, "Lord, help me." He said in reply, "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters."

Then Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that hour.

Christmas Virgil
24 December

Reading
LK 2:1-14

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. 2This was the first enrolment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So, all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear.

The angel said to them,
“Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a saviour has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”

And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying:

“Glory to God in the highest
and on earth peace to those on whom
his favour rests.”

**Christmas Day
25 December**

**Reading
MT 1:18-25**

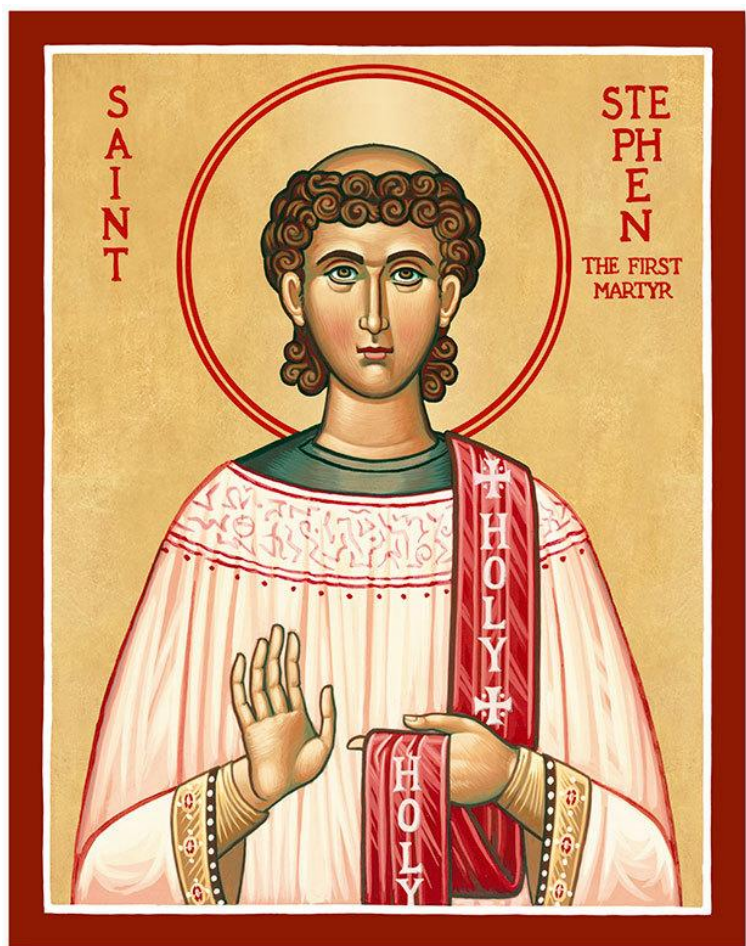
Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly.

Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet:

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child
and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”
which means “God is with us.”

When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home. He had no relations with her until she bore a son, and he named him Jesus.



**Saint Stephen
Deacon, First Martyr
26 December**

**Reading
Acts 6:15, 7:2, 44-60**

All those who sat in the Sanhedrin looked intently at him and saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

And he replied:

Our ancestors had the tent of testimony in the desert just as the One who spoke to Moses directed him to make it according to the pattern he had seen. Our ancestors who inherited it brought it with Joshua when they dispossessed the nations that God drove out from before our ancestors, up to the time of David, who found favour in the sight of God and asked that he might find a dwelling place for the house of Jacob.

But Solomon built a house for him. Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made by human hands. As the prophet says:

‘The heavens are my throne,
the earth is my footstool.
What kind of house can you build for me?
says the Lord,
or what is to be my resting place?
Did not my hand make all these things?’

You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always oppose the holy Spirit; you are just like your ancestors. Which of the prophets did your

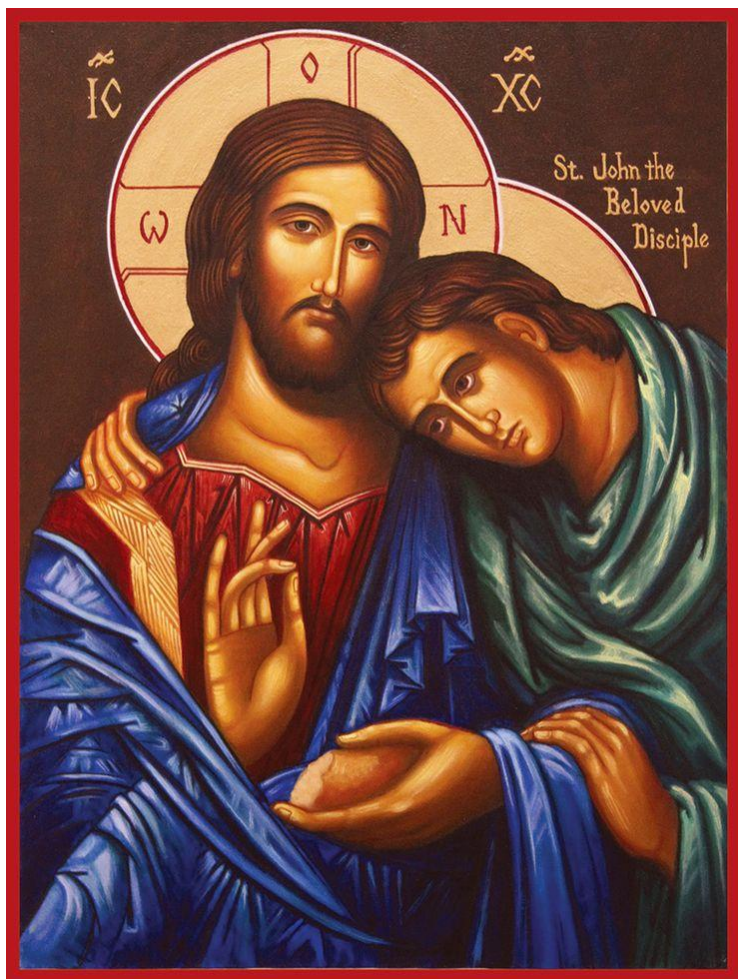
ancestors not persecute? They put to death those who foretold the coming of the righteous one, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become. You received the law as transmitted by angels, but you did not observe it.

When they heard this, they were infuriated, and they ground their teeth at him. But he, filled with the holy Spirit, looked up intently to heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

But they cried out in a loud voice, covered their ears, and rushed upon him together. They threw him out of the city, and began to stone him. The witnesses laid down their cloaks at the feet of a young man named Saul.

As they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

Then he fell to his knees and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them"; and when he said this, he fell asleep.



**Saint John the Divine
Apostle, Evangelist
27 December**

Prayer

“Saint John, soaring eagle of Christ,
Enrich us with your visions and knowledge
that we may come to have the Gnosis of Christ”

**Reading
JN 21: 20-25**

Peter turned and saw the disciple following whom Jesus loved, the one who had also reclined upon his chest during the supper and had said, “Master, who is the one who will betray you?” When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, “Lord, what about him?” Jesus said to him, “What if I want him to remain until I come? What concern is it of yours? You follow me.” So the word spread among the brothers that that disciple would not die. But Jesus had not told him that he would not die, just “What if I want him to remain until I come? What concern is it of yours?”

It is this disciple who testifies to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. There are also many other things that Jesus did, but if these were to be described individually, I do not think the whole world would contain the books that would be written.



The Holy Innocents

**Holy Innocents
Martyrs
28 December**

Prayer

“O Holy Innocents, young companions of the LORD,
The first sacrifice of martyrdom,
Watch over our young ones with loving care”

**Reading
MT 2:16-18**

When Herod realized that he had been deceived by the magi, he became furious. He ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had ascertained from the magi. Then was fulfilled what had been said through Jeremiah the prophet:

“A voice was heard in Ramah,
sobbing and loud lamentation;
Rachel weeping for her children,
and she would not be consoled,
since they were no more.”

**Saint Thomas Beckett
Bishop, Martyr
29 December**

Prayer

“Saint Thomas steadfast in the love of Christ,
pray for us”

**Reading
Acts of Peter 35**

And as they made plans together, Xanthippe heard of the conspiracy which her husband had with Agrippa, and she sent word to Peter and asked him to leave Rome. And the other brethren, together with Marcellus, requested him to leave.

But Peter said to them, 'Shall we act like deserters, brethren?'

And they said, 'No; but by going you can still serve the Lord.'

He obeyed the brethren, and went away alone, saying, 'Let none of you go with me, I will go alone in disguise.'

When he went out of the gate, he saw the Lord come into Rome. And when he saw him, he said, 'Lord, where are you going?'

And the Lord said to him, 'I go to Rome to be crucified.'

And Peter said to him, 'Lord, are you being crucified again?'

And he said, 'Yes, Peter, again I shall be crucified.'

And Peter came to himself; and he saw the Lord ascending to heaven. Then he returned to Rome, rejoicing and praising the Lord because he had said, 'I am being crucified.' This was to happen to Peter.



Mary, The Lightbearer

JANUARY

Solemnity of Mary the Light Bearer (New Year's Day)

1 January

(The Mass of Mary is offered today)

Prayer

“The Light of the World has come!
The Light, darkness cannot overcome!”

Reading Odes of Solomon Song 19

A cup of milk was offered,
and I drank its sweetness as the delight of the lord.
The son is the cup,
and he who was milked is the father.
His milk should not drip out wastefully.

The holy ghost opened the father's raiment
and mingled the milk from the father's two breasts
and gave that mingling to the world,
which was unknowing.
Those who drink
are near his right hand.

The spirit opened the virgin's womb,
and she received the milk.
The virgin became a mother
of enormous mercy.

She laboured but not in pain

and bore a son.
No midwife came.

She bore him as if she were a man,
openly, with dignity, with kindness.
She loved him and swaddled him
and disclosed his majesty.



The Epiphany

Epiphany of the LORD
6 January

Reading
MT 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage."

When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

They said to him,

"In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet:
'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers
of Judah;
since from you shall come a ruler,
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage."

After their audience with the king, they set out.

And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.



Saint Theodosius The Great

Saint Theodosius The Great
Emperor
17 January

Prayer

“Merciful Emperor Theodosius,
As David was a man after the LORD’s heart,
may thy merits be an inspiration to us”

Reading
Acts 13:16-38

So Paul got up, motioned with his hand, and said, “Fellow Israelites and you others who are God fearing, listen. The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and exalted the people during their sojourn in the land of Egypt. With uplifted arms he led them out of it and for about forty years he put up with them in the desert. When he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance at the end of about four hundred and fifty years.

After these things he provided judges up to Samuel the prophet. Then they asked for a king. God gave them Saul, son of Kish, a man from the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. Then he removed him and raised up David as their king; of him he testified, ‘I have found David, son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will carry out my every wish.’

From this man’s descendants God, according to his promise, has brought to Israel a saviour, Jesus. John

heralded his coming by proclaiming a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel; and as John was completing his course, he would say, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. Behold, one is coming after me; I am not worthy to unfasten the sandals of his feet.'

"My brothers, children of the family of Abraham, and those others among you who are God-fearing, to us this word of salvation has been sent. The inhabitants of Jerusalem and their leaders failed to recognize him, and by condemning him they fulfilled the oracles of the prophets that are read sabbath after sabbath. For even though they found no grounds for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him put to death, and when they had accomplished all that was written about him, they took him down from the tree and placed him in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead, and for many days he appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. These are his witnesses before the people.

We ourselves are proclaiming this good news to you that what God promised our ancestors he has brought to fulfilment for us, [their] children, by raising up Jesus, as it is written in the second psalm, 'You are my son; this day I have begotten you.' And that he raised him from the dead never to return to corruption he declared in this way, 'I shall give you the benefits assured to David.' That is why he also says in another psalm, 'You will not suffer your holy one to see corruption.' Now David, after he had served the will of God in his lifetime, fell asleep, was

gathered to his ancestors, and did see corruption. But the one whom God raised up did not see corruption.

You must know, my brothers, that through him forgiveness of sins is being proclaimed to you, in regard to everything from which you could not be justified under the law of Moses, in him every believer is justified. Be careful, then, that what was said in the prophets not come about:

‘Look on, you scoffers,

be amazed and disappear.

For I am doing a work in your days,

a work that you will never believe

even if someone tells you.’ ”



**Saint Felicitas of Rome and Her Seven Sons
Martyrs
25 January**

Prayer

“Saint Felicitas fruitful art thou, blessed art thou,
happy art thou, lucky art thou.”*

**Reading
Extract from The Song of the Pearl
Theme: The Clothes of Martyrdom**

My robe of glory that I had taken off
and the toga over it were sent by my parents
from the heights of Hyrcania.
They were in the hands of treasurers
to whom they were committed
because of their faith,
and I had forgotten the robe's splendor,
for as a child I had left it
in my father's house.

As I gazed on it, suddenly the garment
like a mirror reflected me,
and I saw myself apart
as two entities in one form.
The treasurers had brought me one robe,
yet in two halves I saw one shape
with one kingly seal.
They gave me wealth,
and the bright embroidered robe
was colored with gold and beryls,
with rubies and opals,

and sardonyxes of many colors
were fastened to it in its high home.
All its seams were fastened
with stones of adamant,
and the image of the king of kings
was embroidered on it
as it rippled with sapphires
of many colors.
I saw it quiver all over,
moving with gnosis, in a pulsing knowledge,
and as it prepared to speak
it moved toward me,
murmuring the sound of its songs.
It descended and said,
“I am the one who acted for him.
For him I was brought up in my father’s house.
I saw myself growing in stature
in harmony with his labors.”

With regal movements
the robe was spreading toward me,
urging me to take it,
and love urged me to receive it,
and I stretched forth and received it
and put on the beauty of its hues.
I cast my toga of brilliant colors
all around me.
Therein I clothed myself and ascended
to the gate of salutation and adoration.
I bowed my head and adored
the majesty of my father, who sent it to me.
I had fulfilled his commands
and he fulfilled what he had promised.

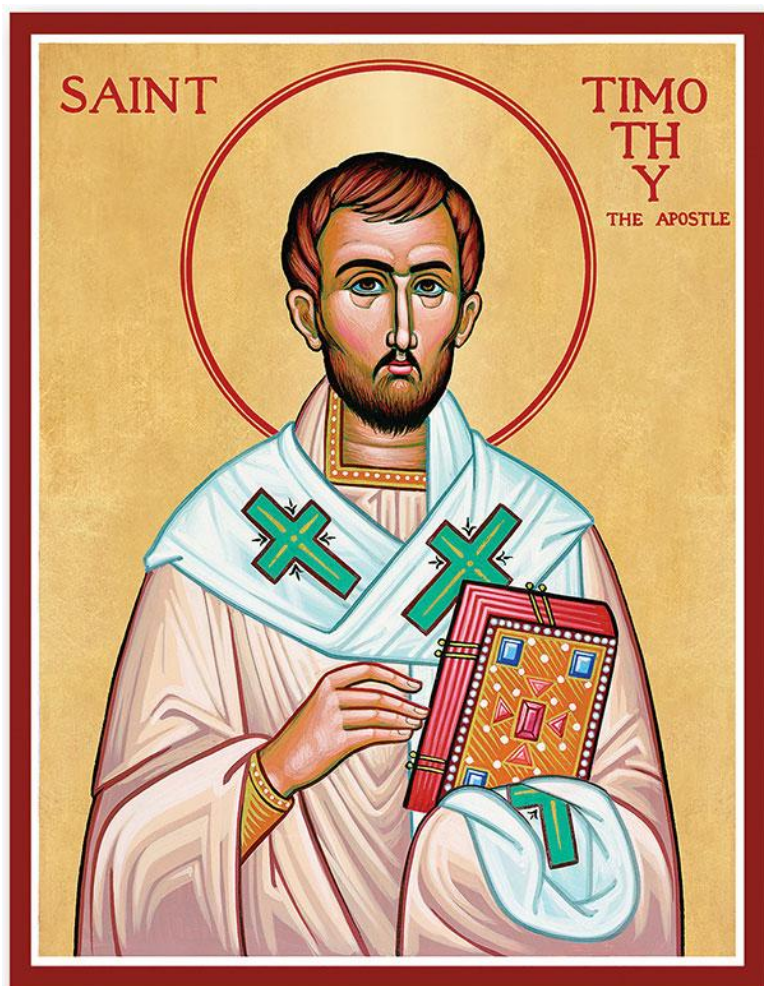
*Note:

Fruitful - seven sons

Blessed - seven saints as sons

Happy - to witness to the Lord

Lucky - to have won the crown of martyrdom



**Saints Timothy and Titus
Companions of Paul, Bishops
26 January**

Prayer

“Saints Timothy and Titus,
Young companions of Saint Paul,
Watch over us and our missions throughout the
world”

**Reading
Acts 16:1-5**

He reached Derbe and Lystra where there was a disciple named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. The brothers in Lystra and Iconium spoke highly of him, and Paul wanted him to come along with him.

On account of the Jews of that region, Paul had him circumcised, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. As they travelled from city to city, they handed on to the people for observance the decisions reached by the apostles and presbyters in Jerusalem. Day after day the churches grew stronger in faith and increased in number.

Saint Charles the Great
Emperor
28 January

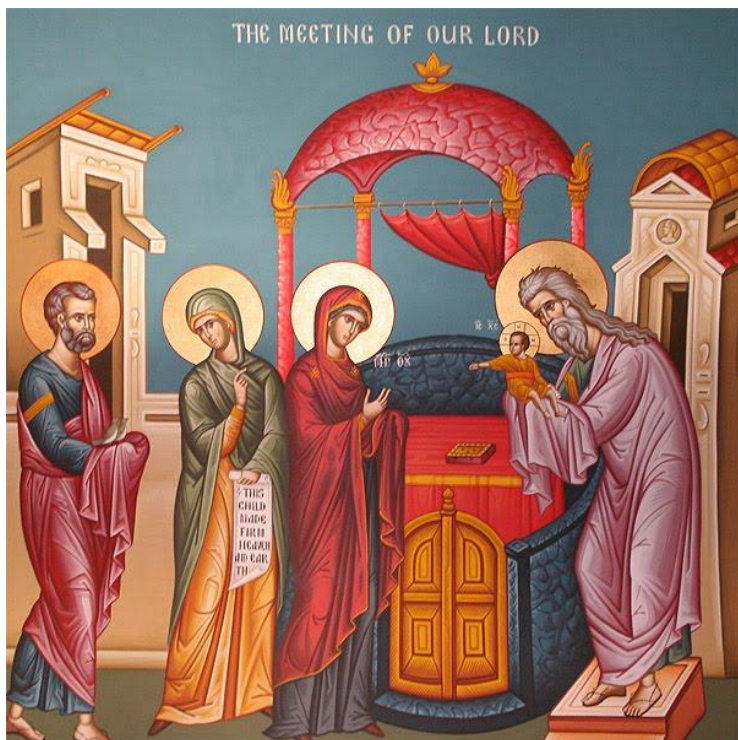
Prayer

“Saint Charles,
Who received the crown of empire from the pope,
Thou steadfast defender of Christendom,
Intercede for us against the enemies of the Church”

Reading
JN 12:44-50

Jesus cried out and said, “Whoever believes in me believes not only in me but also in the one who sent me, and whoever sees me sees the one who sent me. I came into the world as light, so that everyone who believes in me might not remain in darkness. And if anyone hears my words and does not observe them, I do not condemn him, for I did not come to condemn the world but to save the world.

Whoever rejects me and does not accept my words has something to judge him: the word that I spoke, it will condemn him on the last day, because I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. So what I say, I say as the Father told me.”



FEBRUARY

Presentation of the LORD (Candlemas) 2 February

Reading LK 2:22-38

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord,” and to offer the sacrifice of “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons,” in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord.

He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying:

“Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples,

a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and glory for your people Israel.”

The child’s father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted and you yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”

There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer.

And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.

Saint Blaise
Bishop, Doctor, Martyr
3 February

Prayer

“Saint Blaise intercede for our health,
Especially bless our throats in these times of
pandemic”

Special Blessing

"Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, bishop and
martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of
the throat and from every other illness".

Reading
LK 4:38-41

After he left the synagogue, he entered the house of
Simon. Simon's mother-in-law was afflicted with a
severe fever, and they interceded with him about her.
He stood over her, rebuked the fever, and it left her.
She got up immediately and waited on them.

At sunset, all who had people sick with various
diseases brought them to him. He laid his hands on
each of them and cured them. And demons also came
out from many, shouting, "You are the Son of God."
But he rebuked them and did not allow them to speak
because they knew that he was the Messiah



Our Lady of Lourdes
11 February
(The Mass of Mary is offered today)

Prayer

“Oh ever immaculate Virgin, Mother of Mercy, Health
of the Sick, Refuge of Sinners, Comfortess of the
Afflicted, you know my wants, my troubles, my
sufferings.

Look upon me with mercy. When you appeared in the
grotto of Lourdes, you made it a privileged sanctuary
where you dispense your favours, and where many
sufferers have obtained the cure of their infirmities,
both spiritual and corporal.

I come, therefore, with unbounded confidence to
implore your maternal intercession. My loving
Mother, obtain my request. I will try to imitate your
virtues so that I may one day share your company
and bless you in eternity.
Amen.

Reading
JN 5:1-18

After this, there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus
went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem at
the Sheep Gate a pool called in Hebrew Bethesda,
with five porticoes. In these lay a large number of ill,
blind, lame, and crippled. One man was there who
had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw

him lying there and knew that he had been ill for a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be well?"

The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; while I am on my way, someone else gets down there before me."

Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your mat, and walk."

Immediately the man became well, took up his mat, and walked. Now that day was a sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who was cured, "It is the sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to carry your mat."

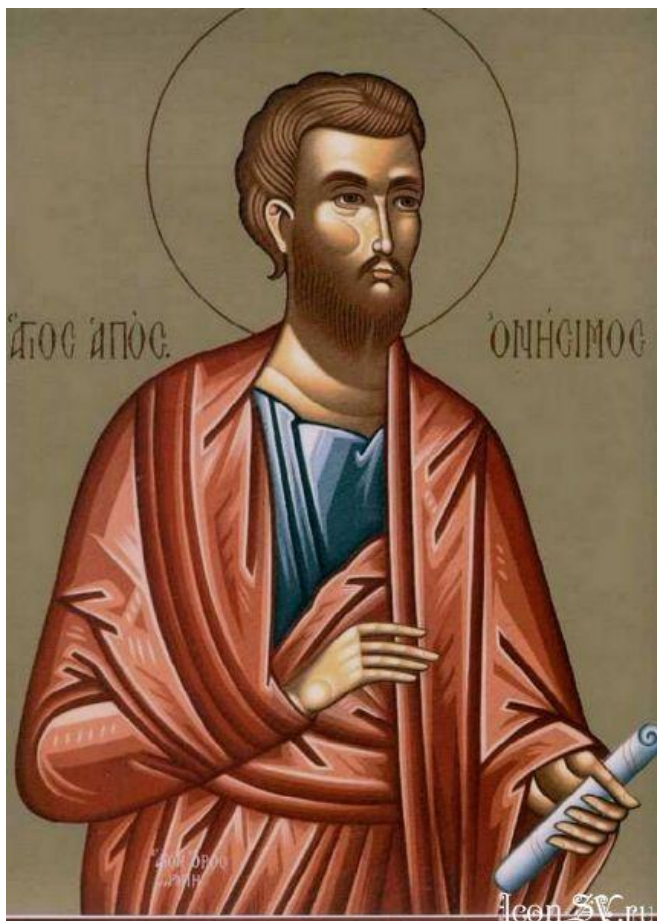
He answered them, "The man who made me well told me, 'Take up your mat and walk.'"

They asked him, "Who is the man who told you, 'Take it up and walk'?" The man who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had slipped away, since there was a crowd there.

After this Jesus found him in the temple area and said to him, "Look, you are well; do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse may happen to you."

The man went and told the Jews that Jesus was the one who had made him well. Therefore, the Jews began to persecute Jesus because he did this on a sabbath.

But Jesus answered them, “My Father is at work until now, so I am at work.” For this reason, the Jews tried all the more to kill him, because he not only broke the sabbath but he also called God his own father, making himself equal to God.



Saint Onesimus

**Saint Onesimus
Bishop, Martyr
(Slave, Brother, Bishop)
15 February**

Prayer

“Saint Onesimus, show us what true Brotherhood and Service means”

**Reading
LK 7:36-50**

A Pharisee invited him to dine with him, and he entered the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. Now there was a sinful woman in the city who learned that he was at table in the house of the Pharisee. Bringing an alabaster flask of ointment, she stood behind him at his feet weeping and began to bathe his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them, and anointed them with the ointment.

When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would know who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, that she is a sinner.”

Jesus said to him in reply, “Simon, I have something to say to you.”

“Tell me, teacher,” he said.

“Two people were in debt to a certain creditor; one owed five hundred days' wages and the other owed

fifty. Since they were unable to repay the debt, he forgave it for both. Which of them will love him more?"

Simon said in reply, "The one, I suppose, whose larger debt was forgiven."

He said to him, "You have judged rightly."

Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? When I entered your house, you did not give me water for my feet, but she has bathed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but she has not ceased kissing my feet since the time I entered. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she anointed my feet with ointment. So I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence, she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little."

He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." The others at table said to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

But he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Chair of Saint Peter
22 February

Reading
MT 16:13-20

When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

They replied, “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

Simon Peter said in reply, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus said to him in reply, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so, I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose, on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Messiah.

**Saint Photini the Samaritan
Disciple of Jesus
26 February**

Prayer

“Saint Photini who received Jesus at the well,
May we receive the water of true life like you”

**Reading
JN 4: 4-42**

He had to pass through Samaria. So, he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well. It was about noon. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.

The Samaritan woman said to him, “How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?” (For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans.)

Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”

The woman said to him, “Sir, you do not even have a bucket and the well is deep; where then can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father

Jacob, who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his children and his flocks?”

Jesus answered and said to her, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

Jesus said to her, “Go call your husband and come back.”

The woman answered and said to him, “I do not have a husband.”

Jesus answered her, “You are right in saying, ‘I do not have a husband.’ For you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true.”

The woman said to him, “Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain; but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem.”

Jesus said to her, “Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You people worship what you do not understand; we worship what we

understand, because salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; and indeed, the Father seeks such people to worship him. God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth.”

The woman said to him, “I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Anointed; when he comes, he will tell us everything.”

Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking with you.”

At that moment his disciples returned, and were amazed that he was talking with a woman, but still no one said, “What are you looking for?” or “Why are you talking with her?” The woman left her water jar and went into the town and said to the people, “Come see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he possibly be the Messiah?”

They went out of the town and came to him. Meanwhile, the disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat.”

But he said to them, “I have food to eat of which you do not know.”

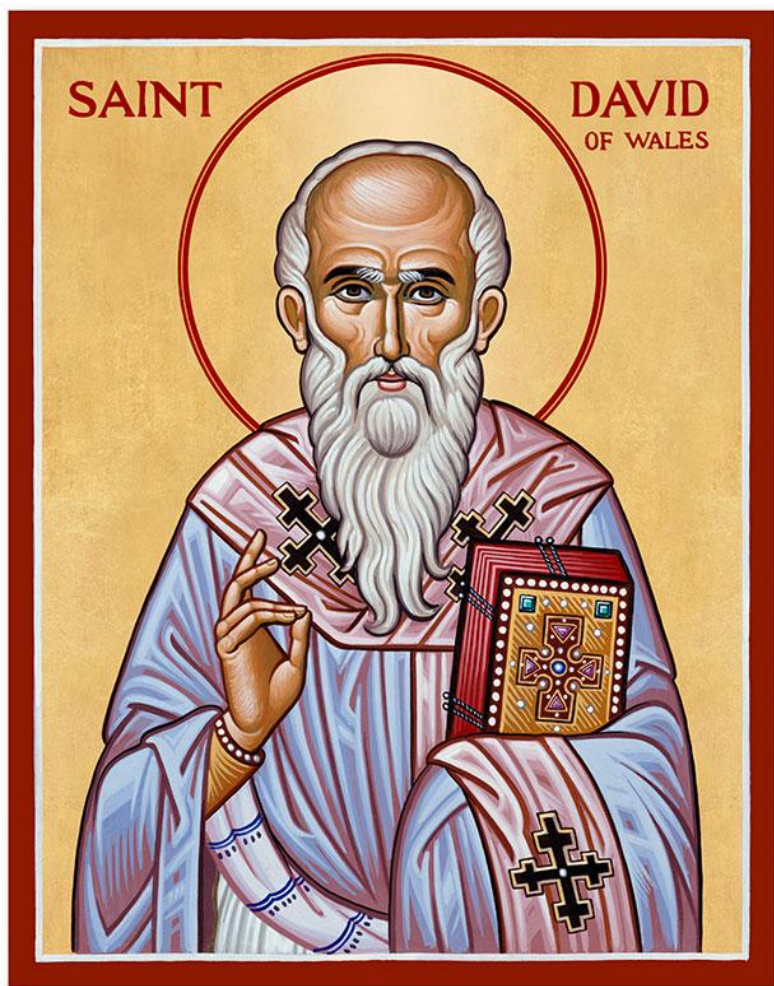
So, the disciples said to one another, “Could someone have brought him something to eat?”

Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work. Do you not say, ‘In four months the harvest will be here’? I tell

you, look up and see the fields ripe for the harvest. The reaper is already receiving his payment and gathering crops for eternal life, so that the sower and reaper can rejoice together. For here the saying is verified that 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap what you have not worked for; others have done the work, and you are sharing the fruits of their work."

Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me everything I have done."

When the Samaritans came to him, they invited him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. Many more began to believe in him because of his word, and they said to the woman, "We no longer believe because of your word; for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the saviour of the world."



MARCH

**Saint David
Bishop, Patron of Wales
1 March**

Prayer

“Saint David, protector Wales,
Intercede for us in times of battle and mortal danger”

Reading Acts 2:14-36

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed to them, “You who are Jews, indeed all of you staying in Jerusalem. Let this be known to you, and listen to my words. These people are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

‘It will come to pass in the last days,’ God says,
‘that I will pour out a portion of my spirit upon all
flesh.

Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your young men shall see visions,
your old men shall dream dreams.

Indeed, upon my servants and my handmaids
I will pour out a portion of my spirit in those days,
and they shall prophesy.

And I will work wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below:
blood, fire, and a cloud of smoke.

The sun shall be turned to darkness,
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the great and
splendid day of the Lord,
and it shall be that everyone shall be
saved who calls on the name of the Lord.'

You who are Israelites, hear these words. Jesus the Nazorean was a man commended to you by God with mighty deeds, wonders, and signs, which God worked through him in your midst, as you yourselves know. This man, delivered up by the set plan and foreknowledge of God, you killed, using lawless men to crucify him. But God raised him up, releasing him from the throes of death, because it was impossible for him to be held by it.

For David says of him:
'I saw the Lord ever before me,
with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.
Therefore my heart has been glad and my tongue has
exulted;
my flesh, too, will dwell in hope,
because you will not abandon my soul to the nether
world,
nor will you suffer your holy one to see corruption.

You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence.'

My brothers, one can confidently say to you about the patriarch David that he died and was buried, and his tomb is in our midst to this day. But since he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn an oath to him

that he would set one of his descendants upon his throne, he foresaw and spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that neither was he abandoned to the netherworld nor did his flesh see corruption. God raised this Jesus; of this we are all witnesses.

Exalted at the right hand of God, he received the promise of the holy Spirit from the Father and poured it forth, as you both see and hear.

For David did not go up into heaven, but he himself said:

‘The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies your footstool.” ’

Therefore, let the whole house of Israel know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”



**Saints Felicity and Perpetua
Martyrs
7 March**

Prayer

“Saint Felicity and Perpetua,
May thy courage be an inspiration to us”

**Reading
Extract from The Martyrdom of Sts Perpetua
and Felicity**

I saw a ladder of tremendous height made of bronze, reaching all the way to the heavens, but it was so narrow that only one person could climb up at a time. To the sides of the ladder were attached all sorts of metal weapons: there were swords, spears, hooks, daggers, and spikes; so that if anyone tried to climb up carelessly or without paying attention, he would be mangled and his flesh would adhere to the weapons.

At the foot of the ladder lay a dragon of enormous size, and it would attack those who tried to climb up and try to terrify them from doing so. And Saturus was the first to go up, he who was later to give himself up of his own accord. He had been the builder of our strength, although he was not present when we were arrested.

And he arrived at the top of the staircase and he looked back and said to me: 'Perpetua, I am waiting for you. But take care; do not let the dragon bite you.'

'He will not harm me,' I said, 'in the name of Christ Jesus.'

Slowly, as though he were afraid of me, the dragon stuck his head out from underneath the ladder. Then, using it as my first step, I trod on his head and went up.

Then I saw an immense garden, and in it a gray-haired man sat in shepherd's garb; tall he was, and milking sheep. And standing around him were many thousands of people clad in white garments. He raised his head, looked at me, and said: 'I am glad you have come, my child.'

He called me over to him and gave me, as it were, a mouthful of the milk he was drawing; and I took it into my cupped hands and consumed it. And all those who stood around said: 'Amen!'

At the sound of this word I came to, with the taste of something sweet still in my mouth. I at once told this to my brother, and we realized that we would have to suffer, and that from now on we would no longer have any hope in this life.



Saint Patrick
Bishop, Patron of Ireland
17 March

Prayer

“Saint Patrick, Guide of Ireland,
Intercede for us in times of strife and teach us the
ways of holiness”

Reading
Acts 3: 12-26

When Peter saw this, he addressed the people, “You Israelites, why are you amazed at this, and why do you look so intently at us as if we had made him walk by our own power or piety? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors, has glorified his servant Jesus whom you handed over and denied in Pilate’s presence, when he had decided to release him.

You denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. The author of life you put to death, but God raised him from the dead; of this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, this man, whom you see and know, his name has made strong, and the faith that comes through it has given him this perfect health, in the presence of all of you.

Now I know, brothers, that you acted out of ignorance, just as your leaders did; but God has thus brought to fulfilment what he had announced beforehand

through the mouth of all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be wiped away, and that the Lord may grant you times of refreshment and send you the Messiah already appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the times of universal restoration of which God spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old.

For Moses said:

‘A prophet like me will the Lord, your God, raise up for you from among your own kinsmen; to him you shall listen in all that he may say to you. Everyone who does not listen to that prophet will be cut off from the people.’

Moreover, all the prophets who spoke, from Samuel and those afterwards, also announced these days. You are the children of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your ancestors when he said to Abraham, ‘In your offspring all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’ For you first, God raised up his servant and sent him to bless you by turning each of you from your evil ways.”



Saint Joseph
Spouse of Blessed Virgin Mary
19 March

Prayer

“Saint Joseph, faithful spouse of Mary,
Great servant of the LORD,
Heir of David,
Hear our prayer and intercede for us”

Reading
MT 1: 18-25

Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly.

Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet:
“Behold, the virgin shall be with child
and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means “God is with us.”

When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home. He had no relations with her until she bore a son, and he named him Jesus.

Saint Benedict
Abbot
21 March

Prayer

“Saint Benedict, who through your rule founded
western monasticism,

Reading
Acts 4:32-37

The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common. With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favour was accorded them all.

There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need.

Thus Joseph, also named by the apostles Barnabas (which is translated “son of encouragement”), a Levite, a Cypriot by birth, sold a piece of property that he owned, then brought the money and put it at the feet of the apostles.



Annunciation of the LORD
25 March
(The Mass of Mary is offered today)

Prayer

“Hail Mary! Full of Grace! The LORD is with thee!”

Reading
LK 1:26-38

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, “Hail, favoured one! The Lord is with you.”

But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.

He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

But Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?”

And the angel said to her in reply, "The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God."

Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

APRIL

Saint Richard the Lionheart, King, Crusader 6 April

Prayer

“Saint Richard, courageous King and crusader,
May we have the courage to defend Christianity like
thee”

Reading LK 19: 28-40

After he had said this, he proceeded on his journey up to Jerusalem. As he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples.

He said, “Go into the village opposite you, and as you enter it you will find a colt tethered on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it here. And if anyone should ask you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ you will answer, ‘The Master has need of it.’ ”

So those who had been sent went off and found everything just as he had told them. And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, “Why are you untying this colt?” They answered, “The Master has need of it.” So they brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks over the colt, and helped Jesus to mount.

As he rode along, the people were spreading their cloaks on the road; and now as he was approaching the slope of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of his disciples began to praise God aloud with joy for all the mighty deeds they had seen.

They proclaimed:

“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.”

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him,

“Teacher, rebuke your disciples.”

He said in reply, “I tell you, if they keep silent, the stones will cry out!”

**Saint Anselm of Canterbury
Bishop, Doctor of the Church
21 April**

Prayer

“Saint Anselm,
Holy Teacher and defender of the Church,
teach us to Love Christ and defend His Church”

**Reading
JN 15:1-6**

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower.
He takes away every branch in me that does not bear
fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it
bears more fruit.

You are already pruned because of the word that I
spoke to you.

Remain in me, as I remain in you.

Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it
remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you
remain in me.

I am the vine, you are the branches.

Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much
fruit, because without me you can do nothing.

Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out
like a branch and wither; people will gather them and
throw them into a fire and they will be burned.



Saint George
Martyr, Patron of England
23 April

Prayer

“Saint George, Holy and Courageous Martyr,
Defend us from the Dragons of the World”

Reading
MT 27:45-56

From noon onward, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Some of the bystanders who heard it said, “This one is calling for Elijah.”

Immediately one of them ran to get a sponge; he soaked it in wine, and putting it on a reed, gave it to him to drink. But the rest said, “Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to save him.”

But Jesus cried out again in a loud voice, and gave up his spirit. And behold, the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth quaked, rocks were split, tombs were opened, and the bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised. And coming forth from their tombs after his resurrection, they entered the holy city and appeared to many.

The centurion and the men with him who were keeping watch over Jesus feared greatly when they saw the earthquake and all that was happening, and they said, "Truly, this was the Son of God!"

There were many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him. Among them were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

**Saint Mark
Bishop, Evangelist
25 April**

Prayer

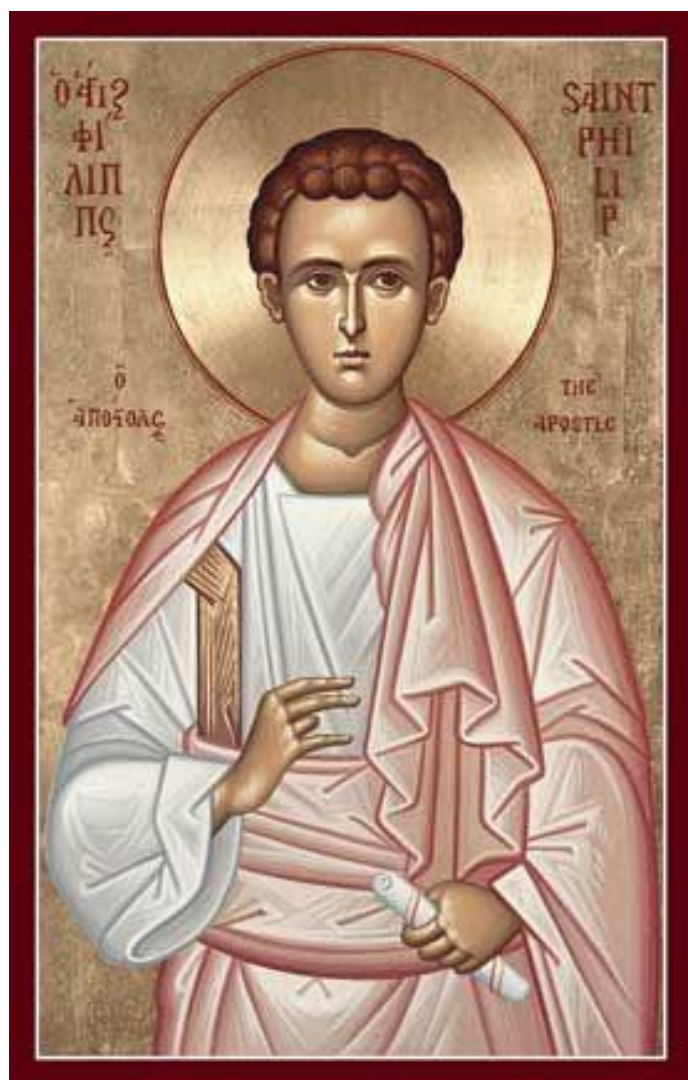
“Saint Mark, through your gospel you taught us about
The Lion of Judah,
May we see the Lion of Judah in our lives”

**Reading
Rev 5:1-7**

I saw a scroll in the right hand of the one who sat on the throne. It had writing on both sides and was sealed with seven seals. Then I saw a mighty angel who proclaimed in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to examine it. I shed many tears because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to examine it.

One of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. The lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David, has triumphed, enabling him to open the scroll with its seven seals.”

Then I saw standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and the elders, a Lamb that seemed to have been slain. He had seven horns and seven eyes; these are the seven spirits of God sent out into the whole world. He came and received the scroll from the right hand of the one who sat on the throne.



Saint Philip

MAY

**Saint Philip
Apostle
1 May**

Prayer

“Saint Philip, apostle to the nations,
Kindle in our hearts a love and understanding of
scripture that we too may evangelize as you did to the
Ethiopian”

**Reading
Acts 8:26-40**

Then the angel of the Lord spoke to Philip,
“Get up and head south on the road that goes down
from Jerusalem to Gaza, the desert route.”

So he got up and set out. Now there was an Ethiopian
eunuch, a court official of the Candace, that is, the
queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire
treasury, who had come to Jerusalem to worship, and
was returning home. Seated in his chariot, he was
reading the prophet Isaiah.

The Spirit said to Philip, “Go and join up with that
chariot.”

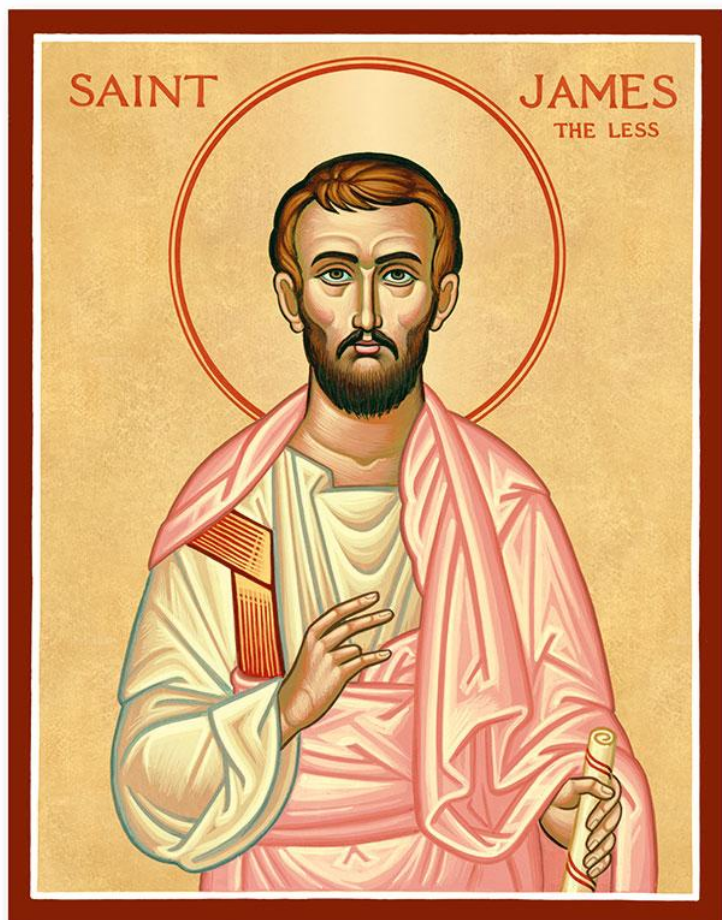
Philip ran up and heard him reading Isaiah the
prophet and said, “Do you understand what you are
reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone
instructs me?” So he invited Philip to get in and sit

with him. This was the scripture passage he was reading:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.
In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who will tell of his posterity?
For his life is taken from the earth.”

Then the eunuch said to Philip in reply, “I beg you, about whom is the prophet saying this? About himself, or about someone else?” Then Philip opened his mouth and, beginning with this scripture passage, he proclaimed Jesus to him. As they travelled along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “Look, there is water. What is to prevent my being baptized?” Then he ordered the chariot to stop, and Philip and the eunuch both went down into the water, and he baptized him.

When they came out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, but continued on his way rejoicing. Philip came to Azotus, and went about proclaiming the good news to all the towns until he reached Caesarea.



Saint James the Less
Apostle
3 May

Prayer

“Saint James, apostle of Jerusalem,
Intercede for us that we may emulate you into piety
and leadership”

Reading
Acts 15:1-21

Some who had come down from Judea were instructing the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the Mosaic practice, you cannot be saved.” Because there arose no little dissension and debate by Paul and Barnabas with them, it was decided that Paul, Barnabas, and some of the others should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and presbyters about this question. They were sent on their journey by the church, and passed through Phoenicia and Samaria telling of the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers.

When they arrived in Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church, as well as by the apostles and the presbyters, and they reported what God had done with them. But some from the party of the Pharisees who had become believers stood up and said, “It is necessary to circumcise them and direct them to observe the Mosaic law.”

The apostles and the presbyters met together to see about this matter. After much debate had taken place, Peter got up and said to them, "My brothers, you are well aware that from early days God made his choice among you that through my mouth the Gentiles would hear the word of the gospel and believe. And God, who knows the heart, bore witness by granting them the holy Spirit just as he did us. He made no distinction between us and them, for by faith he purified their hearts. Why, then, are you now putting God to the test by placing on the shoulders of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? On the contrary, we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they."

The whole assembly fell silent, and they listened while Paul and Barnabas described the signs and wonders God had worked among the Gentiles through them.

After they had fallen silent, James responded, "My brothers, listen to me. Symeon has described how God first concerned himself with acquiring from among the Gentiles a people for his name.

The words of the prophets agree with this, as is written:

'After this I shall return
and rebuild the fallen hut of David;
from its ruins I shall rebuild it
and raise it up again,
so that the rest of humanity may seek out the Lord,
even all the Gentiles on whom my name is invoked.

Thus says the Lord who accomplishes
these things, known from of old.'

It is my judgment, therefore, that we ought to stop
troubling the Gentiles who turn to God, but tell them
by letter to avoid pollution from idols, unlawful
marriage, the meat of strangled animals, and blood.
For Moses, for generations now, has had those who
proclaim him in every town, as he has been read in
the synagogues every sabbath."



40 Martyrs of England and Wales
4 May

Prayer

“May the witness and martyrdom of the great saints,
Enrich the faith of the nation”

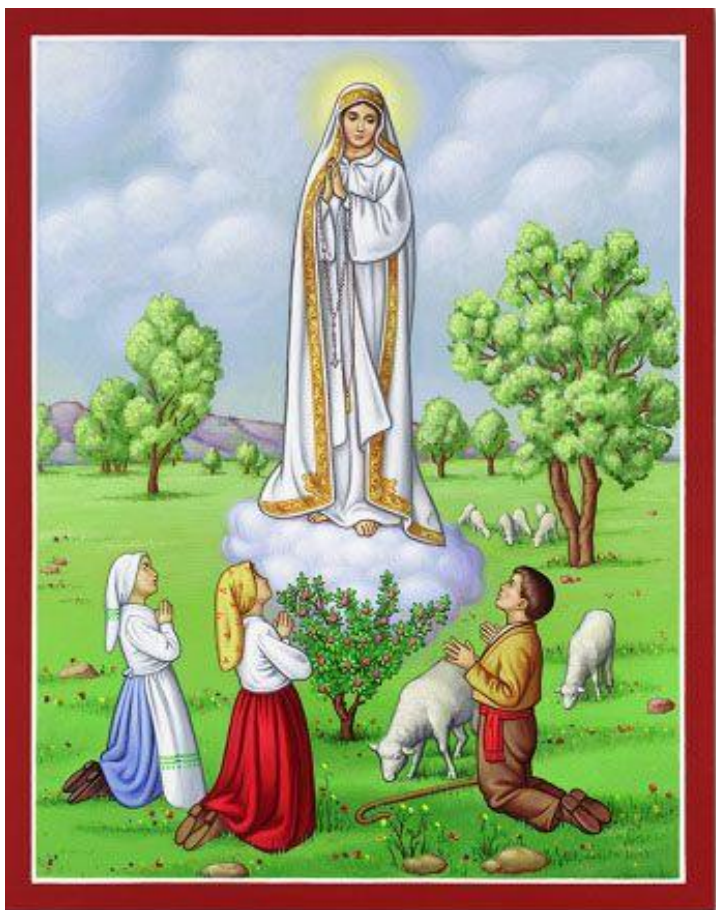
Reading
1 Enoch 108: 7-15

For some of them are written and inscribed above in the heaven, in order that the angels may read them and know that which shall befall the sinners, and the spirits of the humble, and of those who have afflicted their bodies, and been recompensed by God; and of those who have been put to shame by wicked men: Who love God and loved neither gold nor silver nor any of the good things which are in the world, but gave over their bodies to torture. Who, since they came into being, longed not after earthly food, but regarded everything as a passing breath, and lived accordingly, and the Lord tried them much, and their spirits were found pure so that they should bless His Name.

And all the blessings destined for them I have recounted in the books. And He hath assigned them their recompense, because they have been found to be such, as loved heaven more than their life in the world, and though they were trodden under foot of wicked men, and experienced abuse and reviling from them and were put to shame, yet they blessed Me.

And now I will summon the spirits of the good who belong to the generation of light, and I will transform those who were born in darkness, who in the flesh were not recompensed with such honour as their faithfulness deserved. And I will bring forth in shining light those who have loved My holy name, and I will seat each on the throne of his honour.

And they shall be resplendent for times without number; for righteousness is the judgement of God; for to the faithful He will give faithfulness in the habitation of upright paths. And they shall see those who were born in darkness led into darkness, while the righteous shall be resplendent. And the sinners shall cry aloud and see them resplendent, and they indeed shall go where days and seasons are prescribed for them.'



Our Lady Of Fatima

Our Lady of Fatima
13 May
(The Mass of Mary is offered today)

Prayer
(Fatima Prayer)

“O my Jesus save us from the fires of hell.
Lead all souls to heaven especially those most in need
of your mercy.”

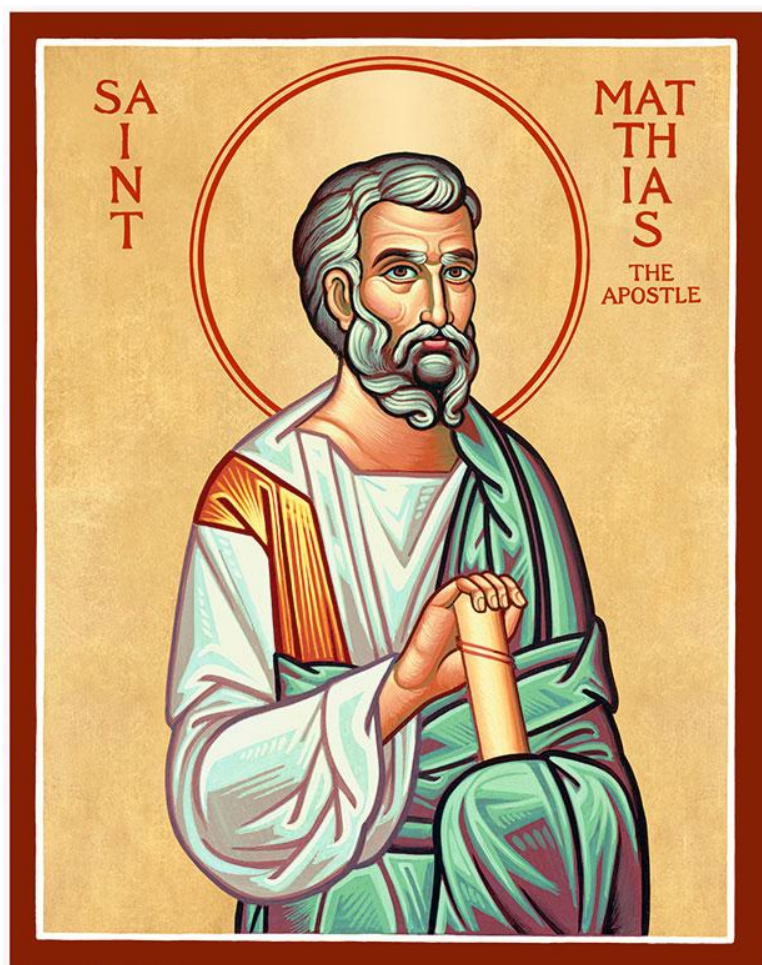
Reading
Rev 12: 1-9

A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was with child and wailed aloud in pain as she laboured to give birth.

Then another sign appeared in the sky; it was a huge red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on its heads were seven diadems. Its tail swept away a third of the stars in the sky and hurled them down to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman about to give birth, to devour her child when she gave birth.

She gave birth to a son, a male child, destined to rule all the nations with an iron rod. Her child was caught up to God and his throne. The woman herself fled into the desert where she had a place prepared by God, that there she might be taken care of for twelve hundred and sixty days.

Then war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels battled against the dragon. The dragon and its angels fought back, but they did not prevail and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. The huge dragon, the ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, who deceived the whole world, was thrown down to earth, and its angels were thrown down with it.



Saint Matthias
Apostle
14 May

Prayer

“Saint Matthias,
Apostle to the Georgians and the Caucasus,
pray that we may become worthy witnesses to the
resurrection of Jesus in our lives”

Reading
Acts 1:15-26

During those days Peter stood up in the midst of the brothers (there was a group of about one hundred and twenty persons in the one place). He said, “My brothers, the scripture had to be fulfilled which the holy Spirit spoke beforehand through the mouth of David, concerning Judas, who was the guide for those who arrested Jesus. He was numbered among us and was allotted a share in this ministry. He bought a parcel of land with the wages of his iniquity, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle, and all his insides spilled out. This became known to everyone who lived in Jerusalem, so that the parcel of land was called in their language ‘Akeldama,’ that is, Field of Blood.

For it is written in the Book of Psalms:
‘Let his encampment become desolate,
and may no one dwell in it.’
And:
‘May another take his office.’

Therefore, it is necessary that one of the men who accompanied us the whole time the Lord Jesus came and went among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day on which he was taken up from us, become with us a witness to his resurrection.”

So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this apostolic ministry from which Judas turned away to go to his own place.” Then they gave lots to them, and the lot fell upon Matthias, and he was counted with the eleven apostles.

Saint Felix of Cantalice
Religious, Patron of Ecclesia Lumentum
mission
18 May

Prayer

“Saint Felix, who beheld the Child Jesus,
watch over us and our little mission.
May we emulate your great love of the LORD
And your humble kindness”

Reading
Odes of Solomon: Song 40

As honey drips from the combs of bees
and milk flows from the woman who loves her child,
so my hope goes to you, my God.
As a fountain bursts with water
my heart bursts with praise for the lord
through my lips.
My tongue is sweet from his conversation,
my limbs fattened by the sweetness of his poems.
My face joys in his exultation.
My spirit exults in his love.
My soul shines in him.
Who is afraid finds safety in him,
and redemption is certain in him,
and possession of eternal life.
Those who are in him cannot be stained.



Saints Constantine And Helena

Saints Constantine and Helena
Emperor and 13th Apostle, Empress-Mother
21 May

Prayer

“Saints Constantine and Helena,
Great are thy works for the faith,
And the empire turned to Christ!
Defend Christendom through thy intercession!”

Reading
JN 5:19-23

Jesus answered and said to them,
“Amen, amen, I say to you, a son cannot do anything
on his own, but only what he sees his father doing; for
what he does, his son will do also.
For the Father loves his Son and shows him
everything that he himself does, and he will show him
greater works than these, so that you may be amazed.
For just as the Father raises the dead and gives life,
so also does the Son give life to whomever he wishes.
Nor does the Father judge anyone, but he has given
all judgment to his Son, so that all may honour the
Son just as they honour the Father.
Whoever does not honour the Son does not honour the
Father who sent him.



Saint Margarita of Cascia
Married woman, Religious
22 May

Prayer

“Saint Rita, steadfast wife, mother and religious,
Thou who prayed for thy enemies
Pray that we may follow thy example”

Reading
Odes of Solomon: Song 26

I poured praise on the lord.
I am his.
I recite his holy poem.
My heart is with him.
His harp is in my hand,
and the poems of his rest will not be silent.
I cry to him from my whole heart,
praise and exalt him with my limbs.
From the east and far into the west
is his praise.
From the south and far into the north
confession is his.
And from the top of hills to the greatest peaks
is his perfection.
Who can write the poems of the lord,
or who can read them?
Who can train the soul for life to save the soul?
Who can rest high in the firmament
so that the mouth speaks?
Who can decipher the wonders of the lord?
The interpreter perishes, the interpreted stops.

It is enough to know and to rest and rest.
The motionless singers stand before a great river
with a huge fountain
flowing to those who seek the poem of the lord.

Saint Augustine of Canterbury
Bishop
26 May

Prayer

“Saint Augustine, teacher of the English and of these
islands
Guide us in the faith”

Reading
Acts 26: 2-23

“I count myself fortunate, King Agrippa, that I am to defend myself before you today against all the charges made against me by the Jews, especially since you are an expert in all the Jewish customs and controversies. And therefore, I beg you to listen patiently.

My manner of living from my youth, a life spent from the beginning among my people and in Jerusalem, all the Jews know. They have known about me from the start, if they are willing to testify, that I have lived my life as a Pharisee, the strictest party of our religion. But now I am standing trial because of my hope in the promise made by God to our ancestors.

Our twelve tribes hope to attain to that promise as they fervently worship God day and night; and on account of this hope I am accused by Jews, O king. Why is it thought unbelievable among you that God raises the dead? I myself once thought that I had to do many things against the name of Jesus the

Nazorean, and I did so in Jerusalem. I imprisoned many of the holy ones with the authorization I received from the chief priests, and when they were to be put to death I cast my vote against them.

Many times, in synagogue after synagogue, I punished them in an attempt to force them to blaspheme; I was so enraged against them that I pursued them even to foreign cities. "On one such occasion I was traveling to Damascus with the authorization and commission of the chief priests. At midday, along the way, O king, I saw a light from the sky, brighter than the sun, shining around me and my traveling companions. We all fell to the ground and I heard a voice saying to me in Hebrew, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goad.' And I said, 'Who are you, sir?'

And the Lord replied, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. Get up now, and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness of what you have seen of me and what you will be shown. I shall deliver you from this people and from the Gentiles to whom I send you, to open their eyes that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may obtain forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been consecrated by faith in me.'

"And so, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision. On the contrary, first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem and throughout the

whole country of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached the need to repent and turn to God, and to do works giving evidence of repentance. That is why the Jews seized me when I was in the temple and tried to kill me. But I have enjoyed God's help to this very day, and so I stand here testifying to small and great alike, saying nothing different from what the prophets and Moses foretold, that the Messiah must suffer and that, as the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles."



**Saint Joan of Arc
Virgin, Martyr, Secondary Patron of France
30 May**

Prayer

“Saint Joan, Virgin of the Lilies,
May we face our little martyrdoms with Thy courage”

**Reading
Odes of Solomon Song 42**

I stretched out my hands and came near my lord.
It is my sign, stretching my hands as if spread on a
tree.

That was my way up to the good one.

I became useless to those who didn't seize me.

I hid from those who don't love me

but am with them who love me.

My persecutors died.

They sought me because I am alive.

I rose up and am with them
and speak through their mouths.

They despised their persecutors.

I locked them in the yoke of love.

Like the groom over the bride,
so is my love over those who believe in me.

They thought me rejected, destroyed. I wasn't.

Hell saw me and was miserable.

Death cast me up along with others.

I have been gall and bitterness to death.

I went down with it to the uttermost depth,

and it released my feet and head,
for it couldn't endure my face.
I made a congregation of living men among its dead
and spoke to them with living lips.
My word wasn't empty.

The dead ran toward me, screaming,
"Son of god, pity us. Be kind
and bring us out of the bonds of darkness.
Open the door into your being.
We perceive our death has not touched you.
Save us, redeemer."

I heard their voice and stored their faith in my heart.
I set my name upon their heads.
They are free men and mine.



Visitation of the LORD
31 May
(The Mass of Mary is offered today)

Prayer

“Mary, the Lord God has made your name great; you will be blessed among all the generations of earth.”

Reading
Proto-evangelium of James 10, 12

Then the priests held a council and said, “We should make a curtain for the Lord’s temple.” And the priest said, “Call to me the undefiled virgins from the tribe of David.” The servants went out looking for them and found seven virgins.

The priest then remembered that the child Mary was from the tribe of David, and that she was undefiled before God. The servants went out and led her back and brought her into the Lord’s temple.

And the priest said, “Cast lots before me to see who will spin the gold, the asbestos, the fine linen, the silk, the sapphire blue, the scarlet, and the true purple.” Mary drew the lot for the true purple and the scarlet, and taking them she returned home.

At that time Zacharias became silent. Samuel took his place, until Zacharias spoke again. But Mary took the scarlet and began to spin it. She made the purple and the scarlet, and brought them to the temple. The priest took them and blessed her, “Mary, the Lord

God has made your name great; you will be blessed among all the generations of earth.”

Full of joy, Mary went off to her relative Elizabeth. She knocked on the door; and when Elizabeth heard, she cast aside the scarlet and ran to the door.

When she opened it she blessed Mary and said, “How is it that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For see, the child in me leapt up and blessed you.”

But Mary forgot the mysteries that the archangel Gabriel had spoken to her, and gazed at the sky and said, “Who am I, Lord, that all the women of earth will bless me?”

She stayed with Elizabeth for three months. Day by day her own belly grew. Mary then returned home in fear, and hid herself from the sons of Israel. She was sixteen when these mysteries happened.

JUNE

Saint Barnabas Apostle, Patron of Cyprus 11 June

Prayer

“Saint Barnabas, Apostle to the Gentiles,
Relentless Worker of Miracles,
Deepen Our Faith”

Reading Acts 14:8-18

At Lystra there was a crippled man, lame from birth, who had never walked. He listened to Paul speaking, who looked intently at him, saw that he had the faith to be healed, and called out in a loud voice, “Stand up straight on your feet.” He jumped up and began to walk about. When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they cried out in Lycaonian, “The gods have come down to us in human form.”

They called Barnabas “Zeus” and Paul “Hermes,” because he was the chief speaker. And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was at the entrance to the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, for he together with the people intended to offer sacrifice.

The apostles Barnabas and Paul tore their garments when they heard this and rushed out into the crowd, shouting, “Men, why are you doing this? We are of the same nature as you, human beings. We proclaim to

you good news that you should turn from these idols to the living God, 'who made heaven and earth and sea and all that is in them.'

In past generations he allowed all Gentiles to go their own ways; yet, in bestowing his goodness, he did not leave himself without witness, for he gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, and filled you with nourishment and gladness for your hearts."

Even with these words, they scarcely restrained the crowds from offering sacrifice to them.

Saint Lazarus The Leper
21 June

Prayer
Still Falls The Rain
By Dame Edith Stiwell

Still falls the Rain—
Dark as the world of man, black as our loss—
Blind as the nineteen hundred and forty nails
Upon the Cross.

Still falls the Rain
With a sound like the pulse of the heart that is
changed to the hammer-beat
In the Potter's Field, and the sound of the impious
feet

On the Tomb:
 Still falls the Rain

In the Field of Blood where the small hopes breed and
the human brain
Nurtures its greed, that worm with the brow of Cain.

Still falls the Rain
At the feet of the Starved Man hung upon the Cross.
Christ that each day, each night, nails there, have
mercy on us—
On Dives and on Lazarus:
Under the Rain the sore and the gold are as one.

Still falls the Rain—

Still falls the Blood from the Starved Man's wounded
Side:
He bears in His Heart all wounds,—those of the light
that died,
The last faint spark
In the self-murdered heart, the wounds of the sad
uncomprehending dark,
The wounds of the baited bear—
The blind and weeping bear whom the keepers beat
On his helpless flesh... the tears of the hunted hare.

Still falls the Rain—
Then— O Ile leape up to my God: who pulles me
doun—
See, see where Christ's blood streams in the
firmament:
It flows from the Brow we nailed upon the tree

Deep to the dying, to the thirsting heart
That holds the fires of the world,—dark-smirched
with pain
As Caesar's laurel crown.

Then sounds the voice of One who like the heart of
man

Was once a child who among beasts has lain—
"Still do I love, still shed my innocent light, my Blood,
for thee."

Reading
LK 16:19-31

“There was a rich man who dressed in purple garments and fine linen and dined sumptuously each day. And lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps that fell from the rich man’s table. Dogs even used to come and lick his sores.

When the poor man died, he was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried, and from the netherworld, where he was in torment, he raised his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side.

And he cried out, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am suffering torment in these flames.’

Abraham replied, ‘My child, remember that you received what was good during your lifetime while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented. Moreover, between us and you a great chasm is established to prevent anyone from crossing who might wish to go from our side to yours or from your side to ours.’

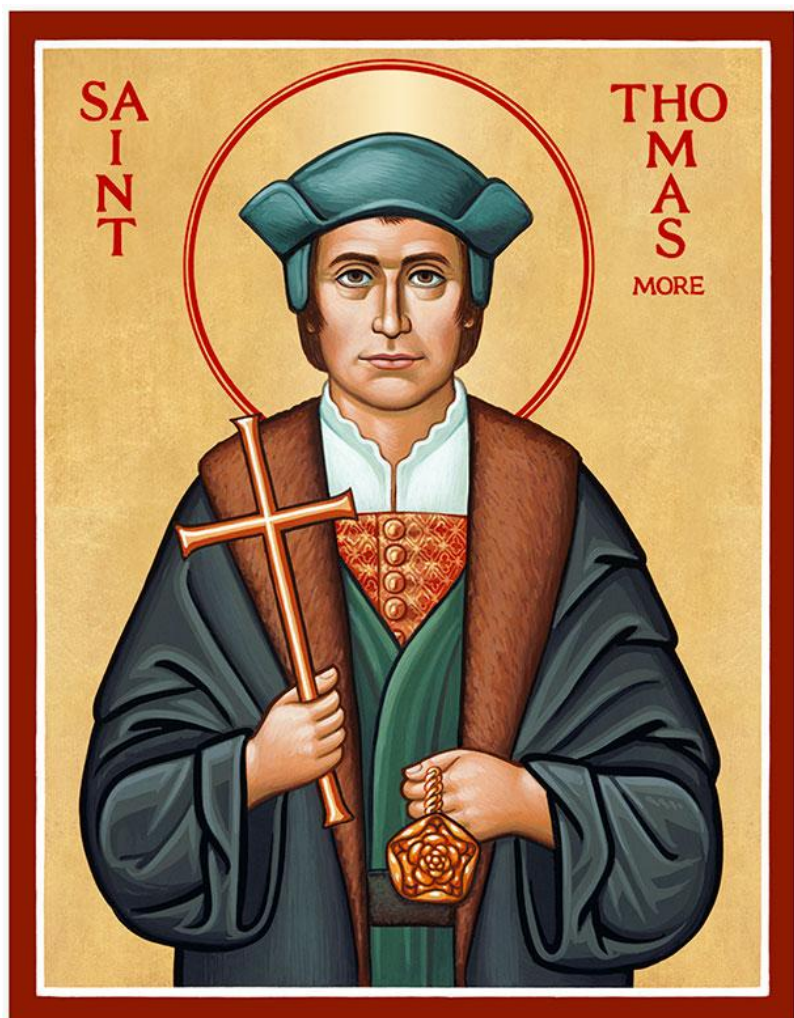
He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, send him to my

father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they too come to this place of torment.'

But Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets. Let them listen to them.'

He said, 'Oh no, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'

Then Abraham said, 'If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead.'"



Saints John Fischer and Thomas More
Bishop, Layman, Martyrs
22 June

Prayer

“Tower’s of Faith, Guard the Deposit”

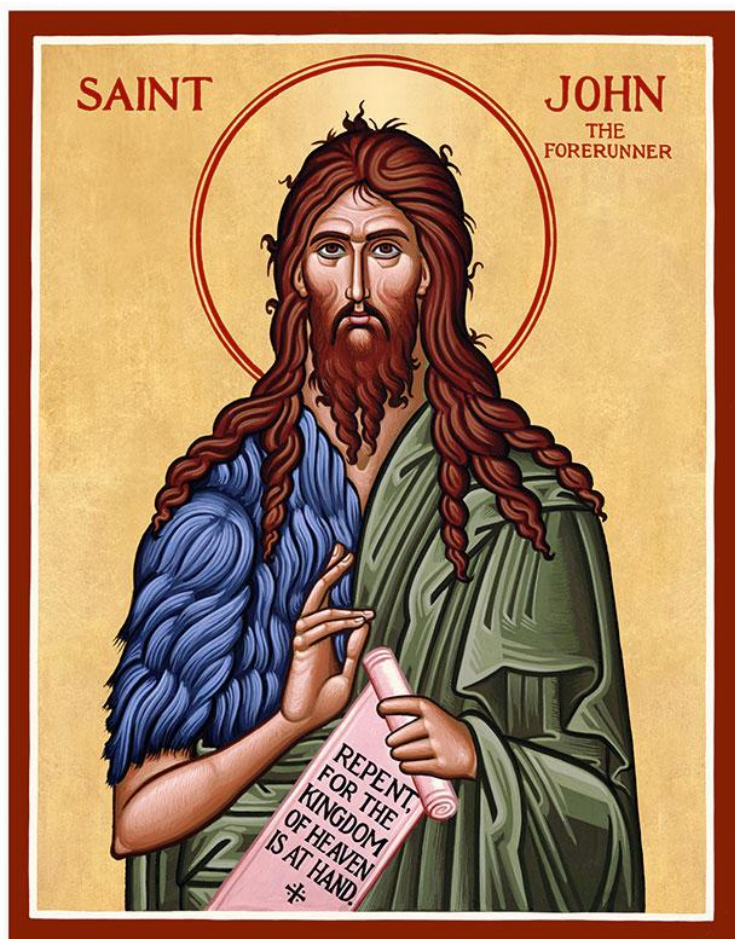
Reading
LK 12:2-9

There is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known. Therefore, whatever you have said in the darkness will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be proclaimed on the housetops.

I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body but after that can do no more. I shall show you whom to fear. Be afraid of the one who after killing has the power to cast into Gehenna; yes, I tell you, be afraid of that one.

Are not five sparrows sold for two small coins? Yet not one of them has escaped the notice of God. Even the hairs of your head have all been counted. Do not be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows.

I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before others the Son of Man will acknowledge before the angels of God. But whoever denies me before others will be denied before the angels of God.



Nativity of Saint John the Baptist
24 June

Prayer

“The Herald proclaims: The Light of The World has Come!”

Reading
JN 1:19-34

And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, “Who are you?” He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, “I am not the Messiah.”

So they asked him, “What are you then? Are you Elijah?” And he said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” He answered, “No.”

So they said to him, “Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?”

He said: “I am ‘the voice of one crying out in the desert, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as Isaiah the prophet said.”

Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah or Elijah or the Prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie.” This

happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.' I did not know him, but the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known to Israel."

John testified further, saying, "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from the sky and remain upon him. I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the holy Spirit.' Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."

Saints Peter and Paul
Chief of the Apostles, Apostle to the Gentiles
29 June

Prayer

“Saints Peter and Paul, Chief of the Apostles,
Guide and protect the Church”

Reading
JN 21: 15-19

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.”

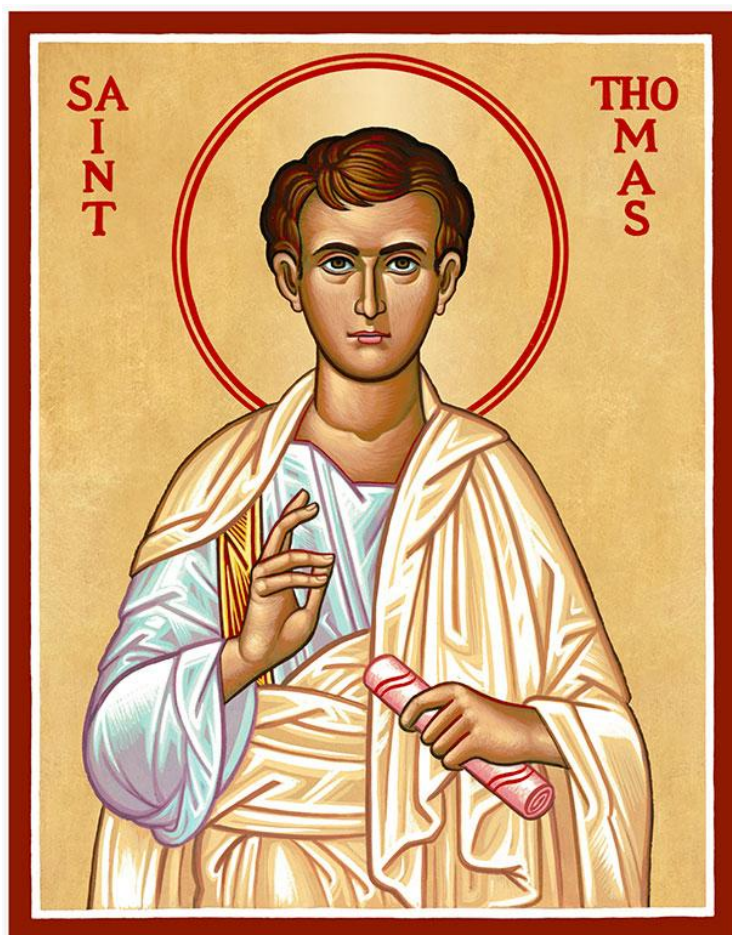
He then said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.”

He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was distressed that he had said to him a third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and

someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.”

He said this signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when he had said this, he said to him, “Follow me.”



JULY

Saint Thomas Apostle, Patron of India 3 July

Prayer (Office of St Thomas)

“Through St. Thomas the error of idolatry vanished
from India.

Through St. Thomas the Chinese and Ethiopians
were converted to the truth.

Through St. Thomas they accepted the sacrament of
baptism and the adoption of sons.

Through St. Thomas they believed in and confessed
the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit.

Through St. Thomas they preserved the accepted
faith of the one God.

Through St. Thomas the life-giving splendours rose in
all India.

Through St. Thomas the Kingdom of Heaven took
wing and ascended to China.”

Reading JN 20:24-29

Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail-marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you."

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe."

Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

**Saint Veronica
Comforter of Jesus
12 July**

Prayer

“Saint Veronica, who gave Jesus the last kindness,
Intercede for us in our toils and pain”

**Reading
LK 23:26-32**

As they led him away, they took hold of a certain Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country; and after laying the cross on him, they made him carry it behind Jesus. A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him.

Jesus turned to them and said,
“Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children, for indeed, the days are coming when people will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed.’ At that time people will say to the mountains, ‘Fall upon us!’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us!’ for if these things are done when the wood is green what will happen when it is dry?”

Now two others, both criminals, were led away with him to be executed.



Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Our Lady of Mount Carmel
16 July
(The Mass of Mary is offered today)

Prayer

“Our Lady, who said ‘Do whatever He tells you’,
Point us to Him,
Guide us to be pleasing to Him,
now and forever”

Reading
JN 2:1-12

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.”

Jesus said to her, “Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come.”

His mother said to the servers, “Do whatever he tells you.”

Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told them, “Fill the jars with water.”

So they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, “Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter.”

So they took it. And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from (although the servers who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now."

Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him. After this, he and his mother, his brothers, and his disciples went down to Capernaum and stayed there only a few days.

Saint Godfrey of Jerusalem
Leader of the First Crusade
18 July

Prayer

“Saint Godfrey, defender of The Holy Sepulchre,
Pray for us to be steadfast in the Faith,
despite being assailed by enemies of the Church”

Reading
Dan 2:31-35

“In your vision, O king, you saw a statue, very large and exceedingly bright, terrifying in appearance as it stood before you. Its head was pure gold, its chest and arms were silver, its belly and thighs bronze, its legs iron, its feet partly iron and partly clay.

While you watched, a stone was hewn from a mountain without a hand being put to it, and it struck its iron and clay feet, breaking them in pieces. The iron, clay, bronze, silver, and gold all crumbled at once, fine as the chaff on the threshing floor in summer, and the wind blew them away without leaving a trace. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.



**Saint Mary Magdalene
Companion of Jesus,
Secondary Patron of France
22 July**

Prayer

“Saint Mary Magdalene,
First to see the resurrected Lord,
May we who believe in Him, see Him in Glory”

**Reading
JN 20: 11-18**

But Mary stayed outside the tomb weeping. And as she wept, she bent over into the tomb and saw two angels in white sitting there, one at the head and one at the feet where the body of Jesus had been. And they said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?”

She said to them, “They have taken my Lord, and I don’t know where they laid him.”

When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus there, but did not know it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?”

She thought it was the gardener and said to him, “Sir, if you carried him away, tell me where you laid him, and I will take him.”

Jesus said to her, “Mary!”

She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni,” which means Teacher.

Jesus said to her, “Stop holding on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

Mary of Magdala went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord,” and what he told her.

**Saint Christopher
Martyr, Patron of Travellers
24 July* (25 July)**

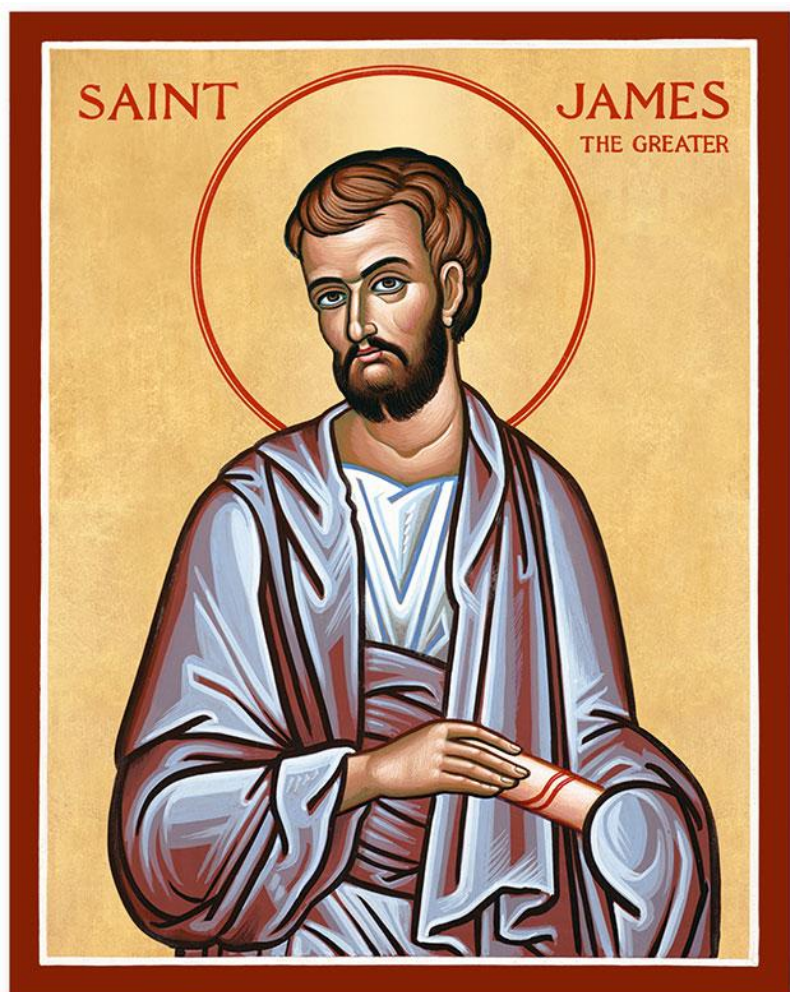
Prayer

“Saint Christopher, who carried the Child Jesus,
Watch over us in our journeys.”

**Reading
MK 6:45-52**

Then he made his disciples get into the boat and precede him to the other side toward Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. And when he had taken leave of them, he went off to the mountain to pray. When it was evening, the boat was far out on the sea and he was alone on shore. Then he saw that they were tossed about while rowing, for the wind was against them.

About the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them walking on the sea. He meant to pass by them. But when they saw him walking on the sea, they thought it was a ghost and cried out. They had all seen him and were terrified. But at once he spoke with them, “Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid!” He got into the boat with them and the wind died down. They were astounded. They had not understood the incident of the loaves. On the contrary, their hearts were hardened.



**Saint James the Great
Apostle, Patron of Spain
25 July**

Prayer

“Saint James, slayer of the Moors,
protector of Christendom,
pray for us”

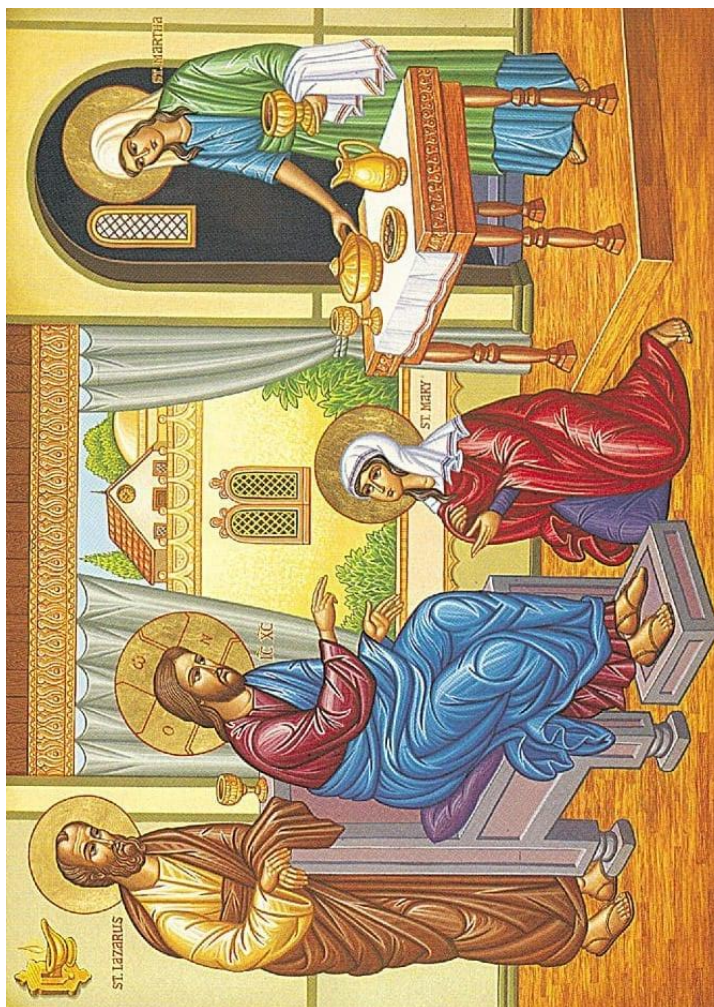
**Reading
LK 21:7-19**

Then they asked him, “Teacher, when will this happen? And what sign will there be when all these things are about to happen?” He answered, “See that you not be deceived, for many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he,’ and ‘The time has come.’ Do not follow them! When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for such things must happen first, but it will not immediately be the end.”

Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be powerful earthquakes, famines, and plagues from place to place; and awesome sights and mighty signs will come from the sky.

“Before all this happens, however, they will seize and persecute you, they will hand you over to the synagogues and to prisons, and they will have you led before kings and governors because of my name. It will lead to your giving testimony.

Remember, you are not to prepare your defence beforehand, for I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute. You will even be handed over by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends, and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name, but not a hair on your head will be destroyed. By your perseverance you will secure your lives.



Saints Mary, Martha and Lazarus of Bethany
Friends of Jesus
29 July

Prayer

“Saints Mary, Martha and Lazarus,
Thou who knowest the love of the Lord,
Intercede for us that we may be resurrected too”

Reading
JN 11: 1-44

Now a man was ill, Lazarus from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who had anointed the Lord with perfumed oil and dried his feet with her hair; it was her brother Lazarus who was ill. So the sisters sent word to him, saying, “Master, the one you love is ill.” When Jesus heard this he said, “This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that he was ill, he remained for two days in the place where he was. Then after this he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.” The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just trying to stone you, and you want to go back there?” Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours in a day? If one walks during the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if one walks at night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.”

He said this, and then told them, “Our friend Lazarus is asleep, but I am going to awaken him.”

So the disciples said to him, “Master, if he is asleep, he will be saved.”

But Jesus was talking about his death, while they thought that he meant ordinary sleep. So then Jesus said to them clearly, “Lazarus has died. And I am glad for you that I was not there, that you may believe. Let us go to him.”

So Thomas, called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go to die with him.”

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away. And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you.”

Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise.”
Martha said to him, “I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day.”

Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and

everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary secretly, saying, "The teacher is here and is asking for you." As soon as she heard this, she rose quickly and went to him. For Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still where Martha had met him. So when the Jews who were with her in the house comforting her saw Mary get up quickly and go out, they followed her, presuming that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?"

They said to him, "Sir, come and see." And Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him." But some of them said, "Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?"

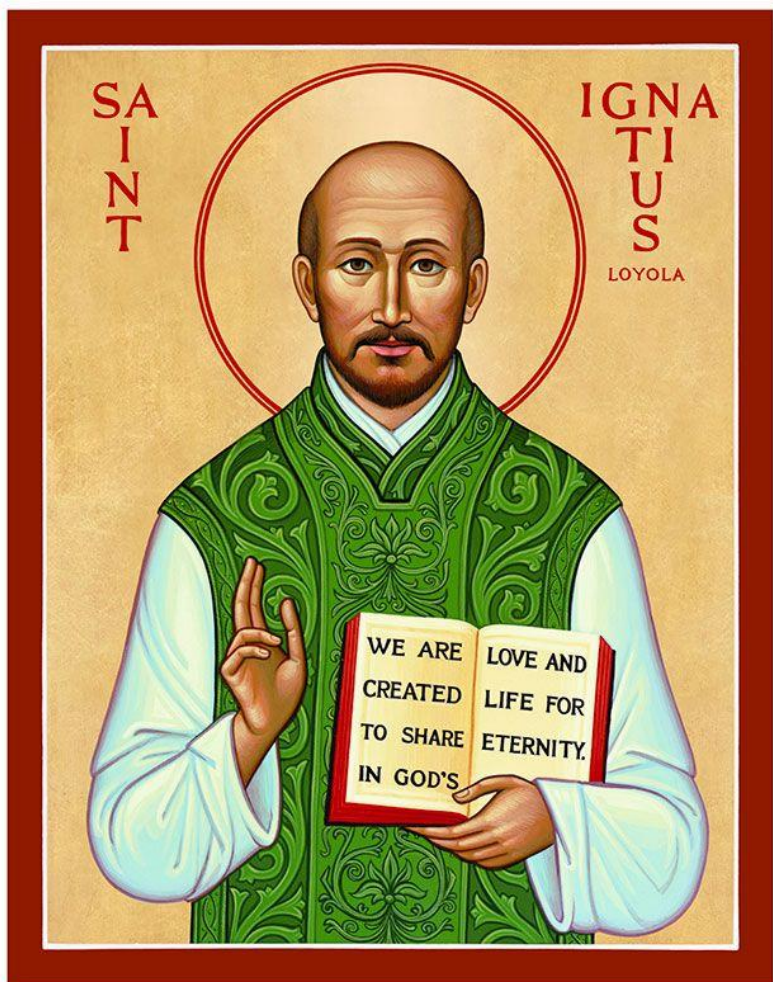
So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone."

Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days."

Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?"

So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me." And when he had said this, he cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go."



Saint Ignatius of Loyola
Priest, Founder of the Society of Jesus
31 July

Prayer

“Saint Ignatius, you gave up the world for Jesus,
May you watch over us
and your sons, the Society of Jesus”

Reading
MT 16: 24-28

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father’s glory, and then he will repay everyone according to his conduct. Amen, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

AUGUST

Saint John Vianney Priest, Patron of Parish Priests 4 August

Prayer

“Saint John Vianney, humble servant of Christ,
May you watch over us
and our parish priests”

Reading Odes of Solomon Song 20

I am a priest of the lord and serve him as priest.
I offer him the offering of his thought.
His thought is not like the world,
not of the flesh
or of those who serve in the flesh.
The lord offers his goodness, his stainless heart and
lips,
his inner world that is faultless.
Let hearts not oppress hearts, nor souls harm souls.
Don't bribe a stranger, because that stranger is you.
Don't trick your neighbour.
Don't take the clothing from him that hides his
nakedness,
but dress in the grace of the lord generously
and walk in paradise
and from his tree make a garland for your head.
Loop it around your hair. Be happy and rest in his
rest.
His glory will go before you.

You will inhabit his kindness and grace
and be fat in truth
with the praise of his holiness.
Praise and honour his name.



Transfiguration of the LORD
6 August

Reading
LK 9: 28-36

About eight days after he said this, he took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray. While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white.

And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem.

Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep, but becoming fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As they were about to part from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good that we are here; let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." But he did not know what he was saying.

While he was still speaking, a cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him."

After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. They fell silent and did not at that time tell anyone what they had seen.

Saint Dominic
Priest, Founder of the Dominicans
8 August

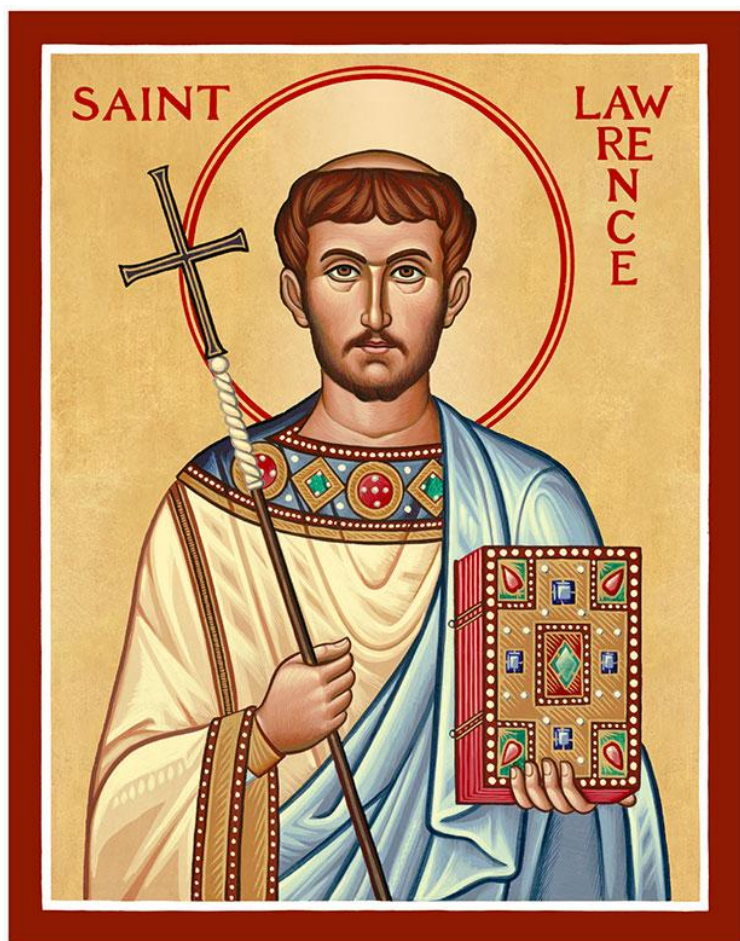
Prayer

“Saint Dominic strong in the faith,
pray with us”

Reading
Dan 2:20-23

Blessed be the name of God forever and
ever, for wisdom and power are his.
He causes the changes of the times and
seasons, establishes kings and deposes them.
He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those
who understand.
He reveals deep and hidden things and knows what is
in the darkness,
for the light dwells with him.

To you, God of my ancestors,
I give thanks and praise,
because you have given me wisdom and power.
Now you have shown me what we asked of you,
you have made known to us the king's dream.”



Saint Lawrence
Deacon, Martyr
10 August

Prayer

“Saint Lawrence, for whom the treasure of the church
was the needy, sick and infirm,
Pray for us to have the grace to serve them”

Reading
LK 14:15-24

One of his fellow guests on hearing this said to him,
“Blessed is the one who will dine in the kingdom of
God.”

He replied to him, “A man gave a great dinner to
which he invited many. When the time for the dinner
came, he dispatched his servant to say to those
invited, ‘Come, everything is now ready.’ But one by
one, they all began to excuse themselves. The first
said to him, ‘I have purchased a field and must go to
examine it; I ask you, consider me excused.’ And
another said, ‘I have purchased five yoke of oxen and
am on my way to evaluate them; I ask you, consider
me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have just married a
woman, and therefore I cannot come.’

The servant went and reported this to his master.
Then the master of the house in a rage commanded
his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys
of the town and bring in here the poor and the
crippled, the blind and the lame.’

The servant reported, 'Sir, your orders have been carried out and still there is room.'

The master then ordered the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedgerows and make people come in that my home may be filled. For, I tell you, none of those men who were invited will taste my dinner.'



Saint Philomena

Saint Philomena
Virgin, Martyr, Patron of Children and Babies
11 August

Prayer

“O St. Philomena, virgin and martyr, pray for us that through your powerful intercession we may obtain that purity of mind and heart which leads to the perfect love of God. Amen.”

Reading
LK 18:15-17

People were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them, and when the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. Jesus, however, called the children to himself and said, “Let the children come to me and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.”

Saint Maximilian Kolbe
Priest, Martyr
14 August

Prayer

“Saint Maximilian, who gave your life for another,
May emulate you in selflessness,
And practising what we preach.”

Reading
JN 15: 11-17

“I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and
your joy may be complete. This is my commandment:
love one another as I love you.

No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s
life for one’s friends.

You are my friends if you do what I command you. I
no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not
know what his master is doing. I have called you
friends, because I have told you everything I have
heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me,
but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear
fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the
Father in my name he may give you.

This I command you: love one another.



Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

15 August

(The Mass of Mary is offered today)

Prayer

“O Holy Mother Wisdom,
Thou art returning to the Heavens,
May we join Thee someday!”

Reading
Thunder (Perfect Mind)

I was sent out from the power
and have come to you who study me
and am found by you who seek me.
Look at me, you who study me,
and you who hear, hear me.

You waiting for me, take me into yourselves.
Don't banish me from your vision.
Don't let hatred enter your voice against me
or let anger enter your hearing.
In no place, in no time, be unknowing of me.
Be alert. Don't be ignorant of me.

I am the first and the last.
I am the honoured and scorned.
I am the whore and holy.
I am the wife and the virgin.
I am the mother and daughter.
I am the members of my mother
and the barren one with many sons.
I have had a grand wedding

and have not found a husband.
I am a midwife and do not give birth.
I am the solace of my labour pains.
I am bride and groom,
and my husband produced me.
I am the mother of my father
and sister of my husband,
and he is my offspring.

I am a slave of him who prepared me
and ruler of my offspring.
He produced me earlier yet on my birthday.
He is my offspring to come,
and from him is my power.
I am the staff of his power in his youth
and he the rod of my old age,
and whatever he wants happens to me.

Saint Bartholomew
Apostle
24 August

Prayer

“Shed your skin and rise!
Leave this finite world and move to the eternal world.
Undo the darkness and embrace the light”

Reading
Acts of Peter 37

'O name of the cross, hidden mystery;
O unspeakable mercy, which is expressed in the name
of the cross;
O nature of man, which cannot be separated from
God;
O ineffable and inseparable love, which cannot be
shown by impure lips;

I seize you now that I am standing at the end of my
earthly career.

I will make known what you are.
I will not conceal the mystery of the cross once closed
and hidden to my soul.

You who hope in Christ, think not this to be a cross
which is visible; for my passion, like that of Christ, is
entirely different from that which is visible.

And now especially, since you who can hear can hear
it from me who am in the last and parting hour of life,
listen.

Keep your souls from everything which you can perceive with the senses, from all that seems to be, and is not truly real.

Close these your eyes, shut these your ears;
Withdraw from actions which are seen outwardly and you shall perceive the facts about Christ and the whole mystery of your salvation.

But the hour has come for you, Peter, to deliver your body to those who are taking it.

Take it, whose business it is. Of you, executioners, I ask to crucify me with head downwards, and not otherwise.

And the reason I shall explain to those who listen.'

**Saint Louis of France
King, Crusader
25 August**

Prayer

“Merciful Saint Louis, through thy intercession,
May our leaders give us peace and justice.”

**Reading
MT 20: 20-28**

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee approached him with her sons and did him homage, wishing to ask him for something.

He said to her, “What do you wish?”

She answered him, “Command that these two sons of mine sit, one at your right and the other at your left, in your kingdom.”

Jesus said in reply, “You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I am going to drink?”

They said to him, “We can.”

He replied, “My cup you will indeed drink, but to sit at my right and at my left, this is not mine to give but is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.”

When the ten heard this, they became indignant at the two brothers. But Jesus summoned them and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over

them, and the great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave. Just so, the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

SEPTEMBER

**Saint Gregory the Great
Pope, Doctor of the Church
3 September**

Prayer

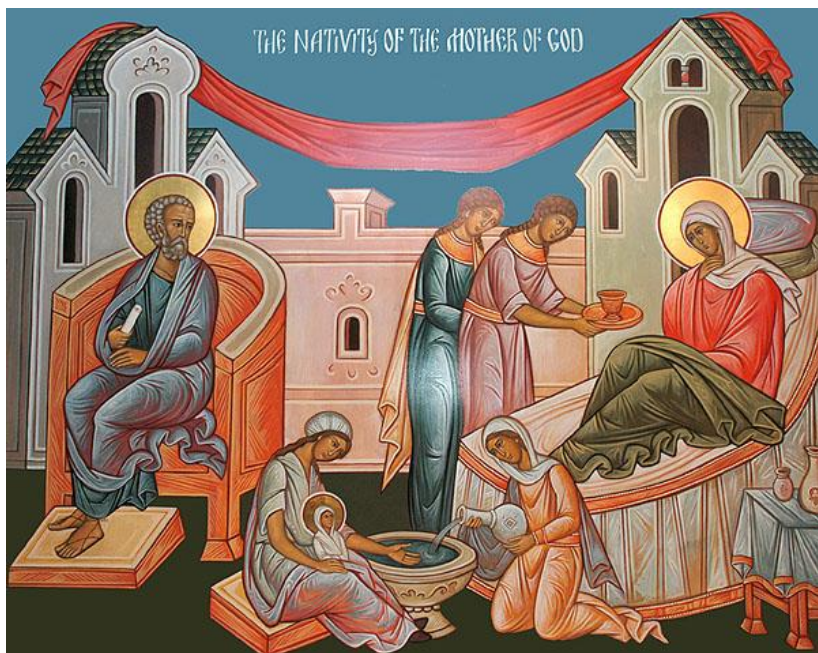
“Saint Gregory, our father in faith,
Watch over your spiritual children on Earth,
Fill us with the zeal for the faith you have.”

Reading LK 18:24-30

Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.”

Those who heard this said, “Then who can be saved?” And he said, “What is impossible for human beings is possible for God.”

Then Peter said, “We have given up our possessions and followed you.” He said to them, “Amen, I say to you, there is no one who has given up house or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God who will not receive back an overabundant return in this present age and eternal life in the age to come.”



Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
8 September
(The Mass of Mary is offered today)

Prayer

“How happy, blest the birth of the Virgin Mary”

Reading
Odes of Solomon Song 38

I went up to the light of truth
as into a chariot,
and truth took me across canyons and ravines
and preserved me against waves smashing the cliffs.
She was my haven and salvation
and left me in the arms of immortal life.
She went with me, soothed me, kept me from error.
She was and is the light of truth.

**Saint John Chrysostom
Bishop, Doctor of the Church
13 September**

Prayer

“Saint John, man of indefatigable faith and great teacher. Help us with your intercessions. Watch over the city of Constantinople and through your intercessions it may one day be restored to us”

**Reading
Odes of Solomon Song 12**

He filled me with words of truth that I may speak the same.

Like flows of waters, truth flows from my mouth,
and my lips reveal its harvest.

It gives me the gold of knowledge,
for the mouth of the lord is the true word
and the door of his light.

The highest one gave the words to his worlds,
which interpret his beauty,
recite his praise, confess his thought
as heralds of his mind and instructors of his deeds.

The quickness of his words is unsayable,
and like his statement it is sharp.
Its course knows no end and never fails.
It stands. Its descent and ways are incomprehensible.

Like his work is its end,
which is the light and dawn of thought.

Through it worlds converse and the silent acquire
speech.

From it came love and concord and candour,
and the word penetrated them and knew him who
made it.

They came into concord.

The mouth of the highest one spoke to them,
and that word made him clear.

The dwelling place of the word is you,
and its truth is love.

Blessings on you who by it have learned everything
and have known the lord in his truth.

Exaltation of The Holy Cross

14 September

Prayer

“O Holy Cross, on which the LORD hung, be a testament to world of His Great Love for us.”

Reading

Gospel of Peter 35-44

But during the night on which the Lord's Day dawned, while the soldiers stood guard two by two on their watch, a great voice came from the sky. They saw the skies open and two men descend from there; they were very bright and drew near to the tomb. The stone cast before the entrance rolled away by itself and moved to one side; the tomb was open and both young men entered.

When the soldiers saw these things, they woke up the centurion and the elders—for they were also there on guard. As they were explaining what they had seen, they saw three men emerge from the tomb, two of them supporting the other, with a cross following behind them. The heads of the two reached up to the sky, but the head of the one they were leading went up above the skies. And they heard a voice from the skies, “Have you preached to those who are asleep?” And a reply came from the cross, “Yes.” They then decided among themselves to go off to disclose what had happened to Pilate.

Our Lady of Sorrows
15 September
(The Mass of Mary is offered today)

Prayer
(Stabet Mater Dolorosa)

At the Cross her station keeping,
stood the mournful Mother weeping,
close to her son to the last.

Through her heart, His sorrow sharing,
all His bitter anguish bearing,
now at length the sword has passed.

O how sad and sore distressed
was that Mother, highly blest,
of the sole-begotten One.

Christ above in torment hangs,
she beneath beholds the pangs
of her dying glorious Son.

Is there one who would not weep,
whelmed in miseries so deep,
Christ's dear Mother to behold?

Can the human heart refrain
from partaking in her pain,
in that Mother's pain untold?

For the sins of His own nation,
She saw Jesus wracked with torment,
All with scourges rent:

She beheld her tender Child,
Saw Him hang in desolation,
Till His spirit forth He sent.

O thou Mother! fount of love!
Touch my spirit from above,
make my heart with thine accord:

Make me feel as thou hast felt;
make my soul to glow and melt
with the love of Christ my Lord.

Holy Mother! pierce me through,
in my heart each wound renew
of my Saviour crucified:

Let me share with thee His pain,
who for all my sins was slain,
who for me in torments died.

Let me mingle tears with thee,
mourning Him who mourned for me,
all the days that I may live:

By the Cross with thee to stay,
there with thee to weep and pray,
is all I ask of thee to give.

Virgin of all virgins blest!,
Listen to my fond request:
let me share thy grief divine;

Let me, to my latest breath,

in my body bear the death
of that dying Son of thine.

Wounded with His every wound,
steep my soul till it hath swooned,
in His very Blood away;

Be to me, O Virgin, nigh,
lest in flames I burn and die,
in His awful Judgment Day.

Let the cross then be my guard,
the death of Christ my watch and ward,
and cherish me by heaven's grace

While my body here decays,
may my soul Thy goodness praise,
Safe in Paradise with Thee.
Amen.

LATIN

Stabat Mater dolorosa
iuxta crucem lacrimosa
dum pendebat Filius.

Cuius animam gementem
contristatam et dolentem
pertransivit gladius.

O quam tristis et afflicta
fuit illa benedicta
Mater unigeniti.

Quae moerebat et dolebat

pia Mater, cum videbat
Nati poenas incltyti.

Quis est homo, qui non fleret
Christi Matrem si videret
in tanto supplicio?

Quis non posset contristari
Christi Matrem contemplari
dolentem cum Filio?

Pro peccatis suae gentis
vidit Iesum in tormentis
et flagellis subditum.

Vidit suum dulcem Natum
moriendo, desolatum
dum emissit spiritum.

Eia Mater, fons amoris
me sentire vim doloris
fac, ut tecum lugeam.

Fac, ut ardeat cor meum
in amando Christum Deum
ut sibi complaceam.

Sancta Mater, istud agas
Crucifixi fige plagas
cordi meo valide.

Tui Nati vulnerati
tam dignati pro me pati
poenas mecum divide.

Fac me vere tecum flere
Crucifixo condolere
donec ego vixero.

Iuxta crucem tecum stare
te libenter sociare
in planctu desidero.

Virgo virginum praeclara
mihi iam non sis amara
fac me tecum plangere.

Fac, ut portem Christi mortem
passionis fac consortem
et plagas recolare.

Fac me plagis vulnerari
Cruce hac inebriari
ob amorem Filii.

Inflammatum et accensum
per te, Virgo, sum defensum
in die iudicii.

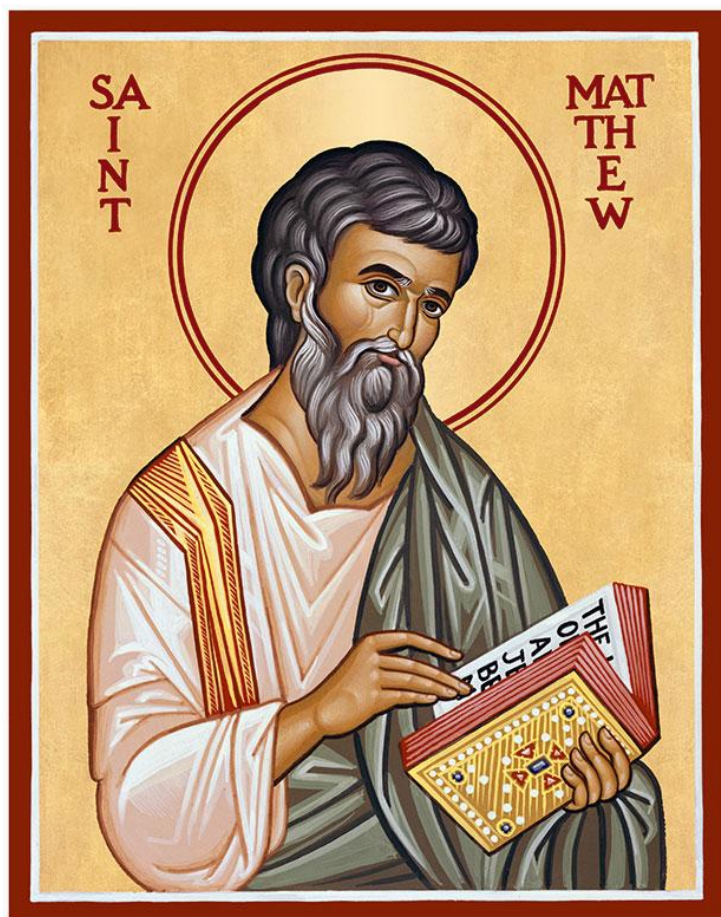
Fac me Cruce custodiri
morte Christi praemuniri
confoveri gratia.

Quando corpus morietur
fac, ut animae donetur
Paradisi gloria.
Amen.

Reading
JN 19:25-27

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son."

Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.



**Saint Matthew
Apostle, Evangelist
21 September**

Prayer

“Saint Matthew, rising winged lion,
May your gospel always teach us that sinners are also
called.”

**Reading
MT 9:9-13**

As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the customs post. He said to him, “Follow me.”

And he got up and followed him. While he was at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat with Jesus and his disciples.

The Pharisees saw this and said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

He heard this and said, “Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ I did not come to call the righteous but sinners.”

Saint Pio of Pietrelcina
Priest, Stigmatist
23 September

Prayer

“Saint Pio, humble servant of Christ,
Walk with us as we face the troubles of the day”

Reading
JN 19:31-37

Now since it was preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the sabbath, for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and they be taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out.

An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true; he knows that he is speaking the truth, so that you also may come to believe. For this happened so that the scripture passage might be fulfilled:

“Not a bone of it will be broken.”

And again another passage says:

“They will look upon him whom they have pierced.”

**Saints Cosmas and Damien
Martyrs. Patron of Pharmacists
26 September**

Prayer

“Saints Cosmas and Damien, apostles to the east
Watch over our brothers, the Knights of Christ,
Founded on your feast day”

**Reading
1Enoch 104: 1-5**

I swear unto you, that in heaven the angels remember you for good before the glory of the Great One: and your names are written before the glory of the Great One. Be hopeful; for aforetime ye were put to shame through ill and affliction; but now ye shall shine as the lights of heaven, ye shall shine and ye shall be seen, and the portals of heaven shall be opened to you. And in your cry, cry for judgement, and it shall appear to you; for all your tribulation shall be visited on the rulers, and on all who helped those who plundered you. Be hopeful, and cast not away your hope; for ye shall have great joy as the angels of heaven. What shall ye be obliged to do? Ye shall not have to hide on the day of the great judgement and ye shall not be found as sinners, and the eternal judgement shall be far from you for all the generations of the world.





**Saints Michael, Gabriel, Raphael and Uriel
Archangels**

29 September

(The Mass of Archangels is offered today)

Prayer

“Holy Archangels Michael, Gabriel, Raphael and
Uriel,
Protect us from the snares of the Devil
And keep us in health and in peace”

Reading

1Enoch 9: 1-11

And then Michael, Uriel, Raphael, and Gabriel looked down from heaven and saw much blood being shed upon the earth, and all lawlessness being wrought upon the earth. And they said one to another: ‘The earth, made without inhabitant, cries the voice of their crying up to the gates of heaven. And now to you, the holy ones of heaven, the souls of men make their suit, saying, “Bring our cause before the Most High”.’

And they said to the Lord of the ages:
‘Lord of lords, God of gods, King of kings and God of the ages , the throne of Thy glory standeth unto all the generations of the ages, and Thy name holy and glorious and blessed unto all the ages!

Thou hast made all things, and power over all things hast Thou: and all things are naked and open in Thy sight, and all things Thou seest, and nothing can hide itself from Thee.

Thou seest what Azâzêl hath done, who hath taught all unrighteousness on earth and revealed the eternal secrets which were (preserved) in heaven, which men were striving to learn:

And Semjâzâ, to whom Thou hast given authority to bear rule over his associates. And they have gone to the daughters of men upon the earth, and have slept with the women, and have defiled themselves, and revealed to them all kinds of sins.

And the women have borne Nephilim, and the whole earth has thereby been filled with blood and unrighteousness. And now, behold, the souls of those who have died are crying and making their suit to the gates of heaven, and their lamentations have ascended: and cannot cease because of the lawless deeds which are wrought on the earth.

And Thou knowest all things before they come to pass, and Thou seest these things and Thou dost suffer them, and Thou dost not say to us what we are to do to them in regard to these.'





Saint Jerome
Priest, Doctor of the Church
30 September

Prayer

“Saint Jerome, hermit of Jerusalem,
teach us to love the Word of God as you did”

Reading
LK 19:36-44

As he rode along, the people were spreading their cloaks on the road; and now as he was approaching the slope of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of his disciples began to praise God aloud with joy for all the mighty deeds they had seen.

They proclaimed:

“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.”

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him,
“Teacher, rebuke your disciples.”

He said in reply, “I tell you, if they keep silent, the stones will cry out!”

As he drew near, he saw the city and wept over it, saying, “If this day you only knew what makes for peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. For the days are coming upon you when your enemies will raise a palisade against you; they will encircle you

and hem you in on all sides. They will smash you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave one stone upon another within you because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.”

OCTOBER

**Saint Therese of Lisieux
Religious, Doctor of the Church
1 October**

Prayer

“Saints Therese Little Flower of Jesus,
Through your intercession, may we receive what we
have worthily asked for”

Reading LK 14:7-14

He told a parable to those who had been invited, noticing how they were choosing the places of honour at the table. “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not recline at table in the place of honour. A more distinguished guest than you may have been invited by him, and the host who invited both of you may approach you and say, ‘Give your place to this man,’ and then you would proceed with embarrassment to take the lowest place.

Rather, when you are invited, go and take the lowest place so that when the host comes to you he may say, ‘My friend, move up to a higher position.’ Then you will enjoy the esteem of your companions at the table. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Then he said to the host who invited him, “When you hold a lunch or a dinner, do not invite your friends or

your brothers or your relatives or your wealthy neighbours, in case they may invite you back and you have repayment. Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

Holy Guardian Angels
2 October
(The Mass of Archangels is offered today)

Prayer

“Holy Guardian Angels, watch over us, protect us
from evil and guide us to God”

Reading
1Enoch 40: 1-10

And after that I saw thousands of thousands and ten thousand times ten thousand, I saw a multitude beyond number and reckoning, who stood before the Lord of Spirits. And on the four sides of the Lord of Spirits I saw four presences, different from those that sleep not, and I learnt their names: for the angel who went with me made known to me their names, and showed me all the hidden things.

And I heard the voices of those four presences as they uttered praises before the Lord of glory.

The first voice blesses the Lord of Spirits forever and ever.

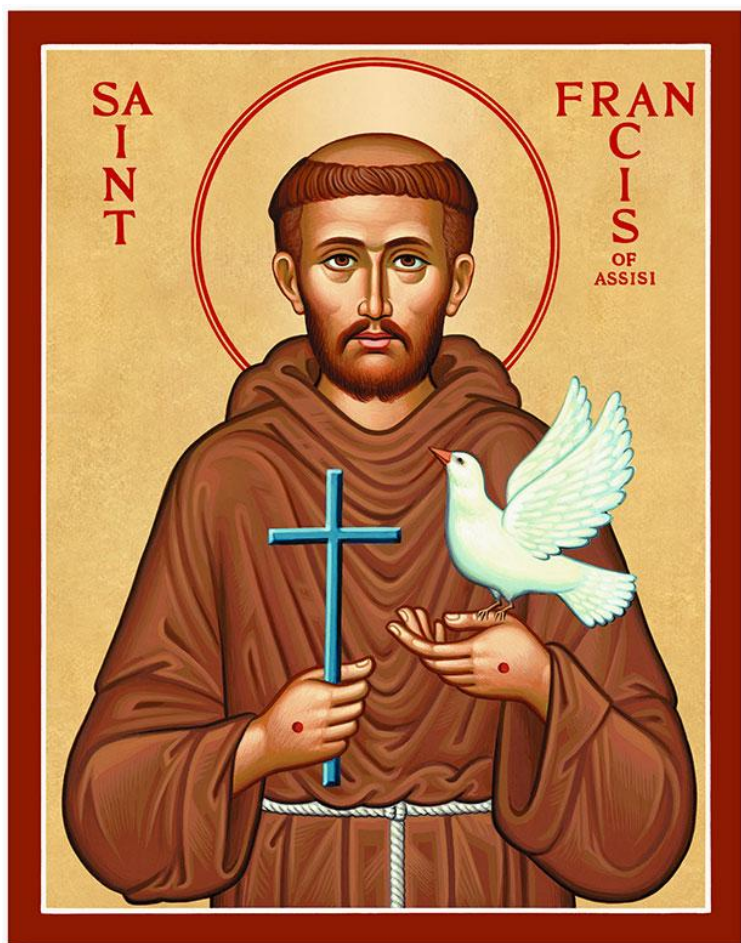
And the second voice I heard blessing the Elect One and the elect ones who hang upon the Lord of Spirits. And the third voice I heard pray and intercede for those who dwell on the earth and supplicate in the name of the Lord of Spirits.

And I heard the fourth voice fending off the Satans and forbidding them to come before the Lord of Spirits to accuse them who dwell on the earth.

After that I asked the angel of peace who went with me, who showed me everything that is hidden: 'Who are these four presences which I have seen and whose words I have heard and written down?'

And he said to me: 'This first is Michael, the merciful and long-suffering; and the second, who is set over all the diseases and all the wounds of the children of men, is Raphael: and the third, who is set over all the powers, is Gabriel: and the fourth, who is set over the repentance unto hope of those who inherit eternal life, is named Phanuel.'

And these are the four angels of the Lord of Spirits and the four voices I heard in those days.



Saint Francis of Assisi
Religious, Founder of the Franciscans
4 October

Prayer

“Saint Francis, teach us the way of humility and simplicity in our lives”

Reading
MT 5:38-42

“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on your right cheek, turn the other one to him as well.

If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic, hand him your cloak as well. Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go with him for two miles. Give to the one who asks of you, and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow.”



Our Lady of The Rosary

Holy Rosary
7 October
(The Mass of Mary is offered today)

Prayer

“O Holy Rosary, gift of God,
may we through this devotion be saved.
as Christendom was once saved from the Infidels”

Reading
MT 6:5-8

“When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners so that others may see them.

Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

In praying, do not babble like the pagans, who think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them. Your Father knows what you need before you ask him.



Saint Luke
Evangelist, Patron of Doctors
18 October

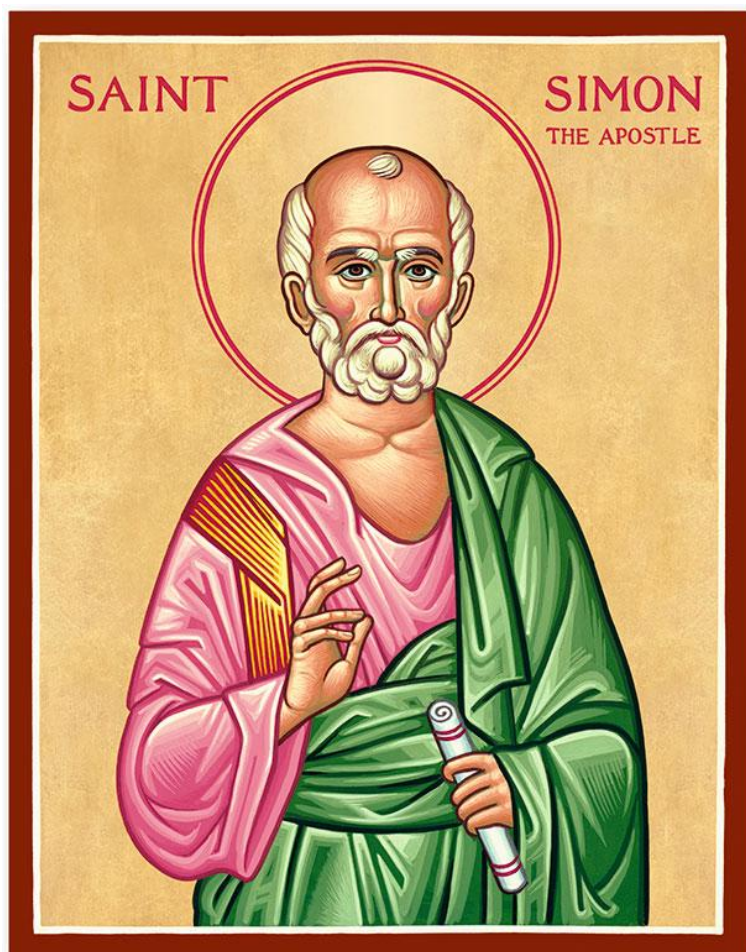
Prayer

“Saint Luke, who opened the life of Jesus and the
Apostles to us with thy gospel and acts,
keep us in health and watch over our healers”

Reading
Acts 1:1-5

In the first book, Theophilus, I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught until the day he was taken up, after giving instructions through the holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

While meeting with them, he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for “the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the holy Spirit.”



**Saints Simon and Jude
Apostles
28 October**

Prayer

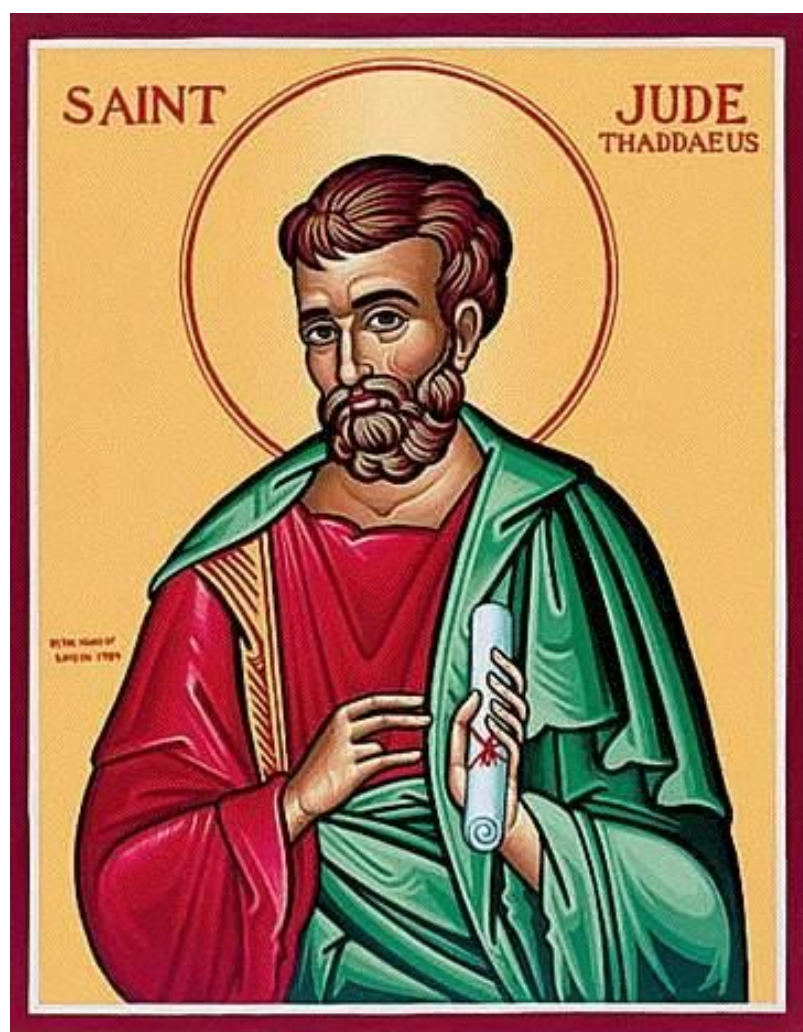
“Saints Simon and Jude,
faithful apostles and martyrs,
intercede for us in our hopelessness”

**Reading
MK 6:7-13**

He summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits. He instructed them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick—no food, no sack, no money in their belts. They were, however, to wear sandals but not a second tunic.

He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave from there. Whatever place does not welcome you or listen to you, leave there and shake the dust off your feet in testimony against them.”

So they went off and preached repentance. They drove out many demons, and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.



NOVEMBER

All Saints Day 1 November

Reading MT 5: 1-12

When he saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Thus, they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**All Souls Day
2 November**

Prayer

“O LORD remember all the souls you have created,
May they one day return to you”

**Reading
Rev 6: 9-11**

When he broke open the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slaughtered because of the witness they bore to the word of God.

They cried out in a loud voice, “How long will it be, holy and true master, before you sit in judgment and avenge our blood on the inhabitants of the earth?”

Each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to be patient a little while longer until the number was filled of their fellow servants and brothers who were going to be killed as they had been.

Saint Leo the Great
Pope, Doctor of the Church
10 November

Prayer

You were the Church's instrument in strengthening
the teaching of true doctrine;
You shone forth from the West like a sun dispelling
the errors of the heretics.
Righteous Leo, entreat Christ God to grant us His
great mercy.

O Champion of Orthodoxy, and teacher of holiness,
The enlightenment of the universe and the inspired
glory of true believers.
O most wise Father Leo, your teachings are as music
of the Holy Spirit for us!
Pray that Christ our God may save our souls!

Reading
LK 17: 7-10

Who among you would say to your servant who has
just come in from ploughing or tending sheep in the
field, 'Come here immediately and take your place at
table'?

Would he not rather say to him, 'Prepare something
for me to eat. Put on your apron and wait on me while
I eat and drink. You may eat and drink when I am
finished'?

Is he grateful to that servant because he did what was commanded?

So should it be with you. When you have done all you have been commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do.' ”



Saint Josaphat Kuntsevych
Archbishop, Martyr
12 November

Prayer

“Saint Josaphat, martyr of the Gospel,
Pray for us and Ukraine”

Reading
Prayer of The Apostle Paul

Grant me your mercy.
My redeemer, redeem me,
for I am yours.
I came from you.

You are my mind: give me birth.
You are my treasure: open for me.
You are my fullness: accept me.
You are my rest: give me unlimited perfection.

I pray to you,
you who exist and pre-existed,
in the name exalted above every name,
through Jesus the anointed,
lord of lords,
king of the eternal realms.

Give me your gifts, with no regret,
through the human child,
the spirit,
the advocate of truth.

Give me authority, I beg of you,
give healing for my body, as I beg you,
through the preacher of the gospel,
and redeem my enlightened soul forever, and my
spirit,
and disclose to my mind the firstborn of the fullness
of grace.

Grant what eyes of angels have not seen,
what ears of rulers have not heard,
and what has not arisen in the hearts of people,
who became angelic,
and after the image of the animate god
when it was formed in the beginning.

I have the faith of hope.
And bestow upon me
your beloved, chosen, blessed majesty,
you who are the firstborn, the first-conceived,
and the wonderful mystery of your house.

For yours is the power and the glory and the praise
and the greatness,
forever and ever.
Amen.



Presentation of The Virgin Mary
21 November
(The Mass of Mary is offered today)

Prayer

Holy Mary, Beloved of God, Watched by Angels,
Watch over your poor children on Earth,
And dance in the temple of our hearts,
As you once did in the Temple of The Lord!

Reading
Protoevangelium of James 7, 8:1

Months passed for the child. When she turned two, Joachim said, "Now we should take her up to the temple of the Lord, to fulfill the promise we made; otherwise, the Master may send some harm our way and our gift be deemed unacceptable."

Anna replied, "Let's wait until she is three; otherwise, she may be homesick for her father and mother."
Joachim agreed, "We will wait."

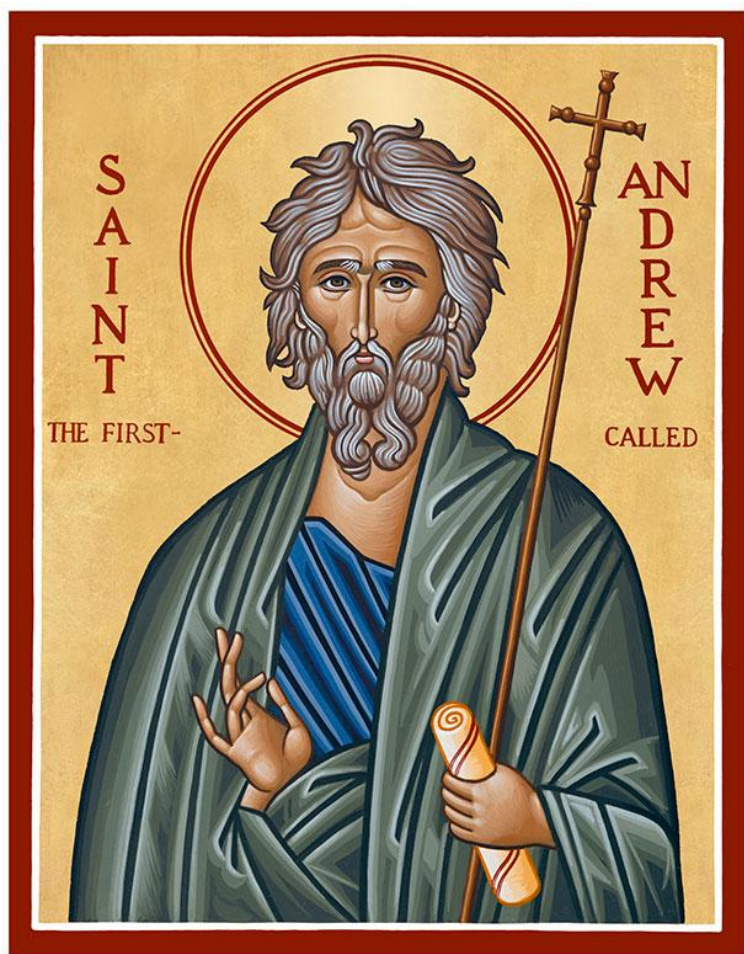
When the child turned three, Joachim said, "We should call the undefiled daughters of the Hebrews and have them take torches; let them set them up, blazing, that the child not turn back and her heart be taken captive away from the temple of the Lord."

They did this, until they had gone up to the Lord's temple. And the priest of the Lord received her and gave her a kiss, blessing her and saying, "The Lord has made your name great for all generations."

Through you will the Lord reveal his redemption to the sons of Israel at the end of time.”

He set her on the third step of the altar, and the Lord God cast his grace down upon her. She danced on her feet, and the entire house of Israel loved her.

Her parents went away, amazed and praising God, the Master, that the child did not turn back. Mary was in the temple of the Lord, cared for like a dove, receiving her food from the hand of an angel.



Saint Andrew
Apostle, Patron of Scotland
30 November

Prayer

“Saint Andrew the first called,
Pray for the Church, the See of Constantinople,
Scotland and all of us”

Reading
JN 1: 35-42

The next day John was there again with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, “Behold, the Lamb of God.” The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come, and you will see.” So they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon.

Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).