



**Clement
Manor**

PASTORAL CARE

SPIRITUAL GROWTH RESOURCE PACKET

2nd Week of Advent

Sunday, December 8, 2024

Gospel

Luke 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.**

**John 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.”



Removing the Obstacles to Grace

Second Sunday of Advent (Year C)

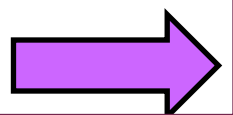
“Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” Luke 3:5–6

These, the words of the prophet Isaiah, were spoken about the mission of Saint John the Baptist. John was to “Prepare the way of the Lord” and to “make straight his paths.” In prophesying this, Isaiah goes on to give this very descriptive image of John’s ministry. It would be one that levels mountains and valleys, straightens every winding road, and smooths out the rough terrain. In other words, John came to remove every obstacle to God, making it easy to encounter the Messiah.

How does John complete this mission? By calling the people of that time to the dry and empty desert where all the false allurements cease to exist. This is done by detachment from the many sins and temptations they faced. Their repentance was an act by which the people humbled themselves before God, admitted their sins and acknowledged their need for a Savior. This humble admission, coupled with the commitment to change their ways, prepared heart after heart for the grace and mercy that came through Christ the Lord.

Today, there are countless obstacles to grace that so many people encounter. Some have been drawn into the satisfactions of earthly riches and material comforts and find little need for God. Others have very little that this world can offer but are consumed with a desire for money and the passing comforts it promises. And still others are drawn into many other forms of sins and false satisfactions. But there are some who are like a dry and deserted desert, just waiting to soak up the gentle rain of God’s grace. These are those who have sought to detach themselves from the false promises of this world and remain “empty” and “dry” so as to be prepared for the abundance of grace when it comes. These holy souls have heeded the call to repentance and have humbly acknowledged their need for the Savior.

Reflect, today, upon whether or not your soul is like that dry and barren desert, detached from all the false and passing satisfactions of this world, and prepared to soak up the mercy and grace of God alone. Repentance brings



forth detachment, and detachment prepares the soul for God. When one is truly detached and free from the many obstacles to God, then the road from God to your soul will be straight and easily traveled. Reflect upon your soul today and where you see unhealthy attachments. Repent with all your heart so that you are among those most fully ready for an abundance of the grace and mercy of God.

Lord, I turn to You in my need and repent of the many lies and false promises of satisfaction in this world. Please free me from all that is not of You so that my soul will be more fully prepared to soak You and Your mercy up like a gentle rain upon a dry and barren desert. I open myself to You, my Lord. Come fill and satiate my soul. Jesus, I trust in You.

If you have any personal intentions you would like to add they will be added to our list, contact Tom 546-7980 or tbrefka@clementmanor.org:

Weekly Prayer Intentions:

- **For those residents who are sick, may they feel the healing presence of God**
- **For those celebrating the holidays away from loved ones.**
- **For those suffering from chronic illnesses.**
- **For the homeless and hungry.**
- **For those needing a helping hand.**



Second Week of Advent

Reflection: In the Particulars

A cafeteria worker lowers boxes filled with pasta salad and beef stew into the backseat of my car. On the dashboard sits a list of names and room numbers for 29 unhoused folks staying at the hotel a few miles away. I never imagined the Eucharist could smell like beef stew until today. A litany of praise pours forth as I drive away:

Praise be for full back seats.

Praise be for neighbors meeting neighbors.

Praise be for shared dinners.

Praise be for new rituals.

Praise be for Eucharist in many forms.

Praise be God, in this time and place.

Light of the world. King of the universe. Prince of peace.

These Advent names for Jesus reflect the boundless nature of God who is above all and through all and in all. It is impossible to comprehend the vastness of God—a human limitation that can make God feel far away.

Which is why it can help at this time of year to read ancient names like “Lysansias” and “Caiaphas” and “Tiberus Caesar.” To remember the high priests and rulers of first century Rome. To recall that God entered the world in and through Christ at a particular time in history. A time of political strife and violent uprising. A time when Pontius Pilate dictated laws of the land, and no one seemed safe. Our boundless God lived—and died—through the turmoil of that particular time. And our God continues to show up in the particulars of here and now.

~Advent Reflections 2024: Jessie Bazan





**Holy Communion is distributed after Mass on SUNDAY
in Assisted Living and Independent Living Apartments.**

“Becoming Pilgrims of Hope” Take a moment with Janet Schaeffler each day as she reflections on the stories of love and joy to help you make Advent, Christmas, and 2025 “a time of resplendent goodness.” This daily devotional will be available in the chapel or upon request- Tom 546-7980

Monday, December 9 Immaculate Conception Mass—9:30am

“Advent: Whispers of Mary”

Join us in a special evening of prayer and reflection
during this special season

Tuesday - December 10

6:00pm in Chapel and on Channel 3



Thursday, December 12 Reconciliation Service—10:15am

Followed by 1:1 Reconciliation opportunity



Tuesday, December 24 Christmas Eve - 4pm Mass

Wednesday, December 25 Christmas - 9:30am Mass

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Tuesday, December 31 Communion Service—9:30am

Wednesday, January 1 Mary Mother of God - 9:30am



**Pope Francis' December 2024
Monthly Intention: For Pilgrims of Hope**

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.



St. Monica, Whitefish Bay

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the faith You have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever.

Amen.

December 9

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Divine Arist of the Universe,

Your providential care for us refreshes our imagination.

May the life of Mary, preserved from sin, help us to follow in the footsteps of Jesus to be a servant leader.

Open our hearts to the Word of God and help us to respond generously. Make us beacons of light where there is darkness transforming our world day by day, now and forever.

AMEN

Holy Mary, PRAY FOR US.



December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe

“Dearest Lady of Guadalupe, fruitful Mother of Holiness, teach me your ways of gentleness and strength. Hear my prayer offered with deepfelt confidence to beg this favor.... O Mary, conceived without sin, I come to your throne of grace to share the fervent devotion of your faithful Mexican children who call to you under the glorious Aztec title of “Guadalupe” the virgin who crushed the serpent. Queen of Martyrs, whose Immaculate heart was pierced by seven wounds of grief, help me to walk valiantly amid the sharp thorns thrown across my pathway. Queen of Apostles aid me to win souls for the Sacred Heart of my Savior. I plead this through the merits of your merciful Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.”

Our Lady of Guadalupe, PRAY FOR US



December 13

St. Lucy

Faithful God of consolation,

Praise to You for Your many graces and blessings.

When our vision becomes blurred with cares and concerns, enlighten our dullness and surprise us by joy.

May Saint Lucy aid us in seeing the light of truth.

This we ask in the name of Jesus, the Christ, our Lord.

AMEN

Saint Lucy, PRAY FOR US.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS:

Daily Reading for

Sunday December 8, 2024

Reading 1, Baruch 5:1-9

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6

Reading 2, Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11



Daily Reading for

Monday December 9, 2024

Reading 1, Isaiah 35:1-10

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14

Gospel, Luke 5:17-26

Daily Reading for

Friday December 13, 2024

Reading 1, Isaiah 48:17-19

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6

Gospel, Matthew 11:16-19

Daily Reading for

Tuesday December 10, 2024

Reading 1, Isaiah 40:1-11

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 96:1-2, 3, 10, 11-12, 13

Gospel, Matthew 18:12-14

Daily Reading for

Saturday December 14, 2024

Reading 1, Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

Gospel, Matthew 17:10-13

Daily Reading for

Wednesday December 11, 2024

Reading 1, Isaiah 40:25-31

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10

Gospel, Matthew 11:28-30

Daily Reading for

Sunday December 15, 2024

Reading 1, Zephaniah 3:14-18

Responsorial Psalm, Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6

Gospel, Luke 3:10-18

Reading 2, Philippians 4:4-7

Daily Reading for

Thursday December 12, 2024

Reading 1, Isaiah 7:10-14

Responsorial Psalm, Second Samuel 2:1, 4-8

Gospel, Luke 1:39-47



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