



**Clement
Manor**

PASTORAL CARE

SPIRITUAL GROWTH RESOURCE PACKET

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 12, 2026

Gospel

Matthew 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."



CLEMENT MANOR CHAPEL
All are welcome

RESPECT • COLLABORATION • QUALITY SERVICE

The Generous Sower

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

“A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up...” Matthew 13:3–4

In today’s Gospel, the Parable of the Sower is delivered from a boat, as Jesus addresses a large crowd along the shoreline. Jesus uses the natural acoustics of the water to carry His voice to the eager multitude who came to hear Him. Their earnestness offers us an opportunity for self-examination: Am I among that crowd, attentively listening as God speaks to me today? Do I go out of my way to seek, listen, and respond to the Word of God?

A parable is a method that both reveals and conceals. It reveals divine truth to those who are humble and receptive, and conceals that same truth from those whose hearts are closed. The truths of the Kingdom are not concepts that can be quickly grasped. They are divine mysteries that must enter the soul and be pondered and nourished. Only the spiritually docile can penetrate their depths and allow God’s Word to transform their lives.

The Sower is Christ. The seed is the Word of God, and the soil represents the human heart, in all its various conditions of readiness and receptivity. Some souls await God’s Word like freshly tilled, moist, and fertilized soil. As soon as the seed enters, it begins to grow rapidly—until fully grown and producing good fruit.

Other souls are less receptive. Like the path, some hearts are hardened, stubborn, refusing to receive divine truth. The Word is heard, but not truly received. The enemy snatches it away before it can penetrate.

Hearts that are like rocky ground are those who initially receive the Word with joy but lack perseverance. When trials come, they fall away. They may attend Mass, read Scripture, or begin with fervor, but without deep interior conversion rooted in prayer, they cannot endure the heat of testing.

The thorny heart is the divided heart, where the Word of God is mixed with anxieties, riches, and pleasures. The Gospel is heard—perhaps even cherished—but it is suffocated by worldly attachments, ambition, or fear. Earthly anxieties and the fascination of riches are thorns that smother the soul and prevent it from growing.

The good news is that God, the Divine Sower, is not passive. He sows the seed Himself—personally, directly, and abundantly. He is not like a remote monarch seated on a distant throne, waiting for us to come to Him. No—God always takes the initiative. He goes forth like the sower, casting His seed upon us even before we ask.

The seed comes to us in two essential ways: truth and grace. As truth, God’s



Word enlightens the intellect to know His eternal mysteries. As grace, God's Word strengthens the will to embrace and live those truths with faith and charity.

The Divine Sower sows lavishly. He casts the seed everywhere—on the path, among the rocks, amidst thorns, and upon rich earth. This is not careless, but the work of Divine Mercy. God desires that all be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. Even where the ground seems hardened, shallow, or choked with thorns, He still sows. He never ceases to speak, to reach out, to invite. He sows even in places we might deem hopeless—until the final moment, when the time for sowing is ended.

Reflect today on God's generous and continuous sowing in your soul. He never ceases speaking to you, calling to you, and planting His Word within you. How receptive are you? Which soil best describes your soul? It's never too late to respond in this life. God's Word can grow rapidly within us when our souls are fertile and receptive. Remove the rocks, cut down the thorns, and till the hardened path, so that the abundant seed will make its way into your heart.

Divine Sower, You ceaselessly send forth Your truth and grace to enlighten and strengthen us in the mission of building Your Kingdom. Please till the soil of my heart and make it fertile, so that Your Word may take root in me, growing and producing an abundance of good fruit. Jesus, I trust in You.

A Prayer for the Summer

Loving God, Creator of all seasons, we thank You for the gift of summer—for longer days, warm sunshine, and the beauty of Your creation in full bloom.

As the earth is renewed, so too may our spirits be refreshed in Your love. Grant us moments of rest, joy, and communion with family and friends. Let this season be a time to draw closer to You in quiet reflection, to recognize Your presence in nature, and to serve others with generous hearts.

Keep travelers safe, protect those who labor under the sun, and bless the homeless and vulnerable with comfort and care.

May summer's light remind us of Christ, the Light of the World, shining through every season of life.

Help us to walk in His ways, to share His peace, and to rejoice always in the goodness of Your grace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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 the Sick:** May those residents who are sick feel Your healing presence.
- **For the Church:** That all who proclaim the Gospel may do so with courage, clarity, and compassion, drawing others to Christ.
- **For leaders and nations:** That they may seek wisdom in making decisions that uphold justice and promote peace.
- **For those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit:** That they may find healing, hope, and comfort in the love of God and the care of others.
- **For our community:** That we may grow in faith and learn to recognize the voice of God guiding our daily lives.



ALL ARE WELCOME!!

You are welcome to join us in person for any of our chapel services. If you have family or friends visiting, you are wel-

ROADS—A Word a Day

Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. —Luke 3:5

My daughter gripped the steering wheel during her first attempt to drive our Ozark roads that wind up and down and around sharp curves. We approached a hill. “Hit the gas now so you can maintain speed on the incline,” I advised. I taught her to use the accelerator rather than the brake to slow for a curve and then speed up to maneuver through it. These roads that posed danger for an inexperienced driver would soon lead my daughter away from home to unfamiliar roads with many twists, presenting new and different dangers. My time in the passenger seat was limited. What had I taught her about handling life’s ups and downs, about facing unexpected curves? I prayed I had prepared her to travel the crooked roads safely.

—Karen

Father, straighten the roads our children travel and lead them always to You. AMEN

Holy Father's Monthly Intention July 2026

For respect for human life

Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

St. Clement, Sheboygan



Loving and Merciful God,

You are the Author of all life, and every person is created in Your image and likeness. Open our hearts to cherish and protect the gift of human life from its beginning to its natural end. Help us to recognize the dignity of every child, every adult, every person who is ill, elderly, or vulnerable. Grant us the courage to defend life with compassion, speak with kindness, and serve with generous love. May our words and actions reflect Your mercy, bringing hope, healing, and peace to our world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS:

Daily Reading for

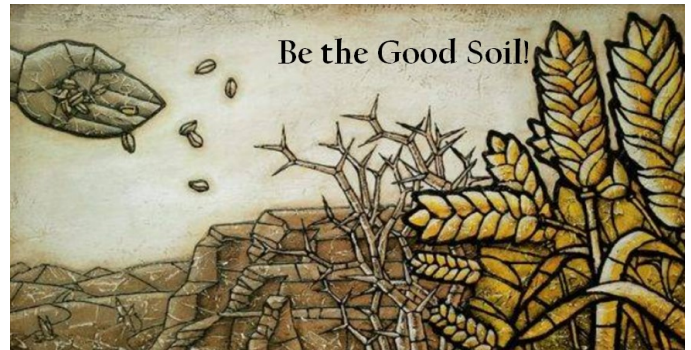
Sunday July 12, 2026

Reading 1, Isaiah 55:10-11

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14

Gospel, Matthew 13:1-23

Reading 2, Romans 8:18-23



Daily Reading for

Monday July 13, 2026

Reading 1, Isaiah 1:10-17

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 50:8-9, 16-17, 21, 23

Gospel, Matthew 10:34-11:1

Daily Reading for

Friday July 17, 2026

Reading 1, Isaiah 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8

Responsorial Psalm, Isaiah 38:10, 11, 12, 16

Gospel, Matthew 12:1-8

Daily Reading for

Tuesday July 14, 2026

Reading 1, Isaiah 7:1-9

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 48:2-3, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

Gospel, Matthew 11:20-24

Daily Reading for

Saturday July 18, 2026

Reading 1, Micah 2:1-5

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 10:1-2, 3-4, 7-8, 14

Gospel, Matthew 12:14-21

Daily Reading for

Wednesday July 15, 2026

Reading 1, Isaiah 10:5-7, 13-16

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 94:5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 14-15

Gospel, Matthew 11:25-27

Daily Reading for

Sunday July 19, 2026

Reading 1, Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16

Gospel, Matthew 13:24-43

Reading 2, Romans 8:26-27

Daily Reading for

Thursday July 16, 2026

Reading 1, Isaiah 26:7-9, 12, 16-19

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 102:13-14, 15, 16-18, 19-21

Gospel, Matthew 11:28-30



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