



**Clement
Manor**

PASTORAL CARE

SPIRITUAL GROWTH RESOURCE PACKET

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 23, 2026

Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi and 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 Christ, 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 Christ.

CLEMENT MANOR CHAPEL

All are welcome

RESPECT • COLLABORATION • QUALITY SERVICE

Overcoming the Gates of hell

Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi and 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 Christ, the Son of the living God.”
Matthew 16:13–16

The symbolism associated with Caesarea Philippi is central to today’s Gospel. Located north of Jesus’ home base in Capernaum, it was a predominantly pagan city known for its shrines to false gods. One of the most prominent was Pan, after whom the region was named Panias (later Banias). Pan, a Greek god, was honored at a shrine near a large cave and spring considered the entrance to Hades. Pan was the god of nature, shepherds, flocks, wild places, fertility, and rustic music, and was often depicted as half man, half goat, with horns and hooves. He played the pan flute and was associated with lust, chaos, and sudden fear—from which we get the word panic.

Additionally, the city was the site of a temple dedicated to the late emperor, Caesar Augustus, who was worshiped as a god throughout the Roman Empire. It was into this spiritually dark pagan setting that Jesus led His disciples—on what may have been a two-day journey—for what culminated in a single, monumental question.

Jesus took the Twelve away from the comfort of their familiar fishing village and Jewish neighbors for a reason. He wanted them to answer His question not in the midst of the familiar and safe, but in a place marked by spiritual confusion and idolatry. Why? So that faith could be professed even there, and divine grace could confront the darkness that permeated the region.

At first, He asked who the people said He was. They answered, “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” But then He posed the question that reached the heart of His mission: “But who do you say that I am?” This was a moment of divine testing—one which Simon passed with profound faith: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus’ extraordinary and consequential response has enduring significance to this day. He declared:

“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” (Matthew 16:17–19).

With these sacred words, Jesus founded His Church upon Peter, making him the first pope. In biblical tradition, a change of name signifies a new mission and identity. Simon, son of Jonah, was now to be called Peter—Petros in Greek and Cephas in Aramaic—meaning “rock.” Peter became the solid foundation upon which Christ’s Church would be built. No pagan power, false god, or earthly ruler would ever overcome what Christ established with divine authority.

Reflect today on the significance of the papacy. Even now, in the successor of Saint Peter, the words of Simon continue to echo throughout the world: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” This is the pope’s first and most important duty—to bear witness to Christ, the Son of God. Despite the personal weaknesses of some popes and the saintliness of others, it is Jesus who established Peter and his successors as the visible foundation of the Church. Pray for the Holy Father, and trust in the timeless witness of every pope since that first moment in Caesarea Philippi—a witness upheld not by human strength, but by Christ’s own promise. To profess faith in the papacy is to profess faith in the One who instituted it and endowed it with His divine authority.

My Lord, You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. With Simon, I profess this truth and place my faith in You, who established Simon, son of Jonah, as Peter—the rock and foundation of Your Church. I believe and profess that the gates of hell shall never prevail against the Church, not because of human strength or perfection, but because of Your eternal promise. I pray for our Holy Father, the pope, and for all his successors. Make them true and faithful witnesses to the confession first spoken by Saint Peter. 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 the Sick:** May those residents who are sick feel Your healing presence.
- **For the Church:** May we welcome all people with open hearts and share the love of Christ with those who feel forgotten or alone.
- **For our world:** May God bring peace to nations divided by conflict, and help us recognize the dignity and worth of every person.
- **For those who are struggling:** May God strengthen those who are sick, lonely, discouraged, or facing difficult times, and surround them with loving support.
- **For our community:** May we follow the example of Jesus by reaching out with compassion, faith, and kindness to everyone we encounter.



Offer Masses for your Loved Ones
A Mass Stipend
Suggested offering \$20.
Contact Tom Brefka – 546-7980

Use what
talents you possess
the world would be very silent
if no birds sang
except those
who sang
best

Change My Heart

Change My Heart Oh God
Change my heart, oh God;
Make it ever true.
Change my heart, oh God;
May I be like You.
You are the Potter,
I am the clay,
Mold me and make me,
This is what I pray.
~Eddie Espinosa

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As for Me....

It's decision time, says Joshua to the people. Decide once and for all: Will you serve the God of our ancestors? Or the god of the Amorites? He then proclaims his own choice. And the people choose to serve the true God.

I had a priest friend whose email address began with "As4me." I loved it! These three little words can be used to reflect on the choices we are making in our lives.

Imagine:

As4me, I am spending time with.....

As4me, I am marrying....

As4me, I am donating to....

As4me, I am helping....

As4me, I am paying attention to....

As4me, I am learning to....

As4me, I am caring for....

As4me, I am praying for.....

Life-giving God, as for me, may all my choices grow out of my deep love for you.

~S. Melannie Svoboda, SND

(livingfaith.com)

Join us on Clement Manor

Channel 3.1

**Word & Communion
Service**

**Monday & Tuesday—
9:30am**

Mass

**Wednesday—Friday &
Sunday 9:30am**

Saturday — 4:00pm

Individual Reconciliation

How Great, How Glorious

**How great, how glorious,
How wondrous are Your ways,
You reign victorious lifted high
upon our praise.**

**You are enthroned on the praises of Your
people, God with us, You are called
Emmanuel.**

**God is our strength, God is our refuge, And
a very present help in time of trouble.**

**You're great, You're glorious, How excellent
is Your name.**

**You reign victorious lifted high upon our
praise.**

You're great and greatly to be praised.

~Don Moen and Martin J. Nystrom

St. Monica— August 27

All-powerful God,

Our prayers never go unanswered. Saint Monica persevered through suffering and abuse, and continued to trust in prayer. Strengthen our faith and quicken our imaginations to pray and witness to Your goodness and mercy. This we ask in Jesus' name.

AMEN.

Saint Monica, PRAY FOR US.



St. Augustine— August 28

God of Surprises,

Your love is eternal and Your grace is sufficient for us. Through the prayers of his mother Saint Monica, Saint Augustine converted from his sinful ways to become a great writer and teacher. May we be sensitive to the yearning in our hearts for the peace of Christ. When we struggle with difficulties, help us to pour out our troubles to You. Grant us enduring trust in Christ our Lord
AMEN.

Saint Augustine, PRAY FOR US.



The Passion of St. John the Baptist— August 29

Saint John the Baptist, you were given a holy mission and sanctified in the womb of your mother in preparation for that mission. You never deviated from your calling and always pointed the way to Christ, the Savior of all. Please pray for me, that I will have the same courage you had and the resolve to fulfill my duties, no matter the cost. Saint John the Baptist, pray for me.

Jesus, I trust in You.

AMEN

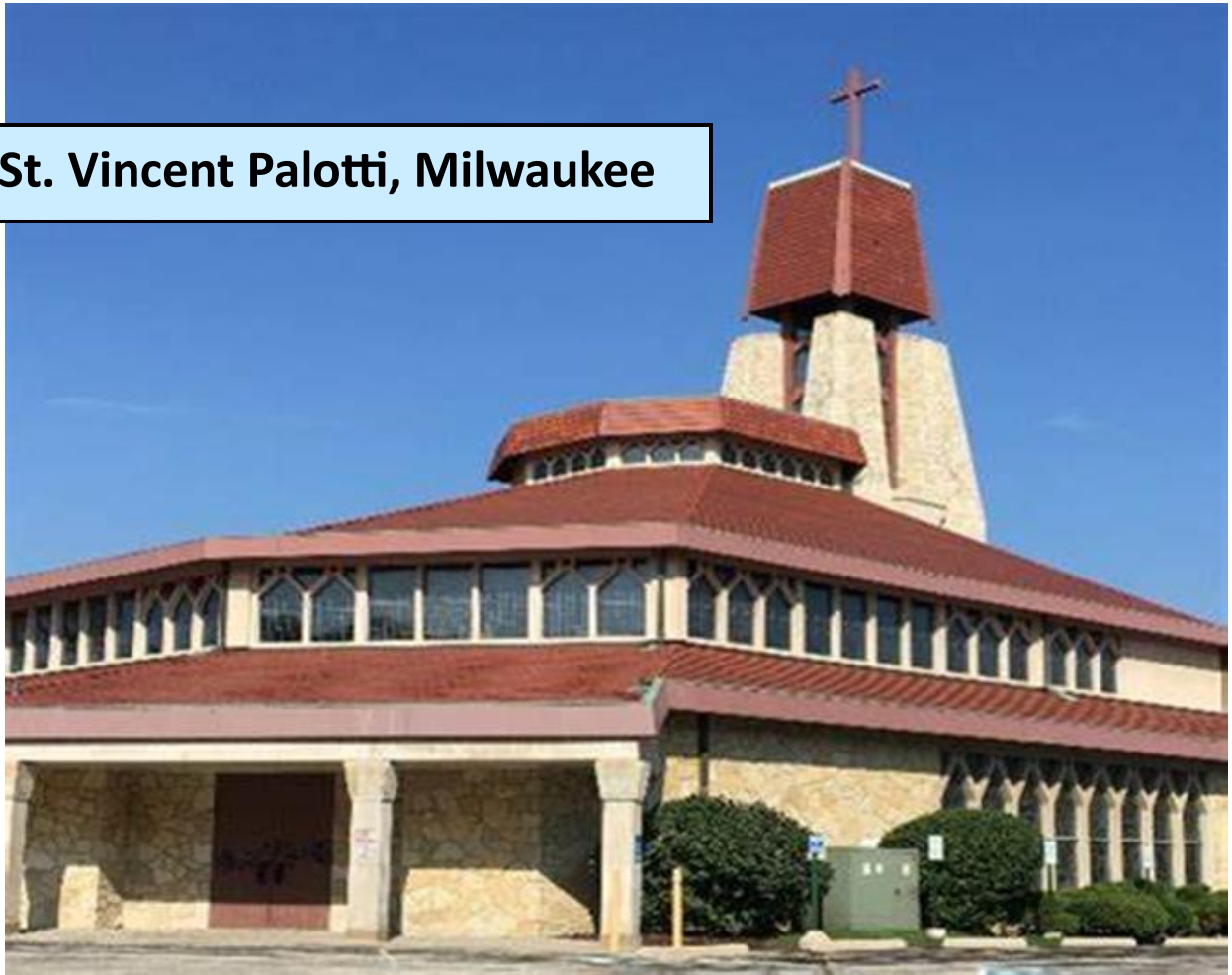
Saint John the Baptist, PRAY FOR US.

Holy Father's Monthly Intention August 2026

For evangelization in the city

Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

St. Vincent Palotti, Milwaukee



Loving God,

In the midst of our busy cities, where so many people live surrounded by others yet feel alone, help us to be signs of your loving presence. Open our eyes to those who long for friendship, hope, and belonging. Give us courage to reach beyond our familiar circles and welcome those who feel forgotten or unseen. Inspire us with creative ways to share the Gospel through kindness, compassion, conversation, and service. May our parishes, neighborhoods, workplaces, and communities become places where people encounter Christ and discover that they are never alone. Through our words and actions, build among us a community rooted in love, faith, and hope. Amen.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS:

Daily Reading for

Sunday August 23, 2026

Reading 1, Isaiah 22:15, 19-23

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8

Gospel, Matthew 16:13-20

Reading 2, Romans 11:33-36

Daily Reading for

Monday August 24, 2026

Reading 1, Revelation 21:9-14

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18

Gospel, John 1:45-51

Daily Reading for

Tuesday August 25, 2026

Reading 1, Second Thessalonians 2:1-3, 14-16

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 96:10, 11-12, 13

Gospel, Matthew 23:23-26

Wednesday August 26, 2026

Reading 1, Second Thessalonians 3:6-10, 16-18

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 128:1-2, 4-5

Gospel, Matthew 23:27-32

Daily Reading for

Thursday August 27, 2026

Reading 1, First Corinthians 1:1-9

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7

Gospel, Matthew 24:42-51



Daily Reading for

Friday August 28, 2026

Reading 1, First Corinthians 1:17-25

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 33:1-2, 4-5, 10, 11

Gospel, Matthew 25:1-13

Daily Reading for

Saturday August 29, 2026

Reading 1, Jeremiah 1:17-19

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 71:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15, 17

Gospel, Mark 6:17-29

Daily Reading for

Sunday August 30, 2026

Reading 1, Jeremiah 20:7-9

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9

Gospel, Matthew 16:21-27

Reading 2, Romans 12:1-2

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