



**Clement
Manor**

PASTORAL CARE

SPIRITUAL GROWTH RESOURCE PACKET

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 30, 2026

Gospel

Matthew 16:21-27

**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 Jesus 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."**

**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 all according to his conduct."**

CLEMENT MANOR CHAPEL
All are welcome

RESPECT • COLLABORATION • QUALITY SERVICE

A Stark Contrast

“Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do.” Matthew 16:23

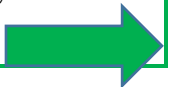
This scene likely unfolds in or near Caesarea Philippi, a Gentile region steeped in pagan worship. There, at the mouth of a cave long associated with the entrance to the netherworld—believed by some pagans to be the very gate of Hades—Jesus had just questioned His disciples: “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” and then more directly, “But who do you say that I am?” (cf. Matthew 16:13–15). Peter, speaking with conviction on behalf of the Twelve, boldly proclaimed, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16). Jesus responded by declaring him “Peter,” the rock upon which He would build His Church, promising that “the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

Just moments later, Jesus issues one of the strongest rebukes recorded in the Gospels: “Get behind me, Satan!” The same Peter who had just spoken divine truth now speaks human fear and shortsightedness. In trying to dissuade Jesus from His suffering and death, Peter unknowingly opposes the very mission of the Messiah. Jesus calls this mindset not merely a mistake, but a diabolical temptation—echoing the same temptation He faced in the desert, when Satan sought to lure Him away from the Cross with promises of worldly glory.

What a stark contrast. Peter goes from being the rock of faith to an obstacle in the Lord’s path. But why was Jesus so severe in His response?

Because the stakes were eternal. The Cross is not optional. It is the means of salvation—not just for Jesus, but for all who would follow Him. To think otherwise, even with good intention, is to prefer human comfort over divine wisdom. Peter’s protest reflects a natural aversion to suffering, but Jesus exposes it for what it truly is: a stumbling block to the will of the Father.

This dramatic Gospel scene is recorded for a reason. By calling Peter “Satan,” Jesus wanted to warn him—and us—of the real and ever-present danger of rejecting the way of the Cross. Like Peter, we can easily fall into the trap of wishful thinking and misguided compassion by saying about ourselves or those close to us, “God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen...” We are saying, in essence: “Lord, please make sure that neither I nor anyone I love ever has to suffer!” But such a prayer, though well-meaning, is clearly mistaken, and Jesus wants that point to be clearly understood.



Peter was troubled because “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.” But all that Jesus revealed about His suffering was good—very good. Though His suffering was inflicted by the sins of others, His free and loving embrace of that suffering was the greatest act of love the world has ever known. Peter was blinded to this truth. He could not yet see beyond the horror of suffering to the divine good that would come through Jesus’ sacrificial embrace of it.

Reflect today on Peter’s and Jesus’ words: “God forbid, Lord!” and “Get behind me, Satan!” In this exchange, Jesus is also speaking to each of us, saying, “Never run from the Cross!” We must never flee from a selfless and sacrificial embrace of suffering, even when that suffering is unjust. God can and will transform all freely embraced suffering into a means of His eternal glory and our sanctification. With our Lord, reject the evil one’s false empathy. Reject the lie that suffering is meaningless. Choose instead to lay down your life in love with Christ, and in doing so, you will rise with Him, victorious over every sin and diabolical lie, overcoming even the sufferings of this life through your free and faithful embrace.

My compassionate Lord, Your firm rebuke of Peter was direct, powerful, and loving. Rather than offering false comfort or misleading empathy, You spoke a hard truth to awaken Peter—and all of us—to the spiritual necessity of the Cross. Grant me the grace, dear Lord, to say “Yes” to the suffering I must face. May I embrace it not with fear or resistance, but with a heart filled with Your love and unwavering courage. Jesus, I trust in You.

Prayers For Protection Over Our Students

Thank you Lord that as we sing Your praises

You are spreading Your divine protection over our students.

Watch over their coming and going.

You said you will rescue us from every trap and protect us from deadly disease.

We declare that over our house, over our students.

No evil will touch us.

As we come and go, bring us all home safely each day.

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 the Church may faithfully proclaim the Gospel and lead all people closer to Christ.
- **For our world:** That leaders may seek peace, justice, and the common good, especially for those who are most vulnerable.
- **For those who are suffering:** That God may strengthen those who are burdened by illness, loneliness, or hardship, and surround them with loving care.
- **For our Clement Manor Community:** That we may humbly follow Christ, offering our lives in loving service to others.



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

The Summons

**Will you come and follow me if I
but call your name?**

**Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?**

**Will you let my love be shown? Will
you let my name be known,**

**Will you let my life be grown in you
and you in me?**

**Will you leave yourself behind if I
but call your name?**

**Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?**

**Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?**

**Will you let me answer prayer in
you and you in me?**

Pastoral Care Staff

Tom Brefka 546-7980

tbrefka@clementmanor.org

Fr. Bob Fictum 546-7383

rfictum@clementmanor.org

Karyl Daluga 546-7336

kdaluga@clementmanor.org

Sharon Hanson 546-7982

shanson@clementmanor.org

Sister Nancy Sell, OSF 546-7037

nsell@clementmanor.org

Sister Lucy Marindany 546-7349

[lmarindany@clementmanor.org](mailto:lmарindany@clementmanor.org)

Ed David

A Prayer for Deacons

Good and gracious God,

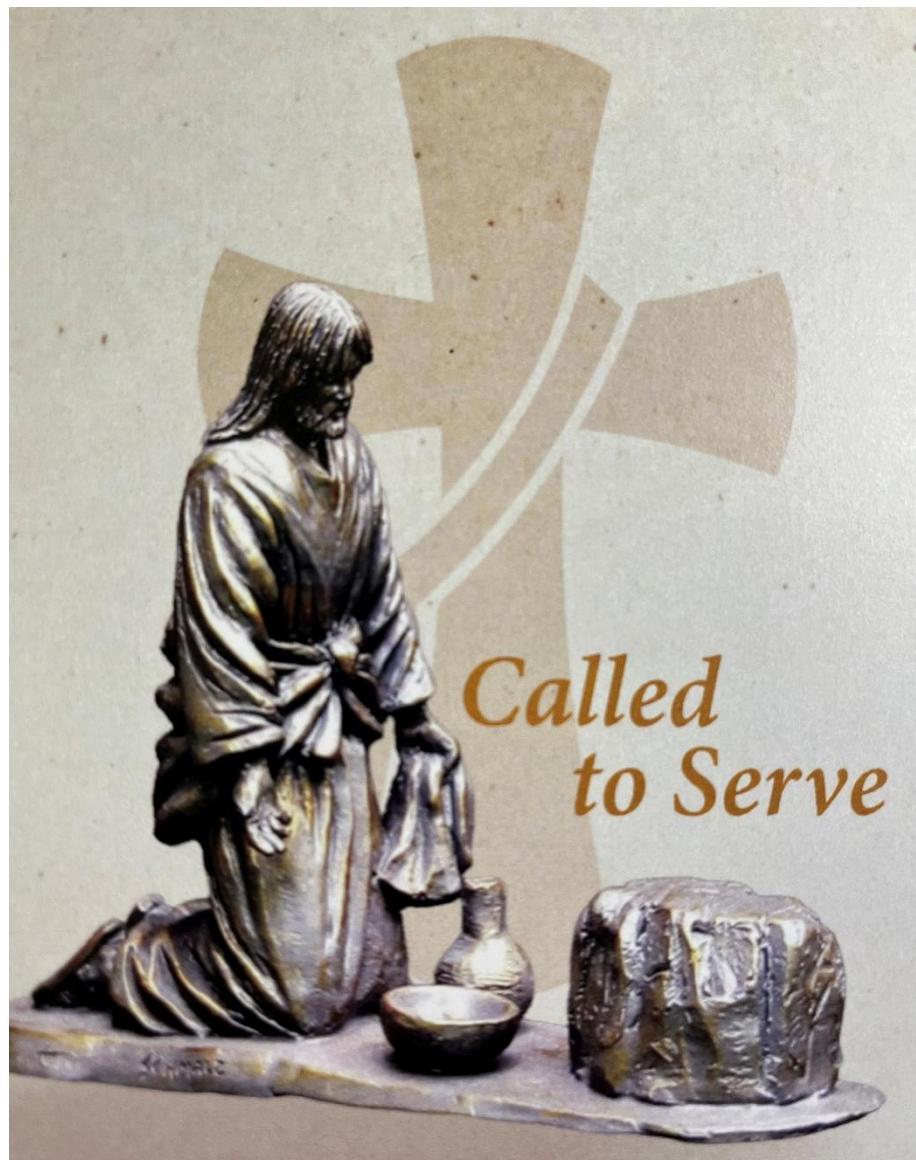
By the example of Jesus Christ, You have given us the model of humble service. Through the tradition handed on by the Apostles, You call men to conform their lives to Christ the Servant.

Bless these men as they embrace this calling and go forth in diaconal service.

May they be faithful servants of Your Church, devoted to You, to their families, and to all Your people.

Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Stephen, St. Lawrence, and all the holy deacons who have gone before them, grant them the grace, humility, and courage to carry out the ministries of word, liturgy and charity according to Your will, especially in service to the marginalized, the overlooked, and the forgotten.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN.



September 3

Saint Gregory the Great, pope, monastic

Blest are You, God, Ruler of the Universe.

We praise and thank You for raising up leaders in every age. Today, we honor Saint Gregory, who had a career in civil and political service before becoming a Benedictine monk. After being elected pope, Saint Gregory, labored on behalf of the poor. Help us to be mindful of our leaders and supportive of their efforts for the common good. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

Saint Gregory, PRAY FOR US.



Labor Day

First Monday of September

God, the Master Artisan of all,

Your create and bring everything into being. The fruit of our work reflects Your goodness, wisdom and power. As we honor all who labor with their hands, help us to be grateful and show appreciation to them. Bless all who serve our needs this day and forever.

AMEN.



A Prayer for the First Day of School

Loving God, bless our students as they begin a new school year. Fill their hearts with joy, curiosity, and courage. Bless their teachers with patience, wisdom, and compassion. Help every student feel welcomed, valued, and supported. May this year be filled with friendship, learning, growth, and opportunities to share your love with others. Guide us each day and remind us that you are always with us. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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. Monica's, Whitefish Bay



Prayer for Evangelization in the City

Gracious and loving God, we pray for all who live in our cities, especially those who feel forgotten, lonely, or unseen amid the crowds. Open our eyes to the people you place in our path and give us hearts willing to notice, listen, welcome, and care. Inspire us to proclaim the Gospel not only with our words, but through acts of kindness, friendship, compassion, and service. Help our churches and communities become places where strangers find belonging, the weary discover hope, and those searching for meaning encounter your love. May we build bridges where there are divisions and create communities where every person knows they are valued. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS:

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



Daily Reading for

Monday August 31, 2026

Reading 1, First Corinthians 2:1-5

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 119:97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102

Gospel, Luke 4:16-30

Daily Reading for

Friday September 4, 2026

Reading 1, Corinthians 4:1-5

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 37:3-4, 5-6, 27-28, 39-40

Gospel, Luke 5:33-39

Daily Reading for

Tuesday September 1, 2026

Reading 1, Corinthians 2:10-16

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13, 13-14

Gospel, Luke 4:31-37

Daily Reading for

Saturday September 5, 2026

Reading 1, Corinthians 4:9-15

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 145:17-18, 19-20, 21

Gospel, Luke 6:1-5

Daily Reading for

Wednesday September 2, 2026

Reading 1, Corinthians 3:1-9

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 33:12-13, 14-15, 20-21

Gospel, Luke 4:38-44

Daily Reading for

Sunday September 6, 2026

Reading 1, Ezekiel 33:7-9

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9

Gospel, Matthew 18:15-20

Reading 2, Romans 13:8-10

Daily Reading for

Thursday September 3, 2026

Reading 1, Corinthians 3:18-23

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

Gospel, Luke 5:1-11



Clement Manor is
proudly sponsored by
the Franciscan Sisters
of Christian Charity

