



Clement  
Manor

PASTORAL CARE

## **SPIRITUAL GROWTH RESOURCE PACKET**

**6th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

**Sunday, February 16, 2025**

**Gospel**

**Jesus came down with the Twelve and stood on a stretch of level ground with a great crowd of his disciples and a large number of the people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon.**

**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.**

**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.”**



*“But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. 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.” Luke 6:24–26*

Luke 6:20–49 offers us a shortened version of the Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew’s Gospel. Luke’s version of this sermon takes place on a plain, “a stretch of level ground.” The teachings in the two Gospels are very similar, despite their difference in length. Luke’s teaching on the Beatitudes adds the “woe to you’s” quoted above, which are not found in Matthew’s version.

The early Church Father Saint Bede comments that Saint Luke’s version of the “woes” are meant for those who are “uninstructed hearers” because they “must first be brought by terrors to good works.” He goes on to say that the first part of the Beatitudes, the “blessings,” are meant for the “perfect” because they “need but be invited by rewards” rather than fear of punishment. The fact that Saint Luke includes a teaching for both the sinner and the saint should lead us to the conclusion that we can benefit from both approaches in our spiritual lives.

When your spiritual life is strong and you are consistently avoiding serious sin, it might be more helpful to reflect regularly upon the blessings found in the Beatitudes. This will have the effect of drawing you into greater perfection as the desire for the reward of holiness becomes the object of your hope.

When your spiritual life is weaker and you are regularly struggling with more serious sin, it might be more helpful to reflect upon the woes of the Beatitudes. This will have the effect of deterring you from the cycle of sin you struggle with, on account of the fear of the consequences of those sins.

In the end, the Beatitudes and their subsequent woes are meant to point us interiorly to the desires of our hearts. We must become more and more aware of what occupies our thinking and desires. Ultimately, wealth or poverty, hunger or satisfaction, worldly praise or persecution do not matter. What matters is that our hearts are detached from the desires identified in this sermon so that we more fully desire only God and His holy will, regardless of the circumstances of life we find ourselves in.

Reflect, today, upon your own spiritual and moral life and first consider whether you are blessed to be living a life that more imitates the saints or whether you more often reflect the serious struggles of the sinner. From there, try to choose which form of teaching you need the most. Do you need to ponder the rewards of seeking even greater beatitude in life so as to grow deeper in holiness? Or do you need Jesus’ clear condemnations to help you break free from the cycle of sin with which you are struggling? Humbly identify that which is most helpful to you right now in your spiritual life and allow this full sermon of Jesus to help you on your journey to the Kingdom of Heaven.

## **World Day of Justice Prayer—February 20**

**We know that Jesus' greatest longing, like that of the prophet Micah, was for the coming of God's reign on the earth—that day in which God's justice and love would permeate this earth as it does heaven. The ethical teaching that he gave us intended to help bring this reign about. But, he also taught us to pray for God's Kingdom to come. As we close our meeting this day, let us pray and reflect upon the most treasured prayer that we have: the prayer that Jesus taught us.**

***Our Father . . .* who always stands with the weak, the powerless, the poor, the abandoned, the sick, the aged, the very young, the unborn, and those who, by victim of circumstance, bear the heat of the day.**

***Who are in heaven . . .* where everything will be reversed, where the first will be last and the last will be first, but where all will be well and every manner of being will be well.**

***Hallowed be thy name . . .* may we always acknowledge your holiness, respecting that your ways are not our ways, your standards are not our standards. May the reverence we give your name pull us out of the selfishness that prevents us from seeing the pain of our neighbor.**

***Your kingdom come . . .* help us to create a world where, beyond our own needs and hurts, we will do justice, love tenderly, and walk humbly with you and each other.**

***Your will be done . . .* open our freedom to let you in so that the complete mutuality that characterizes your life might flow through our veins and thus the life that we help generate may radiate your equal love for all and your special love for the poor.**

***On earth as it is in heaven . . .* may the work of our hands, the temples and structures we build in this world, reflect the temple and the structure of your glory so that the joy, graciousness, tenderness, and justice of heaven will show forth within all of our structures on earth.**

***Give . . .* life and love to us and help us to see always everything as gift. Help us to know that nothing comes to us by right and that we must give because we have been given to. Help us realize that we must give to the poor, not because they need it, but because our own health depends upon our giving to them.**

***Us . . .* the truly plural us. Give not just to our own but to everyone, including those who are very different than the narrow us. Give your gifts to all of us equally.**

***This day . . .* not tomorrow. Do not let us push things off into some indefinite future so that we can continue to live justified lives in the face of injustice because we can make good excuses for our inactivity.**

***Our daily bread . . .*** so that each person in the world may have enough food, enough clean water, enough clear air, adequate health care, and sufficient access to education so as to have the sustenance for a healthy life. Teach us to give from our sustenance and not just from our surplus.

***And forgive us our trespasses . . .*** forgive us our blindness toward our neighbor, our self-preoccupation, our racism, our sexism, and our incurable propensity to worry only about ourselves and our own. Forgive us our capacity to watch the evening news and do nothing about it.

***As we forgive those who trespass against us . . .*** help us to forgive those who victimize us. Help us to mellow out in spirit, to not grow bitter with age, to forgive the imperfect parents and systems that wounded, cursed, and ignored us.

***And do not put us to the test . . .*** do not judge us only by whether we have fed the hungry, given clothing to the naked, visited the sick, or tried to mend the systems that victimize the poor. Spare us this test for none of us can stand before your gospel scrutiny. Give us, instead, more days to mend our ways, our selfishness, and our systems.

***But deliver us from evil . . .*** that is, from the blindness that lets us continue to participate in anonymous systems within which we need not see who gets less as we get more. Amen

Thank you, Lord, for your presence with us these past several days as we have listened to and been challenged by the words of your prophets—those found in scripture and those found in this community—colleagues with whom we share the journey of Catholic health care. As we depart from this space now, we ask you to bless our travels and keep us safe as we return home. Do not let the learning and conversations of this gathering die, but may they continue to ruminate within us and bear fruit in our ministries throughout the year, until we find ourselves together again. We ask this in the name of Jesus, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

### **Prayer for President's Day**

**Eternal Father, as we gather in reverence on this President's Day, we pray for the authority that we may exemplify — an embodiment of Your mercy and hope. Christ, our steadfast leader, guide us to shape our lives to echo Your teachings. We honor the past presidents whose faith have influenced their leadership; inflame that same faith within each person in our nation: “*Let your light so shine before men...*” (Matthew 5:16). Breathe into us life abundant with respect and honor for all. 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](mailto:tbrefka@clementmanor.org):

#### Weekly Prayer Intentions:

- For those residents who are sick, may they feel the healing presence of God
- For our hearts to be filled with love and compassion, that we may reflect Your mercy to those around us.
- Bless all families, especially those struggling with hardship, that they may find strength and unity in Your love.
- May Your peace reign in our hearts and in all nations, bringing an end to conflict and division.
- As we approach Lent, may we turn away from sin and draw closer to You in faith and humility.



**PRAY A WORD A DAY—Come**  
*“Lord, do not be far from me. You are my strength; come quickly to help me.” —Psalm 22:19*

Texting has introduced a new brevity into some of my conversations. Recently a friend texted to ask if I still needed his help with an outdoor project I had mentioned to him earlier. I sent a one-word reply: “Come.”

A frequent phrase on my lips—and pens—of the Bible’s song-writers was “come quickly, Lord, to help me” (Psalm 40:13). Not that God is ever far, but we often need reminders that He’s present with us. “Come” reminds us of our need, of His willing presence, of His available strength and help. Taking a moment to utter the single word—“Come”—invites the Lord into my chaos and stress and brings the Prince of Peace into my situation. Into my mind. Into the moment. So, when necessary, I take a breath, close my eyes, and say: “Come.”  
—Bob

*Lord, I pray: Come. Come now.  
Come quickly. Come often. AMEN*

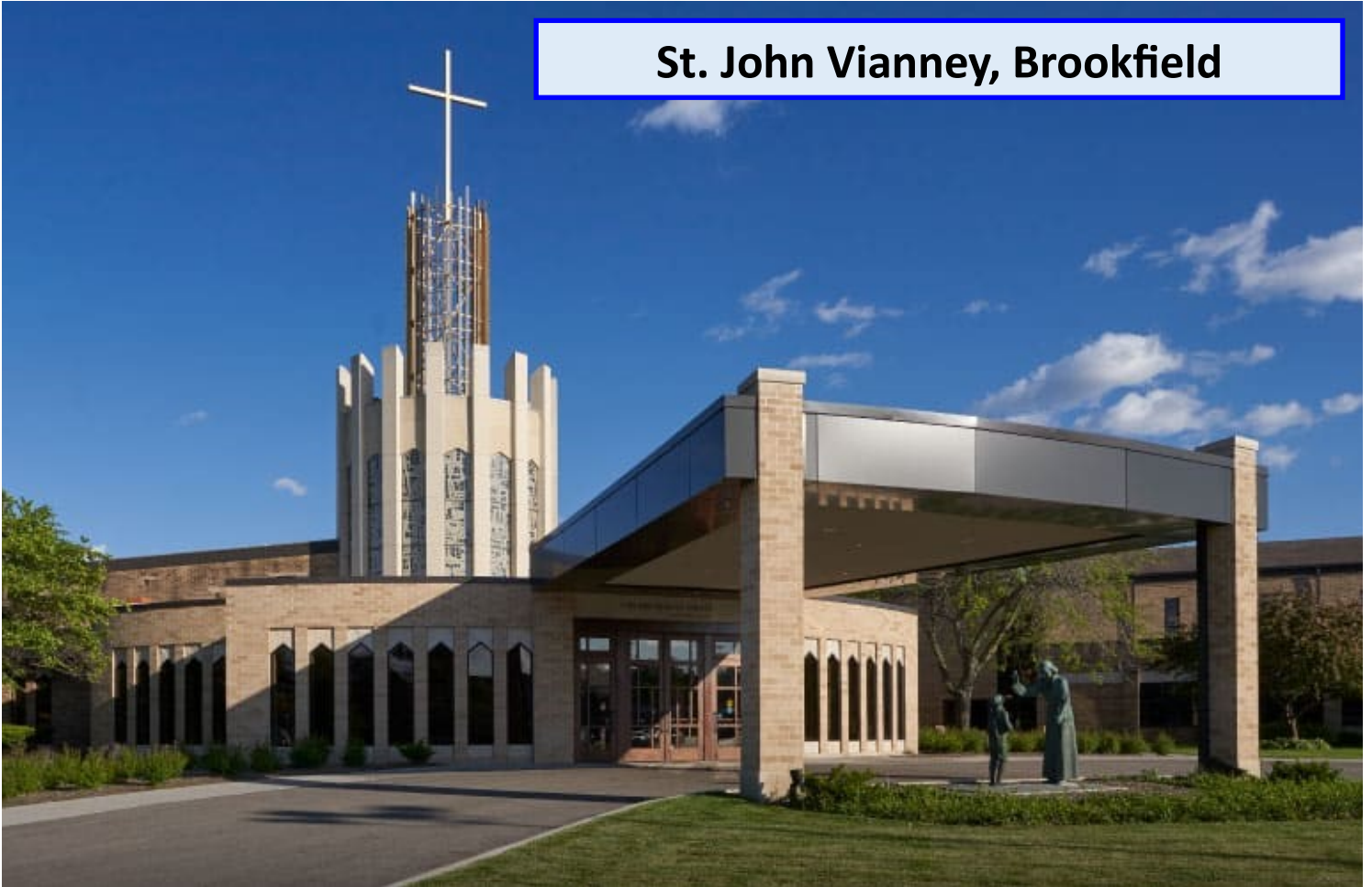


**Pope Francis' February 2025**

**Monthly Intention: For vocations to the priesthood and religious life**

**Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.**

**St. John Vianney, Brookfield**



**Heavenly Father,**

**We lift up to You all young people discerning a call to the priesthood and religious life. Inspire their hearts with courage and clarity, that they may hear Your voice amidst the noise of the world. May they find support and encouragement in their families, friends, and the Church community, as they seek to follow Your will.**

**Lord, grant them faith to trust in Your plan, strength to overcome doubts, and love to serve with joy and humility. Open the hearts of our ecclesial community to welcome and nurture these vocations, offering guidance and prayerful support.**

**May those whom You have called respond with a generous "yes," embracing a life dedicated to Christ's mission.**

**We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

*February 20*

*The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order*

O holy and faithful Founders,  
you left behind worldly comforts to follow the call of Our Lady,  
devoting your lives to prayer, penance, and service.

Through your intercession, may we grow in humility and love,  
seeking always to do God's will.

Teach us to bear our crosses with patience and to honor the Blessed Virgin  
with hearts full of devotion.

Guide us on the path of holiness,  
that we may one day rejoice with you in heaven.

Amen.

*Holy Founders of the Servite Order, PRAY FOR US*

*February 21*

*St. Peter Damian*

Grant, we pray, Almighty God, that we may so follow the teaching and example of the Bishop Saint Peter Damian, that, putting nothing before Christ and always ardent in the service of your Church, we may be led to the joys of eternal light.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

AMEN

*St. Peter Damian PRAY FOR US*

*February 22*

*The Feast of the Chair of St. Peter the Apostle*

Saint Peter, you were a weak and sinful man, but God entrusted you with great responsibility, despite your unworthiness. Please pray for me, that despite my unworthiness, I may be open to all that God entrusts to me and that I may use those gifts for His glory and the salvation of souls. Saint Peter and all your successors in Heaven, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

AMEN

*St. Peter the Apostle, PRAY FOR US*

## THIS WEEK'S READINGS:

Daily Reading for

### **Sunday February 16, 2025**

Reading 1, Jeremiah 17:5-8

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

Gospel, Luke 6:17, 20-26



Daily Reading for

### **Monday February 17, 2025**

Reading 1, Genesis 4:1-15, 25

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 50:1, 8, 16-17, 20-21

Gospel, Mark 8:11-13

Daily Reading for

### **Friday February 21, 2025**

Reading 1, Genesis 11:1-9

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 33:10-11, 12-13, 14-15

Gospel, Mark 8:34-9:1

Daily Reading for

### **Tuesday February 18, 2025**

Reading 1, Genesis 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 29:1-2, 3-4, 8, 9-10

Gospel, Mark 8:14-21

Daily Reading for

### **Saturday February 22, 2025**

Reading 1, First Peter 5:1-4

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6

Gospel, Matthew 16:13-19

Daily Reading for

### **Wednesday February 19, 2025**

Reading 1, Genesis 8:6-13, 20-22

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 116:12-13, 14-15, 18-19

Gospel, Mark 8:22-26

Daily Reading for

### **Sunday February 23, 2025**

Reading 1, First Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13

Gospel, Luke 6:27-38

Reading 2, First Corinthians 15:45-49

Daily Reading for

### **Thursday February 20, 2025**

Reading 1, Genesis 9:1-13

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 102:16-18, 19-21, 29, 22-23

Gospel, Mark 8:27-33

KINDNESS

*begins with*

ME

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