



Clement
Manor

PASTORAL CARE

SPIRITUAL GROWTH RESOURCE PACKET

3rd Sunday of Lent

Sunday, March 23, 2025

Gospel

Luke 13:1-9

Some people told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with the blood of their sacrifices.

Jesus said to them in reply,

“Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were greater sinners than all other Galileans?

By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!

Or those eighteen people who were killed when the tower at Siloam fell on them—

do you think they were more guilty than everyone else who lived in Jerusalem?

By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!”



And he told them this parable:

“There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none, he said to the gardener,

‘For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down.

Why should it exhaust the soil?’

He said to him in reply, ‘Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future.

If not you can cut it down.’”

The Divine Gardener The Third Sunday of Lent (Year C)

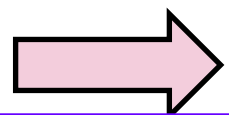
“For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?’ He said to him in reply, ‘Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not you can cut it down.’” Luke 13:7–9

Imagine for a moment that you were the owner of the orchard in which this fig tree was planted. After the gardener asked you to wait for one more year and promised to fertilize the unfruitful fig tree and cultivate the ground around it, you agreed. Then imagine coming to inspect that same fig tree the next year. Imagine three scenarios. First, what would you do if, once again, there were no figs present? Second, what if there were only a few figs? Third, what if the tree suddenly produced an abundance of good fruit?

It seems clear that in the first scenario, if for the fourth year in a row not a single fig was produced, it would be time to cut down the tree. This depicts the justice of God sent forth on those who obstinately resist His grace. In the second scenario, the decision might be more difficult. If the tree produced only a few figs for the first time, then perhaps that would provide enough hope for the future of that tree to ask the gardener to continue caring for it. This depicts those who are in a state of grace but are still lazy in their service of the will of God. In the third scenario, however, the reaction of the owner of the orchard would be clear. There would be much excitement and gratitude that the gardener’s good work paid off.

Jesus is the Gardener, and we are the fig tree. This parable should lead us to look at our lives and examine whether or not we bear good fruit for the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus comes to you to cultivate the soil of your heart, fertilizing it with His holy Word, watering it with His Sacraments and doing all He can to give you the opportunity to produce the fruit of charity in your life. How successful are these actions of our Lord in your life?

Too often, when we see only a little good fruit being borne from our lives, we are satisfied. And though any good fruit is good, we are wasting our lives if we do not do all we can to become as abundantly fruitful as possible. Imagine the joy in the Hearts of our Lord and the Father in Heaven if they were to look upon you and see good fruit being produced beyond expectation. Why wouldn’t this be your goal in life? Our Lord is patient, but He is also just. Do not try His patience, and do not succumb to His justice.



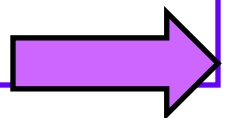
Reflect, today, upon the image of you being this fig tree and our Lord as the divine Gardener. Commit yourself to His actions of tilling and fertilizing. You do so by strengthening your commitment to reading and understanding the Word of God, by participating more fully in the Sacraments, by being more focused upon your daily prayer, by examining your conscience more fully, and by sincerely confessing your sins. Do all you can to cooperate with the action of our divine Gardener and you will be amazed at the good fruit that begins to pour forth from your life.

My divine Gardener, You have committed Yourself to the humble work of tilling the soil of my heart and fertilizing it with Your abundant mercy. I choose, this day, to respond to Your grace and pray that my cooperation with You will produce an abundance of good fruit in my life for Your glory and the building up of Your Kingdom. Jesus, I trust in You.

The True Name of God

Reflection: As a child, the story of God speaking to Moses through the burning bush captured my imagination. The story itself was fascinating, and the visualization of it in Cecil B. DeMille's film *The Ten Commandments* was spectacular. As time went on, my fascination with a non-consuming fire waned and was replaced with increasing interest in what I considered to be the philosophical message of the story. God's name— "I AM" —became the riddle to be solved, the mystery that begged to be understood in order to understand who God truly is. But in time I learned that I, like many others, was getting distracted by the wrong part of God's message.

The name of God is not a philosophical enigma. God's name is *relationship*. It's true that God tells Moses to say that "I AM" sent him, but if we stop there, we miss the bigger reveal. God goes on to say that the one who sends Moses is the God of the Israelites, the God who hears the injustice they experience now, the God who loves them, knows them, is with them, and will be with them as they go forward. I once heard a Scripture scholar say that "I AM" is more accurately rendered as "I am the One who will be there with you." And the late Catholic theologian Catherine Mowry LaCugna expressed this divine name as "God for us."



Today's first reading does help us know who God is, but it also reveals how God relates to us: as the one who accompanies us, understands our struggles, and desires only the best for our futures.

Meditation: The true name of God reveals not only who God is but how God acts in the world. God created us to be in relationship with one another, with God, and with all creation. To love as God loves us is to love one another. Where do I need to be more Godlike in my life today?

Prayer: God of love, through your exchange with Moses you reveal that you are all about relationship. Help me to better imitate you by loving others and being present to the people in my life. Just as you are always there for us, give me the strength to be there for others.

~Daily Reflections for Lent: Not by Bread Alone...Daniel P. Horan, OFM

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**Join us on Clement Manor
Channel 3.1**

**Monday & Tuesday—
9:30am**

Word & Communion Service

**Wednesday—Friday &
Sunday 9:30am**

**Saturday — 4:00pm
Mass**

**Individual Reconciliation
Available upon request call**

Fr. Bob 546-7383

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 our Community:** May we grow in trust and love for You, seeking Your presence in our daily lives.
- **For Healing and Strength:** May those in our community who are sick, suffering, or struggling with mental health find healing, comfort, and strength.
- **For Unity:** May peace and reconciliation be present where there is division in our families, friendships, and parish.
- **For Caregivers:** May all who serve others—caregivers, healthcare workers, and parish volunteers be sustained in their work and blessed with Your grace.
- **For Conversion of Heart:** May those who have drifted from their faith find their way home to Your loving embrace.



Stir—A Word a Day

*A gentle answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger.*

—Proverbs 15:1

Much as I hate to admit it, I once loved to “stir the pot,” and I’m not talking about a big vat of chili. As a member of my high school debate team, I learned to spar with words. I argued for the sake of arguing. My words were often more cutting than kind.

Decades later, social media exacerbated my bad habit. I could stir things up not only with people I knew, but also with total strangers. For a while, it gave me a rush of pleasure to “win” arguments on Facebook. Until it didn’t. What was the point in trying to prove others wrong? In trying to show how clever or well-informed I was? In making people feel hurt and angry? There was no point. So I stopped.

My goal these days? To stir only feelings of harmony, joy, and love.

—Jennie

*Lord, make me an instrument of
Your peace. AMEN*

Offer Masses for your Loved Ones
The suggested offering is \$20.
Contact Tom Brefka – 546-7980



Stations of the Cross

Join us for the Stations of the Cross

March 21 and April 11

Following 9:30 Mass

in Chapel and channel 3.1

Candle Service

“Last Seven Words of Christ”—RSVP required****

March 26

At 6pm in Multipurpose Room

Lenten Reconciliation Service

Thursday, March 27

Following 9:30 Mass in Chapel

Followed by opportunity for Individual Reconciliation

Individual Reconciliation & Anointing of the Sick

Available by appointment — Call Fr. Bob—546-7383

Pope Francis' March 2025

Monthly Intention: For families in crisis

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

St. Leonard, Muskego



Prayer for Families in Crisis

Loving and Merciful Father,

We come before You with hearts burdened for families in crisis. You are the Divine Healer, the One who restores what is broken, and we ask You to pour out Your grace upon all families struggling with pain, division, and misunderstanding.

Lord, where there is hurt, bring healing. Where there is resentment, plant the seeds of forgiveness. Where there is despair, shine the light of hope. Teach us to see each other through Your eyes, recognizing the beauty in our differences and the gifts You have placed within each family member.

Give parents wisdom and patience, children trust and obedience, and all hearts the willingness to listen with love. Break down walls of bitterness and mend what seems beyond repair. Let Your Spirit renew the bonds of unity so that families may become living signs of Your love in the world.

May those who feel alone find comfort in You, and may struggling families rediscover joy in each other. We entrust them to the care of the Holy Family, who faced trials yet remained steadfast in love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS:

Daily Reading for

Sunday March 23, 2025

Reading 1, Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11

Gospel, Luke 13:1-9

Reading 2, First Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12



Daily Reading for

Monday March 24, 2025

Reading 1, Second Kings 5:1-15

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4

Gospel, Luke 4:24-30

Daily Reading for

Friday March 28, 2025

Reading 1, Hosea 14:2-10

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 81:6-8, 8-9, 10-11, 14, 17

Gospel, Mark 12:28-34

Daily Reading for

Tuesday March 25, 2025

Reading 1, Isaiah 7:10-14

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 40:7-8, 8-9, 10, 11

Gospel, Luke 1:26-38

Reading 2, Hebrews 10:4-10

Daily Reading for

Saturday March 29, 2025

Reading 1, Hosea 6:1-6

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21

Gospel, Luke 18:9-14

Daily Reading for

Wednesday March 26, 2025

Reading 1, Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20

Gospel, Matthew 5:17-19

Daily Reading for

Sunday March 30, 2025

Reading 1, Joshua 5:9, 10-12

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7

Gospel, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Reading 2, Second Corinthians 5:17-21

Daily Reading for

Thursday March 27, 2025

Reading 1, Jeremiah 7:23-28

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

Gospel, Luke 11:14-23



Clement Manor is
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