



## **SPIRITUAL GROWTH RESOURCE PACKET**

**4th Sunday of Lent**

**Sunday, March 30, 2025**

**Gospel**

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

**Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying,**

**“This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”**

**So to them Jesus addressed this parable:**

**“A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father,**

**‘Father give me the share of your estate that should come to me.’**

**So the father divided the property between them.**

**After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country**

**where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation.**

**When he had freely spent everything,**

**a severe famine struck that country,**

**and he found himself in dire need.**

**So he hired himself out to one of the local citizens**

**who sent him to his farm to tend the swine.**

**And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any.**

**Coming to his senses he thought,**

**‘How many of my father’s hired workers**

**have more than enough food to eat,**

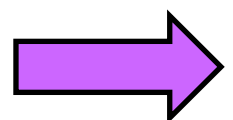
**but here am I, dying from hunger.**

**I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him,**

**“Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.**

**I no longer deserve to be called your son;**

**treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers.”**



**So he got up and went back to his father.  
While he was still a long way off,  
his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion.  
He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him.  
His son said to him,  
'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you;  
I no longer deserve to be called your son.'  
But his father ordered his servants,  
'Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him;  
put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.  
Take the fattened calf and slaughter it.  
Then let us celebrate with a feast,  
because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again;  
he was lost, and has been found.'  
Then the celebration began.  
Now the older son had been out in the field  
and, on his way back, as he neared the house,  
he heard the sound of music and dancing.  
He called one of the servants and asked what this might mean.  
The servant said to him,  
'Your brother has returned  
and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf  
because he has him back safe and sound.'  
He became angry,  
and when he refused to enter the house,  
his father came out and pleaded with him.  
He said to his father in reply,  
'Look, all these years I served you  
and not once did I disobey your orders;  
yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends.  
But when your son returns  
who swallowed up your property with prostitutes,  
for him you slaughter the fattened calf.'  
He said to him,  
'My son, you are here with me always;  
everything I have is yours.  
But now we must celebrate and rejoice,  
because your brother was dead and has come to life again;  
he was lost and has been found.'"**

*Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So to them Jesus addressed this parable. Luke 15:1-3*

**This is good news! Our Lord "welcomes sinners and eats with them." For that reason, there is room at His table for you!**

**Sometimes it's hard to admit that we are sinners. Of course we know in our minds that we are. But our pride can easily lead us to justify our sin, downplay it and conclude that we are not that bad after all. If you find yourself thinking this way, be careful. Doing so will make you like the Pharisees and scribes in the passage above. Clearly they did not see themselves as sinners, which is why they condemned Jesus for welcoming sinners and eating with them.**

**The passage above comes from the beginning of Chapter 15 of Luke's Gospel and serves as an introduction to three subsequent parables. First, our Lord tells the Parable of the Lost Sheep, then the Parable of the Lost Coin, and then the Parable found in the rest of today's Gospel passage, the Parable of the Lost Son. In the first parable, the shepherd who finds his lost sheep rejoices. In the second parable, the woman who finds her lost coin rejoices. And in the parable we read today, the father who finds his lost son rejoices and throws a party to celebrate.**

**Return, again, to the passage above that introduces these three parables: "Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus." Once they drew near, Jesus spoke to them about the joy of finding that which was lost. Perhaps as Jesus initially spoke about the finding of the lost sheep and lost coin, this would have resonated with these tax collectors and sinners to a certain degree. But then our Lord tells them the long and detailed story about this boy who disrespects his father, takes his inheritance, squanders it on illicit living, and ends up with nothing. The story expresses the confusion of this boy, his desperation, his guilt and his shame. We learn of his interior thinking, reasoning, fears and anxiety.**

**As you ponder this parable, try to understand the effect that it would have had upon the tax collectors and sinners who all drew near to our Lord. They were spiritually hungry, just as the prodigal son was. They had a past full of regret, just as this boy. They were unsatisfied in life and were looking for a way out, just as this son of the loving father was. For these reasons, those tax collectors and sinners who drew near Jesus would have been mesmerized by all that Jesus taught them and filled with hope that they, too, could share in the joy that was so generously bestowed upon this wayward son.**

**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 the Sick:** May those residents who are sick feel Your healing presence.
- **For the Church** – That our Holy Father, bishops, and all clergy may be guided by the Holy Spirit in leading the faithful with wisdom and love, we pray to the Lord.
- **For the World** – That world leaders may work together to promote peace, justice, and respect for all human life, we pray to the Lord.
- **For Families** – That our families may grow in faith, love, and unity, and be strengthened by God's grace, we pray to the Lord.
- **For the Departed** – That those who have died may be welcomed into the eternal joy of heaven, we pray to the Lord.



### **Pray a Word a Day—Cross**

From Connecting with God one word at a time

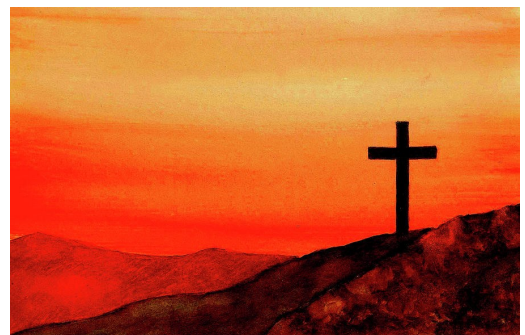
*There is no cross, big or small, in our life which the Lord does not share with us. —Pope Francis*

**Like many others, I live with a chronic condition. When I first received the diagnosis, my stomach tightened, and I fought panic. I couldn't fathom coping with an illness for the rest of my life, let alone taking medications and altering my lifestyle. But if I wanted my body to remain a temple fit for Christ, I'd need to do both. It was my personal cross to bear.**

**As time has passed, I've learned to adjust to this challenge. Supportive and understanding family and friends lighten the load. But the Lord slips my cross onto His shoulder and carries this burden daily. He shares every one of the crosses in my life.**

**—Heidi**

**Jesus, thank You for being with me and for sharing the weight of all my "crosses." Amen**



## Prayer for the Health of Pope Francis

Loving and merciful God,

We thank You for the gift of Pope Francis, the shepherd You have chosen to guide Your Church. We lift him up to You today, asking for Your healing touch upon his body, mind, and spirit. Strengthen him in times of weakness, comfort him in moments of weariness, and grant him the resilience to continue his mission with joy and wisdom.

Lord, bless those who care for him, that they may be instruments of Your healing. Fill him with the peace that surpasses all understanding, and may his witness of faith, humility, and love continue to inspire the world. Keep him in Your tender care, O Lord, and grant him many more years of faithful service.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Pastoral Care Staff

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Ed David

### 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

**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.**



**Prayer for Families in Crisis**

**Loving and merciful God,**

**You created families as a reflection of Your love. Today, we lift up all families in crisis, those wounded by conflict, pain, and separation. Pour out Your healing grace upon them, that they may find the strength to forgive, the courage to reconcile, and the wisdom to embrace one another's differences as gifts.**

**Lord, soften hardened hearts, mend broken relationships, and restore hope where despair has taken root. May each family discover the power of love that overcomes division and the peace that only You can give. Help them to walk the path of healing, guided by Your light, so that their homes may once again be places of joy, trust, and unity.**

**Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**



Clement  
Manor

PASTORAL CARE

## Holy Week

*Passion/Palm Sunday*

**Saturday - April 12 - 4pm**

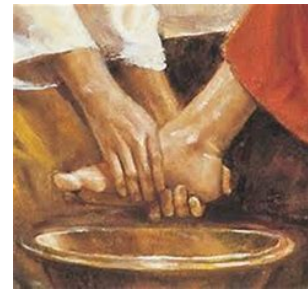
**Sunday - April 13 - 9:30am**



## Triduum

*Holy Thursday - April 17*

**6:00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper**



**Good Friday - April 18**

**1:00pm The Passion of the Lord**

*Easter Saturday - April 19*

**6:00pm Easter Vigil**

*Easter Sunday - April 20*

**9:30am Mass**



## THIS WEEK'S READINGS:

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

**Monday March 31, 2025**

Reading 1, Isaiah 65:17-21

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-13

Gospel, John 4:43-54

Daily Reading for

**Friday April 4, 2025**

Reading 1, Wisdom 2:1, 12-22

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 34:17-18, 19-20, 21, 23

Gospel, John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Daily Reading for

**Tuesday April 1, 2025**

Reading 1, Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9

Gospel, John 5:1-3, 5-16

Daily Reading for

**Saturday April 5, 2025**

Reading 1, Jeremiah 11:18-20

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 7:2-3, 9-10, 11-12

Gospel, John 7:40-53

Daily Reading for

**Wednesday April 2, 2025**

Reading 1, Isaiah 49:8-15

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 145:8-9, 13-14, 17-18

Gospel, John 5:17-30

Daily Reading for

**Sunday April 6, 2025**

Reading 1, Isaiah 43:16-21

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6

Gospel, John 8:1-11

Reading 2, Philippians 3:8-14

Daily Reading for

**Thursday April 3, 2025**

Reading 1, Exodus 32:7-14

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 106:19-20, 21-22, 23

Gospel, John 5:31-47



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