



Clement
Manor

PASTORAL CARE

SPIRITUAL GROWTH RESOURCE PACKET

5th Sunday of Lent

Sunday, April 6, 2025

Gospel

John 8:1-11

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

**But early in the morning he arrived again in the temple area,
and all the people started coming to him,
and he sat down and taught them.**

**Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman
who had been caught in adultery
and made her stand in the middle.**

**They said to him, “Teacher, this woman was caught
in the very act of committing adultery.**

**Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?”
They said this to test him, so that they could have some charge to bring against
him.**

Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger.

**But when they continued asking him,
he straightened up and said to them,**

**“Let the one among you who is without sin
be the first to throw a stone at her.”**

**Again he bent down and wrote on the ground.
And in response, they went away one by one,
beginning with the elders.**

So he was left alone with the woman before him.

**Then Jesus straightened up and said to her,
“Woman, where are they?**

Has no one condemned you?”

She replied, “No one, sir.”

**Then Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you.
Go, and from now on do not sin any more.”**



Scandalized by Mercy

The Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year C)

What a painful and humiliating experience this must have been for this woman! Fortunately, the Savior of the World was there to care for her and to help her navigate this situation through His abundant mercy. Though she was a sinner, God's mercy offered a remedy for her sin and its consequences.

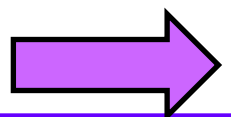
Interestingly, this story is not included in some of the most ancient manuscripts of the Gospel of John. Saint Augustine believed that it was excluded by some of the early copyists of this Gospel because they were moral rigorists and were scandalized by the depths of Jesus' mercy. They feared that if this incredible act of mercy was conveyed to others, it would lead to a relaxation of moral rules.

The scribes and Pharisees who brought this woman to Jesus also appeared to be scandalized by Jesus' mercy. Thus, the depths of mercy offered to this woman was one of many occasions in which Jesus was merciful to a point that was hard for the people to comprehend.

How about you? How far are you willing to go when it comes to mercy? It is easy for us to resort to condemnation when we see the sins of others. We might feel justified in condemning them and even obliged to do so out of a desire to condemn sin itself. But Jesus' action shows that the sin must not be equated with the sinner. Sin must be condemned and was condemned by our Lord when He said to this woman, "Go, and from now on do not sin any more." Though He condemned her sin, he did not condemn her: "Neither do I condemn you."

The mercy of God is incomprehensible. For example, recall that Jesus cried out from the Cross, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do." Imagine the surprise that the first hearers of those words would have had. How could this man ask that God forgive the people who were murdering Him? Perhaps the only person who truly understood this prayer of mercy from the Cross was Jesus' own mother as she stood there gazing at Him with love.

An important lesson for us to learn from Jesus' depth of mercy is that, at first, it will most likely scandalize us also. Mercy to this extent is supernatural. It challenges our natural reason and calls us to a new way of thinking and relating to others. The only way to overcome the "scandal" we might feel in the face of God's mercy is to live it ourselves. Doing so will require that we put on new eyes to see sin, mercy and forgiveness through the eyes of God. If doing so shakes you to the core of your being, that might be a good sign. Are you allowing the apparent scandal of God's abundant mercy to transform you so that it is no longer a shock or scandal to you, but is experienced as good and holy and from the Heart of our God?



Reflect, today, upon how deeply you understand God's mercy. Do you rejoice when mercy is offered to another? Or do you find yourself condemning? Our Lord said, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." None of us are without sin; therefore, none of us has the right to cast a stone at another. Allow the apparent scandal of God's mercy to challenge you so that you come to not only understand God's infinite mercy but also to act as an instrument of that mercy to everyone.

Most merciful Lord, You came to call the sinner to repentance and salvation. You offer mercy and forgiveness in superabundance. When faced with the sins of others, help me to imitate Your love for them and to show mercy and compassion to the greatest degree. I love You, Lord. Help me to love You and others with Your Heart of merciful love. Jesus, I trust in You.



Jubilee Prayer

God who walks with us:

As we lean into the work to which we've been called, keep our eyes on the horizon, that we might see beyond

to the enduring hope,

to the "and yet" that you promise us.

We make our way together:

steady our steps,

awaken our awareness,

give us the vision to see your goodness in the signs of hope around us.

Transform our hurts, O Tender One, that we might offer the light of hope to those in our care.

AMEN

World Health Day-April 7

God of Hope, we turn to you in our moments of drawing near to the sick, the vulnerable and those in need of fundamental services for health and wellness. You desire to make all things new and move in the hearts of men and women to bring about healing. We praise you for the history of healing and compassion that Jesus showed in his ministry and that we carry forward today in Catholic health care. Help us draw near to those in need, and in so doing, may we enter into greater communion as a community of disciples. 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 a Heart of Repentance** – Lord, as we journey through this Lenten season, grant us true repentance and the grace to turn away from sin and follow You more faithfully.
- **For Strength in Suffering** – Loving Father, as we reflect on Christ's passion, help those who suffer to find strength and hope in Your mercy.
- **For Renewal of Faith** – Lord, deepen our faith during these final days of Lent, that we may prepare our hearts to celebrate the joy of Easter with renewed love.
- **For Peace in the World** – Merciful God, bring peace to nations in conflict and comfort to all who are oppressed, that Your justice may reign.



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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**

Reflection—We are All Sinners Too

Jesus' preaching and ministry can be viewed as an exercise in challenging authority. The authority in question is not that of God, for God's will is the only authority that matters to Jesus. Instead, Jesus regularly questions the authority of conventional logic, group thinking, and religious hypocrisy.

In today's Gospel, we see this dynamic play out in Jesus' encounter with the woman accused of adultery. Here we see Jesus challenging three kinds of authority: the conventional logic about how to deal with people who commit seemingly grave offenses, the group thinking that could lead the crowd to pick up stones in anticipation of executing this alleged sinner, and the dubious leadership of religious authorities who are primarily interested in entrapping Jesus rather than in the life and safety of the woman before them.

But Jesus is having none of it. He doesn't engage any of these people directly. He refuses to play their game or enter into public debate. Instead, he merely waits them out and then presents the one line that uncovers all forms of hypocrisy: "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her."

It can be easy to reduce this scene to an instance of "love the sinner, hate the sin." But that interpretation doesn't do justice to the profound examination of conscience Jesus presents to us. The point is that everyone is a sinner. None of us is worthy to throw a stone, real or proverbial, at another person because each of us, in our own way, has sinned and continues to sin. The instruction to "go and sin no more" is as much for each of us as it is for this one woman.

Meditation: For most of us, it is easy to point the finger at another, judge their sinfulness, and walk away feeling superior. But Jesus challenges us to look instead at our own hearts and behaviors. Will I accept his challenge?

Prayer: God of truth, give me the grace to examine my life and recognize the ways I sin against you in the way I treat myself, others and creation.

Daily Reflections for Lent: Daniel P. Horan, OFM

Pope Francis' April 2025

Monthly Intention: For the use of the new technologies

Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

St. Pius X, Wauwatosa



Prayer for the Right Use of Technology

Loving God, Source of all wisdom and creativity, we thank You for the gift of new technologies that connect, inform, and aid us. Guide us to use these advancements not to replace human relationships, but to deepen our bonds of love and understanding. May every innovation respect the dignity of each person, reflecting the worth You have placed in every human soul. In a world facing many crises, help us use technology as an instrument of justice, compassion, and peace. Keep us mindful that true progress is measured not by efficiency alone, but by our capacity to care for one another. May we always seek Your wisdom in how we create, share, and communicate, using technology to serve rather than divide. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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Holy Week

Passion/Palm Sunday



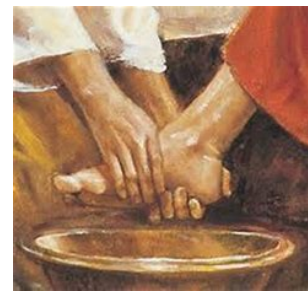
Saturday - April 12 - 4pm

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 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

Monday April 7, 2025

Reading 1, Daniel 13:41-62

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

Gospel, John 8:12-20

Daily Reading for

Friday April 11, 2025

Reading 1, Jeremiah 20:10-13

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 18:2-3,
3-4, 5-6, 7

Gospel, John 10:31-42

Daily Reading for

Tuesday April 8, 2025

Reading 1, Numbers 21:4-9

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 102:2-3,
16-18, 19-21

Gospel, John 8:21-30

Daily Reading for

Saturday April 12, 2025

Reading 1, Ezekiel 37:21-28

Responsorial Psalm, Jeremiah 31:10,
11-12, 13

Gospel, John 11:45-57

Daily Reading for

Wednesday April 9, 2025

Reading 1, Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95

Responsorial Psalm, Daniel 3:52, 53,
54, 55, 56

Gospel, John 8:31-42

Daily Reading for

Sunday April 13, 2025

Reading 1, Isaiah 50:4-7

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 22:8-9,
17-18, 19-20, 23-24

Gospel, Luke 23:1-49

Reading 2, Philippians 2:6-11

Daily Reading for

Thursday April 10, 2025

Reading 1, Genesis 17:3-9

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 105:4-5,
6-7, 8-9

Gospel, John 8:51-59



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