

# WEEKLY NEWS

✠ The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost ✠

## On Sundays

**Low Mass** is offered at 8 a.m. at Lady Altar after which silence is kept in S John's Chapel for **Centering Prayer**. At 10 o'clock we pray the **Rosary. Terce** is recited at 10.30 followed by **Solemn or Sung Mass** at 11 and **Coffee Hour** just after Mass in the Parish Hall. The **Sunday Forum** is then held in the adjacent Yarnall Room. **Vespers** is chanted in Latin at 3 p.m. in the church followed by the **Novena** to Our Lady of Clemency and **Benediction** of the Blessed Sacrament.

## Weekdays

**Daily Mass** is offered Monday through Friday at 12.10 p.m. (10 a.m. on Saturdays and holidays). **Vespers** is recited in the Church at 5.30 p.m. Monday through Friday and at 3 p.m. on Saturdays followed by **Shrine Prayers** to Our Lady of Clemency.

*Service booklets for all services are published and available on the Usher's tables and at [www.s-clements.org](http://www.s-clements.org).*

## AD MULTOS ANNOS, PRC!

There is a surprising theological breadth in the hymnody especially evident in today's Mass. The hymn after the Gospel, *Father of heaven* is by Edward Cooper (1770-1833), a decidedly Evangelical clergyman who served as rector of St. Michael & All Angels Church, Hamstall Ridware, Staffordshire. Thrice we will sing *Before thy throne we sinners bend: To us thy pardoning love extend* in praise of God's gifts of grace, pardon and life, followed by an especially beautiful doxological conclusion, *Thrice holy! Father, Spirit, Son, Mysterious Godhead, Three in One*. Cooper's first cousin was the novelist Jane Austen, a rather more centrist Anglican. In a letter to her elder sister Cassandra (September 8, 1816) Jane wrote: "We do not much like Mr. Cooper's new sermons; —they are fuller of Regeneration & Conversion than ever—with the addition of his zeal in the cause of the Bible Society." I trust Jane would have had considerably more enthusiasm for Cooper's hymn.

Following the communion anthem we'll sing *Sweet Sacrament divine* to the tune *Divine mysteries*, both text and tune composed by the Roman Catholic priest Francis Stanfield (1835-1914). Stanfield's father Charles Frederick Stanfield (1793-1867) was an important painter best-known for his dramatic maritime subjects, a devout Catholic and life-long friend of Charles Dickens. The hymn's middle verses assume a tender intimacy with Jesus present in the Most Blessed Sacrament: *There in thine ear all trustfully, We tell our tale of misery: Sweet Sacrament of peace...Save us, for still the tempest raves, Save, lest we sink beneath the waves: Sweet Sacrament of rest.*

Both hymns are not shy about making emotional appeals, calling us to conversion and confidence on a Sunday when the Gospel promises health of body and soul as Jesus forgives sins and reverses paralysis.

It's hard to imagine just how the Rev'd Mr. Cooper and the Rev'd Fr. Stanfield might have reacted to their shared place in today's liturgy here on Appletree Street. I am certain, however, that both would be bowled over by the talent and generosity of those making music at S Clement's. As today is Peter Conte's birthday, I'm thanking God for his ministry among us as he daily transcribes our Lord's message "Be of good cheer" into themes of compelling beauty and heartfelt praise.

Faithfully yours, Fr. Alton

## About today's Mass

All the chants of this Mass, taken from an old dedication Mass, allude to the consecration of a church: they manifest the joy of Christian people at being able to offer to God in His house, the only praise and the only sacrifice worthy of Him. In the Epistle, St. Paul gives thanks to God for all the earthly benefits implied by the Christian vocation, as we await the return of Christ when He will come to take us with Him to the heavenly city. The cure of the paralytic, and the pardon of his sins, bestowed on him, remind us, in the Gospel, of the circumstances of human weakness and divine mercy in which our progress Godwards, as members of the Church, is set here below.

On the cure of the paralytic: notice that it assumes a symbolical value in consequence of the pardon of his sins that Jesus grants him at the same time: paralysis of the body is only an image of the sorry state of the sinful soul,

-- Dom Gaspar Lefebvre, O. S. B.

## A New Outreach Opportunity

Many of you will know Mara Blake-Ward who is a loyal friend of S Clement's and also manages the **Food Cupboard** at St. Peter's Episcopal Church here in Philadelphia where there is always urgent need for food donations and volunteers who help set up on Friday afternoons from 4-5 and tend tables and greet guests on Saturday mornings from 7.45-10 a.m. You can sign up here. This year alone Philabundance, the primary source of food distributed at St. Peter's, has lost 70% of its federal funding. We can help with donations collected at S Clement's and then delivered to St. Peter's. There is a particular need for the following items:

- Shelf-stable Milk
- Oatmeal / Cereal
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Tea
- Mayonnaise
- Ketchup

## Today's Sunday Forum

Father Alton will continue the series *The Teaching Church* with a close look at the *Didache*, also known as *The Lord's Teaching Through the Twelve Apostles to the Nations*, an early church order that began to be composed in Syria around 100 A.D. Lost for centuries, a manuscript of the *Didache* was rediscovered in 1873 by Philotheos Byrennios, Metropolitan of Nicomedia, in the Codex Hierosolymitanus. In 1900 a Latin version of the first five chapters was discovered by J. Schlecht. Uncial fragments containing portions of the Greek text were found among the Oxyrhynchus Papyri now in the collection of the Bodleian Art, Archaeology and Ancient World Library in Oxford.