
WEEKLY NEWS

✠ First Sunday of Advent ✠

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. When scheduled, 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. **Confessions** are heard regularly on Sundays at 10.30 a.m. or by appointment.

Service booklets for all services are published and available on the Usher's tables and at www.s-clements.org.

NEW BEGINNINGS

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Today we begin again by entering a new year of God's grace. Beginning again runs counter to streaks of impatience in us that masquerade as progress. We're all susceptible to the charms of novelty, willing and wired as we are to imagining some fad or fashion will be more satisfying than whatever came before.

Humbly receiving God's gift of this new year of grace offers a durably redemptive interruption to the guilt and misery of Pelagian schemes for self-improvement and self-reliance. Jettisoning these, we are transported to a land of promise where we dwell in joy and hope as pilgrims entrusted with the Gospel of love and mercy.

As we surrender to God's graces and tune in to the rhythms of the church's year, we enjoy the daily, prayerful companionship of Saints and Angels whose feasts we keep, whose legends and examples afford bracing refreshment when we're down or when we're praying for others who may be so. And we bask in a treasury of art, music, poetry, psalms, collects and canticles, a vast inheritance of beauty and reverence for God bequeathed to us by persons of great genius formed by their own disciplined adherence to the liturgical year.

The yearly ordo for our worship here at Clem's follows those same patterns that inspired Bach, Dupré, Franck, Palestrina, Byrd, Aquinas, Hilda, Cranmer, Luther, Barth, Hooker, Temple, Rahner, Merton, and in our day, here and now on Appletree Street, Peter Conte and his colleagues in music, Davis D'Ambly in the drama of his triptych in S John's chapel or the polychromed tabernacle and surrounding reredos for the holy of holies at the high altar, John Lilley for many splendid frontals and vestments new and restored, and Andrew Nardone for gold-standard leaflets and liturgical printing.

About today's Mass

The Advent liturgy opens with that great yearning cry of the prophets of Israel to the Messiah and Redeemer whose advent they awaited. "Come!"

God is not deaf to His people's cry. Fulfilling the promise of salvation made to our first parents at their fall He sent His Son into the world. And the application to all generations of mankind of the redemption that the Son of God made Man obtained for us by His passion continues until the end of time: it will conclude with the end of the world when the Messiah comes to complete His work and lead us into His kingdom. The history of the Church occupies the period between these two great events.

In the Mass of this Sunday the whole work of redemption is set before us, from its preparation in Israel's expectancy and its effect on our present lives down to its final fulfillment. The Church, in preparing to celebrate at Christmas the birth of Him who came to snatch our souls from sin and transform them into the likeness of His own, invokes upon us and on all men the complete accomplishment of the mission of salvation that He came to perform upon the earth.

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

On our journeys to the heavenly homeland we are surrounded and inspired by the care, courtesy and generosity of people called by God to work that lifts our hearts and minds to the throne of grace, a most promising realization of the psalmist's prophecy — *thou hast set my feet in a large room*. I pray we may all grow and thrive throughout this new year as we grow more and more into the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.

Yours faithfully,
Fr. Alton

P.S. Responding to our last weekly newsletter mentioning Dorothy Day's reflections on the Eucharistic themes of the Divine Office for Thursdays, I received a thoughtful and encouraging email from Fr. Andrew Mead reminding us that, furthering its joys, Thursdays are also the days commemorating our Lord's Ascension! Thank you Fr. Mead.

P.P.S. As we continue recovering from the disruptions of Covid we will now resume offering the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) on Sundays when a priest will be available in the confessional nearest to S Catherine's shrine from 10.30 - 10.50 a.m. Other times are always available by appointment.



S Clement's Day Brunch, 2023