
WEEKLY NEWS

✠ Third 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.**

Confessions are heard in Church from 10.30-10.50. **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.**

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.

THE GIFT OF MIDNIGHT MASS

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

After Covid temporarily reduced our ability to offer Solemn Christmas masses we now return to that cherished form in 2023 celebrating our Lord's Nativity with joyful abandon. An especially generous gift is making it possible for us to offer Haydn's beautiful Mass No. 6 in G — *Missa Sancti Nicolai* at the Solemn Mass of the Nativity that will begin at 11 p.m. on December 24.

Haydn composed this setting most probably to commemorate the name day of his patron Prince Nicolaus Esterhazy on 6 December 1772. Scored for SATB choir, soloists and orchestra, it has been many years since our beloved Clementones have been able to sing this especially joyful mass at Christmas, so this will be a year to remember.

I am grateful to be alive and well in this holy season. Just one year ago I began cancer treatments, and I suppose it is my personal circumstances that contribute to such a strong sense of not wanting anyone to miss out on the unique consolations and joys of worshipping and praying at S Clement's where endearing eccentricities are joined to such purposeful, prayerful seriousness. What better way is there to take in the reality of the Incarnation than to worship God? This is definitely reflected in our very full Christmas schedule of services that includes the all the hours of the Divine Office, the Holy Rosary, and the distinctly contemplative Mass at Dawn.

We are only able to offer such full Christmas observances through the good offices of Fr. Lanier who will spend the night on Appletree Street. Please do join your clergy in celebrating the prayerfulness of each member of our Guild of Acolytes, the talents of skilled arrangers of flowers and greens, and the graciousness of our ushers as they welcome all sorts of people who come to us at Christmas including the guests you may invite to join us. Christmas is such an opportune time to reach out to persons who

About today's Mass

"Rejoice: the Lord is nigh."
As Christmas draws near, the Church emphasizes the joy which should be in our hearts at all that the birth of our Saviour means for us; during this coming week she reminds us of the Gospel accounts of the Annunciation and the Visitation - mysteries which are entirely joyful.

St. Paul bases Christian joy on the assurance of the salvation brought to us by Christ; he desires it to be so firmly established in the soul that no reason of human anxiety or sadness can ever overcome it, since the great peace of God henceforth must predominate over every other feeling. Yet for St. Paul this coming of our Lord is not His birth at Bethlehem but His second coming. The great joy of Christians is to see the day drawing nigh when the Lord will come again in His glory to lead them into His kingdom. The oft-repeated *veni* of Advent is an echo not only of the prophets but also of the conclusion of the Apocalypse of St John: "Come, Lord Jesus," the last words of the New Testament.

The Gospel of this Sunday, completing last Sunday's, presents us with John the Baptist's testimony to Jesus; the Precursor effaces himself before the only One who is of importance, the long-awaited Messiah.

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

should be introduced to S Clement's -- in person or via our YouTube channel.

I am restless to join all of you in that tender moment when the Bambino is brought from Christ's Altar to the hallowed crèche, settled so gently in His lowly manger, protected and adored by Mary and Joseph, visited by shepherds offering poverty and music; sought after by Magi on their star-led progress and warmed by the steamy breath of beasts tending their creator. This is the very moment when it all makes sense again, that sanctifying moment with Christ at the center of it all, the center of holy mass, the center of our beautiful parish church, and the abiding center of our hearts and holiest hopes.

All of this is God's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes. Maranatha. Come Lord Jesus.

Yours faithfully,
Fr. Alton

