
WEEKLY NEWS

✠ Sunday after the Epiphany, Feast of the Holy Family ✠

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.

BEGINNING A NEW YEAR TOGETHER

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Yesterday during the Solemn Mass of the Epiphany just after the proclamation of the Holy Gospel, Les Anders made his annual visit to the pulpit to chant the *Novéritis* in the same tone used for the *Exultet* chanted at the Easter Vigil. In the days before calendars were readily available, the date of Easter was critically important information for every Christian household and parish as were the dates of the moveable feasts and fasts. In 2024 Easter Day occurs on the thirty-first of March. This means we will soon move from the Epiphany Season to Gesimatide on Sunday, January twenty-eighth with Ash Wednesday on the fourteenth day of February. Perhaps the *Novéritis* seems like an antiquated custom in the digital age when we can look up any and all calendar information on cell phones and smart watches! I think however that the solemnity of this annual proclamation invites us to make important decisions about our priorities and commitments. And the start of a new calendar year is an especially good time to reflect on the opportunities for growing in grace and holiness that the church year provides.

This parish church is strengthened each and every time you come to church. While we may be in the habit of thinking we're doing something "good for ourselves" by coming to mass, we're actually doing something "good for others" too. We're trusting our Lord's promise that "*where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.*" Of course I am grateful that we are able to share much of our liturgical life with those unable to attend here in person through YouTube broadcasts. Yet even these daily cyber offerings require the presence of some very faithful, talented and committed persons who make frequent even daily attendance a priority in their lives and schedules.

S Clement's 2024 Calendars are now printed and available. This year they include lovely color photographs for each month.

About today's Mass

The feast of the Holy Family, granted to certain dioceses by Leo XIII in 1893, was inserted in the general Calendar of the Roman rite by Benedict XV in 1921; it takes the place of the first Sunday after the Epiphany, whose Mass is said during the following week.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph in the lowly house at Nazareth - the greatest holiness in the humblest living conditions. Between the events which marked our Saviour's birth and the beginning of His public life the Church has seen fit to recall each year this great example which Christian families have ever taken as their inspiration and which will always remain the sanctification of family life, and its example.

— Dom Gaspar Lefebvre, O. S. B.

On the June page you'll find FX (short for Francis Xavier) the parish cat and his canine friend Oscar who surely takes the prize for weekday mass attendance. It's such a delight to see that charming little dog waiting patiently in the sacristy for the vesting to conclude and the mass bell to ring, his cue to "go unto the altar of God." Whenever you can, please do join us at 12.10 p.m. for weekday masses, 5.30 p.m. for Vespers and the Novena, 10 a.m. on Saturdays (11 on Feast Days), 3 p.m. for Saturday Vespers and Novena.

Yours faithfully,

Fr. Alton

P. S. Today we're beginning a new "Re-Reading" series of talks in the Sunday Forum based on some of my re-reading of the great orthodox theologian, the protopresbyter Fr. Alexander Schmemmann. I hope these will make the New Year happy for those able to attend.

