

# WEEKLY NEWS

## ✠ Second Sunday after the Epiphany ✠

### On Sundays

**Low Mass** at 8 a.m. at The 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](http://www.s-clements.org).*

### MASSES BY CANDLELIGHT

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

This new year is off to a very promising start, with a significant and entirely welcome uptick in daily mass attendance. Even without power holy mass was offered in the serene shadows of the Lady Altar just beyond the circle of candlelight at the crèche. Thanks to the Sacristan's considerable ingenuity and a bevy of extension cords, we were even able to broadcast Thursday's mass on YouTube where it is archived and available for you and yours to view at any time.

As Epiphany-tide is especially brief this year let's savor it's triad of manifestations. From star-led Magi we learn to look up and attend to the wonder of God's creation, to listen for God's Word to us as did they, heeding the dream that warned them away from Herod. They departed by another way.

Scenes from the Baptism of our Lord dazzle us both with the humility of Jesus -- *the sinless one to Jordan came* -- and Christ's divinity as John testifies: "*Behold the Lamb of God. Behold him that taketh away the sins of the world...I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on him...I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.*" Such a cinematic Credo!

In today's mass we approach the third Epiphany manifestation at a wedding in Cana of Galilee as Mary reports a dire situation to her Son. *They have no wine.* Simply substitute *hope* or *home* for *wine*, and a whole host of dire matters will demand our attention and prayers. While it doesn't seem like Mary knew what Jesus would do, there is an air of confidence in her instruction to the servants. *Do whatever he tells you.* That is certainly sound advice for us to ponder from the Mother of God.

Yours faithfully,  
*Fr. Alton*

## About today's Mass

Both by the Gospel of the wedding feast at Cana and two of the chanted portions of the Proper (the Communion and the Magnificat antiphon) which are taken from it, this Sunday's liturgy is connected with that of Christmas and the Epiphany; the remainder belongs to the following Sundays.

The Gospel, rich in symbolism, forms the predominant theme. The symbolism is twofold: the wedding stands for the Covenant, the water changed into wine for the superiority of the new over the old Covenant and as a figure foretelling the Eucharist. "It is not surprising that our Lord goes to this house to be present at a wedding, since He came into the world for an alliance", says St. Augustine at Matins, and proceeds to comment on the twofold symbolism in detail.

All the Fathers saw in the miracle of Cana a prophecy of the Eucharist and of the transformation of our souls under the action of Christ. "*Aqua eramus, vinum nos fecit*; from the water that we were He has made wine." This profound changing of our whole being, which even here below makes us like to Christ, prepares for the eternal wedding feast to which with the whole Church we are summoned.

— Dom Gaspar Lefebvre, O. S. B.

## This Wednesday, A Special Opportunity and A Welcome Treat

We have received a most cordial invitation from The Church of the Transfiguration in Manhattan and Fr. Andrew Davison to participate in an online study group **this Wednesday**, 17 January at 7 p.m. Here is the link:

<https://fordham.zoom.us/j/83883393324>

Meeting ID: 838 8339 3324

The discussion will focus on Father's latest book *Astrobiology and Christian Doctrine, Exploring the Implications of Life in the Universe* (Cambridge University Press).

When Father is not singing or saying mass here at S Clement's or perhaps writing another fine sermon in that very modest guest room in the Clergy House, he is hard at work either at the Center of Theological Inquiry in Princeton where is is the Distinguished Visiting Fellow in Science and Theology, or among his colleagues in the Faculty of Divinity at the University of Cambridge as the Starbridge Professor in Theology and Natural Sciences and Dean of Chapel, Corpus Christi College. He was recently made a canon of Saint Alban's Cathedral.

