

WEEKLY NEWS

✠ Third 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.

SUMMONED TO HOLINESS AND UNITY

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Today has been designated *Religious Life Sunday* (www.religiouslifesunday.org), an opportunity to highlight gifts and ministries of the church's monks, nuns, religious sisters and brothers. Undoubtedly there is greater awareness of the Religious Life here at S Clement's than in many other parish churches. Given the seminal work of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist in our early years, the steadfast parochial and pastoral ministries of the Sisters of the Holy Nativity and the All Saints Sisters of the Poor and the current witness of our own parishioner Brother Stephen Haws of the Community of the Resurrection in Mirfield, West Yorkshire, we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to a host of persons called by God to live under religious vows. I am aware of current strong parochial connections with the Order of the Holy Cross in West Park New York where several parishioners are Oblates, The Community of St. Mary in Greenwich New York, The All Saints Sisters of the Poor in Catonsville Maryland, Saint Gregory's Abbey in Three Rivers Michigan, The Community of the Holy Spirit in New York, Saint Leo's Abbey, Saint Leo, Florida, the Abbey of Regina Laudis in Bethlehem, Connecticut and The Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters, those dear "Pink Sisters" serving conveniently nearby at their Convent of Divine Love on Green Street where I often encounter fellow Clementines at prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. I'm sure there are more such associations and I look forward to expanding the list as I hear about them.

Today is also Sunday within the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity, so named because it lands between the Feasts of The Chair of S Peter (still kept here) on January 18th and the Conversion of S Paul on the 25th. This observance is rooted in

About today's Mass

This Sunday's proper of the Mass forms the pattern of those which follow until Septuagesima (this year that's next Sunday). The Introit and the other chants ... invite us to adore Christ by proclaiming his glory and his universal royalty. In this way the liturgy of the Time after Epiphany is linked with that of Christmas.

But the Collects have a more general character; like those of the Time after Pentecost they are an expression of Christian prayer with its petitions after usual dispositions without any direct connection with a feast or special mystery. And the same applies to the Epistle and Gospel.

The Epistle follow on that of last Sunday on the spirit which should be the believer's in his dealings with all men, whatever their condition; a desire for peace and their good which is affected by no untoward event, not even evil. The Gospel calls for hope however wretched or far from God we may be: a leper is "purified" from his leprosy, which is a symbol of sin; a Roman officer obtains the cure of his servant. The praise of the centurion's faith leads to a solemn declaration in which Jesus proclaims that salvation is open to all peoples.

— Dom Gaspar Lefebvre, O. S. B.

the visionary religious lives of Fr. Paul Wattson and Mother Lurana White, founders of The Society of the Atonement in Graymoor, New York. In the spirit of S Francis of Assisi, Graymoor has been a place of reconciliation, recovery and healing for 125 years.

Religious Life and the Ecumenical Movement are closely intertwined with ample crossings of the Tiber. Both the Graymoor Franciscans and more recently the All Saints Sisters of the Poor were received into the Roman Catholic Church while the Eastern Province of the Community of Saint Mary (the first Anglican Order in the United States) is now affiliated with The Anglican Church in North America.

As you will know from the recitation of our decidedly ecumenical chantry prayer list before Sunday homilies and daily at the Continuous Novena, we honor the often heroic witness of many women and men called to live Gospel-centered lives of poverty, chastity and obedience. While we prayerfully lament the sad divisions that threaten and distort Christian unity, we trust our Lord's promise that "there shall be one fold, and one shepherd." Amidst the considerable diversity to be found at S Clement's there is a palpable, steady yearning for the undivided church. Progress toward it demands repentance, humility, patience and love. We often sing about this with S John Henry Newman's lyrics in the lovely hymn *Shipston*:

Firmly I believe and truly
 God is Three, and God is One;
 And I next acknowledge duly
 Manhood taken by the Son.
 And I trust and hope most fully
 In that Manhood crucified;
 And each thought and deed unruly
 Do to death, as he has died..
 And I hold in veneration,
 For the love of him alone,
 Holy Church as his creation,
 And her teachings as his own.

Yours faithfully,
Fr. Alton