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# WEEKLY NEWS

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✠ Sexagesima Sunday ✠

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## 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).*

## GESIMA JAZZ

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

In today's Sunday Forum we begin a new series exploring the jazz great Mary Lou Williams. Some reading this may wonder what she has to do with preparing for Lent. Plenty!

A child prodigy, *The Little Piano Girl* of Pittsburgh became one of the most important jazz musicians of the 20th century. Well along in her career, she suddenly stopped performing during, yes during a 1954 performance in Paris. She returned to New York and began to pray daily at Our Lady of Lourdes Church at 142nd Street because it was then open for prayer at all times. Soon Mary Lou and Dizzy Gillespie's wife Lorraine converted to Catholicism.

Mary Lou spent hours each day in prayer. She converted her apartment as a halfway house for the poor and for musicians grappling with addiction, supplementing her own sacrificial almsgiving with revenue from a Harlem thrift store.

In 1957 her friend Dizzy Gillespie persuaded Mary Lou to return to playing, composing and teaching music. This is when she wrote *Black Christ of the Andes*, liturgical music based on a hymn honoring the Peruvian Saint Martin de Porres. Soon other jazz mass settings followed including *Mary Lou's Mass* performed at Saint Patrick's Cathedral in New York in 1975 with several thousand in attendance. "I am praying through my fingers when I play. I get that good "soul sound" and I try to touch people's spirits."

She certainly touched mine when she performed her music at Boston College during my time there as an undergraduate. A serious jazz enthusiast, my mom was very ill at that time but still managed a trip to Boston to meet Mary Lou and spend several evenings engrossed in conversation between sets at the Merry-Go-Round Bar in the Copley Plaza Hotel. I tried to slip into the

## About today's Mass

The magnificent passages from the Bible, read at Matins, one after the other herald the paschal mystery. After Adam, Noah, the second father of the human race, is a symbol of the renewal of humanity: "Let all the world experience and see that which was fallen raised up, that which was old made new and all things restored through Him from whom they received their beginning" (*Holy Saturday, 2nd Collect*). Henceforth, it is only within the Church, of which the ark was a figure, that salvation is effected, but now it is not merely eight persons but the whole multitude of the baptized who come forth from the waters regenerated (*Epistle for the Friday after Easter*).

The chants of the Mass are in the same strain as last Sunday's: a confident and heartfelt appeal to God from the midst of our distress and wretchedness.

The Epistle has been chosen on account of the Station at St. Paul's outside-the-Walls; it is one of the finest passages from the great Apostle's writings.

— Dom Gaspar Lefebvre, O. S. B.

banquet and join the conversation but was sent packing by Mary Lou. "I'm talking to your mama." Probably about music, their faith, perhaps even about their respective cancers did claim their bodies but certainly not their brave and winning souls.

Can Mary Lou help us prepare for a holy Lent? I believe so. Her faith, her prayer life, her philanthropy, her genius and her pastoral sensibilities continue to inspire another generation including her gifted biographer and jazz musician Deanna Witkowski who performs Williams' music brilliantly in the first concert recording of Mary Lou's *Lenten Season Mass* sung by the Stonewall Chorale, directed by Cynthia Powell that we will see and hear tomorrow after Coffee Hour. After many years in New York City, Deanna Witkowski now resides in Pittsburg in the same neighborhood where her muse Mary Lou grew up, two Pennsylvania pioneers of Sacred Jazz.

Yours faithfully,  
*Fr. Alton*

