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# WEEKLY NEWS

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## ✠ The Second Sunday in Lent ✠

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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. Throughout Lent, **Stations of the Cross** and **Benediction** are offered each Friday at 6.30 p.m. followed by a light, meatless meal in the Parish Hall.

### THANKING GOD FOR HAROLD AND FOR YOU ALL!

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Today (Saturday) I was so blessed to participate in the funeral of Harold Elwood Fleming who served as Sexton throughout my time at Saint Mark's on Locust Street. You've heard his name read out from our prayer list since his death on 3 February. Many Clementines remember Harold for his warm welcomes to the Altar of Repose on Maundy Thursdays in Saint Mark's beautiful Lady Chapel.

I shared this story with his family and friends. One chilly autumn evening a distraught fellow appeared for Evening Prayer and before the service began he removed all of his clothes and sat weeping on the floor of the sanctuary. The person appointed to lead the office phoned me and I phoned Harold. Five minutes later I entered the church. Evening Prayer was underway with the distraught gentleman wrapped up in a blanket sobbing in Harold's arms. Like the high priest Melchizedech, Harold appeared suddenly, knowing just what to do, just how to comfort a troubled, broken brother in Jesus.

I shed some tears today, not so much in grief but in gratitude for the strong, prayerful confidence of Harold's family and friends that transformed the Mitchum-Wilson Funeral Home into another Cenacle -- one packed with fine singers of all ages and a Hammond B3 organ well played. Such a sweet, sweet Spirit on 20th and Reed today, and eternally in the beautiful soul of my friend and neighbor Harold.

Twice this Lent we have walked the Way of the Cross together on Fridays at 6.30 p.m. followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and a delicious meatless meal served in the Parish Hall. Yesterday there were twenty in attendance and 95 others joining us via YouTube. If you have not yet been able to participate in Stations I hope you soon will. It's an especially beautiful devotion guiding us to the epicenter of God's love, the life-giving, saving Cross of Jesus.

## About today's Mass

We are faced here with the great contrast between Christ's glory on Thabor and the extreme humiliation of His passion. But it is God's will in His plan for man's redemption that His Son should bear the punishment for our sins and He should pass through suffering and death to lead us with Him in His resurrection.

It is in Jesus that we are blessed by God, that a new humanity, redeemed by Him, becomes the heir to the divine blessings promised to our fathers.

Continuing the reading of the important passages from the Bible, begun at Septuagesima, the Office of Matins comes today to the blessing given to his son Jacob by the patriarch Isaac. In Jacob, superseding Esau his elder brother, to become in his place the object of divine promises, the Fathers saw a figure of Christ, the second Adam, the new head of redeemed humanity, "in whom all nations will be blessed." The Gospel of the Transfiguration appeared to them to fulfil what this account from the Old Testament pre-figured: God blessed His Son, "clothed in our flesh," as Isaac, had blessed Jacob wearing his brother's clothes. It is because He united Himself to us even taking "on flesh like to our sinful flesh" as St. Paul says, and dying on the cross

Next Sunday I will be preaching at Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue in New York City at Sunday Evensong (4 p.m.). The parish is celebrating its 200th Anniversary during which several former clergy are returning for a series entitled "Lord, teach us to pray." Fittingly for a Clementine, my assigned topic is Our Lady's Holy Rosary. The service will be live streamed ([www.saintthomaschurch.org](http://www.saintthomaschurch.org)).

Today's Mass encourages us in our pilgrimage toward Easter with the glorious Transfiguration of Christ on Mount Tabor, such a powerful reminder that we too *will be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye*. Meanwhile God offers us glimpses of His glory in all the sacred resemblances that are the results of adoption and grace. Anticipating the joy of welcoming a new sister and brother in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism at Easter is making this a hopeful and a happy Lent on Appletree Street.

Yours faithfully,  
*Fr. Alton*



that He has made us co-heirs of His glory and the well-beloved sons of His Father in heaven.

Before following Christ in His glory we have to undergo the test of this life. In our weak condition which requires the constant help of grace we must keep our souls and bodies in the practice of a holy life of a kind to be pleasing to God.

— Dom Gaspar Lefebvre, O. S. B.