



A newsletter from
ST. MARY'S ABBEY

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September 2016

3 St. Gregory the Great, *feast*

4 Sunday XXIII (Fr. Hilary)

5 Labor Day

- ⊕ Lauds with Mass, 7:30 a.m.
- ⊕ Midday Prayer, 11:50 a.m.
- ⊕ Vespers, 5:15 p.m.
- ⊕ Vigils, 7:15 p.m.

6 Classes begin!

- ⊕ Lauds, 6:30 a.m. (M-F)
- ⊕ Midday Prayer, 11:50 a.m.
- ⊕ Vespers/Mass, 5:15 p.m. (M-F)

8 Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, *feast*

9 Mass of the Holy Spirit, 10:00 a.m.

- ⊕ Second Friday
- ⊕ Vespers (without Mass), 5:15 p.m.

11 Sunday XXIV (Fr. Michael)

13 St. John Chrysostom, *memorial*

14 Exaltation of the Holy Cross, *feast*

15 Our Lady of Sorrows, *memorial*

18 Sunday XXV (Fr. Edward Seton)

- ⊕ Oblate Meeting

20 St. Andrew Kim & Companions, *memorial*

21 St. Matthew, *feast*

25 Sunday XXVI (Abbot Richard)

23 St. Pio of Pietrelcina, *memorial*

27 St. Vincent de Paul, *memorial*

29 Ss. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, *feast*

30 St. Jerome, *memorial*

This calendar follows the Order of Worship as approved by the Congregation for Divine Worship on 22 June 1972 in Rome for the American Cassinese Congregation of Benedictine Monasteries.

LECTIO DIVINA: The following is the schema of readings for Sunday Mass, which we encourage you to consider as a prayerful preparation:

- ⊕ **Sept. 4:** Wis. 9:13-18b; Phlmn. 9-10, 12-17; Lk. 14:25-33.
- ⊕ **Sept. 11:** Ex. 32: 7-11, 13-14; 1 Tim. 1: 12-17; Lk. 15:1-32.
- ⊕ **Sept. 18:** Amos 8:4-7; 1 Tim. 2:1-8; Lk. 16:1-13.
- ⊕ **Sept. 25:** Amos 6:1a, 4-7; 1 Tim. 6:11-16; Lk. 16:19-31.

SECOND FRIDAY: Confessions and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament resumes, 9 September 2016 from 3-5 p.m. Please stay for Vespers at 5:15!

OBLATES: The monthly meeting takes place on Sunday, the 18th. For information, contact [Fr. Hilary](mailto:Fr.Hilary@stmarysabbey.org) 973.538.3231 [ext. 2019].

SEPTEMBER SAINT: St. Gregory the Great holds special significance for Benedictines and the universal church. Born into Roman nobility ca. 540, during the war between the Emperor Justinian and the Goths, Gregory and his pious family, well-connected to the church and local civic life, were likely unaffected by it.

After the death of Gregory's father, Gordianus, the family home on Rome's Caelian Hill (opposite the Circus Maximus) would soon become a monastic center under the patronage of St. Andrew. Gregory's mother Silvia was devout and is herself regarded as a saint. It is at St. Andrew's Gregory would take up monastic life with great fervor and later become the superior. Gregory, completely at home with monastic life, would soon be called upon by the church for duties beyond the enclosure—much to his dismay.

In 579, Pope Pelagius II appointed Gregory *apocrisiarius* (ambassador of sorts) to the imperial court of Constantinople. The monk's charge was

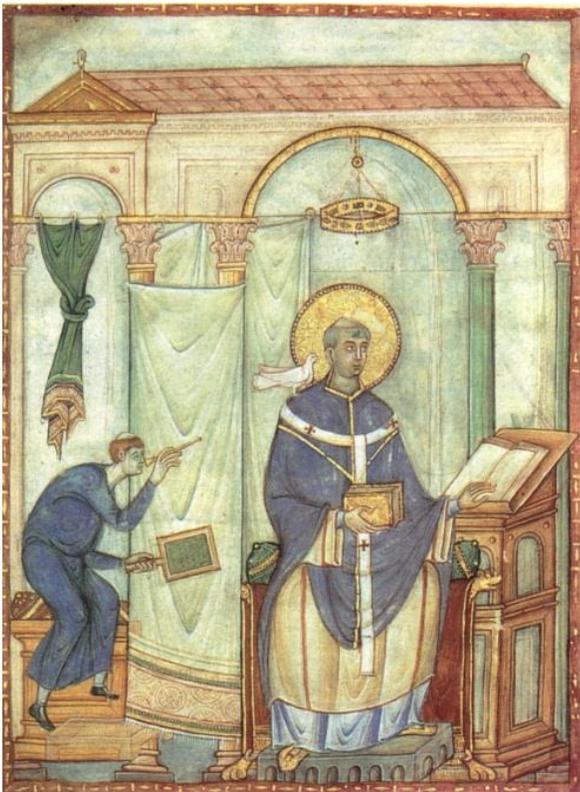
simple: to seek military aid to help Rome fight against the Lombards. That Gregory didn't read or speak Greek might have contributed to his unsuccessful efforts. Six years after arriving at the imperial court Gregory returned to Rome where he hoped he'd spend the rest of his life as a monk. God had other ideas!

In 590, on the death of Pope Pelagius II, Gregory was elected Pope by popular acclaim! It was clear from the beginning Gregory wanted nothing more than the undisturbed life within the monastery, and as Pope he made this clear in his letters. He's the first monk to become Pope and as Pope extolled the monastic life, while eschewing ambitions to the Petrine ministry. The papacy, at the time of Gregory's election, seemed to have little effect on the church in the West and on Bishops leading the many already established Christian centers. Ironically Gregory recharged the papacy and the church, especially in its missionary activities in northern Europe.

In 596, Gregory sent a fellow monk (and prior of St. Andrew's), Augustine and companions to evangelize the Anglos in Britain. Here Augustine, under papal approbation, successfully Christianized

Britain, from which missionary monks would later evangelize northern Europe.

For Benedictines, Gregory's greatest gift may be his devotion to St. Benedict, whose legacy was well-known to Gregory and others. In his *Dialogues*, Gregory devoted an entire book to the life and miracles of Benedict. While not a biography in the strict sense, Gregory offers the only written work besides the *Rule* that tells us about the father of western monasticism. Gregory is also credited with great liturgical reforms and coined the papal title *servus servorum Dei*—servant of the servants of God, still used today. Gregory's extensive homilies, letters and other treatises are also among his lasting legacy that still edifies the church. Rightly so he was acclaimed a Saint shortly after his death.



Retreat Center News

In September, the Retreat Center welcomes the following overnight retreat groups:

- ⊕ Immaculate Conception Seminary: September 9-11 & 23-25.
- ⊕ Matt Talbot: September 30-October 2.

We also welcome the following daily events:

- ⊕ Sacred Thread Ministries Mass: September 4.
- ⊕ Sacred Thread Ministries Mass: September 18.
- ⊕ Sacred Thread Ministries Day of Reflection: Monday, September 19.

Remember, the Retreat Center also welcomes men and women of all faiths for private or directed retreats, or for spiritual direction. For more information, contact Paul Cocco at 973-538-3231 x2100 or via e-mail: retreatcenter@delbarton.org. Visit our [webpage](#) and our [Facebook](#) page.

OFFERING: During the month of June, the congregation offered the monastery \$4,169.00 through the collection at the Sunday Eucharist. Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

WEBSITE: Please visit the Abbey website: www.saintmarysabbey.org for this newsletter and more up-to-date information about the Abbey. You can also visit the school website for news and events: www.delbarton.org.