



A newsletter from
ST. MARY'S ABBEY

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September 2017

3. XXII Sunday (Abbot Elias)

4. Labor Day

5. Matins on weekdays returns to 6:30 a.m.

10. XXIII Sunday (Abbot Richard)

8. Nativity of the B.V.M., *feast*

⊕ 2nd Friday Adoration/Confessions, 3-5 p.m.

13. St. John Chrysostom, *memorial*

14. Exaltation of the Holy Cross, *feast*

15. Our Lady of Sorrows, *memorial*

16. Ss. Cornelius & Cyprian, *memorial*

17. XXIV Sunday (Fr. Hilary)

20. St. Andrew Kim & Companions, *memorial*

21. St. Matthew, *feast*

23. St. Pio of Pietrelcina, *memorial*

24. XXV Sunday (Abbot Richard)

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.

⊕ **Sept. 17:** Sir. 27:33-28:9; Rom. 14:7-9, 27a; Matt. 18:21-35.

⊕ **Sept. 24:** Is. 55:6-9, Phil. 1:20c-24; Matt. 20:1-16a.

SECOND FRIDAYS: Adoration & Reconciliation resumes on Friday, 8 September 2017, the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be in the Abbey Church from 3-5 p.m., during which the Sacrament of Reconciliation. All are most welcome!

OBLATES: The next meeting of the Oblates of St. Benedict will be on Sunday, 17 September 2017. As usual the meeting will be held on the lower level of Vincent House. For more information, call Fr. Hilary at 973-538-3235 [ext. 2019] or e-mail him.

SEPTEMBER SAINT: Born in Antioch to an army officer in 347, St. John Chrysostom became the archbishop of Constantinople. Raised by his widowed mother, John was educated in law and oratory, but went on to embrace the monastic life. The austerity of this life was not agreeable to John's health so he returned to Antioch within 10 years.

In 386, John was ordained as a priest and assisted the bishop in temporal matters—especially care of the poor. Soon, however, John gained a reputation as a fine preacher and commentator on the letter of St. Paul and the gospels of Ss. Matthew and John. In this capacity, John insisted on the Antiochene approach to reading the scriptures, i.e. a literal approach with practical applications to contemporary issues. John also quelled political factions against the emperor with his preaching.

In 397, after the archbishop of Constantinople died, the Emperor Arcadius wanted John to be his successor and had him secretly snatched from Antioch. Once in Constantinople, John reformed the corrupt clergy, court and people.

LECTIO DIVINA: The following is the schema of readings for September's Sunday liturgies. Consider using them for *lectio divina* and as a prayerful preparation for Mass:

⊕ **Sept. 7:** Jer. 20:7-9; Rom. 12:1-2; Matt. 16:31-37.

⊕ **Sept. 10:** Ez. 33:7-9; Rom. 13:8-10; Matt. 18:15-20.

He gained a reputation for frugality and simplicity—not only for himself but others. Regrettably he was also critical of the Jews. Many found John’s moral prudishness too much.

At Chalcedon, John was condemned and forced into exile, though an earthquake spooked Constantinople and John remained—continuing his calls for moral reform. Further banishments came his way, in part through the Arian heresy that rendered the church unsettled. While many in the west continued to support John—including the pope, exile befell the banished bishop. Forced to travel into exile on foot during inclement weather, John died of exposure and exhaustion on 14 September 407.

31 years after his death John’s relics were transferred to Constantinople for enshrinement. Along with Ss. Basil, Athanasius and Gregory of Nazianzus, John is regarded as one of the 4 great Greek Fathers of the Church. In the east John is regarded as one of the 3 Holy Hierarchs and Universal Teachers. His exegetical works are among his best and most famous. In the western church his feast day is celebrated on 13 September.



Retreat Center News

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

- ⊕ Immaculate Conception Seminary
- ⊕ St. Vincent de Paul Parish Women’s Retreat
- ⊕ Paramus Men’s Retreat Group

The Retreat Center is proud to offer the following Small Faith Sharing Groups for the 2017-2018 Academic Year:

- ⊕ Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John
- ⊕ Lectio Divina

For more information about these groups, scheduling or registration, contact Paul Cocco at 973-538-3235, ext. 2100.

NEW THIS YEAR: The retreat center will offer Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on the first Thursday of each month, beginning in October, from 1-3 p.m. All are welcome to spend some time in the presence of Our Lord.

Fr. Joseph Voltaggio, O.S.B. will be available in the Retreat Center every Wednesday between 1 & 3 p.m. for Spiritual Direction and/or the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Remember, the retreat center also welcomes men and women of all faiths for private or directed retreats, or for spiritual direction. Watch for the schedule for the 2017-2018 Academic Year! For more information, contact Paul Cocco at 973-538-3235, ext. 2100 or via e-mail: retreatcenter@delbarton.org. Visit our [webpage](#) and like us on [Facebook](#).

AUGUST OFFERING: The August collection was \$3,368.00. Thank you for your 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.

NEW PHONE NUMBER: The abbey now has a phone number separate from the school: 973-538-3235. When calling the abbey you’ll be prompted to dial reception during the business hours or extensions.