



A newsletter from
ST. MARY'S ABBEY

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April 2016

- 3. II Sunday of Easter (Fr. Michael)**
- 4. Annunciation of the Lord, solemnity (transferred)**
- 5. Transitus of St. Benedict, solemnity (transferred)**
- 8. Second Friday
- 10. III Sunday of Easter (Abbot Richard)**
- 11. St. Stanislaus, *memorial*
- 12. Second Friday
- 17. Fourth Sunday of Easter (Fr. Hilary)**
 - ⊕ Oblate Meeting after Mass
- 21. St. Anselm, *memorial*
- 24. Fifth Sunday of Easter (Fr. Michael)**
- 25. St. Mark the Evangelist, *feast*
- 29. St. Catherine of Siena, *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 this month, which we encourage you to consider as a prayerful preparation for the Sunday Eucharist:

- ⊕ **April 3:** Acts 5:12-16; Rev. 1:9-11a, 12-13; John 20:19-31.
- ⊕ **April 10:** Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41; Rev. 5:11-14; John 21:1-19.
- ⊕ **April 17:** Acts 13:14, 43-52; Rev. 7:9, 14-17; John 10:27-30.
- ⊕ **April 24:** Acts 14:21-27; Rev. 21:1-5a; John 13:31-33a; 34-35.

THANK YOU: to all who join us for the Holy Week liturgies, and especially to the servers, lectors, musicians, Communion ministers and sacristans. Please God, you entered more deeply into central mysteries of our faith.

OBLATES: The oblates will meet Sunday, 17 April 2016 on the lower level of Vincent House. New members and inquirers welcome. For more information contact [Father Hilary](#) (ext. 2019).

APRIL SAINT: This month's saint was a great Benedictine monk, scholar, and churchman. Anselm was Italian by birth, born in Aosta in 1033 to a Lombard nobleman with whom he had a rocky relationship as a young man. Anselm later lived with his mother's family in Burgundy.

Lanfranc, a formidably scholar of the day and monk at Bec, drew Anselm to Normandy and the monastic life. Early on Anselm study St. Augustine and wrote (none of which survives). Anselm was soon appointed prior of Bec, during which time he began to write with significance. His prayers and meditations, for example, continue to enrich those pursuing the spiritual life. His most famous works, written at this time, are the *Monologion* and *Proslogion*. The latter contains Anselm's famous "ontological" argument for the existence of God. Anselm proposes: God is *that than which nothing greater can be conceived*. His philosophical approach laid the ground work for future scholarly works. Anselm's argument reveals his original thinking.

In 1078 the founding Abbot of Bec, Herluin, died. Anselm was elected his successor. As Abbot, Anselm re-kindled his relationship with this former mentor, Lanfranc, now archbishop of Canterbury since 1070. Anselm's relationship with Lanfranc introduced him to the ecclesiastical affairs



of England, which in the 11th century could be treacherous with the William Rufus! When Lanfranc died in 1098, the clergy proposed Anselm to succeed him as archbishop. However King William Rufus, successor to William the Conqueror,

kept the see vacant for 4 years. Eventually the king acceded to the clergy's acclamation. Anselm hesitated but accepted. From then on, Anselm's life was marred by conflict with William Rufus and his successor and brother, Henry I.

The disputes centered on the relationship between crown and church. Anselm held to the position of papal authority to invest bishops, whereas the crown wished to retain such prerogative. Unsympathetic to politics and its innate compromise, Anselm held fast with unflinching obedience to papal primacy and God's will. William Rufus had been recognized by antipope, Wibert. But Anselm pledged his obedience to Urban II. Conflict continued! Thus was Anselm forced into exile in 1097.

Anselm's exile proved fruitful, as during this time he penned his treatise on the Incarnation, *Cur Deus Homo* (Why God Became Man), and played an active role in several church councils—all the while remaining firm in his position on the investiture controversy. Upon the death of William Rufus in 1100, and the accession of Henry I, Anselm returned to England. However the conflict was far from over, as Henry held the line on investiture, and in 1103 Anselm was exiled again. Pope Pascal, in 1106-07 brokered a compromise which king and archbishop could live with: The former would select bishop while the later would invest with episcopal symbols of jurisdiction.

Anselm remained in Canterbury till his death in 1109, becoming the primate of the English church, insisting on clerical celibacy and conducting councils. The cult to Anselm was soon overshadowed by a successor, Thomas Becket (ca. 1119-1170). Yet Anselm would be remembered as the chief theologian between Augustine and

Thomas Aquinas, and later named a Doctor of the Church for his contributions to Theology: *Fidens querens intellectum* (Faith seeking understanding).

BLOOD DRIVE: Donate blood on Wednesday, 6 April! If you are 16 years or older, in good health, and weight more than 110 lbs. you are eligible to save a life! For medical eligibility call 1-800 933-2566. 16 year olds need medical permission from their parent found on www.nybloodcenter.org. The annual blood drive will be 8 a.m. -4 p.m. in the St. Joseph Gym. Contact school nurse [Barbara Pereyra, R.N.](#) for more information or to make an appointment

DAILY PRAYER: With our Benedictine charism of hospitality you are always welcome to join the monks for prayer:

Sunday:

- ⊕ Lauds at 7:30 a.m.
- ⊕ Mass at 11:00 a.m.
- ⊕ Vespers at 5:15 p.m.

Monday-Friday:

- ⊕ Lauds, 6:30 a.m.
- ⊕ Midday Prayer, 11:50 a.m.
- ⊕ Vespers with Mass, 5:15 p.m.
- ⊕ Vigils, 7:15 p.m.

Saturday:

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

OFFERING: During the month of March, the congregation offered the monastery \$3,754.00 at the Sunday Eucharist. The Easter collections totaled \$5,624.00. 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. The new school [website](#) also has many up-to-date events.

