



A newsletter from ST. MARY'S ABBEY

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February 2016

1 Lucernarium, 7:15 p.m.

2 Presentation of the Lord, *feast*

- ✿ Mass without Lauds, 7:30 a.m.

3 St. Blaise, *opt. memorial*

- ✿ Blessing of throats after Lauds & Mass

5 St. Agatha, *memorial*

6 St. Paul Miki & Companions, *memorial*

7 V Sunday of the Year (Abbot Richard)

- ✿ Middle School Brunch

10 Ash Wednesday

- ✿ Lauds with Ashes, 6:30 a.m.
- ✿ Prayer Service with Ashes, 10:00 a.m.
- ✿ Vespers & Mass, 5:15 p.m.; Ashes after Mass.

12 Second Friday

- ✿ Adoration & Confessions, 3-5 p.m.

14 I Sunday of Lent (Fr. Hilary)

- ✿ Oblate meeting, Vincent House

16 Mass with Bsp. Serratelli & School

- ✿ 10:00 a.m.

21 II Sunday of Lent (Fr. Michael)

- ✿ Sophomore Retreat II

22 Chair of St. Peter, *feast*

28 III Sunday of Lent (Fr. Edward Seton)

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.

- ✿ **February 7:** Is. 6:1-2a, 3-8, 4-5, 7-8; 1 Cor. 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11.
- ✿ **February 14:** Deut. 26:4-10; Rom. 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13.
- ✿ **February 21:** Gen. 15:5-12; Phlmn. 3:17-4:1; Luke 9:28b-36.
- ✿ **February 28:** Ex. 3:1-8a, 13-15; 1 Cor. 10:1-6, 10-12; Luke 13:1-9.

CANDLEMAS: The feast of Presentation of the Lord commemorates

when Mary and Joseph presented Jesus in the temple forty days after his birth in accordance with the Jewish custom. Jesus was proclaimed by Simeon to be the "light of revelation to the nations and the glory of Israel" (Luke 2:32). On this feast the church traditionally blesses the candles used during the year; hence the name *Candlemas*.



You are welcome to join us for the *Lucernarium*, a vigil candlelight procession and service of psalms and readings on the eve of the feast. We will celebrate this *Lucernarium* on Monday, 1 February 2016 at 7:15 p.m. in the Abbey Church. Please gather in the narthex. The Conventual Mass will be celebrated at on Tuesday, 2 February 2016.

WINTER MUSICAL: Come warm yourself at the winter musical, *Nice Work If You Can Get It*, with

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:

music by George and Ira Gershwin. For ticket sales click [here](#).



LENT begins on Wednesday, 10 February 2016. The imposition of Ashes takes place at the following services:

- ✿ Lauds, 6:30 a.m.
- ✿ Prayer Service with students, 10:00 a.m.
- ✿ Following Mass & Vespers, 5:15 p.m.

SECOND FRIDAY: As usual Confessions will be heard on the 2nd Friday of the month, during which



there will be the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. During the Jubilee Year of Mercy (December 8, 2015–November 20, 2016), the Abbey has extended this opportunity to all the faithful who wish to experience God's mercy in this most intimate and grace-filled way. The [website](#) for the USCCB has many ways to observe the

Year of Mercy, as does the Vatican [website](#).

OBLATES: This month the Oblates of Saint Benedict will meet in the lounge on lower level of Vincent House immediately after the Sunday Eucharist on 14 February 2016. For more information, call Father Hilary at 973.538.3231 [ext. 2019] or email [him](#).

CHAIR OF ST. PETER: For Americans the 22nd of February is often associated with George Washington, our 1st president and ancestor of the American Republic, who was born on that day in 1732. For Roman Catholics the day is also associated with St. Peter. Early Roman Martyrologies indicate two feasts. A chair believed to be associated with St. Peter was kept at the pseudonymous Roman basilica; another chair was kept in the Catacombs of Priscilla. While no such chair survives, the feast has

continued to celebrate the Petrine ministry in Rome. The reforms of the *Roman Missal* by Pope St. John XXIII in 1962 and Vatican II retained the single date on 22 February.

In pagan Rome the 22nd of February was a day to remember one's ancestors. Once Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire, St. Peter, Rome's first bishop, became the ancestor to be remembered and celebrated. In the 4th century a basilica was built over the small shrine where Peter was buried following his crucifixion in the Circus of Nero. Rome and St. Peter became the center of Christianity.

The chair or *cathedra* has long been associated as the seat of the Bishop. A medieval chair, once thought to be that used by St. Peter's himself, is preserved with a bronze sculpture by Gianlorenzo Bernini.



While the chair was likely not used by St. Peter, it was nonetheless a chair given to Pope John VIII by Holy Roman Emperor Charles the Bald in 875, and used by subsequent medieval Popes. The feast itself isn't about a piece of pontifical furniture, but what it represents: the unity of the church under the authority of St. Peter, leader of the apostles, and his pastoral role handed down to each subsequent pope. The Feast of the Chair of St. Peter is a reminder for us to pray for Pope Francis and his dedication to the Petrine ministry.

OFFERING: During January, the congregation offered the monastery \$5,955.00 through the Sunday collection. 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 school [website](#) also has many up-to-date events and new items!