



A newsletter from  
**ST. MARY'S ABBEY**

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## March 2016

### 6. IV Sunday of Lent (Fr. Edward Seton)

11. Second Friday 3-5 p.m.

### 13. V Sunday of Lent (Fr. Michael)

- ⊕ 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the Election of Pope Francis
- ⊕ Daylight Savings Time begins

17. St. Patrick, *commemoration*

### 19. St. Joseph, *solemnity*

- ⊕ Mass (*without Lauds*), 7:30 a.m.

### 20. Passion Sunday (Abbot Richard)

- ⊕ DPGA Brunch after 11 a.m. Mass
- ⊕ Oblate Meeting, Vincent House
- ⊕ Solemn Vespers 5:00 p.m.

### 24. Holy Thursday (Abbot Richard)

- ⊕ Mass of the Lord's Supper, 5:00 p.m.
- ⊕ Tenebræ, 7:30 p.m.

### 25. Good Friday (Abbot Richard)

- ⊕ Confessions, 1:00 p.m.
- ⊕ The Lord's Passion, 3:00 p.m.
- ⊕ Tenebræ, 7:30 p.m.

### 26. Holy Saturday (Abbot Richard)

- ⊕ Easter Vigil Mass, 8:00 p.m.
- ⊕ Reception in Estabrook Dining Hall

### 27. Easter Sunday (Abbot Richard)

- ⊕ Mass of the Resurrection, 11:00 a.m.

*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.*

consider as a prayerful preparation for the Sunday Eucharist:

- ⊕ **March 6:** Jos. 5:9a, 10-12; 2 Cor. 5:17-21; Lk.15:1-3, 11-32.
- ⊕ **March 13:** Is. 43:16-21; Phil. 3:8-14; Jn. 8:1-11.
- ⊕ **March 20:** Is. 50:4-7; Phil. 2:6-11; Lk.22:14-23, 56.
- ⊕ **March 27:** Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Col. 2:6-3:1-4; Jn.20:1-9.

**SECOND FRIDAY:** As usual Confessions will be heard on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 on Sunday, 20 March 2016 on the lower level of Vincent House. New members and inquirers are welcome to attend. For more information, call Father Hilary at 973.538.3231 [ext. 2019] or email [him](#).

**HOLY WEEK RETREATS:** There are two retreats available at the Abbey Retreat Center, March 24-27:

- ⊕ Women and men who wish to make a private retreat and join the monks at prayer during the Sacred Triduum may make reservations with Paul Cocco: 973.538.3231 [ext. 2100] or e-mail [him](#).

**LECTIO DIVINA:** The following is the schema of readings for this month, which we encourage you to

- ⊕ Men (ages 18-45) interested in discerning a vocation to the priesthood or religious life are welcome to participate in our Monastic Experience program. Contact Fr. Giles at 973.538.3231 [ext. 2111] or e-mail [him](#).

**WINTER CONCERTS:** Enjoy some great music with the perfect acoustics of the Fine Arts Center! The Wind Ensemble, Brass, Jazz, Woodwind, and Percussion ensembles will perform on Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. The Abbey Orchestra and Young Abbey Orchestra will perform on Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served. You can join the monks for Vespers at 5:15 after Sunday's concert!

**MARCH SAINT:** While the very popular saint this month has long been associated as the Apostle to Ireland he certainly isn't the only person responsible for spreading the Gospel there. But nonetheless St. Patrick is much beloved by Irish and non-Irish.

Ironically, Patrick was actually British by birth, whose father was a town councilor and deacon. Patrick's grandfather was a priest. As a young man Patrick was captured by Irish pirates and enslaved for six years. During his servitude as a shepherd Patrick prayed, a change from his earlier days when he confesses he "knew not the true God." Eventually he escaped and managed to charm sailors to take him aboard. After quite an adventure Patrick eventually returned home a changed man. He soon trained for the priesthood and learned the scriptures in Latin, in a rudimentary way however.

Through contact with Gaul and perhaps even the papacy Patrick was soon appointed bishop in Ireland, ca. 435, despite some opposition. Beginning in the north Patrick established a see at Armagh and later in the west and east. From Armagh, Patrick set out on missionary journeys.

Patrick's writings reveal a simple yet sincere devotion and pastoral zeal. He was unequivocal in his desire to eradicate pagan worship and focus solely on Christ. In his old age Patrick saw himself as an unlearned exile, former slave and fugitive who trusted in God alone. What's known about Patrick historically far surpasses the Patrick of legends. Regrettably places which we associate with Patrick, including Downpatrick and Croagh Patrick cannot

be entirely verified. Even his death and burial site remain uncertain.

All this notwithstanding, St. Patrick will continue to be among the most popular saints, especially in Ireland where he is the patron and celebrated as such. Thankfully his cult spread to Europe by Irish monks and later encouraged by the Normans in Ireland. Devotion to Patrick spread to Australia and the United States via immigration most certainly. In 1809 the 1<sup>st</sup> cathedral in New York on Mulberry Street was dedicated to St. Patrick as was the second Cathedral begun in 1858. St. Patrick is also one of the patrons of the diocese of Paterson. Thus we at St. Mary's Abbey (where many of the monks have Irish roots) are able to put aside for a day our Lenten observance on March 17<sup>th</sup> to celebrate with some festivity, gratefully! Incidentally March 17, 1780 is the date of the 1<sup>st</sup> St. Patrick's Day celebration in the United State, right here in [Morristown](#), thanks to George Washington!



*Stained glass window of St. Patrick in Glenstal Abbey Church, Co. Limerick, Ireland. Used with permission.*

**OFFERING:** During the month of February, the congregation offered the monastery \$4,606.00 through the collection at the Sunday Eucharist. Thank you for your generosity!

**WEBSITE:** Please visit the Abbey website: [www.saintmarysabbey.org](http://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!