



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

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## February 2017

### 2. Presentation of the Lord, feast (Fr. Michael)

3. St. Blaise blessing after Matins (6:30 a.m.) & after Mass (5:15 p.m.)

### 5. V Sunday (Abbot Richard)

6. St. Paul Miki & Companions, memorial

10. St. Scholastica, feast

- \* Mass without Vespers, 5:15 p.m.
- \* Exposition & Confessions, 3-5 p.m.

11. Our Lady of Lourdes, memorial

- \* Second Friday, 3-5 p.m.

### 12. VI Sunday (Abbot Richard)

14. Ss. Cyril and Methodius, memorial

### 19. VII Sunday (Fr. Hilary)

- \* Oblate Meeting

20. Presidents' Day (observed)

- \* Matins, 7:30 a.m.

21. St. Peter Damian, memorial

22. Chair of St. Peter, feast

23. St. Polycarp, memorial

### 26. VIII Sunday (Fr. Edward Seton)

- \* Sophomore Retreat II

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.

- \* Feb. 2: Mal. 3:1-4; Heb. 2:14-18; Lk. 2:22-40.
- \* Feb. 5: Is. 58:7-10; 1 Cor. 2:1-5; Mt. 5:13-16.
- \* Feb. 12: Sir. 15:15-20; 1 Cor. 2:6-10; Mt. 5:17-37.
- \* Feb. 19: Lev. 19:1f, 17f; 1 Cor. 3:16-23; Mt. 5:38-48.
- \* Feb. 26: Is. 49:14-15; 1 Cor. 4:1-4; Mt. 6:24-34.

**CANDLEMAS:** The feast of the Presentation of the Lord

commemorates the time when Mary and Joseph in accordance with the Jewish custom of the day presented Jesus in the temple forty days after his



birth. Jesus was proclaimed by Simeon to be the "light of revelation to the nations and the glory of Israel (Lk. 2:32)." And so on this feast the church traditionally blesses the candles used during the year. Hence the feast has become known as "Candlemas." Please join us for the Lucernarium and Mass: Thursday, 2 February 2017 at 5:15 p.m. The liturgy begins outside the choir. Bring your candles to be blessed! After the Lucernarium we will process with lighted candles into the sanctuary for the remainder of the liturgy.

**OBLATES:** The Oblates of St. Benedict will meet on Sunday, 19 February 2017. The meeting will take place on the lower level of Vincent House following immediately after the Sunday Eucharist. For more information, call Fr. Hilary at (973) 538.3231 [ext. 2019] or [email](#) him. New members and inquirers are always welcome!

**FEBRUARY SAINT:** St. Peter Damian (1007-1072) was a significant figure in the 11<sup>th</sup> century. Born in

**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:

Ravenna, St. Peter lost both parents when he was quite young, and was raised by a brother, who also educated the saint in the best way possible at the time. After studying grammar, rhetoric and law in Faenza and Parma, St. Peter undertook a teaching position in Ravenna. Living an austere life he became a monk in 1035 at the Camaldolese monastery, Monte Avellano. The Camaldolese were a recent reform of the Benedictines by St. Romuald (c. 951-c. 1025/27), also from Ravenna. The monastic observance St. Peter undertook was austere and emphasized the eremitic tradition of monasticism. This didn't entirely agree with his health, however.

St. Peter continued zealously studying, but this time he turned to the Scriptures and the Church Fathers. In addition, he did manual labor, liturgical and private prayer and lectio as all monks do. In 1043 St. Peter was elected Abbot of his monastery, a position which he accepted with devotion and fidelity to St. Romuald. While his writings reveal a strict spirituality he was known by his monks as a kind and compassionate man. During his abbacy five foundations were made.

As Abbot, St. Peter also directed his energies to the wider church, which was at a crossroad at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium. The Abbot attracted the attention of the reformist Pope St. Leo IX (1002-1054), who battled simony (buying church office) and insisting on clerical celibacy (not mandatory for secular clergy at the time). In general, St. Peter Damian was critical of any lax observance within the monastic orders.

In 1057 he was appointed Bishop of Ostia and made a Cardinal. In his new role the saint was deeply involved in the Gregorian reforms taken up by another monk, Pope St. Gregory VII (1025-1085). These reforms put St. Peter on the offensive of antipopes and necessitated ecclesiastical and diplomatic missions throughout Europe. In 1059 he participated in the Lateran synod,



which determined Cardinals alone chose the Pope. Despite all this, St. Peter never lost his monastic heart and requested to be relieved of the ecclesiastical office. Pope Nicholas II acceded to the request and St. Peter returned to Monte Avellano. While he is remembered as an astute churchman, St. Peter Damian is best remembered as a monk, who did much to promote ongoing monastic reforms and ideals.

### *Retreat Center News*

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

- ⊕ Immaculate Conception Seminary: Feb 3-5
- ⊕ St. Peter's Prep: Feb 11-13
- ⊕ Syro-Malankara Pre-Cana: Feb 17-19
- ⊕ Delbarton Sophomores: Feb 24-26

We also welcome the following groups for daily events:

- ⊕ Sacred Thread Ministries Mass: Feb 5
- ⊕ Sacred Thread Ministries Mass: Feb 26

The Retreat Center is proud to continue offering the following Small Faith Sharing Groups:

- ⊕ Unlocking the Mysteries of the Bible: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday
- ⊕ Discussion of Sunday Scripture Readings: Every Wednesday
- ⊕ St. Benedict Outside the Walls: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday

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](mailto:retreatcenter@delbarton.org). Visit our [webpage](#) and like us on [Facebook](#).

**LENT:** The discipline of Lent begins Wednesday, 1 March. Matins will be prayed at 6:30. Mass with the blessing and distribution of ashes will be at 5:15 p.m.

**JANUARY OFFERING:** The January collection was \$5,102.69. 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. You can also visit the school website for news and events: [www.delbarton.org](http://www.delbarton.org).