



A newsletter from ST. MARY'S ABBEY

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March 2017

1. Ash Wednesday

- ⊕ Ashes at Mass (5:15 p.m.)

5. I Sunday of Lent (*Abbot Richard*)

7. Mass with Bsp. Serratelli, 9:45 a.m.

- ⊕ Vespers, 5:15 p.m.

10. Second Friday

- ⊕ Adoration & Reconciliation, 3:00–5:00 p.m.

12. II Sunday of Lent (*Fr. Hilary*)

13. Matins, 7:30 a.m. till Friday, 17 March.

17. Saint Patrick, *commemoration*

19. III Sunday of Lent (*Fr. Hilary*)

- ⊕ Oblates meet after Mass in Vincent House

20. St. Joseph, *solemnity (transferred)*

- ⊕ Mass (*without Vespers*), 5:15 p.m.

21. Passing of Saint Benedict, *solemnity*

- ⊕ Mass with School, 10:00 a.m.
- ⊕ Solemn Vespers, 5:15 p.m.

25. Annunciation of the Lord, *solemnity*

- ⊕ Mass (*without Vespers*), 5:15 p.m.

26. IV 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.

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:

- ⊕ **March 5:** Gen. 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Rom. 5:12-19; Mt. 4:1-11.
- ⊕ **March 12:** Gen. 12:1-4a; 2 Tim. 1:8b-10; Mt. 17:1-9.
- ⊕ **March 19:** Ex. 17:3-7; Rom. 5:1-2, 5-8; John 4:4-42.
- ⊕ **March 26:** 1 Sam. 16:1b-6-7, 10-13a; Eph. 5:8-14; Jn. 9:1-41.

SECOND FRIDAY: You are welcome to our Second Friday program of *Adoration & Reconciliation* on 10 March 2017. There will be Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament from 3–5 p.m., during which a priest will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

OBLATES: This month the Oblates of St. Benedict will meet on Sunday, 19 March 2017 on the lower level of Vincent House. For more information, call Fr. Hilary at 973.538.3231 [ext. 2019] or email him.

MARCH SAINT: St. Katharine Drexel (1858-1955) was a woman who, in many ways, had it all. She was a devout Catholic, well educated, wealthy and part of America's high society. Yet she was unsatisfied with such status, and looked beyond her comfortable life to aid some of America's neediest: Native and African-Americans.

St. Katharine's stepmother, Emma Bouvier, was philanthropic toward the poor of Philadelphia. Katharine, inspired by a visit to the relics of St. Catherine of Siena was determined to become a nun and devote her life to the church. She was disturbed by the treatment of Native and African-Americans. Both would become the recipients of her inspiring charity.

She was determined to pursue her vocation and entered the novitiate of the Sisters of Mary, Pittsburgh. She was content with caring for the sick while intending to found her own community. Her efforts were bolstered an early influx of vocations. Soon she had missions established, one as far as Arizona, which she visited twice. More foundations popped up in larger cities. In Texas she was targeted by



the KKK, and in New Orleans she founded Xavier University. By 1922 after founding a mission in South Dakota, St. Katharine had exhausted her inheritance. Even in her 70s she furiously visited her foundations and soon ended her leadership position. A stroke confined her to a wheelchair, but her work continued.

Prayer and patience filled her final years, when she remained steadfastly committed to the ministry to Native and African-Americans. At the age of 97 she died in Philadelphia having spent her entire fortune, not on herself but the work to which she believed God had called her. At her funeral, her coffin was borne by representatives of the groups to whom she ministered. Katharine Drexel was beatified in 1988 and canonized in 2000, both by Blessed Pope John Paul II.

It is a lesson we all need—to let alone the things that do not concern us. He has other ways for others to follow Him; all do not go by the same path. It is for each of us to learn the path by which He requires us to follow Him, and to follow Him in that path. —St. Katharine Drexel

LENT: About Lent, St. Benedict writes: *The life of a monk ought to be a continuous Lent. Since few, however have the strength for this, we urge the entire community during these days of Lent to keep its manner of life most pure and to wash away in this holy season the negligences of other times (RB 49:1ff).* Why not spend part of your Lenten days in the quiet environs of the Abbey? You might consider joining us for Matins at 6:30 a.m. Or at the end of the day come to Vespers and Mass at 5:15 p.m.? Maybe you would just like to spend some time alone in the Abbey Church before the Blessed Sacrament or walking the grounds. Whatever form your Lenten discipline takes, you're most welcome here, so we all may look forward to holy Easter with joy and spiritual longing (RB 49:7).

HOLY WEEK RETREATS: There are two retreat opportunities available at the Abbey Retreat Center:

- ⊕ Men (age 20-45) discerning a vocation to the religious life are welcome to participate in our Monastic Experience program, which includes conferences and spiritual direction, meals with the monks and the Sacred Triduum liturgies. Arrival is Thursday or Friday, and concludes after the Easter Vigil

on Saturday. Contact Fr. Giles at 973.538.3231 [ext. 3060] or e-mail him [him](#).

- ⊕ Women and men, religious and laity are welcome to make a private retreat at the Abbey Retreat Center during the Sacred Triduum. Enjoy our 200-acre wooded campus and the monastic liturgies of these most holy days. You may make reservations with our guest master, Paul Cocco, at 973.538.3231 [ext. 2100] or e-mail [him](#).

Retreat Center News

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

- ⊕ Women's Directed Retreat: March 3-4
- ⊕ St. Peter's Prep: March 17-18
- ⊕ Delbarton Sophomores: March 24-26
- ⊕ St. Luke's Men's Cornerstone: March 31-April 1

We also welcome the following groups for daily events:

- ⊕ Sacred Thread Ministries Mass: March 12
- ⊕ Sacred Thread Ministries Mass: March 26

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

- ⊕ Unlocking the Mysteries of the Bible: 2nd Tuesday
- ⊕ Discussion of Sunday Scripture Readings: Every Wednesday
- ⊕ St. Benedict Outside the Walls: 2nd 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. Visit our [webpage](#) and like us on [Facebook](#).

FEBRUARY OFFERING: The February collection was \$4,474.00. 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.

