



A newsletter from
ST. MARY'S ABBEY

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April 2017

2. Fifth Sunday of Lent (Fr. Michael)

11. Second Friday, 3-5 p.m.

9. Passion (Palm) Sunday (Fr. Hilary)

- ⊕ DPGA Brunch
- ⊕ Solemn Vespers, 5:00 p.m.

13. Holy Thursday (Abbot Richard)

- ⊕ Mass of the Lord's Supper, 5 p.m.
- ⊕ Tenebrae, 7 p.m.

14. Good Friday (Abbot Richard)

- ⊕ Confessions, 1-3 p.m.
- ⊕ Liturgy of the Lord's Passion, 3 p.m.
- ⊕ Tenebrae, 7 p.m.

15. Holy Saturday (Abbot Richard)

- ⊕ The Easter Vigil, 8 p.m. (reception follows)

16. Easter Sunday (Abbot Elias)

- ⊕ Mass of the Resurrection, 11 a.m.

21. Adoration & Confessions, 1-3 p.m.

23. Second Sunday of Easter (Fr. Michael)

25. St. Mark, *apostle*

29. St. Catherine of Siena, *memorial*

30. Third Sunday of Easter (Fr. Hilary)

- ⊕ Solemn Vespers, 5:15 p.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.

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 2:** Ez. 37:14-14; Rom. 8:8-11; Jn. 11:1-45.
- ⊕ **April 9:** Is. 50:4-7; Phil. 2:6-11; Mt. 26: 14-27:66.

- ⊕ **April 16:** Acts 10: 34a, 37-43; Col. 3:1-4 [or 1 Cor. 5:6b-8]; Jn. 20:1-9.
- ⊕ **April 23:** Acts 2: 42-47; 1 Pt. 1: 3-9; Jn. 20:19-31.
- ⊕ **April 30:** Acts 2: 14, 22-23; 1 Pt. 1: 17-21; Lk. 24:13-35.

HORARIUM FOR THE SACRED TRIDUUM: Abbot Richard and the monks gratefully invite you to join us for the Triduum liturgies. Please consider praying with us during the most sacred days of the year.

- ⊕ **Holy Thursday (April 13)**
 - Lauds: 7:30 a.m.
 - Midday Prayer: 11:50 a.m.
 - Mass of the Lord's Supper: 5:00 p.m.
 - Tenebrae: 7 p.m.
- ⊕ **Good Friday (April 14)**
 - Lauds: 7:30 a.m.
 - Midday Prayer: 11:50 a.m.
 - Confessions: 1 p.m.
 - Liturgy of the Lord's Passion: 3 p.m.
 - Tenebrae: 7 p.m.
- ⊕ **Holy Saturday (April 15)**
 - Lauds: 7:30 a.m.
 - Midday Prayer: 11:50 a.m.
 - Vespers: 5:15 p.m.
 - The Easter Vigil: 8:00 p.m.
- ⊕ **Easter Sunday (April 16)**
 - Matins: 7:30 a.m.
 - Easter Mass: 11:00 a.m.

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 most welcome to make a private retreat at the Abbey Retreat Center during the Sacred Triduum. Enjoy our 200-acre wooded campus and join 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.

NOVICE: At Matins on Monday, 19 March 2017, Abbot Richard received into the novitiate Br. William McMillan. Br. William, from Union, is a graduate of Seton Hall Prep and Syracuse University. Under Fr. Hilary's tutelage, Br. William will study the *Rule*, the Constitution, Customary, Scripture and liturgy. Pray for Br. William's perseverance and more good vocations!

APRIL SAINT: On the penultimate day of April in 1380 this young and remarkable woman succumbed to a stroke she suffered 8 days earlier. Less than 100 years later in 1461, a fellow Sieneese, Pope Pius II canonized her. In 1970 Pope Paul VI named her a Doctor of the Church, a title few women enjoy.

The year of her birth is disputed: 1333 or 1347. But it is clear Catherine was born the youngest of 20 or more children to a dyer Giacomo Benincasa and his wife Lapa Piagenti. From an early age, Catherine was known for her prayer and penance, a fact her parents opposed. Not feeling called to marriage, Catherine became a Dominican tertiary. This led the saint to works of charity, especially toward the sick in plague-ravaged Siena.

Catherine also gathered with a group of men and women who would be companions on her journeys. These holy men and women inspired many conversions as they preached reform, renewal, and repentance. Total love of God was their single-minded message. Illiterate, Catherine dictated her ideals in her *Dialogues* and over 300 letters. In the face of constant criticisms, Catherine's holiness was strengthened. She believed she thus witnessed the crucified Christ, whereby God expresses unequivocally His love for humanity.

Catherine's involvement with the Avignon Papacy is one of her more famous endeavors. She urged Pope Gregory XI to return to Rome from Avignon, which he did. In 1387, after the death of Gregory XI, Pope Urban VI was elected in Rome

while a rival pope was elected in Avignon. Her last effort was to urge ecclesiastical and political rulers to support Urban as the legitimate pope. In 1380 Catherine suffered a stroke from which she would never recover.

St. Catherine's true legacy lies in her role as a mystic who encountered Christ in the church, the poor and sick. This bold and fearless young woman experienced pain and suffering in the face of sinful and imperfect church leaders. She was a prophetic voice in the late medieval church and for the 21st century church with a call to total commitment to Christ.

Her head is enshrined in the basilica of [San Domenico](#) in Siena, where one can also visit her house and see an early portrait. Her body is entombed in the basilica of [Santa Maria sopra Minerva](#) in Rome.



MARCH OFFERING: The March collection was \$4,620.00. 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.

