



A newsletter from ST. MARY'S ABBEY

230 MENDHAM ROAD MORRISTOWN, NJ 07960-4899
P: 973.538.3231 W: WWW.STMARYSABBEY.ORG



May 2017

- 2. St. Athanasius, *memorial*
- 3. Ss. Philip & James, *feast*
- 7. **IV Sunday of Easter (Abbot Richard)**
- 9. Second Friday
 - ⊕ Adoration & Confessions, 3-5 p.m.
- 11. The Holy Abbots of Cluny, *memorial*
- 12. 2nd Friday
- 14. **V Sunday of Easter (Fr. Edward Seton)**
 - ⊕ Blessings of Mothers at Mass
- 15. St. Pachomius, *memorial*
 - ⊕ Matins at 7:30 a.m. through August
- 12. 2nd Friday
- 17. [The Abbot's Table](#)
 - ⊕ 6-9 p.m. at The Hanover Marriott
- 21. **VI Sunday of Easter (Fr. Hilary)**
- 25. **Ascension of the Lord, solemnity (holy day)**
- 28. **VI Sunday of Easter (Fr. Michael)**
- 29. Memorial Day
 - ⊕ Matins 7:30 a.m. followed by Mass
 - ⊕ Vespers, 5:15 p.m.
- 31. The Visitation of the B.V.M., *feast*

*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.

- ⊕ **May 14:** Acts 6:1-7; 1 Peter 2:4-9; Jn. 14:1-12.
- ⊕ **May 21:** Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; 1 Peter 3:15-18; Jn. 14:15-21.
- ⊕ **May 28:** Acts 1:2-14; 1 Peter 4:13-16; Jn. 17:1-11a.

SECOND FRIDAY: Adoration & Reconciliation continues on Friday, 12 May 2017, 3-5 p.m., in the Abbey Church. Confession will be available. Consider joining us for Vespers and Mass afterward!

MOTHERS' DAY: Mothers are a blessing! At the conclusion of the Mass on 14 May 2017, a special blessing will be given to all mothers, grandmothers, god-mothers, and expectant mothers. This is a day so many express gratitude to the "mothers" in our lives. Don't miss the opportunity to thank God for these women by praying for them.

OBLATES: The Oblate meeting for this month is Sunday, May 21, following Mass. New comers and enquirers are welcome! For more information contact [Fr. Hilary](#) (ext. 2019).

MAY SAINT: Born in 1210 as the 11th child of a peasant family in Isernia, Italy, Peter was intelligent and devout. He lived an eremitical life in the mountains according to the *Rule of Benedict*. Peter's solitude was often interrupted, and he eventually became the abbot of a monastery on Monte Morone. The solitary mode of monastic life was the norm in his monastery. Peter spent 40 years in this life to which he believed God was calling him. This group even received ecclesiastical approval in 1274.

However, 1294 was a major turning point in his quiet life, as the conclave to elect the successor to Pope Nicholas IV was deadlocked in Perugia for 27 months. Peter, by now a monk of considerable repute with 20 monasteries under his tutelage, wrote a letter to the stalemated cardinals, threatening divine

LECTIO DIVINA: The following is the schema of Sunday readings for May, which we encourage you to consider as a prayerful preparation for the Sunday Eucharist:

- ⊕ **May 7:** Acts 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Peter 2:20-25; Jn. 10:1-10.



retribution if they didn't soon elect a new pope for the imperiled church without a shepherd.

Apparently, Peter's letter was enough to convince the cardinals to choose him as the new pope! The reluctant Peter assumed the name Celestine V.

The pious and unworldly monk rode into L'Aquila astride a donkey, escorted by the kings of Hungary and Naples. Disaster soon set in, as Pope Celestine was unsuited and unwilling to continue in the papacy. His piety, lack of knowledge of canon law, and desire to please all were soon used by conniving churchmen against him. He was quickly persuaded by monarchs to appoint 13 new cardinals and other appointments the monarchs would use to further their political agendas. Of no use to him, Pope Celestine gave away treasures and church offices, without regard for the effects on the church.

By the end of the year, Celestine was miserable, and wished to return to monastic solitude. He hoped to confine himself to a cell within the papal palace and leave church management to 3 cardinals. Celestine was warned that this would have the effect of creating 3 rival popes, and so he consulted a supposed confidant and canonist, Cardinal Gaetani. The pope's question was whether it was canonically possible for him to resign. Gaetani countered it was indeed possible, and at times advisable!

The outcry was great when Pope Celestine made his announcement. Some believed he was the answer for needed church renewal. In his abdication declaration, the pope asked for pardon for any offence and lack of training, and begged the cardinals to choose a worthy successor. Celestine retired to a monastery with all ecclesiastical intrigue behind him.

At least Celestine thought the intrigue was behind him! Not surprisingly, they chose the wily

Cardinal Gaetani—Boniface VIII! Celestine, however, decided to flee Italy via the Adriatic. Yet Pope Boniface's political enemies sought to use Celestine as a political tool against the new pope. Boniface had Celestine captured and "imprisoned" in Fumone with a few other monks. *I wanted nothing in this world but a cell, and cell they have given me*, Celestine declared! 2 years later, on 19 May 1296, Celestine died. In 1313 the 1st Avignon pope, Clement V, canonized Celestine. By happenstance, Clement was happy to discredit the legacy of Boniface VIII.

Pope St. Celestine's body is entombed in Santa Maria del Colle, L'Aquila, where he was consecrated bishop and crowned pope. Curiously in 2009 after a severe earthquake rocked L'Aquila, Pope Benedict XVI visited the damaged cathedral and laid his pallium on Celestine's tomb. 4 years later the pope resigned, the 1st since Celestine's own resignation. He, too, preferred solitude.

Retreat Center News

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

- ⊕ May 5-7: Matt Talbot #87
- ⊕ May 15-19: Immaculate Conception Seminary Diaconate Ordination Retreat
- ⊕ May 22-26: Immaculate Conception Seminary Priesthood Ordination Retreat

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. Watch for the schedule for the 2017-2018 Academic Year! 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](#).

APRIL OFFERING: The April collection, including Easter, was \$10,892. 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.