



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

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## July 2017

### 2. XIII Sunday (Fr. Joseph—1<sup>st</sup> Mass)

3. St. Thomas, *feast*

4. Independence Day, holiday

### 9. XIV Sunday (Abbot Richard)

11. St. Benedict, *feast*

⊕ Mass (*without Vespers*), 5:15 p.m.

15. St. Bonaventure, *memorial*

### 16. Dedication of Abbey Church, *solemnity* (Abbot Richard)

⊕ Solemn Vespers, 5:15 p.m.

22. St. Mary Magdalene, *feast*

### 23. XVI Sunday (Fr. Edward Seton)

25. St. James, *feast*

26. Ss. Joachim & Anne, *memorial*

29. Ss. Mary, Martha and Lazarus, *memorial*

### 30. XVII Sunday of the Year (Fr. Hilary)

31. St. Ignatius of Loyola, *memorial*

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:

- ⊕ **July 2:** 2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16a; Rom. 6:3-4, 8-11; Matthew 10:37-42.
- ⊕ **July 9:** Zech. 9:9-10; Rom. 8:9, 11-13; Matthew 11:25-30.

- ⊕ **July 16:** Ez. 43:1-2, 3c-7a; 1 Cor. 3:9-11; Matt. 13: 1-23.
- ⊕ **July 23:** Wis. 12:13, 16-19; Rom. 8:26-27; Matt. 13:24-43.
- ⊕ **July 30:** 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12; Rom. 8:28-30; Matthew 13:44-52.

**AD MULTOS ANNOS:** On Saturday, 1 July 2017, our diocesan bishop, the Most Rev. Arthur Serratelli ordained Brs. Joseph Voltaggio and Demetrius Thomas priests with 11 diocesan seminarians, at St. Johns Cathedral, Paterson. Fr. Joseph will celebrate his 1<sup>st</sup> Mass in the abbey on Sunday, 2 July. Fr. Demetrius will celebrate his 1<sup>st</sup> Mass in his home parish in Hastings. Pa. Congratulations to both!



**DEDICATION OF ABBEY CHURCH:** Sunday 16 July 2017 is the anniversary of the dedication of the Abbey Church. Of such an occasion, St. Augustine wrote: "The solemnity which brings you here today is the anniversary of the dedication of this house of prayer. Hence, this is the house of our prayers, but we ourselves are the house of God. And if we ourselves are the house of God, we are being built up during our life here, so that we may be dedicated at the end of time. A building, or rather the construction of that building entails toil; the dedication, however, elicits only joy."

**OBLATES:** The Oblates of St. Benedict will not meet in July, but will meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in August. Oblates are lay women and men who live by the principles of the *Rule of Benedict* as their station permits. For more information about the oblates, contact [Fr. Hilary](#) at 973.538.3231 [ext. 2019].

**JULY SAINT:** In the final section of Luke 7 (vv. 36-50), Jesus is dining at a Pharisee's home. During the meal, an unknown sinful woman from the city carrying an alabaster jar of ointment crashes the party. St. Luke, who often includes important details to color his narrative, provides no name or the nature of her sin. The woman bathes Jesus' feet with her tears, dries them with her hair, kisses and anoints them. The Pharisee objects to her presence and having contact with Jesus. This prompts Jesus to offer a parable about 2 debtors, each owing different sums of money. Naturally, the Pharisee concludes the one with the larger debt, now cancelled, would love more. Jesus connects the parable to the woman: *I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little.*

The 1<sup>st</sup> 3 verses of Luke 8 speak of a group of women who accompany Jesus. They were cured of infirmities and evil spirits, and provided from their resources for the needs of Jesus and the 12: *Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others.* Pope Gregory the Great (ca. 540-604) and other figures connected Mary Magdalene with Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, and the unnamed sinful woman in Luke 7. The latter identification, assumed to be a prostitute (a fact not verified in the gospel text!), is an inaccurate attribution. For centuries Mary Magdalene has been regarded such, and depicted as such by many artists. Yet she is neither a prostitute nor the sister of Martha and Lazarus!

All 4 evangelists identify Mary Magdalene as one of the women who comes to the tomb on the 1<sup>st</sup> Easter morning to anoint Jesus' body. But most importantly, Mary is the disciple to whom the Risen Jesus appears 1<sup>st</sup>. She doesn't recognize Jesus at first, thinking he's the gardener. When Jesus calls her by name she realizes who it is! *Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord";*

*and she told them that he had said these things to her (John 20:18).*

For good reason, then, last June, the Holy See announced, following the expressed wishes of Pope Francis, that henceforth, July 22<sup>nd</sup> will be celebrated liturgically as a "feast," and no longer as a "memorial." This means Mary Magdalene enjoys greater prominence on the liturgical calendar, and the liturgy on that day is slightly more festive. The decree reads, in part: *This woman, known as the one who loved Christ and who was greatly loved by Christ, and was called a "witness of Divine Mercy" by Saint Gregory the Great and an "apostle of the apostles" by Saint Thomas Aquinas, can now rightly be taken by the faithful as a model of women's role in the Church.*

So the centuries old wrong is righted: Mary Magdalene is not a prostitute, and remains a model disciple who proclaimed with boldness the Good News of the resurrection!



**JUNE OFFERING:** The June collection was \$4,212.00. 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).