



A newsletter from
ST. MARY'S ABBEY

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January 2017

1. Mother of God, solemnity (Abbot Richard)

- ⊕ Matins Private.
- ⊕ Mass, 11:00 a.m.
- ⊕ Solemn Vespers, 5:15 p.m.

2. Ss. Basil & Gregory, memorial

8. Epiphany, solemnity (Fr. Michael)

- ⊕ Solemn Vespers with Trustees, 5:00 p.m.

9. Baptism of the Lord, feast

13. Second Friday, 3:00 -5:00 p.m.

15. II Sunday (Fr. Hilary)

- ⊕ Oblate Meeting, Vincent House

16. Martin Luther King Day

- ⊕ Matins, 7:30 a.m.

17. St. Anthony, memorial

18. Christian Unity Octave begins.

21. St. Agnes, memorial

22. III Sunday (Fr. Edward Seton)

23. Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

24. St. Francis de Sales, memorial

25. Conversion of St. Paul, feast

28. St. Thomas Aquinas, memorial

29. III Sunday (Abbot Richard)

31. St. John Bosco, 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.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: The following is the schema of readings for the month which we invite

you to read as a prayerful preparation for the Sunday Eucharist:

- ⊕ **Jan. 1:** Num. 6:22-27; Gal. 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21.
- ⊕ **Jan. 8:** Is. 60:1-6; Eph. 3:2-3, 5-6; Matt. 2:1-12.
- ⊕ **Jan. 15:** Is. 49:3, 5-6; 1 Cor. 1:1-3; John 1:29-34.
- ⊕ **Jan. 22:** Is. 8:23-9:3; 1 Cor. 1:10-13,17; Matt. 4:12-23.
- ⊕ **Jan. 29:** Zeph. 2:3; 3:12-13; 1 Cor. 1:26-31, 17; Matt. 5:1-12a.

SECOND FRIDAY: The monastic community will gather for the *Adoration & Reconciliation* on Friday, 13 January 2017. There will be the adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament from 3-5 p.m. During that same time, a priest will be available for confessions.

OBLATES: The Oblates of St. Benedict will meet Sunday, 15 January 2017 on the lower level of Vincent House. For more information call Father Hilary 973.538.3231 [ext.2019] or e-mail him.

CHRISTIAN UNITY: Each year the Church calls us to prayer for unity among the various Christian denominations. The division among Churches scandalizes the world and damages an effective witness to the gospel. The restoration of unity among all Christians was a principal concern of the Second Vatican Council (*Unitatis redintegratio*, 21 November 1964). Benedictines have been leaders in the ecumenical movement from its nineteenth century origins. This monastic community observes the octave of prayer for Christian Unity with special intercessions at the Conventual Mass. Let us all pray with Christ "that all may be one, as you, Father, are one in me and I in you; I pray that they may be one in us, that the world may believe that you sent me" (*John 17:21*).

JANUARY SAINT: Elizabeth Ann Bayley was born in 1774 into a wealthy New York family of staunch

Episcopalians. Her father, Dr. Richard Bayley, was the health inspector for New York City. At the age of 20 she married William Magee Seton, a wealthy shipping merchant. Together they had five children. When William's business fell on hard times, he, his wife Elizabeth and eldest daughter sailed for Italy to seek the aid of business associates. William's health deteriorated from tuberculosis and he died in quarantine at the Italian port of Livorno.

Elizabeth and daughter Anna Marie were taken in by the wealthy Italian friends, the Filicchis, devout Catholics. It was they who introduced the young American widow to Catholicism. Elizabeth was especially drawn to the Eucharist. On her return to New York she announced her plans to convert, to the horror of her family and friends, who, at the time, were among the anti-Catholic majority. Elizabeth pressed on but soon realized Catholicism was drawing her to a sympathetic venue, so she traveled to Baltimore.

Archbishop John Carroll convinced her to establish an American branch of the Daughters of Charity. She gladly undertook this task and soon pronounced vows, and was henceforth known as Mother Seton. Her foundation in Emmitsburg, Maryland grew quickly. The young foundress of the Sisters of Charity and the parochial school system in the United States died in 1821 of tuberculosis, and was the Mother to some twenty convents.

As her cause for canonization advanced, Pope Paul VI waived the required third miracle. In his homily at the canonization, 14 September 1975, the Pope said: *May the dynamism and authenticity of her life be an example in our day-and for generations to come-of what women can and must accomplish, in the fulfillment of their role, for the good of humanity. Finally we must recall that the most notable characteristic of our Saint is the fact that she was...the foundress of the first Religious Congregation of women in the United States...The apostolate of helping the poor and the running of parochial schools in America had this humble, poor, courageous and glorious beginning.*



MARCH FOR LIFE: Each year students and faculty travel to the nation's capital to protest the legalization of abortion. The day includes a rally and march along Constitution Avenue to the Supreme Court. You are invited to join us for the March for Life on Friday, 27 January 2017. Following a Mass at St. Joseph's, Mendham, a bus will depart. A donation is requested to defray the cost of the bus. For reservations, call Dr. David Hajduk at 973.538.3231 [ext. 3015] or e-mail him.

Retreat Center News

In January, the Retreat Center welcomes the following overnight groups:

- ⊕ St. Gabriel's Youth Ministry: Jan 6-8
- ⊕ Central Jersey Intergroup: Jan 13-15
- ⊕ St. Peter's Prep: Jan 20 -22
- ⊕ Campus Ministry Sophomores: Jan 27-29

We also welcome the following groups for daily events:

- ⊕ Sacred Thread Ministries Mass: Jan 1
- ⊕ Bethlehem Church Staff Meeting: Jan 10
- ⊕ Sacred Thread Ministries Mass: Jan 29

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: Wednesdays.
- ⊕ 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 our [Facebook](#) page. The staff wishes everyone a Merry and Blessed Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year!

DECEMBER OFFERINGS: The December collection was \$10,573.15. Thank you for your generosity!

WEBSITE: Please visit the Abbey's new 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.