



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

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## December 2018

### 2. Advent I (Abbot Richard)

3. St. Francis Xavier, *memorial*

7. St. Ambrose, *memorial*

### 8. Immaculate Conception, *solemnity*

⊕ Matins @ 7:30 a.m.

⊕ Mass @ 9:30 a.m.

### 9. Advent II (Prior Edward Seton)

⊕ Oblate Sunday

12. Our Lady of Guadalupe, *feast*

13. St. Lucy, *memorial*

14. St. John of the Cross, *memorial*

⊕ Second Friday Adoration + Reconciliation

⊕ Abbey Church, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

### 16. Advent III (Abbot Elias)

⊕ Delbarton School Christmas Concert

⊕ Fine Arts Center, 7-9 p.m.

### 23. Advent IV (Abbot Richard)

24. Christmas Mass @ 11 p.m.

### 25. Christmas Day

⊕ Mass 11 a.m.

26. St. Stephen, *feast*

27. St. John, *feast*

28. Holy Innocents, *feast*

### 30. Holy Family, *feast* (Fr. Hilary)

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.

**PRAYER SCHEDULE CHANGE:** Starting Saturday, December 1st, Vespers and Vespers with Mass times will change from 5:15 p.m. to **5 p.m.** Second Friday Adoration + Reconciliation will be **2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.** As always, on non-school days, Matins begins at 7:30 a.m.

**PRAYER SCHEDULE:** Feel free to join us!  
*Let all guests be received as Christ (RB 53).*

#### ⊕ Sunday:

◆ Matins, 7:30 a.m.

◆ Mass, 11:00 a.m.

◆ Vespers, 5 p.m.

#### ⊕ Monday-Friday

◆ Matins, 6:30 a.m. (non-school days, 7:30 a.m.)

◆ Midday Prayer, 11:50 a.m. (Chapter Room)

◆ Vespers with Mass, 5 p.m.

◆ Compline, 6:45 p.m. (Chapter Room)

#### ⊕ Saturday:

◆ Matins, 7:30 a.m., followed by Mass (ca. 8 a.m.)

◆ Midday Prayer, 11:50 a.m. (Chapter Room)

◆ Vespers, 5 p.m.

◆ Compline, 6:45 p.m. (Chapter Room)

**LECTIO DIVINA:** Here are the readings for Sunday Masses in December.

⊕ **December 2:** Jer33:14-16; 1Thes3:12-4:2; Lk21:25-28,34-36

⊕ **December 9:** Bar 5: 1-9; Phil 1: 4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

⊕ **December 16:** Zep 3: 14-18a; Phil 4: 4-7; Lk 3: 10-18

⊕ **December 23:** Mi 5; 1-4a; Heb 10: 5-10; Lk 1: 39-45

⊕ **December 30:** Sir 3: 2-6, 12-14; Col 3: 12-21; Lk 2: 41-52

### **CALL FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:**

Father Prior Edward Seton Fittin, O.S.B. (*who celebrates his birthday on December 9<sup>th</sup>!*) is looking for new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. No experience required! Training will be provided. Please email [Edward@delbarton.org](mailto:Edward@delbarton.org) for more information.

**DECEMBER SAINT: St. Lucy**, Italian **Santa Lucia**, (died 304, Syracuse, Sicily; feast day December 13), virgin and martyr who was one of the earliest Christian saints to achieve popularity, having a widespread following before the 5th century. She is the patron saint of the city of Syracuse (Sicily) and of virgins. Because of various traditions associating her name with light, she came to be thought of as the patron of sight and was depicted by medieval artists carrying a dish containing her eyes.

According to apocryphal texts, Lucy came from a wealthy Sicilian family. Spurning marriage and worldly goods, however, she vowed to remain a virgin in the tradition of St. Agatha. An angry suitor reported her to the local Roman authorities, who sentenced her to be removed to a brothel and forced into prostitution. This order was thwarted, according to legend, by divine intervention; Lucy became immovable and could not be carried away. She was next condemned to death by fire, but she proved impervious to the flames. Finally, her neck was pierced by a sword and she died.

In actuality, Lucy was probably a victim of the wave of persecution of Christians that occurred late in the reign of the Roman emperor Diocletian. References to her are found in early Roman sacramentaries and, at Syracuse, in an inscription dating from 400 CE. As evidence of her early fame, two churches are known to have been dedicated to her in Britain before the 8th century, at a time when the land was largely pagan.

St. Lucy is venerated on her feast day, December 13, by a variety of ceremonies. In Sweden, St. Lucia's Day marks the beginning of the Christmas celebration. On that day the eldest daughter of the family traditionally dresses in a white robe and wears as a crown an evergreen wreath studded with candles.

**NOVEMBER COLLECTION:** The November collection was \$3,967. Thank you for your generosity!

**WEBSITE:** Please visit [saintmarysabbey.org](http://saintmarysabbey.org) for this newsletter and more up-to-date information about the Abbey. You can also visit [delbarton.org](http://delbarton.org) for more information about Delbarton School.

### Retreat Center News

December 2018

## The Staff of St. Mary's Abbey Retreat Center wish all of you a glorious Christmas and a peaceful and blessed New Year!

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

- Resurrection Parish Youth "Seek" Retreat
- Delbarton Campus Ministry Freshmen
- Saint Peter's Prep "Road to Emmaus" Retreat

Please join us in praying that these groups have a powerful retreat experience with while they are [here.](#)

#### Spiritual Direction -

In the busyness of our everyday lives, it is often difficult to recognize the sacred story of our relationship with God. In our increasingly secular world, it is difficult to even talk about our faith with someone, much less discuss our struggles with it. Spiritual Direction gives us the opportunity to have such conversations on a regular basis with someone who is committed to our spiritual growth.

#### Personal Retreats -

The Retreat Center also welcomes men and women of all faiths for Private or Directed Retreats.

#### Walk-Ins Welcome -

Our Guestmaster, Fr. Joseph Voltaggio, OSB, welcomes visitors for Spiritual Direction or the Sacrament of Reconciliation every Wednesday from 1 - 3 PM

For more information on these programs or other Retreat Center questions, contact Paul Cocco at 973-538-3235 x 2100 or via e-mail at [retreatcenter@delbarton.org](mailto:retreatcenter@delbarton.org).

Visit our Web Page and/or our Facebook page at [www.saintmarysabbey.org/retreatcenter](http://www.saintmarysabbey.org/retreatcenter)

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