



A newsletter from ST. MARY'S ABBEY

230 MENDHAM ROAD MORRISTOWN, NJ 07960-4899
P: 973.538.3235 W: WWW.STMARYSABBEY.ORG



May 2018

- 2. St. Athanasius, *memorial*
- 3. Sts. Philip and James, *feast*
- 6. VI Sunday of Easter (Fr. Edward Seton)**
- 8. Bl. Miriam Teresa Demjanovich, *memorial*
- 10. Ascension of the Lord, solemnity**
- 11. Sts. Odo, Maiolus, Odilo, Hugh and Peter the Venerable (Abbots of Cluny), *memorial*
+2nd Friday Confessions, 3-5 p.m.
- 13. VII Sunday of Easter (Abbot Elias)**
- 14. St. Matthias, *feast*
- 15. St. Pachomius, *memorial*
- 20. Pentecost Sunday, solemnity (Abbot Richard)**
+Oblate Sunday
- 25. St. Bede, *memorial*
- 27. Trinity Sunday, solemnity (Abbot Richard)**
- 31. The Visitation, *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.

LECTIO DIVINA: The following is the schema of Sunday readings for the month. Please consider them as a prayerful preparation for Sunday Mass:

- ⊕ **May 6:** Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; 1Jn 4:7-10; Jn15: 9-17
- ⊕ **May 13:** Acts 1: 15-17, 20a, 20c-26; 1Jn4: 11-16; Jn17: 11b-19
- ⊕ **May 20:** Acts 2:1-11; 1Cor12: 3b-7, 12-13; Jn20: 19-23
- ⊕ **May 27:** Dt 4:32-34, 39-40; Rom 8: 14-17; Mt 28:16-20

OBLATES: The joint meeting of the Oblates of St. Benedict on Saturday, May 5th, 2018 has been **postponed**. However, Oblate Sunday will continue as scheduled on May 20th in the Vincent House basement after 11am Mass. New members and inquirers are welcome to attend. **For information, please email Father Hilary!**

SECOND FRIDAY: The Sacrament of Penance is available on Friday, May 11th, with Exposition and Adoration, from 3-5 p.m.

ABBEY NEWS: Abbot Richard Cronin, OSB has appointed Father Edward Seton Fittin, OSB as the new Prior of St. Mary's Abbey. Prior, derived from the Latin for "earlier, first," is the ecclesiastical title for the superior of the monastery second in command to the abbot. Fr. Edward will take over for Fr. Jerome Borski, OSB, who had served as Prior since 2012, and as Subprior since 2009. As Abbot Elias Lorenzo, OSB said during his announcements at Sunday Mass on April 29th, feel free to offer Fr. Edward your congratulations...and condolences! The monks celebrated with a dinner to both thank Fr. Jerome for his years of service and welcome Fr. Edward in his new position.

MAY SAINT: Saint Pachomius (ca. 292-346), also known as Abba Pachomius and Pakhom, is generally recognized as the founder of cenobitic (communal) Christian monasticism. His innovative monastic structure and teaching methods made the ascetic Christian life a reality for tens of thousands of Christians. All later Catholic and Orthodox religious orders (from Franciscans to Cistercians) are, to an extent, products of his initial innovation.

Pachomius was born in 292 in Thebes (Luxor, Egypt) to pagan parents.^[2] According to his hagiography, he was swept up in a Roman army recruitment drive at the age of 20 against his will and held in captivity, a common occurrence during the turmoil and civil wars of the period. It was here that he first came into contact with Christianity, in the form of local Christians who visited each day to provide succor to the inmates. This made a lasting impression on the imprisoned Pachomius and he vowed to investigate this foreign tradition further when he was freed. As fate would have it, he was soon released (when Constantine took control of the Roman army in the area), and, remembering his vow, Pachomius was soon converted and baptized (314). Hearing tales of the spiritual excellence of the Desert Fathers, he decided to follow them into the desert to pursue the ascetic path. In doing so, he sought out the hermit Palamon and came to be his follower (317).

In his travels through the desert, Pachomius chanced upon an abandoned town called Tabennesi. There, he heard a message from the Heavens: "Pachomius, Pachomius, struggle, dwell in this place and build a monastery; for many will come to you and become monks with you, and they will profit their souls."^[3] After receiving this calling, he converted the town into a monastic community. The first to join him was his elder brother John, but soon more than 100 monks had taken up residence there. In the years to follow, he came to build an additional six or seven monasteries and a nunnery.

Pachomius remained abbot to the cenobites for some forty years, until he fell victim to an epidemic disease (probably plague). Knowing that death was near, he called the monks, strengthened their faith, and appointed his successor. He then departed in peace on May 15, 346.

From his initial monastery, demand quickly grew and, by the time of his death in 346, one count estimates there were 3000 monasteries throughout Egypt from north to south. Within a generation after his death, this number grew to 7000 and then spread into Palestine, the Judean Desert, Syria, North Africa and eventually Western Europe.^[4]

Source: New World Encyclopedia

OFFERING: During April, the Sunday congregation offered \$6,371 for Easter and \$4,697 for the rest of the month, totaling \$11,068. Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

WEBSITE: Please visit the Abbey website: www.saintmarysabbey.org for this newsletter and up-to-date information. You can also visit the school website for news and events: www.delbarton.org.

Retreat Center News

May 2018

The Staff of St. Mary's Abbey Retreat Center would like to wish all of the mothers of the Abbey/Delbarton Community a Happy Mother's Day!

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

- Paramus Men's Retreat Group
- Immaculate Conception Seminary Diaconate Ordination Retreat
- Immaculate Conception Seminary Priesthood Ordination Retreat

Ongoing Offerings:

❖ 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 of 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.

Visit our Web Page and/or our Facebook page at www.saintmarysabbey.org/retreatcenter

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Marys-Abbey-Retreat-Center>

Like Us On Facebook
Blessings & Peace...