



A newsletter from
ST. MARY'S ABBEY

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February 2018

2. Presentation of the Lord, *feast*

- ⊕ Mass without Vespers, 5:15 p.m.

3. St. Blaise (*opt. memorial*)

- ⊕ Blessing of throats after Mass, ca. 8 a.m.

4. V Sunday (*Fr. Michael*)

5. St. Agatha, *memorial*

- ⊕ Matins, 7:30 a.m. (*Bishop's Holiday*)

6. St. Paul Miki & Companions, *memorial*

10. St. Scholastica, *feast*

- ⊕ Mass following Matins, ca. 8 a.m.

11. VI Sunday (*Fr. Hilary*)

14. Ash Wednesday

18. I Sunday of Lent (*Abbot Richard*)

- ⊕ Oblate meeting after Mass

19. Presidents' Day

- ⊕ Matins, 7:30 a.m.

22. Chair of St. Peter, *feast*

25. II Sunday of Lent (*Fr. Hilary*)

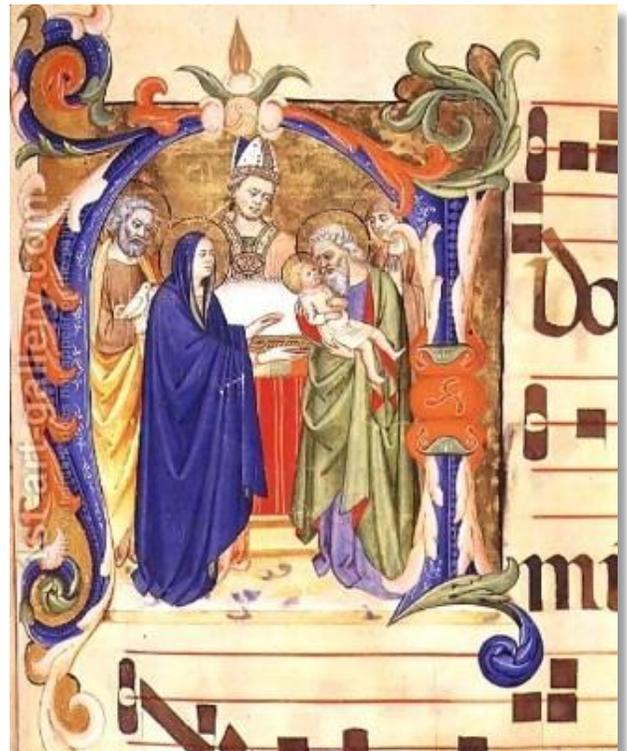
- ⊕ Sophomore Retreat Mass

**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.*

- ⊕ *February 18:* Gen. 9:8-15; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15.

- ⊕ *February 25:* Gen. 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13; Romans 8:31b-34; Mark 9: 2-10.

CANDLEMAS: The feast of the Presentation of the Lord commemorates the time when Mary and Joseph, in accordance with the Jewish custom of the day, presented Jesus in the temple forty days after his birth. Jesus was proclaimed by Simeon to be the "light of revelation to the nations and the glory of Israel (Lk. 2:32)." And so, on this feast the church traditionally blesses the candles used during the year. Hence the feast has become known as "Candlemas." Please join us for the Lucernarium and Mass: Friday, 2 February 2018 at 5:15 p.m. The liturgy begins outside the choir. Bring your candles to be blessed! After the Lucernarium we will



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:

- ⊕ *February 4:* Job 7:1-4, 6-7; 1 Cor. 9:16-19, 22-23; Mark 1:29-39.
- ⊕ *February 11:* Lev. 13:1-2, 44-46; 1 Cor. 10:31, 11:1; Mark 1:40-45.

process with lighted candles into the sanctuary for the remainder of the liturgy.

SAINTLY SISTER: Twins often share the same interests and ideas with an equal intensity. It is no surprise that Scholastica and her twin brother, Benedict, both established religious communities within a few miles from each other. Born in 480 of wealthy parents, Scholastica and Benedict were brought up together until he left for Rome to continue his studies. Little is known of Scholastica's early life. She founded a monastic community for women at Plombariola, five miles from where her brother governed a monastery: the famous Monte Cassino.

The twins visited each other once a year discussing spiritual matters. According to the *Dialogues of St. Gregory the Great*, the brother and sister spent their last day together in prayer and conversation. Scholastica sensed her death was close at hand, and she begged Benedict to stay the night. He refused because he did not want to spend a night outside the monastery, breaking his own *Rule*. Scholastica asked God to intervene and a severe thunderstorm broke out, preventing Benedict and his monks from returning to Monte Cassino. Benedict cried out, "God forgive you, Sister. What have you done?" Scholastica replied, "I asked a favor of you and you refused. I asked it of God and He granted it." Brother and sister parted the next morning. Three days later, Benedict was praying in his monastery and saw the soul of his sister rising



heavenward in the form of a white dove. Benedict then announced her death and buried her in his own tomb. The feast of St. Scholastica is observed on 10 February.

SECOND FRIDAY: Adoration & Reconciliation will be on the second Friday of the month, 9 February 2018, 3-5 p.m. During this time, a priest will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

OBLATES: The Oblates of Saint Benedict will meet on lower level of Vincent House immediately following the Sunday Eucharist on 18 February 2018. For more information, call Father Hilary at 973.538.3231 [ext. 2019] or e-mail him. New members and inquirers always welcome!

ASH WEDNESDAY: Lent begins on Wednesday, 14 February 2018. The blessing and imposition of ashes will take place at Matins at 6:30 a.m., with the school community at 10:00 a.m., and after Vespers and Mass at 5:15 p.m. All are welcome!

VISITATION: From 18-21 February, the monastery will undergo a canonical visitation, conducted by visiting monks from other monasteries in our congregation. After individual meetings with the monks and monastery officials, they issue a report on their findings. It's an opportunity for growth and renewal. Your prayers are appreciated.

OFFERING: During the month of January, the congregation gave \$3,985.00 to the monastery through the collection at the Sunday Eucharist. Thank you for your kindness and 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.