

Saint Leo Abbey Oblates Email List



~ Advent: On the way to Jesus Christ. Following the Star ~

FAST FACTS

1. Dec. 14 Christmas party
2. Kindle Apostolic Letter

No change in the following items. Repeated here for any who did not see them in

**Dear Oblates, Oblate
Novices, and Friends
of Saint Leo Abbey,**

1. Christmas Party

a previous email

3. *The Star of Bethlehem*
4. Dec. 20 Christmas concert
5. Dec. 21 Benedictine Circle
6. Jan. 4 Oblate Sunday
7. Past broadcast emails
8. Guéranger on Gaudete

The main picture is *Journey of the Magi*, by James Tissot, c. 1894

The picture is at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

December 14 - Requests

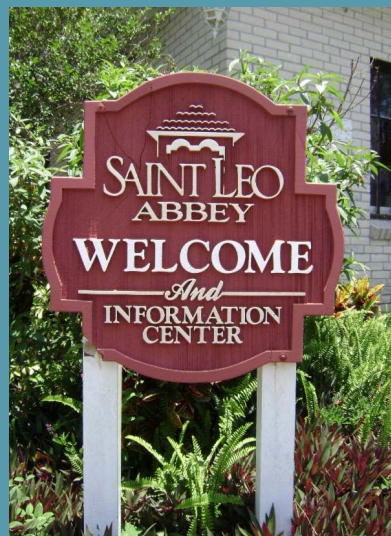
- + Please bring a serving spoon or cake or pie server if your dessert needs one.
 - + When you arrive at the abbey for the Christmas Party, please take your dessert to the Lake Room on the third floor. Set your dessert on the tables in the middle of the room. If you arrive before Mass, you may keep your dessert wrapped and then unwrap it after Mass between 11:00 am and Midday prayers.
- Desserts may also be placed in the Coffee Room on the third floor.
- + If your dessert needs to be kept cold, you may use the refrigerator in the Coffee Room on the third floor, and the retreat kitchen on the fourth floor if necessary.

- + The party needs a couple of people (or several to share the



Saint Scholastica

This wonderful sister of Saint Benedict knew the love of God and its power. [Here](#) is her story from Chapter 33 of the *Life of Benedict*.



task) to make the coffee and keep the coffee pots replenished during the party. If you would like to do this, please reply.

+ If you signed up to bring party supplies and did not receive the email earlier tonight with subject line "Christmas Party Supplies" please reply and let me know what you will bring.

+ You may make a small tent card with the name of your dessert.

+ If you take pictures at the party -- wonderful. If you don't mind please share some with me for posting on the blog. The Christmas pictures are popular with people who attend and those who cannot attend.

OBLATES

A brief definition of "Benedictine oblate" is [here](#).

Are you making your own Christmas list of Benedictine books? The [Novice and Oblate Resources Page](#) on the blog has many books that would love to get on your "what I want for Christmas" list.

2. Kindle Apostolic Letter

Oblate Ken Conrad has given another resource to the oblate program. This time he has made a Kindle book from the Apostolic Letter on Consecrated Life we are reading for the January 4 oblate class.

If your tablet, phone, or computer can read an .mobi file, you will be able to read the Letter in a much more user friendly format.

[Download the Kindle \(.mobi\) Apostolic Letter.](#)

3. *The Star of Bethlehem*

Oblate James Janicki wrote a beautiful commentary on *The Star of Bethlehem*, [here on the blog](#).

The painting is the largest watercolor painted in the 19th

century. It was commissioned for and is on display at the Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Birmingham, England.

4. Dec. 20 Abbey Christmas concert

Free and open to everyone.
[More.](#)

5. Dec. 21 Benedictine Circle

Please RSVP. [More.](#)

We will discuss Chapters 8-20 in the Rule -- the Divine Office. Mike Fonfara will lead the discussion.

6. Jan. 4 Oblate Sunday

Reading assignments are [HERE.](#)

The RSVP page will be open after Dec. 16.

7. Past broadcast emails

Since December 1 past broadcast emails are posted in PDF versions [HERE](#).

8. Guéranger on Gaudete

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 14, 2014

By Prosper Louis Pascal Guéranger, Order of Saint Benedict (O.S.B.). He was a French Benedictine monk and priest, who served as abbot of Solesmes Abbey from 1837-1875. He is recognized as a central figure among Benedictines and liturgists of the 19th century.

From The Liturgical Year at
www.theliturgicalyear.org

"[On the Third Sunday],
again, the Church is full of joy,
and the joy is greater than it
was.

"It is true that her Lord has not
come; but she feels that He is
nearer than before, and
therefore she thinks it just to
lessen somewhat the austerity
of this penitential season by the
innocent cheerfulness of her
sacred rites.

"And first, this Sunday has had
the name of *Gaudete* given to
it, from the first word of the
Introit; [definition of [Introit](#)] it
also is honoured with those
impressive exceptions which
belong to the fourth Sunday of
Lent, called Laetare.

"The organ is played at the
Mass; the vestments are rose-
colour; the deacon resumes the
dalmatic, and the subdeacon
the tunic; and in cathedral
churches the bishop assists

with the precious mitre.

"How touching are all these usages, and how admirable this condescension of the Church, wherewith she so beautifully blends together the unalterable strictness of the dogmas of faith and the graceful poetry of the formula of her liturgy!

"Let us enter into her spirit, and be glad on this third Sunday of her Advent, because our Lord is now so near unto us.

"Tomorrow we will resume our attitude of servants mourning for the absence of their Lord and waiting for Him; for every delay, however short, is painful and makes love sad."

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[Apostolic letter to
read for Jan. 4](#)



[Consecrated Life
Private Facebook
Page](#)

at the
[USCCB](#)



[Announcement of
Year of
Consecrated Life](#)

The above three pictures from left to right are Guido Reni's Michael (in Santa Maria della Concezione church, Rome, 1636) tramples Satan. A mosaic of the same painting decorates St. Michael's Altar in St. Peter's Basilica; Pope Leo XIII who was Pope when Saint Leo Abbey began; and Saint Thérèse of Lisieux or Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face, O.C.D., was a French Discalced Carmelite nun.