

Saint Leo Abbey Oblates Email List



~ The Christmas Season: Christ and the Illuminative Way. ~

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

1. January 18 Benedictine Circle

Please RSVP. [More.](#)

We will discuss Chapters 20-22
of *New Seeds of
Contemplation*.

Paul Cooke will lead the
discussion.

2. RSVP for February 1 Oblate Sunday

Please RSVP by January 25.

RSVP and get the reading
assignments [here](#).

3. March Events

Here's what's coming in March:

March 1 Oblate Sunday

March 15 Benedictine Circle



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*.

March 21 Novice and Final Oblation Ceremony

March 21 Oblate family picnic after the ceremonies

The RSVPs for these events will open closer to March.

Have you been thinking about a life of seeking God? More information about becoming a novice oblate will be in an upcoming email.

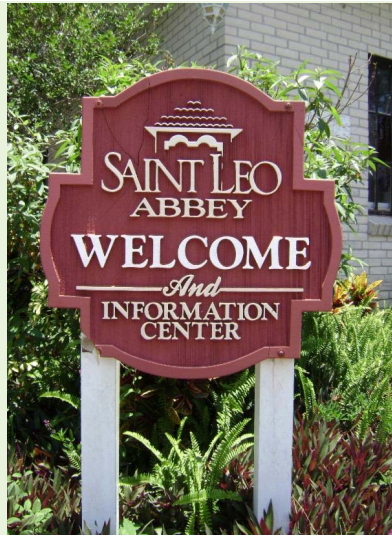
4. No Oblate Sunday in April

The first Sunday in April is Easter. There will be no Oblate Sunday in April.

The Benedictine Circle will meet April 19.

5. The Saving Grace

Find quality personal care items that are BOGO or with a good coupon. Help our dear monks. That's *The Saving Grace*.



OBLATES

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

Are you expanding your Benedictine library? The [Novice and Oblate Resources Page](#) on the blog has many books fit for any proper library.

And remember our Drive-Thru drop-off service Oblate Sunday is provided by Dan Spears -- drive up and say Hi!!

Visit [The Saving Grace](#).

6. Prayer Ministry Newsletter

Please email your prayer requests to:
StLeoOblates@gmail.com

To receive the Prayer Ministry Newsletter giving all the prayer requests you need to "opt-in" -- please reply to this email with the following information:

"Please add me to the Prayer Ministry Newsletter email list.

"My name is: _____"

7. Christmas Season - Dom Guéranger - Illuminative Way

From [The Liturgical Year](#), by
Dom Guéranger on the
practices during the Christmas
season:

"The time has now come for the faithful soul to reap the fruit of the efforts she made during the penitential weeks of Advent to prepare a dwelling-place for the Son of God, who desires to be born within her.

"The Nuptials of the Lamb are come, and his Spouse hath prepared herself.

"Now the Spouse is the Church; the Spouse is also every faithful soul. Our Lord gives his whole self to the whole flock, and to each sheep of the flock with as much love as though he loved but that one.

"What garments shall we put on, to go and meet the Bridegroom?

"Where shall we find the pearls and jewels wherewith to deck our soul for this happy meeting?

"Our holy Mother the Church will tell us all this in her Liturgy.

"Our best plan for spending Christmas is, undoubtedly, to keep close to her, and do what she does; for she is most dear to God, and being our Mother, we ought to obey all her injunctions.

"Now every soul that has been admitted to Bethlehem, that is to say, into the House of Bread, and has been united with him who is the Light of the World - that soul no longer walks in darkness.

"The mystery of Christmas is one of Illumination; and the grace it produces in the soul

that corresponds with it, places her in the second stage of the mystic Life, which is called the Illuminative Life. [The three classic stages or degrees of the mystic life are the Purgative, Illuminative, Unitive ways. More at [New Advent article.](#)]

"Henceforward, then, we need no longer weary ourselves watching for our Saviour's arrival; he has come, he has shone upon us, and we are resolved to keep up the light, nay, to cherish its growth within us, in proportion as the Liturgical Year unfolds its successive seasons of mysteries and graces.

"God grant that we may reflect in our souls the Church's progressive development of this divine Light; and be led by its brightness to that Union which crowns both the year of the Church, and the faithful soul which has spent the year under the Church's guidance!"

About Dom Guéranger

From the book:

"Dom Guéranger, abbot of Solesmes from 1837-1875, was one of the leading monastics and liturgists of his generation, and his writings were highly influential both in France and abroad. He is perhaps best known today through the pages of his *L'Année Liturgique - The Liturgical Year* - which he began in 1841 in order to make the riches of the liturgy more widely known by the faithful. In fifteen volumes (which he did not live to complete) he follows the cycle of the liturgical year, illuminating the traditional liturgy with interpretations, commentaries, and riches collected from other liturgies both of Eastern and Western Christendom."

8. From George & Beth Davis

Here are links:

[XIV Dalai Lama](#)

[Rabbi Heschel](#)

9. Past broadcast emails

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

10. Know your Abbey

The three panels near the end of this email contain links to:

Left: Rule of Saint Benedict

Center: iBreviary -- use your phone or tablet to pray with the monks at home or at the abbey (FREE).

Right: Saint Gertrude the Great - one of the eight sunrise saints in the abbey church.

11. What's New

Here is a [Handy Link](#) to everything new on the website, the blog, and the audio-oblate newsletter. It is a good way to catch up on all recent updates.

12. New on EWTN

EWTN has shows of interest to Benedictine oblates. Some of the most interesting are listed [here](#).

13. Photo at top of email

The top photo is reflection nebula IRAS 12116-6001 in the Southern Cross constellation. Source of reflection nebula photo, [here](#).

Pretty Christmas decorations, like stars in the heavens, have been added in the foreground of the distant sky photo of nebula IRAS 12116-6001.

Known as a birthplace of new stars, this "cloud of interstellar dust cannot be seen directly in

visible light, but [NASA's WISE satellite] detectors observed the nebula at infrared wavelengths."

It is called a reflection nebula because light from nearby stars warms the nebula's dust "to relatively cool temperatures [causing the dust to glow] with infrared light, which WISE can detect."

Reflection of Christ's light in our lives is part of the Illuminative Way, especially during the Christmas season.

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[Rule of Saint Benedict](#)

And try Ken Conrad's wonderful [Kindle](#)



[Free Liturgy of the Hours for phone/tablet](#)

This is the one used by Saint Leo Abbey monks.



St. Gertrude the Great

The only female saint called the Great. [More info](#). Her amazing [book](#)

[version.](#)

There is a paid version by another publisher, but it is not always exactly the same as the one used at Saint Leo Abbey. So this FREE one is the one to get.

[of prayers](#) is part of the reasons she is honored as one of eight sunrise saints in the Abbey church. Her light greets you along with that of Saint Walburg.