



Der Löwe und der Pfeil



The Lion and the Arrow — Issue 8

Announcements

First Communion Registration will begin on January 11 and end on January 25. To register your child for First Communion classes you will need to either come by the church office or contact the church office. You can find the church office operating hours on the church website <https://stsleoandedmund.org/>. First Communion classes will begin February 7 in the Reznicek Hall following the 9 a.m. Holy Mass.

The Saint Leo IV Holy Name Society Annual BBQ Pork Steak Dinner Fundraiser will be on January 31. Tickets can be purchased from any Holy Name Society member, and the proceeds from the fundraiser are used to support Saint Leo IV Roman Catholic Church Parish projects.

The ladies of the Parish are asked to bring sweets to sell during the BBQ fundraiser. All sweets are to be brought to the Reznicek Hall before 10 a.m.

The Catholic Daughters monthly meeting will be held on January 12 in the Saint Benedict Room following the 6 p.m. Holy Mass. All members are asked to attend and wear their badges. If there are any ladies in the parish wanting to join the CDA please feel free to attend the meeting.

All parishioners who work with the youth are reminded to check their Safe Environment for the Protection of Children and Youth Training status. This can be checked and updated on virtusonline.org. If anyone has any questions or would like any information, please contact Mrs. Charlene Reynolds.

Monthly Saint

Every month the newsletter will feature a Saint or Religious Figure. Many times, a prayer or novena will be featured. For January we feature Saint Thomas Aquinas.

Saint Thomas is believed to have been born in the castle of Roccasecca in the old county of the Kingdom of Sicily, which is now known as the Lazio region of Italy, in 1225. His parents were well-off, but as the youngest son Saint Thomas was expected to enter the Monastery. At 5-years-old, Saint Thomas began his education at Monte Cassino, where he remained until the military conflict between Emperor Frederick II and Pope Gregory IX reached the abbey. He was then transferred and enrolled at the studium generale in Naples. It is believed that Saint Thomas was introduced to his philosophical influences - Aristotle, Averroes, and Maimonides - at the university, where he also met John of Saint Julian, a Dominican preacher, who influenced him to join the recently founded Dominican Order. When Saint Thomas' family learned of his decision, his mother Theodora arranged for him to be moved to Paris. When Saint Thomas was travelling to Rome, his brothers captured him and returned him to their parents at the castle of Monte San Giovanni Campano. Saint Thomas was held captive in the castle for one year as his family tried to keep him from joining the Dominican Order. In the year he was held, Saint Thomas tutored his sisters and communicated with members of the Dominican Order.

In an effort to change Saint Thomas' mind, two of his brothers hired a prostitute to seduce him, but legends claim Saint Thomas drove her off with a fire iron. That night, two angels appeared to him in a dream and strengthened his resolve to remain celibate. When Theodora realized she could not sway her son, she tried to preserve the family name by arranging for his escape through a window. She believed a secret escape was better than appearing to accept his decision. Following his escape in 1244, Saint Thomas turned to Naples, then to Rome and met the Master General of the Dominical Order, Johannes von Wildeshausen. The next year, Saint Thomas went to study at the Faculty of the Arts at the University of Paris, where he is believed to have met Dominican scholar Saint Albertus Mangus, the Chair of Theology at the College of Saint James.

In 1248, Saint Thomas chose to follow Mangus to the new studium generale at Cologne rather than accepting Pope Innocent IV's offer to appoint him abbot of Monte Cassino as a Dominican. Though Saint Thomas hesitated, when they reached the university, Mangus appointed him magister studentium.

Saint Thomas was quiet and seldom spoke at the university, leading other students to believe he was mentally delayed, but Mangus prophetically said, "You call him the dumb ox, but in his teaching, he will one day produce such a bellowing that it will be heard throughout the world." Saint Thomas wrote his most famous work, Summa Theologiae, which he believed was particularly useful to beginning students "because a doctor of Catholic truth ought not only to teach the proficient, but to him pertains also to instruct beginners."

Events and Holy Days

Any events going on in Roberts Cove and in Branch during the month of the newsletter will be featured in this space. If you wish to have an event for the month listed, then please send all the information to ampdupuis@yahoo.com by the third Sunday of the month before the event is scheduled to take place.

January 1 – New Year's Day

Happy New Year!

January 3 – Solemnity of the Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ

January 6 – Mass to Saint Joseph

Holy Mass will be at 6:30 a.m.

January 10 – Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

January 11 – First Communion Registration Begins

Contact the church office to register

January 12 – CDA Meeting

Meeting will be following the 6 p.m. Holy Mass in the Saint Benedict Room

January 25 – First Communion Registration Ends

January 31 – Saint Leo IV Holy Name Society Annual BBQ Pork Steak Dinner Fundraiser

Tickets can be purchased from any Holy Name Society member



January's flowers are the Snowdrop and Carnation.



The birthstone of January is Garnet. It is thought to keep the wearer safe during travel. The word "garnet" is derived from a term that means "seed," because the gem resembles the color and shape of a pomegranate seed.

Archive Dive

The land that Saint Leo IV Roman Catholic Church now sits on was first given as a "Spanish grant". Later when all the Spanish grants had to be confirmed, a surveyor measured off the land as Section 17, Township Nine South, Range Two East, on February 1, 1817. At the time the current owner of the land was Mr. Benjamin Penrose Porter. The land was measured out to a total of 640 acres, according to the 1817 survey.

Between October 26, 1881, and December 5, 1881, the same land was surveyed again and corrections had been made because it was now more exactly measured to contain 637.51 acres. Benjamin P. Porter was still the owner of the land at the time.

On March 22, 1883, the land was bought by Father Aegidius Hennemann, a Benedictine Monk from Saint Boniface Abbey in Bavaria, Germany. He bought the tract as 640 acres, and he paid \$2500 for it. The farm house that was also situated in the middle of the tract was included in the price and part of it was converted by Fr. Hennemann into a chapel. Holy Mass had previously been celebrated at the family home of Mr. Jacob Thevis by the Jesuit priests that were serving Saint Joseph Parish in Rayne, but as the first resident priest of Roberts Cove, Fr. Hennemann started to offer Holy Masses in the farm house. The farm house became the site of the first regular Holy Masses to be offered in "the Cove".

Fr. Hennemann bought the land because he was looking for a place to establish a Benedictine Monastery as a place of refuge for German Benedictines who feared that they would be expelled from Germany as the Jesuit Fathers had been. But this never happened because of the intervention of the King of Bavaria with the Chancellor of Germany, Otto von Bismark, and the Benedictines were assured they would not be expelled after all. So, at his death Fr. Hennemann willed his land to the Father Peter Leonard Thevis, who was the founder of the German Colony at Roberts Cove.

I love beginnings. If I were in charge of calendars, every day would be January 1.

–Jerry Spinelli

