

Daily Parish Communication

December 5, 2022

Good Morning All,

~Plan for tomorrow: Hilltoppers lunch at the Parish Hall beginning at 11:30. Guest Speaker: Michael Acquilano from the Diocese of Charleston Office of Communication and Public Affairs - SC Catholic Conference

~Holy Day Masses for Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary:  
Vigil Wednesday Evening - at 5:30  
Two Masses on Thursday - at 8:30 and 6:00

1. Today's Readings: [Monday of the Second Week of Advent | USCCB](#)

2. The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus: As we move forward with our popes, we are combining a few popes on the same day. Today we cover 3 popes in the 300's: St. Miltiades, St. Marcus and St. Julius I. Read to learn which of these set December 25 as the official day that we celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord.

3. Quote of the Day:

~Advent's intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely, the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope." *Pope Benedict XVI*

***St. Joseph, Pray for Us!***

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## **Popes of the 300's---popes #32-35**

**32. St. Miltiades (311-14) Pope from 311-314 A.D.** (pronounced MILL-shuh-deez, aka “Miltiadea” or “Melchiades”)

This pope was African by birth. Though not elected until after Emperor Galerius issued a reluctant edict of toleration (aka a note that said “we’ll stop killing the Christians”), Miltiades was elected pope on July 2, 311. The formal act of toleration toward Christians by the Roman Empire two years later – Constantine’s famous Edict of Milan in 313 – meant Miltiades was blessed to preside over the return of all of the Church’s confiscated property, including the 15 titular churches (parishes) and various other possessions, and ultimately reorganize the Church fully once again.

He died on the 10th or 11th of January in 314 and was buried in the Cemetery of St. Callixtus. Miltiades was venerated almost immediately as a saint for his heroic leadership.

Miltiades is best known for being Emperor Constantine’s first pope. Constantine was famously sympathetic to the Church, formally declaring Christianity legal and eventually being baptized, thanks in large part to having a (literally) saintly mother in St. Helena. His conquering of emperor Maxentius in 312 gave the emperor control over Rome and, indirectly, gave Christians the peace for which they had so long prayed.

One of the first things Constantine did to help the Church was to appoint three bishops to hear the complaint, under Miltiades’ direction, of some unruly heretics in Africa that the Carthage’s new bishop wasn’t valid. The reason? Basically, the bishop had surrendered his Scriptures (renounced the faith) during the last persecution. Miltiades, along with the 18 extra bishops he decided to bring along (because why not?), ruled that the heretics were in the wrong, dealing the first defeat to those pesky Donatists and declaring that the Bishop of Carthage was on the up and up.

Once Constantine conquered Rome, he presented Miltiades with the Lateran Palace, which became the home of the pope and the seat from which he governed the Church. The Lateran Palace is still in existence and is now home to the Vatican Historical Museum. It sits right next door to the Archbasilica of St. John Lateran, the cathedral church of Rome.

### **33. St. Sylvester I (314-35)----to be covered on December 31**

### **34. St. Marcus (336) Pope from January 18 – October 7, 336 A.D.**

Not to be confused with the Gospel author of the same name, Mark was a Roman by birth, according to the *Liber Pontificalis*. He appears to have been a priest or deacon under Pope Miltiades (two popes ago) when Constantine asked for a group of bishops to deal with the Donatist heresy.

He oversaw the building of two churches during his short tenure as pope, one of which is now known as the Church of San Marco (St. Mark) inside the walls of Rome. The other was built over the Catacomb of Balbina outside the city, the same cemetery where Pope St. Mark would eventually be buried. He reigned for less than a calendar year, being elected on January 18 and dying on October 7 – now celebrated as his feast day.

St. Mark is known for having given instruction on how subsequent popes were to be installed into office. The *Liber Pontificalis* attributes two documents to this pope, one of which states that the Bishop of Ostia (a diocese on the west coast of Italy) was given a pallium by St. Mark, as well as the responsibility of consecrating the newly elected Bishop of Rome. Though the document itself doesn't exist, it's reasonable to accept this as fact given that St. Augustine recognized the practice by the end of the same century.

Fun Fact...

Despite only being in office for nine months, St. Mark doesn't even crack the top 10 for shortest papacy!

### **35. St. Julius I (337-52) Pope from 337-352 A.D.**

Born in Rome, Pope St. Julius I was elected pope on February 6, 337 and reigned for 15 years. He knew the great St. Athanasius, who was the on-again-off-again Bishop of

Alexandria at the time, and even spoke up on his behalf when Athanasius' enemies sought to remove him (more on that in a minute).

Julius I died on April 12 (352), the same day on which his feast is now celebrated, and he was buried in a church he constructed, attached to the cemetery of St. Callixtus.

With the Arian heresy still brewing within the Church, St. Julius I is best known for firmly making his presence known in one particular dispute that took place in the eastern part of the Church. As mentioned, when Athanasius was Bishop of Alexandria, he was deposed once, then restored through the intervention of the emperor, Constantine II. Then, at the same time that a certain Eusebius (not the pope nor the historian) sent delegates to the pope trying to get him removed again, Athanasius was deposed by a different group back in Alexandria. So, Pope Julius, wanting to resolve it once and for all, wrote to both parties and invited them to Rome for a doctrinal cage match.

This meeting – called a synod – was convened in 340 or 341, with the honorable Pope Julius I presiding. After hearing both sides of the story, Julius declared in favor of Athanasius and Marcellus (another legit bishop who had been deposed) and restored them both to office.

In his letter (which still exists) written to the heretical bishops of Antioch – who had conveniently skipped out on this meeting in Rome – Julius wrote: “Can you be ignorant that this is the custom, that we should be written to first, so that from here what is just may be defined?” – Pope St. Julius I

Julius said this because he knew it was uniquely his place as the pope to depose bishops, something that was confirmed in a general council just a year or two later.

Fun Fact...

We can thank St. Julius I for officially determining that Christmas, the Nativity of Jesus, would be celebrated on December 25, while Epiphany would stay on January 6. Earlier records show that the Church had already been commemorating this day for at least 100 years earlier, but Julius wanted to make it official.

*Source: kofc899.org*