

Daily Parish Communication

January 12, 2023

Good Morning!

1. Today's Readings: [Thursday of the First Week in Ordinary Time | USCCB](#)

2. The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus: We continue with the popes who lived in the early 500's: St. Symmachus, , St. Hormisdas, St. John I and St. Felix IV (III), all saints. St. John I is on the universal calendar so we will read about him in May. You may have noticed that Felix is noted as IV (III). Is he Felix III or IV? Read the short bio to find out.

3. Quote of the Day:

~"It is therefore necessary to receive these Divine oracles integrally, in the same sense in which they have been kept, and are still being kept, by this Roman Chair of Blessed Peter. Mother and Mistress of all the churches, She has always kept whole and inviolate, and taught to the faithful, the faith given by the Lord Jesus Christ, showing all the faithful the way of salvation and the doctrine of uncorrupted truth." *Ven. Pope Pius IX*

St. Joseph, Pray for Us!

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Popes of the Early 500's

51. St. Symmachus (498-514)

Born in Sardinia, Symmachus was baptized at Rome and became archdeacon of the Roman Church under Pope Anastasius II. At the latter's death, Symmachus was elected Pope in 498.

A splinter group at Rome, in league with Emperor Anastasius of Constantinople, elected a rival Pope, Lawrence, at the same time. Both claimants to the Holy See appealed to the Gothic King Theodoric at Ravenna.

Theodoric chose Symmachus as the rightful Pontiff because he had been elected first and by the great number of votes. Most important of all, the King characterized Symmachus as one who was good, prudent, kindly, gracious, and a lover of the clergy and the poor.

Nevertheless, the Saint had many troubles because of the Schismatics during the first half of his pontificate. When he learned that the Arian King Thrasimund had exiled many African Bishops to Sardinia, he was quick to send them a letter to comfort them as well as clothes, money, and relics of Martyrs for them and their flocks.

Among other good works, St. Symmachus built three hospices for the poor, came to the aid of those who underwent raids by the Barbarians in northern Italy, and redeemed a multitude of captives.

The Pope also restored several churches in Rome and built three new basilicas—to St. Andrew, St. Pancras, and St. Agnes. He died on July 19, 514, and was buried in St. Peter's Basilica.

Source: *divine-redeemer-sisters.org*

52. St. Hormisdas (514-23)

This pope was born into a wealthy Roman family and was married prior to receiving major orders. Hormisdas' son, Silverius, ascended to the Chair of Peter just 13 years after his father's death.

Prior to being elected, Hormisdas was one of St. Symmachus' right-hand men during the trying years of Laurentius' stint as antipope, serving as a deacon for the previous pope. He was elected without issue just a day after his predecessor's death, on July 20, 514, and reigned for just over nine years.

St. Hormisdas is the man to thank for ending the Acacian Schism, that rift between East and West that lasted roughly three and a half decades. Despite Emperor Anastasius' dodgy attitude toward bringing about peace, Hormisdas' persistence throughout his first four years in office finally brought about an agreement. Since it was primarily bishops in the East who were in error, believing that Christ only had one nature (instead of two), it was their signing of a confession of faith written by Hormisdas that officially brought the schism to its happy end.

The confession of faith signed by the Eastern bishops became known as the *Formula Hormisdæ* ("Formula of Hormisdas") and was, in fact, used at the First Vatican Council nearly *fourteen centuries later* to help define and solidify our understanding of papal infallibility.

Source: kofc899.org

53. St. John I (523-26)—to be covered on May 18

54. St. Felix IV (III) (526-30)

If you'll remember, an antipope styled himself "Felix II" during the reign of Pope Liberius in the mid-4th Century. Since his name was mistakenly on the papal books for a while afterward, when the real second Pope Felix came around, it was easier to refer to him as "Felix III" to avoid confusion. So, although today's Pope Felix is really only the third pope to bear the title, he's instead known as "Felix IV."

The situation was testy in Rome following the imprisonment and death of Pope St. John I, especially when Theodoric, the king of Italy, strongly suggested that Felix be his successor. Though the nomination was non-typical in nature (to say the least), the clergy and laity followed the king's lead and voted Felix into office on July 12, 526. Thankfully, Felix was a stand-up guy and (more importantly) not a heretic.

Throughout his 4-year reign, Felix dealt with what's become known as the "Semi-Pelagian" conflict, which dealt with proper teaching on grace and free will and published his corrections of the heresy as canons at the Council of Orange in 529. He died in September of the year 530, but his feast day is celebrated on January 30.

Sensing that history might repeat itself after his death, Felix attempted to appoint his own successor instead of leaving it to those who favored the shaky heretical beliefs still boiling in the East, or to those who supported Gothic rule in Italy. So when he fell ill in 530, Felix pointed to a certain Boniface as his successor, making his wishes well known in that regard. Unfortunately, however, history did repeat itself; only a minority of Roman clergy sided with Boniface while a majority nominated a different man. We'll learn how Boniface ended up becoming pope – despite the opposition

Source: *kofc899.org*