

February 1, 2023

Good Morning Everyone!

~Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to all of you who are celebrating special days this month!



~Another rainy day tomorrow so get your errands done today!

~Mass at 8:30 followed by Adoration till 4:00 today. Lent is coming soon so think about modifying your schedule to include time at the church on Wednesday for quiet prayer time with the Lord.

~Catholicism for Dummies class at the parish office today beginning at 1:30.

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

2. The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus: We begin a new century, the 600's, with our review of the popes. Today we cover 3: Sabinian, Boniface III and St. Boniface IV. We will see a few saints in our list as we continue, but nothing like the first 500 years of papal history.

3. Quote of the Day: On Adoration....

~"In our self-centered culture and classic American emphasis on work, we often feel we have to accomplish something during our times of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. We rate our experience by how 'good' our prayer was, how heartfelt our devotion was, or how focused we could remain. Yet prayer and contemplation are fundamentally God's work, in which we are invited to participate. We need only to give Him the opening, and He will do the rest. By coming to adoration, we are handing Him the keys to our hearts, allowing the rays of His love and grace to bathe our souls in the light of His Presence, as the rays of the sun bathe our bodies in light. If we can take the time to pull away from the busyness and distractions of life and just sit at His feet, He will lead us." *Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration, Manual of Eucharistic Adoration*

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

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## Popes of the early 600's

### 65. Sabinian (604-606)

Sabinian was born at Blera (Bieda) near Viterbo. He had been sent by Pope Gregory I, who had a high opinion of him, as *apocrisiarius* to the imperial court in Constantinople. In 595, Gregory was angered by Sabinian's lack of resolution in discussion with Emperor Maurice about the disputed assumption of the title "ecumenical patriarch" by John IV of Constantinople. Sabinian was then recalled and sent on a mission to Gaul the same year. He returned to Rome in 597.

Sabinian was elected to succeed Gregory probably in March 604 but had to wait for imperial ratification before being consecrated in September. During his pontificate, Sabinian was seen as a counterfoil to Gregory I. The *Liber pontificalis* praises him for "filling the church with clergy", in contrast to Gregory, who tended to fill ecclesiastical positions with monks.

Sabinian incurred unpopularity by his unseasonable economies, although the *Liber pontificalis* states that he distributed grain during a famine at Rome under his pontificate. Whereas Gregory distributed grain to the Roman populace as invasion loomed, when the danger had passed Sabinian sold it to them. Because he was unable or unwilling to allow the people to have the grain for little or nothing, there grew up in later times a number of legends in which his predecessor was represented punishing him for avarice. Sabinian died 22 February 606. His funeral procession through the city had to change course to avoid hostile Romans.

Onofrio Panvinio, in his 1557 *Epitome pontificum Romanorum*, attributes to Sabinian the introduction of the custom of ringing bells at the canonical hours and the celebration of the Eucharist. The first attribution of this was in Guillaume Durand's thirteenth-century *Rationale Divinorum Officiorum*.

*Source: Catholic.org*

## 66. Boniface III (607)

*Boniface III* of Roman extraction and the son of John Cataadioce, was elected to succeed Sabinian after an interregnum of nearly a year; he was consecrated February 19, 607; d. November 12 of the same year. He had been ordained a deacon of the Roman Church, and in 603 sent by Gregory the Great as *apocrisiarius*, or legate, to the court of Constantinople, where, by his tact and prudence, he appears to have gained the favorable regard of the Emperor Phocas.

After his elevation to the See of Rome, Boniface obtained a decree from Phocas, against Cyriacus, Bishop of Constantinople, by which it was ordained, that “the See of Blessed Peter the Apostle should be the head of all the Churches”, and that the title of “Universal Bishop” belonged exclusively to the Bishop of Rome—an acknowledgment somewhat similar to that made by Justinian eighty years before.

At Rome, Boniface held a council, attended by seventy-two bishops and all the Roman clergy, wherein he enacted a decree forbidding anyone under pain of excommunication, during the lifetime of a pope or of a bishop, to treat of or to discuss the appointment of his successor, and setting forth that no steps were to be taken to provide for a successor until three days after the burial of the deceased. The acts of the council are lost, and it is not known what may have been the occasion for the decree. Pope Boniface was a man “of tried faith and character”. He died within a year of his elevation and was buried in St. Peter’s. His epitaph is found in the works of Duchesne and Mann.

*Source: catholic.com*

## 67. St. Boniface IV (608-15)

Boniface was born in what is now the Province of L'Aquila. His father was a physician named John. His family was of Marsi origins according to the *Liber Pontificalis*. During the pontificate of Gregory the Great, Boniface was a deacon of the Roman Church and held the position of *dispensator*, that is, the first official in connection with the administration of the patrimonies.

Boniface IV was elected to succeed Boniface III but a vacancy of over nine months ensued, awaiting imperial confirmation from Constantinople. He was consecrated

on either 25 August, according to Duchesne, or 15 September, according to Jaffé, in 608. The Vatican lists the official beginning of his papacy as 25 September.

Boniface obtained leave from Emperor Phocas to convert the Pantheon in Rome into a Christian church, and on 13 May 609, the temple erected by Agrippa to Jupiter the Avenger, Venus, and Mars was consecrated by the pope to the Virgin Mary and all the Martyrs. It was the first instance in Rome of the transformation of a pagan temple into a place of Christian worship. Twenty-eight cartloads of sacred bones were said to have been removed from the Catacombs and placed in a porphyry basin beneath the high altar.

In 610, Mellitus, the first bishop of London, went to Rome "to consult the pope on important matters relative to the newly established English Church". While in Rome, he assisted at a synod then being held concerning certain questions on "the life and monastic peace of monks", and, on his departure, took to England the decree of the council together with letters from the pope to Archbishop Laurence of Canterbury and to all the clergy, to King Æthelberht of Kent, and to all the Anglo-Saxons.

Between 612 and 615, the Irish missionary Columbanus, then living at Bobbio in Italy, was persuaded by King Agilulf of Lombardy to address a letter on the condemnation of the "Three Chapters" to Boniface IV. He told the pope that he was suspected of heresy for accepting the Fifth Ecumenical Council and exhorted him to summon a council and prove his orthodoxy. There is no record of a rejoinder from Boniface.

Inspired by Gregory the Great, Boniface IV converted his house into a monastery, where he retired and died on 8 May. He was succeeded by Adeodatus I, who reversed his policy favoring monasticism. Boniface IV was buried in the portico of St. Peter's Basilica. His remains were three times removed — in the tenth or eleventh century, at the close of the thirteenth under Boniface VIII, and to the new St. Peter's on 21 October 1603. Boniface IV is commemorated as a saint in the Roman Martyrology on his feast day, 8 May.

*Source: catholic.org*