

Daily Parish Communication

January 30, 2023

Good Morning!

1. Today's Readings: [Monday of the Fourth Week in Ordinary Time | USCCB](#)
2. The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus: We continue our history of the popes of the late 500's today with Benedict I and Pelagius II. Pope St. Gregory the Great follows Pelagius but he has his feast day on September 3rd so will be covered then. The name "Benedict," owned by sixteen popes, is the second most common papal name after "John."
3. Quotes of the Day: On Purgatory by Peter Kreeft - an early jump on preparing for Lent.

~"But if you really think that you can endure and enjoy the full light and fire of God a second after you die, being essentially the same kind of being you are now, without any additional divine operation on your soul, then you dangerously underestimate either your sinful nature or God's holiness or the gap between them."

St. Joseph, Pray for Us!

--

Linda McCormick
St. Joseph Catholic Church & School
1200 Cornelia Road
Anderson, SC 29621

Phone: (864) 225-5341, ext. 102
Fax: (864) 225-6432

Popes of the late 500's

62. Benedict I (575-79)

Of the first Pontiff who bore the name of Benedict practically nothing is known. The date of his birth is unknown; he died on 30 July, 579. He was a Roman and the son of Boniface, and was called Bonosus by the Greek. The ravages of the Lombards rendered it very difficult to communicate with the emperor at Constantinople, who claimed the privilege of confirming the election of the popes. Hence there was a vacancy of nearly eleven months between the death of John III and the arrival of the imperial confirmation of Benedict's election, 2 June, 575. He reigned four years, one month, and twenty-eight days. Almost the only act recorded of him is that he granted an estate, the *Massa Veneris*, in the territory of Minturnae, to Abbot Stephen of St. Mark's "near the walls of Spoleto. Famine followed the devastating Lombards, and from the few words the *Liber Pontificalis* has about Benedict, we gather that he died in the midst of his efforts to cope with these difficulties. He was buried in the vestibule of the sacristy of the old basilica of St. Peter. In an ordination which he held in December he made fifteen priests and three deacons, and consecrated twenty-one bishops.

Source: newadvent.org

63. Pelagius II (579-90)

Pelagius was a native of Rome, but probably of Ostrogothic descent, as his father's name was Winigild. Pelagius became Pope Benedict I's successor on November 26, 579, without imperial confirmation.

Pelagius appealed for help from Emperor Maurice against the Lombards, but to no avail, forcing Pelagius to "buy" a truce and turn to the Franks, who invaded Italy, but left after being bribed by the Lombards.

Pelagius labored to promote clerical celibacy, and he issued stringent regulations on this matter. During his pontificate, the bishop of Milan, who had broken communion with Rome in the Schism of the Three Chapters, returned to full communion around 581, while other bishops in Northern Italy remained in schism.

Pelagius ordered the construction of the Basilica di San Lorenzo fuori le Mura, a church shrine over the place where Saint Lawrence was martyred. During his reign, the Visigoths of Spain converted, but he also faced conflict with the See of Constantinople over the adoption of the title of "Ecumenical Patriarch," which Pelagius believed to undermine the authority of the papacy.

Pelagius fell victim to the plague that devastated Rome at the end of 590. His successor, Gregory I, thought his regulations of clerical celibacy too strict, and modified them to some extent.

Source: catholic.org

64. St. Gregory I (the Great) (590-604)—to be covered on his memorial on September 3rd