

March 1, 2023

Good Morning!



Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary who are celebrating special days this month!



Eucharistic Adoration following the Morning Mass at 8:30

Prayer Requests - Please pray for your members of your parishioner family for the upcoming sacraments they will be receiving this Spring. (RCIA, 1st Communion, Confirmation) Look for the box with slips of paper indicating the name of the parishioner in the Narthex . Pray every day!

1. Today's Readings: [Wednesday of the First Week in Lent | USCCB](#)

2. The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus: In the decade of the 680s there were 6 popes in 10 years, none of whom had long pontificates. Today we look at 3 of the popes: St. Benedict II, John V and Conon.

3. Quote of the Day:

~"If you are looking for truth, stick to the Way - for the truth is in the Way. The truth is in the destination to which you are going, and it is the Way by which you go. You are not going by one thing as your way to something else as your destination; you are not coming to Christ by something that is other than Christ. You are coming to Christ *through* Christ. What does that mean, to Christ through Christ? Through Christ the Man to Christ the God. Through the Word made flesh, to the Word that in the beginning was with God, and was God (John 1:1). From what human beings used to eat to the bread that angels eat every day. For this is what is written: he gave them the grain of Heaven. Man ate of the bread of the angels' (Ps. 78:24-25). In what sense did man eat of the bread of angels? 'And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us'" (John 1:13). *St. Augustine, Homily 13 on the Gospel of John, 4*

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

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## Popes of the 680's, Part 2

### 81. St. Benedict II (684-85)

Benedict was born in Rome. It is possible that he was a member of the Savelli family, though this is not certain. Sent when young to the *schola cantorum*, he distinguished himself by his knowledge of the Scriptures and by his singing.

The bishops of Rome were anciently chosen by the clergy and people of Rome, according to the discipline of those times; the Roman emperor was the head of the people, on which account his consent was required. But whilst the emperors resided in Constantinople, this condition produced often long delays and considerable inconveniences. Although chosen in 683, he was not ordained until 684 awaiting the permission of Emperor Constantine IV. According to the *Liber Diurnus Romanorum Pontificum*, he obtained from the emperor a decree which either abolished imperial confirmations altogether or made them obtainable from the exarch of Ravenna. Benedict symbolically adopted Constantine's sons, Justinian II and Heraclius.

To help finally suppress Monothelism, Benedict endeavored to secure the subscriptions of the bishops of Hispania to the decrees of the Third Council of Constantinople of 680/1, and to bring about the submission to the decrees of Macarius, the deposed bishop of Antioch. Restorations of numerous churches in Rome are ascribed to the less than a year's pontificate of Benedict II. After a pontificate of about eleven months, Pope Benedict II died on May 8, 685 and was buried in St. Peter's.

*Source: catholic.org*

### 82. John V (685-86)

John V was a Syrian whose father was Cyriacus. When he was born is not known. As a deacon he was one of those who represented the Apostolic See at the Sixth Ecumenical Council. He returned to Rome in July, 682, with the official documents of the synod. He obtained such favor in the eyes of the Emperor Constantine

Pogonatus that the latter lessened the taxes which had been imposed on the papal patrimonies in Sicily and Calabria, and generally reduced the fiscal burdens from which the Church suffered. John's energy, learning, and moderation are highly praised by his biographer. It was no doubt the possession of these virtues which caused him to be elected pope in the basilica of St. John Lateran. The necessity of waiting for the imperial confirmation of papal elections having been abolished by Constantine Pogonatus, John was straightway conducted to the Lateran palace as pope. He was consecrated about July 23, 685, and reigned for a little more than a year. From the days of St. Gregory the Great, the Archbishop of Cagliari in Sardinia enjoyed certain metropolitan powers. Although the right of consecrating the bishops of the island was not one of his privileges, Cironatus of Cagliari proceeded to lay hands on the bishop-elect of Turrus Libisonis. John, however, definitively declared the See of Turrus directly subject to the Holy See. John's generosity showed itself in his liberal donations. In his short pontificate he distributed 1900 solidi to the clergy and to the deaconries for the poor. After a long illness he died on August 2, 686, and was buried in St. Peter's.

*Source: catholic.com*

### **83. Conon (686-87)**

Conon, the son, seemingly, of an officer in the Thracian troop, was educated in Sicily and ordained priest at Rome. His age, venerable appearance, and simple character caused the clergy and soldiery of Rome, who were in disagreement, to put aside their respective candidates and to elect him as pope. He was consecrated (October 21, 686) after notice of his election had been sent to the Exarch of Ravenna, or after it had been confirmed by him. He received the Irish missionaries, St. Kilian and his companions, consecrated Kilian bishop, and commissioned him and the others to preach the Faith in Franconia. He was in favor with the savage Emperor Justinian II who informed him that he had recovered the Acts of the Sixth General Council, by which, he wrote, it was his intention to abide. Justinian also remitted certain taxes and dues owing to the imperial exchequer from several papal patrimonies.

*Source: catholic.com*