A Synaxis of Latin Saints **(Plain Reading)**

August 2nd

On August 2nd we commemorate Saint Stephen I, Pope of Rome. Becoming Pope in 254, Saint Stephen was tasked with handling the controversy over the lapsed Christians who apostatized during the Diocletian persecution. Saint Stephen opposed the strict and harsh treatment of other Bishops and was instead merciful towards the lapsed, allowing Christians to return to the Church with true repentance, confession and penance.

Verses

On this day we also commemorate Saint Plegmund, Archbishop of Canterbury. Saint Plegmund had been tonsured a monk and later became a hermit. Because of his holiness and asceticism, he was asked to become the tutor of King Alfred the Great and later the Archbishop of Canterbury. He accepted both tasks and enacted the last great liturgical advancement of the Anglo-Saxon Church, becoming the Chrysostom of the British Isles.

On this day we also commemorate Saint Auspicius the First Bishop of Apt, Saint Betharius the Bishop of Chartres, Saint Boetharius the Bishop of Chartres, Saint Etheldritha of Lincolnshire, Saint Eusebius the Bishop of Vercelli and friend of Saint Athanasius, Saint Maximus the Bishop of Padua, Saint Rutilius the Martyr of Carthage, and Saint Sidwell the Martyr of Wessex.

By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.