

Christ the King Abbey

(Traditional Benedictines)
(Formerly St Francis of Assisi Chapel)

www.ChristTheKingAbbey.org

Cullman, Alabama

Every Sunday: 6:00 AM and 10:00 AM

Daily: 6:00 AM

Holy Days of Obligation:

6:00 AM - 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel

Montgomery, Alabama

10:45 AM

Only on first Sunday

of each month

St Pius V Chapel

Birmingham, Alabama

9:30 AM

Every Sunday except
first Sunday of each month

TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

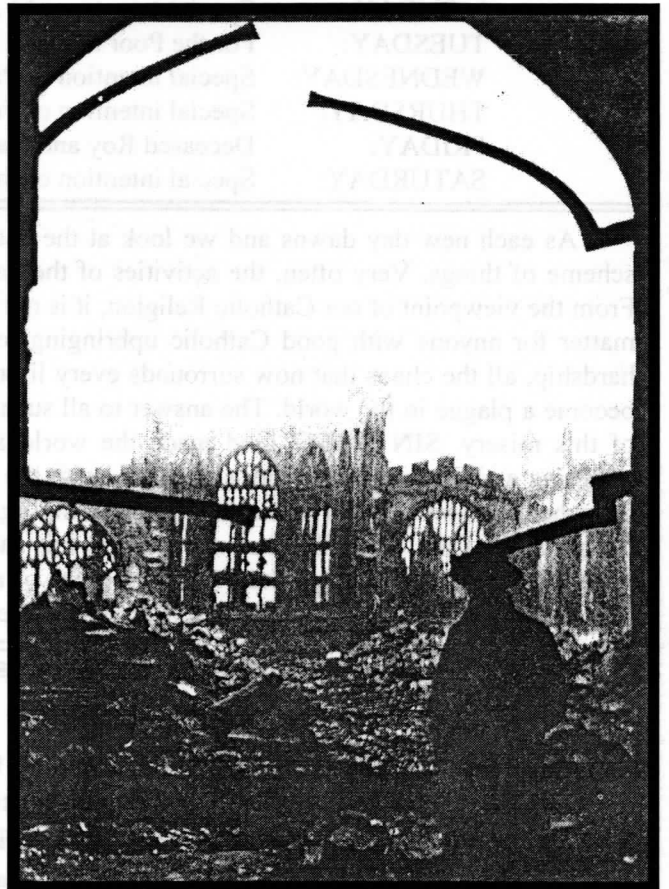
Weekly Bulletin #1016

Last Sunday after Pentecost (24th Sunday after Pentecost in Missal)

November 25, 2007 – Green

Mass of Sunday; GI; Cr; Pref. Holy Trinity; comm. St. Catherine

“Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place – let him who reads understand – then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains; and let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything from his house; and let him who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. But woe to those who are with child, or have infants at the breast in those days! But pray that your flight may not be in the winter, or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, nor will be. And unless those days had been shortened, no living creature would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened. Then if anyone say to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ,’ or, ‘There he is,’ do not believe it. For false Christs and false prophets will arise, and will show great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. Behold, I have told it to you beforehand. If therefore they say to you, ‘Behold, he is in the desert,’ do not go forth; ‘Behold, he is in the inner chambers,’ do not believe it. For as lightning comes forth from the east and shines even to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. Wherever the body is, there will the eagles be gathered together. But immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give her light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven; and then will all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming upon the clouds of heaven with great power and majesty. And he will send forth his angels with a trumpet and a great sound, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other. Now from the fig tree learn this parable. When its branch is now tender, and the leaves break forth, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see all these things, know that it is near, even at the door. Amen I say to you, this generation will not pass away till all these things have been accomplished. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”



1. **CATECHISM CLASS:** Children 6 to 14 please meet Father Joseph in the vestibule right after the 10:00 Mass.
2. There WILL be 5:00 PM Sunday Vespers and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament this afternoon.
3. Tomorrow is the Feast of Saint Leonard of Port Maurice (Roman calendar), and is the Name day of our Father Abbot Leonard, OSB. Please keep Father Abbot in your very special prayers, especially tomorrow.
4. Tuesday, November 27, 2007, is the Feast of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal (Roman calendar).
5. Wednesday, November 28, 2007, is the Feast of Saint Catherine Laboure (Roman calendar).
6. Thursday, November 29, 2007, the Novena to the Immaculate Conception begins.
7. Friday, November 30, 2007, is the Feast of Saint Andrew the Apostle.
8. Saturday, December 1, 2007, is the First Saturday of December, with Masses in the Abbey Church at 6:00 AM and 8:00 AM.
9. Next Sunday, December 2, 2007 (the First Sunday of Advent), is the first Sunday of December. Therefore, **there will be NO Mass at Saint Pius V Chapel in Birmingham next Sunday.**
10. Also next Sunday, Father Prior will hold the monthly meeting of our Benedictine Oblates after the 10:00 Mass.
11. **EARLY NOTICE:** Thursday, December 6, 2006, is the Feast of Saint Nicholas, Bishop of Myra in Asia Minor. He was and continues to be a beloved Saint – especially of children. In many parts of the world, St. Nicholas would visit with little children on the evening before and then leave little goodies for them. These little visits are no longer possible, so now he passes quietly through the houses of each good child, filling a shoe or little basket with goodies. He was a wonderful Saint who loved to do good things, and everywhere he visited, he left people feeling happy and full of joy, and eagerly waiting for his visit next year. In the meantime, the children would try hard to behave properly in honor of good St. Nicholas. Later in life, when the little ones find out that St. Nicholas is an older member of the family, the knowledge does not cause any harm to them. The thrill of this beautiful childhood custom is retained in the memory, remaining to the days of old age – in all its beauty and fantasy. The older folks enjoy St. Nicholas Day as much as the children, and a little party on this day is a wonderful custom to foster.
12. **EARLY NOTICE 2:** Saturday, December 8, 2007, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, and is a Holyday of Obligation, with Masses in the Abbey Church at 6:00 AM, 8:00 AM, and 7:00 PM.
13. The 2008 Traditional Catholic Calendars are now available (only to the people who attend our Chapels). The price is \$8.00 each. At Christ the King Abbey in Cullman, see Father Francis, OSB. At Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel in Montgomery, see Mrs. Pam Olson. At Saint Pius V Chapel in Birmingham, see Mrs. Laurie Niebuhr.
14. Please pray for all the Sick and Shut-ins of our Chapels. **LET US ALSO PRAY FOR EVERYONE.**
15. **MASSES FOR THE WEEK:** (Father Abbot Leonard's schedule only)

SUNDAY:	For the people of our Chapels
MONDAY:	Special intention of Father Abbot Leonard, OSB (<i>Name day</i>)
TUESDAY:	For the Poor Souls in Purgatory
WEDNESDAY:	Special intention of Patricia De Maggio
THURSDAY:	Special intention of Francis Tannheimer
FRIDAY:	Deceased Roy and Kay Seibel
SATURDAY:	Special intention of the Paul Roy Family

As each new day dawns and we look at the activities of the day, it is good that we should ponder the great scheme of things. Very often, the activities of the day are not looked at with the eyes of a well-established faith. From the viewpoint of our Catholic Religion, it is not for us to question whether there is a God or not. Neither is it a matter for anyone with good Catholic upbringing to question what God is doing about all the suffering, all the hardship, all the chaos that now surrounds every living human being on earth, all the religious devastation that has become a plague in the world. The answer to all such concerns is clearly found in the Bible. God does not cause all of this misery. **SIN DOES!** God made the world and He saw that it was good, but death and corruption and suffering and death entered with sin. It was with the one **SINGLE** sin of disobedience of our first parents that our lives became imperfect. Furthermore, by sinning again and again, man has pushed himself willfully farther and farther away from God. God has not brought this sad situation about! Man it is who keeps it this way! It simply makes no sense to think that there can be a break or accident in the realm of divine love. We humans, by our pride and self-willfulness, have exiled ourselves from the realm of divine love. The blame is entirely ours!

A Thought To Remember ...

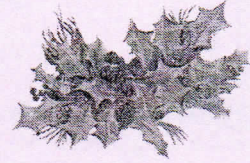
The times are confusing and the information that is presented is oftentimes misleading or completely in error. Look first to the author, then to the content. No valid information can be gained from people or individuals whose authenticity is far from being officially established.

Self-proclaimed authenticity does not automatically make one authentic!

ADVENT

2007

SUGGESTED ADVENT READINGS



FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT:

Sunday: Romans: Chap. 13 (11-14)
Monday: Isaias: Chap. 2 (1-5)
Tuesday: Isaias: Chap. 11 (1-10)
Wednesday: Sophonias: Chap. 3 (14-20)
Thursday: Isaias: Chap. 61 (1-11)
Friday: Isaias: Chap. 7 (10-14)
Saturday: Isaias: Chap. 35 (1-10)

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT:

Sunday: Philippians: Chap. 4 (4-9)
Monday: Isaias: Chap. 26 (1-10)
Tuesday: St. Luke: Chap. 1 (5-25)
Wednesday: St. Luke: Chap. 1 (26-38)
Thursday: St. Luke: Chap. 1 (39-45)
Friday: St. Luke: Chap. 1 (46-56)
Saturday: St. Luke: Chap. 1 (57-66)

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT:

Sunday: Isaias: Chap. 45 (1-9)
Monday: Isaias: Chap. 64 (1-11)
Tuesday: Jeremias: Chap. 3 (14-16)
Wednesday: Isaias: Chap. 40 (1-10)
Thursday: Baruch: Chap. 5 (1-9)
Friday: Isaias: Chap. 40 (1-12)
Saturday: Isaias: Chap. 52 (7-10)

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT:

Sunday: St. Luke: Chap. 1 (67-80)
Monday: (CHRISTMAS EVE)
S. Matthew: Chap. 1 (18-25)
Tuesday: (CHRISTMAS DAY)
St. Luke: Chap. 2 (1-14)



*After the scheduled reading on Christmas Eve,
the following ceremony takes place -
led by the Head of the Family.*

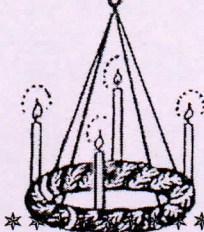
“In the forty-second year of the empire of Octavian Augustus, in the Sixth Age of the world, while all the earth was at peace, JESUS CHRIST, Eternal God, and Son of the Eternal Father, willed to consecrate the world by His gracious coming, having been conceived of the Holy Ghost, and the nine months since His conception having now passed, (*here all kneel*) He was born as Man of the Virgin Mary at Bethlehem of Juda: (*read the following very solemnly*)

THE BIRTHDAY ACCORDING TO THE FLESH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!

(After this has been completed, the Head of the Family blesses the beautifully decorated Christmas Tree:)

Let us pray: O Lord Jesus Christ, Who by dying on the Tree of the Cross didst overcome the death of sin caused by our first parents' eating of the forbidden Tree of Paradise, bless this our Christmas Tree, so that in its use we can obtain even more of the Graces of Thy Nativity. Keep Thy holy peace in our home and be with us forever. Amen.

The next day (Christmas Day), after all have given glory to God and to His Son, The Baby Jesus, by attending Holy Mass - wherever possible - all should gather around the Christmas Tree again, and all should open the wonderful gifts brought to them by none other than SANTA CLAUS!



ADVENT

*Advent
Wreath*

*Family
Home Altars*

*Blessed
Wheat*

*Blessed
Bread*



CATHOLIC EXPERIENCE – THE LITTLE THINGS

THE ADVENT CUSTOM OF BLESSED WHEAT



Select a flowerpot or a shallow container about 10 inches in diameter. Clean it thoroughly and decorate it with the help of your children. Fill it with fresh potting soil and place it in some easily accessible place near a window which is bright and sunny. As you take the blessed grains of wheat home with you, instruct your children that, beginning with the first day of Advent, each member of the family (including the grownups), with each act of sacrifice or self-denial or good work performed in secret, is to plant one grain of wheat in the pot. The planted grains of wheat will soon develop tender shoots, and on Christmas Day each shoot will be a reminder of a gift given to the Baby Jesus. The young wheat must be kept properly watered, and on Christmas Day, before going to see what Santa has brought, the wheat plants of love and sacrifice are placed near the Crib. THE WHEAT REPRESENTS REAL GIFTS – FIT FOR THE LITTLE KING OF KINGS. With proper care, the plants should easily last until Epiphany. After that they may be planted out of doors where they will continue to develop and remain a source of interest.



THE CUSTOM OF BLESSED BREAD ON THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



A day or two before the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the mother herself bakes a loaf of bread. It remains **unsliced**. After it has cooled, she, together with the children, wraps the loaf in attractive paper or cloth. A Christmassy look about the wrapping is quite appropriate. On the Fourth Sunday of Advent (this year it falls on December 23), the bread is brought to the Church and placed on the table provided for it. The Celebrant will bless the bread after the 10:00 AM Mass.

The blessed bread is then taken home. After all are seated at the dinner table (and, wherever the circumstances permit, it is most appropriate and very wonderful to have relatives over for this ceremony), before beginning the main meal, the mother herself presents the loaf of bread to the father, who, following the instructions which will be attached to the Bulletin for the First Sunday of Advent, places his father's blessing on the bread. He unwraps the unsliced loaf, and **breaking** off pieces of it, personally hands a piece to each member of his family, beginning with the mother, and then to each of his children, beginning with the eldest down to the youngest, and then to all the relatives present. After the bread has been distributed, the father stands, and with his right hand extended, blesses everyone present. The father, in his own home and at his own table, always sits at the head of the table.



These are but two of the many little things that pertain to the Christmas Season, and which, if entered into with the proper spirit and intention, will keep the entire family interested as each new day offers more opportunities for gifts for our Infant Lord. These customs which we present are some of the forgotten customs of Catholic living and life. They were once well known, and they were developed over the years by the religious experience of the Church – little, child-like customs, **profound** customs, that brought Catholic living and life into focus within the family circle. Each year these customs were fresh and crisp and adults and children alike looked forward to them. Let us not introduce customs that are out of context with true Catholic life and living, so that our children will not be confused when they are later faced with the broken-up life of the world. Customs that have evolved out of personal and private preference will soon wilt and will eventually be put out of the mind of the child. Let us not maintain nor introduce any un-Christ-like strictness within the family, for such imprudence is not conducive to the mental health of our children. Let us always keep Nazareth and the Inhabitants of that Holy House as our models.

If we but just keep this holy vision in our hearts and minds and all our activities, and in the hearts and minds and activities of our children, we need have no concern about the customary Christmas fantasy preparations – they will be in proper focus. Let us not be made to feel uncomfortable by the vicious attacks upon the customary and innocent holiday fantasies (whether they concern Christmas, Easter, or etc.). **If we take the old fantasies away from our children we will create a void in their young minds – a void which WILL be filled, one way or another.** With all the filth and ugliness that is now everywhere, our little ones are more and more turning to matters too horrible to speak of. The final question we must answer is: **Which is better for our children – WHOLESOME FANTASY or SOUL-WRENCHING FILTH?** Let us be watchful of those who are on the warpath against legitimate childhood fantasies – such as were enjoyed by all in the normal, Catholic, happy, healthy, and dignified childhood days of yesteryear!