

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 2, 2007 – Purple

Mass of Sunday; no GI; Cr; Pref. Holy Trinity

Weekly Bulletin #1017

THE HOLY SEASON OF ADVENT

The First Sunday of Advent

What have I given to my Lord for all He has given to me?

O

Mary,

conceived

without

sin,

Pray

for us

who have

recourse

to thee!



Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Saturday, December 8, 2007

1. **CATECHISM CLASS:** Children 6 to 14 please meet Father Joseph in the vestibule right after the 10:00 Mass.
2. There will be NO 5:00 PM Sunday Vespers this afternoon.
3. This morning after the 10:00 AM Mass, Father Prior will hold the monthly meeting of our Benedictine Oblates.
4. Thursday, December 6, 2007, is the Feast of Saint Nicholas.
5. Thursday, December 6, 2007, is also the first Thursday of December, with Holy Hour and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament in the Abbey Church at 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM and 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM.
6. Friday, December 7, 2007, is the First Friday of December, with Masses in the Abbey Church at 6:00 AM and 8:00 AM, and all-day Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament from 9:00 AM until 6:00 PM.
7. Friday, December 7, 2007, is the Vigil of the Immaculate Conception and is a **day of fast and abstinence**.
8. 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.
9. 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
10. **Early Notice:** Wednesday, December 19, Friday, December 21, and Saturday, December 22, 2007, are the Winter Ember Days, and are days of Fast and Abstinence. Meat may be eaten **ONCE (only)** on Wednesday and Saturday at the main meal.
11. **Early Notice:** Sunday, December 16, 2007 (the Third Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday), the 10:00 AM Mass in the Abbey Church will be a High Mass.
12. **Early Notice:** Monday, December 24, 2007, is the Vigil of Christmas and is a day of fast and abstinence.
13. **Early Notice:** Miss Elizabeth Smith will carry the Baby Jesus and place Him in the Crib during the Christmas Eve Midnight Mass.
14. **Early Notice:** Tuesday, January 1, 2008 (New Years Day), is the Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord and is a **Holyday of Obligation**. **Masses in the Abbey Church on January 1, 2008, will be ONLY at 6:00 AM and 10:00 AM.**
15. Please pray for all the Sick and Shut-ins of our Chapels. LET US ALSO PRAY FOR EVERYONE. Let us pray for ALL the priests and religious men and women of the world. NO MAN, WOMAN, OR CHILD SHOULD BE LEFT OUT OF OUR PRAYER. God made all men to be with Him in heaven for all eternity, and this includes every human being on earth, regardless of station or condition or place. While Our Blessed Lord was hanging on the Cross He did not look around and pick and choose those for whom He was dying. He did not exclude a single member of the Human Race – even His enemies – from the wounded Love that came forth from Him during those momentous moments. Weak human nature and erroneous persuasions will prevent some from achieving the purpose intended for them by God, but that matter remains entirely between all such and God. Our only duty is to pray for **souls**. We make **no** judgments concerning such matters. If there is any sifting to be done, it is to be done by God, Himself alone. We are NOT the ones to do the sifting.
16. **MASSES FOR THE WEEK:** (Father Abbot Leonard's schedule only)

SUNDAY:	For the people of our Chapels
MONDAY:	Special intention of Katherine Pacheco
TUESDAY:	For the Poor Souls in Purgatory
WEDNESDAY:	Deceased James Shelor
THURSDAY:	Deceased Ross Giambroni
FRIDAY:	Deceased William Maider
SATURDAY:	Welfare of our Monks and Nuns and Oblates

The ADVENT of the Divine Birth began when the Angel Gabriel came as an ambassador of God to a young girl named Mary. This is the most dramatic scene of all time! The Annunciation is the PIVOT POINT of the universe, on which ALL things turn. All previous generations looked forward to it, just as all subsequent generations have looked back to it. The result of this convergence between Heaven and Earth had Angels "holding their breath" as they waited for the answer of an unknown young girl, whose answer would decide the fate of us all, whoever we might be, or wherever we might be, or whenever we might come to be.

A Thought To Remember ...

Logic has never saved a soul!

Logic and reason are bulwarks to our faith, but they cannot spark the soul to belief!

Belief is the work of grace!

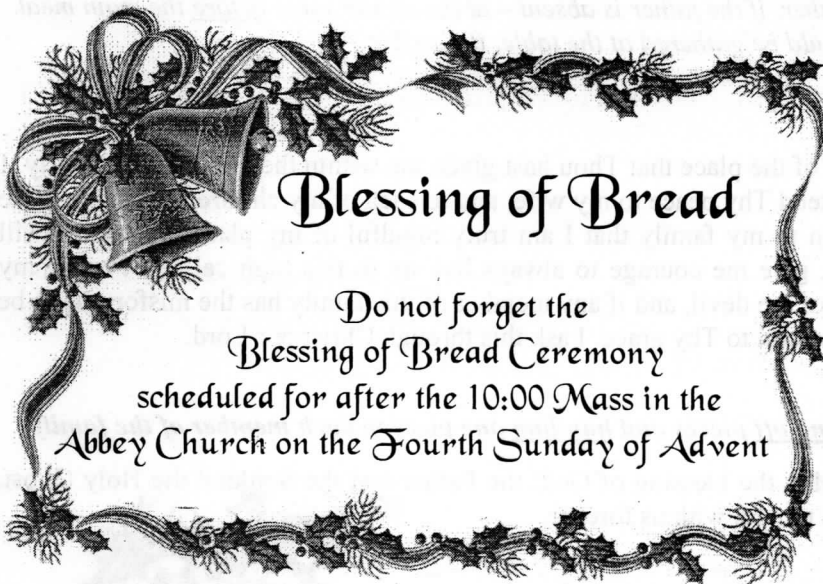
ADVENT WREATH BLESSING

First Sunday of Advent

- Priest: On that day beholding from afar I shall see the Power of God coming and covering the whole earth like a cloud. Go ye out to meet Him and say unto Him: Tell us if Thou art He Who is to reign over the people of Israel.
- People: On that day beholding from afar I shall see the Power of God coming and covering the whole earth like a cloud. Go ye out to meet Him and say unto Him: Tell us if Thou art He Who is to reign over the people of Israel.
- Priest: And, all ye dwellers upon earth, sons of men, rich and poor.
- People: Go ye out to meet Him and say unto Him: Tell us if Thou art He Who is to reign over the people of Israel.
- Priest: Hear, O Thou Shepherd of Israel: Thou Who leadest Joseph like a sheep.
- People: Behold the Lord shall come and all His saints with Him: and there shall be a great light on that day.
- Priest: All ye who thirst come to the waters: seek ye the Lord while He may be found.
- People: The mountains and the hills shall sing praise before God, and all the trees of the forest shall clap their hands, because the Lord, the Ruler, will come into His eternal kingdom.
- Priest: The Lord will come and will not delay, and He will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will manifest Himself to all nations.
- People: Let us live justly and godly, looking for the blessed hope and coming of the Lord.
- Priest: Sound the trumpet in Sion, for the day of the Lord is near. Behold, He will come to save us. Alleluia! Alleluia!
- People: The Lord will come, go forth to meet Him, and say: Great is His dominion, and His kingdom shall have no end. He is God, the Mighty, the Ruler, the Prince of Peace. Alleluia! Alleluia!
- Priest: The people shall fear Thy Name, O Lord.
- People: And all the kings of the earth Thy glory.
- Priest: LET US PRAY: As we Thy servants, O Lord, ask Thee for Thy blessing to descend upon this symbol of our hope and expectation, put forth Thy power, we beseech Thee, and come, that with Thee as our protector we may be rescued from the impending danger of our sins: and with Thee as our deliverer, may we obtain our salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.* (Priest lights first candle and sprinkles wreath and people with holy water)

TRUST, LOVE, AND FEAR NOT!

It really matters little if the devil assaults us over and over again, if in our minds and hearts and wills there is a genuine and an abiding hope and love and an active and firm faith commitment, for then the fury of the devil, or even the full fury and rage of an entire company of devils will always break when they crash against the rock of our firmly set intentions. All the forces of hell will never get past a firmly set and unwavering intention for holiness of life. Oh, yes, the devil will surely roar with a mighty roar indeed, and he will rant and rave and rage fiercely. He will threaten us. He will attempt to seduce us. He will place violent temptations upon us. He will parade before us dazzling and alluring scenes of past exploits. Worst of all, he will try to stir up in us the ugly clouds of discouragement and rejection and doubt. **NO MATTER!** Satan will never be able to shake anyone who places full and unquestioned belief and trust in the mercy and love of our omnipotent God. No more than a simple and child-like expression of trust and hope in our loving Father is quite enough to send Satan off screaming!



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

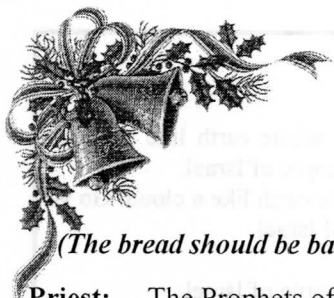
Tuesday, December 25, 2007

Christmas Masses in the Abbey Church will be at Midnight on Christmas Eve (the Church will be open about 11:15 PM), and at 10:00 AM on Christmas Day. *There will be **NO** 6:00 AM Mass in the Abbey Church on Christmas Day.*

Christmas Mass at St. Pius V Chapel in Birmingham will be at 9:00 AM on Christmas Day.

NB: Anyone receiving Holy Communion at the Christmas Midnight Mass may **NOT** receive Holy Communion again at a later Mass on Christmas Day.

SPECIAL NOTE: There will be **NO** Confessions before the Midnight Mass or the 10:00 AM Mass on Christmas Day.



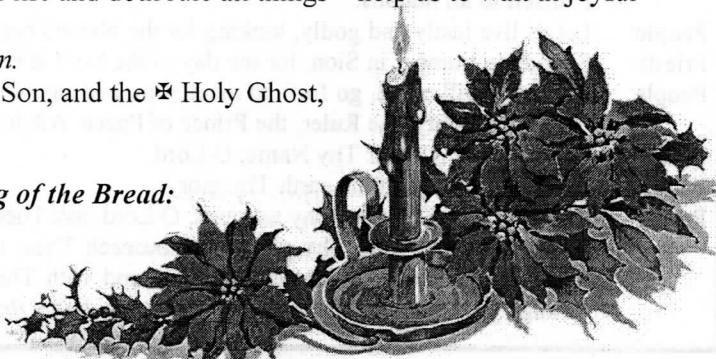
THE BLESSING OF BREAD

CEREMONY FOR THE BLESSING OF BREAD
ON THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
(Outside of Holy Mass)

(The bread should be baked by the mother of the family, remain unsliced, and brought, neatly wrapped, to the Church.)

Priest: The Prophets of old foretold Thy birth among us – now cause virtue to come to life in us!
People: *The Lord is close at hand; come, let us adore Him.*
Priest: We proclaim Thy saving work – now grant us Thy salvation!
People: *The Lord is close at hand; come, let us adore Him.*
Priest: Thou didst come to heal the wounds of men – now heal the weaknesses of us Thy people!
People: *The Lord is close at hand; come, let us adore Him.*
Priest: Thou art worthy of all praise, for Thou hast given life and doth rule all things – help us to wait in joyful and patient hope for the coming of Thy glory!
People: *The Lord is close at hand; come, let us adore Him.*
Priest: May Almighty God bless us: the ✠ Father, the ✠ Son, and the ✠ Holy Ghost, and may His blessing be upon us forever.
People: *Amen.*

The Blessing of the Bread:



Priest: Our help is in the name of the Lord.
People: *Who hast made heaven and earth.*
Priest: The Lord be with you.
People: *And with thy spirit.*
Priest: Let us pray. O Lord, Jesus Christ, Bread of Angels, living Bread unto eternal life, bless ✠ this bread as Thou didst bless the five loaves in the wilderness; that all who eat it with reverence may through it attain the corporal and spiritual health they desire. Who livest and reignest eternally.
People: *Amen.*
Priest: Let us pray. Holy Lord, Father almighty, everlasting God, bless ✠ this bread with Thy supernatural benevolence. May it be to all partakers a source of health for body and soul, and a safeguard against illness and all inimical assaults. Through our Lord, Jesus Christ, Thy Son, the living bread which came down from heaven, Who giveth life and salvation to the world! Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, eternally. **People:** *Amen.*

(Priest now sprinkles the bread with Holy Water.)



At Home:

(To be said by the father of the family – or the mother, if the father is absent – at the dinner table before the main meal. The entire family should be gathered at the table, if possible.)

Father: The Lord be with each of you.
Family: *And also with you.*
Father: Let us pray. O God, our Father, mindful of the place that Thou hast given me within the circle of my family, I call out to Thee to bless my family. I extend Thy peace to my wife, and to each of my children. As I distribute this blessed bread to them, I give a sign to my family that I am truly mindful of my place, and that I will dedicate myself to its fulfillment. Lord, give me courage to always live up to this high calling. Protect my family. Keep us all free from the snares of the devil, and if any member of this family has the misfortune to be thus ensnared, grant that they may soon return to Thy grace. I ask this through Christ our Lord.
Family: *Amen.*

(The father now distributes the bread by breaking off pieces and handing one piece to each member of the family)

Father: *(Standing, with right hand extended):* May the blessing of God: the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost, descend upon myself and my family and remain with us forever.
Family: *Amen.*



Season of Advent

The Great "O" Antiphons

Beginning on December 17, at Vespers of each day, the Church Liturgy introduces what are called the "O" Antiphons. These are beautiful prayers sung in Choir by the monks in a very splendid and solemn manner and tone. These antiphons, which are scriptural texts a few lines long, are so many jewels of inspired poetry. Each prayers ends on the eager cry – "Come"! There is a climactic order in these antiphons. In the first, *O Sapientia (O Wisdom)*, we take a backward flight into the recesses of eternity to address Wisdom, the Word of God. In the Second, *O Adonai (O Lord of Lords)*, we have leaped from eternity to the time of Moses and the Law of Moses (about 1400 BC). In the third, *O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse)*, we have come to the time when God was preparing the line of David (about 1100 BC). In the fourth, *O Clavis David (O Key of David)*, we have come to the year 1000 BC (the beginning of the final Millennium before the birth of the Lord). In the fifth, *O Oriens (O Rising Dawn)*, we see that the line of David is elevated so that the people may look upon a rising star in the east, and hence in the sixth, *O Rex Gentium (O King of Nations)*, we know that He is King of all the world of man. This brings us to the evening before the Vigil of Christmas (December 23), and before coming to the town limits of Bethlehem, we salute Him with the last great "O" and we sing *O Emmanuel (O God with Us)*.

Each evening at Vespers time (around 5:00 PM) the family should gather around their home altar for the recitation of the Rosary. When the Rosary is finished, one of the great "O" Antiphons should be recited as a solemn prayer. Special emphasis should be placed on the words at the end when we cry out to God in our needs and expectations. These are prayers of the highest level, and should be prayed with great solemnity and seriousness.

Are not our own days filled with anxiety, worry, concern, and expectation? Many indeed are the reasons for concern, but we must never lose hope. We too cry out "*O Emmanuel!*" and in accordance to the strength of our faith shall we be heard.

December 17



Wisdom

O Wisdom who camest out of the mouth of the Most High, reaching from end to end ordering all things mightily and sweetly: come and teach us the way of prudence!

December 18



Adonai

O Adonai and Leader of the house of Israel, who didst appear to Moses in the flame of the burning bush, and didst give unto him the law on Sinai: come, and with an outstretched arm redeem us!

December 19



Root of Jesse

O Root of Jesse who standest for an ensign of the people, before whom kings shall keep silence, and unto whom the gentiles shall make their supplication: come to deliver us and tarry not!

December 20



Key of David

O Key of David and Scepter of the house of Israel, who openest and no man shutteth, who shuttest and no man openeth: come and bring forth from his prison-house the captive that sitteth in darkness and in the shadow of death.

December 21



Dawn

O Dawn of the East, brightness of the light eternal, and Sun of Justice, come and enlighten them that sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

December 22



King

O King of the Gentiles and the desired of them, Thou cornerstone that maketh both one, come and deliver man, whom Thou didst form out of the dust of the earth.

December 23



Emmanuel

O Emmanuel our King and Lawgiver, the expected of the nations and their Savior, come to save us, O Lord our God.

Hymn for the First Sunday of Advent

Sung after the 10:00 AM Mass

(All Please Stand)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el And ran - som
2. O come now, wis - dom from on high, Who or - ders



1. cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
2. all things might - i - ly; To us the path of



1. ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
2. know - ledge show And teach us in your way to go.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!