

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 9, 2007 – Purple

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

Weekly Bulletin #1018

THE HOLY SEASON OF ADVENT

The Second Sunday of Advent

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



WHY MY RESTLESS HEART?

Our desire for happiness cannot be satisfied in this life, and our inability to satisfy our desire for happiness is, in itself, a torment. It is a torment because, as it seems, every effort of ours towards happiness is perpetually frustrated. Pains of every sort surround us constantly, and they never allow us to be at peace, they never permit us to enjoy for long a state of contentment. When the woes of life – death, hurt feelings, sickness, loss of friends, poverty, defeat, and all the rest – press upon us we are keenly sensitive to the pain they cause. Our attention is wholly absorbed by this pain. When the death of a loved one strikes us, our conscious moments are filled with grief. When hurt feelings, sickness, loss of friends, poverty, and all the rest crash upon us, our minds can think of nothing else. Our attention is so totally absorbed by the pain that faces us, we are conscious of no other desire in our being save that of escaping the sufferings that plague us. In our analysis of the situations at hand, we come to the conclusion that we are the prey to misfortune and pain, and that our unwanted trials and tribulations are the sole obstacles to our well-being. We are of the belief that were our trials to come to an end, we would possess the happiness that we are looking for. We are of the belief that we were created for happiness. In truth we were created for happiness, but not the happiness that we seek after – the well-being that we would like to have in this present existence.

We fail to realize that even if we were to enjoy perfect health of body and mind, and if we were to escape the sorrows caused by separation and death; even were we to be exempt from the grief provoked by the sufferings of those dear to us; even if we were to live in that happy condition which should give us free scope to enjoy the pleasures of intellect and imagination – even were we to know no sorrow or pain or loss, and were we at the same time to be provided with all things – all the luxuries, all the conveniences, all the fun things, all the finest of foods, all the vacations our travel agents can present to us, all the trips on land or sea or air – all things which can minister to our physical and mental well-being, we would still be a prey to restless longings and unsatisfied cravings. The richest of people are amongst the saddest of people on earth: always on the search, and always disappointed! All those things that a man can possess may become his, but they cannot become himself – they are of man but they cannot be man. No matter how perfectly they may be possessed they will always remain external to him – they will always remain something that he will have to leave; they will always remain something that someone can take away from him. They will always be nothing more than what he can own, his property, but they cannot perfect him in himself! They will never fill that void that exists within himself. For, even though he may not realize it, it is his own perfection that man is always instinctively reaching out after in all his restless strivings – OR RATHER IT IS GOD, WHO ALONE CAN COMPLETE AND PERFECT MAN! (Continued on page two)

We are unhappy because we are not perfect, and we are not perfect because we have not that fullness of existence for which we crave and for which we have the capacity. But money – all the money in the world – cannot purchase that fullness. Perfection means fullness of life, and fullness of life means complete happiness. Every natural thing – every living thing – reaches out after the possession and enjoyment of the fullest measure of existence of which it is capable. We, by our Baptism, are made participants in a higher than created nature. We, in a wonderful manner, are made sharers in a divine form of existence, and our hunger remains unsatisfied until union with that divine form is achieved. All the restless, feverish strivings after something, we know not what, that we experience constantly within ourselves, are provoked by the deep-seated fundamental realization of the emptiness of our being, its profound limitations, its terribly unfilled capacities, and its own utter insufficiency. No matter how hard we try; no matter how much money we spend; no matter how many trips we take to exotic places; the answer always remain the same: no rest! St. Augustine said: “My soul shall remain restless, until it rests in Thee, Oh Lord!” □

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. Wednesday, December 12, 2007, is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (*Roman calendar*).
4. **Next 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.**
5. **N.B.:** Do not forget the Blessing of Bread Ceremony scheduled for after the 10:00 AM Mass in the Abbey Church on the Fourth Sunday of Advent.
6. 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
7. **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.
8. **Early Notice:** Monday, December 24, 2007, is the Vigil of Christmas and is a day of fast and abstinence.
9. **Early Notice:** Miss Elizabeth Smith will carry the Baby Jesus and place Him in the Crib during the Christmas Eve Midnight Mass.
10. **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.**
11. 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.
12. **MASSES FOR THE WEEK:** (Father Abbot Leonard’s schedule only)
 - SUNDAY: For the people of our Chapels
 - MONDAY: Deceased Lambert Gerding
 - TUESDAY: For the Poor Souls in Purgatory
 - WEDNESDAY: For Mary Jane Coinn
 - THURSDAY: Deceased Arnold LaMare
 - FRIDAY: Special intention of Gloria Harris
 - SATURDAY: Special intention of Bishop Robert McKenna, OP

A Thought To Remember ...

From a very early age our children must be taught, and therefore learn, to understand that our religion must be the working frame of reference for everything we do in daily life. In this matter, consistent good example and correct teaching are the awesome responsibility of the parents.

ADVENT WREATH BLESSING
Second Sunday of Advent

All: A thrilling voice by Jordan rings,
Rebuking guilt and darksome things:
Vain dreams of sin and visions fly:
Christ in His might shines forth on high!

Priest: People of Sion, behold the Lord shall come to save the nations
and the Lord shall make the glory of His voice to be heard in the
joy of your heart.

Priest: *∇*. Give ear, O Thou that rulest Israel.
People: *Ⲡ*. Thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep.

Priest: *∇*. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.
People: *Ⲡ*. At it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen.

Priest: LET US PRAY: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the ways
of Thine only-begotten Son, that through His coming we may be
worthy to serve Him with purified minds.

People: Amen. *(Priest lights second candle)*

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.

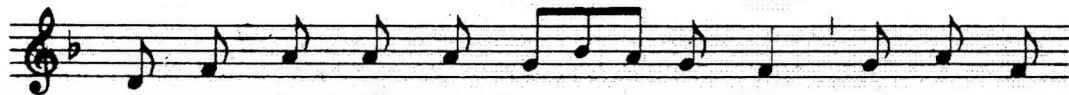
NB: Anyone receiving Holy Communion at the Christmas Midnight Mass may NOT receive Holy Communion again at a later Mass on Christmas Day.

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

Hymn for the Second Sunday of Advent

Sung after the 10:00 AM Mass — all please stand

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



3. O come, O come, our Lord of might, Who to your

4. O come now, Rod of Jesse's stem, From every



3. tribes on Sinai's height In ancient times did

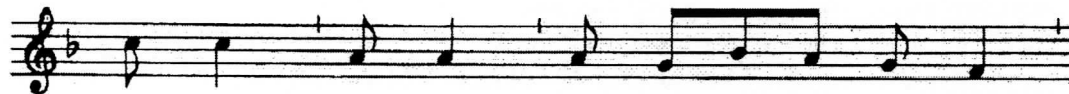
4. foe deliver them That trust your mighty



3. give the law In cloud and majesty and awe.

4. power to save, And give them victory o'er the grave.

Refrain



Re-joice! Re-joice! Emmanuel



Shall come to you, O Israel!