

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

QUINQUAGESIMA SUNDAY

February 3, 2008 – Purple

Mass of Sunday; no Gl; Cr; Pref. Holy Trinity; comm. St. Blaise

Weekly Bulletin #1027

Ash Wednesday

Lent

In Middle English, the language of earlier times, the word "Lent" had the meaning of "spring." To us whose training has been English in nature, the English language has become our "mother tongue." For us, the word "Lent" has come to mean the period of time before the Passion and Death of our Lord. In other languages other words are used to mark off the sacred period which we call Lent. In the Latin language there is no word from which the word Lent might be derived from.

Spring means "new birth." It means a fresh start. The spring winds shake off the deadwood from the trees in the forests. Catholics, imbued with the atmosphere constructed around the life of Jesus Christ, are especially sensitive to the significance of all things which promote holiness of living. They are quick to grab up the analogy here put forth and apply it with its proper religious significance. True Catholics, people who know and follow the religious teachings of our religion, look upon living with serious determination. They also understand that the path of our earthly pilgrimage is serious, most serious, indeed. For those of other inclinations and persuasions, life is looked upon in various ways. The different persuasions determining the attitude taken towards the journey of life, affect all of us, especially Catholics not well grounded in our faith, and we find ourselves on a steady religious decline, depending on our changing moods. For those well grounded in our faith, proper motivation produces a wholesome attitude toward Lent and all things religious.

While rededication is by no means confined to the six weeks of Lent, our Holy Catholic Religion uses the period of Lent as a special time for her children to reassess their commitment to Christ and the things that pertain to Christ. Turning to Christ is determined not so much by the activities of the mind, as by the stimulations which originate in the heart and which are motivated by love. The fires of love are kept going only by the will, by effort, hard work, penance, mortification, and, oftentimes, by suffering. To love Jesus Christ means to desire to take on the life of Jesus Christ, and His life was a life of mortification and suffering and even death. It was His love for us that led Him along this painful and arduous path.

Unfortunately, one of the signs of modern times is soft living – a "painless" existence given to pleasure and "good times." The computer has exposed all of us to a quick push-button existence. Consequences are of little consequence to the majority of us all. Money is, for many people today, rather too easily available, and this adds to the mindless mindset so common today. Love for God and His Son, our Redeemer, expects not an ease-filled, lackadaisical "religious" way of living but a life of serious religious observation and commitment. Prayer without self-sacrifice is quite limp and proves nothing worthwhile in the eyes of our loving God.

Discipline, strict discipline, is required for a life dedicated to holiness and concerned about eternal salvation. How fortunate for us that there is such a time called Lent, a time which provides us with sentiments of a more disciplined and penitential attitude and is more conducive to mortification, sacrifice, penance, and serious prayer. Lent is a time, indeed, for the renewal of an earnest desire to make a fresh start in life. □