

In this age of apostasy, confusion, indifference, and difficulty in attending the true Mass, the faithful must set a high value upon the practice of spiritual Communion. It was the only possible form of Communion for the early Christians who were often unable to attend daily Mass in the time of persecution; it has been the Communion of the imprisoned, of the martyrs, and of the hermits, throughout the ages. And it is, or may become, the only form of Communion for many of us in the future. To those who have understood the central place of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and the Most Blessed Sacrament in Christianity, the doctrine of spiritual Communion gives them a means of sharing in the fruits of the Sacrifice of the Mass and the Holy Eucharist wherever they may be, for the greater glory of God and for the redemption and sanctification of souls, their own first and foremost. "By it," writes St. Leonard of Port-Maurice, "many souls have attained to high perfection." The sick, or those not near a church, or anyone who has some other legitimate (physical or moral), reason for the impossibility of communicating sacramentally, the practice and benefits of spiritual Communion should be most consoling. Pope Pius XII writes: "The Church wishes in the first place that Christians – especially when they cannot easily receive Holy Communion – should do so at least by desire, so that with renewed faith, reverence, humility, and complete trust in the goodness of the divine Redeemer, they may be united to Him in the spirit of the most ardent charity." If spiritual Communion is made with great fervor, it drives boredom and sadness out of the soul, filling it with peace and serenity. It will powerfully help us to receive the Holy Eucharist with more fervor. It will greatly increase our union with Our Lord and obtain for us the grace and light we need to save and sanctify our soul in this confusing and spiritually dangerous world. "How praiseworthy it would be if this form of devotion were more widespread, especially among those who are deprived of sacramental Communion!" writes Fr. Perret, but alas, "It is regrettable that many people, even those who demonstrate great piety, do not seem to appreciate this form of devotion. They would not overlook it if they were more concerned about their progress in virtue." □

✠ IMPORTANT NOTICE ✠

CONFIRMATION

January 25, 2009, Second Sunday after Epiphany

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be administered, for those in regular attendance at our traditional Roman Catholic Chapels in Alabama, here in our Abbey Church on January 25, 2009. The matter of the reception of the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation (and Matrimony) remains the obligation and responsibility of the father and mother of the one to be administered to. The grandparents are not the responsible parties, nor are they the ones to make the arrangements, since they are not the ones responsible before God for the upbringing of the child. ***It is most necessary and important that at least one of the PARENTS of the child to be Baptized or Confirmed regularly attend one of our Chapels.*** For justifiable reasons, if the request for Baptism or Confirmation comes from elsewhere other than our own Chapels, then the PARENTS (***NOT*** the grandparents) must submit a statement in writing from the priest in charge of their traditional Chapel, stating that they – the parents – regularly attend the specified Chapel, and that he (the priest) is in agreement with the Sacrament being administered here at Christ the King Abbey in Alabama. If this cannot be verified, **PLEASE DO NOT ASK.**

Baptismal Certificates are necessary for the reception of Confirmation and must be presented **BEFORE** any arrangements are made. Unexpected arrivals should not expect to be admitted to the Sacrament of Confirmation.

In matters concerning the Sacrament of Matrimony, the same rules – with the necessary adjustments – apply and must be honored by everyone. If these rules cannot be honored, **PLEASE DO NOT ASK.**

"In the Latin Church Confirmation should not be conferred until about the seventh year, although it may be conferred sooner if the infant is in danger of death, or if its administration seems to the minister justified for good and serious reasons. No other situations are admitted for the administration of the sacrament at an age earlier than about seven. On the other hand, the bishop may not forbid the reception of the sacrament before the age of ten years." (*The Administration of the Sacraments*, Nicholas Halligan, O.P., Chap. III, # 20)

1. **CATECHISM CLASS:** Children 6 to 14 please meet Father Joseph in the vestibule right after the 10:00 Mass.
2. Please pray for all the Sick and Shut-ins of our Chapels. Let us pray for **EVERYONE**. **Let us especially pray for all the war victims, both soldiers and civilians, who are suffering death, injury, and destruction at the hands of their leaders. May God show His merciful Face quickly.**
3. **MASSES FOR THE WEEK:** (Father Abbot Leonard's schedule only)

SUNDAY:	For the People of our Chapels
MONDAY:	Deceased Yvonne Brazell
TUESDAY:	Deceased Candy Caldron
WEDNESDAY:	In Thanksgiving, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Holup
THURSDAY:	Deceased Anna Rita Huelskamp
FRIDAY:	Deceased Alex Commings
SATURDAY:	For the Poor Souls in Purgatory

A Thought To Remember ...

Our purpose in this life is **NOT** to work to prove everything that is wrong with our neighbor.
Our singular purpose in this life must be to learn how to love God and save our souls!