

Christ the King Abbey

(Traditional Benedictines)

Cullman, Alabama

www.ChristTheKingAbbey.org

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

Saint Pius V Chapel

Birmingham, Alabama

9:30 AM

Every Sunday except
first Sunday of each month

PASSION SUNDAY

March 29, 2009 – Purple
Mass of Sunday; no Gl; Cr;
Preface Holy Cross

Weekly Bulletin #1088

*O Lord, uphold us and
our absent brethren.*

JUDAS

The Apostles, in spite of all their short-comings were most delightful; they were so very charming in their simplicity and in the devotedness of their rough, yet tender hearts. We cannot spare one single word they say. We cannot fault one single act of their loving ambitions or faulty zeal. Had it not been for them we would never have come to know our Blessed Lord as we do. It is most encouraging to find that in spite of His teaching and blessed example, at all times before their eyes, they remained for a long time such ignorant and imperfect men. It helps us to see them struggling with the same passions we also have to fight, and like us again and again do they fall into the same faults.

One, only one, among His twelve, disappointed the Master and lay like a dead weight on His Sacred and Blessed Heart, the one on whom all of Our Lord's teaching and good example and merciful power were all thrown away; the one who hardened himself more and more, especially after the prospects of an earthly kingdom and of self advancement to power and self promotion all seemed to be vanishing. JUDAS! Judas Iscariot remained indeed in the little company and followed his Master still, but in body and worldly promotion only. Judas had long since ceased to care for what Christ stood for, and Who He was Who had called him. The life of Judas was ALL PRETENCE! The life of Judas was all lie! and evil deceit! Judas's teaching of the people, his conversations with our Lord, his prayers with the others - - all was acting! We never find him asking questions like the rest, when their Master was instructing them. He did not care to learn, for he did not mean to improve himself spiritually. He listened but with sour-temper and "endured" what was being taught. There was only one thing he really cared for and that was money. In like manner did self importance and power dominate his every act. Little by little he had let his love for money and self importance take possession of him, till at last like a volcanic eruption all his thought was to get it, no matter how! The security of the small Apostolic Band which had been placed in his hands, and the purse which contained the alms given for the support of our Lord and the Apostles was also under his control, as was his freedom to control. All he wanted was control. At times he was afraid as he went about taking from the true welfare of the Apostles and his Lord and Master. He knew — indeed — he had to know that our Lord knew of his operation, and feared that at some point our Lord might scold him before his fellow Apostles. But as time went on and his Master said nothing, at least in public, he grew bolder and moved on and on in the direction of his own welfare and interest.

We all know how Jesus loved Judas, and tenderly. He had welcomed him to be an Apostle because He loved him and saw in him what pleased Him, but He warned him again and again in careful words that the poison of the insatiable desire to advance himself was killing all of the great good that was in him. He kept him in His company, He treated him like the rest. He sent him out to preach and to teach, and gave him power to cast out devils, and to cure, and spoke kindly to him. Christ trusted Judas. Christ tried hard to win him - but alas, all in vain. The agony He felt at the gradual falling away of His poor, miserable Apostle comes out when He speaks of His coming passion. He mentions only a few of the sufferings that were in store for Him, and the sharpest, and the bitterest. He mentioned the pains of His soul, the mocking and the spitting, the hatred and the betrayal, this last was the worst. Christ could bear insult and cruelty, but betrayal, especially from one of His own was indeed most painful! Oh, the anguish there is in those words at the last Supper: "Amen, I say to you, one of you shall betray Me!