

TRADITIONAL CHAPELS IN ALABAMA

Our Lady of Lourdes
Roman Catholic Chapel
Montgomery, Alabama

St. Francis of Assisi
Roman Catholic Chapel
Cullman, Alabama

St. Pius V
Roman Catholic Chapel
Birmingham, Alabama

S C H E D U L E O F M A S S E S

10:30 A.M. - Rosary
10:45 A.M. - Mass
(ONLY on First Sunday
of each month)

6:00 A.M. - Mass
(EVERY SUNDAY)
12:30 P.M. - Mass
(EXCEPT on first
Sunday of each month)

9:10 A.M. - Rosary
9:30 A.M. - Mass
(EXCEPT on first
Sunday of each month)

The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
The Last Sunday after Pentecost
November 22, 1992 - - - Green

Weekly Bulletin #255

THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, and we are reminded of the situation which will prevail at the end of time. Personal holiness of life should be each one's main concern. If there be holiness in us, we need not dread the end time. Only those without holiness fear those days. For one to be of proper preparation and disposition, one must have clearly in mind that God WANTS him to be holy, and that one does not listen to such objections about not wanting to be holier than anyone else. We must look to OURSELVES when it comes to the very delicate matter of personal holiness. How other people respond to the CALL OF HOLINESS is SIMPLY NOT OUR BUSINESS. We must look after OUR OWN ANSWER to the CALL to holiness and not make guesses as to what others are doing about theirs. DO NOT wait to respond to God's Grace! We have heard how St. Augustine prayed, 'Lord, make me holy - but not just yet'; St. Augustine was taking a great risk. You can go on saying 'not yet' for so long that you forget what it was that you prayed for. In the same way you can go on saying, 'I can't bring myself to take it on,' for so long that you come in the end to believe it - - and then, of course, you cease to feel the urge to take it on. So it HAS TO BE NOW, and it has to be BY GOD'S GRACE I CAN DO ALL THINGS IN HIM WHO STRENGTHENS ME!!!

H A P P Y T H A N K S G I V I N G ! ! !

1. A custom of VERY LONG STANDING permits meat to be eaten on the Friday which follows Thanksgiving Day, reason being to prevent waste of food. The same applies to us, and the people of our chapels all have the permission to eat meat on Friday after Thanksgiving.
Thanksgiving day is not necessarily a religious day, yet most people, even Catholics observe it in some way or another - usually by eating a great deal. Let us not overlook it, but rather use it to our advantage and that of Our Loving Father. What is wrong with setting aside one certain day in order to give special Thanksgiving to God????? Let it be a day of prayer!
2. The Christmas Mailing is about to take place. Please pray for the success of it, so that we can progress safely with the construction of our Abbey Church.
3. Please pray for the Sick and Shut-Ins of our Chapels, especially remembering Al Sachs and Walter Kotylo.
4. Please order 1993 Calendars now @ \$4.00 per Calendar. Contact:
Laurelyn Niebuhr in Birmingham
Mrs. Paul Roy in Montgomery
Father Leonard in Cullman.
5. MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

SUNDAY:	6:00 A.M.	For Prayer Promises and Benefactors
	9:30 A.M.	For the People of the Chapels
	12:30 P.M.	For the Poor Souls in Purgatory
MONDAY:	Dec. Thomas Boike, B.day	
TUESDAY:	Dec. Sister Regina Campbell, O.S.B. Anniv.	
WEDNESDAY:	Special Int. of the Donor	
THURSDAY:	Special Int. Mrs. Robert Brown	
FRIDAY:	For the Russnak Family	
SATURDAY:	Special Int. Mary Claire Moore	

THE HOLY SEASON OF ADVENT

Most popular of the Advent customs handed down to us is the Advent wreath made of evergreens. The wreath represents the cycle of thousands of years from Adam to Christ during which the world awaited the coming of a Redeemer. The wreath bears four candles, equally spaced, three purple ones to be lighted on the 'penitential' Sundays, and a rose-colored one for GAUDATE SUNDAY, the joyful Sunday in Advent. Candles may be placed inside or outside the wreath.

During Advent, time should be spent reading from Sacred Scripture. Therefore, certain readings have been selected and are suggested for Advent reading. These readings are taken from various of the Prophets, and they foretell the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ. The best time for such reading is during the lighting of the Advent wreath. The entire Family should be gathered around the wreath, and all should take part in the ceremony. This can be done at any convenient time. The Father (or in his absence the Mother) should be the leader

Wednesday, Friday and Saturday of the Third week are Ember Days. These are special days and they are days of Fasting and Abstinence. This means that no meat may be eaten on these days. These are days, also, of special prayers.

Various home ceremonies on Christmas Eve are perhaps the easiest of all to establish. Where children are very small they are the surest link between Altar and home. If they believe in Santa Claus, this emphasis on Christmas as the Feast of Baby Jesus and His Birthday will focus their thoughts on the Holy Child. A suggested practice is for the older members of the family to gather in a darkened living room. All might be holding lighted candles. Through the halls, the children with lighted candles come in a procession carrying the Infant JESUS for the living room crib, while all sing "Silent Night". The crib should have been built and carefully prepared sometime earlier during Advent. The assistance of the youngest child in this project of building the crib for Baby Jesus is most important. By the time the children reach the living room the Father of the Family is ready to light the tree. As soon as the Infant Jesus has been placed in the crib, one of the members of the Family reads from the Roman Martyrology:

On the First Sunday of Advent, the Family gathers for the blessing of the Advent wreath by the Father of the Family.

Father: Our help is in the Name of the Lord.

All: Who made heaven and earth.

Father: Let us pray: O God, by Whose Word all things are sanctified, pour forth Thy blessing upon this wreath, and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from Thee abundant graces. Through Christ our Lord. ALL: Amen.

(He sprinkles the wreath with Holy Water. Then the youngest child lights the first candle, and the prayer for the first week is said.)

Father: Let us pray: Stir up Thy might, we beg Thee, O Lord, and come, so that we may escape through Thy protection and be saved by Thy help from the dangers that threaten us because of our sins. Through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

(During the first week one candle is left burning during the evening meal. Two candles are lighted on the second Sunday and allowed to burn as before.)

Father: Let us pray: O Lord, stir up our hearts that we may prepare for Thy only begotten Son, that through His coming we may be made worthy to serve Thee with pure souls. Through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

(Three candles, including the rose candle, are lighted on Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday, and during that week. The following prayer is said:)

Father: Let us pray: We humbly beg Thee, O Lord, to listen to our prayers; and by the grace of Thy coming bring light into our darkened minds. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

(All four candles are lighted on the fourth Sunday, and burn as said before.)

Father: Let us pray: Stir up Thy might, we pray Thee, O Lord, and come; rescue us through Thy great strength so that salvation, which has been hindered by our sins, may be hastened by the grace of Thy gentle mercy. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

ADVENT READINGS

FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT:

Monday Isaiah: Chap. 2 (1-5)
Tuesday Isaiah: Chap. 11 (1-10)
Wednesday Zephaniah: Chap. 3 (14-20)
Thursday Isaiah: Chap. 61 (1-11)
Friday Isaiah: Chap. 7 (10-14)
Saturday Isaiah: Chap. 35 (1-10)

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT:

Monday Isaiah: Chap. 62 (11-12)
Tuesday Micah: Chap. 5 (1-4)
Wednesday St. Luke Chap. 1 (26-38)
Thursday St. Luke Chap. 1 (39-45)
Friday St. Luke Chap. 1 (46-56)
Saturday St. Luke Chap. 1 (57-66)

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT:

Monday Isaiah: Chap. 64 (1-11)
Tuesday Jeremiah: Chap. 3 (14-16)
Wednesday St. Paul to the Philippians
Chap. 4 (4-9)
Thursday Baruch: Chap. 5 (1-9)
Friday Isaiah: Chap. 40 (1-12)
Saturday Isaiah: Chap. 52 (7-10)

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT:

Monday St. Luke Chap. 3 (1-6)
Tuesday St. Paul to the Romans
Chap. 1 (1-6)
Wednesday St. Luke Chap. 1 (67-80)
Thursday***CHRISTMAS EVE*****

St. Matthew Chap. 1 (18-25)
Friday ***CHRISTMAS DAY*****

St. Luke Chap. 2 (1-14)

AFTER THE READING SCHEDULED TO BE READ ON CHRISTMAS EVE, THE FOLLOWING CEREMONY TAKES PLACE - - - TO BE LED BY THE FATHER OF THE FAMILY OR THE MOTHER.

"In the forty-second year of the Empire of Octavian Augustus, in the Sixth Age of the world while all the earth was as peace, JESUS CHRIST, Eternal God, and Son of the Eternal Father, willed to consecrate the world by His gracious coming; having been conceived of the Holy Ghost, and the nine months since His conception having now passed (ALL KNEEL), He was born as Man of the Virgin Mary at Bethlehem of Juda.

(READ VERY SOLEMNLY):

THE BIRTHDAY ACCORDING TO THE FLESH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

After this has been completed, the Father of the Family blesses the Christmas Tree.

He says:

"Let us Pray:

O Lord Jesus Christ, Who by dying on the tree of the Cross didst overcome the death of sin caused by our first parents' eating of the forbidden tree of paradise, bless this our Christmas Tree, so that in its use we can obtain even more of the Graces of Thy Nativity. Keep Thy holy peace and joy in our home and be with us forever. Amen.

The next day (Christmas Day), after all have given glory to God and to His Son Jesus Christ by attending the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, at a convenient hour, all should gather around the Christmas Tree once again, and all of Santa's gifts are opened.