

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 (<u>ONLY</u> on First Sunday of each month)	6:00 A.M. - Mass (EVERY SUNDAY) 12:30 P.M. - Mass (<u>EXCEPT</u> on first Sunday of each month)	9:10 A.M. - Rosary 9:30 A.M. - Mass (<u>EXCEPT</u> on first Sunday of each month)

SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY

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SEPTUAGESIMA

'Let us change our garments for ashes and sackcloth:

let us fast and lament before the Lord: for plenteous

in mercy is our God to forgive our sins.'

(Joel 2:13)

1. Today is SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY and the beginning of the PENITENTIAL SEASON OF LENT. The Festive Season of Christmas is now over, and the white and gold of the Christmas Season, has been turned to the purple and violet of the Lenten Season.

The proper atmosphere of the Season of lent is the atmosphere of fasting, sacrifice, penance, mortification, reparation. Such acts are proper and certainly praiseworthy, but what is more important is that we must have a correct mental attitude. Acts do not make one to be holy. Attitude of mind will bring holiness down upon a soul (or the opposite - corruption). When we look to the saints for example, we must study what is the really important part about saints and that sanctity is not due to a lot of fierce mortifications (or a lot of wonderful visions.). The really important part concerning sanctity is the giving of oneself to God - surrendering and STAYING surrendered. The fierce penances were taken up by the saints to show God that soft living is not what they wanted that a share in the sufferings of Christ IS what they wanted, and that they want to help the world by making reparation for the sins of mankind. Love and atonement are at the back of such fasting and acts of mortification. It was not that by fasting and mortification that the saints thought they could crash their way to sanctity; it was rather that they felt uncomfortable trying to follow our Lord by any but the hard way.

When St. Catherine of Siena was offered by our Lord the choice between the crown of roses and the crown of thorns, she chose at once the crown of thorn. She would not have committed the least sin if she had chosen the roses - our Lord had said she could take whichever she liked - but she knew that the thorns brought her nearer to Christ. She did not say 'Roses are worldly, and I renounce them as a sinful indulgence'; she said - rather - 'Roses are lovely, but I would feel

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