

**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
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**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)		9:10 A.M. - Rosary 9:30 A.M. - Mass ( <u>EXCEPT</u> on first Sunday of each month)
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THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT  
LAETARE SUNDAY - - - Rose  
March 17, 1996

Weekly Bulletin # 394

When we have decided that God is calling us to penance, the procedure is much the same as when we have decided that God is calling us to prayer. We give our whole selves to penance - - to HIM - - and LEAVE THE DETAILS TO BE ARRANGED AS THE OCCASION ARISES. When we do otherwise, our entire procedure becomes mechanical, artificial and takes on the manufactured look that so much of our devotion has taken on over the past few years. Just as we do not approach the question of prayer by deciding to practice this or that devotion, so we do not approach the question of penance by deciding to renounce this or that appetite. True penance does not demand that one has to fast, or "do without" this or that. Neither does it expect that one has to wear a hairshirt. It is natural to see penance in this regimented and severe way, both in regard to prayer and the penances themselves, and perhaps it is the particular observance or devotion in either case that first attracts us to the general idea; but the only and realistic way of approaching prayer and penance with ANY HOPY OR PERSEVERANCE is with the open mind and with the surrender of the whole self. The man who surrenders himself to God is thereby renouncing a claim upon himself; he is meaning to transfer a personal right; he is handing over to God what has been lent to him by God. He is telling God that in fact he has no personal rights, and that what independence he has enjoyed up till now he wants to see subjected to the unqualified control of Grace. He is putting himself where he belongs - - in the Hands of God!!

1. During Lent, Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, every Friday evening at 7:00 P.M. in the Abbey Church.
2. Beginning with the First Saturday of May, 1996 there will be an 8:00 A.M. Mass in the Abbey Church for the convenience of those who wish to make the First Saturdays.
3. Please pray for all the Sick and Shut-Ins of our Chapels, especially remembering Al Sachs, Woody Flemming, Ethyl Wallace and Mary Richie.
4. The beautiful new VOTIVE LAMP STAND which is located in the Lady Chapel of the Abbey Church was donated by Mrs. Sam Ayala and Mrs. Jacquelin Cummins. If anyone is interested in a mate to it to be placed in St. Joseph's Chapel, please contact the Abbot. The monks are very grateful to Mrs. Ayala and Mrs. Cummins.
5. As to the matter of the EASTER DUTY, this cannot be taken lightly, nor can anyone free himself (AUTOMATICALLY) from the obligation. It is clear that one is in a state of serious sin if one neglects to attend to the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist during the Easter Time. How can one classify himself a true member of the Catholic Church if such a one finds this least observance an unnecessary burden?

The discussion of Penance noted above, has no connection  
with the SACRAMENT OF PENANCE MENTIONED HERE.

*Laetare Sunday*