

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.
10:00 A.M.
Every Sunday
6:00 A.M.
7:00 P.M.
Holy Days

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

THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Weekly Bulletin #429

November 17, 1996 - - - WHITE

Feast of St. Gertrude

Mass of St. Gertrude: Gl; Orat (1) Feast (2) 25th Sun (in some books
Additional Mass #4; in some 6th Sun after Epip) (3) Against Storms;
Cr; Pref. Common; Last Gosp - Sun.

For the past many weeks the subject under consideration has been PENANCE (mortification - - self denial). Now we must move on to the subject of PRAYER. Penance has to be understood before we can understand prayer. Penance must be the ordinary practice before effective prayer can become part of any true Catholic's religious observance. We here are not speaking of prayers. We speak here of PRAYER. We seek God!! Without mortification one does not find God. Without mortification there is no prayer. It is as necessary for us to practice both PRAYER and PENANCE (self-denial) with fixed regularity, as it is to have two wings in order to fly. Both must help, support and supply one another. Both are parts of one whole. Without mortification of self there is no real prayer. Even if one does pray but without mortification, one does not find God. The unmortified man seeks God in prayer and does not find Him. God Himself seeks the mortified man, because his heart is purified and fitted for union with God, Who longs more than we ourselves to impart Himself to us and unite us to Himself. God seeks only a pure and mortified heart. At the same time it is also just as true that we cannot mortify ourselves without prayer. Mortification is hard and only God's grace can make it possible and easy. But that grace comes with and by prayer. He who will be a prudent and wise man, therefore, if he is of the mind to build his house of SPIRITUALITY on firm ground, must build on the rock of prayer and self-denial-- P E N A N C E!!

Please keep in mind that we do not here speak of ACTS of penance, or the recitation of many prayers. We speak here of a LIFE-STYLE OF PENANCE AND PRAYER.

1. ABOUT DEVOTIONAL CONFESSIONS: Thanks be to God, there are those souls who have been given the grace of freedom from serious sin, and who do not have need for the reception of the Sacrament of Penance. However, these same wish to receive the Sacrament of Penance and thereby partake of the graces received in the act of confession. The question comes up: How does one go about receiving the Sacrament of Penance in such a situation. Answer: Nothing changes, notify the priest that the confession is a devotional confession, mention the fact that no serious sin has been committed since the last confession. However, you need mention the fact also that you are including a sin (any sin) of your past life for which you are quite sorry. The reason for this is that the priest must have something to forgive for the sacrament to take effect. Then you conclude the confession in the manner that is your custom.
2. Thursday, November 21,, 1996 is the Presentation of Our Lady.
3. Please pray for all the Sick and Shut-Ins of our Chapels, especially remembering Al Sachs.
4. Saturday, December 7, 1996 is the Vigil of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of our Blessed Mother. It is a day of Fast and Abstinence.
5. Sunday, December 1, 1996 is the FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT.
6. Confessions are heard before Masses on Sunday.