

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-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Weekly Bulletin # 482
(Mass of Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
or- Additional Mass #4)

November 16, 1997 - - - Green

Mass of Sunday: G1; Or. Sun, A Cun., Ch., A Domo; Cr. Pref Trinity.

FAMILY ADVENT CUSTOMS

The real sweetness of Christmas has all but been forgotten by our consumeristic mentality, which, to some measurable extent, everyone of us is addicted to. Our children have become victims of this temperament, and they very soon in life come to feel the chill that Christmas has placed upon them. At a very early age, because of the "toys" they have been given, our children have become quite precocious. The innocent and precious things of childhood have been set aside to give room to the grotesque computerized objects that now make up the world around them.

To the extent that we are able, we should try to keep the minds of our wonderful little children free of these inappropriate and harmful products of our present and unsettled age. When we work to help lengthen the innocence life span in our little ones, we actually work to our own benefit as well.

The very proper, innocent, and beautiful customs of Advent, some of them of ancient origins, can become sources of joy and excitement and expectation to our children - and to us as well. We might soon find ourselves becoming rather involved with the innocent Advent preparations. Having lost its child-like innocence, Christmas automatically became the largest consumeristic event of the entire year. Christmas is no longer charming, and its warmth is very much over before the arrival of the Central Event of the entire affair. Good Advent customs are a great help in the re-establishment of the holiness of the Christmas Event.

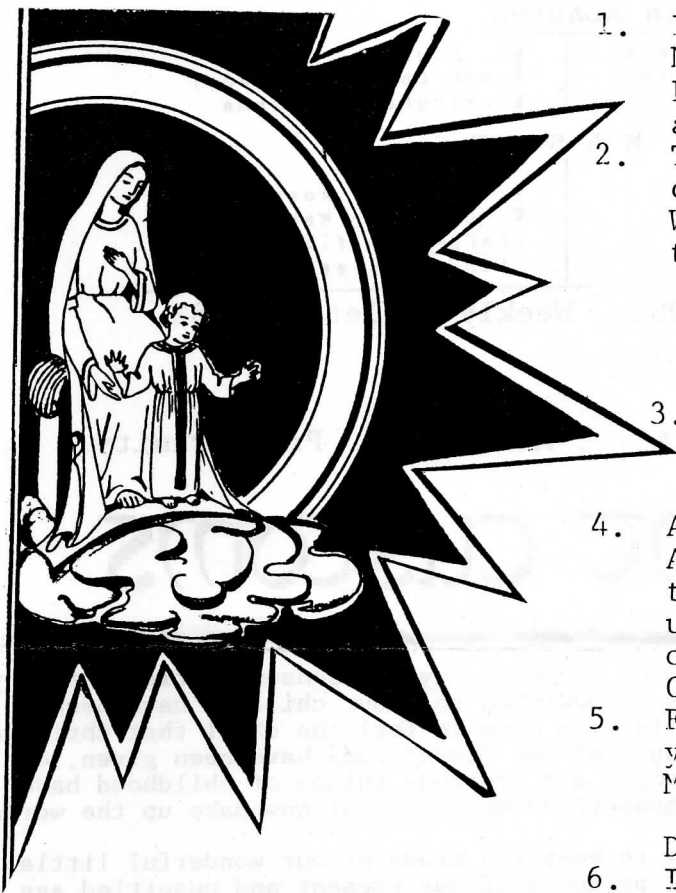
Perhaps the best known custom of Advent is the Advent Wreath. Originating in Germany several hundred years ago, the Wreath became a cherished custom for many families throughout the world. In recent years the Wreath's simplicity has been tempered with causing it to lose some of its child-like loveliness. For the Advent Wreath to be lovely, it must remain simple, and the services around it must be simple (even when only grown ups are involved). Children are quick to catch the beautiful symbolism of the Wreath and they are deeply impressed by it. Their anticipation of Christmas, the Birthday of Jesus, increases as the ceremonies progress with each new Advent Day. The Advent Readings lead everyone in the Family closer and closer to the wonderful Event.

Other customs have wonderful meaning as the atmosphere in the Family Circle continues to receive warmth from the several reminders found about the Home. Last year we spoke of the custom of the "Do-It-Yourself" Kit for the construction of the Christmas Crib. This year we shall speak of the construction of the Family Monastic Altar.

Yet another custom for the young members of the family might be the following:

Set aside a small flower pot - or shallow container - about 10 inches in diameter. Clean it thoroughly and decorate it as best you can - with the help of the children, or course. Fill it with fresh potting soil, and place it in some important spot near a window which receives good sunlight. As you take the Blessed Grains of Wheat home with you (available at Mass this Sunday) instruct your children that with each act of sacrifice performed in secret they are to plant ONE grain of wheat in the little pot. Beginning with the first Day of Advent, the little grains of wheat will develop tender green shoots by Christmas Day, each little green shoot a reminder of some small sacrifice made for the Baby Jesus. The Mother and Father must see to it that the tiny plants are properly watered with the water of close Family Affection. The growing wheat is placed at the crib and, with care, should last until Epiphany. Later it might be planted out of doors, and as it continues to develop, it remains a source of interest.

These are just some of the little things that pertain to Christmas, which if entered into in the proper spirit and intention, the entire Family will be kept busy as each new day offers more opportunities to give to the Infant Baby - King of Kings, Lord of Lords!!!



1. Please keep in mind that November is the Month dedicated to the Holy Souls in Purgatory. Our VERY special prayers and acts of mortification should be for them.
2. The 1998 Calendars are available. The cost of the Calendars will be \$6.00 per. We charge exactly what we have to pay for them.

As usual contact:

Mrs. Roy in Montgomery
 Mrs. Niebuhr in Birmingham
 Father Abbot in Cullman

3. Please remember the Sick and Shut-Ins of our Chapels, especially remembering Al Sachs and Ethel Wallace (Cullman)
4. As we prepare for the great Season of Advent, let us keep in mind our obligation to receive the Sacrament of Penance. Let us not receive our Blessed Lord and Saviour on Christmas Day without having gone to Confession.
5. FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, this year is on Monday. Early announcement: Masses in Cullman:
 6:00 A.M.; 8:00 A.M.; 7:00 P.M.
 December 8th. HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION.
6. It is a matter of GREAT NECESSITY that we pray for good and holy vocations for our Monastery and our Convent. We have surely

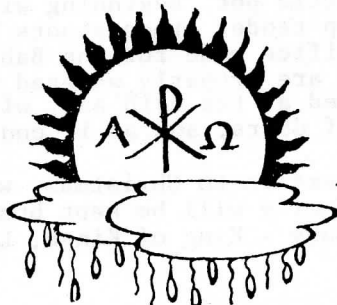
been blessed with Holy Ordinations to the Holy Priesthood. In itself, this must be looked upon as a miracle of God's Mercy, Love and Providence. But we must have more vocations in order that we as Monks and Nuns can live out the Benedictine Monastic Life to its fullest, and that we can begin to talk about one of the MAJOR works of the Monastery of Christ the King in Cullman:

P E R P E T U A L A D O R A T I O N O F T H E
 M O S T B L E S S E D S A C R A M E N T !

7. MASSES FOR THE WEEK: (Abbot Leonard;s Schedule Only)

SUNDAY:	For the People of the Chapels
MONDAY:	Dec. Cora Segura Cousins
TUESDAY:	Special Int. Mary Thomas
WEDNESDAY:	Special Int. Norman and Rose Kinnett
THURSDAY:	Special Int. Leslie Mittel
FRIDAY:	Special Int. Joan Pang
SATURDAY:	Special Int. Linnie Gantner

8. We Blessed enough packets of Wheat so that each Family can have the use of one packet. There are plenty grains of wheat in each packet.



RORATE
 COELI

Behold the Lord cometh down with
glory... to visit His people in peace
and establish them in everlasting life.

ADVENT

1997

SUGGESTED ADVENT READINGS

FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

Monday	Isaiah:	Chap. 2(1-5)
Tuesday	Psalm 146	
Wednesday	Isaiah:	Chap. 11(1-10)
Thursday	Psalm 85	
Friday	Zephaniah:	Chap. 3 (14-20)
Saturday	Isaiah:	Chap. 61 (1-11)

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

Monday	Isaiah:	Chap. 7 (10-14)
Tuesday	Isaiah:	Chap. 35 (1-10)
Wednesday	Isaiah:	Chap. 64 (1-11)
Thursday	Jeremiah:	Chap. 33 (14-16)
Friday	Psalm 72	
Saturday	Psalm 12	

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT -Gaudete

Monday	St. Paul to the Philippians:	
	Chap. 4 (4-9)	
Tuesday	Baruch:	Chap. 5 (1-9)
Wednesday	Isaiah:	Chap. 40 (1-12)
Thursday	Psalm 122	
Friday	Isaiah:	Chap. 52 (7-10)
Saturday	Isaiah:	Chap. 62 (11-12)

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

Monday	Micah:	Chap. 5 (1-4)
Tuesday	Isaiah:	Chap. 62 (1-5)
Wednesday	- - CHRISTMAS EVE - -	
	Isaiah:	Chap. 9(1-6)
Thursday	- -CHRISTMAS DAY - -	
	St. Matthew - GOSPEL	
	Chap. 1 (1-25)	

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 at 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 FOLLOWING:**)

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 - all full of beautiful decorations and things. 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 Holy 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 - wherever possible - - all should gather around the Christmas Tree once again, and all should open the various gifts brought there by none other than SANTA CLAUS.