

1. Tuesday, March 24, 1998 is the Feast of St. Gabriel the Archangel  
Wednesday, March 25, 1998 is the Feast of the Annunciation B.V.M.
2. Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament every Friday during Lent at 7:00 P.M.
3. Confessions are heard before Masses on Sunday.
4. Please pray for all the Sick and Shut-Ins of our Chapels, especially remembering Al Sachs.
5. On Friday 13, 1998, Reverend Father Bernard Patterson, O.S.B. Monk of St. Bernard Abbey in Cullman, Alabama, after a long and very painful sickness, died peacefully in Our Lord. Father Bernard was a wonderful monk and priest. Please pray for his soul. We will say the usual five Masses for Father Bernard.
6. Daylight Saving Time begins April 5, 1998 - PALM SUNDAY.
7. MASSES FOR THE WEEK: (Abbot Leonard's Schedule Only)
 

SUNDAY:	For the People of the Chapels
MONDAY:	Dec. John Bennett
TUESDAY:	Dec. Father Bernard Patterson, O.S.B. (I)
WEDNESDAY:	For the Poor Souls
THURSDAY:	Dec. Herman Schoborg
FRIDAY:	Dec. Juanita Whitledge
SATURDAY:	Dec. Louis De Mark

EARLY INFORMATION CONCERNING EASTER:

PALM SUNDAY: There will be NO MASS at St. Pius Chapel in Birmingham.  
There will be NO MASS at Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel in Montgomery.

The Masses will be in the Abbey Church ONLY on that day.

6:00 A.M. Mass as usual

10:00 A.M. Blessing of Palms and Procession  
Followed by Mass

EASTER SUNDAY: St. Francis Chapel (Abbey Church)  
- - - -6:00 A.M.  
10:00 A.M.

St. Pius V Chapel - - - -9:00 A.M.

Our Lady of Lourdes

Chapel - - 11:30 A.M.

(Father may be a bit late in arriving  
in Montgomery)

We cannot speak of sanctity so long as we place the need for personal comfort - - personal convenience - - personal contentment - - personal pleasure - - personal achievement - - personal preferment BEFORE the importance for personal penance - - personal mortification - - personal reparation. It is true and understood that penance, or mortification, or reparation is each a chastisement. It is true and understood that our natural inclinations shy away from chastisement and seek after the gratification of self. It is also true BUT NOT UNDERSTOOD that our Lord said: "If any man would be perfect, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me." Like it or not - - there is a cross waiting for each of us to carry, and carry it we must! To carry our cross with love for Christ is sanctity, and sanctity equals perfection; perfection equals sanctity. To carry our cross in hatred of it, or with bad love, or bad obedience, or bad charity, would be our damnation, because damnation equals self; self equals damnation. You cannot love self and Christ at the same time. "No man can serve two masters!"

Penance and mortification and reparation are not for monks or nuns alone. The faithful laity are obliged to them - as well. We are all sinners, therefore, we are all obliged to follow the same path to Calvary. Monks and nuns, because of their special calling and their special dedication have been called to carry heavier crosses, and monks and nuns, because of their special calling and their special dedication have been asked for a higher quality of love. But we must all comprehend that we still live and that we are not already burning in hell. We must understand that time has been given us for repentance and penance, and this owing to our Divine Lord Who before offering the Most Holy Sacrifice on the Cross, included us in His memento!!

We are no longer a mortified race, and our willingness to become mortified is quite perfunctory. How willing are we to mortify our desire for food and drink? How willing are we to mortify our demands for fun and pleasure? How willing are we to mortify our cravings for a soft life? How willing are we to mortify our leanings toward pride, covetousness, lust, anger, gluttony, envy or sloth? The list is endless.

The labor (and it is a labor) of mortification, of penance, of reparation, is more than the mere endurance of tedium. The labor is more than a simple fight against lack of interest. The labor is painful! The labor is enduring! When the saints write about these things they have little difficulty in convincing us that the martyrdom of the spirit is more crucifying than the martyrdom of the flesh. Yet - let us not forget - - "let him take up his cross daily!" But if we do not have a proper and good love for the cross - - IT IS ALL FOR NOTHING!

If Jesus Christ was required by His Heavenly Father to undergo the torments of the crucifixion, it would be elementary ignorance to think that we are, somehow, excused from having to do the same!