

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



SCHEDULE OF MASSES

10:30 A.M. - Rosary
10:45 A.M. - Mass
(**ONLY** on First Sunday
of each month)

6:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M.
Every Sunday
6:00 A.M. - 8:00 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)

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
November 29, 1998 - - - Purple
Mass: of Sunday, Cr. Pref Trinity

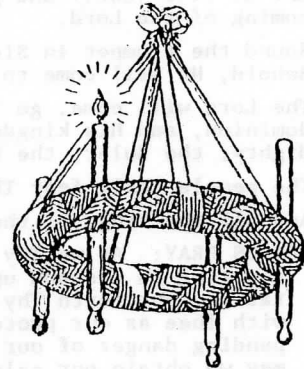
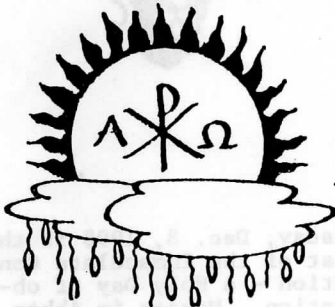
Weekly Bulletin # 537



Prepare! for the Savior Comes



ADVENT



**RORATE
COELI**



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





First Sunday in Advent

Blessing

Priest: On that day beholding from afar I shall see the Power of God coming and covering the whole earth like a cloud. Go ye out to meet Him and say unto Him: Tell us if Thou art He Who is to reign over the people of Israel.

People: On that day beholding from afar I shall see the Power of God coming and covering the whole earth like a cloud. Go ye out to meet Him and say unto Him: Tell us if Thou art He Who is to reign over the people of Israel.

Priest: And, all ye dwellers upon earth, sons of men, rich and poor.

People: Go ye out to meet Him and say unto Him: Tell us if Thou art He Who is to reign over the people of Israel.

Priest: Hear, O Thou shepherd of Israel: Thou who leadest Joseph like a sheep.

People: Behold the Lord shall come and all His saints with Him: and there shall be a great light on that day.

Priest: All ye who thirst come to the waters: seek ye the Lord while He may be found.

People: The mountains and the hills shall sing praise before God, and all the trees of the forest shall clap their hands, because the Lord, the Ruler, will come into His eternal kingdom.

Priest: The Lord will come and will not delay, and He will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will manifest Himself to all nations.

People: Let us live justly and godly, looking for the blessed hope and coming of the Lord.

Priest: Sound the trumpet in Sion, for the day of the Lord is near, Behold, He will come to save us. Alleluia! Alleluia!

People: The Lord will come, go forth to meet Him, and say: Great is His dominion, and His kingdom shall have no end. He is God, the Mighty, the Ruler, the Prince of Peace. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Priest: The people shall fear Thy Name, O Lord.

People: And all the kings of the earth Thy glory.

Priest: LET US PRAY: As we Thy servants, O Lord, ask Thee for thy blessing to descend upon this symbol of our hope and expectation, put forth Thy power, we beseech Thee, and come, that with Thee as our protector we may be rescued from the impending danger of our sins: and with Thee as our deliverer, may we obtain our salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.
(PRIEST LIGHTS FIRST CANDLE - SPRINKLES WREATH AND PEOPLE)



MASSES FOR THE WEEK: (Abbot Leonard's Schedule Only)

SUNDAY: For the People of the Chapels
 MONDAY: Special Int. Marguerite McGill
 TUESDAY: Dec. Charles Turner
 WEDNESDAY: Dec. James Mingo
 THURSDAY: Dec. Floyd Bischoff
 FRIDAY: Dec. Percy Graham
 SATURDAY: Special Int. Paul Roy Family



1. Tuesday, Dec. 8, 1998 is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception - a Holy Day of obligation. Masses in Abbey Church only:
6:00 A.M.-8:00 A.M.- 7:00 P.M.
2. Christmas SCHEDULE OF MASSES:
Abbey Church: 12:00 Midnight
10:00 A.M.
Note Well - there will be no 6:00 A.M. Mass in Abbey Church - Christmas Morning.
St. Pius V Chapel-Birmingham 9:00 A.M.
3. Alena Roberts will carry the Baby Jesus into the Church and place Him in the Manger at Midnight Mass.
4. Please pray for the Sick and Shut-Ins of our Chapels especially remembering Al Sachs.
5. Next Sunday, December 6, 1998 is the First Sunday of Dec. There will be no 9:30 A.M. Mass in St. Pius Chapel Bham.
6. First Friday - Dec. 4, 1998
Mass at 8:00 A.M. Abbey Church
7. First Saturday - Dec. 5, 1998
Mass at 8:00 A.M. Abbey Church
8. ADVENT WREATH BLESSING - this is a highly recommended custom.
9. NOVENA IN HONOR OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION begins tonight. This Novena is highly recommended to the Family Circle.
10. Tomorrow, November 30, 1998 is the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle

PEACE

Today, we begin, once again, the magnificent Season of ADVENT. For always, PEACE remains the central call of this period of time each year. Where the PEACE called for at this time is lacking, all is tarnished and everything around us becomes forced, mechanical and manufactured. This has always been true. Even though expectation and waiting for the fulfillment of the promise was in the hearts and minds of all the people, peace - the kind of peace we usually think of - was what they were looking for. They wanted release from all the turbulent times, the persecutions they were so tired of. For them the promise meant the destruction of the shackles of bondage, and for them the removal of the shackles meant peace, happiness, prosperity and a good life - it meant freedom. Sadly, prominent on the page of the history of modern man, the outlook remains the same, but the "peace" that he is looking for is even more pronounced, for modern man demands license and freedom from all restraint. That our young people are not influenced and affected by these ideas is but an idle and impossible fantasy! The idea of any kind of dependence on a Supreme Lord and God, the idea of any kind of Law to be followed, the idea of obedience, the idea of mortification - all of these are to a great extent repugnant and inexplicable to them. Therefore, any insistence on the quality of obedience or penance or reparation for sin, do not come easily to them. Our Catholic religious leaders - OF WHICHEVER PERSUASION - in too many cases are of no help! Our religious leaders - many lacking in Roman Catholic EXPERIENCE - usually confine themselves to the teaching of the definitions of virtue. RARELY do they present the spiritual implications of virtue - the "HOW" to practice virtue. Our youth leaves instructed but not edified!!!

As soon as the Christ Child touched the surface of this earth, the Father, Who remained in the domes of Heaven, the Father, Who made all creatures both large and small, took Heaven's priceless gift - PEACE - gave it to His angels and directed them to bring it to earth. They did. Of course, they went to the region where their Infant Lord was to be found. There, in the lovely quiet of a beautiful night, they found a small band of men who were tending sheep. A very strange group of men were these. Smelly, ignorant, simple, poorly clad men, but of all the men to be found on this earth, they were selected to receive a message never before heard by the ears of any man. Completely frightened, they were not prepared for such tidings. Isn't it strange that the angels brought the gift of PEACE to these poor, uncultured, backward, unlettered strangers, when they could just as easily brought it and given it to the people who were lodged in the inns at the top of the hill. Besides, the people in the inns were the righteous people, people whose erudition and scholarship made them the unquestioned teachers of the Law of God. In no way backward, these were the respected men of their time. These leaders were men who kept careful watch over the things that pertained to God - they were religious men whose religious ceremonial was meticulously observed. They were the good ones, and they were quite convinced that they possessed the quality of virtue required by God - - - (BUT THEY DID NOT!!! - and apparently not a single one of them all!!!) The lowly and ignorant shepherds all frightened and huddled together amongst their sheep were as much convinced that THEY DID NOT possess the quality of virtue required by God - - - (BUT THEY DID!!!)

THE SUBSEQUENT PERFORMANCE OF THE ANGELS SENT BY GOD PROVED THAT THE LATTER CASE WAS THE REALITY - and so the poor shepherds were the ones to be given Heaven's invitation to see the New Child - they were the very first - after Mary and Joseph - to witness this marvelous THING! Unusual - to say the least - was it not?

When we speak of peace we do not speak of the peace which is the result of agreeableness or fellowship that is found among friends, of some sort of truce established between enemies. The PEACE we here speak of is something rather different - totally unspakable. The PEACE we speak of here is a breath that has escaped heaven



HE SHALL BE PEACE

and which is given as a gift to certain - very select Children of God - Men whose WILL IF GOOD!! It is not given to one because of the superior activity of his mind, or of his intellect. PEACE, the PEACE we speak of here is given to one because of a certain QUALITY of heart required by the Giver of the gift! It is to the Heart of Man that God, the Giver of all Good Things, looks. The mind - the fickle mind ("as inconstant as the moon") - presents both good and evil to the heart. The heart, then, inclines its ear and receives the message which the mind presents ("Listen, O my son, to the precepts of thy master, and incline the ear of thy heart" Holy Rule of St. Benedict) God pays no heed to the one who acts under the dictates of arrogance, or of pride, or of anger - or of all the rest. But God's eyes are upon him who is humble of heart, and God's ears are open to the prayers of him whose quality of heart is genuine.

God chose the human vesture as the only vesture fitting for His Divine Son, Jesus. Therefore, God is attracted to those fortunate human children of His who most closely resemble the perfection of the human condition and the quality of character found in Christ, and who reflect Christ's characteristics back to him.

Like all of human kind, the shepherds had to be inclined to all of the natural inclinations common to us all. But there was something more in them. It seems that there was a glow in them, a very powerful glow shining through their simplicity and poor station of life that caused the angels to see them - these earthly poor men - before all others, a glow which can only come from MEN OF GOOD WILL, and for that these poor men proved worthy of the great and priceless gift that the angels were carrying: PEACE!





The Great "O" Antiphons



Beginning December 17, at Vespers of each day, the Church Liturgy introduces what are called the "O" Antiphons. These are beautiful prayers, and are sung in Choir by the monks in a very splendid and solemn manner and tone. These antiphons, scriptural texts a few lines long, are so many jewels of inspired poetry. Each prayer ends on the eager cry - - "COME"! There is a climactic order in these antiphons. In the first, "*O Sapientia*" (O Wisdom), we take a backward flight into the recesses of eternity to address Wisdom, the Word of God. In the second, "*O Adonai*" (O Lord of Lords), we have leaped from eternity to the time of Moses and the Law of Moses (about 1400 B.C.). In the third, "*O Radix Jesse*" (O Root of Jesse, O Key of David), we have come to the year 1000 B.C. (the beginning of the final Millennium before the birth of the Lord). In the fourth, "*O Clavis David*" (O Key of David), we have come to the year 1000 B.C. (the beginning of the final Millennium before the birth of the Lord). In the fifth, "*O Oriens*" (O Rising Dawn), we see that the line of David is elevated so that the people may look on a rising star in the east, and hence in the sixth, "*O Rex Gentium*" (O King of Nations), we know that He is king of all the world of man. This brings us to the evening before the vigil (December 23), and before the coming to the town limits of Bethlehem, and we salute Him with the last Great "O" and we sing "*O Emmanuel*" (God-with-us).

Each evening at Vesper time (around 5:00 P.M.) the family should gather around the Monastic Home Altar for the recitation of the Rosary. When the Rosary is finished, one of the Great "O" antiphons should be recited as a solemn prayer. Special emphasis should be placed on the words at the end when we "cry" out to God in our need, and in our feelings of expectations. These are prayers of the highest level, and should be prayed with great solemnity and seriousness.

Are not our own days filled with anxiety, and worry and concern, and expectation? Many, indeed, are the reasons for concern, but we must never lose hope. Therefore, we, too, cry out "*O Emmanuel*"! and in accordance to the level of our Faith, shall we be heard.



O Sapientia December 17
O WISDOM
Who issued from the mouth of the Most High
Reaching from beginning to end
Ordering all things mightily yet tenderly —
COME to teach us the way of prudence.



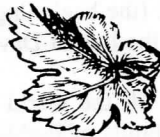
O Adonai December 18
O LORD OF LORDS
And Leader of the house of Israel,
Who appeared to Moses in the bush's flaming fire
And gave to him the Law of Sinai —
COME to redeem us with stretched-out arms.

O Radix Jesse December 19
O ROOT OF JESSE
A Standard to the peoples
Before whom kings are mute,
To whom all nations shall appeal —
COME to deliver us; delay, please, no longer.





O Clavis David December 20
O KEY OF DAVID
 And Scepter of the house of Israel,
 You open and no man dares shut,
 You shut and no man dares open —
COME, deliver from the chains of prison
 him who sits in darkness and in the
 shadow of death.



O Oriens December 21
O RISING DAWN
 Radiance of eternal light
 And Sun of justice —
COME, enlighten those sitting in dark-
 And in the shadow of death. [ness]



O Rex Gentium December 22
O KING OF NATIONS
 And their desired one,
 Cornerstone who binds two into one —
COME and save man
 Whom You fashioned from the slime of
 the earth.



O Emmanuel December 23
O EMMANUEL, God-with-us,
 Our King and Lawgiver,
 The Awaited of the peoples and their
 Savior —
COME to save us, O Lord, our God.



Approved
 by the
 Superiors of
 Christ the King Abbey
 Cullman, Alabama

