

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)

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
December 13, 1998 - - Purple - Rose

Weekly Bulletin # 539

GAUDETE SUNDAY

Mass: Sunday, Cr. Pref Trinity



ADVENT



PART II

About Humility

We should constantly ask God to enlighten us on our need of the virtue of humility, and beg Him to give us an increase of it and to give us a good understanding of just exactly what humility really is. We must avoid the use of formulas and resolutions in our effort to acquire humility. One does not press a button, and humility (virtue) IMMEDIATELY appears in full force. A great SINCERITY IS NEEDED in the use of words that spell out the "how" to become humble. Also, there must be a full and generous co-operation with grace, by accepting all the humiliations that come to us. There will be little point in praying that God would deliver us from the desire of being praised, and then allowing ourselves to be upset because we are not in fact properly praised and appreciated. It is a vain and useless waste of good time if we read volumes about virtue and do not have a firm purpose in mind to do something about the acquiring of it. The time spent in reading is quite useless if we fail to profit by it and SEE a change taking place within us. Prayers and practices like these usually are a meaningless substitute for the practice of solid virtue. When using them we must try and develop at the same time the "UNPROFITABLE-SERVANT" attitude. Then there will be a reciprocal causality between our lives and our prayers and efforts, and we can be certain of the help of grace.

If meditation on the greatness and perfections of God is the principal means of progress in humility, it may be asked: is it wrong to seek after self-knowledge? Should we make no effort to come to know ourselves? To think so would be a mistake. What we must avoid is a too self-conscious turning in on our selves; a FOCUSING in on our selves; a too much concentration on our defects and weaknesses such as would not lead us to holiness. Studied and analytical thinking about oneself is to be very much discouraged, and will not help at all. God is the only worthy object of our contemplation, and we ourselves are not worth thinking about. The time we spend thinking about ourselves is time taken away from the thought of God! When once we give our best thoughts to God and His greatness, we will bring everything else into proper focus.

(Adapted quotation from the Book: "Unprofitable Servants"
By: Father Nivard Kensella, O.C.S.O. - 1961)



The Gospel preached in its utter purity exalts, it frightens or it shocks. It is bound to meet violent reactions, as it is diametrically opposed to the standards of sinful and stiff-necked men. The Gospel is simply not accepted by "the world". If and when a man really hears the Gospel, his WHOLE life MUST be reassessed, that is, if he is sincere and genuine, for the demands of Christ do not admit half-measures. EVERYTHING MUST BE BROUGHT INTO CONTROL! There are to be found those who indicate that they wish self refinement - self correction. But they examine themselves, they spend a life time combatting their faults, and they never get beyond themselves, except sometimes to cultivate little hothouse virtues cut to their own size. They make resolutions! They analyze! but they are all wrong. They are wrong because they do not know Christ. Certain of our religious leaders and teachers because of inexperience, when they encourage men on this course of action, are of little or no help. They do not realize that by pointing out such and such a fault to conquer, such and such a quality to acquire, they center one's attention on self, and they condemn one to religious stagnation. During Advent we hear such words as "It is time to rise from sleep" - "Prepare, for the Saviour comes. Prepare" Just what does "rise from sleep" or "Prepare" mean? The demands of Christ do not admit of half measures!

Third Sunday in Advent - Gaudete Sunday



ALL: The Lamb descends from heaven above,
to pardon sin with freest love; *
For such indulgent mercy shewn,
With tearful joy our thanks we own.

Priest: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Let
your modesty be known to all men; for the Lord is nigh. Be
nothing solicitous; but in everything by prayer let your
requests be made known to God.

Priest: (V) Thou, O Lord, that sittest upon the Cherubim, stir up
Thy might, and come.

People: (R) Give ear, O Thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep.

Priest: (V) Glory be to the Father, and the Son and the Holy Ghost.

People: (R) As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall
be world without end. Amen.

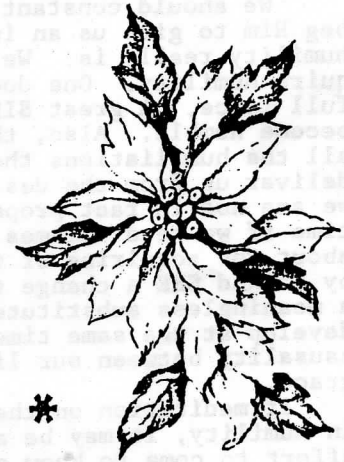
Priest: LET US PRAY: Grant us, we beseech Thee, O Lord, that the
coming solemnity of our redemption may both bring us
help for our present life, and bestow on us the rewards
of everlasting blessedness. Through Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.
(PRIEST LIGHTS THIRD CANDLE)

MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

SUNDAY: For the People of the Chapels
MONDAY: Special Int. Dominic Marchetti
TUESDAY: Special Int. Mrs. Henry Carlyle
WEDNESDAY: Special Int. Mrs. Paul McGill
THURSDAY: Consecration of Russia
FRIDAY: Dec. Muriel Runge Morris
SATURDAY: Dec. Bill Reusch

Life's purpose is to purify us, not gratify us. It is not a theatre where we are called upon to play a brilliant part with a view to gaining the applause of the audience, nor an arena in which to achieve a success to be greeted by the acclamations of the on-lookers, but a process, by which our souls are to be made strong with the strength of supernatural life.



1. CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE OF MASSES:

Abbey Church: (St. Francis Chapel) 12:00 Midnight
Christmas Music begins at 11:30 P.M.

There will be no Confessions before Midnight Mass.

NOTE VERY WELL: There will be NO 6:00 A.M. Mass Christmas Day.

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

Abbey Church: (St. Francis Chapel) 10:00 A.M.

- Wednesday, Friday and Saturday are EMBER DAYS and days of Fast and Abstinence. Meat may be eaten once on Wednesday and Saturday.
- Alena Roberts will carry the Baby Jesus into the Church and place Him in the Manger at Midnight Mass.
- The attached sheet concerning the YK2 Crisis, prepared by Father Joseph Esper of Redford, Michigan ("Homiletic and Pastoral Review") is very important and every one is urged to read it and to try to put into practice its recommendations
- EVERYONE: PLEASE TRY TO OBSERVE A 15 M.P.H. Speed Limit when driving on the Abbey Driveway. Please stay on the pavement.
- A REPEAT: In order to answer some questions concerning VOCAL PRAYER. Mental prayer is meditation. Vocal prayer is not. Example of Vocal Prayer are: the Rosary, Stations of the Cross, Prayers in general, Aspirations. IN ORDER TO GAIN THE INTENDED INDULGRNCES, the prescribed prayers MUST BE VOCAL, that is, the lips must move and the words must be uttered, even though silently. Simply to "read" the prayers is not sufficient to gain the intended indulgences. Therefore, in the case of Vocal Prayer, mental prayer (reading) is not sufficient to gain the intended indulgences. The usual prayers for the intention of the Pope are, of course, necessary. (Moral and Pastoral Theology)
- Please pray for the Sick and Shut-Ins of our Chapels, especially remembering Al Sachs.



LIVING WITH THE MILLENNIUM BUG:

Are You Ready for the Coming Computer Crisis?

On January 1, 2000, many computers will stop working properly, severely disrupting our society and affecting all of us; a problem in computer programming involving a simple two-digit error may turn our world upside down. In a worst-case scenario, electric power will be lost, telephones won't work, food will be scarce, airplanes will be grounded, businesses will go bankrupt, banks will close, and society will be in chaos. Even if this scenario is too pessimistic, major changes are coming--and it's important to be prepared.

Early computer programmers, to save computer memory space, expressed years in two-digit form (73 for 1973, 82 for 1982, etc.). A problem now exists because computers whose programs haven't been updated (an expensive, time-consuming task) will read 00 as 1900, not 2000. This will cause them either to reject legitimate entries, to compute erroneous results, or simply to stop running. Our modern society is completely dependent on computers, especially in the fields of banking and finance, industry, communications, energy, transportation, shipping, retail sales, insurance, and government; without reliable computers, many companies and institutions will find it very difficult--if not impossible--to continue functioning. That's why businesses and the government are spending billions of dollars in a desperate effort to update all their computer programs to eliminate the "Millennium Bug"--but these efforts may have started too late; many experts believe there isn't enough time to prevent serious problems that will affect, to one degree or another, every American. (For instance, a 1997 survey of computer experts asked them to rate the likely results of the coming crisis on a scale of 1 - 5, with 1 representing only minor problems, 3 representing serious economic disruptions, and 5 representing a complete collapse of the economy. The average rating was 3.96.)

There are certain steps you can take to protect yourself and your family from the coming Millennium Bug; being prepared will make it easier to cope with possible disruptions to our American way of life. It's important to do something, and to begin soon; after New Year's Day of 1999, we have less than 365 days to prepare for the year 2000.

Recommendations

1. **Become informed on the issue.** A recommended book is *The Millennium Bug*, by Michael S. Hyatt. (Call Regnery Publishing toll-free at 1-888-219-4747 for ordering information.) If you're online or have access to the Internet, log onto www.catholic2000.com (a website giving much useful information on the coming crisis from a Catholic perspective).
2. **Obtain written copies of all important documents** (birth certificates, marriage licenses, deeds, titles, mortgages, loan statements, bank balances, credit card statements, tax returns, etc.); records stored only in computers or on computer discs may become inaccessible.

(over)

3. **Store food and water.** If computers aren't functioning, food might not be shipped to markets (due to difficulties in scheduling and routing trucks and trains), and water might be unavailable (due to a lack of electric power to operate the pumping stations). The time to stockpile what you'll need is *before* the crisis hits. Begin storing dried, packaged, and canned foods with a long shelf life, along with canned juices, soft drinks, and other forms of liquid. Rinse and sterilize empty jars and plastic pop bottles, and then fill them with water. Remember: if a crisis occurs, these and other essential items will disappear, or be available only at exorbitant prices (and even if a crisis *doesn't* take place, you'll still be able to use the items you've stored).
4. **Stockpile common household goods**, including such things as candles, matches, cigarette lighters, lighter fluid and charcoal (in case a barbecue grill is necessary for cooking), flashlights, batteries, toilet paper, paper towels, toothpaste, soap, disinfectant, first-aid supplies, non-prescription drugs and medicines, etc. Not only will you likely need such things, but if the currency collapses (an outside possibility), we'll return to a barter economy--and you'll have practical, worthwhile items to trade for needed goods and services.
5. **Make sure you have enough warm clothing and bedding.** If the utility companies go off line on January 1, 2000 (a 40% chance, according to a federal government report), you'll need to dress very warmly. Have good, heavy sleeping bags available. Also, have an extra supply of underwear and socks (for if water is rationed, you won't be able to do laundry very often).
6. **Arrange for an alternate source of heat and light.** This might mean a fireplace or wood-burning stove (along with enough firewood), or even a gas-powered generator or camp stove (with sufficient fuel). Candles, matches, and oil lamps may also be helpful. Make sure your home is well-insulated.
7. **Have any needed medical or dental work, and any elective surgery, completed in 1999.** If electric power is lost due to the Millennium Bug, it may be weeks or months before it's restored--and hospitals and dental offices will have difficulty functioning during this period.
8. **Don't stray far from home on New Year's Eve 1999.** Cars will still work when the Millennium Bug strikes, but traffic lights and street lights may go out. In particular, don't rely on the airlines to get you home (especially from overseas), as the FAA's air traffic control computers likely won't be ready, forcing a drastic reduction in the number of flights that can be safely operated and controlled.
9. **Be prepared for a possible run on the banks.** Even though banks are better prepared for the Millennium Bug than most other institutions, they're highly susceptible to public perceptions of a crisis. Have sufficient cash (or goods available for bartering, as in #4 above) on hand for your needs. If possible, consider purchasing gold or silver (in case paper money becomes worthless).
10. **Have a good set of tools available**, along with materials for home repairs (nails, lumber, window panes, heavy plastic) and "how to" books that will help you perform any needed fixing of your home.
11. **Make sure your home is secure;** replace any weak or broken locks on doors and windows. (A severe economic disruption may lead to an increase in burglary and vandalism.)
12. **Don't panic, but also don't ignore the problem.** As more and more people will come to realize, the implications of the Millennium Bug are real and serious--but our country has survived worse crises than this. The time to start preparing is *now* (since needed supplies will only become harder to find and more expensive as 2000 draws closer). Even if it isn't possible to do everything on this list, *it's important to do something* (as minimal preparation is better than no preparation at all). **However, it's essential to maintain a trusting and generous spirit. God will give us our daily bread** (as long as we share what we have with those in need).

**JESUS ASKS US TO PLACE OUR HOPE NOT IN THIS WORLD, BUT ONLY IN HIM--
FOR IN THIS WAY WE CAN BE SURE OUR HOPE WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.**

This sheet may be duplicated and distributed as needed.

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