

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 AFTER THE EPIPHANY
Feast of the Holy Family
January 10, 1999 - - - White
Mass of Feast: Gl. Cr. Pref. Epiphany

Weekly Bulletin # 544

Now that the wonderful celebration of the Birth of our Blessed Lord is over, we almost immediately (this year at least) begin our preparations for the most Holy period of time - LENT. Very soon we will hear the awesome words: "Remember man that thou art dust, and unto dust thou shalt return!" With the coming of Lent we begin to talk about MORTIFICATION with an increased degree of determination. Therefore, now that the feasting of the Christmas celebration is over, we return to our considerations concerning mortification. The feasting of Christmas is certainly not wrong, or a source causing deterioration of our spiritual life. For those who are well founded in the spiritual life, the feasting of Christmas is well taken, and is not a source of scandal to them. Since they understand the magnitude of the event of the Birth of Christ, their celebration is, as it should be, quite great, and its anticipation, its preparations cause excitement and the penitential atmosphere of Advent is overlooked. As always, the Church has the best answer, and we hear terms such as "A Joyful Fast". Even in Monasteries and Convents, where the Spiritual Life is lived most completely, the joyfulness of the occasion is not in every case contained according to the "legalities" concerning fasts and such like. Those not well acquainted with the beauties of the Spiritual Life as it unfolds itself in our traditional Catholic Life Experience, lose out in many of the little but greatly significant realities of Catholic Living. For those who truly love God, all things work out for the good.

But now we turn our attention to mortification, but even here every care must be taken that our mortification is performed because of the love that is in us, and not for the sake of mortification itself. If we do not understand this one important point, we will uselessly go through a lot of fruitless and meaningless fasting and abstaining. If we are going to fast, if we are going to abstain, if we are going to perform works of a penitential nature, then we need to conclude that our reason for all such is our LOVE for God. If we do not love God as we should, it would be rather foolish to subject our bodies to the restraints of mortification. It is love that causes us to feast when it is time to feast, and it is love that causes us to mortify ourselves when it is time to mortify ourselves. When the quality of our love is not as it should be, we find personal opinion and interpretation making judgements that are not always in the best interest of the Beloved.

Mortification consists in the use of our moral power to restrain and employ the outward senses and faculties of the body in due order and discipline and PRUDENCE (the Mother of all Virtue), according to the demands of right reason and an informed conscience. Especially is guidance needful today as all things seem to be guided by lack of proper information and inexperience. Without proper guidance (and earnest prayer) that which we begin will not become perfect and will fail to give pleasure to our Lord and God. Rather, He will have reason to be displeased at our pride and our evil deeds, and like an angry lord, cast us out into the darkness outside!