

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)

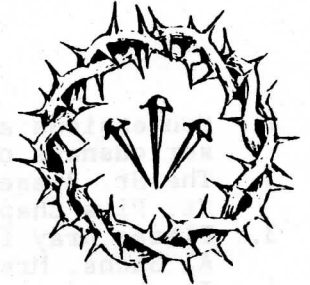
SEXAGESIMA SUNDAY

February 7, 1999 - - - Purple

Mass of Sunday - Cr. Pref Trinity

Weekly Bulletin # 548

SEPTUAGESIMA



Today is SEXAGESIMA SUNDAY. The Church offers to us for our consideration during this entire week, the history of Noah and the deluge. This instruction does not come to us by way of the readings found in today's mass, rather, they are found in the Office of Matins for today in the Breviary.

Man had not profited by the warnings already given him. And it seems that God would be obliged to punish man once more with some kind of terrible chastisement. At the time of Noah, man had failed to heed the many warnings that been directed to him, and the situation was so bad that God could find but one just man in all the world. Having found Noah, as being the only just man in the entire human race, God made a covenant with him, and through him the covenant extended to us. However, as history indicates, man did not listen, and continued to travel on the old road that aroused the anger of God. As history continues to indicate, man, even after the catastrophe of the flood, has remained on the road away from his God, and has developed a reckless attitude toward the requests of his Maker. Christ gave clear evidence of God's concern about man, and he complained that man simply will not listen and learn from his past mistakes. He labored the point when He said: "They have Moses and the prophets!"

When God, at last, had found Noah, He made a new alliance, but before this alliance could be established, God would first have to show that He was the Sovereign Master, and that man and the earth whereon man lives, subsist solely by His power and permission. The people laughed at Noah and held him in ridicule. He was abandoned by his friends who thought him to be quite crazy. Whoever heard tell of building a large boat in the middle of desert land? Surely he was out of his mind. If Noah were living today, would he not be told that he was psychologically unbalanced, and that he needed to see a doctor? But Noah did not stop to listen or to argue. He continued the work of building that which everyone considered to be useless and insane.

The moment finally arrived, and the promised chastisement began. This chastisement of the entire human race by the deluge was a fresh consequence of sin. Out of the entire race of human beings, God found this one and only man to be just - he and his family - and He worked with him. It was through this one man and his family that the world was restored and repopled, and God renewed His covenant with His creatures.

Far less was the sin of man at the time of Noah, when Noah was instructed by God to build the ark, than the sin of man is today. At least, before the flood, man acknowledged the existence of a Creator, even though it was a Creator - IGNORED! and a Creator that gave place to a multitude of gods that sprang forth from the twisted imagination of the men of those times. Man's view today is so perverted that he does not even go to the trouble of concocting a dynasty of lesser dieties so as to push the Supreme Diety out of the way: save one - - MAN HIMSELF!! Man, today does not actually hold God - our God - in ridicule, for he considers Him not to have the worth of a moment's thought! A sin worse than any ever known to man. It does appear that God is obliged, once again, to punish man with some kind of terrible chastisement. Thank God, there remain a remnant few, today, that have not forgotten their God, and continue to worship and adore Him in holiness and Faith. These good souls are very much concerned about the SECOND COMING of Jesus Christ - not so much as a "figure of speech" as they recon with the reality of it! Besides, did not Christ, Himself, complain: "When the Son of Man comes, will He find, do you think, faith on the earth?"

Very much like the original flood water that engulfed all the earth inhabited by man at that time, faithlessness - MODERNISM - has engulfed all the earth inhabited by the human race - but with few exceptions. The information received concerning the building of the ark served as a warning of coming events. Man laughed and did not take heed. Today, information concerning

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end times is allegedly in existence, but for some reason is being withheld. Be that as it may, man, as usual, has no regard for a matter of such serious proportions, and laughs as he continues to indulge in his vanities and his sin. But chastisement has now passed the point of promise, - - it is, indeed, at the point of progress, and its rising waters of faithlessness - MODERNISM - have reached, even to the tops of the highest mountains. Sadly, the powers of these raging torrents seem to be of little consequence to the men of our day, even as they are being swept off their feet by the force of the current. They watch disaster strike all around them, yet they laugh and laugh and laugh. And because they estimate chastisement to be something physical, they pay it no mind. The present chastisement is not of a physical nature - it is a totally spiritual one! That is why its enormity is beyond man's ability to grasp it properly - so he laughs. Even the men whose duty it is to try to understand it, whose duty it is to know, shy away from it. They also laugh!

1. Confessions are heard before Masses on Sunday. Please keep in mind the seriousness of the Sacrament of Penance.
2. The St. Blase Blessing of Throats is given at all Masses today, - and at St. Pius Chapel next Sunday.
3. Please pray for the Sick and Shut-Ins of our Chapels, especially remembering Al Sachs, Mrs. Iva Roy and Josephine Spano.
4. It should be a matter of conscience that the weekly sermon and the weekly Bulletin admonitions we receive be taken seriously. Matters concerning our salvation are always serious matters. Our sermons in our chapels are SERMONS - - not - - Homilies. Since the sermon treats with serious matters,, it should not present inane homiletic delicacies - - sterile observancies. Modern day homilies give hardly any spiritual nourishment, oftentimes more concerned about natural behaviour than about supernatural development. The sermon should not have a class room quality about it, advancing profound theological research or detailed catechetical training of the laity. Homiletic spirituality as well as catechetical spirituality seldom lead to true holiness of life. The one is concerned with neither the spirit or the letter of the law. The other is concerned only with the letter of the law. But the interior life - sanctity and holiness - should be the center piece of importance - not only with the preacher, but with the laity as well.

Other than glancing over the Sunday Bulletins and sitting through the Sunday Sermons, how much time does the average lay person spend per week in solid spiritual reading (other than, perhaps, the reading of Scripture) or in any kind of spiritual thinking????? Our spiritual considerations are directed at the interior life (a quantity of insignificant value today) and sometimes they are difficult to deal with, when viewed from the natural and worldly level. Sometimes they offend. If in certain cases they do offend, it is probably good that they do. If the words are tedious, it should be remembered that the road leading to heaven is narrow and steep and not at all easy to follow, therefore, the instructions to the travelers (the well intentioned travelers) must be given in detail - tedious detail!!!

Wednesday, February 10, 1999 is the Feast of the ever great Benedictine Saint, and twin sister of our Holy Father Benedict, SAINT SCHOLASTICA. Please pray to St. Scholastica, and ask her to protect and help our Benedictine Bonvent of St. Joseph. Please ask her to protect and help her Sisters - our Sisters of St. Joseph Convent.

5. MASSES FOR THE WEEK (Abbot Leonard's Schedule only)
 - SUNDAY: For the People of the Chapels
 - MONDAY: Special Int. Mrs. Paul McGill
 - TUESDAY: Dec. Father Paschal Ferlisi O.S.B. (III)
 - *****WEDNESDAY:*** Welfare of St. Joseph Convent and the Sisters
 - THURSDAY: Special Int. of the Donor
 - FRIDAY: Dec. William Callahan
 - SATURDAY: Special Int. Eleanor Wendorf

