

## 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 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
December 5, 1999 - - - Purple  
Mass of Sunday - No Gl. Cr. Pref. Trin.

Weekly Bulletin # 591



*O Mary,  
Conceived  
Without Sin*

## CATHOLIC EXPERIENCE - PENANCE

The obligation to confess one's sins to a priest and to obtain from him, as God's appointed agent, absolution, is doubtless one of the clearest points to be found in the Gospels. The duty of absolution is for priests a doubtless order - a command from Christ, Himself. Due to the erroneous "Catechesis" over the past forty or so years, Catholics have turned against individual auricular confession. Wrong instructions have led otherwise prudent Catholics to prefer the new practice of general confession and absolution. Such practice and instruction claim that the pronouncing of absolution in a general way to the assembled congregation is sufficient. But such a practice of working with a loose assembly of penitents loses more or less the sense of personal responsibility and sorrow, such as the solitary penitent, face to face with his confessor experiences: a salutary feeling. How very little the soul of a contrite sinner is helped by a general confession and by a general absolution, and how the souls of the good willed yearn to receive comfort and absolution from a competent priest, after a full disclosure is to be seen in the unrest of many modern day Catholic people. The necessity of a full and good confession must not be overlooked. After many attempts to achieve the comfortable feeling of being forgiven, and after the many failures of the practice of general confession, is it any wonder that a vast majority of Catholics no longer go to confession at all. In despair, many Catholics have turned away from the most salutary practice of the Sacrament of Penance. The resulting evils of this new reckless mentality cannot be counted. A defending - but false - argument is often used that a private confession to God, Himself, alone, is surely sufficient. St. Augustine has this to say about that practice: "To pretend that it is enough to confess to God alone, is to make void the power of the Keys given to the Church, and to contradict the words of Christ in the Gospel."

Perhaps the devil has never struck a more severe blow at man's happiness than when he deprived man of the consolations of a real and true Confession. The Catholic who has something on his mind, which is a source of mental anxiety and fear uncertainty, and the keeping of his nervousness and tension. Any properly instructed Catholic that he can always go to his priest, or to any priest, and place the full burden of his heart in the hands of that priest. Any properly instructed Catholic knows that a good priest is a source of the greatest consolation and reassurance. Any properly instructed Catholic knows that the priest, who has learned how to care for the problems of his own soul, has thereby learned how to care for the problems of others' souls. Any properly instructed Catholic knows that he can place implicit faith in his priest. It needs hardly to be said that, if Confession is to be of the slightest use, it must be thorough and genuine. If it is intentionally incomplete and falsified, God is aware of the deception, even though the priest should be induced to give absolution - and woe to him who seeks to cheat the Almighty! Such a practice reduces the Confession to worthlessness, and makes of it a sacrilege. To a truly repentant sinner, the Sacrament of Penance - the Confession - is a source of good advice, of strength, of discipline, and of assurance. It assures the sinner that the Father's pardon has reached him and that he has full permission to partake of the Holy Body and Blood of the Lord in the Holy Eucharist. Therefore, GO TO CONFESSION IF YOU HAVE NOT; BENEFIT FROM THE USE OF THE CONFESSION IF YOU DO NOT; ENJOY THE FRUITS OF THE CONFESSION AND WORRY NOT!