

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 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 30, 2000 - - - Green

Mass of Sunday - Gl. Cr. Pref. Trin

Weekly Bulletin # 601

CATHOLIC LIFE EXPERIENCE - - INTERIOR LIFE

It must become a matter of serious and profound concern to all TRADITIONAL ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIESTS AND FAITHFUL PEOPLE that so many members of the laity are not at all conscious of the Interior Life of the Soul. They do not know it! They do not understand it! They do not comprehend it! It has no meaning for them! If ever the matter comes up, they consider it to be something of a very rare gift which it given to a handful of people who have been especially chosen by God to be Saints.

The Interior Life of the Soul is for everybody. It is for some more than it is for others, but it is intended for everybody. Everybody is called by God to be a Saint! It is a common complaint of Traditional Catholic Souls that their teachers speak of the Interior Life and that they tell of its necessity, but that their teachers give no instruction as to how one enters into the Interior Life of the Soul. The faithful are told that they must perform the various acts of mortification; that they must stop or control their fits of anger; that they must be obedient to their superiors, and all the rest. They are told "do this" and don't do that". It becomes a matter of "doing". Rarely, if ever, is one told about "BEING" mortified, or meek, or obedient, or humble. There is a great difference between "doing" and "being", one is always meritorious, the other - not necessarily!

When we speak of "The Restoration of all things in Christ" it seems that the focal point of our interest is "THINGS", with little attention given to the restoration of the holiness of life in our searching and hungry Faithful people. It is true that moral instruction is given to our people, and it is also true that the Interior Life demands a good degree of austerity, but our austerity must be so regulated and must not be so formidable in appearance that people - searching people - are not frightened away. People should be attracted by the beauty of the Spiritual Life and the Catholic Experience (which unfortunately is now available mostly in books) Witness the nearly complete absence of spiritual articles in our Traditional Journals. Our Traditional publications usually center their attention on apologetics, on proving, on debating, on endless research and computerized erudition - none of which feed a single crumb of nourishment to the soul in search of sanctity!

We cannot force modesty upon our people! We cannot ban the use of the TV! We cannot command holiness of life! Oftentimes, people will obey such proclamations, but their obedience is artificial and manufactured, and quite foreign to the real and true workings of one's soul. They submit, but their submission is primarily to keep the doors of their Traditional Chapel open to them. It is not a matter of real commitment, nor is it a matter of interior belief. They do that which is expedient just to be able to go to Mass and receive Holy Communion. Is this the way to gain Souls for Jesus Christ? And if Souls are finally lost because of this approach, who is going to be held accountable?

We would all be helped if we would all in turn accept the INVITATION of the Holy Family to come and spend a week with them. We should give serious consideration to a possible visit with that Family. Before visiting, however, we should determine the time of the manifestation of the Holy Family's Invitation to us. We do not know why God chose the 42nd year of the reign of Octavian Augustus to bring forth the Miracle of the Incarnation. God could just as well have chosen the 8th year of the presidency of our present ruler! In either point of time or in either circumstance the Holy Family would be just as holy, and the unquestionable model for all men to follow. And in either case we would find the Holy Family living a life fully holy, fully beautiful, fully inconspicuous and fully in keeping with God's way of life whether it be the 42nd year of the reign of Octavian Augustus or the 8th year of the presidency of our present ruler!

Should we decide to visit we will not find our stay there uncomfortable, nor will we feel self-conscious, and we will find the human ways of Jesus Christ, and the blessed ways of Mary and Joseph so tender and loving and truly magnificent and attractive that we will not go contrary to the gentle transformation taking place in our Interior Soul. Without force or command or insinuation or any act of intrusion, the Beautiful Face of Jesus transforms us; the magnificence of the modesty of Mary clothes us; the gentle and humble manliness of Joseph helps us hold the place of Christ in our Family Circle. And when Christ is truly present in our home, when Mary and Joseph are there with us, little by little the appliances of our unreligious world will begin to lose their attraction.

Sanctity cannot be imposed upon us. We cannot be commanded to become holy. If any of us do not know how to preach sanctity and holiness of life - the kind of sanctity found amongst the real Saints of God - the kind of holiness of life found in the Home of The Holy Family, let us, then, fall on our knees and pray for the grace of humility. Our humility will present to us the way, and our people will soon reflect back to us Christ's humility working in Them. We must learn - all of us who have been called to God's Holy Priesthood - that it is the Grace of God - NOT US - which will change the Heart of Man - and RESTORE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST!

1. Wednesday - February 2, 2000 is the Feast of the PURIFICATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MOTHER . This is a wonderful Feast Day, and brings out to us in clear language the Virtue of Humility - without which ALL other works of Religion become no more than "sounding brass, or tinkling cymbals." --- they profit us nothing! If Mary, the Mother of Jesus Christ (who had every reason to be proud), understood the necessity of the Virtue of Humility ---- so must we! It is safe to say - if the virtue of Humility is lacking in my soul--it "profiteth me nothing!" - which means in bold print: **SALVATION IS NOT FOR ME!!**
2. Wednesday - February 2, 2000 is also CANDLEMAS DAY - and candles will be blessed at the Abbey Conventual Mass at 6:00 A.M.
3. Wednesday - February 2, 2000 marks the official end of the Christmas Season.
4. Next Sunday, February 6, 2000 is the First Sunday of February. Therefore there will be no 9:30 A.M. Mass at St. Pius V Chapel in Birmingham.
5. Please pray for all the Sick and Shut-Ins of our Chapels - and those who cannot travel to Mass in our Chapels. Let us remember very specially - our Carol Girardi.
6. The Most Holy Season of LENT is fast approaching. Let us begin now to place ourselves in a Lenten Frame of Mind. Lent means simply: being mortified or being penitential. Acts of mortification or acts of penance or acts of reparation are not good enough!. Oftentimes all such acts are full of the tarnish of pride which means that the gifts we offer to God are tarnished! and, of course, not acceptable - "tinkling cymbals!". Not only must we understand this - quite well - but we must inspire our children to understand this basic fact of true CATHOLIC EXPERIENCE! The person who can do no more than perform the prescribed ACTS is usually a very sad and preoccupied person - always worried and always full of doubt - always wondering if enough is being done! But the person who is truly mortified, such a person is always happy - never wondering or doubting or wanting to do more: always happy - always reflecting to those around what wonderment it really is for a soul to be clothed with God's love. The Holy Family demonstrates this most eloquently.
7. The pre-season of SEPTUAGESIMA begins on Sunday February 20, 2000.
8. Confessions are heard before Masses on Sunday.
9. **MASSES FOR THE WEEK:** (Abbot Leonard's Schedule Only)

SUNDAY:	For the People of the Chapels
MONDAY:	Dec. Linda Birringer
TUESDAY:	Dec. Isaac Soileau
WEDNESDAY:	For the Poor Souls
THURSDAY:	Special Int. William Smith
FRIDAY:	Special Int. Colleen McGinnis
SATURDAY:	Special Int. Paul Roy Family
10. Thursday, February 3, 2000 is the Feast of St. Blaise. The St. Blaise Blessing of Throats will be given on Thursday and at every Mass next Sunday.
11. Brother Luke, O.S.B. and Frater Bernard, O.S.B. have - thanks be to God - successfully completed their Novitiate in our Benedictine Abbey. They will be received into the Community - WEDNESDAY - February 2, 2000 at 9:00 A.M. Mass. Please pray for Brother Luke and Frater Bernard and for our Postulants - that the good Grace of God will always be with them and in them as they work to be Monks of God in "The School of the Lord's Service" Pray, also for the Monks and the Nuns, that the good Grace of God will always be with them and in them as they struggle and suffer to keep the Lamp of true Catholic Experience burning in the Heart of Man. True Catholic Experience is fast becoming a matter of Picture Book Experience - found only in those books fortunate enough to have escaped the BURN PILE!!!

