

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)

- This year, please include with your usual Advent Customs and Devotions, the recitation of the prayers that are connected with the GREAT "O" ANTIPHONS. The best time to say these Prayers might well be when the Family assembles for supper - at the table. The elder Member leads prayer.
- Please pray for the Sick and Shut-Ins of our Chapels.



*The Lord went forth from His Holy place
in Heaven; He came to earth to save His
people*

HOW A PROUD MAN VISITS THE CRIB

If a proud man, full of sophomoric knowledge, entered the stable of Bethlehem, would he ever discover the immense God in that poor little Child, all shivering from the cold and lying on a rough bed of dirty straw? The chances are that he would not. Being himself, so big in his own vanity, and so full of his own importance, he would deny that there is anything bigger or greater or more important than himself; being wise in his own conceit, he would admit nothing wiser than himself; being important in his own estimation, he would not accept the importance of anyone else around him; being all puffed up in the brilliance of his own personal opinion - so big is he that to him everything else is little. To him, that Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes could not really be a King! Who ever heard of a King having to lie in an animal feed trough and on a bed of dirty straw? A Redeemer? - born in a stable? Ridiculous! How could Eternal Wisdom be so dumb? He undoubtedly smiles within himself at the simple credulity of the ignorant shepherds who believed that angels came to them and sang a bizarre message to them? In his own mind, he cannot accept the obvious ignorance of the so-called "Wise" Men who wandered over the countryside and through desert wastes chasing a star that supposedly would lead them to a place where a King was born. As for the Virgin Birth, that is a story that tops them all! This man, at least, condescends a glance at Joseph, the man of rags, to whom the innkeeper rightly denied entrance. He laughs at the customary fantasies that are associated with the Christmas Feast, and which add richness and fullness to the wonderful occasion. He looks upon the figurines of Christmas as silly and as dangerous lies, which must be kept away from his "WELL TRAINED" children.

"Unless you become as little children" - that shivering Baby when he grows up, will one day have this to say to all men who have ears to hear! The terrible, frightening, shattering secret of Christmas is that ALL egotism and pride must be smashed before a new light can come in. To enter a cave one must stoop, and to stoop is to surrender to the little things. Once one does that, one discovers he is not in a cave at all, but in a new and wonderful universe, where Wisdom reigns, and where beauty is to be seen everywhere.

- CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE OF MASSES:
Abbey Church: 12:00 Midnight.
Church Opens at 11:30 P.M.
10:00 A.M.
NOTE WELL - No 6:00 A.M. Mass
in the Abbey Church
St. Pius V Chapel - Birmingham
9:00 A.M.
- NEW YEARS DAY: CIRCUMCISION
ABBEY CHURCH ONLY
MASSES: 6:00 A.M.-- 10:00 A.M.
- Brianna Kelley and Andrew
Winlan will bring Baby Jesus
into the Church and place Him
in the Manger at Midnight.
- WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
of this week are the Winter
Ember Days and Days of Fast and
Abstinence. At the Full Meal
of Wednesday and Saturday, Meat
may be eaten.
- MASSES FOR THE WEEK:
(Abbot Leonard's Schedule)
SUNDAY: For the People of
the Chapels
MONDAY: Welfare Joanna Hayes
TUESDAY: Welfare John Ceconi
WEDNESDAY: Welfare Betty Mann
THURSDAY: Welfare Ann
Kilpatrick
FRIDAY: Welfare Jude Fasala
SATURDAY: Thksg. Carol Girardi