

# Christ the King Abbey

(Traditional Benedictines)

(St Francis of Assisi Chapel)

Cullman Alabama

Every Sunday

6:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M.

6:00 A.M. Daily

Holy Days

6:00 A.M.; 8:00 A.M.; 7:00 P.M.

Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel

Montgomery Alabama

10:45 A.M.

Only on First Sunday

of each month

St. Pius V Chapel

9:30 A.M.

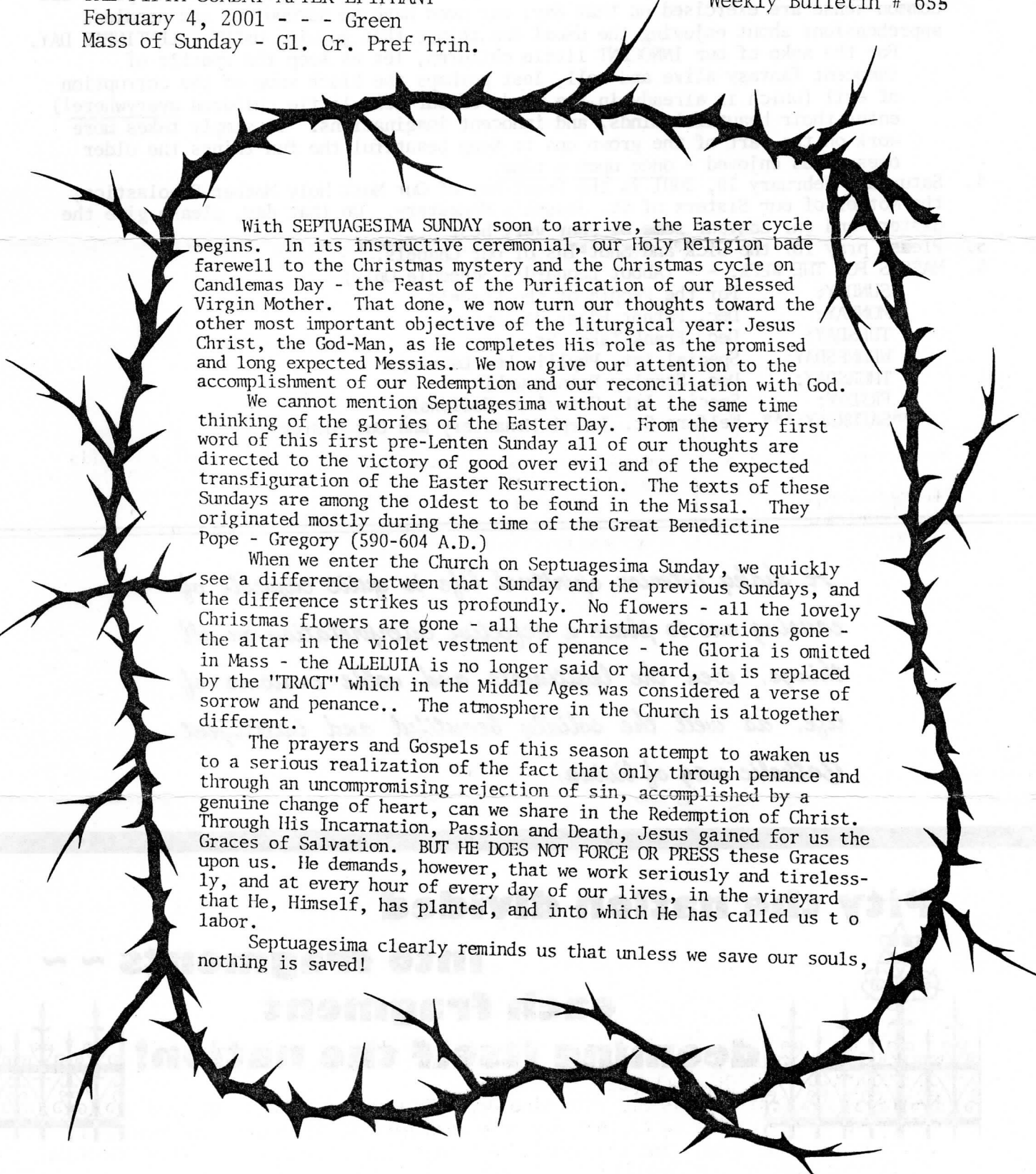
Every Sunday except  
First Sunday of each month

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 4, 2001 - - - Green

Mass of Sunday - Gl. Cr. Pref Trin.

Weekly Bulletin # 655



With SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY soon to arrive, the Easter cycle begins. In its instructive ceremonial, our Holy Religion bade farewell to the Christmas mystery and the Christmas cycle on Candlemas Day - the Feast of the Purification of our Blessed Virgin Mother. That done, we now turn our thoughts toward the other most important objective of the liturgical year: Jesus Christ, the God-Man, as He completes His role as the promised and long expected Messias. We now give our attention to the accomplishment of our Redemption and our reconciliation with God.

We cannot mention Septuagesima without at the same time thinking of the glories of the Easter Day. From the very first word of this first pre-Lenten Sunday all of our thoughts are directed to the victory of good over evil and of the expected transfiguration of the Easter Resurrection. The texts of these Sundays are among the oldest to be found in the Missal. They originated mostly during the time of the Great Benedictine Pope - Gregory (590-604 A.D.)

When we enter the Church on Septuagesima Sunday, we quickly see a difference between that Sunday and the previous Sundays, and the difference strikes us profoundly. No flowers - all the lovely Christmas flowers are gone - all the Christmas decorations gone - the altar in the violet vestment of penance - the Gloria is omitted in Mass - the ALLELUIA is no longer said or heard, it is replaced by the "TRACT" which in the Middle Ages was considered a verse of sorrow and penance.. The atmosphere in the Church is altogether different.

The prayers and Gospels of this season attempt to awaken us to a serious realization of the fact that only through penance and through an uncompromising rejection of sin, accomplished by a genuine change of heart, can we share in the Redemption of Christ. Through His Incarnation, Passion and Death, Jesus gained for us the Graces of Salvation. BUT HE DOES NOT FORCE OR PRESS these Graces upon us. He demands, however, that we work seriously and tirelessly, and at every hour of every day of our lives, in the vineyard that He, Himself, has planted, and into which He has called us to labor.

Septuagesima clearly reminds us that unless we save our souls, nothing is saved!