

1. Thursday, May 24, 2001 is the Glorious Feast of the Ascension of our Most Blessed Lord and Savior. IT IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION.
 MASSES IN THE ABBEY CHURCH: 6:00 A.M.; 8:00 A.M.; 7:P.M.
2. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of this week (three days before the Feast of the Ascension) are Rogation Days, and the Litany of the Saints is chanted each day in procession. The Procession will begin at 5:30 A.M. each morning. Anyone coming to Mass on those days is kindly asked to travel carefully and with caution on the drive way as the procession will be traveling on the driveway at that time.
About Rogation Days - Following the public calamities that afflicted the diocese in Vienne in Dauphiny in the Fifth Century, St. Mamertus instituted a solemn penitential procession to be held on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday preceeding Ascension Thursday. By 511 A.D. the devotion had spread throughout the rest of France and in 816 Pope III introduced it at Rome. It was soon extended to the whole Church. Rogation means supplication. The object of these devotions is to turn away from us the scourges of Divine Justice and draw down God's Blessings on the fruits of the earth. Perhaps we should all pray on those days that God will turn away from us the scourages of Divine Justice that are upon us all at this time.
3. Please pray for the Sick and Shut-Ins of our Chapels - - especially remembering Manuel Gomez, Miriam Roy.
4. THE LAST SUNDAY OF MAY - - - May 27, 2001 - - POT LUCK PICNIC AFTER MASS ON ABBEY GROUNDS.
5. CORPUS CHRISTI CEREMONIES - - SUNDAY May 17, 2001 at the Abbey Church - there will be no Mass at St. Pius V Chapel on that day.
 MINISTERS for the Celebration of Corpus Christi - - - Assignments:
 (1) Acolytes for Mass and Procession and Benedictions: Colin Niebuhr and Isaac Olson
 (2) Censors for the Procession Frater Bernard, O.S.B. and Brother Joseph, O.S.B.
 (3) Cross Bearer Ronald Roberts
 (4) Carriers of the Baldachin (1) Thomas Girardi (3) Albert Patterson
 (2) Danny Henderson (4) Alexander Salillas
 (5) Flower Girls (1) Marie Therese Henderson
 (2) Briana Marie Kelly
 (3) Marie Catherine Patterson
 (6) Masters of Ceremonies (1) Father Sebastian, O.S.B. (2) Father Francis,
 For the Procession O.S.B. (3) Father Abbot Leonard, O.S.B.
 (7) Rosary and Music Reverend Frater Paul, O.S.B.
 (8) Celebrant of the Mass Father Abbot Leonard, O.S.B.
 (9) Celebrant of the Benedictions Father Michael, O.S.B.
6. MASSES FOR THE WEEK: (Abbot Leonard's Schedule Only)
 SUNDAY: For the People of the Chapels
 MONDAY: Dec. Randolph Damico
 TUESDAY: Dec. Lucia Chavira
 WEDNESDAY: Dec. Catherine Tate
 THURSDAY: Dec. Paul R. Roy
 FRIDAY: For the Poor Souls
 Welfare Welfare Peter Dello Buono

OF THE SPIRITUAL EXERCISES

Some have asked about the SPIRITUAL EXERCISES OF ST. IGNATIUS. Perhaps a word would be in order.

Taken from "Guidance for Religious", by Father Gerald Kelly, S.J. (1956) pages 9 & 10.

"As usual, Catholic asceticism is in perfect agreement with the soundest psychology. For instance, the purpose of Saint Ignatius' SPIRITUAL EXERCISES is, in his own words, to enable one to come to a decision without being influenced by inordinate attachments. The exercises themselves are very long, and made in their entirety, take approximately thirty days; but it should not be forgotten that they were planned primarily to help one choose one's vocation. This is a momentous decision, and it should consume much time. The lesson of the exercises once learned, however, is supposed to be applied all through life in due proportion, so that every practical decision should be made on principle and independently of excessive likes and dislikes. The underlying principle is the same for small things and for great things - God's Will. To make all one's choices according to that standard is to be Christlike, is to be a saint, is to be mature."

Taken from "The Spiritual Letters of Dom John Chapman, O.S.B."(1935) Abbot of Downside - England.

"There are different systems of training, of course, and nothing could be more opposed than the Benedictine and Jesuit methods, for instance; but they are for different vocations of different temperaments and different work."

A word from Abbot Leonard, O.S.B.

The Spiritual Exercises are undoubtedly good in themselves - if used for the purpose for which they were intended by St. Ignatius, himself. The Spiritual Exercises do not focus their attention on the formation of the INTERIOR LIFE OF THE SOUL - indirectly, perhaps, but not directly. The Exercises are intended to help one make up his mind about his vocation in life. Benedictine Spirituality focuses its ENTIRE attention on the development of the Interior Life of the Soul - for that reason the words of Abbot Chapman, O.S.B. are so well spoken. Both spiritualities are good - - but their purposes are different.