

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.

Birmingham

Every Sunday except

First Sunday of each month

THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Weekly Bulletin # 697

(The Last Sunday After Pentecost

November 25, 2001 - - - Green

Mass of Sunday - Gl; Cr; Comm St. Catherine; Pref Trin.

"Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation, which was spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place - let him who reads understand - then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains; and let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything from his house; and let him who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. But woe to those who are with child, or have infants at the breast in those days! But pray that your flight may not be in the winter, or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, nor will be. And unless those days had been shortened, no living creature would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened. Then if anyone say to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or, 'There he is,' do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will arise, and will show great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible even the elect. Behold, I have told it to you beforehand. If therefore they say to you, 'Behold, he is in the desert,' do not go forth; 'Behold, he is in the inner chambers,' do not believe it. For as the lightning comes forth from the east and shines even to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. Wherever the body is, there will the eagles be gathered together. But immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give her light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven; and then will all tribes of the earth mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming upon the clouds of heaven with great power and majesty. And he will send forth his angels with a trumpet and a great sound, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other. Now from the fig tree learn this parable. When its branch is now tender, and the leaves break forth, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see all these things, know that it is near, even at the door. Amen I say to you, this generation will not pass away till all these things have been accomplished. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

- 1. Saturday, December 8, 2001, is THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF OUR MOST BLESSED MOTHER, AND IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION. Masses in the Abbey Church at 6:00 A.M. - 8:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M. The obligation of Sunday Mass remains the same.
- 2. Friday, the Vigil of the Immaculate Conception is a FAST AND ABSTINENCE DAY.
- 3. Please pray for all the Sick and Chut-Ins of our Chapels - especially remembering Manny Gomez and Miriam Roy.
- 4. Saturday, December 1, 2001 is the First Saturday of December. Masses are at 6:00 A.M. and 8:00 A.M.
- 5. Sunday, December 2, 2001 is the First Sunday of December, therefore, there will be no Mass at St. Pius V.
- 6. Friday, November 30, 2001 is the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle.
- 7. As we approach the Holy Season of Advent, let us not fail to prepare ourselves for that great Season. Read the Sunday Bulletins carefully, as they are prepared to help us climb the ladder to perfection and Salvation. They should be carefully studied, and where there are children, they should be explained.
- 8. There will be Catechism Class today.
- 9. MASSES FOR THE WEEK: (Father Abbot's Schedule Only)

SUNDAY:	For the People of the Chapels		THURSDAY:	Dec. Stanley Poinatowski
MONDAY:	Dec. Anthony Maccarone		FRIDAY:	Special Int. Genevieve Godlewsky
TUESDAY:	Special Int. Paulita Dudley		SATURDAY:	Special Int. Paul Roy Family
WEDNESDAY:	Dec. Marie Aubut			
- 10. BLESSED WHEAT AVAILABLE TODAY - - PICK UP ENOUGH PACKAGES ONE FOR EACH OF YOUR CHILDREN - - and ?? Maybe one for the Grown Ups also??

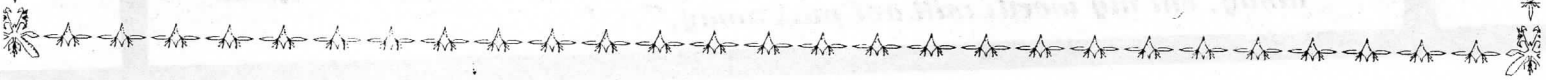


CATHOLIC EXPERIENCE - - LITTLE THINGS
ADVENT CUSTOM ~~~ BLESSED WHEAT ~~~

Set aside a flower pot ~ or a shallow container about 10 inches in diameter. Clean it thoroughly and decorate it as best you can ~ well done ~ with the help of our children ~ of course. Fill it with fresh potting soil, and place it (or them) in some important spot near the window which is bright and sunny. As you take the Blessed Grains of Wheat home with you (available today) instruct your children that with EACH ACT OF SACRIFICE PERFORMED IN SECRET they are to plant ONE grain of wheat in the little pot. Beginning with the first Day of Advent, the little grains of wheat will develop tender shoots, and on Christmas Day, each little green shoot will be a reminder of some small sacrifice made for Baby Jesus - each little shoot a tremendous GIFT for Baby Jesus. The mother and father must see to it that the plants are properly watered with the water of close Family Affection. On Christmas Day, before all go in to see what Santa Claus has brought everybody, the wheat plants of love and sacrifices are brought in and placed around the Crib. THESE ARE THE REAL GIFTS - FIT FOR THE LITTLE KING OF KINGS. With care, the plants should easily last until Epiphany. After that they should be planted out of doors where they will continue to develop and where they will remain a source of interest.

SERIOUSLY ~~~~~ would it not be a wonderful part of this custom, if parents, themselves, would each have one of these small containers where they, too, might plant their many sacrifices made in the Name of Jesus, and for the Infant King? If this could and would be done by the parents, EVERYTHING else about Christmas Day would fall in to place, IMMEDIATELY. This is but one of the many littlest things that pertain to Christmas, which, if entered into with the proper spirit and intention, the entire Family will be kept busy as each new day offers more opportunities to construct gifts for the Infant Lord. These customs which we present are some of the FORGOTTEN customs of Catholic living and life. They were once well known, and they were developed over the years by religious experience of the Holy Church. Little, child-like customs - profound customs - that brought Catholic living and life into focus within the family Circle. Each year, these customs were fresh and crisp and the little ones looked forward to them, while all the while they are living Catholic life. Let us not introduce customs that are out of context with Catholic life and living, so that our children will not be confused when they are faced ~ ~ later ~ ~ with the broken up life of the world, which they will inevitably be forced to face. Customs that have evolved out of personal and private preference will soon wilt and will eventually be put out of the mind of the child.

If we simply keep the Holy Vision in our hearts and minds and in our activities, and in the hearts and minds of our little children, we need have no fear about the customary Christmas fantasy preparations ~ ~ they will be in proper focus. Let us not be made to feel uncomfortable by the vigorous attack, which comes from certain places, concerning the customary Christmas fantasies. If we take fantasy away from our littlest children, we will create a void in their young and innocent minds ~ ~ a void which will be filled, one way or another. With the filth which is now almost everywhere, our little ones might turn to matters too horrible to speak of. The final question we must answer is: which is better for our young children ~ FANTASY or FILTH? Let those be warned who are on the war-path against the well established and very lovely childhood fantasies ~ ~ fantasies we all enjoyed in the normal, Catholic and happy childhoods of yesteryear!



*The life of Jesus Christ on Earth
amongst men is the Divine Way
of Living on Earth.*

2001 AD ADVENT

SUGGESTED ADVENT READINGS

FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT:

Sunday	St Luke	Chap. 21 (25-33)
Monday	Isaiah:	Chap. 2 (1-5)
Tuesday	Isaiah:	Chap. 11 (1-10)
Wednesday	Sophonias:	Chap. 3 (14-20)
Thursday	Isaiah	Chap. 61 (1-11)
Friday	Isaiah	Chap. 7 (10-14)
Saturday	Isaiah:	Chap. 35 (1-10)

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

Sunday	St John	Chap. 1 (19-28)
Monday	St Luke	Chap. 1 (5-26)
Tuesday	St Luke	Chap 1 (27-38)
Wednesday	St Luke	Chap. 1 (39-45)
Thursday	St. Luke	Chap. 1 (46-56)
Friday	St. Luke	Chap. 1 (57-66)
Saturday	St. Luke	Chap. 1 (67-80)

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT:

Sunday	St Matthew	Chap. 11 (2-10)
Monday	Isaiah:	Chap. 64 (1-11)
Tuesday	Jeremiah	Chap. 3 (14-16)
Wednesday	St. Paul to the Philippians	Chap. 4 (4-9)
Thursday	Baruch	Chap. 5 (1-9)
Friday	Isaiah	Chap. 40 (1-12)
Saturday	Isaiah	Chap. 52 (7-10)

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT:

Sunday	St Luke	Chap. 3 (1-6)
Monday	***** CHRISTMAS EVE *****	
	St. Matthew	Chap. 1 (18-25)
Tuesday	*****CHRISTMAS DAY*****	
	St. Luke	Chap. 2 (1-20)

AFTER THE READING SCHEDULED TO BE READ ON CHRISTMAS EVE, THE FOLLOWING CEREMONY TAKES PLACE - - TO BE LED BY THE FATHER OF THE FAMILY OR THE MOTHER.

"In the forty-second year of the empire of Octavian Augustus, in the Sixth Age of the world while all the earth was at peace, JESUS CHRIST, Eternal God, and Son of the Eternal Father, willed to consecrate the world by His gracious coming, having been conceived of the Holy Ghost, and the nine months since His conception having now passed (ALL KNEEL), He was born as Man of the Virgin Mary at Bethlehem of Juda: -
(READ VERY SOLEMNLY THE FOLLOWING:)

THE BIRTHDAY ACCORDING TO THE FLESH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!

After this has been completed, the Father of the Family blesses the Christmas Tree - all full of beautiful decorations and things:
He says:

"Let us pray:

O Lord Jesus Christ, Who by dying on the Tree of the Cross didst overcome the death of sin caused by our first parents' eating of the forbidden tree of paradise, bless this our Christmas Tree, so that in its use we can obtain even more of the Graces of Thy Holy Nativity. Keep Thy holy peace and joy in our home and be with us forever. Amen.

The next day (Christmas Day), AFTER all have given glory to God and to His Son, THE BABY JESUS, by attending THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS ~ wherever and whenever possible ~ all should gather around the Christmas Tree once again, and all should open the wonderful gifts brought to them by none other than SANTA CLAUS

Monastic Home Altars

So many of us complain that we do not have churches to visit, churches where we can spend time giving adoration to our Blessed Lord - on a regular basis. The complaint is valid and the absence of proper churches is a deplorable situation. Never defeated, we simply do the best we can with what we have at our disposal to work. If we do not have authentic altars to kneel before, then we shall construct altars in our own homes - our Monastic Homes. That which we shall construct will be miniature home altars.

First, we must locate a corner, or space, that is accessible to all, and one that can be dedicated to Our Lord on a permanent basis. The location of the altar should be in an area that is not too busy and an area that is usually free from clutter - a pleasant and inviting area in the house. Then we should place a small table, about the size of a rectangular coffee table, and about 30 inches high. The table should be covered with appropriate doilies - white in color and neatly washed and pressed. After this has been done, the real excitement begins, for now it is time to BUILD our little Monastic Home Altar. Excellent ideas can be obtained from many holy cards -

The altars might be about 15 inches long, about 7 inches or so deep, and about 7 inches high to the table top. These are the essential dimensions. Whatever other decoration and detail one wishes to incorporate into the structure is left up to the imagination of the builders. It is understood that the children should be very much involved in this project. While the men of the family are busy constructing the altar, the ladies of the family should be busy sewing the needed linens. Tabernacle veils are needed, and altar cloths, and antependiums (frontals). Since our altars are classified as "liturgical altars" a certain amount of simplicity is advised, and on liturgical altars usually the front of the altar is draped with an antependium. The antependium and the tabernacle veils match each other, and are the adornment of the altar according to the color of the day: each day is different, because it is determined either by the season or the feast that is being observed and celebrated. The several colors of the liturgy are: red, purple, white, gold, green and rose.

Candles will also be needed, and the small white birthday cake candles are excellent. Small candle holders can be made using whatever imagination one has. Any appropriate or manufactured object is quite fitting. Whatever art ability one has in the making of these things should be readily employed. Tiny vases for tiny seasonal flowers will add to the beauty of this lovely scene.

This Monastic Home Altar will need daily attention, and consequently will be a cause of wonderful and tremendously important instruction. Since the altar must be constantly changed, because of the changing Seasons and the observation of the various Saints' feasts, reading and study become quite necessary. This will be a great learning experience for both the children and their parents. The use of the missal is absolutely necessary. If the Saint is a martyr, the altar should be in red; if a non-martyr, the altar should be in white. When not celebrating any given Saint, the altar should be in the color of the Season. The color of rose is used for the two Sundays of Laetare and Gaudete. Gold is used for the really great feasts such as Christmas and Easter.

There should not be a clutter of Holy Cards stacked up and around this little altar, as they tend to distract. Some family favorite Saints' statues are very much in order, and a small crucifix should be placed over the tabernacle. This should be sufficient.

As you can see, this tiny and blessed spot in our Monastic Homes can be a source of excellent Catholic education, and a cause for wholesome prayer life, and productive a sound Catholic devotion. It will soon become the cause of a healthy spiritual atmosphere in the room where it is located, because it will be the center of much interest and concern. The atmosphere of this room might well influence the atmosphere of the entire house.

The most correct time to make the daily changes on the altar is sometime before VESPER TIME (evening time). The altar should be changed in the observance of the following day's celebration. The Vesper Time is a good time for the Family Rosary, and the other prayers usually recited by the Family.

Not only will the children profit by this small devotion, but the grown ups, as well, will be affected by it, and the unbroken continuity of our ancestral Catholic ages will continue to be in evidence to those who might approach the limits of our Catholic Monastic Homes - - hopefully to be edified and inspired

No doubt, questions will come up, from time to time, concerning this small observation. At such times, a quick call to the Monastery will solve the problems. God Bless You, and keep you in His Love!!!

