

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 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 2, 2001 - - - Purple

ADVENT WREATH IS BLESSED TODAY

Mass of Sunday; no Gl; Cr; Pref Trinity

Weekly Bulletin #698

Advent Spirituality

In order to pray outside the times of prayer (which most of us cannot avoid) as well as during the times set aside for prayer, the soul must get used to turning the successive events and changes of the day into vehicles of prayer. In this way the act of contemplation is expanded and extended into a contemplative attitude of mind. We must be aware, however, that the spiritual growth of our souls must not develop simply for the sake of our spiritual development: it develops in Christ and FOR THE SAKE OF CHRIST.

The time of Advent is perfect for this kind of interior - spiritual development - a time for the CONVERSIO - - not so much a time for the rigorous Lenten penances - as some erroneously think it should be. Penance is one thing - - development is quite another. Penance does not necessarily assist development, whereas spiritual development certainly increases the dimensions of our potential practices.

O come!

ADVENT

O come, Emmanuel!

and ransom captive Israel,

in lonely exile here,

until

the Son of God appear!

Rejoice!

Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to you,

O Israel!

First Sunday in Advent

Thursday, December 6, 2001 is the Feast Day of Saint Nicholas (Bishop of Myra in Asia Minor). He was and continues to be a beloved Saint - especially of the children. In many parts St Nicholas once upon a time visited with and talked with little children on the evening before (December 5) and then left little goodies for the children. This is no longer possible - that is the little visits - so now he passes quickly through the houses, and each place he finds a tiny shoe, or little basket, he places the goodies in it, and then passes quickly on to the next house where good little children live. He was a wonderful Saint and he loved to do good things, and everywhere he visited he left people feeling wonderful and full of joy, and everybody waited anxiously for his next visit on December 6 - next year. In the meantime, the children behave properly in honor of the love of the good St Nicholas. Later in life, the little ones find out that St Nicholas is an elder family member, the knowledge does not really cause any shock or harm. The thrill of the beautiful childhood excited custom is retained in the memory of many who have grown old and grey, and it remains to the days of old age - - in all of its beauty and fantasy. The old folks enjoy St Nicholas very much - also. A little party on St Nicholas Day is always wonderful and it pleases St Nicholas very much.

2001
DEC 2