

Prepare!

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.

Prepare!

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

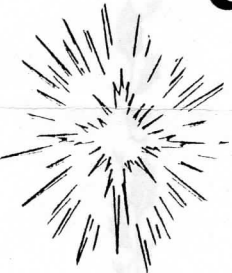
THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT  
December 9, 2001 - - - Purple  
Mass of Sunday: No Gl; Cr; Pref Trin

!Prepare!

Weekly Bulletin # 699

# ADVENT

## CATHOLIC EXPERIENCE - - - ADVENT



**SINNERS WE ALL ARE!** For our sinfulness we must make amends. The poison of sin surrounds us on every side, and the many sides of dangerous worldliness threatens us from morning until night. Over the past Century (or more) there has been a marked falling-off in the matter of penance. Bodily mortification, fasting, abstaining from food and other legitimate things are rarely preached about, and make for unpopular conversation. Directors have become increasingly shy of recommending bodily restraints. ARE WE TO BELIEVE, THEN, THAT THE WHOLE BUSINESS OF "RETURNING TO GOD" BY WAY OF THE INTERIOR LIFE IS EFFECTED BY SOME VAGUE ACCEPTANCE OF THE ORDINARY SET-BACKS OF EVERY DAY LIFE AND LIVING??

**SINNERS WE ALL ARE:** For our corrupt nature we must make satisfaction. The animal will in us must be bent and formed until it is worthy, as a rational power, to cooperate habitually with supernatural grace. No son or daughter of Adam and Eve can escape it: the body, with its animal instincts, must be kept in subjection to the spirit. (SPECIAL NOTE: we do not here propose a form of any unreasonable and inappropriate - - JANSENISTIC - - discipline. The proper Catholic discipline is reasonable and prudent, though firm and enduring. It must be so if it is to have any value in the sight of God).

**SINNERS WE ALL ARE:** To chastise the body as recommended by most spiritual writers, avoiding luxuries of the world, to love fasting, and all the rest, are in no way antiquated customs promulgated by a present day silly traditionalistic people who simply cannot get with the modern age of man - - modern man who no longer can be duped into thinking in the same way the "enslaved" people of the Middle Ages thought and lived.

**SINNERS WE ALL ARE:** The people of the Middle Ages were sinners, just as the people of our Modern Age are sinners, and the penalties for sin are the same today as they were during our earlier Ages. God has not changed, and His conditions for Salvation remain the same as they were from all time. Therefore, penance and mortification remain necessary today - just as much as they were necessary during our earlier ages, because self-love is just as potent today as it was at the moment when Adam and Eve ate the apple. As important as penance is, it will not completely dethrone self-love. Hopefully, it will check the tyranny of it. The reason why self-love remains a continued menace to advancement in the love of God is that in fallen human nature self-love is so much a part of the human desire for happiness and satisfaction. The desire for happiness is not an evil, and should not be smothered - - it is a good which should be properly nourished and formed by the gentle and experienced hands of those whose duty it is to guide souls to God. If proper guidance is missing, it is inevitable that the desire for happiness and satisfaction becomes mixed with the otherwise legitimate instinct for self-realization, and inordinate selfishness - - the last enemy to man's perfection - - takes over and the final result is unhappiness, the very thing that man strives so hard to avoid. Witness the mental attitudes of those we come into contact with as we travel through the streets of life - each day. We will not here, at this time, go into the destructiveness of self centered obsessedness which hinders every effort leading to salvation.

**ADVENT**, therefore, is a wonderful time for us to come to a better understanding of the workings of the - - - **CONVERSIO** - - - in our souls, and why the **CONVERSIO** must be done WITH Christ. The **CONVERSIO** without Christ is idle.



### Wisdom

who camest out of the mouth of the Most High, reaching from end to end and ordering all things mightily and sweetly: come and teach us the way of prudence!



During these Days of Advent, we should pray for the **Gift of Understanding!**



We must pray that we come to understand exactly what it means to yield to God's **WISH** and **LAW** - - (as made known to us by way of the **MAGISTERIAL teaching authority** of God's Holy Church).

Furthermore, we must pray to come to understand that it is not - - **AT ALL** - - for us to place interpretation and application on that **WISH** and **LAW** with our usual

### SELF-SERVING LOGIC

which allows us to establish a belief that best suits our **personal benefit and convenience and preference**. This is another sad effect caused by the "long arm" of pride.