

# 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  
Birmingham, Alabama  
9:30 A.M.  
Every Sunday except  
first Sunday of each month

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 1, 2002 -- Purple

Mass of Sunday: No Gl; Cr; Pref Trinity

Weekly Bulletin #752



# ADVENT

*Come!*



*Come, Emmanuel!*

*and ransom captive Israel,*



*that mourns*

*in lonely exile here,*



*until*

*the Son of God appear!*

*Rejoice!*



*Rejoice!*

ADVENT is preparation time for the Feast of Christ's Birth - THE MOST NOTABLE EVENT IN ALL OF HUMAN HISTORY. The Birth of Christ is not properly observed if it is looked upon as merely another historical event to be commemorated. It is an event that still lives, as truly now as once it lived in the unseemly stable of Bethlehem. The event of the Birth of Jesus is not something academic that is generated by mere history. In a certain true sense we can see and hear Jesus. The pages of the Gospel enable us to do so. But they do this ONLY FOR THOSE who read them with a firm faith in the Divinity as well as in the Humanity of Jesus Christ. Those who have not the faith may draw from the study of the Birth a great enthusiasm for the moral beauty of the Person of Jesus Christ, but their admiration is powerless to exercise any supernaturalizing transformation. To one of sound faith, JESUS IS NOT MERELY A HISTORICAL PERSON Who once lived and now lives no longer - He is a Person Who once lived and yet continues to live. Hence, in the faith of the believer, Jesus lives and breathes and moves and is clearly seen in the pages of the Gospel. It is the study of those pages, it is the viewing IN FAITH what is set forth on those pages, that will TRANSFORM the soul of man into the likeness of Jesus, and so adapt it for the inflow of the Divine Life which is stored in the Sacred Humanity as in an immense reservoir.

The advent of the Divine Birth began when the Angel Gabriel came as an ambassador of God to a young girl named Mary. This is the most dramatic scene of all time! The Annunciation is the PIVOT POINT of the universe, on which ALL things turn. All previous generations looked forward to it, just as all subsequent generations have looked back to it. The result of this conference between Heaven and Earth had Angels "HOLDING THEIR BREATH" as they waited for the answer of a teenager - whose answer would decide the fate of us all, whoever we were, wherever we were, and whenever we were to come to be.



Thursday, December 6, 2003, 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 of the world, 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 them. This is no longer possible - that is, the little visits - so now he passes quietly through the houses, and at each place he finds a shoe, or little basket, which he fills with goodies, and then he passes on to the next house where good little children live. He was a wonderful Saint who 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 of the following year. In the meantime, the children would try to behave properly in honor of the good St. Nicholas. Later in life when the little ones find out that St. Nicholas is an older family member, the knowledge does not cause any shock or harm. The thrill of the beautiful childhood custom is retained in the memory, and it remains to the days of old age - in all its beauty and fantasy. The older folks enjoy St. Nicholas as much as the children, and a little party on St. Nicholas Day is a wonderful custom to continue and foster.