

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

TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Last Sunday after Pentecost

November 23, 2003 – Green

Mass of Sunday; Gl; Cr; Pref. Trinity; comm. St. Clement

Weekly Bulletin #804

“Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation, which was spoken of by David 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 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 the 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.

Happy Thanksgiving!

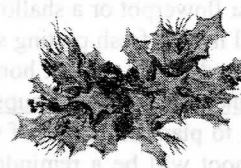
1. There will be Catechism class after the 10:00 Mass this morning.
2. Today is the Last Sunday of Pentecost, 2003 AD. It should be a day of most serious recollection and meditation. The points brought out in today's Gospel should be pondered in a most honest and mature way.
3. The Advent Readings for 2003 AD will be found on page 3 of today's Bulletin. These Readings should be read seriously by the Head of the Family, in front of the whole family if possible. A brief meditation should follow.
4. BLESSED WHEAT is available at all Masses today. The instructions for its use are on page 4 of this Bulletin.
5. PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THE QUAGMIRE – PIGSTY – OF FILTH that feeds the fantasies of even our youngest children today. No child is totally protected from this evil! With Christmas so close at hand, let not our normal and perfectly lovely customary Christmas fantasies be manhandled by the crafty words of soured minds whose childhoods were in all probability not as they should have been. Which fantasies do you suppose make the Baby Jesus suffer: the childhood fantasies of yesteryear, or the horrible fantasies of today's hell-bound violence, with screaming, inhuman, grotesque monsters, reeking with the stench of the pigsty? Parents - think straight in this matter!
6. Information concerning the Advent Wreath and the Monastic Home Altars will be found on page 4 of today's Bulletin. All of these customs should be observed by the whole Family in such a way that the Baby Jesus will always be the CENTRAL Figure. The wholesome atmosphere of Christmas will be all through the home where true LOVE reigns.
7. Thursday, November 27, 2003, is the Feast Day of the Miraculous Medal. If you are unfamiliar with the Miraculous Medal it is strongly recommended that you become quite familiar with it. Friday, November 28, 2003, is the Feast Day of St. Catherine Laboure, who received the Miraculous Medal from Our Lady herself.
8. Next Sunday, November 30, 2003, is the FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT. Everything should be prepared for this priceless Season of the Liturgical Cycle. Penance, reparation, and special prayer are surely advocated for each member of the Family. If all the recommended customs are practiced in the proper context of things, all, taken together, will produce a most desirable and happy Christmas feast and season.
9. The Novena in Honor of the Immaculate Conception this year begins on Saturday, November 29 and ends on Sunday, December 7. The prayers for the novena should be carefully selected to suit the good tastes of the Family members. They should be rather short and not burdensome to the littlest ones. The best place for this devotion is the Family Chapel. **EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT: The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is a Holyday of Obligation. Masses in the Abbey Church will be at 6:00 AM, 8:00 AM, and 7:00 PM.**
10. Wednesday, November 26, 2003, is the Feast Day of Father Abbot Leonard, O.S.B. (St. Leonard of Port Maurice – Roman calendar) Please keep Fr. Abbot in your special prayers on this day.
11. Thursday, November 27, 2003, is also Thanksgiving Day. May everyone have a safe and happy Thanksgiving! In spite of it all, we do have much to be thankful for – especially our FAITH. Let us not fail to give God special thanks on this day. Masses in the Abbey Church on Thanksgiving Day will be at 6:00 AM and 8:00 AM. Enjoy the food and goodies and the relaxation that goes with Thanksgiving Day. **IT IS NEVER WRONG OR SINFUL TO ENJOY, WITHIN REASON, GOODIES AND FEAST DAY FOOD. By long standing custom, the Friday after Thanksgiving Day is NOT a day of abstinence – therefore MEAT MAY BE EATEN ON THE FRIDAY AFTER THANKSGIVING. Let no one force his/her personal scruples or opinions on others.**
12. **■■■N. B.: THE NEW DATE FOR ORDINATION TO THE SUBDEACONATE IS SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2004, AND THE NEW DATE FOR CONFIRMATION IS SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2004. Please pray for good health and good weather, subject, of course, to the will of God. ■■■**
13. The Traditional 2004 Calendars are now available, at the usual price of \$6.00 each. Please contact: CULLMAN: FATHER ABBOT – BIRMINGHAM: LAURIE NIEBUHR – MONTGOMERY: SCOTT LINEBACK.
14. Please pray for all the Sick and Shut-ins of our Chapels, especially remembering Manny Gomez, Woody Fleming, and Father James Wathen. LET US ALSO PRAY FOR EVERYONE. Let us pray for ALL the priests and religious men and women of the world. NO MAN, WOMAN, OR CHILD SHOULD BE LEFT OUT OF OUR PRAYER. God made all men to be with Him in heaven for all eternity, and this includes every human being on earth, regardless of station or condition or place. Weak human nature and erroneous persuasions will prevent some from achieving the purpose intended for them by God, but that matter remains entirely between all such and God. We must make no judgments concerning such matters. If there is any sifting to be done, it is to be done by God, Himself alone. We are **NOT** the ones to do the sifting.
15. MASSES FOR THE WEEK: (Father Abbot Leonard's schedule only)

SUNDAY: For the People of our Chapels	THURSDAY: Deceased Marla McGill
MONDAY: For Mary Peterka	FRIDAY: For Dianne Peterka
TUESDAY: In honor of the Archangels	SATURDAY: For the Poor Souls
WEDNESDAY: Deceased Marla McGill	

ADVENT

2003

SUGGESTED ADVENT READINGS



FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT:

Sunday: S. Paul/Rom: Chap. 13 (11-14)
Monday: Isaiah: Chap. 2 (1-5)
Tuesday: Isaiah: Chap. 11 (1-11)
Wednesday: Isaiah: Chap. 11 (1-10)
Thursday: Psalms: Number 85
Friday: Sophonias: Chap. 3 (14-20)
Saturday: Isaiah: Chap. 61 (1-11)

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT:

Sunday: S. Paul/Phil: Chap. 4 (4-9)
Monday: Isaiah: Chap. 33 (10-23)
Tuesday: Micheas: Chap. 5 (1-4)
Wednesday: St. Luke: Chap. 1 (5-26)
Thursday: St. Luke: Chap. 1 (27-38)
Friday: St. Luke: Chap. 1 (39-45)
Saturday: St. Luke: Chap. 1 (46-56)

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT:

Sunday: Isaiah: Chap. 45 (1-9)
Monday: Isaiah: Chap. 7 (10-14)
Tuesday: Isaiah: Chap. 35 (1-10)
Wednesday: Isaiah: Chap. 64 (1-11)
Thursday: Jeremiah: Chap. 33 (14-16)
Friday: Psalms: Number 72
Saturday: Psalms: Number 12

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT:

Sunday: St. Luke: Chap. 3 (1-6)
Monday: St. Luke: Chap. 1 (57-66)
Tuesday: St. Luke: Chap. 1 (67-80)
Wednesday: (CHRISTMAS EVE)
S. Matthew: Chap. 1 (18-25)
Thursday: (CHRISTMAS DAY)
St. Luke: Chap. 2 (1-14)



*After the scheduled reading on Christmas Eve,
the following ceremony takes place -
led by the Head of the Family:*

"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, (*here all kneel*) He was born as Man of the Virgin Mary at Bethlehem of Juda: (*read the following very solemnly*)

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

(After this has been completed, the Head of the Family blesses the beautifully decorated Christmas Tree:)

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 Nativity. Keep Thy holy peace 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 Holy Mass - wherever possible - all should gather around the Christmas Tree again, and all should open the wonderful gifts brought to them by none other than SANTA CLAUS!

CATHOLIC EXPERIENCE – THE LITTLE THINGS

THE ADVENT CUSTOM OF BLESSED WHEAT

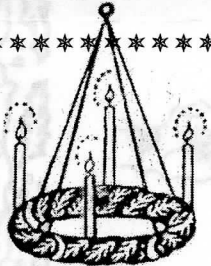


Select a flowerpot or a shallow container about 10 inches in diameter. Clean it thoroughly and decorate it with the help of your children. Fill it with fresh potting soil and place it in some easily accessible place near a window which is bright and sunny. As you take the blessed grains of wheat home with you, instruct your children that, beginning with the first day of Advent, each member of the family (including the grownups), with EACH ACT OF SACRIFICE OR SELF-DENIAL OR GOOD WORK PERFORMED IN SECRET, is to plant one grain of wheat in the pot. The planted grains of wheat will soon develop tender shoots, and on Christmas Day each shoot will be a reminder of a gift given to the Baby Jesus. The young wheat must be kept properly watered, and on Christmas Day, before going to see what Santa has brought, the wheat plants of love and sacrifice are placed near the Crib. THE WHEAT REPRESENTS REAL GIFTS – FIT FOR THE LITTLE KING OF KINGS. With proper care, the plants should easily last until Epiphany. After that they may be planted out of doors where they will continue to develop and remain a source of interest.

This is but one of the many little things that pertain to the Christmas Season, and which, if entered into with the proper spirit and intention, will keep the entire family interested as each new day offers more opportunities for gifts for our 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 the religious experience of the 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 adults and children alike looked forward to them. Let us not introduce customs that are out of context with true Catholic life and living, so that our children will not be confused when they are later faced with the broken-up life of the world. 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 all our activities, and in the hearts and minds and activities of our 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 vicious attacks upon the customary and innocent holiday fantasies (whether they concern Christmas, Easter, or etc.). **If we take the old fantasies away from our children we will create a void in their young minds – a void which WILL be filled, one way or another.** With all the filth and ugliness that is now everywhere, our little ones are more and more turning to matters too horrible to speak of. The final question we must answer is: Which is better for our children – WHOLESOME FANTASY or SOUL-WRENCHING FILTH? Let us be watchful of those who are on the warpath against legitimate childhood fantasies – such as were enjoyed by all in normal, Catholic, and happy childhood days of yesteryear!



ADVENT

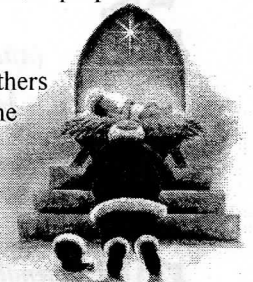
Advent
Wreath

Monastic
Home Altars



ADVENT is a very special time of the year, and it is usually filled with all kinds of Christmas excitement. It is also the beginning of the new liturgical year. It is the season of spiritual preparation, marked by an eager longing for the coming of the Savior through grace at Christmas, and for His second and final coming. It is an ideal time to establish in our homes good customs (liturgical and otherwise) which will restore ourselves and our children to the Christ Child. It is a time to restore a proper sense of beauty, holiness, peace, and serenity. It is a time to teach our children (by example as well as by words) the correct way of interpreting, understanding, and applying the real values which the spirit of this part of the year should present to us. It is the obligation of the parents to explain the matter of Christmas to their children. The parents should demonstrate how all the things of Christmas should be kept in their proper order of importance. For example, Santa Claus is not the central figure of Christmas, and things are not being prepared in his honor. At the same time, however, neither is he (Santa Claus) a sin – as some erroneously think and teach. Given proper instruction, the children will soon come to understand that Santa Claus is a good being, whose purpose is to give service to the Christ Child.

Secularism has invaded our lives and households, and our ecclesiastical leaders, who were ordained to lead others to Christ, have failed in their ordination, and in so many cases simply do not lead the people entrusted to them in the direction of Jesus Christ! They have failed to teach the Christian how to make his home life holy; they have failed to properly reflect Jesus Christ, the King of all the Universe, Whose shelter at the time of His birth was a stable where common beasts of burden lived.



Children like the beauty and simplicity of family religious (and secular) practices, and therefore make little traditions easy to establish. The little Christmas traditions, which are the lasting part of Christmas, bring back to the older members of the family the long forgotten practices of their own childhood. Long after the toys and other Christmas things have gone into the land of forgetfulness, the simple family customs of this most lovely time of the year will remain in the awareness of children for years to come.