

# 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

November 30, 2003 – Purple

Mass of Sunday; no Gl; Cr; Pref. Trinity

Weekly Bulletin #805

## Season of Advent

### The First Sunday of Advent

ADVENT is preparation time for the Feast of Christ's Birth – THE MOST NOTABLE AND FAR REACHING 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 it once 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 Gospels 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 a supernatural 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 Gospels. It is the study of those pages, it is the viewing IN FAITH what is set forth on those pages, which will TRANSFORM the soul of man into the likeness of Jesus, and so adapt him for the inflow of the Divine Life of the Sacred Humanity.

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 the 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 and whenever we were to come to be. □

Saturday, 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 children. In many parts of the world, St. Nicholas would visit with little children on the evening before and then leave little goodies for them. These little visits are no longer possible, so now he passes quietly through the houses of each good little child, filling a shoe or little basket with goodies. He was a wonderful Saint, who loved to do good things, and everywhere he visited he left people feeling happy and full of joy, and anxiously waiting for his visit next year. In the meantime, the children would try hard to behave properly in honor of good St. Nicholas. Later in life, when the little ones find out that St. Nicholas is an older member of the family, the knowledge does not cause any harm to them. The thrill of this beautiful childhood custom is retained in the memory, remaining to the days of old age – in all its beauty and fantasy. The older folks enjoy St. Nicholas Day as much as the children, and a little party on this day is a wonderful custom to enjoy and foster.