

By degrees the woody swamps became fertile gardens, the tiny hermitages became monasteries, villages were given birth, seminaries were formed to train young men to be priests, schools for children were established, and **THE CITY OF GOD** came into being. The tiny flickering Light of Faith was given protection by the silent example of these sons and daughters of Benedict of Nursia. The sparks of this tiny flickering Light were carried into the hallowed sanctuaries of the homes of men and women of good will. It was in these sanctuaries that the Light became brighter and brighter, until finally it burst forth into the Ages of Faith – into the brilliance of the ever wonderful Thirteenth Century.

*(To be continued)*

1. There will be Catechism class after the 10:00 AM Mass today.
2. *Mother Mary Monica, O.S.B., would like to express heartfelt gratitude to all who have kept her (and her Sisters) in their prayers, especially during her recent bout with pneumonia. May God bless you one and all.*
3. Thursday, September 2, 2004, is the first Thursday of September, with the usual Holy Hours and Benediction in the Abbey Church from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM and 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM.
4. Friday, September 3, 2004, is the First Friday of September, with Masses at 6:00 AM and 8:00 AM and all day Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament from 10:00 AM until 6:00 PM.
5. Saturday, September 4, 2004, is the First Saturday of September, with Masses at 6:00 AM and 8:00 AM.
6. Next Sunday, September 5, 2004, is the first Sunday of September, and therefore there will be NO Mass at St. Pius V Chapel in Birmingham next Sunday.
7. Also, next Sunday there will be NO Catechism class in Cullman.
8. EARLY NOTICE: On Wednesday, September 8, 2004, the Feast of the Nativity of our Blessed Mother, the High Altar of our Abbey Church will be solemnly consecrated. This ceremony is very beautiful, holy, and interesting. It is quite lengthy, lasting about four hours (more or less). This ceremony is a “once in a lifetime” affair. The ceremony begins at 8:00 AM and concludes with the celebration of Mass on the High Altar.
9. EARLY NOTICE No. 2: On Sunday, October 10, 2003, the Sunday before the Feast of the Holy Motherhood of the Blessed Virgin Mary, with a profound petition that God’s blessing be upon us all, we hope to give honor to the Blessed Mother in a very special manner. In preparation, we ask that you uphold the INTENTION and PURPOSE of that day in your daily prayers – beginning today. Let us look upon that day as a day of pilgrimage; a day of special prayer and penance; a day of reparation for our own sins and the sins of the world; a day of prayer for the welfare of the Church of Jesus Christ; a day to give glory to God. After the 10:00 AM Mass on that day, the statue of our Lady, under the miraculous title of “Our Lady of Cape de Madeline (Quebec),” will be solemnly blessed and crowned. This will be followed by a procession with a statue of Our Lady of Fatima and several banners honoring her apparitions. After the procession there will be Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament outside. Afterwards there will be a covered dish dinner at the Gold Ridge Community Center [For more information, call either Mrs. Mishale Roberts: (256) 739 – 8676; or Mrs. Carol Girardi: (256) 423 – 2920]. More on all this later.
10. Please pray for all the Sick and Shut-ins of our Chapels, especially remembering Diane Calandra (our Frater Joseph’s mother), and all our sick and suffering Priests.
11. **MASSES FOR THE WEEK: (Father Abbot Leonard’s schedule only)**

SUNDAY:	For the People of our Chapels
MONDAY:	Special intention Gloria Angles
TUESDAY:	Special intention Lauren Lehmann
WEDNESDAY:	For Stephanie McGuire
THURSDAY:	For the Poor Souls in Purgatory
FRIDAY:	Conversion of the Biver Family
SATURDAY:	Special intention Paul Roy Family

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*“People treat with God as they do with men, thinking they are not understood unless they go into detailed explanations of the things they require. They carefully get ready their intention, they have express forms for each and every act, they name separately each person they wish to pray for, and if the least detail escapes their memory they do not think that God can supply it. Souls of little faith, and who know not God, your intentions are present to Him before you open your mouth! He sees them as soon as they are formed in your heart; what need have you to torment yourselves in explaining them to Him? You desire all spiritual blessings as much for yourselves as for those in whom you take an interest. Is He ignorant of this, since He Himself inspires you with these desires? Do not then have any anxiety concerning this matter.” (Fr. John Grou, S.J.)*