

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 FIFTH AND LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

(Twenty Fourth – Last – Sunday after Pentecost)

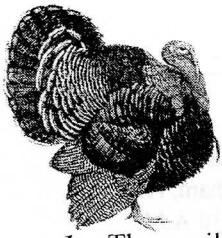
November 21, 2004 – Green

Mass of Sunday; Gl; Cr; Pref. Trinity; Comm. Presentation of BVM and St. Columban

Weekly Bulletin #857



“Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation, which was spoken of by Daniel 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!



Thursday, November 25, 2004

1. There will be NO Catechism class this morning.
2. Today is the LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – this year the Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost. It is also the Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
3. After the 10:00 AM Mass this morning in Cullman, we will have the renewal of Vows of our Benedictine Oblates. Those who are not Oblates are free to stay or leave.
4. The Advent Blessed Wheat is available today. Please help yourselves. The instructions for its use are on page 3 of this Bulletin. Additional instructions from the pulpit.
5. The Ceremony for the ADVENT WREATH (purple leaflet on the vestibule table) is available. Please pick up one of these leaflets if you do not already have one. This ceremony is highly recommended for use in your Family Circle.
6. As Advent is now here, renewed interest in our little Home Altars and our Family Home Chapel is a matter of great importance. More information is to come concerning these chapels, but during these days there will be some interruptions. The matter of the Home Chapels is serious and should be taken seriously by all. It must not be looked upon as just another empty ceremony without significance. It is not the Home Chapel that we are concerned about – it is our Holy Faith!
7. The 2005 Calendars are available at the usual price of \$6.00 each. Please see Mrs. Pam Olson in Montgomery; Mrs. Laurie Niebuhr in Birmingham; Fr. Abbot or Fr. Francis in Cullman.
8. Thursday, November 25, 2004 is Thanksgiving Day. In spite of it all we do have much to be thankful for – ESPECIALLY OUR HOLY FAITH AND RELIGION. Let us not fail to thank God for everything! **Masses in the Abbey Church will be at 6:00 AM and 8:00 AM.** Enjoy the food and relaxation that goes with Thanksgiving Day and thank God for it.
9. **N.B.:** The day following Thanksgiving Day – from time immemorial – even though it is a Friday, – is **NOT** a day of abstinence: **Meat may be freely eaten on that day** – whether it is leftovers or otherwise. DO NOT FORCE abstinence on the other members of your household, simply because one or the other member of the family prefers to maintain abstinence. Our Catholic Faith and Religion has always been reasonable, prudent, and wise. Let us keep it that way.
10. Since today is the Last Sunday after Pentecost, the Gospel appointed to be read is the Gospel according to Saint Matthew. In this Gospel is described the conditions of things at the end of time – a serious matter to be sure. The power of Satan must not be underestimated – witness the manifestation of his power all around us and at every turn in our lives. The question of Jesus Christ: “When I return, will I find any faith on earth?” is the most terrifying question ever asked by anybody! It is our Holy Faith and our love for God that He will come looking for – nothing else – nothing else at all.
11. Next Sunday is the First Sunday of ADVENT, and marks the beginning of the New Year liturgically. During Advent please pray for holy vocations to our Abbey and Convent.
12. Friday, November 26, 2004, is the Feast Day of our Father Abbot Leonard (Roman calendar). Please keep Father Abbot in your very special prayers on this day.
13. Please pray for all the Sick and Shut-ins of our Chapels, **especially remembering Mrs. Judy Smith and her family.** Let us pray also for every member of the Human Race. When Our Blessed Lord was hanging on the Cross and He looked up from His suffering – did He exclude any single member of the Human Race from the Love that came forth from Him during those momentous moments? Which man or woman or child did He NOT die for on that Friday never to be forgotten?
14. **MASSES FOR THE WEEK: (Father Abbot Leonard’s schedule only)**

SUNDAY:	For all our Benedictine Oblates
MONDAY:	For the People of our Chapels
TUESDAY:	For Tammy Salamanca
WEDNESDAY:	Deceased Louis Panigutti
THURSDAY:	In thanksgiving – in honor of all the Saints and Angels
FRIDAY:	Deceased Lynn Bodiford
SATURDAY:	Deceased Herman Bishop, Sr.

Our HOME must be a humble copy of the House of Nazareth. In our home, Father and Mother and Children – TOGETHER – must strive to raise Christian living in our day to its highest and noblest expression.

CATHOLIC EXPERIENCE – THE LITTLE THINGS

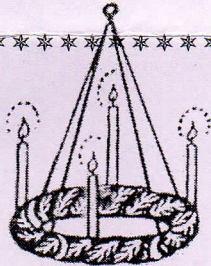
THE ADVENT CUSTOM OF BLESSED WHEAT

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 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

Family
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.

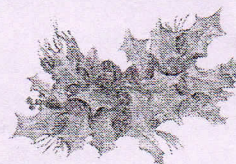


Children like the beauty and simplicity of family religious (and secular) practices, and therefore make little traditions easy to establish. The little Christmas traditions, which are the lasting part of Christmas, bring back to the older members of the family the long forgotten practices of their own 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.

ADVENT

2004

SUGGESTED ADVENT READINGS



FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT:

Sunday:	Romans:	Chap. 13 (11-14)
Monday:	Isaias:	Chap. 2 (1-5)
Tuesday:	Isaias:	Chap. 11 (1-11)
Wednesday:	Sophonias:	Chap. 3 (14-20)
Thursday:	Isaias:	Chap. 61 (1-11)
Friday:	Isaias:	Chap. 7 (10-14)
Saturday:	Isaias:	Chap. 35 (1-10)

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT:

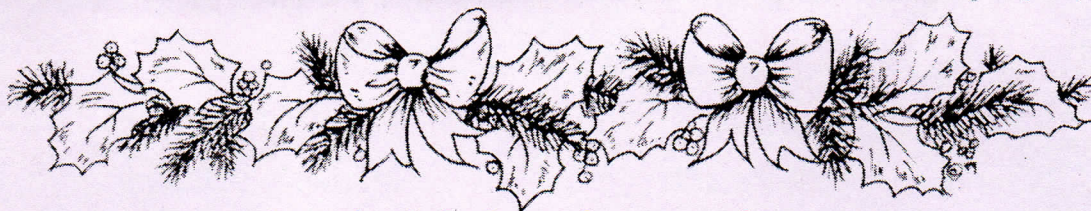
Sunday:	Philippians:	Chap. 4 (4-9)
Monday:	Isaias:	Chap. 62 (11-12)
Tuesday:	Isaias:	Chap. 33 (10-23)
Wednesday:	Isaias:	Chap. 65 (9-25)
Thursday:	St. Luke:	Chap. 1 (5-25)
Friday:	St. Luke:	Chap. 1 (26-38)
Saturday:	St. Luke:	Chap. 1 (39-45)

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT:

Sunday:	Isaias:	Chap. 45 (1-9)
Monday:	Isaias:	Chap. 64 (1-11)
Tuesday:	Jeremias:	Chap. 3 (14-16)
Wednesday:	Isaias:	Chap. 26 (1-10)
Thursday:	Baruch:	Chap. 5 (1-9)
Friday:	Isaias:	Chap. 40 (1-12)
Saturday:	Isaias:	Chap. 52 (7-10)

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT:

Sunday:	St. Luke:	Chap. 1 (46-56)
Monday:	St. Luke:	Chap. 1 (57-66)
Tuesday:	St. Luke:	Chap. 1 (67-75)
Wednesday:	St. Luke:	Chap. 1 (76-80)
Thursday:	St. Luke:	Chap. 3 (1-6)
Friday:	(CHRISTMAS EVE)	
	S. Matthew:	Chap. 1 (18-25)
Saturday:	(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!