

OF SANCTITY

Sanctity is possible for anyone to attain no matter what their calling in life. God sanctifies souls in the daily and hourly sacrifices required by their station in life. God does not expect us to punish our bodies, crucify our flesh, or starve ourselves by fasting in order to become saints. But sweetly He would lead us to holiness by our constant faithfulness to our daily duty, to duty patiently accepted in generosity and meekness, in obedience, in humility, in faith, in hope, and in charity – all done for His sake, all done for His greater honor and glory.

Our journey through life must be an interior one – a spiritual one – rather than a yielding to the self-serving accomplishments that favor the temporal advancements of the body. In the spiritual life we never stay on the same plateau. We either progress or we retrogress. We either move forward or we slide backward. To stand still is retrogression. By joyfully embracing the many little hard and painful and disagreeable things which come to us with the passing of each hour, we come closer to Christ, until one day we begin to think like Christ, talk like Christ, pray like Christ, love like Christ – until, in fact, we become another Christ.



1. There will be NO Catechism class this morning.
2. *The Ash Wednesday blessing with Ashes will take place after all Masses today. The usual little packets of Blessed Ashes are available. Do not be timid about taking these packets and using them as sacramentals around the house and garden. Sprinkle the ashes about your yard and around the foundations of your house.*
3. Tomorrow, February 14, 2005, is the Feast of Saint Valentine. We wish everyone a happy Valentines Day.
4. Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday of this week are the Ember days of Lent, and are days of Fast and Abstinence. Meat may be eaten ONCE on Wednesday and Saturday at the main meal.
5. Friday, February 18, 2005, is the Feast of Saint Bernadette (Roman Calendar), and is the Feast Day of our Sister Mary Bernadette. This is her first Feast Day as Sister Mary Bernadette. Please pray for Sister on her Feast Day.
6. The Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament are held on the Fridays of Lent at 7:00 PM in the Abbey Church.
7. It is understood that many of the people in attendance at our Chapels are unable to attend the Stations of the Cross at the Abbey. In such cases, the Home Chapel should be used. The head of the family should lead the devotion. In the place of Benediction, the Holy Rosary can be said by all. The proper example of the parents in this matter is most important. Wise, prudent, and gentle instruction should be used to motivate the children as to what is taking place. Force or strong discipline must never be used to bear upon children in this matter. Do not fatigue the children with lengthy devotions.
8. We encourage you to make use of the Lenten Readings. Again, it is the duty of the head of the family to read the assigned reading for the day. No one sitting at the table should begin eating until the reading is completed.
9. **EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT:** Palm Sunday this year is March 20. Because of the usual Palm Sunday Ceremonies held before the 10:00 Mass at the Abbey Church, there will be NO Mass at St. Pius V Chapel in Birmingham on Sunday, March 20, 2005.
10. Please pray for all the Sick and Shut-ins of our Chapels. **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. While Our Blessed Lord was hanging on the Cross He did not look around and pick and choose those for whom He was dying. He did not exclude a single member of the Human Race – even His enemies – from the wounded Love that came forth from Him during those momentous moments. 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. Our only duty is to pray for **souls**. We 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.
11. **MASSES FOR THE WEEK:** (Father Abbot Leonard's schedule only)

SUNDAY:	For the People of our Chapels
MONDAY:	For the Poor Souls in Purgatory
TUESDAY:	For Eric Stolpa
WEDNESDAY:	For those dead from the tsunami
THURSDAY:	For the Brueggemann Family
FRIDAY:	Special intention Sister Mary Bernadette, O.S.B.
SATURDAY:	Special intention Kich Family