

Christ the King Abbey

(Traditional Benedictines)

(St Francis of Assisi Chapel)

Cullman, Alabama

Every Sunday:

6:00 AM and 10:00 AM

6:00 AM Daily

Holy Days of Obligation:

6:00 AM - 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel

Montgomery, Alabama

10:45 AM

Only on first Sunday

of each month

St Pius V Chapel

Birmingham, Alabama

9:30 AM

Every Sunday except

first Sunday of each month

TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Weekly Bulletin #910

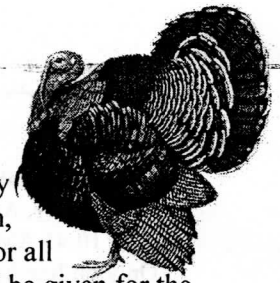
Last Sunday after Pentecost (24th Sunday after Pentecost in Missal)

November 20, 2005 – Green

Mass of Sunday; Gl; Cr; Pref. Trinity

"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!



Thanksgiving should not be looked upon as a purely worldly, commercialistic occasion. Many see it as no more than "Turkey Day," or "Football Day." It is a day for right and proper celebration, of joy and fun, but it is primarily a day set aside to give profound thanksgiving to Almighty God for all His blessings and protection He has given us over the past year. This year especially prayer should be given for the countless thousands of our brothers and sisters who have suffered so grievously. God must be at the center of this day in particular, and our gratitude should be profound, and our celebration should be profound!

Because of the many leftovers of the Thanksgiving meal, the day after Thanksgiving, a Friday, by long established Church custom, is **NOT** a day of abstinence, and **meat of any form may be eaten on that day**. Be not more Catholic than right reason, correct judgment, and humility call for.

No one else, family member or not, must ever be forced to live within a single person's self-opinionated, self-defined "rules and regulations". This applies to all of the elements of good, solid, and proper Catholic living.



1. There will be **NO** Catechism class, because Father Francis is in Birmingham this morning.
2. This morning, after the 10:00 AM Mass, there will take place the Investiture of, and the Renewal of Oblation of, our Benedictine Oblates.
3. There **will** be the usual 5:00 Vespers and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament this afternoon.
4. Tomorrow is the Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Temple.
5. **Friday, November 25, 2005, is the Friday after Thanksgiving Day and therefore meat may be eaten.**
6. Next Sunday, November 27, 2005, is the First Sunday of Advent.
7. Blessed Wheat is available this morning. Please take as much as you need and use it as instructed – as a further help to the sanctification of our souls. Grown-ups are especially invited to make use of this custom.
8. Please pick up enough Advent Wreath leaflets available in the vestibule. The Blessing should be performed by the father (or the mother, in his absence), and the youngest child may light the candle. The proper place for the Advent Wreath is in the dining room – on the table itself, if possible, and should be lit before the main meal each day. (The Blessing, however, is given only once on the Saturday before each Sunday of Advent.)
9. November is the Month of the Poor Souls in Purgatory. Please remember them in your special prayers.
10. The very beautiful 2006 Calendars are available at the usual price of \$6.00 each. At Christ the King Abbey in Cullman, see Father Francis, OSB. At Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel in Montgomery, see Mrs. Pam Olson. At Saint Pius V Chapel in Birmingham, see Father Sebastian, OSB.
11. 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. **Please pray especially for our Sister Mary Bernadette, OSB. NO MAN, WOMAN, OR CHILD SHOULD BE LEFT OUT OF OUR PRAYER.**
12. **MASSES FOR THE WEEK:** (Father Abbot Leonard's schedule only)
 - SUNDAY: For the People of our Chapels
 - MONDAY: Deceased Marguerite Roden
 - TUESDAY: Special intention Anna Rita Huelskamp
 - WEDNESDAY: Special intention Genevieve Godlewsky
 - THURSDAY: For the Poor Souls in Purgatory
 - FRIDAY: Deceased Chancy Hang
 - SATURDAY: Special intention Donna Cwik

ABOUT THE POOR SOULS

How little do we think of the dead! Their bones lie entombed in all our towns and villages. The lands they have cultivated, the houses they have built, the works of their hands, are always before our eyes. We travel the same roads, walk the same paths, sleep in the same beds and rooms, eat at the same tables, mow the same lawns, sit in the same chairs – yet we seldom remember that those who once occupied these very places are now gone! Alas! Strange that the fleeting cares of life should so soon rush in and fill our breast, to the exclusion of those once so near!

Our dead! Our beloved dead! Loved even more strongly because they are near to God. How consoling is the doctrine that assures us we can pray for them! Are they in suffering? We know not, but love bids us pray for them, and pray for them always that the hand of the Lord be not heavily laid upon them. Pray for your dead! Never forget your dead! They loved you then – they love you now, perhaps more than ever before, but they may very well be in grave need, and it might well be that they plead for your prayers. Pray for the dead, that eternal rest may come to them, and that perpetual light may shine upon them. ☐

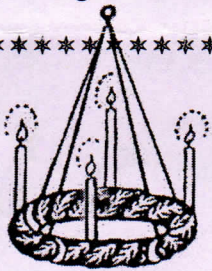
CATHOLIC EXPERIENCE – THE LITTLE THINGS

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

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

2005

SUGGESTED ADVENT READINGS

(To be read by the father of the family – or in his absence, the mother)

FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT:

Sunday: Romans: Chap. 13 (11-14)
Monday: Isaias: Chap. 2 (1-5)
Tuesday: Isaias: Chap. 11 (1-10)
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:

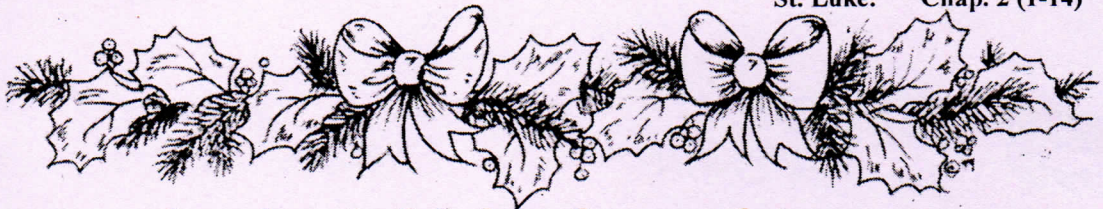
Sunday: Philippians: Chap. 4 (4-9)
Monday: Isaias: Chap. 62 (11-12)
Tuesday: St. Luke: Chap. 21 (25-33)
Wednesday: Psalms: Number 122
Thursday: Isaias: Chap. 26 (1-10)
Friday: St. Luke: Chap. 1 (5-25)
Saturday: St. Luke: Chap. 1 (26-38)

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT:

Sunday: Isaias: Chap. 45 (1-9)
Monday: Isaias: Chap. 64 (1-11)
Tuesday: Jeremias: Chap. 3 (14-16)
Wednesday: Micheas: Chap. 5 (1-4)
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 (39-45)
Monday: St. Luke: Chap. 1 (46-56)
Tuesday: St. Luke: Chap. 1 (57-66)
Wednesday: St. Luke: Chap. 3 (1-6)
Thursday: St. Luke: Chap. 1 (67-75)
Friday: St. Luke: Chap. 1 (76-80)
Saturday: (CHRISTMAS EVE)
S. Matthew: Chap. 1 (18-25)
Sunday: (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!

It is not so difficult either to know or to be what God wants me to be, or to know what God wants of me – provided I do not want, or want to be, anything else, nor to do things based entirely on my own personal likes and dislikes. Once I have MY OWN portrait of myself as my desire, I leave no room for discovering, for being, my real self. Once I have MY OWN portrait of myself as my desire, it becomes carved into the granite of my thinking. The importance of my real self becomes theoretical, and the unreal self overshadows my real self.

When the desire to be the self which I have designed and adorned myself with outlasts the effort it cost me to arrive at that false and unreal self, then there is real danger and trouble for me. It means that every day I am getting set harder and harder in a very grinding and tyrannical mold! It means that I am being torn between desire and effort, with each day's labor being ground deeper and deeper into the fiction I have created.

My impersonation has added nothing to me – to what I am in true fact. I have not become a greater person by the efforts I have made to be a person other than the person God intends me to be. As a matter of fact, I have taken much away from myself. I have taken it upon myself to change that which God has in mind for me to be. I have taken it upon myself to create something that can exist only in my imagination. All that I have succeeded in doing is to assemble together into a new and unreal person the separate qualities which I admire in others. I have made myself a “carbon copy” of other people. If instead I were to take whatever qualities I have and let them make up the person whom God has created – the person whom God intends for me to be – I would have something true at the end of it all. I would then not be walking around in the vapors of a fantasy land. I would be the real me! In so being, I might very probably not appear, either to myself or to other people around me, as much of a hero, or as much of a scholar, or as much as one of culture and wealth, or as much of a champion, but at least I would be true to myself and to my God Who made me according to His own likes and desires – and IMAGE! This way would be ever so much better for me, for I would be giving pleasure to my Maker and my God, rather than to myself and my admirers, who are here today and gone tomorrow.

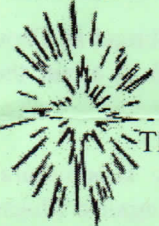
To live the part that exists only in my own imagination is not to live at all! It is a borrowed life! It is a life clothed with all the “borrowed robes” demanded by the uncertainties and the cravings of my own imagination. Worse yet, such a life is not even being borrowed from God Who is the Author of life. It is all borrowed from fiction.

GOD DOES NOT BLESS WHAT HE HAS NOT HIMSELF CREATED!

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THERE IS NO REALITY OUTSIDE THE VISION OF THIS ETERNALLY BLESSED CHILD!

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Soon we will begin a most wonderful journey. We will be looking for our Blessed Child. While on that journey we will pass by palaces and houses, all full of adornment and all kinds of important people coming and going in all of their importance. We approach, but we soon find that He is not there. There is the inn. We knock, but the innkeeper says, “No, no room.” The poor innkeeper – we say such not very nice things about him. He is only doing what God has foreseen as being the most appropriate for His purposes. He simply says, “No.” The busy, busy, buzzy, buzzy, noisy, giggly inn is certainly no place for Him Who is to come. The innkeeper points. We go, but the way is so very dark and so very quiet. Even so, there is something different now. We travel all alone, but somehow we do not feel lonely. We wonder, we look about and up into the skies, and there we see a star, a most beautiful and brilliant star. It seems to say, “Follow me.” We do, and soon we come upon a small hut, a stable, and we can hear the wails of a tiny Baby. All at once we know that we have found the Place, and we realize that all is very well. We move closer, and without saying a word, we fall on our knees, and we adore. Somehow the stable does not startle us. Somehow we do not think back to the palaces and fine houses and the noisy inn – all places inappropriate for this Child. So it is only a stable, but is not the stable, after all, the only fit birthplace for the King of Kings – for the Divine Child? A Child has come to us, a Child Whose mother is Mary and Whose foster father is Joseph. A Child born in the forty-second year of the empire of Octavian Augustus, all the earth then being at peace. How absolutely wonderful, how absolutely full of the reality of God! How absolutely void of the unrealities of my imaginings.

