

Christ the King Abbey

(Traditional Benedictines)

(St Francis of Assisi Chapel)

www.christthekingabbey.org

Cullman, Alabama

Every Sunday: 6:00 AM and 10:00 AM

Daily: 6:00 AM

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 4, 2005 – Purple

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

Weekly Bulletin #912

THE HOLY SEASON OF ADVENT

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Thursday, December 8, 2005

1. (The statue of Our Lady on page one stands over the High Altar of our Abbey Church.)
2. There will be **NO** Catechism class this morning.
3. There will be **NO** 5:00 Sunday Vespers and **NO** Benediction this afternoon.
4. Tuesday, December 6, 2005, is the wonderful Feast of Saint Nicolas. Please read the instruction given on the next page. The troubled times of today, much more than the troubled times of yesteryear, demand a very keen understanding and application of these suggestions. At the same time they demand a prudent, wise, and unmistakably Catholic observance.
5. Wednesday, December 7, 2005, is the Vigil of the Immaculate Conception and is a day of fast and abstinence.
6. Thursday, December 8, 2005, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and is a Holyday of Obligation, with Masses in the Abbey Church at 6:00 AM, 8:00 AM, and 7:00 PM.
7. Wednesday, December 14, Friday, December 16, and Saturday, December 17, 2005, are the Winter Ember Days of the year, and are days of Fast and Abstinence. Meat may be eaten ONCE on Wednesday and Saturday.
8. **NB:** Christmas Eve – Saturday, December 24, 2005 – is a day of Fast and Abstinence. In every normal interpretation, Christmas Eve is a day of COMPLETE FAST AND ABSTINENCE. At the same time, Christmas Eve has to be understood to be a festive day of penance. Festivity simply cannot be suppressed or avoided on such a day – the eve of such a wondrous occasion. Therefore, a bit of “shortcutting” in the law of fast and abstinence on that day is certainly understandable. In this matter, as in all similar matters of moral obligation, prudence, prompted by a good, sincere, and properly informed conscience, should dictate. Too much to the right is just as bad as too much to the left – IN THE MIDDLE IS VIRTUE! Our service to God depends on our FREEDOM OF ACTION, inspired by love – it must never be pushed by force. At the same time, our freedom must be kept within the limits of proper Traditional Catholic understanding and observance.
9. Be mindful of the Novena in progress in Honor of the Blessed Mother, and place before her the critical needs of each and every one of us.
10. Let us also be quite mindful that we are in the very important Season of Advent. In so doing, let us recall the prayers of the priest during Mass: “What have I given to my God for all He has given to me?” God’s gifts to us are obvious and need no enumeration. How strong is the motivating force of self-interest in the giving of ourselves to Him? Our commitment to God must be self-effacing, firm, and definite. It must always be generous and the result of our love for Him working with His grace operating within our hearts and souls.
11. The 2006 Traditional Catholic Calendars are available only to the people who attend our Chapels, 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 Mrs. Laurie Niebuhr.
12. 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.
13. MASSES FOR THE WEEK: (Father Abbot Leonard’s schedule only)
 - SUNDAY: For the People of our Chapels
 - MONDAY: Deceased Zoila DePass
 - TUESDAY: For the Michael Winland Family
 - WEDNESDAY: For the Poor Souls in Purgatory
 - THURSDAY: **Welfare of Christ the King Abbey and Saint Joseph’s Monastery**
 - FRIDAY: Special intention Peggy Rosenberg
 - SATURDAY: Welfare of Robert Brown

In the vestibule of the Abbey Church is a booklet titled:

“Santa at Bethlehem”

by Therese Marie Ryan

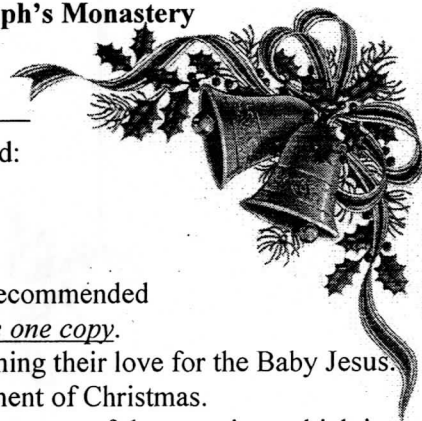
This is a lovely presentation of the Christmas Pageant, and it is recommended as good Catholic reading for children. *Please, each family take one copy.*

Our children must be taught that the idea of Santa Claus can be enjoyed without lessening their love for the Baby Jesus.

Our children must not be prevented from the normal, innocent excitement of Christmas.

At the same time we must all be very careful to weave this excitement with the true purpose of the occasion, which is

Christ.



ADVENT WREATH BLESSING

Second Sunday in Advent

All: A thrilling voice by Jordan rings,
Rebuking guilt and darksome things:
Vain dreams of sin and visions fly:
Christ in His might shines forth on high!

Priest: People of Sion, behold the Lord shall come to save the nations
and the Lord shall make the glory of His voice to be heard in the
joy of your heart.

Priest: *℣.* Give ear, O Thou that rulest Israel.
People: *℟.* Thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep.

Priest: *℣.* Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.
People: *℟.* At it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen.

Priest: LET US PRAY: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the ways
of Thine only-begotten Son, that through His coming we may be
worthy to serve Him with purified minds.

People: Amen. *(Priest lights second candle)*

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 25, 2005

Christmas Masses in the Abbey Church will be at Midnight on Christmas Eve (the Church will be open about 11:15 PM), and at 10:00 AM on Christmas Day. ***There will be NO 6:00 AM Mass in the Abbey Church on Christmas Day.***

Christmas Mass at St. Pius V Chapel in Birmingham will be at 9:00 AM on Christmas Day.

NB: Anyone receiving Holy Communion at the Christmas Eve Midnight Mass may NOT receive Holy Communion again at a later Mass on Christmas Day.

SPECIAL NOTE: There will be NO Confessions before the Midnight Mass or the 10:00 AM Mass on Christmas Day.

Mrs. Laurie Niebuhr and Mr. Patrick Williams will play the organ at the Midnight Mass.

Miss Virginia Patterson

will carry the Baby Jesus and place Him in the Crib at the Midnight Mass.

What have I given to my Lord
for all He has given to me?

Tuesday, December 6, 2005, is the Feast 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 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 eagerly 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 foster.

The Great "O" Antiphons

Beginning on December 17, at Vespers of each day, the Church Liturgy introduces what are called the "O" Antiphons. These are beautiful prayers sung in Choir by the monks in a very splendid and solemn manner and tone. These antiphons, which are scriptural texts a few lines long, are so many jewels of inspired poetry. Each prayer ends on the eager cry – "Come"! There is a climactic order in these antiphons. In the first, *O Sapientia (O Wisdom)*, we take a backward flight into the recesses of eternity to address Wisdom, the Word of God. In the Second, *O Adonai (O Lord of Lords)*, we have leaped from eternity to the time of Moses and the Law of Moses (about 1400 BC). In the third, *O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse)*, we have come to the time when God was preparing the line of David (about 1100 BC). In the fourth, *O Clavis David (O Key of David)*, we have come to the year 1000 BC (the beginning of the final Millennium before the birth of the Lord). In the fifth, *O Oriens (O Rising Dawn)*, we see that the line of David is elevated so that the people may look upon a rising star in the east, and hence in the sixth, *O Rex Gentium (O King of Nations)*, we know that He is King of all the world of man. This brings us to the evening before the Vigil of Christmas (December 23), and before coming to the town limits of Bethlehem, we salute Him with the last great "O" and we sing *O Emmanuel (O God with Us)*.

Each evening at Vespers time (around 5:15 PM) the family should gather around their home altar for the recitation of the Rosary. When the Rosary is finished, one of the great "O" Antiphons should be recited as a solemn prayer. Special emphasis should be placed on the words at the end when we cry out to God in our needs and expectations. These are prayers of the highest level, and should be prayed with great solemnity and seriousness.

Are not our own days filled with anxiety, worry, concern, and expectation? Many indeed are the reasons for concern, but we must never lose hope. We too cry out "O Emmanuel!" and in accordance to the strength of our faith shall we be heard.

December 17



Wisdom

O Wisdom who camest out of the mouth of the Most High, reaching from end to end ordering all things mightily and sweetly: come and teach us the way of prudence!

December 18



Adonai

O Adonai and Leader of the house of Israel, who didst appear to Moses in the flame of the burning bush, and didst give unto him the law on Sinai: come, and with an outstretched arm redeem us!

December 19



Root of Jesse

O Root of Jesse who standest for an ensign of the people, before whom kings shall keep silence, and unto whom the gentiles shall make their supplication: come to deliver us and tarry not!

December 20



Key of David

O Key of David and Scepter of the house of Israel, who openest and no man shutteth, who shuttest and no man openeth: come and bring forth from his prison-house the captive that sitteth in darkness and in the shadow of death.

December 21



Dawn

O Dawn of the East, brightness of the light eternal, and Sun of Justice, come and enlighten them that sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

December 22



King

O King of the Gentiles and the desired of them, Thou cornerstone that makest both one, come and deliver man, whom Thou didst form out of the dust of the earth.

December 23



Emmanuel

O Emmanuel our King and Lawgiver, the expected of the nations and their Savior, come to save us, O Lord our God.

Blessing of Bread

Do not forget the
Blessing of Bread Ceremony
scheduled for after the 10:00 Mass in the
Abbey Church on the Fourth Sunday of Advent