

Christ the King Abbey

(Traditional Benedictines)
(Formerly 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

TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Weekly Bulletin #962

(Sixth Sunday after Epiphany)

November 19, 2006 – Green

Mass of Sunday; Gl; Cr; Pref. Holy Trinity; comm. St. Pontianus



THE KEEPING OF ADVENT

The ever beautiful Season of Advent is almost here. As always, certain preparations must be made so that all will be in perfect readiness for the Feast of the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. The strategic importance of the home must be brought into full focus. The home must be a reliable and humble copy of the wondrous House of Nazareth.

First of all, in the family circle, the father is the patriarch. In the absence of the father, the mother is the matriarch. In normal conditions, the father and mother together must strive to raise Christian (CATHOLIC) living in our day to its highest and noblest expression. In so doing, the parents have to do something about the tastes of the family circle. Today the tastes of the people have gone out of control, so much so that the ordinary tastes of today's society demand that both father and mother go out to earn the required number of dollars to make possible the countless demands of the average household of today. In such conditions, both the father and the mother are drawn away from the children, with the consequent result that the children become ever more deprived, self-centered, independent, uneducated, immoral, and totally unmindful of CONSEQUENCES. Without any authoritative constraint, they grow addicted to the amoral inducements of the street! The parents of today have abdicated their authority.

From the very beginning it must be kept in mind by everyone that the father of the family, being the patriarch, receives his authority from God Himself. The father of the family holds the place of Christ in the family, and is always first in the structure of the family. The mother's place is also most important in the structure, and her support of the authority of the father gives proper example to the children, thereby giving Christian expression to life in the world of our day. Let the father know that he must give an account in the dread judgment of God of his teaching and his example. Let the father also know that whatever lack of profit God shall find in his children, will be laid to his blame. On the other hand he will be held blameless, if he gave all a "shepherd's care" to his restless and unruly children and took all pains to correct their corrupt manners.

In the House of Nazareth, even though Mary was the mother of Jesus, Whom she knew to be God, she was subject to the authority of Joseph, her husband. The two working together in harmony governed the Child Jesus, Who "went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them." In the matter of preparing the house and the family circle, let not the father play a passive role, ignoring everything about it. He must be central!

There are many wonderful Advent customs, too any to speak of. We advocate only a few of them, such as the Advent Wreath, Blessed Wheat, and the St. Nicholas Celebration. We suggest that good observance of just a few customs is far better that crowding many customs into poor and sloppy, disinterested and boring observances.

Last year we introduced another wonderful family custom, perhaps new to some of us. This is the custom of Blessing Bread on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. A day or two before the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the mother herself bakes a loaf of bread. It remains **unsliced**. After it has cooled, she, together with the children, wraps the loaf in attractive paper or cloth. A Christmassy look about the wrapping is quite appropriate. On the Fourth Sunday of Advent (this year it falls on December 24, which gives the occasion added solemnity and importance), the bread is brought to the Church and placed on the table provided for it. The Celebrant will then bless the bread after the 10:00 AM Mass.

The blessed bread is then taken home. After all are seated at the dinner table, before beginning the main meal, the mother herself presents the loaf of bread to the father, who, following the instructions which will be attached to the Bulletin for the First Sunday of Advent, places his father's blessing on the bread. He unwraps the unsliced loaf, and **breaking** off pieces of it, personally hands a piece to each member of his family, beginning with the mother, and then to each of his children, beginning with the eldest down to the youngest. After the bread has been distributed, the father stands, and with his right hand extended, blesses his family. Wherever the circumstances permit, it is most appropriate and very wonderful to have friends and relatives over for the ceremony and dinner. Bread is given in the same manner to the visitors, but after the family members have each received their piece. The father, in his own home and at his own table, always sits at the head of the table. *(Continued on page two)*