

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 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Weekly Bulletin #963

(Last Sunday after Pentecost)

November 26, 2006 – Green

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

"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."

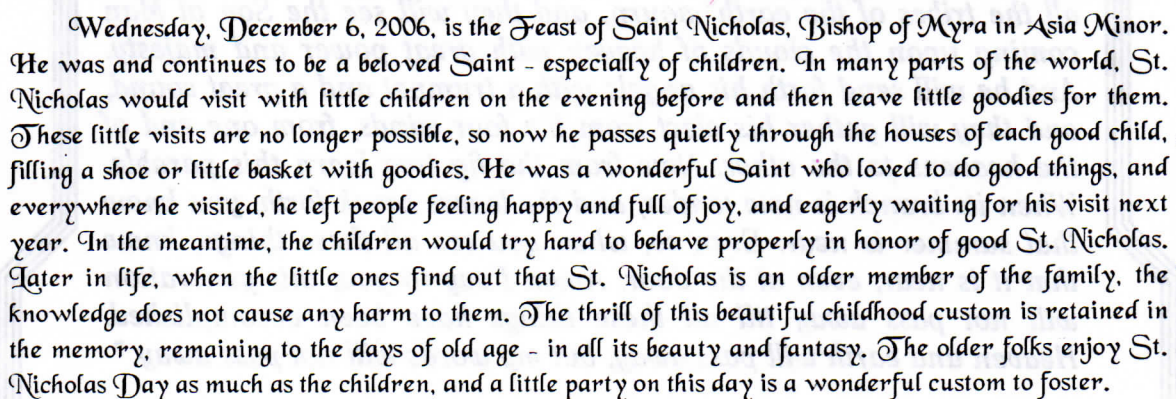
The Holy Season of Advent

If God the Son is to be discovered on earth by men, he is to be found clothed in all the elements of His humanity and in all its circumstances and in all its conditions. The human vesture of the Second Person of the Most Blessed Trinity, in all its particulars, belongs to and is the apt clothing of the Divine, Triune God. Therefore, the life of Jesus Christ amongst men is the Divine way of living on earth; indeed, the life of Jesus Christ is the most appropriate – the way intended by the Father – for Man to live on earth.

1. **CATECHISM CLASS:** Children 6 to 14 please meet Father Joseph in the vestibule right after the 10:00 Mass.
2. There WILL be 5:00 PM Sunday Vespers and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament this afternoon.
3. Today (November 26, 2006) is the Roman Feast of Saint Leonard of Port Maurice and is the Name day of our Father Abbot Leonard, OSB. Please keep Father Abbot in your very special prayers today.
4. 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 also invited to make use of this custom.
5. Please pick up enough Advent Wreath leaflets which are available this morning. 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 on the dining room table itself, if possible, and it should be lit before the main meal each day. (The Blessing, however, is given only once on the Saturday before each Sunday of Advent.)
6. Monday, November 27, 2006, is the Feast of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal (Roman Calendar).
7. Wednesday, November 29, 2006, we begin the Novena to the Immaculate Conception. Everyone is encouraged to make this Novena in honor of the Blessed Mother.
8. Thursday, November 30, 2006, is the Feast of Saint Andrew the Apostle.
9. Friday, December 1, 2006, is the First Friday of December, with Masses in the Abbey Church at 6:00 AM and 8:00 AM; and all-day Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament from 9:00 AM until 6:00 PM.
10. Saturday, December 2, 2006, is the First Saturday of December, with Masses in the Abbey Church at 6:00 AM and 8:00 AM.
11. Next Sunday, December 3, 2006, is the first Sunday of December. Therefore, **there will be NO Mass at Saint Pius V chapel in Birmingham next Sunday.**
12. **Early Notice:** Thursday, December 7, 2006, is the Vigil of the Immaculate Conception and is a day of fast and abstinence.
13. **Early Notice:** Friday, December 8, 2006, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and is a **Holyday of Obligation. Masses in the Abbey Church on December 8 will be at 6:00 AM, 8:00 AM, and 7:00 PM.**
14. Please pray for all the Sick and Shut-ins of our Chapels. LET US ALSO PRAY FOR EVERYONE.
15. **MASSES FOR THE WEEK:** (Father Abbot Leonard's schedule only)

SUNDAY: For the People of our Chapels
MONDAY: Special intention Peggy Wink
TUESDAY: Deceased Walter Hottinger
WEDNESDAY: Deceased Ralph Pawinski

THURSDAY: For the Poor Souls in Purgatory
FRIDAY: Special intention Rita Peluso
SATURDAY: Special intention Paul Roy Family

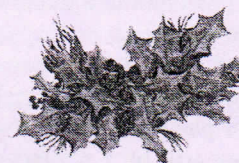


Wednesday, December 6, 2006, is the Feast of Saint Nicholas, Bishop of Myra in Asia Minor. He was and continues to be a beloved Saint – especially of children. In many parts of the world, St. Nicholas would visit with little children on the evening before and then leave little goodies for them. These 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.

ADVENT

2006

SUGGESTED ADVENT READINGS



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: St. Luke: Chap. 1 (5-25)
Tuesday: St. Luke: Chap. 1 (26-38)
Wednesday: St. Luke: Chap. 1 (39-45)
Thursday: St. Luke: Chap. 1 (46-56)
Friday: St. Luke: Chap. 1 (57-66)
Saturday: St. Luke: Chap. 1 (67-80)

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: (CHRISTMAS EVE)
S. Matthew: Chap. 1 (18-25)
Monday: (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!

CATHOLIC EXPERIENCE – THE LITTLE THINGS



THE ADVENT CUSTOM OF BLESSED WHEAT

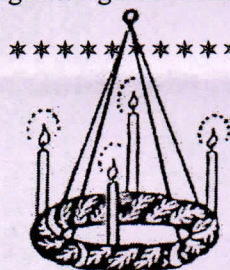


Select a flowerpot or a shallow container about 10 inches in diameter. Clean it thoroughly and decorate it with the help of your children. Fill it with fresh potting soil and place it in some easily accessible place near a window which is bright and sunny. As you take the blessed grains of wheat home 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
Wreath*

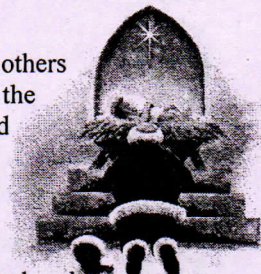
ADVENT

*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.