

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 with Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament this afternoon.
3. Tomorrow, April 23, 2007, is the twelfth anniversary of the Dedication of our Abbey Church (April 23, 1995).
4. Wednesday, April 25, 2007, is the Feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist. It is also a Rogation day. The Rogation Procession with the Litany of the Saints (outdoors, weather permitting), will start in the Abbey Church immediately **after** the 6:00 AM Mass.
5. Saturday, April 28, 2007, is the Feast of Saint Louis de Montfort (Roman calendar), and is the Name day of our Brother Louis, OSB. Please keep Brother Louis in your special prayers on that day.
6. **EARLY NOTICE:** Sunday, May 13, 2007, is Mothers' Day. Mathew Kelley will receive his **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** during the 10:00 Mass and Elizabeth Smith will crown Our Lady after the 10:00 Mass on Mothers' Day.
7. **N.B.:** There **WILL** be Mass (at the usual time) at Saint Pius V Chapel in Birmingham on Mothers' Day.
8. 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. We must make **no** judgments concerning such matters. Our only duty is to **pray** for souls.
9. **MASSES FOR THE WEEK:** (Father Abbot Leonard's schedule only)

SUNDAY:	For the people of our Chapels
MONDAY:	Deceased Isaac Soileau
TUESDAY:	Special intention Bishop McKenna, OP (<i>Name day</i>)
WEDNESDAY:	Deceased Rama Coomaswamy
THURSDAY:	Special intention Joseph Westrick Family
FRIDAY:	Special intention Brother Louis, OSB (<i>Name day Mass</i>)
SATURDAY:	Special intention Iva Roy (<i>Birth day</i>)

THE GREATER LITANIES

Wednesday of this week, April 25, is the Feast of St. Mark. You will notice that it is also a Rogation Day, when the GREATER LITANIES (The Litany of the Saints) are said. An instruction concerning this Rogation Day might be helpful.

From *The New Roman Missal*, by Rev. F. X. Lasance, 1937: "On this day after the singing in procession of the Litany of the Saints, the Mass of the rogation-days is appointed to be celebrated, as on the three days preceding the festival of the Ascension."

On April 25, the Romans used to keep the festival of the *ROBIGALIA*, which consisted mainly of a procession out of Rome and ending up at a sanctuary on the Claudian Way. When they had reached the sanctuary, they would sacrifice a sheep in honor of the god of frost, *ROBIGO*. The Christians, when they had come along, objected to this practice, but had no power strong enough to blockade it. They simply placed their Christian ceremony alongside the pagan one – and observed the Rogation Day Litany in place of the pagan ceremony. The original route of the Christian procession has been outlined to us by way of St. Gregory the Great, and it followed approximately the same route as that of the pagan celebration, except that the Christians gathered at the Church of St. Lawrence, which is near the place where the pagans would gather, and the Christian procession ended up at the Church of St. Peter where Holy Mass was celebrated. Thus the custom of the Greater Litany Day. There are several instances of similar substitutions of a Christian ceremony for a pagan feast – mostly as a form of protest, and to erase the mentality of pagan life, which, no doubt, was part of everyone's custom, even if some of them happened to have been converted to Christianity.

The Greater Litany has traditionally been said throughout the Church to ward off plagues. In rural districts, a special intention came to the foreground, namely to invoke God's blessing on the harvest: "Vouchsafe to give and to preserve the fruits of the earth." This invocation is part of the Litany and is sung as the procession moves about and through the fields. The Mass of the Day emphasizes the power of confident, persistent prayer to our heavenly Father.

There is no connection between the Greater Litanies and the feast of St. Mark (which was instituted later), even though they are both observed on the same day.

Normally, the procession and the Litany of the Saints immediately precede the Mass of rogation. However, for just and reasonable circumstances, the procession and Litany can immediately follow the Mass or may even be said at a later hour during the day. **Because of the early morning darkness, the procession and Litany will immediately follow the 6:00 AM Mass in the Abbey Church this Wednesday, April 25, 2007.**