

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

CHRISTMAS DAY – THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Weekly Bulletin #915

December 25, 2005 – White / Gold

Mass of Nativity; Gl; Cr, Pref. Nativity

Merry Christmas

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

Especially do we greet you, our loved ones of Christ the King Abbey,

Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel, and Saint Pius V Chapel.

We greet those of you who usually travel great distances to be

with us and to attend Holy Mass with us. You are such a

great part of our lives, of

our love, and of our prayer.

One thing we hope for

– with all our hearts

we hope for it – and

that is that by our

example of

tolerance,

understanding,

compassion,

spirituality, and

by our faith and

courage, we might

be a small reason

for your greater Joy and

Peace: for your greater

Stability, Serenity, and Holiness. We wish this for you and those you love

most! In like manner, do we greet you, our most welcome friends and visitors.

We pray that because of your visit, your Christmas Joy and Peace

will be enlarged and will be made more Beautiful and Holy.

God bless you. We invite you to return many times over.



1. There will be NO Catechism class until Sunday, January 8, 2006.
2. There will be Solemn Vespers and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 5:00 PM this afternoon.
3. **Miss Virginia Patterson will carry the Baby Jesus and place Him in the Crib during the Midnight Mass.**
4. Monday, December 26, 2005, is the Feast of Saint Stephen, the first Martyr.
5. Tuesday, December 27, 2005, is the Feast of Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist. It is also the Feast day of our Frater John, OSB. Please keep Frater John in your special prayers.
6. Wednesday, December 28, 2005, is the Feast of the Holy Innocents.
7. Next Sunday, January 1, 2006, the Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord (New Year's Day), is the first Sunday of January. **Therefore there will be NO Mass at Saint Pius V Chapel in Birmingham next Sunday.**
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.
9. MASSES FOR THE WEEK: (Father Abbot Leonard's schedule only)

SUNDAY: **Midnight:** For the Monks and Nuns of our Communities
 10:00 AM: For all the Christmas Gift intentions listed below

MONDAY: Deceased Sumter P. Cousin

TUESDAY: Deceased Sister Mary Regina Campbell, OSB

WEDNESDAY: Welfare Mary Shore

THURSDAY: Special intention Patricia Di Maggio

FRIDAY: Special intention Mary Brown

SATURDAY: For the Poor Souls in Purgatory



EARLY NOTICE

By the Grace of God
Sister Mary Bernadette, OSB
will make her Simple Triennial Vows
as a Nun of Saint Joseph's Monastery
during the 10:00 AM Mass on
Sunday, January 29, 2006

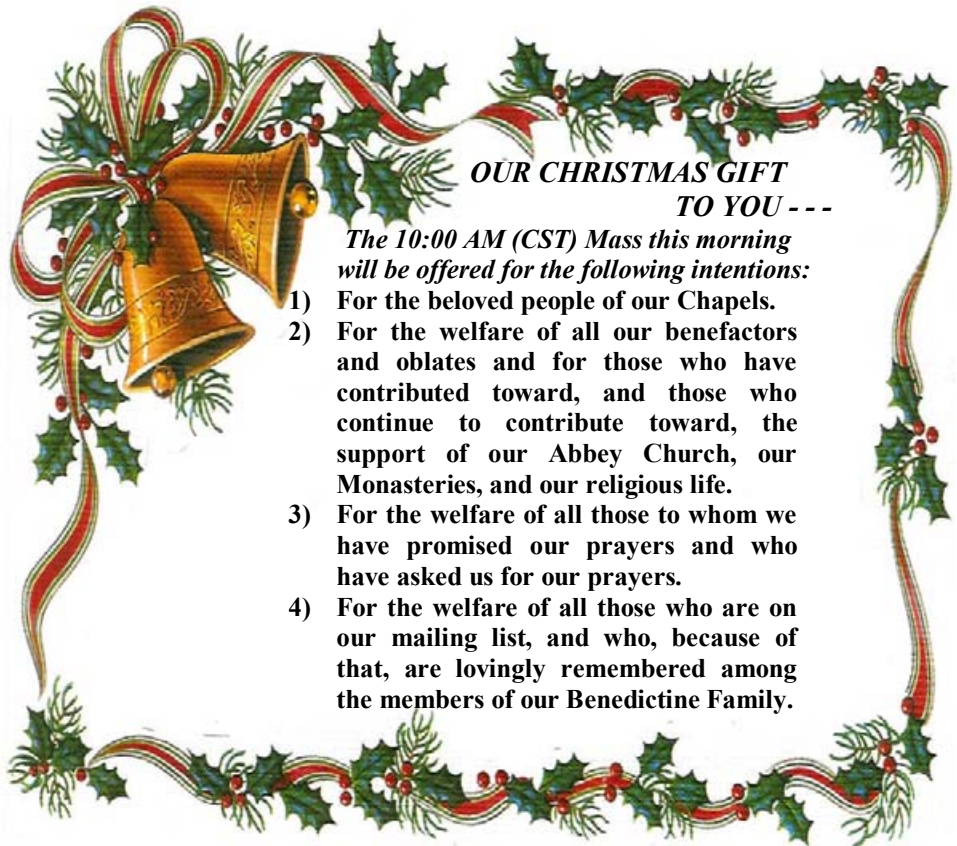
Please keep Sister Bernadette in your special prayers

"UPHOLD ME, O LORD, ACCORDING TO THY WORD ..."



If you are among those who have the true spirit of Christmas within their hearts, take a few quiet seconds on Christmas Eve to step out into the darkness of the night and search the heavens for a star, one that shines more brilliantly than the others.

When you find it, gaze upon it. In the quiet of the midnight hour, listen – **simply listen.** For one brief moment listen to the voice of Heaven – listen to the Star. It will speak to you and you will hear it say: "Be not afraid. All is well. I am the Star the Wise Men followed. Follow me. I am the Star the world must once again follow. I am the Star that will lead you to the Christ Child – the Christ Who was; the Christ Who is; the Christ Who will always be! Follow me."



OUR CHRISTMAS GIFT TO YOU ---

The 10:00 AM (CST) Mass this morning will be offered for the following intentions:

- 1) For the beloved people of our Chapels.
- 2) For the welfare of all our benefactors and oblates and for those who have contributed toward, and those who continue to contribute toward, the support of our Abbey Church, our Monasteries, and our religious life.
- 3) For the welfare of all those to whom we have promised our prayers and who have asked us for our prayers.
- 4) For the welfare of all those who are on our mailing list, and who, because of that, are lovingly remembered among the members of our Benedictine Family.

Our Spiritual Bouquet

This morning we ask the Infant Jesus to make your happiness greater through the prayers we offer Him for you. In our Masses and Holy Communions, your intentions are remembered in a very special way, to express our profound gratitude to you for your goodness to us. We pray also for your families, your sick, and your departed loved ones. We pray for your children.

*The Monks and Nuns
Christ the King Abbey
St. Joseph's Monastery*

Merry Christmas!

May the peace and holiness and joy of our Infant Lord be with you and with your children this Christmas, and all the days of your lives!

Every single day, we, the Monks and Nuns, pray for all of you. We pray also for your loved ones, living and dead.

In your charity please pray for us. Pray that we will – always – be here for you, to stand by you, to help you, and to pray for you.

*The days before us are truly frightful ones. Let us, therefore, turn to God with all the strength we have in us, and let us “bother” Him to such an extent that He will soon come to the help of us all – whoever we are and wherever we are. Let us pray for **everybody** – for sinners and unbelievers alike. Let us pray for priests – **all** priests – and for the priesthood itself. Let us not do any sifting. Let us be humble enough to allow God to be the One to do whatever sifting needs to be done. We are not the ones to declare the salvation or damnation of any human being, living or dead. When the Baby Jesus came to rest in the very humble manger, He most certainly left no man out of His Divine Vision. If there be those whose will is not good, then let us leave them and their problem in the hands of God, Himself alone. God does indeed will the salvation of all men. Let us also learn that we must pray for all souls.*

Cherished Visitors

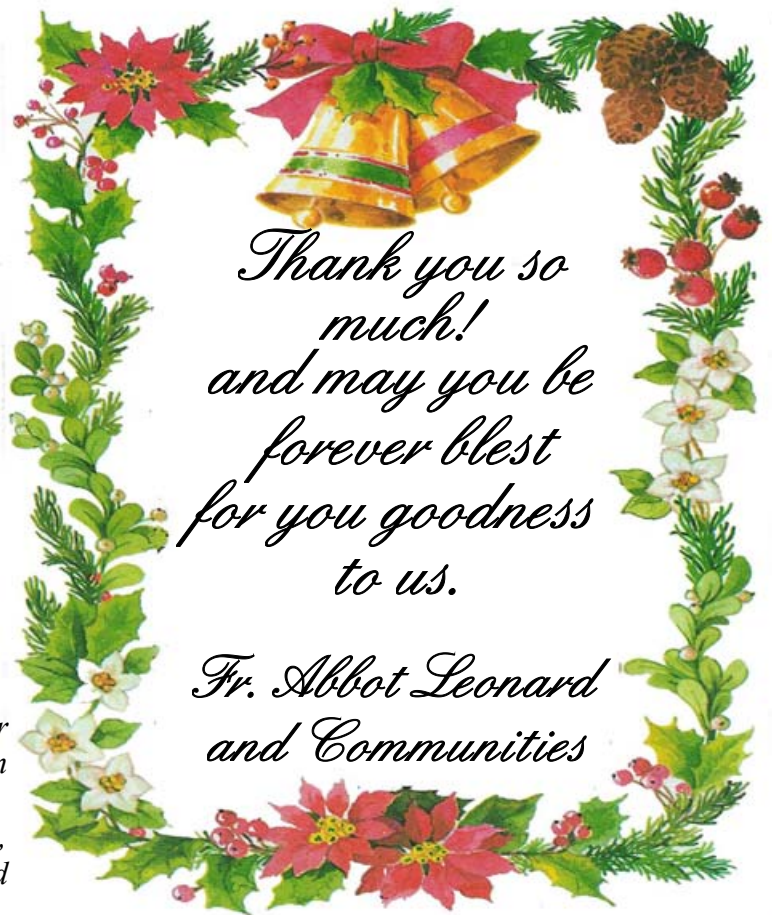
*We are ever so thankful for the gracious honor of all our visitors, and our prayers for you and for your loved ones are as fervent as is possible for us. We humbly ask, however, that you strive to understand that the gift of Holy Communion ~
the gift of the Body of Christ ~
is reserved only for the members of our Catholic Religion and Faith.*

Nevertheless, we do love you, and our hearts go out to meet your hearts.

Your presence here honors us profoundly.

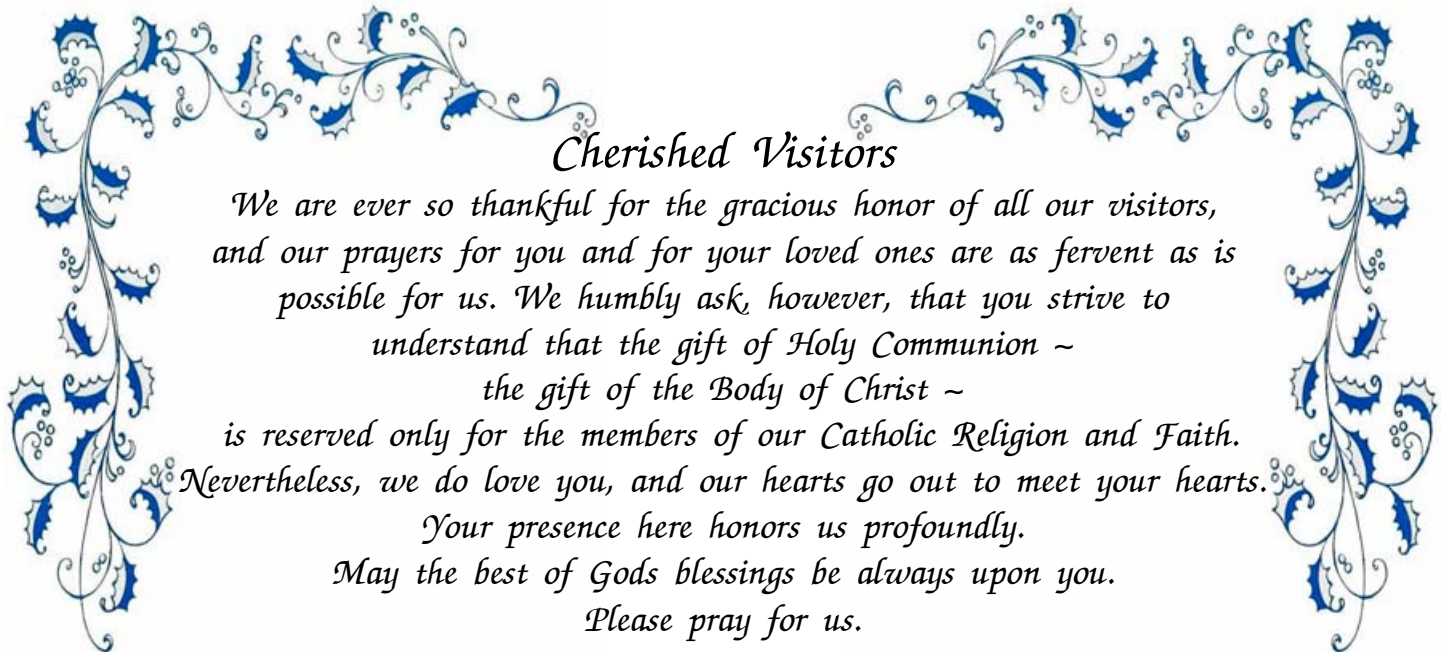
May the best of Gods blessings be always upon you.

Please pray for us.



*Thank you so
much!
and may you be
forever blest
for your goodness
to us.*

*Fr. Abbot Leonard
and Communities*



THERE WAS NO ROOM IN THE INN

One cannot help feeling glad that there was no room in the inn. As for the innkeeper, was he not in reality but an instrument in the hands of God? There is something repugnant in the idea of Our Lord's birth taking place amidst such a crowded place filled with confusion, hubbub, dancing, drinking, and bustle. The character of God, and therefore of the God made Man, is tranquility. The God-Man cannot abide feverish agitation, noise, disorder, or the glare of publicity.

Joseph and Mary placed their trust in God. And their trust was not misplaced – the God Who takes care of the little birds, directed the steps of Joseph and Mary towards a little stable, of which there were several in the neighborhood, and which were used as shelters for cattle and beasts of burden. It was to one of these bleak, windswept, dirty stables that Joseph and Mary found their way – in the darkness of a long night. Since a great part of the night had been consumed in their search for shelter, Joseph did what he could to introduce some degree of comfort into the poor and miserable stable. And it was there, at midnight, in silence, obscurity, abandonment, and cold that God came forth and touched our earth. How Mary and Joseph must have been smitten to the heart at the plight in which the Son of God, the Lord and Creator of heaven and the entire universe, found Himself! And how their hearts must have ached at the coldness of the reception of the King of kings by his subjects – whom He had come to restore to happiness and salvation!

The manger, to be sure, was a sorry cradle for a King – and He the King of heaven and earth. However, Jesus is God, and for Him, therefore, spiritual realities are infinitely more important than material realities. With God there is no difference between a stable and a palace. Even in all the lowliness and sordidness that surrounded the Nativity of the Savior, man could not take away from Him His infinite greatness, nor could the humble circumstances to which man's blindness had condemned Him obscure or diminish His greatness in the least. Jesus was God, and in spite of all that man could say, do, or judge, His greatness burst forth in all its wondrous splendor, even through the lowly conditions of the Nativity. And all things: the cold, the darkness, the dirty conditions of the stable, the unpleasant smells, the roughness of the straw, all concentrated their arrows of suffering upon the tender body of the Baby Jesus, newly born in a very inhospitable and disinterested world. Yet He willed to be as an ordinary child. He willed to be born amid the pain and discomfort that accompanies the birth of any child born of woman.

All who wished to be with Jesus – to come close to Him – were drawn into the miserable surroundings of the stable: Mary and Joseph and the shepherds, all had to suffer the same cold, the same misery, the same abandonment. In order to be near Him they all had to share in everything that proved such a marked contrast to the scenes of comfort and merriment that were taking place in all the inns on the hill up above.

And so it is with us. ***The closer we get to Jesus, the more must we share in His sufferings! There is no other way – there can be no other way!***

Who is there who has not experienced the hollowness and emptiness of even the most intoxicating joys of this earth? Who is there who has not looked twice and even three times at the lowly stable before summoning up the courage to leave the gratifications and the vanities of the “inns” of the world? On the other hand, what intense happiness is to be found at the side of that poor manger. The very absence of everything calculated to please and satisfy the bodily senses leaves the soul free to enjoy itself more largely. In Bethlehem, little concession was made to the body! Bethlehem is the proper setting for the soul! It is not that which benefits the body but that which benefits the soul that all men stand most in need of. All the plenitude that this earth stands ever ready to give is in fact nothing. All that life with God gives us – even though it be the poverty of Bethlehem or the poverty and the horror and the suffering of Calvary – is everything!

All the Monks of Christ the King Abbey and all the Nuns of Saint Joseph's Monastery are most grateful to each and every one of you for all you do for us. Our special prayer is that God will shower you and everyone near and dear to you with the choicest blessings of heaven, not only during this Christmas Season, but also on every day of your lives. May God bless you! We thank you so much for being there!



+ *Donald Brankine, D.S.B.*
Abbot

**Trust in God!
Do not be afraid!
Let your Faith be strong!**

(The Christmas Crib in our Abbey Church.)