

GREETINGS FROM FR. SCOTT

In the days of Jesus, shepherds had an intimate relationship with the sheep. Sheep in those days were similar to our pets, our cats and dogs, today. Sheep were members of their family. In those days shepherds belonged to their roaming tribes. The flock of sheep moved with the tribe all around Israel.

Every sheep mattered. Every sheep had a name. Every sheep was a vital economic unit. Lots of trouble came about for the tribe and the shepherd if a sheep was lost. To lose sheep meant financial ruin for a generation.

In the Gospel, Jesus wants us to understand the intimate knowledge and care the shepherd has for the sheep. He wants us to know that every one of us matters and each one of us plays a vital role in our Catholic Church.

A shepherd is not out in front of the flock but in the back nudging and prodding it with a crook. The sheep have some freedom to browse for green grass. If one strays too far, it is nudged back toward the flock. The shepherd for our Archdiocese is Archbishop Schwietz. He has a Crosier similar to the shepherd's Crook.

Sometime we stray from our flock. Sometime we get weak and the wolf sinks its teeth in us. The wolf can get us to do things like buy a new car when we can't afford it. Wolves make us gossip and get impatient with others. Wolves can convince teenagers to take drugs, lie, and cheat.

Wolves can steal us away from the Christian family. They are disguised as peer pressure, materialism, individualism, rapid weight loss programs, and get rich quick schemes.

Deacons and priests are like the sheep dogs. When sheep wander off from the flock, they become easy food for wolves. Sheep dogs will attack a wolf. They are willing to die fighting a wolf to protect a sheep. They keep the flock together in one strong group. Wolves are less likely to attack a strong unified group.

Jesus is referred to as the Good Shepherd. Jesus will guide us in the right direction and keep us on the path to eternal life. The wise sheep always hear and follow the voice of the shepherd. The Good Shepherd can seek us out if we are lost, bring us back if we stray, and heal us if we are sick.

We follow Jesus because we know his voice and he knows our name. We follow Jesus because throughout our lives we have grown to trust him. We have grown in faith. In return, our Good Shepherd protects us. He does this by uniting us so we will not be scattered and become an easy kill for a wolf.

Jesus, Our Good Shepherd, unites us through the seven sacraments, the gospel teachings, and the Body and Blood of Christ. Strongly united together by our Good Shepherd we are able to help protect our flock.

STEWARDSHIP

April 22, 2012	\$6,950.71
Last Year	\$12,243.00
Property Improvement	\$495.00

Daily Mass Readings

Monday April 30

Acts 11:1-18 Ps 42:2-3;43:3-4 Jn 10:1-10

Tuesday May 1

Acts 11:19-26 Ps 87:1-7 Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday May 2

Acts 12:24-13:5a Ps 67:2-+3,5-6,8 Jn 12:44-50

Thursday May 3

1 Cor 15:1-8 Ps 19:2-5 Jn 14:6-14

Friday May 4

Acts 13:26-33 Ps 2:6-11 Jn 14:1-6

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	April 30
5:00pm	+ Annie Ruder
Sunday	May 1
9:00am	For Peter Richards Baptism
11:30am	+ Vern Adkins
Monday	May 2
9:00am	
Tuesday	May 3
9:00am	
Wednesday	May 4
9:00am	
Thursday	May 5
9:00am	
Friday	May 6
9:00am	+ Annie Ruder



FAITH FORMATION

PRESCHOOL — HIGH SCHOOL

Classes will resume in the fall.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Nights are Wednesdays in the Old Church at 7pm; 9th-12 graders are welcome for faith, food, fun, and friends!!

1st EUCHARIST

Congratulations to all our students who are celebrating 1st Eucharist this spring. Their parents and catechists have done a wonderful job preparing them for this day.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Students and families are invited to continue making sandwiches for the Br. Francis Shelter on the 1st Sunday of the each month.



Ministry Schedule

ONE BREAD ONE BODY

By now, you should have received a letter from Archbishop Schwietz asking you to share your gift of treasure with the ministries of your local Church through the *One Bread, One Body* Annual Appeal. Please consider making a gift to support the ministries of your faith community.

Help the Archdiocese Go Green!
Pledge securely online at
www.archdioceseofanchorage.org/donate.



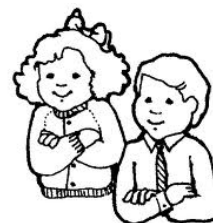
OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

OLV registration is open and Fall 2012 registrations are available.

Students of the Month

Gunnar Kelley Hannah Beer
Jake Waterhouse Chelsea Hogge

Thank you all to the parishioners, families, and friends of Our Lady of the Valley School who supported our Dinner Auction Gala night!! We had a lot of fun and Charlie Sokaitis and Dan Belanger added to our fun as auctioneers. We are already looking forward to next year's fun and support.



COMING EVENTS

April

29 1st Eucharist Celebration 11:30am

May

13 Mother's Day
20 Baccalaureate Mass 11:30am
High school & college graduates are asked to add their names to the list in the atrium.



VENTURING CREW

VENTURING is for young adults 9th grade —21 years old. Please send a note to matsuadventure@hotmail.com

WELCOME CHILDREN OF GOD IN BAPTISM

Delcan Wright & Zayden Wright
April 21, 2012

Treyton Blackmore
April 22, 2012

FOOD PANTRY

Items needed at the pantry:
All kinds of pasta
Beans—canned (not green)
rice, flour, sugar,
grocery bags

357-3769

2013 CONFIRMATION CLASS FUNDRAISER

I am coordinating a week long service retreat this summer in Dillingham for the 2013 Confirmation class. The teens have to raise funds in a short time to cover food and transportation. This will be a great opportunity for our youth to reach out to one of our Alaskan communities to learn and serve. Please consider placing a donation in the basket for our trip or helping with Alaska Air miles. Thank you. —Fr. Scott