

GREETINGS FROM FR. SCOTT

Just a couple of days ago, June 21, was the Summer solstice. Light begins to decrease each day. December 21, light will begin to increase each day. Notice that the celebration of the Birth of John the Baptist comes just as the light starts decreasing. Christmas, on the other hand, begins just as the light starts increasing.

The celebrations of the birth of John the Baptist and the birth of Jesus is this interplay between light and dark, waxing and waning, ending and beginning. Remember what John said of himself, "He must increase, I must decrease." From this time, the days now decrease as we draw closer to the birth of the Messiah. The coming of Jesus brings light to the world when at its darkest.

John the Baptist was not trying to be center stage. He was the best man rather than the groom; the warm up band, not the star attraction; the team manager, not the star quarterback. Here was a guy who did not draw attention to himself. His job was to decrease while someone else increased. That someone else was Jesus.

The idea of John decreasing while Jesus increases has meaning in our own lives. We deal with increase and decrease all of the time.

For example, when the supply of fish increases, the price decreases. As the amount we do for others increases, the amount we do for ourselves decreases. The closer we get to the light, the farther we get from the dark.

That is exactly what John's message says to us: Turn back to God, don't wander away from God. Do not go your own way. It is God who gives life and salvation. Turn to God. Trust in God. As the light increases, the dark decreases.

By decreasing, we prepare the way for the Lord. To prepare the way for the Lord, we have to avoid obstacles such as: hate, sin, and self-centeredness. As we overcome these obstacles, Jesus begins to take center stage in our lives. As we decrease, he increases. As we grow in love, in hospitality, and forgiveness, we let Jesus throw the touchdown pass and bring the happy crowd to its feet.

Like John, we are called to decrease, that Christ might grow within us. Through our baptism and our commitment to God, we invite the light of Christ to grow within us. As the light of Jesus grows within us, that light will drive out and dispel the darkness of the world, and here is the best part: as we decrease and grow closer to the light, our hope for everlasting life skyrockets.

Although John the Baptist was not a star player, he was a great person. Jesus himself said of John: "Of all the children born of women, there has never been anyone greater than John the Baptist." May we, like John, allow the light of Christ to shine ever more brightly in our lives .

STEWARDSHIP

June 17,2012	\$5,970.22
Last Year	\$6,440.72
Online Giving	\$195.00

Daily Mass Readings

Monday June 24

2 Kgs 17:5-8,13-15a,18 Ps 60:3-5,12-13 Mt 7:1-5

Tuesday June 25

2 Kgs 19b-11,14-21,31-35 Ps 48:2-4,10-11 Mt 7:6,12-14

Wednesday June 26

2 Kgs 22:8-13,23:1-3 Ps 119:33-37,40 Mt 7:15-20

Thursday June 27

2 Kgs 24:8-17 Ps 79:1b-5,8-9 Mt 7:21-29

Friday June 28

Acts 12:1-11 Ps 34:2-9 Mt 16:13-19

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	June 23
5:00pm	Healing & Strength for Dick & Winnie Shanders
Sunday	June 24
9:00am	
11:30am	Healing for Sherri Olsen
Monday	June 25
9:00am	
Tuesday	June 26
9:00am	
Wednesday	June 27
9:00am	
Thursday	June 28
9:00am	
Friday	June 29
9:00am	+ Brad Heck



FAITH FORMATION

1st Eucharist photographs are available after the Masses.

Vacation Bible School

June 25-29

Sacred Heart—preschool 9:30-11:30
Good Shepherd—K-5th gr 9:15-11:45
1st Presbyterian—6-8th gr 9-12:00

Mon—Rejoice in God's presence
Tue—Pray for God's creation
Weds—Ask questions and listen
Thur—Tell others about God's love
Fri—Seek God in our lives

Registration forms available after masses. Volunteers are needed.



COMING EVENTS

June

- 24 Inquiry for those interested in the Church 1pm
- 25 Centering Prayer 6pm
- 25-29 VBS—Discovery Canyon
- 28 Rosary 7pm
- 29 Adoration 10am-2pm
- 30 Summer projects info meeting 10am soc. Hall

Welcome Child of God in Baptism
Shayne Samantha Brooke
June 17, 2012

JUNE 30 LISTENING SESSIONS

An informational meeting will be in the Social Hall from 10:00—1:30AM on Saturday, June 30, to discuss projects for this summer: landscaping behind the church, building a picnic pavilion, and consolidating the storage facilities. All are welcome.

FOOD PANTRY

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

357-3769

ONE BREAD ONE BODY

Thank you for your generous support of *One Bread One Body*. Sacred Heart's participation has been the best ever!! So far we have contributed \$34,128.33 towards our goal of \$49,355. Our faith community is part of helping children and adults throughout our archdiocese. It is not too late to pledge: please contact the office or www.archdioceseofanchorage.org/ donate. You can also go to the parish website.

VENTURING CREW

Venture crew - group of teens and young adults looking for outdoor excitement - meets the first Monday of the month (July 2) at 7 pm in the social hall. Call Ed at 357-7029 if you want more information or come to the meeting!

ACTS Teens

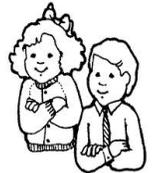
The ACTS families are sending 5 teens to Juneau for a retreat June 28-July 1. Please keep these youth in your prayers.

OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

OLV is now enrolling for the 2012-2013 school year in grades K-8. Please stop at the Sacred Heart Parish office or call 376-0883 for information.

We are now officially at Sacred Heart and are looking forward to a great year. Enrollment packets are available in the office.

OLV stresses the value of self-discipline and commitment. Catholic Schools encourage family input and involvement in the ongoing education of their children. Research shows that such a partnership results in higher attendance rates and lower dropout rates. Catholic School students typically demonstrate strong scores above the national averages on standardized testing.



Covenant House Alaska

Matching Funds Opportunity

Shell Exploration recently contacted Covenant House about matching funds and has to match up to \$25,000.00. This past winter Covenant House Alaska served more than 1,300 homeless youth. Please join Shell and Covenant House Alaska in believing that all kids deserve to be loved and nurtured and safe from the streets. You may donate on-line at www.covenanthouseak.org or by sending a check to Covenant House Alaska indicating "Shell Matching Gift Challenge" to P.O. Box 100620, Anchorage, AK 99510-0620. You can also contact Deirdre Cronin, CHA Executive Director at 339-4202

Covenant House also needs a crib as soon as possible for a young mother.

Collection for Church in Central and Eastern Europe & Magadan— June 23 & 24

This Special Collection helps support the Archdiocese's Mission to Magadan where Fr. Michael Shields leads a family of religious and lay volunteers serving children and adults struggling to find God. Fr. Mike will be at Sacred Heart on June 23/24 to celebrate Mass and share his ministry.