

GREETINGS FROM FR. SCOTT

The origins of the Advent Wreath are uncertain. There is evidence of pre-Christian Germanic peoples using wreathes with lit candles during the cold and dark December days. Nobody knows cold and dark better than Alaskans. These lit candles were a sign of hope in the long dark cold nights of winter for the coming of warm and sunny days of the spring.

Scandinavians used a wheel and candles for similar reasons. First, during winter, they placed lighted candles around a wheel. Next they offered prayers to the god of light to turn “the wheel of the earth” back toward the sun to lengthen the days and restore warmth.

By the Middle Ages, the Christians adapted this tradition and used Advent wreathes as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. A new candle is lit every week to represent brighter and brighter light until the ultimate light is here, the birth of our Savior. Jesus tells us in the John 8:12, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life.”

The first two weeks of Advent highlights Christ’s Second Coming. Every generation has pointed out that the sun, moon, stars, wars, famine, tidal waves, and earthquakes all demonstrate that Jesus is about to return. Clearly we are still waiting. Those who try to predict the end times should take serious the words of Jesus, “You will know not the time, nor the place when the Son of Man will return in Glory.”

The second two weeks of Advent emphasizes God’s Son coming into human history at the time of his birth in Bethlehem. Next to Easter, the birth of Jesus is the greatest event ever to happen in history. Our Catechism states, “God awakens in the hearts of those who don’t attend church an expectation of how great the birth of Jesus is.”

I have not a clue when the world will end. I do know the Lord returns to us every time we love, forgive, share, are compassionate, and are generous towards one another. The heroic love of a parent for a child, of a spouse for their sick partner, and the sharing of our resources with others during crisis situations, is spectacular enough for me to believe that Jesus’ kingdom comes on every day, in every hour, and at every moment.

May this first Eucharist of the Church’s year be a taste for us of the kingdom of God that is both present among us and still to come. And may the Advent season sustain us in our waiting and give us courage in our living.

STEWARDSHIP

Nov.25, 2012 \$5084.00
 Last Year \$6848.14
 Children’s Collection \$18.00
 Cookie Sale \$534.00

Daily Mass Readings

Monday Dec. 3

Is 2:1-5 Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b,4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9 Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday Dec. 4

Is 11:1-10 Ps 72:1-2,7-8,12-13,17 Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday Dec. 5

Is 25:6-10a Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4,5,6 Mt 15:29-37

Thursday Dec. 6

Is 26:1-6 Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 26-27a Mt 7:21,24-27

Friday Dec. 7

Is 29:17-24 Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 Mt 9:27-31

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday

Dec. 1

5:00pm

For the People of the Parish

Sunday

Dec. 2

9:00am

+Bob Lamb

11:30am

Intentions of Debra Cimino

Monday

Dec. 3

9:00am

Tuesday

Dec. 4

9:00am

+Tony Waffan

Wednesday

Dec. 5

9:00am

Thursday

Dec. 6

9:00am

+Mr & Mrs William T. O’Connor

Friday

Dec. 7

9:00am



FAITH FORMATION

Grades 1-8 meet from 10-11:15 am.
Pre-school and K meet from
11:30am-12:30pm.

All F.F. Classes meet Dec. 2

MIDDLE SCHOOL GOOGLE QUESTION

What do the 4 weeks/candles of
Advent represent?

PEANUT BUTTER, JELLY, & BREAD

Our young church helps our neighbors with the sandwich ministry. Please help these young people by donating peanut butter, jelly, and bread. We appreciate your encouragement and support.

CONFIRMATION—1-2:30pm

Students in the second year (2013) program meet at 1pm in the Old Church, and students in the first year (2014) program meet in the St. Jude Center.

COMING EVENTS

December

- 1 OLV Steak Dinner Am Legion 5:30-8:00pm
- 3 Grief Support Group 1:30pm Church
- 7 Immaculate Conception 5:30pm
- 8 Immaculate Conception 9:00am
- 8-9 St. Jude Quilt Group Sale all masses
ACTS Bake Sale all masses
- 12 Advent Reconciliation 5:30pm
- 20 OLV Christmas Celebration Mass at 10:30am

1st Sunday—2nd Collection Blue Envelopes

December will support the garage renovation.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GENEROSITY

BEARS FOR MAGADAN

We are collecting new and gently used stuffed animals, (especially bears) for Fr. Mike in Magadan. Thank you for your generosity over the years in support of this ministry. He also needs only new winter clothing. Call the office for more details.

FOOD PANTRY

Items needed at the pantry:
toilet paper, flour, sugar,
cereal, oatmeal

all kinds of baby food
357-3769

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS

Envelopes are available in the Atrium. Please return by December 16.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

If your life has been impacted by the suicide of a family member or someone you loved, please consider joining the Grief Support Group. The first meeting will be held on Dec. 3, 2012 at Sacred Heart Church from 1:30-2:30pm. Everyone is invited. Please contact Mary Sears 373-1215.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Next weekend, our archdiocese will conduct the collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious (RFR). The decrease in the number of religious ministry and the rising cost of care create a struggle for religious communities to provide for elder members. The collection supports the day-to-day care of thousands of senior religious. Please plan to offer what you can to the care of women and men who have made such enormous contributions to our Church. Envelopes available in the Atrium.

OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Enrollment forms are at the OLV office in the St. Jude Center or call 376-0883.

Thank you to everyone who has donated to Our Lady of the Valley's Annual Appeal. We greatly appreciate your support.

The staff and students of OLV would like to invite you to join us for our celebration of Christmas on Thursday, December 20th. Mass will begin at 10:30 followed by a luncheon and the students' Christmas program. The program, History of Christmas Carols, will begin at approximately 12:00.

If you have been considering a Catholic Education for your child this is a perfect time to begin the enrollment process for second semester. Just call the school office at 376-0883 or stop by between 8:00 and 4:00, so we can give you a tour of the school. OLV has so much to offer your child and we hope to hear from you.

CHRISTMAS GIFT BOX PROJECT

Thank you for picking up the gift request cards and prayer cards for our community. Gifts are due back to the parish on December 3rd.

BISHOP'S ATTIC VOLUNTEERS

The Bishop's Attic needs volunteers. Please call Jack for more information 745-4215

WASILLA FOOD PANTRY

Please consider us as a volunteer opportunity this season. We also need donations of holiday food and staples.

COOKIE SALE

Thank you for your support of our cookie sale. With your help, Mary and Frank turned \$20 into \$534 for the Wasilla Food Pantry. We greatly appreciate the generous Parish support and the Piffner's delicious cookies!

21ST ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FRIENDSHIP DINNER

Volunteers and donations are needed. Text or call 907-354-6115 or email CFD@mtaonline.net

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Fr. Augustine will teach the Liturgy of the Hours at the Campbell home on December 6 and 13 from 7-8:30 pm. Please call the office for information.

ST. JUDE QUILT GROUP ANNUAL SALE

Quilt and crafts will be on sale with proceeds to benefit Sacred Heart Parish. Beautiful gift items will be available after all Masses on Dec. 8&9.

ACTS BAKE SALE

The ACTS community will hold their annual bake sale at the same time as the St. Jude's sale. Enjoy a one stop holiday opportunity after Mass.