

GREETINGS FROM FR. SCOTT

Before I became a priest I dated a girl who asked me to envision what my life would look like in ten years. I did. I saw myself with a white Toyota pickup, a golden retriever, and living in Alaska.

Creativity is seeing something that does not exist and then bringing it into existence. Each person has a unique and special way of bringing goodness and virtue into our world.

John the Baptist gives several examples. Some people should give up a cloak if they have two. To tax collectors, "Stop collecting more tax than what is prescribed." To soldiers, "Do not falsely accuse anyone and be satisfied with your wages."

The Christian life highly values creativity. Our creativity is one major element that separates humans from animals. For example, public schools separate church and state. A public school teacher can still use creative ways to teach Christian values by never swearing, never lying, or never gossiping. The first and second readings talk about virtues that can be shared in many creative ways.

Zephaniah tells us about Joy, "Shout with Joy." Rejoice! Joy is different than happiness. Happiness is temporary. Joy is permanent. It comes from knowing God, being faithful, and having hope for eternal life. Share your joy in creative ways, for example, find a person who is bitter and make them laugh or smile. Approach the unlikable person at work and invite them to lunch.

In Philippians Saint Paul tells us, "Your kindness or gentleness should be shown to all." The idea is to not let people walk all over us, but to be creative. Find the right combination of assertiveness and gentleness to express how you feel about a person who is aggravating you.

If we do more rejoicing, Philippians tells us that, "The peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." Peace is a virtue we can share in creative ways. Ask your children to make a poster about peacemaking with your inner self, with your neighbor, and with the world. There is a blog with creative ideas about peaceful parenting.

We need creative, active imaginations to grapple with concepts like the Trinity, the afterlife, and even God. Creativity encourages generosity and goes hand-in-hand with a lifestyle that tries to discourage excessive consumption.

Here are some quotes about creativity:

"Think left and think right and think low and think high. Oh, the things you can think up if only you try".—Dr. Seuss

"Imagination is everything. It is the preview of life's coming attractions." — Albert Einstein

"Great minds discuss ideas. Average minds discuss events. Small minds discuss people." —Eleanor Roosevelt

"The chief enemy of creativity is good sense. If only we could pull out our brain and use our eyes." —Pablo Picasso

As we prepare for Christmas, let us think of creative ways to share goodness and virtue. And in the process be joyful and peaceful.

STEWARDSHIP

December 9, 2012	\$6,921.20	Online	\$540.00
Last Year	\$8,255.25		
Blue Envelope	\$5,032.00	Online &	210.00
Religious Retirement	\$3,450.80		

Daily Mass Readings

Monday Dec. 17

Gn 49:2-8,10 Ps 72:3-4 Mt 1:1-17

Tuesday Dec. 18

Jer 23:5-8 Ps 72:1,12-13 Mt 1:18-25

Wednesday Dec. 19

Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a Ps 71:3-6,16-17 Lk 1:15-25

Thursday Dec. 20

Is 7:10-14 Ps 24:1-6 Lk 1:26-38

Friday Dec. 21

Sg 2:8-14 Ps 33:2-3 Lk 1:39-45

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	Dec. 15
5:00pm	+ Michael & Margaret Lajcsak
Sunday	Dec. 16
9:00am	For the People of the parish
11:30am	+ Frank Durso
Monday	Dec. 17
9:00am	
Tuesday	Dec. 18
9:00am	
Wednesday	Dec. 19
9:00am	
Thursday	Dec. 20
9:00am	+ Rose Maria
Friday	Dec. 21
9:00am	



FAITH FORMATION

Grades 1-8 meet from 10-11:15 am.
Pre-school and K meet at 11:30am
Classes will be on vacation December 23 & 30

MIDDLE SCHOOL GOOGLE QUESTION

What does Gaudete mean?

CONFIRMATION—1-2:30pm

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



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24th

4:00pm

9:00pm

Midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25th

10:00am

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Thank you for donating to the Retirement Fund for Religious. A sister from Pennsylvania writes, "In our prayers, all the sisters remember in a special way the faithful of the dioceses who support the Retirement Fund for Religious collection. We realize that their sacrifices and generosity have made this assistance possible. May God reward them." Sacred Heart parishioners graciously donated \$3450.80 to the support of the Retirement Fund.

OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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

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 are considering Catholic Education for your child, call the school 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. Thank you!

COMING EVENTS

December

- 20 OLV Christmas Mass & Celebration 10:30am
- 24 Christmas Eve Masses 4pm, 9pm, & Midnight
- 25 Christmas Day Mass 10am
- 27 Rosary 7:00pm
- 31 Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God 5:30pm

January

- 1 Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God 10am

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GENEROSITY

21ST ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FRIENDSHIP DINNER

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

CHRISTMAS GIFT BOX PROJECT

Thank you for supporting our Gift Box Project—the gift bags and boxes were wonderful.

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. Fr. Mike also needs new winter clothing. Call the office for more details.

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.

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. The names for the memorials will be printed in the Christmas bulletin.



ST. JUDE QUILT SALE & ACTS BAKE SALE

Thank you for supporting our fundraising weekend. We wish all our parishioners a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.