

## GREETINGS FROM FR. SCOTT

I love the story of the visitation. I imagine this girl of about 14 years old, very humble, and preparing for a trek across country. She packs light. On the way she sees robbers. Her life is threatened. She hides from strangers on horses. She stays close to a larger caravan of people for protection

She is very preoccupied. She thinks about Joseph and how he must be taking the news of her pregnancy. She realizes most of the villagers do not believe her wild story. They think she had sexual relations outside of marriage. They shunned her. She knows people gossip about her. Neighbors and relatives disapproved of her. She was frightened of the physical trauma of her first childbirth. Death in childbirth was far more common back then.

She turned to an older woman for help, her cousin Elizabeth. The Bible does not tell us their precise relationship, but clearly, Elizabeth was older. Perhaps "Aunt" would be nearer the mark. In her old age, an angel also visited Elizabeth.

Both women experienced miracles. Mary was a virgin who had just become pregnant with Jesus. The elderly Elizabeth, who was well beyond child bearing days, was six months pregnant with John.

It was in this context that Mary knocked on Elizabeth's door. For three months until John was born and Mary returned home, the two women talked about these miraculous events in their lives. I can imagine them crying and laughing together in the process. The bond they built and strengthened was invaluable to each, bringing them closer to God and to one another.

Elizabeth was a natural person for Mary to turn to and to seek emotional help. Our Lord's mother needed support. She found that support within her wider family.

God values family unity and support. Family is something to cherish and nurture our entire lives. Ask yourself this: Who would I turn to if I faced such a crisis as Mary did? Who could I trust and lean on? Who would actually come to me if I were worried or in trouble?

God has placed us in families for good reason. Sure, family members fight and argue. But God has a purpose for the family. The family has a bond that lasts through the good times as well as the bad.

Here is the Christmas Season Challenge: Take a look at those Christmas cards and email messages from family and friends. Thank God for each sender. Resolve to pray for them and seek their welfare in a deeper way than simply wishing them "Merry Christmas."

### STEWARDSHIP

December 16, 2012 \$6,761.00 Online \$1,015.00  
 Last Year \$9,418.40  
 Blue Envelope Online \$65.00  
 Religious Retirement \$120.00 Online \$60.00

### Daily Mass Readings

#### Monday Dec. 24

Is 62:1-5 Ps 89:4-5 Acts 13:16-1

#### Tuesday Dec. 25

Is 9:1-6 Ps 96:1-3,11-13 Lk 2:1-14

#### Wednesday Dec. 26-

Acts 6:8-10 Ps 31:3-4 Mt 10:17-22

#### Thursday Dec. 27

1 Jn 1:14 Ps 97:1-2,5-6,11-12 Jn 20:2-8

#### Friday Dec. 18

1 Jn 1:5-2:2 Ps 124:2-5 Mt 2:13-18

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### Saturday

**Dec. 22**

5:00pm

For the People of the Parish

#### Sunday

**Dec. 23**

9:00am

11:30am

#### Monday

**Dec. 24**

9:00am

#### Tuesday

**Dec. 25**

9:00am

#### Wednesday

**Dec. 26**

9:00am

+ Lucille Eloise

#### Thursday

**Dec. 27**

9:00am

#### Friday

**Dec. 28**

9:00am



## CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS

---

Barbara Warden	Al Gallegos	Aaron Grinnell
Elvin Jensen	Linda Augustyn	Joseph E. Levesque
Evelyn McAnally	Tony Circardo	Joseph H. Martin
Gerald Steffer	Mrs. Katie Kucharzak	Tony Waffan
Lyle Sand	Chong Hun Soon	Rich Allen
Harold Arehart	Alex Crapps	John O'Connor
Kay Ketcham	Cindy Crapps	Rita Delgado
Carol Giani	Diana Crapps	Remy Williams
John & Rose Smith	Ed Stelmacher	Florence
Levi Green	Beana Stelmacher	Irene
Elizabeth Green	Herb Ruder	Diana
Sarkis Atamian	Annie Ruder	Eric Froesch
Martin C., Betts	Jim Marsh	Lyle Welsh
Bertren Curry III	Princess Marsh	Glenn Kennedy
Jeff Cabral	Earl Hopp	Richard Horning
Lester Fine	Helen & Emery Jadack	George Watts
Marty Fine	Delmar Dixon	Marie Watts
Jim & Julia Fine	Grace Dixon	Olga & Mike DeKreon
Margaret Lajcsak	Ray Hall	Clyde & Doris Sturdevant
Michael Lajcsak	Archie M. Gibson	Lona & Talmadge Lyon
Al Gallegos	John Garrett	Matthew G. Scott
Michael Lajcsak	Paul Rose	Kathleen Gorton

---

## 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
- 6 Faith Formation classes resume

### **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 supporting this ministry. Fr. Mike also needs 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

### **21ST ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FRIENDSHIP DINNER—December 25th**

Volunteers and donations are needed at the Menard to help serve & deliver dinners for this event. Text or call 907-354-6115 or email [CFD@mtaonline.net](mailto:CFD@mtaonline.net)

### **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.

---