

GREETINGS FROM FR. SCOTT August 24, 2014 21th Sunday in Ordinary Time

When Eric Williams invited me to the Catholic Church, I eventually converted from Mormonism to Catholicism. The one thing that convinced me to convert was a line from the Gospel. Jesus said, "You are Peter, and upon this Rock I will build my church." When I found out that Peter's bones were buried in Saint Peter's in Rome, it was a done deal.

When thinking about becoming a Catholic, I took into consideration our long history. Catholics are the only Christian faith that can trace their history back to the time of Jesus. All other Christian religions can only go back to the 1500's. That is when Martin Luther broke from the Catholic Church to start the Lutherans.

Also, the whole idea of a church being built on a Rock is a great analogy. If you look at a rock, it is a solid mass. Rocks represent stability and steadfastness. Large rocks are unmovable. Rocks are very durable and tough to crush and destroy. In the Gospel, Jesus called Peter a Rock.

I know this parish moved a large rock for the 50 year dedication of the St. Jude Guild. This rock reminds me that our church is solid, long lasting, and durable. It should remind us of Peter, whose faith was strong, steadfast, and constant. A rock signifies the foundation of our faith.

Being able to trace our faith back through the Popes to Peter is referred to as Apostolic Succession. Our faith has been passed on and protected for 2014 years, from Saint Peter to Pope Francis I.

A large rock also represents a stable and long-lasting tradition. That steady and unwavering tradition has numerous advantages for us. Every mass is virtually the same throughout the world. Having the Mass the same allows for fewer distractions. Fewer distractions allow for a more prayerful atmosphere. A prayerful atmosphere allows us to focus on praising and thanking God.

Jesus saw Peter as a Rock because Peter had great faith. Peter was enthusiastic, but also unreliable and flawed. In other words, rocks are not perfectly round or flat. They are faithful. Peter became Jesus' rock because he recognized Jesus. He said to Jesus, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

That should give us all hope. We can all become rocks for Christ. This week, be strong in faith, be stable in going to Mass, and be steadfast in your pursuit of the good. Be firm when standing up for your beliefs, rock steady in sharing your God given gifts with others, and firmly committed to being kind and generous to others.

STEWARDSHIP

Aug. 17, 2014	\$5,862.85	Online \$1,580.00
Last Year	\$7,025.80	Online \$1,105.00
Assumption	\$783.00	Magadan \$4,754.20

Daily Mass Readings

Monday Aug. 25

2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12 Ps 96:1-5 Mt 23:13-22

Tuesday Aug. 26

2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17 Ps 96:10-13 Mt 22:23-26

Wednesday Aug. 27

2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18 Ps 128:1-2, 4-5 Mt 23:27-32

Thursday Aug. 28

1 Cor 1:1-9 Ps 145:2-7 Mt 24:42-51

Friday Aug. 29

1 Cor 1:17-25 Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11 Mk 6:17-29

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday Aug. 23
5:00pm +Maxine Velma Jean Durant

Sunday Aug. 24
9:00am For the People of the Parish
11:30am +Gordon Benedict

Monday Aug. 25
9:00am Isabelle Bouasri

Tuesday Aug. 26
9:00am

Wednesday Aug. 27
9:00am

Thursday Aug. 28
9:00am

Friday Aug. 29
9:00am



FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation, Confirmation, and 1st Reconciliation registration begins in September. Forms are available after Mass and on-line.

1st Reconciliation /1st Eucharist

Students should be in the 2nd grade or higher and registered in Faith Formation classes. Baptismal certificate is required for students not baptized at Sacred Heart.

CONFIRMATION

Students should be entering 9th grade or higher. Adult classes are scheduled for March. Baptismal certificate is required for those not baptized at Sacred Heart.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GOOGLE QUESTION

Who formulated the doctrine on original sin?

RETROUVAILLE

The married singles lifestyle describes couples who have drifted apart and live like roommates. Retrouvaille can help you survive and improve marital distress. For more information or registration about the weekend of October 17-19: 1-800-470-2230. www.HelpOurMarriage.com

WHY CATHOLIC?

Do you understand the Creed we proclaim each Sunday? This fall the Why Catholic?-- Small Communities will explore the Creed—our statement of faith. On Monday, September 8 at 6pm we will hold a Why Catholic? workshop to discuss the fall study groups. All parishioners are welcome. If you did not participate last year, you can still join or form a small group of family and friends. Find all the details on September 8.

OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Enrollment is open—Please call for an appointment—376-0883
Annual Raffle

We are kicking off the new school year with our Annual OLV Raffle and a free pancake breakfast after the Sunday Masses of 8/23 & 24. This is a free breakfast but students and families will be selling raffle tickets as a donation. If you can't make the breakfast but would like to purchase a raffle ticket, please call or stop by the school office or see a parent after the weekend Masses now through 9/21. Ticket prices are \$10 each with only 1,300 tickets available. There are 15 Chances to win! Drawings begin September 22 and final drawing October 3rd. A ticket is drawn every day for a prize of \$50; then, the ticket goes back in the barrel for more chances. 1st prize is \$1,000, 2nd prize is \$500 and 3rd prize is \$250. Good luck!!

COMING EVENTS

AUGUST

- 25 Centering Prayer 6:30pm
- 28 Rosary 7:00pm
- 30 Youth Mass 5pm
- 31 Adult Catechism 10:15am Social Hall

SEPTEMBER

- 6 Story & Song Jesse Manibusan & Sarah Hart
Music workshop 1:30—3:30pm
Mass 5pm

RCIA

Are you or someone you know interested in the Catholic Church or have questions about the Church? Inquiry gatherings will be after 9 & 11:30am Masses this weekend in the Family Room. All are Welcome—Bring all your questions!!

ADULT CATECHISM—August 31

At our 3rd gathering, Jenny Michaelson will present a discussion on Safe Environment issues and policies in the Archdiocese at 10:15am in the Social Hall.

MINISTRY LISTS

If you have not been assigned on the ministry list, please contact the office, so we can include you on the next list. If you will be out of town in November-December, contact the office as soon as possible. Ministers should dress appropriately; no shorts, inappropriate t-shirts, etc.

MINISTRY TRAINING

For parishioners who would like to continue, join, or change a ministry; parish wide training will take place for Altar Servers on October 4 from 10am—Noon. Lectors, music, environment, EMOHC, and Communion to homebound will meet on October 11 from 10am—Noon.

TREES & SHRUBS

Please monitor your children after mass. The crab apple trees and other shrubs have incurred damage over the last 2 weeks. Children should not rip off the fruit or climb the slender branches.

FOOD BANK

Rice, Sugar, Flour,
Tomato Sauce, Pasta,
Cereal, Oats,
Grocery bags
Please write checks to
Mat-Su Food Bank
357-3769

SACRED HEART ONLINE GIVING

Simply click the image at our website <http://sacredheartwasilla.org/>
This is a prayerful and convenient way to give safely.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayers may be requested on-line on the parish web site under Spiritual Life.