

GREETINGS FROM FR. SCOTT August 31, 2014 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

We wear crosses around our neck, hang up crucifixes in our homes, and give crosses to friends as gifts. Even so, as years go by we tend to lessen the effect of Jesus' suffering. The gruesome crucifixion and horrific suffering witnessed at the foot of the cross 2014 years ago is not as prevalent in our minds today.

All three readings inform us that suffering teaches us to love God. Jeremiah insists that those who love God are called to take up the cross, which involves sacrifice and suffering. Paul in Romans teaches us that to love God we must examine our lives and make painful changes. He asks us to transform ourselves! The Gospel tells us that the love between Jesus and the people is so great, that He is willing to die for us.

To suffer is to endure death, pain, or distress. It is to sustain loss or damage. Do you think Peter suffered when Jesus said, "Peter, get behind me Satan!" Of course he did! To be clear, every one of us has suffered in life and will suffer throughout life. No one gets off scot-free.

But let me be clear: Christians are not meant to be lovers of suffering, just bearers of it. The way we bear suffering is with help. Here is my point: Suffering is something we do not do alone. Suffering is a burden that Jesus commands us to share with others.

To share your suffering/burdens with others means to ask for help! Show some vulnerability. Suffering gives us an opportunity to grow in love. Think of your cross as a school for spiritual growth. Carrying our particular cross of obsession, addiction, laziness, or impatience is an advanced course in motivating us to grow more closely in love with God.

Carrying our cross is not just about bearing physical, personal, psychological, sexual, spiritual, or emotional pain; it is also about the sharing of our gifts, talents, and our compassion with others.

In every gift there is a burden. For example, in our busy world it is a burden to find time to help someone in need. It is a burden when you help someone and they expect even more from you. What Jesus is asking us to do is to share our God given gifts heroically with anyone in need.

Theresa of Avila felt that imitating the suffering of Christ is a way to fortify our weaknesses. Suffering kills something in us. When something dies within us, guess what, Jesus has more room to enter and renew our spirit.

Suffering is the way to effective love. Suffering separates us from self in order to give ourselves to another. So, why not welcome suffering. Look at it as a lesson in love, a way to get closer to our maker and renew our spirits.

STEWARDSHIP

Aug. 24, 2014	\$4,450.80	Online \$485.00
Last Year	\$5,739.90	Online \$805.00

Daily Mass Readings

Monday Sep. 1

1 Cor 2:1-5 Ps 119:97-102 Lk 4:16-30

Tuesday Sep. 2

1 Cor 2:10b-16 Ps 145:8-14 Lk 4:31-37

Wednesday Sep. 3

1 Cor 3:1-9 Ps 33:12-15, 20-21 Lk 4:38-44

Thursday Sep. 4

1 Cor 3:18-23 Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 Lk 5:1-11

Friday Sep. 5

1 Cor 4:1-5 Ps 37:3-6, 27-28, 39-40 Lk 5:33-39

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday Aug. 30

5:00pm

Sunday Aug. 31

9:00am For the People of the Parish

11:30am

+Nenita Ferrer

Monday Sep. 1

9:00am

Tuesday Sep. 2

9:00am

Wednesday Sep. 3

9:00am

Thursday Sep. 4

9:00am

Friday Sep. 5

9:00am

+Aaron Grinnell



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

What musical form is St. Gregory the Great known for?

COMING EVENTS

AUGUST

- 30 Youth Mass 5pm
31 Adult Catechism 10:15am Social Hall

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Centering Prayer 6:30pm
4 Rosary 7:00pm
6 Story & Song Jesse Manibusan & Sarah Hart
Music workshop 1:30—3:30pm
Mass 5pm

SPECIAL STORY & SONG COLLECTION

We will have a special blue envelope collection this weekend to help with the costs of our workshop and concert. This is a great opportunity for Valley parishes.

RCIA

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

RETRouvaille

If your marriage is stressed, Retrouvaille can help you survive and improve marital problems. For more information about the week-end of October 17-19: 1-800-470-2230. www.HelpOurMarriage.com

WHY CATHOLIC?

This fall the Why Catholic?-- Small Communities will explore the Creed—our statement of faith. On Monday, Sept. 8 at 6pm, All Saints Center we will hold a Why Catholic? workshop to discuss the fall 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 out all the details on Sept. 8.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SPECIAL COLLECTION

In two weeks, we will have a collection for support and endowment of the 5 Catholic schools in the Archdiocese. Please consider supporting Catholic education.

OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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

Annual Raffle:

If you 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 is 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!!

Attention Home Demonstrators:

OLV is having a vendor fair Nov 8, 9am—3pm in the social hall. If you are interested in a table, please contact Donna 373-1310 or 232-2634. Tables are “first come first serve basis.”

ADULT CATECHISM

August 31

Jenny Michaelson — Safe Environment issues and policies in the Archdiocese of Anchorage at 10:15am.

MINISTRY LISTS

If you will be out of town in November-December, contact the office as soon as possible. Ministers should dress appropriately; no shorts, inappropriate or advertising t-shirts, etc.

MINISTRY TRAINING

Parish wide training will take place for Altar Servers on October 4 from 10am—Noon. Lectors, music, environment, EMOHC, Hospitality and Communion to homebound will meet on October 11 from 10am—Noon.

SECURITY SYSTEM DONATION

Because of your generosity for the security system, we have funds left from that project. Fr. Scott would like to use that money to help with other projects. If you have any questions, please contact Fr. Scott by Sept. 7.

FOOD BANK

Rice, Sugar, Flour,
Tomato Sauce, Pasta,
Cereal, Oats,
Grocery Bags
Please write checks to

Mat-Su Food Bank
357-3769

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

SUGGESTION BOX

Parishioners are invited to submit suggestions for Adult Catechism topics on-line in our suggestion box on the Sacred Heart Homepage.

THANK YOU

Thank you for all the help with meals and prayers during my husband Pat's recent illness. Your kindness and generosity have touched us both. Debra & Pat Lighthart