

GREETINGS FROM FR. SCOTT Jan. 5, 2014 The Epiphany of the Lord

When I first came to Alaska in 1983, I had a job as a construction worker. It fizzled out six days after I started. I then found a job painting houses. One person's house I was painting worked for ARCO Alaska. She told me I should apply for a job with ARCO. I got a job as computer graphics specialist in the exploration drafting department. After two years, I felt it was a dead end job.

I came to a new **understanding**. I started thinking about college. I **prayed** about it. I decided to attend the University of Alaska Fairbanks. It meant quitting my high paying job. It meant **suffering** because of the income loss, the transition, and moving away from friends. Finally, I received a business degree and became a Confirmed Catholic. I **thanked** God for turning my life around.

What made me quit my job at ARCO and go to College? I call it an Epiphany. An Epiphany is a spark of spiritual inspiration. It is an intuitive grasp of reality through a simple and striking event. It is a divine sign spurring us into action. In the Gospel the very idea of Gentiles coming to celebrate the birth of a Jewish Messiah is an Epiphany. We can all have Epiphanies. They appear when we recognize the light of Christ in our lives. Epiphanies enlighten us to a new understanding causing us to change to a holier way of life.

Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh give us clues about the events that take place during an epiphany.

GOLD symbolizes a new understanding. It represents new wisdom.

FRANKINCENSE symbolizes divinity and prayer. It points to a holy way of living that has come into the world in Jesus Christ.

MYRRH symbolizes the suffering involved in changing your way of life. It foretells the cross. It reminds you always of the price we must pay for anything worthwhile.

How does an Epiphany work?

GOLD reminds us to call on the Holy Spirit for openness to a new **understanding** or Epiphany. Have you ever had a real tough decision to make? Struggling with that decision may be an Epiphany in the making. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you in that decision.

FRANKINCENSE reminds us we have to **pray**. Pray every day about that a new understanding, that inspiration, that Epiphany you have received. Is that new understanding something that will make your life better and holier?

MYRRH reminds us that an Epiphany requires us to make a significant change for the better. That usually involves **suffering**. Call on Jesus to help you through that suffering.

Finally, **thank** God for that better and holier lifestyle.

STEWARDSHIP

Dec. 29, 2013	\$8,543.00	Online	\$430.00
Last Year	\$6,733.20	Online	\$320.00
Christmas	\$9,631.90		

Daily Mass Readings

Monday Jan. 6

1 Jn 3:22-4:6 Ps 2:7-8,10-12a Mt 4:12-17,23-25

Tuesday Jan. 7

1 Jn 4:7-10 Ps 72:1-4,7-8 Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday Jan. 8

1 Jn 4:11-18 Ps 72:1-2,10,12-13 Mk 6:45-52

Thursday Jan. 9

1 Jn 4:19-5:4 Ps 72:1-2,14 Lk 4:14-22a

Friday Jan. 10

1 Jn 5:5-13 Ps 147:12-15,19-20 Lk 5:12-16

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday Jan. 4

5:00pm For the People of the Parish

Sunday Jan. 5

9:00am Intentions of Tom Kilroy

11:30am +Merlin DeWalt

Monday Jan. 6

9:00am

Tuesday Jan. 7

9:00am

Wednesday Jan. 8

9:00am

Thursday Jan. 9

9:00am

Friday Jan. 10

9:00am



CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS

LaVonne Boyd	Ed Stelmacher	Beana Stelmacher
Alex Crapps	Cindy Crapps	Diana Crapps
Earl Hopp	Helen Jadack	Emery Jadack
Terry Meader	Earnest Cayer	Mrs. Leo Kucharzak
Mr. Leo Kucharzak	Florence	Irene
Diana	Remy Williams	Anna Elworth
Lloyd Cole	Mary Cole	Brennen Fleener
Bea Johnson	Gina Dyjak	Emmanuel Lampl
Norma Lampl	Merlin DeWalt	Dorothy DeWalt
Sarkis Atamian	Aaron Grinnell	Adam Patton
Margaret Lajcsak	Michael Lajcsak	Dolores Sullivan
Mike DeKreon	Maree Watts	George Watts
Olga Dekreon	Martin C. Betts	Bill Felenchak
Doris Sturdevant	Alex Victor	Florenc Felenchak
Clyde Sturdevant	Leo Briskey	Eleanor Victor
John William Garrett	Theresa Jean Garrett	Nettie Briskey
Natalia Westfall	Bertren Curry III	Anna & John Kelly
Jeong Shin Lee	Jae Lee	Lona Lyons
Princess Marsh	Jim Marsh	Shun Rye Park



COMING EVENTS

JANUARY

- 5 Faith Formation Classes Resume
Sandwiches Middle School
2nd Collection Blue Envelopes—Landscaping
Family Promise Jan 5-12
- 6 Centering Prayer 6:30pm
Rosary 7:00pm
- 10 Home School Group 9am—Noon
- 11/12 Home Missions Appeal Collection
- 10-12 Confirmation Retreat—1st Year
- 17-19 Confirmation Retreat—2nd Year
- 19 Knights Breakfast



BABY BOUTIQUE

This Christmas, remember Catholic Social Services' Baby Boutique in honor of the Christ child. Babies and toddlers need gently used hooded sweatshirts, hats, mittens, sweatpants, coats, snowsuits, and jackets. One piece t-shirts and diapers in all sizes are always in demand. A collection basket is in the social hall.

GIFT BOX PROJECT

Thank you for your generous support of our annual Gift Boxes to Valley residents. Your kindness and Christmas Spirit joyfully affected over 175 of our neighbors.

FOOD PANTRY OF WASILLA

Thank you for supporting the Mat-Su Food Bank and Food4Kids in November with over 500 pounds of food.

FOOD PANTRY

Items needed at the pantry:
All kinds of pasta
tomato sauce, cereal, oatmeal
rice, flour, sugar,
grocery bags

357-3769

OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

The students, staff, and volunteers of OLV with all their friends, families, and supporters wish you a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

COLLECTION FOR HOME MISSIONS JANUARY 11/12

Next weekend, Catholics throughout the United States will be asked to give to the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. This special collection helps parishes throughout rural America—including most of the parishes and missions of our own Archdiocese. Please prayerfully consider this special collection with a gift amount meaningful for you and your family.