

GREETINGS FROM FR. SCOTT

My great great-great-grandpa Shirtcliff was good friends with Abraham Lincoln. That's right, THE Abe Lincoln. Occasionally Lincoln would visit Great Grandpa Shirtcliff. And guess where his favorite seat was? He always used the same old rocking chair that I inherited. The chair is currently at my sister's house in Bend, OR.

Lincoln was known for his short, 260 word Gettysburg address. The man before Lincoln spoke over an hour. Today, no one remembers that hour long speech. By contrast, Lincoln's two and one half minute speech changed the history of the United States and the mentality of the Western world.

As far as preaching goes, I believe that no matter how good a speaker you are, a homily during mass should not be over about seven or eight minutes. I shoot for about 550 words or five minutes.

There is another speech that was only 38 words. I suspect that the impact it had on the world will never be matched, ever. That speech is called the Our Father, or Lord's Prayer. Jesus spoke it to his disciples to teach them how to pray.

Those 38 words give us a road map to live by. They unite us as one body of Christ. Luke's Gospel, written fifty years after the death of Jesus, contains six major themes. Most of those themes are contained in the Lord's Prayer. They are prayer, hospitality, compassion, forgiveness, the common life, and care for the outsider.

When we pray the Lord's Prayer, it is like logging on to the internet because it hotwires us directly to God. Through this connection, we develop our relationship with God and learn to communicate with Him. Do you know what it means to "live as a person of faith"? It means to be connected to Jesus, communicate, and develop a relationship with God. Reciting the "Our Father" helps us to do that.

The greatest feature of the Lord's Prayer is that it is the only prayer Jesus gave us and asked us to pray. The "Our Father" came directly from Jesus.

One effective way to combat sin and temptation in our lives is to recite the Our Father over and over in our minds. Try making the first thought into your mind in the morning and the last thought at night the Our Father. When bad thoughts enter your mind, try interrupting them with that beautiful prayer that Jesus gave us. It works!

The Our Father is the one prayer that our Lord Jesus gave us and instructed us to pray. Reciting it on a regular basis, really listening to it, and trying to abide by it in our daily lives, makes us holier.

STEWARDSHIP

July 21 2013	\$5,838.00	Online \$640.00
Last Year	\$6,790.00	Online \$145.00
Blue Envelope		Online \$60.00

Daily Mass Readings

Monday July 29

Ex 32:15-24 Ps 106:19-23 Jn 11:19-27

Tuesday July 30

Ex 33:7-11 Ps 103:6-13 Mt 13:36-43

Wednesday July 31

Ex 34:29-35 Ps 99:5-7,9 Mt 13:44-46

Thursday Aug 1

Ex 40:16-21 Ps 84:3-6,8-11 Mt 13:47-53

Friday Aug 2

Lv 23:1,4-11 Ps 81:3-6,10-11 Mt 13:54-58

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	July 27
5:00pm	For the People of the Parish
Sunday	July 28
9:00am	
11:30am	
Monday	July 29
9:00am	
Tuesday	July 30
9:00am	
Wednesday	July 31
9:00am	
Thursday	Aug 1
9:00am	Friday
Aug 2	
9:00am	



FAITH FORMATION

Classes for Faith Formation and Confirmation will resume in Sept.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GOOGLE QUESTION

Who is the patron saint of domestic servants, homemakers, and cooks?
Hint: The saint is often shown with keys or a broom.

MINISTRY TRAINING

On October 12, the parishes in the Valley will come together for Mass ministry training: Eucharistic Ministers, Hospitality, Servers, Music, Linens, and Lectors. Please mark your calendar if you wish to continue or join one of these ministries.

ON-LINE GIVING

Recently we updated our Online Giving link to a new address; this will not affect any donations you have scheduled, your account information or anything else in your account. It will, however, affect any bookmarks you may have created on your computer. The next time you access your Online Giving account on the church website, click on the new Online Giving logo and bookmark this new address.



OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Why Catholic school for your child? Catholic school students learn to develop a personal spirituality that helps them become aware of and respond to God's plan for their lives. The school emphasizes a challenging core curriculum that stimulates students to question, evaluate, discover and create. Students enjoy a broad variety of learning experiences that blend the traditional and the innovative.

We have a place for your child.
Please call the office
376-0883 or 715-2788.

WELCOME TO SACRED HEART

Sacred Heart welcomes all our summer visitors to Alaska and our parish. Have a safe and happy summer vacation.



COMING EVENTS

JULY

28 Debra Lighthart Rosaries and gifts
29 No Centering Prayer

AUGUST

1 Rosary 7pm
5 Centering Prayer 6:30pm
8 Rosary 7pm
10/11 Inquiry Sessions after all Masses
14 Vigil of the Assumption 5:30pm
15 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary 9am
OLV Opening day of school

OCTOBER

12 Ministry Training

DIRECTORIES

Surplus Directories will be available in the Social Hall after Mass. We also have several unclaimed photographs. Please look through and take them home or give them to their owners.

GIVE US THIS DAY

This magazine is a personal prayer periodical from Liturgical Press of Saint John's Abbey. Deeply rooted in the Catholic tradition, *Give Us This Day* is about prayer—praying daily, praying well, praying with confidence. The monthly booklet helps establish prayer as a part of your life, enhancing your existing practices and deepening your encounter with God by providing:

- A practical approach to daily prayer
- Prayers and readings for daily Mass
- Daily prayer, Morning and Evening
- A reflection on the Scriptures for each day

Give Us This Day is available in standard, large print, and digital versions. More information at www.GiveUsThisDay.org or 888-259-8470

This might be exactly what you need to start the fall.

FOOD PANTRY

Items needed at the pantry:
toilet paper, flour, sugar,
cereal, oatmeal,
all kinds of baby food
357-3769

**The Pantry needs lots
of grocery sacks.

INQUIRY SESSIONS

During the Weekend of August 10th and 11th there will be inquiry opportunities after each mass for anyone who is interested in learning more about the Catholic Church or is interested in becoming Catholic. If interested, please meet us in the family room after any of the masses. For questions, contact Jenny Michaelson at jmichaelson@caa-ak.org or call the parish office.

RETROUVILLE

This program for troubled married couples is hosting a weekend on Oct. 18-20. Please contact 1-800-470-2230 or www.HelpOurMarriage.com