

## GREETINGS FROM FR. SCOTT

In basic training at Lackland AFB in Texas, we had to pull door guard duty in the middle of the night. One tends to get a little bored, sleepy, and tired. Nothing ever happened. One morning at about 2:00am I was leaning up against the door, starched uniform, canteen, half asleep, and something happened. Someone beat on the door and aroused me into a state of immediate attention.

Through a six by six window the first lieutenant was yelling at me. "Open the door now!" he shouted. He acted like a madman. He had an emergency and needed to get in NOW! I was 17 years old, standing at attention behind a locked door, and scared. Fortunately Sergeant Beranger, my drill instructor, had advised me: "Be alert at all times, watch, and check for ID."

Finally, the Lieutenant quieted down a bit. I asked, "Sir, may I please see your ID." This request infuriated him. He yelled and screamed some more; I was insistent; finally the irate lieutenant pulled out his ID. I was about to let him in when I noticed something. On his official military ID card was transplanted a picture of Mickey Mouse.

My dorm guard experience could have been worse. Luckily, I paid attention in class and was somewhat alert and ready. But the servants in the Gospel were wide-awake. They were ready for their master's return. Their lamps were lit and shining brightly.

Spiritually it is not easy to be ready all the time. We get tempted and sidetracked. We get bored and distracted. The Gospel this weekend tells us that we can only be ready if we are prepared properly. We need instruction. We need experience. We need practice. We need Faith.

What being ready means is this: Faithful obedience to God's commands and values. Faithful obedience means to be consistent in prayer. It means loving our neighbor and enemies every chance we get.

Being ready means doggedly searching for opportunities to help people in need. It means making sacrifices on a regular basis, such as volunteering our time to the church or another good organization. It means being ready for God's coming by praying every day, going to confession, and getting involved in the church's ministries. Most importantly, it means putting Jesus before money, material positions, and well, everything else.

Being ready means participating in the Eucharist every Sunday. There are 168 hours in a week. God is asking for .006% of that time to attend Sunday Mass. That is a small sacrifice to make for thanking God for our lives and all the blessings he has given us.

This week, I challenge all of you to be a little more watchful for opportunities to love one another. Be a little more ready by prioritizing your spiritual life. For, should he come in the second or third watch and find them ready, blessed are those servants.

### STEWARDSHIP

Aug. 4, 2013	\$5,121.10	Online \$930.00
Last Year	\$6,629.86	Online \$205.00
Blue Env. New Sign	\$1,316.30	Online \$55.00

#### Daily Mass Readings

#### **Monday Aug. 12**

Dt 10:12-22 Ps 147:12-15,19-20 Mt 17:22-27

#### **Tuesday Aug. 13**

Dt 31:1-8 (Ps) Dt 32:3-4,7-9,12 Mt 18:1-5,10,12-14

#### **Wednesday Aug. 14**

Dt 34: 1-12 Ps 66:1-3,5,8,16-17 Mt 18:15-20

#### **Thursday Aug. 15**

1 Chr 15:3-4,15-16 Ps 132:6-7,9-10 Lk 11:27-28

#### **Friday Aug. 16**

Jos 24:14-29 Ps 136:1-3,16-18 Mt 19:3-12

### MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Aug. 10</b>
5:00pm	For the People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Aug. 11</b>
9:00am	
11:30am	
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Aug. 12</b>
9:00am	+ Shan Satterfield
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Aug. 13</b>
9:00am	+ Helen & Emery Jadack
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Aug. 14</b>
9:00am	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Aug. 15</b>
9:00am	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Aug. 16</b>
9:00am	



### FAITH FORMATION

Classes for Faith Formation and Confirmation will resume in Sept.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL GOOGLE QUESTION

St. Stephen Christianized a pagan group in Hungary known as the Magyars. What country is he the Patron Saint?

### 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

Please consider on-line giving.

### HOME SCHOOLERS !

Come to our planning meeting on Friday, August 16th. We will gather for 9am Mass and then have a planning session following in the Hall. Our agenda will cover the format and content of the year's events including field trips, monthly activities, and more! Everyone needs to come to pray and share!

If you have questions contact Andrea S. @ 376-1330 or Clarissa V. @ 864-084

### OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Why Catholic school for your child? OLV is a strong means not only to hand down a full knowledge of the Faith, but also to foster the religious, spiritual, and academic foundation of the young for the future of the Church and society.

Before and after school care will be available for families this school year.

We have a place for your child.

Please call the office  
376-0883 or 715-2788.



## COMING EVENTS

### AUGUST

- 12 Centering Prayer 6:30pm
- 15 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

### MASS SIGN-UP SHEETS

Mass ministers are needed for the Assumption August 14/15—a holy day of obligation. We also need mass ministers for all the week end masses of August 17 & 18. Sheets are in the social hall. Thank you for assisting with these liturgies.

### 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](http://www.GiveUsThisDay.org) or 888-259-8470. A group order sheet is available in the Social Hall.

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 & egg cartons

### INQUIRY SESSIONS

During the Weekend of August 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> 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. We welcome you to meet us in the family room after any of the masses. For questions, contact Jenny Michaelson at [jmichaelson@caa-ak.org](mailto: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](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com)