

## GREETINGS FROM FR. SCOTT Dec. 15,2013 Third Sunday of Advent

Growing up near the Oregon Desert, there are droughts in the summer. My Uncle is an alfalfa farmer. He uses water from an irrigation canal to water his crop. It seldom rains. The problem is unexpected thunder storms. If it rains on a cut crop of alfalfa, the crop is ruined.

For most farmers, rain is a beautiful time that deserves rejoicing. Rain brings new life. In the letter from James, the metaphor of waiting for rain is given to us as a way of understanding what it was like to wait for Christ. It is a potent image for Advent.

Waiting for rain takes patience. During Advent each year we remember that humanity waited through a long, dry, and exhausting period for the sign of new life in Jesus. For generations people looked to the heavens every day for a sign that today would be the day when God's salvation would come. Then, one night, in a way no one could have ever imagined, with no fanfare, a child burst forth into the world and established the final reign of God's love.

Advent teaches us to have patience while we are waiting for Christmas, the arrival of our savior.

Let me explain. Many of us have presents under a tree during Advent. Unfortunately, we all have to wait until that big day in order to open our presents. That is what Advent is like for Catholics.

Advent is about patiently waiting for the coming of our Savior. The people of the Old Testament patiently waited for him to be born at Christmas. We patiently wait for Jesus to come in our daily lives over and over again. We patiently wait for Jesus to come a second time.

Saint Francis De Sales: Have patience with all things, but chiefly have patience with yourself.

German Proverb: Patience is a bitter plant but it has sweet fruit.

Saint Augustine: Patience is the companion of Wisdom

Advent reminds us that we want to be ready when that second coming comes. It tells us to live good lives because any moment, it might be the right time for Jesus to come. So just as we patiently wait for Christmas day to come, we must also patiently wait for Jesus to return.

When we live good lives, when we do all we can for the lame, blind, deaf, lepers, poor, and anyone left for dead, we prepare ourselves for that unexpected time when Jesus comes again. When that happens, our patience will be rewarded and our waiting will be over because it will always be Christmas.

Let us pray: Dear God, thank you for giving us the baby Jesus to come and save us. Please give us the patience to await Jesus' return again to us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

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### STEWARDSHIP

Dec. 8,2013	\$12,410.30	Online \$1,210.00
Last Year	\$6,921.20	Online \$540.00
Landscape	\$225.00	Online \$215.00
Religious Retirement	\$3,501.25	

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#### Daily Mass Readings

##### **Monday Dec. 16**

Nm 24:2-7 Ps 25:4-9 Mt 21:23-27

##### **Tuesday Dec. 17**

Gn 49:2,8-10 Ps 72:1-4 Mt 1:1-17

##### **Wednesday Dec. 18**

Jer 23:5-8 Ps 72:1-2 Mt 1:18-25

##### **Thursday Dec. 19**

Jgs 13:2-7 Ps 71:3-6 Lk 1:5-25

##### **Friday Dec. 20**

Is 7:10-14 Ps 24:1-6 Lk 1:26-38

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### **Saturday**

**Dec. 14**

5:00pm

For the People of the Parish

#### **Sunday**

**Dec. 15**

9:00am

11:30am

+Merlin DeWalt

#### **Monday**

**Dec. 16**

9:00am

#### **Tuesday**

**Dec. 17**

9:00am

#### **Wednesday**

**Dec. 18**

9:00am

#### **Thursday**

**Dec. 19**

9:00am

#### **Friday**

**Dec. 20**

9:00am



### FAITH FORMATION

Classes for Faith Formation and Confirmation meet on Sundays. Registration is on line. If you would like more information, contact the office. 1st grade students who plan to celebrate 1st Eucharist next year must be enrolled in 1st grade faith formation this year. 8th grade students who plan to celebrate Confirmation in high school must be enrolled in Middle School faith formation.

### CONFIRMATION CLASSES 1PM

Scott and Val's Class meets in the All Saints Center; the New Class meets in the social hall.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL GOOGLE QUESTION

What do Isaac, Samson, and John have in common?

### ACTS 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL PIG RAFFLE

Sacred Heart ACTS wants to congratulate Sacred Heart parishioner Ann DeSalvo who won the 120-140 lbs. of prime Mat-Su Pork as a result of our 2nd Annual ACTS Pig Raffle. We want to thank all of our parish community, as well as our friends at St. Michael, St. Andrew, Our Lady of the Lake and our Peninsula parishes, for your support. Thanks to you we can continue to support our Women's and Men's ACTS Retreats! God bless all of you this Advent and Christmas Season.

### GIFT BOX PROJECT

We have a number of cards that have not been picked up. Please help us bring Christmas to many of our Valley residents who do not have family.



### OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

OLV Annual Raffle has ended. Congratulations to the many winners. Thank you all for your support of Catholic Education!

SAVE THE DATE: 7th Annual Gala Auction Dinner is March 29, 2014. Tickets will go on sale in January!

OLV will be having a Christmas mass celebration on Wednesday, December 18th, at 10am followed by brunch and a Christmas performance. All are invited!

The 9:00am daily mass time is moved to 10:00am for December 18th.

Are you a Facebook fan? How about visiting our FB page — Our Lady of the Valley Catholic School—Wasilla? We have a lot to share with our parishioners and community.

## COMING EVENTS

### DECEMBER

- 16 Centering Prayer 6:30pm
- 18 Daily Mass 10am
- 19 Rosary 7pm
- 15 Knights Breakfast
- 24 Christmas Eve Mass 4pm
- Christmas Eve Mass 9 pm
- 25 Midnight Mass
- 25 Christmas Day Mass 10 am
- 31 Vigil for the Blessed Virgin Mary 5:30pm

### JANUARY

- 1 Blessed Virgin Mary 10:00am

### CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL ENVELOPES

Memorial envelopes will be available through December 16. Parishioners are invited to remember deceased friends and families with a gift to the Christmas flower funds.

### ST. JUDE QUILT & CHAT

The Bazaar and silent auction was very successful. We thank everyone who participated and made this a great event. Our funds go back to Sacred Heart to support our mission to make quilts for baptized babies, hats and neck pillows for cancer patients. We are always looking for more members to join our group for information call Dorie Smith 376-4081 or Jane Holler 376-3389.

Please check the list in the social hall for the successful winners of our silent auction.

### FOOD BANK NEEDS

Rice, Flour, Sugar,  
Pasta, Beans,  
Oatmeal, Pwd Milk,  
Canned Fruit and  
Vegetables

357-3769

### BEARS FOR MAGADAN

We are collecting new and gently used stuffed bears, new hats, gloves, scarves, and new baby or toddler snowsuits. Please drop items at the Church or office.

### SAFETY AND SECURITY

Children must be accompanied to the rest rooms by an adult and supervised on the playground. Due to meetings, children cannot run and scream in the halls—Thank you for helping make our parish safe.