

## GREETINGS FROM FR. SCOTT December 14, 2014 Third Sunday of Advent

When I was in the seminary, Sister Timothy taught Scripture. She was impossible to get an A from. Many seminarians discovered that she liked the color gold. When handing in their school work, they began using gold paper clips. Their grades increased. Sister Timothy liked clever people. I never got an A in her class. My friend, Mark, decided to be very clever and creative on his final paper. He turned in his paper with a picture on the cover sheet of a gold platter. John the Baptist's head was on it. The caption read, "John the Baptist, ahead of his time." Mark got that A+.

Lessons from John the Baptist:

1. Wholeheartedly believing in Jesus Christ is possible. At the time of John the Baptist, many different gods were worshiped. John chose Jesus and with his whole heart believed Jesus was coming. He spent his days "preparing the way" for the Lord.
2. Keep your faith strong. Don't be afraid to stick up for your faith. Introduce others to the faith. John taught us that, as believers, we can face doubters and keep our faith strong. His faith never wavered. As followers of Jesus, John was unafraid of calling out people such as Herod and the Pharisees for their sinful behavior. John's mission in life was to introduce others to Jesus Christ; that is our mission as well!
3. Anyone can be a strong and serious witness for Jesus Christ. John is an example of strength and sincerity in ministry. Whatever our ministry—music, lector, altar serving, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, linen, art/environment, or hospitality—John tells us to take it seriously.
4. Be fearless in the face of persecution and death. Paul reminded Timothy that "everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." Even under persecution, John's message remained unchanging, bold, and strong. Like us, John's faith was put to the test! We can either falter, or like John, cling to Christ and stand firm in our faith to the end.
5. Repenting our sins is important. John knew the importance of repenting one's sins in order to live a holy and righteous life. John taught us that we all sin, but we can deal with sin in a healthy way by telling God we are sorry for our sins. Struggling with our sin and not giving up is the road to holiness.

In conclusion, John teaches us five important lessons: (1) belief in Jesus Christ is possible; (2) keep your faith strong, stick up for your faith, and introduce others to the faith; (3) we all have the potential to be strong and serious ministers; (4) be fearless in the face of persecution and death; (5) repent your sins.

There is one more thing we can learn. John the Baptist was truly A HEAD of his time!  
Have a Joyful Gaudete Sunday.

### STEWARDSHIP

Dec. 7, 2014	\$6,364.75	Online \$975.00
Last Year	\$12,410.30	Online \$1,210.00
Retirement Fund	\$4,440.00	Holy Day \$627.00

#### Daily Mass Readings

#### **Monday Dec. 15**

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc, 8-9 Mt 21:23-27

#### **Tuesday Dec. 16**

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13 Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19,23 Mt 21:28-32

#### **Wednesday Dec. 17**

Gn 49:2, 8-10 Ps 72:3-4, 7-8, 17 Mt 1:1-17

#### **Thursday Dec. 18**

Jer 23:5-8 Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 Mt 1:18-25

#### **Friday Dec. 19**

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6b, 16-17 Lk 1:5-25

### MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Dec. 13</b>
5:00pm	Blessings for Quentin & Gina Sims
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Dec. 14</b>
9:00am	
11:30am	For the People of the Parish
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Dec. 15</b>
9:00am	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Dec. 16</b>
9:00am	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Dec. 17</b>
9:00am	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Dec. 18</b>
9:00am	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Dec. 19</b>
9:00am	



## FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation and Confirmation classes meet weekly. Faith Formation classes will not meet December 21-January 4.

## CONFIRMATION

Confirmation 2015 will meet December 14 in the All Saints Center at 1pm. Students should also be meeting with their sponsors.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL GOOGLE QUESTION

What are the O Antiphons?

## MINISTRY LISTS

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



## COMING EVENTS

### DECEMBER

- 14 Confirmation All Saints 1pm
- 15 Centering Prayer 6:30pm
- 18 OLV Mass 9am, Brunch, Christmas Program  
Rosary 7pm
- 21 Knights Breakfast
- 24 Christmas Eve Mass 4pm  
Christmas Eve Mass 9pm  
Midnight Mass (at Midnight)
- 25 Christmas Day Mass 10am
- 27 Youth Mass 5pm
- 31 Vigil Mass Mary, Holy Mother of God 5:30pm

### JANUARY

- 1 Mass Mary, Holy Mother of God 10am

### SACRED HEART CHRISTMAS BOXES

Thank you for your Gift Boxes. If anyone is available to deliver gifts to agencies this coming week, please contact Jenny at [jmichaelson@caa-ak.org](mailto:jmichaelson@caa-ak.org) or 376-5087.

## RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Thank you for supporting the Retirement Fund for Religious. This collection supports thousands of senior religious, who have dedicated their lives to serving the people of our Church. Your gifts support over 35,000 elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.

## CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIAL ENVELOPES

Christmas Memorial envelopes are available in the atrium or use On-line Giving (see website). Please return these to the office by December 21.

## RETROUVAILLE

Couples interested in strengthening their marriage relationship are invited to a weekend retreat February 13-15, 2015 in Anchorage. Call 907-863-8000  
[www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com)

## OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Continuing the review of classical education at OLV:

7) Thinking with the minds of Ancients, students place themselves imaginatively within the historical period they are discussing. 8) Is there a text in this class? OLV determines which textbooks to provide teachers to deliver the subject content. Downloading books from public domain is a process we are investigating to cut cost. 9) History and the restless heart: Teachers strive to integrate history, literature, religion, and the arts to provide a comprehensive history for questions: Who is God? Who and what is man? What is true, good, and beautiful? 10) One sense at a time: Teachers engage methods to nurture attention and focusing skills using a range of activities, artwork, music, and books to develop concentration.

### ST. BERNARD—TALKEETNA

St. Bernard Catholic Church in Talkeetna needs financial help to raise matching funds for the renovation of their church, which was damaged in the recent floods. Please make out checks to St. Bernard Catholic Church with notation "Raising of Church/matching grant" or use On-line Giving (see our website).

### SACRED HEART FINANCIAL REVIEW

The parish received a generous gift from Bishop Attie II that will help balance our current budget. However, our collections have been a bit lower than last year at this time, so please pray about your contribution. Below are several ideas to consider:

1. Donating 10% of monthly net income
2. Using On-line Giving (safe and reliable)
3. Adding an end of year tax donation

A Financial Summary will be available in the bulletin later in January 2015.

### FOOD BANK

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

Mat-Su Food Bank  
357-3769

### BL.THEODORE RHOMZA BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Byzantine mission (an outreach of St Nicholas of Myra—Anchorage) meets Sundays at Sacred Heart at 4pm. The Byzantine Catholic Church is in full communion with the Roman Catholic Church but uses the Byzantine liturgical rite in the Eastern Slav-ic style. Contact Fr. Michael Sidun at 907-277-6731 or [www.ak-byz-cath.org](http://www.ak-byz-cath.org).

### ACTS RETREAT WEEKEND

Registration forms and information for the 2015 Women's and Men's ACTS Retreats are available on the bulletin boards and the office. An ACTS Retreat is a weekend of spiritual renewal and revitalization.