

GREETINGS FROM FR. SCOTT December 28, 2014 Feast of the Holy Family

The New Testament mentions Nazareth many times, referring to it as the home of Mary and Joseph. It is the place where the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she was going to bear the Christ Child (Annunciation). It is the town that inspired Jesus during his childhood and early manhood and his clash with fellow citizens who disapproved of his non-conventional thinking.

During the lifetime of the Holy Family, it is believed the population of Nazareth did not exceed 500. This was a small Jewish village where people knew one another. Like Jesus people lived, prayed, and studied in the Jewish tradition. They gathered in the synagogue and met for prayer and holidays. Today, the church still stands where Jesus taught and prayed.

About Nazareth, Pope Paul VI wrote, "How I would like to return to my childhood and attend the simple yet profound school that is Nazareth! How wonderful to be close to Mary, learning again the lesson of the true meaning of life, learning again God's truths." Pope Paul wrote that Nazareth can teach us about silence, family life, and the discipline of work.

SILENCE

Nazareth is a small silent little town. Silence in today's world is Golden! During these turbulent times filled with noise, fast pace, and stress, Nazareth is a place of peace and quiet. It is Silent. The silence of Nazareth should teach us how to meditate in peace and quiet, to reflect on the deeply spiritual, and to be open to the voice of God's inner wisdom. Nazareth can teach us the value of study and preparation, of meditation, of a well-ordered personal spiritual life, and of silent prayer that is known only to God.

FAMILY LIFE

Second, we learn about family life. May Nazareth serve as a model of what the family should be. May it show us the family's holy and enduring character. May Nazareth exemplify a family's basic function in society: a community of love and sharing, beautiful for the problems it poses and the rewards it brings. Nazareth is an example of the perfect setting for rearing children.

WORK

Finally, in Nazareth, the home of a craftsman's son, we learn about work and the discipline it entails. Work, according to Pope Paul, "Is demanding yet redeeming. It has its own dignity. It is not an end in itself. Work's true value comes from the purpose it serves." In Nazareth we can ponder the simple appeal of the way God's Son came to be known, profound, yet full of meaning. This week, take yourselves back to Nazareth. Relish in its silence. Model the Holy Family's simple, meaningful, and joyful way of life. Understand and realize that the work you do is valuable and serves a good purpose in our world.

STEWARDSHIP

Dec. 21, 2014 \$6,751.65 Online \$2,055.00
 Last Year \$5,792.50 Online \$670.00
 St. Bernard—Raising Church \$45.00
 Flower Memorials \$675.00

Daily Mass Readings

Monday Dec. 29
 1 Jn 2:3-11 Ps. 98:1-6 1 Lk 2:22-35

Tuesday Dec. 30
 1 Jn 2:12-17 Ps 96:7-9 Lk 2:36-40

Wed.-Thurs. Dec. 31 & Jan. 1
 Nm 6:22-27 Ps 67:2-8 Lk 2:16-21

Friday Jan. 2
 1 Jn 2:22-28 Ps 98:1-4 Jn 1:19-28

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	Dec. 27
5:00pm	+ Catherine Cizek
Sunday	Dec. 28
9:00am	+ Mrs. Helen Bogan
11:30am	For the People of the Parish
Monday	Dec. 29
9:00am	Blessings for Myrna So
Tuesday	Dec. 30
9:00am	
Wednesday	Dec. 31
9:00am	
Thursday	Jan. 1
9:00am	
Friday	Jan. 2
9:00am	



FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation and Confirmation classes meet weekly. Faith Formation classes will not meet December 21-January 4. Classes resume January 11.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation 2015 students should be meeting with their sponsors and completing their 6 *Conversations* booklet.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GOOGLE QUESTION

The Nicene Creed was adopted during which Pope's papacy?



RETROUVAILLE

Couples interested in strengthening a drifting marriage are invited to a weekend retreat February 13-15, 2015 in Anchorage. Call 907-863-8000 www.HelpOurMarriage.com

MASS INTENTIONS

Please check on the bulletin boards and on-line for our updated policy.

ADULT CATECHISM

We will not have an adult catechism session on Sunday, December 28th. The program will continue on January 25th at 10am.

NEW YEAR'S OFFICE HOURS

The office will be closed at Noon on December 31—January 2.

ONLINE GIVING

Simply click this image at our website <http://sacredheartwasilla.org/>



OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Classical education at OLV: Using the classical curriculum, we are drawn across the curriculum see God in the order of math, His providential hand in history, and the wonderment of science. Classical education is far more inclusive than just a journey of knowledge acquisition. We are striving to discover how to make God's presence evident in our instruction. Understanding that the high point of human history is the "incarnation" teaches and prepares us for Christ and His kingdom. By emphasizing a basic timeline of world history in our curriculum and teaching young minds the great civilizations of the world, we will provide students with a background, a connection and a context for understanding current events.

COMING EVENTS

DECEMBER

- 27 Youth Mass 5pm
- 29 Centering Prayer 6:30pm
- 31 Vigil Mass Mary, Holy Mother of God 5:30pm

JANUARY

- 1 Mass Mary, Holy Mother of God **10am**
Rosary 7pm
- 2 Homeschool Activity Social Hall 10am-Noon
- 5 Centering Prayer 6:30pm
- 9 Adoration 9:30-11:30am

ST. BERNARD—TALKEETNA

St. Bernard Catholic Church in Talkeetna needs financial help to raise matching funds for the raising 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

Your stewardship gift is very important to our Parish. At the beginning of the new year, 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 January.

FINANCE COUNCIL

Mary Sears
Susan Colligan
Mike Schachle
Mike Verbos
Carol Akerson
David Belanger

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Steve Cochran
Angelina Klapperich
Hilma Barrera
John Mahoney
Karen Smith
Emilie Cullison

If you have a suggestion for the Parish Pastoral Council, please visit our website and click on the link.

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.

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.