

## GREETINGS FROM FR. SCOTT December 7, 2014 Second Sunday of Advent

Jesus is a Super Star! He has the greatest name recognition of anyone in the history of the world. Thousands of blogs, books, and movies have been made about Him. Unfortunately, the secular Super Star Jesus is never the real Jesus. For example, in 2005, Harper's Magazine quoted a gospel from President Thomas Jefferson, who described Jesus as only human, but not divine. In the book the *Da Vinci Code*, Jesus married Mary Magdalene.

When we try to rationalize Jesus, it does not work. Rationalization does not require faith. Christians are all about faith! Believe it or not, even back in the first century, people did not want to believe that Jesus was fully human and fully divine. There were false prophets everywhere claiming to be the Messiah. The preachers back then developed a strategy to convert Christians and to keep them Christians.

Two forms of sermons were delivered by the apostles: *Kerygma* and *Didache* (DID A KAY). *Kerygma* style preaching calls and awakens our faith in Christ. Once we are called to faith, *Didache* style preaching teaches us how to conduct ourselves as Christians, i.e., spiritual and moral conduct.

The Greek word *Kerygma* (κήρυγμα) is related to the Greek verb to cry out or proclaim as a herald, and means proclamation, announcement, or preaching.

The first reading and the Gospel are examples of *Kerygma* type preaching. Isaiah loudly proclaims, "Prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!" John loudly proclaims, "One mightier than I is coming after me." This *Kerygma* style preaching woke people up to the most profound event in human history, the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The second reading is an example of *Didache* type preaching. The *Didache* was a letter written around the time of Jesus. This short letter (1) describes the way of life as the love of God, (2) describes the first Catholic Mass, (3) emphasizes the importance of the Eucharist, (4) demands that teachers teach the justice and knowledge of the Lord, and morals, and (5) sets forth guidelines for ways to detect false prophets.

*Didache* style preaching shows how the commandments and moral teachings of Jesus were an outcome of the people's commitment to Christ. *Didache* preaching forms the faith. It also helps to preserve the purity of faith.

The second reading from Peter has elements of *Didache* type preaching. While waiting for God, it suggests that "you should conduct yourselves in holiness and devotion. Be eager to be found without spot or blemish before Him."

Advent is a time of conversion and renewal. During Advent, go to Mass and listen to the readings. Keep the Advent wreath in your home and say the prayers. Advent season is designed to enliven, purify, and form our faith, that we may all come one step closer to God.

### STEWARDSHIP

Nov. 30, 2014 \$10,764.90 Online \$760.00  
Last Year \$6,458.10 Online \$810.00

#### Daily Mass Readings

#### **Monday Dec. 8**

Gn 3:9-15, 20 Ps 98:1-4 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Lk 1:26-38

#### **Tuesday Dec. 9**

Is 40:1-11 Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13 Mt 18:12-14

#### **Wednesday Dec. 10**

Is 40:25-31 Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10 Mt 11:28-30

#### **Thursday Dec. 11**

Is 41:13-20 Ps 145:1, 9-13b Mt 11:11-15

#### **Friday Dec. 12**

Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab (Ps) Jdt 13:18bc, 19 Lk 1:39-47

### MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Dec. 6</b>
5:00pm	+ Mr. & Mrs. William O'Connor
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Dec. 7</b>
9:00am	For the People of the Parish
11:30am	+Frank Durso
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Dec. 8</b>
9:00am	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Dec. 9</b>
9:00am	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Dec. 10</b>
9:00am	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Dec. 11</b>
9:00am	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Dec. 12</b>
9:00am	+ Todd Beeson



## FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation and Confirmation classes meet weekly. Faith Formation classes will not meet December 28-January 4.

## CONFIRMATION

Confirmation 2015 will meet December 7 in the All Saints Center at 1pm. Students should have made arrangements to confer with their sponsors.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL GOOGLE QUESTION

Who is the saint, according to legend, who tore out her eyes rather than denounce her faith?



## COMING EVENTS

### DECEMBER

- 6/7 St Jude Quilt Group Bazaar/ACTS Bake Sale  
7 Middle School Sandwiches for Br. Francis  
Confirmation 2015 1pm All Saints  
8 Immaculate Conception Holy Day Mass 9am  
Centering Prayer 6:30pm  
9 Knights of Columbus All Saints Center 7pm  
10 Kateri Circle 11:30am Social Hall  
11 Rosary 7pm  
12 Adoration 9:30-11:30am

### Holy Day Masses

- Bl. Theodore (at Sacred Heart) 4pm Sunday  
Sacred Heart 9am  
St. Michael 9am & 7pm  
St Andrew 9am & 7pm  
Our Lady of the Lake 7pm  
Holy Family Cathedral 7am, 12:10pm,  
5:30pm Dominican Rite & 7:30pm Spanish

### FOOD BANK

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

Mat-Su Food Bank  
357-3769

## RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Please give to this weekend's second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. This collection supports the day-to-day care of thousands of senior religious. Help care for those who have dedicated their lives to serving the people of our Church.

## CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIAL ENVELOPES

Christmas Memorial envelopes are available in the atrium. Please return these to the office by December 21.

## RETROUVAILLE

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

## OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

What we teach at OLV:

Classical Curriculum Part III:

These notes continue last week's basic elements of classical education at OLV: 4) Homework: Practicing math facts, and learning recitation and songs both at home and school. This approach will help to raise standards and expectations while involving parents. 5) Stretching minds by stretching language with great works of literature, big ideas, vocabulary, and Latin (to understand language roots) 6) "The Socratic" discussions begin in the earliest grades to learn how to question and discuss stories, pictures, fables or proverbs according to four rules: **A.** Read the text carefully **B.** Listen to what others say and don't interrupt **C.** Speak clearly, and **D.** Respect others when speaking. Stay tuned for more basic elements next week.

### ST. JUDE QUILTS & ACTS

Parishioners and friends are invited to join our sale of wonderful handmade treasures and yummy ACTS baked goods after all the masses. Do your Christmas shopping and gather baked goodies while supporting our parish ministries.

### SACRED HEART CHRISTMAS BOXES

The response to the Gift Box cards has been wonderful. This year our theme is Holy Men and Holy Women. Please return your gift boxes/bags as soon as possible. Contact Jenny Michaelson at [jmichaelson@caa-ak.org](mailto:jmichaelson@caa-ak.org), or call the parish office.

### 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. The winner of the ACTS Pig Raffle is Ed Tuttle from Sacred Heart Parish. Thank you for supporting our raffle.

### 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 Slavonic style spoken in contact Fr. Michael Sidun at 907-277-6731 or [www.ak-byz-cath.org](http://www.ak-byz-cath.org).

### ST. BERNARD—TALKEETNA

St. Bernard Catholic Church in Talkeetna needs financial help. Please see insert.