

## GREETINGS FROM FR. SCOTT January 19, 2014 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Water, air, fire, and earth are the four most important elements in our world. God takes these four elements and makes them full of saving power. Water is the most important. For example, water nourishes crops, supplies us with seafood, refreshes us, and gives us recreation. The water used in baptism represents life.

If you were baptized as an infant, like I was, you don't remember what happened. What happened to Jesus more or less happened to us. John, in today's Gospel accounts that, "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from the sky and remain upon him."

Mark's Gospel says, "A voice came from the heavens, you are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." After Jesus was baptized, he baptized us with the Holy Spirit. It was then that God identified us as his adopted Children.

During Baptism we receive the Holy Spirit and a special grace to help us in our daily lives. God adopts us. He puts his thumbprint right in the middle of our foreheads. He marks us as his own for life. It is called an indelible seal. It can never be washed off and will remain with you forever.

Unlike Jesus, who is human and divine, we are mere humans. Through our words and deeds, we can smudge our spiritual thumbprint or blur our special relationship with God.

Blurring our adopted relationship happens when we swear, lie, or steal. It smudges when we are indifferent to the poor and suffering around us. The thumb print gets dirty when we are jealous, impatient, selfish, and arrogant.

When our thumbprints get smudged, God helps us to clean them. He gives us the Holy Spirit to guide us. The Holy Spirit helps us to grow in goodness through the moral virtues.

Prudence helps us to choose the true good. Justice challenges us to be fair to our neighbors. Fortitude strengthens us so we can overcome our fears. Temperance assists us in finding balance and helps us to moderate when using earthly goods.

Isaiah tells us, "I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth." As God's adopted children, Isaiah tells us that we are not just God's servants. We are much more. We are that light, which can reach out to all people to the ends of the earth.

Each time we seize an opportunity to reach out to people, our spiritual thumbprint gets a cleaner. It gets cleaner when we apologize to someone we have hurt, when we help our next-door neighbor with a problem, and when we visit a sick person in the hospital.

When you get home, look in the mirror. Think about that special covenant God made with you at the time of your baptism. If that thumbprint on your forehead is smudged, what can you do to clean it?

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### STEWARDSHIP

Jan. 12, 2014	\$5,593.30	Online \$1,360.00
Last Year	\$6,380.95	Online \$365.00
Home Mission	\$1,574.25	

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#### Daily Mass Readings

#### **Monday Jan. 20**

1 Sm 15:16-23 Ps 50:8-9,16-17 Mk 2:18-22

#### **Tuesday Jan. 21**

1 Sm 16:1-13 Ps 89:20-22,27-28 Mk 2:23-28

#### **Wednesday Jan. 22**

1 Sm 17:32-33 Ps 144:1-2,9-10 Mk 3:1-6

#### **Thursday Jan.23**

1 Sm 18:6-9,19:1-7 Ps 56:2-3,9-13 Mk 3:7-12

#### **Friday Jan.24**

1 Sm 24:3-21 Ps 57:2-4,6,11 Mk 3:13-19

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### **Saturday**

**Jan. 18**

5:00pm

Michael & Margaret Lajcsak

#### **Sunday**

**Jan.19**

9:00am

For the People of the Parish

11:30am

#### **Monday**

**Jan.20**

9:00am

#### **Tuesday**

**Jan. 21**

9:00am

#### **Wednesday**

**Jan 22**

9:00am

#### **Thursday**

**Jan.23**

9:00am

#### **Friday**

**Jan.24**

9:00am



## FAITH FORMATION

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 now. 8th grade students who plan to celebrate Confirmation in high school must be enrolled in Middle School faith formation now.

## CONFIRMATION CLASSES

The second year class meets in the All Saints Center at 1pm. The second year retreat is Jan. 17-19. The New Confirmation class Candidates continue meetings with their sponsors. Their *Why Catholic?* groups resume in March.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL GOOGLE QUESTION

St. Agnes (Jan. 21) is often pictured with what animal? Why?

## 1ST EUCHARIST PARENT MEETING FEB. 23

Information for 1st Eucharist will be discussed in the Church at 1pm. Children currently attending Sunday classes are eligible.



Catholic Schools

Week

January 26—February 1  
Faith, Knowledge, Service

## SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Confirmation will collect food and money on Feb 2—Super Bowl Sunday— for the Food Pantry.

## OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Our Lady of the Valley Catholic School

**SAVE THE DATE:** "Breakfast at Tiffany's" OLV's 7th Annual Gala Dinner Auction on March 29, 2014, at the Menard Sports Complex. Doors open at 5:00pm. Early ticket sales will be *January 20-February 9th*. Early ticket price is \$40 per person. After February 2nd, tickets are \$50 per person. Reserved Table Levels are Platinum, Gold and Silver. Call Karen at 376-0883

The students are collecting old but clean blankets and towels for the animal shelter.

Steak Fundraiser **February 1st** at the American Legion, mile 46, Parks Hwy. 5:30-7:30pm. The students will present entertainment "My Place in Space" with an out of this world dessert auction. Tickets available from students or the office.

## COMING EVENTS

### JANUARY

- 17-19 Confirmation Retreat—2nd Year
- 19 Knights Breakfast
- 20 Centering Prayer 6:30pm
- 22 Day of Prayer for Protection of the Unborn
- 23 St. Jude's Quilt 10am-2pm  
Rosary 7pm
- 24 OLV Blanket/Towel Collection for Animal Shelter
- 25/26 Debra Lighthart Rosaries and Gifts  
Catholic Schools Week Begins
- 31 Youth Mass 5pm

### YEAR-END TAX LETTERS

These letters are being mailed; if you have not received a letter, please contact the office.

### THANK YOU TO ST. JUDE QUILTS

The St Jude Quilt and Chat provided \$1500 to the coffee fund on Sunday mornings.

### 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  
Sr. Mary Hugh McGowan

### BABY BOUTIQUE

Please remember Catholic Social Services' Baby Boutique. Babies and toddlers need new and gently used hooded sweatshirts, hats, mittens, sweatpants, coats, snowsuits, and jackets. One piece t-shirts and diapers in all sizes are always in demand. A collection



### FOOD BANK NEEDS

Top Ramen,  
Soups, Stews, Chili,  
Canned Fruit, and  
Vegetables

357-3769

### DILLINGHAM YOUTH RETREAT

High school students are invited to sign up for the Dillingham Retreat June 23-27. Sign up sheets are posted in the Social Hall.

### BOY SCOUT SUNDAY—FEBRUARY 2

Scouts of all ages are invited to wear their uniforms and pins to the 11:30am Mass.

### 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.