

GREETINGS FROM FR. SCOTT July 20, 2014 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The desire to root out evil is a universal temptation for humanity. Look at Hitler's concentration camps, Stalin's purges, the Spanish Inquisition, and the witch-hunts of medieval Europe. Our human history is littered with the bloody attempts to create by force a pure and uncontaminated society.

The Gospel tells us that it is not up to us to be the judge of who is evil and who is not. Only God can judge the human heart. Thus, Jesus rejects the witch-hunts and the purified races. He says, "Let both weed and wheat grow together, side by side, until the harvest."

The parable of the mustard seed helps to explain an important message about power and patience. The Kingdom of God grows gradually from small beginnings like a mustard seed.

The seed of the Kingdom of God grows when people respond to it freely, like the leaves bathed in sunlight with their roots soaking up water. Good soil is like a person's heart opened to grace.

The seed of the Kingdom of God has great power. It has power to transform both individuals and the world, but never by force and never quickly.

The mustard seed grows slowly. It represents patience. The Lord is patient in order to allow us to respond to his love. The seed of God inside of us needs time to ripen and to grow. God has patience in us because he believes in us. He gives us time so that our true selves may flourish.

The way of Jesus and all of us is not to do violence to ourselves or to others. Our way is to allow God's gentle and persistent love to bring forth a harvest of good works within us. To grow from a little tiny mustard seed into a beautiful tree, be open to grace, be patient, and allow God to transform you from within.

Caution, there are such things as weeds, i.e. greed, judging, and arrogance.

One thing I have learned about planting gardens in Alaska is that you have to tend the garden. If you do not water the seeds, thin out the sprouts, and pull the weeds around them, the garden will become a disaster. It will die.

Our lives are like that. We need to tend to our spirits. To prevent being choked, trim unnecessary things in your lives away. When we do our part for God, i.e. trim away addictions, material possessions, and gossiping, then God will strengthen us from within.

Today is a time to rejoice because if we start getting overgrown, God reminds us to tend to the garden of our soul. Rejoice because our Lord frees us from the burden of having to judge others. Rejoice because our Lord is patient, mild of judgment, and gives us time to grow into loving people.

STEWARDSHIP

July 13, 2014	\$5,106.35	Online \$1,425.00
Last Year	\$6,432.15	Online \$1,270.00

Daily Mass Readings

Monday July 21

Mi 6:1-4,6-8 Ps 50:5-6,8-9,16bc-17,21,23 Mt 12:38-42

Tuesday July 22

Mi 7:14-15, 18-20 Ps 85:2-8 Jn 20:1-2, 11-18

Wednesday July 23

Jer 1:1, 4-10 Ps 71:1-4a, 5-6b, 15, 17 Mt 13:1-9

Thursday July 24

Jer 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13 Ps 36:6-7b, 8-11 Mt 13:10-17

Friday July 25

2 Cor 4:7-15 Ps 126:1b, 2-6 Mt 20:20-28

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	July 19
5:00pm	+Michael & Margaret Lajcsak
Sunday	July 20
9:00am	+Vernon & Anna Larson
11:30am	For the People of the Parish
Monday	July 21
9:00am	
Tuesday	July 22
9:00am	+Lucille O'Shaskey
Wednesday	July 23
9:00am	Ray Seike
Thursday	July 24
9:00am	+Lucille O'Shaskey
Friday	July 25
9:00am	+Lucille O'Shaskey



FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation, Confirmation, and 1st Reconciliation classes begin in the Fall.

1st Reconciliation /1st Eucharist

Students should be in the 2nd grade or higher and registered in Faith Formation classes. Baptismal certificate is required for students not baptized at Sacred Heart.

CONFIRMATION

Students should be entering 9th grade or higher. Classes begin in the fall. Adult classes are scheduled for March. Baptismal certificate is required for those not baptized at Sacred Heart.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

GOOGLE QUESTION

Who was the first witness of Christ's Resurrection?

ONE BREAD ONE BODY

Thank you for your enthusiastic support of the 2014 One Bread, One Body Annual Appeal. Your pledges and donations make possible the vital work of our local Church. Last week, 292 families had participated, an Archdiocesan record. We raised 70% of our \$45,000 goal. Help your Archdiocese Go Green! Pledge securely online at www.archdioceseofanchorage.org/donate



WATERING FLOWERS

We need help with watering the flowerbeds and baskets on the parish grounds. Please contact Diane if you can help. 376-5087

OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Catholic schools exemplify the importance of living the message of the Gospel by helping others. All of our students participate in community service projects. Our Lady of the Valley strives to create a special bond among our students, the home, the school, and our church, so that all share the strong sense of community.

Parents and students will gather on August 17 for meetings with teachers at 3pm and at 4pm for a back to school barbeque.

Parishioners are invited to OLV's back to school Open House after all the masses on August 16-17

Joyce Lund, Acting Principal Enrollment is open—Please call for an appointment—376-0883

COMING EVENTS

JULY

- 21 Centering Prayer 6:30pm
- 24 Rosary 7pm
- 26/27 Debra Lighthart Rosaries & Gifts
- 27 Adult Catechism Discussion 10:15 am

AUGUST

- 3 Confirmation—Sr. Mary Fagan 10am All Saints
- 9/10 Cross Catholic Outreach
- 17 3pm OLV Teacher-Parent Meeting
- 16/17 OLV Open House for Parish after all Masses
- 18 OLV School opens

FR. CHRIS COUNSELING

Fr. Chris is at Sacred Heart for July. Please contact the office to schedule an appointment with him.

ADULT CATECHISM—JULY 27

Parishioners are welcome to our 2nd gathering. Fr. Chris will present a discussion on "Blessing in the Communion Line." Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are urged to attend this gathering. Fr. Chris will begin at 10:15am.

FAMILY PROMISE JULY 27—AUGUST 3

Volunteers are needed for meals, hosting, setup, and breakdown. Please let us know as soon as possible. Call Judith 373-3852 www.familypromisematsu.org

FR. MIKE SHIELDS—AUGUST 16 & 17

Fr. Mike will visit Alaska August 15 to Sept 15. He will be at Sacred Heart August 16 and 17. He will hold a mom's day of prayer at St. Michael's on September 13th from 9am—2pm. Babysitting provided 745-3229.

FOOD BANK

Peanut Butter, Jelly,
Rice, Sugar, Flour,
Tomato Sauce, Pasta,
Cereal, Oats,
Milk—Powdered/Can
357-3769

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayers may be requested on-line on the parish web site under Spiritual Life.

LINEN MINISTRY

We need more volunteers to launder Mass linens. Please sign-up in the Sacristy.

SACRED HEART ONLINE GIVING

Simply click the image at our website <http://sacredheartwasilla.org/>
This is a prayerful and convenient way to give safely.

