

## GREETINGS FROM FR. SCOTT July 27, 2014 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

I love reading novels about treasure hunts and sunken ships. In ancient times, people used to bury their money and valuable possessions in case an army killed them. This way, hidden treasure lay underground for future generations.

Once, while out jogging, I found a \$100 bill lying in the street. What a boon! When Great Grandpa Dale, built his house, Grandma Tony dropped two handfuls of silver dollars down one of the unfinished walls. Whenever we visited she showed me the wall and told me the story. When they died, I crawled down under the house and tried to find the treasure. No luck. Someone beat me to it.

In the Gospel, the Kingdom of Heaven is like buried treasure. A worker in the field finds this treasure. It is the key to happiness, peace, eternal life, and joy. Unfortunately, this treasure is not his. The worker does not own the field; the man he works for does. So the worker re-buries the great treasure. He needs time to figure out how to obtain this great treasure for himself.

It is a shrewd plan, but it works. The man sells everything he has and takes the money to the owner of that field. He uses all his money to buy the entire field. He now possesses the knowledge of how to receive eternal life.

The pearl of great price is the same type of story. The people who find the Pearl of Great Price risk everything to own it. Zacchaeus climbed down from the tree after seeing Jesus and gave his money to the poor. Peter gave up his fishing income for the Pearl of Great Price.

Today, in our money-driven capitalist society the treasure of the Gospel can be hidden deep beneath the earth. Here is how we find it: we receive the sacraments, we pray, we struggle with our faith, and we go through the motions of going to church. Then suddenly, through God's grace, the treasure is discovered.

We come to the realization that there is only one real thing in life worth possessing: The Gospel of Jesus: the knowledge of His love, forgiveness, divine presence, and promise of eternal life. This is the treasure. This is the one real thing in life worth owning. This is the Pearl of Great Price.

We cannot fully possess this treasure here on earth. We have to strive for it throughout our lives. As we strive for this treasure, our lives are transformed. As our lives are transformed, we become infectious. Others want what we have. We draw others into the Kingdom. As our faith grows and we become closer to the treasure, we realize there is nothing better to be had.

My prayer for all of you is that you never give up striving for that Pearl of Great Price and that someday you will possess it.

### STEWARDSHIP

July 20, 2014	\$5,342.97	Online \$475.00
Last Year	\$5,838.30	Online \$640.00

#### Daily Mass Readings

#### **Monday July 28**

Jer 13:1-11 (Ps) Dt 32:18-21 Mt 13:31-35

#### **Tuesday July 29**

Jer 14:17-22 Ps 79:8-9, 11, 13 Jn 11:19-27

#### **Wednesday July 30**

Jer 15:10, 16-21 Ps 59:2-4, 10-11, 17-18 Mt 13:44-46

#### **Thursday July 31**

Jer 18:1-6 Ps 146:1b-6b Mt 13:47-53

#### **Friday Aug. 1**

Jer 26:1-9 Ps 69:5, 8-10, 14 Mt 13:54-58

### MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>July 26</b>
5:00pm	William O'Connor
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>July 27</b>
9:00am	For the People of the Parish
11:30am	+Connie Davis
<b>Monday</b>	<b>July 28</b>
9:00am	+Verne Johnson
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>July 29</b>
9:00am	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>July 30</b>
9:00am	+David Drinkhouse
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>July 31</b>
9:00am	Quentin Sims
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Aug. 1</b>
9:00am	



### 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

St. Martha is often pictured holding what two items?

### RETROUVAILLE

Help for troubled Marriages. Retrouvaille has helped tens of thousands of married couples suffering a break down in their relationship. This program can help you too. For more information or registration about the weekend of October 17-19, call 1-800-470-2230. The website is [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com)



### 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

In Catholic Schools there is a mutual respect among students, faculty, and parents, which generates an atmosphere of care and concern.

Catholic Schools join with the family to help students understand their special place in the family, the Church, and society.

Enrollment is open—Please call for an appointment—376-0883

Welcome Students!!

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

## COMING EVENTS

### JULY

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

### 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](http://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.

