

GREETINGS FROM FR. SCOTT November 30, 2014 First Sunday of Advent

The symbolism of the Advent wreath is beautiful. Every piece of the wreath has a traditional meaning which can be adapted to our faith.

EVERGREENS: The greens signify victory over persecution and suffering.

PINE: Pine trees are a symbol of immortality.

PINE CONES AND NUTS: Together these two symbolize life and resurrection.

CEDAR: This is a symbol of strength and healing; the wood resists rot more than other wood.

HOLLY: These branches are prickly and remind us of the crown of thorns.

CIRCULAR SHAPE: A wreath has no beginning or end, symbolizing the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ.

The Advent wreath depicts (1) the immortality of our soul; (2) the new, everlasting life promised to us through Christ, (3) who entered our world becoming true man; and (4) who was victorious over sin and death through His own passion, death, and resurrection.

BLUE CANDLE HOLDERS: Blue is to remind us of Mary, the Mother of God, who bore Jesus in her womb. She gave birth to Him in a manger.

FOUR CANDLES: The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. A tradition is that each week equals one thousand years, marking the 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the Birth of the Savior.

PURPLE CANDLES: Three candles are purple and one is rose. The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time.

ROSE CANDLES: The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, which is known as Gaudete (gow day tay) Sunday. The priest wears rose vestments at Mass; it is a time of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas.

PROGRESSIVE LIGHTING: The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead.

LIGHT: The light again signifies Christ, the Light of the world.

THE WORD ADVENT: Advent is a word used in ancient times to describe the arrival of a king who comes to visit his Kingdom. The church adopted this word as we await the arrival of our King and Savior Jesus when he comes at Christmas.

FIRST HALF OF ADVENT: December 1 – 16 highlights the Second Coming of Christ at the end of time.

SECOND HALF OF ADVENT: December 17 – 24 emphasizes the coming of Jesus into human history at the time of his birth in Bethlehem.

Our Catechism states that during Advent, "God awakens the hearts of those who don't attend church and gives them an idea of how great the birth of Jesus is."

STEWARDSHIP

Nov. 23, 2014	\$5,899.50	Online	\$826.00
CCHD	\$155.00		
Last Year	\$9,310.92	Online	\$500.00

Daily Mass Readings

Monday Dec. 1

Is 2:1-5 Ps 122:1-9 Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday Dec. 2

Is 11:1-10 Ps 72:7-8, 12-13, 17 Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday Dec. 3

Is 25:6-10a Ps 23:1-6 Mt 15:29-37

Thursday Dec. 4

Is 26:1-6 Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday Dec. 5

Is 29:17-24 Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 Mt 9:27-31

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday

5:00pm

Nov. 29

+ Catherine Cizek

Sunday

9:00am

Nov. 30

For the People of the Parish

11:30am

+ Herminio Daplas, Sr.

Monday

9:00am

Dec. 1

Tuesday

9:00am

Dec. 2

Wednesday

9:00am

Dec. 3

Thursday

9:00am

Dec. 4

+ Benjamin & Lauren Hample

Friday

9:00am

Dec. 5



FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation and Confirmation classes meet weekly. Faith Formation classes will not meet on November 30th.

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 early Advent Saint known as the "wonderworker" and had great love and generosity toward children?



COMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- 29-30 Debra Lighthart Rosaries and gifts
- 29 Homeschool Youth Activity
Youth Mass & Rite of Enrollment 5pm
- 30 Adult Catechism: Clergy & Religious Vocations

DECEMBER

- 1 Centering Prayer 6:30pm
OLL Reconciliation 6:00pm
- 2 St. Michael Advent Reconciliation 7pm
- 3 Sacred Heart Advent Reconciliation 5:30pm
- 4 Rosary 7pm
- 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

SUGGESTION BOX

The suggestion box is at www.sacredheartwasilla.org

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

Advent Reconciliation services will be held at all parishes in the central valley. Priests from all 3 parishes will assist at these services.

December 1, 6:00pm

Our Lady of the Lake—Big Lake

December 2, 7:00pm

St. Michael—Palmer

December 3, 5:30pm

Sacred Heart—Wasilla

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Next weekend, our archdiocese will conduct the annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious (RFR). The ongoing decrease in the number of religious in compensated ministry coupled with the ever-rising cost of care causes a struggle for religious communities to provide for elder members. Please plan to offer what you can to the care of women and men who have made such enormous contributions to our Church.

OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

The essential elements of classical education include the following: 1) What you don't know won't hurt you: we should become more like a child, filled with the love of thinking, inquiry, and asking the same fundamental human questions. 2) What they don't know won't hurt them: We lay a foundation for future learning by developing skills and by incorporating the great conversations of the tradition (e.g., Egyptian, Greek, Roman themes). 3) Practice the Art of Memory: To cultivate memory, confidence and good speaking, regular emphasis should be placed on memorization and recitation of phonics rules and math facts. This should also include the narration and dictation of short poems, stories and even history lessons. These skills and facts are the foundation for future learning.

SACRED HEART CHRISTMAS BOXES

The response to the Gift Box cards has been wonderful. We still have a few cards left. If you have not had a chance to select a card, please stop at our table after Mass. This year our theme is Holy Men and Holy Women. Interesting information is available about these faithful individuals. To learn more about the project, see the display in the atrium after the masses. For questions, contact Jenny Michaelson at 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. A deposit of \$50 holds your reservation. An ACTS Retreat is a weekend of spiritual renewal and revitalization, planned and presented by the laity, in a safe and inviting environment. Make 2015 the year that you attend an ACTS retreat.

FOOD BANK

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

Mat-Su Food Bank
357-3769

KNIGHTS BREAKFAST

Thank you for your generous support of the Knights breakfast on November 16. We were able to give a check for \$220 to the Wasilla Food Pantry.

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 Slavic style spoken in English. For more information, contact Fr. Michael Sidun at 907-277-6731 or www.ak-byz-cath.org.