

GREETINGS FROM FR. SCOTT

We are all travelers. Like the three wise men in the Gospel, we all have a destination. The bright star in the sky allowed the wise men to catch a glimpse of their future destination. Their destination was Jesus. To honor him, they brought him gifts of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh.

That bright star helps lead us to Jesus, who is our final destination. Each point of that star is a spiritual gift that steers us toward our savior. The first point is Faith. The second is Hope. The third is Love. The seven sacraments are the fourth point. The fifth is opportunity for eternal happiness in heaven. God wishes all of us to be led to Jesus, who is truth.

For the wise men, finding and following the star to Jesus was an Epiphany. All of us have had epiphanies. Hopefully, we will continue to have them as we journey toward Jesus. They appear when we recognize the light of Christ in our lives. Epiphanies enlighten us to a new understanding causing us to change to a holier way of life.

Gifts of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh are appropriate gifts for an Epiphany. They had meaning back in the time of Jesus, and they have meaning for us now.

Gold symbolizes a new understanding. It symbolizes Christ's Kingship. It represents new wisdom.

Frankincense symbolizes Christ's heavenly nature. It represents prayer. It points to a holy way of living that has come into the world in Jesus Christ. Smoke from the burning incense represents prayer rising up to God.

Myrrh was used to embalm dead bodies. It symbolizes our passing through death as we journey toward Christ with hope for eternal life. Myrrh tells of the suffering involved in changing our way of life. It reminds us of the price we must pay for anything meaningful. In other words, the ultimate search for happiness is often painful and uncertain, but very worthwhile.

How does an epiphany work? GOLD is a reminder to call on the Holy Spirit for openness to a new understanding or Epiphany. Struggling with a difficult decision may be an Epiphany in the making. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you in that decision.

FRANKINCENSE reminds us we have to pray every day about that new understanding or inspiration or epiphany we have received. Pray that our epiphany will strengthen our faith while making us holier.

MYRRH reminds us that an Epiphany requires us to take action and make the change. That usually involves some sacrifice and suffering. Call on Jesus to help you through that suffering.

Pray that you see that shining star before you every day. Like the three wise men, may that shining star guide your journey closer and closer to Jesus.

STEWARDSHIP

December 31, 2012	\$6733.30	Online \$1,335.00
Blue Envelope	\$35.00	Online \$50.00
Religious Retirement		Online \$80.00
OLV School Donation	\$5,000.00	

Daily Mass Readings

Monday Jan.7

1 Jn 3:22-4:6 Ps 2:7-8,10-12a

Tuesday Jan.8

1 Jn 4:7-10 Ps 72:1-4,7-8 Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday Jan.9

1 Jn 4:11-18 Ps 72:1-2,10,12-13 Mk 6:45-52

Thursday Jan.10

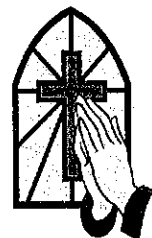
1 Jn 4:19-5:4 Ps 72:1-2,14 Lk 4:14-22a

Friday Jan.11

1 Jn 5:5-13 Ps 147:12-15,19-20 Lk 5:12-16

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	Jan. 5
5:00pm	For the People of the Parish
Sunday	Jan. 6
9:00am	
11:30am	
Monday	Jan. 7
9:00am	
Tuesday	Jan. 8
10:00am	
Wednesday	Jan. 9
9:00am	
Thursday	Jan.10
9:00am	
Friday	Jan.11
9:00am	



FAITH FORMATION

Grades 1-8 meet from 10-11:15 am.
Pre-school and K meet at 11:30am
Classes resume January 7th.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GOOGLE QUESTION

What 3 events celebrate the manifestation to the world of the newborn Christ as Messiah, Son of God?

CONFIRMATION—1-2:30pm

Students in the second year (2013) program meet at 1pm in the Old Church; students in the first year (2014) program meet in the St. Jude Center.

WHY CATHOLIC?

During this Year of Faith we are called to live our Catholic faith each and every day. The Archdiocese is encouraging all to participate in WHY CATHOLIC?, a program of

RENEW International that combines faith learning, faith sharing and faith living. The Why Catholic? program consists of small faith sharing groups structured around the four pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Groups meet for 6 weeks and begin this Lent with *Lenten Longings*, a six-week lectionary-based, faith-sharing resource.

We invite you to consider becoming a group leader. A one-hour webinar next Saturday, January 12 from 11am to noon, in the social hall here at Sacred Heart will introduce you to the process. The workshop will introduce Lenten Longings and review leader skills necessary to help you be a successful group leader.

Whether you want to be a leader, or participate in a group, please see us in the back after mass today, or you can call the office during the week.

OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Enrollment forms are at the OLV office in the St. Jude Center or call 376-0883.

Thank you for supporting Our Lady of the Valley Catholic School with your donations to our annual fund.

If you are considering Catholic Education for your child, call the school at 376-0883 or stop by between 8:00 and 4:00, so we can give you a tour of the school. OLV has so much to offer your child and we hope to hear from you. Thank you!



COMING EVENTS

JANUARY

- 6 Sandwiches for Br. Francis Shelter 10am
- 7 Centering Prayer 6:30pm
- 10 Rosary 7:00pm
- 12 Why Catholic 11:00am
- 27 Catholic Schools Week begins

SPECIAL PROJECT COLLECTION

The 2nd collection this weekend will support the youth ministry trip to Dillingham in June.

RETROUVAILLE—FEBRUARY 15-17

This lifeline for marriage is a weekend retreat that helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. Couples are given the opportunity to rediscover each other and examine their lives together in a positive and new way. For information, please call 800-470-2230 or log on to www.HelpOurMarriage.com

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GENEROSITY

WHY CATHOLIC? WEBINAR

Learn about this faith sharing process and how to lead or participate in a small group. January 12th—11am

BISHOP'S ATTIC VOLUNTEERS

The Bishop's Attic needs volunteers. Please call Jack for more information 745-4215

WASILLA FOOD PANTRY

Please consider us as a volunteer opportunity this season. We also need donations of holiday food and staples.

BEARS FOR MAGADAN

Thank you for supporting this annual campaign to support Fr. Mike Shields' Magadan ministries. Your gifts are appreciated.

FOOD PANTRY

Items needed at the pantry:
toilet paper, flour, sugar,
cereal, oatmeal
all kinds of baby food
357-3769

CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL January 12/13

Next weekend, Catholics throughout the United States will be asked to give to the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. This special collection helps those worshipping in parishes throughout rural America—including most of the parishes and missions of our own Archdiocese. Please prayerfully consider supporting this special collection with a gift in an amount meaningful for you and your family.

ALTAR SERVER VIDEO

Fr. Scott and Fr. Andrew have made an updated video for servers. Please review the video on the parish website.