



St. Joseph Catholic Church
Nome, AK 99762
Pastor: Rev. Tom Kuffel
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15th Sunday, July 10, 2016

News:

Fr. Ross will be here July 14 to celebrate the KNOM's Anniversary. Many blessings to the staff of KNOM for their hard work to bring news, sports, music, announcements, and of Catholicism to western Alaska.

 Fr. Ross will install Fr. Tom as your new pastor July 17 at the 10:30 AM Mass in Nome. All are welcome to come and enjoy this installation and pray for Fr. Tom and the parish.



Like the Good Samaritan, May we not be ashamed of touching the wounds of those who suffer, but try to heal them with concrete acts of love and mercy.

 If you need help, please call Fr. Tom 907-443-5527 or his cell 402-540-3124.

Fr. Tom will be in Kotzebue the weekend of Aug 13 and in Fairbanks Aug 22

Thank you for the warm welcome to the City of Gold, Nome. I am delighted to be here and serve as your new pastor. Fr. Ross and Deacon Bob have been most gracious and informative as to the history and background of St. Joseph's.

Concerning my history, I was born in Milwaukee, WI and grew up and graduated from college there, Marquette University. I did spend my freshman year at Gonzaga and then transferred to Marquette. Once I graduated, I spent a year in New Mexico working as a teacher in grade school for Diocese of Gallup in Dulce, NM right near the Jicarilla Reservation. I then decided to enter the seminary and was privileged to study in Rome for several years.

After I was ordained, 1989, I continued my studies in Rome until I was assigned to a parish in the Diocese of Lincoln, NE in 1992. I spent the last 25 years in the diocese of Lincoln, working as a pastor, camp director, and teacher. Then, Bishop Chad invited priests to come to the Diocese of Fairbanks and serve here. With this invitation, I decided to accept his invitation and come to Alaska to minister. Bishop Chad and all of the people of the diocese have been very warm and welcoming as I make this new transition. **Thank You!**

The Good Samaritan and Stewardship

Every believer has had two basic decisions to make in their life. Jesus explains:

Am I going to take the broad way that leads to destruction or the small gate and the narrow road that leads to life?

Will I serve money, or will I serve God? (Matt 7:13)

Unfortunately, most Christians are taking the broad way and serving money without even realizing it. Materialism is so widely accepted in our society that it can almost seem normal. It's even considered okay to go into debt to attain a higher standard of living than you can actually afford. It's just how our world works today.

If only our parishioners knew a better way.

Often times, the loudest voices speaking on the topics of money and materialism are ad agencies and credit card companies: Buy it now and be happy! If the Church would speak truth to its parishioners, families could finally move beyond living for themselves and into a lifestyle of generous giving of your time, talent, and treasure. That is to do the works of mercy as the Good Samaritan did. Catholics need a new way of living that is giving of oneself so that Our Father can bless us not only with little things, but with the kingdom of heaven.

The Byproduct of Changed Hearts

The solution is to be a Good Samaritan —to change not just peoples' behavior but also our hearts through the power of the Sacraments, Scripture, and Works of Mercy. No age group, income level or demographic is exempt from taking care of our neighbor.

All Christians need daily training of these basic Christ-like Principles, not only because it fulfills a command, Love you neighbor as yourself, but because people desperately need to be encouraged to live the law of liberty: That is to live in love.

And the best part?

Being a Good Samaritan leads to Good Stewardship. An increase in giving of your time, talent, and treasure is the natural byproduct of being a Good Samaritan. Keeping in mind we all are called to be Samaritans will help you work toward a fruit-filled parish.

	St. Joseph	St. Francis	Weekly Schedule:		
July 3 Sunday	403.00	350.00	Date	Mass Time	Feast Day
			Mon July 17		St. Benedict
			Tue July 18		
			Wed July 19		
			Thur July 14		St. Kateri
			Fri July 15		St. Bonaventure
			Sat July 16	5:300 PM	16 th Sunday Ord. Time
			Sun July 17	10:30 AM	16 th Sunday Ord. Time
<p>I have found the paradox that if I love until it hurts, then there is no hurt, but only more love. ~Mother Teresa</p> <p>Live simply that others might simply live. ~Elizabeth Ann Seton</p> <p>Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time, and always start with the person nearest you. ~Mother Teresa</p>			<p>Liturgical prayer is the official prayer of the Church. Jesus Christ is the chief person praying and we join Him by receiving and celebrating the 7 Sacraments, most especially in the Eucharist</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Avail yourself to this wonderful gift of God becoming present to us when we present ourselves to his Real Presence.</p>		

The Good Samaritan: Taking Personal Responsibility

We strive to teach our children what it means to be responsible both in their behavior, in caring for their pets and toys, and in the way they treat others around them at home, at school, and in their neighborhoods. When they become maturing teenagers they seek responsible positions in their schools and in sports. They beseech their parents to allow them to do things that require trust, trust on the part of their parents and family members. They crave respect and so they seek positions and roles of responsibility.

Both children and teens, however, deny that they are responsible when things go wrong; especially when in their hearts and souls they know they have done something bad. This can lead to lying, denials not based on reality, and even to behavior patterns that keep them away from positions of responsibility and duties and that require responsibility.

This sort of thing, as we all so sadly know, has developed into a fine art by adults. The finger-pointing blame game is not something played just by children and teens; it's played out by adults in our newspapers, television programs, athletics, news shows, and talk shows.

It is well known that the Catholics who avail themselves of the Sacrament of Penance is down. Some commentators blame Vatican II for this. Others attribute this falloff to modern-day ignorance sin. We are told that people no longer know what sin is. Others claim that modern Catholics no longer listen to the Church's teachings about sin. Perhaps there are elements of truth in those assertions. But is it not just as likely that we have all developed the fine art of denying responsibility that we find in our culture?

The attitude, strategy, and technique found in the lawyer of today's Gospel is found in hundreds of examples of people, people we expect to be responsible and just deny personal responsibility.

"Responsibility" means "the ability to respond."

Our Father brought us into life. He equipped us with gifts, gifts that we call talents and abilities. These talents and gifts give us the ability to respond to what we encounter in life, particularly to respond to others: men, women, and children that need our specific help. They need our specific talent. God expects us to be His responsible disciples, to be His responsible agents in revealing His kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven through works of mercy.

The gifts and talents you have within you are not just for your own growth and development, they are given you so that you might respond to others around you, to responsibly care for and love them.

Our faith is not a gift so that we can save our own souls. Our faith and the gifts that we have because of it are given to us by our Father in heaven so that we can reveal His Christ and His Kingdom to all whom we meet, to all with whom we interact, to those countless neighbors we have in today's global village.

The priest and the Levite failed to respond to God's call to care, not because they lacked the ability to do so, but because they were too busy, too preoccupied. The Samaritan, however, one whom the Jews of those days despised, overcame whatever prejudices may have been at work inside him and responded in caring love to the victim in his plight. Every one of us here would, I am sure, want to be like that Good Samaritan.