



St. Joseph Catholic Church
Nome, AK 99762
Pastor: Rev. Tom Kuffel
Email: tkuffel@cbna.org
Parish: 907-443-5527; Cell: 907-434-6117
20th Sunday Year C 8.14.2016

Pope Francis: Baptism

This is what happens at *Baptism*. We have heard the Apostle John: “*Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is a child of God*” (1 Jn 5:1). Your children are baptized in this faith. Today it is *your* faith, dear parents, godfathers and godmothers. It is the faith of the Church, in which these little ones receive Baptism. But tomorrow, by the grace of God, it will be *their* faith, their personal “yes” to Jesus Christ, which gives us the Father’s love.

I said: it is the faith of *the Church*. This is very important. Baptism integrates us into the body of the Church, which is the holy Family of God. In this family, we journey through life by faith which is passed down from generation to generation. This faith in which we are baptized is the same faith of Mary, our Mother, St Joseph, St Peter, St Andrew, St John, of all the Apostles, Martyrs and Saints.

Through Baptism, the fire of the faith is passed on. This is really beautiful! It is a passing of the flame of faith from heart to heart. We will soon express this fire of faith with the act of lighting candles from the great Paschal candle. The lighted candle represents the Risen Christ, living in our midst, that is his burning love for you and your salvation. “*I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished!*” (Lk 12:49). You, families, take the light of faith from Him and pass it on to your children and grandchildren. Be filled with the fire for your faith.

You have received this light on your baptismal day and set you on fire with the Holy Spirit knowing that you are now a child of God, you are in the family of Christ. As family, we journey through life teaching our children that one cannot be a Christian outside of the Church, one cannot follow Jesus without the Church, for the Church is our Mother, who makes us grow in the love of Jesus through the sacraments, through prayer, through living as Christians. Live as Christians, live full of joy.

In Baptism, we are consecrated by the Holy Spirit. This is what the word “Christian” means, consecrated to Jesus. That is we are set apart and live as He did – not like the world does. We live in the same Spirit through which Jesus immersed Himself in our world so we could be immersed in his world. He is the “Christ”, the Anointed One, the Consecrated One; we, the baptized, are “Christian”, meaning we are consecrated, set apart from the world in his name to be like Him.

Therefore, dear parents, dear godfathers and godmothers, it is your duty to be examples of faith to your children. This is what you promise; you will live consecrated to Jesus. If you want your children to become true Christians, help them to grow up “immersed” in the Holy Spirit, that is to say, in the fire of the love for their Father in heaven as Jesus lived here on earth. For this reason, do not forget to invoke the Holy Spirit often, every day.

“Do you pray?” — “Yes” — “Whom do you pray to?” — “I pray to God”. But “God” is not Father. God is a noun, but we pray to the Person known to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. “To whom do you pray to?” “I prayer to the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit”.

We usually pray to Jesus, known as brother. We pray the “Our Father,” for Jesus adopts us by sending his Spirit into us at baptism so we call God Father. But we do not often pray to the Holy Spirit. It is very important to pray to the Holy Spirit, because He teaches us how to bring up the family, the children, so that these children may grow up in the atmosphere of the Holy Trinity, that is they may grow in up in a family of love, kindness, forgiveness, joy, and fruitfulness. It is precisely the Spirit who leads us forward. For this reason, do not forget to invoke the Holy Spirit often, every day.

You can do so, for example, with this simple prayer: “Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love”. You can say this prayer for your children, as well as, naturally, for yourselves!

When you recite this prayer, you feel the maternal presence of the Virgin Mary. She teaches us to pray to the Holy Spirit, and to live in accordance with the Spirit, like Jesus. May Our Lady, our Mother, always accompany the journey of your children and of your families. Amen!

Announcements

Thanks to all who attended the Religious Ed meeting and the Parish Counsel.

Sept 11 Relg Ed begins. Please pick signup sheets at entrance of church and fill them out.

**Aug 28 Sunday
Healing Mass**

Those who want to receive the anointing of the sick.

Prayer for those infirmed

We beseech you, Savior of all men, filled with all virtue and compassion, we pray that you send down from heaven your healing power upon this oil, so that those who are anointed may be healed from every disease depression, affliction, addiction, and any infirmity for remission of their sins and restoration of heal in mind, body, heart, and soul.

.....
 One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to untie the thong of His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. "His winnowing flames is in His hand to clear His threshing floor, and to gather the wheat into His barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire" (Lk 3:11)



While water signifies birth, cleansing and fruitfulness of life given at baptism, Fire symbolizes the transforming energy of the Spirit who acts in us.

**Fr. Tom will be in
Fairbanks Aug 22- 26**

RETROUVAILLE:

Weekend retreat for couples
 Oct.21 - 23 907-863-8000
www.HelpOurMarriage.com

Weekly Schedule:

Date	Mass Time	Place	Feast Day	Lector/Minister	Intention	Activity
Mon Aug 15	6:00 PM	Kotz	Assumption		Lisa Svoboda	
Tue Aug 16	6:00 PM	Kotz	St. Stephen		Lisa Svoboda	6:00 PM Bible Study
Wed Aug 17	8:00 AM	Kotz			Lisa Svoboda	6:00 PM Rosary
Thu Aug 18	12:15 PM	Nome			Lisa Svoboda	
Fri Aug 19	8:00 AM	Nome	John Eudes		Lisa Svoboda	
Sat Aug 20	5:30 PM	Kotz			Lisa Svoboda	
Sun Aug 21	10:30 AM	Kotz			St. Joseph Parish	

“I have come to set the earth on fire,
and how I wish it were already blazing!

	St. Joseph	St Francis	St. Anne	Prayer to the Holy Spirit: <i>Gentle guest and consoler of my soul: enlighten my mind to know God's will for me; in flame my heart to love it passionately; strengthen my will to accomplish it as perfectly as you ask of me. Oh Spirit of love, help me to respond faithfully to your holy inspirations.</i>
July 24 Sun	\$942.00	\$1165.45	\$50.00	

You must gain control over your money
or it will forever burn out of control.

Mary's Assumption into Heaven

St Luke tells that, after the Angel's announcement, Mary "arose and went with haste into the hill country", to visit Elizabeth (Lk 1: 39). With these words Luke emphasizes that for Mary to follow her own vocation in docility to God's Spirit, Who has brought about within her the Incarnation of the Word, means taking a new road and immediately setting out from home, allowing herself to be led on a journey by God alone. Our Lady's life is guided by Another: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word" (Lk 1: 38). The Holy Spirit is her guide. He leads her through the events and encounters, such as that with Elizabeth, but above all to her exclusive relationship with her Son Jesus. Mary journeys, cherishing and pondering in her heart the events of her own life, perceives in them ever more profoundly the mysterious design of the Father Who sent his Son for the salvation of the world.

By following Jesus from Bethlehem to exile in Egypt, in his hidden and public life and even to the foot of the Cross, Mary lives constantly united to her Son in the spirit of the *Magnificat*. Her prayer that the Church prays daily reveals that, "My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour" (Lk 46- 47). Mary fully adheres to God's plan of love, even in moments of darkness and suffering. She completely and freely abandoned her heart into the Lord's hands in order to be a pattern for the faithful of the Church.

Our life is an ascent, the whole of life is meditation on obedience, trust and hope, even in darkness and death; and the whole of our life is marked by this "holy haste" which knows that God always has priority in our lives and nothing else must create haste in our existence except doing the will of the Father as Mary did.

The Assumption reminds us that Mary's life, like that of every Christian, is a journey following Jesus; a journey that has a very precise destination, a future already marked out. That destination is not just heaven, but union with the Father, Son, and Spirit. That is the union with the Beatific Vision: the eternal euphoria of love.

Mary's assumption is the definitive victory over sin and death. She is in full communion with God, because as Paul says in his Letter to the Ephesians the Father "raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Eph 2: 6). Through our baptism, fundamentally, we are raised up from sin and death and are in communion with the Beatific Vision just as Mary was at her Immaculate Conception. But we must physically attain what was previously lost with Adam and Eve. Baptism begins our journey of faith by modeling Mary: magnifying the Lord and allowing Him to do great things to and through us.

For the Virgin Mary, her baptism began at her conception and is completed with her re-unification with Jesus in heaven. Despite the challenging journey that Our Lady had to make with her Son to the Cross, she entered into the fullness of union with God, with her Son by enduring what He endured. Now she draws us onwards and upward on our journey when we face our cross.

Today, we celebrate Mary being taken up into Heaven body and soul; we, therefore, contemplate Mary's unique and privileged place granted as she shared her body to be her Son's body. His body won victory over death. Therefore "when her earthly life was over, the Immaculate Virgin was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory... and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things, that she might be the more fully conformed to her Son, the Lord of lords (Rv 19:16) and conqueror of sin and death." (LG #59).

Human life on earth is a journey that takes place, constantly, in the intense struggle between the dragon and the woman, between good and evil. This is the plight of human history. It is like a voyage on a sea, often dark and stormy. Mary is the Star that guides us towards her Son Jesus, the Son that has risen above all the shadows of history and gives us the hope we need: the hope that we can win, that God has won and that, with Baptism we entered into this victory. We do not succumb to the dragon for God helps us. He guides us. This is our hope that the presence of the Lord within us, becomes visible as it was in Mary who after her life here on earth was taken up into heaven body and soul.