



St. Joseph Catholic Church
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Sixth Sunday Ordinary Time 2.12.2017

Announcements
Feb 16 – 23 Fr. Kuffel and Fredrick will be in Kotz
Feb 18 – 19 we will have a communion service at Nome Sat at 5:30 PM and Sunday at 10:30 AM
March 5 Religious Ed Sunday: All students are asked to come to Mass at 10:30 AM first then class and experience God's love.

	St. Joseph	
Collection 1.29.17	\$358.00	
Collection 2.5.17	\$404.00	



**Stewardship
Soul Prosperity**

First you must understand:

- God desires for your soul to prosper above all else. That means that God wants to know you intimately. He wants to be a significant part of your life.
- Unless He specifically calls you to a vow of simplicity as your relationship grows with Him then He wants you to prosper financially.
- God does not want you and your family to live in poverty. He wants you and your family to live in his love and love creates prosperity for there is nothing that love cannot enrich.
- Jesus deals with us one on one. That means He sees every one of our lives as independent, unique, special.
- Some people are wealthy; some are people are simple, but in either case both are treated as individuals and God wants us to honor Him – not with our money but with our friendship.
- God asks some to give away all their wealth so they do not make money their God.
- God asks some of us to be rich so we can use our money to help the poor and those who work for the poor.
- Jesus speaks to your heart. What is He saying to you about your stewardship? Do you make money and help the Church? Or do you live a simple life so you can serve the Church?

**Catechism
Why did God Create?**

God created all things because of his goodness and love!

We have two accounts of the creation story in the bible: one is from God's point of the the first one where God created in 6 days and rested on the seventh day. Then we have Adam's account where he talks about what he saw, especially when he saw his "helpmate" Eve. She was not just a help mate, but bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh. They were married.

Adam and Eve were not equal they were different. What they were equal in is dignity. They both shared the divine nature of God which is to know: tree of knowledge and love which is the tree of life.

God created a paradise which we know as the Garden of Eden which is a metaphor for the Kingdom of Heaven that Jesus comes to restore. They were to subdue the kingdom and be fruitful. That is they were to make it their home and most importantly defend it.

They were to subdue which is to conquer, overcome, and defeat the earth. Already they had a challenge for God knew Satan was going to test their obedience to each other and to Him.

They failed. They sinned. God knew they would sin, but God also knew a way to restore them back into the kingdom with his Son, Jesus.

Original Sin is really knowledge of evil and since we all have knowledge of evil now, we are tempted by it.

The commandment that God gave Adam and Eve: Don't eat of the tree of knowledge for you will die, was to protect them from death. Not just death of their bodies, but death of their marriage with each other and the death of their union with God.

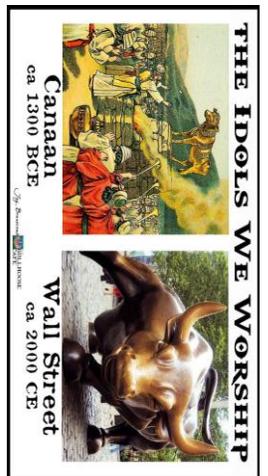
Jesus comes and heals that giving us a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you. Do you love you neighbor?

- Do you forgive your neighbor?
- Do you sacrifice for you enemy?
- Do you serve God through prayer?

Love is the new commandment which Jesus gives us and we are to love as Jesus loves us.



To no one does he command to act unjustly, to none does he give license to sin.



Weekly Schedule:

Date	Mass Time	Place	Feast Day	Lector/Minister	Intention	Activity
Mon Feb 13	5:30 PM	Nome			Judy Perry	
Tue Feb 14	5:30 PM	Nome			Leo Kelly	
Wed Feb 15	6:00 PM	Kotz			Jim Zachman	
Thu Feb 16	8:00 AM	Kotz			Ethel Phelps	Bible Study
Fri Feb 17	8:00 AM	Kotz			Aiden Hayden	
Sat Feb 18	6:00 PM	Kotz	Ordinary Time		John Hayden	
Sun Feb 19	11:00 AM	Kotz	Ordinary Time		St. Francis	

**If you choose
you can keep the commandments,
they will save you;
if you trust in God,
you too shall live!**

**Following the Lord means follow rules:
All of them.**

The 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time, we learn about the eyes of God, He sees all He has made. The responsorial psalm tells us: Happy are those who walk in the way of the Lord. Happy becomes even clearer in the second reading where we learn that God has revealed this wisdom to us through the Spirit: God's wisdom makes us happy! Wisdom is to follow God's plan.

Following the Lord also means follow rules. Without rules there will be chaos. Imagine if we did not have any rules for play time, no rules for eating, no rules on how to speak to one another, no rules for going out with friends, and so on. It would be chaos.

What about a family without rules? Family life wouldn't function. But what does that have to do with God's law? Everything! In the first four of the Ten Commandments we are asked to reverence God, reverence His holy name, reverence His holy day and reverence our father and mother. The next set of commandments instructs us to respect life, one's personal integrity and good name, the legal system, another's property and another's spouse. The rules we live by should reflect God's law. By obeying His law and appreciating its basic principles, namely, the principle of reverence and the principle of respect.

Jesus makes this clear "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. NO! I have come not to abolish but to fulfill." The Sermon on the Mount, Jesus' first and most powerful Sermon, instructs us in The Way of Life in the Kingdom of Heaven.

In this part of the Sermon, Jesus deals with the Law that is "the Law and the prophets." He means the whole Scripture. The Messiah brings the fullness of the kingdom and none of Scripture – not a jot or tittle – will be done away with. Instead, all of God's promises will be fulfilled. Jesus does not overturn the Law of Moses, nor does He set his followers free from the Law. In fact, He requires his followers to go beyond the Law by doing more than the Law requires.

The Old Testament and its interpretation in tradition are surpassed by Jesus whose life and teaching are the definitive revelation of the will of God. He speaks with authority to command his followers on what to do. What are we to do? Follow all the laws, namely the law of love which demands us to respect and reverence one another.

Today we have three "life-messages" given to us in this Sunday's readings:

- First, we need to obey God's Law, appreciating its basic principles.
- Secondly, we need to forgive, forget and move toward reconciliation as soon as possible. As St. Paul advises us: "Be angry (righteous anger) but do not sin" (Eph 4: 26). Let us give the Holy Spirit time to help us see the event through Jesus' eyes instead of through anger's eyes.
- And third, we need to be true to God, to ourselves and to others.

Let us allow God's word of truth to penetrate our minds and hearts and to form our consciences, making us men and women of integrity: reverences and respecting as Jesus commands. Have a blessed Sunday and week ahead!

Fredrick Granheim: Diocesan Seminarian Fairbanks

Are we living half a life, a life which ignores the power of the Holy Spirit? Or, are we able to open ourselves to this great gift of the Father?

Christians discuss how difficult it is to follow the Holy Spirit. Then in the Gospel passage, one encounters a "surprise," a parable in which Jesus speaks of prayer, and in the end he says: Ask and it will be given to you. You will be given the Holy Spirit; the Holy Spirit is a great gift. But you have to ask for it: Do YOU?

Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would come. "Your Father will give you the Spirit". This Spirit is the strength of the Church. When the Spirit had not yet come, and Jesus was ascending into Heaven, the disciples were locked in the Upper Room; they were a little afraid and did not know what to do. However, from the moment the Holy Spirit comes, the Church opens, she goes out, she goes forward, and the word of the Lord reaches even to the ends of the earth to heal the sick cast out demons and raise the dead.

Do we do that? Do we live with the Spirit and heal the sick, cast out evil from our own lives and the lives of others? Do we raise the dead especially those dead in sin?

When we receive the Law of God, the Ten Commandments, that law is not a law of condemnation, but a law of freedom, that is forgiveness and acceptance. The Ten Commandments reveal to us where we are broken, hurt, or weak. It is to reveal to us where we need help, but too many are slaves to the law and use it to condemn, criticism, and accuse which destroys the Holy Spirit. We break the law and so we either condemn those who break it; or we condemn ourselves and fill ourselves with irrepentance.

All of us received the law, but after the law the Lord justifies us with his love, that is his grace which we receive through prayer and the sacraments. We have been given something greater than the Ten Commandments, namely, Jesus Who gives meaning to the law. It is now a law of Love!

Yet, some respond, "No, no! The law is the law. What justifies you is the law". In so doing, they left Jesus outside. They were too rigid. For them, what mattered most was the law: one must do this, one must do that. These are the same sorts of people who attacked Jesus, and who he referred to as "hypocrites".

What happens to those who think in this way? This attachment to the law ignores the Holy Spirit. It denies love. Rigidity removes the power of Jesus to heal, forgive and redeem. Redemption comes by means of the Spirit. We must follow the commandments, but always from love which is the greater gift. Only in this way can we truly understand the law, The love of the Holy Spirit and Jesus heal our brokenness which the law reveals to us.

This was the problem and is a problem for us. We ignore the Holy Spirit, and not knowing how to move forward in love. We are closed, closed within regulations: one must do this, one must do that. Every Christian is susceptible to the same temptation of "ignoring the Holy Spirit". This causes the Holy Spirit to grieve for we reduce Jesus to a judge who enforces the law rather than a Savior Who helps us learn to love Him the Law Giver and seek Him to fulfill the law.

Please, do not grieve the Holy Spirit!

It happens when we do not let Him inspire us, to carry us forward in the Christian life; when we say: 'Yes, yes, there is the Spirit who gives sense to my life', but we do not let Him inspire us. Catholicism is not a law, but a Spirit with which we achieve freedom through love. With the freedom of the Spirit, we learn what we must do. Not with a lukewarm spirit, but with Power and Fire. Without freedom in the Spirit, our Christian Faith is mediocre. This occurs when one prevents the Spirit from achieving great works in us: healing ourselves of sin and others!

To understand, to receive the word of Jesus, it is necessary to open ourselves to the Holy Spirit. And when a man, a woman, is open to the Holy Spirit, he or she is like a sailboat swept by the wind, and goes forward, forward, forward, and never stops.