



**St. Joseph Catholic Church**

**Nome, AK 99762**

**Pastor: Rev. Tom Kuffel**

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**Parish: 907-443-5527; Cell: 402-540-3124**

**16<sup>th</sup> Sunday, July 17, 2016**

**Hospitality or Theophany?**

**God visits his people. But do the people visit their God?**

3 Men come to visit Abraham and Abraham welcomes them sits down with them prepares a meal for them. He does not want to leave. His hospitality was true charity.

He graciously received his guests; but obviously he knew that they were on a mission from God, as the three told him and Sarah would conceive and bear a son and to call him Isaac. (Read Genesis 18 & 19).

Just as an Angel of the Lord visited his people when Gabriel came and announced the Lord's visitation to Mary; so Mary brings God's presence to Elizabeth her cousin whom the Angel of the Lord already visited. The parallels are too obvious that we cannot but realize, what happened to Sarah an old woman past the age of child birth is visited by the Angel; so too Elizabeth and Mary are both visited by the Angel of the Lord and both conceived in supernatural ways. God had a mission for each of these three women and He has a mission for each one of us. Do you know your mission?

Are we to see this story merely as a visitation of hospitality that we are to meet and greet others with a smile? Or as Paul tells us to greet each other with a Holy Kiss (Rom 16:16)? Or is this a theophany: That God appears to us his people?

Martha and Mary the two sisters of Lazarus welcome Jesus into their home. Yet, Martha is so concerned about the demands of hospitality that she chides her sister for not helping her. But Jesus approves Mary and in so doing He reminds Martha; He reminds us, what is most important. God's Visitation!

Is it so important just to welcome your guests; or it is more important to befriend your guests? Martha was so busy with so many external activities she did give any attention to Jesus the person. And in so doing she missed the theophany: God's visitation. Mary, however, sat at the feet of Jesus focused completely on Him – God Who came to visit her, personally.

Even if Martha would have sat at the feet of Jesus, she was not ready to listen. She was not focused on Him. She isolated herself from the friendship Jesus offered. She was busy about many things because her mind was detached from the relationship. She was worried about herself; and had not yet experienced the closeness of God in her heart. She had not yet been visited by God, not that He had not tried to visit her; He was in her home. Her heart was hardened. She could not yet draw close to Jesus. Why Not?

Friendship with God comes through prayer which is the lifting of one's heart and mind, body and soul into the presence of God, knowing that God is present to you, not just as an idea or concept, but He is present to you as a person – as a friend, a brother, and most importantly as a Father. God is not a rationalistic idea, nor is He just a mentor and confidant to help become a better, successful person. He is your life!

Hospitality? Yes, always, we are to greet people with a smile, a cheer, an embrace of warmth, kindness, and comfort. But realize that each person we greet, we are to greet them as Jesus and see the Face of Jesus in each person no matter how repulsive or attractive a person is. Yet, never forget that each encounter we experience reveals the closeness of our God.

As Gabriel revealed to Mary the Divine Presence and she conceived and bore a Son and called Him Emmanuel, a name which means God is with us; so too we will conceive in our hearts The Son of God Who comes and dwells within my soul.

**Announcements**

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Fr. Ross will install Fr. Tom as your new pastor July 17 10:30 AM Mass in Nome. All are welcome to come and enjoy this installation and pray for Fr. Tom and the parish. Pot Luck Afterwards!  
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**When we put work before worship; we put the cart before the horse.**

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**What are you passionate about? If you are passionate, first listen, then act!**

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

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**John Panetak Funeral tentatively July 22 at 2:00 PM**

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

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**Fr. Tom is tentatively is planning to go to Diomedea Aug. 29 – 31<sup>st</sup>.**

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**Thank your Fr. Ross to celebrate KNOM's 45<sup>th</sup>**

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**Anniversary**  
**The only requirement for a friendship with God is showing up with a heart open ready to receive."**

## Weekly Schedule:

Date	Mass Time	Feast Day	Lector	Intention	Activity
Mon July 18	5:15 PM	St. Camillus		Valeria Hatch	
Tue July 19	5:15 PM			Valeria Hatch	6:00 PM Bible
Wed July 20	5:15 PM	St. Apollinaris		Valeria Hatch	6:00 PM Rosary
Thur July 21	12:15 PM	St. Lawrence		Valeria Hatch	
Fri July 22	8:00 AM	St. Magdalene		Linda Svoboda	
Sat July 23	5:300 PM	17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Spruce Lynch	Linda Svoboda	
Sun July 24	10:30 AM	17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Frances Contreras	St. Joseph Parish	

**Avail yourself to this wonderful gift of God becoming present to us  
when we present ourselves to his Real Presence.**

	St. Joseph	St. Francis
July 3 Sunday	515.41	50.00

Though they're difficult,  
those money conversations are absolutely necessary.

### **Do you have multiple personalities?**

How do you find balance between your Mary and your Martha? Our Father knows the journey is difficult. He knows life is rarely fair. Jesus reveals the annoying winds of distraction, discouragement, and doubt that keep us from experiencing God's love. Yet, the Father longs to gather us in His arms. He longs for us to exchange our security blankets of our own self-sufficiency for His all-secure love.

Jesus invites us to cast our doubts, our fears, and anxiety upon Him, to discover how much He really does care about our struggles and temptations, our business and worries. Yet, we have to sit in his presence and learn to trust. Jesus I trust in you!

Trust Me, My child, He whispers. I have your ultimate good in mind. I have your life in my hand. Make no mistake. Satan enjoys using our hectic schedules, stressed bodies, and emotional burdens in his efforts to put up barriers to our intimacy with God. That's why we need to take a close look at any thought, feeling, or activity that diminishes our appetite for intimacy with God.

Does it sound harsh to say that cooking or cleaning, taking care of your children, doing your job, or even enjoying a moment for yourself might be sinful? But think about it. The very definition of sin is separation from God. So no matter how important or unimportant the activity, no matter how good or bad it seems, if I use it as an excuse to hold God at arm's length, it is sin.

Like a needy child, God will come close to us, but we have to allow Him to get close to us. If we build walls, as so many teenagers do with their parents, then we will feel unheard, not understood, and complain that He does not love us. Yet, what parent does not love with teenager? What parent would not do anything for their child, even if their child absolutely rejects them?

Until we determine whom we will serve, we run the risk of developing a Judas heart instead of a Jesus heart. For whenever our interests conflict with His interests, we will be tempted to sell Christ to the highest bidder, whatever earthly desire, rather than to spend some time at his feet – in his presence.

The secret of balancing worship and work, devotion and service, love of God and love of people is maintaining our connection to Jesus Christ, daily. Our relationship with Him is the fulcrum, the anchor, the guiding light that makes balance possible. And the deeper that relationship goes, the more stable the balance will be in our lives and the more we will be Mary sitting at the feet of Jesus listening and gazing at Him!

### **The Blame Game Solution**

Blaming others for your problems is not going to solve those problems. However, blaming others will help remove those feelings of guilt that you might be carrying and guilt really is a heavy load, so blaming others is the first step. Now think about this. If someone else is responsible for your problems of the past, and even the present, surely you are not going to let them foul up your future - are you? Once you've taken that step, you're ready for step number two, which is to forgive your abuser. Step number three is to accept responsibility for your future.

*You are born to be Holy,  
so go ahead and live to be Holy!*

**"So often we give God the gift we think He  
needs rather than take the time to find out  
what He desires."**