



St. Joseph Catholic Church

Nome, AK 99762

Pastor: Rev. Tom Kuffel

Email: tkuffel@cbna.org

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

16th Sunday, July 17, 2016

Racism, sexism, and the elimination of all prejudices, discrimination, and terrorism ultimately will be eradicated by persistence. Persistent people have been knocked down by the ugliness of others but are the ones who get up and prove whatever abuse or victimization they undergo, these cruelties will never stop them.

Look at the great characters of history. The David's of the world stood up to the Goliaths won by persistence; not a persistence of sheer will power, but a belief in truth, justice and love. David went into battle in the name of the Lord:

"You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down. (2 Sam 17:45).

At times persistence threatens and provokes intolerance within us. Then again, persistence commits us to do what is just, true, and right. Jesus tells us emphatically, pray unceasingly. Wisdom tells us that the patient person wins their soul. We must persist in doing what is right, even if it is asking food for a friend, or standing up to the injustices of victimization and we do it all in the name of the Lord!

"I tell you, ask, you will receive; seek, you will find; knock, the door will be opened to you."

Jesus is telling us to pray persistently, constantly, endlessly. Besiege God; for help. The Father knows what we need. What Our Father needs to know is our commitment to Him, how intensely we love Him, how far we will go before we give up. Persistence lets Him know we are ready to battle in his name.

All true love is persistent; we never tire of acts of love. Not to pray is to show our indifference toward God. Not to pray is to send the gift of His love back to Him. Jesus taught us how to pray. There's nothing puzzling or perplexing about prayer. The prayer Jesus taught us is utterly simple. The Our Father teaches us what we need from God and what God needs from us – TRUST!

First, we honor Him, as Father; we are willing to sacrifice our earthly kingdom for his heavenly kingdom. Second, we pray for our daily bread both physical and spiritual food to strengthen us on our journey in this life for our entrance into eternal life. Third, we have to forgive; we need His strength to forgive others, because He has forgiven us. Fourth and most important, we need God's protection in times of temptation and trial. When we are afflicted by the ugliness of others, their hate and cruelty, we need divine intervention. Evil rages because we do have the courage to confront it. That is why we need to pray constantly and persistently because Satan wants to destroy our life.

Not to pray says: "You are not my strength; You are not my help; I do not trust in You!"

Prayer acknowledges we have a personal relationship with Our Father. Consequently, the quality of prayer is correlated to the value we place on our relationship with God. Abraham took God seriously — so seriously that Abraham haggled and bargained with God over the value each person. Something very serious was at stake; so Abraham got serious with God. He pleaded with God!

Do we need God? Do we take God seriously? Caught up in addiction, abuse, or anger, we know critically the need of a higher power to extract ourselves from sinking further into the destruction of sin. We need the Bread of Life to nourish and strengthen us. We need that which causes us to grow as persons. And I daresay each and every soul here in this church will admit we need forgiveness.

Do we need the strength, the fortitude, and the guts to forgive someone in our lives who has deeply wounded and hurt us? You bet we do! Do we need to have the willingness to forgive others? Yes! For each one of us, someone in our lives has hurt us so much that only an act of God can give us the will and the power to forgive that person.

Are we held in the steel grip of habit and addiction, a particular temptation that conquers us and snatches away our soul every time it visits us? A bad relationship? Are we threatened by something or someone terrible that will hurt us —an evil threatens our wellbeing? Everyone here knows that is so. We have been tried and found wanting. We all know that when we face that trial again we will succumb unless the power of God comes to us and helps us out of the cesspit that sucks us down ever more deeply and ever more powerfully to the point that we will suffocate in it.

Announcements

CCD (Sunday School)

We would like to have a meeting before school starts.

Aug. 8 @ 6:00 PM

Wish List Items

We want parishioners to come and share their ideas
Paint classrooms/hallway
New HD TV

White Boards for rooms

Parish Council Meeting

Aug 9 @ 7:00 PM

HOW TO DEVELOP PERSISTENCE

1. A Definite Purpose
Backed by Burning Desire for its Fulfillment.

2. A Definite Plan,
Expressed in Continuous Action.

3. A Mind Closed Tightly
Against Negative and Discouraging Influences.

4. A Friendly Alliance
with One or More Persons who will Encourage One to Follow Through with Both Plan and Purpose.

MANUSCRIPT HILL, THINK AND GROW RICH, CH. 8

Fr. Tom is planning to go to Diomedes for the funeral of funeral of Patricia Akinga July 25 – 27.

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

Prayer reveals that which has been hidden deep within us. In prayer God's Wisdom presents itself to us. The gifts of God's Holy Spirit become available to us— wisdom, understanding, knowledge, strength, and courage being among them. Our sorrows can become lighter; our pains can become a little more bearable. Our little part of the world can become more enriched by the presence of God, a presence we can bring to others around us.

Weekly Schedule:

Date	Mass Time	Feast Day	Lector	Intention	Activity
Mon July 25	9:00 AM	St. James		Lisa Svoboda	
Tue July 26	No Mass	Ann & Joachim		Lisa Svoboda	6:00 PM Bible
Wed July 27	No Mass			Lisa Svoboda	6:00 PM Rosary
Thur July 28	12:15 PM			Lisa Svoboda	
Fri July 29	8:00 AM	St. Martha		Lisa Svoboda	
Sat July 30	5:30 PM	18 th Sunday		Lisa Svoboda	
Sun July 31	10:30 AM	18 th Sunday		St. Joseph Parish	

Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: "Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration."

	St. Joseph	St. Francis
July 17 Sun	\$314.00	\$200.00

**Money only has the power you give it.
Don't give it the power of you!**

Baptism: Is it Necessary for Salvation?

Here are the four steps that Peter gives to us right after they experienced Pentecost.: *"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"* (Act. 2:38).

1. Repent, 2. One must believe in Jesus: Faith, 3. Be Baptized, 4. Be Confirmed in the Holy Spirit

That is why Paul reminds us in today's 2nd Reading: *"You were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead"* (Col 2:12). When we received our baptism, we entered into the death of Jesus and that is why it was common for baptism to be an immersion into water so that we would experience a death like experience in order that we could rise from the dead as Jesus did.

Baptism not only gave us a death experience, but also gave us divine life by nailing to the cross all our sins. Read Paul again: *"He brought you to life along with him, having forgiven us all our transgressions; obliterating the bond against us, with its legal claims, which was opposed to us, he also removed it from our midst, nailing it to the cross"* (Col 2:13).

Salvation comes to us not through faith alone, but through participation in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That participation comes to us through the ritual called Baptism which is more than just pouring water over a person and welcoming a new child into the Christian Faith, but is the transformation of a person who is dead to Jesus to become alive in the resurrection. That is why Peter teaches that baptism is a figure of entering into the Ark of Noah and not just being washed from mere dirt but is *"an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus"* (1 Pet 3:21).

Many merely believe you need faith for salvation; yet, without a clear understanding of Scripture and understanding the practices that we see in early Christianity, we will come up with our own private interpretations of what is needed for salvation. Without the clarification of the Scriptures and the history of the early Church, we easily confuse our understanding with that of what Paul and Peter understood for they have firsthand knowledge of what Jesus taught and explained.

That is why we have over 30,000 different Christian denominations. But Jesus is clear as to what is needed for salvation. Peter clarifies it for us (read above). Peter and Paul give us the deeper meaning of baptism and the power it has to wash us clean in our consciences and the power it conveys to transform us into the image of the risen Jesus.

For salvation repentance of our sins obviously is necessary. That means we understand sin and we know the consequences of sin – Hell. Not only do we want to be freed from the consequences of sin: hell, but we know hell is both earthly and eternal. We see so many people living a hellish life here and now. As Christians, we want to be freed and have a clear conscience washed clean through the waters of baptism which correlates to the water and blood that poured forth from the pierced heart of Jesus on the Cross. Once washed clean by baptism because we believe in Jesus and his power to free us from our sins by nailing them to the cross, we are confirmed in our faith through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Confirmed, we now live a transformed life so that we image Jesus. *"This is the way we may know that we are in union with him: whoever claims to abide in him ought to live just as he lived"* (1 Jn 2:6)

Persistence: More Important than Faith?

"Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination are omnipotent. The slogan 'press on' has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race."