

## St. Joseph Catholic Church

Nome, AK 99762

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18<sup>th</sup> Sunday, July 31, 2016

### Greed versus Trust

Nothing demands more courage than charity: to give to the point of pain. Parents do it. Soldiers do it. Teachers do it. Anyone who gives more than what they will receive in return takes heroic courage. That is why charity is the root of all goodness and all virtue. And that is exactly why Satan attacks charity with such vengeance. He wants us to be selfish, that is Greedy.

Greed as St. Paul tells us is the root of all evil. However, many misquote this proverb and say money is the root of all evil. But read the quote: *“For the love of money is the root of all evils, and some people in their desire for it have strayed from the faith and have pierced themselves with many pains”* (I Tim 6:10).

Money is not the problem. Jesus tells us to invest and use our money and resources and trade wisely with them as we read in the parable of the talents. We are to be kings or another way of looking at this passage is that we are to be successful merchants, trading, buying, selling and working hard. Others of course are to be priests; that is we are not all merchants, but some are servants of God alone, who lead the people closer to God. God blesses businessmen and with their resources and though their generosity they help the priests fulfill their calling to serve God by serving his people. Yet, both the priest and businessman serve God. They just do through different channels.

Wealth and riches are not the issue. It is our use and intentions of the wealth and riches we create by using our time, talent, and treasure well. Some people have the intention of using their wealth for their own security, their own insurance against the fears of being poor and destitute. It is not the amount of wealth that we have for some poor people are very greedy and some very rich are very generous. *“He was foolish because he believed that his good fortune meant that he was so self-sufficient that he no longer had to depend upon God or be considerate to his fellow man”* (Popcak, Broken Gods, p. 129)

It is not the obtaining of the wealth The problem arises when we use them to control our lives. Greed distorts our longing for trust and security. We place our trust and security in earthly, created goods which are merely tools – they do not nor can they save us. Greed gives us the disillusion that we never have enough nor can we have enough. We always want more and it does not matter if we can afford it or not, we just want more and more. We isolate and insulate ourselves from the poverty and destitution in our world by amassing created goods. Ultimately, greed is the grand illusion for we think we are in control of our lives. Greed tells me that I can control my future; I can protect myself from disasters, calamities, tragedies, and even failure. Just listen to the rich man:

*“What shall I do, for I do not have space to store my harvest?” And he said, “This is what I shall do: I shall tear down my barns and build larger ones. There I shall store all my grain and other goods and I shall say to myself, ‘Now as for you, you have so many good things stored up for many years, rest, eat, drink, be merry!’”* (Luke 12: 18 – 19)

Yet, can we really control anything in our lives? Yes of course we can plan, work hard, and set goals and achieve. But we are never truly in control of our lives. This is Satan’s best trick. To make us believe we are in control of our lives and through greed, we can set the course for clear sailing avoiding the dangers and pitfalls that so many others fall into.

Are we ever completely in control? Are we ever completely free from the dangers and adversities in life? The opposite is true! Each day brings trials and toils that are either easy to bear since we have the skills and talents to deal with them; or they overwhelm us because we do not have the ability to deal with them.

Life is a daily struggle but our security comes from the Lord – not from our treasure or our talents. Once we accept this fact that the Lord is in charge and some day we will have to give God an account of lives and what we did with our time, talent, and treasure, then we are free. We are free to serve God and give Him control over our lives instead of spending our lives in useless pursuits. We will spend our time pursuing our divine destiny: fulfillment in this life and divine happiness in the next.

### Announcements

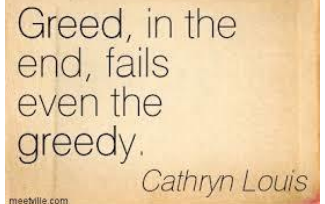
CCD (Sunday School)

We would like to have a meeting before school starts.

Aug. 8 @ 6:00 PM

Parish Council Meeting

Aug 9 @ 7:00 PM



“Do not give your heart to your money, or say, ‘With this I am self-sufficient’.

Do not be led by your appetites and energy to follow the passions of your heart”



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

**Learn** the principles and values that you want to be known for and become the right kind of person.

**Live** out these principles and values daily. Do the right things.

**Learn** intentionally so you can live to win and create the legacy you were created to leave.

**Create a Legacy** by teaching, word, and deed giving away what you have learned and what you have done.

## Weekly Schedule:

Date	Mass Time	Feast Day	Lector	Intention	Activity
Mon Aug 1	5:30 PM	St. Alphonsus		Jerry Weins	
Tue Aug 2	5:30 PM	St. Eusebius		Lisa Svoboda	6:00 PM Bible
Wed Aug 3	5:30 PM			Lisa Svoboda	6:00 PM Rosary
Thur Aug 4	12:15 PM	St. John Vianey		Lisa Svoboda	
Fri Aug 5	8:00 AM	St. Mary Major		Lisa Svoboda	
Sat Aug 6	5:30 PM	18 <sup>th</sup> Sunday		Lisa Svoboda	
Sun Aug 7	10:30 AM	18 <sup>th</sup> Sunday		St. Joseph Parish	

**If you were raised with Christ, seek what is above,  
where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.**

	St. Joseph	St Francis	St. Anne
July 24 Sun	\$412.00	\$61.00	\$50.00

**No one is responsible for your dreams but you?  
Not your family. Not your friends.  
And certainly not the government.  
Visualize, Prioritize, Write them, Live them!**

### Vanities of vanities all is vanity

The search for happiness is the ultimate quest of every person. For some happiness are merely pleasures, possessions, or powers. But the word has a deeper more profound meaning. It reflects human flourishing. Or as Jesus says and abundant life, *"A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly"* (John 10:10).

Happiness brings joy, true inner joy that does not come from created goods, but from the transcendent virtues of goodness, truth, beauty, justice, and love. Yet for most, people define happiness as acquiring earthly pleasures, powers, and prosperity. Others will find happiness in acquiring friends and developing relationships. Some find happiness in seeking human knowledge and logical, philosophical, rational proofs and explanations. But reading the book of Ecclesiastes, the central theme and question is: What is the purpose and meaning of life? In other words, Can true happiness be found?

The author of Ecclesiastes, most likely to be Solomon the wisest man, reveals that all is vanity. Human pleasures are fleeting and leave you empty once they climax. Friends and relationships are powerful for even Proverbs tells us that *"Let those who are friendly to you be many, but one in a thousand your confidant"* (Sirach 6:6). But they do not endure; death comes and friendships end. Knowledge and science are powerful and many believe, especially today, that they have all the answers to life. But Quohelth reveals to us that all is vanity: *"What profit have we from all the toil which we toil at under the sun?"* (Eccl. 1:3).

Struggling each day to find the purpose and meaning of life, your life, leads to despair. This was the experience of Solomon. He had wealth beyond measure. He had pleasure of over a 1000 women. He had friends with the Queen of Sheba and even the Pharaohs of Egypt bowed down to him. Yet, in the end he lost everything, as did Job. He lost everything because the wisdom and knowledge he sought was not transcendent but purely natural. He stopped worshipping God, Job stayed faithful.

To solve the riddles of life by human wisdom is utterly futile, so we should enjoy life within the limits established by God, recognizing that *"the righteous and the wise and their deeds are in the hand of God"* (Eccl 9.1). His solution is not to blame God for the problems and struggles, even evil in this life, which many do: *"see, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many devices"* (Eccl 7:29). So many sought and seek a rational, scientific explanation of the meaning of life; yet, a *"wise man claims to know, yet he cannot find out"* (Eccl 8:16-17). So what is the answer to the meaning of life?

*As to more than these, my son, beware. Of the making of many books there is no end, and in much study there is weariness for the flesh. The last word, when all is heard: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this concerns all humankind; because God will bring to judgment every work, with all its hidden qualities, whether good or bad* (Eccl 12: 12 – 14).

### Find yourself!

The young boy was playing baseball in his front yard. The lad announced to his mother, "I'm the greatest hitter in all of baseball!" And he threw his ball into the air and took a mighty swing with his bat. He missed. "That's strike one!" he called. "Still two more to go, but I won't need them – I'm the best hitter in all of baseball."

He tossed the ball into the air again, and took another mighty swing. The ball landed softly at his feet. "That's strike two!" he yelled. "One more strike to go. Not a problem for the best hitter in all of baseball."

He threw the ball it the air, once again he took a mighty swing. He swung so hard he spun around on his heels and fell down onto the grass. The ball lay nearby, untouched. The boy got up, dusted off his pants and cried out, "Steeeee-rike three! I'm out!"

His mother called out, "Aren't you upset you didn't get a hit? After all, you're the greatest hitter in all of baseball." The boy turned to her and smiled. "No way! Since I struck myself out, I just discovered I'm the greatest pitcher in all of baseball!"