



St. Joseph Catholic Church
Nome, AK 99762
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19th Sunday Year C 8.7.2016

Prayer: In the name of Jesus Christ, I pray, Dear Lord, see me through these hard times. In these troubling times, I am filled with unspeakable fears. I reach out my hand to you now, And ask you to walk besides me. I cannot carry all my burdens, But I know you can, and will. Please walk beside me. Please guide me. Please help me hold on strong, through the trials and storms. Help me hold on to my faith, in even the darkest hour. Stay with me Lord, and show me Your way. In your love and Holy Spirit I abide. Amen.

Pope Francis

In Jesus' coming, no amazing deed is done, no heated political debate with Roman power. Instead, in a stable a couple has a child. That same child changes water into wine which became the first of many great signs. But the real sign reveals to us the spousal face of God, a God who sits at table with us, who dreams and holds communion with us. It tells us that the Lord does not keep his distance, but is *near* and *real*. He is in our midst and he takes care of us, without making decisions in our place and without troubling himself with issues of power. He prefers to let himself be contained in little things, unlike ourselves, who always want to possess something greater.

To be attracted by power, by grandeur, by appearances, is tragically human. It is a great temptation that tries to insinuate itself everywhere. But to give oneself to others, eliminating distances, dwelling in littleness and living the reality of one's everyday life: this is exquisitely divine.

The Lord, who is "meek and humble of heart" (Mt 11:29), especially loves the little ones, to whom the kingdom of God is revealed (Mt 11:25); they are great in his eyes (Is 66:2). He especially loves them because they are opposed to the "pride of life" that belongs to the world (cf. 1 Jn 2:16).

The little ones speak his language, that of the humble love that brings freedom. So he calls the simple and receptive to be his spokespersons; he entrusts to them the revelation of his name and the secrets of his heart. Our minds turn to so many sons and daughters of your own people, like the martyrs made the defenseless power of the Gospel shine forth, like those ordinary yet remarkable people who bore witness to the Lord's love amid great trials, and those meek and powerful heralds of mercy John Paul II and St. Faustina.

Jesus is *near*, his kingdom is at hand (Mk 1:15). He does not want to be feared like a powerful and aloof sovereign. He does not want to remain on his throne in heaven or in history books, but loves to come down to our everyday affairs, to walk with us.

As we think of the gift of a millennium so filled with faith, we do well before all else to thank God for having walked with your people, having taken you by the hand, as a father takes the hand of his child, and accompanied you in so many situations. That is what we too, in the Church, are constantly called to do: to listen, to get involved and be neighbors, sharing in people's joys and struggles, so that the Gospel can spread ever more consistently and fruitfully: radiating goodness through the transparency of our lives.

Finally, *God is real*. He may feel absent, but we know his return is imminent. Today's readings make it clear that everything about God's way of acting is real and concrete for He is coming. Divine wisdom "is like a master worker" and "plays" (Prov 8:30). The Word becomes flesh, is born of a mother, is born under the law (Gal 4:4) just as we are. He has friends and goes to a parties. He has people who deny Him, hate Him, but some become very intimate and important to Him.

But just like any relationship sometimes the friendship seems distant. Yet, Jesus spends time with people in concrete situations. Your own history, shaped by the Gospel, the Cross and fidelity to the Church, has seen the contagious power of a genuine faith, passed down from family to family, from fathers to sons and above all from mothers and grandmothers, whom we need so much to thank. In particular, you have been able to touch with your hand the real and provident tenderness of the Mother of all, whom I have come here as a pilgrim to venerate and whom we have acclaimed in the Psalm as the "great bride of our nation" (Jud 15:9).

Announcements
Religious Ed Meeting
Aug. 8 @ 6:00 PM
Parish Council Meeting
Aug 9 @ 7:00 PM

**TO WHOM MUCH
IS GIVEN, MUCH IS
REQUIRED.**

JOHN F KENNEDY

QuotePlex1.com

Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more."



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

RETROUVAILLE:

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

 The wealthy individual and homeless person have at least one thing in common: Each is given 1,440 minutes of time every day. Needless to say, they use that time in vastly different ways. As a result, they get vastly different results.

How do you use your time?

Weekly Schedule:

Date	Mass Time	Place	Feast Day	Lector/Minister	Intention	Activity
Mon Aug 8	5:30 PM	Nome	St Dominic		Lisa Svoboda	6:00 PM Relg Ed
Tue Aug 9	5:30 PM	Nome	St. Teresa		Lisa Svoboda	7 PM Parish Council
Wed Aug 10	8:00 AM	Nome	St Lawrence		Lisa Svoboda	6:00 PM Rosary
Thu Aug 11	6:00 PM	Kotz	St. Clare		Lisa Svoboda	
Fri Aug 12	6:00 PM	Kotz	St. Jane		Lisa Svoboda	
Sat Aug 13	5:00 PM	Kotz	19 th Sun		Lisa Svoboda	
Sun Aug 14	10:00 AM	Kotz	19 th Sun		St. Francis Parish	

**“Do not be afraid any longer, little flock,
for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom.**

	St. Joseph	St Francis	St. Anne	
July 24 Sun	\$949.00	\$.00	\$.00	<p>The idea of “to whom much is given, much will be required” is that we are held responsible for what we have. If we are blessed with talents, wealth, knowledge, time, and the like, it is expected that we use these well to glorify God and benefit others.</p>
<p>“Who, then, is the faithful and prudent steward whom the master will put in charge of his servants to distribute the food allowance at the proper time?”</p>				

What awaits us in our future?

What does the future hold? What awaits us when we die? What await us when we die? Is judgment determined by what we did or didn't do in this life? Jesus talked with His disciples; remember we are His disciples, about the future, telling us to face the future not with fear but with faith which is the substance of our hope. He spoke to us in terms of present, by focusing the future coming. Do what is important today and you will not be surprised by tomorrow, He says. In reality, if we do what is important today; that is, if we focus on our priorities, the future will not be a surprise to us. The proverb says, How you live is how you will die!

However, Jesus boldly tells us, *“Sell what you have.”* In other words, trust in my providence – not yours. Focus on what is important to Faith – not the priorities of doubt which our world so prominently promotes. So, trust Jesus to provide. Trust Jesus with your problems. Trust Jesus with your life. He offers us a never-failing treasure, life with my Father and with me in the Kingdom of Heaven. *“Wherever your treasure lies,”* Jesus told us, *“there your heart will be.”* Stated the other way: *“Whatever you love to do, that will be your reward.* The question is, do we treasure our friendship with Jesus?

St. Paul tells us *“Faith is the substance of what we hope for, and conviction about things we do not see.”* The substance of our faith is the promise of Jesus Who offers us his life, his kingdom if we believe. It is not a guarantee for we all have free will to reject our Christian Faith (Heb 3:19), but God pledges through his promise that we who persevere in faith will have eternal life. *“To live, grow and persevere in the faith until the end we must nourish it with the word of God; we must beg the Lord to increase our faith; it must be ‘working through charity,’ abounding in hope, and rooted in the faith of the Church”* (CCC #162).

This is a counter-cultural way to live. The modern secularists tell us not to have faith in anything, simply to accept what you can touch, taste, smell, measure, and most importantly control. Suspend your religious beliefs, the world tells us, and don't accept anything else because faith wars against science. Faith is opposite of progress. Believe only what is relevant for today – not for the eternal. Work for the moment, for tomorrow we will die?

Does this mean we are not to work at all? Are we to be Manicheans and merely live for the spiritual and despise all things material? Are we to merely trust in God's welfare? Hardly! St. Paul twice warns the people, Timothy and the Thessalonians that, *“if anyone will not work, neither shall he eat”* (2Thess. 3:10). Warning us that not to work and provide for yourself is worse than being an unbeliever. In other words, we take personal responsibility for our future by cooperating with God's grace to do what we are called to do. Hence, we earn all we can; we save all we can; and we give all we can (John Wesley). We are to prosper; but prosperity is not the goal, but serving the Lord and his Kingdom is. That is prosperity with a purpose. That is Faith in action!

Can anyone really live without any faith? Can atheists and secularists really live that way? No! People with no religion are forced to live by faith. They cannot claim they have no need of faith. You cannot get married and not live in faith. You cannot buy a computer and not have faith in what you've bought. You cannot step onto an airplane and not have faith. We live by faith – not by sight for what we see is not always true. Our eyes deceive us. But faith's substance ultimately is the truth and we all have faith in the truth.

Faith is not something that belongs only to religion, it belongs to everyday living. Each and every day we take risks and act on probabilities, hardly ever on certainties. We take risks depending upon the decisions of others, never knowing with certainty what the outcomes will be. Even scientists operate on theories, even the Theory of Evolution. Rarely does science give us proofs, proofs that last anyway. What we believed just 50 years ago is not true today. But truth, justice, goodness, honesty, and liberty, these don't change. These virtues endure because virtue seeks integrity, the fullness of truth.

Our greatest leaders have presented us with leadership based on faith. It was faith that motivated George Washington and the founders of our nation. Our Declaration of Independence is a document based on virtue and faith. Abraham Lincoln led us through one of the darkest nights in our nation's history basing his vision solely on the belief that all men should be treated equal. If you read writings of Abraham Lincoln, you will find yourself reading some of the most faith-filled thoughts you will ever encounter. It was Lincoln who said to the American people: "Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith let us, to the end, dare to do our duty."

Realistically, however, much of our recent history attacks our faith and virtue. We have been betrayed and betrayed often by people dearest in our lives, all of which erodes our basic need to believe and trust in others. Life is unfair and evil does happen to good people. And yes, many people are unreliable. But, for all that is wrong in life, in our world and in others, we cannot afford to give up, stop believing, stop living, and lose faith in truth, justice, goodness, honesty, and liberty. Beliefs have consequences!

Jesus knew that back then; He knows now, which is why Christ presents Himself to us. He comes to us, after all, as the wise and faithful steward who did the will of the Father, even though it cost Him his life. He defended faith with his life. He revealed that life does have meaning, deep profound meaning if it seeks the transcendent virtues of truth, justice, goodness, honesty, and liberty.

As He places Himself in our hands at Holy Communion, He entrusts Himself into our care. And so as Simeon said; so Jesus says, "*Into your hands I commend my Spirit*" – my life. He has faith in us that we will treat Him as He treats us and if we fail, not only does He forgive us but He embraces us with his grace to renew our faith in his love. So in our hands with the belief in Him, we accept Him in love and with a firm purpose to live with Him daily expecting his return. He expects us live in the love of truth, justice, goodness, honesty, and liberty – the substance of faith that when He does return, we will not have faith, but we will have sight!