

**St. Joseph Catholic Church**  
**Nome, AK 99762**  
**Pastor: Rev. Tom Kuffel**  
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**Parish: 907-443-5527; Cell: 907-434-6117**  
**21<sup>st</sup> Sunday Year C 8.21.2016**

**Prayer of St. Tarcisius**

*Jesus, my Lord and my God, I confess  
that I have sinned against your goodness and goodwill.  
Yet, your goodness overcomes my weakness  
and your goodwill invites me to approach  
You with confidence and courage.  
Trusting that your mercy is greater than my sinfulness,  
I come to you with assurance of your compassion that  
although I am not worthy that You enter into my heart,  
but Your Word shall unite my soul with you.*

**Character Building: Mean Men**

Many men are unanimously embarrassed by their emptiness and woundedness. It is for most of us a tremendous source of shame. It is also the cause of the cruel behavior in men from addictions, to verbal and physical abuse, from coldness, and to violent acts. Men who feel empty and wounded are rogue bulls taking a stance, ready to fight, to defend their hurt and pain. But it need not be. They can expose their woundedness and find healing if they are willing. Most men don't. Most men rather suffer isolation and loneliness rather than find healing, for healing means to expose the wounds that still bleed.

From the very beginning, back before the Fall, man was meant to be joined in love to a woman. To be desperately dependent on her love! It's like a tree and its branches, explains Christ. You are the branches, I am the trunk. From me you draw your life; that's how it was meant to be for men. We cannot isolate ourselves from love, especially the love God gave us in our wives.

In fact, he goes on to say, "Apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). He's not berating or mocking men or even saying it with a sigh, all the while thinking, *I wish they'd pull it together and stop needing so much love.* Not at all! We are *made* to depend on God; we are made for union with Him, and nothing about us works right without Him, especially our love for our wives.

A car is made to run on gasoline, and it would not run properly on anything else. Now God designed the human machine to run on Himself. He Himself is the fuel our spirits. His love burns within creating life. He is the food our spirits were designed to feed on. There is no other.

This is where our sin and our culture have come together to keep men in bondage and brokenness, to prevent the healing of our wounds. Our sin is that stubborn part inside that wants, above all else, to be independent. There's a part of us fiercely committed to living in a way where we do not have to depend on anyone—especially God and our wives. Our culture teaches us to dominate, control, and belittle our wives and even our children, so we can be the bull – not realizing we have become the bully.

Then culture comes along with figures like **James Bond** and all those other "real men," and the one thing they have in common is that they are *loners*; they don't need anyone. We come to believe deep in our hearts that needing anyone for anything is a sort of weakness, a handicap. Are you this empty man?

Jesus is the opposite of a lonely man. He was intimately united to his Mother, his Apostles, and his people. But most importantly, He was fiercely united for his Father. He was bonded to Him as being one and He invited men and women to be bonded to his Father through Him. This is the narrow path. This is the narrow gate that separates us from our woundedness and loneliness. Being bonded to another, exposed and vulnerable, do we find healing.

Yet, our culture continues to advertise the broad path in which we hide behind our hurts and wounds and walk without Jesus. The path so wide and broad takes us further and farther away from healing, health, and hope. We hide behind achievements, acquaintances, and activities. We stay busy so we don't have to face the narrow road to the gate of healing and health.

Yes, the narrow road is painful, but the pain allows us to regain true health of body, soul, mind and ultimately our heart. Are you willing to walk this narrow road?

**Announcements**

**Thanks** to all who attended the Religious Ed meeting and the Parish Council.

**Sept 11 Relg Ed begins.** Please pick signup sheets at entrance of church and fill them out.

**Aug 28 Sunday  
Healing Mass**

Those who want to receive the anointing of the sick.

**Prayer for those infirmed**

We beseech you, Savior of all men, filled with all virtue and compassion, we pray that you send down from heaven your healing power upon this oil, so that those who are anointed may be healed from every disease depression, affliction, addiction, and any infirmity for remission of their sins and restoration of heal in mind, body, heart, and soul.

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**Fr. Tom will be in  
Fairbanks Aug 21- 26.**  
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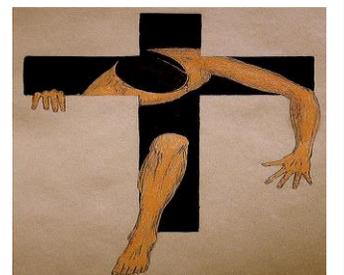
**Nome:** Thanks to all who helped with the rummage sale. We made \$309.00 to help with the costs of remodeling.

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 We fixed the shed at the cost of \$1560. If you are able to help with this cost please consider a contribution to defray this cost.

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 We have painted and purchased materials for the remodel. If you are able to help with these bills once again please consider a donation.

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**Fr. Tom plans to be in  
Kotz Sept 30 – Oct 6.**  
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**Kotz:** Fr. Tom will meet with Joanna and Cindy concerning the new building project for Kotz



Endure your trials  
as  
"disciplina"

## Weekly Schedule:

Date	MassTime	Place	Feast Day	Lector/Minister	Intention	Activity
Mon Aug 22		FBNK	Mary		Lisa Svoboda	
Tue Aug 23		FBNK	St. Rose		Lisa Svoboda	6:00 PM Bible Study
Wed Aug 24		FBNK	Bartholomew		Lisa Svoboda	6:00 PM Rosary
Thu Aug 25		FBNK	St. Louis		Lisa Svoboda	
Fri Aug 26		FBNK			Lisa Svoboda	
Sat Aug 27	5:30 PM	Nome	22 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday		Lisa Svoboda	
Sun Aug 28	10:30 AM	Nome	22 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday		St. Joseph Parish	

“Strive to enter through the narrow gate,  
for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter  
but will not be strong enough.

	St. Joseph	St Francis	St. Anne
Sunday	\$399.00	\$675.02	\$00

**Stewardship is not about how much you give  
But how much you received from Jesus,  
That is His Life for yours!  
Are you willing to give your life for his life?**

### Good Manners?

Jesus' parable isn't about good manners. It's about the world we live in, a world of closing doors to the wide road that most take. This week I have just lived will never return. The decisions I made are decisions that will always be a part of my history.

Everyone has 24 hours. Everyone can accept the day as it comes or can do something to improve their day. Either we rise and seize the day or others will seize it for us. I

determine what happens to me – not someone else, not even God decides for me. I have a free will and I determine the best use of my time.

Where is yesterday and what did you do or *not* do? That door is closed forever. Did you ignored your spouse or neglected your children; did you complained and criticized others or even yourself; did you waste your time or invest your time?

The time God gives us never returns. With each tick on the clock the door closes forever. Watch the sun set, seconds tick away and those silent clicks are now closed forever. Yet, it is what we do with those seconds that determines our destiny. Each second is either a step closer to eternal life or is a step away. That is why Jesus warns us to stay on the road that leads to the narrow gate.

It is too easy for us to waste time, become distracted, and miss the opportunities that bring us closer to eternal life – closer to Jesus Himself. Our loving Father in heaven offers us opportunities daily to love Him, and to love Him as we find Him in the hearts and souls of others. He pours out opportunities to join with Him in making our world a better place, to bring his redeeming love to the world around us offering sympathy, compassion, forgiveness, caring, quality time and attention to others. God gives them all to us in an inexhaustible supply of opportunities. God is forever offering divine moments for us to meet Him as we meet others. To know Jesus is to know those whom He loves. Who does Jesus love? The widows, the orphans, the poor, the hungry, the lonely, the depressed, the imprisoned, the lame, blind, anyone who is somehow handicapped. We are to love those who cannot and even will not love us back.

It's what we do with these persons in our lives that matters to God, for He came to love and teach us to love – even our enemies. Love is not a feeling; nor is it a reaction. Love is a choice. It is action. It is a decision and each time we decide to love someone especially when it is difficult for us to love that person, then we know divine love. The reward for loving others is the experience of loving. There is no other reward for love than to love! Love is its own reward.

Decisions have consequences, though most want to deny this reality. They don't want to suffer their bad choices. We can only blame ourselves for our lost opportunities, not God. Yet, so many want others to satisfy their longing for love. They want others to fulfill their lives and live their dreams. They want others to pay the price. This is not Christian love; that is satanic love. Satanic love teaches us to be served, to be loved, to be satisfied as other serve us. Jesus teaches us the exact opposite.

We have opportunities to read, to study, and to develop our minds. We have opportunities to invest not only in the stock market but to make lasting investments in the hearts and souls of others. We have opportunities to speak to others about our Faith, about God, and about how important it is for us to pay attention to God. And then there's prayer. We are all called to prayer, but few of us make the time. Think about all of the time we've wasted, time not spent in prayer and neglecting our contact with God. Times we excused ourselves from confession of our sins, daily giving thanks to God for the blessings in our lives, times we feasted instead of fasting, opportunities to give almsgiving rather than be selfish, and most importantly from Sunday Worship. God made Sunday for us to spend time with Him – not to spend time on ourselves.

God's intention is that every one of us will be saved – that we spend eternity with Him. But how can we spend eternity with Him in heaven if we never spent any time with Him here on earth? We enter Heaven, after all, here on earth, not in some sort of dream world that we will find when we run out of things to do here on earth. We have to be busy about God's business.

God has showered you and me with limitless gifts, gifts that are opportunities. The outcomes of our lives are not His responsibility; they are ours. Everyone is called to share life with God; only a few make the choice. And we must never forget that the choice is ours! God has made His choice. What remains is our response. God doesn't have to waste a lot of time casting people into hell; we do it for Him.

All around us doors are slamming shut and we hardly notice for our heads and our eyes so full of the glitter, clutter, and concerns of this world. But we also live in a world of open doors. Every sunset is followed by a sunrise. The sun will rise tomorrow morning and God will gift you with another supply of opportunities. But while we are hopeful for tomorrow we must remember that one day the sun will rise on the last day of our life. When it arrives we'll never have another day in our lives. A final day is coming to you and to me just as surely as I'm standing here before you.

Some will claim that Jesus' teaching that many are called but few are chosen is harsh. After all, wasn't Jesus always optimistic, kind and forgiving? Well... yes He was. But He was also a realist. And it is reality we need to see and not live in wishful thinking about all of the things we're going to do but never seem to quite get around to doing. The road to hell is truly paved with good intentions. The door is wide but the path is narrow. Many are called, but few make the necessary choices to stay on the narrow path.