

**St. Joseph Catholic Church  
Nome, AK 99762**

**Pastor: Rev. Tom Kuffel**

**Email: [tkuffel@cbna.org](mailto:tkuffel@cbna.org)**

**Parish: 907-443-5527; Cell: 907-434-6117**

**22nd Sunday Year C 8.28.2016**

**Announcements**

**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 Anchorage for retreat Sept 5 - 10.**  
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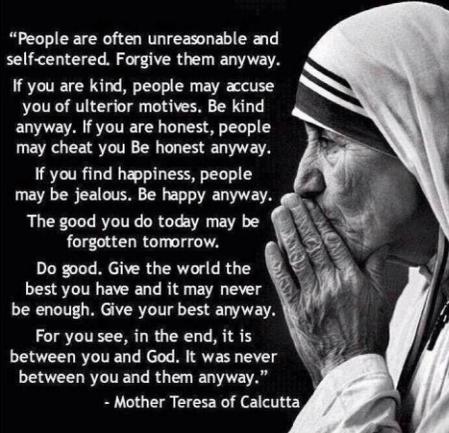
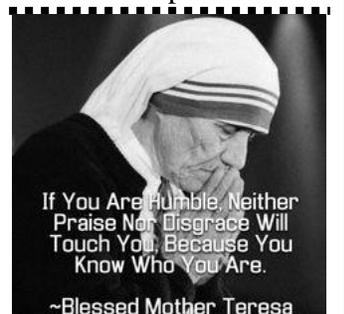
We fixed the shed at the cost of \$1560. If you are able to help with this cost please consider a contribution to defray this cost.

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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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**Kotz:** Fr. Tom met with Joanna and Cindy concerning the new building project for Kotz. The meeting went well with Sandy Huss and Cindy Jacobson and Joanna. Hopefully we will have some information by Sept 18.  
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**Kotz:** John Schaeffer funeral will be Wednesday at 10:00 AM at the School Gym. Fr. Tom and Fr. John H. will be there for the funeral. Please pray for the family and repose of John's soul.  
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Fr. Tom will be in Kotzebue Sept 18<sup>th</sup>  
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"Half the harm that is done in the in the world is due to people who want to feel important; they are in an endless struggle to think well of themselves."

Self-esteem, proper self-esteem, not ego-centrism, is good; it properly motivates us to do good and that inspires us to do more good. But if we crave honor, power, and glory it can be a terrible scourge. People who have a bad image of themselves more often than not perpetrate terrible crimes and inflict great pain on others.

Greed is what causes so much grief in our world. It flows from misguided views of self-worth, twisted self-esteem trying to feel important with power, prestige, and possessions. Proudful people try to fill a hollow space in their inner selves with self-importance.

Humility is not simply a social grace that makes us attractive to others but with humility we set aside our own wills and seek out God's will. Humility causes us to act according to God's ways – not ours. We know our talents and abilities are from God for God's purposes, not for our own self-satisfaction.

Humility is not humiliation. Humility is an inner, personal virtue. Humiliation is something that is inflicted upon us by others to disgrace us, because someone else feels important when he demeans. People, especially children, are impatient, rude, even bullies, mocking and humiliating the other with the great American epithet "LOSER!" Is it any wonder so many people constantly struggle to think well of themselves?

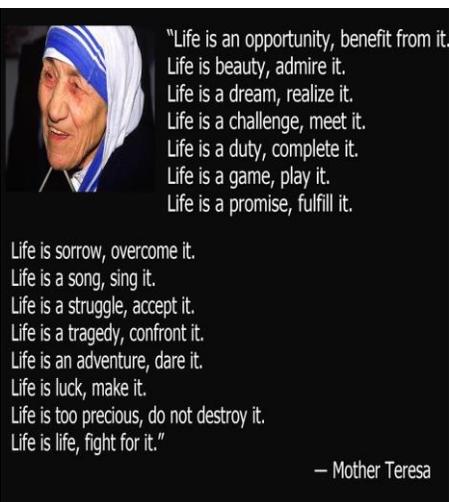
Jesus knows the power of a good sense of self-worth. Did Jesus ever tell you to love your neighbor? No, He did not! He said: "**Love your neighbor as yourself.**"

In today's Gospel, did Jesus rebuke those who were seeking a healthy sense of self-esteem? No!. He did rebuke the phonies. Those dinner guests were making the same mistake that you and I so often make. In the struggle to think well of themselves they sought to manufacture an appearance of importance. Who among us has never done similar things?

How do we promote ourselves? With clothes, cars, and careers, friends, politics, and faith. We so easily criticize others, mistakenly thinking that putting someone else down builds us up. The problem with all of our methods is their futility. They simply do not work. With these schemes of self-promotion we do not fool many people, if any. Most of all we do not fool ourselves because deep down we know what the truth is.

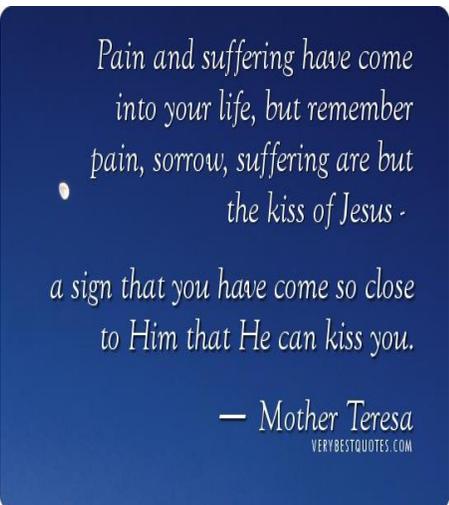
The man who thought he was going to seat next to the host in today's parable ended up being forced to face the truth about himself. So are we!

Jesus continually taught us that each and every person is important – the shared dignity of each and every living human being. Look at that crucifix. It tells you of the value, the worth you have in God's eyes. God thinks that you are worth dying for and God proved that by permitting His beloved Son to die for you on that Cross. THAT is your worth and value in God's eyes.



*Mother Teresa's Humility List*

1. *Speak as little as possible about yourself.*
2. *Keep busy with your own affairs and not those of others.*
3. *Avoid curiosity.*
4. *Do not interfere in the affairs of others.*
5. *Accept small irritations with good humor.*
6. *Do not dwell on the faults of others.*
7. *Accept censures even if unmerited.*
8. *Give in to the will of others.*
9. *Accept insults and injuries.*
10. *Accept contempt, being forgotten and disregarded.*
11. *Be courteous and delicate even when provoked by someone.*
12. *Do not seek to be admired and loved.*
13. *Do not protect yourself behind your own dignity.*
14. *Give in, in discussions, even when you are right.*
15. *Choose always the more difficult task.*



## Weekly Schedule:

Date	MassTime	Place	Feast Day	Lector/Minister	Intention	Activity
Mon Aug 29	5:30 PM	Nome			Lisa Svoboda	
Tue Aug 30	8:00 AM	Nome			Lisa Svoboda	6:00 PM Bible Study
Wed Aug 31	10:00 AM	Kotz	Funeral		Lisa Svoboda	6:00 PM Rosary
Thur Sept 1	12:15 PM	Nome			Lisa Svoboda	
Fri Sept 2	8:00 AM	Nome			Lisa Svoboda	
Sat Sept 3	5:30 PM	Nome	23 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday		Lisa Svoboda	
Sun Sept 4	10:30 AM	Nome	23 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday		St. Joseph Parish	

The way to the top is not stepping on others, but stooping to help others.  
Every person who has felt responsible to help someone else will quickly agree with the following truth:  
"No person can sincerely try to help another person without helping himself or herself."

	St. Joseph	St Francis	St. Anne
Sunday	\$441.00	\$292.80	\$00

**Insanity is doing the same thing over and over  
And expecting different results.  
Spending more than you make is insanity  
Saving more than you spend is sanity**

### Humiliation Leads To Humility!

God continues to challenge us with the most embarrassing struggles. We lust. We become angry. We overindulge. We steal and cheat. We become lazy and dull. We are arrogant and proud. In other words, we are sinful creatures, and it is through these evil choices that we remove God from our lives, and then we begin to believe we are "god." This is self-determinism.

We may try to fulfill our longing for God through personal attachments, but it is God Who always wants to be our perfect lover. Instead, we often seek perfection in human relationships, which are often disappointing, because those we love can never love us perfectly (Gerald G. May, M.D. *Grace and Addition* p. 92 – 93).

Only God is perfect love. In other words, what we do is reduce the perfection of God in our own minds, and become attached to merely a human mental picture. We expect the other person or even action or thing to complete our longing for perfect love. Yet, they cannot perfectly satisfy us. They are created and we long for uncreated, infinite, perfect love and only God can fulfill our desire for perfect love which completes us. In humility we experience God's perfect love of us.

In God, boundaries and limitations do not exist; He is Infinite, while in our humanity we will always be finite and incomplete. God challenges us to transcend our limitations, but instead of struggling and sacrificing, embracing the challenge to grow and overcome, many of us seek a comfort zone and indulge in that finite mindset. We attach ourselves to earthly solutions which are no more than a security blanket. We stay in our immaturity only to struggle all the more with our imperfections.

To save us from such fantasy, God allows us to struggle with the most humiliating thing in our lives--sin. Sin is raw. At its rawest level we seek the rot and rubbish of human existence but, as we know, God can, and does, take evil and make good out of it. He allows us to struggle with our sin, which embarrasses us. He reveals to us our ugliness and shame so that when we finally realize we need God. He shows us the beauty for which we were made. In this way, we learn to trust Him rather than to trust in ourselves. Instead of becoming self-determined individuals, we recognize our imperfections and ask God to perfect us. "If our choice of God is to be made with integrity, we must first have felt other attractions and chosen, painfully, not to make them our gods" (Gerald G. May, M.D. *Grace and Addition* p. 92 – 93).

When we reach rock bottom and have nowhere else to turn, we must seek God and turn to Him. It is through Him alone that we find the love and counsel to lead us out of our misery and sinfulness. In this struggle with evil, not only do we humiliate ourselves, but we humble ourselves, too. That is, we no longer strive to reach for things that are beyond our capability, but humbly admit to our weakness and failures and submit to a change. True humility accepts the changes necessary to renew and revitalize our lives, in Christ, through Christ, and for Christ.

Once we admit our weakness to ourselves that is true humility, God can strengthen us, allowing us to reach far beyond our human strength. It is our trust in God that gives us the strength to do the sublime things that we always wanted to do in the first place. Hence, God humbles us many times by our humiliating choices --not to destroy us, but to empower us with His Omnipotence. Far too often, we would rather rely solely on our human strength. This is the great deception of the human mind. We think we can do it all by ourselves. That is why God tells us to become, as little children, for they, in their innocence, know they need help. Yet as adults, we, too, must acknowledge that we need His help, just as a child needs his parents' help.

What a wonderful exchange takes place when we give up our human strength to find divine strength. Pride, however, opposes humility. Proud people try to transcend their abilities and capacities. This foolish attitude is so blatant to those looking in from the outside. However, for the person struggling within to succeed is so blinded by his pride that he continues to climb, only to fall again. "Pride goes before disaster, and a haughty spirit before a fall" (Prov 16:18).

Once we are humiliated by our falls, through our sins, and face that fact, then, we can realize our strengths. Our talents are not self-determined, but they are given from God to us so that we may do His work. When we overcome our struggle to be in charge, we can then allow God to take charge of our lives and use us for His greater honor and glory. Thus, we become instruments of God's Divine Plan, for we realize that we are His humble servants.

When we have humbled ourselves, He will exalt us. The human mind struggles with this great mystery. Instead of being sublime in and of ourselves, we need God to lift us up, to transcend our human weakness. Humility is attainable only for those of us who realize we are weak. Denial destroys humility, for we deceive ourselves from what we really are--sinners.

God made us, but gave us a free will, the freedom to commit sins. Unless we admit that we are sinners in need of His help, we will never humble ourselves enough for us to be exalted by God. We will only experience the humiliation of our sins. Our sinfulness is not our death, but continuing to live in sin destroys the life of Christ in our souls. If we continue in sin, we *forever* reject God's mercy. If we do not become humble, this then is our death.

Sin is part of our lives; we cannot deny it. However, our sinfulness should be a spring board to salvation in which we repent and ask God to free us from our sinfulness. This humbleness allows God to bestow His grace upon us, so we can liberate ourselves from our sinfulness--with the help of God--and become united to Him, knowing that it is only through His power that we are free.