



**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**  
**25<sup>th</sup> Sunday Year C 9.18.2016**

	St. Joseph	St Francis	St. Anne
Sunday	\$1115.00	\$0	\$50.00

**Becoming a good steward is like pushing a wheelbarrow.**  
**Nothing happens till YOU start pushing.**  
 The difference between financially successful people is this:  
 The successful first invest their money and spend what is left.  
 Those who struggle spend their money and then invest.  
**What do you invest your money in?**  
 Where you spend your money reveals where you heart is!



*So long as we imagine it is we who have to look for God,  
 we must often lose heart.*

*But it is the other way about-He is looking for us. - Simon Tugwell*

Can it get any more uncertain than this? We so long for life to be better than it is. We wish the beauty, love, and adventure would stay and that someone strong, wealthy, and vibrant would show us how to make the struggles go away.

We hope that God will be our hero. Of all the people in the universe, He could stop the pain and arrange for more blessings in our lives. He can spin the earth, change the weather, topple governments, obliterate armies, and resurrect the dead. Is it too much to ask that he intervene in our little life story? Just Once!

But He often seems aloof, almost indifferent to our plight, so entirely out of our control. Would it be any worse if there were no God? If He didn't exist, at least we wouldn't get our hopes up. We could settle once and for all that we really are alone in the universe and get on with surviving as best we may.

This is, in fact, how many professing Christians end up living: as practical agnostics. Perhaps God will come through; perhaps He won't. I will hope that He will come through and so live by faith. But I will hedge my bets and if He does not show up, I plan for a life without God. The simple word for this belief system is godlessness. Like a lover who's been wronged, we guard our heart against future disappointment and invest in filling our lives with our wealth – not his; our plans not his Divine Plan!

So many of us build our empires without God and so we really build in vain. God is not indifferent to our plight. He, however, will not merely intervene whenever we scratch ourselves or someone else rubs us the wrong way. As any parent, He wants us to mature.

Mature faith trusts in Him – not in ourselves. Mature faith embraces Our Father when we have a windfall of blessings or when we are dealing with drought: financial ruin, relationship disasters, moral dilemmas, personal crisis, death of loved ones and the list goes on. Mature faith makes God the principal author in our life and we follow his designs, his course, and his will.

Unlike the rich man who followed his own will and siphoned money from the owner and embezzled the buyers, and made himself rich in his own eyes, he was really poor. Like those who cheat in school, they never learn and so struggle throughout life continuously for they did not learn the first lesson of life: Do unto others as you would have them do to you. If we do not treat ourselves properly, if we do not live justly, honestly, righteously, if we do not live by faith, but only by sight, we will constantly struggle with personal responsibility. We will always cheat, but the one we are cheating is our self. We become contentious and antagonistic especially when our plans fail.

Putting first things first, that is prioritizing our life, demands we live by the Golden Rule, but that means we have to give an account of ourselves too. The first priority is reality. We must live in the reality that every choice has a consequence and every consequence either draws us closer to our ultimate relationship – Our Father – or every choice draws us further away.

***Do you examine your choices daily?***  
**Desires of the Heart**

Our heart is filled with secret desires. They often go unnoticed. We rarely can put them to words; yet they guide our lives. These secrets remain hidden in our deepest selves. It is simply the desire for life as it was meant to be. Isn't there a life you have been searching for all your days? You may not always be aware of your search, and there are times when you seem to have abandoned looking altogether.

This yearning that cries out for the life we prize. It is elusive, to be sure. It seems to come and go at will. Seasons may pass until it surfaces again. And though it taunt us, and may at times cause us great pain, we know when it returns that it is priceless. For if we could recover this desire, unearth it from beneath all other distractions and embrace it as our deepest treasure, we would discover the secret of our existence.

We all share the same dilemma - we long for life and we're not sure where to find it. We wonder if we ever do find it. The longing for life within us seems incongruent with the life we find around us. What is available seems close to what we want, but never quite a fit. We must journey to find the life we prize. The guide we have been given is the desire set deep within, the desire we often overlook, or mistake for something else or even choose to ignore. The greatest human tragedy is simply to give up the search. There is nothing of greater importance than the search for the deepest meaning of life..

Yet, we easily lose heart and satisfy our heart with money, power, or pleasures. Yet, our true identity, our reason for being, is to be found in this desire: To love another with his own heart, her heart– the Sacred Heart.

**Check out this website to help discern your vote: [faithfulcitizenship.org](http://faithfulcitizenship.org)**

**Announcements**

.....  
**Nome: Parish Council Meeting Sept 15 at 6:00 PM..**

.....  
 Faith Formation. The link: <https://fidesformation.com/product-category/fairbanks/>

.....  
 Commitment Sunday: Oct 2 & 9. The Council asks all parishioners to partake.

.....  
 Oct 9 Family Fun Day at the Rec Center 12: 2 PM. All are welcome all are asked to invite guests.

.....  
**Sept 25 Holy Hour** from 12 to 1:00 PM to pray for the New Evangelization.

.....  
**Sept 26 Symbolon:** a parish based program to evangelize Adults



**Prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings be offered for everyone, for kings and for all in authority, that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life in all devotion and dignity. This is good and pleasing to God our savior, who wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth.**



**Accountability breeds Response-Ability**



**Accountability is not what we do, but also what we do not do!**

## Weekly Schedule:

Date	MassTime	Place	Feast Day	Lector/Minister	Intention	Activity
Mon Sep 19	6:00 PM	Kotz				
Tue Sep 20	6:00 PM	Kotz				6:00 PM Bible Study
Wed Sept 21	8:00 AM	Kotz				6:00 PM Council
Thur Sep 22	5:30 PM	Nome				
Fri Sep 23	8:00 AM	Nome				
Sat Sept 24	5:30 PM	Nome	26 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Elsa Bronson	Steve Jackeler	
Sun Sept 25	10:30 AM	Nome	26 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	S. Paniataaq	Art Froehel	
Sun Sept 25	4:00 PM	Teller	26 <sup>th</sup> Sunday		St. Jude Parish	

**Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor.**  
**“The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones; and the person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones. If, therefore, you are not trustworthy with dishonest wealth, who will trust you with true wealth?”**

**Children who reach the age of eighteen with their entire skills set composed on Nintendo and eating Doritos have been neglected. Their parents neglected to give them the character traits necessary to live successfully.**

### Pope Francis: Homily at Canonization of Mother Teresa

*“Who can learn the counsel of God?”* (Wis 9:13). This is a question from the Book of Wisdom. Our life is a mystery and that we do not possess the key to understanding it. The two protagonists in history are God and Satan. We are in the middle. Our task is to perceive the call of God and then to do his will. But in order to do his will, we must ask ourselves, “What is God’s will in my life?” In so doing, we reject Satan who teaches us to do our will, or as Frank Sinatra sang: Do it my way!

We find the answer in the same passage of the Book of Wisdom: *“People were taught what pleases you”* (Wis 9:18). In order to ascertain the call of God, we must ask ourselves and understand what pleases God. The prophets proclaimed what was pleasing to God. Their message created a wonderful synthesis between acts and words: *“I want mercy, not sacrifice”* (Hos 6:6; Mt 9:13). God is pleased by every act of mercy, because the brother or sister we assist, we recognize the face of God which no one can see (Jn 1:18). Each time we bend down to the needs of our brothers and sisters, we serve Jesus as we give something to eat and drink; clothe and cover; help and visit the poor and imprisoned. In a word, we touch the flesh of Christ every time we touch another person in need.

We are thus called to translate into concrete acts that which we invoke in prayer and profess in faith. No alternative exists to charity: we put ourselves at the service of others, even when we don’t know it, because we love God (1 Jn 3:16-18; Jas 2:14-18). The Christian life is not merely extending a hand in times of need. This is certainly a lovely expression of human solidarity which offers immediate benefits, but it is sterile because it lacks roots. The task which the Lord gives us, on the contrary, is the vocation to charity in which each disciple puts his or her entire life at the Lord’s service daily. Take up your cross daily so we grow in love each day.

*“Large crowds were travelling with Jesus”* (Lk 14:25). Today, this large crowd many who volunteered and worked with Mother Teresa and her mission have come revealing the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Catholics are disciples who follow the Master making visible his concrete love for each person: How many hearts have been comforted by your acts of mercy! How many hands you have held; how many tears you have wiped away; how much love has been poured out in your hidden, humble and selfless service! This praiseworthy service gives voice to the faith! It expresses the mercy of the Father, who draws near to those in need.

Following Jesus is a serious task, and, at the same time, one filled with joy; it takes a certain daring and courage to recognize the divine Master in the poorest of the poor, to those who are cast aside, to give oneself in their service. Unlike the servant who stole money to increase his own self-worth, you spend yourselves giving others self-worth. That is the Joy of the Gospel.

As Mother Teresa showed us, true disciples give themselves out of love of Jesus serving the poor and the needy. As she did it for love so we do it out of love not expecting any thanks or recompense; rather you renounce all this because we have discovered true love of Jesus: Self-Sacrifice.

**“A sacrifice to be real must cost, must hurt, and must empty ourselves. Give yourself fully to God. He will use you to accomplish great things on the condition that you believe much more in his love than in your weakness.”**

Mother Teresa was a generous dispenser of divine mercy, making herself available to everyone with her warmth and most especially her defense of human life, those unborn, abandoned, and discarded. She was committed to defending life, ceaselessly proclaiming that “the unborn are the weakest, the smallest, the most vulnerable”. It is shameful for those who see children as an inconvenience.

**“When speaking of children who come into the world, no sacrifice made by adults will be considered too costly or too great, if it means the child never has to feel that he or she is a mistake, worthless or abandoned to the four winds of arrogance. There are those who dare say as if to justify themselves, that it was a mistake to bring these children into the world. This is shameful. How do we respect human rights if we punish children for the errors of adults?”** (Joy of Love # 166).

She bowed down before those who were spent, left to die on the side of the road, seeing in them their God-given dignity; she made her voice heard before the powers of this world, so that they might recognize their guilt for the crime – the crimes! – of poverty they created. For Mother Teresa, mercy was the “salt” which gave flavor to her work, it was the “light” which shone in the darkness of the many who no longer had tears to shed for their poverty and suffering.

Her mission to the slums and seedy streets remains for us today an eloquent witness to God’s closeness to the poorest of the poor. May she be your model of holiness! I think, perhaps, we may have some difficulty in calling her “Saint Teresa”: her motherly holiness is so near to us, so tender and so fruitful that we continually call her “Mother Teresa”.

May this tireless worker of mercy inspire us increasingly to understand that our only criterion for action is unconditional love, free from every ideology and all agendas, offered freely to everyone without distinction of language, culture, race or religion.

Mother Teresa loved to say, “Perhaps I don’t speak their language, but I can smile”. Let us carry her smile in our hearts and give it to those whom we meet along our journey, especially those who suffer. In this way, we will open up opportunities of joy and hope for our many brothers and sisters who are discouraged and who stand in need of understanding and tenderness.



I fear just one thing : Money! Greed was what motivated Judas to sell Jesus

— Mother Teresa —

**Stewardship: A Loving Response to God.  
Twenty-Fifth Sunday or Ordinary Time**

Stewardship has become a buzzword for giving money. When we are asked to be good stewards of our time, talent, and treasure, we know we are going to be asked to donate money. Yet, in reality, stewardship has little to do with giving money and everything to do with being: being responsible, accountable, and ultimately culpable for the opportunities in our lives.

God offers us those opportunities to obtain possessions, enjoy pleasures, and relate to persons. However, He does not control us in how we use these opportunities. He gives us a free will to choose the way in which we think is best for our own development. We, then, are stewards of ourselves.

God asks us to develop ourselves, not only for our benefit, but also for the benefit of others. Today society teaches us to abuse, excuse, and misuse our bodies, minds, hearts, and souls, and squander our opportunities to be good stewards, because we are weak and insecure. We are selfish and try to fortify and protect our lives.

Like the unfaithful steward of the parable today, we cut corners, misappropriate funds, and take advantage of questionable opportunities. Easily, we are wise in the ways that benefit us; but when it comes to be wise in the ways of God, we are found to be wanting and become corrupt and contentious stewards.

Everyone knows their health is their own choice. Our bodies are ours. We can use them for pleasure. We can use them to make money. We can use them to become holy or evil. Everyone knows he or she is responsible for their education. We are the ones who fill our minds with thoughts and ideas. We are responsible for our training which allows us to earn money, work, and invest in profitable strategies to make a living, own a home, and purchase things. I am responsible for my relationships: family and friends. We all have an opportunity to make friends, fall in love, marry, and have a family or merely live together without the commandments, commitments or be in God's covenant.

God gave us free will and what we make our own, what is important to us; we usually become good stewards of it, for we take personal responsibility for those things we own.

However, we can be deceived easily and misuse our bodies, intellect, and relationships for selfishness, greed and lust. That is why stewardship is not merely about money, but rather it deals with life itself. I am personally responsible for my life, but God empowers me to develop my life wisely. He gives me free will to determine how I will use my time which is the greatest asset of my life for we all know our time is limited. How we invest our time will decide how we advance our talents and treasures. We are not the owners of them; these are gifts given to us either to use for our own personal glorification or to use them for the betterment of others. We determine the outcome of our lives by deciding how we will use the time, talents, and treasure God has given us.

Successful stewardship does not come from *doing*, but comes from *being* – *being in relationship with God*. Good stewardship means being in love with God and His ways, more than being in love with our human ways. God offers us guidelines to be personally responsible not to Him but to our self. He made us and He counsels us so that we can be faithful stewards. He teaches and encourages us to use our earthly resources to achieve and obtain an abundant life here and eternal life there with Him.

Stewardship makes us accountable for the resources, but God enforces the consequences of our choices. He offers us the goal of a happy, healthy, and holy life in Heaven, if we use wisely the things of earth in order to develop not only ourselves, but also others who need us. In other words, God demands we live in right relationship with Him and others out of love. He gives us the freedom to choose to remain or reject these loving relationships.

Good stewardship begins with recognizing God's love for us. God chose to love us out of His goodness and, in turn, we are asked to love Him in return for His gift of love. Deep in love with Him, we, as the good steward, learn to give of ourselves to our relationships by using our time, talent, and treasure, not out of obligation and duty, but out of sincere desire to please God, others, and ourselves.

Within our very nature, we have the inherent need to give. We long to respond to God's love and give back to Him and others who have loved us. Since God loves us, we want to return that love to Him in appreciation for the many gifts and blessings He has given us. This is the first step in being a loving steward, for if we do not know God on a personal and intimate level, we will never appreciate His love for us; and if we do not appreciate His love for us, we will not appreciate the things He does for us.

Once we appreciate God in our lives, love transforms us to be faithful. Stewardship creates an appreciation not only of the blessings of God, but also a passion for pleasing God with those blessings. This desire to please God in all things creates a thirst for knowledge of God and His ways.

To develop a healthy intimate relationship with God, we have to learn, earn, and live our faith, not on an external duty, but through an internal desire, that touches our heart and soul with the heart and soul of God. For faith to be alive, we have to know God, encounter God face to face, and finally embrace God's gift of love. We have to trust God with our cares and concerns. That is, we have to relate to God as His children, and allow God to teach and correct us so that we become and remain His faithful children.

Once we connect with God and chemistry bonds us to Him, we pray. Good stewardship requires prayer, because prayer gives us the strength to correct our failures and faults. Prayer is an intimate exchange of hearts and minds between God and us. Here, we exchange our prideful hearts and ask the Lord to give us a heart that is meek and humble like His own.

A deep prayer life is very difficult to have when we have so many distractions and doubts. To have a healthy prayer life, we have to remove the distractions and doubts by focusing upon our relationship with God, and continually renew it through new experiences and encounters: Reading Scripture, Journaling our Thoughts, Receiving the Sacraments Worthily, and reflecting upon God as Our Father. Being with Him in a personal relationship endears us to Him – not just doing things for Him.

Prayer removes the doubts, for we come to understand God's deep love and commitment to us in our intimate conversations with Him, and we replace the material wants and needs with spiritual desires and dreams. We transcend the worldly life to encounter the divine life of God. Prayer then becomes the link and chain into the mysterious life of God.

To be a servant of others, we realize our reward is not in getting from God, but the very joy of joining our self to Him for we share back to Him of what He has given us. In this wonderful exchange in which we learn to overcome our self-service attitude, we become free to serve selflessly the needs of others. This service frees us from self-doubt and fills us with self-worth, which, in turn, empowers us to live freely in love with God and neighbor. The wise steward loves God and neighbor.

**As good stewards we act. We do not rebel against His Will, but choose to follow it above our own, for we know His Will is wiser than ours. This is pro-action, not reaction. Many react to God negatively because He challenges us to expand, extend, and advance ourselves into His service. As God came to serve us through His Son, Jesus, we now are asked to serve others as His Son served us. We are not afraid to serve others for we have a perfect love of God.**

## **Commitment Sunday**

St. Joseph Parish is looking for people to become stewards of their parish. the following list are areas where volunteers are needed. Please pray and consider using your time, talent, and treasure:

### **Prayer partners**

- for Religious Ed. Students and Teachers

### **Cleaning Committee:**

- Clean the church, hall, and bathrooms

### **Maintenance Committee:**

- Painting, Snow Removal

### **Social Committee:** Pancake Breakfast

- Coffee and Rolls, Parents Nite Out; Family Fun Nite, Movie Nite, Welcome Committee,

### **Liturgical Ministries:**

- Music, Lector, Eucharistic Minister, Daily Mass Attendees

### **Religious Ed.:**

- Teachers, Music, Prayer Partners

### **Service Committee:**

- Meals for NEST, Food Pantry, Thrift Store
- 

### **Parish Council Members**

Please consider becoming an active member in our Parish Family so we can grow our parish and become

**Alive in our Faith**