

**St. Joseph Catholic Church**  
**Nome, AK 99762**  
**Pastor: Rev. Tom Kuffel**  
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**Parish: 907-443-5527; Cell: 907-434-6117**  
**26<sup>th</sup> Sunday Year C 9.25.2016**

	St. Joseph	St Francis	St. Anne
Sunday	\$617.20	\$149.00	\$0.00



**Wealthy People in God's eyes have 5 practices:**

1. They have plans for the future: their plans become realities.
2. They are full of gratitude: they see the blessings in their life.
3. Money does not control their lives: they control their money.
4. The only debt they owe is love: they don't live on cheap credit
5. They give even from their need. they don't seek selfish wants

**Motivation is a choice; you motivate yourself. Do You?**

**Complacent Christianity**

In this world, the rich and powerful make a name for themselves ([Genesis 11:4](#)) and dine sumptuously, while the poor remain anonymous. God, however, invites them to the feast as we read about Jesus inviting the poor and lame and homeless to the feast. The sadness is that even when invited some of the poor refuse the invitation and many rich are too busy – to complacent.

Scripture reveals that the rich and powerful are visited with woe and exile—not for their wealth but for their refusal to share it; not for their power but for their indifference to the suffering at their door.

Complacency is a great sin. People become complacent within their circumstances and stay stuck in their habits and choices. As Scripture reminds us that even dogs return to their own vomit; so do people. They wallow in their habits, especially bad habits. We fear change. We like comfort. God, however, never lets us stay comfortable; He challenges us especially when we are stuck in our sin. He exposes our personal poverty, prostitution, and pollution so that we never remain complacent!

The rich, as Amos reveals in the first reading, feast on fine foods and wines, ivory beds, and enchanting music while the house of Joseph, that is the kingdom of Israel collapses.

So too, the rich man lives like a king—dressed in royal purple linen The rich man in the Gospel symbolizes the corruption of Israel which had not changed much from the time of Amos. They failed to keep the Covenant, to heed the commandments of Moses. The prophets warned them, but they did not listen, nor will they listen to Jesus. Desolation and destruction followed.

This is the recurring sin. God favored the Jewish Nation first. They claim Abraham as their father, but because of their failure to follow the faith of Abraham and lead, serve the people especially the poor and not themselves, they lost everything: their earthly temple and heavenly kingdom.

In the Amos' time (722BC), the Jews were conquered and their temple destroyed (587BC); so too with Jesus coming, He forewarns that the temple will be destroyed as it was in 70 AD and their Jewish homeland will be forsaken as it was until 1947. The destruction of the temple is only a reflection of what happens to our soul. The rich man is punished with an exile far greater—eternity with a "great chasm" fixed between himself and God. It is the prophecy that happens to anyone who become complacent and rejects Jesus – even on little matters –read (Lk 16: 1 – 13).

Wealth is not the issue; in fact, we are all wealthy with time and talent. Each person receives the same amount of time each day, but how you use that time makes the difference between those who mature and grow in faith and those who complain and become complacent.

Each person receives talents. Some talents remain hidden and unused because a person does not take the time to develop them. Others developed their talents in which we mature and since we are in our "zone" we thrive. When we stay within our talents, we grow easily for we have those skills and gifts. When we fight and try to become someone we are not, to develop talents we do not have, to force growth into areas that are not our

expertise, we may learn them, but we will never be at home in them.

The problem today is not time, nor talent, but the treasure or reward that I want. Everyone wants to become successful; I want to become wealthy, but wealth is not merely money, becoming rich does not mean money. Wealth is maturing in my talents sacrificing my time to develop those talents that God has given me. Maturity uses and shares those talents with others so they become better. It is not for a lack of talent or time, but it is the selfishness that people have that causes so much poverty. Remember God freely gives us those talents and the time and we are to freely give them away.

Christians are to have a different outlook. We share their time, talent, and treasure knowing that helping others become better; that is holy, is the core of the Gospel. Using our time, talent, and treasure for the betterment of others has the reverse effect; it makes us better! We become just; that is we give what is due to others from our very self.

"The Lord loves the just," we sing in today's Psalm. Liturgy is a call to repentance—to heed the warning of Jesus raised from the dead: To lay hold of eternal life – not earthly life. We must pursue righteousness and keep the commandment of love: Listen:

**I charge you before God, who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus, who gave testimony under Pontius Pilate for the noble confession, to keep the commandment without stain or reproach (1 Tim 6:13).**

The Eucharist gives us a foretaste of our heavenly treasure. He will raise us up who are lowly to the heavenly banquet with Abraham and the prophets ([Lk 13:28](#)), where we too will rest our heads on the bosom of our Lord ([John 13:23](#)) if we like Lazarus cling to our Heavenly Father.

**Announcements**

Fr. Nelson past away Tuesday afternoon (9.20.16) in his bedroom at the Kobuk Center. Funeral arrangements are: Oct 1 in Fairbanks.

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

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

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**Oct 2:** Religious Ed 11:30 – 2:30 PM.

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**Oct 2 Youth Group** 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

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

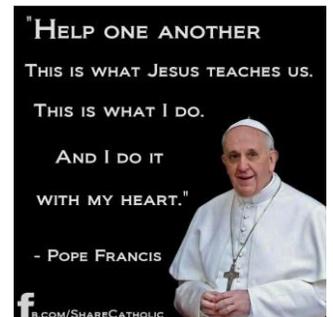
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**Oct 9 Family Fun Day** at the Rec Center 12: 2 PM. All are welcome all are asked to invite guests.  
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**Poverty is a scandal!  
 It is an image of hell!  
 In a world with much wealth, why do we live without**

**Charity for the poor,  
 Care for the dying,  
 Instruction for the ignorant,**

**Homes for the homeless  
 Love for the lonely?**

What we do unto others,  
 We do to ourselves!



Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen

## Weekly Schedule:

Date	MassTime	Place	Feast Day	Lector/Minister	Intention	Activity
Mon Sep 26	5:30 PM	Nome			Tony Kempfe	Symbolon 7:00 PM
Tue Sep 27	5:30 PM	Nome			Kuffel Family	6:00 PM Bible Study
Wed Sept 28	5:30 PM	Nome			Fr. Nelson	6:00 PM Rosary
Thur Sep 29	12:15	Nome			M. Shanahan	
Fri Sep 30	8:00 AM	Nome			Non-Practicing	
Sat Oct 1	5:30 PM	Nome	27 <sup>th</sup> Sunday		Knom Radio	
Sun Sept 25	10:30 AM	Nome	27 <sup>th</sup> Sunday		St. Joseph Parish	
Sun Sept 25	4:00 PM	Teller	27 <sup>th</sup> Sunday		St. Ann Parish	

**But you, man of God, pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness. Compete well for the faith. Lay hold of eternal life, to which you were called**

**Dress Up !! The best way to dress up is to put on a smile.**  
A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.  
"The Lord does not look at the things man looks at.  
Man looks at appearances; the Lord looks at the heart."

### What is Hell? Twenty-Sixth Sunday (Year C 2001)

Hell is empty. Not that we know for certain anyone is there, but the essence of hell is emptiness. We are drained physically, psychologically, personally and spiritually in hell. We have nothing but an unquenchable thirst for some fulfillment in our emptiness. The Rich Man had his fill on earth was now empty in hell, Lazarus who starved on earth now had his fill in heaven.

*"When the poor man died, he was carried away. The rich man also died and was buried, and from the netherworld, where he was in torment, he raised his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. he cried out, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am suffering torment in these flames'"* (Luke 16: 22).

If there was a bridge to cross over, would the rich take it? Would he, would you, have enough faith to abandon everything and trust your life, your most precious possessions with Jesus? As we know most today categorically reject this type of trust. Do you?

Emptiness is the element that people fear the most; and the degree to which we feel empty, we feel hell. Jesus comes to fill our lives, but to be fulfilled, we need to feel the thirst and hunger for heaven. We need more than our physical and material desires met. The spiritual side of our being is the most profound and it needs fulfillment.

Love fills our greatest longings for we were made to love. Our lives are senseless without love. Only God completely fills us for only God is the true source of love. If God is not the source of our love, our love is a perversion. God's love is different. He enters into us and we know He is constantly present within purifying our hearts from lust, greed, and the like. In his love, we are full of life – divine life. Without God, our lives are without love. They are empty that is hell. With God, our lives are full and complete with divine love that is heaven. Yet, for those who reject God, as the Rich Man did, he filled his life with earthly treasures and became complacent.

He could not share himself with others. Therefore, God could not share Himself with him; nor allow him into his presence. He rejected God's love and chose not to be in God's presence. Unless we place ourselves in God presence on earth daily, love God above all things – our neighbor as ourselves – we will not want to be in God's presence in heaven. We will literally suffocate.

We choose. Either we live in heaven here and not have God's love and presence. Or we choose heaven and seek God's love and presence by love even loving the unlovable here on earth. Hell, then, is the consequence of our actions and ultimately an act of God's justice, power, wisdom, and most importantly his love. He offers us a choice between an eternal and divine life with Him; or a finite limited, and hellish life with ourselves.

We need to hunger for peace which only Jesus can give (Jn 14:27). We need to experience the drama of life and move beyond our fears and emotional reactions into harmony not just with Jesus, but with our neighbor as our self (Jn 17.21). Finally, we realize that we were made to be divine. "The end of the gospel is, to render us eventually conformable to God, and, if we may so speak, to deify us" (John Calvin). The "deification" that God gives to us, so well-known by earlier Christians is unfortunately forgotten today. It is the primary purpose of the Christian life. We are to become divine: we become the image and likeness of Jesus. (Gal 2:20).

### Why Hell?

Someone who breaks the law must be punished and removed from society for protection of others and themselves; hell is the place where those who reject God on earth go. God does not condemn them, just as the law does not condemn a person to prison. Their actions do! If a person rejects God's law, he chooses not to obey his commandment of love as the Rich Man did. God allows a person to suffer the consequences of his own choice. This is not mean-spirited, but it is the just rewards for their actions.

Justice means we give the person their rightful due. We owe others respect, reputation, and reverence. How much more so are we called to award God our admiration and appreciation? If we fail to honor those on earth and become selfish and self-centered, like the Rich Man, then how can divine justice allow anyone to enter into heaven with all those who honored God and others? Only those who are just can be allowed into the presence of divine justice because a person deserves what is his due.

God's power creates and offers us opportunities to improve our lives. His power does not diminish us when we empower ourselves with his presence and love. His power is revealed when we live by his power. The tyrants of the world fear others being empowered. Despots demand submission and domination. They cannot afford a person to think and choose for themselves since they may reject his authority. Today many live as despots, even Christians. They stay stuck in their old ways!

God can afford rejection. He does not fear the injustices that people cause for He respects a person's free will. Only a dictator will remove the free will that a person has. God, however, offers us free will and empowers us with his presence that we may treat others with dignity. We are odds with his power trying to usurp his will and live according to our own will. This is hell: a permanent power struggle between our freewill and God's power.

Hell is God's wisdom revealed. Wisdom is delectable knowledge. It pleases the person. Natural wisdom searches for the earthly experiences, which give us a certain, sweet knowledge of our world. Divine wisdom searches for the sublime and the spiritual. This wisdom looks for the divine beauty, truth, oneness, and goodness of God and sees them in this world. In essence, divine wisdom looks beyond the created and searches for the Creator, while earthly wisdom looks only for the created.

What is our final goal. What we seek, we will find. If we only search for a human created end, then divine Wisdom, Jesus Christ, allows us to reach this finite goal. This is hell: a place devoid of God and his uncreated beauty, truth, oneness and goodness. If we choose creation over the Creator, then hell is the natural result. We live forever without God, because we did not want God in our lives to begin with. Hell, then, is the result of our choosing -- not God's choice, for God does not force us to obey Him. Rather, He invites us to experience his life as He promised us. This is a life of eternal love!

Hell is the result of God's love. Unlike many modern attitudes which enable and entitle us to remain within our vices, God loves us too much. He empowers us to break free from vice and become virtuous. Not only did He teach us what is right through words, but also by his deeds. He sacrificed Himself out of love so we could have what was promised at the beginning. He became man, so we could become gods. His incarnation was our invitation to divinization.

## **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**