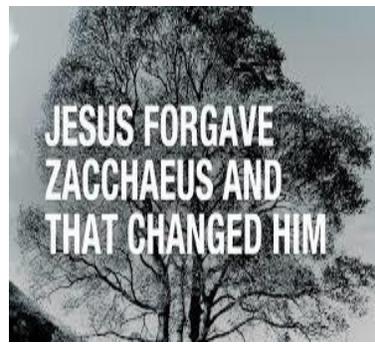


St. Joseph Catholic Church
Nome, AK 99762
Pastor: Rev. Tom Kuffel
Email: tkuffel@cbna.org
Parish: 907-443-5527; Cell: 907-434-6117
31st Sunday Year C 10.30.2016

	St. Joseph	St Francis	St. Anne
Sunday	\$490.00	\$	\$0.00

**You have mercy on all,
 Because you can do all things;
 You overlook people's sins
 That they may repent.**



Work vs Worship?

Most employees think of work as a chore. It's just another thing that *has* to get done. But work according to God is worship. We were always meant to work. Need proof? *"God blessed them and God said to them: Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it.* Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that crawl on the earth"* (Gen 1:28)

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work and care for it. God commanded, *"You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."* Then Lord God said, *"It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."*

Most readers of Genesis focus on the command not to eat from the tree of knowledge. But did you catch the first and last sentences? God placed Adam in the Garden to work and care for it. Then, He created Eve to help him. She is a helpmate to Adam who is to help her. Adam and Eve co-workers equal in dignity but their work chores are different.

God intended for us to work! That means what we do for a living matters. Yes, our jobs provide a paycheck so we can take care of our families, but our work is so much more.

Work fulfills our God-given calling to be fruitful and multiply cultivating the land and using our talents and resources wisely. We all have different talents as we read with Cain and Able. Cain was a rancher; Able was a farmer. Both were to worship God through their work, but Cain worked for himself. Able worked – worshipped – God. Cain killed able because of his greed. Zacchaeus worked for himself – greed. Jesus restored his work to be true worship.

Our work serves ourselves and others. It's not just a routine we go through from 9 to 5 each day. It's a chance to use our gifts and live with purpose! Yet, we get caught up greed, as Cain did. We look at what we do and measure that against what others do and usually feel we don't measure up. Suddenly, we're discontent with our work and we wonder, *Does what I do matter at all?*

If we aren't careful, we start to believe our job title, salary define our self-worth, especially when we feel like other jobs are "more important" than ours. That is what Cain struggled with; that is what Zacchaeus did.

**What you do for a living doesn't count nearly
 as much as Who you do it for!**

Work is a service that provides money and meaning to our lives. But work – our service – is merely a tool.

Work is to worship God.

Who are you working for? You might be surprised. It isn't your boss, your company, or even yourself. *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving"*(Col 3:23).

Wonder why every job matters? Because we aren't working for humans—we're working to honor our Creator.

So at the end of the day, it doesn't matter if you're a school teacher, a barista, or a stay-at-home parent. You can be a firefighter, a corporate CEO, or a cashier. As long as you're doing your job with an attitude of worship—seeing it as a chance to honor the Lord through your actions—you're on the right track.

Christ died for us freely; it had nothing to do with your work, earning his respect. *"But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved"*(Eph 2)

We forget to worship, so we exhaust ourselves trying to earn His love. We are to worship God through our work and Sunday Worship is the source and core of our work for work is not merely to provide a service but to worship God.

Daily prayer strengthens our worship and there is no greater prayer than Daily Mass!

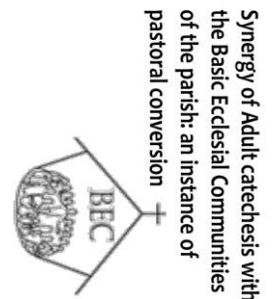
- Announcements**
 Oct 30th **Holy Hour** from 12 to 1:00 PM to pray.
 Nov 2 6:00 PM Parish Council Meeting
 Nov 6: Religious Ed 11:30 – 2:30 PM.
 Nov 6 Youth Group 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
 Nov 7 – 12 Fr. Tom in Anchorage for installation.
 Nov 10 2:00 PM Meeting with Croft Architect in Anchorage to discuss plans for church building.
 Nov 12 – 16 Fr. Tom In Kotz
 Nov 14 Kotz Parish Council
 Nov 15 KIC Meeting Kotz.

Financial needs:

During the past two months we have had some major expenditures:

1. Fixing the Shed (\$1500)
2. Truck repairs (\$1500)
3. Teller fixing the electrical meter (\$2000).
4. Painting and updating the rectory (\$1800).

As we try to help cover these expenses we are now taking money from our savings. Are you able to help the parish with these expenses?



**You rebuke offenders
 little by little, warn them
 and remind them of the
 sins they commit,
 that they may abandon
 their wickedness and
 believe in you, O LORD!**



**Synergy is the combination of each person sharing his or her time, talent, and treasure to help each other grow.
 Are you synergistic?
 Are you helping our parish grow?**

Winter Projects:

Can anyone help with these projects (Needed: scaffolding and TSP Cleaner)

1. *Paint Hall: Walls need to be cleaned with TSP, all furniture removed from area.*
2. *Clean and Paint the kitchen and maintenance closet.*

Weekly Schedule:

Date	MassTime	Place	Feast Day	Lector/Minister	Intention	Activity
Mon Oct 31	5:30 PM		Hallow Eve		George Family	Adult Ed Symbolon
Tue Nov 1	5:30 PM		All Saints		A. Martinez	6:00 PM Bible Study
Wed Nov 2	5:30 PM		All Souls		A. Martinez	Parish Council
Thur Nov 3	5:30 PM		Martin Porrs		A. Martinez	
Fri Nov 4	8:00 AM		Charles B.		KNOM Donors	
Sat Nov 5	5:30 PM	Nome	31 st Sunday		A. Martinez	
Sun Nov 6	10:30 AM	Nome	31 st Sunday		St. Joseph Parish	Religious Ed

God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him
might have eternal life.

“Behold, half of my possessions, Lord,
I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted
anything from anyone I shall repay it four.”

Evaluate

An unexamined life is not worth living! Only those who examine, that is evaluate, their lives find life worth living. But why do a majority of people refuse to examine and evaluate their lives?

Fear! To evaluate your life, a person has to face their fears. They have failed; their efforts are futile; they have flopped and stopped growing, maturing, and evolving, but have only aged gracelessly. Psychologists call this neurotic guilt.

Guilt is a strong word that either convicts us to grow and mature; or imprisons us in our sinfulness and judgmentalism. Neurotic guilt reacts rather than responds. It blames, impairs, shames, blames, and accuses with vengeful anger. The target of this guilt of course is oneself which of course is transferred on onto others in the various forms of abuse and violence.

Godly guilt responds; it does not react. I convict myself of weaknesses, failures, and faults, but instead of becoming neurotic and despotic, I move forward looking for healing and growth. Instead of failing backwards, I fail forwards knowing I can do better. I do not condemn myself; nor do I think God condemned me, but I find consolation that the grace of God heals me.

Zacchaeus, filled with guilt, wanted healing of his greed and covetousness. He looked within himself; he evaluated himself and found how short his was – not just in stature, but in goodness and grace. He was filled with dishonesty, duplicity, and trickery. He was a pawn of the Roman’s and of his own desire to make himself big – important. To be significant, Zacchaeus made himself rich at the cost of stealing from others, but his greed did not satisfy his desire to be big. It left him empty for he felt his guilt accuse himself of his littleness.

Sin is a result of our desire. Sin is a result of our guilt. We desire goodness, truth, beauty, justice, communion, peace, and ultimately holiness; but Satan distorts our desires and tricks us believing that to be whole, to be satisfied with life, we alone can satisfy our desires – especially not God or his grace. We close ourselves off from God’s grace and seek only this world’s favor.

Human desire seeks pride instead of humility. It becomes envious instead of kind. It becomes wrathful instead of patient. Our desire for bravery makes us slothful for we lack courage. Greed replaces trust, charity, and generosity. We become gluttons seeking our comforts instead bodily strength. We lust instead of seeking sobriety and chastity.

Human desire is the root of all sin and human desire is the root of all holiness. Our desires are not evil; it is how we feed those desires. Do we feed them with a selfishness that is self-righteous demanding it is our right and privilege to indulge any and every desire? Or do we control them; reigning in their power and potency that pull us forward out of our neurotic guilt?

Zacchaeus satisfied his human desire for acceptance, significance, and substance through greed trusting in money not in God. Jesus confronted him. Jesus exposed his greed and pride revealing to him his importance was not because he was wealthy, but he was a Son of Abraham – a child of the Father. Jesus revealed his inherit “bigness” just by asking to dine with him.

Jesus does the same with us. He confronts our desires and asks if they are true. In satisfying our desires does that make us whole, complete and meaningful? In other words, do we

satisfy our desires mindlessly. Ask these questions:

- Do I live a grateful and thankful life or a prideful life?
- Do I see my divine dignity or am I envious of another’s good?
- Do I create peace and justice instead of war and anger?
- Do I trust in God – not in money?
- Am I bold and brave or cowardly and slothful?
- Do I watch what I eat and drink?
- Am I lustful or am I faithful to my friends and family?

The root of sin is not merely our corrupted desires, but our unwillingness to change and direct those very same desires. Desires are God’s gift. Satan deceives us by distorting our desires and then he imprisons us in those same corrupt desires through shame, guilt, blame and a host of other emotional problems.

Desires create emotions and Satan creates conflicts between our emotions and our desires trapping us into a sickening self-pity. I am worthless. I am broken. My life becomes pointless and futile for whatever effort I put forth to change my life only deepens my corrupted desires.

Satan uses these two deceptions to ground us down and roots us in a useless and fruitless lifestyle. But that is exactly what Jesus comes to expose. We are not useless. Our life is not fruitless. We are Sons and Daughters of Abraham.

“Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost” (Lk 19:10)

Jesus teaches us that we are not lost; we are found. We are not pawns of our desires and our guilt. We are Sons and Daughters of Our Heavenly Father Who sent his Son, Jesus, into the world to restore what was broken, to seek what was lost, heal was injured.

What is the cost of our healing?

What is the cost of me being found?

What does it cost me to be restored?

Look at the exchange between Jesus and Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus merely wanted to see the spectacle. He wanted to observe whereas Jesus sought out Zacchaeus. He wanted to dine at his house. He invited Himself into Zacchaeus’ life. Jesus does the same for you and for me.

Each day He invites Himself into our lives. Each day is an opportunity for us to see Jesus work grace into our lives so that we no longer live corrupted by our desires and imprisoned by our guilt; but saved by Him Who came not to condemn, but to wash us clean. He gives us Himself in the Eucharist which heals and frees us from our sins. Do we realize this? The Mass is the meal that Jesus invites us too. Why do we not open the door and come in?

The human conscience fights between good and evil. A person wrestles within their minds if they are good or bad. How pathetic!

God creates us Good: In his image we are made and made good - very good! Instead of concentrating on my sinfulness and uncontrollable desires which create shame, I focus on my relationship with Jesus and evaluate my life daily so that I do not succumb to the tricks and tactics of Satan who distorts my desires and imprisons me in ir-repentance. That I can laugh at my own humanness, confess my faults, and enjoy the presence of Jesus who is teaching me how to live united to Him restored by his everlasting grace and love.