



**St. Joseph Catholic Church**  
**POB 1010**  
**Nome, AK 99762-1010**  
**Pastor: Rev. Tom Kuffel**  
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**Parish: 907-443-5527; Cell 907-434-6117**  
**Second Sunday Ordinary Time 1.15.2017**

**Announcements**

Jan 18 Wed at 2:00 PM  
 Martina Woods Funeral  
 Fr. Kuffel will be on  
 retreat/vacation Jan 29  
 – Feb 11. Call Cell  
 phone if you need to  
 contact him.

Fredrick our seminarian  
 from Norway may visit  
 during the month of Feb  
 coming Feb 3 and  
 leaving Feb 27.

Feb 5<sup>th</sup> Religious Ed  
 11:30 – 2:30 PM.

Fr. Kuffel will be in  
 Kotz Feb 16 – 23 for  
 meetings with the  
 architects for the  
 building project.  
 Please pray for this!

The next day John  
 saw Jesus coming  
 toward him. John  
 said, "Look, the  
 Lamb of God." He  
 takes away the  
 sins of the world!  
 John 1:29

**Here am I, Lord;  
 I come to do  
 Your will.**



The Word of God  
 became flesh and  
 dwelt among us.  
 To those who  
 accepted him,  
 he gave power to  
 become children of  
 God.  
 Are you a child of  
 the Lamb?

The U.S. bishops annual  
 novena 9 Days for Life  
 Sat, Jan 21 –29. Pray  
 for the respect and  
 protection of all human  
 life with new intentions,  
 brief reflections, and  
 more each day.  
[www.9daysforlife.com](http://www.9daysforlife.com)

	St. Joseph	St Francis	St. Anne
Sunday	\$507.00	\$	\$0.00
Fuel Bill	\$657.00	\$0.00	



If you are wondering why I keep commenting on goals, it's simple - **95% or more of you who are reading this have not written down your goals.** That is a shame, because the 5% who have written goals will have more satisfaction in their life, partly because goal-setters make twice as much more money as those who don't set goals. Give yourself a raise and **Set Some Goals!**

**True Stewardship!**

It's a new year and persons are filled with all sorts of possibilities.

Dreams create visions and visions create possibilities, but goals give life to your dreams.

The goal of stewardship is servanthood. That does not mean being subservient. Servanthood is a gift of yourself because you choose to give of yourself.

Marriage is the greatest gift of a man to a woman and vice versa. Martyrdom is the greatest gift of one's life for one's faith.

Stewardship is a gift of your total self to your beliefs. You give of yourself because you want to give.

The most powerful reason why a person gives to another is one received a gift first.

Unless you realize that you received the greatest gift of all, Jesus the Lamb of God, Who takes away your sin, you will not be a true steward and willingly give from what has been given to you.

A true steward realizes it is more than just giving money to a collection. Stewardship is gratitude overflowing knowing you add to a person's life by giving through grateful words, deeds, or friendships because Jesus added to your life.

He came to do the will of his Father which was to free humanity – not from pain, suffering, and death – but to give a person a reason to embrace whatever pains, struggles or wounds she may endure.

Suffering without a cause is the greatest pain of all; but when one has a reason to endure the sufferings of life, when one has a greater love than the suffering; then you are a true steward.

Jesus had greater love than his death, for He is the sacrificial lamb wanting to free you from your sin which causes your death. Your stewardship is your love for Him asking forgiveness of your sins.

**Know Your Faith: Who is God?**

Many people reject God. They reject organized religion. They want to be spiritual, they want to be inspired. They don't want someone telling them how to or what to believe. They want to choose their God.

Who is God then? When people declare they don't believe in God, you have to ask that person what god do you not believe in? It is more correct to say they do not believe in the gods portrayed by the different faith groups and even the different believers.

According to the Word of God – Jesus, God is love. Ask a non-believer if they do not believe in love? Everyone believes in love of some sort; today that love is narcissistic. Everyone loves themselves and tries to satisfy that deep longing for love.

God is not just love, He is a Bridegroom. *"For as a young man marries a virgin, so your sons will marry you; And as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so your God will rejoice over you"* (Is 62.5).

Jesus reveals Himself as a lover who wants to unite Himself with his bride that is his people who believe in Him and call Him their Lord (I Cor 1:3). If we are going to believe in God or reject Him, we need to know Him as He reveals Himself – not as someone explains or interprets God. God is Jesus Who loves us with his life.

Jesus wants to unite Himself to you, but do you want to be united to Him? Too many people today are frustrated and irritated by love for it leaves them unfulfilled. Love empties them. They feel undignified and disrespected because so many have experienced lust – not love.

Lust is use. We use another person for our pleasure. In so doing, a lustful person is trying to satisfy her deepest longing for intimacy and union with flirtation and infatuation. It is a fleeting obsession and there is no faithfulness. Love is a total free, faithful, and fruitful gift of oneself to another without conditions or expectations. That is Divine Love. That is God!

When we recite, I believe in God, we declare that God is love and loves us freely, faithfully, and fruitfully no matter how we respond to His gift of love.

Most people who declare they do not believe in God merely do not know Jesus' love as Bridegroom calling for his bride for that is how Scripture reveals God and that is what Jesus did on the Cross as the sacrificial lamb who takes away your sin. !

## Weekly Schedule:

Date	Mass Time	Place	Feast Day	Lector/Minister	Intention	Activity
Mon Jan 16	5:30 PM	Nome	Luther King		Lisa Svoboda	
Tue Jan 17	5:30 PM	Nome	St. Anthony		Poor Souls	
Wed Jan 18	5:30 PM	Nome			Chris Toupat	Rosary
Thu Jan 19	5:30 PM	Nome			Leonard Renner	Bible Study
Fri Jan 20	8:30 PM	Nome	St. Fabian		Mary Renner	
Sat Jan 21	5:30 PM	Nome	Ordinary Time		Lonnie Mostek	
Sun Jan 22	10:30 AM	Nome	Ordinary Time		St. Ann	

**Father, where your Son is born, hope is born.  
 For He brings hope.  
 Where Jesus is born in the hearts of man,  
 Peace is born.  
 Where peace is born,  
 There is no longer room for hatred and for war.**

**He alone, he alone can save us.  
 Only God's mercy can free humanity from the many forms of evil,  
 At times monstrous evil,  
 Which selfishness spawns in our midst!  
 The grace of God can convert hearts and offer mankind a way out  
 Of humanly insoluble situations.  
 Pope Francis**

### **Called to Holiness**

The central thought, the most important phrase of all of Scripture just might be:

*"to you who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be holy, with all those everywhere who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Cor 1:2)*

Well, what's so important about that, you might ask. Read it out loud again: *"you who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus"*

To be honest, that vision escapes me as I stand here before you. I don't feel particularly holy, and while I am in fact an ordained priest, I don't experience myself as having been made a saint, as having been sanctified in Christ Jesus. Yet, every year we hear this passage, declaring that we are sanctified. Do you feel sanctified? Do you feel holy? Do you experience the power and glory of heaven each new day?

St. Paul declares that you are among the sanctified. How is it that we are sanctified when each of us feels the shame and wounds of our own sins? How is it that we are sanctified when we face the evils and miseries of others in our world?

**Harden not your hearts and call upon your Lord and we will be saved!**

Humility is the means to holiness. It does not mean we are absolutely free from sin, but that we trust in Jesus Our Lord who will free us from our sins.

Sin is not the obstacle by which we feel rejected. Jesus knows we are sinners. He knows we are broken and wounded. He does not condemn us because we sin. But He cannot heal us if we do not humble ourselves. If we don't admit we are a sinner!

Pride is the real obstacle. Pride states, I will not! I will not admit my sin, my weakness, my hurt, my pain, my brokenness. Pride isolates us from others, especially from the love of others, and builds walls of hate, anger, envy, and bitterness so that we condemn others only to realize I have condemned myself from the love of others, especially God's love which brings peace, freedom, and healing to my brokenness.

Pride, not sin, ultimately breaks us from being fulfilled and sanctified. Pride refuses to admit that I need healing. Pride is to live in denial for I see others are inferior and are only objects to be used for my gain, my betterment. That is why the sister to pride is bitterness. Listen to Greg Popcak when he explains the root of pride:

Because pride tells us that we have nothing to learn from life, we fail to develop the virtues that help us deal with both the ups and downs of life as the gift they truly are. As a result, rather than experiencing the abundance God wants to teach us to experience, we are forced to settle for less. When we live without meaningfulness, intimacy, and virtue our lives become smaller and smaller; and as our choices close in on us, we push people away and our attempts at self-comforting fail us. (Broken Gods; p. 60)

Pride tells us to use other people and to make myself perfectly happy doing what I want without thinking of the consequences or my actions nor how I may hurt, offend and wound others.

Humility is the antidote for pride: the antidote for sin. Humility opens my heart to the healing grace that sanctifies me!

### **Pope Francis**

When Jesus had received baptism from John in the River Jordan, *"the heavens were opened"* to him (Mt 3:16). This fulfills the prophecies *"O that thou wouldst rend the heavens and come down"* (Is 64:1). If the heavens remain closed, our horizon in this earthly life is dark and without hope. Instead, in receiving Baptism, faith is given to us with the certainty that the heavens have been opened to us.

Reflecting on Christ baptism, we continue to contemplate the heavens opened. The manifestation of the Son of God on earth marks the beginning of the great time of mercy, because sin had closed the heavens, raising a barrier between humanity and our Creator.

With the birth of Jesus the heavens open! God, the Father, gives us his Son as the guarantee of an indestructible love. From the moment the Word became Flesh we see the open heavens and we are freed from our sin for He is the Lamb of God who takes away sin.

It was possible for the shepherds of Bethlehem, for the Magi of the East, for the Baptist, for Jesus' Apostles, and for St Stephen, the first martyr, who exclaimed: *"Behold, I see the heavens opened!"* (Acts 7:56).

If we allow ourselves to be suffused with God's love, which is given to us for the first time in Baptism by means of the Holy Spirit and let allow ourselves to be invaded by God's love, we will be free to love as He loved us! Heaven will be open to us. This is mercy! Do not forget it: Baptism is the gift of Mercy!

Jesus received the baptism of repentance from John the Baptist, showing solidarity with the repentant people. The Father then made his voice heard from heaven: *"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased"* (v. 17). Jesus receives approval from the Father, Who sent Him precisely that He share our condition, our sinful poverty.

Sharing is the true way to love. Jesus does not dissociate Himself from us because we sin. In fact, He considers us his brothers and sisters; and shares his Father with us and so makes us sons and daughters, together with his Father.

Does it not seem important that you and I recognize our own sinfulness and identify with Jesus to heal us and to share that healing with those afraid to confess their sinfulness? We share with each that charity to heal the hardship and suffering of a brother caused by sin!

**What flavor life acquires when we allow ourselves to be inundated by God's love!**

Let us ask the Holy Virgin to support us by her intercession in our commitment to follow Christ on the way of faith and charity, the path traced out by our Baptism in Christ.