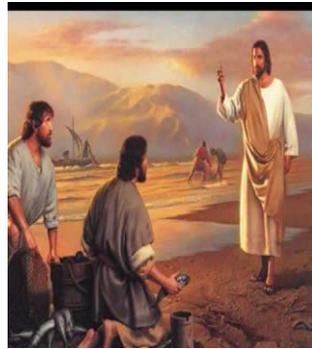




**St. Joseph Catholic Church**  
**POB 1010**  
**Nome, AK 99762-1010**  
**Pastor: Rev. Tom Kuffel**  
**Email: [tkuffel@cbna.org](mailto:tkuffel@cbna.org)**  
**Parish: 907-443-5527; Cell 907-434-6117**  
**Third Sunday Ordinary Time 1.22.2017**

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



**The best way to make your spouse and children  
 Feel secure is not with big deposits  
 In the bank account,  
 But with little deposits  
 Of thoughtfulness and affection in the "love account."  
 Relationship success supersedes financial success**

**True Stewardship!**

**What is the goal true of stewardship?  
LOVE**

Many Christians believe stewardship is to help fund a project, feed the hungry, help with the expenses of the church or evangelization. No, stewardship is more!

**What** we do as stewards is to use our time talent, and treasure to help others out of love! Matthew explains very clearly the what we are to do (Read Matt 25: 31\_ 46).

- Feed the Hungry
- Give water to the thirsty
- Cloth the naked
- Welcome the stranger
- Comfort the ill and imprisoned

But these are the actions we do – they do not tell us why we are to do them. The why is much more important than the what!

**Why** we help them is much more significant. Why do we help them?

***As often as you did any of these acts for the least of my brethren you did it to me! (Matt 25:40).***

Those who follow Jesus and are true stewards, that is true disciples, give of their time, talent, and treasure daily because if we do what Jesus commands we will be blessed by Our Father and inherit the Kingdom. We have loved others as He loved! We serve others for we see Christ in them. The why of stewardship then is love!

If we don't do these acts, if we don't reach out and help others in their struggles with life, Jesus reminds us that we are a faithless, useless steward who will be thrown out into darkness!

***Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels! (Matt 25: 41)***

If we do not follow Jesus and do what He commands, Our Father does not recognize us. That should alarm us!

Jesus calls us to follow Him, using our gifts for his glory – not ours! Our love for Him is greater than our desire for earthly gain.

**It is very clear then why we do it  
 There is a crucial consequence  
 We are loved by our Father!**

**Know Your Faith: Who is the Creator?**

Going through the Creed, it tells us we are to believe in God, Father almighty Creator of Heaven and Earth.

Obviously the First commandment then tells us that we are to love God with all our strength, soul, and heart (Dt 6:5). This commandment is twofold:

1. We are to love God, knowing that He is our Father and remove anything that might separate us from the love that the Father wants to give us.
2. Jesus tells us that if we Love God we cannot separate that love from loving our neighbor. As we love our neighbor that is how we show our love God Our Father (Matt 25:31).

Belief in God then we realize He created the universe and all that lives. What does it mean that He created?

Many today believe that creation is God Himself and that the earth and the living creatures are God Himself. This is **Pantheism**:

**Creation and all reality are identical with divinity.**

What pantheists do not believe is a personal and loving God Who is intimately involved in his creation. Also, they do not distinguish the Creator from his creation.

As Christians, we believe God and creation are separate and that He is the Designer, the Architect, of creation and He directs its history. He is involved!

As Christians we believe God is intimately involved in his creation so much, that He sent His Son into creation, Jesus became Human without losing any of his Divinity, to reveal God's plan for us. His plan is free us from the corruption in creation and perfect us in love so that we may be recreated, infused with his grace.

We believe God Himself Created All of Creation and it was good. He created Adam and Eve, Humanity, with a unique difference. Humanity, that is you and me, image God. We are created in his image and likeness.

Imaging God, we have three powers unlike any other living or created being:

- We have the power to know (truth)
- We have the power to love (choose)
- We are eternal; immortal, we do not cease to exist at our bodily death.

To believe in God as Creator is very different from what many teach today, for they do not believe God is personal, nor do they believe in an afterlife. We do!

**Announcements**

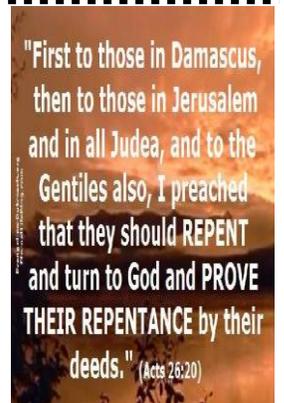
Fr. Kuffel will be on retreat/vacation Jan 29 – Feb 11. Call Cell phone if you need to contact him.

.....  
 Eskimo Choir Practice Jan 29 following the 10:30 Mass

.....  
 Fredrick our seminarian from Norway may visit during the month of Feb coming Feb 3 and leaving Feb 27. Signup sheet in back to invite him out for coffee, lunch, or dinner while I am away.

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

.....  
 Fr. Kuffel and Fredrick will be in Kotz Feb 16 – 23



**Signs of Repentance:**

- Clothe the Naked
- Feed the hungry
- Welcome strangers
- Instruct unbelievers
- Correct the wrongs
- Forgive others
- Remove temptations
- Go to Confession
- Pray Daily
- Worthy reception of the sacraments
- Trust in God's Will



**Sin is not the Problem  
 Repentance is For it asks me not just  
 To stop sinning  
 But to go in a completely new direction!  
 Be Not Afraid!**

# 5 Ways to Instill Ownership in Your Church Facility

It really is great when people take ownership of their church, they take initiative and responsibility. They take notice and treat things better. After all isn't that why we say, "Treat it like your own" if you are using or borrowing something?



## Who owns the church building?

Maybe the better question is who paid for the church building? A priest that I used to work for always loved to hear people refer to the church as "my church". So rather than say "at XXX Parish this is going on", He liked to hear people say "at my parish this is going on" For him it was affirming that parishioners had taken ownership, it showed that a person closely identified with the church.

It is absolutely important that people take ownership; when they do, they treat their parish and programs with respect and involvement so that the parish life is more like family. After all isn't that why we say, "treat it like your own" if you are using or borrowing something? Ownership is commitment, but how can you foster it? best to begin with your parish council:

### 1.) **Reminder Notes:** In a classy way give parishioners a call to action.

For example, you could put a nice looking table top in the bathroom that says, "As we all are the church, please help in keeping it clean. After you have wiped your hands please wipe down the counter." You could put similar cards in the kitchen, entrance, and coffee areas. The key is to keep it a *positive call to action*. Avoid the shaming, nagging signs like "your mother doesn't work here, clean up after yourself".

### 2.) **Example**

When I was in college I had a cool opportunity to be in a group that met with a billionaire in our town. We were walking downtown taking a tour of some of his properties. As we were walking, without missing a second of conversation, the billionaire bent down and picked up an empty cup sitting on the side walk. He then carried that cup to the next stop at one of his properties and threw it in the trash. The rest of that day -all of us college students were picking up anything that was on the ground that even resembled trash. He, the Billionaire - on many levels - set an example.

- a) He was humble, not above the task of picking up garbage.
- b) He showed he cared about what the city looked like.
- c) He took ownership of keeping HIS city clean by picking up the cup and properly disposed it

**People follow leaders. What kind of example are you as a leader setting for your parish?**

### 3.) **Proclamation**

I am not a big fan of making a lot of announcements at end of Mass, but occasionally it is good to give people a reminder of what, as a church, you think is important. Again make sure you keep it positive and simple. For example, "One of our core values is to be perfect as the Lord is. You can help us accomplish excellence in the presentation of our facility by making sure you put the miselettes in order and pick up trash in the pew. Doing this ensures that the next service can walk into a clean church just as you did this morning.

### 4.) **Stewardship**

What we value we generally make happen. If you value stewardship it would be good to remind people in your annual report about how we as a church must be a good steward of the facility that we have been given the privilege of caring for and be responsible for all the areas that make it a clean, efficient, and welcoming parish.

Following the reminder, it would be a great time to ask people to volunteer not just to vacuum and sweep the rooms, care for the exterior, paint or do anything that needs to be done to help beautify the facility, but also to help with the books, financial records, teaching, and gatherings. Invite others and come yourself to the events.

### 5.) **Call to action**

Most pastors put a call to action in their homily. Parish members should wisely include a call to ownership of the parish life. Asking parishioners to represent their church in a positive manner by living a God honoring life. It might be a call to take ownership of an area that you have a talent for: music, teaching, finance, handyman, cooking, cleaning etc. Once people take ownership, *they take responsibility*. Be an example and remind parishioners who the church is, Jesus, and who are responsible for the total care of parish life.

## Weekly Schedule:

Date	Mass Time	Place	Feast Day	Lector/Minister	Intention	Activity
Mon Jan 23	5:30 PM	Nome	Pro-Life		Poor Souls	
Tue Jan 24	5:30 PM	Nome	Francis deSales		Poor Souls	
Wed Jan 25	5:30 PM	Nome	St. Paul		Poor Souls	Rosary
Thu Jan 26	5:30 PM	Nome	Tim & Titus		Tom McGuire	Bible Study
Fri Jan 27	8:30 PM	Nome	St. Angela		Barb Barak	
Sat Jan 28	5:30 PM	Nome	Ordinary Time	Elsa Bronson	Rod Griffiths	
Sun Jan 29	10:30 AM	Nome	Ordinary Time	S. Paniataaq	St. Jude	

**Repent!**  
**The kingdom of heaven is at hand!**  
**Do not be afraid of the shame of sin**  
**Admit your sins immediately to someone**  
**who holds you accountable.**  
**Replace the temptation by seeking that**  
**which is virtuous**

You must agree in what you say,  
 So that there be no divisions among you,  
 But that you be united in one mind and in the same purpose  
 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you?  
 Were you baptized in the name of Paul?  
 The cross of Christ must not be emptied of its meaning.  
 We are united to each other through our faith in Christ taught  
 Not our own personal interpretation of what faith is!

### Forgiveness vs. Repentance!

John the Baptist declares that Jesus is the Lamb of God Who takes away our sins. Then Jesus preaches: Repentance! The Kingdom of heaven is at hand. How is it that Jesus tells us that we need to repent but John tells us Jesus forgives?

Many want forgiveness of sin without the necessary repentance that needs to take place. Many do not want to expose their shame and guilt which embarrasses them and so they stay hidden in their sin. They deny their sinfulness refusing to take responsibility for it and continue to live the in the same brokenness and woundedness. They are trapped in their sin.

Sin ultimately trusts in self. As a sinful person, I believe I can save myself with my own efforts. This is the great deception of Satan. He wants to empower me to solve my problem. He wants me to believe I can deal with this problem alone. This is denial. It is the addict's worst nightmare believing I can deal with the problem alone. I can't. I need help. I need God!

Sin is an addiction. It is a behavior that needs to be rooted out lest it grow and become a habit and not just a habit but a behavior that I enjoy. Not only do I enjoy it, I defend it claiming it is energizing and empowering. Ultimately however, sin enslaves a person and instead of taking pleasure in it, the sin takes control of a person's life and ruins it. The addict become sick of their sin, though trapped in it!

Sin is self-trust that leads to darkness, depression, demoralization, and ultimately death – not just physical death, but death to one's soul. However, many people today are taught that sin does not exist; sin has no consequences; that sin is my right to do as I please with my life. But these are all lies.

Sin is a lie. It deceives me thinking that I am doing good because I determine what is good or bad; what is evil or moral. It ultimately denies the very existence of God, his law, and allows me to do as I please. Look where this leads:

- Sin leads me into darkness where there is no escape – hell which begins here and ends in damnation!
- Sin leads me to rebel against God's Law of Love and against my Father!
- Sin leads me to be less than what I am supposed to be: dignified in God's grace.
- Sin is the deception of Satan who deceives me thinking this action or behavior is good, but I fail to see the consequences which leave me broken, wounded, empty, and disgraced.
- Sin leads me to emptiness and ultimately eternal death!

Jesus comes preaching repentance – not condemnation. Jesus does not condemn us for sin. In fact Jesus does not condemn us at all. He offers us grace which is the gift that heals us of our sin. He restores us to life by giving us his Spirit restoring our divine dignity. We condemn ourselves by not asking for forgiveness.

Repentance is more than just asking for forgiveness; it is recognizing my dignity as a person and honors that dignity though a change – conversion – of heart. No longer do I deny my divine dignity but ask for the grace to experience his unconditional love. That is repentance: to experience God's love for you!

Many, however, believe they are unworthy to receive such a grace that restores us to our full dignity and so refuse to ask for healing; that is false shame.

Yes, when we sin we ought to feel guilty and shameful for it is something I am responsible for. False guilt is either I am not responsible for what went wrong; or that I am responsible but refuse to admit it. That is irrepentance.

Jesus comes preaching, preaching Isaiah's promise: A world in darkness has seen a light of grace. The yoke of slavery and sin, borne by humanity since time began, has been smashed. Jesus crushed sin and the cause of sin on Calvary when He fulfilled the first prophecy of Scripture: "I will put hatred between you and the woman, between your offspring and hers; He will crush your skull; while your strike at his heel" (Gen 3;15). Jesus smashed Satan's skull and freed us from sin! Only you have to ask for forgiveness and repent that is accept his gift of forgiveness

### Pope Francis

Jesus steps forward and went to the synagogue and said He had been sent to free the oppressed, the imprisoned, to give sight to the blind. He inaugurated a year of grace, in other words a year to forgive, to draw closer.

He pointed to a new path to God. The same thing happened with the paralytic, to whom He did not simply say: "be healed", but rather: "your sins are forgiven" follow me.

With this innovation, Jesus triggered reactions of those whose hearts were closed. They accepted that Jesus was a healer; but began to see that He also pardoned sinners. This was "too much". "He has no right to say this, because God alone can forgive sins".

Jesus revealed, however, he does have the power to forgive: "Why do you think such things? Because you know that the Son of Man has power" to forgive sins. "Rise, take up and be healed".

Each one of us can have faith in "Christ the Son of God, sent by the Father to save us: Yes, to save us from sickness. Many good things the Lord has done and helps us to do; but more importantly we must have faith that He came to not just to save us from our sins, but to save us and lead us to the Father.

After showing He has the power to forgive sin, Jesus speaks a new message which discourages people. It is harsh language, with which He speaks of eating his body as the way to salvation. In other words, He begins to reveal Himself as God, which He will clearly do before the high priest, saying: I am the Son of God.

The most difficult point to understand not only for the scribes, who said: "It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins by God alone? Several of the disciples, in fact, doubt and leave when Jesus shows Himself as having a greater mission than that of forgiveness, but to give his life so as to recreate humanity.

We must ask ourselves: "How is my faith in Jesus Christ? Do I believe that Jesus Christ is God, that He is the Son of God? Does this faith change my life? Does it lead my heart to renew itself daily?

Jesus invites us to discover a new quality of faith, knowing that it "is a gift. No one 'earns' faith. No one can buy it". Therefore, "Does 'my' faith in Jesus Christ, lead me to humiliation? I'm not saying to humility. To humiliation, to repentance, to prayer, so as to cry out: 'Forgive me, Lord'" and to say "You are God. You 'can' forgive my sins".