



St. Joseph Catholic Church
POB 1010
Nome, AK 99762-1010
Pastor: Rev. Tom Kuffel
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Fifth Sunday Ordinary Time 2.5.2017

Announcements

Religious Ed Sunday: All students are asked to come to Mass at 10:30 AM first then class and experience God's love.

Junior and Senior Youth Group will be at 6:00 PM on Sunday. Come and meet Fredrick and learn about who Jesus is.

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. Signup sheet in back to invite him out for coffee, lunch, or dinner while I am away.

Feb 5th Religious Ed 11:30 – 2:30 PM.

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

	St. Joseph	
	\$.00	
Fuel Bill	-\$674.00	
Salary Bill	-\$2311.18	
Prop Insurance Bill	-\$250.00	
Utility Bill	-\$443.88	
Other bills	-\$490.64	
Bill Total	\$4,169.70	
Jan Deposit Total	\$2,561.00	We are short \$1,608.70



Stewardship!
Hard Work vs. Work Hard!

Pope John when asked how many worked at the Vatican, he quipped, "about half!"

Today more than half the people, who go to work, go because they have to. They do not find much joy or purpose in their work other than it pays the bills. In fact, they could say they hate their job. Its hard work!

Job hating is typically. Many people get stuck working in a job because they needed to find work and took the first job available. They did not determine first what their true talents were.

It has been accurately stated that work gives us more than a living - it provides us a life if you find a job that fits your talents.

Work is more than just a job; it is actually a vocation, something God calls you to do for He gave you the gifts to do it.

That is why stewardship is to seek first the Kingdom of God and find out what He wants you to do. Once you have found out God's purpose in your life, then you can find a career that gives you purpose, meaning and fulfillment for it fits your talents.

So the first principle concerning work is Seek God then decide what you want to do and do whatever it takes to make it happen. Oh and work hard at it. If I do this, getting help also when I need it, God will bless whatever it is that I do.

Yes, Work Hard at something you love
You will see the blessings of God

Whatever type of work you do, realize the greater importance: Serving the Kingdom!

You are building up treasure in heaven.
You are giving glory to God on earth.

Whether a stay at home Mom or a rocket scientist; if you see the purpose in your work and love what you do, you will not hate your job, or your life, but love life.

Do You Know your Faith?
What has God revealed?

Revelation is to expose. We reveal something hidden so that the other person knows but we usually have to trust a person before we can reveal, expose, our deepest secrets.

God reveals Himself through the Scriptures slowly, through the Old and New Testaments. Because as we read, we would die, that is be overcome by the power and majesty of God's glory for we would see how little and insignificant we are in comparison to Him. Unless we prepare ourselves to experience God's love in his fullness, all we would see is our imperfections and die.

God reveals Himself to us through a Covenant:

- Covenant is an exchange of one person's life for the other person's life.
- We commonly refer to **marriage as a covenant** in which a man gives his life to his bride and a woman gives her life to her bridegroom.
- Revelation, Sacred Scripture, often uses the imagery of God being the Bridegroom and Israel is his bride.

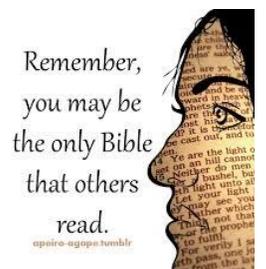
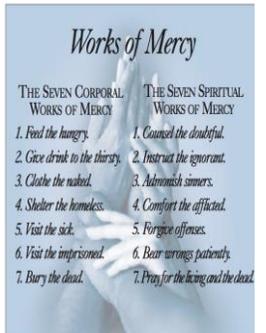
***"I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem,* coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband"* (Rev. 21.2)**

God slowly revealed Himself to his bride, Israel, with the great stories and characters of Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and King David.

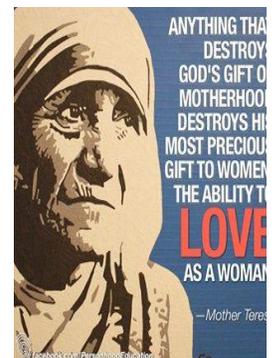
With each of these forefathers, God reveals more and more about his love and his plan until the ultimate revelation: the **Incarnation**.

- **The Incarnation** is when the Son of God becomes human.
- Jesus is the **Logos**, that is the Word of God, Who speaks not through prophets as in the Old Testament, but speaks Himself for He is one like us, but not sinful.

Scripture is the written word of God that reveals God's plan and love for us. There is also **Tradition** which is the experienced life of God's people handed down generation after generation. It is how we worship God and how we interpret Scripture. The **Magisterium** (Pope) is the authentic interpreter of Scripture for Scripture alone does not explain all what God wants to reveal for we know people can change the interpretations to fit their agendas. That is why we have **dogmas and doctrines**: teachings that don't changed.



Pro-Life Prayer Day Feb 11 asks all those who are prolife to spend time praying this Saturday (pray the rosary or read scripture) to promote respect for life from conception to natural death.



Weekly Schedule:

Date	Mass Time	Place	Feast Day	Lector/Minister	Intention	Activity
Mon Feb 6	No Mass		Paul Miki		Melvin Gould	
Tue Feb 7	No Mass				Melvin Gould	
Wed Feb 8	No Mass		St. Bahkita		Rev. Browning	Rosary
Thu Feb 9	No Mass				Beyele Family	Bible Study
Fri Feb 10	No Mass		St. Scholastica		Pat Wessels	
Sat Feb 11	5:30 PM	Nome	Ordinary Time	Betsy Brennan	Mark Larkin	
Sun Feb 12	10:30 AM	Nome	Ordinary Time	Betsy Brennan	St. Joseph Parish	

**I am the light of the world,
says the Lord;
whoever follows me
will have the light of life.**

The purpose of the Church is essentially extraverted. It exists for the sake of sanctifying the world. Thus Jesus tells his followers to be light for the world--that which illumines and clarifies the deepest truth of things--and salt for the earth--that which preserves spices up and frees what is best in creation. We are most fully ourselves when we are a beacon for everyone else.

Salt and Light

If a Christian succumbs to the temptation to mirror spirituality, he is not powering his light with the battery of prayer. He looks only at himself, without giving to others. He fails in his vocation and becomes a lamp which does not illuminate and salt that has no flavor.

Jesus' language is effective. He always speaks with simple words so everyone can understand. In Matthew (5:13-16) Jesus defines a Christian: He or she must be salt and light. Salt gives flavor; it preserves; and light shines. It calls us to action. Light is not meant to be hidden, because when it is hidden it is dark. Salt is not to be preserved in kitchen cabinet, because in the end it loses its strength, its flavor.

- How then, do we stop our Christian light from darkening and salt from dying?
- How does the Christian avoid becoming less, becoming weak, in his own vocation?
- How do we increase our faith despite the trails and temptation?
- How do we stop parishes from dying and loosing members?
- How do we keep the flame of faith alive in our hearts?

The answer is in another parable, "The 10 Maidens" (Mt 25:2). Five were foolish and five were wise. Some had oil in reserve, so as not to miss the Lord, while the others "forgot" oil, and thus their lamps burned out. Their faith died because they did not replenish their oil supply – they did not pray!

When faith begins to weaken, it tells us that we have to recharge the battery!

We have to go to the Eucharist and let the Lord nourish us with his Love.

You can do so many things, so many good works, works of mercy and service: run hospitals, soup kitchens, outreach, youth and religious education programs. They might even build a monument to you as a benefactor of the Church. But if you do not pray, if you do not attend Mass; if you do not replenish the oil then none of this will bring true light.

How many works become dark due to a lack of light, a lack of prayer? Prayer means Eucharistic Adoration: to adore the Trinity. At Mass we give thanks, and praise. We ask things of the Lord, but it must always be a "heartfelt prayer". This is precisely the oil; it is the grace which gives life to the light. It is true devotion of being in God's presence completely.

We have to have a Christian attitude that is: Be salt. Salt, so as not to become something thrown away, stepped on, forgotten in a cabinet, needs to be sprinkled. So too Christians must give and add flavor to the lives of others. To participate in parish life! To Evangelize that Jesus' love conquers all things even death itself!

A Christian ought not to preserve himself but instead spend himself: to be used up – spent!

Someone might object: "But if I give of myself, if I give my salt and my light, then I too will end up in the dark. But here is where the power of God comes in, because the salt given by God to a Christian begins in baptism and is replenished with the Eucharist. The Salt of the Trinity, the Light of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit comes into your soul at baptism, but is nourished with the Eucharist so you can give of yourself. To be spent out of love as Jesus spent his life showing his love.

Faith continues to grow if it is given: Share it, it never ends! For thus says the Lord God of Israel, "The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the cruse of oil shall not fail, until the day that the Lord sends rain upon the earth". It is the Lord who works this miracle.

I address every Christian personally: Light up your faith with Christ in the Eucharist. Learn to adore the Lord during Mass. Then you can defend yourself from the temptation of illuminating yourself, from running out of oil, from the darkness of sin.

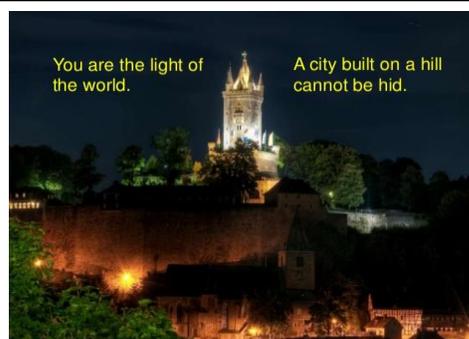
Don't just look like a Christian Be a Christian

Mirror spirituality; it is a horrible thing. Defend yourself from the temptation of merely attending Mass, even occasionally, which is really attending to yourself first. Be a light to illuminate, and be salt to flavor and preserve others by being filled with the grace of the Holy Spirit which comes to us at baptism, is completed at confirmation and is strengthened every time we receive the Eucharist.

Receive then Return.

From your works, we read in Scripture, they will see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in Heaven. If we do not take time to receive from the Lord and replenish our lamps with Prayer, especially Eucharistic Prayer our faith will be darkened; our faith will lose its flavor. We will be thrown out.

In contrast Jesus reveals that *I am the Light of the World and whoever follows me will have the light of life.* We who come to the light through daily prayer, weekly or even daily Mass, and heartfelt devotion we will be a light to others and they will see our good deeds and they will glorify you heavenly Father for we became a true light of Christ.



What contributed to the success of St. Francis' mission Geneva Switzerland? Certainly, his natural talents play some role, but I would suggest that God made great use of his charity, his bravery, and his persistence.

He combined authentic Catholic teaching with an intense pastoral devotion. On doctrine, he wouldn't move an inch; Sunday Mass, yearly confession, the Trinity, Morality, but pastorally, there was nothing he wouldn't do. In fact, he coined the saying, "A spoonful of honey attracts more flies than a barrelful of vinegar." He lived out Matthew 18:12 in a radical way, "If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them goes astray, will he not leave the ninety-nine in the hills and go in search of the stray? He went to extremes (life-threatening) ends to save even a few souls.

He's the Patron Saint of the Catholic News Service, because of the way that he used media (at the time, printed tracts and books) to evangelize when all of the other doors were shut down. He provided spiritual direction to anyone who asked and many asked so he wrote the book Introduction to the Devout Life. He's also the Patron Saint of the deaf, for an even more radical reason: in order to teach a deaf man about God, St. Francis invented a form of sign language.

After becoming Bishop of Geneva, he visited every one of his diocese's 450 parishes, and monasteries. Even those who disagreed with his theology couldn't doubt his love for the people of God. Rightly has he been called the "Gentleman Saint," and named the Doctor of Charity.

Although by his own admission he struggled from a short temper, he never let that interfere with his service towards his neighbor's salvation. May we, like Francis, be unflinchingly Catholic, but unhesitatingly quick to serve the needs of our brothers and sisters, and always able to show charity despite the faults of others.