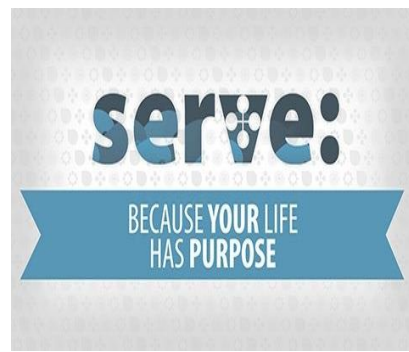


St. Joseph Catholic Church
POB 1010
Nome, AK 99762-1010
Pastor: Rev. Tom Kuffel
Email: tkuffel@cbna.org
Web: <http://walaskacatholic.org/>
Parish: 907-443-5527; Cell 907-434-6117
Eighth Sunday Ordinary Time 2.26.2017

Announcements
Lent begins March 1 Service at 7:00 PM. It is a time of fasting, prayer, and acts of charity. Also a time to confession our sins and being consoled of our sinfulness

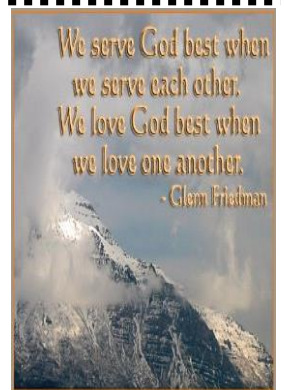
St. Joseph			
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March 5 Religious Education Sunday we ask all students to come to Mass and Class.

March 12 – 17 Fr. Kuffel will be in Anchorage for the Priest Convocation of Alaska.

March 17 – 23 Fr. Kuffel will be in Kotz.



Lenten Ideas:
Mondays
 Read Luke's Gospel
Tuesdays
 Call an old Friend
Wednesday
 Say the Divine Mercy Chaplet
Thursdays
 Read Matthew 5 - 7
Fridays
 Stations of the Cross
 *No meat
 *No Snacks
Saturdays
 Pray the Rosary
 Spring Clean the house
Sunday
 Mass and Communion
 Visit the Hospital



Stewardship:
Trust God!
Not your Toils!

"No one can serve two masters.
 He will hate one and love the other,
 be devoted to one or despise the other.
 You cannot serve God and mammon.

What a joy it would be to be able to trust!

How good would it feel to give up the fear that everything is up to us?

To stop flogging ourselves to run faster and work harder so that we can stay ahead of the bill collectors, the unexpected storms of misfortunes, the hostile forces that seem to be allied against us?

To believe that God really does desire and is prepared to meet all our needs!

Toil is, essentially, work stripped of our trust that the things we are asked to do are not beneath us, that our needs will be provided for, and that our efforts will pay off!

Greed creates toil. Greed changes work into a toil that drains us of fulfillment. Trust, on the other hand, fulfills our deepest desires knowing that God will satisfy our every need – not want!

That is why St. Paul writes:
**My God will fully supply
 Whatever you need,
 In accord
 With his glorious riches in
 Christ Jesus (Phil 4:19)**

Catechism: Forgiveness of Sin

Sin chooses to be less than your best.

It is choosing something fake, rather than real. It is a cheap shortcut that only ends in more work and usually more hurt and pain. Sin wrecks your life!

Since the Fall of Adam and Eve, we are tempted to short ourselves from true fulfillment by choosing fakes and take-offs.

Our world is now filled with cheap imitations that look and feel and may even taste real, but are no more than an imitation. Worse than a fake copy, they are cheap and fail.

Everyone hates a fake once they have experienced the real. The realness satisfies our deepest longings. Our lives are filled to the brim with peace and joy. We no longer live like a cartoon character, but have real character and real virtue. We live by truth – not falsehood!

How real this becomes when we cheapen our relationships, when we try to cheat on our health, and we pretend to be faithful.

Once we experience the real, we willingly pay the price rather than buy a cheap imitation for we know that the product is worth the price.

How can you imitate forgiveness?

Forgiveness is either real or it is not. You cannot fake forgiveness. You know when you have been forgiven; you know when you have forgiven.

Jesus paid the true price for the forgiveness of sin: life for life. Sin destroys our lives, especially mortal sin, but all sin destroys trust and truth. Jesus restores the trust and truth we need by forgiving us. But we have to be willing to pay the price to receive forgiveness.

What is the true price for forgiveness?

Ask a mother who has to forgive her child. Ask a spouse who have to forgive their spouse. Ask a victim what the cost is to forgive the victimizer. The price is always the same: love.

When we love someone we willingly pay the price. That price is not to judge the person, but to forgive the person.

Jesus forgives us and tells us to trust the Father's love for He knows our needs. His will satisfies our deepest desires, but we have to trust Him and expose our neediness to Him.

Lent is the time to be forgiven. Lent is a time to expose ourselves and trust in his Love.

Weekly Schedule:

Date	Mass Time	Place	Feast Day	Lector/Minister	Intention	Activity
Mon Feb 27	6:00 PM	Nome			Terri Geiger	
Tue Feb 28	6:00 PM	Nome			Clark Family	
Wed March 1	7:00 PM	Nome			Terri Geieger	
Thu Mar 2	6:00 PM	Nome			Alex Martinez	Bible Study
Fri Mar 3	3:00 PM	Nome			KNOM	First Friday
Fri Mar 3	7:00 PM	Nome				Stations
Sat Mar 4	5:30 PM	Nome	First Lent	Tom Moran	Rev. Rob Roh	
Sun Mar 5	10:30 AM	Nome	First Lent	Kittv Scott	St. Jospheh Parish	

The beliefs you have about your abilities shape your life by affecting how you think, feel, and behave. In psychology, the strength of your beliefs in your abilities is called self-efficacy. It's a key concept to understand if you want to grow as a person and achieve your goals.

Check the record books and you will discover that all great failures are character failures and the long-term success stories are people who built their careers on character. Lent is the opportunity, power and responsibility to teach appropriate behavior to people. To build a Christian Character!

St. John of the Cross, co-founder of the Order of Discalced Carmelites and a doctor of the Church, wrote,

“The soul that desires God to surrender Himself to it entirely must surrender itself to Him without keeping anything for itself.” Wouldn’t you like to have God completely give Himself to you, holding nothing back? Then you must give yourself completely to Him. When you keep God at arm’s length, you cannot grow very close to Him!

Likewise, if your soul is full of earthly things, you leave no room for God. Consuming spiritual junk food leaves no room for what really nourishes us. Only God can satisfy our longing for happiness. The more we try to make ourselves happy through material things and other people, the less happy we will be. We were made for union with God. Nothing less will suffice.

Disordered attachments equal idols

Attachments are a kind of idolatry. When we are unwilling to let go of our grasp on material things, our opinions, even our will, we have made a god out of them. We are implicitly saying that they are at least as important to us as God is.

Are you often distracted during prayer? When a friend or family member speaks to you, do you find your mind combatting with your own concerns? Sometimes this is a result of wrong attachments.

If so, we have not learned how to trust God with our lives, we are not at peace. We have constant worries and preoccupations. They sap our energy and weaken our relationships with God and other people. As Jesus teaches: You can't see God (or anything) clearly with a log in your eye!

Attachments also cloud our vision

Jesus said we need to remove the plank from our eye in order to see clearly. That plank might be sin, or it might be attachments. Our ability to give good advice and real help to other people is jeopardized by them:

How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me remove that splinter from your eye,’ while the wooden beam is in your eye? (Matthew 7:3-5.)

Finally, no one can see God face-to-face in Heaven if he is attached to something else. We must be absolutely pure and God-focused first. Being purged from our inordinate attachments is not optional. That is where Purgatory comes in. The more tightly we cling to our opinions on earth, the longer and harder our Purgatory will be.

Since we have to be purged sooner or later, why not—as St. Teresa of Ávila was fond of saying—make a virtue of necessity, and start the process now? Wouldn't being at peace immediately after death be worth the price of letting go of things that can never make us happy here on earth anyway?

- Are there things that are holding you back from God?
- What would be difficult for you to give up?
- It might be as small as a cup of coffee or as big as a close friendship
- Are you able to be indifferent to your desires and committed to God's will?

Take some time today to meditate on this. Lent is the moment to start letting go, so you can grasp more firmly onto God.

**Lent is not about giving up!
Lent is about growing up!**

“More people fail because of flaws in their character than for any other reason.” Dr. D. James Kennedy

Pope Francis made this observation that if the sinful but knew the value of holiness, sinners, for their own self-interests, would become honest.

You can check the record books and you will discover that all great failures are character failures.

The long-term success stories are people who built their careers on character. Most experts believe that cultures have the opportunity, power and responsibility to teach appropriate behavior to their people.

When character is taught in the culture the benefits extend into the family and vice versa.

Our family has experienced this as we have persuaded the companies we train to permit the families - husbands and wives - to come in and participate in the character training. Results have been outstanding because it gets all the family members on the "same page."

Kate Nelson, senior fellow in ethics at The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, observes there are three kinds in any church.

- **Good Soldiers** who know the rules and have a good moral compass.
- **Loose Cannons** who have a good moral compass but don't know the rules. They are full of good intentions but don't know their faith.
- **Grenades** who have their own agenda and their activities can blow up and devastate any community.

She points out even "good soldiers" need steady coaching - and I like the word "steady," to which I would add "consistent."

Teach character and commandment concepts, then we will convert a group of wide-ranging abilities and backgrounds into a team that will produce fruits of a 100 fold.

**Take this approach in your life:
Be Holy! Love the Commandments!
Be a Good Soldier!**