



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
Third Sunday Lent 3.19.2017

Announcements
Lent 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			

Due to age, the washer and dryer needs to be replaced. Cost is \$1800.00. Please consider a donation to help replace the washer and dryer.

"In a heart filled with gratitude, there is no room for discontentment."



.....
April 2nd
Religious Ed
Sunday



"Conflict becomes the price we pay for a deeper level of intimacy."



"A good relationship test is how a person responds to the word no. Love respects no. Control does not."



Stewardship: Fasting

Buy! Buy! Buy!

Our world is a material world and every day commercials tell us to buy.

We have to buy this to look like that. We have to buy that so we look like this. We have to buy so that we have the conveniences and opportunities that everyone else has.

Commercials sell us!
Sales attract us
People applaud us!

As one author points out,
"We buy things we don't need with money we don't have to impress people we don't like."

Budgeting determines what the difference is between a need and a want. Needs are much different than wants. Needs are

1. Housing
2. Utilities
3. Food (real food)

We need to buy food: real food not fast food. We need to buy electricity and heat. We need a place to live. Everything else is a want.

Living differently that is living within your means makes life easier.

If you will live like no one else, later you can live like no one else. People don't become wealthy because they are lucky. They become wealthy because they live within their means.

- They limit their spending.
- They work for their money
- **They Save their money.**

People who budget, save \$100 a month or more and put it into a savings account. People who become wealthy invest their \$100 a month so their money works for them.

Martha vs. Mary: Who are YOU!

Our society promotes the Martha story. She was so busy she could not break from her business and was offended that her sister would not help.

Our world has become a Martha world that we become so distracted by busyness we miss Jesus' presence—even though He is in our home! Jesus calls us to be like Mary instead, listening and learning (Luke 10: 38–42).

Sundays are to be with the Lord. Every day we need to take time to rest in God's presence. Each day we need to stop being busy and anxious about so many things and just be, just be present to Jesus as He is present to us.

So how can we possibly find time to rest in Jesus when we're so busy and preoccupied?

It has to become a priority so it becomes a virtue that is a habit you strengthen which strengthens you.

Being faithful stewards begins with daily prayer. Then our Sunday Worship truly recreates us. Everyone wants us to be faithful stewards of some cause. But to be faithful stewards of Jesus begins with daily prayer.

Learning to rest daily in God's presence makes us understand what Sunday is. On Sunday we rest in the Lord. Daily every morning or evening or both, we rest in the Lord. We restore our relationship with Jesus and trust in Him.

Prayer is the key which opens the relationship between God and myself. Prayer is the door which allows God to enter into my life and allows me to enter into God's life. Prayer is the framework of the covenant which God shares Himself with us and we share ourselves with Him. Prayer listens and experiences the love God has for us through his Son.

If you desire to be a good steward, bind yourself to Jesus just as Jesus covenanted Himself to you.

Weekly Schedule:

Date	Mass Time	Place	Feast Day	Lector/Minister	Intention	Activity
Mon Mar 20	6:00 PM	Kotz			L. Svobada	
Tue Mar 21	6:00 PM	Kotz			L. Svobada	
Wed Mar 22	6:00 PM	Kotz			L. Svobada	
Thu Mar 23	No Mass				L. Svobada	Bible Study
Fri Mar 24	6:00 PM	Nome			L. Svobada	Mass
Friday 24	6:30 PM	Nome				Stations
Sat Mar 25	5:30 PM	Nome	Fourth Lent	S. Lynch	Fr. Murphy	
Sun Mar 26	10:30 AM	Nome	Fourth Lent	A. Gorn	St. Joseph Parish	



In a world that yearns for perfect relationships, many find the ultimate sadness and loneliness in broken relationships.

Forgiveness is at the heart of healthy relationships. It heals the brokenness and allows the other to heal as well as forgive.

Perfection through Brokenness!

Nothing hurts like a broken heart! Hearts are broken by selfish choices.

Selfishness causes bad relationships. Selfishness makes sure our will be done and refuse to follow the will of another. This is hell.

Satan would not do the will of God and so he was cast out of heaven for heaven is not solely a place, but also a reality in which we do the will of God. Hell is not merely a place, but an attitude that refuses to do the will of the other.

Hell is self-serve place.

Heaven is a selfless place!

Selfish choices reflect the choice of Satan: "I will not serve!" For us to learn to choose well we have to learn to serve rather than be served. This is the heart and soul of Jesus' ministry.

***"Just so, the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many"* (Matt 20: 28).**

Problems are never solved by blame and reproach, but by collaboration and cooperation. People need to feel understood first and then solutions can be jointly worked upon to come up with a fair and reasonable response.

Cooperation is the real problem of broken relationships, for issues can only be resolved by collaboration. When relationships go bad, it is the result of bad choices, which, of course, leads to selfish behavior.

Broken, we walk through the desert of destructive choices. Bad choices cause bad relationships. Bad choices are the problem and instead of resolving the problem, the bad choice, the relationship becomes the problem. We blame others for our problems and think we are entitled to our way because of our selfishness.

Instead of working with each other knowing that the problem belongs to all involved, we disown the problem and accuse others. We do not take responsibility for our part of the problem. Whether or not accusations are justified, both are 100% responsible for the solution of the problem.

However, because of our selfishness we cause a more intense and excessive problem. Accusations only define the problem; they are not the problem itself. The real problem comes about, when after defining the problem; we make choices which do not resolve the issue. We blame others and won't collaborate with others!

Choices change our behavior.

Good choices make us responsible for our part of the solution; bad choices entitle us to remain irresponsible. Good choices allow us to accept the faults and failures of another and correct them with charity and patience.

The Samaritan Woman: A Life of Bad Choices

As the Samaritan woman came to the well, she could not understand how Jesus could give her water without a bucket. Jesus gave her another type of water and she wanted that life giving water which Jesus offered her for she was thirsty not for water, but for love. Jesus exposed her problem: Her love was selfish.

***"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water'"* (John 4: 14 – 16).**

She thought her problem was drawing water daily from the well; Jesus, however, exposes her real problem. Her five broken relationship with men reflected selfish choices which broke her relationship with God. Because she did not understand her relationship with God, she failed to understand her relationship with her husbands. She was irresponsible towards others and because of her irresponsibility, she became selfish with God. Hence, she could not remain faithful.

If our human relationships break, it may be on account of our broken relationship with God. Jesus calls the Samaritan women to a personal relationship with God first as Jesus reveals to the woman her real Father.

Only One God is True

In order to reveal to her the one, true God, Jesus exposes her false gods. She worshipped what she did not understand which lead to broken human relationships.

She placed her human need of a husband above her spiritual need for a Father.

When God calls us, likewise, Jesus exposes to us our false gods and how they break our relationship with Our Father.

By asking us to examine our human relationships, we can easily see that *"Whoever says, 'I know him,' (God) but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps his word, the love of God is truly perfected in him. This is the way we may know that we are in union with him"* (1 Jn 2).

Human relationships thrive when they are built upon the principles and standards of God. God is the author of life and love. He is the source and cause of our human relationships. When rooted in God, our human relationships grow and produce 100 or 60 or 30 fold. If rooted in self, our human relationships die and our hearts are broken. We become thirsty for love!

Instead of condemning the Samaritan Woman, Jesus offered her a new relationship, not based on selfishness, but on forgiveness. "Yet how much suffering and anguish, how much futility, destruction and violence would be avoided, if only we put into practice in all our human relationships the Lord's answer to Peter" (John Paul II, Homily 9/12/87, # 3).

How many times do we need to forgive? Jesus told Peter to forgive seven times seventy.

We must learn to forgive always as God forgives us always. All we have to do is ask for forgiveness with a sincere and contrite heart and it will be granted.

If we want our relationships to thrive, we have to learn to ask for forgiveness and give forgiveness.

Before we can forgive others, we have to learn what it means to be forgiven. "Merciful love is absolutely necessary, in particular, for people who are close to one another: for husbands and wives, parents and children, and among friends [cf. Dives in Misericordia, 14] (J P II).

Fix your relationship with your Heavenly Father and realize his loving forgiveness!