

St. Joseph Catholic Church
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Fifth Sunday Lent 4.2.2017

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

April 3 -5 Fr. Kuffel will be in Diomede hopefully

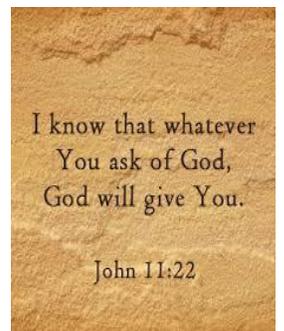
Fr Kuffel will be in Unalakleet for Holy Week.

Fr. Tom Lankeau will be here for Easter.

St. Joseph			
\$472.00			



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April 2nd
Religious Ed
Sunday



Stewardship

God commanded Moses to tithe to support the priests who served the people:

"All tithes of the land, whether in grain or fruit, belong to the Lord as sacred to Him" (Lev 27:30).

A tithe means to give 10% of your income to the church to help her mission, which is to help the poor: physically and spiritually.

Tithing is strongly rooted in the Bible; it is part of being a faithful steward.

Tithing is a responsibility for all, especially Catholics. That is why Jesus tells us to tithe. But how much to tithe? Two possibilities

1. Abraham was asked to give a tenth of everything. (Gen 14:19).
2. If you seek to be perfect, go sell your possessions and give them to the poor (Matt 19:21).

Obviously the minimum is 10%. We are to give 10% of our income to various charities and organizations.

- 5% should go to your parish
- 5% should go to your favorite charities.

Some however, are asked to give everything. They are asked to live a life of simplicity. Priests and religious are usually asked to live a simple lifestyle and give their lives as a tithe knowing that God will not be out done in generosity.

Jesus reminds us that what we give will be remembered even if it is a cup of cold water – if we do it in his name.

The opposite is true also. If we do not give, even a cup of cold water in his name, we will not be remembered.

Why be Catholic?

The word and deeds of Jesus as a man revealed that he was God's Son and the redeemer of humanity

The human person is an incredible creation which combines physical strength and beauty to incredible intelligence and ingenuity, to mystical powers of love and mercy.

But there is something so wrong!

- The human person is plagued by death.
- It is plagued by sin
- It is plagued by woundedness

Every person knows that there is something missing in their lives and they seek to satisfy this longing. The one thing we all seek is love!

Not just any kind of love, but love that binds us to another. Love that connects us in all three aspects of our humanness: body, mind, and soul.

"We sense that we are complete only when we give ourselves totally to another and receive the other totally in return. "

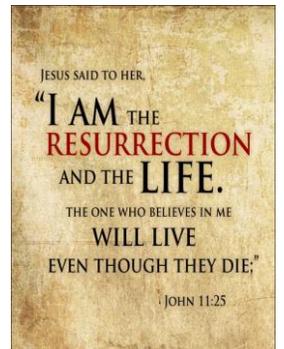
Jesus came to give himself totally to us. That is to give his life to us. But what is missing is our total commitment to Him.

Being Catholic is more than just going through rituals and prayers. It is to be in communion with Jesus Who gives Himself totally to you through his Passion, Death, and Resurrection: the Paschal Mystery.

Jesus does more than just take away sin; His soul mission is to restore you to perfection. He comes to complete, satisfy your hunger for love.

Today so many people are broken by false love – lust which is to use another person for your own gain and pleasure. Jesus comes to give us true love which is sacrificial.

To be Catholic is to embrace that sacrificial love.

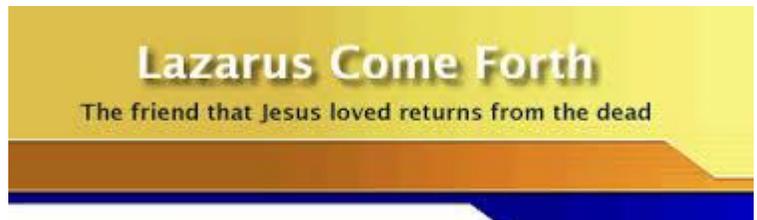


An encounter with Jesus overcomes indifference and restores dignity. Have you encountered Jesus?

Weekly Schedule:

Date	Mass Time	Place	Feast Day	Lector/Minister	Intention	Activity
Mon April 3	No Mass				Kaleb Richter	
Tue April 4		Diomedede			Kaleb Richter	
Wed April 5	Diomedede	Diomedede			Alej. Martinez	
Thu April 6	5:30 PM	Nome			Frnak Bacone	Bible Study
Fri April 7	No Mass				S. Bongiovanni	
Fri April 7	6:30 PM	Nome				Stations
Sat	5:30 PM	Nome	Palm Sun		Kuffel Family	
Sun	10:30 AM	Nome	Palm Sun			

**Those are in the flesh cannot please God.
But you are not in the flesh;
on the contrary,
you are in the spirit,
if only the Spirit of God dwells in you.**



Ask What You Will Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year A)

In today's culture, many question the validity and authority of institutions, structures, and organizations. People question and interrogate the age-old customs and conventions. Not being offensive or even abusive, people seek real answers to real questions. In other words, we seek the truth and want to know the truth. However, because many grew up skeptical and cynical of institutions, especially religious institutions because of the many scandals and lies that plague the religious circles, we have a suspicious attitude toward authority. Rightly So!

Deep within the mystery, life has more meaning than merely the earthly attitudes and outlooks. Ultimately, we must ask what is the meaning and purpose of my life and search for the truth to such an indispensable and vital question.

"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" (Jn 11: 25 – 26). Martha knew in her heart that

"Whatever you ask of God, God will give you" (Jn 11: 22).

Frequently, Jesus tells us that whatever you ask He will give you. But do we bother to ask at all? And when we do ask, do we take time to formulate the questions with which we truly struggle. Because of our cynical attitudes, we easily become apathetic to spiritual questions; yet, Jesus wants us to reach beyond the natural and grasp the supernatural meaning of life. He aggressively attacks our apathetic attitude so as to challenge our limited view of life. He wants us to make a statement of faith by asking us questions that are hard to answer.

"We believe in the resurrection of the body and life everlasting". This is a basic truth that sometimes seems alien and incomprehensible to the culture of our age, a culture often closed to the sense of the transcendent, almost totally centered on our temporal existence. But what is man if everything is to be resolved in the brief cycle of his biological life?" (John Paul II Homily March 28, 1993).

Did Jesus or did He not raise Lazarus from the dead?

If this is true, why do we remain tied to our indifferent notion of life? If is not true, how has this Christian fable lasted so long in the annals of history and why do so many continue to convert and believe such a rumor?

His action in Bethany at the tomb of Lazarus penetrates and exposes the deepest fears of mankind – Death.

Death is the reality.

If we fail to admit the resurrection as true St. Paul states our faith if fake. ***"For if the dead are not raised, neither has Christ been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain; you are still in your sins"*** (I Cor 15: 16 – 17).

Faith is an illusion unless we have conviction. So are the promises of hope of a supernatural life. In fact the whole message of Christ is delusional if what He did is merely a fable of maxims and truisms. Unless we take the Gospel message of Lazarus' resurrection as authentic and authenticated by Jesus' own death and resurrection, then we are faithless and hopeless.

For this very reason, Jesus asks us questions first. He is on the offensive. He questioned the thinking, customs, traditions, teachings, interpretations, history, and actions of his contemporaries not to be offensive, but to be confrontational.

He asks us so we can formulate the essential questions concerning the purpose of life in searching for the question, we may just find the answer. What is the meaning of my life?

We have to question the resurrection not as a supernatural event for we know that if there is a resurrection it has to be of a supernatural power. The real question is do you believe in the resurrection of your death?

In other words does Christ have "...the power to liberate humanity from the slavery of sin and death, the power to snatch humanity from the abyss of spiritual death and from condemnation?" (John Paul II 3/31/1988)

Jesus has passion and death in view.

When Lazarus is raised, John notices the tombstone being taken away, as well as Lazarus' burial cloths and head covering - all details he later notices with Jesus' empty tomb.

John gives us the details about Lazarus' sister, Mary - she is the one who anointed the Lord for burial. His disciples warn against returning to Judea; Thomas even predicts they will "die with Him" if they go back.

Like the blind man, Lazarus represents the punishment due to sin – death! Jesus shows that He has power even over death. He came to restore life by conquering death. In his death, Jesus rises from the dead just as Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. This is our faith: Jesus destroys both sin and death!

Like the blind man, Jesus not only shows He has divine power, but reveals that his power is not just to heal, but to restore that is to perfect!

Lazarus' death is used by Jesus to reveal "the glory of God". And again like the blind man, Jesus' words and deeds give sight to those who believe.

If we believe, we will see - that Jesus loves each of us as He loved Lazarus, that He calls us out of our tomb of sin into his new life.

By His Resurrection Jesus has fulfilled Ezekiel's promise. He has opened the graves that we may rise, put His Spirit in us that we may live.

This is the Spirit that Paul writes of. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead will give life to believers who were once dead in sin.

Faith is the key. If we believe as Martha does - that Jesus is the resurrection and the life - even if we die, we will live.

"I have promised and I will do it!" We must trust in His word, as we sing in Psalm - that with Him is forgiveness, salvation, and resurrection.