



St. Joseph Catholic Church
POB 1010
Nome, AK 99762-1010
Pastor: Rev. Tom Kuffel
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Parish: 907-443-5527; Cell 907-434-6117
Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Announcements

Focus Mission Group to come July 8 – 15 to Nome.

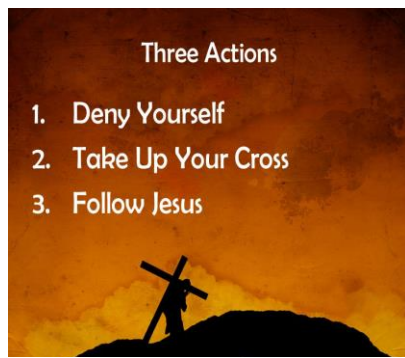
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 Pancake Breakfast! Please join us after the 10:30 Mass on Sunday, July 9 as we meet and mingle with the Focus Missionaries for a pancake breakfast.

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Vacation Bible School
July 10 – 13 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM
for all our children and youth.

Please sign up!
Sheets are in back of Church

St. Joseph			
6.25.2017			
\$448.00			

“Whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me”



Stewardship

To take up our cross Also means take out our wallets!

Becoming a true steward, that is a true disciple, we need to use our money for others – not just ourselves!

At the core of stewardship we have three major points:

1. God owns it all
2. We are stewards of it all
3. We have the responsibility to manage what we have for his glory – not ours.

We are not the owners of our lives. We are not the owners of our wallets. We don't own our family, our funds, or our future. God does.

“Who saves his life will lose it, Whoever loses his life for my sake Will find it!”

In this light, we re-orientate our lives to serve God not ourselves. We are not self-serving but self-giving. We give of ourselves to others especially our parish, our programs, and most importantly to our people.

If we put people first, we teach to put others first. Do you?

Jesus came and served us and if we are going to follow Him as true stewards, we must serve others.

People come first

We put people first,

- even if they are messy
- even if they are not worthy,
- even if they are not healthy.

Our society focuses on the worth of a person as to what they can produce or consume. Jesus sees the worth of a person as who they are – not what they do.

Stewardship is essential for the growth of our parish. As believers, we put serving others first and in so doing, we grow in our commitment and conviction of our Faith.

True stewards give – give all to God!

Why be Catholic?

The sacrament that begins the journey of faith in the Catholic Church for each of us is that of Baptism, a precious gift from Christ to His Church for it frees us from sin!

A sacrament, of course, is simply a gift of God's grace, or His divine life, to us under the means of physical actions that actually cause what they signify. In other words, just as in Baptism we are washed with water, we are also washed of our sin and begin to live life anew.

But those who are baptized do not merely begin life again; they have a new life within themselves to live, and that is divine life through God's grace.

You see, Paul describes in our second reading how our baptism with Christ has been a baptism into His death, and this is so that we can then be raised up with Him into His new life.

The example that is used in Scripture to explain the difference between our lives before Baptism and after it is that of darkness being changed into light: death to life.

We may not actually take this into thought very often, but just consider now the incredible difference between darkness and light. Real darkness does not enable you to see or do almost anything, whereas the brightness of light opens up incredible possibilities. Just the experience of living up here in the winter versus the summer helps one visualize that!

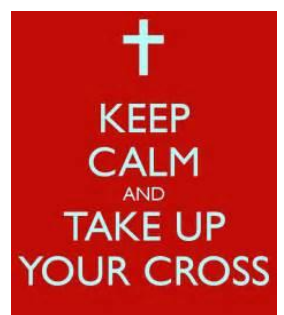
Sometimes we forget that we have been brought through Baptism out of the darkness into light. It can become easy to ignore the fact that we are supposed to be living the new life of the risen Christ, in the union that we were meant to be in with God. (That is what living in grace, God's life dwelling in us, is all about.)

When this happens, we find ourselves turning back to darkness, as if we prefer that better, even though we know that the darkness hurts because you keep doing things that hurt yourself: you can't see correctly to act the way that works best for yourself.

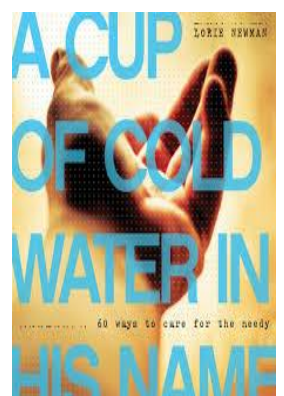
Living in Christ's light, however, open us up to see the way that He designed us to work with all other creatures and with Himself.

So we must respond to these baptismal graces that Christ has given us, and thus we will be able to live a life in understanding and true union with all other members and aspects of His creation, as He designed it to be.

-By Ben Doudna



“Whoever gives only a **cup of cold water** to one of these **little ones** to drink because the little one is a **disciple**—amen, I say to you, He will surely **not lose** his reward.”



Weekly Schedule:

Date	Mass Time	Place	Feast Day	Lector/Minister	Intention	Activity
Mon July 3	8:00 AM+	Nome			Hoffman Family	
Tue July 4	5:30 PM	Anch			June-June	
Wed July 5	5:30 PM	Anch			Kim Andrea	
Thu July 6	5:30 PM	Anch			Park Kristina	
Fri July 7	8:00 AM	Anch			Caleb Richter	
Sat July 8	5:30 PM	Nome	14 th Sunday		KNOM Donors	
Sun July 9	10:30 AM	Nome	14 th Sunday		St. Joseph	Baptism



**YOU are a chosen race, a royal priesthood,
a holy nation; announce the praises of him
who called you out of **darkness**
into his wonderful **LIGHT**.**

The Healing Cross

Real healing takes place as we admit our woundedness and stop denying our pain, or covering up our pain, but expose our pain to the Lord.

Jesus does not come to take away our sufferings, but teaches us how to embrace them. He does not make all things better in this life, but teaches us how to live through the trials of this life to reach a place where all is better: heaven.

Jesus is the voice we need to listen to, not the voice of the world, nor the voice of our pain. We listen to the voice of Jesus Who tells us to take up our cross and follow Him for He will help. This is shocking!

Happiness is the focus of every person. We want happiness, we need happiness. But the ultimate question is: what makes me happy?

Looking at our culture today happiness is to be free of pain. Happiness is to be amused and entertained. Happiness, as our world teaches us, is to enjoy the beauty, bounty, and booty of this world. Happiness is freedom, but what is freedom: to do anything I want?

People believe that happiness comes from the treasures and pleasures of this world. People seeking happiness always want more: more money, more pleasure; more power. Yet, people who are truly happy give more. Happiness is not having more; but being more. Being more human means giving more; giving of yourself even if it is a glass of cold water!

Giving more changes our orientation from self-centered to other centered. We no longer live for this earthly kingdom, but we live for the heavenly kingdom: Jesus' kingdom comes first.

Baptism re-orientates us. We no longer live for the pleasures of this life: family, friends, finances, and fun; but we live for Jesus, for He is the one who will provide for our families; He will give us healthy friendships; He will provide for us financially; and we will have grace, that it is, we will be filled with joy – not mere amusement.

Baptism heals us of our emptiness for it gives our lives a meaning and purpose that empowers and inspires us to make the hard choices. At our baptism, Death no longer has power over us. Sin no longer deceives us. We are alive in Christ. Hence, *“you too must think of yourselves as dead to sin and alive for God in Christ Jesus”* (Rom 6:11).

At baptism, we are chosen. We are filled with every good gift that money cannot buy: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. But why are so many baptized, empty and lonely. Why do so many people who claim to be Christian live hard, cold, cruel lives? Why is it that Christians are so callous even brutal with themselves and others, especially when confronted with sin and evil?

Baptism heals, but Baptism demands faith. That is why St. Paul teaches us that we must think of ourselves as dead to sin and alive in Christ. Jesus teaches us to embrace our crosses and follow Him. If we do not do this we are not going to experience the love, joy, and peace of Jesus.

Baptism does not makes us perfect and freed from all sin. What Baptism does, it gives us the grace, strength, and courage to face our problems with confidence and conviction for it gives us a relationship with Jesus that is undeniable – everlasting. Bapstism makes it possible!

If we are going to be united to Jesus, we must live in the relationship: Embrace the Cross! Take up our cross! We obey God – not man! We listen to his statues, his commandments, his ways – not ours!

