



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
Fifteen Sunday in Ordinary Time

Announcements

We thank all those who came to the breakfast and helped with the Focus Missionary Trip and VBS.

THANK YOU!

We Thank the parents who sent their children to VBS. Jessica and MaryBeth we so grateful to have a change to teach your children!

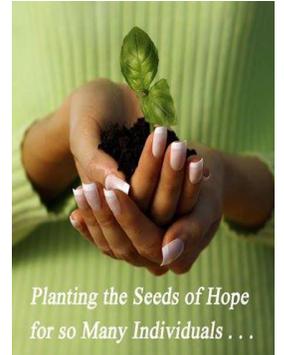
St. Joseph			
7.2.2017			
\$855.00			



God designed man for success.

He is endowed with seeds of Greatness!

What do you do with your seeds of Greatness?



Stewardship?

Seeds grow, but what seeds do you sow?

Stewardship is not just about planting seeds, but more importantly planting the right seed.

Jesus talks about the pearl of great value and the man sells all he has to purchase the one pearl?

What is the one pearl, the one seed, that you want?

So many times we plant the wrong seed and that seed is greed which is the root of all evil.

Greed is not just about getting money and possessions. Greed is a form of insecurity in which we think money and possessions will please us. Greed is a disease that kills.

Greed tells us that if only:

- I have enough money
- I have enough land
- I have enough toys
- I have enough food
- And the list goes on

We want more because we feel empty. To fill our emptiness we greedily take and keep taking searching for trust!

Like the alcoholic, a greedy person never has enough to satisfy their deepest long for security, connection, and companionship.

Greed distorts our longing for a fulfilling life. Fulfillment does not come from possessing things; it comes from giving things away.

The most fulfilled person is the one who gives of himself or herself. A fulfilled person knows that God, Jesus, will always provide – not always what we want, but what we need.

Generosity invests in others; it invests in self. It learns to give your time, talent, and treasure knowing that God always provides more.

Why Be Catholic?

The Catholic Church for many is obscure, even cultish. They hear the word Catholic and think of a Church antiquated in time – Medieval, Patriarchal, even Misogynistic. Yet, the Catechisms, quoting St. Paul tells us that the

"Church is all the People of God, formed by God's word and the Eucharist into the Body of Christ."

The history of the Church started in the Old Testament with Adam and Eve – the first Church. Church really is family, just like Adam and Eve were the first Family so the Church is the Family that is the people of God.

Our family meal is the Eucharist or the Last Supper when Jesus calls us to share not only in his life and grace, but to be adopted into his family – the family of the Trinity.

Jesus is the Son of the Father and head of the Church and invites us to be adopted into his Family: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

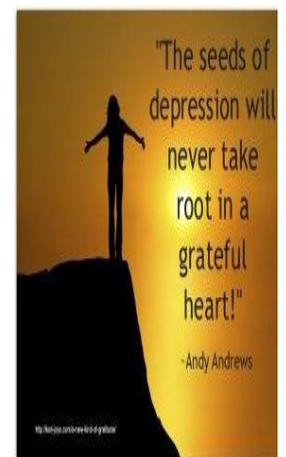
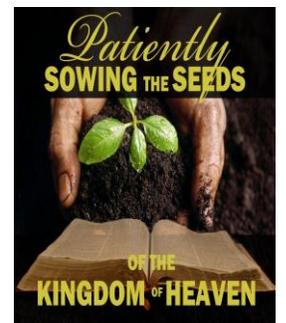
To be adopted we profess that Father sent his Son into the world and through the Son the Holy Spirit of God comes to heal us from our broken relationships.

The Church is the Family of God by which we are embraced, taken care of, and restored to our dignity.

The Good Samaritan Story is the perfect explanation of the Church. Jesus comes looking for wounded, broken people and lifts them up, takes them to the Inn and then pays for the costs of the care.

That is the authentic essence of the Catholic Church. Yet, we know many Catholics struggle with their faith – being the Good Samaritan – that does not change the purpose and point of the mission of the Catholic Church.

We are Family and as family members adopted into the fold, we are to reach out and look for hurting souls just as the Good Samaritan did for Jesus came and healed us by cleaning and binding our wounds with his love. We are to do the same!



Weekly Schedule:

Date	Mass Time	Place	Feast Day	Lector/Minister	Intention	Activity
Mon July 17	5:30 PM	Nome			Special Intention	
Tue July 18	5:30 PM	Nome			Mike Huettner	
Wed July 19	5:30 PM	Nome			A Matthew	
Thu July 20	5:30 PM	Nome			Kramer Family +	
Fri July 21	8:00 AM	Nome			L. Griffiths +	
Sat July 22	5:30 PM	Nome	16 th Sunday		R Richter +	
Sun July 23	10:30 AM	Nome	16 th Sunday		St. Ann	

**When you act
within
the darkness of lies and deceits
you attract
darkness and depression**

**When you act within the light of truth and love
you attract
Joy, Peace,
And
Love!**

Why does Jesus speak in parables?

Why can He not just speak in plain language that all can understand?

Parables are really riddles that make us question the status quo. They make us think outside the box. They make us think not as man thinks, but as God thinks. Parables are the riddles of life that we all face and we all need answers to those questions of life.

Why suffering? Why woundedness? Why brokenness? Why?

Instead of asking why, maybe it is time to ask Why Not? Why not riddles and puzzles? Why not mysteries and secrecies? Too many times we want life to be easy and effortless. We don't want to wrestle with hard questions and seemingly unexplainable experiences. But God teaches us, my thoughts are not your thoughts; my ways are not your ways.

Do not judge from his appearance or from his lofty stature, because I have rejected him. God does not see as a mortal, who sees the appearance. The LORD looks into the heart (1 Sam 16:7).

Experiencing the thoughts and ways of another are so mysteries to us. Men and women are mysteries to each other for we think differently. Cultures, customs, and traditions change from region to region. We struggle with languages to express our thoughts. We struggle with words that have many meanings. The human mysteries are so great and so diverse that we struggle to understand each other. How much more so with God?

Jesus speaks to us in mysteries so we will puzzle and perceive his thoughts and his ways. He speaks to us in a new language to engage our minds to think differently – to experience a new way.

Jesus comes to us speaking in riddles and parables and we know that many people rejected Jesus because of his cryptic speech. They thought He was obscure and vague and because they could not understand Him, they doubted Him and suspected Him of all sorts of crimes.

But for those who were touched by his parables. For those who wanted answers to the riddles, Jesus talked openly and plainly. He unpacked the riddles. He explained the message within the mystery.

Seeds and soil are so common everyone understands as they experience plants that grow in good soil and plants do not grow in poor. How easy it is for us to recognize our hearts as either fertile for sterile! How we easily understand that God will change our hearts of stone into hearts of soul.

Today so many hearts are stone: selfish and self-centered, entitled and enabled, irritable and insecure. People are violent and violate another person's property, person, and belief because they are so easily offended: short-tempered. We no longer respect others and engage in toxic criticism and cruel accusations. We ask ourselves what happened to Christian Charity. What happened to self-respect and respect of others?

Cold stone hearts are ill-tempered and the love of neighbor does not grow. It is stomped upon, choked, and corrupted because **“the human heart is more tortuous than anything, beyond remedy, who can understand it?”** (Jer. 17).

God understands the human heart. Jesus explains the human heart in the parable of the Sower. Our hearts can be so hard, so broken, so corrupted that we cannot allow another to love us. We cannot allow God to change our hearts of stone into hearts of soul. But that is exactly why Jesus speaks in parables to change our hearts:

BROKEN HEARTS NEED HEALING!

To make our hearts grow to be more like his, Jesus uses parables which are hammers trying to break the hardness of our hearts so they can become hearts of soul: A heart strong enough to endure the pains of life for we know our hearts are loved with a mysterious love that destroys death and forgives sins and makes our hearts meek and humble for we embrace the yoke of Jesus: His Love for us!

THE SOWER

Well the birds ate
The seed on the pathway
And the sun burned
The seed on the rocks
The seeds in the thorns
Were choked you see
But the seed on
The good ground
Grew and grew,
Like-the-word
Of-God-in-you!

