

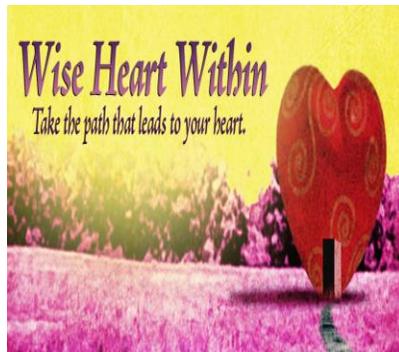


**St. Joseph Catholic Church**  
**POB 1010**  
**Nome, AK 99762-1010**  
**Pastor: Rev. Tom Kuffel**  
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**Parish: 907-443-5527; Cell 907-434-6117**  
**Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

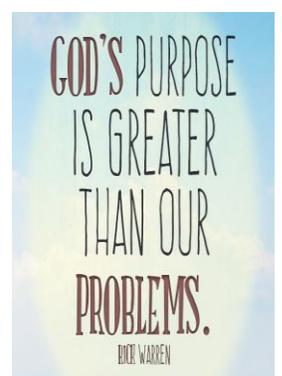
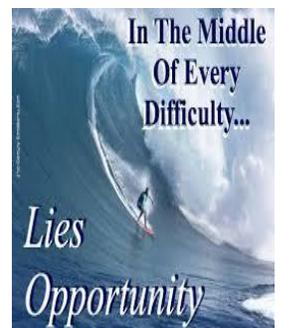
**Announcements**  
**Aug 22 – 25** Fr. Tom will be in Fairbanks for meetings with Bishop Chad.  
**Aug 25 – 30** Fr. Tom will be in Kotz  
**Sept 3 – Sept 8** Fr. Tom will be in Anchorage on retreat.

St. Joseph			
7.23.2017			
\$248.00			

**Give your servant, an understanding heart to judge your people to distinguish right from wrong. For who is able to govern this vast people of yours?"**



We know that all things work for good for those who love God,



**Stewardship!**  
**Joyful is the person who finds wisdom, the one who gains understanding. For wisdom is more profitable than silver, and her wages are better than gold.**  
(Proverbs 3:13)

**How much better to get wisdom than gold, and good judgment than silver!**  
(Proverbs 16:16)

**It is senseless to pay tuition to educate a fool, since he has no heart for learning.**  
(Proverbs 17:16)

**Lazy people are soon poor; hard workers get rich.**  
(Proverbs 10:4)

Stewardship works for wisdom. Wisdom is the golden goose that produces the silver and gold that so many want. But how do you gain wisdom? Four simple rules

1. **Get rich slow:** Do not be greedy and do not store up treasure on earth. Treasure wisdom and all will be given.
2. **Give to the poor:** There will always be someone who has less than you. Learn to be generous even when it hurts to give then you will be wise.
3. **Do not be idle – Ever:** Today we want others to pay the bill. Wisdom teaches us to work for labor brings both personal accomplishment and also financial gain.
4. **Get your priorities right:** Seek first the Kingdom of Heaven the rest will be given!

**Why Be Catholic**

The kingdom of heaven...what is it? Jesus gives us two examples of the Kingdom: Pearls and Treasure. The one who finds treasure in the field and the pearl merchant willingly part with everything to possess what they find. Hence God's Kingdom is worth more than everything else we possess. Yet, we are brought back to parable of the weeds and the wheat being separated at the end of time. It's just that this time the emphasis isn't on why evil exists.

Today's story of the many different fish in the net reveals an essential aspect of the Church, her universality. Many spiritualities and religions today seek to bring about growth among all the members, even under the guise of saying that "all are welcome"-but only so long as they accept and change to become like that group: Conformity.

The Catholic Church, the Universal Church, actually is the kingdom of heaven here on earth, still in development until the end of time. She is that net full of "fish of every kind"(good and bad) which is thrown into the sea until it is full, that is the end of time, when it is hauled out to be sorted out.

Once again, the Church does have her bad members, always will; but because of God's mercy, they are not sorted out until end of time. The fact is that not every kind of fish is thrown out; all are invited to conform to Christ His way – not ours!

The Catholic Church is full of many different fish, people, and the Church offers different roads to holiness. She does not seek to conform all to one particular style. Certainly, we do seek to be "conformed to Christ," but the Church nourishes us on this journey helping us find the pathway that God has for us for each one of us to be a saint.

Our calling to become one with Christ fully, happens when we choose is to live as the unique person Jesus made us to be. This is the joy of being in the Catholic Church where the fullness of Christ's truth resides. Ben

## Weekly Schedule:

Date	Mass Time	Place	Feast Day	Lector/Minister	Intention	Activity
Mon July 31	5:30 PM	Nome	Ignatius Loyola		Joe Kramer	
Tue Aug 1	No Mass		A. Liguori		Leslie Griffiths	
Wed Aug 2	No Mass	Nome	Eusebius		Ray Kramer	
Thu Aug 3	5:30 PM	Nome			Robert Kramer	
Fri Aug 4	8:00 AM	Nome			KNOM Donors	
Sat July 22	5:30 PM	Nome	Transfiguration		Arturo Miscles	
Sun July 23	10:30 AM	Nome	Transfiguration		B. Kaniecki	



THEN YOU WILL UNDERSTAND WHAT IS RIGHT AND  
JUST AND FAIR - every GOOD PATH. FOR WISDOM  
WILL ENTER YOUR HEART AND KNOWLEDGE WILL  
BE PLEASANT TO YOUR SOUL.

PROVERBS 2 : 9-10

Wisdom experiences the mysteries of life. It is not just knowledge of how to do things, nor is it the understanding of how things work; but it is the mystery of why things work as they do.

So many people every day ask why? Wisdom answers the question Why! Why questions seek purpose and every problem that we face, there is a purpose to the problem. Sometimes the purpose of our problems is to merely teach us patience. That is, we are not in control of our lives, others are – God is!

Sometimes the problems in our lives are more than just lessons of patience, but purification. We are here to be purified and the struggles and strains of life are the exercises that strengthen us. We become stronger through enduring the pains of life knowing God reveals and then grinds away our imperfections.

Wisdom realizes that for me to grow I must give up many things. I focus all my energy to one purpose that gives ultimate meaning. That one purpose and focus of course is love. We are made to love and our lives are senseless without love.

Wisdom perfects love; yet, wisdom reveals the imperfections of our ability to love. Most of us hate to experience our imperfections. We deny and disown our faults, failures, and flaws. Worse than denying our imperfections; people embarrass us with them. They point them out revealing how flawed we really are, making us think we are worthless – useless!

The wisdom of the world teaches us to use another for our own gain: To objectify another either through manipulation or exploitation. Often individuals are so influenced by these seductions, deceptions and dominations that both the person who uses another and the person used break and become hollow – empty. No longer can that person experience love for he or she becomes loveless.

Divine Wisdom destroys these manipulations and exploitations of Satan who wants us to feel worthless -- loveless. God changes those worthless experiences and reveals to us that we are the pearl of great value. He sees us as the treasure which He Himself sells all and purchases us with his love and life. Jesus, Divine Wisdom Incarnate, brings out the value of life and love within each person by grinding away the imperfections as to reveal the inner beauty and treasure that we are to become.

Satan wants us to see only the imperfections in ourselves and others. He wants us to destroy our self and others accusing us of our imperfections, making us feel worthless. Divine Wisdom does not destroy; He restores us revealing to us the beauty, glory, and sanctity from which we were made.

We are created good; we are created out of love for love. Satan sows seeds of hate and despair; Jesus sows seeds of love and hope. But we have to cultivate his seeds. We have to nurture those traits in our hearts by removing the deceptions of doubt, despair, depression, and even death. We have to remove the seeds of the weeds so that we can become the person that God created us to be.

Our purpose is not to find the field with the treasure in it; our purpose is to realize we are the field and our love is the treasure, the pearl of great value that Jesus comes to give his life for. I am loved. I am treasured. I am the one Jesus longs to love. He cherishes me. No matter what I have done; no matter what anyone has done to me, He does not want me fall into despair and doubt; but He wants to fill me with his love. He wants me to see who I am: a diamond, maybe in the rough; but He will polish that diamond, me, into something beautiful. That is, I am to experience his presence dwelling in my heart. That is his wisdom: Divine Love dwelling in my being.

Wisdom experiences the depth of God's love which transforms my heart and soul, mind and body into the priceless treasure that I am.

This experience is intimacy. His intimacy allows me to see into my heart and know the goodness within. The jeweler who polishes and perfects the pearl, who sets the pearl upon a pedestal; is Jesus Who polishes us and lifts us up from the filth and smut of this life by purifying us with his love. He is not ashamed of our faults for He sees beyond the flaws, cleanses the shame and guilds us with his love.

