



**St. Joseph Catholic Church**  
**POB 1010**  
**Nome, AK 99762-1010**  
**Pastor: Rev. Tom Kuffel**  
**Email: [stjoseph@cbna.org](mailto:stjoseph@cbna.org)**  
**Web: <http://walaskacatholic.org/>**  
**Parish: 907-443-5527; Cell 907-434-6117**  
**Twentieth First Sunday Ordinary Time**

**Announcements**  
**Sept 3 – Sept 8** Fr. Tom will be in Anchorage.  
**Sept 24** Potluck for Fr. Tom who will be leaving Sept 25 to Fairbanks.  
**Parish Finances:** We are struggling to meet our monthly budget. We budget \$5,000 a month for expenses that is \$1250.00 Weekly. If you notice that collections are usually less than \$1000 and many times less than \$500 we are unable to meet our operating costs. Please consider your stewardship to the parish either of Time, Talent, or Treasure.

St. Joseph			
8.27.2017			
\$731.00			

**Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, and do what good and pleasing and perfect.**



**WHAT IT REALLY MEANS TO CARRY OUR CROSS DAILY ?**

**Stewardship!**  
**Counter-Cultural**  
***Change your Mind***  
***Change your Life***

The mind is a powerful tool that seeks information. It needs knowledge for it to work. The question is what knowledge do we feed our minds?

Many people complacently fill their minds with the status quo. We buy into the standards of the world. Yet, do we ever examine who promotes these standards?

Credit Cards are a common example. We purchase much on our cards for they are convenient. Do you realize: **Credit Card Companies make some 20 Billion Dollars a year off of fees and interest!**

The norms and standards of finances are governed by banks who are in the business of making money by charging interest. People who are good stewards of their money are counter cultural. They don't buy into the debt mentality. They pay for what they buy and if they cannot pay for it they do without and save money till they can afford it.

Being Counter-Cultural empowers a person to be free from materialism and consumerism, and realizes that money and possessions do not buy happiness. What makes us happy is sacrifice.

Sacrificing for your goals; confident that you can reach your goals, and of course willing to be patient until you reach goals, these make a person – a Good Steward!

**Why Be Catholic? The Cross!**

Taking up your cross and following the will of God is so contrary to our way of thinking today that it is foolishness to most and to the rest it is pure madness.

Yet, St. Paul tells us that it is foolishness to those who are perishing but to those who are saved the cross is the power of God.

Contemporary Culture does not believe in the cross. They do not believe in sacrifice. They do not believe in earning their way. We have a certain entitlement attitude.

So many of us hope that we win – not because we prepared to win – but that we got lucky. The Cross is not a lucky charm!

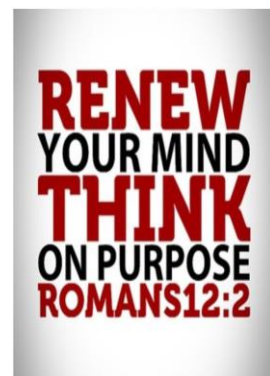
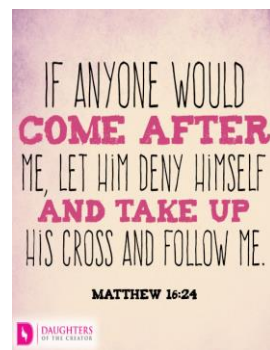
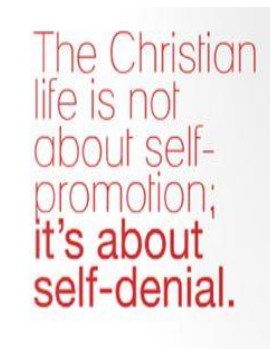
The cross is a truth that transcends time and culture. It is the wisdom of the ages. Take up your Cross and Follow Me is not just the message of Jesus, but for any disciple who wants to become a master.

We have to put in the time, effort, and expense to improve. What we want to improve in our lives, we must work for and work hard for it.

Jesus teaches us to persevere and those who persevere to the end are saved (Matt 24:13). They are rewarded.

Every person who has succeeded in life has worked hard in life. Every person who has worked hard has scars and fresh wounds.

If we want something we have to earn it. If we want salvation, we take up our cross; it empowers us.



### Weekly Schedule:

Date	Mass Time	Place	Feast Day	Lector/Minister	Intention	Activity
Mon Sept 4	No Mass				Cynthia H	
Tues Sept 5	No Mass				Pat Ann (Health)	
Wed Sept 6	No Mass				Norma Ann (Health)	
Thu Sept 7	No Mass				Delbert Steiner	
Fri Sept 8	No Mass				Bishop Chad (DOB)	
Sat Sept 9	5:30 PM	Nome	22 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday		Mary Ann KNOM	
Sun Sept 10	10:30 AM	Nome	22 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday		St. Ann	Religious Ed

**Discipline is doing  
What needs to be done  
Even if  
You don't want to do it!**

**Anyone can wear a Cross  
Few can bear a Cross  
Which one are you?**

#### Get Behind Me, Satan!

Being duped, that is being tricked and deceived is Satanic, as we all know. Yet, God also tricks us. Parents do the same. We bribe our children to do what is right and good. Each of us has to discern if we are being tricked by Satan or are we doing what is right and good – not just according to our values, but according to God's will.

Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, knew Jesus to be the Messiah. He proclaims it for the first time as Peter becomes the spokesman for the Apostles. He becomes their leader. Yet, as the conversation continues, Peter fails miserably. He rebukes Jesus for the Messiah – the Savior of Judaism, does not and will not suffer, at least according to Peter's opinion.

According to Peter and the rest of the Apostles and most Jews, the Messiah was to be a mighty warrior. He was to be a Military Man as was David who became King because of his military prowess; as Judas Maccabeus was in the time of Greek invasion. The Messiah was to conquer the enemies of Israel – The Roman's.

Jesus rebukes Peter – not with a curse from Satan as so many easily read this passage. Jesus tells Peter to get behind me because he is thinking – not as God thinks – but as humans think. He is trying to dupe Jesus!

Jesus does not condemn Peter, but reveals that God, the Father, has a plan and that plan is contradictory to Peter's opinion as it is to most human opinions.

Human opinions are just that – human. Human desires and thinking are rooted in emotions and passions -- not in God's will.

Get behind me teaches us that God's will is first: God's Way – not my way as we so readily believe and easily sing. Worldly wisdom and values are perverted, but God's Will is central to discern true wisdom: wisdom that leads to perfection, that is human maturity and accountability.

We Christians must allow God to transform our very selves into the image and likeness of Christ from which we were originally created. Baptism is the first step for it confers the grace of purification from all our sins but the baptized must continue to struggle against temptations and disordered desires. (CCC 2520). We must not be duped by Satan and his trick to make us think our way is better than God's Way.

We must discern God's will not only for ourselves, but also for human history. Ultimately God's way perfects us only if we embrace it.

**The wisdom of this world is foolishness in the eyes of God, for it is written: "He catches the wise in their own ruses," and again: "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain." (1 Cor 4:19).**

Only by prayer we can discern what God's will is for us and we need perseverance to do it. Jesus teaches us that one enters the Kingdom of Heaven not by speaking words, but by doing "the will of my Father in heaven." (CCC 2826). Doing God's will is to follow first; once we learn to follow, then we learn to lead.

- If we cannot follow, we cannot lead.
- If we cannot obey, we cannot demand obedience.
- If we cannot take up our cross, as did Jesus, we cannot enter.

Peter does not want God's will to be done. He wants his will to be done. Thus, Peter continues to struggle because he refuses to submit. Yet, only by submission to God's will can God fill us with the strength and courage to do his will – to take up our cross.

We follow the lead of Jesus – the true Messiah – Who teaches us that self-sacrifice perfects us as it heals us. Self-donation brings fulfillment to our deepest desires for it reins in our passions and emotions which are wayward and willful. Submitting to God's will as did Jesus, as did Peter eventually, brings healing to our broken wills and empowers us to be a Christian leader (Rom 5:3).

At our baptism, the Covenant in which we exchange our ways for God's ways, we promise to follow God's will and God promises to give us the grace to carry out his will. Our baptismal promises then become our cross. They are our calling in which we follow the Way of Jesus and as we follow Christ, we will lead others into the mystery of the Cross – by his wounds we have been healed (1 Pet 2:24).



**Thomas Edison  
Opportunity is missed by so  
many people  
Because  
It is dressed in overalls  
And looks like work!**

**DIFFICULT ROADS  
OFTEN LEAD TO  
BEAUTIFUL  
DESTINATIONS.**

**I worked hard  
to make my mistakes!  
Now, I can work harder  
To enjoy my successes.**

**Anyone can say NO!  
Only a few say Yes  
To the Cross!**