



St. Joseph Catholic Church
POB 1010
Nome, AK 99762-1010
Pastor: Rev. Tom Kuffel
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Web: <http://walaskacatholic.org/>
Parish: 907-443-5527; Cell 907-434-6117
Twenty Third Sunday Ordinary Time

Announcements

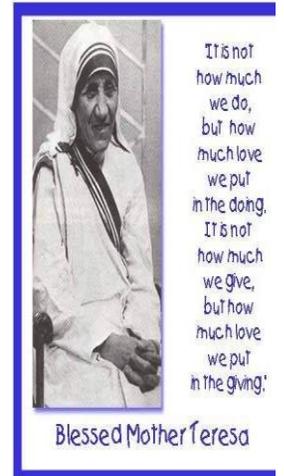
Sept 24 Potluck for Fr. Tom who will be leaving Sept 25 to Fairbanks.

Parish Finances: We are struggling to meet our monthly budget.

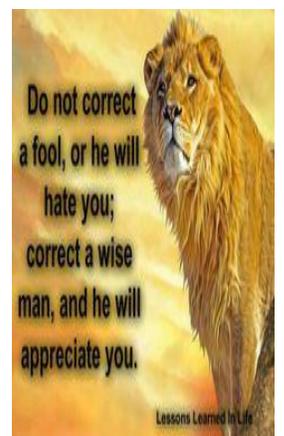
We budget \$5,000 a month for expenses that is \$1250.00 Weekly. If you notice that collections are usually less than \$1000 and many times less than \$500 we are unable to meet our operating costs.

Please consider your stewardship to the parish either of Time, Talent, or Treasure.

Relig Ed begins **Sept 10**. We have classes **every Sunday from 11:30 – 1:00 PM**. Please enroll your students and bring them to Church so we can keep our Catholic Faith Alive!



Give yourself fully to God. He will use you to accomplish things on the condition that you believe much more in his Love than in your own human weaknesses
 (Mother Teresa)



St. Joseph			
9.3.2017			
\$785.00			

**If you warn the wicked,
 trying to turn him from his way,
 and he refuses to turn from his way,
 he shall die for his guilt,
 but you shall save yourself.**



**OWE NOTHING TO
 ANYONE, EXCEPT TO
 LOVE ONE ANOTHER**

PAUL, THE APOSTLE

Stewardship!

Fraternal Correction

With so many people so sensitive today to their own rights and their own opinions, we forget what Jesus tells us:

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone (Matt 18:15).

We are obliged to correct our others as an act of justice and charity.

Jesus even tells that we need to do it 7 times, daily that is to forgive and correct. We are to correct another that does not mean we ridicule, degrade, or demean them because they sinned. We forgive them first!

Sin does not mean we are bad; sin means we need healing. We need help. Sin means we are doing something dysfunctional and that it needs to be corrected charitably.

Being a good steward, Jesus expects us to correct others, but first and foremost, we need to be corrected ourselves.

If we see our brother or sister sinning that is an opportunity for me to examine my own life and see if I am sinning in that area.

After examining our own conscience then we can offer a correction, charitably, to our brother or sister revealing to them that this behavior is not healthy, not holy.

Jesus commands us as stewards to do what is good, holy, and just. He also expects us to correct another if they are not doing what is good, holy and just. But first, correct yourself!

Why Be Catholic?

Catholicism easily becomes political. People demanding their rights and promoting their causes. Catholicism struggles with the sin of pride which leads to politicking.

Pride orients us to see others as inferior objects that have value only to the degree that they can serve us or fulfill our pleasure" (Broken God's, Greg Popcak p 60).

Yet, Catholicism by its very definition is universal. We cannot see the world from our own myopic way. We cannot use people for our own betterment. In fact, pride reduces Catholicism to personal opinion and the root of pride is a lack of humility.

The thread that connects Catholicism, universalism, is humility. Instead of serving me, humility teaches us to serve others – all others.

As C. S. Lewis states, "Humility is not thinking less of ourselves; it is thinking of our selves less.

We use our time, talent, and treasure not only for our own betterment, to have respect for our gifts, but we specifically use them to help others grow. We are to share – not steal!

Yet, when we see a person not using their time, talent and treasure effectively, Jesus calls us to correct them. But as St. Francis teaches, "Fraternal Correction without Charity Is like a Slap in the Face!"

Pride is rooted in narcissism. Catholicism is rooted in self-giving love. We are Catholic because we are taught to give not take from others, even if that giving is fraternal correction.

Weekly Schedule:

Date	Mass Time	Place	Feast Day	Lector/Minister	Intention	Activity
Mon Sept 11	5:30 PM	Nome			Janette W. Family	
Tues Sept 12	5:30 PM	Nome			Pohl Family	
Wed Sept 13	5:30 PM	Nome			Gerald Cobb	
Thu Sept 14	5:30 PM	Nome			June K: Health	
Fri Sept 15	8:00 AM	Nome			Carol C. Health	
Sat Sept 16	5:30 PM	Nome	24 nd Sunday		Catherine: Family	
Sun Sept 17	10:30 AM	Nome	24 nd Sunday		St. Jude	Religious Ed

**Sure, when they tell you the truth
it's not nice to hear,
but if spoken with charity and love,
it is easier to accept.
So we must speak of other people's
defects" with charity.**

**Charity is like an anesthetic
that helps you to receive treatment and
accept reprimand.
Take him to one side and talk to him,
with gentleness, with love."**

Excommunication

One of the ugliest words in all of language is excommunication! In certain legal codes, it is a power word that means you are barred, separated and in most cases when use it means defrocked. That is to be out of communion with another person or group: isolated, excluded, and quarantined.

Excommunication carries shame, guilt, and exclusion. But yet, Jesus' teachings change the shame of excommunication into honor; guilt into dignity, and exclusion into communion.

Our interpretation of the word is usually different from the way Jesus intends the word. Jesus unites the excommunicated into full communion. Look at the lepers. They were excommunicated from the community. The tax collectors and the harlots are marginalized and ridiculed and used as pawns of the excommunicators to expose Jesus as a false and blasphemous prophet.

The parables of the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son both reveal a deeper and more complete meaning of what Jesus means when it comes to excommunication. It is a time to heal and show mercy!

Excommunication is not a condemnation, but in essence, is a fraternal correction. If you see your brother sin, correct him. But we cannot remove this teaching from the other teaching that is closely related to it. *"Hypocrite, remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter from your brother's eye"* (Matt 7:5). Both of these teachings are joined. They are in communion with each other.

We are to correct the faults of our brother or sister, but first we must examine if we are committing the same fault. If we see another sin, we first need to review our own lives. Once we have examined our own lives, then we can correct our brother in charity.

As Pope Francis teaches, to correct someone without charity is no different than to slap that person in the face. We do not aggressively accuse our brother of sinning. We take our brother aside and intervene asking if they know what they are doing.

If they are doing something wrong, we explain what the expectations are. We also try to find out why they are doing what they are doing. We enter into a relationship with them. We come to know their reasoning and then we correct them with kindness and firmness and assert that a better way exists.

We assert and hold firm. Yet, if the person refuses to be corrected, we bring in witnesses not to accuse them; but to show and teach that our community, our Catholic Family, has certain expectations and to belong to our faith community we hold people accountable to these expectations.

If a person still refuses to change and will not submit to our expectations and be held accountable, we then excommunicate – separate them to reflect – on their choices.

Our hope is to include them once again – not bar them for life. Our prayer is that both parties engage in a dialogue and discussion to understand what our faith teaches and why it teaches it. It is to come to a communion.

Excommunication is a time of separation to reflect as to how best to incorporate the differences. Just as a married couple at times separate to reflect so that they can mend their differences, excommunication is exactly the same. It is a time to heal the tensions and let our emotions settle so that we can discuss a communion that binds the community into the oneness that Jesus preached.

**Do not say something
that is not true.
How often in our
community are things
said about another
person that are not
true!
They are slander.
Or if they are true,
they destroy the
person's reputation
Don't Gossip! It Kills!**

"People are often unreasonable and self-centered.
Forgive them anyway.
If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives.
Be kind anyway.
If you are honest, people may cheat you.
Be honest anyway.
If you find happiness, people may be jealous.
Be happy anyway.
The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow.
Do good anyway.
Give the world the best you have and it may never be
enough.
Give your best anyway.
For you see, in the end, it is between you
and God. It was never between you
and them anyway."
~Mother Teresa

www.spirituallythinking.blogspot.com

"Not all of us can do great things.
But we can do small things
with great love."
- Mother Teresa

