

The Nome Static

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Dear Friend,

St Kateri Tekakwitha is known as the Lily of the Mohawks. She lived in the 17th century around the St Lawrence River. At age four, she survived a smallpox epidemic that claimed her family and left smallpox scars on her face. When she was 11, she met French Jesuit missionaries for the first time. Despite pressure and opposition from her tribe and family, she converted to Christianity. She eventually fled persecution from her tribe and lived with Jesuit missionaries and other Native Americans who had converted to Christianity. She died of illness at age 24; her last words were "Jesus, Mary, I love you." Eyewitnesses reported that minutes after her death, her smallpox scars disappeared, and her face turned clear and beautiful.

In a significant milestone, Kateri Tekakwitha was canonized in 2012, becoming the first Native American saint. The Catholic Church celebrates her on July 14 every year, and many venerate her as the patron saint of ecology. Her life and devotion to the Catholic Faith show that the Gospel is meant for all, and indigenous people are no exception.

Thank you for helping KNOM carry on St Kateri's legacy and broadcast Christ's message to the people of Western Alaska. This important work would be impossible without your support. St Kateri Tekakwitha, Lily of the Mohawks, pray for us!

Future Broadcasters Visit KNOM

Nome Elementary School's 2nd grade class visited the KNOM station to learn about the world of broadcasting and understand the importance of radio in rural Alaska. Their introduction to broadcasting was done in their classroom where they recorded spots and time announcements for KNOM. During their time



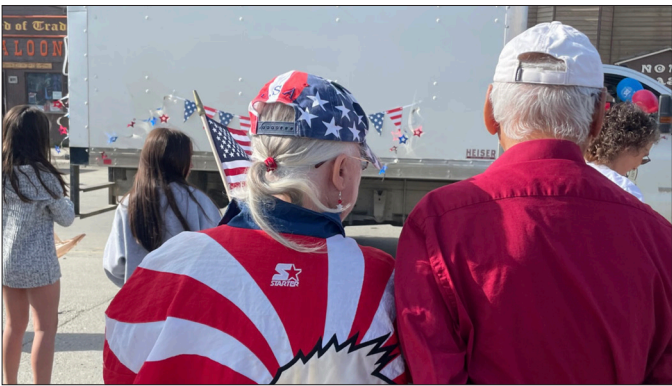
Top: Nome Elementary School's 2nd grade class poses for a photo at KNOM. Photo by Teresa Trigg, KNOM.

Bottom: KNOM's Program Specialist, Teresa Trigg, records positive quotes with the kids. Photo by Tate Coler, KNOM.

at the station, they took a tour of the studio and equipment, engaged in recording positive quotes, and saw firsthand the operations in action. One key lesson they took away from the experience was the importance of staying silent when someone is on the radio.

KNOM extends thanks to Mrs. Julie Cross and Nome Elementary School for graciously allowing the children to visit the station. They were able to enjoy a pizza lunch during the school visit, along with Subway at the station.

KNOM: Faith, Inspiration, News and Information for Western Alaska



Top: A parade takes place at the Nome Midnight Sun Festival. Photo by Cathy Rumano.

Bottom: Spectators watch parade floats on Front Street on the Fourth of July. Photo from KNOM archives.

Stars, Stripes, and Fun Delights

For over 115 years, Nome has proudly marked their annual Fourth of July parade. Legend has it that even soldiers stationed at Fort Davis once joined the festivities, marching down Front Street. The event features an array of street games catering to both kids and adults, including the High Kick and other indigenous Alaskan games. Attendees eagerly participate in various races, from bike to gunny sack, wheelbarrow, and the classic 3-legged race. Following the spirited competitions, there's a chance to indulge in a pie eating contest. The games continue with the iconic "East Enders vs West Enders" tug-of-war, where each side competes to claim victory by pulling the other across Steadman Street. Anvil City Square hosts the traditional blanket toss, a spectacle that captivates onlookers. And for a sweet conclusion to the festivities, Fire Hall offers up free ice cream to all who partake.

Sharing the Word in Western Alaska

Today's gospel story, Jesus' miraculous feeding of the large crowd, is a story found in all four gospels. Early Christians remembered Jesus' care and compassion for those who are hungry and in need. But in John's Gospel, the feeding of the people has a deeper meaning. The words used to describe Jesus' actions, "He took the bread, gave thanks to God, and distributed it," sound like the words the other gospels use to describe Jesus' actions at the Last Supper. In fact, the rest of the chapter of the gospel talks about the meaning of Jesus' feeding with the bread and fish.

Jesus explains that he is the real Bread of Life, the kind of bread that satisfies all the hungers of the human heart. The people just want the bread that fills the stomach, but Jesus offers something even greater. In John's gospel, Jesus gives the Eucharist not at the Last Supper, but in his feeding of those who are physically and spiritually hungry. Jesus continues to invite us to come to him and taste God's goodness in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

How might we better appreciate Jesus' gift of himself to us in the Holy Eucharist? How could we follow Jesus' example of feeding the physical and spiritual hunger of those around us?

How will you share the Word this week?

– Patrick Tam, 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time, July 28, 2024



Above: A large ship accompanied by a tug sits anchored about 4.5 miles off of the coast of Nome as the city awaits its first shipment of goods this season. Chunks of sea ice are visible in the foreground as the harbor continues to thaw. Photo by Ben Townsend, KNOM.

Port Springs Back To Life

Sea ice finally melted free from Nome's shores in late May. In the last few years, shorefast ice has receded as early as April 5 in 2019 and as late as May 30 in 2023.

With the sea ice gone, the Port of Nome is free to resume the vital role it plays in the region. Over the summer, the port receives everything from research vessels to cruise ships and harbors a fleet of fishing boats. Most crucial, though, are the barges that arrive periodically, laden with supplies for the citizens of Nome and the rest of Western Alaska: groceries, fuel, building materials, vehicles, etc. According to Nome Harbormaster Lucas Stotts, "New housing and project materials are on the first barges of the season, so folks are always happy to be able to start summer projects."

Nome and its surrounding villages are completely isolated from the road system, so its port and airport are vital infrastructure for the region. The sheer quantity of supplies necessary to sustain the region could never be airlifted in, so as many barges as possible must be brought into port before it freezes over again in autumn.

A project is currently underway to provide larger vessels improved access to the port by enlarging the outer basin and creating a new deep-water basin.



Above: Nome Beltz Graduates, Richard Cross and Son Erickson celebrate their accomplishments in the community parade. Photo By Ben Townsend, KNOM.

Graduates Celebrate With Parade and Ceremony

Nome residents lined the streets to celebrate the graduation of the high school's class of 2024. A parade of nearly 50 vehicles, elaborately decorated by the graduates, wound its way through the town's neighborhoods, with graduates tossing candy to the cheering crowds. This annual tradition started during the COVID-19 pandemic as a way to practice social distancing while still honoring the graduates' achievements.

The ceremony took place at Nome Beltz High School, kicking off with a live piano rendition of "Pomp and Circumstance." After speeches from school officials, the Saint Lawrence Island Dance Group performed traditional drum dances. The student speaks, including the salutatorian and valedictorian, reflected on the unique challenges their class faced due to COVID-19, commending their resilience and ability to make it through those difficult times. As the graduates received their diplomas one by one, a slideshow displayed their baby pictures and future plans, accompanied by upbeat music.

KNOM live streamed the entire Nome Beltz High School graduation ceremony on our Facebook page, allowing our listeners from around the world to share in this joyous occasion.

Fun In The Midnight Sun

Located just south of the Arctic Circle, Nome enjoys nearly 22 hours of daylight on the summer solstice and celebrates with the Midnight Sun Festival

Saturday of festival weekend kicks off with a 5K run along the Bering Sea coast, with a gold nugget awaiting the first-place finisher. After the race comes the Midnight Sun Parade down Front Street; local organizations strut past a panel of wig-and-robed judges, who award cash prizes. The fun of the parade gets cut short when bad guys suddenly ride into town! In homage to Nome's roots in the wild west and the gold rush, bandits stage a bank robbery and share their loot with candy-craving children. After the robbers are dispatched, everyone who dares takes a polar bear plunge in the Bering Sea.

The main event on festival Sunday is the Nome River Raft Race, which is exactly what it sounds like: teams race each other down the Nome River in home-built rafts. The only rule is that all crew members must be completely soaked by the time they reach the finish line! Teams embark on their rafts armed with water balloons and squirt guns, and spectators toting buckets of water line a bridge over the river to douse the racers as they pass.

As summer days grow shorter after the solstice, Alaskans work hard to prepare for the next winter, but also play hard in the sunshine while it lasts.

For the pastoral care of the sick

We pray that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick confer to those who receive it and their loved ones the power of the Lord and become ever more a visible sign of compassion and hope for all.

— Pope Francis' prayer intention for July 2024



Above: Straight out the oven, Blueberry Boy Bait. Photo by Teresa Trigg, KNOM.

An Alaskan Treat: Blueberry Boy Bait

This recipe is from the late Lucie Okpealuk Trigg from Little Diomedede, AK.

Ingredients:

- 2 cups of flour
- 1 ¼ cup sugar
- 2/3 cup butter
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon of salt
- 2 eggs – separated
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup drained blueberries

Directions:

1. Sift flour and sugar together, cut in butter, until like peas.
2. Reserve ¾ cup mixture for crumb topping.
3. Add baking powder, salt, 2 egg yolks, and add milk to remaining crumb mixture. Beat 3 minutes, low speed.
4. Beat egg whites until stiff, but not dry. Fold gently into batter. Spread in well greased floured pan 13X9X2".
5. Arrange blueberries over batter, sprinkle with crumb topping.
6. Bake 40-50 minutes in a preheated oven at 350 degrees.

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