

The Nome Static

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Dear Friend,

On the second Sunday of Easter, we hear the Gospel passage of Thomas finally meeting the risen Christ. The drama of Jesus' crucifixion and death was so viscerally real and compelling that he refuses to believe until he can see Jesus alive face-to-face. Thomas was a beloved disciple; he followed Jesus throughout his public life and, according to tradition, would ultimately preach the Gospel as far off as India. Even so, this one moment is infuriatingly enough to label him for all the ages as "Doubting Thomas."

Doubt is a natural human experience. It can even be a net positive when it impels us to explore, question, and find answers. Moments of doubt and difficulty can lead to stronger faith. Even Jesus does not condemn Thomas for his moment of doubt but reassures and comforts him. Knowing that Jesus stands with us even in our moments of doubt comforts and strengthens us as we navigate our spiritual journey.

There is no doubt that KNOM continues to be a friend and companion to Western Alaska thanks to your friendship and generosity. KNOM is blessed every day with your kindness. You are a blessing, and we thank God for you every day!

Iditarod Champ Sets New Record

For those who follow the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, a name that has become synonymous with unparalleled excellence is Dallas Seavey. This year, the 37-year-old musher from Talkeetna, Alaska, etched his name into Iditarod history by achieving a record breaking sixth victory, cementing his status as the most successful musher in the race's storied past.



Above: Dallas Seavey celebrates his Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race win with his lead dogs under the burlled arch in Nome. Photo courtesy of Anne Raup, ADN.

Seavey's dominant performance in the 2024 Iditarod was nothing short of remarkable. From the outset, he established himself as the frontrunner, maintaining a commanding lead throughout the grueling 1,000-mile journey from Anchorage to Nome. His arrival in Nome on March 12th marked the culmination of a near-flawless run, completed in just over nine days of relentless effort across Alaska's vast and unforgiving terrain.

As Seavey crossed the iconic burlled arch on Front Street, he was greeted by a jubilant crowd of Nome residents and visitors, all bearing witness to a historic moment in Iditarod lore. With this victory, Seavey surpassed the previous record of five wins held by Rick Swenson, solidifying his place as the undisputed king of the Last Great Race.

Seavey's journey was not without its challenges, however. Just hours into the race, a moose attacked his team and injured one of his dogs, Faloo, in the process. Seavey was

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Above: Pictured from left to right: Mitch Seavey, Dan Seavey, and Dallas Seavey. Photo courtesy of John Coe, KNOM.

forced to shoot the moose to protect his dogs, and then harvested the meat and hurried to the next checkpoint to seek medical attention for Faloo. Race officials gave Seavey a two-hour penalty after the encounter, but even so, he ultimately crossed under the burlled arch in Nome with a commanding four-hour lead.

For Seavey, mushing is a family affair. His grandfather, Dan, ran the first two Iditarods, and his father, Mitch, is a three-time Iditarod champion himself, having claimed his most recent victory in 2017 at the age of 57 – the oldest musher to ever win the race.

As Seavey basks in the glory of his record-breaking sixth Iditarod victory, his achievement serves as a powerful reminder of the unyielding perseverance and unwavering passion that propel mushers and their teams across Alaska's vast wilderness year after year. In a race that demands the utmost from both human and canine athletes, Dallas Seavey has proven himself to be a true master of the Last Great Race.

After crossing the Iditarod finish line, Seavey attended a press conference where the media had the opportunity to ask him questions about the race. His family was in attendance as well.



Above: An Anchorage woman wags her finger to assert dominance as a moose inspects her grocery cart in the Costco parking lot. Photo via screenshot.

If You Give a Moose a Muffin

Wildlife is a constant reality on the Last Frontier. Even an ordinary trip to the grocery store can turn into an adventure at a moment's notice, as one Anchorage woman recently found.

After her weekly Costco run on a Saturday morning, she was loading groceries into her car in the parking lot when she suddenly found herself face-to-face with an inquisitive moose inspecting the produce in her shopping cart!

"Scooch," she can be heard telling the moose in video of the standoff. "No ears back, buddy. Just scooch." She attempted a peace offering of sweet potatoes, but the moose proved uninterested. After a few minutes, the moose returned to perusing its normal fare in Costco's "outdoor produce section," as one worker described the trees in the parking lot. The moose spent the rest of the day lounging, nibbling, and napping around the premises while Costco employees ensured the safety of shoppers.



Above: Team 39, Cody Barber and Brett Lapham was the first team to arrive in Nome, the races midpoint. Photo courtesy of Ava White, KNOM.

Dogs of Iron and Men of Steel

Weeks before the Iditarod dog teams arrive in Nome, dogs of a different sort make their presence known in the city. The annual Iron Dog is the toughest and longest snowmachine race in the world, covering more than 2,500 miles of Alaskan backcountry from Anchorage to Nome and back. Veteran racers Cody Barber and Brett Lapham claimed victory in this year's Iron Dog, completing the course in 52 hours and 36 minutes.

Next year's Iron Dog will feature a rookie competitor. Nome's Wilson Hoogendorn claimed victory in this year's 200-mile Nome-Golovin snowmachine race, which earned him an invitation to run the Iron Dog next year. Wilson and his brother Oliver had previously garnered attention for their first-place finish on the USA Network show "Race to Survive."

For the role of women

We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

— Pope Francis' prayer intention for April 2024

Sharing the Word in Western Alaska

"He is not in the tomb!" This is perhaps the most important and startling statement in this Gospel, and in fact, it is the heart of our Faith.

Mary Magdalen was chosen by Jesus to be the very first one to discover and proclaim the empty tomb. And as we read later in the Gospel, she becomes the first to see, touch, and experience the risen Lord. But she isn't the last. Her encounter with the resurrected Christ becomes our experience as well. We encounter Christ alive each and every day because Christ is everywhere and always with us. His promise to never abandon us becomes possible because of his resurrection from the dead.

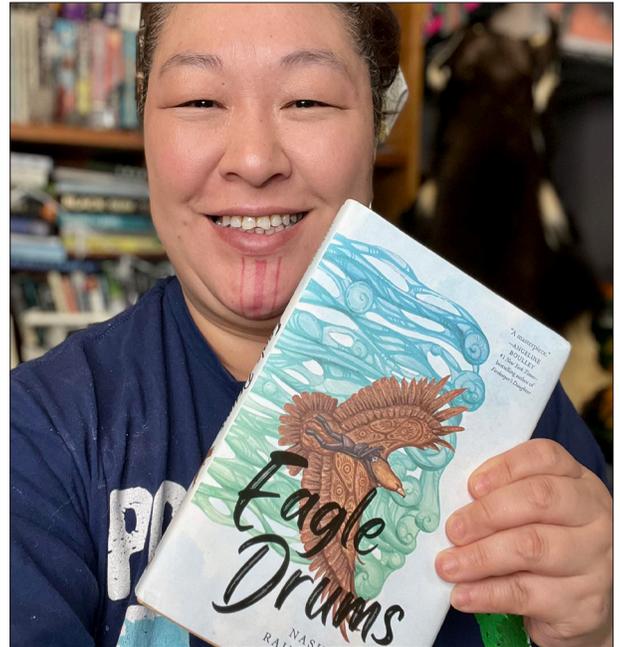
So where do we look for Jesus? We'll find him in God's Word, in the Bible, and in the readings we hear at every service and liturgy. We'll find him in the Eucharist and in receiving Holy Communion, that is, partaking of his Body and Blood which he gives out of love for us. We'll find him in one another, in our families, our friends, and communities. We'll find him in our daily routines and busy schedules. And yes, even in our struggles and challenges, in our suffering and loss, Christ is present.

Jesus will always allow himself to be discovered and experienced as long as we are sincerely trying to look for him in living our life. Where are you looking for him? Where are we as a parish community looking for and experiencing the living Christ in our midst?

— Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024

Inupiaq Author Wins Newbery Honor

Inupiaq author and illustrator Nasugraq Rainey Hopson recently won two special honors for her debut novel, *Eagle Drums*, a magical realistic middle grade tale about the origin story of the Inupiaq Messenger Feast, a Native Alaskan tradition. She was awarded both a Newbery Honor and an American Indian Youth Literature Award. The hero of her book is Pina, a young, skilled hunter who must travel up the mountain to collect obsidian - the same mountain where his two older brothers died. When he reaches the mountaintop, he is immediately confronted by a terrifying eagle god named Savin who gives the boy a choice: follow me or die like your brothers. What comes next is a harrowing journey that is based on oral Inupiaq myth filled with fantastic creatures and adventures. Hopson's book is based on stories that used to be passed down from generation to generation to teach young people morals and values such as unity and generosity. She said, "In our culture, it's very important not only to get along but being able to share and encourage and support each other. She also said, "I would like this to encourage Indigenous people to write, especially for children. Writing is incredibly healing."



Top: Nasugraq Rainey Hopson pictured with her book, *Eagle Drums*. Photo courtesy of Hopson's Facebook, used with permission.

Bottom: KNOM's Iditarod live coverage team pictured under the iconic burl arch on Front Street in Nome. Pictured from left to right: Ben, Janice, and John.

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