

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 24, 2016



## Fr. Steve's Quotes for Consideration:

*"I do not seek to understand in order that I may believe, but rather, I believe in order that I may understand."*

*-St. Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109)*

Today's quote comes from a great thinker and philosopher, St. Anselm of Canterbury. St. Anselm was a Benedictine priest, and abbot, and wrote extensively about matters of faith and understanding. A former parishioner from Brainerd shared this quote with me, and I was really struck by it. The reason is because it is so very counter-cultural- it gives us an exact opposite way of approaching our Catholic faith and the teachings of the Church than the way that society tells us that we should.

One of the serious flaws in critical thinking in our current society is the presumption which goes something like this: "You need to prove to me why I should believe this or that teaching of Christ." This attitude of suspicion, distrust and need for proof is especially prevalent in regards to teachings which our modern society dislikes, considers "old-fashioned" or "out of touch." The modern American mindset is often one which when faced with a difficult teaching of the Church responds by saying, "prove it!"

Now, I am not suggesting that the Church can't or even shouldn't have to provide sound reasons for why She teaches what She does. She can and She should and She does. The point of the quote above is that if our approach to understanding and believing the teachings of Christ and His Church, especially the more difficult ones, is that I have to understand (and agree with it) before I'll believe it, then we have it backwards, and no amount of sound and reasonable rationale will ever suite us. In fact, especially in the case of our faith's more difficult teachings, if we are willing to be obedient, to die to ourselves and our own will and understanding and believe first, then the understanding will follow. This is very much connected to developing the spiritual vision that I have been talking about in my homilies the last few weeks. Saying that I have to understand before I believe is like saying that I have to see the 3D aspects of a 3D movie before I put on the 3D glasses- it doesn't make sense, and it doesn't work. I have to put on the 3D glasses before I'll be able to see the movie in three dimensions. In other words, I need to have developed the spiritual vision, which comes through faith and belief, in order to see and understand things according to God's perspective. Belief comes first. Seeing isn't believing, believing is seeing.

So, if we struggle with one or another of the teachings of our faith, perhaps our response should be this: "Lord, I struggle to understand why You teach this or that through your Church. But I choose to believe that if You teach it, then there is a good reason that I simply can't see or understand right now. So I choose to believe, even though I don't feel like I understand. Please help me to believe more fully, so that I may more fully understand." I assure you, this is a beautifully humble and honest prayer that God will be more than happy to oblige. God bless you! *Fr. Steve*

*You May Have Noticed...* There is now a gold-linked chain roped across the entrance to the stairwell of the choir loft, with a sign that reads, "Choir Members Only." I am asking that the choir loft be reserved for choir members. The reason for this is primarily twofold: First, the staircase is steep and there is a lot of expensive equipment in the choir loft, both of which present liability issues. Second, the choir loft should only be used by parishioners during Mass as an absolute necessity in case of overflow, which has yet to happen since I have arrived here. So, unless you are a choir member, please do not sit in the choir loft during Mass. If you need help finding a pew because of late arrival, the ushers would be happy to help you. Thanks! **Fr. Steve**

**The 2016 Catholic Men's Conference** will be taking place on Saturday, February 13th, 2016 in Duluth at Marshall School. The featured speaker is Fr. Bill Baer. Registration is \$30 if you register online before Feb. 1st at [www.duluthcatholicmen.org](http://www.duluthcatholicmen.org), after which the cost will rise to \$40. This is a great opportunity for men to learn about their faith and be inspired by the witness of dynamic speakers, so attendance is highly encouraged.

**Northland Family Programs** is offering a Free Introductory Session this February on the FertilityCare™ System, a natural and effective family planning method. Learn how to avoid or achieve pregnancy safely and naturally with a proven method that's 98% effective and 100% natural.

**Essentia Health, St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth on February 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm**

**Essentia Health, St. Mary's Hospital in Superior on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 pm**

**Pre-registration is necessary for all sessions.** To pre-register or for more information call Kathy at 218-786-2378 or 1-800-842-0279 to register and for directions to the introductory sessions.

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**Holy Spirit Catholic Church**

— 227 Third Street, Two Harbors, MN 55616

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Parish Office Located in the Basement of the Church

Office 834-4659

Rectory 834-4313

Church Hall 834-4659

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E-Mail [hspirit@outlook.com](mailto:hspirit@outlook.com)

Parish Web Site [www.holyspirittwoharbors.org](http://www.holyspirittwoharbors.org)

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Youth Ministry 834-4433

Prayer Intentions 834-4659

Birthright 1-800-550-4900

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Fr. Steve's E-Mail [slaflamme@dioceseduluth.org](mailto:slaflamme@dioceseduluth.org) Deacon Tim Egan 349-9175

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<b>Saturday</b>	ST. VINCENT & ST. MARIANNE COPE	<b>01/23/16</b>
3:30 p.m.	<b>Reconciliation</b>	
4:30 p.m.	<b>Mass</b> — <i>Intention for All Parishioners</i> Reader: Paulette Moreland Plate: Shawn McMahon Chalice: Beth Egan & Kathy McMahon Servers: Hayden Johnson & Luke Johnson	
<b>Sunday</b>	3RD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	<b>01/24/16</b>
9:30 a.m.	<b>Religious Education— Grades Pre, K thru 4</b>	
11:00 a.m.	<b>Mass</b> — <i>Intention for † Stanley Jurkanis</i> Reader: Michelle Thewis Plate: Deacon Scott Peters Chalice: Laura Lien & to be assigned Servers: Ethan Bopp & Ariana Sitra	
<b>Monday</b>	THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE	<b>01/25/16</b>
<b>7:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Mass</b> — <i>Intention for Jim Perrault</i>	
<b>Tuesday</b>	SAINT TIMOTHY AND SAINT TITUS	<b>01/26/16</b>
8:15 a.m.	<b>Mass</b> — <i>Intention for † Bill Merhar</i>	
5:45 p.m.	<b>Choir Practice</b>	
<b>Wednesday</b>	SAINT ANGELA MERICI	<b>01/27/16</b>
6:30 p.m.	<b>Religious Education—Grades 5-11</b>	
<b>Thursday</b>	SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS	<b>01/28/16</b>
8:15 a.m.	<b>Mass</b> — <i>Intention for † Joan Gunsolus</i>	
9:00 a.m.	<b>Adoration</b>	
<b>Friday</b>	WEEKDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	<b>01/29/16</b>
8:15 a.m.	<b>Mass</b> — <i>Intention for † Daryl Kala</i>	
9:00 a.m.	<b>Morning Discussion Group</b>	
<b>Saturday</b>	WEEKDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	<b>01/30/16</b>
3:30 p.m.	<b>Reconciliation</b>	
4:30 p.m.	<b>Mass</b> — <i>Intention for All Parishioners</i> Reader: To be assigned Plate: To be assigned Chalice: Carol Anderson & Liz Scheidt Servers: Ava Fosness & Kate Thomasen	
<b>Sunday</b>	4TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	<b>01/31/16</b>
9:30 a.m.	<b>Religious Education— Grades Pre, K thru 4</b>	
11:00 a.m.	<b>Mass</b> — <i>Intention for † Joane Ostendorf</i> Reader: Louis Button Plate: Deacon Scott Peters Chalice: Joanne Button & Shari Hendren Servers: Livy & Sid Hendren	

**The holy rosary will be said before each Mass**



Daily Mass at 7:40 a.m.  
Saturday's at 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday's at 10:30 a.m.

Please COME A FEW MINUTES EARLY AND JOIN US IN PRAYER !

**Friday Discussion Group:** Friday morning, January 29th we will finish our study of the psalms. During lent we will meet every Friday morning for six weeks beginning February 12th. We will be viewing a DVD called "Keeping the Fire Alive" by Fr. Albert Haase. This is a continuation of our study from last year by Fr. Albert which everyone enjoyed. As always, coffee will be served. Come, learn how to navigate the challenges in you spiritual life. Hope to see you there.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Daily Mass for this coming Monday, January 25, is at 7:30a.m.

The Mass Schedule for Ash Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2016 is as follows:  
**8:15 a.m.**  
**7:00 p.m.**

- † **PARISHIONERS:** Please pray for Arthur Barthman, Joe Haynes, Yvonne Highland, Ron Kor and Ron Ostendorf, Joanne Payment.
- † **FRIENDS & RELATIVES:** Please pray for Al Aldinger, Bill Carlson, Lori Dybvig, Jean Farley, Patty Harrison-Isakson.
- † **MILITARY PERSONNEL:** Please pray for Garrett Aho, Nate Berger, Keith Dahl, Jacob Kearin , James Mickle, Ryan Ray, Christopher Uremovich, Diane Watson and Maddison Zavoral.



**Prayer Requests:** Please call the church office if you'd like to submit a prayer request; these requests will run for 3 weeks. If continued prayers are needed after that time, prayer requests can always be renewed by calling the church office 834-4659.

**Youth Happenings**

Check out our Youth Bulletin Board  
"Like" us on Facebook: Holy Spirit Youth Group

Congratulations to the 2nd grade students for making their First Reconciliation on Saturday, January 16th.

**Homeless Project:** If you would like to assist the Homeless Project, we have a list of items needed at the front of the Church. Please feel free to take a copy and place donated items in the box. Your help is much appreciated.

**Confirmation Retreats:** Time is running out to sign up. This is a requirement for confirmation and is for 11 grade students. There are only two retreats left, February 19-20 (Duluth), April 8-9, 2016 (Hibbing). If you misplaced your registration form, please contact Treasaigh in the parish office 834-4659.

**Jr. High Retreat "In Reverse", April 15-17:** This is a great retreat to encourage your child to attend! It will focus on going deeper in prayer. There are also many activities including games, swimming, talks, Mass and reconciliation, etc... Held at Cragun's Resort in Brainerd, registration is \$155.00 and is open to students in grades 6-8. Scholarships are available. For more information, please contact Connie @ 834-4433.

**Our next Family Mass** will be on Sunday, February 14th, hosted by the 5th and 6th grades.

**Latin America Collection:** Today, we will take up the Collection for the Church in Latin America. Our gifts to the collection will fund catechesis, pastoral programs, marriage and family life projects, seminarian education, and many other necessary programs in Latin America and the Caribbean. By funding these programs, the support you give today will provide seeds to grow the faith for years to come. Please support the Church in Latin America and be generous in today's collection.

**Last Week's Contributions**

Weekend Collection .....	\$2,143.44
UCA .....	\$125.00
Bldg. Fund .....	\$185.00
Latin America .....	\$10.00
Flood Relief .....	\$1,076.00