

November 29, 2015

1st Sunday of Advent



Fr. Steve's Quotes for Consideration:

"Only in silence can the word of God find a home in us, as it did in Mary, woman of the word and, inseparably, woman of silence."
-Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

Happy First Sunday of Advent to you all! Advent is such a blessed time of the year for us to prayerfully ponder and consider the love that God has for each of us that He would become one of us, His creatures in order to save us. For such a momentous celebration which is the Christmas Season, the Church gives us the Season of Advent, so that we may prepare our hearts and minds to receive all of the spiritual gifts that God wishes to shower upon us during the Christmas celebrations.

However, we know that observing the quiet Season of Advent can sometimes feel near impossible in our modern world. Christmas television commercials began running back at the end of October. Stores, malls, and civic centers were decorated for Christmas already halfway through November. And you can easily find radio stations playing Christmas tunes since the day after Thanksgiving. The tragedy of the modern world not observing Advent but only the trappings of Christmas is that it misses the whole point of there being a Christmas in the first place- the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. And perhaps even more tragically, many, many people and places throw out their Christmas decorations on the way to return the gifts they may not want the day after Christmas!

Brothers and sisters, don't fall for this madness. If we want to be truly filled with the grace and friendship of God not just as Christmas, but anytime, then we must make time *every single day* for **silent** prayer with God. Yes, it's hard sometimes, but as I have spoken of before, it takes spiritual discipline. God speaks most clearly in silence.

This Advent, I am exhorting of all us to make an Advent resolution, similar to our Lenten practices of giving up something for Lent. In order to prepare to receive the gift of Christ at Christmas, I am exhorting each of us to give up 15 minutes per day of noise, technology, distraction and entertainment. Each day this Advent, I challenge each of us to spend 15 minutes in silence with God. Go into your room at home, or better yet, come to the Church, and *leave your phone behind*. I promise, you will survive! :) But, challenge yourself to spend fifteen minutes of absolute silence everyday. If you have a family, then do it as a family. Sit in the living room together, turn off the TV, and remain silent for fifteen minutes, each of you praying for other members of your family in your heart. Don't be fooled into skipping past the Advent preparations with the noise and hustle and bustle of commercialized Christmas- spend 15 minutes each day this Advent in silent prayer. Not sure what to do? Do this- for fifteen minutes, sit in a comfortable chair, and say silently in your mind, "Come, Lord Jesus." Just repeat that phrase over and over. You'll be amazed at how these 15 minutes of silent prayer becomes the most prized possession of your day! God bless you! *Fr. Steve*

Adult Faith Formation Class: Fr. Steve's Adult Faith Formation class had been scheduled for **Thursday, December 3rd.** The class will be on the Sacrament of Marriage. All are invited and encouraged to attend

Altar Server Training: There will be **mandatory** training for all current and prospective Altar Servers the weekends of Dec. 5/6th and 12/13th. {Reminder: Adults are both able and welcome to be Altar Servers!} Training sessions will take place after both the 4:30 Sat. Mass and the 11:00 Sunday Mass. Altar Servers may choose to go to the training session on either Saturday or Sunday but must go to one session each weekend. If you are not able to attend, please contact Fr. Steve.



Christmas Poinsettias: Parishioners wanting to donate Christmas flowers should bring them to the church no later than December 23rd. Thank you for your help in providing Christmas flowers.

The Little Blue Books for Advent are in the back of the Church. Pick one up for meditation and prayer as we await the coming of Christ at Christmas.

Advent Retreat: "WAITING WITH THE WISE" on Saturday, December 5, 2015, 9 am-Noon at St. Scholastica Monastery in Duluth. Free Will Offering. This Retreat will reflect on the "Passing of Wisdom" today. During Advent we hear in the Scriptures, a call to "Wait" and to "Prepare". How does waiting take shape in our own spiritual lives? How are we living and passing on wisdom customs, family traditions, stories and preparations to the next generations?

Holy Spirit Catholic Church — 227 Third Street, Two Harbors, MN 55616

Parish Office Located in the Basement of the Church **Office** 834-4659 **Rectory** 834-4313 **Church Hall** 834-4659

E-Mail hspirit@outlook.com **Parish Web Site** www.holyspirittwoharbors.org

Youth Ministry 834-4433 **Prayer Intentions** 834-4659 **Birthright** 1-800-550-4900

Fr. Steve's E-Mail slaflamme@dioceseduluth.org **Deacon Tim Egan** 349-9175

Saturday	WEEKDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	11/28/15
3:30 p.m.	Reconciliation	
4:30 p.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for All Parishioners</i> Reader: Paulette Moreland Plate: Deacon Tim Egan Chalice: Beth Egan & Liz Scheidt Servers: Hayden Johnson & Luke Johnson	
Sunday	1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	11/29/15
9:30 a.m.	Religious Education—Grades Pre, K-4	
11:00 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention † Ralph & Shirley Wurster</i> Reader: Michelle Thewis Plate: Deacon Tim Egan Chalice: Nancy Olsen & To be assigned Servers: Nathan Campbell & Ariana Sitra	
Monday	SAINT ANDREW	11/30/15
8:15 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention † Those listed in Book of Remembrance</i>	
Tuesday	WEEKDAY DURING ADVENT	12/01/15
8:15 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention † Gary Aleff</i>	
5:45 p.m.	Choir Practice	
Wednesday	WEEKDAY DURING ADVENT	12/02/15
6:30 p.m.	Religious Education—Grades 5-11	
Thursday	SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER	12/03/15
9:30 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention † Mayme Crackel</i>	
Friday	SAINT JOHN DAMASCENE	12/04/15
8:15 a.m.	No Mass	
Saturday	FIRST SATURDAY	12/05/15
3:30 p.m.	Reconciliation	
4:30 p.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for All Parishioners</i> Reader: Gloria Uremovich Plate: Deacon Tim Egan Chalice: Kathy & Shawn McMahon Servers: Spencer Ross & to be assigned	
5:30 p.m.	Altar Server Training	
Sunday	2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	12/16/15
9:30 a.m.	Religious Education—Grades Pre, K-4	
11:00 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention Eric Hastings</i> Reader: Mike Hoffman Plate: Deacon Tim Egan Chalice: Linda Hoffman & Laura Lien Servers: Hattie & Kaden Edlund	
12:00 p.m.	Altar Server Training	

- † **PARISHIONERS:** Please pray for Arthur Barthman, Florian Burger, Ron Kor and Ron Ostendorf.
- † **FRIENDS & RELATIVES:** Please pray for Al Aldinger, Bill Carlson and Patty Harrison-Isakson.
- † **MILITARY PERSONNEL:** Please pray for Garrett Aho, Nate Berger, Keith Dahl, Ryan Ray, James Mickle and Christopher Uremovich.



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

The Children's Christmas program will be on Saturday, December 19th at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome, with fellowship to follow.

Christmas Cookies: Annual cookie bake will be on Sunday Dec. 20th @ 1:00. Please come join us in baking cookies for the local food shelf. All ages are welcome to join us for a fun afternoon of baking. Bring your pre-mixed Christmas cookie dough and bake it at the church. The more people, the more the varieties we will have. If anyone is willing to donate medium Ziploc containers please put them in the kitchen marked for the cookie bake. Any questions, please call Connie; 834-4433.

TOBIT (Theology of the Body for Teens) Camp is open for registration. The dates are January 15-17th at Big Sandy Camp in McGregor, MN. Please contact the parish office to register.



Christmas Giving Tree Gift Reminder: Please bring wrapped gifts along with the name tag to the church by December 5th. A huge thanks to all who help with this project!

Parish Envelopes: Your assigned packet of envelopes is available at the back of Church for the coming year. Envelope usage is very important as it helps support intentional stewardship by everyone. We urge you to use your envelopes, it makes our record keeping much easier when you do. If you need envelopes, please let us know.

<i>Last Week's Contributions</i>	
Weekend Collection	\$2,245.25
Bldg. Fund	\$102.00
Catholic Campaign for Human Dev.....	\$95.00
 UCA - 76% \$18,853.00 of \$24,897.72	