

December 13, 2015

3rd Sunday of Advent



Fr. Steve's Quotes for Consideration:

"Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls."

- Blessed Mother Teresa (1910-1997)

Rejoice! Today is *Gaudete* Sunday! *Gaudete* is a Latin word meaning, "rejoice," and it is reserved in a special way for today, the Third Sunday of Advent. As you may have noticed at Mass this weekend, there are a few minor changes during *Gaudete* Sunday. First, the priest may wear rose [NOT pink! :)] colored vestments for Mass rather than the customary purple. Also, there is a pervasive theme in the readings and antiphons for Mass which are very joyful in character, exhorting God's people to rejoice and be glad. Why? Because, as St. Paul reminds us in the Second Reading for this weekend's Mass, "The Lord is near." Indeed, the Third Sunday of Advent is a sort of "halfway" point during the Advent Season, and so our Lord's coming at Christmas is drawing very near.

Now, I will readily admit that rejoicing is not always easy to do. Especially during these challenging times in which the North Shore Mining Plant has been idled, the Diocese of Duluth has declared bankruptcy, there is violence and terrorism abounding in the world, and secularism seems to pull at the seams of the practice of our faith. What reason do we have to rejoice?

We rejoice because we are a people of hope. We rejoice because God, who is Almighty, has come to rescue His people from their sins and from eternal death in Hell through His birth as a little child in Bethlehem, and His eventual death and resurrection. We rejoice because we know that God is faithful, that He is the Lord and Master of the universe, and that no matter what we may face in our lives, it is no surprise to God, who knows all things, and promises to be near us, and to carry us through our trials and tribulations. We rejoice because we are infinitely loved by a God who will stop at nothing to save us from our sins. We rejoice because we are God's own children.

And if we live joy even, and perhaps especially, in the midst of difficulty and uncertainty, you can bet that we will peak the curiosity of others. Friends, neighbors and coworkers will marvel at our joy-filled life and perhaps will want to know more. That's the point of Bl. Mother Teresa's quote above: what attracts people most to the Christian faith is joy-filled Christians. It is what people in this world long for, ache for: joy and happiness in life that comes from peace of mind in knowing that I am loved and redeemed by God who sustains me in the midst of difficulties and who supports me when I am struggling. If we truly believe that God is coming to save us, that God loves us to His own death on the cross, what do we have to fear? Rejoice! As the Prophet Zephaniah reminds us in the First Reading:

"The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a mighty Savior!" God bless you! *Fr. Steve*

Jubilee Year of Mercy : Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has declared that a Jubilee Year of Mercy is to take place throughout the universal Church. In order to celebrate this Year of Mercy, Father Steve will be offering additional times for the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance. Besides hearing confessions at the previously scheduled time of Saturdays from 3:30-4:15, Fr. Steve will also be hearing confessions on Fridays from 7:30 to 8:00am, and on the Tuesdays of Advent, Dec. 15, and 22, from 5:00-5:45pm. Additional confession times in the days leading up to Christmas are also available—see back of bulletin. As always, you are welcome to make a personal appointment for confession if you desire.

Altar Server Training: There will be **mandatory** training for all current and prospective Altar Servers the weekend of Dec. 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. If you are not able to attend, please contact Fr. Steve.

Adult Faith Formation Class: Fr. Steve's next Adult Faith Formation class has been scheduled for this **Thursday, December 17th at 6:45 p.m.** The class will be on the Sacrament of Marriage. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

Aging religious need your help. In the United States today, there are more than 33,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. These religious worked tirelessly in Catholic schools, hospitals, and agencies, usually for little to no pay. As a result, many religious communities lack adequate savings for retirement and eldercare. Your gift to today's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and more. Please be generous.

 **Decorators are needed** on Sunday, December 20th after Mass to prepare the church for Christmas. We need to set up the Christmas trees, put up the wreaths and the crèche. We will be serving food and pop in appreciation to those who help make our Church beautiful.

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.

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	OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE	12/01/15
3:30 p.m.	Reconciliation	
4:30 p.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for All Parishioners</i> Reader: Harold Ek Plate: Liz Scheidt Chalice: Deel Hoffman & to be assigned Servers: Kate & Miles Thomasen	
5:30 p.m.	Altar Server Training	
Sunday	3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	12/13/15
9:30 a.m.	Religious Education—Grades Pre, K-4	
11:00 a.m.	Family Mass — <i>Intention Mary Sue Fisher</i> Reader: Religious Ed. Student Plate: Chris Lemke Chalice: Joanne Button & Gina Lemke Servers: Anthony Lemke & Jasmyn Uremovich	
12:00 p.m.	Altar Server Training	
Monday	SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS	12/14/15
8:15 a.m.	No Morning Mass	
Tuesday	WEEKDAY DURING ADVENT	12/15/15
8:15 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention †Gary Aleff</i>	
5:00 p.m.	Reconciliation	
5:45 p.m.	Choir Practice	
Wednesday	WEEKDAY DURING ADVENT	12/16/15
6:30 p.m.	Religious Education—Grades 5-11	
Thursday	WEEKDAY DURING ADVENT	12/17/15
8:15 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention † Carol Burger</i>	
8:45 a.m.	Holy Hour with Exposition	
6:45 p.m.	Adult Faith Formation	
Friday	WEEKDAY DURING ADVENT	12/18/15
7:30 a.m.	Reconciliation	
8:15 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention † Laurie Miller</i>	
Saturday	WEEKDAY DURING ADVENT	12/19/15
3:30 p.m.	Reconciliation	
4:30 p.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for All Parishioners</i> Reader: Liz Scheidt Plate: Shawn McMahon Chalice: Carol Anderson & Kathy McMahon Servers: Hayden Johnson & Luke Johnson	
7:00 p.m.	Youth Christmas Program - <i>“The Perfect Gift”</i>	
Sunday	4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	12/20/15
9:30 a.m.	Reconciliation	
11:00 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention Peggy Kubizewski</i> Reader: Shannah Groothausen Plate: Laura Lien Chalice: Shari Hendren & Jeannie Shaw Servers: Livy & Sid Hendren	



Masses at Christmas

Christmas Eve: 4:00 pm
Christmas Day: 9:30 am

Masses at New Year's

New Year's Eve: 4:00 pm
New Year's Day: 9:30 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday Dec 15 from 5:00 to 5:45 p.m.
Friday Dec 18 from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.
Saturday Dec 20 from 3:30 to 4:15 p.m.
Sunday Dec 20: from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Monday Dec 21: from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday Dec 22: 5:00 to 5:45 p.m.

- † **PARISHIONERS:** Please pray for Arthur Barthman, Florian Burger, Ron Kor and Ron Ostendorf.
- † **FRIENDS & RELATIVES:** Please pray for Al Aldinger, Patty Amitrano, Bill Carlson, Kathleen Despiegler, Jean Farley, 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 ~

"The Perfect Gift" 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.

Funeral Dish Reminder: Please remember to pick up your dish outside the parish office. At the end of December, any unmarked/unclaimed dishes remaining will be donated to Neighbor to Neighbor. Please check to be certain you haven't forgotten a dish. Thank you so much to everyone who has helped with this very important ministry!

Last Week's Contributions

Weekend Collection.....	\$3,079.01
UCA	\$1,445.00
Bldg. Fund.....	\$487.00
Altar Flowers	\$10.00
Religious Retirement.....	\$15.00

UCA - 82%
\$20,543.00 of \$24,897.72

\$4,354.72 still owed



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.