

December 20, 2015

4th Sunday of Advent



Fr. Steve's Quotes for Consideration:

"We must pray without tiring, for the salvation of mankind does not depend upon material success . . . but on Jesus alone."

-St. Frances Xavier Cabrini (1850-1917)

Today's quote is from St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, an Italian-American religious sister, who came to the United States from Italy in order to minister to the Italian immigrants. She became a naturalized American citizen, and so was the first American citizen to become a canonized saint. This quote is especially interesting because it teaches us an important lesson about prayer. St. Frances was a woman of tremendous action, founding Catholic schools, hospitals, caring for the sick and instructing Italian immigrants in the Catholic faith. In all, she founded 67 institutions of service. And yet, despite all of this apostolic activity, she reminds us that prayer is the foundation of good works, and that we must always remember that salvation depends solely on Jesus, not on our own efforts.

It's also an important reminder for this Fourth Sunday of Advent. As we know, next Friday is Christmas; but it is not here yet. These last remaining days of Advent are supposed to be for Catholics a time of spending particularly focused moments of silent prayer and anticipation of Jesus' coming. It is a time to prepare our hearts for the coming of our Savior, and to await the joyful celebration of Christmas in watchful prayer.

Now, I know that this is really hard to do in practice, because for most of the world, and perhaps even in our own family and amongst our friends, the Christmas celebration has already begun. But may I suggest that we carve out a little time each day this week leading up to Christmas Day on Friday to spend in quiet prayer? Even though the Holiday festivities in the world are in full swing, we can still *reserve our hearts* for the true celebration of Christmas, which is still a few days away. So, for example, stop by the Church this week once or twice during the day and say a few prayers in silence, asking God to renew His loving presence in your heart and life and prepare your soul for Christmas. If we have not yet had the opportunity to go to confession, perhaps we should take advantage of one of the extra confession times available this Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. Perhaps we could read the Nativity Story in the Gospel of Luke (Chapters 1-2) over the next couple of days. I am encouraging us to do something prayerful to prepare our hearts for our Savior's coming. Jesus alone is the reason for the celebration of Christmas, let's make sure our hearts are ready for His coming. God bless you! *Fr. Steve*

Religious give thanks. "We cannot begin to repay all who contribute," writes a Catholic sister. "So we pray to God, who is never outdone in generosity, to reward you." Heartfelt thanks for your donation to last week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. May God bless you for your goodness!

Decorators are needed this 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 refreshments 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.



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.

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!

St. Benedict Church is seeking a custodian for approximately 20-24 hours/week. This position is responsible for the cleaning of all areas of the Church building. Must be able to handle the physical nature of the job, work around parish activities, and respect the sacred nature of the church. A full job description and application can be found on our website www.stbensduluth.org or by calling 724-4828. Applications will be taken through January 8th.

PRAYER SHAWLS and lap robes are made in prayer by volunteers to be given to someone with a prolonged or serious illness, in hospice, as a comfort after a loss of a loved one, in times of stress such as during the deployment of a loved one to a combat location to name a few. If you know of someone who could benefit from a prayer shawl or would like more information, please call Liz Scheidt at 834-6492.



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 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 - " The Perfect Gift "	
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	
Monday	SAINT PETER CANISIUS	12/21/15
8:15 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention † John Martinovich</i>	
7:00 p.m.	Reconciliation	
Tuesday	WEEKDAY DURING ADVENT	12/22/15
8:15 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention † Delores Burger</i>	
5:00 p.m.	Reconciliation	
5:45 p.m.	Choir Practice	
Wednesday	SAINT JOHN OF KANTY	12/23/15
Thursday	VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS	12/24/15
4:00 p.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for All Parishioners</i> Reader: Gloria Uremovich Plate: Deacon Tim Egan Chalice: Chris & Gina Lemke Servers: Kate & Miles Thomasen	
Friday	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	12/25/15
9:30 a.m.	Mass Reader: Mike Hoffman Plate: Deacon Scott Peters Chalice: Linda Hoffman & to be assigned Servers: Hattie & Kaden Edlund	
Saturday	SAINT STEPHEN	12/26/15
3:30 p.m.	Reconciliation	
4:30 p.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for All Parishioners</i> Reader: To be assigned Plate: Deacon Tim Egan Chalice: Carol Anderson & Beth Egan Servers: Karley Fleischer & to be assigned	
Sunday	THE HOLY FAMILY	12/27/15
9:30 a.m.	Reconciliation	
11:00 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention Peggy Kubizewski</i> Reader: Louis Button Plate: Deacon Tim Egan Chalice: Joanne Button & Nancy Olsen Servers: Ethan Bopp & Ariana Sitra	

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

Saturday Dec 19 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, Joe Haynes, Ron Kor and Ron Ostendorf.
- † **FRIENDS & RELATIVES:** Please pray for Al Aldinger, Patty Amitrano, Bill Carlson, Kathleen Despiegler, Lori Dybvig, Jean Farley, and Patty Harrison-Isakson.
- † **MILITARY PERSONNEL:** Please pray for Garrett Aho, Nate Berger, Keith Dahl, Jacob Kearin, James Mickle, Ryan Ray 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

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.

THERE ARE MANY WAYS FOR OUR YOUTH TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE...

The Perfect Gift



Youth Christmas Program

December 19th, 2015
7:00 p.m.

Please join us for cookies, coffee and hot chocolate in the Parish Hall following the program.
Everyone is welcome!

Last Week's Contributions

Weekend Collection.....	\$2,592.77
UCA	\$377.00
Bldg. Fund	\$200.00
Religious Retirement	\$90.00

UCA - 84%
\$20,920.00 of \$24,897.72

\$3,977.72 still owed