

January 10, 2016

The Baptism of the Lord



Fr. Steve's Quotes for Consideration:

"Let my prayer be incense before You [Lord], my uplifted hands an evening sacrifice." -Psalm 141:2

"Each of the elders held a harp and gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the holy ones" -Revelation 5:8

This week, I am doing something a bit different. This week's bulletin is a sort of response to informal requests. And just as a reminder, I would be happy to write bulletin articles about matters of our Catholic Faith of which you have questions. Simply email me (slaflamme@dioceseduluth.org) and I'll consider your question, and perhaps write a bulletin article about it.

This week, I have two quotes from the Sacred Scriptures that refer to the use of incense. I have had, in the course of the last several weeks, a few different people ask me what is the significance or meaning of using incense at Mass. So I thought that I would address this question. First, recognize that the use of incense in worship goes back to ancient times. And it was not reserved solely to Christianity. Burning incense as a sign of worship has roots in ancient pagan worship rituals as well as roots in Jewish worship. The use of incense is present in many, many places in the Old Testament, and there were very specific rules for its use (read Exodus, chapter 30). The Temple priests, in offering sacrifice to God, offered incense on what was called the Altar of Incense. God commanded Moses to instruct the high priest, Aaron, to construct an altar of incense on which, "Aaron shall burn fragrant incense. Morning after morning, when he prepares the lamps, and again in the evening twilight, when he lights the lamps, he shall burn incense. Throughout your generations this shall be the regular incense offering before the Lord" (Exodus 30: 7-8).

In other words, offering or burning incense before an image or altar was a sign of a person offering veneration, honor or worship to that image, or the god whom that image represented. For this reason, the Romans often tried to force the early Christians to burn incense in front of an image of the emperor or a statue of a Roman god, and many Christians refused (and were subsequently killed because of it) because they knew that to do so would be to offer worship or honor to a false god.

Thus we burn and offer incense for two primary reasons- first, because we only incense holy, Godly things, as a sign of honor, or, in the case of God, worship. So, we incense the altar in Church because it is sacred since the Eucharist is celebrated upon it. We incensed the manger scene as a sign of reverence for what it represents- the Holy Family. We incense the Gospel Book because it contains the words and actions of Jesus Christ. We also incense the body of a deceased person at their Christian funeral as a sign of honoring their body since it was a temple of the Holy Spirit on earth.

But incense is also meant to be a sign not just of reverence and worship, but a symbol of our prayers rising up to God in Heaven. As the Psalmist states above, "may our prayers arise before you like incense in your sight O God." The sight of incense rising before the altar in Church should help us to recognize how we offer our prayers to God, before His holy throne. Thus incense helps to symbolize and solemnize our worship of God in His majesty. God bless you! *Fr. Steve*

Natural Disaster Special Collection: The mild winter we are experiencing in Minnesota has not been the experience in other parts of our country, and we have been invited to assist. Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, President of the USCCB, said Tuesday "Severe weather, in the form of violent storms, tornados and floods, impacted states in the South and Midwest regions of our country. Additional major flooding is expected over the next several weeks as rivers and tributaries continue to rise. As that happens and the weather continues to grow colder, communities might very well have to contend with freezing and icing of their initial flood damage. And while the poor are the hardest hit by these conditions, many will have vast unmet needs."

Archbishop Kurtz has asked, and Bishop Sirba agreed, that we take up a special collection the week of January 16-17. The funds collected in this one-time special appeal for the 2015-2016 storms and other natural disasters will be used to support the efforts of Catholic Charities USA, the official domestic relief agency of the U.S. Catholic Church, as they and their member agencies respond to immediate emergency needs for such necessities as water, food, shelter, and medical care as well as to the long term need to rebuild and recover after widespread destruction, and to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for pastoral and reconstruction needs of the Church.

There was a time when we received disaster aid from Catholic Charities USA, and it made an enormous difference in our ability to serve residents of the Diocese of Duluth.



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 CHRISTMAS	01/09/16
3:30 p.m.	Reconciliation	
4:30 p.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for All Parishioners</i> Reader: Paulette Moreland Plate: To be assigned Chalice: Beth Egan & Liz Scheidt Servers: Kate & Miles Thomasen	
Sunday	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	01/10/16
9:30 a.m.	Religious Education— Grades Pre, K thru 4	
11:00 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for Deacon Scott & Family</i> Reader: Religious Education Student Plate: Deacon Scott Peters Chalice: Joanne Button & Laura Lien Servers: Casey & Kaitlyn Underdale	
Monday	WEEKDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	01/11/16
8:15 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for Barb Laflamme</i>	
Tuesday	WEEKDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	01/12/16
8:15 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for † Marion Rodewald</i>	
5:45 p.m.	Choir Practice	
Wednesday	SAINT HILARY	01/13/16
6:30 p.m.	Religious Education—Grades 5-11	
Thursday	WEEKDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	01/14/16
8:15 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for † Paul Johnson</i>	
Friday	WEEKDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	01/15/16
7:30 a.m.	Reconciliation	
8:15 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for † Gary Aleff</i>	
8:45 a.m.	Friday Discussion Group	
Saturday	WEEKDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	01/16/16
3:30 p.m.	Reconciliation	
4:30 p.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for All Parishioners</i> Reader: Paulette Moreland Plate: To be assigned Chalice: Carol Anderson & Kathy McMahon Servers: Karly Fleischer & to be assigned	
Sunday	2ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	01/17/16
9:30 a.m.	Religious Education— Grades Pre, K thru 4	
11:00 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for † Patricia Harrison</i> Reader: Shannah Groothausen Plate: Deacon Scott Peters Chalice: Jeannie Shaw & to be assigned Servers: Hattie & Kaden Edlund	



Holy Spirit's Prayer Shawl Ministry Group is an informal group who crochets and knits tangible signs of their prayers for others. *New people are always welcome to join us.* We will meet on **Tuesday, January 12 at 9:00 AM** in the church hall.

MN March for Life Buses: On January 22, 2016 the Diocese of Duluth's Office of Marriage and Family Life will be sponsoring buses to travel down to the Twin Cities for the Annual March for Life commemorating the 1972 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion. The buses will leave the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Rosary, 2801 E. Fourth St., Duluth after the 7 a.m. Mass and will return to Duluth at approximately 5 p.m. The cost will be \$5 per person and participants are asked to register at www.dioceseduluth.org. This event is part of the diocesan wide Day of Fasting and Prayer in Reparation for a Culture of Violence and Disrespect of Human Life.

- † **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, Patty Harrison-Isakson, Jim Kioski, and Rubi Peterson.
- † **MILITARY PERSONNEL:** Please pray for Garrett Aho, Nate Berger, Keith Dahl, Jacob Kearin, James Mickle, Ryan Ray, Christopher Uremovich, 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

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.

Confirmation Retreats: This is a requirement for confirmation and is for 11 grade students. February 19-20 (Duluth), April 8-9, 2016 (Hibbing). Please turn your registration form in early to the parish office so we can register you.

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

Last Week's Contributions

Weekend Collection	\$2,886.00
UCA	\$275.00
Bldg. Fund	\$430.00
Latin America	\$10.00
Christmas	\$225.00

Gentle Reminder: to Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, Ushers, and Altar Servers: "Can't Serve" times are to be in to Judy Fleischer by the 15th of the month. Post to MSP or call 834-3109 or e-mail cookteller@frontier.com. Thank you again for your ministry!!

"COMING HOME BASKET": The basket sitting to the right of the Sanctuary is a "Coming Home Basket." If you know of someone who has drifted away from their Catholic faith, write their name on one of the sheets provided, fold it, and place it in the basket. As a faith community we are encouraged to pray for the people whose names have been placed in the coming home basket as well as to encourage those we are aware of to return

