

# 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 31, 2016



## Fr. Steve's Quotes for Consideration:

*"The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult; and left untried."*

-G.K. Chesterton (1874-1936)

Today's quote is not from a saint (yet), but it is from a tremendous Catholic thinker and writer of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century: Gilbert Keith Chesterton. G.K. Chesterton was a convert to Catholicism, and a brilliant and humorous writer who wrote profusely about Catholicism, especially making arguments against the rampant atheism that was so prevalent in England during his lifetime. Two of his greatest works, which I **highly** recommend, are "Orthodoxy," and "What's Wrong with the World." What I think really sets Chesterton apart in his writing is his ingenious social diagnosis and commentary- he is able to point out the errors in modern ways of thinking about life, truth, God and the world, and point to how Catholicism so completely provides the truth about life, God and the world.

His quote above is one of his most famous. In the face of so much criticism in his day that Christianity was a failed experiment, that it has nothing to offer the modern man, that it is somehow irrational, unscientific, and even archaic, Chesterton's response is that the modern man often rejects Christianity and our beliefs not because they are somehow lacking, but because truly living the Christian life is difficult, and so people don't want to do it.

It's a great reminder to us as well, who are trying to live our Christian faith: being a faithful Christian who actively, daily live their Catholic faith is not easy; in fact, it's rather difficult. And this should really be no surprise to us because Jesus Himself said as much over and over again- the road to eternal life in Heaven is narrow and difficult while the road to destruction is wide and easy. Living our Catholic faith, not just believing, but actually and faithfully living all of the teachings of Christ's Church is not easy, but really, is any noble pursuit easy? How many of us who play sports or have kids that do realize that being a good athlete is not easy, it requires a lot of hard work. But it's worth it!!

Infinitely more so is this the case with our faith, which has eternal consequences. Are some of Jesus' teachings difficult to accept and perhaps even harder to live? Yes. Undoubtedly. But their difficulty doesn't prove that we shouldn't try to live them; in fact it proves that we should. Because if we trust our sinful selves to be the judge of what is right and true and worth our effort when it comes to our faith, we won't get it- the faith will seem too difficult, too foreign, to counter-cultural to be possible to live faithfully. But if we trust not ourselves, but in the God who made us, and trust that what He has revealed as true and right through His Church is in fact true and right, then what previously seemed difficult to live will become not just easier, but better understood by us. As I said last week, seeing isn't believing, believing is seeing. Don't trust the world and its allurements and false notions of "truth;" trust in God and His Church- living Christ's way may not always be easy, but anything worth doing never is! God bless you!

*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.

**6 Month Financial Report:** Please pick up a copy at the back of the Church this weekend and review our parish finances. Thank you to everyone for your generous financial support. Please call the parish office if you have questions.

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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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**Youth Ministry** 834-4433    **Prayer Intentions** 834-4659    **Birthingright** 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>	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: Paulette Moreland Plate: Shawn McMahon Chalice: Beth Egan & Kathy McMahon Servers: Hayden Johnson & Luke Johnson	
<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 † Joann Ostendorf</i> Reader: Louis Button Plate: Deacon Scott Peters Chalice: Joanne Button & Shari Hendren Servers: Livy & Sid Hendren	
<b>Monday</b>	WEEKDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	<b>02/01/16</b>
	<b>No Mass</b>	
<b>Tuesday</b>	THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD	<b>02/02/16</b>
	<b>No Mass</b>	
5:45 p.m.	<b>Choir Practice</b>	
<b>Wednesday</b>	SAINT BLAISE AND SAINT ANSGAR	<b>02/03/16</b>
6:30 p.m.	<b>Religious Education—Grades 5-11</b>	
<b>Thursday</b>	WEEKDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	<b>02/04/16</b>
	<b>No Mass</b>	
6:30 p.m.	<b>Men's Prayer Group</b>	
<b>Friday</b>	SAINT AGATHA	<b>02/05/16</b>
	<b>No Mass</b>	
<b>Saturday</b>	SAINT PAUL MIKI & COMPANIONS	<b>02/06/16</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>	5TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	<b>02/07/16</b>
9:30 a.m.	<b>Religious Education— Grades Pre, K thru 4</b>	
11:00 a.m.	<b>Mass</b> — <i>Intention for † Steve Wisniowski</i> Reader: Louis Button Plate: Deacon Scott Peters Chalice: Joanne Button & Shari Hendren Servers: Livy & Sid Hendren	

**Sacred Heart Candle:** You may have noticed the red candle at the base of the Sacred Heart statue. These candles may be purchased for \$2.00 and will burn all week long for your personal prayer intention.

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, Richard Hadrich, Patty Harrison-Isakson, Peggy Jurkanis and Diane Watson .

† **MILITARY PERSONNEL:** Please pray for Garrett Aho, Nate Berger, Keith Dahl, Jacob Kearin , James Mickle, Ryan Ray, Christopher Uremovich, and Maddison Zavoral.

† **Sacred Heart Candle:** Fr. Steve Laflamme

*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

**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.

### *Last Week's Contributions*

Weekend Collection.....	\$2,511.93
UCA.....	\$65.00
Bldg. Fund.....	\$95.00
Latin America.....	\$171.00