

# The Ascension of the Lord

May 8, 2016



## Fr. Steve's Quotes for Consideration:

*"God speaks in the silence of the heart. Listening is the beginning of prayer."*

-Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta (1910-1997)

Continuing my series of bulletin articles on prayer, this week I would like to focus on the absolute necessity of silence for growth in the spiritual life. The quote above comes from someone who is undoubtedly familiar to us all, Mother Teresa (who will be canonized a saint on September 4<sup>th</sup> of this year, by the way!). And her message strikes at the very heart of prayer: silence.

Silence is a strict requirement for authentic prayer. However, one of my great fears for our modern society, and especially including modern American Catholics, is that we are afraid of silence. We keep ourselves very distracted with smartphones, Facebook, Pinterest, Snapchat, texting, music, movies and video games. And while none of these things are bad in themselves, I truly believe that many people surround themselves constantly with noise because of the fact that they do not want to face the silence because they are afraid of what they may hear. Silence can scare us because silence can give rise to self-examination, to questions of the meaning and purpose of our life, to the memory of sins that we have not acknowledged, or past hurts that we would rather forget, or worries about the future that we would rather not consider. And so, our modern society blocks all that out with noise and busyness. If you need proof, ask yourself, when you wake up in the morning, which do you reach for first? The Bible/prayerbook/Rosary, or your smartphone/television remote/newspaper? It's a sobering question.

But all of those things that I mentioned above that humanity often tries to avoid by avoiding silence are exactly the things that God wants to talk to us about in prayer: He wants us to examine our lives and discover that He is the reason and purpose for our life. He wants us to acknowledge our sins so that He can bring us forgiveness and reconciliation. He wants us to deal with past hurts so that we can find healing, and He wants us to bring our worries about the future and place them at His feet so that we can find peace. But we have to be willing to enter into the silence of prayer. Are we ready? Are we willing? Are we determined to dedicate at least some time each day to silence with God, unplugging, turning off the distractions and giving God our undivided attention? We may be afraid to give it a try, but we won't be happy until we do.

Next week, I'll talk about what silent prayer practically looks like. God bless you! *Fr. Steve*

**Happy Mother's Day:** May God grant to all of the mothers of our parish a year filled with good health and many blessings!

**Baby Bottles Wanted – Empty or Full:** Baby bottles need to be turned in this weekend. Please bring back the baby bottles full of cash or checks made out to the Christ Child Society of Duluth. On behalf of all the women and babies that will benefit from your generosity, a big thank you and God bless you!

**Vacation Bible School-** June 27th-July1st , 6-730pm. Volunteers are needed. Please contact Connie or Cheryl.



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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    Birthright 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    Deacon Scott Peters 834-2543

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<b>Saturday</b>	FIRST SATURDAY	<b>05/07/16</b>
3:30 p.m.	<b>Reconciliation</b>	
4:30 p.m.	<b>Mass</b> — <i>Intention for All Parishioners</i> Reader: Liz Scheidt Chalices: Carol Anderson & Beth Egan Servers: Ava Fosness & Kate Thomasen	
<b>Sunday</b>	THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD	<b>05/08/16</b>
11:00 a.m.	<b>Mass</b> — <i>Intention for † Delores Burger</i> Reader: Louis Button Chalices: Joanne Button & Linda Hoffman Servers: Kaden Edlund & Hattie Edlund	
<b>Monday</b>	WEEKDAY DURING EASTER	<b>05/09/16</b>
8:15 a.m.	<b>Mass</b> —† <i>Bill Merhar</i>	
<b>Tuesday</b>	SAINT DAMIEN DE VEUSTER	<b>05/10/16</b>
8:15 a.m.	<b>Mass</b> —† <i>Rev. John Zarilli</i>	
9:00 a.m.	<b>Prayer Shawl Ministry</b>	
<b>Wednesday</b>	WEEKDAY DURING EASTER	<b>05/11/16</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	SAINTS NEREUS AND ACHILLEUS SAINT PANCRAS	<b>05/12/16</b>
8:15 a.m.	<b>Mass</b> —† <i>Rev. Tim Culligan</i>	
9:00 a.m.	<b>Adoration</b>	
<b>Friday</b>	OUR LADY OF FATIMA	<b>05/13/16</b>
	<b>No Mass</b>	
<b>Saturday</b>	SAINT MATTHIAS	<b>05/14/16</b>
3:30 p.m.	<b>Reconciliation</b>	
4:30 p.m.	<b>Mass</b> — <i>Intention for All Parishioners</i> Reader: Paulette Moreland Chalices: To be assigned Servers: Luke Johnson & to be assigned	
<b>Sunday</b>	PENTECOST	<b>05/15/16</b>
11:00 a.m.	<b>Mass</b> — <i>Intention for † Delores Burger</i> Reader: Harold Ek Chalices: Jeannie Shaw & Gina Lemke Servers: Ethan Bopp & Hayden Johnson	

- † **PARISHIONERS:** Please pray for Arthur Barthman, Ron Kor, and Ron Ostendorf .
- † **FRIENDS & RELATIVES:** Please pray for Bill Carlson, Coeur d'Alene Dahl, Brian Hoffman, Patty Harrison-Isakson, John Marshall and Lisa Ricard.
- † **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:** Names in the Coming Home Basket.



*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**

**Thank you to all our teachers** that taught this year. Your time and dedication was appreciated. Thank you to Gwen Valentine for the great meal for the teachers luncheon, and to the youth that assisted. (Lexie Erickson, Sidni Hendren, Spencer Ross)

**FREE....Vacation Bible School**  
Reminder to sign up your youth for VBS June 27-30th. "The Barnyard " has stories from the Bible, games and crafts. Come join the fun! Youth pre-4th and all are welcome, so bring a friend or two! If you would like to help, please call Connie (834-4433) or Cheryl (830-0578)

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

**Last Week's Contributions**

Weekend Collection .....	\$2,868.00
UCA.....	\$6,131.00
Bldg. Fund .....	\$140.00
Altar Flowers.....	\$25.00



**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, May 10 at 9:00 AM** in the church hall.