

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time



July 3, 2016

Fr. Steve's Quotes for Consideration:

"The LORD God gave the man this order: You are free to eat from any of the trees of the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and evil. From that tree you shall not eat; when you eat from it you shall die." -Genesis 2:16-17

Today's quote is undoubtedly very familiar to us: it comes from the Book of Genesis, and it is God's warning to Adam and Eve that they are free to eat of any tree in the Garden of Eden except the Tree of the knowledge of good and evil; to do so would have dire consequences. Of course, we know the story well enough: Adam and Eve unfortunately did eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and through their disobedience to God's command, sin and death, division and violence entered the world, and has been plaguing mankind ever since. But, we may wonder, why was it such a big deal to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? Why would God restrict them from doing that? And why would doing so bring about sin and death?

The answer to these questions dovetails with the bulletin article series that I have been writing so far this summer concerning philosophies, ideas and opinions of our secular modern society that are at odds with our faith, and our need to be aware of their potential negative impact on us, and on the practice of our faith in our daily lives. Last week, I spoke about the danger of relativism, which is currently a very popular philosophy of life in secular society. Relativism (falsely) holds that each person is free to determine for themselves what is right and what is wrong, what is sinful and what is not, and that there is no such thing as objective truth, but only personal truths- what is true for me is not necessarily true for you and vice versa.

And here's what I want for us to recognize: relativism *is the same exact sin* of Adam and Eve. Since God is God, since He is all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-wise, He and He alone is the one who possesses perfect knowledge of what is good and what is evil. Therefore, for a human being, a creature, to attempt to claim for oneself the knowledge of what is good and what is evil, what is right and what is wrong is to try to make oneself like God. And to place oneself in the place of God breaks our friendship and communion with Him because we are acting as if we don't need Him. To claim that I can determine what is right and wrong for myself, to say that each person has the "freedom" to decide what is right and true for themselves, is to commit the sin of Adam and Eve: we have reached for the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. We have made ourselves into gods, trying to choose for ourselves what is right and wrong.

And as much as we may be told by society that such is the way to interior freedom and happiness, what we will find is that the opposite is true: making ourselves like God leads to loneliness, sorrow, dissatisfaction and disunity. It's the story of fallen, sinful humanity. But it doesn't have to continuously be our own story. As our nation celebrates freedom and independence this weekend, let's remember where true freedom lies- true freedom is found not in doing whatever I want or feel like, or in determining what is right and wrong for myself. True freedom of mind, body and soul is found by submitting myself to my Creator, following His commands, and trusting that what He has revealed to us about what is right and wrong, good and evil through His Church is perfect, and so requires my obedience. God bless you! *Fr. Steve*

Announcement from Fr. Steve:

On behalf of Holy Spirit Parish, I wish to thank Cheryl Oling for her years of dedicated service to Connie Koss, to our parish, and specifically to our parish's youth. Effective July 1st, Cheryl has voluntarily resigned her position as our parish's Youth Ministry Assistant. We are grateful to her for her hard work and wish her every choice blessing from God!

Holy Spirit Catholic Church

— 227 Third Street, Two Harbors, MN 55616

Parish Office Located in the Basement of the Church

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Birthright 1-800-550-4900

Fr. Steve's E-Mail slaflamme@dioceseduluth.org

Deacon Tim Egan 349-9175

Deacon Scott Peters 834-2543

Saturday	WEEKDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	07/02/16
3:30 p.m.	Reconciliation	
4:30 p.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for All Parishioners</i> Reader: Harold Ek Chalices: Carol Anderson & Liz Scheidt Servers: Ava Fosness & Kate Thomasen	
Sunday	12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	07/03/16
11:00 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for † Ron Ostendorf</i> Reader: Mike Hoffman Chalices: Linda Hoffman & Laura Lien Servers: Hattie & Kaden Edlund	
Monday	INDEPENDENCE DAY	07/04/16
8:30 a.m.	Mass	
Tuesday	SAINT ANTHONY ZACCARIA & SAINT ELIZABETH OF PORUGAL	07/05/16
8:15 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for † Al Lupa</i>	
Wednesday	SAINT MARIA GORETTI	07/06/16
Thursday	WEEKDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	07/07/16
8:15 a.m.	Mass - <i>Intention for † Vickie Udovich</i>	
6:30 p.m.	Men's Prayer Group	
Friday	WEEKDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	07/08/16
8:15 a.m.	Mass - <i>Intention for † Marion Rodewald</i>	
8:45 a.m.	Adoration	
12:00 p.m.	Benediction	
Saturday	SAINT AUGUSTINE ZHAO RONG & COMPANIONS	07/09/16
3:30 p.m.	Reconciliation	
4:30 p.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for All Parishioners</i> Reader: Paulette Moreland Chalices: Beth Egan & to be assigned Servers: Hayden Johnson & Luke Johnson	
Sunday	15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	07/10/16
11:00 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for Betty & Arthur Barthman</i> Reader: Gina Lemke Chalices: Joanne Button & Chris Lemke Servers: Anthony Lemke & Nathan Campbell	



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.

Last Week's Contributions

Weekend Collection	\$2,362.37
UCA	\$185.00
Bldg. Fund	\$220.00
Organ Repair Funds	\$2,845.00
Peter's Pence	\$232.00



- † **PARISHIONERS:** Please pray for Arthur Barthman, John Erickson Ron Kor, Diane LeRoy and Peg Werner.
- † **FRIENDS & RELATIVES:** Please pray for Bill Carlson, Patty Harrison-Isakson and Gorma Rose.
- † **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:** Stanley Jurkanis

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.

Attention all Parishioners! Family Faith Formation Summer Fun Night is coming quick! On Sunday July 17, from 5:00-7:00pm, our parish will be hosting the Church school families from St. Mary's in Silver Bay at Odegaard Park here in Two Harbors for an evening of parish fun, food and games. All Holy Spirit Church school students and their families are asked to please plan to attend and bring a dish to share. All Holy Spirit Parishioners are invited and encouraged to attend in order to help host our brothers and sisters from the North. If you are planning to attend, PLEASE sign up on the sheet in the back of the Church so that we know how much food to prepare.

Help to Repair our Historic Pipe Organ- As Fr. Steve explained at Mass two Sundays ago, our Church's Pipe Organ, which was constructed in 1883, is an historic gem which is sorely in need of repair and maintenance. The Parish Finance Council has approved an expenditure of just over \$14,000.00 so that Dan Jaeckels and his crew can come to fix, tune and deep-clean our organ to preserve it and provide for the best sound possible. They will be here to work on the Pipe Organ the last full week of August. Please consider donating towards this endeavor in order to preserve and clean one of our parish's great treasures. Also, if you would like a tour and explanation of our Pipe Organ, please contact Betty Barthman or Fr. Steve at the parish office.

