

November 29, 2015

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### Fr. Steve's Quotes for Consideration:

"Only in silence can the word of God find a home in us, as it did in Mary, woman of the word and, inseparably, woman of silence."  
-Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

Happy First Sunday of Advent to you all! Advent is such a blessed time of the year for us to prayerfully ponder and consider the love that God has for each of us that He would become one of us, His creatures in order to save us. For such a momentous celebration which is the Christmas Season, the Church gives us the Season of Advent, so that we may prepare our hearts and minds to receive all of the spiritual gifts that God wishes to shower upon us during the Christmas celebrations.

However, we know that observing the quiet Season of Advent can sometimes feel near impossible in our modern world. Christmas television commercials began running back at the end of October. Stores, malls, and civic centers were decorated for Christmas already halfway through November. And you can easily find radio stations playing Christmas tunes since the day after Thanksgiving. The tragedy of the modern world not observing Advent but only the trappings of Christmas is that it misses the whole point of there being a Christmas in the first place- the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. And perhaps even more tragically, many, many people and places throw out their Christmas decorations on the way to return the gifts they may not want the day after Christmas!

Brothers and sisters, don't fall for this madness. If we want to be truly filled with the grace and friendship of God not just as Christmas, but anytime, then we must make time *every single day* for **silent** prayer with God. Yes, it's hard sometimes, but as I have spoken of before, it takes spiritual discipline. God speaks most clearly in silence.

This Advent, I am exhorting all of us to make an Advent resolution, similar to our Lenten practices of giving up something for Lent. In order to prepare to receive the gift of Christ at Christmas, I am exhorting each of us to give up 15 minutes per day of noise, technology, distraction and entertainment. Each day this Advent, I challenge each of us to spend 15 minutes in silence with God. Go into your room at home, or better yet, come to the Church, and *leave your phone behind*. I promise, you will survive! :) But, challenge yourself to spend fifteen minutes of absolute silence every day. If you have a family, then do it as a family. Sit in the living room together, turn off the TV, and remain silent for fifteen minutes, each of you praying for other members of your family in your heart. Don't be fooled into skipping past the Advent preparations with the noise and hustle and bustle of commercialized Christmas- spend 15 minutes each day this Advent in silent prayer. Not sure what to do? Do this- for fifteen minutes, sit in a comfortable chair, and say silently in your mind, "Come, Lord Jesus." Just repeat that phrase over and over. You'll be amazed at how these 15 minutes of silent prayer becomes the most prized possession of your day! God bless you!

**Family Faith Formation & Adult Faith Formation** will meet next on **Wednesday, December 2 at 6 pm**. The evening will start with dinner at 6 pm, followed by classes for everyone at 6:30 pm. The Adult Faith Formation will continue our journey through the Sacraments with Father Steve. The **Adult Faith Formation is open to everyone**, not just the parents, so please join us as we all grow in our faith together. Child care is available for younger children.

Thank you for your contributions to the **Collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development**. Your generous gifts will help CCHD end poverty in the United States through better education, improved housing, and economic development. Through CCHD and its beneficiaries, we help keep Catholic social teaching alive and carry out Jesus' mission to "bring glad tidings to the poor . . . to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free" (Lk 4:18).

**Advent Retreat: "WAITING WITH THE WISE"** on **Saturday, December 5, 2015, 9 am-Noon** at St. Scholastica Monastery in Duluth. Free Will Offering. This Retreat will reflect on the "Passing of Wisdom" today. During Advent we hear in the Scriptures, a call to "Wait" and to "Prepare". How does waiting take shape in our own spiritual lives? How are we living and passing on wisdom customs, family traditions, stories and preparations to the next generations?

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**St. Mary's Catholic Church - 57 Horn Blvd; Silver Bay, MN 55614**

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**Parish Office** Located in Rectory 8 am - 2 pm Monday - Thursday **Office/Rectory** 226-3100 **Fax Machine** 226-3116

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**Church Hall** 226-3691 **Parish E-Mail** stmary@mchsi.com **Parish Website** www.stmarysilverbay.org

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**Eucharistic Adoration** Wednesdays 8:45 am - 3:00 pm **K of C Auxiliary Prayer Chain** 226-3639 or 226-3351

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**Fr. Steve Laflamme** (218) 834-4313 **Fr. Steve's E-Mail** : [slaflamme@dioceseduluth.org](mailto:slaflamme@dioceseduluth.org)

**Fr. Michael Lyons** (218) 830-1600 **Fr. Michael's Email**: [milyons16@gmail.com](mailto:milyons16@gmail.com)

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<b>Saturday</b>	<i>BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</i>	<b>11/28/15</b>
7:15 p.m.	<b>Mass</b> — <i>Intention for Dick &amp; John Fredrickson</i> ☩ Reader.....Tom Frericks Cantor.....Terri Frericks-Blood Plate.....Deacon Fred Wright Chalices....Cindy Rowlee Chalices....Michael Rowlee Servers.....Caleb Geissler & Jason Blood	
<b>Sunday</b>	<i>FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT</i>	<b>11/29/15</b>
7:50 a.m.	<b>Sacrament of Penance</b>	
8:30 a.m.	<b>Mass</b> — <i>Intention for All Parishioners</i> Reader.....Ed Hynes Cantor.....Joanne Curry Plate.....Deacon Fred Wright Chalices....Gerry Bahar Chalices....Sue Bahar Servers.....Zack Fredrickson & Laurese McKinney	
<b>Monday</b>	<i>ST. ANDREW</i>	<b>11/30/15</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<i>WEEKDAY IN ADVENT</i>	<b>12/01/15</b>
7:50 a.m.	<b>Rosary</b>	
8:15 a.m.	<b>Mass</b> – <i>Intention for Deanna Larson</i>	
7:30 p.m.	AA Meeting	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<i>WEEKDAY IN ADVENT</i>	<b>12/02/15</b>
7:50 a.m.	<b>Rosary</b>	
8:15 a.m.	<b>Mass</b> – <i>Intention for Theresa Clement</i> ☩	
8:50 a.m.	<b>Adoration</b>	
<b>Thursday</b>	<i>ST. FRANCIS XAVIER</i>	<b>12/03/15</b>
7:30 a.m.	<b>Rosary</b>	
8:15 a.m.	<b>Mass</b> – <i>Intention for Deanna Larson</i>	
8:45 a.m.	<b>Morning Prayer Group</b>	
<b>Friday</b>	<i>ST. JOHN DAMASCENE</i>	<b>12/04/15</b>
7:50 a.m.	<b>Rosary</b>	
8:15 a.m.	<b>Mass</b> – <i>Intention for Theresa Clement</i> ☩	
<b>Saturday</b>	<i>FIRST SATURDAY</i>	<b>12/05/15</b>
7:15 p.m.	<b>Mass</b> — <i>Intention for Alan Larson</i> ☩ Reader.....Maria Riederer Cantor.....Marilyn Frericks Plate.....Don Seipke Chalices....Jeff Asmussen Chalices....Rose Elam Servers.....Giovanni & Corrina Marolt	
<b>Sunday</b>	<i>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	<b>12/06/15</b>
7:50 a.m.	<b>Sacrament of Penance</b>	
8:30 a.m.	<b>Mass</b> — <i>Intention for All Parishioners</i> Reader.....Susan Michels Cantor.....Kim Josephson Plate.....Deacon Jack Ferris Chalices....Bonnie Kruger Chalices....Judy Zupancich Servers.....Jake Stadler & Zack Fredrickson	
<b>The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day of Obligation)</b> Mass Times: <b>Monday, December 7 at 7 pm</b> <b>Tuesday, December 8 at 8:30 am</b>		

**PLEASE KEEP THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

- † **Parishioners:** Lillian Miller, Gale Fredrickson, Tom Bott, Susan Gelatic, Betty Dugas, Lanay Frericks, Alma Ferris, Richard Keseley, Suzanne Seguin, Terry Scallen, Lyle Shepersky, Vicky Johnson, Angie Pruse, Marlene Petersen, Deanna Larson.
- † **Clergy:** Fr. Ben Hadrich, Deacon Fred Wright, Fr. Francis Paquette.
- † **Relatives & Friends:** Dawn Stefanich, Alexa & Rauri Byrnes, Grace Kramer, Liam Traut, Elizabeth Johnson, Stephanie (Clifford) Martin, Ariana Marek, Kerry Larson, Diane Mayer, Don Hedin, Mike Rowlee Sr., Betty Westaby, Bob Martinsen, Dick Kunz, Johnny Jerabek, Amy Buckner, Mae Dehnhoff, Elsie McGuire, Jim Morcomb, John & Denise Kuchta (Elaine Rollins' nephew & his wife who are expecting quadruplets).
- † **Military:** Karen McGrane, Alex Seanger, Michael Seipke, Sam West, Chris Gensing, Sean Stebbins.

**It's Poinsettia Time!** Again this year we will buy our Christmas flowers locally, which were also locally grown at Anderson's Greenhouse in Two Harbors. You can purchase a poinsettia for St. Mary's Church in memory of a loved one. The cost is \$9.00. Please use a "flower envelope" so we have all the correct information in the Christmas Bulletin. If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office for more details.

What are you doing this year to prepare for Christmas? Shopping for presents? Wrapping gifts? Baking cookies? Decorating the tree? **Do something life-changing—rediscover God's mercy!** Based on Pope Francis' call for the Year of Mercy and Dynamic Catholic's new book *Beautiful Mercy*, Best Advent Ever will help you rediscover God's great mercy and show that mercy to others. The participants will receive daily inspirational emails with a short video, words of encouragement, or spiritual coaching from Matthew Kelly and other influential Catholic voices of our time. This program will transform your life, relationships, work, and ability to embrace and experience all of life. The program is free! All you have to do is sign up at [BestAdventEver.com](http://BestAdventEver.com) or go to the link on our parish website. Let's all rediscover God's incredible mercy as we prepare for Christmas.

**Dine at the Lemon Wolf Café in Beaver Bay** - When placing your order ask about the Catholic Church Benefit. A donation equal to 10% of your bill will be given to the Catholic parish you attend on the North Shore.

**LAST WEEK'S CONTRIBUTIONS**

General Collection.....\$1728.00  
Catholic Campaign for Human Development.....\$240.00