

January 24, 2016

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Fr. Steve's Quotes for Consideration:

"I do not seek to understand in order that I may believe, but rather, I believe in order that I may understand."

-St. Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109)

Today's quote comes from a great thinker and philosopher, St. Anselm of Canterbury. St. Anselm was a Benedictine priest, and abbot, and wrote extensively about matters of faith and understanding. A former parishioner from Brainerd shared this quote with me, and I was really struck by it. The reason is because it is so very counter-cultural- it gives us an exact opposite way of approaching our Catholic faith and the teachings of the Church than the way that society tells us that we should.

One of the serious flaws in critical thinking in our current society is the presumption which goes something like this: "You need to prove to me why I should believe this or that teaching of Christ." This attitude of suspicion, distrust and need for proof is especially prevalent in regards to teachings which our modern society dislikes, considers "old-fashioned" or "out of touch." The modern American mindset is often one which when faced with a difficult teaching of the Church responds by saying, "prove it!"

Now, I am not suggesting that the Church can't or even shouldn't have to provide sound reasons for why She teaches what she does. She can and She should and She does. The point of the quote above is that if our approach to understanding and believing the teachings of Christ and His Church, especially the more difficult ones, is that I have to understand (and agree with it) before I'll believe it, then we have it backwards, and no amount of sound and reasonable rationale will ever suit us. In fact, *especially* in the case of our faith's more difficult teachings, if we are willing to be obedient, to die to ourselves and our own will and understanding and believe first, then the understanding will follow. This is very much connected to developing the spiritual vision that I have been talking about in my homilies the last few weeks. Saying that I have to understand before I believe is like saying that I have to see the 3D aspects of a 3D movie before I put on the 3D glasses- it doesn't make sense, and it doesn't work. I have to put on the 3D glasses before I'll be able to see the movie in three dimensions. In other words, I need to have developed the spiritual vision, which comes through faith and belief, in order to see and understand things according to God's perspective. Belief comes first. Seeing isn't believing, believing is seeing.

So, if we struggle with one or another of the teachings of our faith, perhaps our response should be this: "Lord, I struggle to understand why You teach this or that through your Church. But I choose to believe that if You teach it, then there is a good reason that I simply can't see or understand right now. So I choose to believe, even though I don't feel like I understand. Please help me to believe more fully, so that I may more fully understand." I assure you, this is a beautifully humble and honest prayer that God will be more than happy to oblige. God bless you! -Fr. Steve

St. Mary's Annual Spaghetti Dinner will be held **Wednesday, January 27, serving 4:30-6 pm**. The spaghetti dinner is hosted each year by our Religious Education Department to raise money to feed the poor. This is a great opportunity for us all to work together, having fun while we are helping those in our community. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church for volunteers plus we will have tickets on sale after Mass. There will be take-outs available so you may also want to consider purchasing a ticket and delivering a hot meal to a neighbor/friend who's unable to attend.

Knights of Columbus and the KC Auxiliary Meeting: Thursday, January 28. Mass at **6:30 pm** - meeting to follow at **7 pm**. The District Deputy will be attending our meeting this month.

St. Mary's Prayer Shawl Ministry group will meet on **Wednesday, January 27, at 1 pm** in the Community Room at Silverpointe Apartments. We welcome new members. Knit/crochet/goodies. Questions, contact Lana at 353-7714.

Poinsettias are in Baptistry area if you would like to take your poinsettia home. Thank you again to everyone who donated in memory of a loved one.

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

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

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

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

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

Fr. Michael Lyons (218) 830-1600 **Fr. Michael's Email**: mjlyons16@gmail.com

Saturday	<i>ST. VINCENT & ST. MARIANNE COPE</i>	01/23/16
6:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance	
7:15 p.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for Donna Mealey</i> ☩	
	Reader.....Maria Reiderer	
	Cantor.....Patty Armstrong	
	Plate.....Deacon Fred Wright	
	Chalices....Jeff Asmussen	
	Chalices....Mary Wright	
	Servers.....Zack Fredrickson & Caleb Geissler	
Sunday	<i>THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	01/24/16
7:50 a.m.	Sacrament of Penance	
8:30 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for All Parishioners</i>	
	Reader.....Sue Bahar	
	Cantor.....Tom Palen	
	Plate.....Deacon Fred Wright	
	Chalices....Gerry Bahar	
	Chalices....Judy Zupancich	
	Servers.....Corinna & Giovanni Marolt	
Monday	<i>THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE</i>	01/25/16
Tuesday	<i>STS. TIMOTHY AND TITUS</i>	01/26/16
7:50 a.m.	Rosary	
8:15 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for Donna Mealey</i> ☩	
Wednesday	<i>ST. ANGELA MERICI</i>	01/27/16
7:50 a.m.	Rosary	
8:15 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for John & Dick Fredrickson</i> ☩	
8:50 a.m.	Adoration	
Thursday	<i>ST. THOMAS AQUINAS</i>	01/28/16
7:50 a.m.	Rosary	
8:15 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for Angie Pruse</i> ☩	
8:50 a.m.	Prayer Group	
Friday	<i>WEEKDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	01/29/16
7:50 a.m.	Rosary	
8:15 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for Angie Pruse</i> ☩	
Saturday	<i>BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</i>	01/30/16
6:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance	
7:15 p.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for Edward Zupancich</i> ☩	
	Reader.....Jessalyn Rowlee	
	Cantor.....Andy Buell	
	Plate.....Don Seipke	
	Chalices....Tom Frericks	
	Chalices....Leann Buell	
	Servers.....Thomas Rowlee & Jada Kirk	
Sunday	<i>FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	01/31/16
7:50 a.m.	Sacrament of Penance	
8:30 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for All Parishioners</i>	
	Reader.....Ed Hynes	
	Cantor.....Andy Buell	
	Plate.....Deacon Jack Ferris	
	Chalices....Marjorie Jorgenson	
	Chalices....Sue Bahar	
	Servers.....Sheena & Mita Frericks	

LAST WEEK'S CONTRIBUTIONS

General Collection.....\$1196.50
Special Collection for Disaster Relief.....\$256.51

PLEASE KEEP THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- † **Parishioners:** Betty Dugas passed away last week, *may she rest in peace.* Lino Rauzi, Marj Von Schenk, Lois Hynes, Lillian Miller, Betty Dugas, Tom Bott, Gale Fredrickson, Susan Gelatic, Lanay Frericks, Alma Ferris, Suzanne Seguin, Terry Scallen, Vicky Johnson, Marlene Petersen, Deanna Larson.
- † **Clergy:** Fr. Ben Hadrich, Deacon Fred Wright, Fr. Francis Paquette.
- † **Relatives & Friends:** Katie (Byrnes) Ament & her newborn twins who arrived earlier than expected. Dawn Stefanich, Liam Traut, Alexa & Rauri Byrnes, Grace Kramer, Elizabeth Johnson, Stephanie (Clifford) Martin, Ariana Marek, Kerry Larson, Diane Mayer, Don Hedin, Betty Westaby, Dick Kunz, Elsie McGuire, Johnny Jerabek, Amy Buckner, Mae Dehnhoff, Jim Morcomb, and Delaney, Cooper, Thomas & William Kutcha.
- † **Military:** Karen McGrane, Alex Seanger, Michael Seipke, Sam West, Chris Gensing, Sean Stebbins.

2016 Catholic Men's Conference: *Men of Faith, Men of Action*, is scheduled for **February 13, 2016**, at the Marshall School in Duluth. The conference schedule and registration forms (on-line and hard copy) are available at www.duluthcatholicmen.org. Hard copy registration forms are also available in the parish office. Conference registration is \$30 for registrations submitted on or before February 1, 2016, and \$40 after February 1.

WOMEN OF FAITH: Everyday Faith with Timeless Saints will be held on **Saturday, February 27, 2016**, at Marshall School in Duluth starting at 7:30 am and ending in a Vigil Mass at 4:00 pm. The powerful speaker Colleen Carroll Campbell who is a national speaker, former presidential speech writer and author of the inspiring spiritual memoir, "My Sisters the Saints," will be presenting on this topic. Before Mass the women will enjoy a brief comedy performance by a Chicago comedy troop called Bible Bingo. The Vigil Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Sirba and families are encourage to join in. You can register at www.dioceseduluth.org or call 218-724-9111 or e-mail duluthcwc@gmail.com for any questions.

Family Faith Formation & Adult Faith Formation will meet next on **Wednesday, February 3 at 6 pm.**

Collection for the Church in Latin America this weekend: The collection will fund catechesis, pastoral programs, marriage and family life projects, seminarian education, and many other necessary programs in Latin America and the Caribbean. The support you give today will provide seeds to grow the faith for years to come. To learn more about how your donations are making a difference, please visit www.usccb.org/latin-america.