

December 13, 2015

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Fr. Steve's Quotes for Consideration:

"Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls." - Blessed Mother Teresa (1910-1997)

Rejoice! Today is *Gaudete* Sunday! *Gaudete* is a Latin word meaning, "rejoice," and it is reserved in a special way for today, the Third Sunday of Advent. As you may have noticed at Mass this weekend, there are a few minor changes during *Gaudete* Sunday. First, the priest may wear rose [NOT pink! :)] colored vestments for Mass rather than the customary purple. Also, there is a pervasive theme in the readings and antiphons for Mass which are very joyful in character, exhorting God's people to rejoice and be glad. Why? Because, as St. Paul reminds us in the Second Reading for this weekend's Mass, "The Lord is near." Indeed, the Third Sunday of Advent is a sort of "halfway" point during the Advent Season, and so our Lord's coming at Christmas is drawing very near.

Now, I will readily admit that rejoicing is not always easy to do. Especially during these challenging times in which the North Shore Mining Plant has been idled, the Diocese of Duluth has declared bankruptcy, there is violence and terrorism abounding in the world, and secularism seems to pull at the seams of the practice of our faith. What reason do we have to rejoice?

We rejoice because we are a people of hope. We rejoice because God, who is Almighty, has come to rescue His people from their sins and from eternal death in Hell through His birth as a little child in Bethlehem, and His eventual death and resurrection. We rejoice because we know that God is faithful, that He is the Lord and Master of the universe, and that no matter what we may face in our lives, it is no surprise to God, who knows all things, and promises to be near us, and to carry us through our trials and tribulations. We rejoice because we are infinitely loved by a God who will stop at nothing to save us from our sins. We rejoice because we are God's own children.

And if we live joy even, and perhaps especially, in the midst of difficulty and uncertainty, you can bet that we will pique the curiosity of others. Friends, neighbors and coworkers will marvel at our joy-filled life and perhaps will want to know more. That's the point of Bl. Mother Teresa's quote above: what attracts people most to the Christian faith is joy-filled Christians. It is what people in this world long for, ache for: joy and happiness in life that comes from peace of mind in knowing that I am loved and redeemed by God who sustains me in the midst of difficulties and who supports me when I am struggling. If we truly believe that God is coming to save us, that God loves us to His own death on the cross, what do we have to fear? Rejoice! As the Prophet Zephaniah reminds us in the First Reading: "The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a mighty Savior!" God bless you!

Pancake Breakfast: The Knights of Columbus will serve their famous pancake breakfast after Mass this **Sunday, December 13**. We look forward to seeing everyone downstairs for a great breakfast and fellowship. Free will offering, with proceeds going to the Silver Bay Food Shelf, helping those in need. Plus, during the pancake breakfast be sure to check out the **Annual Bake Sale** by Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary.

The Knights of Columbus Christmas Party will be **Thursday, December 17** in the Church Hall at **5 pm**. Bring a dish to share and an inexpensive gift for the dice game.

2016 Calendar are on the back table next to the 2016 envelopes; please take one. We are very grateful to our sponsors for making the calendars available without cost to us each year. Please acknowledge their generosity - Lemon Wolf Café, Camp 61 Restaurant, John's Sanitary Removal, Essentia Health Silver Bay Pharmacy, Carol Krynski Insurance, Beaver Bay Sports Shop, Beaver Bay Mini Mall, Don Seipke Edina Realty, Teddy's Plumbing & Heating and Zup's.

Volunteers needed to join the FUN! We will be decorating right after Mass on **Sunday, December 20**. The more, the merrier! It is much easier with LOTS of help. No one is too young or too old to help, and afterward, we'll reward your effort with some treats downstairs in the church hall.

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** stmary@mchsi.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**: milyons16@gmail.com

Saturday	<i>OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE</i>	12/12/15
6:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance	
7:15 p.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for Edward Zupancich</i> ☩ Reader.....Susan Frericks Cantor.....Rick Frericks w/Guitar Accept Plate.....Lanay Frericks Chalices....Jeff Asmussen Chalices....Ken Kruger Servers.....Sheena & Mita Frericks	
Sunday	<i>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	12/13/15
7:50 a.m.	Sacrament of Penance	
8:30 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for All Parishioners</i> Reader.....Greg Johnson Cantor.....Rick Frericks w/Guitar Accept Plate.....Deacon Jack Ferris Chalices....Bonnie Kruger Chalices....Lois Kaari Servers.....Jada Kirk & Thomas Rowlee	
Monday	<i>ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS</i>	12/14/15
Tuesday	<i>WEEKDAY IN ADVENT</i>	12/15/15
7:50 a.m.	Rosary	
8:15 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for Thomas Thibault</i> ☩	
Wednesday	<i>WEEKDAY IN ADVENT</i>	12/16/15
7:50 a.m.	Rosary	
8:15 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for Billie Bianco</i> ☩	
8:50 a.m.	Adoration	
Thursday	<i>WEEKDAY IN ADVENT</i>	12/17/15
7:30 a.m.	Rosary	
8:15 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for Theresa Clement</i> ☩	
8:50 a.m.	Morning Prayer Group	
Friday	<i>WEEKDAY IN ADVENT</i>	12/18/15
7:50 a.m.	Rosary	
8:15 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for Msgr. Thomas Scott</i>	
Saturday	<i>WEEKDAY IN ADVENT</i>	12/19/15
6:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance	
7:15 p.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for Carl Hofschulte</i> ☩ Reader.....Jody Majewsky Cantor.....Andy Buell Plate.....Don Seipke Chalices....Leanne Buell Chalices....Shelley Fredrickson Servers.....Jason Blood & Caleb Geissler	
Sunday	<i>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	12/20/15
7:50 a.m.	Sacrament of Penance	
8:30 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for All Parishioners</i> Reader.....Thomas Clifford Cantor.....Sue Bahar Plate.....Deacon Jack Ferris Chalices....Gerry Bahar Chalices....Marge Jorgenson Servers.....Zack Fredrickson & Thomas Rowlee	
LAST WEEK'S CONTRIBUTIONS		
General Collection.....\$2157.02		
UCA.....\$70.00		

PLEASE KEEP THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- † **Parishioners:** Lino Rauzi, Marj Von Schenk, Lois Hynes, Lillian Miller, Betty Dugas, Tom Bott, Gale Fredrickson, Susan Gelatic, Lanay Frericks, Alma Ferris, Richard Keseley, Suzanne Seguin, Terry Scallen, Vicky Johnson, Angie Pruse, Marlene Petersen, Deanna Larson.
- † **Clergy:** Fr. Ben Hadrach, 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, and Delaney, Cooper, Thomas & William Kutcha.
- † **Military:** Karen McGrane, Alex Seanger, Michael Seipke, Sam West, Chris Gensing, Sean Stebbins.

Family Faith Formation & Adult Faith Formation will meet next on **Wednesday, December 16 at 6 pm**. The evening will start with dinner at 6 pm, followed by classes for everyone at 6:30 pm. Plus Father Michael is offering the Sacrament of Penance 5:30 - 6:30 pm. The Adult formation will be working on their service project, everyone is welcome to join them. For more details on the project contact Rick Frericks at 220-4813.

Thank you to everyone who has purchased a poinsettia for St. Mary's in memory of a loved one. If you still want to do so, there is still time. The cost is \$9 each. Please use a "flower envelope" so we have all the correct information in the Christmas Bulletin.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Monday, December 21, 5-6 pm
 Wednesday, December 23, 5-6 pm

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

for St. Mary's & Holy Spirit

- Christmas Eve - December 24: The Nativity of the Lord**
 4 pm at Holy Spirit, Two Harbors
 7 pm at St. Mary's, Silver Bay
- Christmas Day - December 25: The Nativity of the Lord**
 9 am at St. Mary's, Silver Bay
 9:30 am at Holy Spirit, Two Harbors
- December 31: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**
 4 pm at Holy Spirit, Two Harbors
 6:15 pm at St. Mary's, Silver Bay
- January 1: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**
 9:30 am at St. Mary's, Silver Bay
 9:30 am at Holy Spirit, Two Harbors