

January 31, 2016

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Fr. Steve's Quotes for Consideration:

"The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult; and left untried."

-G.K. Chesterton (1874-1936)

Today's quote is not from a saint (yet), but it is from a tremendous Catholic thinker and writer of the late 19th and early 20th century: Gilbert Keith Chesterton. G.K. Chesterton was a convert to Catholicism, and a brilliant and humorous writer who wrote profusely about Catholicism especially making arguments against the rampant atheism that was so prevalent in England during his lifetime. Two of his greatest works, which I **highly** recommend, are "Orthodoxy" and "What's Wrong with the World." What I think really sets Chesterton apart in his writing is his ingenious social diagnosis and commentary- he is able to point out the errors in modern ways of thinking about life, truth, God and the world, and point to how Catholicism so completely provides the truth about life, God and the world.

His quote above is one of his most famous. In the face of so much criticism in his day that Christianity was a failed experiment, that it has nothing to offer the modern man, that it is somehow irrational, unscientific, and even archaic, Chesterton's response is that the modern man often rejects Christianity and our beliefs not because they are somehow lacking, but because truly living the Christian life is difficult, and so people don't want to do it.

It's a great reminder to us as well, who are trying to live our Christian faith: being a faithful Christian who actively, daily live their Catholic faith is not easy; in fact, it's rather difficult. And this should really be no surprise to us because Jesus Himself said as much over and over again- the road to eternal life in Heaven is narrow and difficult while the road to destruction is wide and easy. Living our Catholic faith, not just believing, but actually and faithfully living all of the teachings of Christ's Church is not easy, but really, is any noble pursuit easy? How many of us who play sports or have kids that do realize that being a good athlete is not easy, it requires a lot of hard work. But it's worth it!!

Infinitely more so is this the case with our faith, which has eternal consequences. Are some of Jesus' teachings difficult to accept and perhaps even harder to live? Yes. Undoubtedly. But their difficulty doesn't prove that we shouldn't try to live them; in fact, it proves that we should. Because if we trust our sinful selves to be the judge of what is right and true and worth our effort when it comes to our faith, we won't get it- the faith will seem too difficult, too foreign, too counter-cultural to be possible to live faithfully. But if we trust not ourselves, but in the God who made us, and trust that what He has revealed as true and right through His Church is in fact true and right, then what previously seemed difficult to live will become not just easier, but better understood by us. As I said last week, seeing isn't believing, believing is seeing. Don't trust the world and its allurements and false notions of "truth;" trust in God and His Church- living Christ's way may not always be easy, but anything worth doing never is! God bless you! - Fr. Steve

2016 Catholic Men's Conference: *Men of Faith, Men of Action*, is **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. The priority registration date is Monday, February 1. After February 1, the registration fee is \$40.

Family Faith Formation & Adult Faith Formation will meet this **Wednesday, February 3**, with dinner at **6 pm**, classes at **6:30 pm**. All are welcome to join us on our faith journey.

Knights of Columbus Valentine's Dinner - Thursday, February 11 at Camp 61. We will have dinner at **6:00 pm** but come early. Dinner for \$22 includes beverage & dessert, tax & tip. See or call Greg at 226-3104 for reservations & dinner choices by February 8.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT DINNER: Please join us at Kelley High School cafeteria on **Thursday, February 18 from 4:30 to 6:30 pm**, where we will celebrate our community life: "Together and for Each Other with Honor" (Romans 12:10). Free will donations will be accepted to offset dinner costs as well as to benefit the Silver Bay Food Shelf.

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>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	
Monday	<i>WEEKDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	02/01/16
Tuesday	<i>THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD</i>	02/02/16
7:50 a.m.	Rosary	
8:15 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for Sister Miriam Dolores (Rauzi)</i> ☩	
Wednesday	<i>ST. BLAISE; ST. ANSGAR</i>	02/03/16
7:50 a.m.	Rosary	
8:15 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for Angie Pruse</i> ☩	
8:50 a.m.	Adoration	
Thursday	<i>WEEKDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	02/04/16
7:50 a.m.	Rosary	
8:15 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for Richard Keseley</i> ☩	
8:50 a.m.	Prayer Group	
Friday	<i>ST. AGATHA</i>	02/05/16
7:50 a.m.	Rosary	
8:15 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for Angie Pruse</i> ☩	
Saturday	<i>ST. PAUL MIKI AND COMPANIONS</i>	02/06/16
6:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance	
7:15 p.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for Donna Mealey</i> ☩	
	Reader.....Jody Majewsky	
	Cantor.....Terri Frericks-Blood	
	Plate.....Deacon Fred Wright	
	Chalices....Jeff Asmussen	
	Chalices....Mary Wright	
	Servers.....Giovanni & Corrina Marolt	
Sunday	<i>FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	02/07/16
7:50 a.m.	Sacrament of Penance	
8:30 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for All Parishioners</i>	
	Reader.....Marge Jorgenson	
	Cantor.....Sue Bahar	
	Plate.....Deacon Fred Wright	
	Chalices....Gerry Bahar	
	Chalices....Ed Hynes	
	Servers.....Zack Fredrickson & Laurese McKinney	

LAST WEEK'S CONTRIBUTIONS	
General Collection.....	\$1764.75
Special Collection for Disaster Relief.....	\$150.00
Collection for Latin America	\$325.00

PLEASE KEEP THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- † **Parishioners:** Susan Michels, Steve Elam, Lino Rauzi, Marj Von Schenk, Lois Hynes, Lillian Miller, 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, 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.

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.

National Marriage Week is celebrated each year from February 7 - 14, check out this wonderful **Virtual Marriage Retreat: Marriage & Mercy**. Looking for a way to enrich your marriage? Take a seven day virtual retreat! Each day for seven days, set aside some time for prayer. This retreat is based on the theme of "marriage and mercy," since the Church is currently celebrating the year-long Jubilee of Mercy. There are two other retreats available as well on this link: 1) Pope Francis' advice about marriage and family life; 2) Reflections on the USCCB pastoral letter *Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan*. All 3 are available at <http://www.foryourmarriage.org/everymarriage/enrichment/seven-day-virtual-marriage-retreat/>. Each day has a theme, followed by ways to put the theme into practice through prayer, reflection, and action (Pray – Reflect – Do). End each mini-retreat by praying the prayer for married couples. If possible, do the retreat together with your spouse!