

# 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 10, 2016



## Fr. Steve's Quotes for Consideration:

*"The road is narrow. He who wishes to travel it more easily must cast off all things and use the cross as his cane. In other words, he must be truly resolved to suffer willingly for the love of God in all things."*

-St. John of the Cross (1542-1591)

This week, I would like to continue my summer theme of examining current philosophies and rules of life in our modern secular society and how they can negatively impact the practice of our faith. Over the last several weeks, we have been examining *relativism* and its detrimental effects. You may recall that the basic theory of relativism is the idea that there is no such thing as objective truths (what is right and wrong) that are applicable to all peoples of all times; rather, relativism holds that each person can determine for themselves what is right or wrong for them. This theory is dangerous, because it calls into question truths that are a part of human nature, and it makes human beings into gods, encouraging them to decide for themselves what is right and what is wrong. This is especially a dangerous philosophy for Catholics, because to be a relativist often means rejecting what Jesus Christ has revealed as truth through the Catholic Church's teachings, and doing this is always detrimental to our spiritual life.

This weekend, I would like to turn to a new modern philosophy: *hedonism*. Hedonism is a philosophy of life by which one should pursue what is pleasurable and avoid what is painful at all costs. It is the unbridled pursuit of pleasure. Now, it used to be that such persons who believed and practiced this way of life were seen as selfish by society at large. But I would argue that hedonism has currently become the lifestyle of choice in our secular society. And this is directly connected to relativism as well. Because if a person believes that they are capable and in fact have the "right" to determine what is true and good for themselves, then doesn't it make sense that when left to ourselves, we will be most easily tempted to choose what is pleasurable rather than what is painful? This is the danger of hedonism: it makes a god out of fleeting pleasures. Pleasure in itself is not bad. There are many morally good things which are accompanied by pleasure- eating a good meal, going for a swim on a hot day, sexual intimacy between spouses. But the problem with the hedonistic person is that they pursue pleasure *solely for its own sake*, and wish to avoid pain at all costs.

Now, don't get me wrong, it is morally acceptable to try to avoid excessive pain, and modern medicine has come a long way in making that possible. But sometimes, pain, difficulty, suffering are unavoidable. And for the Christian, suffering, struggle, and difficulty is not something to be avoided at all costs, but an opportunity to unite our struggles and pain with the sufferings of Jesus Christ on the Cross for the redemption of the world. It's the source of the old phrase to "offer it up." Offering our struggle, difficulty, pain and suffering to God as a prayerful sacrifice is a very powerful form of prayer. And, the reality is that Jesus said, "if anyone wishes to be my disciple, he must take up his cross daily and follow me." Jesus did not promise his disciples a life of pleasure and leisure, but rather that He would walk with us in life no matter what may come. God bless you! *Fr. Steve*



Prayer  
Shawl  
Ministry

**Holy Spirit's Prayer Shawl Ministry Group** is an informal group who crochets and knits tangible signs of their prayers for others. *New people are always welcome to join us.* We will meet on **Tuesday, July, 12 at 9:00 AM** in the church hall.



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**Holy Spirit Catholic Church**

— 227 Third Street, Two Harbors, MN 55616

Parish Office Located in the Basement of the Church

Office 834-4659

Rectory 834-4313

Church Hall 834-4659

E-Mail [hspirit@outlook.com](mailto:hspirit@outlook.com)

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Liturgy email: [jfleischer-hspirit@outlook.com](mailto:jfleischer-hspirit@outlook.com)

Youth Ministry 834-4433

Prayer Intentions 834-4659

Birthright 1-800-550-4900

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Fr. Steve's E-Mail [slaflamme@dioceseduluth.org](mailto:slaflamme@dioceseduluth.org)

Deacon Tim Egan 349-9175

Deacon Scott Peters 834-2543

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<b>Saturday</b>	SAINT AUGUSTINE ZHAO RONG & COMPANIONS	<b>07/09/16</b>
3:30 p.m.	<b>Reconciliation</b>	
4:30 p.m.	<b>Mass</b> — <i>Intention for All Parishioners</i> Reader: Paulette Moreland Chalices: Beth Egan & to be assigned Servers: Hayden Johnson & Luke Johnson	
<b>Sunday</b>	15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	<b>07/10/16</b>
11:00 a.m.	<b>Mass</b> — <i>Intention for Betty &amp; Arthur Barthman</i> Reader: Gina Lemke Chalices: Joanne Button & Chris Lemke Servers: Anthony Lemke & Nathan Campbell	
<b>Monday</b>	SAINT BENEDICT	<b>07/11/16</b>
8:15 a.m.	<b>Mass</b>	
<b>Tuesday</b>	WEEKDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	<b>07/12/16</b>
8:15 a.m.	<b>Mass</b> — <i>Intention for † Daryl Kalla</i>	
9:00 a.m.	<b>Prayer Shawl Ministry</b>	
<b>Wednesday</b>	SAINT HENRY	<b>07/13/16</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA	<b>07/14/16</b>
8:15 a.m.	<b>Mass</b> - <i>Intention for † Gary Aleff</i>	
<b>Friday</b>	SAINT BONAVENTURE	<b>07/15/16</b>
8:15 a.m.	<b>Mass</b> - <i>Intention for † Bob Zapolski</i>	
8:45 a.m.	<b>Adoration</b>	
12:00 p.m.	<b>Benediction</b>	
<b>Saturday</b>	OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL	<b>07/16/16</b>
3:30 p.m.	<b>Reconciliation</b>	
4:30 p.m.	<b>Mass</b> — <i>Intention for All Parishioners</i> Reader: Paulette Moreland Chalices: Carol Anderson & to be assigned Servers: Spencer Ross & to be assigned	
<b>Sunday</b>	16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	<b>07/17/16</b>
11:00 a.m.	<b>Mass</b> — <i>Intention for Kenneth Nyquist</i> Reader: Harold Ek Chalices: Laura Lien & Shari Hendren Servers: Livy & Sid Hendren	
5:00 p.m.	<b>Faith Formation Summer Fun</b> —Odegaard Park	



**Last Week's Contributions**

Weekend Collection .....	\$3,524.12
UCA.....	\$440.00
Bldg. Fund .....	\$305.00
Organ Repair Funds.....	\$5,390.00

† **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:** Theresa Seykora

**Died in Christ:** Please pray for the repose of the soul of Don Chadwick, who died this past week. We extend our condolences to his daughter Jennifer Johnson, her husband Kevin and their sons Will and Luke. May Don live in God's eternal peace!

Youth Happenings

**We are looking for people who are willing to give some of their time to teach our youth this coming year.** We are in need of teachers for our pre-k, 1st, 2nd, 7-8th grades. If you are willing to help with teaching, please contact Connie.

Please let us know if you are attending the **Faith Formation Summer Fun Night**, as we need to make sure that we have enough food. Please contact Connie, or sign up on the sign-up sheet in back of Church.

I am putting together a committee for the annual **Church Bazaar/ Bake Sale**. If you are interested please contact Connie.

Connie—[koss@frontiernet.net](mailto:koss@frontiernet.net) or 834-4433

**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.