

December 4, 2016
2nd Sunday of Advent

All Saints Catholic Church

Mission Statement: *"Rejoicing with gratitude in God's blessings, we invite and welcome all to share in the fullness of the Catholic faith. We live our baptismal call through worship, teaching, and serving one another."*

Parish Contact Information

Rev. Raymond J.
Higgins
Pastor

Church Office

Phone: 515-523-1943
Hours: T-W-Th 9am-3pm
Closed: Monday & Friday

Website:

stuartallsaints.org

Parish Administrative Secretary

Brenda Wedemeyer
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Dave Boss

Telephone Line Prayer

Chain Requests

Viola Heins
515-789-4103

Mailing Address

All Saints Church
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PO Box 605
Stuart, IA 50250

Christmas Mass Schedule

Father Ray has approved a request from the All Saints Enrichment Committee to offer a traditional Midnight Mass from 12-1am Christmas morning, December 25th. Christmas Masses begin on Saturday, December 24th, at 4pm at St. John's in Adair, 7pm at All Saints in Stuart, and midnight at All Saints as well. Any one of these Masses fulfills our obligation.

The History of Midnight Mass

Throughout the years, Midnight Mass has been a popular Christmas Mass choice for many Catholics. But how did the tradition of this Mass begin?

In the early history of the Church, vigils were held before every feast for the purpose of preparing for the feast itself. Mass would be held in the evening, followed by a period of prayer and contemplation. Solemn services were then held the next morning. As more feasts arose, the number of vigils kept was decreased. In the current Roman Calendar, there are six Masses designated as vigils to proceed the feasts the next day: vigils for Easter, Christmas, Pentecost, Ascension, Nativity of St. John the Baptist, and the Feasts of Saints Peter and Paul. Vigil Masses are so designated because their propers and readings differ from the Masses for those feasts themselves, while remaining tied to the feasts. Vigil Masses therefore differ from normal anticipated Masses, which are the same as the Mass taking place the next day, but held the preceding evening.

The vigil Mass for Christmas, held Christmas Eve, also differs from the Christmas Midnight Mass. Christmas Day actually has three separate Masses that are or can be held, in addition to the vigil – at midnight, at dawn, and during the day. It is not known exactly how the tradition of the three Masses originated, as even the origin of the feast of Christmas itself isn't certain – depending on the city, something resembling a Christmas celebration started in different years (and at varying times of the year, as well). By the end of the fourth century it was almost universally held on December 25, with Rome having started celebrating it on that date before 354, and Constantinople not before 379. The celebration of Epiphany on January 6 had previously been the major Christmas-like celebration, but once December 25 became the widely agreed-upon date of Christmas the celebrations moved to that date as well.

In the 380s, a Christian woman named Egeria made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, observing for three years and keeping a journal of the customs and liturgies she saw there. She witnessed the Christians celebrating the birth of Christ on January 6, since it appears the tradition of celebrating Christmas on December 25 had not yet begun there, beginning with a midnight vigil in Bethlehem, which was followed by a torchlight procession to Jerusalem culminating with a gathering in Jerusalem at dawn. When the basilica of St. Mary Major was built in Rome around 430, Pope Sixtus III included a replica chapel of the Bethlehem cave where Jesus was born, and much like had been the practice in Jerusalem when Egeria visited, he instituted the celebration of a midnight Mass in this chapel.

Around 550 AD, the Pope began to celebrate a Mass in the Church of St. Anastasia before dawn on Christmas Day, initially because the feast of St. Anastasia was celebrated on December 25. Eventually, though, this evolved into a second Christmas Mass that seemed to replicate the dawn celebrations that Egeria witnessed in Jerusalem. This Christmas Mass would be followed by the Pope going to St. Peter's to celebrate the dawn office of Christmas with the faithful. Until sometime before 1156, only Popes were allowed to celebrate the three Christmas Masses, but by 1156 there is evidence that priests began to say all three as well, which still occurs today. A single priest can celebrate all three Christmas Day Masses, provided they follow the correct times (midnight, dawn, and sometime during the day). The midnight Mass is different from Christmas vigil Masses held earlier in the evening of Christmas Eve. Any of the four types of Christmas Masses (vigil, midnight, dawn, or day) is valid for fulfilling the Christmas Mass obligation.

Adapted from the article "Three Masses on Christmas" and the Catholic Encyclopedia article on Christmas.

A reminder for the season...Faith Formation classes will coincide with West Central Valley's cancellation schedule when the weather becomes a problem. If school is dismissed early or is cancelled for the day, this automatically cancels classes for the evening. A delayed start will not effect our classes. Contact Cathy Hicks, DRE, at 515-523-1943 or at cabinmn@gmail.com for further info.

Parish News & Events

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Sunday 12/4 9am Choir 10am Mass For the People Birthday: Kelly Smith 	Monday 12/5 Birthdays: Iris Young, Kason Clary <i>Church office is closed on Mondays & Fridays</i>	Tuesday 12/6 6-7am TMIY 6pm Mass For Virginia Wagner 6:30pm Adult R.E. Class Birthday: Steve James	Wednesday 12/7 6:30pm Faith Formation Birthday: Gina Ocheltree 	Thursday 12/8 9am Mass at the Community Care Center For Albert & Lucille Greubel 7pm Mass Immaculate Conception For the People Birthday: Ruby Waltz	Friday 12/9 8:30am Mass For Karen Donnelly Krogh	Saturday 12/10 3:30pm Confessions 4:30pm Mass For Ila Mae & Tony Pivonka Birthday: Jo Beaman Anniversary: Pat & Jo Beaman 1983
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We would like to thank the **Sunday Choir** folks for supplying donuts and other goodies each month during 2016. Anyone wishing to continue the tradition in 2017 is asked to contact the Church Office. **Next Sunday (12/11) is Donut Sunday!**

Knights of Columbus Meeting

There will be a meeting of the Knights of Columbus at 6pm on Sunday December 11th beginning with a meal. We will also be organizing the collections from the previous weeks and preparing them for donation.

Weekly Prayer Requests Please pray for: *Ruby Waltz, Bob & Mary Dickson, Hadley Swafford.*

To request prayer for someone for publication in the bulletin, please contact the church office at 515-523-1943 or via email at:

stjohnallsaints@gmail.com. *Be sure to include the person's name, your contact information, and that you have permission to submit the name.*

Advent is a time to share...

Both the **Knights of Columbus** and our **Faith Formation** department are sponsoring the collection of items to be donated to those in need. Items range from toys to household goods, to personal products. Thank you for sharing with others!

Helping Hands for the Holidays

Financial Report

for the week of November 27

Tithes \$1,686.00 Children: \$6.00

Building Fund: \$0.00 Special Collections: \$111.00

2016 ADA Balance Due \$9,129.66

SATURDAY 12-10 Liturgical Ministers	Rosary Leader Mary Doud Cross Bearer Denny Donnelly	Ushers Denny Donnelly Donna Donnelly Lector Carol Smith	Altar Servers Nick Doud Mason & Aiden Clauson	Commentator Roni Wilson Greeters & Gifts Denny & Donna Donnelly	Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist Donna Donnelly Jodi Bassett Sister	<i>REMEMBER: If you cannot serve, please be kind and find your own replacement.</i>
SUNDAY 12-11 Liturgical Ministers	Ushers Wayne Nosbisch John Gulbranson	Cross Bearer Patrick Tiernan Lector Donna Olson	Altar Servers Jack Doyle Matt Gerling Nate Gerling Gabe Gerling	Commentator Gary Riordan Greeters & Gifts Donna Olson Jill Gerling	Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist Jo Beaman Jill Gerling	Dan Miner 

SACRAMENT of BAPTISM: Preparation class for parents and godparents is required. Please contact the church office to make arrangements.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: Preparation for marriage must begin at **least six months** before the anticipated date of the wedding. Please contact the church office to set up an appointment to speak with Father.