

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.”*

All Saints Church

First Sunday of Advent

216 All Saints Drive, Stuart, IA 50250

December 3, 2017



Dear Parishioners

The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ’s second coming at the end of time and also to the anniversary of the Lord’s birth on Christmas. Advent devotions, including the Advent wreath, remind us of the meaning of the season. There are a lot of resources for instruction and prayer on USCCB.ORG website (United States Catholic Conference of Bishops); these helps will enrich the various Liturgical Seasons for individuals and family.

One area I believe needs mentioning is the area of penance and abstinence. I would like to quote some excerpts from the **Pastoral Statement On Penance And Abstinence** found on the USCCB.ORG (full text can be found there).

“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.... If we say that we have not sinned, we make [God] a liar, and His word is not in us” (1 Jn 1:8-10).

1. Thus Sacred Scriptures declare our guilt to be universal; hence the universal obligation to that repentance which Peter, in his sermon on Pentecost, declared necessary for the forgiveness of sin (Acts 2:38). Hence, too, the Church’s constant recognition that all the faithful are required by divine law to do penance. As from the fact of sin we Christians can claim no exception, so from the obligation to penance we can seek no exemption.

“2. Forms and seasons of penance vary from time to time and from people to people. But the need for conversion and salvation is unchanging, as is the necessity that, confessing our sinfulness, we perform, personally and in community, acts of penance in pledge of our inward penitence and conversion.

“5. Changing customs, especially in connection with preparation for Christmas, have diminished popular appreciation of the Advent season. Something of a holiday mood of Christmas appears now to be anticipated in the days of the Advent season. As a result, this season has unfortunately lost in great measure the role of penitential preparation for Christmas that it once had.

“8. If in all Christian homes, churches, schools, retreats and other religious houses, liturgical observances are practiced with fresh fervor and fidelity to the penitential spirit of the liturgy, then Advent will again come into its own. Its spiritual purpose will again be clearly perceived.

“9. A rich literature concerning family and community liturgical observances appropriate to Advent has fortunately developed in recent years. We urge instruction based upon it, counting on the liturgical renewal of ourselves and our people to provide for our spiritual obligations with respect to this season.

“...Lent has had a different history than Advent among us. Beginning with the powerful lesson of Ash Wednesday,... We hope that the observance of Lent as the principal season of penance in the Christian year will be intensified... “Christ Died for Our Salvation on Friday...

“18. Gratefully remembering this, Catholic peoples from time immemorial have set apart Friday for special penitential observance by which they gladly suffer with Christ that they may one day be glorified with Him. This is the heart of the tradition of abstinence from meat on Friday where that tradition has been observed in the holy Catholic Church.

“20. Accordingly, since the spirit of penance primarily suggests that we discipline ourselves in that which we enjoy most, to many in our day abstinence from meat no longer implies penance, while renunciation of other things would be more penitential.

“23. Friday should be in each week something of what Lent is in the entire year. For this reason we urge all to prepare for that weekly Easter that comes with each Sunday by freely making of every Friday a day of self-denial and mortification in prayerful

remembrance of the passion of Jesus Christ.

“25. Every Catholic Christian understands that the fast and abstinence regulations admit of change, unlike the commandments and precepts of that unchanging divine moral law which the Church must today and always defend as immutable. This said, we emphasize that our people are henceforth free from the obligation traditionally binding under pain of sin in what pertains to Friday abstinence, except as noted above for Lent. We stress this so that no scrupulosity will enter into examinations of conscience, confessions, or personal decisions on this point.

“26. Perhaps we should warn those who decide to keep the Friday abstinence for reasons of personal piety and special love that they must not pass judgment on those who elect to substitute other penitential observances. Friday, please God, will acquire among us other forms of penitential witness which may become as much a part of the devout way of life in the future as Friday abstinence from meat. In this connection we have foremost in mind the modern need for self-discipline in the use of stimulants and for a renewed emphasis on the virtue of temperance, especially in the use of alcoholic beverages.

“27. It would bring great glory to God and good to souls if Friday’s found our people doing volunteer work in hospitals, visiting the sick, serving the needs of the aged and the lonely, instructing the young in the Faith, participating as Christians in community affairs, and meeting our obligations to our families, our friends, our neighbors, and our community, including our parishes, with a special zeal born of the desire to add the merit of penance to the other virtues exercised in good works born of living faith.”

In entering fully into the Liturgical Seasons and actions of the Church, we are given an opportunity to enrich our daily lives and draw closer to God through these observances.

Mass Times*

- **Sunday** 8am at Adair
9am Adoration
10am Mass
- **Tuesday** 6pm Mass
- Wednesday Adair 8:30am
- **Thursday** 9am Mass
at the Community Care Center
- **Friday** 8:30am
- **Saturday**
3:30pm Confessions
4pm Rosary
4:30pm Mass
**Always Check Weekly Calendar for Any Changes*

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Faith Formation

-Cathy Hicks, Director of Religious Education (DRE)

Advent is underway and we prepare ourselves for the birth of our King, Jesus Christ. Last week I provided information on the purpose and preparation for the season of Advent, and this week I want to provide some information on the Advent Wreath.

The Advent Wreath is used to symbolize God the Father and eternal life. Four candles decorate the wreath: three violet and one rose candle, each representing 1,000 years or a total of 4,000 years that humanity waited for the Savior. *The burning flame is a visual reminder that Christ is "the light of the world." (John 8:12) Violet is a liturgical color that is used to signify a time of penance, sacrifice, and prayer. During the first, second, and fourth weeks of Advent, violet candles are lit. Rose*

is the liturgical color that signifies joy, so this candle is lit on Gaudete Sunday or the third Sunday of Advent. This Sunday is a celebration that our wait for Christmas is almost over.

The first Advent candle, called the "Prophet Candle," symbolizes **Hope** and reminds us that Jesus is coming. The second candle, called the "Bethlehem Candle, symbolizes **Faith** and reminds us of Mary and Joseph's difficult journey to Bethlehem. The third Advent candle is called the "Shepherd's Candle" and reminds us of the **Joy** the world will experience when Jesus is born. And the fourth candle, called the "Angel's Candle," symbolizes **Peace** and reminds us of the message of the angels: "Glory to God in the highest; and on earth peace to men of

good will."

Advent Wreath Prayer- The first candle

**"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light!"
(Isaiah 9:1-2)**

God of compassion, be with us in these long and dark days as we wait the birth of Your Son, Jesus. Amen.

May God be ever at your side and keep you in the palm of His hand.

Thoughts from Jodi

- Jodi Bassett, President, Altar & Rosary Society

Can you even stand to watch the news anymore? I'm pretty sure if he weren't married to me, my husband would never watch the news. But he humors me...I am a local news junkie, and I like to hear the morning network news.

It's hard to watch. There is so much political news, none of which is pleasant. Every so often, there is a mass killing, regardless of the weapon. And now, every few days, a celebrity is accused of sexual misconduct, and some of them actually admit to the charges. It gets old fast, and it's certainly not the type of thing

to which we want children exposed. But it—and much more—is out there. "What is the world coming to?" is a frequent refrain. Perhaps the better question is "Where is God in all this?"

We are sinners. We do wrong. Most of us aren't on the news, but we sin every day. Well, I do. I might admit to a foul word, or a frustrated response, or even inappropriate thoughts. Do I know better? Of course I do. Do I do better? Apparently not always.

Isaiah asks God to come to earth and

shake things up a bit. After all, He made us and knows our ways. We are the work of his hands. God does not expect us to be perfect (that is His job) but He does expect us to call upon Him for His help and guidance. When it seems like there is nothing we can do, there is always at least one thing to do: we can pray. We can also seek reconciliation. That may not heal the world, but it is a good step toward mending our own souls.

Until next week, blessings of the coming Baby.

Parish Finance Report

November 26th Collection

Sat/Sun: \$1,931.00

Kids: \$35.22

Building Fund: \$0.00

Human Development: \$30.00

This Week's Income: \$1,966.22

This Week's Expenses: \$1,314.53

2017 ADA Balance

As of 10-6-17: \$7,288.50

Harmony Christmas Tree Farms

Featuring Scotch Pine, White Pine, Firs and Concolors, as well as wreaths.

Also available are Aronia berries and a small variety of Aronia Berry products.

10-4pm Fridays & Saturdays

Noon - 4pm Sundays until Christmas

Marvin Bassett Family Farm 1523 Trenton Avenue, Stuart 515-523-1822

The Readings for this week...

<u>Monday 4th</u>	<u>Tuesday 5th</u>	<u>Wednesday 6th</u>	<u>Thursday 7th</u>	<u>Friday 8th</u>	<u>Saturday 9th</u>	<u>Sunday 10th</u>
<i>Opt. Memorial of St. John Damascene, Priest & Doctor of the Church</i>		<i>Opt. Memorial of St. Nicholas, Bishop</i>	Memorial of St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	<i>Optional Memorial of St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin</i>	2nd Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 2:1-5	Isaiah 11:1-10	Isaiah 25:6-10a	Isaiah 26:1-6	Genesis 3:9-15, 20	Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26	Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9	Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17	Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6	Psalm 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a	Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4	Psalm 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6	Psalm 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14
Matthew 8:5-11	Luke 10:21-24	Matthew 15:29-37	Matthew 7:21, 24-27	Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12	Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8	2 Peter 3:8-14
				Luke 1:26-38		Mark 1:1-8

Places to be, things to do...

- Knights of Columbus Soups** The Knights are offering two opportunities for us to share a bowl of soup and some fellowship time. A Soup Supper is scheduled for Saturday Dec. 9th from 5-7pm and a Soup Luncheon is scheduled for Sunday Dec. 10th from 11am-1pm. A free will offering will be accepted and all proceeds will go to the food bank.
- Spaghetti Dinner** December 7th "Dining at the Inn - The Night Before Christmas" New Beginnings Open Bible Church, 207 SW 7th St. Serving from 5:30-7pm. Free will donation. RSVP's for four or more people are helpful: please call 641-757-0192



**Returning to ALL SAINTS
Beginning in January 2018
**** Watch for Details ******

Prayers

Requests:

Pat Marnin, Dave McKee

Home Visits If you would like a home visit from Father Ray, please feel free to contact the Church Office at 515-523-1943 or by emailing Brenda at stjohndallsaints@gmail.com to set up an appointment.

Help us celebrate the season in prayer.

All Saints Parish has provided a "Prayer Tree" in the gathering space. It is loaded with prayer requests for people and causes in need.

We ask you to join us in prayer during this season celebrating Christ's birth. Please "Pick a Prayer" and pray for that person or cause during advent.

Bernard Mertes Gene Fitzgerald

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace.
Amen*

ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE BULLETIN MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE OFFICE BY 5PM WEDNESDAY. Call 515-523-1943 or email: stjohnallsaints@gmail.com

to submit your items.

*Bulletins, prayer requests, and other announcements are sent via email through **Constant Contact**. If you are not receiving these emails, please be sure the Church Office has your address. Also be sure to check your "spam" folder as it may be going there. Bulletins are also posted to our website each Friday afternoon.*

Website: stuartallsaints.org

**Liturgical Ministers:
Saturday 12-9**

Rosary: Frank Holle
Ushers: Mark & Kari Tisl
Cross Bearer: Marty Doud
Altar Servers: Connie Drake
Lector: Carol Smith
Commentator: Mark Tisl
Greeters/Gifts:
 Dave & Barb Boss
EMHC: Maria Ladwig, Jodi Bassett,
 Sr. Nesta

**Liturgical Ministers:
Sunday 12-10**

Ushers: Faith Formation
Cross Bearer: Faith Formation
Altar Servers: Faith Formation
Lector: Faith Formation
Commentator: Faith Formation
Greeters/Gifts:
 Faith Formation
EMHC: Jill Gerling, Cathy Hicks, Linda
 Lee O'Neal



***Finance Council Meeting*
7pm Monday December 11th**

Special Mass Times

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Adair: 7pm Thursday December 7th
Stuart: 7pm Friday December 8th

Contact Us

Rev. Raymond J. Higgins, Pastor

Church Office: 515-523-1943

Parish Administrative Assistant & Bulletin Editor:

Brenda Wedemeyer stjohnallsaints@gmail.com

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Music & Wedding Coordinator: Norma Tigges tiggesnorma@yahoo.com

Custodial Services: Barb Boss bbosslady@msn.com

Prayer Request Phone Line: Viola Heins 515-789-2029

Knights of Columbus: Dan Hilgers **Altar & Rosary Society:** Jodi Bassett

To arrange for Sacraments, rent the parish hall, to join the Church, or if you have a question, please contact the Church Office.

Calendar of Activities

Regular Office Hours:
9am-3pm T-W-Th

To view the entire calendar for both parishes, please go to stuartallsaints.org or adairstjohn.org

Sunday 12-3	Monday 12-4	Tuesday 12-5	Wednesday 12-6	Thursday 12-7	Friday 12-8	Saturday 12-9
9am Choir/ Adoration 10am Mass for the Living & Deceased Members of the Parish	BD: Kelly Smith	6pm MASS for Albert & Lucille Greubel Adult RE Class 6:30pm BDs: Iris Young	6:30-7:30pm Faith Formation BD: Steve James	9am Mass (Care Center) for Rosalie McGinnis BD: Gina Ocheltree	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary 7pm Mass for Donato Cianciaruso	3:30pm Confessions 4:30pm Mass for Bob Griffin Knights of Columbus Soup Supper 5-7pm

Sunday 12-10	Monday 12-11	Tuesday 12-12	Wednesday 12-13	Thursday 12-14	Friday 12-15	Saturday 12-16
9am Choir/ Adoration 10am Mass for the Lvg & Dec'd Mbrs of the Parish Knights of C Soup Luncheon 11-1pm ANN: Pat & Jo Beaman 1983 BD: Jo Beaman	7pm Finance Council Meeting	6pm MASS for Sr. Phyllis Kerns Adult RE Class 6:30pm BDs: Grant Becker	6:30-7:30pm Faith Formation ANN: Bob & Brenna Bird 2014 BDs: Maggie Marnin, Breckon Johnston	9am Mass (Care Center) for Don Lacher	8:30am Mass for Laura Opheim	3:30pm Confessions 4:30pm Mass for Albert & Lucille Greubel BDs: David Doud, Luis Huerta