

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

216 All Saints Drive, Stuart, IA 50250

December 24, 2017



Dear Parishioners

The 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve fall on the same day, and that creates a bit of confusion for some folks. I have been asked if attending Mass in the evening for Christmas Eve fulfills the Sunday obligation. Unfortunately, it does not. One still must fulfill the Holy Day of Obligation when it comes to Sundays and other designated days throughout the calendar year. What I would recommend is attending Saturday evening for the Sunday obligation and then Sunday evening for the Christmas obligation, or Monday morning whichever is convenient.

We have singing and music planned before the Christmas Eve Mass so please come early.

With Christmas already upon us, some might feel a bit frazzled or tired due to last mi-

nute preparations and gift buying. Might I suggest we bring ourselves and our significant others to a calm and focus on this special Solemnity.

I remember, in my younger years, cleaning the house and setting out numerous candles, eventually lowering the lighting, and Christmas music playing in the background for a sacred ambience. It truly set the tone when it came to the specialness of the Christmas Eve Day. The young need impressionable moments like a special ambience in the home to draw their minds to something other than themselves or their phones or tablets. Homes are an extension of God’s house where it is a place of community, reverence, quiet, and the sacred. Our homes are a sanctuary where we pray, read God’s word as well as ask God’s blessings for the vari-

ous occasions in the home, i.e. blessings at meals.

Furthermore, to demonstrate our homes as extensions of God’s home (sanctuary), we tend to have religious items in our homes such as: Crucifixes, Crosses, Rosaries, Devotional Prayer Books, Bibles, Pictures of our Lord and Blessed Mother as well as the Saints, and other Sacramentals. With that being said, one can truly imagine the home as the extension of God’s dwelling reminding ourselves who we are (God’s beloved) and that we belong to the family of God.

May your homes not only be filled with the sacred items, prayers and blessings, may it also, be filled with God’s presence, peace, and love.

Merry Christmas to all of you!

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 News by Cathy Hicks DRE

It's hard to believe we are half way through the Faith Formation year. The year so far has gone smoothly, and I am so proud of the job the catechists are doing to provide an enriching faith foundation for our young people to grow upon. I would like to thank all of you for your continued support and prayers for the program. I would like to thank everyone who donated to the Faith Formation Advent Giving Tree. There were so many great gifts given, and there will be some very happy children in the area who otherwise may not have gotten any thing for Christmas. Please keep in your prayers those who are less fortunate, and may all of us keep in our hearts the true meaning of the season. May joy be your gift at Christmas, and may faith, hope, and love be your treasures for the New Year. Merry Christmas, everyone!



Thoughts from Jodi

- Jodi Bassett, President, Altar & Rosary Society

As children, we excitedly anticipated seeing all the holiday cartoon specials each year. It was disappointing when they were shown on a Wednesday night! Despite some begging, we didn't get to stay home those evenings. Of course in those days, there were only four channels and the shows ran one time during the season. If you missed it, well, too bad.

Fast forward to adulthood, and the classics still entertain me. "Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer," "Frosty the Snowman," and "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" bring a contented smile to my face. I have seen them so many times that I can speak the script along with the show. Now I like to share these classics with the

young people in my life.

But my favorite is "A Charlie Brown Christmas." I could watch it multiple times a year. And I know this script best of all. Here is a cartoon that depicts bullying, commercialism, vanity, ridiculing, and mocks mental illness. Good Christian values, right?

So why is it my favorite? "A Charlie Brown Christmas" is the only classic holiday special that takes the Nativity approach. When Linus says "Lights, please," and begins speaking Luke's Gospel, the auditorium falls quiet and nothing else matters. "And there were in the same country shepherds, abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock

by night, and lo, the Angel of Lord came upon them. The Glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid. And the Angel said unto them, 'Fear not, for behold I bring you tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: you shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the Angel a multitude of the heavenly hosts praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men.' ...That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown."

Merry Christmas!

Parish Finance Report

December 17th Collection

Sat/Sun: \$3,105.00

Kids: \$39.32

Building Fund: \$25.00

Special Collection: \$30.00

This Week's Income: \$3,144.32

This Week's Expenses: \$499.03

2017 ADA Balance

As of 12-5-17: \$7,226.00

Each year our sanctuary is decorated with Poinsettia plants, the traditional Christmas flower. These plants may be sponsored in memory of loved ones. If you would like to purchase a plant, there are three sizes available.



Large: \$30 Medium: \$25 Small \$15

Please use one of the red "Flower Offering" envelopes in the gathering space to make your purchase. Also, be sure to provide ALL of the information requested on the front of the envelope.

The Readings for this week...

<u>Monday 25th</u>	<u>Tuesday 26th</u>	<u>Wednesday 27th</u>	<u>Thursday 28th</u>	<u>Friday 29th</u>	<u>Saturday 30th</u>	<u>Sunday 31st</u>
Holy Day Of Obligation	Feast of Saint Stephen, The First Martyr	Feast of Saint John, Apostle & Evangelist	Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs	5th Day Within The Octave of the Nativity of the Lord	6th Day Within The Octave of the Nativity of the Lord	Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
Isaiah 52:7-10	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59	1 John 1:1-4	1 John 1:5-2:2	Opt. Memorial of St. Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr		
Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6				1 John 2:3-11	1 John 2:12-17	Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3
Hebrews 1:1-6	Psalm 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17	Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12	Psalm 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8	Psalm 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6	Psalm 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10	Psalm 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9
John 1:1-18	Matthew 10:17-22	John 20:1a, 2-8	Matthew 2:13-18	Luke 2:22-35	Luke 2:36-40	Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19
						Luke 2:22-40

Places to be, things to do...

- Coming up January 8th - **Care Center Bingo**. Please see Linda Lee O'Neel to volunteer.
- **Liturgical Ministers** For scheduling questions, please contact Joyce Van Pelt through the Church office or via email at: joyceavp@yahoo.com. If you are interested in becoming a Liturgical Minister, please contact the Church office to schedule an instruction time.
- **Bowling - Pizza - Pop!** The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring an **Altar Server Appreciation Bowling Party** next Sunday, 12/31, from 11:30am-12:45pm. Please sign up in the gathering space.



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

Thanks & Prayers

Requests:

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 stjohnallsaints@gmail.com to set up an appointment.

Votive Stand Candles

Many of our parishioners and visitors appreciate the chance to light a candle for a loved one on the votive stands located around the sanctuary.

Please note the change in the amount of the suggested donation per candle: it is now \$2 due to the rising cost of the candles themselves. If you are unable to make a donation, please don't let that stop you from lighting a candle - *your prayers are important!*

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.

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 12-30

Rosary: Frank Holle

Ushers: Marty & Julie Doud

Cross Bearer: Marty Doud

Altar Server: Zoey & Bailey Dickson

Lector: Roni Wilson

Commentator: Carol Smith

Greeters/Gifts:

Marvin & Janet Bassett

EMHC: Jodi Bassett, Donna Donnelly, Sr. Chinweze

Liturgical Ministers:

Sunday 12-31

Ushers: Wayne Nosbisch & Tom Doud

Cross Bearer: Pete Kasap

Altar Servers: Eli & Sam Kasap, Larissa Crawford

Lector: Gary Riordan

Commentator: Wayne Nosbisch

Greeters/Gifts:

Tom & Amy Doud

EMHC: Cathy Hicks, Amy Doud, Linda Lee O'Neel



Special Music

On Christmas Eve, 6:30pm, we will join in the joy of Christmas music before the 7pm Mass. It's a great opportunity to share your talents or just appreciate those that do. Children/adults, if you would like to play an instrument, sing a solo or with others, please contact me. Catch me after Sunday Morning Mass or give me a call. Thank you, Norma Tigges, Church Musician 515-789-4634

Contact Us

Rev. Raymond J. Higgins, Pastor

Church Office: 515-523-1943

Parish Administrative Assistant & Bulletin Editor:

Brenda Wedemeyer stjohnallsaints@gmail.com

Parish Bookkeeper & Mass Intentions: Rita Rilea allsaintsoffice@gmail.com

Director of Religious Education: Cathy Hicks cabinmn@gmail.com

Youth Minister: Jill Gerling jillgerling@gmail.com

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 12-24	Monday 12-25	Tuesday 12-26	Wednesday 12-27	Thursday 12-28	Friday 12-29	Saturday 12-30
9am Choir/ Adoration 10am Mass for the Lvg & Dec'd Mbrs of the Parish 6:30pm <i>Special Christmas Music</i> 7pm Christmas Eve Mass	9am Christmas Morning Mass	6pm MASS for Donato Cianciaruso NO Adult RE Class	NO Faith Formation BD: Jill Hauschildt	9am Mass (Care Center) for Martin G. Lydon	8:30am Mass for Deceased members of the Tigges/Gladfelder Families BDs: Bridgeen Graham, Sadie McFarland	3:30pm Confessions 4:30pm Mass for Albert & Lucille Greubel BD: Nate Smith

Sunday 12-31	Monday 1-1 2018	Tuesday 1-2	Wednesday 1-3	Thursday 1-4	Friday 1-5	Saturday 1-6
9am Choir/ Adoration 10am Mass for Bernard & Millie Hilgers	9am Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God Mass BD: Dillon Durbin <i>Father Out of Town</i>	NO MASS NO Adult RE Class BDs: Alan Bovee, Luke Dahl <i>Father Out of Town</i>	NO Faith Formation BD: Presley Pivonka <i>Father Out of Town</i>	NO Mass (Care Center) BD: Lee Leyva <i>Father Out of Town</i>	NO Mass BDs: Eric Tiernan <i>Father Out of Town</i>	Fr. Ross Parker, Guest President 3:30pm Confessions 4:30pm Mass for Everett & Margaret Sherman BD: Reyes Leyva