

# ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH

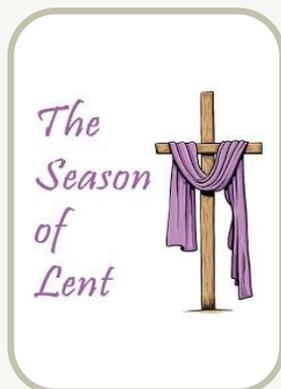
FEBRUARY 25, 2018

216 ALL SAINTS DRIVE, STUART, IA 50250

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Rev. Raymond J. Higgins, Parish Priest

## When "Someone Offends Me..."



**MASS TIMES**  
10AM SUNDAY; 6PM  
TUESDAY; 6PM FRIDAY;  
4:30PM SATURDAY

**The article at right is borrowed and modified from an anonymous, original post on a social media website.**

When someone offends me, I can either:

*Tell people ALL about it OR*  
Go DIRECTLY to God in prayer

*I can make my listeners begin to think less of my offender OR I can listen to God & hear what I really should think of my offender*

*I can make them join me in speaking negatively about my offender OR I can feel at PEACE and not "need" to vent to others*

*I now have succeeded in: causing others to sin; creating division in relationships; made myself more upset by re-hashing the details; deliberately disobeyed God OR I have honored God by valuing unity over the (very) temporary pleasure of gossiping and gaining sympathy from others.*

**Which options do you choose?**

## On Prayer...

*-Submitted by David Witkowski*

As a follow up to last week's note about All Saints prayer ministry, I thought it might be nice to talk further about prayer. But honestly, the saints have done a far better job than I could ever do. Enjoy their insight into prayer as I have. Descriptions of prayer are abundant throughout Christian history. "True prayer," wrote St. Augustine, "is nothing but love." Prayer

should arise from the heart. "Prayer," said St. John Vianney, "is the inner bath of love into which the soul plunges itself." "Everyone of us needs half an hour of prayer each day," remarked St. Francis de Sales, "except when we are busy—then we need an hour." Definitions of prayer are important, but insufficient. There is a huge difference between knowing about

prayer and praying. On this issue, the Rule of St. Benedict is clear, "If a man wants to pray, let him go and pray." Pray for the living, pray for the dead, pray for those we love, pray for what we need, pray for friends, pray for enemies. But by all means, pray to the One who created it all, for who but God can help us with what we need.



### CONTACT US:

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# DEAR PARISHIONERS

We are now beginning the second week of Lent—how are you doing with your Lenten renewal? Just like anyone who makes up their mind to start a diet, work on a new exercise program or anything else that changes our lifestyle for the better, the first few days are usually great! We are excited to make a positive change in our lives and we know we can “beat this thing” all on our own. Then, a new day comes...the weather went bad, the car won't start, your mother-in-law wants to come for a visit...whatever—and your good intentions of making a change just hit a bump. “Ok,” you think, “I can start again tomorrow.” So you start again—until someone says “let's go out for lunch!” and then the diet is gone—“I'll get back on track *tomorrow*.” And so it goes.

The thing to remember—rather than getting discouraged—is that God is always willing to let us “start again” (and again, and again as need be).

Another thing to remember is that we are ALL in the same boat. We are all humans with human shortcomings. We know our own struggles, of course, but we need to remember that others are struggling as well. Take for example a young family trying to make a go of things, but the kids are running rampant, the car needs work, diapers are expensive, and so on. How do we see this family? Do we wonder what we might do to help? Could we help care for the children, offer them a ride, maybe purchase a box of diapers, or offer prayerful support?

Sometimes, maybe most of the time, we think of Lent as a time of not doing or eating something we enjoy and then call it good on Easter Sunday morning with a free-for-all chocolate festival. Sometimes life is not just about us. It's about what we can do for others.

Consider choosing a family (including your own) to pray for this Lenten season. You

don't have to tell them or anyone else, just remember them every day in prayer, asking God to watch over them and that you can be a positive influence in their lives. Be there for the single mom who is overwhelmed, for the dad who feels ashamed because he can't provide for his family, for the kids who come home after school to an empty house, and for those families who are split by separation or divorce. And let's not forget those families that are just plain “too busy” to even sit down together and share a meal. Family is where we go to be safe and loved, which will prepare us for eternity with God, our Father—the Head of our Family.

*- Brenda Wedemeyer, Bulletin Editor*

## PRAYER & THANKSGIVING

- ◆ Please pray for Barb Marnin; those who are suffering with the flu; and those experiencing weather-related issues
- ◆ *To request prayer, please call the Church office at 515-523-1943, Viola Heins at 515-789-2029, or email: [stjohnallsaints@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnallsaints@gmail.com)*

### Liturgical Ministers—Saturday March 3

**Rosary Leader:** Frank Holle

**Ushers:** Eric & Margaret Tiernan

**Cross Bearer:** Eric Tiernan

**Altar Servers:** Zoey & Bailey Dickson

**Lector:** Anita Hilgers

**Commentator:** Sharon Doud

**Greeters & Gifts:** Eric & Margaret Tiernan

**EMHC:** Jodi Bassett, Dan Hilgers, Sr. Chinweze

### Liturgical Ministers—Sunday March 4

**Ushers:** Wayne Nosbisch & Neal Crawford

**Cross Bearer:** Pete Kasap

**Altar Servers:** Alli, Cora, & Evie Boyle

**Lector:** Gary Riordan

**Commentator:** Daisy Nevins

**Greeters & Gifts:** Nick & Tanya Boyle

**EMHC:** Amy Doud, Joyce Van Pelt, Linda Lee O'Neel

*Please contact Joyce Van Pelt regarding scheduling questions:*

[joyceavp@yahoo.com](mailto:joyceavp@yahoo.com)

# CALENDAR & DAILY READINGS

| <u>Sunday 2-25</u>   | <u>Monday 2-26</u>  | <u>Tuesday 2-27</u>   | <u>Wednesday 2-28</u>                         | <u>Thursday 3-1</u>  | <u>Friday 3-2</u>   | <u>Saturday 3-3</u>   |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| <p><b>9am Choir/</b><br/>Adoration</p> <p><b>10am Mass for</b><br/>Nancy Miner</p> <p><i>BD:</i><br/>Patti McAndrews</p> | <p><i>ANN: Roger &amp;</i><br/><i>Joyce Tibben 1977</i></p> | <p><b>6pm Mass for</b><br/>Kathleen Doud<br/>Lewin</p> <p>6:30pm Adult RE<br/>Class</p> | <p><b>6:30-7:30PM</b><br/>Faith Formation</p> | <p><b>9am Mass for</b><br/>James Witkowski<br/>(Stuart Community<br/>Care Center)</p> <p><i>BDs: Gary Riordan,</i><br/><i>Zachary Beaman</i></p> | <p><b>6pm Mass for</b><br/>Ernest Suchon<br/>w/ <b>Stations of<br/>the Cross</b></p> <p><i>ANN: Pete &amp; Debi</i><br/><i>Kasap 1991</i></p> <p><i>BDs: J. Chris</i><br/><i>Kuttler, Julie Trich-</i><br/><i>el, Jaina Dubois,</i><br/><i>Lilah Aubert</i></p> | <p><b>3:30pm</b><br/>Confessions</p> <p><b>4:30pm Mass for</b><br/>Ila Mae Pivonka</p> <p><i>BDs: Marilyn</i><br/><i>Wagers, Jill Gerling</i></p> |

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|--|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| <p><b>Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Romans 8:1b-34; Mark 9:2-10</b></p> <p><i>God's love for us is limitless.</i></p> <p>Today, we hear the familiar passage from Saint Paul when he says, <i>If God is for us, who can be against us?</i> Since we have been called by name, by virtue of our baptism, we know that we are God's children; we are his instruments in the world.</p> | <p><b>Daniel 9:4b-10; Luke 6:36-38</b></p> <p><i>The need for God's mercy.</i></p> <p>It can be easy to grow complacent as we progress in Christian virtue, treating our relationship with God like a checklist of activities to be completed. The life of faith is transcendent of mere observation of the law, however, and that is why we need God's love and mercy to grow in the discipleship of love.</p> | <p><b>Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Matthew 23:1-12</b></p> <p><i>God is merciful and full of compassion.</i></p> <p>Every year we cycle through the liturgical seasons following the mystery of the life and ministry of Jesus. In the Lenten season, we hear the call of Jesus to turn away from sin and believe in the Gospel. Through our Lenten discipline of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we empty ourselves of sin and fill ourselves with God's mercy.</p> | <p><b>Jeremiah 18:18-20; Matthew 20:17-28</b></p> <p><i>Jesus gave his life willingly as a ransom for many.</i></p> <p>Rejection and opposition are part and parcel of the Christian life because the Gospel often goes against cultural norms. Let us work to embrace the life of servant leadership to which Jesus refers, and do our part to build up his kingdom on earth.</p> | <p><b>Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 16:19-31</b></p> <p><i>Let us turn our focus away from material goods, and toward God.</i></p> <p>God has told us through Old Testament prophets and through Jesus that our eternity is in our own hands. How we live on earth will determine what our eternal life will be like. Every action, every word, every thought and every reaction creates the mosaics of our lives. Let us ask Jesus to help us make them pleasing to the Father.</p> | <p><b>Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46</b></p> <p><i>Let us pray for the grace to be at peace with one another.</i></p> <p>In both Scripture readings today, we see conflict and killing. These are brothers and fellow citizens who are definitely not at peace with one another. In God's kingdom, we can both find and engender peace. Since God's kingdom is now—not somewhere down the road—let us pray for the grace to be at peace with one another.</p> | <p><b>Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32</b></p> <p><i>The Lord welcomes us with mercy and compassion.</i></p> <p>None of us is without sin. While the Lord condemns wrongful actions, he longs for us to return to him. He desires reconciliation. This is possible when we humble ourselves, admit our guilt and sincerely express remorse. The loving Father welcomes our repentance with mercy and compassion, and invites others to join the celebration.</p> |
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# FAITH FORMATION NEWS

▪ CATHY HICKS, DRE

Lent is underway, and an important aspect of Lent is almsgiving. Two opportunities we are providing here at All Saints this Lenten season are the Rice Bowl project and the "Building the Kingdom" project.

The Rice Bowl project provides our students and parish community an opportunity to reach out to those who are poor and vulnerable around the world. By putting money into their rice bowls, the students help feed, clothe, and aide children and adults who live in poverty. Twenty-five percent of the donations raised through this project stay in the Diocese of Des Moines to assist local people in need. The oth-

er seventy-five percent is donated to Catholic Relief Services to support the needy in over 100 countries. The students received their rice bowl this past Wednesday in class and are encouraged to donate whatever they can to the project during Lent. There are a few rice bowls in the gathering space for any adults who would also like to participate. Donations are always welcomed.

Bishop Pates is once again asking parishes to contribute to the "Building the Kingdom" project which raises funds for a high school seminary in Nigeria. We are fortunate to work with the Nigerian Sisters, and there are four Nigeri-

an priests serving in the diocese. The money raised goes to help with renovations of the academic building, student living quarters, and modernization of restroom facilities. Every little bit helps. There are giving envelopes also in the gathering space.

If you are able, please give to these two worthy charities. Not only are you helping others, but you are also following in Jesus' steps to reach out to your fellow man in need. May God always be at your side and hold you in the palm of His hand.



## Thoughts from Jodi

-Jodi Bassett, Altar & Rosary Society President

Another week and we've had another onslaught of tragic headlines. A troubled former student gunned down seventeen innocent students and teachers, which was followed by so much rhetoric. Gun control, mental health, security checks, and more have been endlessly debated without any firm answers or solutions. Is anyone else afraid that this is becoming so commonplace that we are not even shocked anymore?

As heartbreaking as mass killings are in 2018, our First Reading from Genesis is appalling as God asks Abraham to sacrifice his own son, Isaac. This is hard: God asks Abraham to kill and burn in holocaust his ONLY son. Even harder to fathom—Abraham's faith was so deep he

built an altar and pulled the knife to kill Isaac, without question. Put that in current perspective. How would we view someone who did such a thing, saying that God spoke to them and commanded them to kill their own child? You can bet society would be blaming drugs, mental illness, or just plain pure evil.

But God acknowledges Abraham's faith and devotion, and stops the slaughter at the last moment. God provided a substitute sacrifice, and promised that Abraham's descendants would number as the stars and grains of sand. Could we demonstrate the depths of faith that Abraham did? Wouldn't we find such a request incredulous? I think most of us would be questioning our own sanity,

and rightfully so.

But I don't think God would ask this kind of request of us in the 21st century. That's too risky of a setup for the return. But God is still asking us for our faith. What indication of devotion does God ask of you?

### COMMUNITY DAY OF PRAYER

The Stuart-Mount Vernon Methodist Church is hosting this year's Community Day of Prayer on March 2 from 2-3pm. Contact Donna Olson at 523-1120 for further information.

## Parish Business & Finance Report

### February 18th Collection

Sat/Sun: \$2,463.00

Kids: \$17.20

Building Fund: \$192.00

Special Collection: \$0.00

***This Week's Income:***

*\$2,480.20*

***This Week's Expenses:***

*\$106.16*

### 2017 ADA Balance

As of 1/5/22018:

\$5,076.00

### Trustees:

*Janis Gilman, Robert Bird*

### Council Members:

*Wayne Nosbisch, Brenna*

*Bird, Dave & Barb Boss,*

*Eric Tiernan, Tom Doud*

*Rita Rilea, Bookkeeping*

**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."**