

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH

MARCH 4, 2018

216 ALL SAINTS DRIVE, STUART, IA 50250

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Rev. Raymond J. Higgins, Parish Priest

FROM THE BISHOP

Dear Friends in Christ, During Lent, we engage Jesus in intensive prayer and fasting, more conscious than ever of God's rich blessings in our lives and our responsibility to be good stewards of all His gifts. Further, we root ourselves in relationship with Jesus, how He calls us to be disciples in mission, and the urgent need of our church to reach out to the millennial generation. This is The New Moment, needed in our supplying oxygen for the Body of Christ.

The 2018 Annual Diocesan Appeal enables each of us in the responsibility of being a good steward. Our theme remains "We Are One Body." As one body,

we seek to respond to an emerging "change of age" so that our church may be vibrant and live with gratitude, generosity, and self-sacrifice. I invite you to share in the important ministries of our Diocese which include priest medical and healthcare, priest retirement, seminarian formation, Catholic education, youth and adult programming, pastoral ministry, Catholic Charities services, and administrative support. As you reflect on God's gifts to you, it is my prayer that you will support our ministries by giving as generously as possible. I recognize each gift constitutes a sacrifice, an offering made with gratitude. I ask

you to prayerfully consider a sacrificial offering to this year's appeal, which may be made through a pledge or onetime gift through your parish or online. All gifts, no matter the size, are greatly appreciated.

Our website provides a thorough overview of how your gift is used to serve our faith community. You and your family will be remembered in my prayers throughout the coming year, and I ask that you also pray for me as well as the success of this year's Annual Diocesan Appeal.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
The Most Reverend
Richard E. Pates

Bishop of Des Moines

MASS TIMES

10AM SUNDAY
6PM TUESDAY/6PM FRIDAY
4:30PM SATURDAY

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On Prayer...

-Submitted by David Witkowski

Very Often we pray the same way and say the same prayers that seem to get stale and old. Because of this we often also think that because we repeat the same prayers, make the same requests to God and repeat the same words again and again, that we aren't effective or "God isn't listening". Below is a short paragraph or three that may help you see God and God's answers in your daily life. Please

enjoy, be blessed this week and pray today and every day.

God doesn't always work in the ways we want Him to, but He does always work. When we find ourselves feeling desperate for Him in a dry season, we can miss His hand working in our lives. We become so focused on expecting Him to move in a specific way that we miss the small, daily ways He comes through for us.

Keeping our eyes—both spiritual and physical—open allows us to see Him move in a tapestry of ways.

As with all things in the Christian journey, there is no one formula to solve all our problems. But by staying faithful and focused on God, by seeking His presence and by continuing to seek Him in our pain, we recognize our worth in His eyes and our place in His Kingdom.

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DEAR PARISHIONERS

While Jesus was in the Temple, he watched the rich people dropping their gifts in the collection box. Then a poor widow came by and dropped in two small coins.

"I tell you the truth," Jesus said, "this poor widow has given more than all the rest of them. For they have given a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she has." (Luke 21:1-4 NLT)

This passage begs the question: "How much have you given?" Some Give Nothing, Some Give One-tenth, Some Give All. In our culture today, it is easy to think "I must accumulate because I am empty and there may not be enough". I believe that statement or something similar to it comes up in our mind from time to time. The question perhaps is: "empty of what?"

Today, people are empty because they feel more alone than ever. Our younger

generation, also known by the title "Millennials", are very lonely, even though they may have a thousand friends on Facebook.

The complaint among them and among the older generations is the lack of true intimacy - someone to talk to from the heart, someone who responds with genuine concern, someone to share their life with. Everyone, including Millennials, is looking for that connection, that feeling they are not alone and that connection first starts with God. Millennials and all generations are not anti-spiritual or anti-relational, yet there is a distrust for organized practice of spirituality - what we call religion.

Many people believe that organized religion has failed to provide a way to make a close connection with God. But this does not mean that we abandon it's true intention of showing the way to connect with God and one another. Our faith, our reli-

gion, should include the support of one another, to be present to each other in our struggles not to overwhelm, manipulate, or dominate, but to be a disciple on the way to God together. Intimacy is not just with another person, true intimacy is to share a common direction or goal and to engage in that. Otherwise, if it is only us without God, we eventually disappoint each other. Soon after, the relationship dissolves.

The poor widow - despite her situation - gave her all. She gave because she understood her relationship with God. She knew God would honor her gift and that He would continue, as He promises in Philipians 4:19-20 New American Bible (Revised Edition) (NABRE):

"My God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." Promises are fulfilled in faithful relationships.

- Fr. Ray

PRAYER & THANKSGIVING

- ◆ Please pray for Pat Gomez, Ann Bendernagel
- ◆ *To request prayer, please call the Church office at 515-523-1943, Viola Heins at 515-789-2029, or email: stjohnallsaints@gmail.com*

Liturgical Ministers—Saturday March 10

Rosary Leader: Frank Holle

Ushers: Wayne & Jan Gilman

Cross Bearer: Wayne Gilman

Altar Servers: Connie Drake

Lector: Roni Wilson

Commentator: Sharon Doud

Greeters & Gifts: Wayne & Jan Gilman

EMHC: Joyce Van Pelt, Sisters

Liturgical Ministers—Sunday March 11

Ushers: Pat Beaman & John Gulbranson

Cross Bearer: Patrick Gulbranson

Altar Servers: Olivia Nixt, Cam Tigges, Riley Doud

Lector: Donna Olson

Commentator: Harriet Gulbranson

Greeters & Gifts: Pat & Jo Beaman

EMHC: Jo Beaman, Harriet Gulbranson, Cathy Hicks

Please contact Joyce Van Pelt regarding scheduling questions:

joyceavp@yahoo.com

CALENDAR

<u>Sunday 3-4</u>	<u>Monday 3-5</u>	<u>Tuesday 3-6</u>	<u>Wednesday 3-7</u>	<u>Thursday 3-8</u>	<u>Friday 3-9</u>	<u>Saturday 3-10</u>
<p>9am Choir/ Adoration</p> <p>10am Mass for the Living & Deceased Members of the Parish</p> <p><i>BD:</i> <i>Brenna Bird</i></p>	<p><i>BD:</i> <i>Nicholas Doud</i></p>	<p>6pm Mass for Mary Dickson</p> <p>6:30pm Adult RE Class</p> <p>ANN: Craig & Brenda Wedemeyer 1982</p> <p><i>BD:</i> <i>Scott Fillman</i></p>	<p>6:30-7:30PM Faith Formation</p>	<p>9am Mass for Bob Griffin (Stuart Community Care Center)</p> <p><i>BDs: Kerri McFarland, Robert Bird, Stephanie Kuttler</i></p>	<p>6pm Mass for Sr. Phyllis Kernz w/ Stations of the Cross</p> <p>Fish Fry at Adair 5-7pm</p> <p><i>BDs: Francis McGinnis, Jerri Pieper</i></p>	<p>3:30pm Confessions</p> <p>4:30pm Mass for Mary Stoberl</p> <p><i>BD: Harriet Gulbranson</i></p>

DAILY READINGS

<p>Exodus 20:1-17; 1 Corinthians 1:22-25; John 2:13-25</p> <p><i>Jesus performed many signs, but it was in his death and resurrection that God's glory was fully revealed and made manifest.</i></p> <p>When Jesus drives the money changers and animal vendors from the Temple, the Jews demand a sign to prove his authority. They do not have faith to see what is in front of them. Later, when Jesus dies and is risen, his disciples remember his words, and they understand and believe. Do we have the faith to see what is revealed right in front of us, in this Eucharist?</p>	<p>2 Kings 5:1-15b; Luke 4:24-30</p> <p><i>We can trust in the Word of the Lord.</i></p> <p>Both Naaman and the people of Nazareth are presented with God's Word: spoken by Elisha, and embodied in Jesus Christ. Naaman does not recognize what he sees, but he heeds his servants' suggestions, comes to believe, and is healed. The inhabitants of Nazareth have the Word living among them and yet they refuse to believe. Let us trust and believe, as Naaman did.</p>	<p>Daniel 3:25, 34-43; Matthew 18:21-35</p> <p><i>We are called to imitate God in forgiving others.</i></p> <p>Like the huge amount the debtor owed, the weight of our sin is beyond imagining, yet God set us free at the cost of his Son. We think withholding forgiveness imprisons our enemy, but actually it is we who are in bondage; we fasten our own shackles. When we show mercy, we reap the benefits of freedom and peace.</p>	<p>Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9; Matthew 5:17-19</p> <p><i>Obey the commandments now and forever.</i></p> <p>Moses and Jesus tell us to keep the commandments and to teach them to our children. They are a gift from God, lighting the pathway to right morals and ethics, and engaging us in relationship with him. We are called to obey the commandments here so we may live in eternity in heaven.</p>	<p>Jeremiah 7:23-28; Luke 11:14-23</p> <p><i>Listen to God and respond wholeheartedly.</i></p> <p>Throughout salvation history, once-faithful people have hardened their hearts against God. Today's readings invite us to respond to hearing God's Word: listen, soften our hearts and obey his commands. The Gospel also warns us to take this seriously: if we're not with Jesus, we are against him. It's all or nothing.</p>	<p>Hosea 14:2-10; Mark 12:28-34</p> <p><i>Jesus sums up the laws into one word: love.</i></p> <p>When a scribe asks Jesus which commandments are first and second, he replies: to love God with your whole heart, soul, mind and strength; and to love your neighbor as yourself. Truly, love can help to stamp out repression, stifle bullying, stop crime, wipe away fear. How simple is that? How difficult is that?</p>	<p>Hosea 6:1-6; Luke 18:9-14</p> <p><i>Take up the humility of the tax collector to avoid self-righteousness.</i></p> <p>It is easy to condemn the Pharisee who appears bloated with self-righteousness, until we explore the not-so-obvious ways that we, too, may express such an attitude. How do we, in secret, perhaps take pride in judging others? Let us seek the humility of the tax collector, who was aware of his need for God.</p>
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FAITH FORMATION NEWS

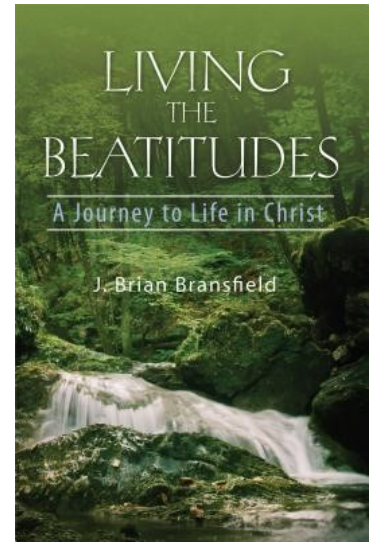
▪ CATHY HICKS, DRE

Women's Study Group- The Beatitudes

We will begin the spring session of our continuing study of *Living the Beatitudes: A Journey to Life in Christ* Tuesday, March 13th from 9:00-10:30 a.m. and running through May 1st. This session we will be reflecting on each beatitude, noting how God invites us

on a journey in establishing an intimate and eternal relationship with Him. By living the gifts of the Holy Spirit, virtues, and the Beatitudes, this relationship is accomplished. Even if you did not attend the fall session, you are welcome to attend this session.

If you have any questions, please contact Cathy Hicks at cabinmn@gmail.com or call the church at (515) 523-1943.



Thoughts from Jodi

-Jodi Bassett, Altar & Rosary Society President

"It's one thing to know the words; it's another to know what to do with them."

The statement refers to a Facebook quiz, but became the challenge for this week's bulletin.

There are a lot of familiar words in this week's readings but how do we use them? Probably best known are the Ten Commandments. Sure, we all know at least the basics of the Ten Commandments, but what if we changed up the approach from what we shouldn't do to what we should do?

I am the Lord your God; you shall not have other gods besides me...or, I am the Lord your God; remember the mercy that I alone can bestow upon you.

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain...or,

Speak kindly of the Lord and others in all your conversations.

Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day...or, Prepare so that on the Sabbath you may rest and reflect on your blessings.

Honor your father and mother...or, Honor those who have formed you and your ways.

You shall not kill...or Respect all life and livelihood.

You shall not commit adultery...or, Honor your commitments to others.

You shall not steal...or, Respect others' property.

You shall not bear false witness...or, be honest in all your dealings.

You shall not covet your neigh-

bor's house...or, Appreciate and be a good steward of your own blessings.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife...or, Honor other people's commitments.

Sounds a little different, doesn't it? This changed approach to each commandment asks us to do something, rather than avoiding doing something. The wording is more contemporary and straight-forward, but also puts each commandment in a slightly different light. We will continue to sin, but perhaps with a changed view of our standard sins.



Parish Business & Finance Report

February 25th Collection

Sat/Sun: \$1,955.00

Kids: \$12.00

Building Fund: \$0.00

Special Collection: \$0.00

This Week's Income:
\$1,967.00

This Week's Expenses:
\$250.00 PLUS \$5,076.00
from Savings to pay the
unpaid balance of the
2017 ADA shortfall.

NEW 2018 ADA Goal

\$29,802.00

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."