

# ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH

MARCH 11, 2018

216 ALL SAINTS DRIVE, STUART, IA 50250

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Rev. Raymond J. Higgins, Parish Priest

## DEAR PARISHIONERS

Each year we are given the opportunity to contribute to the Annual Diocesan Appeal. This appeal is made every year to meet the needs of the broader Church in Southwest Iowa, also known as the Diocese of Des Moines. Bishop Pates stated that "the 2018 Annual Diocesan Appeal enables each of us in the responsibility of being a good steward."

God challenges us with many things especially being good stewards of all of His resources. Why? First, we are His children and God wants to encourage us to be generous as He is. Secondly - and this goes with the first reason - God wants us to share what we have with others and to encourage good works and opportunities for learning and growing, as well as to take care of the needs of others and those essential things that come with that work we call stewardship.

As I've met with many people over the years, the definition of stewardship seems to change with each person. In fact, I think my understanding of stewardship over the years has also changed. For some reason, we've molded it and modified the definition of stewardship, much like other commands God has given us, to fit with what works

most comfortably for us. I remember hearing and giving homilies or sermons on "Time, Talent, and Treasure." For the most part, as I was growing up, I gave to the Church the first two - time and talent - because I didn't have treasure. I spent a lot of time and skill with other organizations I belonged to because mom and dad instilled that within in us, especially when we knew we didn't have the treasure. It was and is important "to do my part". Maybe you have a similar experience. I am older now and still try to work hard, but I can tend to forget the treasure side of things. Yet, when it comes time to pay the bills, the treasure side of stewardship becomes very apparent. A good question to ask oneself is, "How much am I responsible for in the community I belong to?" The answer to that question ought to be: "I ought to contribute to the same degree I think others ought to contribute." Everyone is responsible to do something and, if we think we are somehow excused, then why shouldn't others do or feel the same way. Yes, we will always say "I don't have enough." But I have met many people who really have very little and, in proportion to what they have, it is amazing how big

they give. These same folks seem to agree as to why they give - because they feel blessed and it is a good feeling to be a part of the community, not just with time and talent, but also financially.

This weekend, I am asking everyone in the parish to contribute to the Annual Appeal as well as to renew your commitment to tithing. Not only do we have needs locally in our parish, but we do we have needs at the Diocesan level. The Diocese takes care of us on many levels and those were mentioned in the Catholic Mirror and on the Diocese website. I pose this challenge to you: that each of us can and ought to contribute our part to the needs of our local Church and the Diocesan Church. Please encourage your children to pledge and donate throughout the year. Even if it is a small amount, it is huge not only for them, but a great hope for the future of the Church since they are in the habit of giving and will do more so as they grow older. We are a blessed people and it is so important to share that blessing, so please join me to meet our Annual Appeal Goal for 2018, and thank you so much for your contribution.

-Fr. Ray

## MASS TIMES

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

## CONTACT US:

- ◆ Parish Office  
515-523-1943
- ◆ Brenda Wedemeyer,  
Parish Office  
stjohnallsaints@gmail.com
- ◆ Rita Rilea, Bookkeeping  
allsaintsoffice@gmail.com
- ◆ Cathy Hicks, DRE  
cabinmn@gmail.com
- ◆ Barb Boss, Environment  
bbosslady@msn.com
- ◆ Knights of Columbus  
Dan Hilgers  
amh50070@yahoo.com
- ◆ Altar & Rosary Society  
Jodi Bassett  
jodibdc@coonvalleytelco.com

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# On Prayer...

-Submitted by David Witkowski

First, let me ask you what these things have in common: Love, Pain, Sorrow, Money, Loneliness, Faith? **Answer to follow.....**

May we all remember prayer is one of the most important things a Christian can do. It is a time they are communicating with God and it should be taken very seriously. While there is deep theological meaning in prayer, it doesn't have to be something that is complicated and difficult. It's something anyone can do anywhere at any time.

It is impossible to know someone if we don't spend time with them. Prayer is an opportunity to spend time with God.

To really understand the heart of God, we need to pray.

In John 15:15, Jesus says He no longer calls us his servants, but calls us His friends. Talking with God develops a deeper relationship with Him. The deeper the relationship becomes, the more time we want to spend with Him.

In 1 Corinthians 3:9, God calls us His fellow workers. How can we be His fellow workers if we refuse to talk to Him?

..... **Answer:** These are all things that we can pray for.

- ◆ Lord may I be blessed with love rather than hate in my life.
- ◆ Lord relieve me of the pain I suffer, but if this can't be done

may I offer my suffering for the souls in purgatory.

- ◆ May God ease my sorrow following the loss of my dear wife.
- ◆ Father I'm short the money this month for my mortgage. Help me and my family with a much needed financial surprise.
- ◆ Jesus I suffer loneliness. My children never visit me and I sit alone in this dark home every day wishing for companionship. Send my friends and relatives to relieve my loneliness.
- ◆ Lord strengthen my faith and make me strong enough to follow You in strength of commitment like the Apostles.

## 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](mailto:stjohnallsaints@gmail.com)

### Liturgical Ministers—Saturday March 17

**Rosary Leader:** Frank Holle

**Ushers:** Mark & Kari Tisl

**Cross Bearer:** Matt Dickson

**Altar Servers:** Zoey & Bailey Dickson

**Lector:** Mark Tisl

**Commentator:** Carol Smith

**Greeters & Gifts:** Mark & Kari Tisl

**EMHC:** Mark & Kari Tisl, Jodi Bassett

### Liturgical Ministers—Sunday March 18

**Ushers:** Neal Crawford & Patrick Tiernan

**Cross Bearer:** Patrick Tiernan

**Altar Servers:** Jack & Jenna Doyle, Taylor Ommen

**Lector:** Wayne Nosbisch

**Commentator:** Gary Riordan

**Greeters & Gifts:** Neal & Symantha Crawford

**EMHC:** Linda Lee O'Neel, Jill Gerling, Amy Doud

Please contact Joyce Van Pelt regarding scheduling questions:

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

## CALENDAR

<u>Sunday 3-11</u>	<u>Monday 3-12</u>	<u>Tuesday 3-13</u>	<u>Wednesday 3-14</u>	<u>Thursday 3-15</u>	<u>Friday 3-16</u>	<u>Saturday 3-17</u>
<p><b>9am</b> Choir/ Adoration</p> <p><b>10am Mass</b> for the Living &amp; Deceased</p> <p>Members of the Parish</p> <p><i>BDs: Diane Messinger, Nicholas Clumpner</i></p> <p><b>K of C Mtg 6pm</b></p>	<p><i>BDs: Rosie Tisl, Charlene Gibson</i></p>	<p><b>6pm</b> Mass for All Souls in Purgatory</p> <p>6:30pm Adult RE Class</p>	<p style="color: red;"><b>“Spring Break” NO Faith Formation</b></p>	<p><b>9am</b> Mass for James Witkowski (Stuart Community Care Center)</p> <p><i>BD: Brooke Smith</i></p>	<p><b>6pm</b> Mass for Maynard Witkowski w/ <b>Stations of the Cross</b></p> <p><i>BD: Jeremy Trichel</i></p>	<p><b>3:30pm</b> Confessions</p> <p><b>4:05pm Rosary</b></p> <p><b>4:30pm Mass</b> for Clair &amp; Pat Dickey</p> <p><i>ANN: Jason &amp; Jennifer Tigges 2013</i></p>

## DAILY READINGS

<p><b>2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23; Ephesians 2:4- 10; John 3:14-21</b></p> <p><i>God’s mercy and love, made clear in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, over- came our sins and transgres- sions.</i></p> <p>God does not love us condi- tionally, or despite our sins, but rather because he created us, and he is love. His mercy and compassion are that of a loving Father.</p>	<p><b>Isaiah 65:17-21; John 4:43-54</b></p> <p><i>Trust in the Lord’s promises.</i></p> <p>It’s easy to trust the Lord when life goes as planned. But there will be times that challenge our faith—when we can cling only to hope. It took great trust for the royal official to walk away from Jesus with only the promise of his son’s heal- ing. Yet, his trust and belief were rewarded.</p>	<p><b>Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; John 5:1-6</b></p> <p><i>God’s mercy is like a flowing river or a deep pool.</i></p> <p>God’s desire that we be healed and saved pours forth like a river in a flood. Let us immerse our- selves in the knowledge that despite our past transgressions and sins, we are loved and forgiv- en by a gracious God.</p>	<p><b>Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30</b></p> <p><i>God will never forsake His peo- ple.</i></p> <p>As hard as it is to imagine a moth- er ever forsaking her child, it is impossible for God to do so. We can take comfort in the knowledge that no matter what we do, as long as we repent and seek forgiveness, God always for- gives and recon- ciles us to him- self.</p>	<p><b>Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47</b></p> <p><i>Remember us, O Lord, as you fa- vor your people.</i></p> <p>The psalm re- sponse for today is appropriate to the message we hear in the read- ings. God is mer- ciful, even when we mess up. In our repentance and our belief in God and His promises, God finds in us fertile ground for in- creased faith and understanding. God favors us, should we not favor God?</p>	<p><b>Wisdom 2:1a, 12 -22; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30</b></p> <p><i>God humbled Himself in Christ and took on our human likeness in order to re- deem us.</i></p> <p>As we draw closer to Holy Week, the tenor of the Len- ten season begins to shift to the pas- sion, death and resurrection of Jesus. Our Old Testament read- ings foreshadow the trials of Jesus, and our Gospels reveal the turmoil between belief and unbelief. It is an opportunity for us to reflect on what God has done for us in the gift of His Son, and to recommit our- selves to a life of discipleship.</p>	<p><b>Jeremiah 11:18- 20; John 7:40-53</b></p> <p><i>Never before has anyone spoken like this man.</i></p> <p>People were undecided about Jesus and his teachings for many reasons. Some of those reasons were cultural (a prophet could not arise from Galilee), and others were more personal: fear, pride or stubbornness, perhaps. Today, we face the same challenges to hear the Lord’s voice above all the cultural and per- sonal noise that surrounds us. Let us rise to the challenge.</p>
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# FAITH FORMATION NEWS

▪ CATHY HICKS, DRE

It's hard to believe we are into March, and spring is on the way!!!!!! It's been a challenging winter, yet we are making it through. The 10th and 11th graders are working diligently on preparing for their Confirmation on April 8th. And the 2nd graders are working just as diligently preparing for their First Communion on April 29th. Please keep these students in your prayers as they prepare to receive these Sacraments. The other classes are focusing on Lent and Easter, learning about the purpose of Lent, Easter, and the Resurrec-

tion of Christ.

Here are some dates you might want to keep in mind:

**March 14th**-No class (spring break)

**March 28th**- Stations of the Cross for grades 3-9 at 7:00 pm. Parents, you are welcome to participate.

**April 8th**- Confirmation at the 10:00 Mass.

**April 29th**- Communion at the 10:00 Mass.

**May 2nd**- May Crowning/ ice social (last

Faith Formation session until fall.)

As we continue through Lent, let us keep in mind the three pillars of Lenten observance: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Take time to pray together as a family, try fasting from those things that may distract from prayer and our faith, and find it in your heart to do acts of kindness and charity for those less fortunate whose path we cross daily.

May God be forever at your side and may He hold you in the palm of His hand.

## Thoughts from Jodi

*-Jodi Bassett, Altar & Rosary Society President*

This week brings us to the halfway point of Lent. How are you doing on your Lenten observance? I tend to avoid several things, usually of a food nature. This week I caved on one of those things...but the others are still firmly in place!

John's Gospel sums up Easter in a nutshell. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." It is a familiar verse, and a very popular one. I'm sure we've all seen 'John 3:16' displayed at professional football games.

This seems odd, but the verse is obviously important to a lot of people and a televised game is a good way to share the message.

Two weeks ago we read how God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac as proof of Abraham's devotion to God. This week we



see that God sacrifices His own Son for our eternal life. God does not ask us to make such drastic sacrifices. But He does ask us to turn from the dark and believe in Him. What does this mean? It means to follow his commandments. It means to share his message with others. It means to be faithful to God in all our words and actions. This is not always easy; in fact, it can often be quite difficult. But in return, we are promised everlasting life. This is an awesome reward for our beliefs.

Until next week, Lenten blessings!

## Parish Business & Finance Report

### March 4th Collection

Sat/Sun: \$3,257.00

Kids: \$9.63

Building Fund: \$806.93

Special Collection: \$0.00

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

*\$3,266.63*

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

*\$5,010.32*

### 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."*