

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH

APRIL 1, 2018

216 ALL SAINTS DRIVE, STUART, IA 50250

EASTER SUNDAY

Rev. Raymond J. Higgins, Parish Priest

DEAR PARISHIONERS

Happy Easter! I hope each of you were able to receive a special grace from Lent this year.

As with each Christmas and Easter, we are giving a book to you to add to your personal library. This year's Easter book entitled **"The Joy of the Gospel"**, is an Apostolic Exhortation of the Holy Father Francis.

What is an Apostolic Exhortation? The popes since the time of Pope Pius XII have written exhortations or encouragements for the faithful to live in a particular manner, as in a greater conversion to Christ, or to do something of virtue. Pope Francis has called for renewed efforts to evangelize and to share the Joy of the Gospel. Beginning efforts in the United States were made with a special convocation of Catholic leaders throughout the country to come up with ways to equip the Church today in order to recapture the zeal to share the beautiful message of the Gospel of

Jesus Christ. You may have noticed Diocesan Communications with the logo—New Moment. **"The New Moment"**

The Holy Father has asked that we reflect on *Evangelii Gaudium* or **The Joy of the Gospel** and to invite the Holy Spirit to lead us in going forth in sharing the faith with those on the peripheries of society lacking material means, but most especially to reach out to those who lack spiritually.

In light of the many challenges facing our country and the growing number of people who do not associate themselves with a Christian identity, the call to renew our efforts is being brought to our attention. Therefore, I am presenting this year's book to you entitled, **"The Joy of the Gospel"**, by Pope Francis. Bishop Pates is encouraging us to renew our efforts. At this time, there are some pilot parishes who are working through the Holy Father's Exhortation and

I would like for us to become familiar with it as well.

Instead of complaining about or criticizing our situation, I am asking the leadership in our parish to be ready to discuss aspects of this document in our future meetings. I would like for you to join with fellow parishioners in small groups to read and pray together **"The Joy of the Gospel"**. It is with great hope each of us can come up with ways to share the faith and encourage others, and not only to share it, but live the faith with joy.

Please make an effort to read this wonderful exhortation from Pope Francis and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you to discern how best you might share this beautiful faith in following Christ.

Have a Blessed Easter.

-Fr. Ray

MASS TIMES

10AM SUNDAY
6PM TUESDAY/8:30AM FRIDAY
4:30PM SATURDAY

CONTACT US:

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He Is Risen!

-Submitted by David Witkowski

He has Risen ...

But something came first.

If you are like most Catholics, you have prayed the words "He descended into hell" thousands of times without giving them a thought. If you, like myself, have wondered what purpose there might have been to Christ's visit to hell, may I share with you the following words from the Easter Homily by St. John Chrysostom.

"Let no one grieve over his poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed; let no one weep over his sins, for pardon has shone from the grave; let no one fear death, for the death of our Savior has set us free: He has destroyed it

by enduring it, He has despoiled Hades by going down into its kingdom, He has angered it by allowing it to taste of his flesh.

"When Isaias foresaw all this, he cried out: "O Hades, you have been angered by encountering Him in the nether world." Hades is angered because it is frustrated, it is angered because it has been mocked, it is angered because it has been destroyed, it is angered because it has been reduced to naught, it is angered because it is now captive. It seized a body, and, lo! it encountered heaven; it seized the visible and was overcome by the invisible.

"O death, where is your sting? O

Hades, where is your victory? Christ is risen and you are abolished. Christ is risen and the demons are cast down. Christ is risen and the angels rejoice. Christ is risen and life is freed. Christ is risen and the tomb is emptied of the dead: for Christ, being risen from the dead, has become the Leader and Reviver of those who had fallen asleep. To Him be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen."

"On the third day he rose again."

PRAYER & THANKSGIVING

- ◆ Please pray for Florence Cook, Donna Olson, Carol Knowlton, those being Confirmed April 8th
- ◆ 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 April 7th

Rosary: Frank Holle

Ushers: Wayne & Jan Gilman

Cross Bearer: Wayne Gilman

Altar Servers: Zoey & Bailey Dickson

Lector: Carol Smith

Commentator: Sharon Doud

Greeters/Gifts: Wayne & Jan Gilman

EMHC: Sr. Nesta, Dan Hilgers, Sr. Andre

Sunday April 8th—CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Ushers: Tom Doud & Bill Clauson

Cross Bearer: Bill Clauson

Altar Servers: Eli Kasap, Alli & Cora Boyle

Lector: Donna Olson

Commentator: Amy Doud

Greeters/Gifts: Confirmation Class

EMHC: Jill Gerling, Maria Ladwig, Cathy Hicks

Please contact Joyce Van Pelt regarding scheduling questions:

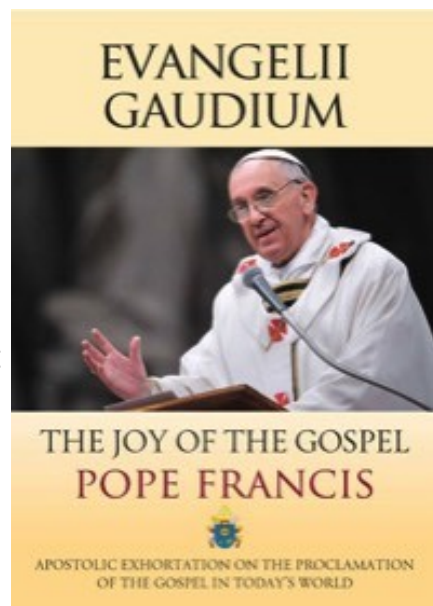
joyceannvp@gmail.com

CALENDAR

<u>Sunday 4-1</u>	<u>Monday 4-2</u>	<u>Tuesday 4-3</u>	<u>Wednesday 4-4</u>	<u>Thursday 4-5</u>	<u>Friday 4-6</u>	<u>Saturday 4-7</u>
EASTER 9am Choir/ Adoration 10am Mass for the Living & De- ceased Members of the Parish BD: Thelma O'Brien	BDs: Frank Wagers, Christy O'Brien	6pm Mass for Donato Cianciaruso 6:30pm Adult RE BD: Jackson Sloss	6:30pm Faith Formation BD: Mary Ellen Gilman	9am Mass for Elmer Witkowski <i>(Care Center)</i> BD: Pete Kasap	8:30am Mass for Sr. Phyllis Kernz	3:30pm Confessions 4:30pm Mass Ruby Waltz BDs: Viola Heins, Pat Cooper

THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL READ & SHARE SPACE

In Father's letter this week (front page article "Dear Parishioners"), we are given in invitation to read this year's Easter gift book "The Joy of the Gospel" by Pope Francis. To help facilitate our reading and to encourage us to share with one another, this space is meant for us to use as a study aid. Each paragraph throughout the book is numbered consecutively, so that will make it easy to reference any spot in the book that we may want to discuss further or ask questions about. Feel free to offer any thoughts or questions that you may want published in the bulletin—others may have the same thoughts or questions.



Introductory Pages

Section I. A Joy Ever New, A Joy Which is Shared _____

Section II. The Delightful And Comforting Joy Of Evangelizing _____

Section III. The New Evangelization For The Transmission Of The Faith _____

FAITH FORMATION

- CATHY HICKS, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Jesus Christ has risen today, Alleluia!

Today we rejoice in the risen Christ, our Lord. I hope this Lenten season has been spiritually uplifting and inspirational for each of you. May you carry on this Lenten experience in your hearts as you continue to touch others with your prayers and almsgiving, making others smile and rejoice in the Lord as well.

If any of you or your children participated in the Rice Bowl project, please return your rice bowls to the DRE's office as soon as possible. Any money collected will be sent to Catholic Relief Services and distributed to those around the world in need of food, shelter, medicine, and clothing. Thank you for your kindness and prayers.

Next week, April 8th, eight of our students

will be confirmed: Jenna Becker, Larissa Crawford, Sam Kasap, Olivia Klassen, Ismael Leyva, Hope Livermore, Erin Schwery, and Matt Smith. A big thank-you goes to our youth minister, Jill Gerling, for all her hard work and dedication to these students. Jill has made their journey to this day inspiring and meaningful. Please join us at the 10:00 Mass for this joyous occasion.

Two other important events in the near future are 1st Communion on April 29th and the May Crowning/Ice Cream Social on May 1st. This will also be the last class of this Faith Formation year.

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

Prayer Vigil for the Unborn

The Knights of Columbus will sponsor a 24-hour prayer vigil for the Unborn. It will begin with a few short prayers following Mass on Sunday April 8th and end at 11am Monday April 9th. It is wonderfully fitting that we begin the day formally declared as Divine Mercy Sunday and end on the Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord, when the angel Gabriel spoke to Mary of God's plan and she accepted the great responsibility and role in God's plan for our salvation. There is a sign-up sheet in the gathering space. Knights are encouraged and all are welcome to sign up for any time.

Thoughts from Jodi

-Jodi Bassett, President, Altar & Rosary Society

Holy Week is completed and Easter has arrived. That means a lot of Masses and a lot of readings. It was a challenge deciding what to write this week. Something that has always intrigued me has been the two readings of The Passion. How does the same event warrant two readings and why are they different?

The Palm Sunday reading of The Passion sets the stage for the week to come. The Good Friday reading of the The Passion sets the solemn tone of Jesus' crucifixion and death. Mark's Gospel emphasizes Jesus' ministry and Simon Peter's betrayal. John's

Gospel focuses more on the interrogation of Jesus by Pilate.

As children, we rank Christmas as a favorite holiday. It certainly gets more attention, what with much holiday food, gifts, gatherings, trees and other decorations. Its secular representative, Santa Claus, is bigger than life, with much mystery surrounding him and his trek around the world in 24 hours. However, Easter is the more important holiday. It is the very reason Christmas exists. But the decorations are less, there are fewer gifts, and the Easter Bunny doesn't have quite the draw of Santa.

But The Passion is what Easter is really all about. The ministry of Jesus, his betrayal and interrogation, the crucifixion of Jesus and the thieves, his death and resurrection, all of which are described in the various Gospels, are The Passion. The intensity of the events of The Passion correlate the importance of the Resurrection and the promise of eternal life. Thus two versions of The Passion cover different aspects with different emphases of the final hours of Christ. It's important enough to read twice.

He is Risen...Alleluia, Alleluia!!

Parish Business & Finance Report

March 25th Collection

Sat/Sun: \$2,531.00

Kids: \$23.76

Building Fund: \$0.00

Special Collection: \$0.00

This Week's Income: \$2,554.76

This Week's Expenses: \$2,212.75

NEW 2018 ADA Goal
\$29,802.00

Balance as of 3/29: \$19,732

Thank You!

Trustees:

Janis Gilman, Robert Bird

Council Members:

*Wayne Noshisch, 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."