

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH

MAY 13, 2018

216 ALL SAINTS DRIVE, STUART, IA 50250

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Rev. Raymond J. Higgins, Parish Priest

DEAR PARISHIONERS

Happy Mother's Day to all our moms. Today we recognize our mothers and all they mean to us. My hope is that you will pray for them and ask God to bless them always.

This weekend we are presented with the readings of Jesus' Ascension into Heaven and the promised sending of the Holy Spirit. Jesus asked them not to leave Jerusalem, but "wait for 'the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'" (Acts 1:4-5)

Pope Benedict XVI noted that the Acts of the Apostles presents Pentecost as "the crowning moment of Jesus' whole mission." The pope explained that the grace of Pen-

tecost (being "Baptized in the Holy Spirit") is not confined to the past, but is a gift to be desired, prayed for, and rediscovered today:

"In effect, Jesus' whole mission was aimed at giving the Spirit of God to men and baptizing them in the "bath" of regeneration. This was realized through His glorification (cf. John 7:39), that is, through His death and resurrection: Then the Spirit of God was poured out in a superabundant way, like a waterfall able to purify every heart, to extinguish the flames of evil and ignite the fire of divine love in the world....

"Today I would like to extend this invitation to everyone: Let us rediscover, dear brothers and sisters, the beauty of being baptized in the Holy Spirit; let us be aware again of our baptism

and our confirmation, sources of grace that are always present. Let us ask the Virgin Mary to obtain a renewed Pentecost for the Church again today, a Pentecost that will spread in everyone the joy of living and witnessing to the Gospel." (Benedict XVI, Regina Coeli message, May 11, 2008.)

As we have just heard, God's intention all along was to share His Spirit with us - that is His very Self, but first we must be prepared so that we can be opened, reconciled, healed, and follow the example of Jesus in order for us to truly be one in Spirit with God.

Happy Ascension Sunday and Happy Mother's Day!

-Fr. Ray

MASS TIMES

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

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|--|---|
| <i>Sign of the Cross Part 4</i> | 2 |
| <i>Prayers & Thanks</i> | 2 |
| <i>Liturgical Schedule</i> | 2 |
| <i>Calendar</i> | 3 |
| <i>Read & Share Space</i> | 3 |
| <i>Faith Formation & Save the Date</i> | 4 |
| <i>Thoughts from Jodi</i> | 4 |
| <i>Business & Finance</i> | 4 |

21 Things We Do When We Make the Sign of the Cross

-Submitted by David Witkowski

(Part 4 of 4)

The Sign of the Cross is a simple gesture yet a profound expression of faith.....

18. Soldier on for Christ. The sphragis was also the term for a general's name that would be tattooed on his soldiers, according to Ghezzi. This too is an apt metaphor for the Christian life: while we can be compared to sheep in the sense of following Christ as our shepherd, we are not called to be sheepish. We instead are called to be soldiers of Christ. As St. Paul wrote in Ephesians 6, "Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil. ... take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

19. Ward off the devil. The Sign of the Cross is one of the very weapons we use in that battle with the devil. As one medieval preacher named Aelfric declared, "A man may wave about wonderfully with his hands without creating any blessing unless

he make the sign of the cross. But, if he do, the fiend will soon be frightened on account of the victorious token." In another statement, attributed to St. John Chrysostom, demons are said to "fly away" at the Sign of the Cross "dreading it as a staff that they are beaten with." (Source: Catholic Encyclopedia.)

20. Seal ourselves in the Spirit. In the New Testament, the word sphragis, mentioned above, is also sometimes translated as seal, as in 2 Corinthians 1:22, where St. Paul writes that, "the one who gives us security with you in Christ and who anointed us is God; he has also put his seal upon us and given the Spirit in our hearts as a first installment." In making the Sign of the Cross, we are once again sealing ourselves in the Spirit, invoking His powerful intervention in our lives.

21. Witness to others. As a gesture often made in public, the Sign of the Cross is a simple way to witness our faith to others.

"Let us not then be ashamed to confess the Crucified. Be the Cross our seal made with boldness by our fingers on our brow, and on everything; over the bread we eat, and the cups we drink; in our comings in, and goings out; before our sleep, when we lie down and when we rise up; when we are in the way, and when we are still," [wrote St. Cyril of Jerusalem.](#)

FARM FRESH EGGS

One of our newest families here at All Saints would like to let us know that they have their own chickens and are selling "farm fresh" eggs if anyone is interested. They are \$1.75/dozen. Please contact Destiny Bruns at 641-247-0039 to get your eggs or order for the future!



PRAYER & THANKSGIVING

- ◆ Please pray for Joe Sherman, Paul Heins, Rick Gomez, Cheyenne Jensen
- ◆ 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 May 19th

Rosary: Frank Holle

Ushers: Dennis Donnelly & Dave Doud

Cross Bearer: Mark Tisl

Altar Server: Connie Drake

Lector: Bob Bird

Commentator: Sharon Doud

Greeters/Gifts: Wayne & Jan Gilman

EMHC: Donna Donnelly, Mark & Kari Tisl

Sunday May 20th

Ushers: John Gulbranson, Patrick Gulbranson

Cross Bearer: Patrick Gulbranson

Altar Servers: Alli, Evie, & Cora Boyle

Lector: Harriet Gulbranson

Commentator: Amy Doud

Greeters/Gifts: Terri & Caleb Arthur

EMHC: Harriet Gulbranson, Cathy Hicks, Amy Doud

Please contact Joyce Van Pelt regarding scheduling questions:

joyceannvp@gmail.com

CALENDAR

| <u>Sunday 5-13</u> | <u>Monday 5-14</u> | <u>Tuesday 5-15</u> | <u>Wednesday 5-16</u> | <u>Thursday 5-17</u> | <u>Friday 5-18</u> | <u>Saturday 5-19</u> |
|--|--------------------|--|-----------------------|---|---|---|
| 9am Adoration 10am Mass for the Living & Deceased Members of the Parish BDs: Donna Donnelly, Cheyenne Jensen | | 6pm Mass for Maynard Witkowski 6:30pm Adult RE | | 9am Mass for Martin G. Lydon <i>(Care Center)</i> | 8:30am Mass for Sr. Phyllis Kernz BDs: Dale Grundmeier, Sean Renslow | 3:30pm Confessions 4:30pm Mass for Pat Donnelly BDs: Daisy Nevins, Evie Boyle, Brogan Johnston ANNs: Pat & Mary Doud 1956; John & Roni Wilson 1979; Matt & Suzi Aubert 2007 |

IN THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Sunday Focus:

Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:17-23;
Mark 16:15-20

Go and preach the Gospel to the whole world.

Through His passion, death, and resurrection, Jesus has defeated sin and death. When Jesus ascends into heaven, He does not abandon us, but goes to that place for which we all long. He does not leave us orphans, but sends the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Monday Focus:

Acts 11:15-17, 20-26; John 15:9-17

The more love we show to those around us, the more we grow like Jesus.

Jesus chose each of us to follow Him. If we accept, we are commanded to love one another as Jesus loves us. This is demanding—for the love of Jesus has no limit. We can grow more like Jesus if we try each day to do one act of love beyond what we did the day before.

Tuesday Focus:

Acts 20:17-27; John 17:1-11a

Stay strong in the face of hardships, giving witness and proclaiming the Gospel.

Oh, if we could only have the self-assurance of Paul about our own ministry and the work God calls us to do! Paul is so very strong in the face of hardships and stays true to giving witness and proclaiming the Gospel, no matter the circumstances. Let us pray today for that same perseverance as we respond to God's call.

Wednesday Focus:

Acts 20:28-38; John 17:11b-19

Let us endeavor to always choose the truth.

Saint Paul and Jesus, both knowing the difficulties to come, entrusted the faithful to God's care. Jesus prayed that they be protected by means of the truth. As believers, let's recognize the truth that lasting satisfaction doesn't come from accumulating possessions, fame, or what the world calls success. It comes through God's love and service to others.

Thursday Focus:

Acts 22:30, 23:6-11; John 17:20-26

Jesus leaves us with the task of bearing witness to others of His saving love for all of us.

Being a disciple of Jesus was never meant to be easy, as we can see from the example of Paul—called to be witness to Jesus

not only in Jerusalem but in Rome. Just as we relied on Paul's testimony to make the Gentiles—and us—aware of Jesus, so future generations depend on us.

Friday Focus:

Acts 25:13b-21; John 21:15-19

We demonstrate our love for the Lord by tending to His sheep, as did Peter and Paul.

Jesus made very clear to Simon Peter that if he truly loved Him, he would care for His sheep, no matter the cost. Saint Paul, understanding the cost, was in prison because he was zealous in spreading the Gospel. When we tend to our sisters and brothers, we are doing what Jesus asked of His disciples.

Saturday Focus:

Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; John 21:20-25

Let go of all distraction and focus on the Lord.

It is easy to become distracted these days. We are surrounded by voices and images demanding our attention. Even the Apostles were distracted by things they did not understand, but Jesus tells them to focus on Him alone. Paul is a good example of this. Imprisoned, he continues to proclaim the kingdom of God.

CHURCH & LOCAL EVENTS

My name is Frank Hadley I am a member of the parish and am working with Jim Doud on our Parish Events Committee. By way of review, the Events Committee hosted the Advent program titled "Pivoting toward Holy Week" in December of 2016. Fr. Higgins and I have discussed the possibility of the committee hosting a family/back to school event in July or August of this year. I have booked Iowa Catholic Radio Host, Bo Bonner, for an Advent program in December. We are excited about both of these possibilities and we look forward to hosting these events for our parish.

With this introduction I would like to invite all of you who would be interested in being a part of this committee to contact me through the Church office at 515-523-

1943. Please watch upcoming bulletins for information on committee meeting dates; we will schedule a date on the parish calendar soon. Please consider joining as we begin to develop programs centered on family fun and educational events. Thank you and God bless.

Sincerely, Frank Hadley

Adair County Health Foundation

The 17th Annual Adair County Health Foundation Golf Tournament will be held Thursday, June 7th, 2018, at the Greenfield Golf & Country Club. There will be an 8am registration with a 9am Tee-off.

Sponsorship levels include: Event Sponsor, \$800; Hole Sponsor, \$250; 4 Person Team, \$180; Gold Sponsor, \$100; Door Prize—donation of prize for novelty holes and /or

for individual players. For prize sponsorship, please contact Tiffany Johnson to arrange pick-up. Return forms by May 28, 2018 with checks made payable to the Adair County Health Foundation. Mail to: ACHF/609 Kent, Greenfield, IA. For questions, contact Tiffany Johnson, Adair County Health Foundation Director at 641-743-7264 or via e-mail at: tiffjohnson@adaircountyhealthsystem.org

LC Clinic Request

The Baby Bottle Boomerang drive is now under way at the LC Clinic in Stuart. It is where families, if they would like, take home baby bottles and fill them with loose change and bring the bottles back on Father's Day. If you are interested in taking part, please contact the Church Office.

Thoughts from Jodi...

-Jodi Bassett, President, Altar & Rosary Society

Greetings! I am going to shift gears a bit this week. The Altar and Rosary Society held meetings this last weekend. We discussed several items, including plans for Fr. Ray's going away party and welcoming Fr. Tony.

Several ladies have agreed to be on a committee to plan Fr. Ray's party. If you are not on the committee and would like to be, contact the office and I am sure they can get you in touch with one of us. We will be working with the Knights as well.

Welcoming Fr. Tony will involve both Masses his first weekend here. Look for sign-up sheets for Cookies and

Crumbs for that Saturday evening. I believe the Sunday plans are still being discussed.

Another issue discussed was the request of a college student seeking housing with someone in the parish during a summer internship in the area. I am confident a parish family will step up to help her out in her request. If you are interested, please contact me. My information is in the bulletin, or you can contact the office and they will get you in touch with me.

I sincerely appreciate the attendance of the ladies who took the time to stay after the Masses this past weekend and especially those who came to

both meetings to assist me with the continuity of the agenda. It is difficult to schedule meetings; it seems like there is never enough time to get everything squeezed in. We try to limit meetings to situations where we need to consult the membership, such as an issue that needs a vote, or spending significant amounts of money. These are things that concern all members. Please make these meetings a priority. I try to keep them as short as possible.

Many thanks!

Parish Business & Finance Report

May 6th

Tithes & Offerings: \$2,789.00

Kids: \$42.88

Building Fund: \$755.00

This Week's Income:

\$2,831.88

This Week's Expenses:

\$3,981.17

NEW 2018 ADA Goal

\$29,802.00

Balance as of 5/7: \$15,242.00

Trustees:

Janis Gilman,

Robert Bird

Council Members:

Wayne Nosbisch, Brenna

Bird, Dave & Barb Boss,

Eric Tiernan, Tom Doud

Rita Rilea,

Financial Secretary