

Father Tony's Corner

(continued from front page)

He wants to come again spiritually this Christmas, to let us experience more fully the grace of his salvation. And he will come again at the end of history to bring his plan of salvation to its final fulfillment. This is our God, a God who is lovingly and powerfully involved in our world and our lives. A God who wants to be more and more involved. All the Advent activities that we engage in: spending more time in prayer, using the sacrament of reconciliation, lighting Advent wreathes, and decorating our houses for Christmas. These are all designed to encourage us to let him be more involved. If we have not started those activities yet, it is not too late - with our God, the God of omnipotent mercy, it is never too late. Let us thank Him for reminding us of his action in our lives, of his goodness and power, and let us resolve to do our part in these weeks still remaining before Christmas. Indeed, we are the lucky ones because we are here today, listening to God's Word, being reminded of his plan, being encouraged in our faith. But what about all those people who are not here today. Jesus came to save them too. They are in the pit and in need of a ladder as much as we are. May be part of our preparation for Christmas can be spreading the good news, being living signs of God's involvement in the world, reminding others that God wants to be involved in their lives, no matter what they may have done, just as God has reminded us.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS BY CATHY HICKS, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Today is the Second Sunday of Advent. In the Advent days of preparation for the birth of Christ, we are reminded that our entire lives should be lived as prayer so that our words and actions might give glory to God. Setting aside time to pray each day is a good way to strengthen our relationship with God. Also as part of this preparation, we should take time to examine our lives and ask for forgiveness for our sins. We should make it a point to attend Reconciliation during this Advent season. When attending Mass, notice all the symbolic elements of Advent around you. The candles represent Christ, the light of the world. The evergreens in the Advent wreath remind us that in Jesus, we are given the gift of eternal life. The water recalls our baptismal promises and that we are born again in Jesus. And the Christmas star is the sign that the King of Kings has been born.

We will be having a Children's Pageant on Christmas Eve before Mass. If you and your family plan to attend this Mass, we need younger and older children to participate. The pageant will last fifteen minutes and is a great way to join in the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. If your children want to be involved, please let me know as soon as possible. (523-1943) Thanks.

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

Altar and Rosary Society by Jodi Bassett, President

In the early 90's, the phrase 'What Would Jesus Do?' gained great social popularity. It was frequently abbreviated as WWJD. It could be seen on posters, pendants, bracelets, coffee mugs, you name it. What a great concept: a reminder for us to act in a manner synonymous with Jesus! Shouldn't we all be doing that? Here was a catchy little trick help us be more Christ-like.

My secret: I was never comfortable with WWJD. Oh sure, it's a great idea and if a t-shirt with the phrase printed on it helped someone to better manage their behavior, then it served its purpose. But I saw this phrase everywhere. I saw people that I knew didn't have a sustaining relationship with God or Jesus wearing bracelets with WWJD. If it truly helped them, who could argue with that? But here's the rub: I saw all the WWJD media as a fad. Fads are generally short-lived and attractive to a wide array of fans. But I don't think Jesus should be a fad. And that was my aversion to the phrase. WWJD continues to this day, although not to the degree it once was.

Perhaps the better question is "What Would Jesus Ask of Us?" What does Jesus want us to do, and how are we to do it?

Staff

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Office Hours

Tuesday: 8:30am - 3pm
Wednesday: 8:30am - 3pm
Thursday: 8:30am - 3pm

Bulletin Deadline:

Noon Wednesday



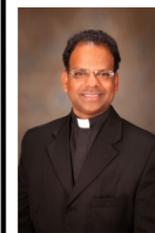
All Saints Mass Schedule

Tuesday: 6pm
Thursday: 9am (Care Center)
Friday: 8:30am
Saturday: 4:30pm
Sunday: 10am

St. John Mass Schedule

Wednesday: 8:30am
Sunday: 8am

Father Tony's Corner



The gospel on this second Sunday of Advent begins in an interesting manner. Saint Luke gives us a list of names and places that seem pretty irrelevant. Twenty centuries after the fact, we are interested in Jesus, not in tetrarchs and obsolete geography. But these details reveal something crucial about Jesus: he is not an abstract God. He weaves his action and presence into the fabric of ours. He is not a myth. He takes up his stance on the crossroads of everyone's personal history and addresses us there. Jesus Christ is a God who wants to be involved in our lives; he wants our friendship. God does not create us and then forget about us, like some kind of divine architect or watchmaker. He gives us the gift of life, and then he accompanies us, gently trying to guide us into a deeper and deeper friendship with him, never giving up on us. He knows where we were born, where we grew up, what we have suffered and enjoyed, the wounds in our hearts. Nothing about our lives is indifferent to him, because we are not indifferent to him. We all believe that God wants to be involved in our lives. And yet, sometimes it feels as if he is pretty far away. Sometimes, in the face of economic difficulties, sickness, and so many other kinds of suffering, it seems hard to find him. But we can actually get better at finding God's hand in all things, even our crosses, if we do three things. First, we need to have an honest, regular prayer life. Too often we only pray to God when we are in trouble. We need to recommit ourselves to daily, personal prayer, even if it is a short one (10 or 15 minutes a day). If we learn to converse with God every day, we will be much more likely to hear his voice on the terrible days. Second, we need to take the crucifix seriously. It is no coincidence that the crucifix is the central image of our religion. God chose to save us by sharing in human suffering. We need to look often at the crucifix, and contemplate it, and teach ourselves to remember that suffering is not outside of God's plan of salvation, but an essential part of it. And third, we need to help others carry their crosses. The devil's favorite tactic is to make us think so much about ourselves that we lose sight of the bigger picture. When we go out of our comfort zone to support, console, and encourage those who are suffering even more than we are, we break the devil's spell. This week, if each of us chooses just one of those three tactics, we can be guaranteed that we will all gather again for Mass next week having had a deeper experience of God's involvement in our lives. And along with that experience will come a bigger share of Advent joy. May be the most glaring evidence of God's desire to be involved in our lives is the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Every Mass, when Jesus becomes truly present in the Holy Eucharist, is like another Bethlehem, another Christmas. Through the Eucharist, Jesus continues to accompany and nourish his people, staying involved in their lives, even in the most unlikely of places.

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Sacraments:

Reconciliation: 3:30pm Saturday in Stuart; 7:30am Sunday in Adair; or by Appointment
Anointing of the Sick: Call Fr. Tony before/after hospitalization
Baptism: Call the office during pregnancy for preparation class
Marriage: Call the office at least nine months to one year ahead to plan marriage preparation. Wedding Date should not be set until preparations have begun
Annulment/ Marriage Validation: Call Fr. Tony to learn more about this process with Diocesan Tribunal if you are divorced and remarried or never married in the Catholic Church.
RCIA: Call Fr. Tony if you are interested in learning more about the Catholic Church or the RCIA process.
Membership/Registration: If you are new, welcome to our parish. Please register by calling the office. If you are moving away, please contact the office to notify us before moving.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Priest's Residence Updating:** We are in the process of updating our pastor's residence, since it is the responsibility of the parish to maintain and upkeep the residence. Your kind and generous financial support is essential for this much needed project. Your contributions are tax deductible, and all the appliances and furniture bought with your financial contribution will remain at the residence. If you are willing to support this much needed project, *Kindly, make your generous contribution to All Saints Catholic Church, and mark on the memo (residence updating).* Thank you so much for your love and support of your pastor. We are really blessed by your love, kindness and generosity. *Contributions to date: \$ 6,995.*

- **Advent Reconciliation:** The season of Advent focuses on the coming of Jesus Christ. It reminds us of His threefold coming: *His first coming* over 2000 years ago; *His last coming* sometime in the future; and finally, *His ongoing coming* through His grace, His providence, and the sacraments. All of the three comings of Christ have the same purpose: to reestablish and deepen our friendship with God. Christ is looking forward to make that happen, and let us do our part by a life of repentance and conversion. Following is the schedule for the advent reconciliation:

Sunday, December 16 (Individual Confessions at 11:00 a.m. at All Saints, Stuart)

- **Poinsettia Plants at All Saints:** Our Art and Environment Team will be decorating the Church with beautiful poinsettia plants for Christmas. If you would like to make a donation towards this beautiful Christmas decoration, please put your donation in one of the envelopes provided in the gathering space, marked for Christmas flowers.
- **Tax Deduction Awaiting You:** A tax deduction is awaiting you for the year 2018, and you don't want to miss it! Make a donation to All Saints Catholic Church or St. John Catholic Church before the 31st of December, and you can claim a tax deduction when you file your tax returns for 2018.
- **Christmas Mass Schedule:** We are looking forward to Christmas, our annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ chose to be born in a smelly, cave near Bethlehem over two thousand years ago. And today, He wants to come into the smelly, dark cave of our hearts and fill it with light, joy, and peace. He wants to come in as a Little Baby, because He wants us to hold him in our arms, to adopt him, to make him the companion of our lives. Let us thank our God for not giving up on us, let us promise Him that we will walk with him, enjoying his friendship and love.

Christmas Vigil Mass at St. John, Adair at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, December 24

Christmas Vigil Mass at All Saints, Stuart at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, December 24 with a Christmas Pageant presented by our children.

Christmas Day Mass at All Saints, Stuart at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 25

- ▶ **We need liturgical ministers for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Eve Masses.** If you are able to help us on these days, please sign up in the gathering space area. We do appreciate you for being a blessing to our parish family.

- **Knights of Columbus:** The Knights of Columbus monthly meeting will be held Sunday, December 9th at 5:30pm in the parish hall.

- **All Saints Altar and Rosary Society:** The Altar and Rosary Society will meet Saturday, December 15th after 4:30 mass and Sunday, December 16th after 10am mass in the music room.

- **Church calendars at All Saints:** Church calendars are available in the gathering space. Special thanks goes to Johnson Family Funeral Home for sponsoring our 2019 calendars. Please take a one home with you today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **All Saints Church Art and Environment Team:** Let us make the Church beautiful for Christmas! The Art and Environment Team, chaired by Christy O' Brien, will be decorating the Church on Sunday, December 23rd after the Mass around 11.15 a.m. and we need volunteers to assist. If you are inspired to share a little of your valuable time, please remain after the Mass. Thank you for being a blessing to your wonderful parish family.
- **Community Choir Christmas Cantata in Stuart:** The United Methodist Church Stuart Mt. Vernon is hosting a Christmas Cantata for the community on Sunday, December 16th at 4pm. This is a free will offering event to benefit the Ministerial Association. Please join us for this musical event. All are welcome!

CALENDAR WITH MASS TIMES, BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & SPECIALS

Sunday 12/9	Monday 12/10	Tuesday 12/11	Wednesday 12/12	Thursday 12/13	Thursday 12/13	Friday 12/14
<u>Adair</u> 7:30am Confession & Rosary 8am Mass for Daryl Culver	BD: Jo Beaman ANN: Pat & Jo Beaman 1983	<u>Stuart</u> 6pm Mass for Paul Heins	<u>Adair</u> 8:30am Mass for Mable Richter ANN: Francis & Deb Hollinrake 1981	<u>Stuart</u> 9am Mass (Stuart Care Center) for Paul Heins	BD: Brecken Johnston, Maggie Marnin & Elizabeth Moreland ANN: Bob & Brenna Bird 2014	<u>Stuart</u> 8:30am Mass for James Witkowski <u>Saturday 12/15</u> <u>Stuart</u> 3:30pm Confessions 4:05pm Rosary 4:30pm Mass for Bill Sherman

All Saints Financial Partnership

December 2, 2018

Weekly Offering: \$ 1,928.00

Children's Offering: \$ 8.75

Building Fund: \$ 591.00

St John Financial Partnership

December 2, 2018

Weekly Offering: \$ 291.00

Children's Offering: \$ 9.00

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

All Saints

Saturday, December 15

Rosary: Frank Holle

Ushers: Dan Hilgers & Dave Boss

Altar Server: Connie Drake

Lector: Anita Hilgers

Commentator: Sharon Doud

Greeters: Dan & Anita Hilgers

EMHC: Dan Hilgers, Jodi Bassett & Brenda Wedemeyer

All Saints

Sunday, December 16

Ushers: Pat Beaman & Tom Doud

Altar Servers: Gabe Gerling, Nate Gerling & Lilah Aubert

Lector: Amy Doud

Commentator: Daisy Nevins

Greeters: Jo & Pat Beaman

EMHC: Jo Beaman, Larissa Crawford & Amy Doud

St. John

Sunday, December 16

Cross Bearer: Cody Moreland

Greeters: Mr. & Mrs. Allen Thelen

Lector: Barb Bachman

Host: Adella Vogl

Cup: Sister Andre & Les Elgin

Altar Servers: Luke Brincks & Carley Fagan

Traveling Chalice: Francis & Deb Hollinrake

Money Counters

Tuesday, December 11th @ 1pm: Eric Tiernan, Gina James & Donna Donnelly

Sunday, December 16 After Mass: Mark Poffenberger, Donna Olson & Gina Ocheltree