

Father Tony's Corner

(continued from front page)

truly extraordinary. Once again today, as happens so frequently during Advent, Saint John the Baptist takes center stage. Often, in paintings and movies, for example, John the Baptist is depicted as an ill-tempered, fire-and-brimstone preacher who scared people into repentance. There is something wrong with that picture. First, such a conception fails to explain how he was able to attract such huge crowds and win over so many hearts. And second, it misses the main point of his message: that salvation is at hand! That message is just the opposite of dark, ominous, and foreboding. In fact, when we truly understand and accept it, it is the source of a deeper joy than any other we can experience in this life. And that is the whole point of today's celebration. Advent still has two weeks left. Let us make this our goal: to strive to be imitating Jesus better at the end of these two weeks than we do today. And I think we all know exactly how to make that happen: First of all, we need to start out each day in prayer, because without God's help, we can do nothing. Then we simply need to make a decent effort to treat our neighbors as we would like them to treat us – family members first, then friends, colleagues, teammates, and strangers. We would not want them to criticize and gossip about us behind our backs. We would not want them to ignore our needs and problems. We would not want them to harbor anger and resentment against us, even if we deserved it. If we strive to know, love, and imitate Christ just a little bit better each day, our friendship with him will never grow cold, and, little by little, our lives will become true fountains of Christian joy.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS BY CATHY HICKS, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

"The people that have walked in darkness have seen a great light." (Isaiah 9:1-2)

It's hard to believe there is only one week before Christmas. As we enter the third week of Advent, we celebrate and rejoice in the eternal power of God. It's very easy with this hectic time of year, rushing to get last minute gifts or stringing lights, to lose track of the real reason for this season: the birth of Jesus Christ our Savior. God sent His only son to save us all. And we must remember to give thanks and praise to God for giving mankind the greatest gift of all, His son.

This Wednesday, Dec. 19th, we will have class until 7:00, then adjourn to the church hall for cookies, milk, and singing of Christmas carols. Parents and other siblings are welcomed to attend this event. We will not have classes Dec. 26th or January 2, but will resume classes on January 9th. Enjoy our winter break!

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

Altar and Rosary Society by Jodi Bassett, President

Today we start the third week of Advent and celebrate Gaudete Sunday. It is a day of joy in a season of joy. There is much to celebrate this time of year, things to celebrate with a joyful heart.

It is a time of forgiveness; in the reading from Zephaniah, the Lord removed judgment against us and turned away our enemies. It is a time to not lose heart; our savior, the Lord our God, is in our midst. It is a time to pray to God; we can be confident that God hears and understands our requests. It is a time of stress and chaos; His peace will guard our hearts and minds.

Today's theme color of rose is a bright color, chosen to represent the joy of the season. It is a reminder that in little more than one week, a new savior arrives; a savior both God and human, in baby form. A savior that would give sight to the blind, restore hearing to the deaf, raise the dead to live again. What a great source of joy!

As Advent winds down, focus your attention away from the stress and hassles of the season, and attend to the things that bring you joy.

Staff

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Office Hours

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

Bulletin Deadline:

Noon Wednesday



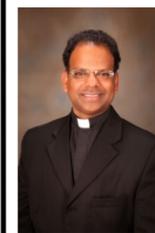
All Saints Mass Schedule

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



We are entering into the third week of advent, and the Third Sunday of Advent is *Gaudete Sunday*, the Sunday of rejoicing. That is why today's readings mention the word 'joy' twelve times. Jesus did not come to intimidate and oppress us; he came to save us. Salvation, friendship with God, the fullness and security of living in communion with our Creator and Redeemer, of being 'gathered into the barns' of his eternal and sublime Kingdom. This is the message of Christmas - the message we have been thinking about during these weeks of Advent. The source of our joy is based on something that goes deeper than the passing pleasures of this world. What is that deeper thing? Salvation; friendship with God; something that never ends, and something no one can take away from us. That is the source of a Christian's joy, and that is the gift Jesus brings us. If friendship with Jesus Christ is the source of lasting joy, then the deeper and more mature this friendship is, the more fully we will experience lasting joy. The Church's best spiritual writers all agree that this friendship depends on three things: knowing, loving, and imitating Jesus Christ. The fact that we are here today shows that all of us, at least to some extent, already know and love Jesus Christ. But what about imitating him? If someone were to follow us around with a video camera from the moment we left today's Mass to the moment we arrive for next Sunday's Mass, what kind of behavior would they record? Would our daily, weekday lives reflect a conscious, concerted effort to imitate our Lord's honesty, integrity, purity, and self-forgetful, self-sacrificial love? And the pertinent question is - what should we do? How are we to watch and wait for the coming of Christ. In today's gospel, people come to John the Baptist with that same question. What should we do? Perhaps we might expect a dramatic answer from John the Baptist. After all, he is a dramatic character who wears camel's hair and eats locusts and preaches a tough message. But his answer to the question 'What should we do?' might surprise us. Very simple - share with others. Do your work well. Do the commonplace things, the things that are expected of us, and do them well. Because we are children of God, everything we do matters. Do your work well. Whatever my daily work is, do it well. Are you a spouse? Love. Say 'I'm sorry' and 'I forgive you'. Do you speak with others? Be kind instead of cutting. Do you take out the trash or do the dishes? Do it out of love. Being a Christian is exhilarating, because everything has meaning. All the duties and the suffering - as well as the joys - of our lives have infinite value in God's eyes. All the challenges and all the struggles become part of God's plan of salvation. Christmas is just around the corner. We have this time of Advent to prepare for the most extraordinary event in history: the birth of Jesus Christ, truly God and truly one of us. God takes the ordinary and makes it

(continued on the back page)

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

- **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 still need liturgical ministers for 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 appreciate you for being a blessing to our parish family.**

- **Monday, December 24 All Saints Liturgical Schedule:**

Greeters: Matt & Jen Dickson; Servers: Zoey & Bailey Dickson, Logan & Brody Moore; Lector: Anita Hilgers; Commentator: Jodi Bassett; EMHC: Matt Smith, Brenda Wedemeyer, Dan Hilgers; Ushers: Tom & Jackson Doud

- **Monday, December 24 St. John Liturgical Schedule:**

Crossbearer: John Fagan; Greeters: Mr. & Mrs. Andy Richter & Family; Lector: Theresa Elgin; Host: Sister Nesta; Cup: Matt Fagan & Les Elgin; Servers: Belle Fagan & Bailey Lillard

- **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: \$ 7,495.**

- **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.

- **All Saints Altar & Rosary Society Meeting:** All woman of All Saints Parish are members of the Altar & Rosary Society. Please join us for a meeting in the music room across from the parish hall right after 4:30pm mass Saturday, December 15th or after 10am mass Sunday, December 16th.

- **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.

- **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

- **Christmas String Quartet Concert in Stuart:** Want a great way to entertain family and friends? Come get in the Christmas spirit & enjoy live music at the Saints Center for Culture and the Arts in Stuart on Sunday, December 16th at 2pm. The Saints Center is located at 320 N. Fremont Street. All are welcome to this FREE event!

CALENDAR WITH MASS TIMES, BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & SPECIALS

Sunday 12/16	Sunday 12/16	Tuesday 12/18	Wednesday 12/19	Thursday 12/20	Friday 12/21	Saturday 12/22
Adair 7:30am Confession & Rosary 8am Mass for Jeanette Witrock	BD: David Doud & Luis Huerta	Stuart 6pm Mass for Paul Heins	Adair 8:30am Mass for Joseph Vogl	Stuart 9am Mass (Stuart Care Center) for Paul Heins	Stuart 8:30am Mass for Paul Heins	Stuart 3:30pm Confessions 4:05pm Rosary 4:30pm Mass for Ila Mae & Tony Pivonka
Sunday 12/23 Adair: Mass for Eugene Seilhan (health)	Monday 12/17 BD: Heather Schneider, Andrew Byrnes & Eli Kasap	BD: Nora Guillaume & Norine Marlowe	ANN: Dave & Barb Boss 1987	BD: Bertha Fagan, Jacob Ladwig & Cindy Lonsdale	BD: Bailey Lillard	
Stuart 9am Choir Practice 10am Mass for Charlie Crawford						

All Saints Financial Partnership

December 9, 2018

Weekly Offering: \$ 2,587.00
Children's Offering: \$ 18.46
Building Fund: \$ 70.00

St John Financial Partnership

December 9, 2018

Weekly Offering: \$ 779.25
Children's Offering: \$ 4.00

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

All Saints

Saturday, December 22

Rosary: Frank Holle
Ushers: Wayne & Jan Gilman
Altar Server: Connie Drake
Lector: Mark Tisl
Commentator: Carol Smith
Greeters: Wayne & Jan Gilman
EMHC: Mark Tisl, Jodi Bassett & Sister Nesta

All Saints

Sunday, December 23

Ushers: Bob Olson & John Gulbranson
Cross Bearer: Patrick Gulbranson
Altar Servers: Jackson Doyle & Zander Dole
Lector: Donna Olson
Commentator: Harriet Gulbranson
Greeters: Bob & Donna Olson
EMHC: Harriet Gulbranson, Joyce Van Pelt & Jo Beaman

St. John

Sunday, December 23

Cross Bearer: Belle Fagan
Greeters: Mr. & Mrs. John Vogl
Lector: Julie Plowman
Host: Les Elgin
Cup: Elizabeth Moreland & Dave Richter
Altar Servers: Cole Plowman & Carley Fagan
Traveling Chalice: Cody & Elizabeth Moreland

Money Counters

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

Wednesday, December 26 @ 9am: Diane Messinger, Dennis Van Pelt & Dave Vigon