

Father Tony's Corner *(continued from front page)*

seemed so far away from man that man was suspicious of God. But God did not want to keep us at a distance. When in his wisdom he saw that the time was right, he threw a bridge over the abyss that kept man and God so far apart. That bridge was God becoming man in Jesus Christ. Christ is the bridge that draws sinful man back into intimacy with God. He shed his blood to atone for our sins, showing that God's mercy can release us from fear. And he rose from the dead to prove that in him we do not have to just admire God's majesty from far away, but we can actually enter into it through our friendship with Christ and enjoy it from the inside. This is what we see in the picture of Mount Zion, the heavenly Jerusalem. It shows us a city where God is present and surrounded by immense crowds. His angels are at his side. And all the men and women who have been faithful to him make up 'the assembly of the firstborn'. In other words, each has been welcomed and honored by God as his very own child. The Greek word used to describe the scene is 'panegyris' translated as 'festal gathering'. It's the word the Greeks used for civic holidays and festivals, when everyone gathered to celebrate in the town square. This is what Christ has won for us: closeness to God, joyful intimacy with the Creator of the universe, healthy fear turned into confident love, and frightening awe transformed into indescribable delight. As Christians, each one of us, no matter our age, is called to live in a mature relationship with God. We are not strangers to God, as at Mount Sinai, but members of his household, called to live in a relationship of closeness and confidence with God, as on Mount Zion. Let us measure our spiritual maturity by looking at some of our Christian vital signs. First, there is confession. The immature Christian stays far away from confession; for him/her, confession is like the thunderous mountaintop. It only inspires fear. For the mature Christian, confession is an intimate conversation with the Lord who never gets tired of forgiving; it is a joyful embrace; a coming home again. Second, there is morality. The immature Christian sees following the moral teachings of Christ and the Church as a burden; it is like following a list of random and inconvenient rules. For the mature Christian, following Christ is a meaningful, joyful mission; it can be hard, but so can many other things in life that are worthwhile. Finally, there is the virtue of mercy. The immature Christian takes pleasure in criticizing less faithful people and talking about their faults. The mature Christian sees every person as a brother or sister, and treats them with unconditional respect, always giving them the benefit of the doubt, whether present or absent. Let us ask God to open our minds and hearts to see him as he really is: our loving Father and our faithful Friend.

Faith Formation by Jill Gerling, Coordinator

2019-2020 FAITH FORMATION SIGN UP



Faith Formation Registration

◆ Faith Formation classes will begin on Wednesday, September 11, 2019. Registration forms and brochures are available on the table in the gathering space, and will continue until classes begin. Many events are planned for the 2019-2020 year to bring families of our parish together, as well as, outreach community projects! The fee for Faith Formation is \$30.00 per child with a \$100 maximum per family. We are looking for additional catechists, so we'd like to ask you to prayerfully consider taking an active role in the classroom with our children. If you have questions, please contact Jill Gerling at allsaintsff@outlook.com or by calling the church office Tuesday-Thursday at 523-1943.

Calendar with Mass Times, Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sunday 9/1	Monday 9/2	Tuesday 9/3	Wednesday 9/4	Thursday 9/5	Friday 9/6	Saturday 9/7
Adair 7:30am Rosary & Confession 8am Mass	BD: Matt Fagan	Stuart 6pm Mass	Adair 8:30am Mass BD: Ryan Doud & Mick Baudler	Stuart 9:00am Stuart Care Center BD: Matt Dickson	Stuart 8:30am Mass BD: Larry Ludwig	Stuart 3:30pm Confessions 4:05pm Rosary 4:30pm Mass for the People
Stuart 10am Mass for the People BD: Jeff Johnson ANN: Reyes & Anna Maria Leyva 2012			ANN: Paul & Marcia Gettler 1982		ANN: Bill & Cheryl Clauson 2004	

Staff

Pastor: Rev. Antony Mathew
Phone: 712-304-4836 (cell)
E-mail: amathew8@sbcglobal.net
Secretary/Bookkeeper: Tammy Doud
Email: allsaintsoffice@gmail.com
Faith Formation Coordinator:
Jill Gerling – allsaintsff@outlook.com
Phone: 515-523-1943
Website: stuartallsaints.org
Website: adairstjohn.org



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



Ordinarily, my homily focuses on the Gospel reading of the day, but for a change, today, I invite you to reflect with me on the second reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. The author of the letter paints two mountains: Mount Sinai, and Mount Zion. Mount Sinai is where God gave his Law to the People of Israel through Moses. And thus it is a symbol of the entire Old Testament. Mount Zion is where Jerusalem was located. Hence, it is a symbol of heaven. It is the city of believers that have entered into communion with God - not through fearful obedience to God's strict laws, but through loving obedience to the Messiah, Jesus Christ. These are the members of the New Testament. The Old and New Testaments are both covenants - solemn, committed relationships freely entered into. The relationship in both cases is between God and his chosen people, between God and those who believe in him. This relationship gradually matured as God revealed himself more and more, from the beginning of the Old Testament until the establishment of the New. These two mountains, therefore, can give us a good idea of the difference between an immature and a mature relationship with God. In the Old Covenant, people had an incomplete notion of who God is, and as a result, their relationship with him was immature - not wrong, just immature. The predominant characteristic of the relationship was fear. In those times, people were much more aware than they are today of the severity and seriousness of sin, and the punishment that sin - rebellion against God - truly deserved. They were also more aware of their own sinfulness. This double awareness inspired fear, since God hated sin and they knew they were sinners. This is the attitude the Letter to the Hebrews calls to mind when it describes the experience that the ancient Israelites had of receiving God's Law on Mount Sinai. They were so intimidated by God's holiness that they 'begged that no message be further addressed to them'. The book of Exodus even tells us that if an animal (like a cow or a sheep) touched the mountainside while God was giving Moses the Ten Commandments, it had to be stoned. Moses himself described his experience of being in God's presence by saying that he was 'utterly terrified and trembling'. God was holy. Mankind was sinful. And that created tension - to say the least. As you can see, this was long before pseudo-psychology had convinced us that sin is just an emotional malfunction, that we are not really responsible for our self-centered and destructive actions. The fear and awe that characterized the Old Testament view of God was not wrong, but it was incomplete. God still

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Sacraments:

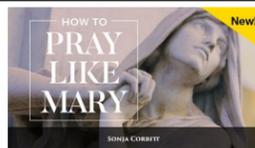
Reconciliation:
3:30pm Saturday in Stuart;
7:30am Sunday in Adair;
or by Appointment
Anointing of the Sick:
Call Fr. Tony before/after hospitalization
Baptism: Call the office during pregnancy for preparation class
Marriage: Call the office at least nine months to one year ahead to plan marriage preparation. 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

- **ANNUAL COLLECTION for the SEMINARIANS of the Diocese of Des Moines:** The Diocese of Des Moines has 17 men seeking to lay down their lives for the Church through priestly vocation. Preparation for a priestly vocation requires a minimum of six years of study, deep prayer, and a life of sacrificial love. Such a commitment is an expression of The New Moment, in which we serve as Jesus' hands and feet in a culture that consistently rejects and denies Him. The average cost to educate a seminarian is approximately \$ 30,000 or an estimated annual cost of \$ 720,000 for class of 18 seminarians. A portion of this cost is covered by the Annual Diocesan Appeal but a special collection is necessary to provide for the needs of our seminarians without impacting current programs or ministries. In order to provide for the ever-increasing cost of educating and forming the seminarians, a special collection will be held on Saturday, September 14 and Sunday, September 15. Each registered household will receive a brochure and return envelope through the mail. They may return their gift directly to the Diocese, place the gift in the parish collection, or make a gift online at www.dmdiocese.org/giving. Heartfelt thanks for your prayers and charitable donation to support the seminarians.
- **St. John Catholic Church:** There has been a proposal to combine the Men's Club and the Catholic Women's Organization since we have a limited membership, and participation in the groups at St. John. In order to hear from everyone, and to move forward, we invite all parishioners to a meeting on Wednesday, September 4th at 7:00 p.m. in the parish hall. If you are unable to attend the meeting, and want your thoughts to be heard, please let Deb Hollinrake at 641-740-0039 or Monica Fagan at 641-799-4073 know. Thanks, and see you all on Wednesday, September 4th at 7:00 p.m.
- **Thank You to the Community Family Fest Team (All Saints):** Our sincere appreciation and gratitude go to Jill Gerling (chair) and her family; the Altar and Rosary Society; Knights of Columbus; all the volunteers who helped with the games and all those who donated prizes; all the families who baked items for the family fest; and all those who participated. Everyone had a good time. By the way, if you missed it, you can look forward to another one next year. Everyone's sacrifice, and hard work is really appreciated, as we all make a difference in our parish family. Thanks again to everyone for being a blessing to all of us.

St. John Faith Formation 2019-2020 by Monica Fagan

Please join us for a Family Kickoff of the 2019-2020 Faith Formation season on Sunday, September 8 after mass until 9:30am. September 8th marks the first day of class, where Monica Fagan will take over as the new Coordinator, as well as, provide information and events for the upcoming season. For questions, please contact Monica at 641-799-4073 or mmfagan03@gmail.com.



Book Study at All Saints

How to Pray Like Mary by Sonja Corbitt

All Saints is having a fall Book Study group to read "How to Pray Like Mary" written by Sonja Corbitt. This is a newly released book that looks at how Mary prayed and the ways we can pray like Mary. You will learn a powerful practice for daily prayer as Mary models it: L-Listen, O-Observe, V-Verbalize, E-Entrust. This model is called "L.O.V.E. the Word". Sonja draws from vivid biblical texts to show you the key to loving Scripture and deepening your relationship with God.

The group will be meeting on Tuesday, September 17 at 10:00am at All Saints. Future sessions will be established at the first meeting. A sign up sheet is on the table in the gathering space. The fee of \$15 covers the cost of the book and will be yours to keep.

For more information contact Jill Gerling at allsaintsff@outlook.com or call 523-1943.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Business Expenses:** All Saints and St. John Fiscal Year end reports will be published the last weekend of September. Your partnership is very essential to the financial wellbeing of our parish families. Please consider signing up for automatic donations. The form following may be found on the table in the gathering space at All Saints. St. John Parishioners, please call the office at 515-523-1943 if you are interested in auto withdrawals. Thank you for remembering us while you are away.
- **Automatic Withdrawal:** I want to share the information that All Saints has the capability of accepting automatic withdrawal from your bank account. Some people may have concerns about the security of such a transaction. I want to address such concerns by assuring you that it is safe and secure. It makes it easy for you in the sense that you don't have to carry your check book or cash with you all the time. It makes it easy for the parish staff for accounting purposes, and for the money counters in the sense they have less money to count. Considering all the advantages, may I ask you to think about automatic withdrawal. If you agree, we ask you to provide the requested information here below. Fr. Tony (forms are available on the table the gathering space)

Authorization for Automatic Withdrawal

Name _____
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
 Phone (home) _____ (Cell) _____
 E-mail _____
 Name of the Financial Institution _____
 Account Number _____ Routing Number _____
 Signature _____
 Attach a Voided Check _____
 Date of debits to be made: - 5th of the month _____ 20th of the month _____
Note: we can accept automatic withdrawal only two days (either 5th or 20th) of the month.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

All Saints

Saturday, September 7

Rosary: Frank Holle
Ushers: Eric & Margaret Tiernan
Altar Server: Zoey & Bailey Dickson
Lector: Jodi Bassett
Commentator: Sharon Doud
Greeters: Eric & Margaret Tiernan
EMHC: Brenda Wedemeyer, Jodi Bassett & Sister Andre

All Saints

Sunday, September 8

Ushers: Wayne Nosbisch & Nick Boyle
Altar Servers: Evie, Alli & Cora Boyle
Lector: Gary Riordan
Commentator: Wayne Nosbisch
Greeters: Nick & Tanya Boyle
EMHC: Amy Doud, Jill Gerling & Linda Lee O'Neel

St. John

Sunday, September 8

Cross Bearer: Carley Fagan
Greeters: Mr. & Mrs. Cleon Klemish
Lector: Barb Bachman
Host: Sister Andre
Cup: Les Elgin & Adella Vogl
Altar Servers: Belle Fagan & Cole Plowman
Traveling Chalice: Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

MONEY COUNTERS

Tuesday, September 3 @ 1pm: Janet Bassett, Mary Morgan & Pat Hohn
Tuesday, September 10 @ 1pm: Eric Tiernan, Gina James & Donna Donnelly

All Saints Financial Partnership

August 25, 2019
Weekly Offering: \$ 1,579.00
Children's Offering: \$ 8.25
Community Family Fest: \$ 774.00

St. John Financial Partnership

August 25, 2019
Weekly Offering: \$ 398.00
Children's Offering: \$ 6.00