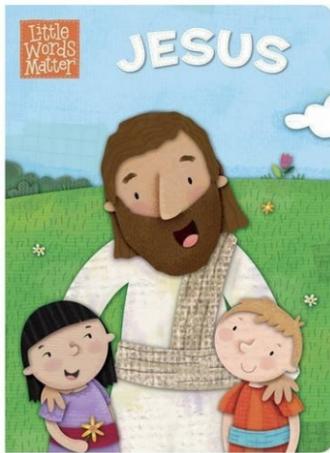


Father Tony's Corner (continued from front page)

saving the world through us - as long as Christ is at the center of our hearts, our families, and our dreams. This is why many forces in modern culture are trying desperately to extinguish family life. Those forces are anti-Christian and anti-God. They resent the fact that God is God and they are not, and so they delight in disfiguring the image of God, the human family. Today, let us decide once again to follow his instructions. Christ is God, and God can do whatever he pleases. His authority and power are unlimited. He could have chosen to form a body for the Incarnation out of the dust of the earth, as he had for Adam. Instead, he chose to take on human life in all its dimensions, entering into a family and giving real people - especially Joseph and Mary - crucial roles in the plan of salvation. God did not whisk Jesus, Mary, and Joseph away into safety when Herod was looking for them - he entrusted Saint Joseph with that task. God did not give Mary special powers to know when Joseph was right or wrong - he simply gave her the vocation to be Joseph's faithful wife and Jesus' loving mother. He let her take it from there. God guided them and helped them, but he did not do everything for them. He chose to give them real responsibility; he made them real partners in his work of saving the world. Their decisions, choices, courage, and creativity mattered. This is still his policy. God has chosen to administer Christ's salvation through the action of the Church - not just the priests, bishops, and religious, but each one of us, integral members of the one Body of the Church. He guarantees the guidance of the Holy Spirit, but the Lord has given the keys of his Kingdom into Peter's hands. And so, in union with Christ's Vicar and Peter's successor, the pope, every Catholic is called to carry out a particular, unrepeatable role in the plan of salvation, just like Joseph and Mary. May we be able to recognize and respond to that challenge in our everyday life.

All Saints Faith Formation Coordinator, Jill Gerling



A great part of our children's faith development is the weekend Mass obligation. During the Faith Formation program year there are Faith Formation Family Masses. These are meant for all of the Faith Formation families and parishioners of All Saints. At these Masses the children are given various liturgical roles to perform with the guidance of their parents and catechists. Please mark your calendars to attend these Masses:

Sunday, January 12 at 10:00am

Saturday, February 8 at 4:30pm

Ash Wednesday, February 26 at 6:00pm

Sunday, March 8 at 10:00am

Sunday, May 3 at 10:00am (also Graduate Recognition Mass)

Sunday, May 31 at 10:00am (Confirmation Mass with Bishop Joenson)

Calendar with Mass Times, Birthdays and Anniversaries

Table with 7 columns: Sunday 12/29, Monday 12/30, Tuesday 12/31, Wednesday 1/1, Thursday 1/2, Friday 1/3, Saturday 1/4. Each column lists mass times, birthdays (BD), and anniversaries (ANN).

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



As we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family, we remember Mary and Joseph, who, with Jesus, give hope and inspiration to every family. One element jumps out of today's gospel which is vital for every family is listening. We have to listen to God. Joseph offers an example of that. Herod, a psychotically insecure despot, wants to kill the baby Jesus because the prophecies indicate him as the long-awaited Messiah. So God tells Joseph in a dream to take Jesus and Mary and go to Egypt. Joseph must have been used to listening to God, because it says that he arose and took them away by night. In other words, he did not wait. He acted at once. Then, when Herod had died, the Lord told Joseph that it was safe to return to Israel. Again, Joseph did not dawdle but returned to Israel. But God was not finished. Herod's equally unpleasant son Archelaus was ruling in his father's place, and the region around Jerusalem was still unsafe. So, in a dream, God warned Joseph not to return to Judea. Joseph took Mary and Jesus to Galilee. Three times God changed Joseph's plans; three times Joseph listened and acted. He did not argue with God. He did not point out how inconvenient a trip to Egypt was at that moment. Later he did not protest that he was just starting to learn Egyptian, and now God was asking him to leave Egypt. He listened to God, and he followed God's lead. Let us pray for all families that, like Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, they may listen to God and grow in love for him and each other. When Mary and Joseph were packing their mule at midnight and sneaking out of town, they probably did not feel especially glamorous or glorious. When they were traipsing through the desert on their way to Egypt, they probably did not feel exceptionally heroic. And yet, it was through those difficult and mundane tasks that God was saving the world. Today God is reminding us that he wants to do the same thing in our lives. When we get stuck in traffic on the way to work, when we are having trouble paying the bills and keeping food on the table, when an unforeseen crisis wakes us up at midnight and demands immediate action, when suffering takes up residence in our homes, these are not just life's accidents to be endured and ignored. God is present in them. God is acting through them. When we struggle to stay faithful to him in the middle of them, to live these and all our tasks, responsibilities, and challenges as Christ would want us to live them, we can be sure that, through God's grace working in our souls, we are doing our part to save the world. Joseph and Mary did not make any headlines by their simple acts of faith and love on Christmas Day. And yet, God was saving the world through them. Maybe we would not make headlines any time soon either, but God can still keep on (continued on 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

- **Parish Office Closed:** The parish office will be closed on Tuesday, December 31st and Wednesday, January 1st in observance of the New Year. If you have an emergency, kindly follow the instructions for emergency procedures which is to call Father Tony's cell phone at 712-304-4836.
- **Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God:** The Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God is celebrated on Wednesday, January 1st. It is a Holy Day of Obligation, meaning all Catholics are obligated to celebrate the feast by participating in the Holy Eucharist. Let us honor our heavenly mother, and imitate her example of discipleship.
Following is the Mass Schedule: -
⇒ St. John, Adair - vigil Mass on Tuesday, December 31st at 5:00 p.m.
⇒ All Saints, Stuart – vigil Mass on Tuesday, December 31st at 7:00 p.m.
- **Thank You to the Christmas Pageant Team at All Saints:** We want to express our appreciation, and gratitude to Jill Gerling, and her team of helpers, especially Tanya Boyle and Suzy Aubert. As well, to the parents and children of All Saints, who enacted the Nativity of the Lord on Tuesday, December 24th. It was wonderful and inspiring. We appreciate your hard work and sacrifice, and thereby being a blessing to all of us at Christmas time. Thank you. ~ Fr. Tony
- **Thank You!** Father Tony thanks everyone for the expressions of love, thoughtfulness, and appreciation extended to him through Christmas cards and gifts. He is really and truly blessed, and honored to be part of everyone's life and family through his priesthood and ministry. Please know that everyone is in his thoughts and prayers. May God bless us, our families, and our loved ones with His abundant blessings during this Christmas season. Thanks again. ~ Fr. Tony



- **Happy and Blessed New Year:** Father Tony and the staff wish each and every member of our parish family a Happy and Blessed New Year. This is our prayer for the New Year: may we grow closer to the Lord, and to one another as a parish family. May we praise God with a little more passion for His love, mercy, and abundant blessings and may we reach out to one another in love and charity.

- **THANK YOU!** On behalf of the Altar & Rosary Society, Connie Drake would like to thank all those who baked, worked and purchased cookies for the Cookie Walk. Without all of you, it would not have been a success. Thanks again ~ Connie
- **St. John Liturgical Roles for December 31st @ 5:00pm:** Cross Bearer: Dave Richter; Greeters: Mr. & Mrs. Cody Moreland & Family; Lector: Theresa Elgin; Host: Dave Richter; Cup: Les Elgin & Elizabeth Moreland; Altar Servers: Addy Richter & Belle Fagan

Altar & Rosary Announcement by Jodi Bassett, President

The Altar and Rosary Society has been asked to cater a meal for a family reunion that is planned to take place in our church hall next summer. We will meet after Masses the weekend of January 11 & 12, 2020 to provide more information and confirm involvement by the membership. This will be a considerable undertaking which is why this meeting is taking place in January. The catered meal will also be a fundraiser for our organization. Many ladies will be required to cook, serve and clean up, so I want to be sure everyone is on board. There will be plenty of opportunities to help, so no one should have to be involved the entire time.

January will be here before we know, so please put these meetings on your calendars and plan to attend. It is important that everyone gets the information early so we can plan on good involvement.

Thank you for your continued support in our numerous events.
Many blessings to you and your families this holiday season! ~ Jodi

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **All Saints Church Liturgical Roles needed:** Liturgical ministers are needed for the Vigil Mass of the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on December 31st @ 7pm. Please sign up on the sheet in the gathering space if you are able to help out. Thank you.

Altar & Rosary Society by Jodi Bassett, President

One of the tenets, and one of the comforts, of our faith, is tradition. Tradition is important, as it is a means to pass on the faith to the younger generation.

One of the things I remember about Christmas in the church was making a trek to the front right corner (at St. Joseph's statue) in the old church to visit the Nativity Scene. I remember having to stand in line; it seemed every family went to see Baby Jesus. Every year. It was a tradition.

I don't see that happening in our parish much anymore. Certainly, there are a few families that go to the stable to see the Nativity, but not like in my childhood. We were fortunate to be able to salvage that same Nativity scene after the fire. We have other Nativity sets that get displayed around the church, but none quite like the one in the stable, the one I remember best.

It's disappointing that this tradition seems to have fallen by the wayside. The Nativity is important. Christmas, of course, is the means to the resurrection, but the Nativity is really the story of Christ's birth. We relive the Nativity at Christmas every year at Mass. It's the liturgy. But it's also tradition.

Parents, grandparents, or aunts and uncles, take your kids up to the stable to see the Nativity. Stand in line. Point out the livestock, and the angel hovering over the shepherds. Talk about the wise men and the gifts. Explain how Mary was really just a child herself, and innocently and obediently answered the call of the angel Gabriel. Make visiting the Nativity a tradition with your family. Every year. And if you can't find kids, take a look yourself. You might even recall the comfort from your own childhood.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

<p>All Saints <u>Saturday, January 4</u> Rosary: Frank Holle Ushers: David Doud & Marty Doud Altar Server: Connie Drake Lector: Jodi Bassett Commentator: Sharon Doud Greeters: David & Sharon Doud EMHC: Jodi Bassett, Sister Andre & Sister Nesta</p>	<p>All Saints <u>Sunday, January 5</u> Ushers: Nick Boyle & Dennis Van Pelt Altar Servers: Alli, Evie & Cora Boyle Lector: Wayne Nosbisch Commentator: Joyce Van Pelt Greeters: Nick & Tanya Boyle & Family EMHC: Joyce Van Pelt, Amy Doud & Linda Lee O'Neel</p>	<p>St. John <u>Sunday, January 5</u> Cross Bearer: Belle Fagan Greeters: Mr. & Mrs. Gail Brincks Lector: Brian Richter Host: Sister Andre Cup: Matt Fagan & Dave Richter Altar Servers: Addy Richter & Carley Fagan Traveling Chalice: Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary</p>
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MONEY COUNTERS

Monday, December 29 @ 9am: Eric Tiernan, Gina James & Donna Donnelly
Tuesday, January 7 @ 10 am: Janet Bassett, Mary Morgan & Pat Hohn

<p>All Saints Financial Partnership December 22, 2019 Weekly Offering: \$ 1,817.00 Children's Offering: \$ 39.49 Poinsettias: \$ 295.00</p>	<p>St. John Financial Partnership December 22, 2019 Weekly Offering: \$ 593.00 Children's Offering: \$ 12.00</p>
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