

November 6, 2016
32nd Sunday in Ordinary
Time

Saint John Catholic Church



Parish Contact Information

Rev. Raymond J.
Higgins
Pastor

Church Office

Phone: 515-523-1943
Hours: T-W-Th 9am-3pm
Closed: Monday & Friday

Website:
adairstjohn.org

Parish Administrative Secretary

Brenda Wedemeyer
stjohnallsaints@gmail.com

Bookkeeping

Rita Rilea
allsaintsoffice@gmail.com

Adella Vogl

Prayer Chain Requests
641-742-5277

Annie Brincks

Religious Education
Coordinator
annie68164@hotmail.com

Les Elgin

Liturgical Minister
Scheduling
elgins2011@gmail.com
Or 742-3854

Mailing Address:

St. John Catholic Church
c/o All Saints Church
PO Box 605
216 All Saints Drive
Stuart, IA 50250

News & Views from Father Ray

Dear Parishioners,

We enter the month of November with great hope as we just celebrated two great Holy Days--the Solemnity of All Saints and the Feast of All the Faithful Departed. Both celebrations call to mind that God calls us to Himself and God wants us to be in communion with Him. We are His family and it gives God great glory when all of us are one with Him. In these celebrations, we not only acknowledge those in heaven, but we also acknowledge and pray for those still in need of purification before they enter into heaven.

The familiar term used for state of purification is purgatory. We should not look at purgatory as a separate place, but as a part of Heaven. Why would someone still need to be purified after they die? The simple answer is that none of us are perfect or pure of heart (*"Blessed are the pure of heart for they shall see God" Matthew 5:8, one of the Beatitudes*).

What does purity of heart look like or how do we acquire a pure heart? The heart is where "Love" itself dwells - that is we say, God is in our heart. That is why love tends to warm the heart - for it is "on fire" we say, with the passion of love. Love strengthens our hearts and focuses us on the good in each other. However, our focus can be on other things than love. For example, money, power, and earthly pleasures, but it can also have a darkness where we do evil or sin toward others. It can be filled with pain that has not healed.

In essence, these conditions do not allow a pure heart. God has provided a means to help heal and purify the heart through the sacraments, especially the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This sacrament is completed when we are reconciled with God and the person(s) we harmed or those who have harmed us. In other words, our relationships need healing and mending. If we do not make an effort, then it is true that we harbor those unresolved and unreconciled feelings in our heart.

Reconciliation involves a "making up" with God and others. We don't simply say: "my bad" and walk away as if all is well. What is important is the promise of God that we do as He asks, first of all, to love Him and one another and this love involves forgiveness and reconciliation (purification). Love seeks true peace between each other and seeking reconciliation puts us on the road back to loving for one another with a "pure heart". The familiar term is penance which really is simply a "making up" with God and one another. Think of ways, you make up with family and friends when you have committed an offence, and think of ways you want people to make up with you. We do this now, while in this world, because our offences have been done here and we ought to make up quickly because love demands it.

It's sometimes quite difficult, but we must overcome and heal the harsh feelings that come from the disappointments, frustrations, and betrayals in our relationships. God wishes for us to work through these experiences and not avoid them. If we look at the family from our first reading this Sunday - the king tortures all seven brothers in one family and kills them while the mother must stand by and watch. Yet she is more pleased that her children are faithful to God than for them to preserve their life here in this world and lose their life in the next. We too, must be willing to overcome the hurts and frustrations that deprive of us of true love in this life and the next.

Have a great week, Fr. Ray

Parish News & Events

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This Week's Calendar	Sunday 11/6	Monday 11/7	Tuesday 11/8	Wednesday 11/9	Thursday 11/10	Friday 11/11	Saturday 11/12
w/Mass Times & Intentions, Birthdays & Anniversaries	8am Mass For Robert Fagan 9am Faith Formation	<i>The church office is closed on Mondays</i>	Anniversary: John & Adella Vogl 1958	8:30am Mass For Joanne & Ed Littler	6:30pm Mass For Joseph Arnts 7PM Adult Bible Study	<i>The church office is closed on Fridays</i>	Sunday 11/13 For Helen Daume

Knights Breakfast The Adair Knights are hosting a pancake breakfast on Sunday November 6th from 7:30-10:30am in the church hall. Your free will donation will be accepted and appreciated.

Holy Father's November Prayer Intentions *Universal:* That we may be open to personal encounter and dialogue with all, even those whose convictions differ from our own. *Evangelization:* That pastors of the Church, with profound love for their flocks, may accompany them and enliven their hope.

Thank You to all who attended the All Saints Knights of Columbus chicken dinner this last weekend.

Liturgical Ministers	Cross Bearer:	Greeters:	Lector:	Host:	Cup:	Servers:	Traveling Chalice:
November 13th	Madison Suhr	Darrin Plowman Family	Scott Suhr	Dave Richter	Les Elgin Rich Kennedy	Belle Fagan Cole Plowman	Phyllis O'Brien

Financial Report For:	October 30, 2016	Regular Tithes	Children's Collection	Special: Building Fund	Repair Fund Balance	Altar Furn. Fund	ADA Balance Due:
		\$449.00	\$8.00	\$50.00	\$4,368.20	\$10,810.50	\$300.00

"Discover What God Wants for Your Marriage and the Five Tools Every Couple Should Know!" Attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Enrichment. For information, dates and to register go to iowa-wwme.org or call [563-608-3305](tel:563-608-3305). Upcoming Dates: Dec 2-4 at Clarion Inn, Iowa City IA; Feb 17-19th at the Ramada, Ankeny IA. JJjwwme08@Gmail.com Couples who attend Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekends not only rediscover the joy, intimacy & romance in their relationships but also become more active in their parish. Together, we are making marriages, families and our Church stronger & healthier.

SACRAMENT of BAPTISM: Preparation class for parents and godparents is required. Please contact the church office to make arrangements.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: Preparation for marriage must begin **at least six months before** the anticipated date of the wedding. Please contact the church office to set up an appointment to speak with Father.