

**November 13, 2016**  
33rd Sunday in Ordinary  
Time

# Saint John Catholic Church



## Parish Contact Information

Rev. Raymond J.  
Higgins  
Pastor

## Church Office

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Closed: Monday & Friday

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## Parish Administrative Secretary

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Dear Parishioners,

Many of our Protestant brothers and sisters will be commemorating the "500th Anniversary of the Reformation". When Martin Luther posted his "Ninety-five Theses" on the church door in Wittenberg in 1517, no one expected how it would change the Christian world--Catholics and Protestants (from the root word "protest"). The Protestant Reformation denied the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, rejected the celibate priesthood, and refused to acknowledge that Mass was a sacrifice. It also rejected the authority of the pope and the claim of Catholics to be the one true Church of Christ. By the late Middle Ages, the abuse of indulgences, mainly through commercialization, had become a serious problem - which the Church recognized - but was unable to restrain effectively. Indulgences, were from the beginning of the Protestant Reformation, a target of attacks by Martin Luther and all other Protestant theologians. Eventually the Catholic Counter-Reformation curbed the excesses, but indulgences continue to play a role in modern Catholic religious life. The Catholic response at the Council of Trent reasserted the Mass as a sacrifice, the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, a celibate priesthood, the authority of the pope, and the doctrine of the one true Church. Latin was kept as the language of the liturgy, and Communion was given only under the species of bread. (Celebrating the Mass Through the Ages, by Norbertine Father Alfred McBride, Sept. 18, 2011, USCCB) Because of the strong protests concerning these events and teachings proposed by Martin Luther and other Protestant Theologians, the Church produced as a result of the Council a Universal Catechism. The Bishops needed to address the lack of education and understanding among its clergy and published the the Church's teachings for clergy to learn from and to be able teach and preach better to the people.

A statement released by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) quoted Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton in an address to their Churchwide Assembly in New Orleans in August of this year. "Dear sisters and brothers, let us pause to honor this historic moment," said Bishop Eaton. "Though we have not yet arrived, we have claimed that we are, in fact, on the way to unity [with the Catholic Church]. After 500 years of division and 50 years of dialogue, this action must be understood in the context of other significant agreements we have reached, most notably the 'Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification' by the Lutheran World Federation and the Catholic Church in 1999." Although there are still areas of disagreement it is important to know the dialogue and agreements between the Catholic Church and the Lutheran World Federation. This "Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification" is just one of those areas where agreements have been met. You can find the document on the Vatican Website. The following are short snippets from the document: "*The present Joint Declaration has this intention: namely, to show that on the basis of their dialogue, the subscribing Lutheran churches and the Roman Catholic Church are now able to articulate a common understanding of our justification by God's grace through faith in Christ (one among many areas of agreement). It does not cover all that either church teaches about justification; it does encompass a consensus on basic truths of the doctrine of justification and shows that the remaining differences in its explication are no longer the occasion for doctrinal condemnations.* The document ended with the following: "*The understanding of the doctrine of justification set forth in this Declaration shows that a consensus in basic truths of the doctrine of justification exists between Lutherans and Catholics. In light of this consensus the remaining differences of language, theological elaboration, and emphasis in the understanding of justification described in paragraphs 18 to 39 are acceptable. Therefore the Lutheran and the Catholic explications of justification are in their difference open to one another and do not destroy the consensus regarding the basic truths.*"

*With the upcoming 500th Anniversary of the Reformation please pray for unity among all Christian brothers and sisters.*

*Fr. Ray*

**Thinking of priesthood?** If you're feeling a tug toward priesthood, consider being part of Bishop's Discernment Retreat Dec. 16-18. Contact Fr. Joe Pins at 515-237-5050 or email him at [jpins@dmndiocese.org](mailto:jpins@dmndiocese.org) for details.

**March For Life Signup** It's time to start thinking about joining the pilgrimage in January to Washington, D.C. to be a part of the annual March for Life. Iowans for LIFE is securing several buses to take pro-life Iowans to the march, which will be on Jan. 27. Go to [lowansForLIFE.org](http://lowansForLIFE.org) for details.

# Parish News & Events

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This Week's Calendar	Sunday 11/13	Monday 11/14	Tuesday 11/15	Wednesday 11/16	Thursday 11/17	Friday 11/18	Sunday 11/20 For Betty Dill
w/Mass Times & Intentions, Birthdays & Anniversaries	<b>8am Mass</b> For Helen Daume  <b>9am</b> Faith Formation	<b>7pm Finance Council Meeting</b>  <b>Birthday:</b> Roger Vais		<b>8:30am Mass</b> For Mable E. Richter  <b>Birthday:</b> Cole Reha	<b>6:30pm Mass</b> For Pat Cornwell <b>7PM Adult Bible Study</b> <b>Birthdays:</b> Kaye Klemish, Fr. Ray	<b>Saturday 11/19 Birthday:</b> Rick Richter <b>Anniversary:</b> Rich & Grace Kennedy	

**Catholic Campaign for Human Development - Working on the Margins** Next week's collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) needs your help. CCHD was founded to break the cycle of poverty in the United States by funding organizations that help individuals help themselves. With the tradition of improving education, housing situations, and community economic development, CCHD continues to make a positive impact in communities nationwide. Your contribution will defend human dignity and reach out to those living on the margins. Please give to the CCHD collection.

**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.

Liturgical Ministers	Cross Bearer:	Greeters:	Lector:	Host:	Cup:	Servers:	Traveling Chalice:
November 20th	Larry Drees	Brian Richter Family	Brian Richter	Rich Kennedy	Adella Vogl & Sr. Chinweze	Carley Fagan & Belle Fagan	Cody & Elizabeth Moreland

Financial Report For:	November 6, 2016	Regular Tithes	Children's Collection	Special: All Saints Day	Repair Fund Balance	Altar Furn. Fund	ADA Balance Due:
		\$556.00	\$15.00	\$63.00	\$4,868.20	\$10,310.50	\$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-wwwme.org](http://iowa-wwwme.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](mailto: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.