

**November 27, 2016**  
1st Sunday of Advent

# **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](http://adairstjohn.org)

## **Parish Administrative Secretary**

**Brenda Wedemeyer**  
[stjohnallsaints@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnallsaints@gmail.com)

## **Bookkeeping**

**Rita Rilea**  
[allsaintsoffice@gmail.com](mailto:allsaintsoffice@gmail.com)

## **Adella Vogl**

Prayer Chain Requests  
641-742-5277

## **Annie Brincks**

Religious Education  
Coordinator  
[annie68164@hotmail.com](mailto:annie68164@hotmail.com)

## **Les Elgin**

Liturgical Minister  
Scheduling  
[elgins2011@gmail.com](mailto: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

Dear Parishioners,

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) provides us with the following information regarding the season of Advent:

*Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent (from, "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas.*

*The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and also to the anniversary of the Lord's birth on Christmas. The final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 24, focus particularly on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord (Christmas).*

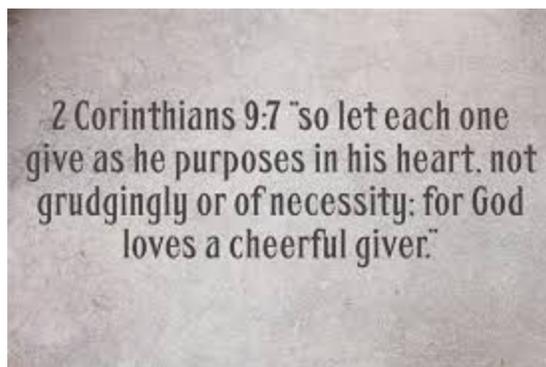
*Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent. Ideally, three candles are purple and one is rose, but white candles can also be used.*

*The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas.*

*The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead.*

Building on the phrase "preparatory sacrifices and good works," we may reflect on those people around us who may not be as fortunate. They may find the Christmas season as a very sad or depressing time. Parents may not be able to provide enough food for their children, much less a large deposit of gifts under the tree on Christmas morning.

We have several opportunities to give of ourselves, not just in "clearing out our closets," but in sacrificial giving to those in need. St. John's Faith Formation students are asking for toy donations that will be given to "Toys for Tots" as well as for Catholic Charities. All Saints' projects include a Giving Tree, sponsored by their Faith Formation department, and the Knights of Columbus are asking for items that will be given to the St. Joseph's and St. Mary's shelters in Des Moines. Aside from the toys requested, the shelters can use: school supplies, cleaning supplies, baby items, kitchen items, household items, personal care items, furniture, and seasonal clothing.



Another opportunity to give is the special collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious which happens during December each year. This fund helps roughly 33,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. **Thank you!**

# Parish News & Events

**November 27, 2016**  
1st Sunday of Advent

<b>This Week's Calendar</b>  w/Mass Times & Intentions, Birthdays & Anniversaries	<b>Sunday 11/27</b> 1st Advent  <b>8am Mass</b> For the People of the Parish  <b>9am</b> Faith Formation	<b>Monday 11/28</b>  <i>No Office Hours Monday or Friday.</i>	<b>Tuesday 11/29</b>  <b>Birthday:</b> Emily Wagner  <b>Anniversary:</b> Matt & Monica Fagan 2003	<b>Wednesday 11/30</b> <b>8:30am MASS</b> Leona Drees <b>Birthday:</b> Jennifer Richter <b>Anniversary:</b> Brian & Jennifer Richter 2004	<b>Thursday 12/1</b>  <b>6:30pm Mass</b> For Megan Sloss  <b>7pm</b> Adult Bible Study	<b>Friday 12/2</b>  <b>Birthday:</b> Brady Skram	<b>Sunday 12/4</b> For John W Brincks  
	<b>Saturday 12/3</b>						

## E-Bulletins & Updates

Weekly bulletins are published online through both our websites and via your personal email address - *if* you have provided us with your current email contact information. The bulletin comes to your personal address at 9am each Saturday. It is also available on our website by Friday afternoon. Please contact the church office to subscribe.

Visit: [www.adairstjohn.org](http://www.adairstjohn.org) to view our bulletins.



**Toy Collection St. John's**  
Faith Formation will accept new, unwrapped toys through December 4th for **Toys for Tots** and used toys in great shape for **Catholic Charities** until December 18th.

The toys can be dropped off in the hall after Mass. Thank you!

<b>Liturgical Ministers</b> December 4th	<b>Cross Bearer:</b> Dave Richter	<b>Greeters:</b> Jeanne Richter Phyllis O'Brien	<b>Lector:</b> Theresa Elgin	<b>Host:</b> Scott Suhr	<b>Cup:</b> Dave Richter Sister Nesta	<b>Servers:</b> Trevin Suhr Madison Suhr	<b>Traveling Chalice:</b> Les & Theresa Elgin
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<b>Financial Report For:</b>	November 20, 2016	<b>Regular Tithes</b> \$482.00	<b>Children's Collection</b> \$14.00	<b>Special:</b> Building Fund \$50.00 Human Development \$30.00	<b>Repair Fund Balance</b> \$9,128.70	<b>Altar Furn. Fund</b> \$6,100.00	<b>ADA Balance Due:</b> \$300.00
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**NOVOS Young Adults** If you're a young adult looking for social, spiritual and service activities, check out Novos Young Adults. Events happen every second and fourth Thursday of the month and occasionally on weekends. For more information, go to the Novos Young Adults Facebook page.

**Holy Father's December Prayer Intentions *Universal:*** That all may experience the mercy of God, who never tires of forgiving. ***Evangelization:*** That families, especially those who suffer, may find in the birth of Jesus a sign of certain hope.

**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.