

**December 18, 2016**  
4th 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  
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## **Bookkeeping**

Rita Rilea  
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## **Adella Vogl**

Prayer Chain Requests  
641-742-5277

## **Annie Brincks**

Religious Education  
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## **Les Elgin**

Liturgical Minister  
Scheduling  
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## **Mailing Address:**

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

Dear Parishioners,

We are fast approaching the celebration of the birth of our Lord and it is important that we continue to prepare our interior life for this important Solemnity. Too often, many consider Christmas just another reason to have a party. I am in favor of parties and gatherings. Sometimes, these events stay on a superficial level repeatedly. We are social beings and it is important for our growth and maturity to have deep and meaningful relationships. God can help us to have such friendships within in our family circles, friends and neighbors. By having an interior life where we meet God and have honest conversations with Him, perhaps, this type of intimacy may enter into our everyday life with others. How does one begin? Simple. Just ask God to help you to have a meaningful and loving relationship with Him and with others. Ask God to teach you, but you must be willing to learn. Another bit of advice is to ask God to come with you when you go to weekly or occasional gatherings. Reflecting on how important God is in your life, it should be easy to invite him to your parties and gatherings. Maybe you never thought of that or you might say you couldn't invite him to certain parties. Why not? If God has your best interest in mind and He loves you and you love Him, then we might consider why I can't bring "my best friend" with me. Jesus is our spouse and the best friend we will ever have. Maybe by inviting him and bringing him to wherever we go we just might bring joy and meaning to the everyday events of our life. To share life with God seems like the goal we all ought to have. How do I start? Just begin right now in whatever it is you are doing. Otherwise, how will intimacy grow with our loving Lord unless we can invite him to every aspect of our personal and public life?

On a different note, I want to again thank the women of St. Gregory's for volunteering to clean both the church and the hall. Many times we have relied upon the generosity of St. Gregory's for various events in the parish and we are ever so grateful, and now I wish to thank them again for their willingness to keep our church and hall clean. Thank you so much.

I mentioned last weekend from the pulpit the repair and updating of our stained glass windows. It is with the recommendation of our renovation committee and with the approval of our Finance Committee along with Bishop Pates' approval that we move forward with using the rest of the monies we are anticipating from the 50/50 Capital Campaign as well as the funds left in our building fund account to repair and protect our beautiful stained glass windows. I want to thank the renovation committee for the continued good work they are doing in beautifying our church.

Mass times for Christmas are 4:00 pm at St. John on December 24, 7:00 pm at All Saints on December 24, and 12:00 am at All Saints on December 25.

- Fr. Ray

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# Parish News

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## This Week's Calendar

w/Mass Times & Intentions, Birthdays & Anniversaries



**Sunday 12/18**  
4th Advent  
**8am Mass**  
For Robert Fagan  
**9am**  
Rel. Ed.  
**Birthday:**  
Hayvin Steckelberg

**Monday 12/19**  
**Birthday:**  
*Toby Moreland*  
  
*No Office Hours*  
*Mondays or Fridays*

**Tuesday 12/20**  
**Birthday:**  
Bertha Fagan  
  
**Anniversary:**  
Dave & Abby Richter 1975

**Wednesday 12/21**  
**8:30am MASS**  
For Mable E. Richter

**Thursday 12/22**  
**6:30pm Mass**  
For Megan Sloss  
  
**Friday 12/23**

**Saturday 12/24**  
**4pm Christmas Eve Mass**  
For the People  
  
**Birthday:** Gina Gettler

**Sunday 12/25**  
No Mass  
  
**Merry Christmas!**

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

Thank you very much to all who have made donations to our Faith Formation collection projects!

Your generosity goes a long way in helping those who are less fortunate to not only enjoy the holiday, but to learn that they are loved.



*A Joyful Christmas*

<b>Financial Report For:</b>	December 11, 2016	<b>Regular Tithes</b> \$377.00	<b>Children's Collection</b> \$11.00	<b>Special:</b> \$0.00	<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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<b>Liturgical Ministers December 24th</b>	<b>Cross Bearer:</b> Brian Richter	<b>Greeters:</b> Mr. & Mrs. Larry Drees	<b>Lector:</b> Scott Suhr	<b>Host:</b> Les Elgin	<b>Cup:</b> Adella Vogl Sr. Chinweze	<b>Servers:</b> Belle Fagan Logan Brincks	<b>Traveling Chalice:</b> Matt Fagan Family
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**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.

**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.

**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.