

# St. John Catholic Church

Third Sunday of Advent

501 Adair Street, Adair, IA 50002

December 17, 2017



## Mass Times\*

- **Sunday:**
  - 7:30am Rosary/Adoration & Confessions
  - 8am Mass**
  - 10am Mass at Stuart
- **Tuesday:** 6pm Mass at Stuart
- **Wednesday:** 8:30am Mass
- **Friday:** 8:30am at Stuart

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## Dear Parishioners

By Brenda Wedemeyer, Bulletin Editor

It's Gaudete Sunday. Be joyful! At this time of the year, we seem to go two distinctly different directions: rushing around at full speed trying to get everything done by Christmas Eve in order to have the picture-perfect family celebration or we can be overcome by the sentiments of the season - some of them "warm fuzzies", but unfortunately, also some that can stop us dead in our tracks. Either way, the season of Christmas - the birth of our Savior - seems to be a trigger for those things that are deep inside of our hearts and minds. I was at an auction several years ago and there were several tables filled with Christmas decorations. As I walked past them, I saw an old cardboard box filled with glass ornaments. (If you can remember the late 50's and early 60's, these were the ornaments we all used on our trees!). I stopped and picked up the box. It still smelled exactly the way I remembered from my childhood. All at once, I was a 6 year old child running around our house all excited

about getting the tree put up! The smell of the pine, the large light bulbs strung around the tree, the real lead tinsel, the homemade ornaments from years past, and those glass ornaments...what a sweet memory! But all of that wonderful-ness quickly turned into sadness. The feelings of the loss of days gone by. I needed to make a conscious effort at this point to stop myself and say, "Hey! Don't go there! Hold on to the good memories and look forward to making new ones!" The sad thoughts can lead us into despair and depression if we let them. Instead, when those sadder things come to mind, thank God for them, then ask Him to move you along. Ask Him to help you focus on Him and look to what He has ahead for you. I can spend my days thinking of "what was" and totally lose any happiness that may be yet to come. Or, a better choice I think, I can move on and think of how happy I can be that God has given me life and so many ways to enjoy it. Yes, there will still be sad times ahead. But those

times will be tempered with God's love and mercy. We can learn from those times. We can learn that God is always there for us and that He always loves us and wants what is best for us. I recently saw an episode of a program on IPTV where the guests are given information about their "roots". One man in particular, who, when he found that he had come from slaves, reacted in several ways: sad for the original circumstances, of course, then mad, but then came around to the point of saying he was "lucky". He realized that, had his ancestors not been brought to this country - even in this horrible way - that he may not be where he is today and, today, he is a successful, free, and happy man. We don't know what life will bring us from one moment to the next. We need to remember to always look to God and ask Him to lead and guide us where He wants us to go. The outcome will be so much better, even with the knocks along the way.

# Advent Wreath

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.



## What can we do for you?

### If you would like a visit from Father:

Father Ray is available to visit the sick and the homebound generally during the week. If you would like a visit from Father, please call the Church office to set up a time: 515-523-1943.

### To Request Prayer:

If you would like to request prayer for someone in need, you may call Adella Vogl (641-742-5277) for the telephone prayer chain or email the office at [stjohnallsaints@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnallsaints@gmail.com) for an electronic prayer chain communication.

### Need a Sacrament?

**Baptisms:** contact the church office to set a date; if you are first-time parents, you will need instruction prior to the Baptism.

**Weddings:** Be sure to contact the church office to request a date at least six months prior to the wedding. Father will need to meet with the couple for counsel/marriage prep.

## Parish Business & Finance

### December 10th Collection

Regular Tithes: \$532.00  
 Children's Collection: \$12.00  
 Building Fund: \$0.00  
 Cemetery: \$100.00  
 This week's income: \$544.00  
 This week's expenses: **\$0.00**

We used \$3,000 from the Building Repair Fund and \$7,247.15 from our Savings account to pay off our outstanding loan at the bank for our stained glass window repairs.

**Balance in Savings is now:**  
**\$11,929.92**

**ADA Balance Due: \$83.50**

**Repair Fund Balance:**  
**\$780.12**

# The Readings for this week...

<u>Monday 18th</u>	<u>Tuesday 19th</u>	<u>Wednesday 20th</u>	<u>Thursday 21st</u>	<u>Friday 22nd</u>	<u>Saturday 23rd</u>	<u>Sunday 24th</u>
Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	4th Sunday of Advent
			<i>Optional Memorial of St. Peter Canisius, Priest &amp; Doctor of the Church</i>		<i>Optional Memorial of St. John of Kanty, Priest</i>	
Jeremiah 23:5-8	Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a	Isaiah 7:10-14	Zephaniah 3:14-18a	1 Samuel 1:24-28	Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24	2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Psalms 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19	Psalms 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17	Psalms 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6	Psalms 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21	1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd	Psalms 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10, 14	Psalms 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29
Matthew 1:18-25	Luke 1:5-25	Luke 1:26-38	Luke 1:39-45	Luke 1:46-56	Luke 1:57-66	Romans 16:25-27
						Luke 1:26-38

## Resource Websites

### Catholic Devotional and Bible Studies

Catholic Scripture Study

[www.catholicscripturestudyinc.org](http://www.catholicscripturestudyinc.org)

Magnificat [www.magnificat.net](http://www.magnificat.net)

U.S. Conference of Catholic

Bishops [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

The Word Among Us [www.wau.org](http://www.wau.org)

### Reliable Catholic News Sources

Catholic Culture

[www.catholicculture.org](http://www.catholicculture.org)

Catholic News Agency

[www.catholicnewsagency.com](http://www.catholicnewsagency.com)

EWTN News [www.ewtnnews.com](http://www.ewtnnews.com)

Ignatius Insight

[www.ignatiusinsight.com](http://www.ignatiusinsight.com)

National Catholic Register

[www.ncregister.com](http://www.ncregister.com)

Our Sunday Visitor [www.osv.com](http://www.osv.com)

Zenit [www.zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)

### Information on the Vatican, Church Statements, Teachings, & Documents

Catholic Answers [www.catholic.com](http://www.catholic.com)

The Holy See Inside the Vatican

[www.insidethevatican.com](http://www.insidethevatican.com)

Pope2You [www.pope2you.net](http://www.pope2you.net)

US Conference of Catholic Bishops

[www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

Vatican News [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

## Save the date...

- The next **Faith Formation** class is scheduled for December 17th.
- **Christmas Eve Mass** will be at 4:30pm on Sunday December 24th. The Faith Formation students will offer three musical selections prior to Mass.
- **Stuart Christmas Eve Mass** will be at 7:00pm on Sunday December 24th. Special seasonal music will be offered beginning at 6:30pm.
- **Stuart Christmas Morning Mass** will be at 9am Monday December 25th.
- There will be a Mass at Stuart at 9am on Monday, January 1, 2018, for the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. No other Mass times are scheduled. It is a Holy Day, but it is not a Day of Obligation.
- Father will be on retreat in Jan.

**ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE BULLETIN MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE OFFICE BY 5PM WEDNESDAY.**

Call 515-523-1943 or email:  
[stjohnallsaints@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnallsaints@gmail.com)  
 to submit your items.

*Bulletins, prayer requests, and other announcements are sent via email through **Constant Contact**. If you are not receiving these emails, please be sure the Church Office has your address.*

Website: [adairstjohn.org](http://adairstjohn.org)

**Liturgical Ministers Schedule:**  
 Sunday December 24, 2017

**Cross Bearer:** John Fagan

**Greeters:** Mr. & Mrs. Doug Richter

**Lector:** Scott Suhr

**Host:** Elizabeth Moreland

**Cup:** Sr. Andre & Scott Suhr

**Servers:** Cash & Madison Suhr

**Liturgical Ministers Schedule:**  
**Christmas Eve 2017**

**Cross Bearer:** Belle Fagan

**Greeters:** Mr. & Mrs. John Vogl

**Lector:** Brian Richter

**Host:** Scott Suhr

**Cup:** Adella Vogl & Sr. Chinweze

**Servers:** Carley Fagan & Cole Plowman

**Traveling Chalice:** John & Kathy Fagan

### Contact Us

**Rev. Raymond J. Higgins, Pastor**

Church Office: 515-523-1943

To request a Baptism or other Sacrament, to join the Church, or if you have any other questions, please contact the Church Office.

**Parish Administrative Assistant & Bulletin Editor:**

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

**Parish Bookkeeper & Mass Intentions:** Rita Rilea [allsaintsoffice@gmail.com](mailto:allsaintsoffice@gmail.com)

**Director of Religious Education:** Annie Brincks [annie68164@hotmail.com](mailto:annie68164@hotmail.com)

**Music:** Deb Hollinrake **Liturgical Minister Schedule:** Les Elgin 742-3854

**Prayer Request Phone Line:** Adella Vogl 641-742-5277

**St. John's Men's Club:** Francis Hollinrake 742-5016

**CWO & Parish Hall Rental/Information:** Betty Ludwig 742-3812



### Special Mass Time

## Christmas Eve 4:30pm Mass

Faith Formation students will be singing three songs prior to Mass, so be sure to get here early Sunday December 24th.

# Calendar of Activities

*Reg. Church Office Hours:  
 9am-3pm T-W-Th*

*To view the entire calendar for both parishes, please go to [stuartallsaints.org](http://stuartallsaints.org) or [adairstjohn.org](http://adairstjohn.org)*

Sunday 12-17	Monday 12-18	Tuesday 12-19	Wednesday 12-20	Thursday 12-21	Friday 12-22	Saturday 12-23
7:30-7:55am Rosary & Confessions <b>8am Mass</b> for Betty Dill  <b>10am Mass</b> (Stuart)  <b>BD:</b> Heather Schneider		<b>6:30pm Mass</b> (Stuart) for Maynard Witkowski  <b>BD:</b> Toby Moreland	<b>8:30am Mass</b> for Mable E Richter  <b>BD:</b> Bertha Fagan  <b>ANN:</b> Dave & Abby Richter 1975	<b>Thursday Evening Masses are cancelled until further notice</b>		(Stuart) <b>3:30pm Confessions</b> <b>Mass 4:30pm</b> for Betty Beaman
Sunday 12-24	Monday 12-25	Tuesday 12-26	Wednesday 12-27	Thursday 12-28	Friday 12-29	Saturday 12-30
7:30-7:55am Rosary & Confessions <b>8am Mass</b> for the Lvg & Dec'd Mbrs of the Parish <b>10am Mass</b> (Stuart) <b>Faith Formation Music Prior to Mass</b> <b>4:30pm Christmas Eve Mass</b> for Robert Fagan <b>BD:</b> Gina Gettler	<b>9am Mass</b> at Stuart	<b>6:30pm Mass</b> (Stuart) for Donato Cianciaruso	<b>8:30am Mass</b> for Mable E Richter	<b>Thursday Evening Masses are cancelled until further notice</b>	<b>BD:</b> Sr. Mary Nesta	(Stuart) <b>3:30pm Confessions</b> <b>Mass 4:30pm</b> for Albert & Lucille Greubel  <b>BD:</b> Cade Suhr