

SAINT JOHN CATHOLIC CHURCH

MARCH 11, 2018

501 Adair Street, Adair, IA 50002

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Rev. Raymond J. Higgins, Parish Priest

DEAR PARISHIONERS

Each year we are given the opportunity to contribute to the Annual Diocesan Appeal. This appeal is made every year to meet the needs of the broader Church in Southwest Iowa, also known as the Diocese of Des Moines. Bishop Pates stated that "the 2018 Annual Diocesan Appeal enables each of us in the responsibility of being a good steward."

God challenges us with many things especially being good stewards of all of His resources. Why? First, we are His children and God wants to encourage us to be generous as He is. Secondly - and this goes with the first reason - God wants us to share what we have with others and to encourage good works and opportunities for learning and growing, as well as to take care of the needs of others and those essential things that come with that work we call stewardship.

As I've met with many people over the years, the definition of stewardship seems to change with each person. In fact, I think my understanding of stewardship over the years has also changed. For some reason, we've molded it and modified the definition of stewardship, much like other commands God has given us, to fit with what works

most comfortably for us. I remember hearing and giving homilies or sermons on "Time, Talent, and Treasure." For the most part, as I was growing up, I gave to the Church the first two - time and talent - because I didn't have treasure. I spent a lot of time and skill with other organizations I belonged to because mom and dad instilled that within us, especially when we knew we didn't have the treasure. It was and is important "to do my part". Maybe you have a similar experience. I am older now and still try to work hard, but I can tend to forget the treasure side of things. Yet, when it comes time to pay the bills, the treasure side of stewardship becomes very apparent. A good question to ask oneself is, "How much am I responsible for in the community I belong to?" The answer to that question ought to be: "I ought to contribute to the same degree I think others ought to contribute." Everyone is responsible to do something and, if we think we are somehow excused, then why shouldn't others do or feel the same way. Yes, we will always say "I don't have enough." But I have met many people who really have very little and, in proportion to what they have, it is amazing how big

they give. These same folks seem to agree as to why they give - because they feel blessed and it is a good feeling to be a part of the community, not just with time and talent, but also financially.

This weekend, I am asking everyone in the parish to contribute to the Annual Appeal as well as to renew your commitment to tithing. Not only do we have needs locally in our parish, but we do we have needs at the Diocesan level. The Diocese takes care of us on many levels and those were mentioned in the Catholic Mirror and on the Diocese website.

I pose this challenge to you: that each of us can and ought to contribute our part to the needs of our local Church and the Diocesan Church. Please encourage your children to pledge and donate throughout the year. Even if it is a small amount, it is huge not only for them, but a great hope for the future of the Church since they are in the habit of giving and will do more so as they grow older. We are a blessed people and it is so important to share that blessing, so please join me to meet our Annual Appeal Goal for 2018, and thank you so much for your contribution.

-Fr. Ray

CONTACT US:

- ◆ Parish Office
515-523-1943
- ◆ Brenda Wedemeyer,
Communications
stjohnallsaints@gmail.com
- ◆ Rita Rilea, Bookkeeping
allsaintsoffice@gmail.com
- ◆ St. John's Men's Group
Francis Hollinrake
742-5016
- ◆ CWO Betty Ludwig
bludwig50002@yahoo.com
Parish Hall
(641)742-5045

MASS TIMES
8AM SUNDAY
8:30AM WEDNESDAY
6:30PM THURSDAY

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On Prayer...

-Submitted by David Witkowski

First, let me ask you what these things have in common: Love, Pain, Sorrow, Money, Loneliness, Faith? **Answer to follow.....**

May we all remember prayer is one of the most important things a Christian can do. It is a time they are communicating with God and it should be taken very seriously. While there is deep theological meaning in prayer, it doesn't have to be something that is complicated and difficult. It's something anyone can do anywhere at any time.

It is impossible to know someone if we don't spend time with them. Prayer is an opportunity to spend time with God.

To really understand the heart of God, we need to pray.

In John 15:15, Jesus says He no longer calls us his servants, but calls us His friends. Talking with God develops a deeper relationship with Him. The deeper the relationship becomes, the more time we want to spend with Him.

In 1 Corinthians 3:9, God calls us His fellow workers. How can we be His fellow workers if we refuse to talk to Him?

..... **Answer:** These are all things that we can pray for.

- ◆ Lord may I be blessed with love rather than hate in my life.
- ◆ Lord relieve me of the pain I suffer, but if this can't be done

may I offer my suffering for the souls in purgatory.

- ◆ May God ease my sorrow following the loss of my dear wife.
- ◆ Father I'm short the money this month for my mortgage. Help me and my family with a much needed financial surprise.
- ◆ Jesus I suffer loneliness. My children never visit me and I sit alone in this dark home every day wishing for companionship. Send my friends and relatives to relieve my loneliness.
- ◆ Lord strengthen my faith and make me strong enough to follow You in strength of commitment like the Apostles.

PRAYER & THANKSGIVING

- ◆ Thank you to everyone who is supporting our Friday Fish Fries and our Turkey Dinner today!
- ◆ To request prayer, please call the Church office at 515-523-1943, Adella Vogl at 641-742-5277, or email: stjohnallsaints@gmail.com

EVELYN I. LUDWIG

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.

Liturgical Ministers Sunday March 18

Cross Bearer: Larry Drees

Greeters: Mr. & Mrs. Tom Fagan

Lector: Barb Bachman

Host: Les Elgin

Cup: Matt Fagan & Sr. Andre

Servers: Trevin Suhr & Addy Richter

Traveling Chalice: Matt & Monica Fagan

PARISH BUSINESS & FINANCE REPORT

March 4th Collection \$455.00 Kids: \$15.00

Building Fund Balance as of 2/14: \$52.34 Building Fund: \$0.00

This Week's Income: \$470.00 This Week's Expenses: **\$419.68**

2018 Annual Diocesan Goal \$7,029

Trustees: Sheryl Drees, Les Elgin

Council Members: John Fagan, Monica Fagan, Larry Drees, Kenneth Ludwig, Marcia Gettler

Financial Secretary: Rita Rilea

CALENDAR

<u>Sunday 3-11</u>	<u>Monday 3-12</u>	<u>Tuesday 3-13</u>	<u>Wednesday 3-14</u>	<u>Thursday 3-15</u>	<u>Friday 3-16</u>	<u>Saturday 3-17</u>
<p>7:30am Confession/ Adoration/ Rosary</p> <p>8am Mass for Betty Dill</p> <p>Turkey Dinner</p>		<p>6pm Mass for <i>All Souls in Purgatory (Stuart)</i></p> <p><i>6:30pm Adult RE Class (Stuart)</i></p> <p>BD: Paxton Schneider</p>	<p>8:30am Mass for John W. Brincks</p> <p>7pm Ecumenical Lenten Service At Adair United Methodist Church</p>	<p>6:30pm Mass in honor of Patricia Seilhan w/Stations of the Cross</p>	<p>6pm Mass for Maynard Witkowski w/Stations of the Cross (Stuart)</p>	<p>3:30pm Confessions <i>(Stuart)</i></p> <p>4:30pm Mass for Clair & Pat Dickey <i>(Stuart)</i></p>

DAILY READINGS

<p>2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23; Ephesians 2:4-10; John 3:14-21</p> <p><i>God's mercy and love, made clear in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, overcame our sins and transgressions.</i></p> <p>God does not love us conditionally, or despite our sins, but rather because he created us, and he is love. His mercy and compassion are that of a loving Father.</p>	<p>Isaiah 65:17-21; John 4:43-54</p> <p><i>Trust in the Lord's promises.</i></p> <p>It's easy to trust the Lord when life goes as planned. But there will be times that challenge our faith—when we can cling only to hope. It took great trust for the royal official to walk away from Jesus with only the promise of his son's healing. Yet, his trust and belief were rewarded.</p>	<p>Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; John 5:1-6</p> <p><i>God's mercy is like a flowing river or a deep pool.</i></p> <p>God's desire that we be healed and saved pours forth like a river in a flood. Let us immerse ourselves in the knowledge that despite our past transgressions and sins, we are loved and forgiven by a gracious God.</p>	<p>Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30</p> <p><i>God will never forsake His people.</i></p> <p>As hard as it is to imagine a mother ever forsaking her child, it is impossible for God to do so. We can take comfort in the knowledge that no matter what we do, as long as we repent and seek forgiveness, God always forgives and reconciles us to himself.</p>	<p>Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47</p> <p><i>Remember us, O Lord, as you favor your people.</i></p> <p>The psalm response for today is appropriate to the message we hear in the readings. God is merciful, even when we mess up. In our repentance and our belief in God and His promises, God finds in us fertile ground for increased faith and understanding. God favors us, should we not favor God?</p>	<p>Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30</p> <p><i>God humbled Himself in Christ and took on our human likeness in order to redeem us.</i></p> <p>As we draw closer to Holy Week, the tenor of the Lenten season begins to shift to the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. Our Old Testament readings foreshadow the trials of Jesus, and our Gospels reveal the turmoil between belief and unbelief. It is an opportunity for us to reflect on what God has done for us in the gift of His Son, and to recommit ourselves to a life of discipleship.</p>	<p>Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7:40-53</p> <p><i>Never before has anyone spoken like this man.</i></p> <p>People were undecided about Jesus and his teachings for many reasons. Some of those reasons were cultural (a prophet could not arise from Galilee), and others were more personal: fear, pride or stubbornness, perhaps. Today, we face the same challenges to hear the Lord's voice above all the cultural and personal noise that surrounds us. Let us rise to the challenge.</p>
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DSM DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women presents **“Wrap Yourself in the Joy of the Gospel”** Saturday, March 24, 2018 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM at St. Patrick's Hall, 102 Market Street (Highway 71) Audubon, IA.

Grab a friend and register today!

Event includes shopping, continental breakfast, and lunch.

Cost: \$25 before March 17 - \$30 at the door.

NOTE: Donations accepted - baby blankets, diapers, clothing for Birth-

right and Gabriel's Corner, twin sheets, large shampoo & conditioner, laundry & dish soap.

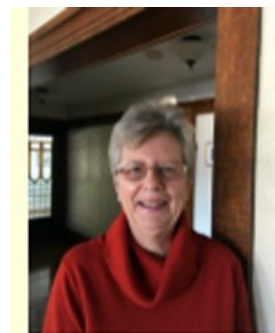
For more information, contact CAROLYN SMITH - 712-527-4206 CSmith55386@mchsi.com



Karen Dwyer is an inspirational speaker, college professor, author of several books, and founding co-

ordinator of Magnificat-Omaha.

Marie Thompson has been involved in spiritual formation and retreat ministry for 35 years. She currently teaches in the Masters Program in Christian Spirituality at Creighton University.



CATHOLIC ANSWERS BOOK SERIES

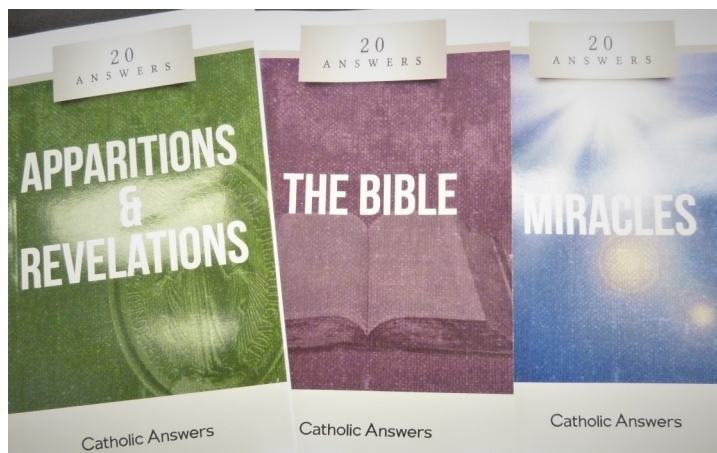
There is a series of faith resource books now available for you to refer to should you need to find an answer about the Catholic faith.

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| 9. Divorce & Remarriage | 18. Death & Judgment |
| 10. The Papacy | 19. Jehovah's Witnesses |
| 11. Scripture & Tradition | 20. Salvation |
| 12. The Reformation | 21. The Real Jesus |
| 13. Angels & Demons | 22. The Eucharist |
| 14. Atheism | 23. End of Life Issues |
| 15. Abortion | 24. The Church |
| 16. Islam | 25. Mary |
| 17. Witchcraft & the Occult | 26. Faith & Science |



SAVE THE DATE...

- ◆ **Adair-Casey Community Blood Drive**
Monday March 19th from 2-6pm at the Adair Community Centre 103 S. 5th St. Contact Janet Askew at 641-740-0200 to schedule an appointment.
- ◆ **Friday Fish Fry March 23**
- ◆ We would like to do a **bake sale** at the last fish fry on March 23rd. If anyone would like to donate items, they can be dropped off at the hall or they can contact Monica Fagan ([641-742-3067](tel:641-742-3067)) for pick up.