

SAINT JOHN CATHOLIC CHURCH

MARCH 18, 2018

501 Adair Street, Adair, IA 50002

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Rev. Raymond J. Higgins, Parish Priest

DEAR PARISHIONERS

When I served at St. Anthony Catholic Church, which is located on the Southside of Des Moines, there was and is a very special Feast Day in March: Feast of St. Joseph. Each year the St. Joseph Altar would be specially decorated and the Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa would hold the annual St. Joseph Altar celebration blessing and meal.

"The St. Joseph Altar, which is the focal point of the celebration, is constructed in three levels to represent the Catholic belief in the Trinity. Traditionally the altar is decorated with religiously symbolic breads, cakes, cookies, flowers, prayer candles, family pictures, linens and lace. The altar is blessed and dedicated to St. Joseph, the protector of the Holy Family and patron saint of all families and workers. Each person who visits the altar is given a blessed bread, holy card, medal, and fava bean, called the "lucky" bean." (*Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa website*)

The history as told by the Cultural Center had its origin in Sicily during a time of famine. People were starving and turned to their faith during this troubled time. They prayed to St. Joseph, patron of Sicily, to intercede for them. They promised him that, should

the rains come and the crops begin to flourish, they would prepare a banquet in his honor and invite the widows, the poor and the orphans to share in their prosperity. The rains did come and the crops returned to the fields. And the people did indeed prepare a great feast. (*Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa website*)

The giving away of the Fava Bean is significant because the people supplemented their meals by preparing fava beans, which grow easily in poor soil. They are blessed and distributed at the Lenten meal served on the eve of the feast of St. Joseph. It is said: "keep one in your cupboard and you will never go hungry; carry one in your purse or pocket and you will never go broke." (*Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa website*)

St. Joseph is often overlooked as an important figure in the Church. Even the early Church Fathers did not write much about him. Yet, we find a statue of Joseph along with Mary (typically on either side of the altar). Next to Mary the Most Pure he was the next in line to kiss the baby Jesus after he was born. He was Jesus' foster-father and husband of Mary - Jesus' mother. Joseph was Jesus'

and Mary's protector and provider, and by the labor of his hands he ministered to their wants and comforts, and he was the Head of the Holy Family. One can also imagine Jesus being taught the carpentry trade by his father. Joseph loved his family and when his earthly time was up, died in the arms of Jesus and Mary. What happier death could one have than to die in the arms of the Savior and Mary. Thus, he is the patron of a happy death. Joseph is also the patron of the Universal Church promulgated by Pope Pius IX.

I pray you take a moment and ask St. Joseph to help you and your family. Whether you are dealing with family relationship issues or financial - St. Joseph has been called upon to intercede for the necessary help that a family may need.

On a different note, I want to extend my gratitude to all of you who have made a pledge to the Annual Diocesan Appeal and I want to encourage everyone to get those pledges in as soon as possible. We have been blessed in our parishes with much grace and help from God and from each of you. Thank you for your generosity and please pray we may meet our goal. God bless you.

CONTACT US:

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

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On Prayer...

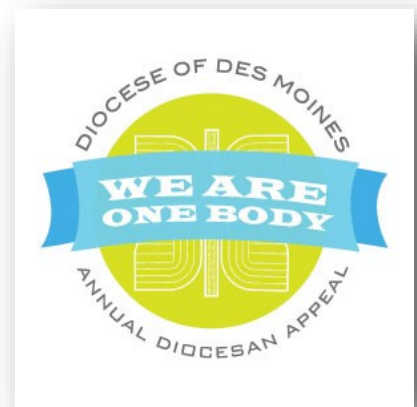
-Submitted by David Witkowski

For many of us, prayer is a daily routine. For others, it is less formal and less frequent, but still a time to make a connection with God and a time to ask for what we want, pray for what we need or connect with a power far greater than any we know in our daily routine. No matter the reason, cause or motivation, prayer is—simply put: "us reaching outside ourselves and looking for help with something that we don't have power over".

Quite simply, for followers of Jesus Christ, prayer is the best way to communicate with God. Prayer is the vehicle for daily dialog with the One who created us. The importance of daily communication through prayer cannot be overestimated. It is so important that it is mentioned over 250 times in Scripture. So why is daily prayer so important? First, daily prayer gives us an opportunity to share all aspects of our lives with God. Second, daily prayer gives us the chance to express our

gratitude for the things He provides. Third, daily prayer provides the platform for confessing our sin and asking for help in overcoming that sin. Fourth, daily prayer is an act of worship and obedience. And finally, daily prayer is a way to acknowledge who is really in control of our lives.

The reasons don't matter as much as does our willingness to turn ourselves over completely to our creator and the one who will also be the final judge one day of our efforts, actions and our willingness to live in His image. Could there be any communication that is more important than this one? Is there anyone or anything that has more power to change our lives for the good? Especially in this season of sacrifice, let us also acknowledge the source of all things, that means all solutions. Make God yours today. Make prayer your daily habit and join in the continuous chain of prayer to our Lord.



**The Annual Diocesan Appeal
Goal for St. John is \$7,029**

**Thank you for your support of
the Church in
Southwest Iowa!**

**New Balance as of March 9th:
\$6,004**

PRAYER & THANKSGIVING

- ◆ Please pray for Sheryl & Larry Drees & Family on the loss of her mother, Jeanette.
- ◆ To request prayer, please call the Church office at 515-523-1943, Adella Vogl at 641-742-5277, or email: stjohnallsaints@gmail.com

Jeanette L. Wittrock

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

Liturgical Ministers Sunday March 25

Cross Bearer: Dave Richter

Greeters: Mr. & Mrs. Paul Gettler

Lector: Theresa Elgin

Host: Dave Richter

Cup: Matt Fagan & Sr. Nesta

Servers: Luke Brincks & Belle Fagan

Traveling Chalice:

Cody & Elizabeth Moreland Family

PARISH BUSINESS & FINANCE REPORT

March 11th Collection \$357.00 Kids: \$42.25

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

This Week's Income: \$399.25 This Week's Expenses: **\$506.88**

**There will be a meeting of the Finance Council
at 7pm Monday March 19th.**

Trustees: Sheryl Drees, Les Elgin

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

Financial Secretary: Rita Rilea

CALENDAR

<u>Sunday 3-18</u>	<u>Monday 3-19</u>	<u>Tuesday 3-20</u>	<u>Wednesday 3-21</u>	<u>Thursday 3-22</u>	<u>Friday 3-23</u>	<u>Saturday 3-24</u>
<p>7:30am Confession/ Adoration/ Rosary</p> <p>8am Mass for Eldon Faga</p>	<p>ANN: Kahl & Heather Schneider 2011</p>	<p>6pm Mass for <i>Clair & Pat Dickey</i> (Stuart)</p> <p><i>6:30pm Adult RE</i> <i>Class</i> (Stuart)</p> <p>BDS: Kaylie Plowman & Belle Fagan</p>	<p>8:30am Mass for Joseph Vogl</p> <p>7pm Ecumenical Lenten Service At 1st Presbyterian Church</p>	<p>6:30pm Mass for Wilma Fagan w/ Stations of the Cross</p> <p>BDS: Wilma Fagan, John Fagan</p>	<p>6pm Mass for Bernadine Burke w/Stations of the Cross (Stuart)</p> <p>5-7pm Fish Fry</p> <p>BD: Kathy Fagan</p>	<p>3:30pm Confessions (Stuart)</p> <p>4:30pm Mass for Clair & Pat Dickey (Stuart)</p>

DAILY READINGS

<p>Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 5:7-9; John 12:20-33</p> <p><i>Everyone, great and small, will have God's law written on their hearts, and their sins forgiven.</i></p> <p>The Lord reaches out once again to his people. God, ever faithful, extends his hand to those who break the covenant. No longer depending on prophets to communicate, under the new covenant each individual will know God's law, his love, his mercy. God's personal invitation calls for a personal response. Will we receive it?</p>	<p>2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a; or Luke 2:41-51a</p> <p><i>Joseph, a righteous man, models for us obedience and trust in the Lord.</i></p> <p>The Hebrew nation waited and trusted in the Father's promise of an heir to carry forward his kingdom. Today we honor Joseph, who willingly answered the call to take his place in God's plan. We are called as well. As brothers and sisters to Jesus, we are commanded to spread his love to others with our faith and actions.</p>	<p>Numbers 21:4-9; John 8:21-30</p> <p><i>Be thankful for the spiritual gifts the Lord provides, and for the teachings Jesus gives us to follow.</i></p> <p>It can be easy to dismiss all the good things in our lives when difficult events or circumstances weigh us down. Our readings today show us that looking to God, and believing in his promises, are what sustain us through those trying times. Let us be thankful for all the Lord has given us, including himself.</p>	<p>Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; John 8:31-42</p> <p><i>Let us strive to always remain faithful and loyal to the Lord.</i></p> <p>Today, as we move closer to Holy Week, our readings become a bit more ominous. Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego and Jesus all faced serious consequences if they remained faithful to God. We also might face serious consequences—including marginalization and conflict—if we remain true to our calling as Christians.</p>	<p>Genesis 17:3-9; John 8:51-59</p> <p><i>The Lord remembers his covenant forever.</i></p> <p>God told Abraham he would be the father of many nations even though he and Sarah had no children. God was faithful to Abraham, and to all of us as his covenantal children. For our sake, he sent his Son into the world, to suffer and die for us. Many did not know him, and still do not now him. Do we trust in God's promises? Or do we throw stones like the crowd around Jesus?</p>	<p>Jeremiah 20:10-13; John 10:31-42</p> <p><i>May our hope in God be our constant support.</i></p> <p>Those who surrounded Jesus in the Gospel of John always seemed to demand some kind of proof, or sign of his authority. Jesus points to the signs he performed in the Father's name as proof of his identity as the Son of God, but many still did not believe. Those who did believe received the gift of hope as they faced their daily trials.</p>	<p>Ezekiel 37:21-28; John 11:45-56</p> <p><i>God keeps his promises.</i></p> <p>Even when things seem hopeless, the Lord will provide all we need, according to his divine plan. He has made a covenant of peace with us that he will not break; his sanctuary is among us forever. Because we know our God is steadfast and constant, let us strive to be faithful to his Word.</p>
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AROUND ST. JOHN

Thank you to everyone who had a hand in the set-up, preparation, serving, and clean-up for the **Annual Spring Turkey Dinner** last weekend!

We'd also like to thank The Adair News for providing the advertising for the dinner at no charge.

Income from the dinner was \$1,980. After expenses for the turkey and trimmings of \$506.88, there was a net profit of \$1,473.12.

Thank you also to Betty Ludwig and the CWO ladies who faithfully put this dinner together each year as well as keeping the

church clean for us. These are jobs that sometime go on without any acknowledgment of those who spend time and talent accomplishing tasks that many of us take for granted.

The final Friday night **Fish Fry** will be this week from 5-7pm. We'd like to thank the St. John's Men's Group for providing us and the surrounding community with the best fish and shrimp ever!

The Drees family helps to support this event each year by providing the fryers and some extra hands, so we'd like to recognize that as well, especially since they have experienced the passing of two fami-

ly members this winter while still keeping us fed these three Fridays during Lent.

It takes many people to keep a parish moving forward. There are things that are visible to everyone and then there are many things that get done that we never become aware of. Please be sure to look around you this week at Mass and thank God for the building, the grounds, the person sitting next to you, the musicians, and all the others who step up to help with or without recognition.

And don't forget to thank our priest and uphold him in prayer, too!

CATHOLIC ANSWERS BOOK SERIES

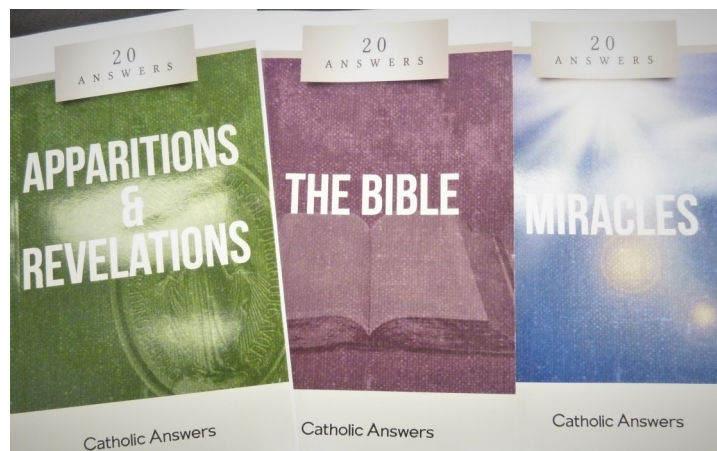
There is a series of faith resource books now available for you to refer to should you need to find an answer about the Catholic faith.

A total of 26 books, published by Catholic Answers, offers answers to more than 500 different topics. *Suggested donation of \$2/book.*

These are the titles we have available:

1. The Bible
2. Apparitions & Revelations
3. Miracles
4. God
5. The Sacraments
6. Homosexuality
7. Bible Prophecy
8. Mormonism

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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**
- ◆ **Faith Formation** Sunday March 18th
- ◆ **Faith Formation** final days: April 8th & 22nd and May 6th.
- ◆ **May 2nd—May Crowning & Procession** at All Saints 6:30pm