

# SAINT JOHN CATHOLIC CHURCH

MAY 6, 2018

501 Adair Street, Adair, IA 50002

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Rev. Raymond J. Higgins, Parish Priest

## DEAR PARISHIONERS

May has just begun and it will be a couple of months before Father Ray leaves his duties here. However, as we all can appreciate, that time will go by quickly.

In preparation of his departure and the arrival of Fr. Tony (Fr. Antony Mathew), we would like to be able to make the transition as comfortable as possible for everyone.

There are always adjustments when a new person is placed in the lead position of an organization. In order to be of assistance to Fr. Tony, we would like to prepare lists of names, duties, preferences that pertain to both All Saints and Saint John.

### *Bishop Issues Statement On Court Ruling*

Bishop Richard Pates issued the following statement following a recent court ruling. "I am very pleased to inform you that the Court of Appeals of Iowa has reversed the guilty decision of the District Court for Pottawattamie County in the case of Father

For example, the names of the men's and women's groups, who leads these groups, their contact information, and a brief description of their mission or project agenda in a normal year.

This type of information will also be included in the new parish directories.

We will also be giving Fr. Tony a list of those who are shut-ins and those who would like home visits.

Each and every parish in the world has its own set of traditions (small "t"), those that are over and above the Traditions (capital "T") of the Church. For example, how the church is deco-

Paul Monahan. "Along with Father Monahan we are relieved that this decision has been reached and anticipate that Father will be fully reinstated to priestly ministry once the appeal process has been completed. "We commend Father and his legal

rated for special occasions, special dinners, arrangements for weddings or funerals, where the Christmas tree is placed, and so forth.

Please gather this type of information and submit it to the church office in writing so that a master list may be put together. Thank you!

In the mean time, plans are underway for celebrating Father Ray's 25th anniversary of his ordination along with a farewell party.

St. John's has indicated June 10th following morning Mass as their celebration date and All Saints has chosen June 24th. Father's last day with us is July 11th.

team for pursuing the normal judicial recourse available to him with patience and persistence in achieving this welcome outcome. Our prayer and support continue to be with Father at this time."

## CONTACT US:

- ◆ Parish Office  
515-523-1943
- ◆ Brenda Wedemeyer,  
Communications  
stjohnallsaints@gmail.com
- ◆ Rita Rilea, Financial Sec.  
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**  
**CONFESSION:**  
**7:30AM SUNDAY**

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# 21 Things We Do When We Make the Sign of the Cross

-Submitted by David Witkowski

## (Part 3 of 4)

The Sign of the Cross is a simple gesture yet a profound expression of faith....

**13. Ask for support in our suffering.** In crossing our shoulders, we ask God “to support us—to shoulder us—in our suffering,” Ghezzi writes.

**14. Reaffirm our baptism.** In using the same words with which we were baptized, the Sign of the Cross is a “summing up and re-acceptance of our baptism,” according to then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger.

**15. Reverse the curse.** The Sign of the Cross recalls the forgiveness of sins and the reversal of the Fall by passing “from the left side of the curse to the right of blessing,” according to de Sales. The movement from left to right also signifies our future passage from present misery to future glory just as Christ “crossed over from death to life and from Hades to Paradise,” Pope Innocent II wrote.

**16. Remake ourselves in Christ’s image.** In Colossians 3, St. Paul uses the image of clothing to describe how our sinful natures are transformed in Christ. We are to take off the old self and put on the self “which is being renewed ... in the image of its creator,” Paul tells us. The Church Fathers saw a connection between this verse and the stripping of Christ on the cross, “teaching that stripping off our old nature in baptism and putting on a new one was a participation in Christ’s stripping at his crucifixion,” Ghezzi writes. He concludes that we can view the Sign of the Cross as “our way of participating in Christ’s stripping at the Crucifixion and his being clothed in glory at his resurrection.” Thus, in making the Sign of the Cross, we are radically identifying ourselves with the entirety of the crucifixion event—not just those parts of it we can accept or that are palatable to our sensibilities.

**17. Mark ourselves for Christ.** In ancient Greek, the word for sign was sphragis, which was also a mark of ownership, according to Ghezzi. “For example, a shepherd marked his sheep as his property with a brand that he called a sphragis,” Ghezzi writes. In making the Sign of the Cross, we mark ourselves as belonging to Christ, our True Shepherd.

*Bert Ghezzi, acquisitions editor at Our Sunday Visitor, is a popular Catholic speaker and the author of twenty-six books, including The Heart of Catholicism, Voices of the Saints, and Mystics and Miracles.*

## Prayer & Thanksgiving

A new Candle Lighter has been given to the Parish in memory of Mary Ann Gettler from the family.

To request prayer, please call the Church office at 515-523-1943, Adella Vogl at 641-742-5277, or email: stjohndallsaints@gmail.com



### Liturgical Ministers Sunday May 13

**Cross Bearer:** Francis Hollinrake

**Greeters:**

Mr. & Mrs. Cody Moreland & Family

**Lector:** Scott Suhr

**Host:** Adella Vogl

**Cup:** Les Elgin & Dave Richter

**Servers:** Cole Plowman & Belle Fagan

**Traveling Chalice:**

Matt & Monica Fagan

### PARISH BUSINESS & FINANCE REPORT

**April 29th Collection** \$510.00    **Kids:** \$3.00

**Building Fund Balance as of 4/25:** \$1,275.05

**Building Fund:** \$0.00

**This Week’s Income:** \$513.00

**This Week’s Expenses:** **\$0.00**

**ADA 2018 Goal: \$7,029 Balance Due As Of 4/27: \$1,304.24**

**Trustees:** Sheryl Drees, Les Elgin

**Council Members:** John Fagan, Monica Fagan, Larry Drees,

Kenneth Ludwig, Marcia Gettler

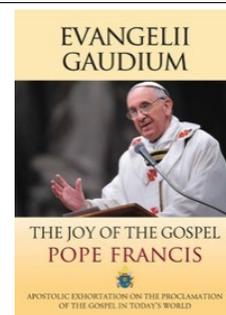
**Financial Secretary:** Rita Rilea

## CALENDAR

<u>Sunday 5-6</u>	<u>Monday 5-7</u>	<u>Tuesday 5-8</u>	<u>Wednesday 5-9</u>	<u>Thursday 5-10</u>	<u>Friday 5-11</u>	<u>Saturday 5-12</u>
<b>7:30am</b> Confession/ Adoration/Rosary <b>8am Mass</b> for Eldon Faga  <b>BD:</b> Les Elgin		<b>6pm Mass for</b> <i>Ashton Maier</i> <i>(Stuart)</i>	<b>8:30am Mass for</b> Mable E. Richter	<b>9am Care Center</b> <b>Mass for Ruby</b> <i>Waltz (Stuart)</i>	<b>8:30am Mass for</b> <i>All Souls in</i> <i>Purgatory (Stuart)</i>	<b>3:30pm</b> <b>Confessions at</b> <b>Stuart</b> <b>4:30pm Mass at</b> <b>Stuart for</b> <i>Ruby Waltz</i>  <b>ANN:</b> Gail & Annie Brincks 2004

## THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL READ & SHARE SPACE

To help facilitate our reading of *“The Joy of the Gospel”* and to encourage us to share with one another, this space is meant for us to use as a study aid. Each paragraph throughout the book is numbered consecutively, to make it easier to reference any spot in the book that we may want to discuss further or ask questions about. Feel free to offer any thoughts or questions that you may want published in the bulletin—others may have the same thoughts or questions.



### Chapter Five: Spirit-filled Evangelizers

There are several subheadings under each of the sections.

#### Section I. Reasons For a Renewed Missionary Impulse \_\_\_\_\_

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#### Section II. Mary, Mother of Evangelization \_\_\_\_\_

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# IN THIS WEEK'S READINGS

## Sunday Focus:

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; 1 John 4:7-10; John 15:9-17

*Following the commands of the Lord brings life and joy.*

The Lord's commands are not restricting or limiting, but rather are the way to our fulfillment in this life and the next. We can love and be loved by our Creator by following His commandments.

## Monday Focus:

Acts 16:11-15; John 15:26-16:4a

*The Spirit will testify on behalf of Jesus and will strengthen His disciples as they testify.*

Today, we consider how God's Spirit can direct our lives, just as it strengthened and led the earliest disciples. Our path may be filled with trials and uncertainty, but the Spirit can act on our behalf and direct our actions.

## Tuesday Focus:

Acts 16:22-34; John 16:5-11

*The Holy Spirit remains to help us until Jesus returns.*

The Holy Spirit is the Advocate that Jesus sent upon His ascension to heaven. With the guidance of the Spirit we can live the life of discipleship to which we are called. Jesus did not leave us alone when He ascended, and we should find consolation and comfort in that.

## Wednesday Focus:

Acts 17:15, 22-18:1; John 16:12-15

*Let the spirit of truth be our guide.*

Our faith does not rely on the opinion of the crowd or the wisdom of philosophers. We receive the gift of faith through the grace of God. The Holy Spirit moves our hearts to recognize the truth when we hear it proclaimed or when we read it in the Scriptures.

## Thursday Focus:

Acts 18:1-8; John 16:16-20

*Even when life is most difficult, we can trust that God is with us.*

We cannot anticipate what life holds for us. But from the promises that God made

through Jesus, we can trust that His grace and strength will sustain us through even the darkest times and lead us to a joyful reunion with Him in heaven.

## Friday Focus:

Acts 18:9-18; John 16:20-23

*When we call out to the Lord in our need, He will answer us.*

We all like to be assured that when we take an action, it will be the right thing and we won't look foolish doing it. Today's readings ask us to do what Jesus would have us do—even if that takes courage. He will protect us and answer our call for help. That is assurance.

## Saturday Focus:

Acts 18:23-28; John 16:23b-28

*Prayer is an essential component of our lives.*

Jesus tells us in today's Gospel that whatever we ask in His name will be granted by God. Our prayers are inseparable from our lives. Let us turn to God in prayer so that we may know the joy of which Jesus speaks.

## Thoughts from Jodi...

*-Jodi Bassett, President, Altar & Rosary Society, Stuart All Saints*

A recurring theme in many of my articles has involved tragic circumstances. Sudden deaths, mass shootings, and natural disasters have been plentiful in the last year. Add to them the personal struggles of so many people that life can seem overwhelming. Illnesses, financial woes, marital and family difficulties are prevalent, making life drudgery and a source of stress and sadness for many. It is nearly impossible for some to find

any happiness or joy in their lives. Why is it so challenging for some folks to overcome their sadness? For some, the mere extent of their troubles can overtake any pleasure that may come their way. For others, mental illness can interfere with their ability to process life's stresses. And I think some people are just intent on creating drama and taking everyone else along with them! Could it be they have forgotten Jesus' words to

His disciples? "Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy might be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you." You got troubles? I've got troubles. We all have troubles. The one thing that gets me mentally through my troubles is my faith in God Himself. It is my belief in God's plan, and my

hope that I am living in a way that pleases God more than it saddens Him, and such that He will continue to bless me through my troubles. That belief is how I can find joy through the depths of my problems. When life gets to be too much, return to the commandments and find your love.

"This I command you: love one another."