

# SAINT JOHN CATHOLIC CHURCH

MAY 20, 2018

Rev. Raymond J. Higgins, Parish Priest

PENTECOST SUNDAY

## DEAR PARISHIONERS

Fr. Tony Mathew, your new pastor, came to visit this week, and he was able to meet some of our staff and we gave him a tour the facilities. It was a pleasure to have lunch with Fr. Mathew, to hear more about him, and also to share with him some of the history, organizations, and activities of both parishes.

Last week I shared with you the news of a new feast day established to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary. The title of the feast is Mary, Mother of the Church and will be celebrated the Monday after Pentecost Sunday. This year I will be celebrating the Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church at All Saints on Monday May 21st, beginning at 7pm. This is not a Holy Day of Obligation.

Holy cards marking this feast will be given away and light refreshments will be served following the Mass. If you would like to come early to pray the Rosary, our Blessed Mother would

certainly be honored.

Please mark your calendars for the annual Memorial Day Mass at Calvary Cemetery on Monday May 28th at 8:30 am. If the weather is bad or the ground is too wet we will have the Mass at the Church. Adair will have their regular annual ecumenical/community observance at 10am in the Sunny Hill Cemetery.

We celebrate the gifts of the Holy Spirit this Sunday with the sending of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. Pentecost is a feast from the Law of Moses originally known as the feast of Weeks (Deuteronomy 16:10), or the feast of Harvest (Exodus 23:16). Later, among the Greek-speaking Jews, the feast came to be known as Pentecost (Tobit 2:1). The Greek word for Pentecost means 50th and refers to timing of the festival, which took place fifty days after the spring celebration of Passover (Leviticus 23:15

-16). Soon Pentecost became a Christian feast when the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles like a mighty wind seven weeks after Jesus celebrated his final Passover (Acts 2:1-4). [Catholic Bible Dictionary by Scott Hahn]

Finally, I want to thank all of those who have made their pledge to Annual Diocesan Appeal, remember every gift counts and no one should ever feel they cannot contribute because it is smaller than what others are able to give. The hope for our community is that everyone gets to "chip-in" and help us meet our obligation to the Diocese. For those who have not gotten around to it please consider making your pledge today. Have a blessed week.

*We are reminded to be sure to include our name or envelope number when making a cash donation in a generic envelope in order to receive credit for the gift.*



501 ADAIR ST.  
ADAIR, IA 50002

### MASS TIMES

8AM SUNDAY

8:30AM

WEDNESDAY

CONFESSION:

7:30AM SUNDAY

W/ADORATION

& ROSARY

**NEW HOLY DAY:  
MARY, MOTHER OF  
THE CHURCH  
7PM MONDAY  
MAY 21ST (STUART)**

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# Prayer

-Submitted by David Witkowski

## Vocal Prayer

Vocal prayer is giving voice to what is stirring in our hearts and in our souls. Vocal prayer can be as simple and uplifting as “Thank you, God, for this beautiful morning.” It can be as formal as a Mass celebrating a very special occasion. It can be as intense and immediate as the prayer Jesus uttered in the Garden of Gethsemane, “Not my will, but yours be done.”

Most Catholics learn traditional prayers from the time they were young. These normally include the Sign of the Cross, the Hail Mary, the Lord’s Prayer, and a mealtime blessing. They might also include prayers at waking and at bedtime. Over time many people learn other prayers, such as the *Memorare*, a prayer asking Mary, the Mother of God, to pray for us in our time of need.

Catholics often pray in groups. When two or more people gather together to raise their minds and hearts to God in prayer, their prayer is called communal prayer. Examples of communal prayer are the Rosary, devotional prayers including novenas and litanies, classroom prayers, and, most importantly,

the Mass. Standing together at Mass reciting the Creed (“I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth . . .”) is a powerful experience that both expresses and shapes our faith. Though we might say the same prayers over the course of our lives, their meaning grows and changes with our life experiences. Surely, the Lord’s Prayer means something vastly different to a person who has just buried his or her father than it does to a child who still has only vague notions about God. Our vocal prayers are not just “going through the motions,” they are the expression of a living faith.

At Mass the presider invites each one of us to “Lift up your hearts.” When we honestly say “We lift them up to the Lord,” we know we are truly praying, for that is what prayer is—lifting our hearts to God.

## Meditation

To meditate is to reflect on or think about God. When we meditate, we keep our attention and focus on God so that we can recognize His presence in our daily lives and respond to what God is asking of us. When we meditate, a variety of things can help us to

concentrate and to spark our imaginations. We may use Scripture, particularly the Gospels; traditional prayers; writings of the spiritual fathers; religious images; or history—the page on which the “today” of God is written. Meditation, also known as reflective prayer, leads us to conversation with God. Remembering that we are in God’s presence, we can listen to Him speak to us. We enter God’s sacred time and space and know that He is with us at all times and in all places.

## Contemplative Prayer

When we rest quietly in God’s presence, we engage in contemplation. In contemplation we spend time with God in wordless silence, aware that He is with us. To understand how contemplation occurs, we can compare it with thinking on—or contemplating—a beautiful sunset. We are conscious of its impact, but our reaction is wordless. When we experience God personally, we feel His love and wait for Him to speak to us in His own way. The key is to make time to relax and listen in God’s presence, to seek union with the God who loves us.

## Prayer & Thanksgiving

To request prayer, please call the Church office at 515-523-1943, Adella Vogl at 641-742-5277, or email: [stjohnallsaints@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnallsaints@gmail.com)

### Liturgical Ministers Sunday May 27

**Cross Bearer:** Dave Richter

**Greeters:** Mr. & Mrs. Mike Rees

**Lector:** Brian Richter

**Host:** Sr. Chinweze

**Cup:** Elizabeth Moreland & Scott Suhr

**Servers:** Cash & Madison Suhr

**Traveling Chalice:**

Cody & Elizabeth Moreland Family

## PARISH BUSINESS & FINANCE REPORT

**May 13th Collection** \$633.00    **Kids:** \$45.00

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

**Building Fund:** \$0.00

**This Week’s Income:** \$678.00

**This Week’s Expenses:** **\$1,877.31**

**ADA 2018 Goal: \$7,029 Balance Due As Of 5/11: \$879.24**

**Trustees:** Sheryl Drees, Les Elgin

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

Kenneth Ludwig, Marcia Gettler

**Financial Secretary:** Rita Rilea

## CALENDAR

<u>Sunday 5-20</u>	<u>Monday 5-21</u>	<u>Tuesday 5-22</u>	<u>Wednesday 5-23</u>	<u>Thursday 5-24</u>	<u>Friday 5-25</u>	<u>Saturday 5-26</u>
<b>7:30am</b> Confession/ Adoration/Rosary <b>8am Mass</b> for Joseph Arnts  <b>ANN:</b> Allen & Alvina Thelen 1972	<b>BDs:</b> Cleon Klemish, Brian Richter	<b>6pm Mass</b> <i>for Donato</i> <i>Cianciaruso</i> <i>(Stuart)</i>  <b>BD:</b> Marcia Gettler	<b>8:30am Mass</b> for Joseph Vogl	<b>9am Care Center</b> <b>Mass for Kathleen</b> <i>Doud Lewin</i> <i>(Stuart)</i>  <b>BD:</b> Barb Vais	<b>8:30am Mass</b> <i>for Maynard</i> <i>Witkowski (Stuart)</i>	<b>3:30pm</b> <b>Confessions at</b> <b>Stuart</b> <b>4:30pm Mass at</b> <b>Stuart for</b> <i>Dec'd Mbrs.</i> <i>Tigges/Boch</i> <i>Families</i>

# IN THIS WEEK'S READINGS

### Sunday Focus:

Acts 2:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13;  
 John 20:19-23

*The Christian life is a response to the invitation into the life of God—who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

The same Christ who appeared to the disciples in the Upper Room is with us in the Mass today, offering us life with Him today and for eternity. Let us respond to His invitation.

### Monday Focus:

James 3:13-18; Mark 9:14-29

*I do believe, help my unbelief!*

Faith, like many things in life, will either grow or decline. In order for our faith to grow, we must be people of prayer. We must ask the Lord with trust and confidence for the things that we truly desire, and for people in our life who help us on our spiritual journeys.

### Tuesday Focus:

James 4:1-10; Mark 9:30-37

*Selfishness separates us from God.*

In today's readings, selfishness and greed lead to separation from God and each other. One cannot love the world and God at the same time. Practicing humility, however, brings one closer to God.

### Wednesday Focus:

James 4:13-17; Mark 9:38-40

*God has a plan for each of us to be fully alive in Christ Jesus every day of our lives.*

We are familiar with sayings such as, "eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow you may die." As catchy as this sounds, this "get as much as I can" approach to life leads to a dead end. Jesus offers us a different approach to living in this life, and in His resurrection He offers us the fullness of life with Him if we choose to follow Him.

### Thursday Focus:

James 5:1-6; Mark 9:41-50

*We are challenged to live uprightly and justly.*

Our readings today challenge us to heed the spirit of the Gospel, and to avoid sinful behaviors that separate us from Jesus. Although this is never easy, the Christian life of discipleship demands that we try each day to love each other so that we may have peace with one another.

### Friday Focus:

James 5:9-12; Mark 10:1-12

*Speak the truth and commit to the Lord.*

It can be a good exercise for us to study the lives of the saints, as it is helpful to learn about endurance and hardship from those who have experienced it firsthand. James reminds us in today's passage that we will one day face judgment by God and we should be steadfast in our faithful human response, so as not to incur eventual condemnation.

### Saturday Focus:

James 5:13-20; Mark 10:13-16

*The fervent prayer of a righteous person is very powerful.*

Persistent prayer allows our faith to permeate our daily lives. Prayer brings healing, and draws us closer to the Father. Let us be grateful for the opportunity to give thanks and praise, and for the forgiveness and merciful compassion of our God when we truly repent of our sins. May we in turn show that forgiveness to others.

# WHO'S WHO?

## Parish Priest

Rev. Raymond J. Higgins is our current Pastor. He will officially be leaving us July 11, 2018. Our new priest will be Fr. Antony Mathew who is currently serving the parishes in Audubon and Exira.

**Parish Office** PO Box 605, 216 All Saints Drive, Stuart 50250 Serving Both Parishes Rita Rilea ([allsaintsoffice@gmail.com](mailto:allsaintsoffice@gmail.com)) is our Financial Secretary and is responsible for all matters dealing with the finances at both All Saints in Stuart and St. John in Adair. She is also the person who publishes donation statements, sets up electronic donations, and is the secretary/treasurer of the Altar & Rosary Society. Rita is in the office Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday from 9am-3pm. Brenda Wedemeyer ([stjohnallsaints@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnallsaints@gmail.com)) is our bulletin editor, communications coordinator, and pastoral assistant. She manages the websites and email correspondences and assists Father as needed by attending meetings in his place or taking care of general requests. Brenda is in the office on a limited basis, but generally on Thursdays from 9-5, with some hours at other times during the week as needed.

**Faith Formation** Cathy Hicks ([cabinmn@gmail.com](mailto:cabinmn@gmail.com)) is our Director of Religious Education and is responsible for the education department at All Saints. Annie Brincks ([annie68164@hotmail.com](mailto:annie68164@hotmail.com)) is her counterpart at St. John. Please contact either one of these ladies to register your children for Faith Formation, to volunteer, or for further information.

**Parish Maintenance** Barb Boss ([bbosslady@msn.com](mailto:bbosslady@msn.com)) is the head of building custodial duties. She is part time and is assisted by Christina, her daughter. Their work schedule fluctuates with the events of the parish, but generally are at the

church on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Dave, Barb's husband, is the one who takes care of our building & grounds as well as our environmental creature comforts.

**Knights of Columbus—All Saints** Dan Hilgers ([amh50070@yahoo.com](mailto:amh50070@yahoo.com)) is the current Grand Knight. Meetings are conducted on the second Sunday evening of the month at 6pm. All men—18 and older—of the parish are invited and welcome to join.

**St. John's Men's Group—Adair** Formerly the Knights of Columbus at St. John's, the men have regrouped and are now known as the St. John's Men's Group. All men—18 and older—are invited to take part in the organization which specializes in sponsoring Friday Night Fish Fries during Lent each year. Francis Hollinrake is the leader of this group. (641-742-5016)

**Altar & Rosary Society—All Saints** Jodi Bassett ([jodibdc@coonvalleytelco.com](mailto:jodibdc@coonvalleytelco.com)) is the current president of the Altar & Rosary Society. The A&RS provides funeral meals as well as altar linens. All women—18 and older—of the parish are automatic members. Annual dues are \$10.

**C.W.O.—Adair** The Catholic Women's Organization at St. John's is lead by Betty Ludwig ([bludwig50002@yahoo.com](mailto:bludwig50002@yahoo.com)). The group meets the first of each month following Mass on Wednesday morning. Every woman of the church is a member. The group provides coffee and rolls the first Sunday of the month. The CWO hosts an annual Spring Dinner to help raise funds to help with the Annual Diocesan Appeal amount. They serve funeral lunches and are responsible for the bills of the parish hall. Annual dues are \$5 as well as a \$25 collection each fall in lieu of a dinner.

## Hall Rentals

Anyone wishing to rent a parish hall

should contact Rita Rilea at All Saints or Betty Ludwig at St. John.

## Musicians

Norma Tigges ([tiggesnorma@yahoo.com](mailto:tiggesnorma@yahoo.com)) is the organist, music director, and wedding coordinator for All Saints with Sharon Swartz as the Saturday organist.

Deb Hollinrake (641-742-5016) is the organist, cantor, and choir leader for St. John.

Contact Norma or Deb for wedding or funeral arrangements.

## Special Events

Frank Hadley ([8791armyvet@gmail.com](mailto:8791armyvet@gmail.com)) has accepted the responsibility of heading the Special Events committee at Stuart. Please contact Frank if you'd like to volunteer to help him on any particular event.

## Websites & e-Communications

<https://stuartallsaints.org>

<https://adairstjohn.org>

Mass emails are sent out through Constant Contact. If you are not receiving our electronic bulletins and other notifications (i.e., prayer requests, announcements, etc), please be sure to submit your email address to the church office. The week's bulletin is sent out at 9am each Saturday morning for your convenience.

Any items that you would like to have published in the upcoming bulletin need to be submitted to the church office by 5pm Wednesday. Thank you!

## Liturgical Scheduling

All scheduling of Liturgical Ministers is done through Les Elgin ([elgins2011@gmail.com](mailto:elgins2011@gmail.com)) for St. John and through Joyce Van Pelt ([joyceannvp@gmail.com](mailto:joyceannvp@gmail.com)) at All Saints. Please keep these folks informed of your ability to serve as well as your current contact information.