

**Father Tony's Corner**

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something mechanical or routine and closer to a real friendship is by learning from the experts: the saints. We have a tendency to think that saints were born saints. But that is not true: saints were born sinners, just like us. They lost their temper, gave in to temptation, and faced agonizing challenges, exactly like us. We can learn so much by reading about how they managed to develop a deep, life-and-world-transforming friendship with God from such humble, normal beginnings. And there is no shortage of available material. As Jesus renews his commitment to us in the Holy Eucharist, let us thank Him for loving us enough to desire our friendship, and let us promise to stay intimately close to him every single day.

**Faith Formation News by Cathy Hicks, Director of Religious Education**

Thank you to those parents who registered their children last week for Faith Formation. There are still opportunities to do so if you have not yet registered your child. I will be in the gathering space again this Sunday after Mass, and there will be forms on the table that you can take with you and bring back along with the registration fee of \$30 per student. (Not to exceed \$90.) Also, you can still register students on Sept. 5th, the first evening of Faith Formation. Thanks for your cooperation with this task and for your continued support of the program.

Father Tony will be training potential altar servers on Wednesday evening, Sept. 12th during Faith Formation. Anyone who has received 1st Communion can be an altar server, but you need to be trained. This is a perfect time for those wanting to be altar servers to be trained and serve the Lord.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (515) 523-1943 or email me at [cabinmn@gmail.com](mailto:cabinmn@gmail.com). And as always, may God be forever at your side and hold you in the palm of His hand.

**Altar and Rosary Society by Jodi Bassett, President**

Joshua challenged the Israelites to choose who they would serve, if not the Lord. Would they choose to serve the gods of their fathers, or the gods of the Amorites where they lived? Joshua and his family would serve the Lord. The Israelites recognized what God had done for them. He had pulled them from slavery, performed miracles and protected them in their journeys. What choice did they have?

But they did have a choice. We all have a choice who we serve. It is up to each individual whether or not they choose to serve the Lord. Although, I'm pretty sure there have been some mommas out there who had no intention of letting their kids have that choice! But eventually, the kids will choose anyway, because God gave us that power; He gave us free will!

But consider this: I too have seen what God has done for us; what He has done for me. But in my heart, I am not totally convinced that the given free will is all that free. I have experienced major life events where, in hindsight, I could see God's hand on several events that, in my view, set into play other, ultimate events. I believe that certain things happened a certain way because that's how God intended them to happen. Some people were compelled to do some things so that other things could occur according to God's plan. That doesn't seem like completely free will to me.

Some choices are easy, like true or false. Others are like fill in the blank; we just have to make the choice and follow through. The most complex are multiple choice. If we choose option a), one thing happens. If b), c) or d); other things happen. I think that's how our free choice works.

**St. John's Faith Formation**

The classes for Faith Formation are posted on the Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/stjohnsfaithformation/](http://www.facebook.com/stjohnsfaithformation/)

There is no fee for kids' ages 3+ with class running for 20 minutes. All other ages are \$20 with classes from 9-11am.

Classes will begin Sunday, September 9th at 9am.

**TRI CENTER MEALS FUNDRAISER**

Free will offering  
Baked Potato Bar  
Sunday, August 26th, 2018  
United Methodist Church  
11:30—1:30  
Everyone is welcome!  
To help deliver meals please  
call Tammy B. at 515-523-2937

**Staff**

**Pastor: Rev. Antony Mathew**  
**Phone: 712-304-4836 (cell)**  
**E-mail: [amathew8@sbcglobal.net](mailto:amathew8@sbcglobal.net)**  
**Secretary: Tammy Doud**  
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**Book Keeper: Rita Rilea**  
**Director Religious Education: Cathy Hicks**  
**Phone: 515-523-1943**  
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**Website: [adairstjohn.org](http://adairstjohn.org)**



**Office Hours**

**Tuesday: 8:30am - 3pm**  
**Wednesday: 8:30am - 3pm**  
**Thursday: 8:30am - 3pm**

**Bulletin Deadline:**

**Noon Wednesday**



**All Saints Mass Schedule**

**Tuesday: 6pm**  
**Thursday: 9am (Care Center)**  
**Friday: 8:30am**  
**Saturday: 4:30pm**  
**Sunday: 10am**

**St. John Mass Schedule**

**Wednesday: 8:30am**  
**Sunday: 8am**

**Father Tony's Corner**



In today's Gospel, we see the culmination and the aftermath of Jesus' Bread of Life discourse. The evangelist John tells us that the teaching about the Holy Eucharist, which we have been following over the last few Sundays, was so difficult, so shocking, that 'many of his disciples' simply refused to accept it. And they stopped following Jesus and returned to 'their former way of life'. A large crowd of people witnessed the incredible miracle of the multiplication of the loaves. And yet, when he tells them about the Holy Eucharist, about his plan to become truly present under the appearances of bread and wine so that his divine life will become our nourishment, they turn their backs on him. And so he looks at his closest disciples, the Twelve, the ones he has chosen to become the foundation stones of his Church. He does not offer some kind of watered down explanation of the Holy Eucharist in order to convince them to stick around. He simply asks them: 'Do you also want to leave'? It was a moment of crisis. This moment of crisis occurred after they had been living and traveling with Jesus for two years. During that time, they had gotten to know Jesus in a personal way. He was their companion, leader, and friend. They had a personal relationship with him. And so, when the moment of crisis came, the moment in which their faith was challenged, they were ready to respond. Even when they could not see the whole picture themselves, they believed that Jesus could, and they knew that Jesus, the good shepherd, the 'Holy One of God', would guide them well. Sooner or later, every Catholic faces a religious crisis, a situation in which our faith is challenged, in which we do not understand fully why God does what he does or asks what he asks. That is the moment when we can rise to a new level of spiritual maturity. But only if we have been nourishing our faith by getting to know Jesus Christ through a conscious life of prayer and sacramental life. If our Catholic faith has been reduced to following a list of rules and routines, it will be much harder to survive and thrive in those moments of testing. Certainly, God will never give up on us, but unless we have a real relationship with him, we may end up giving up on him. And there is no greater tragedy in life than that. Today, he is asking us what he asked the Twelve: 'Do you also want to leave... as so many others have done'? How would I characterize my relationship with God? Is my relationship with God a real friendship, a living, ongoing, personal exchange? Or have I fallen into a kind of mechanical relationship, a superficial and routine relationship? God will not reject us if we have fallen into routine - he does not pout and get sulky if we neglect him. His love is too generous for that. But he would much prefer a friendship. There are many things we can do to make our relationship with God into a true friendship. First is constantly deepening our life of prayer, of personal prayer. Prayer is more than just saying prayers; prayer is conversing with God, speaking with him heart to heart. We listen to him by reading and meditating on the Scriptures, and we respond by praising, thanking, adoring, and petitioning him. Another very practical way to move our relationship away from

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**Sacraments:**

**Reconciliation:** 3:30pm Saturday in Stuart; 7:30am Sunday in Adair; or by Appointment  
**Anointing of the Sick:** Call Fr. Tony before/after hospitalization  
**Baptism:** Call the office during pregnancy for preparation class  
**Marriage:** Call the office at least nine months to one year ahead to plan marriage preparation. Wedding Date should not be set until preparations have begun  
**Annulment/ Marriage Validation:** Call Fr. Tony to learn more about this process with Diocesan Tribunal if you are divorced and remarried or never married in the Catholic Church.  
**RCIA:** Call Fr. Tony if you are interested in learning more about the Catholic Church or the RCIA process.  
**Membership/Registration:** If you are new, welcome to our parish. Please register by calling the office. If you are moving away, please contact the office to notify us before moving.

## Announcements

- Priest's Residence Updating:** Our homes and offices, especially the appliances and furniture, need an updating after several years of use. The priest's residence belongs to the parish, and it is the responsibility of the parish to maintain and upkeep the residence. Whatever is bought by the parish for the priest's residence stays there for the use of the current pastor and his successors. The appliances and furniture at the priest's residence are very, very old. Perhaps the most appropriate time for an updating is when a new pastor occupies the residence. Therefore, your kind and generous support is essential for updating the residence of your pastor. Your contributions are tax deductible, and all the appliances and furniture bought with your financial contribution will remain at the residence. If you are willing to support this much needed project, *Kindly, make your generous contribution to All Saints Catholic Church, and mark on the memo (residence updating).* Thank you so much for your love and support of your pastor and generous sharing for our residence updating project. **We are really and truly blessed by your love, kindness, support and generosity . Through your generosity and support, we are able to move forward with our project. Rev. Antony Mathew Contributions to date: \$4,385.00**
- Ice Cream For Everyone:** The All Saints Knights of Columbus will be scooping up a sweet ice cream treat for everyone attending Masses over the weekend of **August 25th-26th.**
- Sunday Choir Practice Begins September 9th:** Attention Choir members, and those interested in joining the choir this year. Our first choir practice will be Sunday, September 9th at 9am. I am delighted to announce that Dave Tisl will be directing this year. We will practice in the classroom east of the Church Hall. This is a good time for people who are thinking about singing with us, to get acquainted and share in fellowship. For more information, call Norma Tigges at 515-789-4334.

### All Saints Financial Partnership

August 19, 2018

**Weekly Offering:** \$2,043.00  
**Children's Offering:** \$11.10  
**Building Fund:** \$250.00  
**ADA 2018 Goal:** \$29,802.00  
**ADA Balance Due:** \$10,112.00  
**Finance Council:** Rev. Antony Mathew, Wayne Nosbisch, Brenna Bird, Dave Boss, Barb Boss, Eric Tiernan, Tom Doud-  
**Trustees:** Janis Gilman, Robert Bird

### St John Financial Partnership

August 19, 2018

**Weekly Offering:** \$625.01  
**Children's Offering:** \$5.00  
**Building Fund:** \$0  
**ADA 2018 Goal:** \$7,029.00  
**ADA Balance Due:** \$0 —**THANK YOU!!**  
**Finance Council:** Rev. Antony Mathew, John Fagan, Monica Fagan, Larry Drees, Kenneth Ludwig, Marcia Gettler  
**Trustees:** Sheryl Drees, Les Elgin

### LITURGICAL MINISTERS

**All Saints**  
Saturday September 1  
**Rosary:** Frank Holle  
**Ushers:** Marty & Julie Doud  
**Cross Bearer:** Dan Hilgers  
**Altar Server:** Connie Drake  
**Lector:** Anita Hilgers  
**Commentator:** Sharon Doud  
**Greeters/Gifts:** Marty & Julie Doud  
**EMHC:** Dan Hilgers, Sr. Chinweze and Sr. Nesta

### All Saints

Sunday September 2  
**Adoration:** Sacristan Sets Up  
**Ushers:** Wayne Nosbisch & Jim Doud  
**Cross Bearer:** Wayne Nosbisch  
**Altar Servers:** Lauren O'Brien and Riley Doud  
**Lector:** Gary Riordan  
**Commentator:** Donna Olson  
**Greeters/Gifts:** Vince & Christy O'Brien  
**EMHC:** Linda Lee O'Neel, Cathy Hicks & Dave Tisl

### St. John

Sunday September 2  
**Cross Bearer:** Belle Fagan  
**Greeters/Gifts:** Mr. & Mrs. Paul Gettler  
**Lector:** Theresa Elgin  
**Host:** Dave Richter  
**Cup:** Sister Gloria & Adella Vogl  
**Altar Servers:** Belle Fagan & Addy Richter  
**Traveling Chalice:** Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

## CALENDAR WITH MASS TIMES, BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, SPECIALS

Sunday 8/26	Monday 8/27	Tuesday 8/28	Wednesday 8/29	Thursday 8/30	Friday 8/31	Saturday 9/1
<b>Adair</b> 7:30am Adoration, Confession Rosary <b>8am Mass</b> for the People	<b>BD:</b> Madison Suhr	<b>Stuart</b> <b>6pm Mass</b> for Joel Slaybaugh	<b>Adair</b> <b>8:30am Mass</b> for Andrew Lawlor	<b>9am Mass (Stuart Care Center)</b> for Kathleen Doud Lewin  <b>BDs:</b> Marvin Welch, Larry Drees	<b>Stuart</b> <b>8:30am Mass</b> for Deceased members of the Tigges/Gladfelder Families  <b>BD:</b> Justin Smith, Greer Hunsaker	<b>Stuart</b> <b>3:30pm</b> Confessions <b>4:05pm</b> Rosary <b>4:30pm Mass</b> for Bill Sherman  <b>BD:</b> Jeff Johnson <b>ANN:</b> Reyes & Anna Maria Leyva 2012
<b>Stuart</b> 9am Adoration <b>10am Mass</b> for Clair & Pat Dickey  <b>BDs:</b> Carley Fagan, Wyatt Lincoln						

### IN THIS WEEK'S READINGS

#### Sunday Focus:

Joshua 24: 1-2a, 15-17, 18b; Ephesians 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32

*We are called to serve Christ, for He is the Holy One of God.*

Jesus calls his disciples to follow him, knowing some will abandon and betray him. Christ is gathering together a new people - committed to serving the Lord alone, nourished by the Bread of Life, and faithful and spotless like a bride.

#### Monday Focus

2 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 11-12; Matthew 23:13-22

*Gratitude and prayerfulness are hallmarks of the Christian life.*

Gratitude and prayerfulness are some of the essential characteristics of the Christian life. We give gratitude to God for each other, for all that God has given us, and for all that tests us and does not find us wanting. We pray for the grace to be worthy of the calling, and to live a life that reflects in our actions everything that we profess with our speech.

#### Tuesday Focus:

2 Thessalonians 2: 1-3a, 14-17; Matthew 23:23-26

*Let us strive to draw people to Christ*

#### through our words and actions.

Few things bothered Jesus more than hypocrisy, especially on the part of religious leaders. Each of us is called to lead by example in our life faith. Jesus is speaking to us when he teaches about making sure our hearts are as pure as our words would suggest.

#### Wednesday Focus

2 Thessalonians 3:6-10, 16-18; Mark 6:17-29

*It is not easy to live a life faithful to Jesus.*

Mark Twain once said, "Truth is stranger than fiction, but it is because fiction is obliged to stick to possibilities; truth isn't." John the Baptist is clearly no fictional character. He spoke truth to power and suffered greatly because of it. But that is the power of truth: it compels us, and upholds us. And in the case of Jesus Christ - the Way, the Truth, and the Life - the Truth saves us.

#### Thursday Focus:

1 Corinthians 1:1-9; Matthew 24:42-51

*Do what is right and remain faithful to the Gospel.*

What do we teach our children? Have we ever said, "Behave in a way that would make your grandmother proud if she were watching you"? We hear the same mes-

sage in the Gospel today when basically, Jesus is saying, "Do what is right, what you should be doing, even if it is not obvious to you that the Father is watching." Even more than doing what is right, we must do the work we are called to do.

#### Friday Focus:

1 Corinthians 1:17-25; Matthew 25:1-13

*Live in holiness and be prepared, for we do not know when the Lord returns.*

The message of the cross is that the death and resurrection of Jesus enables our salvation. The promise is there, but we do not know when Jesus is coming. Sin numbs us spiritually and separates us from God. We should strive to live a daily life of holiness in expectation of His return, whenever it comes.

#### Saturday Focus:

1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Matthew 25:14-30

*God chooses the lowly and the powerless to carry out his plan.*

St. Paul addresses the people of Corinth, encouraging them to believe that God chooses people like themselves, the powerless and the lowly, to carry out God's will. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples the parable of the talents, teaching them how to care for the gifts they have received from God.