

Father Tony's Corner

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liturgical seasons help us grow spiritually in a balanced and healthy way, avoiding spiritual staleness and stunted growth. As we go through life, the truths of our faith stay the same, but we change. And so, every time we revisit them, we see new aspects of them. Advent, which starts today, is sometimes understood as a waiting period - waiting for Christmas to arrive. From that point of view, this waiting period between Advent and Christmas is also supposed to make us think deeply about another waiting period. The one between now and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, who will bring history to its fulfillment, judge the living and the dead, and put a definitive end to evil. This second waiting period is what our Lord refers to in today's Gospel passage. So Advent is about getting ready, not just waiting around. These four weeks are not about waiting; they are about getting ready. And there are at least two things we should do in order to get ready. First, we need to get ready for this year's celebration of Christmas, the coming of our Savior to earth. In every liturgical season, God has special graces in store for us. One reason the Church uses liturgical seasons is precisely to make us aware that God wants to give us these special graces. We do not know ahead of time what they will be. It could be a deeper insight into the meaning of our existence and a greater peace of mind. It could be an experience of forgiveness and mercy. It could be an infusion of spiritual strength to take a step we have long wanted to take, but have been afraid to. God knows what he wants to give us this Christmas; we just have to get ready to receive it. And that means doing what the Church does, finding ways to think more frequently and deeply about God's love and God's plan of salvation. The second thing we are getting ready for is the end of history, the final judgment. This means turning away from our sins, repenting, and making a fresh start on the path of following Christ's teaching and example. This is why we wear purple or midnight-blue vestments during Advent, as a penitential sign. And of course, there is simply no better way to do this than by preparing and having a good confession. The sacrament of reconciliation is the perfect method to get ready for the Second Coming. God has something ready for each one of us during this Advent: may be a new insight that will make us grow in wisdom; may be an experience of forgiveness or spiritual liberation that will bring us deeper interior peace; maybe a word of grace that will heal us of an old and festering emotional wound; may be a personalized spiritual vitamin that will strengthen and inspire us for a new mission he has in store. Only he knows how we are meant to grow during this Advent. And the best way for us to find out is to cooperate with him, to make a decent effort to do our part. Something should be different in our lives during these next four weeks. Something should be different in our homes, in how we spend our time, in what we think about. Advent is about the coming of Christ: his first coming two thousand years ago, his future coming at the end of history, and his present coming in our lives today. Our job during this month before Christmas is to focus our attention on that, to pray about it, to reflect on it, to let it touch our lives.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS BY CATHY HICKS, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Advent begins this Sunday which means Christmas is only four weeks away. It is such a glorious time of year as we await the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. The term Advent comes from a Latin word meaning "to come" and begins the Church's liturgical year. It is a time of preparation for the Birth of Christ. It is also a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ in our lives through grace and the Holy Eucharist. The color of the season is purple, representing the penitential and reflective nature of the season. Advent should be marked by increased prayer, fasting, and good works. An important symbol of this season is the Advent wreath which circular shape and evergreens suggest eternal and everlasting life.

The Advent Giving Tree is up and ready for presents to be brought in and laid beneath its branches. Anyone can bring in slightly used or out-grown toys between now and Christmas. Remember these gifts will be given to the less fortunate so everyone can enjoy a more festive Christmas season.

May God be forever by your side and hold you in the palm of His hand.

December 2, 2018

All Saints Catholic Church

First Sunday of Advent

Staff

Pastor: Rev. Antony Mathew
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 Book Keeper: Tammy Doud
 Director Religious Education:
 Cathy Hicks
 Phone: 515-523-1943
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 Website: adairstjohn.org



Office Hours

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

Bulletin Deadline:

Noon Wednesday



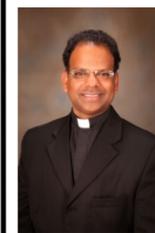
All Saints Mass Schedule

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



We have reached a new beginning, the first Sunday of a new liturgical season, Advent. Every year the Church leads us through the different liturgical seasons. The first season is Advent, followed by Christmas. After Christmas we have a few weeks of what is called Ordinary Time. Then we begin the season of Lent, which leads into the Easter season. And with Pentecost, we get back into Ordinary time. Each one of these liturgical seasons has its own meaning, and along with that meaning, it has its own characteristics. They have Mass readings that are connected by common themes. They have special days, celebrations, and traditions. They even have special colors. Taken all together, the seasons of the liturgy are like a spiritual tour. The Church is the tour guide. The sites the Church points out include all the major events in the history of salvation: from Creation, which we recall at the Easter Vigil, to Christ's Second Coming, which this first Sunday of Advent has spotlighted. Why does the Church insist on taking us through this yearly tour of salvation history? The Catholic Church is a wise spiritual mother, guided by the Holy Spirit, and the liturgical seasons are an expression of this wisdom. At least two worthwhile purposes are at work in this liturgical calendar, and the more clearly we understand them, the more fully we will be able to benefit from them. The first reason behind the liturgical seasons is negative, and the second is positive. The negative reason is simply that the Church does not want us to forget about what is most important. Human life is full of excitement, suffering, busy-ness, complex relationships, and urgent deadlines: there is just a lot going on. It has always been like that, but the pace and cacophony have been steadily increasing ever since the invention of mass media. In the midst of so much noise and activity, the devil keeps his eye on us. He wants us to give so much attention to the daily headlines of our busy lives that we pay less and less attention to the bigger picture, to the headlines that God has written and wants to write for all time. By giving us a yearly tour through the liturgical seasons, the Church has a chance to cut through the urgent, busy things that the devil uses to distract us, and highlight the important, lasting things, like sin and salvation, death and judgment, God's love, God's plan, God's commandments. The second reason behind the liturgical seasons is more positive. The seasons are designed to help us grow in grace. The seasons of the natural world create rhythms of light, temperature, and moisture that enable plants and animals to grow, spread, and thrive. God designed the natural world to work that way. And he has designed the supernatural world, the world of faith and grace, to work in a similar way. During each liturgical season, as we turn the attention of our minds and hearts to the different truths of Catholic doctrine and events of Christ's life, our souls receive fresh nourishment and enlightenment. The

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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:** We are in the process of updating our pastor's residence, since it is the responsibility of the parish to maintain and upkeep the residence. Your kind and generous financial support is essential for this much needed project. 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. We are really blessed by your love, kindness and generosity. Contributions to date: \$ 6,945.

- **The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary:** The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated on Saturday, December 8. It is a Holy Day of Obligation, meaning all Catholics are obligated to celebrate the feast by participating in the Holy Eucharist. St. John Catholic Church will celebrate the feast with a vigil Mass on Friday, December 7 at 5:30 p.m. and All Saints Catholic Church will celebrate the feast on Saturday, December 8 at 4:30 p.m. (regular Mass). Let us honor our patroness, and imitate her example of discipleship.

- **Advent Reconciliation:** The season of Advent focuses on the coming of Jesus Christ. It reminds us of His threefold coming: *His first coming* over 2000 years ago; *His last coming* sometime in the future; and finally, *His ongoing coming* through His grace, His providence, and the sacraments. All of the three comings of Christ have the same purpose: to reestablish and deepen our friendship with God. Christ is looking forward to make that happen, and let us do our part by a life of repentance and conversion. Following is the schedule for the advent reconciliation:

Friday, December 7 (Individual Confessions at 6:30 p.m. at St. John, Adair)

Sunday, December 16 (Individual Confessions at 11:00 a.m. at All Saints, Stuart)

- **Art and Environment Team at All Saints:** A meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 5th at 6.30 p.m. to plan for Christmas decorations.

- **Poinsettia Plants at All Saints:** Our Art and Environment Team will be decorating the Church with beautiful poinsettia plants for Christmas. If you would like to make a donation towards this beautiful Christmas decoration, please put your donation in one of the envelopes provided in the gathering space, marked for Christmas flowers.

- **Tax Deduction Awaiting You:** A tax deduction is awaiting you for the year 2018, and you don't want to miss it! Make a donation to All Saints Catholic Church or St. John Catholic Church before the 31st of December, and you can claim a tax deduction when you file your tax returns for 2018.

- **Christmas Mass Schedule:** We are looking forward to Christmas, our annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ chose to be born in a smelly, cave near Bethlehem over two thousand years ago. And today, He wants to come into the smelly, dark cave of our hearts and fill it with light, joy, and peace. He wants to come in as a Little Baby, because He wants us to hold him in our arms, to adopt him, to make him the companion of our lives. Let us thank our God for not giving up on us, let us promise Him that we will walk with him, enjoying his friendship and love.

Christmas Vigil Mass at St. John, Adair at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, December 24

Christmas Vigil Mass at All Saints, Stuart at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, December 24 with a Christmas Pageant presented by our children.

Christmas Day Mass at All Saints, Stuart at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 25

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **St. John Faith Formation:** The Faith Formation kids raised \$440 for the food pantries. Thank you everyone for your generosity.

CALENDAR WITH MASS TIMES, BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & SPECIALS

Sunday 12/2	Monday 12/3	Tuesday 12/4	Wednesday 12/5	Thursday 12/6	Friday 12/7	Saturday 12/8
Adair 7:30am Confession & Rosary 8am Mass for Leona Dress Stuart 9am Choir Practice 10am Mass for the People BD: Francis Hadley & Rebecca Tigges	Stuart 6pm Mass for Maynard Witkowski BD: Kelly Smith	Adair 8:30am Mass for Wilma Fagan BD: Betty Ludwig & Iris Young	Adair 9am Mass (Stuart Care Center) for Joel Slaybaugh BD: Steven James	Stuart 8:30am Mass for Joel Slaybaugh BD: Gina Ocheltree	Stuart 3:30pm Confessions 4:05pm Rosary 4:30pm Mass for Ruby Waltz	

All Saints Financial Partnership

November 25, 2018

Weekly Offering: \$ 1,611.00

Children's Offering: \$ 5.00

Addtl Building Fund: \$ 5.00

St John Financial Partnership

November 25, 2018

Weekly Offering: \$ 797.00

Children's Offering: \$ 3.00

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

All Saints

Saturday, December 8

Rosary: Frank Holle

Ushers: Dennis Donnelly & Mark Tisl

Altar Server: Jodi Bassett

Lector: Bob Bird

Commentator: Roni Wilson

Greeters: Dennis & Donna Donnelly

EMHC: Donna Donnelly, Mark & Kari Tisl

All Saints

Sunday, December 9

Ushers: Neal Crawford & Dennis Van Pelt

Altar Servers: Logan Moore, Damerica Smith & Sam Kasap

Lector: Gary Riordan

Commentator: Donna Olson

Greeters: Jill Gerling Family

EMHC: Jill Gerling, Linda Lee O'Neal & Joyce Van Pelt

St. John

Sunday, December 9

Cross Bearer: Francis Hollinrake

Greeters: Mr. & Mrs. Doug Richter

Lector: Brian Richter

Host: Sister Andre

Cup: Matt Fagan & Adella Vogl

Altar Servers: Belle Fagan & Addy Richter

Traveling Chalice: Matt & Monica Fagan

Money Counters

Tuesday, December 4th @ 1pm: Janet Bassett, Mary Morgan & Pat Hohn

Tuesday, December 11th @ 1pm: Eric Tiernan, Gina James & Donna Donnelly