

Father Tony's Corner

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circumstances all around us. If we put our faith in this message, like Mary in today's Gospel, we too will be called blessed. But there is another part to God's Providence. Mary did not just believe in God's promise; she acted on her belief. She said yes to God's invitation; she put her life in his hands. In fact, her yes was the full expression of her faith. During this week before Christmas, we too have a chance to give our faith in God its full expression. Amidst all the hustle and bustle of these holy days, God's Providence will invite us not only to enjoy his grace and peace, but to spread it, to be visible signs - living billboards - of his goodness: whether by how we treat the shopping clerks, or by how we behave at the office Christmas party, or by the patience we show to our visiting relatives, or by taking time to reach out to the less fortunate, or by inviting the lonely neighbor to come over for a cup of coffee, or to join us at Christmas Mass. God's Providence guides the course of history, but he does not want his children to just be spectators - he invites us to be active partners in his work of everlasting peace. Today let us make our heavenly Father smile by accepting that invitation.

ALTAR AND ROSARY SOCIETY BY JODI BASSETT, PRESIDENT

Being a bit of a workaholic, I tend to not enjoy holidays. They interrupt an otherwise good work week. Yes, I know, holidays are designed to give us breaks from the routine and stresses of our jobs, and thus are essential to our well-being.

Christmas is a rather unique holiday, in that people plan for weeks or months for it, spend unnecessary amounts of money to prove their love to those important to them, attend parties, school programs, eat too much, drink too much, and generally experience higher than usual amounts of stress. Most other holidays don't have this much involvement.

In the days of Mary's pregnancy, holidays were much less observed, if at all. And yet, when the expecting Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, Elizabeth's baby leapt in her womb. Elizabeth recognized Mary as the mother of Jesus, the Savior, such that even her baby responded joyfully. Imagine if you can the scene of this event. No trees, tinsel, carols, gifts, crowds, parties or special once a year food or drink. It was just two women greeting each other and marveling over the great blessing of the soon to arrive Savior.

What better reason to take a break and celebrate?

CALENDAR WITH MASS TIMES, BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & SPECIALS

Table with 7 columns: Sunday 12/23, Monday 12/24, Tuesday 12/25, Wednesday 12/26, Thursday 12/27, Friday 12/28, Saturday 12/29. Rows include mass times, birthdays (BD), and special events for each day.

Money Counters

Wednesday, December 26 @ 9am: Diane Messinger, Dennis Van Pelt & Dave Vigon

Wednesday, January 2nd @ 1pm: Janet Bassett, Mary Morgan & Pat Hohn

Staff

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

Office Hours

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

Bulletin Deadline:

Noon Wednesday



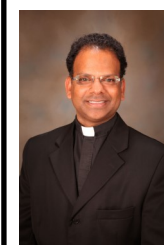
All Saints Mass Schedule

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



Well, the wait is almost over. Christmas is only 2 days away. May be our Advent has flown by, and we cannot believe that Christmas is already just around the corner. Perhaps we are asking ourselves, where did Advent go? Or may be Advent has been very fruitful for us this year. Either way, today is a moment to recommit. The Church gives us this Fourth Sunday of Advent as a last reminder that Christ is coming. Today's first reading ends with these powerful words: 'He shall be peace'. Who is he talking about? Jesus Christ. It is interesting because prophet Micah does not say that the Savior will bring peace, but that He is peace. Why is He peace? Because peace means wholeness. If we are not ok with God, then we cannot be at peace with ourselves or with others. But in Jesus, in the sacraments that make him present here today, we come to be at peace with God. In the sacrament of Reconciliation, our sins are forgiven and we are at peace with God. In the Holy Eucharist, we receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ and we are united to God. And that experience brings an awareness of the great story into which all our individual stories fit. We start to see others with the eyes of Christ. So Christ himself is Peace. The Prince of Peace is about to be born. How is Jesus asking each one of us to be open and ready for this gift? A few suggestions. One of the many lessons God teaches us through the great event of Christmas is the power of his Providence. He guides the course of history, wisely and gently, but powerfully and securely, without violating human freedom. When we come to know Jesus Christ, his person, his message, and his mission, we come to understand and trust God's Providence. Even though sin has turned this fallen world into a valley of suffering and tears, where evil often seems to be victorious of good and injustice often seems to triumph over justice, when we look at the baby Jesus lying in the manger on the first Christmas, our hearts are strengthened and our hope in God is confirmed. God is at work in the world, slowly setting things right. God was present in a stable-cave at Bethlehem, an obscure little town far away from the headlines of ancient times. And he is present and active in all the little Bethlehem's of the world today: in your heart and mine, in our homes and families, in our hospitals and on our battlefields. The Good Shepherd is there, gently guiding the course of history, leading his children to the green pastures of true wisdom, lasting joy, and eternal life. Knowing this brings interior peace, even amidst the exterior storms. Today the Church reminds us that Jesus truly is the Lord of history, that God's Providence is powerful enough to guide the course of world events, and to bring meaning and order to the struggles and sufferings of our own lives. This loving and wise omnipotence of God, revealed by the babe in Bethlehem, is meant to be the source of our interior peace, a peace that goes deeper than the stormy

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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

- **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

- ▶ **We still need liturgical ministers for Christmas Day and New Year's Eve Masses. If you are able to help us on these days, please sign up in the gathering space area. We appreciate you for being a blessing to our parish family.**

- **Monday, December 24 All Saints Liturgical Schedule:**

Greeters: Matt & Jen Dickson; **Servers:** Zoey & Bailey Dickson, Logan & Brody Moore; **Lector:** Anita Hilgers; **Commentator:** Jodi Bassett; **EMHC:** Matt Smith, Brenda Wedemeyer, Dan Hilgers; **Ushers:** Tom & Jackson Doud

- **Monday, December 24 St. John Liturgical Schedule:**

Crossbearer: John Fagan; **Greeters:** Mr. & Mrs. Andy Richter & Family; **Lector:** Theresa Elgin; **Host:** Sister Nesta; **Cup:** Matt Fagan & Les Elgin; **Servers:** Belle Fagan & Bailey Lillard

- **Annual Diocesan Appeal:** I want to thank everyone who participated in the Annual Diocesan Appeal for the year 2018, and a reminder to those who have not participated, that everyone's active participation is required to change the story of All Saints Catholic Church. We have not been able to meet our parish goal here at All Saints. We are looking forward to meeting that goal this year with your support, and sacrificial generosity. The Annual Diocesan Appeal Goal for All Saints is \$29,802 and we have paid \$ 22,140 so far. There is a balance of \$ 7,662 to be paid before the next Annual Diocesan Appeal kicks in. If God has blessed you, and you are inspired to share a little of that blessing with your parish family to spread His kingdom and mission, please do so. May God bless you, your families and your loved ones with His abundant blessings during this special season.

Fr. Tony

- **All Saints Church Art and Environment Team:** Let us make the Church beautiful for Christmas! The Art and Environment Team, chaired by Christy O' Brien, will be decorating the Church on Sunday, December 23rd after the Mass around 11.15 a.m. and we need volunteers to assist. If you are inspired to share a little of your valuable time, please remain after the Mass. Thank you for being a blessing to your wonderful parish family.

- **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: \$ 7,495.**

- **Office Closed:** The All Saints Catholic Church office will be closed on Tuesday, December 25th in observance of Christmas.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Merry Christmas!

- Father Antony Mathew and the staff wish each and every member of our parish family a Merry Christmas. May the new born Babe of Bethlehem bless each one of us, our families and our loved ones with His gift of peace, joy, love, and abundant blessings. Perhaps it is also an appropriate time to recognize the contributions of those who make our parish family a unique one; and our celebration of the Holy Eucharist a profound experience for those who gather to worship and praise God. I want to thank all those who devote so much of their time, energy and life for the parish family day after day and thereby bring immeasurable blessings to the parish family. Thanks to our wonderful pastoral team: Rev. Antony Mathew, Tammy Doud, Cathy Hicks, Barb Boss for their commitment, sacrifice, and selfless giving to our parish family. We appreciate and express our gratitude to the Trustees; Finance Councils; Religious Formation Teams (Catechists/Substitutes/Catechist Aids); Liturgy Ministry Teams (sacristans, extra-ordinary ministers of the Holy Eucharist, lectors, greeters, ushers, altar servers, money counters; and art and environment members); Music Ministry Teams (cantors, organists, pianists, and choir); the Social Ministry Team (parish social gathering ministry teams, bereavement ministry teams, Altar and Rosary Society, Catholic Women Organization (Adair); Knights of Columbus; Men's Club (Adair); Maintenance ministry/Grounds care). And if I have missed anyone, it is unintentional. My heart is filled with joy and gratitude to Almighty God, who continually blesses us with His abundant blessings, and to all our parishioners for blessing us by their unwavering dedication, commitment, support, sacrifice, and financial generosity. Thank you. Fr. Tony
- **Church calendars at All Saints:** Church calendars are available in the gathering space. Special thanks goes to Johnson Family Funeral Home for sponsoring our 2019 calendars. Please take a one home with you today.

All Saints Financial Partnership

December 16, 2018

Weekly Offering: \$ 3,877.00

Children's Offering: \$ 17.40

Addtl Building Fund: \$ 30.00

St John Financial Partnership

December 16, 2018

Weekly Offering: \$ 741.00

Children's Offering: \$ 12.00

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

All Saints

Saturday, December 29

Rosary: Frank Holle

Ushers: Eric & Margaret Tiernan

Altar Server: Mitchell Dickson, Bailey

Dickson & Zoey Dickson

Lector: Donna Donnelly

Commentator: Sharon Doud

Greeters: Eric & Margaret Tiernan

EMHC: Sister Nesta, Sister Andre &

Brenda Wedemeyer

All Saints

Sunday, December 30

Ushers: Knights of Columbus

Altar Servers: Knights of Columbus

Lector: Knights of Columbus

Commentator: Knights of Columbus

Greeters: Knights of Columbus

EMHC: Knights of Columbus

St. John

Sunday, December 30

Cross Bearer: Larry Drees

Greeters: Mr. & Mrs. Gail Brincks
& Family

Lector: Brian Richter

Host: Elizabeth Moreland

Cup: Les Elgin & Adella Vogl

Altar Servers: Luke Brincks &

Addy Richter

Traveling Chalice: Cleon & Kaye

Klemish