

**Father Tony's Corner**

*(continued from front page)*

Joseph would have thought Jesus was somewhere with the women (the children often traveled with the women), and Mary would have thought he was with Joseph (after all, he was now twelve-years-old, so he could officially join the men's group). Only at the end of the day's travel, when each individual family got back together for the night, would they have realized that Jesus was not with them. That is when the 'great anxiety' clamped down on their hearts. The anxiety would have included fear, anger, uncertainty, sadness, frustration, a sense of helplessness – all the disturbing emotions that our own family troubles so often cause us. We can even imagine Joseph and Mary playing a little bit of the blame game as they discovered what happened. And the amazing thing is that God permitted this. He had a reason for allowing them to suffer in this way. He was preparing them for Christ's Passion. This is why Saint Luke points out specifically that they only found Jesus again on the third day since they lost track of him. In the same way, Mary would find Jesus again after his passion only on the third day, the day of his resurrection. Many times, God guides us in the same way. He allows sufferings to cross our paths, not because he likes torturing us, but because he wants to purify us, to make us grow in wisdom, to prepare us to meet the Risen Jesus, to draw us closer and closer to his own suffering heart. We cannot eliminate moments of 'great anxiety' from our family lives. But when they come, we can remind ourselves that Jesus has not forgotten about us, rather, he is tending to his Father's business, which is the salvation of our souls. Finally, remembering that we are members of both a natural family and a supernatural family helps us overcome temptations to selfishness, which is poison for all family life. When Mary and Joseph finally found Jesus, teaching all the scholars and rabbis in the Temple, they expressed their frustration. It could have been a moment of conflict. It could have been a moment when one of the three, or all of them, lost their temper and lashed out at the others for not understanding or respecting them. It could have been an explosion – and we all know what those can be like. Jesus makes his comment about 'his Father's house', and that reminded Mary and Joseph to try and see the difficult situation from God's perspective. And that reminder defused the tension, anger, frustration, and high emotion. Saint Luke tells us that although Mary did not understand fully what Jesus meant, she 'kept all these things in her heart'. That means that she thought and prayed about Jesus' words. That is what enabled her to avoid a selfish explosion, and it is also what will enable us to do the same. If we make an effort to read and reflect on Jesus' words each day, and then if we make an effort to try to follow them in how we live our lives, the Holy Spirit will protect us from the poison of self-pity and self-centeredness. Let us thank God for our natural family and our supernatural family, and ask for the grace to be as faithful to each of them as Jesus was.

**CALENDAR WITH MASS TIMES, BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & SPECIALS**

<u>Sunday 12/30</u>	<u>Monday 12/31</u>	<u>Tuesday 1/1</u>	<u>Wednesday 1/2</u>	<u>Thursday 1/3</u>	<u>Friday 1/4</u>	<u>Saturday 1/5</u>
<u>Adair</u> 7:30am Confession & Rosary 8am Mass for Wilma Fagan & Roger Vais	<u>Adair</u> 5pm New Year's Eve Mass	<u>Stuart</u> No Mass	<u>Adair</u> 8:30am Mass for Ed & Joanne Littler	<u>Stuart</u> 9am Mass (Stuart Care Center) for Paul Heins	<u>Stuart</u> 8:30am Mass for Paul Heins	<u>Stuart</u> 3:30pm Confessions
<u>Stuart</u> 9am Choir Practice 10am Mass for The People	<u>Stuart</u> 7pm New Year's Eve Mass for Paul Heins	<b>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</b> BD: Dillion Durbin	BD: Alan Bovee, Luke Dahl & Darrin Plowman	BD: Presley Pivonka	<b>ANN:</b> Thomas & Nita Fagan 1975	4:05pm Rosary 4:30pm Mass for Paul Heins BD: Nita Fagan
<u>Adair: 1/6 Mass</u> Leona Dress						

**Money Counters**

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

Tuesday, January 8th @ 1pm: Eric Tiernan, Gina James & Donna Donnelly

**Staff**

Pastor: Rev. Antony Mathew  
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Director Religious Education: Cathy Hicks  
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Website: stuartallsaints.org  
Website: adairstjohn.org



**Office Hours**

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

**Bulletin Deadline:**

Noon Wednesday



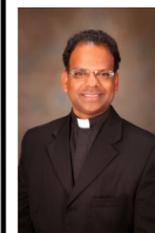
**All Saints Mass Schedule**

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**



As we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, it is good to remember that it was a real family. They were real human beings, and they lived in the real world, the fallen world, just like us. The fact that Mary and Jesus were unaffected by original sin, and that Joseph was a saint does not change the reality of their family life and their struggles. We see it clearly in today's Gospel. Mary says to Jesus that she and Joseph were 'looking for him with great anxiety'. They were worried sick about him. Jesus does not apologize for having gone off on his own without telling them. Instead, he simply says that they should have known that they could find him in the Temple, which he calls 'his Father's house'. Jesus is part of the Holy Family, an earthly family. At the same time, he is also part of the heavenly family, that of the Holy Trinity. This is the lesson he teaches Joseph and Mary on this occasion. And it is also the lesson he wants to remind us because ever since we became his brothers and sisters at baptism, we too have been members of two families: one natural, and the other (the Church) supernatural. Keeping this in mind can be a huge help in our day-to-day living, for three reasons. In the first place, it helps us keep our priorities straight. Saint Luke reminds us that Jesus was twelve-years-old. That was the age at which Jewish boys were welcomed into the company of Jewish men; from that age on they were considered adults, and they were expected to act like responsible adults. And so, by staying back in Jerusalem to attend to his heavenly Father's business, Jesus is showing Joseph and Mary (and us) that our primary responsibility in life, our primary mission as human beings, is to find and follow God's call. Nothing, not even the strong, deep ties of family affection and loyalty, should interfere with our obedience to God. In our lives, we sometimes feel the opposition between what would please our family members and what we know God is asking of us. We can face this opposition in little things, like the inconvenience of coming to Mass on Sunday mornings, or of taking time to pray together as a family. Or we can face the opposition in big things, like the apparent inconvenience of adhering to solid moral truths. It is not always easy to follow God's wisdom when those closest to us do not agree with it, but it is always the best and surest path to peace of mind and interior freedom. Staying close to our heavenly Father must be our first priority. Secondly, keeping in mind that we are part of two families helps keep us on track in the midst of life's storms. In those days, pilgrims who came to Jerusalem for the holy days came in large groups that included extended families and neighbors. Traveling together was safer, and it also helped create the festive atmosphere required by the holy days. And usually the caravans were divided into groups of men and women. This is why it is understandable that Mary and Joseph lost Jesus.

*(continued on the back page)*

**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

- **Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God:** The Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God is celebrated on Tuesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>. It is a Holy Day of Obligation, meaning all Catholics are obligated to celebrate the feast by participating in the Holy Eucharist. Let us honor our heavenly mother, and imitate her example of discipleship. Following is the Mass Schedule:
  - ▶ **St. John Catholic Church, Adair - Vigil Mass on Monday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 pm**
  - ▶ **All Saints Catholic Church, Stuart - Vigil Mass on Monday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm**
- **Monday, December 31 All Saints Liturgical Schedule:**
  - Greeters:** Destiny Bruns & DaMarica; **Altar Server:** Connie Drake; **Lector:** Jodi Bassett; **Commentator:** Roni Wilson; **EMHC:** Brenda Wedemeyer, Jodi Bassett & Harriet Gulbranson; **Usher:** Kathy Moon
- **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 \$ 23,440 so far. There is a *balance of \$6,362* 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
- **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, January 1st in observance of New Year's Day.
- **Knights of Columbus Altar Server Appreciation:** Altar Servers are invited to attend an Iowa Wild hockey game sponsored by the Knights of Columbus on Saturday, January 19th for an appreciation event. Please sign up by Wednesday, January 16th. The sign up sheet is located in the cloak room where server garments are hung.
- **Knights of Columbus:** The Knights of Columbus will hold their monthly meeting in the parish hall on Sunday, January 13th at 6pm
- ▶ **ATTENTION ST. JOHN PARISHIONERS:** If you picked up a box of 2019 tithing envelopes, please return them to the church. Each parishioner has a designated number and if you have the wrong number it will negatively effect crediting for tax purposes. If your box has your name on it, then you may keep it, but if there is no name, please bring them back as soon as you can. We apologize for the inconvenience.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### *Happy and Blessed New Year*

Father Antony Mathew and the staff wish each and every member of our parish family a Happy and Blessed New Year. It is our prayer, may the New Year be one that brings us closer to God, and to our own parish family; one that enables us to praise God for His love, mercy, and abundant blessings; and one that strengthens us to reach out to one another in love and charity. - Fr. Tony

**Thank you!**

I want to thank everyone for the many expressions of your friendship, love, and thoughtfulness extended to me during Christmas through your greeting cards and gifts. Perhaps words are inadequate to express my appreciation and gratitude for your friendship, prayers, thoughtfulness, and generosity. I am really and truly blessed, and honored to be part of your life, and family through my priesthood and ministry. May God bless you, your family, and your loved ones with His abundant blessings in a special way during this Christmas season and in the New Year. - 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.
- **Christmas Gift to Parishioners:** All Saints would like to invite all parishioners to take a book after mass today as our Christmas gift to you and your family. May this season and the new year bestow multiple blessings on you all. Happy New Year!

#### All Saints Financial Partnership

December 23, 2018

Weekly Offering: \$ 2,667.00  
Children's Offering: \$ 25.97

December 25, 2018

Christmas Offering: \$ 3,180.00

#### St John Financial Partnership

December 23, 2018

Weekly Offering: \$ 601.00  
Children's Offering: \$ 22.00

December 25, 2018

Christmas Offering: \$ 2,204.00

#### LITURGICAL MINISTERS

##### All Saints

Saturday, January 5

Rosary: Frank Holle

Ushers: David & Sharon Doud

Altar Server: Connie Drake & Mitchell Dickson

Lector: Roni Wilson

Commentator: Sharon Doud

Greeters: David & Sharon Doud

EMHC: Sister Andre, Jodi Bassett & Brenda Wedemeyer

##### All Saints

Sunday, January 6

Ushers: Wayne Nosbisch & Patrick Tiernan

Altar Servers: Camry Tigges, Lauren O'Brien & Taylor Omen

Lector: Wayne Nosbisch

Commentator: Daisy Nevins

Greeters: Jen & Jason Tigges

EMHC: Ismael Leyva, Dave Tisl & Joe Beaman

##### St. John

Sunday, January 6

Cross Bearer: Francis Hollinrake

Greeters: Mr. & Mrs. Blair Carney

Lector: Theresa Elgin

Host: Sister Andre

Cup: Matt Fagan & Dave Richter

Altar Servers: Addy Richter & Cole Plowman

Traveling Chalice: Sisters of the

Immaculate Heart of Mary