

Father Tony's Corner

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kingdom's reputation. One group of these scholars revered throughout the ancient world was the Chaldean Magi, based in the city of Babylon, just south of Bagdad, in modern Iraq. This school was already well-established 600 years before Christ, when the prophet Daniel was exiled from Jerusalem. The King of Babylon at the time forced Daniel and a few companions, some of Israel's most promising scholars, to join his school of Magi. There they studied, learned, did amazing deeds, and even kept their faith in the one, true God, as the Book of Daniel describes. The prophet Daniel never returned to Jerusalem. He lived his whole, long life as a top-scholar and royal adviser among Babylon's Magi, where he not only learned from others, but also shared Jewish history, prophecy, and beliefs. It is not unreasonable, therefore, to think that his prophesies were known, studied, and passed down through the generations by the Magi there. And if that is the case, it would make a lot of historical sense for Saint Matthew to tell us that the wise men 'from the east' had seen signs of the Savior's birth and come to worship 'the newborn King of the Jews'. The theory means that unbelievers cannot just dismiss the star as a Christian myth. It also means that we believers should not hide comfortably behind a vague and quaint mystery. Instead, this new insight into the star of Bethlehem gives us a deeper understanding and appreciation of our God. The coincidences witnessed by the Magi were not miracles. They did not suspend the normal laws of nature. On the contrary, the clockwork regularity of the planets and stars was perfectly respected. And this is the most astonishing fact of all. It shows that from the beginning of time, when God set that clock in motion, he already foresaw Christmas Day. It shows that God's highest priority is us and our salvation. The universe itself is centered on Jesus Christ, the Son of God made man, our Savior, our Redeemer, our Friend. And we know him. He has revealed himself to us through the Church, just as he revealed himself to the Magi through the star. Even more - he gives himself to us even more astonishingly: in the Holy Eucharist, a gift so wonderful the Magi could never have conceived of it. The God who guides the entire universe, who guided the Magi to Bethlehem, wants also to guide our lives - just because he loves us, and he knows we need his help. Today, when he comes to us in Holy Communion, let us promise him once again that we, like the Magi, will gladly follow wherever he wants to lead.

CALENDAR WITH MASS TIMES, BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & SPECIALS

Sunday 1/6	Monday 1/7	Tuesday 1/8	Wednesday 1/9	Thursday 1/10	Friday 1/11	Saturday 1/12
Adair 7:30am Confession & Rosary 8am Mass for Leona Dress	BD: Mary Bovee & Mark Whetstone ANN: Lucas & Amanda Nims 2005	Stuart 6pm Mass for Paul Heins	Adair 8:30am Mass for Gary Seilhan (health)	Stuart 9am Mass (Stuart Care Center) for Paul Heins	Stuart 8:30am Mass for Paul Heins	Stuart 3:30pm Confessions 4:05pm Rosary 4:30pm Mass for Paul Heins BD: Thomas Fagan
Stuart 9am Choir Practice 10am Mass for Paul Heins BD: Reyes Leyva						
Adair: 1/13 Mass for Gerald & Mary Ann Gettler						

Money Counters

Tuesday, January 8th @ 1pm: Eric Tiernan, Gina James & Donna Donnelly
 Sunday, January 20th after Mass: Mark Poffenberger, Donna Olson & Gina Ocheltree

Staff

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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



Epiphany is celebrated as the first manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles, represented by the three Magi coming from distant lands. The word 'epiphany' originally meant a manifestation or appearance of something, often a divine being. Today, when someone has an 'epiphany', it also means they have had a sudden insight into the deeper meaning of something. In the Epiphany we see all these meaning come into play. It presents a realization that the Messiah was not just for the Jews, but also for the Gentiles. The stars and prophecies, signs from the heavens made by God and inspirations of the Holy Spirit, both point to a great king being born. The three Magi themselves coming to pay homage to a newborn king is also an epiphany: it gave a sudden insight into the deeper meaning of the Messiah. Today's Gospel teaches us that the light of Christ extends farther than we could ever imagine. The three Magi represent all the peoples of the earth seeing that light in the distance - the distance of their situation, of their cultural differences - and heading toward it. A distant light, a star, became a beacon that led them to Jerusalem. The prophecy regarding Bethlehem led them closer to their goal, and then the star itself ushered them to the baby Jesus. The three Magi needed help understanding the prophecies to keep going forward because astrology was not enough. If our Lord assumed human nature in a specific place and culture that presented a gap to be overcome. Thanks to this episode we know that Christ's light reaches to all the nations, and leads us above and beyond our own cultures. All the nations of the earth can benefit from his light. Today's culture is plagued by people seeking a higher meaning to things in all the wrong places. Astrology was not enough for the three Magi, and it never goes the distance. The three Magi needed a little help understanding the prophecy to move forward. God has also blessed us with his Church to help us understand his will. Sometimes we need a little guidance to see that it may not be that God is not answering, but that we do not like what he is trying to say. Through His Word and His Church Christ can be our guiding star. Who were these Magi, these Wise Men from the east? They were 'from the east' - they were not Jews. And yet, they came to worship Jesus. Is that adventure just a myth, as non-believers claim? Or does the Magi's discovery and journey have something more to tell us? The Magi were, basically, the 'scientists' of the ancient world. Quasi-scientists, from our perspective, since they did not have the benefit of the modern scientific, experimental method. But even so, they did make a rational, logical study of philosophy, medicine, and the natural world - including the stars. They were like the scholars and professors of ancient times. But instead of working in universities, they usually worked for kings. A king would finance his own group of scholars, using them as consultants and translators, and also to enhance his kingdom's

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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

- **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: \$ 7,715.
- **Knights of Columbus Altar Server Appreciation:** All altar servers are welcome to attend an Iowa Wild hockey game on Saturday January 19th courtesy of the Knights of Columbus. We plan to car-pool from church, leaving at 3:50, stopping to eat at Pizza Ranch on the way and be in our seats before 6pm game time. Knights will cover the cost of game tickets and supper. Please sign up by Sunday January 13 on the sheet in the vesting room.
- **Knights of Columbus Monthly Meeting:** 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.
- **Christmas Gift to Parishioners:** All the parishioners are invited 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!
- **St. John's Parish Hall, Adair:** St. John's Parish Hall, Adair, belongs to the parish and beginning Tuesday, January 1, 2019, the parish hall will be managed through the parish office. There are diocesan rental policies for all parish facilities, and those policies will be strictly adhered to concerning the rental of these facilities. St. John facilities will be rented out only when there are no parish activities scheduled. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Fr. Tony
- **Bingo at the Community Care Center:** The Altar & Rosary Society at All Saints would like to invite you to play bingo at the Stuart Community Care Center on January 7th at 2:30. All are welcome.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Free Throw Contest:** The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a free throw contest Sunday, January 20th at West Central Valley High School in Stuart. Registration forms are available in the gathering space.
- **Appreciation Party for Altar Servers at All Saints:** We are blessed with a good number of altar servers, and Father Tony wants to recognize and thank them for their ministry on Sunday, January 27th, 2019 after 10 a.m. Mass in the parish hall. Please consider this as a personal invitation to join the party. Note: we are yet to come up with a date for the altar servers at St. John.

ALTAR AND ROSARY SOCIETY BY JODI BASSETT, PRESIDENT

This week we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord. What is the Epiphany? Simply put, the Epiphany is when the Magi search for and find the newborn King of the Jews and receive a message in a dream to not return to King Herod, who had plans to visit the baby so he could kill him.

Who were the Magi? Scholars debate, but the most common thought is three kings, based upon the number of gifts they brought to the baby. Even though St. Matthew's Gospel doesn't identify the kings, the consensus is that they were named Melchior, King of Persia; Caspar, King of India; and Balthazar, King of Arabia.

Caspar is represented as being the old phase of adult men, giving the Christ child gold; Melchior is middle-aged, and gave frankincense, and the youthful Balthazar presented myrrh. Gold was a symbol of kingship on earth; frankincense symbolized deity; and myrrh, embalming oil, was a symbol of death. Such gifts were probably not common for newborns of the time, but this was not just any baby, as the Magi were aware. These gifts were especially meaningful for the life that Jesus would live, and quite unlike a onesie or rattle that would be typical gifts for babies today. We know what gifts came to us from Jesus' birth; what will be your gift to Him this year?

All Saints Financial Partnership

December 30, 2018

Weekly Offering: \$ 2,620.00

Children's Offering: \$ 8.11

December 31, 2018

New Year's Eve Offering: \$ 244.00

St John Financial Partnership

December 30, 2018

Weekly Offering: \$ 323.00

Children's Offering: \$ 8.00

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

All Saints

Saturday, January 12

Rosary: Frank Holle

Ushers: Dennis Donnelly & Mark Tisl

Altar Server: Jodi Bassett

Lector: Donna Donnelly

Commentator: Bob Bird

Greeters: Dennis & Donna Donnelly

EMHC: Mark Tisl, Kari Tisl & Donna

Donnelly

All Saints

Sunday, January 13

Ushers: Neal Crawford & Tom Doud

Altar Servers: Larissa Crawford,

Colton Nixt & Zoe Nixt

Lector: Amy Doud

Commentator: Gary Riordan

Greeters: Neal & Samantha Crawford

EMHC: Amy Doud, Jill Gerling &

Linda Lee O'Neel

St. John

Sunday, January 13

Cross Bearer: Belle Fagan

Greeters: Mr. & Mrs. Larry Drees

Lector: Barb Bachman

Host: Elizabeth Moreland

Cup: Les Elgin & Adella Vogl

Altar Servers: Carley Fagan & Bailey

Lillard

Traveling Chalice: Phyllis O'Brien