

Father Tony's Corner

(Continued from front page)

holiness ourselves, our baptism gave us another life-goal, namely that of bringing other people into God's family. We are Christ's ambassadors in the world; we are his apostles. As his followers, we are, like him, 'the light of the world'. And through our words, actions, and example, each one of us is called to lead others into friendship with the Lord. Jesus came to earth in order to call forth God's pleasure on sinful mankind, to lift us back into membership in God's family and give us, once again, the hope of true, lasting happiness. He did not keep his distance from the sinful, rebellious human family, but he came and took our place, uniting his divine nature to our human nature. But for us to experience the benefits of this saving grace, we in turn have to unite ourselves to Christ. Now this is not something that happens from one minute to the next. Developing our friendship with Christ is the main project of our whole life. But even so, we can identify three steps that can help us focus our ongoing efforts to become more and more united with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ: knowing him, loving him, and imitating him. When we were baptized, God's own life was poured into our souls; it was planted like a seed in fertile soil. But every seed, in order to grow to maturity, needs three things: water, sunlight, and nutrients. The seed of divine life in our souls also needs three things in order to grow to maturity: to know, love, and imitate Christ a little bit more every day. The more fully we come to know Christ, especially through prayerful reading of the Gospels and time spent with him in the Holy Eucharist, the more we will come to love him. And the more we love him, the more we will want to follow and imitate him, especially in his perfect fulfillment of the Father's will and his tireless, active love for all people. If we let these three motifs of knowing, loving, and imitating Christ set the rhythm for our daily living, we too can please the heart of God and be filled to overflowing with his life-giving love, just like our Lord. Today, as Jesus renews his commitment to us in this Mass, let us thank him for coming down to our level and taking our place, and let us renew our commitment to our life-mission of holiness and apostolate.

Altar and Rosary Society by Jodi Bassett, President

As young Catholics, we learned in our religious education about the sacraments. We learned which ones we must receive and those we can receive. There seemed to be a general order of receipt of the sacraments, basically beginning with Baptism followed by Reconciliation, Eucharist, Confirmation, Matrimony or Holy Orders, and Anointing of the Sick. In our faith, we generally baptize babies, and at least in smaller parishes, baptisms take place one or two at a time. It is a special time and can be a private family event or involve the congregation.

When Jesus was baptized, He was an adult of 30 years among a crowd of sinners. Jesus of course knew how His life would play out and why He, the son of God, was there with criminals, murderers, thieves and other sinners. Jesus planned to be like those he was to redeem. After all, Jesus had no sin, and thus no need to be baptized. The crowd suspected nothing unusual about this baptism, until the radiant light of the Holy Spirit hovered over the place of Jesus' baptism and the voice of His Father was heard. As Jesus was called to be like humanity at the time of His baptism, through baptism we are called to become children of God.

All Saints Financial Partnership

January 6, 2019

Weekly Offering: \$ 1,660.00

Children's Offering: \$ 14.83

Building Fund: \$ 694.00

St John Financial Partnership

January 6, 2019

Weekly Offering: \$ 739.00

Children's Offering: \$ 7.00

Mission Statement

"Rejoicing with gratitude in God's blessings, we invite and welcome all to share in the fullness of the Catholic faith. We live our baptismal call through worship, teaching, and serving one another."

January 13, 2019

All Saints Catholic Church

The Baptism of the Lord

Staff

Pastor: Rev. Antony Mathew

Phone: 712-304-4836 (cell)

E-mail: amathew8@sbcglobal.net

Secretary/Bookkeeper: Tammy Doud

Email: allsaintsoffice@gmail.com

Faith Formation Coordinator:

Jill Gerling

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



Saint Luke tells us that at the time of Jesus' baptism, which marked the beginning of his public ministry, the people were 'filled with expectation'. There were two reasons for this. First, rumor had it that according to the prophecies of Daniel, the time was ripe for the arrival of the promised Messiah, the King anointed by God to restore the independence and greatness of the long-suffering people of Israel. Scholars at the time did not agree about the actual characteristics and identifying marks of that Messiah, but a sense that the time had come was widespread. Second, no true prophet had arisen in Israel in over two centuries. And so, when John the Baptist came onto the scene, they knew something big was afoot. Many hoped that he himself was the Messiah. The prophecy of Daniel and the preaching of John the Baptist, then, were clear, dramatic signs sent by God to indicate the coming of Jesus. Even so, Christ found a welcome in only a few hearts; the majority gave him up to be crucified. Why? Could it be that the people of Israel were expecting one kind of Lord, and God wanted to give them another? We often fall into the same trap; we know clearly the things we want, but God sends us others, and we resent it. But if Jesus is truly the Lord, and if the greatest prophet of all time was not even worthy to 'loosen the thongs of his sandals' (a job reserved to slaves at the time), why do we expect him to do things our way? God often acts in unexpected ways, so it is up to us to adjust our expectations, or else we may miss his grace altogether. By being baptized, even though he had no need to be cleansed from sin himself, Jesus takes our place. And we in turn, when we are baptized, are called to take Jesus' place. The sacrament of baptism, then, is the gateway to the rest of Christian life. From the moment of baptism, our life-mission no longer consists of mundane things like becoming successful in the eyes of the world, making a lot of money, become famous and powerful, or maximizing our experience of life's pleasures. Those are the life-goals of pagans. But we who are Christians have two very different life-goals, and all our other activities are directed towards achieving them. First, holiness. Holiness is God's word for happiness. It consists first in following the moral law that God built into human nature – the ten commandments and the moral teachings of the Church. And secondly, pursuing holiness also involves growing in our friendship with Jesus Christ through daily prayer, the sacraments, and our efforts to follow his example. This pursuit of holiness is the primary life-goal of every Christian, not just priests, monks, and nuns. But in addition to pursuing *(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

- **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 yet to be paid before the next 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
 - **Faith Formation at All Saints Catholic Church:** CATHY HICKS RETIRES! Cathy has been managing some health issues for a few weeks and, as a result, has made the decision to retire as Director of Faith Formation at All Saints. At this time, she wants to focus on her health, and healing, and felt it was in her best interest to retire from her position. Please keep Cathy in your prayers.
 - **Jill Gerling joins Parish Staff:** WELCOME Jill Gerling! Jill has been hired to assume the role of Coordinator of Faith Formation at All Saints Catholic Church as of Wednesday, January 9, 2019. Please join me in congratulating and welcoming Jill to our parish staff team. Fr. Tony
 - **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 carpool from the church, leaving at 3:50pm, stopping on the way to eat at Pizza Ranch 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 13th on the sheet in the vesting room.
- ⇒ **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, you may keep it, but if there is no name, please bring them back and you will be issued your correct box number. We apologize for the inconvenience.
- **Christmas Gift to Parishioners:** All parishioners are invited to take a book after mass today as our 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 in Adair, belongs to the church. As of Tuesday, January 1, 2019, the hall will be managed through the parish office in Stuart. There are diocesan rental policies for all parish facilities, and those policies will be strictly adhered to concerning the use of this venue. 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
 - **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: \$ 7,935.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Free Throw Contest:** The Knights of Columbus is 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 Serves :** We are blessed with a good number of altar servers. Father Tony would like to recognize and thank them for their ministry on Sunday, January 27th after 10:00 am Mass in the parish hall at All Saints; and Sunday, February 17th after 8:00am Mass in the parish hall at St. John. Please consider this as a personal invitation to join the party.
- **Knights of Columbus Monthly Meeting:** The Knights of Columbus will hold their monthly meeting in the parish hall Sunday, January 13th at 6pm.

To the Members of All Saints: THANK YOU!!

A heartfelt thank you for the cards and prayers for my family and our special son and brother. A very special thank you to the Altar & Rosary ladies for the lunch and also my choir members.
God bless one and all! ~ Daisy Nevins, Perry, Daniel & Andrew Cook

Calendar with Mass Times, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Specials

<u>Sunday 1/13</u>	<u>Monday 1/14</u>	<u>Tuesday 1/15</u>	<u>Wednesday 1/16</u>	<u>Thursday 1/17</u>	<u>Friday 1/18</u>	<u>Saturday 1/19</u>
<u>Adair</u> 7:30am Adoration, Confession, Rosary 8am Mass for Gerald & Mary Ann Gettler <u>Stuart</u> 9am Choir Practice 10am Mass for Paul Heins <u>Adair: 1/20</u> Mass for Tiago De Souza (health)	<u>Stuart</u> 6pm Mass for Paul Heins BD: Bob Olson	<u>Stuart</u> 8:30am Mass for Genevieve De Souza (health) BD: Cera Drake, Emma Kasap & Olivia Nims ANN: Eugene & Mary Ellen Simons 1960	<u>Adair</u> 9am Mass (Stuart Care Cen- ter) for Paul Heins	<u>Stuart</u> 8:30am Mass for Paul Heins BD: Leo Pieper	<u>Stuart</u> 3:30pm Confessions 4:05 Rosary 4:30pm Mass for Paul Heins BD: Treyton Schneider	

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

<u>All Saints</u>	<u>All Saints</u>	<u>St. John</u>
<u>Saturday, January 19</u> Rosary: Frank Holle Ushers: Marty & Julie Doud Altar Server: Connie Drake Lector: Anita Hilgers Commentator: Sharon Doud Greeters: Marty & Julie Doud EMHC: Sister Nesta, Dan Hilgers & Brenda Wedemeyer	<u>Sunday, January 20</u> Ushers: Bob Olson & Pat Beaman Altar Servers: Brendan Arthur, Jackson Doyle & Jenna Doyle Lector: Harriet Gulbranson Commentator: Donna Olson Greeters: Terri Arthur & Family EMHC: Joe Beaman, Linda Lee O'Neel & Harriet Gulbranson	<u>Sunday, January 20</u> Cross Bearer: John Fagan Greeters: Mr. & Mrs. Les Elgin Lector: Julie Plowman Host: Matt Fagan Cup: Sr. Andre & Elizabeth Moreland Altar Servers: Luke Brincks & Cole Plowman Traveling Chalice: Les & Theresa Elgin

Money Counters

January 13 after Mass: Mark Poffenberger, Donna Olson & Gina Ocheltree
 January 22 @ 9am: Diane Messinger, Dennis Van Pelt & Dave Vigon