

Father Tony's Corner (continued from front page)

experience of Christian joy. There is an easy way to take that distance away and make a fresh start in our friendship with Christ. We can go to him in the sacrament of confession, the sacrament of rediscovered joy. If you have already gone to confession this Lent, that is good, if not, you have still time. You can claim Christ's friendship and live in it with perfect confidence. But do not be afraid to go more frequently. The more we love Christ, the more The obstacle to Christian joy is routine. It is falling into routine in our relationship with God. Gradually we become self-centered and look for happiness in sin, in disobedience to God's will. On the outside we are good Catholics, but on the inside we are angry and critical, because we are just going through the motions. We have let the fire go out of our friendship with Christ. Routine in our relationship with God is the obstacle to our experiencing Christian joy. We are all Christ's ambassadors. We all have received the mission to spread Christ and share our Christian joy. In a sense, we are called to be God's goodness for others. In us, through our words, actions, and example, God wants them to discover how much he loves them, so that they can enter into friendship with him and experience Christian joy. This week, we should renew our commitment to fulfill this mission - to be Christ's ambassadors - consciously, and actively. One easy way to do this is simply to go out of our way for someone every day this week. We can go out of our way to help someone in little things, like giving up the better parking space, or taking time to actually find information for someone instead of just pointing them to the website. We can also go out of our way to help someone in bigger things - like taking the family to visit a sick relative in the hospital or the nursing home, or inviting the new family in the neighborhood over for a welcome dinner, or volunteering your most precious resource - time. When we go out of our way for someone, we show them some of God's goodness. If each one of us makes this resolution, through us, this week alone, God will be able to reach out to hundreds of sons and daughters who are afraid to come home, who think that nobody cares. And whenever we let God work through us, our own friendship with Christ will also be deepened. When we receive Christ in Holy Communion, let us renew that friendship, ask for the grace of Christian joy, and promise to do something this week to share that joy with others.

Altar and Rosary Society by Jodi Bassett, President

This week's Gospel brings us a most familiar passage, the story of the prodigal son. I think we all know people who spend every dime they make, or take advantage of the generosity of family or friends. They act in ways that are irresponsible and seemingly without common sense. This can be very frustrating to those that watch them go through their resources, especially if they have contributed to them financially. They can only hope the big spenders will see the errors of their ways and change. They may even hope they will get a come-uppance.

The prodigal son in the Gospel did all of the above! He squandered his inheritance on loose living, and when he had run out of money, found himself in the midst of a famine; cold, with no food and no real options. He was hired by a farmer to tend the swine, but the swine ate better than he did. The younger son realized that he could do much better, but would have to humble himself to his father to be treated the same as his father's hired hands. And so he did. He was met with joy and love by his father, but with less excitement by his loyal and devoted older brother.

The father explained that the older brother would benefit from all the father had left, but that they must celebrate because the younger brother had returned. The father was pleased that the younger son had learned his lesson.

Through this parable, Jesus explains to the Pharisees why he sat with sinners. With the right inspiration and opportunities, anyone can change their ways. It's an example to us to not dismiss others.

All Saints Financial Partnership

March 24, 2019

Weekly Offering: \$ 1,852.00

Children's Offering: \$ 13.00

Addtl Building Fund: \$ 25.00

St. John Financial Partnership

March 24, 2019

Weekly Offering: \$ 858.00

Children's Offering: \$ 28.25

Staff

Pastor: Rev. Antony Mathew
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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



The fourth Sunday of Lent is called 'Laetare Sunday' meaning 'rejoice'. Midway through our Lenten journey towards Christ's Passion and Resurrection, the Church invites us to rejoice. Joy is a feeling of contentment that we get when we come into the possession of something good. Normal joy goes away, because the things that cause it - like basketball championships and snow days - go away. The feeling only lasts as long as we have the good thing. It goes away when we lose the good thing, when it wears out, or when we get tired of it, in which case it is no longer a good thing for us. Since all the good things of this earth wear out, and since we end up getting tired of them all, no earthly joy can last. They all disappear. But Christian joy is based on something that never goes away: friendship with Christ. Loving Christ and being loved by him - that is friendship with Christ. And it does not change with the seasons. He is always faithful. This explains why Christians can sing hymns inside concentration camps, because prisons cannot take away Christ's love. That is the kind of joy the Church invites us to renew today. It is the possession of the one good thing that can fully satisfy our hearts, so we never get tired of it. It is the possession of the one good thing that does not change, so it can never wear out, never break, and never go away. And that one good thing is God's loving attention. God is always paying attention to us. He cannot stop thinking about each one of us. And because God is all-knowing and all-loving, while he pays attention to us, he is knowing us and loving us, through and through. Just as the father did with his two sons in today's parable. Now that is precisely the good thing that our heart aches for, because that is what it was made for, to be known and loved through and through. So when we turn our attention to God, we see him paying attention to us, knowing and loving us, and that fills us with a joy that does not wear out. That is what the Church is reminding us of today: 'Rejoice, God is thinking of you'. Today, God is inviting each one of us to renew this experience of Christian joy. Most of us, if we are honest, have to admit that often life's troubles seem to obscure our joy instead of giving it a chance to shine. If that is the case, we need to refresh our friendship with Christ, the source of Christian joy. We need to face up to the uncomfortable fact that we have not always been his faithful friend - ask forgiveness, and renew our commitment to be more faithful in the future. Since Christ's love for us is personal and total, even our small infidelities sadden him. Whenever we ignore the teaching of his Church, whenever we ignore the voice of conscience, whenever we fail to forgive, whenever we fail to love our neighbor as our-self, we sadden our Friend, Christ, who only wants the best for us. We put distance between him and us. That distance stifles our

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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 2019:** Each year, every member of our diocesan faith community is asked to participate in making a gift to support the work and ministry of Bishop Pates through the Annual Diocesan Appeal. We are part of a much larger church community – the Church of the Diocese of Des Moines which encompasses 23 counties of Iowa, with 81 parishes, 17 schools and more than 35,000 registered Catholic households. The appeal pays 100% of the priests' health care, retirement benefits and expenses which are not absorbed by our parish. The Diocese currently supports 112 priests; 37 of those priests are retired and 75 are active. The appeal covers the formation of our deacons, education of our 16 seminarians, administrative expenses for the staff of the diocese, and Bishop Pates' ministry, including housing, travel throughout the Diocese for meetings, special masses, and confirmations. Last, but not least, a portion of our ADA dollars support Catholic Charities in feeding and clothing those in need; providing shelter for homeless families; assisting victims of domestic violence; counseling thousands of individuals, and welcoming refugees who have fled their native lands as they settle in Iowa. Your gift has significant impact on the how we live out our faith. Thank you again for your ongoing and generous support.

All Saints, Stuart, Parish ADA Goal = \$30,035: Gifts Received: \$ 11,205.00

St. John, Adair, ADA Goal = \$7,257: Gifts Received: \$1,745.00

- **Lenten Reconciliation Service:** Lent is an intense six-week time to turn away from our sin and selfishness, and turn back into the arms of our loving and merciful God. Therefore, let us make use of the God-given opportunity. Following is the schedule for individual reconciliation:

Sunday, March 31st at 11:30 a.m. at All Saints, Stuart

Sunday, April 7th at 3:00 p.m. at St. John, Adair

- **Lenten Fish Fry at St. John, Adair:** Everyone is invited to come and enjoy a good fish fry meal on Friday, April 12th at St. John's Parish Hall in Adair from 5 pm to 7 pm. Volunteers are needed to help clean up after each event so lend a giving hand if you are able. Many hands make light work. Thank you!
- **Thank you:** We are grateful to the Knights of Columbus especially Scott Lonsdale for organizing the 24-hour prayer for life adoration (Sunday, March 24 through Monday, March 25). We raise consciousness about life that it is a gift from God, and we are called to recognize and protect that divine gift from conception to natural death by beautiful gesture like this. Thanks to everyone who joined for their 24-hour prayer for life adoration. It is your partnership, and sacrifice that make us strong as a wonderful parish family. Thanks again. Fr. Tony
- **Prayer Requests:** Prayers are requested for Alice Moreland (daughter of Elizabeth and Cody Moreland). She is at Blank Children's Hospital, Des Moines. She does have a respiratory, and stomach virus. More tests are scheduled. Please also remember Mary Morgan, who fell, and has a fracture. At the moment, she is recuperating at the care center.
- **COMING SOON – All Saints Family Fest :** All Saints Catholic Church is organizing a Family Fest on Saturday, August 24, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There will be a variety of food, games, entertainment, and much more. We need your partnership in reaching out to businesses that can provide us with donations of free food, advertising, food equipment (snow cone, cotton candy machines, etc.), or gaming supplies. *Pepsi or Coke sponsorship, a ring toss game, face painter, water balloon toss, duck pond, etc. If a parishioner works in a bakery, and can provide hamburger or hot dog buns, we would appreciate it.* For more information or questions, please contact Jill Gerling (chair) at allsaintsff@outlook.com (515-523-1943). We are excited about our **First All Saints Family Fest** and are looking forward to a day of fun and fellowship!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Bible Study at St. John Catholic Church:** In the past we have enjoyed the Jeff Cavins Bible Timeline Series Bible study. Annie would like to know who would be interested in starting "Acts: The Spread of the Kingdom." There are 20 total sessions and the workbook cost would be \$29 per person. This is a very in depth study into the early church and the mission of the apostles. Each class would be about an hour of watching the DVD. If interested, text Annie 402-216-9488 or email annie68164@hotmail.com so we can plan days/time for the study. Thanks!
- **Knights of Columbus' Lenten Project:** Knights of Columbus will be collecting 40 cans of non-perishable items to be donated to our local food pantry for Lent from Ash Wednesday (March 6th) through Easter Sunday (April 21st).
- **Abstinence during Lent:** Abstinence from meat is to be observed on all the Fridays of Lent by all who have celebrated their 14th birthday.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

All Saints

Saturday, April 6

Rosary: Frank Holle

Ushers: Mark Tisl & Eric Tiernan

Altar Server: Connie Drake

Lector: Bob Bird

Commentator: Roni Wilson

Greeters: Marvin & Janet Bassett

EMHC: Brenda Wedemeyer, Mark Tisl & Sister Nesta

All Saints

Sunday, April 7

Ushers: John & Patrick Gulbranson

Altar Servers: Cora, Evie & Allie Boyle

Lector: Harriet Gulbranson

Commentator: Gary Riordan

Greeters: Nick & Tonya Boyle

EMHC: Harriet Gulbranson, Jo Beaman & Ismael Leyva

St. John

Sunday, April 7

Cross Bearer: Larry Drees

Greeters: Mr. & Mrs. Andy Richter & Family

Lector: Brian Richter

Host: Sister Andre

Cup: Matt Fagan & Dave Richter

Altar Servers: Addy Richter & Belle Fagan

Traveling Chalice: Matt & Monica Fagan

Calendar with Mass Times, Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sunday 3/31	Monday 4/1	Tuesday 4/2	Wednesday 4/3	Thursday 4/4	Friday 4/5	Saturday 4/6
Adair	BD: Thelma O'Brien	Stuart	Adair	Stuart	Stuart	Stuart
7:30am Adoration, Confession, Rosary		6pm Mass for Teresa Powell	8:30am Mass Gary Seilhan (health)	9am Mass (Stuart Care Center) for Karen Dupuy	8:30am Mass for Ron Dupuy	3:30pm Confessions
8am Mass for Joseph Arnts		BD: Frank Wagers & Christy O'Brien	Stuart	BD: Mary Ellen Gilman & Gavin Steensen	BD: Frank Holle & Pete Kasap	4:05 Rosary
4/7 Mass for Leona Drees			5:30pm Mass & Stations of the Cross followed by Soup Supper sponsored by the Faith Formation families			4:30pm Mass for the People
Stuart						
9am Choir Practice						
10am Mass for Ron Dupuy						
BD: David DuBois			BD: Jackson Sloss			

MONEY COUNTERS

Tuesday, April 2nd @ 1pm: Janet Bassett, Pat Hohn & Pat Cooper
Tuesday, April 9th @ 1pm: Eric Tiernan, Gina James & Donna Donnelly