

Father Tony's Corner *(continued from front page)*

degrading humor? Do we join in gossip sessions and unnecessarily spread criticisms or even lies? Do we use our words to encourage, enlighten, and edify, or are we constantly nagging, nitpicking, and belittling? The fuller our hearts are with God and the experience of his love, the more our words will reflect his goodness, his mercy, and his wisdom. The Greek word Jesus uses for 'Hell' is 'Gehenna'. Gehenna was Jerusalem's garbage dump. It had been the valley where unfaithful Jews in past centuries offered human sacrifices to foreign, false gods. When the nation reformed and such practices were stopped, they decided to use it as an open-air incinerator. Thus, the ever-smoldering and worm-infested valley became a symbol for the place where people who reject friendship with God suffer eternal frustration: Hell. Christ's frequent mention of Hell in the Gospels has caused some critics to accuse Christianity of manipulating weak and superstitious people by instilling irrational fear. Nothing could be less accurate. Christ's warnings are those of a friend. Jesus knows that we can only reach lasting happiness through friendship with God, and he wants us to be happy, so he warns us about everything that could damage or destroy that friendship, leading eventually to eternity spent without God, that is an indescribably painful prospect, because the human person was created to live in union with God; eternity without God is everlasting existential frustration. Since Jesus loves us, he tells us the truth - even the tough truth. As Jesus offers himself to us in the Holy Eucharist, an undeniable evidence of his unconditional love for each one of us, let us ask him to help us recognize the true state of our hearts. And, if we see that our hearts are in bad shape, let us exchange them with his so that we can reach lasting happiness through our friendship with God.

Altar & Rosary by Jodi Bassett, President

Life is a series of choices: good or bad, right or wrong, chocolate, vanilla, or strawberry. They aren't always easy choices, but the decision still needs to be made. It briefly crossed my mind this past weekend to skip Mass. Saturday was the Faith Formation Mass; I wasn't scheduled for any liturgical duties, so I wasn't needed then. My moral compass (Mom) wasn't going to be around this weekend, so I wouldn't have to worry about hurting her feelings. I could have just let Mass slide this week.

But I didn't. I didn't, because I was commanded to be there (Keep Holy the Sabbath). I didn't, because prayers were answered this week, and I needed to honor He who answered the prayers and be in His house. I didn't, because many other prayers remain to be answered. I didn't, because sometimes liturgical duties must still be served by adults, even if most duties are covered by the kids. I didn't, because my soul needed the familiarity, the regimen, the universality of our faith, gathered with those who share our faith. What do you consider when contemplating attending or skipping Mass?

Calendar with Mass Times, Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sunday 2/16	Monday 2/17	Tuesday 2/18	Wednesday 2/19	Thursday 2/20	Friday 2/21	Saturday 2/22
Adair 7:30am Rosary & Confession		Stuart 6:00 pm Mass for George Tlach & Don Neppl	Adair 8:30 am Mass for Rosie Sturm	Stuart 9:00am Mass Stuart Care Center for George Tlach & Don Neppl	Stuart 8:30am Mass for Caroline Lacher	Stuart 3:30pm Confessions
8am Mass for Joseph Arnts		BD: Vern Tigges	BD: Max Kasap	BD: Cole Plowman	BD: Karey Smith, Robert Klassen & Allison Smith	4:05pm Rosary 4:30pm Mass for George Tlach & Don Neppl
2/23 Mass for Lynn Elgin			ANN: Dennis & Donna Donnelly 1972			BD: Gina James
Stuart 10am Mass for the People						ANN: Kenneth & Marilyn Ludwig 1955
ANN: Paul & Sharon Pieper 1963						

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 – allsaintsff@outlook.com
 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



In today's Gospel Jesus teaches us that all the commandments have a purpose and reflect a wisdom that can shape our lives for the better if we choose to observe them from the heart. He is also calling out those who observe the commandments superficially and without heart. God does not do anything pointless; everything is part of his loving plan for us. He has not come to simply discard the old covenant, the 'law and the prophets', as never having had any purpose at all. In his own words he did not come to abolish the law or the prophets, but to fulfill them. He reminds us that our everyday choices have consequences: either they help grow our friendship with him, keeping us on the path to heaven; or they distance us from him, making us more vulnerable to temptation and eternal disaster. Certainly, our exterior behavior must follow God's will. Jesus tells us that exterior behaviors or appearances, are not enough. For a true, faithful citizen of Christ's Kingdom, the attitudes and desires of the heart must also be in harmony with God's plan for our lives. This is what he means when he says that he has come to bring the Old Testament Law to its fulfillment. Friendship with God (which is what Jesus offers) requires a union of hearts. Christ is explaining the Law from this perspective when he explains the true meaning of sinful anger, lust, and lying. Jesus is very practical about what can corrupt our hearts. He identifies anger, lust, and dishonesty as hidden viruses capable of damaging, and even destroying, our integrity, our very souls. But if we are honest with ourselves, all of us will have to admit that we struggle with temptation in each of these areas. When Jesus looks at our hearts, he comes with the medicine of his grace to cure us. We just have to give him the chance. Every day of our lives, we remain free to choose which thoughts and actions we will commit to, godly ones, or selfish ones. Jesus wants us to choose life, a fulfilling life here on earth and eternal life with him in Heaven, by choosing to reject temptation and follow him. In the Gospels, the Pharisees thought they were in a very good and healthy relationship with God. But in fact, they were not. They actually ended up rejecting God. They were the major players behind the crucifixion of Jesus. Jesus explains that the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man. If we want to know the true condition of our hearts, of our friendship with Christ, all we have to do is reflect seriously about our words and the quality of our conversations. When we speak, are we usually building others up, or tearing them down? Do we engage in crude and

(continued on 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

- **St. John's Family:** A family game night will be held on February 16th beginning at 4:00 p.m. at St. John's parish hall. A potluck will be held. The Jan/Feb committee members will provide soup. All other families should bring sandwiches, snacks or a dessert. Each family should bring their favorite board or card games. Everyone is welcome!
- **All Saints Fat Saturday celebration:** Join us for a traditional Mardi Gras celebration with food, drink, music and trivia following 4:30pm Mass Saturday, February 22nd. We hope you will join us for fun and fellowship.
- **Annual Diocesan Appeal Update:** A big thanks to everyone who has already participated in the Annual Diocesan Appeal for the calendar year 2019, and a friendly reminder to those who have forgotten about it, that time is approaching to wind down the 2019 appeal. If we do not pay the balance of the appeal, the amount will be paid from our operating account, which affects our parish finances. May I appeal to you that if God has blessed you, would you be kind enough to share a little of that God-given blessing to spread His kingdom and mission. Thank you. Fr. Tony

All Saints, Stuart, Parish ADA Goal = \$30,035

Gifts Received: \$ 21,592.50

Remaining: \$8,442.50

St. John, Adair, ADA Goal = \$7,257

Gifts Received: \$ 5,447.17

Remaining: \$1,809.83

➡ **Lent is almost here!** Lent is a solemn religious observance in the liturgical calendar that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends approximately six weeks later, before Easter Sunday. It is a time of preparation through prayer, doing penance, repentance of sins, almsgiving, atonement, and self-denial. In Lent, many Christians commit to fasting or giving up certain types of luxuries as a form of penance, and the Stations of the Cross, a devotional commemoration of Christ's carrying the Cross and his execution, are observed. We have a unique opportunity to participate in the Holy Eucharist on Sundays of lent at 8:00 a.m. followed by the Stations of the cross at St. John, and Wednesdays of lent (Holy Eucharist) at 5:30 p.m. followed by the Stations of the Cross and a soup supper at All Saints. We will have a Lenten parish mission offered by Rev. Bruce Nieli, C.S.P., a Paulist evangelist currently based in Austin, Texas from Sunday, March 22nd through Tuesday, March 24th at 6.30 p.m. at All Saints. Let us make an extra effort to take advantage of every opportunity offered during this wonderful season of grace (lent).

Ash Wednesday Schedule:

Mass and distribution of ashes at 8:30 a.m. (St. John)

Mass and distribution of ashes at 6:00 p.m. (All Saints)

- **Fast and Abstinence on Ash Wednesday:** Ash Wednesday, February 26th is a day of both fast and abstinence. Fast and abstinence are to be observed by all those who have celebrated their 18th birthday until their 59th birthday. Abstinence from meat is to be observed on all the Fridays of Lent by all who have celebrated their 14th birthday.
- **All Saints Altar Server Appreciation Party:** We are blessed with a good number of altar servers. Father Tony wants to recognize and thank them for their wonderful ministry on Sunday, March 1, 2020 after the 10:00 am Mass in the parish hall. Please consider this as a personal invitation to join the party.
- **COMMUNITY DAY OF PRAYER:** Save the day March 6, 2020 at 1:00pm in your calendar. This will be the Stuart Community Day of Prayer at the New Beginnings Open Bible Church. The founder of Tori's Angels, Bill Ridgley, will be the guest speaker. Men and women of all backgrounds are invited to join for this hour of community prayer and fellowship. For more information please contact Mary Porter at 641-332-2550.

All Saints is bringing After Mass Socials to our parish calendar this year. If your family would be willing to host an a social (Saturdays – dessert, cookies, bars, pies, etc or Sundays – donuts, coffee cake, rolls, etc), please contact Jill Gerling at allsaintsff@outlook.com with the date you would like to host!

Here are the available dates for After Mass Socials for 2020

Sunday, March 8

Sunday, April 5

Sunday, May 3

Saturday, June 13

Sunday, July 19

Sunday, August 8

Saturday, September 19

Sunday, October 11

Saturday, November 14

Sunday, December 6



All Saints Faith Formation Coordinator, Jill Gerling

Looking for a way to grow in your faith? Are you a student in Confirmation prep or have receive the sacrament? **Then sign up for COR! What is COR, you ask?** *The word COR is the Latin word for heart, the symbol of love, that stands for Christ in Others Retreat.* The retreat takes a hands-on approach to teaching about the role Christ wants us to take and how to live our faith with others. COR teaches teens to be aware of themselves, their parents, and their families. The weekend reveals to young people the presence of Christ in prayer; in the Word of God; in the Eucharist, and in Others. The model of Christian love is powerfully shown by the examples of the team guiding the retreat. It is through discussions, activities, prayer, scriptures, stories, sharing, living together as a big family, and reflection of faith. These will positively affect the teens lives during and after the weekend.

Parents sign up your teens, they will have a great experience.

WHEN: February 21st, 22nd & 23rd, 2020 Friday @ 7:30 pm until Sunday @ 3 pm.

WHERE: St. Joseph Catholic Church

1026 North 8th Ave

Winterset, Iowa 50273

Fee: \$40.00 (for meals and t-shirt)

CONTACT: Jill Gerling at 523-1943 to sign up

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

All Saints

Saturday, February 22

Rosary: Frank Holle

Ushers: Marty & Julie Doud

Altar Server: Zoey & Bailey

Dickson

Lector: Mark Tisl

Commentator: Sharon Doud

Greeters: Marty & Julie Doud

EMHC: Jodi Bassett, Mark &

Kari Tisl

All Saints

Sunday, February 23

Ushers: Sean Bovinett & Tom

Doud

Altar Servers: Taylor Ommen,

Alli & Cora Boyle

Lector: Bob Bird

Commentator: Katelyn Bovinett

Greeters: Sean & Katelyn

Bovinett & Family

EMHC: Amy Doud, Dave Tisl

& Dan Hilgers

St. John

Sunday, February 23

Cross Bearer: Larry Drees

Greeters: Mr. & Mrs. Tom

Fagan

Lector: Theresa Elgin

Host: Matt Fagan

Cup: Dave Richter & Sr. Andre

Altar Servers: Belle Fagan &

Carley Fagan

Traveling Chalice: Cody &

Elizabeth Moreland

MONEY COUNTERS

Wednesday, February 19 @ 9:00am: Donna Olson & Gina Ocheltree

Tuesday, February 25 @ 9:00am: Diane Messinger & Dave Vigon

All Saints Financial Partnership

February 9, 2020

Weekly Offering: \$ 1,450.00

Children's Offering: \$ 16.87

E-Giving: \$ 540.00

St. John Financial Partnership

February 9, 2020

Weekly Offering: \$ 280.00

Children's Offering: \$ 14.00