

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH

MARCH 18, 2018

216 ALL SAINTS DRIVE, STUART, IA 50250

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Rev. Raymond J. Higgins, Parish Priest

DEAR PARISHIONERS

When I served at St. Anthony Catholic Church, which is located on the Southside of Des Moines, there was and is a very special Feast Day in March: Feast of St. Joseph. Each year the St. Joseph Altar would be specially decorated and the Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa would hold the annual St. Joseph Altar celebration blessing and meal.

"The St. Joseph Altar, which is the focal point of the celebration, is constructed in three levels to represent the Catholic belief in the Trinity. Traditionally the altar is decorated with religiously symbolic breads, cakes, cookies, flowers, prayer candles, family pictures, linens and lace. The altar is blessed and dedicated to St. Joseph, the protector of the Holy Family and patron saint of all families and workers. Each person who visits the altar is given a blessed bread, holy card, medal, and fava bean, called the "lucky" bean." (*Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa website*)

The history as told by the Cultural Center had its origin in Sicily during a time of famine. People were starving and turned to their faith during this troubled time. They prayed to St. Joseph, patron of Sicily, to intercede for them. They promised him that, should

the rains come and the crops begin to flourish, they would prepare a banquet in his honor and invite the widows, the poor and the orphans to share in their prosperity. The rains did come and the crops returned to the fields. And the people did indeed prepare a great feast. (*Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa website*)

The giving away of the Fava Bean is significant because the people supplemented their meals by preparing fava beans, which grow easily in poor soil. They are blessed and distributed at the Lenten meal served on the eve of the feast of St. Joseph. It is said: "keep one in your cupboard and you will never go hungry; carry one in your purse or pocket and you will never go broke." (*Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa website*)

St. Joseph is often overlooked as an important figure in the Church. Even the early Church Fathers did not write much about him. Yet, we find a statue of Joseph along with Mary (typically on either side of the altar). Next to Mary the Most Pure he was the next in line to kiss the baby Jesus after he was born. He was Jesus' foster-father and husband of Mary - Jesus' mother. Joseph was Jesus'

and Mary's protector and provider, and by the labor of his hands he ministered to their wants and comforts, and he was the Head of the Holy Family. One can also imagine Jesus being taught the carpentry trade by his father. Joseph loved his family and when his earthly time was up, died in the arms of Jesus and Mary. What happier death could one have than to die in the arms of the Savior and Mary. Thus, he is the patron of a happy death. Joseph is also the patron of the Universal Church promulgated by Pope Pius IX.

I pray you take a moment and ask St. Joseph to help you and your family.

Whether you are dealing with family relationship issues or financial - St. Joseph has been called upon to intercede for the necessary help that a family may need.

On a different note, I want to extend my gratitude to all of you who have made a pledge to the Annual Diocesan Appeal and I want to encourage everyone to get those pledges in as soon as possible. We have been blessed in our parishes with much grace and help from God and from each of you. Thank you for your generosity and please pray we may meet our goal. God bless you.

MASS TIMES

10AM SUNDAY
6PM TUESDAY/6PM FRIDAY
4:30PM SATURDAY

CONTACT US:

- ◆ Parish Office
515-523-1943
- ◆ Brenda Wedemeyer,
Parish Office
stjohnallsaints@gmail.com
- ◆ Rita Rilea, Bookkeeping
allsaintsoffice@gmail.com
- ◆ Cathy Hicks, DRE
cabinmn@gmail.com
- ◆ Barb Boss, Environment
bbosslady@msn.com
- ◆ Knights of Columbus
Dan Hilgers
amh50070@yahoo.com
- ◆ Altar & Rosary Society
Jodi Bassett
jodibdc@coonvalleytelco.com

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On Prayer...

-Submitted by David Witkowski

For many of us, prayer is a daily routine. For others, it is less formal and less frequent, but still a time to make a connection with God and a time to ask for what we want, pray for what we need or connect with a power far greater than any we know in our daily routine. No matter the reason, cause or motivation, prayer is—simply put: "us reaching outside ourselves and looking for help with something that we don't have power over".

Quite simply, for followers of Jesus Christ, prayer is the best way to communicate with God. Prayer is the vehicle for daily dialog with the One who created us. The importance of daily communication through prayer cannot be overestimated. It is so important that it is mentioned over 250 times in Scripture. So why is daily prayer so important? First, daily prayer gives us an opportunity to share all aspects of our lives with God. Second, daily prayer gives us the chance to express our

gratitude for the things He provides. Third, daily prayer provides the platform for confessing our sin and asking for help in overcoming that sin. Fourth, daily prayer is an act of worship and obedience. And finally, daily prayer is a way to acknowledge who is really in control of our lives.

The reasons don't matter as much as does our willingness to turn ourselves over completely to our creator and the one who will also be the final judge one day of our efforts, actions and our willingness to live in His image. Could there be any communication that is more important than this one? Is there anyone or anything that has more power to change our lives for the good? Especially in this season of sacrifice, let us also acknowledge the source of all things, that means all solutions. Make God yours today. Make prayer your daily habit and join in the continuous chain of prayer to our Lord.



**The Annual Diocesan Appeal
Goal for All Saints is \$29,802**

**Thank you for your support of
the Church in
Southwest Iowa!**

**New Balance as of March 9th:
\$28,282**

PRAYER & THANKSGIVING

- ◆ Please pray for Florence Cook and Pastor Scott Hill
- ◆ *To request prayer, please call the Church office at 515-523-1943, Viola Heins at 515-789-2029, or email: stjohnallsaints@gmail.com*

Anne Bendernagel

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord.
And let perpetual light shine upon her.
May she rest in peace. Amen.

Liturgical Ministers—Saturday March 24 PALM SUNDAY

Rosary Leader: Frank Holle

Ushers: Marty Doud & Dave Boss

Cross Bearer: Marty Doud

Altar Servers: Connie Drake

Lector: Jodi Bassett

Commentator: Sharon Doud

Greeters & Gifts: Marty & Julie Doud

EMHC: Donna Donnelly, Sr. Chinweze, Jodi Bassett

Liturgical Ministers—Sunday March 25 PALM SUNDAY

Ushers: Dennis Van Pelt & Bob Olson

Cross Bearer: Matt Gerling

Altar Servers: Eli Kasap, Gabe & Nate Gerling

Lector: Gary Riordan

Commentator: Amy Doud

Greeters & Gifts: Dennis & Joyce Van Pelt

EMHC: Jill Gerling, Joyce Van Pelt, Jo Beaman

Please contact Joyce Van Pelt regarding scheduling questions:

joyceavp@yahoo.com

CALENDAR

<u>Sunday 3-18</u>	<u>Monday 3-19</u>	<u>Tuesday 3-20</u>	<u>Wednesday 3-21</u>	<u>Thursday 3-22</u>	<u>Friday 3-23</u>	<u>Saturday 3-24</u>
<p>9am Choir/ Adoration</p> <p>10am Mass for the Living & Deceased Members of the Parish</p> <p><i>BD: Alyssa Kuehl</i></p>	<p><i>BD: Phyllis Tigges</i></p>	<p>6pm Mass for Clair & Pat Dickey</p> <p>6:30pm Adult RE Class</p> <p><i>BD: Connie Drake</i></p>	<p>6:30pm Faith Formation</p> <p><i>BD: Mei Jian Riordan</i></p>	<p>9am Mass for Donato Cianciaruso (Stuart Community Care Center)</p> <p><i>BD: Bill Tracy</i></p>	<p>6pm Mass for Bernadine Burke w/ Stations of the Cross</p> <p>5-7pm Fish Fry at Adair St. John</p>	<p>3:30pm Confessions</p> <p>4:05pm Rosary</p> <p>4:30pm Mass for the Marnin Family</p> <p><i>BDs: Kelly Warthan, Matt Smith</i></p>

DAILY READINGS

<p>Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 5:7-9; John 12:20-33</p> <p><i>Everyone, great and small, will have God's law written on their hearts, and their sins forgiven.</i></p> <p>The Lord reaches out once again to his people. God, ever faithful, extends his hand to those who break the covenant. No longer depending on prophets to communicate, under the new covenant each individual will know God's law, his love, his mercy. God's personal invitation calls for a personal response. Will we receive it?</p>	<p>2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a; or Luke 2:41-51a</p> <p><i>Joseph, a righteous man, models for us obedience and trust in the Lord.</i></p> <p>The Hebrew nation waited and trusted in the Father's promise of an heir to carry forward his kingdom. Today we honor Joseph, who willingly answered the call to take his place in God's plan. We are called as well. As brothers and sisters to Jesus, we are commanded to spread his love to others with our faith and actions.</p>	<p>Numbers 21:4-9; John 8:21-30</p> <p><i>Be thankful for the spiritual gifts the Lord provides, and for the teachings Jesus gives us to follow.</i></p> <p>It can be easy to dismiss all the good things in our lives when difficult events or circumstances weigh us down. Our readings today show us that looking to God, and believing in his promises, are what sustain us through those trying times. Let us be thankful for all the Lord has given us, including himself.</p>	<p>Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; John 8:31-42</p> <p><i>Let us strive to always remain faithful and loyal to the Lord.</i></p> <p>Today, as we move closer to Holy Week, our readings become a bit more ominous. Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego and Jesus all faced serious consequences if they remained faithful to God. We also might face serious consequences—including marginalization and conflict—if we remain true to our calling as Christians.</p>	<p>Genesis 17:3-9; John 8:51-59</p> <p><i>The Lord remembers his covenant forever.</i></p> <p>God told Abraham he would be the father of many nations even though he and Sarah had no children. God was faithful to Abraham, and to all of us as his covenantal children. For our sake, he sent his Son into the world, to suffer and die for us. Many did not know him, and still do not now him. Do we trust in God's promises? Or do we throw stones like the crowd around Jesus?</p>	<p>Jeremiah 20:10-13; John 10:31-42</p> <p><i>May our hope in God be our constant support.</i></p> <p>Those who surrounded Jesus in the Gospel of John always seemed to demand some kind of proof, or sign of his authority. Jesus points to the signs he performed in the Father's name as proof of his identity as the Son of God, but many still did not believe. Those who did believe received the gift of hope as they faced their daily trials.</p>	<p>Ezekiel 37:21-28; John 11:45-56</p> <p><i>God keeps his promises.</i></p> <p>Even when things seem hopeless, the Lord will provide all we need, according to his divine plan. He has made a covenant of peace with us that he will not break; his sanctuary is among us forever. Because we know our God is steadfast and constant, let us strive to be faithful to his Word.</p>
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MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION

▪ EDITOR

Once a month, 12 months a year, area ministers meet to discuss the goals and responsibilities of the Christian Faith Community in and around Stuart. The group met this past Tuesday and many items were discussed that we'd like you to be aware of.

◆ **Monetary donations** which are given to the Ministerial Association are used to assist those in need, either those needing a one-time assist with utility bills, or traveler's aid. The Stuart Police Department handles these

situations for the group.

- ◆ The movie **"I Can Only Imagine"** is being shown at the Fremont Theater at 4pm Sunday April 8th. The movie is being brought in at the request of the Association. Tickets will be available through Pastor Dean Porter.
- ◆ **Community Vacation Bible School** will take place at the City Park June 25th-28th combining several area churches including All Saints. More details to follow. Volunteers will be

needed to help with this week's activities.

- ◆ **Prayer Breakfasts** will begin Saturday April 7th at the Open Bible Church. These will be open to anyone who would care to spend time praying for the community.
- ◆ **"Christian Soldiers"** concert will be on June 2. Details to follow.
- ◆ An **Ecumenical Church Service** is being planned for 10am Sunday June 17th, the weekend of Good Egg Days.

Thoughts from Jodi

-Jodi Bassett, Altar & Rosary Society President

"Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." It seems contradictory that death begets life, bountiful, glorious life. And yet we know it's true.

In a couple weeks, we will enter Holy Week. On Good Friday, we will again read the Passion, the events leading up to the Crucifixion and death of Christ. It is a familiar, yet solemn reading. Jesus doesn't just die; he is crucified. He hangs from a cross to the point of suffocation. It is a vile, horrific death. But He must die in this fashion to get our attention.

If Jesus had succumbed to

a relatively simple death, it would have had far less impact. We are meant to be disturbed by the details. We really can't imagine what the torture and death of Jesus was truly like; it defies comprehension. But His death is the reason we have the rich benefit of redemption. It takes strong intensity to reap high-end rewards. We have the promise of eternal life because of Jesus' brutal death. And for the reward of eternal life, all we have to do is believe.

As Lent comes to a close, be mindful of the degree of love Jesus had for us to undertake such an end of life.



- ◆ **Stuart Community Blood Drive** Tuesday March 27th, 2:30-6:30pm at the United Methodist Church, 219 NE 2nd St., Stuart
- ◆ **Doc McCaulley Concert** 6:30-8:30pm Thursday March 29th at New Beginnings Open Bible Sanctuary, 207 SW7th Street, Stuart. Free will offering. Entire family welcome! Doc is a keyboardist, vocalist, and song writer. Further info at 641-332-2550.

Parish Business & Finance Report

March 11th Collection

Sat/Sun: \$2,212.00

Kids: \$7.90

Building Fund: \$135.00

CRS Collection: \$108.00

This Week's Income:

\$2,219.90

This Week's Expenses:

\$1,026.34

NEW 2018 ADA Goal

\$29,802.00

Balance as of 3/9: \$28,282

Trustees:

Janis Gilman, Robert Bird

Council Members:

Wayne Nosbisch, Brenna

Bird, Dave & Barb Boss,

Eric Tiernan, Tom Doud

Rita Rilea, Bookkeeping

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."*