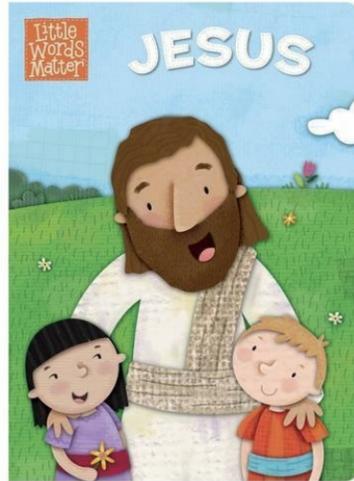


Father Tony's Corner *(continued from front page)*

invitation in our life - through obeying his will, as made clear through official Church teaching, through the commandments, or through the quiet voice of conscience. Whatever God is asking each one of us today, let us not leave this Church without saying yes. Let us go into Christmas this year well-prepared to receive Christ, with our hearts warmed up through the obedience of faith. This is what God is like - he is faithful; he keeps his promises. One of things that most saddens our Lord is that so many people do not believe this. They do not trust him. That is why they do not follow the Church's teaching, or they cut corners on it, or make exceptions to it. They let God into their lives up to a certain point, but no further. All of us are like that in some way or another. We have been so wounded by life's struggles that we have thrown up protective walls around our hearts. Nothing causes our Lord more suffering than when these walls keep him at a distance. He loves us more than we love ourselves. He wants to fill our lives with grace, wisdom, strength, and peace. That is why he came to earth in the first place. Christmas proves this love. Good Friday proves it. Easter proves it. Every detail of our Lord's life proves it. This Christmas, let us give Christ the present he wants most. Let us open our hearts to him a little bit more than we have in the past. Let us let him into the secret corner where we have been following our own lead instead of his lead, and let us say to him, 'Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done - not mine'. No present will please him more, and no present will do more good for our own interior peace and moral strength. Christ came to earth because he wanted to be close to us, so that he could save us from frustration and sorrow. This Christmas, let us make our hearts into little Bethlehem's, and let us start today, with the Holy Mass, and with the Holy Communion.

All Saints Faith Formation Coordinator, Jill Gerling



A great part of our children's faith development is the weekend Mass obligation. During the Faith Formation program year there are Faith Formation Family Masses. These are meant for all of the Faith Formation families and parishioners of All Saints. At these Masses the children are given various liturgical roles to perform with the guidance of their parents and catechists. Please mark your calendars to attend these Masses:

- Sunday, January 12 at 10:00am
- Saturday, February 8 at 4:30pm
- Ash Wednesday, February 26 at 6:00pm
- Sunday, March 8 at 10:00am
- Sunday, May 3 at 10:00am (also Graduate Recognition Mass)
- Sunday, May 31 at 10:00am (Confirmation Mass with Bishop Joenson)

Calendar with Mass Times, Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sunday 12/22	Monday 12/23	Tuesday 12/24	Wednesday 12/25	Thursday 12/26	Friday 12/27	Saturday 12/28
Adair 7:30am Rosary & Confession 8am Mass for Anna Donnelly 12/29 Mass for Anna Donnelly Stuart 10am Mass BD: Bailey Lillard	Adair 4:00 pm Mass for the People - Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord Stuart 6:00 pm Mass for the People - Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord BD: Gina Gettler	Office Closed Adair 9:00 am Christmas Mass The Nativity of the Lord Stuart 9:00 am Christmas Mass The Nativity of the Lord	Office Closed Stuart 9:00 am Christmas Mass The Nativity of the Lord	Stuart 9:00am Mass Stuart Care Center for Teresa Powell BD: Jill Hauschildt	Stuart 8:30am Mass for deceased members of the Tigges & Gladfelder families ANN: Todd & Maria Ladwig 1987	Stuart 3:30pm Confessions 4:05pm Rosary 4:30pm Mass for the People

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



We have come to the final week of Advent. The readings remind us that Advent is about newness. God acts, and he does something absolutely new. Both the first reading and the gospel today refer to this newness. And they refer to it by reference to something that is a core teaching of our Catholic Faith – the Virgin Birth of Christ. In the book of Isaiah, King Ahaz is in dire straits. Enemies are besieging him, and God wants to help him out. He says, 'Ask for a sign – any sign'. But Ahaz does not really trust God, so he says 'I will not ask. I will not tempt the Lord'. Rather strange since God explicitly told him to ask. But Ahaz does not want to rely on God. And so God takes matters into his own hands. He inspires Isaiah to say: 'The Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God with us'. Why is this important? Because for a virgin to conceive means that God has done something outside the normal course of nature. It means that he will do something new. And in the gospel, he fulfills the promise made to Ahaz 600 years earlier. The angel tells Joseph that it was through the Holy Spirit that Mary conceived. 'She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus because he will save his people from their sins'. Jesus was born of a virgin, and that means that God has done something new. God has acted to save us. This child is truly God and truly one of us. He would die to save us from our sins and restore us to friendship with God. He would give us hope, peace, and joy. God has done something absolutely new. How can we cooperate with God in bringing the newness of his saving love to our homes and our workplaces? If Christ is our Lord, if we are his followers, if we are Christians, then we will believe in him and show the firmness of that belief by obeying him. He is our King; we are his subjects; we follow his law. This is what Saint Joseph did: as soon as God made his will clear through the message of the angel, Joseph simply obeyed. There is no way that he could have understood fully the supernatural nature of Mary's pregnancy. The angel did not give a full explanation. He just said that God was behind it, and then told Joseph to take Mary into his home and name the child Jesus. Joseph could have demanded a more detailed explanation. He knew that gossip would spread; his reputation was at stake. But those worldly concerns faded away as soon as God's will became clear. Joseph believed in God, and so he fulfilled God's will. That is the obedience of faith. That is how we can continue to respond to God's

(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



- Jesus, Emmanuel, 'God is with us', looks forward to entering into a deeper intimacy with us as we commemorate his birth. Let us enthusiastically respond to that challenge.

⇒ Following is the Christmas Mass Schedule: -

- ♦ Tuesday, December 24 - Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord (Holyday of Obligation)
4:00 p.m. Mass at St. John
6:00 p.m. Mass at All Saints
- ♦ Wednesday, December 25 - The Nativity of the Lord (Holyday of Obligation)
9:00 a.m. Mass at All Saints

- **St. John Christmas Eve Liturgical Schedule:** Cross Bearer: Francis Hollinrake; Greeters: Mr. & Mrs. Andy Richter & Family; Lector: Julie Plowman; Host: Elizabeth Moreland; Cup: Dave Richter & Sister Nesta; Servers: Carley Fagan & Addy Richter
- **THANK YOU!** Thank you to the wonderful ladies who prepared the meal, brought salads & desserts for Colette Alexander's funeral. Colette loved family time so this getting together after her funeral was a special tribute to her. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for taking care of everything. It made it one less thing our family had to worry about during this difficult time. God Bless You, Cathy, Mike & Tom Alexander
- **Thank You to the Christmas Pageant Team at St. John** - We want to express our appreciation, and gratitude to Elizabeth Moreland, and her team of helpers, as well, to the parents and children of St. John, who enacted the Nativity of the Lord on Sunday, December 15th. It was wonderful, and inspiring. We do appreciate your hard work, sacrifice and for being a blessing to all of us as we prepare for Christmas. Thank you. Fr. Tony
- **Merry Christmas!** Father Antony Mathew and the staff wish each and every member of our parish family a Merry Christmas. May the new born Babe of Bethlehem bless each one of us, our families and our loved ones with His gift of peace, joy, love, and abundant blessings. Perhaps it is also an appropriate time to recognize the contributions of those who make our parish family a unique one; and our celebration of the Holy Eucharist a profound experience for those who gather to worship and praise God. I want to thank all those who devote so much of their time, energy and life for the parish family day after day and thereby bring immeasurable blessings to the parish family. Thanks to our wonderful pastoral team: Rev. Antony Mathew, Tammy Doud, Jill Gerling, Barb Boss for their commitment, sacrifice, and selfless giving to our parish family. We appreciate and express our gratitude to the trustees; finance councils; religious formation teams (Jill Gerling, Monica Fagan, catechists/substitutes/catechist-aids); liturgy ministry teams (sacristans, extra-ordinary ministers of the Holy Eucharist, lectors, greeters, ushers, altar servers, money counters; and art and environment); music ministry teams (Brenda Wedemeyer, Deb Hollinrake, cantors, organists, pianists, and choir); the social ministry teams (parish social gathering ministry; bereavement ministry); Altar and Rosary Society; Knights of Columbus; St. John's Parish Family (Adair); maintenance ministry & grounds care). If I have missed anyone, it is unintentional. My heart is filled with joy and gratitude to Almighty God, who continually blesses us with His abundant blessings, and to all our parishioners for blessing us by their unwavering dedication, commitment, support, sacrifice, and financial generosity. Thank you. Fr. Tony
- **Parish Office Closed:** The parish office will be closed on Tuesday, December 24th and Wednesday, December 25th in observance of Christmas. If you have an emergency, kindly follow the instructions for emergency procedures which is to call Father Tony's cell phone at 712-304-4836.

Altar & Rosary Announcement by Jodi Bassett, President

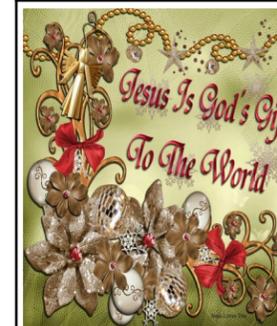
The Altar and Rosary Society has been asked to cater a meal for a family reunion that is planned to take place in our church hall next summer. We will meet after Masses the weekend of January 11 & 12, 2020 to provide more information and confirm involvement by the membership. This will be a considerable undertaking which is why this meeting is taking place in January. The catered meal will also be a fundraiser for our organization. Many ladies will be required to cook, serve and clean up, so I want to be sure everyone is on board. There will be plenty of opportunities to help, so no one should have to be involved the entire time.

January will be here before we know, so please put these meetings on your calendars and plan to attend. It is important that everyone gets the information early so we can plan on good involvement.

Thank you for your continued support in our numerous events.

Many blessings to you and your families this holiday season! ~ Jodi

Coordinator of All Saints Faith Formation, Jill Gerling



Some of the Faith Formation children will present the Christmas Story prior to Christmas Eve Mass on Tuesday, December 24th at 5:45pm. Those children participating, please arrive at the church at 5:15, hang your coats and leave any other personal belongings with your parents. Proceed to the working sacristy (room behind the altar) to get dressed for the performance. As reminder, the roles are:

Prayer Leader: Maren Hoffman; Story Reader: Alli Boyle; Mary: Lydia Tongo; Angel Gabriel: Carly Dickson; Elizabeth: Evie Boyle; Joseph: Mitchell Dickson; Shepherds: Nora Hoffmann; King Herod: Ian Hoffman; King 1: Marshall Dickson; King 2: Cora Boyle; King 3: Nora Hoffman; Angel of God: Violet Aubert

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

All Saints

Saturday, December 28

Rosary: Frank Holle
Ushers: Matt & Jen Dickson
Altar Server: Zoey & Bailey Dickson
Lector: Jodi Bassett
Commentator: Sharon Doud
Greeters: Matt & Jen Dickson & Family
EMHC: Jodi Bassett, Sister Andre & Sister Nesta

All Saints

Sunday, December 29

Ushers: Knights of Columbus
Altar Servers: Knights of Columbus
Lector: Knights of Columbus
Commentator: Knights of Columbus
Greeters: Knights of Columbus
EMHC: Knights of Columbus

St. John

Sunday, December 29

Cross Bearer: Joseph Fagan
Greeters: Mr. & Mrs. John Vogl
Lector: Barb Bachman
Host: Sister Nesta
Cup: Matt Fagan & Dave Richter
Altar Servers: Belle Fagan & Bailey Lillard
Traveling Chalice: Cleon & Kaye Klemish

MONEY COUNTERS

Monday, December 23 @ 9am: Dave Vigon & Dennis Van Pelt

Monday, December 29 @ 9am: Eric Tiernan, Gina James & Donna Donnelly

All Saints Financial Partnership

December 15, 2019

Weekly Offering: \$ 1,637.00
Children's Offering: \$ 10.92
Additional Building Fund: \$ 125.00

St. John Financial Partnership

December 15, 2019

Weekly Offering: \$ 558.00
Children's Offering: \$ 21.00