

SAINT JOHN CATHOLIC CHURCH

JUNE 3, 2018

Rev. Raymond J. Higgins, Parish Priest

MOST HOLY BODY & BLOOD SUNDAY

DEAR PARISHIONERS

Please hold the priests of the Diocese in prayer as we enter into our annual retreat for prayer, reflection, and worship together. Our hope is to come back renewed in our commitment to God and His People.

This weekend we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. We call to mind a central teaching that Christ is truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist. We believe the body and blood, together with the soul and divinity, of our Lord Jesus—the whole Christ—is truly, really, and substantially present. This teaching is rooted in Scripture, taught by the Fathers and Doctors of the Church, and reaffirmed by popes and ecumenical councils throughout Church history. This teaching is summarized in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (nos. 1373–81).

I was reading some meditations from Sr. Kathryn Hermes, FSP

(Daughters of St. Paul) concerning the Eucharistic presence of Christ. She echos the Church's teaching that in Holy Communion we truly receive Jesus under the appearances of bread and wine. "So simply, so humbly, He makes Himself our food and our drink. He wants to be intimately united to us, to become one with us so we can become one with Him. The real presence in the Eucharist is not symbolic. It is truly Jesus Christ, crucified and risen. Just as He manifested Himself in His body after the Resurrection—so real yet so subtle—this same sacred risen body is in the Eucharistic elements of bread and wine." [Minute Meditations for Lent by Sister Kathryn Hermes, FSP (Daughters of St. Paul)] Sr. Kathryn goes on to say, "what I receive from the Eucharistic Liturgy doesn't depend on how I feel or whether I have a "good experience" at Mass. Rather, it is about what God has done, and all that God

promises to do. As Catholics, our daily lives are not fully broken open until joined with others in this art of praising and thanking God in the midst of our human situation. To pray for and with and out of a suffering world, out of our own suffering, is to learn something true about praise and blessing; it is to profess most authentically that God is God." [Minute Meditations for Lent by Sister Kathryn Hermes, FSP (Daughters of St. Paul)]

God has not abandoned us, but will be present to us always. Because of this relationship with God, we can bring to Mass the real "stuff of life" all the good and the bad, and we trust ourselves to Him because of who He is: God. Continue to read of our beautiful teachings and pray asking God to send His Spirit to help you not only to understand this mystery, but to truly appreciate Christ in the Eucharist.

-Fr. Ray



**501 ADAIR ST.
ADAIR, IA 50002**

MASS TIMES

**8AM SUNDAY
8:30AM**

WEDNESDAY

CONFESSION:

**7:30AM SUNDAY
W/ ADORATION
& ROSARY**

PARISH BUSINESS & FINANCE REPORT

May 27th Collection \$412.00

Kids: \$3.00

Building Fund Balance:

\$1,325.05

Building Fund: \$0.00

Income: \$415.00

Expenses: \$163.14

Please remember your tithes & offerings if/when you are unavailable to attend Mass. The Parish Expenses continue whether you are here or not. Thank you!

**ADA 2018 Balance Due
As Of 5/11: \$579.24**

Trustees: Sheryl Drees, Les Elgin

Council Members: John Fagan,

Monica Fagan, Larry Drees,

Kenneth Ludwig, Marcia Gettler

Financial Secretary: Rita Rilea

“The Availability of Prayer”

-Submitted by David Witkowski

"Prayer is an open door which none can shut," wrote Charles Spurgeon in "Morning and Evening." "Devils may surround you on all sides," he continued, "but the way upward is always open, and as long as that road is unobstructed, you will not fall into the enemy's hand."

Is there anywhere we can go where God is not present? Not according to the Bible. Psalm 139:7 asks, "Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?" In Jeremiah 23:23-24 we read, "'Am I only a God nearby,' declares the LORD, 'and not a God far away? Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?' declares the LORD. 'Do not I fill heaven and earth?' declares the LORD (NIV)."

Prayer and God's Omnipresence

The fact that God is everywhere is known as omnipresence, meaning that He is present everywhere throughout His creation. This does not mean that God is creation, a worldview known as pantheism, but that God is ever-present in His creation. C.S. Lewis likened this relationship between God and His creation to that of a painter to a painting: "A painter is not a picture, and he does not die if his picture is destroyed. You may say, 'He's put a lot of himself into it,' but you only mean that all its beauty and interest has come out of his head. His skill is not in the picture in the same way that it is in his head, or even in his hands."

Because of the reality of God's omnipresence, we are assured that no matter where we are, God will hear our prayers—even

from the belly of a fish: "From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God" (Jonah 2:1 NIV). While not the most comfortable place to pray, we know that God heard the prayers of the prophet, even while Jonah was in the ocean depths.

But do we really believe that prayer is always available? If so, we must act on this truth. Nothing, then, can keep a believer from coming before God in prayer, except our own choices: "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39 NIV). Prayer will always connect us to God.

By Robert Velarde

Prayer & Thanksgiving

To request prayer, please call the Church office at 515-523-1943, Adella Vogl at 641-742-5277, or email: stjohnallsaints@gmail.com

Reminder: Bulletin items need to be submitted to the church office by **5pm Wednesdays.**

Thanks!

Visit our Website:

adairstjohn.org

- Bulletins
- Daily Readings
- Children's Bulletins
- Mass Intentions
- Calendar
- ...and more!

Liturgical Ministers

Sunday June 10

Cross Bearer: Belle Fagan
Greeters: Mr. & Mrs. Scott Suhr
Lector: Julie Plowman
Host: Elizabeth Moreland
Cup: Les Elgin & Sr. Andre
Servers: Trevin Suhr & Addie Richter
Traveling Chalice: Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Memorial Day Remembered

1. What is the earliest day in May that Memorial Day can be observed? **Answer: May 25**
2. What was the holiday now known as Memorial Day originally called? **Answer: Decoration Day**
3. Memorial Day started out as a holiday honoring those who died in what war? **Answer: The Civil War**
4. In 1966, President Johnson designated what small town as the official birthplace of Memorial Day? **Answer: Waterloo, New York**
5. True or False: The holiday for the past 100 years has always fallen on a Monday. **Answer: False**
6. What flower is traditionally worn as a sign of remembrance on Memorial Day? **Answer: Red Poppy**
7. True or False: Under Federal Law, the American flag is to be displayed at half-staff until noon on Memorial Day. **Answer: True**
8. At what time of day is a national moment of remembrance observed? **Answer: 3pm**
9. Who introduced a bill every year since 1989 to set the holiday as May 30? **Answer: Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii)**
10. What sporting event has taken place on or around Memorial Day since 1911? **Answer: Indianapolis 500**

From an article by Debra Bell, Staff Writer for US News & World Report, May 27, 2011

CALENDAR

<u>Sunday 6-3</u>	<u>Monday 6-4</u>	<u>Tuesday 6-5</u>	<u>Wednesday 6-6</u>	<u>Thursday 6-7</u>	<u>Friday 6-8</u>	<u>Saturday 6-9</u>
7:30am Confession/ Adoration/Rosary 8am Mass for Betty Dill		6pm Mass <i>for William & Mary Schultz (Stuart)</i>	8:30am Mass for Joseph Vogl CWO Mtg. after Mass BD: Waylen Murphy	9am Care Center Mass for Sr. Phyllis Kernz (Stuart) BD: Stephanie Dorsey	8:30am Mass <i>for Martin G Lydon (Stuart)</i>	3:30pm Confessions at Stuart 4:30pm Mass at Stuart Bill Sherman ANN: Cody & Elizabeth Moreland 2012

IN THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Sunday Focus:

Exodus 24:3-8; Hebrews 9:11-15; Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

We cannot afford to take the gift of the Eucharist for granted.

There are many reasons people give for no longer going to church. There is one great reason to attend. It is here as a community of believers we receive the most precious and sacred of all gifts from our God this side of heaven. It is here we receive the most sacred gift of Jesus in the Eucharist.

Monday Focus:

2 Peter 1:2-7; Mark 12:1-12

God's gifts supplement our faith and are used to build His kingdom.

Today we reflect on the gifts God has given us: how those gifts can strengthen our faith, and how we might use those gifts to "bear fruit" for God.

Tuesday Focus:

2 Peter 3:12-15a, 17-18; Mark 12:13-17

Let us be courageous witnesses to God's truth and presence in our lives.

Jesus *amazes* His followers in today's Gospel because of His wise answer to a question about paying taxes. As Jesus' disci-

ples, let us seek the wisdom of the Holy Spirit each day in order to be courageous witnesses of Christ's truth and His presence in our lives.

Wednesday Focus:

2 Timothy 1:1-3, 6-12; Mark 12:18-27

Our strength comes from God.

We are reminded today that all of our strength, all of our power, comes from God. As followers of Jesus, we are asked to use this gift of strength for the good of others—share the Gospel and to give others the sense of hope that comes from knowing that God is all good and all powerful.

Thursday Focus:

2 Timothy 2:8-15; Mark 12:28-34

We preach Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, for the salvation of every person.

We want to do our best to be good and faithful Catholics. Sometimes it seems easy, other times we may doubt our own beliefs or struggle with contrary outside influences. Since we cannot rely only on ourselves to live a vibrant Christian life, we must allow God's grace to form us into His disciples and to preach Jesus Christ raised from the dead.

Friday Focus:

Hosea 11:1, 3-4, 8c-9; Ephesians 3:8-12, 14-19; John 19:31-37

The Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

The Sacred Heart of Jesus embodies the extravagant love Jesus has for us.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus embodies the extravagant love Jesus has for us. Today's solemnity, honoring the Sacred Heart, provides a special time to focus on what this love has done for us and how we might best respond to it. Let us search our own hearts today and see how well Jesus' love is reflected there.

Saturday Focus:

2 Timothy 4:1-8; Luke 2:41-51

Proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient.

In today's reading, we are called to *proclaim the word* and be persistent about it. Being a disciple and reaching out to others to share our faith is not easy. But because we are guided by the Word of God and the Holy Spirit, we are able to persevere.

WHO'S WHO?

Parish Priest

Rev. Raymond J. Higgins is our current Pastor. He will officially be leaving us July 11, 2018. Our new priest will be Fr. Antony Mathew who is currently serving the parishes in Audubon and Exira.

Parish Office PO Box 605, 216 All Saints Drive, Stuart 50250 Serving Both Parishes Rita Rilea (allsaintsoffice@gmail.com) is our Financial Secretary and is responsible for all matters dealing with the finances at both All Saints in Stuart and St. John in Adair. She is also the person who publishes donation statements, sets up electronic donations, and is the secretary/treasurer of the Altar & Rosary Society. Rita is in the office Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday from 9am-3pm. Brenda Wedemeyer (stjohnallsaints@gmail.com) is our bulletin editor, communications coordinator, and pastoral assistant. She manages the websites and email correspondences and assists Father as needed by attending meetings in his place or taking care of general requests. Brenda is in the office on a limited basis, but generally on Thursdays from 9-5, with some hours at other times during the week as needed.

Faith Formation Cathy Hicks (cabinmn@gmail.com) is our Director of Religious Education and is responsible for the education department at All Saints. Annie Brincks (annie68164@hotmail.com) is her counterpart at St. John. Please contact either one of these ladies to register your children for Faith Formation, to volunteer, or for further information.

Parish Maintenance Barb Boss (bbosslady@msn.com) is the head of building custodial duties. She is part time and is assisted by Christina, her daughter. Their work schedule fluctuates with the events of the parish, but generally are at the

church on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Dave, Barb's husband, is the one who takes care of our building & grounds as well as our environmental creature comforts.

Knights of Columbus—All Saints Dan Hilgers (amh50070@yahoo.com) is the current Grand Knight. Meetings are conducted on the second Sunday evening of the month at 6pm. All men—18 and older—of the parish are invited and welcome to join.

St. John's Men's Group—Adair Formerly the Knights of Columbus at St. John's, the men have regrouped and are now known as the St. John's Men's Group. All men—18 and older—are invited to take part in the organization which specializes in sponsoring Friday Night Fish Fries during Lent each year. Francis Hollinrake is the leader of this group. (641-742-5016)

Altar & Rosary Society—All Saints Jodi Bassett (jodibdc@coonvalleytelco.com) is the current president of the Altar & Rosary Society. The A&RS provides funeral meals as well as altar linens. All women—18 and older—of the parish are automatic members. Annual dues are \$10.

C.W.O.—Adair The Catholic Women's Organization at St. John's is lead by Betty Ludwig (bludwig50002@yahoo.com). The group meets the first of each month following Mass on Wednesday morning. Every woman of the church is a member. The group provides coffee and rolls the first Sunday of the month. The CWO hosts an annual Spring Dinner to help raise funds to help with the Annual Diocesan Appeal amount. They serve funeral lunches and are responsible for the bills of the parish hall. Annual dues are \$5 as well as a \$25 collection each fall in lieu of a dinner.

Hall Rentals

Anyone wishing to rent a parish hall

should contact Rita Rilea at All Saints or Betty Ludwig at St. John.

Musicians

Norma Tigges (tiggesnorma@yahoo.com) is the organist, music director, and wedding coordinator for All Saints with Sharon Swartz as the Saturday organist.

Deb Hollinrake (641-742-5016) is the organist, cantor, and choir leader for St. John.

Contact Norma or Deb for wedding or funeral arrangements.

Special Events

Frank Hadley (8791armyvet@gmail.com) has accepted the responsibility of heading the Special Events committee at Stuart. Please contact Frank if you'd like to volunteer to help him on any particular event.

Websites & e-Communications

<https://stuartallsaints.org>

<https://adairstjohn.org>

Mass emails are sent out through Constant Contact. If you are not receiving our electronic bulletins and other notifications (i.e., prayer requests, announcements, etc), please be sure to submit your email address to the church office. The week's bulletin is sent out at 9am each Saturday morning for your convenience.

Any items that you would like to have published in the upcoming bulletin need to be submitted to the church office by 5pm Wednesday. Thank you!

Liturgical Scheduling

All scheduling of Liturgical Ministers is done through Les Elgin (elgins2011@gmail.com) for St. John and through Joyce Van Pelt (joyceannvp@gmail.com) at All Saints. Please keep these folks informed of your ability to serve as well as your current contact information.