

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

images, and so many ideas. Christ knows this, yet he still tells us, 'My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me'. What gives Christ so much confidence in our ability to stay close to him and avoid the traps set by poachers and wolves? It is prayer, one of God's greatest gifts to us, and one that we often take for granted. Christ is always paying attention to us, just as a good shepherd pays attention to his sheep. He is always speaking to us, just as a good shepherd walks ahead of his flock talking and singing, so they can hear him and follow along. No matter how noisy, dark, or stormy it gets, he knows how to make his voice heard in our hearts. We can always tune into it – that is the gift of prayer. The server never goes down, the reception never goes bad: as soon as we turn the attention of our hearts to our good shepherd, he makes his voice heard. God is always online, waiting for us to turn our attention to him, so he can guide us to the meaningful life we long for. The sheep who wanders away and gets stuck in a ravine or attacked by wolves cannot blame the shepherd. Just so, when our lives do not fill us with the meaning we long for, before blaming Jesus we should take an honest look at our prayer lives: do we pray? Do we strive to pray better? Jesus said that no one can snatch us out of his hand. But we are free to jump out of his hand. Little by little we can drift away from Him. The cares and concerns of everyday life can get to us. We can get tired, and forget why we do what we do. In the Holy Eucharist, when we receive Jesus Christ, we receive his presence and his promise, and his joy that no one can ever take away from us. And we also know that someday we are going to see him face to face forever in heaven. Today, as Jesus renews his commitment as our good shepherd, let us renew our commitment to be his good sheep, to give daily prayer the place it ought to have in our lives.

Altar and Rosary Society by Jodi Bassett, President

This weekend we have the opportunity to celebrate Mother's Day. No one loves us quite like our mothers do. They take care of our most basic needs, and give us more when possible. A loving mother will give their children food off their own plates when they are still hungry, defend them from the harshest assaults, labor and toil to give them a loving home, and generally put their children's needs and wants before their own.

In this week's second reading, John quotes an elder who stated "...The one who sits on the throne will shelter them. They will not hunger or thirst anymore, nor will the sun or any heat strike them. For the Lamb who is at the center of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to springs of life-giving water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." In John's Gospel, Jesus references his sheep. It is a familiar paragraph; His sheep are like children. He calls to them, and they hear his call. Because they know Jesus, the sheep follow him.

What appropriate readings for this weekend! In the second reading, Jesus, the Lamb, is the one on the throne, sheltering the worshippers, protecting and providing for their needs. This sounds like our mothers. And when our mothers call to us, we are to respond and follow her voice, like the sheep of Jesus in the Gospel.

Often, our mothers are compared to our Holy Mother Mary, which is certainly most appropriate. Today I would suggest that in some ways, our mothers are like Mary's son, Jesus, who cares for us like our own mothers do.

Happy Mother's Day to all our mothers and their families.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

All Saints

Saturday, May 18

Rosary: Frank Holle

Ushers: Dave Boss & Dennis Donnelly

Altar Server: Connie Drake

Lector: Jodi Bassett

Commentator: Sharon Doud

Greeters: Mark & Kari Tisl

EMHC: Donna Donnelly, Mark & Kari Tisl

All Saints

Sunday, May 19

Ushers: Wayne Nosbish & Pat Beaman

Altar Servers: Lauren O'Brien, Larissa Crawford & Zander Dole

Lector: Wayne Nosbish

Commentator: Donna Olson

Greeters: Zach & Stefani Dole

EMHC: Jo Beaman, Matt Smith & Amy Doud

St. John

Sunday, May 19

Cross Bearer: Cody Moreland

Greeters: Brain Richter & Roger Vais

Lector: Theresa Elgin

Host: Adella Vogl

Cup: Les Elgin & Dave Richter

Altar Servers: Addy Richter & Bailey Lillard

Traveling Chalice: Les & Theresa Elgin

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



One of God's favorite ways to describe himself is by saying he is like a good shepherd. Jesus did so more than once, as he does in today's Gospel. In the Old Testament, the comparison is everywhere: God chose shepherds to be the Patriarchs; he chose shepherds to be Israel's first kings; and the prophets ceaselessly speak of Israel as a flock and God as their shepherd. The image returns again and again in the Book of Psalms. We are used to this image, but even so, the Church likes to remind us of it, frequently. What is it about this image that God likes so much? It is interesting to note that among world religions, this image is unique to Judaism and Christianity. Even though most primitive religions are polytheistic, they usually express some inkling that behind all the powers of the universe there is one supreme god. Usually this god is associated with the sky, or the sea, or the mountain - with some natural phenomenon that the culture depends on. In none of these instances, however, is god seen as a divine shepherd of humankind. Comparing God to a good shepherd can only happen in a religion that recognizes a special connection between the human person and God - for instance, that man is created in the image of God. Only then does the comparison make sense, because a God who is a good shepherd is a God who walks with his people and cares about their every joy and sorrow. Jesus tells us what our God is like. But sheep are not perfect; sometimes they wander. When the flock is feeding in a meadow, the shepherd will take his sheep dogs up to a spot a little bit above the flock, a little away from them, so that he can see all of them at once. He will sit and rest while keeping an eye on them. When one of the sheep starts to wander away, he whistles to his sheep dog, and the dog sprints off in pursuit of the wanderer, chasing it back into the safety of the flock. If Christ is the good shepherd of the Church, who are the sheep dogs? Every one of us. He gives us his word, his grace, his sacraments, and he sends us into the world around us, to gather all the wandering and lost sheep. Our mission is to bring them back to the flock. It is not always easy. It takes prayer, sacrifice, and patience. It takes an ongoing effort on our part to know the faith well enough to be able to answer objections. But above all, it takes sharing Christ's own love for his people, and for every person. When we care about the people God puts in our path, we will do whatever we can to bring them closer to Christ, because we know that if they go off on their own, they will easily get lost, and they will be vulnerable to attacks, to the deadly lies that say happiness can be found in money, pleasure, prestige, or the glamour of a false religion. Unfortunately, life in today's world is noisy, and it is not always easy for us to hear the voice of our good shepherd. We are bombarded with so many other voices, so many *(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 prep-

arations 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. Each of the 81 parishes in the Diocese of Des Moines has a goal that is calculated based on a formula of parish income and expenses. One of the largest expenses covered by the Diocesan Appeal is support of our priests. The Diocese pays 100% of the priests health care. The Appeal also covers the priest's retirement benefits, an expense which is not absorbed by our parish. The Diocese currently supports 112 priests; 37 of those priests are retired, and 75 are active. The Appeal also covers the formation of our deacons, and education of our 21 seminarians as they study in their last years of Seminary. The ADA also covers administrative expenses for the staff of the Diocese who are dedicated to serving our parish in many ways. Bishop Pates' ministry, including housing, travel throughout the Diocese for meetings, special masses, and confirmations are all supported by the ADA. Last, but not least, a portion of our ADA dollars supports 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. I want to thank everyone who has already participated in the 2019 Annual Diocesan Appeal, and provide a friendly reminder to those who are still thinking about responding. Your participation is very valuable to All Saints and St. John Catholic Church. We are looking forward to your support, and sacrificial generosity to share a little of our God-given blessing to spread His kingdom and mission.

All Saints, Stuart, Parish ADA Goal = \$30,035 Gifts Received: \$ 17,180.00
St. John, Adair, ADA Goal = \$7,257 Gifts Received: \$3,545.00

- All Saints Catholic Church Maintenance and Repair Projects:** All Saints Catholic Church has decided to take up three maintenance projects costing around \$ 54,841 dollars. As a matter of fact, all these projects are long overdue. The success of the campaign for these projects will depend upon your commitment in prayer, involvement and sacrifice of God given treasure. Our success will not come from a small group of parishioners, but rather from the participation of 100% of the parish family. I want to thank everyone who has already donated to these projects, and we are looking forward to the support, and sacrificial generosity of others so that in the spirit of the sacrifice and generosity of our founding members, we can answer our challenge today .

Gifts received - \$ 5,475.00 Parishioners Donated: 11

- Air-conditioning of St. John Parish Hall:** We have decided to fulfill a long cherished dream of our parishioners of having an air conditioning system installed at St. John Parish Hall at a cost of \$ 6050 dollars. The success of the campaign for this project will depend upon your commitment in prayer, involvement and sacrifice of God given treasure. Our success will not come from a small group of parishioners, but rather from the participation of 100% of the parish family. I want to thank everyone who has already donated to this project, and we are looking forward to the support, and sacrificial generosity of others so that in the spirit of the sacrifice and generosity of our founding members, we can answer our challenge today.

Gifts Received: \$ 1,735.00 Parishioners Donated: 9

- Pastor Away from the Office:** Father Antony Mathew will be away from the parish office from Tuesday, May 7th through Thursday, June 6th on vacation spending time with his family in India.
- NO DAILY MASS:** There will not be a daily Mass from Tuesday, May 7th through Friday June 7th.
- Substitute Priest :** Rev. Lawrence R. Hoffmann, a retired priest of the Diocese of Des Moines, will cover the weekend Masses at All Saints and St. John during Fr. Tony's absence.
- Funeral/emergency while Fr. Tony gone:** Call Rev. Lawrence R. Hoffmann (515-343-6040), and see whether he will be available for a funeral. If someone is in the hospital, the family needs to contact the hospital chaplain there; Rev. James Ahenkora (641-745-7362), pastor of St. John Catholic Church, Greenfield may be able to help in the event of an emergency.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Thank you from Father Tony!** I want to thank Tammy Doud, Jill Gerling, and all the others for making my 23rd anniversary of ordination to priesthood (May 2, 1996) special with the reception after the Mass on Sunday, May 5th. I do appreciate your many gestures of love, friendship, thoughtfulness, and graciousness. I am truly blessed, and honored to be a part of your life and family through my priesthood and ministry. Please know that you continue to be in my thoughts and prayers during this Easter season. Thanks again.
- Thank You to the First Communion Reception Team, St. John, Adair!** We want to express our sincere gratitude and thankfulness to Sheryl Drees, and the others for helping with the reception for our First Communicants on Sunday, May 5th. Want to thank all those who were part of the reception because without your presence, there would not have been a wonderful celebration. Your hard work, and sacrifice always makes a difference in our parish family, and we are grateful to each one of you for sharing your valuable time, and talents with us. May God bless you, your family, and your loved ones with His peace, joy, love and abundant blessings.

All Saints Faith Formation Coordinator, Jill Gerling

Thanks to all who participated this Lent with the Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl campaign. All Saints raised a total of \$271.71, the Faith Formation Families raised \$176.38 and the rest of the parishioners raised \$95.33.

A special blessed THANK YOU to all who purchased jewelry from the Youth Group Jewelry sales in the month of April. We sold about \$400 of products and collected \$100 in straight donations. Thanks to all who gave to help send the youth to the National Catholic Youth Conference in November 2019!

ATTENTION youth in grades 9 - 12 fall of 2019:
The National Catholic Youth Conference is this November 21-23, 2019 in Indianapolis. Those thinking about attending or wanting to attend, please contact Jill as soon as possible.

To learn more check out
<http://www.ncvc.info/>



Calendar with Mass Times, Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sunday 5/12	Monday 5/13	Tuesday 5/14	Wednesday 5/15	Thursday 5/16	Friday 5/17	Saturday 5/18
Adair 7:30am Rosary & Confession 8am Mass for Jeanette Wittrock Stuart 9am Choir Practice 10am Mass: for the people BD: Martha Gittins ANN: Gail & Annie Brincks 2004	BD: Donna Donnelly & Cheyenne Jensen	Stuart NO MASS BD: Philip Fagan & Phyllis O'Brien	Adair NO MASS ANN: Scott & Natalie Suhr 1993	Stuart NO MASS	Stuart NO MASS	Stuart Confessions by Appointment 4:05pm Rosary 4:30pm Mass for the people BD: Dale Grundmeier & Theresa Brincks

MONEY COUNTERS

Tuesday, May 14 @ 1pm: Eric Tiernan, Regina James & Donna Donnelly
Tuesday, May 21st @1pm: Donna Olson & Gina Ocheltree

All Saints Financial Partnership
 May 5, 2019
Weekly Offering: \$ 1,516.00
Children's Offering: \$ 23.00
Building Fund: \$ 583.00

St. John Financial Partnership
 May 5, 2019
Weekly Offering: \$ 810.00
Children's Offering: \$ 27.00