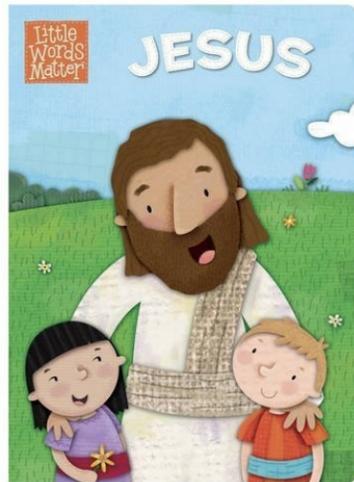


**Father Tony's Corner** *(continued from front page)*

right away - usually. He does not make us completely happy right away. He comes into our life as a companion and a guide, as a friend who also happens to be infinitely wise. And he invites us to follow him along the path of life. And this is why it takes so long for us to become spiritually mature. Jesus wants us to be his friends. He wants us to actually contribute to our own spiritual growth. He is like a good coach: he does not just want us to win the race; he wants us to become winners. Just as the baby Jesus took thirty years and the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary to grow up and fulfill his mission in life, so God's grace takes time and the help of our own efforts to grow in us and fill our lives with Christ's light. In every Christian soul, the sun begins to rise at baptism, but unlike in the world of nature, it will only rise fully if we let it, if we choose to follow Christ and live in friendship with him. How can we prepare to receive this new blessing that he wants to give us, just as Mary prepared the manger to receive the baby Jesus? The best thing we can do to prepare our hearts is to help someone else prepare their heart. Teachers always say that they only really began to learn when they had to teach. The spiritual life is similar. Our faith and friendship with Christ take on more depth and dynamism the more we share them with others. Many of our friends, colleagues, and family members never knew or have forgotten the true meaning of Christmas. They have put the dream Christ has for their lives on the shelf. They no longer even think that true, lasting, Christian joy is possible. But Jesus has not given up on them. He yearns to bring them back into his friendship and the family of the Church. A little extra generosity on our part, a little extra effort to go beyond the superficialities of 'season's greetings', a little extra prayer, a little reaching out to them - these are windows we can open into their lives so that Christ's grace can stream in and touch their hearts. We still have nine days before Christmas. We can open a lot of windows in nine days. If we try, Christ will surely help us - and reward us.

**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**

<u>Sunday 12/15</u>	<u>Monday 12/16</u>	<u>Tuesday 12/17</u>	<u>Wednesday 12/18</u>	<u>Thursday 12/19</u>	<u>Friday 12/20</u>	<u>Saturday 12/21</u>
<u>Adair</u> 7:30am Rosary & Confession 8am Mass for Anna Donnelly	BD: David Doud & Luis Huerta	6pm Mass BD: Chantal Tigges & Eli Kasap	8:30am Mass for Anna Donnelly BD: Norine Marlowe, Allen Boucher & Nora Guillaume	9:00am Mass Stuart Care Center BD: Toby Moreland ANN: Dave & Barb Boss 1987	8:30am Mass for Caroline Lacher BD: Bertha Fagan, Cindy Lonsdale & Jacob Ladwig	3:30pm Confessions 4:05pm Rosary 4:30pm Mass for the People
<u>Stuart</u> 10am Mass for the People				ANN: Dave & Evelyn Richter 1975		

**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**



The color of our vestments has changed. The promise that God is at work in the world and in our lives, even when it does not look like it, is symbolized by the color of the vestments we wear today. We have set aside the dark purple and midnight blue of Advent, which symbolizes the darkness of night, the spiritual night that the world was stuck in before Christ's coming. And we have put on rose-colored vestments - the color of the horizon at the very start of a sunrise. The sun does not come up all of a sudden. It is a gradual, almost imperceptible brightening of the sky. It is a visual symbol that Christmas is closer. In our hearts the color should be changing too. For the first weeks of Advent, we have meditated on our need for God, our sinfulness, our helplessness in achieving the meaning and fulfillment that we long for. Today we switch gears. Without forgetting about our need for a Savior, we focus our attention more on that Savior himself. Christ came on the first Christmas in order to make his dream for this fallen world come true. And he wants to come again into our hearts this Christmas for the same reason, to make his dream for our lives come true. When Jesus came to earth, he met the blind, and gave them sight; the poor, and gave them hope; the lame, and gave them strength. He has begun the same work in us, and is eager to continue it. We are blinded by ignorance and selfishness, and he offers us light in the teachings of his Church. We are poor in virtue, and he fills us with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We are lame, unable to pray as we should, to bear witness as we should, to love as we should, and he heals and strengthens us by nourishing us with his very self in the Holy Eucharist. Christ's influence on history is the same. He began the redemption two thousand years ago - that was the first blush of sunrise in the fallen, sin-darkened world. And ever since then his grace and salvation, his light and goodness, have been spreading throughout the world. Even today, the Church is still growing and expanding in every corner of the world. In spite of setbacks, human failings, persecution - the sun continues to rise. Catholicism is not just a religion with many believers around the world. True, it has beliefs and traditions, as other religions do. But it is much more than that. It is a real, organic, united community, with a structured backbone of authority in the bishops and the pope. That structure was established by Christ, has remained intact for two thousand years, and is guaranteed by God to last until the end of time - until the sun has fully risen. Jesus has a dream for each one of our lives, and he is coming to make that dream come true. Jesus uses the same approach in each one of our individual lives. He does not make us saints

*(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

### Oils of Scripture

As we approach the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, we prepare ourselves through the season of Advent. We pray (more), we give of ourselves (more), we spend (more) time with family, and we learn (more) about our faith.

This is a short lesson on two of the three gifts brought to the young Child, Jesus by the Magi.

Link <https://www.catholic.com/encyclopedia/magi>

The gifts being discussed and demonstrated are Frankincense and Myrrh.

### Frankincense

The most familiar Scripture here would be found in Matthew 2:11.

“...and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” (NABRE usccb.org)

Looking further back into the Old Testament we see a passage from Exodus describing a mixture of oils prescribed and used in the tabernacle.

Exodus 30:34-36

“The LORD told Moses: Take these aromatic substances: storax, onycha and galbanum, these and pure frankincense in equal parts; and blend them into incense. This fragrant powder, expertly prepared, is to be salted and so kept pure and sacred. Grind some of it into fine dust and put this before the covenant in the tent of meeting where I will meet you. This incense shall be treated as most sacred by you.” (NABRE usccb.org)

Link for “storax” <https://www.catholic.com/encyclopedia/plants-in-the-bible>

### Myrrh

Exodus 30:23-32

The Anointing Oil

“The LORD told Moses: Take the finest spices: five hundred shekels of free-flowing myrrh; half that amount, that is, two hundred and fifty shekels, of fragrant cinnamon; two hundred and fifty shekels of fragrant cane; five hundred shekels of cassia—all according to the standard of the sanctuary shekel; together with a hin (about five quarts) of olive oil; and blend them into sacred anointing oil, perfumed ointment expertly prepared. With this sacred anointing oil you shall anoint the tent of meeting and the ark of the covenant, the table and all its utensils, the menorah and its utensils, the altar of incense and the altar for burnt offerings with all its utensils, and the basin with its stand. When you have consecrated them, they shall be most sacred; whatever touches them shall be sacred. Aaron and his sons you shall also anoint and consecrate as my priests. Tell the Israelites: As sacred anointing oil this shall belong to me throughout your generations. It may not be used in any ordinary anointing of the body, nor may you make any other oil of a like mixture. It is sacred and shall be treated as sacred by you.”

## 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

## St. John Faith Formation 2019-2020 by Monica Fagan



The St. John Children have been working hard on a Christmas play that will be performed on Sunday, December 15 following mass. Please plan to stay and enjoy this fun performance about the true meaning of Christmas.

~ Cookies and coffee will be served in the hall following the play. ~

### LITURGICAL MINISTERS

#### All Saints

**Saturday, December 21**

**Rosary:** Frank Holle

**Ushers:** Marty & Julie Doud

**Altar Server:** Connie Drake

**Lector:** Bob Bird

**Commentator:** Mark Tisl

**Greeters:** Marty & Julie Doud

**EMHC:** Mark Tisl, Jo Beaman &

Sister Cinweze

#### All Saints

**Sunday, December 22**

**Ushers:** Patrick & John

Gulbranson

**Altar Servers:** Larissa

Crawford, Ian & Nora Hoffman

**Lector:** Gary Riordan

**Commentator:** Daisy Nevins

**Greeters:** John, Harriet &

Patrick Gulbranson

**EMHC:** Harriet Gulbranson,

Joyce Van Pelt & Jo Beaman

#### St. John

**Sunday, December 22**

**Cross Bearer:** Belle Fagan

**Greeters:** Mr. & Mrs. Allen Thelen

**Lector:** Brian Richter

**Host:** Les Elgin

**Cup:** Elizabeth Moreland & Dave Richter

**Altar Servers:** Bailey Lillard & Carley Fagan

**Traveling Chalice:** Francis & Deb Hollinrake

### MONEY COUNTERS

**Wednesday, December 18 @ 9am: Donna Olson & Gina Ocheltree**

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

#### All Saints Financial Partnership

December 8, 2019

**Weekly Offering: \$ 2,063.00**

**Children's Offering: \$ 9.00**

**Religious Retirement Fund: \$ 284.00**

#### St. John Financial Partnership

December 8, 2019

**Weekly Offering: \$ 1,494.00**

**Children's Offering: \$ 26.00**

**Religious Retirement Fund: \$ 176.00**