



# **All Saints Catholic Church and St. John Catholic Church**



**216 All Saints Drive  
Stuart, Iowa 50250  
www.stuartallsaints.com  
Phone: 515-523-1943**

**Office Hours**  
**Tuesday 8.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.**  
**Wednesday 8.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.**  
**Thursday 8.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.**

**501 Adair Street  
Adair, Iowa 50002  
www.adairstjohn.com  
Phone: 515-523-1943**

## **Sunday, December 4 Second Sunday of Advent**

### **Staff**

**Pastor**  
**Rev. Antony Mathew**  
**Phone: 515-523-1943 (O) 712-304-4836 (C)**  
**Email: amathew8@sbcglobal.net**

**Co-ordinator of faith formation**  
**Jill Gerling**  
**Phone: 515-523-1943**  
**Email: allsaintsff@outlook.com**



**Sacraments RCIA Funeral Parish Hall etc.**  
**Phone: 515-523-1943 (O) 712-304-4836 (C)**  
**Email: amathew8@sbcglobal.net**

### **Schedule - All Saints, Stuart** **Mass Schedule**

**Tuesday 5. 30 p.m.**  
**Thursday 6 p.m. (ICBVM)**  
**Friday 8. 30 a.m.**  
**Saturday 4.30 p.m.**  
**Sunday 10.00 a.m.**  
**Confession**  
**Saturday 3.30 p.m.**  
**Rosary 4.00 p.m.**



### **Schedule - St. John, Adair** **Mass Schedule**

**Wednesday 5. 30 p.m.**  
**Thursday 8.30 a.m. (ICBVM)**  
**Sunday 8.00 a.m.**  
**Confession 7.15 a.m.**  
**Rosary 7.30 a.m.**



**REQUESTS  
FOR  
PRAYER**

We know that there are many who are in need of our prayerful support while awaiting a diagnosis, getting treatment for an illness, recovering from a surgery and grieving the loss of a dear one. We want to assure everyone that they are in our thoughts and prayers.

**Deceased: Shirley Murphy**  
**Sick: Phyllis O'Brien, Betty Ludwig**

### **Parish Mission**

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.

### **Father Tony's Corner!**

There are two ways that we can live out our Catholic faith. We can live it passively, or we can live it personally. When we live our faith passively, we are like the Pharisees and Sadducees that came to be baptized by John in the Jordan River. They were the religious and social leaders in Israel. They were the most visible and active members of their parish. They knew what to do when they went to Church, they knew all the prayers - on the surface, they appeared to be models of religion. They placed their confidence in being 'children of Abraham'. In other words, culturally speaking, they were good Jews. They came from Jewish families and followed Jewish customs. But John the Baptist warns them that being cultural Jews was not enough. Their religion was on the surface: it did not touch their hearts. We are constantly tempted to make the same mistake. Little by little, we can become too self-satisfied just because we come to Mass, receive the sacraments etc. We can become complacent because we look like model Catholics on the outside, cultural Catholics. But our faith is about much more than that. To be Catholic is to be Christian, to be an active, dedicated, energetic follower of Jesus Christ, to have a personal friendship with him, to know him deeply and to love him passionately by striving to build up his Kingdom. When we live our faith passively, we are like artificial plants: we look nice, but we bear no fruit. Christ is reminding us to live our faith more personally, so that our lives can be branches of the true vine, 'producing good fruit'. The Church offers us Advent to train us in attentive trust, so that we can give God permission to come into our lives. And so, the gospel today brings the figure of John the Baptist to the forefront. Christ sent John the Baptist to announce his first coming little over 2000 years ago, because he wanted the people of Israel to be ready to receive him. He was coming to bring them new hope, forgiveness, joy, interior peace, meaning and fruitfulness - all the benefits of Redemption and grace. In Advent, we remember that first coming, in order to thank God for it. But we also re-live that coming in the 'today' of our own lives. This Christmas, Christ wants to make a new surge of grace in the world, in the Church, and in each one of our lives. He wants to keep pouring out those benefits of Redemption. And he wants us to be ready to receive this year's new surge of grace - he does not want us to miss out on it. And so, through the liturgy, he sends his messenger once again to teach us how to get ready. Clearing the way for Christ to enter more deeply into our society and our lives means, first of all, repenting. To repent is to turn away from selfish behavior patterns. To repent means to acknowledge our sins. After all, how can we have room in our hearts for the coming of a Savior unless we are aware of our need to be saved? But that is only the first step. Preparing for Christ's coming also involves positive action, it means 'bearing good fruit'. Active, self-forgetful service towards our neighbor shows that our repentance is real. What good is acknowledging our selfishness and sin unless we also decide to leave that sin behind, and then make concrete actions to carry out that decision? If we do these two things, repent and reform, we will be ready to experience the joys of the coming Kingdom in a fresh way this Christmas, just as Christ wants us to. John the Baptist is a wild character, the last of the Old Testament prophets. He would be perfectly at home in a survival show, with his camel hair gear and his eccentric diet of locusts and wild honey. He does not mince words either. He calls for repentance. He takes the religious leaders to the prophetic woodshed for their insincerity, and he calls all of us to repent. Repentance is simple. It is the recognition that I am infinitely loved by God, that I have sometimes failed to live up to that love, and that I need his mercy. Repentance, in the end, is giving God a free hand to work in my life as he wants. This is supremely freeing. It means that I do not have to save myself. It means that I allow Jesus to enter into my life and take control. John the Baptist lived that in his own life. We know that later on he was arrested by King Herod for pointing out the King's adulterous relationship. He was thrown into prison, and he was tempted to doubt. Sure, the whole baptism episode was clearly from God, but could God really want him to be unjustly imprisoned? He sent some friends to ask Jesus if he were really the savior or not. And Jesus replied: 'Tell John to remember what he has seen and heard'. Jesus is pointing out that true repentance means accepting that God is free to work in our lives as he sees best. He is God, he loves us so much and knows what is best for us.



All Saints' 5th and 6th Grades in collaboration with Knights of Columbus will present a **LIVE NATIVITY** on Sunday, December 18th with **FOUR SHOWS**: - 5 p.m. 5.30 p.m. 6 p.m. 6.30 p.m.

## **Annual Diocesan Appeal Reminder for All Saints Parishioners!**

A big thanks to everyone who has already contributed to the Annual Diocesan Appeal, and a friendly reminder for others that if we do not pay off the appeal amount within the time frame, then the amount has to be paid from our operating account and it will affect our parish finances. May I appeal to you to share a little of the God-given blessing to spread His kingdom and mission. Thank you.



**Please Join for a Christmas Cantata at Stuart United Methodist Church on Sunday, December 11, 2022 at 4 p.m.**

All the proceeds from this Christmas Cantata will benefit Stuart Ministerial Association. Stuart Ministerial Association needs funds to carry on its charitable works of bringing Christ's presence to those in need. Looking forward to seeing you there and to be an instrument of the love and care of the Christ Child during this wonderful season.



### **Grain Donation to the parish**

If you would like to make your contribution in terms of kind by donating grain to All Saints/St. John, please know that we will be able to accept your donation in kind. For more information, please contact the parish office.



Our Art and Environment Team will be decorating the Church with beautiful poinsettia plants for Christmas. If you would like to make a donation towards Christmas decoration, please put your donation in one of the envelopes provided in the gathering space area at All Saints, and mark Christmas flowers.



### **Don't Miss your Tax Deduction**

A tax deduction is awaiting you for the year 2022, and you don't want to miss it! Make a donation to All Saints or St. John Catholic Church before the 31<sup>st</sup> of December, and claim a tax deduction when you file your tax returns for the year 2022.



### **The Two-Minute Homily December 11, 2022**

The week to come is a week of miracles! First up is the Immaculate Conception, when God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary, a virgin betrothed to Joseph. He greeted Mary, saying, "The Lord is with you," further explaining that she had found favor with God. This was not an event of frequent occurrence, and most likely was a miracle to Mary. What's more, Mary was going to conceive and bear a child, the Son of the Most High, without the usual relations with a man. Not only was this unexpected, but it was also unprecedented. A miracle! And while it had already happened, Gabriel related the story of Elizabeth, previously thought to be barren, who was now well into her pregnancy. A miracle, but not impossible for God. In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus responds to disciples who, on behalf of John the Baptist, inquire whether Jesus is the one to come. Jesus answers the disciples by referencing his ministry: 'Tell John what you have observed: the blind see, the lame walk, the deaf hear, lepers are cleansed, the dead awaken, and the poor received the good news.' These things that happened as a result of Jesus' works and not human efforts surely were miracles. What miracles do we encounter in our daily lives? The timing that protects us from a close call on the road. The knowledge of the researchers to develop cures and treatments that save and enhance our lives. A new grandchild. An unexpected bounty received at the perfect time. Practically all of nature's happenings. My definition of a miracle is something that happens in a manner or time that can't be otherwise explained. We should keep our hearts open to miracles—they're there!



Altar & Rosary Society will be selling boxes of homemade Christmas candy and cookies after masses on December 17/18 at a rate of dollars \$ 10/box. There is a sign-up sheet in the gathering space for those who can help provide goodies. Please bring your items to the church by 10:00 on Saturday, December 17. We will make up the boxes then. We have many great cooks so you know this will be wonderful.



Shirley Murphy, a member of our parish family passed away last week. May She Rest in Peace. We extend our sympathies, prayers, and sincere condolences to the family and friends of Shirley as they walk through the mystery of death and celebrate the gift of everlasting life.



### **Financial Partnership**

**Sunday, November 27**

**Tithing: \$ 4291**

**Children: \$ 11**

**Money counters (12/6/22)**

**Dave Vigon and Cindy Boucher**



**All Saints accepts Automatic withdrawal from Bank Account or online giving through credit card or bank card**

***Easy, convenient, and secure way of giving. Consider the advantages, and signup for automatic withdrawal/online giving. Inspired, please contact the parish office: 515-523-1943.***

### **Liturgical ministry - All Saints, Stuart**

**Saturday 12/3/22**

**Greeters - Wayne and Jan Gilman**

**Altar servers - needed**

**Ushers - Wayne and Jan Gilman**

**Lector - Donna Donnelly**

**Commentator - Sharon Doud**

**Cup minister - Jodi Bassett**

**Sunday 12/4/22**

**Greeters - Faith Formation**

**Altar servers - Faith Formation**

**Ushers - Faith Formation**

**Lector - Faith Formation**

**Commentator - Faith Formation**

**Cup minister - Amy Doud**

**Saturday 12/10/22**

**Greeters - Donna Donnelly and Loretta Sloss**

**Altar servers - needed**

**Ushers - Donna Donnelly and Loretta Sloss**

**Lector - Roni Wilson**

**Commentator - Roni Wilson**

**Cup minister - Donna Donnelly**

**Sunday 12/11/22**

**Greeters - Mike and Diane Caufield**

**Altar servers - Lilly and Evelyn Barrett**

**Ushers - Dennis Van Pelt and Mike Caufield**

**Lector - Bob Bird**

**Commentator - Bob Bird**

**Cup minister - Diane Caufield**

### **Financial Partnership**

**Sunday, November 27**

**Tithing: \$ 669**

**Children: \$ 22**

**Money counters (12/4/22)**

**P. Gettler, A. Richter, C. Moreland**

**Francis Hollinrake and Matt Fagan**

### **Liturgical ministry - St. John, Adair**

**Sunday 12/4/22**

**Cross Bearer - Jovey Denney**

**Altar servers - Luke Brincks and Bailey Lillard**

**Ushers - Larry Drees and team**

**Lector - Sister Gloria**

**Tra. Chalice - John and Kathy Fagan**

**Sunday 12/11/22**

**Cross Bearer - Francis Hollinrake**

**Altar servers - Carley and Belle Fagan**

**Ushers - Larry Drees and team**

**Lector - Theresa Elgin**

**Tra. Chalice - Srs. of the Imm. Heart of Mary**



**The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated on Thursday, December 8th. It is a Holy Day of Obligation, meaning all Catholics are obligated to celebrate the feast by participating in the Holy Eucharist. This Feast is very special to us as it is the Pa-**

**tronal Feast Day of the United States of America. Following is the Mass Schedule: -**

**Thursday, December 8 at 8.30 a.m. at St. John**

**Thursday, December 8 at 6.00 p.m. at All Saints**



### **Advent Reconciliation Service**

**The season of Advent focusses on the threefold coming: *His first coming* over 2000 years ago; *His last coming* sometime in the future; and *His ongoing coming* through His grace, His providence, and the sacraments. All of the three comings of Christ are meant to reestablish and deepen our friendship with God. Christ is looking forward to make that happen, and let us do our part by a life of repent-**

**ance and conversion. Following is the schedule for the advent reconciliation: -**

**Sunday, December 11 at 11.30 a.m. at All Saints**

**Sunday, December 11 at 4 p.m. at St. John**



**Any Catholic men interested in joining the Knights of Columbus, contact Grand Knight Sean Bovinett via call or text at 712-574-3886 or email [sbovinett@gmail.com](mailto:sbovinett@gmail.com). You can also visit [kofc.org/joinus](http://kofc.org/joinus) to get the process started and to learn more about the Knights organization.**