

# NOVEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

## St. Damian's Parish Faith Formation

Thank you God for those moments when you give me opportunity to lift my sights and improve myself.

-Dr. Robert Schuller

### CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

#### Kindergarten:

Kindergarten Faith Formation students have been learning about Thanksgiving and all the gifts they have in their lives which they have been given.

We continue to learn how to pray and what we can pray about.

During the month of December we will be looking at the true meaning of Christmas.

**-Arlene Korte**

#### Grade 1:

November has been filled with a couple of activities from the book. One of the activities involved doing a "hidden picture" search where the students needed to find "gifts from God". The second activity involved an exercise on how to "care for creation". The students enjoy these activities and they reinforce the concepts of the textbook.

While students are working on their activities, we read a story from the Children's' Bible. This past month we read about Noah, why he built the ark, and the rainbow that appeared in the sky when the rains stopped.

We also invited the Kindergarten class to watch a 30-minute video with us about the story of creation. It is also an ideal way to reinforce what they have been reading in the textbook.

We have finished Unit 1 and will start the next unit after Thanksgiving.

**-Mary Innes**

#### Grade 2:

The 2<sup>nd</sup> graders enjoyed our reconciliation fun night. Most of their questions were answered and they have a better understanding of reconciliation.

The boys still have some preparation for their first reconciliation on Dec. 2 at 1:00 p.m. at St. Damian's Church.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### DECEMBER 2

- First Reconciliation at 1:00 p.m. at St. Damian for all 2<sup>nd</sup> graders and all parishioners
- Advent begins



#### DECEMBER 8

- Our Lady of Guadalupe serenade at 11:00 p.m. at St. Damian

#### DECEMBER 9

- Hispanic Mass at 11:00 a.m. at St. Damian followed by the Fiesta

#### DECEMBER 10

- Reconciliation for St. Damian students

#### DECEMBER 12

- Hispanic rosary at 6:00 p.m. at St. Damian

The class also made crafts for Thanksgiving.

**-Ruth Pingsterhaus and Gabby Kramer**

**Grades 3 and 4:**

If you'd like to hear the Books of the Old Testament, just ask a 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> grader....they know them 😊, along with the Apostles Creed!

We have also been discussing the difference between mortal and venial sin, making good choices, and understanding that we are all unique with different talents.

**-Sharon Kalmer**

**Grades 5 and 6:**

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving!!

The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades will be busy preparing and celebrating the Advent season and the birth of Jesus.

In December, we will focus more on the true reason for the season.

**-Kathleen Hodges**

**Grades 7 and 8:**

All is well in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade!

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, the last class day before Thanksgiving, we had a Thanksgiving prayer service which included writing "thank you" notes to special people in our lives.

On Sunday, December 16, the junior high Faith Formation classes will sponsor a bake sale after the 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Hispanic Masses. Proceeds from the bake sale will go to Leaps of Love out of Highland which supports kids with brain cancer and their families.

Also on that day, all Faith Formation students are invited to "come up to the choir and sing" at the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

During the first week in December we will be working on our "Keep Christ in Christmas" posters. Have a wonderful holiday!

**-Jackie Toennies**

UPCOMING EVENTS CONT'D

DECEMBER 15

- Faith Formation Christmas Play at 4:00 p.m. Mass at St. Bernard

DECEMBER 16

- Faith Formation Bake Sale after 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Hispanic Masses at St. Damian
- Faith Formation students sing in the choir at 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Damian

DECEMBER 25



NOTE: In preparation for Christmas, the Hispanic community will hold "posadas" — rosary with a procession. Times and places are to be determined.

Contact Sister Ellen with questions.

## FATHER ANTHONY'S GUIDANCE

**A Prayer for Thanksgiving Day**

Father God, today I thank You for the provisions of my life...

I thank You for the people in my life...

I thank You for the opportunities You have given to me in my life...

I thank You for the acceptance and forgiveness You have lavished upon me in spite of my sinful actions and choices...

I thank You for the healing You have brought into my life—physical and emotional...

I thank You for the way You have brought me back from the darkness that lurks in my soul and the choices I could have made that would have landed me in a pit—or the choices I have made that did land me in a pit...

I thank You for the desires of my heart that You have satisfied with good things...

And the desires that I have not yet seen satisfied. Help me to be confident because of the grace You have given to me in so many other ways, that even my unmet desires would be something I could be grateful for...

Amen

-Excerpted with permission from Day 31 of Prayers for Today (Moody Publishers, 2011) by Pastor Kurt Bjorklund

**-Fr. Anthony Onyango**

## THE DEACON'S CORNER

Advent is the season of expectations. This is the time of the taking the breath before the plunge, to prepare ourselves for the Advent of God coming to earth. Please explain to your children the meaning of the Advent wreath and the names of the four Sundays in Advent.

**DARKNESS AND LIGHT**

The Advent candles readily demonstrate the strong contrast between darkness and light. In the Bible, Christ is referred to as the "Light of the World" contrasted with the darkness of sin. Human history spanned long ages before our prophesied Savior would finally make his appearance, and God's promise to make all things new through him.

As his Advent, or "coming," draws nearer another candle is lit, with each candle dispelling the darkness a little more. Thus, the Advent wreath helps us to spiritually contemplate the great drama of salvation history that surrounds the birth of God Incarnate who comes to redeem the human race.

- The **1st Sunday of Advent** symbolizes Hope with the "**Prophet's Candle**" reminding us that Jesus is coming.
- The **2nd Sunday of Advent** symbolizes Faith with the "**Bethlehem Candle**" reminding us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem, which becomes ours through faith in Jesus Christ.
- The **3rd Sunday of Advent** symbolizes Joy with the "**Shepherd's Candle**" reminding us of the Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus.
- The **4th Sunday of Advent** symbolizes Peace with the "**Angel's Candle**" reminding us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

Just an added note of **the importance of the children coming to Mass regularly on weekends with their families.** On weekdays they attend Mass during Faith Formation sessions, but the children need to pray with their moms



and dads at Mass also on the weekends. Praying together strengthens a family in more ways than we'll ever realize!!!! Joshua says, "**as for me and my house, we will serve God.**"

*Thank you for bringing the children to Mass!*

**-Deacon Glenn**

*"May you always be doing those good, kind things that show you are a child of God."*

*Phil 1:11 Living Bible (TLB)*

**ADORATION WITH BENEDICTION**

*Starting Wednesday October 3rd – St. Bernard and St. Damian will be hosting a weekly Holy Hour with Benediction **every Wednesday.***

*Adoration will start at 7:00 p.m. and will conclude with Benediction at 8:00 p.m.*

*The location will rotate on the SAME schedule as the Saturday Masses:*

- *October – St. Bernard*
- *November – St. Damian*
- *December – St. Bernard*

*And so on...*

*Here is a link of things to do during a Holy Hour...*

<http://www.therealpresence.org/eucharst/pea/holyhour.html>

*If you have any questions, please contact me at 314-660-3976.*

**-Deacon Kevin**

**I AM GRATEFUL...**

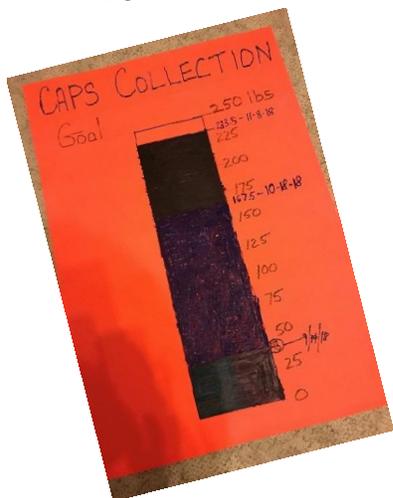
<p>I am grateful...</p> <p>For all who reach out to our brothers and sisters of the Hispanic community</p> <p>I am grateful for children who want to learn and grow in their faith</p> <p>I am grateful for youth who continue to share their gifts</p> <p>I am grateful for adults who are generous with their time and material blessings</p> <p>And I am over all this grateful and blessed for the many ways God blesses us.</p>	<p>Doy gracias por todos los que extienden la mano a nuestros hermanos de la comunidad Hispana.</p> <p>Doy gracias por los niños que quieren aprender y crecer en su fe.</p> <p>Doy gracias por la juventud que sigue compartiendo sus dones.</p> <p>Doy gracias por los adultos que son generosos con su tiempo y bendiciones materiales.</p> <p>Y sobre todo soy agradecida y bendecida por las muchas maneras en que Dios nos bendiga.</p>
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**-Sister Ellen Orf**

## COLLECTION/CHARITY OPPORTUNITIES

### CAPS COLLECTION

Faith Formation students and their families have been collecting caps and lids for a bench for the school playground.



**Faith Formation received \$300 from CHFS for the bench....many thanks to them!**

**Since last month we collected another 66 lbs making it a total of 233 lbs collected! Only 17 more lbs to go!**

**Also, remember to remove any paper/cardboard from inside the cap/lid.**

You can send your caps and lids to school, or drop them off in the container in the back of church.

Please check the website [www.greentreeplastics.com](http://www.greentreeplastics.com) for acceptable items.



If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Kalmer at 618-420-3120.

### OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

As we prepare for the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Hispanic community will be offering raffle tickets for this beautiful embroidered tablecloth from Mexico and a Christmas crib set.

For more information, please contact Sister Ellen at 636-293-8253 or [ellen\\_46@yahoo.com](mailto:ellen_46@yahoo.com).



### OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS COLORING CONTEST:** The Faith Formation students will once again participate in the Keep Christ in Christmas Coloring Contest sponsored by the Albers-Damiansville Knights of Columbus. Two students' drawings will be chosen from each class to advance to the Diocesan competition.

The students will work on their drawings in class. This is an awesome opportunity for the students to capture the meaning of Christmas as we kick off the Advent season. Good luck to all!

## FAITH FORMATION WEEKDAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

## St. Damian's Ministry Schedule December 2018

### Gym Door Openers

Monday	<b>Kathleen</b>
Tuesday	<b>Ruth</b>
Wednesday	<b>Sharon</b>
Thursday	<b>Jackie</b>
Friday	<b>Mary</b>

Date	Voc Prayer	Servers	Reader	Petitions	Gifts	Choir	Doors
Mon-Dec 3	Olivia Wilken	Ethan Toennies Kevin Athmer	Henry Toennies	Nolan Goebel	Chase Jansen Connor Arentsen	1/5th	8
Wed-Dec 5	Edwin Oros	Jacob Athmer George Herzing	Julia Korte	Reid Koch	Reid Innes Betzabeth Contreras	7/8th	8
Mon-Dec 10	<b>RECONCILIATION</b>						
Wed-Dec 12	Hunter Toennies	Reid Innes Trent Korte	Aaron Juarez	CeCe Toennies	Aliya Henss George Herzing	7/8th	8
Mon-Dec 17	Olivia Wilken	Aidan Toennies Genisis Contreras	Kaylee Netemeyer	Jacob Athmer	Kennedy Toennies Henry Herzing	3/4th	8
Wed-Dec 19	Brant Horstmann	Kennedy Toennies Reid Koch	Lupe Luevano	Aliya Henss	Ethan Korte Aaron Juarez	7/8th	8