

APRIL 2022 NEWSLETTER

Faith Formation

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

-John 10:27

THE DEACON'S CORNER

THE SACRAMENTS OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION

From the Catholic Catechism:

1212 The sacraments of Christian initiation - Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist - lay the foundations of every Christian life. "The sharing in the divine nature given to men through the grace of Christ bears a certain likeness to the origin, development, and nourishing of natural life. The faithful are born anew by Baptism, strengthened by the sacrament of Confirmation, and receive in the Eucharist the food of eternal life. By means of these sacraments of Christian initiation, they thus receive in increasing measure the treasures of the divine life and advance toward the perfection of charity."

I bring this up as the Faith Communities are being renewed with the joy of the sacraments bestowed on Easter Saturday; First Communion and Confirmation at St. Bernard; and First Communion at St. Damian; along with all the baptisms that are taking place over the next several weeks of Easter.

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 will 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

ST. BERNARD CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Grade 2:

Congratulations to the 2nd grade class at St. Bernard's on their First Communion, Saturday, April 23! It was a very special day for the students, their families, and our parish! What a beautiful Mass and celebration! Many thanks to all who participated and helped make this a memorable time for our kids - especially to our parents, godparents, and family members who continue to encourage learning about and participation in our faith.



UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 2

- Scholarships forms are due

MAY 14

- First Eucharist 4:00 pm St. D

MAY 16

- Balloon Rosary at St. D

JULY 9

- Damiansville Church Picnic

The remainder of the school year, we will focus on being the Church and our Mission to spread the good news to all!

-Robbin Netemeyer and Kaitlyn Toennies

Grade 3:

As stewards of God's creation, the students enjoyed taking part in Earth Day this past Friday; they picked weeds and picked up trash around the church, rectory, and school. They did a great job!

In the classroom, we have added the Memorare to our daily class prayer time and are reviewing other prayers. Some general information is being presented regarding the Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious, and Luminous mysteries of the rosary. They are welcome to bring their rosaries to class on Monday, May 9. (I have extras should someone forget.)

Prayers for a safe, blessed Summer!

*Please call or text if you have any questions (or email kate78@charter.net).
618-660-5974 (cell)*

-Kathy Engelmann

Grade 5:

The 5th grade finished learning about the season of Lent at the beginning of the month. The rest of the month is focusing on relearning the books of the Bible.

-John Hilmes

Grade 8:

The 8th grade class has worked to prepare for the Easter Season. We reviewed and discussed Father's Homilies, and we discussed the importance of Lent, including fasting and penance.

We continue to work on memorization of the Nicene Creed, to profess our faith together.

As the year is wrapping up, we also are wrapping up season 2 of The Chosen.

-Jamie Jung and Kelly Jansen

ST. DAMIAN CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Kindergarten:

The kindergarten class learned that Jesus wants us to love as He loves. Some of the stories they heard in class which taught them about this were The Parable of the Lily and The Good Samaritan.

They are also learning about making good choices and following rules.

Most students have recited the Before Meal prayer. Please practice the After Meal prayer with your child if he/she has not recited it.

I have enjoyed having your children in my class this year! Have a safe and happy summer!

-Lori Jansen

Grade 1:

The first grade has been focusing on Lent. How we need to pray, fast (give up something), and give alms (help the poor). We took the students to church for The Way of the Cross, and we watched a video, an animated version of "The Passion of Christ", which was suitable for all ages.

We also learned about Mother Teresa and how she cared for the poor and sick in India, and what we can do for the sick by praying for them and visiting them.

We learned that the meaning of "faith" is the gift of believing in God. More recently we learned about the Great Commandment, that you shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. To make it easy on the first graders, we shortened it to "Love God, love others".

The rest of the year we will focus on prayer, the saints, and the Holy Spirit.

The first grade will be singing in the choir on Wednesday, May 18th, at the 7:45 Mass. Parents, grandparents, and special friends are invited to come hear them sing. Please consider coming to the 7:45 Mass to hear these enthusiastic voices. I think you will all be impressed.

Lastly, the students in first grade have been a real joy for me—they make my day, and I will miss them.

Happy and safe summer to all.

-Mary Innes

Grade 2:

The students have been preparing for the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist which they will celebrate on May 14th at 4:00 P.M. Mass

We had our mini retreat in March which went very well, and the students painted their Blessing cups that are now on display in Church by the ambo.

I will be sending a letter home early next week regarding the First Communion procedures and include the readings that the communicants will be reading so they can practice at home.

In class this week we completed the final video on the series of our book "Blessed". The series focuses on teaching the students to become "The best version of themselves"

This has been an excellent class and I have truly enjoyed them this year. I will continue to pray for them. Please remember that the gift of Eucharist is a blessing that they can receive every Sunday at Mass, I encourage families to attend Mass together every weekend and reinforce our presence in their faith journey.

God Bless!

-Denise Luitjohan

Grade 3:

The third graders have been reading the Vocation Prayer in Mass and have been doing a good job.

We are going to start a new unit on the seven sacraments and learn more about them.

Most of the students have memorized the Memorare prayer this year.


Now we are going to work on Psalm 23 - The Lord is my shepherd etc.

- Ruth Pingsterhaus

Grade 4:

The 4th and 5th grade (they did not get to do this last year) enjoyed making "prayer" pillows as a reminder to say their prayers.

We have also learned the corporal works of mercy and reviewed The Great Commandment.

This is a great class that I am going to miss next year! They have great voices and I hope they continue in the choir and more of them join .

Have a safe and blessed summer.

-Sharon Kalmer

Grade 6:

The 6th grade class has been teaching the 5th grade class the books of the bible through song.

The week before and the week of Holy Week we watched "The Jesus Film." It is a movie about the beginning of creation, the birth of Jesus, and His ministry leading to His passion, death, and resurrection.

Since the 5th grade class did not get to make "prayer" pillows last year, they joined the 4th grade class this year to make them. Meanwhile, the 6th grade class taught the 2nd grade class their First Communion song along with the actions. Everyone had a great time!

We will continue to learn the books of the bible, specific prayers and how to pray the rosary for the rest of the school year.



As much as this class has kept me on my toes, I will miss them and pray they have an enjoyable and safe summer!

-Shelly Schuetz

Grades 7 & 8:

The 7th/8th grade class has been studying the rosary (and if time allows, we will make our own rosaries).



We watched "The Gospel of John" which is a wonderful movie about Jesus' public life, His passion, death, and resurrection.

On Saturday, April 2nd, 7 kids accompanied Shelly Schuetz and me to Planned Parenthood in Fairview Heights to pray for and support the unborn and their mothers. The experience made a very positive impact on them all!

On May 19, our 8th grade class will graduate and move on to the next chapter of their lives and we pray for them and wish them well!

-Jackie Toennies

FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION FORMS

The Faith Formation registration forms for next year are being distributed. Please contact Deacon Glenn with questions.

MATER DEI SCHOLARSHIPS – DUE MAY 2

Attention Eighth Graders!

Mater Dei High School Scholarship forms are available at Mater Dei, or at this link on the parish website:

<https://www.stbernardandstdamian.org/mater-dei-scholarship-forms.html>

FELIGRESES DE HABLA NO INGLESA

Anyone that needs help with English as a second language, please contact the church office or come to 11:00 am Mass at St. Damian and speak to Fermine or Salvatore.

Cualquier persona que necesite ayuda con el inglés como segundo idioma, comuníquese con la oficina de la iglesia o venga a la misa de las 11:00 am en San Damián y hable con Fermine o Salvatore.

FEAST OF ST. BERNARD

Raffle tickets will be sent out soon.