

# DECEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

## Faith Formation

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

-Proverbs 22:6

### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE



#### Christmas Eve Masses:

- 4:00 pm at St. Damian
- 6:00 pm at St. Bernard
- 7:00 pm at St. Damian (Spanish)

#### Christmas Day Mass:

- 9:00 am at St. Bernard

### THE DEACON'S CORNER

*Christmas is the season of Love and Joy. God has come to earth, not as a warrior but as a defenseless child. This is the ultimate Hope that God has in us and that we have in God.*

### DARKNESS AND LIGHT

*In the past, many times it was illegal to worship as we wished, so we as inventive people of God came up with codes to teach our children. The twelve days of Christmas is one such code that teaches us our Catholic Faith.*

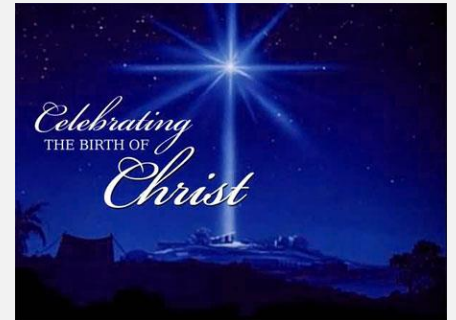
*It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning, plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which children could remember.*

- *The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ*
- *Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments*
- *Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love*
- *The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John*
- *The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament*
- *The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation*
- *Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit - Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy*
- *The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes*
- *Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit-Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control*



### UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 25



JANUARY 1

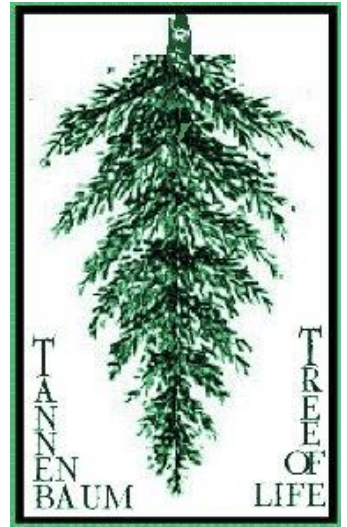


- The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments
- The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples
- The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed



## Stories About First Christmas Trees

One story tells that when Christianity first came to Northern Europe, three virtues: Faith, Hope and Charity were sent from Heaven to find a tree that was as high as hope; as great as love; as sweet as charity; and one that had the sign of the cross on every bough. Their search ended in the forests of the North where they found the Fir. Lighted from the radiance of the stars, it was the first Christmas tree.



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**

HISPANIC MINISTRY

*We celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe and now we begin the posadas preparing for Christmas.*

**-Sister Ellen Orf**



MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

