

FEBRUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

Faith Formation

"Lord Jesus, fill me with your Holy Spirit that I may radiate the joy of the Gospel to others. May your light and truth shine through me that others may find new life and joy in you, and freedom from sin and oppression."

-Daily Prayer courtesy of Don Schwager © 2022

THE DEACON'S CORNER

Ash Wednesday

In the ninth century the church started to use ashes as a public demonstration of repentance for sins. It was only in 1091, however, that their use was ritualized. Pope Urban II decreed the use of ashes to mark the beginning of a 40-day season of Lent, a time when Christians imitate Christ's 40-day period of fasting. We do this by repentance, prayer, and almsgiving.

This period is said to have prepared Christ for his three-year ministry that would culminate in his arrest, crucifixion, and resurrection.

Today most Christian denominations, including Catholics, Baptists, Episcopalians, Methodists, Presbyterians, and others allow for the imposition of ashes during an Ash Wednesday service. The ashes are obtained by burning the palms blessed in the previous year at the Palm Sunday service. Christians bearing the sign of the cross on their forehead on Ash Wednesday will be sharing a formal practice that dates back over a thousand years in a tradition that goes back much earlier.

*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



UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 2

Ash Wednesday

Distribution of Ashes:

- 7:45 am Mass at St. D
- 7:45 am Service at St. B
- 7:00 pm Mass at St. B
- 7:00 pm Hispanic Service at St. D
- 9:40 am Mass at Mater Dei

MARCH 20

- Sacrament of Reconciliation – 1:00 pm at St. B

MARCH 21

- Faith Formation Reconciliation Services will be this week

MARCH 26

- First Eucharist Mini Retreat – for parents/guardians and the second graders of both parishes from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in the St. Bernard Parish Center

MARCH 26/27

Anointing of the Sick:

- March 26 at 4:00 pm Mass at St. D
- March 27 at 9:30 am Mass at St. B

ST. BERNARD CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Grade 2:

The 2nd grade is busily preparing for the Sacrament of First Eucharist!

In addition to our regular lessons, we have toured the church and are making cards and pictures to share with parishioners who are unable to attend Mass to receive the Eucharist at this time. We have also created a prayer chain that we pray for together each Friday and links are added as we have additional prayer requests.

We look forward to our retreat in March and celebrating the Sacrament of First Eucharist in April!

-Robbin Netemeyer and Kaitlyn Toennies

Grade 3:

Upon our return in January, Grade 3 assumed the role of leading the Vocation prayer before Tuesday services and Thursday masses. They are doing a super job!

In class most of our focus has been on Jesus' work and sacrifices (Chapters 7 and 8) and the ways we can serve Him. We have been working on memorizing the Apostles Creed too, including it with our daily class prayer.

Over the next several weeks, topics will include the four Marks of the Church, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and a review of the parts of the Mass.

Please call or text if you have any questions (or email kate78@charter.net).

618-660-5974 (cell)

-Kathy Engelmann

Grade 4:

The 4th grade has been learning how to serve. We have also been reading out of the book and doing weekly prayer journals.

Lastly, we celebrated Valentine's Day and ate lots of candy. 😊

-Brooke Zurliene

Grade 8:

The 8th grade class has been learning and implementing The Beatitudes, as Jesus preached at His Sermon on the Mount. They continue to work on learning the Nicene Creed and understanding the importance of professing our faith and religious beliefs.

We continue to watch episodes of *The Chosen* to learn more about the life of Jesus.

With Lent around the corner, we are preparing by learning about fasting and almsgiving in preparation of Easter.

-Jamie Jung and Kelly Jansen

ST. DAMIAN CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Kindergarten:

Hello Kindergarten parents! This winter your children have learned that Jesus asks us to follow Him. You may want to ask your child to tell you some ways that he/she can follow Jesus.

Also, the children made pennants and doves to remind them of the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Holy Trinity.

Most students have recited the Our Father. Please practice this prayer with your child, especially if he/she hasn't said it for me yet.

In March the students will learn the Before and After Meal prayers, which your child may already know. They will also learn about Lent and Easter.

-Lori Jansen

Grade 1:

First grade is doing great. The students have learned the "Memory" prayers and are now halfway through the Apostles Creed.

A bible story we recently learned about is the story about the Good Shephard, how the Shephard left his flock to search for one lost sheep, and how Jesus is the Shephard, and "we" are His sheep.

We have been concentrating on The Holy Family and the Holy Trinity. We watched a cartoon video on Noah's Ark.

Upcoming is the Season of Lent, how we need to pray, how we need to fast (give up something), and how we need to give to the poor(almsgiving).

-Mary Innes

Grade 3:

The 3rd grade has been learning about the leaders of the church and the Marks of the Church. We are also memorizing the Memorare prayer.

The 3rd graders will begin saying the vocation prayer in church on March 7.

- Ruth Pingsterhaus

Grade 4:

In 4th grade news, all students know the Prayer to St Francis and can "sing" the Books of the Bible". Ask them to say them for you! 😊

Next, we will be focusing on Lent, Holy Week, The Stations of the Cross and Easter.

Where has the year gone!

-Sharon Kalmer

Grades 7 & 8:

The 7th/8th grade participated in the Metro East Diaper Drive, collecting diapers and baby supplies for mothers in need.

-Jackie Toennies

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Beginning March 4th, the Stations of the Cross will be at 7:00 pm on Friday nights after the Fish Fry. Watch the bulletin for the location.



LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Lenten Bible study will be on Monday nights at 7:00 pm in the St. Damian meeting room. Watch the bulletin for more information.