

NOVEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

Faith Formation

“How can I repay the Lord for all His goodness to me? The chalice of salvation I will raise, and I will call on the name of the Lord.”

-Psalm 116:12-13

THE DEACON'S CORNER

Advent calendars now come in many forms, but the tradition began simply enough when German families in the mid-nineteenth century started counting the days until Christmas by tallying chalk marks on a door or wall. Variations of the countdown included lighting a candle or hanging a religious picture for each day leading up to Christmas Eve. Some families began making homemade Advent calendars to accompany their countdown and by the early 1900s, a few publishing companies and newspapers had produced simple printed calendars.

The popularity of Advent calendars spread with the help of a German printer named Gerhard Lang. Having grown up with a homemade calendar, Lang began designing cardboard Advent calendars around the turn of the century and, later in the 1920s, came up with the idea of cutting out little doors that could be opened each day. Behind each door, a devotional picture or Bible verse was hidden. With this innovation, Lang is considered the father of the modern Advent calendar.

(The Meaning and History of the Advent Calendar; Scott James)

Advent is the season of expectations. This is the time of the taking the breath before the plunge, we 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.



UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 3

- Keep Christ in Christmas - posters are due to Faith Formation teachers

DECEMBER 5

- Faith Formation Bake Sale – St. Damian after the 9:30 and 11:00 Masses
- Joint Parish Advent Reconciliation service –St. Damian Church at 1:00 pm.
- First Sacrament of Reconciliation – at 1:00 pm at St. Damian for both St. Bernard and St. Damian second graders

DECEMBER 7

- Faith Formation Reconciliation Services – 7:45 am at St. Bernard

DECEMBER 10

- Faith Formation Reconciliation Services – 7:45 am at St. Damian

DECEMBER 25

- Christmas Mass times - please see the last page of this newsletter

- 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

HISPANIC MINISTRY

Come Lord Jesus!

The four weeks of Advent will begin on November 27/28. We will see a notable change in the church decorations. Look for the Advent Wreath with its three purple candles and one pink or white. What else do you notice? No matter our age, we try to make room in our hearts for Jesus.

In the Hispanic community, December 12 is the most special day when we celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe. We begin on December 11 at 10:00 pm to serenade Mary on her birthday. (watch the bulletin, the time may change). On Sunday at 9:30 the procession from St. Bernard, faithful sons and daughters will accompany the Virgin to the celebration in Damiansville. DVD available: *The Miracle and the Mystery.*

From December 16 - 23 we remember Mary and Joseph's search for a place where Jesus will be born. These are "the posadas". To appreciate the ritual, you might want to watch the DVD: *Posada* available at St. Damian. This year posadas are scheduled at 6:30 pm for December 17th and 18th at St. Dominic, December 19 at St. Damian, and December 20th at St. Augustine (Breese). Watch the bulletin for other times/places.

The Christmas Mass in Spanish will be celebrated at 7 pm on Dec. 24.

Ven Señor Jesús!

Las cuatro semanas de Adviento empiezan el 27/28 de noviembre. Veremos un cambio significativo en los adornos de la iglesia. Nota la Corona de Adviento con sus tres velas moradas y una rosa o blanca. Si la familia quiere prender la vela un domingo, dejarnos saber. No importa nuestras edades, nos esforzamos de abrir un espacio para Jesús.

En la comunidad Hispana, el 12 de diciembre es el día más especial de todos cuando celebramos a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Empezamos el 11 de diciembre a las 10pm con las mananitas a María. (Espera la hora exacta en el noticiero). Y domingo a las 9:30am la procesión parte de St. Bernard, fieles hijas e hijos traendola a S. Damian para la Misa y fiesta.

De diciembre 16 a 23 recordamos la búsqueda de José y María por encontrar un lugar bueno para Jesús nacer. Estas son las posadas. Hasta ahora estas están planeados: diciembre 17 St. Dominic, 18 St. Dominic, 19 St. Damian, 20 St. Agustín (Breese). Estén alerta para otros.

Diciembre 24 Noche Buena - celebramos en comunidad la Misa a las 7pm.

-Sister Ellen Orf

ST. BERNARD CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Grade 1:

First grade has been great this year. We have spent a lot of time practicing our prayers. We also learned about the Holy Family and the Holy Trinity.

We are getting into the Advent season, so everyone has started the Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest.

We will be learning more about Advent and the birth of Jesus leading up to Christmas.

-Josh Wierter

Grade 2:

2nd grade is busily preparing for the sacrament of Reconciliation! We had our family retreat earlier this month and are getting ready for celebrating the sacrament on December 5 at St. Damian Church!

Please continue to pray for us as we learn more about our faith and prepare to receive this important gift.

-Robbin Netemeyer and Kaitlyn Toennies

Grade 3:

Grade 3 has finished Chapters 3 (At Home with God) and 4 (Holy Trinity). We have taken a break from our books the last several weeks as we have touched on various topics.

Besides the rosary (more later in the school year), All Saints Day (enjoyed hearing about saints whose name they or a loved one share), Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving (colored a placemat they may use for this special day),

we also very briefly touched on Christmas as they started drafting drawings for the Knights of Columbus "Keep Christ in Christmas" contest.

Grade 3 will soon be leading the Vocation prayer prior to Services/Masses on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They are ready to assume this responsibility and are anxiously looking forward to taking their turn.

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!!

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

618-660-5974 (cell)

-Kathy Engelmann

Grade 5:

5th grade has been working on learning about how to live a holier life, (10 commandments and the beatitudes).

They have also been working on practicing their drawing skills for the Keeping Christ in Christmas posters.

We are going to start learning about the gifts of the Holy Spirit after they finish their posters.

-John Hilmes

Grade 6:

The 6th grade has been diligently working on their keeping Christ in Christmas posters and then they will be moving on to learning about Advent and the coming of God on earth.

Reconciliation will be coming mid-December for Faith Formation so the class will also be working on the meaning of this great sacrament.

-Reagan Rickhoff

Grade 7:

We watched the new release of God's Not Dead; We the People with the 8th grade class. We really enjoyed the movie along with the discussions that followed. Please ask your student to share some of what they experienced with it and if you have the opportunity to watch it, do!

We started our Keep Christ in Christmas posters which we will finish up next week and I am amazed at the artistic talents of this 7th grade class!!

Looking forward to really digging in this Advent season starting next week as we prepare for the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

God Bless!

-Dana Lake

Grade 8:

The 8th grade class has been enjoying their last year by taking the weekend homilies into classroom discussion, God's teachings and how it relates to today's youth as well as sprinkling in a couple God's Not Dead movies.

We plan to continue bringing the Beatitudes into our classroom teachings, which provide a way of life that not only promises salvation, but also brings peace in the midst of our trials and tribulations on this earth.

We hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas season full of love and joy with families and friends.

-Jamie Jung and Kelly Jansen

ST. DAMIAN CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Kindergarten:

The kindergartners have been learning about caring for God's creation. They learned that Jesus is God's son, and that He teaches us to love people. We have also had some lessons on Bible stories.

All have learned the Hail Mary, and we have begun learning the Our Father. We are learning it line by line. Please practice this prayer with your child.

We will learn about Advent and Christmas during December.

Wishing all of you a peaceful Advent and a joyful Christmas!

-Lori Jansen

Grade 1:

First grade is doing very well. We have learned the Guardian Angel Prayer, The Our Father, The Hail Mary, The Glory Be, and the Before and After Meal Prayers. We are currently learning the Memorare and are half-way there. These students continually amaze me, because the Memorare is not an easy prayer for first graders to learn, and a few already know the entire prayer. We will start the Apostles Creed after the Holidays.

We have learned about creation and how to be a caretaker by saving water, cleaning up trash at home and at school, and being kind to pets. They also know who the Holy Trinity is and the Holy Family.

In the next few weeks, we will be focusing on Advent and the birth of the Baby Jesus, and how Christmas is not all about Santa Claus.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to all.

-Mary Innes

Grade 3:

The third-grade class is working on the Keep Christ in Christmas posters. They are doing a great job.

They are asking when Ms. Ruth can come back because they are really missing her.

Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

-Florence Jansen (for Ruth Pingsterhaus)

Grade 4:

We have some awesome new mass servers! If they said “yes” to serving on weekends, they will be added to the next weekend minister schedule. But if a server is needed and they are in church, they are welcome to go up and serve.

The class is doing great with the prayer to St Francis, the Books of the Bible and singing in the choir. They all add so much to the class.

Next up is Advent/Christmas.

Wishing you all a blessed and happy holiday season!

-Sharon Kalmer

Grades 5 & 6:

The 5th and 6th graders have been very busy lately. They are learning all about the liturgical calendar year, symbols, and colors of the church, as well as the holy days of obligation. I know they are paying attention because they notice when Fr. Steven or Deacon Glenn wears a different color vestment and turn around during Mass and give me a quizzical look.

We have discussed the importance of Mary in the church and her role, as well as the parts of the rosary and the mysteries.

We have just started learning about the importance of the bible and the different books within the bible. The 6th graders know all of the books and like to sing the song often. With their help, we are going to be teaching it to the 5th graders soon.

And this coming week they will be working on their Christ in Christmas posters.

-Shelly Schuetz

Grades 7 & 8:

The 7th and 8th grade classes have been living their faith by serving others. They helped with the food drive, assisted with the 2nd grade reconciliation retreat, volunteered to help at the Christmas Walk and are sponsoring a bake sale on December 5 to raise money to adopt a needy family for Christmas.

After Thanksgiving they will work on Christ in Christmas posters. Then we will watch “The Nativity” to prepare for Christmas.

-Jackie Toennies

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

The Knights of Columbus will again sponsor the Poster Contest for 2021. Students in KG through 8th grade are invited to participate. For more information, please see the church bulletin.

The deadline to return artwork to Faith Formation teachers is Friday, December 3rd.

CARDINAL CALENDARS-ST. BERNARD FAITH FORMATION

Preorder now through November 12. Cost is \$16 of which St. Bernard's keeps \$7. Please contact any Faith Formation Student or call Janel at Albers Elementary at 248-5146.

The calendars feature the St. Louis Cardinals team. They also include two pages of coupons featuring savings on Cardinals tickets and great deals from local retailers.

There are coupons for Shop N Save, Build A Bear, Johnny Macs, 50% off Cardinal tickets and others.



ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICES

Service Location	Date	Time
St. Theresa Marydale	Nov. 19	7:00 pm
St. Damian, Damiansville	Dec 5, 21	01:00 PM
St. Mary, Carlyle	Dec 5, 21	03:00 PM
OLPH, Posen	Dec 8, 21	06:30 PM
St. Francis, Aviston	Dec 12, 21	03:00 PM
St. Ann, Nashville	Dec 14, 21	4:00-5:00 PM
St. Ann, Nashville	Dec 14, 21	6:30-7:30 PM
St. Rose, St. Rose	Dec 14, 21	07:00 PM
OLPH, Posen	Dec 15, 21	06:30 PM
St. Theresa, Salem	Dec 15, 21	06:00 PM
St. Anthony, Beckemeyer	Dec 16, 21	07:00 PM
St. Mary, Centralia	Dec 16, 21	12:00 PM
St. Mary, Centralia	Dec 19, 21	02:00 PM

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:

- 9:30 am at St. Bernard