

# APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER

## St. Bernard's Parish Faith Formation

*God, the inspirer and author of both Testaments of the Bible, wisely arranged that the New Testament be hidden in the Old and the Old be made manifest in the New.*

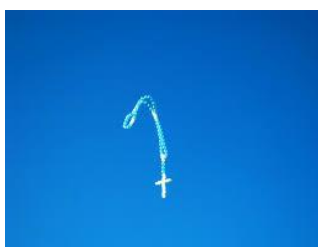
*-Second Vatican Council Fathers*

### BALLOON ROSARY

Join us for a Balloon Rosary on Thursday, May 14 at 7:45 am in the school parking lot. **Social distancing will be enforced.**

If you are unable to join us in the parking lot, please watch the live stream on the Parish Facebook page here:

[www.facebook.com/stbernardalbers](https://www.facebook.com/stbernardalbers)



### CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

#### Grade 3:

What an unimaginable turn of events. I hope everyone is staying safe. I have found myself missing these insightful, entertaining 3<sup>rd</sup> graders.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we were learning the Apostles Creed, which most of them had mastered. I expect that it will need to be revisited. I have their partially finished Lenten pamphlets; in hindsight, I should have sent them home with them the last day of class. Prayers ...

**-Kathy Engelmann (660-5974)**

#### Grades 6 and 7:

Our hope is that this finds you doing well.

Early in March we had been doing Bible trivia and activities focusing our attention on really knowing God's word and using that to strengthen our faith and be better prepared for the challenges we face every day. At the time we didn't realize the magnitude of the challenges that we would be facing.

These are definitely trying times for our Nation and the world so we need to.... ***“Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers.” Ephesians 6:18.*** Being persistent in prayer will test your faith....**James 1:3-4** says, ***“When your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing”***



### IMPORTANT DATES

APRIL 30

**STAY HOME**  
**STAY SAFE**  
**SAVE LIVES**

### DON'T FORGET TO PRAY TODAY



**With the extra time during the L.O.C.K D.O.W.N it is good to**

**L - isten to God's Voice and reflect. Let go and Let God.**

**O - bey His Word and His Teachings.**

**C - all on Jesus name and be calm.**

**K - now what is the purpose of all this.**

**D - well in His presence. Do Not Panic.**

**O - ffer a prayer for everyone's safety.**

**W - ait and be patient. This too, shall pass.**

**N - uture a personal relationship with Him.**

Stay safe, Stay Healthy and God Bless!

**-Dana and Kelly**

### **Grade 8:**

Eighth grade,

Please pray the rosary for the healing of the world and the scourge of the Corona virus.

I would like also to congratulate you on your upcoming graduation. If you do not have your applications in for the various scholarships please take the time to send them to me.

Please pray for the weekly intentions in your daily prayers and join all the deacons and others in praying the Liturgy of the Hours. I have found this free app very helpful.

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/ibreviary-ts-plus/id422601705>

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### **Prayer for the Graduate:**

**May God's blessing follow you all as you find new journeys to travel.**

**May you walk safely along the pathways of your dreams.**

**May His gentle hand guide the decisions you will make and the passions that you follow.**

**May your hearts and lives always reflect His love and truth,  
and may hope be a light within you that you carry into each new day.**

**Amen. (Unknown)**

**-Deacon Glenn**

*“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”*

*[Jeremiah 29:11]*

### **FATHER ANTHONY'S GUIDANCE**

*When the churches are all empty  
and the temple doors barred shut  
while the mosque's call's long been silent  
then the voice starts: where is your God now?*

When the morgues are overflowing  
and hospitals of dread are full  
while the sick lie slowly drowning  
the voice remarks, so cool: where is your God now?

When homeless beg streets empty  
and hoarders stuff fridges full  
while poor children lie in bed hungry  
the voice starts to rule: where is your God now?

Our God is in nurses and doctors  
exhausted teachers' endless screens  
cleaners countless corridors  
delivery men running between  
supermarket staff toiling through nights  
replenishing shelves stripped bare  
masked bus drivers sending you home  
strangers who offer to share  
whatever little that they have  
whatever little they can spare.

In hearts filled with quivering hope  
God is often in you, when you care.

So where is our God? He's not in the tomb because it is an empty tomb.

Then where is our God? He is in the light of Easter candle which was held high in a darkened church as the priest proclaims:  
"May the Light of Christ rising in glory,  
dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds."

That is the voice that we must listen to, because it is the voice of our Risen Lord Jesus, a voice that tells us,  
"Courage, do not be afraid. I am with you always, to the end of time."

So where is our God? He is risen and He is in our hearts shining His light in the midst of all this chaotic darkness.

-Anonymous

**-Fr. Anthony Onyango**

## DEACON'S CORNER

Easter is the celebration of Christ's resurrection from the dead. It is celebrated on Sunday, and marks the end of Holy Week, the end of Lent, the last day of the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday), and is the beginning of the Easter season of the liturgical year.

As we know from the Gospels, Jesus Christ rose from the dead on the third day following his crucifixion, which would be Sunday. His resurrection marks the triumph of good over evil, sin and death. It is the singular event which proves that those who trust in God and accept Christ will be raised from the dead.

Since Easter represents the fulfillment of God's promises to mankind, it is **the most important holiday on the Christian calendar.**

In the Gospels, the precise details of the Easter narrative vary slightly, but none of these variances are critical to the main story. In fact, it is argued that the variances are simply matters of style and not substance. Despite the variances, the key aspects of the Easter story all match. Above all, they agree that the tomb of Christ was indeed empty, which is the most essential fact. (Catholic Online)

In these tough times the essential thing to remember is that we will come out of this just as Jesus came out of the tomb.

Just an added note....**Show your children regular prayer and devotionals.** Children need to be shown that praying for the return of normal times with their moms and dads is a valuable part of the community of Christ. 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**". So be a part of Joshua's Army and be a Prayer Warrior!

**-Deacon Glenn**

**"May you always be doing those good, kind things that show you are a child of God." Phil 1:11**

## THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY

"Uncharted waters" - how often have we heard this phrase to describe our experience of these weeks going into months? Is it that there is so much uncertainty, or is it that the time of waiting is out of our hands?

The experience of the early Church gives us some guidance of how to live in uncertain times while becoming disciples of a new Way. And so we discover ways to celebrate the Mass and continue to participate in adoration and continue our studies. And while we plant fields and gardens might we spend a little time asking "what can I learn of this time?", "What have I discovered that is important to me because it's not so easily accessible?", "Have I learned some ways of connecting with family and friends that I want to remember when all this is over?" **In all things let us give thanks to God!**

"Aguas desconocidos" - con frecuencia escuchamos esa frase para describir nuestra experiencia de semanas que ahora son meses. ¿Es que hay tanta incertidumbre o es que el control está fuera de nuestro alcance? La experiencia de la comunidad apostólica nos da ciertas pautas en como vivir en tiempos nuevos mientras aprendemos. Asi encontramos otras formas de asistir a la Misa y de participar en la hora santa y de seguir estudiando..

Mientras vamos sembrando los campos y las huertas, quizás podemos tomar un momento de preguntarnos" ¿que puedo aprender de este tiempo? ¿Que he descubierto que me importa porque no es tan accesible? ¿He aprendido formas y tiempo de conectar con familia y amistades que quiero recordar después que pase esto? !En todo demos gracias a Dios!

**-Sister Ellen Orf**

## CHURCH MASSES/EUCHARISTIC ADORATION/SUNDAY CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

MASSSES are being streamed online live on the parish Facebook page at 4:00 pm on Saturday evenings and 9:30 am on Sunday mornings until the 'stay home' order is lifted. EUCHARISTIC ADORATION is also being streamed online live on the parish Facebook page at 7:00 pm on Tuesdays and 7:00 pm on Wednesdays. You can join at the Facebook link below:

[www.facebook.com/stbernardalbers](https://www.facebook.com/stbernardalbers)

Previously recorded masses and the Sunday Children's Liturgy of the Word are available on the Parish website:

<http://www.stbernardandstdamian.org/>

Note: You can also find Masses on the television at EWTN.

#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Communion to the home bound will continue. Please contact Deacon Glenn Netemeyer if you would like Communion brought to you.
- Check on your friends and neighbors, especially the elderly and those living alone.
- Please continually pray at home for us, and all people, in this time of trouble.
- Bulletins will continue to be printed weekly and be available in the jar located on the front steps of St. Damian House and the St. Bernard Rectory. Bulletins are also available on the website.
- The offices will be on limited hours on Monday - Friday (9:00 am-12 noon). Jeanne will be working from home at times or in an office as needed. Please do not hesitate to give Jeanne a call.
- Although we are unable to attend Mass or have any church activities, the parish will continue to be there to support you.
- **We also need your support!** Please mail in your contributions, fill out an ACH form, or if you bank online, have a check sent to the parish.

Your contribution envelopes can be dropped in the drop box on the rectory porch at St. Bernard or the drop box on the front porch of the St. Damian parish house. These locations will be checked daily and envelopes put in a safe place.

**St. Bernard Parish**  
**PO Box 10**  
**Albers, IL 62215**  
**618-248-5112**

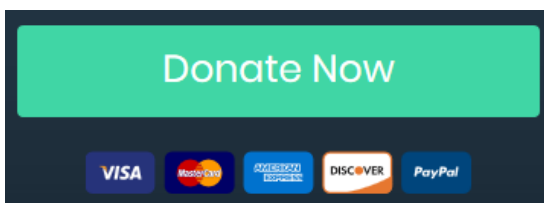
**St. Damian Parish**  
**One West Main Street**  
**Damiansville, IL 62215**  
**618-248-5134**

#### **CHECK THIS OUT!!!**

You can also make a donation directly on the Parish website home page located here:

<http://www.stbernardandstdamian.org/>

Click the Donate Now button under your parish name to make a donation through PayPal or a credit card through Pay Pal. Instructions on how to make an online contribution are on the website just above the Donate buttons.



**Thank you and God bless!**

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

*The activities and services for First Communion and Confirmation will be rescheduled as soon as possible.*



PASTORAL STAFF

*If you need assistance, wish to meet with someone, or just wish to talk, please do not hesitate to give us a call.*

*Please be safe and stay healthy. God bless!*

**Administrator**

Rev. Anthony Onyango

**utugo@yahoo.com**

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424-536-6906 (Cell)

**Pastoral Associate/DRE**

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618-772-9343 (Cell)

**Permanent Deacon**

Deacon Kevin Templin

**deaconkevin18@gmail.com**

314-660-3976 (Cell)

**NC Vicariate Hispanic Minister**

Sr. Ellen Orf

**ellen\_46@yahoo.com**

636-293-8253 (Cell)

**Parish Secretary**

Jeanne Langenhorst

**st.bernard@charter.net**

618-588-4323 (CLC Office)

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