

NOVEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

St. Bernard's Parish Faith Formation

Thank you God for those moments when you give me opportunity to lift my sights and improve myself.

-Dr. Robert Schuller

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Grade 1:

The 1st grade class has been busy learning about the Greatest Commandment! We talked about how Jesus teaches us to love and the many different ways we can show our love to others.

In class we also talked about and read some stories about saints.

We talked about being thankful for what we have and how we need to continue to pray for those who have many needs.

The 1st graders made a turkey and the feathers displayed some of the things we are thankful for. We also made placemats for our Thanksgiving tables.

Next month begins the season of Advent. The 1st grade students will be making a Meaningful Advent Paper Chain to count down to Christmas.

We hope everyone enjoys the activities!

Our class will be the mass host on Sunday, December 23rd.

Thank you for your support and we hope you all have a Blessed Holiday Season!

-Janel Zurliene and Chris Huegen

Grade 2:

The 2nd graders will be receiving their First Reconciliation at St. Damian Church on **Sunday, December 2nd at 1:00 p.m.** This service celebrates Reconciliation for all parishioners so please invite family and friends to attend with you as your student receives this sacrament for the first time.

A Faith Family Fun Night was enjoyed by the students and their families on Wednesday, November 7. A special thank you to confirmation students Sophia Kennett, Abby Crosby, and Herbert Herrera and families for their helping hands and hearts at the retreat.

After First Reconciliation, we will be celebrating the season of Advent and preparing our hearts for the coming of Jesus. We'll talk about ways to share what we have and serve others this Christmas season.

Every moment is another opportunity to become the best-version-of-ourselves!

-Angie Winkeler



UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 2

- First Reconciliation at 1:00 p.m. at St. Damian for all 2nd graders and all parishioners
- Advent begins



DECEMBER 8

- Our Lady of Guadalupe serenade at 11:00 p.m. at St. Damian

DECEMBER 9

- Hispanic Mass at 11:00 a.m. at St. Damian followed by the Fiesta

DECEMBER 11

- Reconciliation for St. Bernard students

DECEMBER 12

- Hispanic rosary at 6:00 p.m. at St. Damian

Grades 3 and 4:

The class has been working very hard the past month on our Moses/Ten Commandments unit. They had a test on Friday, November 16. The test was sent home for the parents to review and sign.

Periodically, I will send a test home and request a parent signature as we are no longer sending out report cards. This lets you know what they are doing in class, and the signed, returned test is a way for me to know that you are seeing what they are learning. This also gives the parents an opportunity to ask questions about the class.

The kids are working hard and I am very proud of them!!

-Robbin Netemeyer

Grades 5 and 6:

The 5th and 6th grade classes are continuing the lessons in the "Call to Faith" book, including topics involving God's presence in our lives and the commandments. With Christmas around the corner, some time will be devoted to the celebration of the birth of Jesus, i.e., Knights of Columbus "Keep Christ in Christmas" coloring contest.

THANK YOU to those students and parents who helped with the food drive in October!

Also, thanks to those who have contributed items to the Daystar Mission program in Cairo, IL; the original deadline was November 16 but has been extended a couple of weeks.

-Kathy Engelmann and Kate Toennies

Grades 7 and 8:

Congratulations to all of our students for signing the Rite of Enrollment promises at Mass on November 18th - another step taken in our Faith Journey.

The service packet check in date is coming up on December 12th. Be sure your students are filling in their reflection pages. Please be aware of the many service opportunities available to them, especially during this busy time of year.

Mark your calendars to attend **4 p.m. Mass at St. Bernard's on December 15th** to enjoy the Christmas play the students will be performing during Mass.

We are continuing to study the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. We are also working on the saint sacks which is an opportunity for each student to know and understand as much as possible about their saint.

-Dana Lake, Pops Kennedy & Kelly Jansen

UPCOMING EVENTS CONT'D**DECEMBER 15**

- Faith Formation Christmas Play at 4:00 p.m. Mass at St. Bernard

DECEMBER 16

- Faith Formation Bake Sale after 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Hispanic Masses at St. Damian
- Faith Formation students sing in the choir at 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Damian

DECEMBER 25

NOTE: In preparation for Christmas, the Hispanic community will hold "posadas" — rosary with a procession. Times and places are to be determined.

Contact Sister Ellen with questions.

FATHER ANTHONY'S GUIDANCE

A Prayer for Thanksgiving Day

Father God, today I thank You for the provisions of my life...

I thank You for the people in my life...

I thank You for the opportunities You have given to me in my life...

I thank You for the acceptance and forgiveness You have lavished upon me in spite of my sinful actions and choices...

I thank You for the healing You have brought into my life—physical and emotional...

I thank You for the way You have brought me back from the darkness that lurks in my soul and the choices I could have made that would have landed me in a pit—or the choices I have made that did land me in a pit...

I thank You for the desires of my heart that You have satisfied with good things...

And the desires that I have not yet seen satisfied. Help me to be confident because of the grace You have given to me in so many other ways, that even my unmet desires would be something I could be grateful for...

Amen

-Excerpted with permission from Day 31 of Prayers for Today (Moody Publishers, 2011) by Pastor Kurt Bjorklund

-Fr. Anthony Onyango

THE DEACON'S CORNER

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



- 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 Living Bible (TLB)

ADORATION WITH BENEDICTION

*Starting Wednesday October 3rd – St. Bernard and St. Damian will be hosting a weekly Holy Hour with Benediction **every Wednesday.***

Adoration will start at 7:00 p.m. and will conclude with Benediction at 8:00 p.m.

The location will rotate on the SAME schedule as the Saturday Masses:

- October – St. Bernard
- November – St. Damian
- December – St. Bernard

And so on...

Here is a link of things to do during a Holy Hour...

<http://www.therealpresence.org/eucharst/pea/holyhour.html>

If you have any questions, please contact me at 314-660-3976.

-Deacon Kevin

I AM GRATEFUL...

I am grateful...

For all who reach out to our brothers and sisters of the Hispanic community

I am grateful for children who want to learn and grow in their faith

I am grateful for youth who continue to share their gifts

I am grateful for adults who are generous with their time and material blessings

And I am over all this grateful and blessed for the many ways God blesses us.

Doy gracias por todos los que extienden la mano a nuestros hermanos de la comunidad Hispana.

Doy gracias por los niños que quieren aprender y crecer en su fe.

Doy gracias por la juventud que sigue compartiendo sus dones.

Doy gracias por los adultos que son generosos con su tiempo y bendiciones materiales.

Y sobre todo soy agradecida y bendecida por las muchas maneras en que Dios nos bendiga.

-Sister Ellen Orf

COLLECTION/CHARITY OPPORTUNITIES

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

As we prepare for the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Hispanic community will be offering raffle tickets for this beautiful embroidered tablecloth from Mexico and a Christmas crib set.



For more information, please contact Sister Ellen at 636-293-8253 or ellen_46@yahoo.com.

2019 ST. LOUIS CARDINALS CALENDARS



We concluded our Cardinal calendar fundraiser during November and want to extend a huge shout out to Diane Winkeler for coordinating this effort. Calendars will be distributed in December to those who participated in sales.

Thank you all so much for making this a success!

DAYSTAR MISSION DRIVE

During the month of November, we collected donations for the Daystar Mission Drive which supports the community of Cairo, Illinois. The class(es) with the highest percentage of participants wins a donut party.

We appreciate your generosity and kindness!

FAITH FORMATION WEEKDAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

St. Bernard's Ministry Schedule - December 2018

Contact Info: Angie Winkeler
 Phone: 618-789-1699
 Email: awinkeler@ezeeweb.com

Period start date: 12/4/2018
 Period end date: 12/20/2018

Day	Date	Readers	Servers	Cantors	Voc. Prayer	Class Host
Tuesday	12/4/2018	Makenna L. Cristina R.	Jordyn S. Tessa S.	Aidan V.	Alex A.	2
Thursday	12/6/2018	Carson R. Avery W.	Elliott R. Ana A.	Aidan V.	Omar A.	2
Tuesday	12/11/2018	RECONCILIATION SERVICE				
Thursday	12/13/2018	Cole W. Andrew C.	Bradley S. Lucero H.	Ashlyn G. Hayley L.	Chloe E.	1
Tuesday	12/18/2018	Aidan V. Trevor J.	Corina H. Carson Richter	Alaina H. Mallory S.	Quinten E.	8
Thursday	12/20/2018	Coryn T. Ashlyn G.	Jillian K. Cristina R.	Alaina H. Mallory S.	Modesto H.	8

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS COLORING CONTEST: *The Faith Formation students will once again participate in the Keep Christ in Christmas Coloring Contest sponsored by the Albers-Damiansville Knights of Columbus. Two students' drawings will be chosen from each class to advance to the Diocesan competition.*

The students will work on their drawings in class. This is an awesome opportunity for the students to capture the meaning of Christmas as we kick off the Advent season. Good luck to all!

CANTOR TRAINING: *Cantor training for all new and existing cantors was held on Wednesday, November 7th. Thank you to Joni Kloeckner and Shelly Schuetz for sharing their musical talents with our students!*

We welcome Aidan, Violet, Lucero, Cristina, Tessa, Jessenia, Corinne, and Madi to our cantor group.

As always, we appreciate the talent from our seasoned cantors who are Coryn, Lydia, Ashlyn, Ana, Jordyn, Corina, Hayley, Alaina, and Mallory.

We are blessed to have a wonderful group of students willing to lead us in song at weekday Masses!