

DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

St. Bernard's Parish Faith Formation

Jesus, today I will find something to be joyful about, I'll make time to pray, and I'll thank you for something that I've been complaining about.

-Gary Zimak

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Grade 4:

The 4th grade has been given materials that help teach them about how gossip hurts those around us and what liturgical season Church holidays fall in.

They were also given a blessing to pray for those that aren't as fortunate as they are.

Lastly, and they are learning about how to treat their bodies as temples for the Holy Spirit.

May God Bless everyone and have a wonderful Christmas season.

-John Hilmes

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

So many times in the past 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.

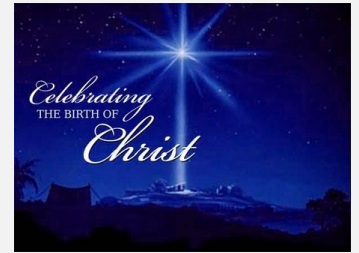
It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code:



UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 25

- MERRY CHRISTMAS



DECEMBER 29

- Keep Christ in Christmas Awards and Photos– 6:00 pm at St. Bernard Church for both parishes

JANUARY 1



JANUARY 4

- Faith Formation resumes with in-school learning– Covid permitting

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
- 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

THE LOWEST AND THE HIGHEST:

The Gospels tell us that the Redeemer was sent to all of us and that the messenger to that audience was the best conduit for the individual, Angels for the humble and downtrodden of the world (Mary and the Sheppard's) and the Star for the astrologers and the upper class Magi (Kings). Whatever the messenger may be, the answer for us is to Follow.





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

THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY

Welcome to a new year. For the most part we are glad to move on to 2021 although we do not know what to expect from a new calendar and the months that are ahead of us.

We have hope that the vaccine will help life return to "normal". We look forward to the hope that comes with a new President and his team. We recognize a new moment in our history as the members of his Cabinet represent the complexity of who we are as Americans. But hope can also be difficult if we have suffered losses from the pandemic and if we are waiting for the vaccine to reach us.

After the celebration of Christmas, when we put away the decorations and maybe have some regrets for something we did or did not do, let us walk with Jesus each Sunday as He begins to take up His mission to proclaim God's love – this same love we celebrated in song and liturgy and celebration – in Christmas and Epiphany. Let us live this new year in HOPE!

¡Bienvenidos a un nuevo año!

En gran parte somos felices a pasar a 2021 aunque todavía no sabemos lo que esperar de un nuevo almanaque y los meses por venir.

Tenemos esperanza que con la vacuna la vida volverá a "normal". Miramos adelante con la esperanza que viene con un nuevo presidente y su gente. Reconocemos un nuevo momento en nuestra historia con los miembros de su gabinete representando los muchos colores de quienes somos como americanos.

Pero a la vez esperanza puede ser difícil si sufrimos pérdidas de la pandemia y seguimos esperando que la vacuna nos alcance.

Después de la celebración de Navidad, cuando ya guardamos los adornos festivos y quizás lamentamos algo que hicimos o dejamos sin hacer, prendemos de nuevo la caminata con Jesús al escuchar cada domingo el inicio de su misión de proclamar el amor de Dios – el mismo amor que celebramos en canto y misa – en Navidad y epifanía. ¡Vivamos este año en esperanza!

OFRECEMOS:

Clases de inglés lunes y viernes, llama por horas

Preparación de Adultos para el sacramento de Confirmación

-Sr. Ellen

YARD CLEANUP - ST. DAMIAN 7TH AND 8TH GRADE CONFIRMATION CLASS

The St. Damian Confirmation class is offering their services to rake leaves/clean anyone's yard who might want it during this fall season. Snow shoveling in winter is also available.

If interested, please contact Jackie Toennies at 335-9562 and she will hook you up with some eager young lawn care workers who will gladly help you out. No charge!

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Odd Months - Eucharistic Adoration will be held on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm at St. Damian.

Even Months - Eucharistic Adoration will be held on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm at St. Bernard.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Mass

December 24, 2020

3:00 pm at St. Damian

5:00 pm at St. Bernard

7:00 pm Hispanic Mass at St.
Damian

Christmas Day Mass

December 25, 2020

9:30 am at St. Damian

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS – KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS – WINNERS ANNOUNCED!

“KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS”

Congratulations to the following who won 1st and 2nd place in the parish. **Thanks** to the *Knights of Columbus* for sponsoring this annual event. **Special thanks** to *Deacon Glenn Netemeyer* for coordinating this project and to *all religion teachers* involved. Below are the winners for 2020. Many thanks to all who participated.

St. Damian

- Gr. 1** – Eli Skelton & Evelyn Cleeton
- Gr. 2** – Paislyn Horstmann & Collins Horstmann
- Gr. 3** – Sutton Markland & Charlotte Cleeton
- Gr. 4** – Kate Mitchell & Lincoln Arentsen
- Gr. 5** – Grant Horstmann & Lyla Koch
- Gr. 6** – Natalie Lynch & Edwin Oros
- Gr. 7** – Lucero Herrera
- Gr. 8** – Reid Koch & Nolan Goebel

St. Bernard:

- Gr. K** – Asten Boeckmann & Tucker Schwierjohn
- Gr. 1** – Levi Goestenkers & Colton Wuebbels
- Gr. 2** – Lydia Wuebbels & Kayla Boeckmann
- Gr. 3** – Tucker Goestenkers & Aubrey Winterbottom
- Gr. 4** – Cole Huegen & Dylan Wuebbels
- Gr. 5** – Kellan Hubert & Alejandra Avalos
- Gr. 6** – Alex Athmer
- Gr. 7** – Madi Wuebbels
- Gr. 8** – Alaina Huegen

Congratulations to the following whose posters were selected for further Diocesan Competition.

- Gr. K** – Asten Boeckmann; **Gr. 1 & 2** – Lydia Wuebbels; **Gr. 3 & 4** – Cole Huegen
- Gr. 5 & 6** – Alejandra Avalos; **Gr. 7 & 8** – Reid Koch

The Keep Christ in Christmas awards will be handed out Tuesday, December 29th at 6:00 pm at St. Bernard's Church. This is for both parishes. Photos will also be taken.

