

# FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

## St. Bernard's Parish Faith Formation

Thank you for your constant presence in my life, Jesus. With you by my side, I can deal with anything that happens today.

**-Gary Zimak**

### CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

#### **Grade 2:**

*St. Bernard 2nd graders are busy preparing for the upcoming retreat and First Communion! Continue to watch your email for important information regarding the March retreat!*

*We are currently discussing the different parts of the Mass and learning more about the season of Lent.*

**-Robbin Netemeyer and Shannon Netemeyer**

#### **Grade 3:**

*The students have done very well learning the Apostles Creed; most of them didn't need their "cheat" sheets even after returning from an extended weekend.*

*Several classes were spent on the Holy Trinity.*

*We recently started "The Church Worships" chapter, which focuses primarily on the Mass. It will lead into "Pray Always" and discovering the importance of prayer and the ways to pray.*

*During the Lenten season, we will use the study guides to prepare for Easter as we turn our hearts to God—fasting, giving (alms), and praying.*

*Please call or text with any questions (or email [kate78@charter.net](mailto:kate78@charter.net)).*

**-Kathy Engelmann 618-660-5974**

#### **Grade 4:**

*The 4th grade students have been learning about what each Sunday Liturgy means.*

*They have also started an in depth look at the sacraments.*

**-John Hilmes**



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### MARCH 6

- March on the Arch 2021 – 10:00 am to 2:00 pm in St. Louis. Visit [STLMarch.com](http://STLMarch.com) for more info and to sign up. There is also a flyer at the end of this newsletter.

#### MARCH 11

- Faith Formation Reconciliation –St. Bernard

#### MARCH 20

- First Communion Mini-Retreat – 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in the St. Bernard Parish Center (date is tentative)

#### APRIL 4

- Easter Sunday

#### APRIL 18

- First Communion – 9:30 or 10:00 am at St. Bernard

#### APRIL 25

- Confirmation – 9:30 am at St. Bernard

### **Grade 5:**

The 5th grade class will be learning more about Lent and its deeper meaning. They are also in the process of server training.

We just finished a chapter on the Church's teaching authority and the Marks of the Church.

We will soon be moving on to our next unit which talks on the evil in our world.

**-Mason Schrage and Judy Albers**

### **Grade 6:**

The 6th grade class has been very busy this quarter learning about the Mass...what are the parts of the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the Scriptural meanings behind the different gestures and the Scriptural passages used in the Mass.

With the beginning of Lent, we have been focusing on the season...talking about how we will spend Lent trying to become better Christians and having question and answer sessions finding out how much we know (or don't know) about Jesus' last days on earth.

The next thing we plan on doing when we know everything there is to know about Lent ☺ is to study and discuss the stained-glass windows in St. Bernard's church.

Have a blessed Lent and Easter 🙏

**-Chris Kalmer and Jackie Toennies**

## THE DEACON'S CORNER

# Lent

**Lent**, in the Christian [church](#), a period of penitential preparation for [Easter](#). In Western churches it begins on [Ash Wednesday](#), six and a half weeks before Easter, and provides for a 40-day [fast](#) (Sundays are excluded), in imitation of [Jesus Christ's fasting](#) in the wilderness before he began his public ministry.

Saint Jerome, the brilliant doctor of the Church, lived for twenty-five years in the cave where the Child Jesus was born. One time he prayed to Jesus thus: "Dear Child, you have suffered much to save me; how can I make amends?" ("What can you give me, Jerome?") a Voice was heard. "I will spend my entire life in prayer, and I will offer all my talents into Your hands," Jerome replied. ("You do that to glorify Me, but what more can you give to Me?") the Voice asked again. "I will give all my money to the poor," Jerome exclaimed. The Voice said: ("Give your money to the poor; it would be just as if you were giving it to Me. But what else can you give to Me?") Saint Jerome became distraught and said: "Lord, I have given You everything! What is there left to give?" ("Jerome, you have not yet given Me your sins," the Lord replied. "Give them to Me so I can erase them.") With these words Jerome burst into tears and spoke, "Dear Jesus, take all that is mine and give me all that is Yours." Lent is the time to give our sins to God with repentant hearts. (Fr. Benitz) (From Father Tony Kadavil)

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

*How deep does your Lent go? When someone comes to the swimming pool, there are different levels – from the deep end to the kiddie pool. We go in at the level we find comfortable and later with a little confidence we might dare a little deeper.*

*Lent, with its forty days, offers us many levels and we are offered a quantity of options. There is first the Sunday Mass with very powerful gospels, the Way of the Cross on Thursday evenings, and the books with daily reflections.*

*With access to the internet there are other reflections, sermons/meditations, and devotions. We also look to the example of Jesus during his forty days in the desert – prayer and fasting. Where do we find ourselves? Are we able to attend Sunday Mass more often or more prayerfully and perhaps another devotion, perhaps the fish fry?*

*To each of us is left the decision to do just a little or much more. This is the time to decide, to make a commitment if we have not already. During these weeks, we want to die to something in ourselves so that we will rise with Jesus at Easter.*

*¿Qué profundo va tu Cuaresma? Cuando uno entra a la piscina hay distintos niveles – profundo hasta lo para niños. Entramos donde sentimos cómodos y con tiempo quizás con confianza atrevemos un poco más.*

*La Cuaresma y sus cuarenta días nos ofrece muchos niveles y una cantidad de materiales. Hay la Misa de cada domingo y sus fuertes evangelios, El Vía Crucis los jueves y libritos con reflexiones diarias.*

*Con acceso al internet hay otras reflexiones, sermones/meditaciones y devociones. Miramos al ejemplo de Jesús en sus cuarenta días en el desierto – oración y ayuno. ¿Dónde nos encontramos? Podemos asistir mas a la Misa dominical y quizás otra devoción, quizás al frito de pescado.*

*A cada uno queda la decisión personal de hacer poco o mucho. Esta es la hora de decisión, de compromiso. Durante estas semanas queremos morir a algo en nosotros para resucitar con Jesús en la Pascua.*

**-Sr. Ellen**

## 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.*

## YARD CLEANUP - ST. DAMIAN 7<sup>TH</sup> AND 8<sup>TH</sup> 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!*

#### FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION PARENT MEETINGS

*The parent meetings will be scheduled in March. Please watch your email for dates and more information.*

#### THE WAY OF THE CROSS DURING LENT – THURSDAYS AT 7:00 PM

*The Way of the Cross **will not** be streamed live on Facebook this year. You can safely attend the Way of the Cross in church because there is plenty of room. You **do not** need to sign up if you plan to attend.*

*February 18 at St. Damian  
February 25 at St. Bernard  
March 4 at St. Damian*

*March 11 at St. Bernard  
March 19 at St. Damian  
March 25 at St. Bernard*

COALITION FOR LIFE ST. LOUIS - MARCH ON THE ARCH 2021



SATURDAY, MARCH 6

BISHOP McGOVERN 11:30AM  
PRAYER WALK 12:00PM

**BISHOP MICHAEL McGOVERN** is originally from the Archdiocese of Chicago. Ordained a priest in 1994, he has been involved in Project Rachel and respect life activities in Cook and Lake counties in Illinois. As Bishop of Belleville since July 22, he is a supporter of Project Rachel and introduced the Mass of Hope and Healing to the Belleville Diocese. He looks forward to working together to foster a culture of life in southern Illinois.

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after abortion from  
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618.722.5068



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Signup Today! [STLMarch.com](http://STLMarch.com) (314)827-4039