

NOVEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

St. Bernard's Parish Faith Formation

Faith in God will increase your moral strength, increase your days of joy, and reduce your days of despair.

-Dr. Robert H. Schuller

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Grade 1:

First Grade has had a great year so far. We have spent a bit of this year learning our prayers. So far, we have learned the sign of the cross, the Glory Be, the Hail Mary, and the Angel of God prayers. We will start working on the Our Father soon.

We have also been learning about God from our Call to Faith book. From the book, we have covered topics such as the Bible, the Holy Trinity, and the Holy Family. We have also learned about stories that Jesus would tell, and how He helped others.

With Advent starting soon, we will start working in Advent coloring books.

I am looking forward to getting back in school and having a great finish to this semester.

-Josh Wieter

Grade 2:

2nd graders continue to prepare for First Reconciliation on December 6th! Many thanks to all the parents for continuing to work with the kids on their prayers and preparation for this important sacrament. Please watch email for additional updates as things may change with changes in restrictions.

Happy Thanksgiving!!

-Robbin Netemeyer and Shannon Netemeyer

Grade 3:

Upon finishing the chapter on Church Community, we followed with the chapter on the Domestic Church and the role our family has in our faith development.

We reviewed prayers such as the Hail Mary and Our Father. In the near future, we will begin to learn the Apostles Creed.



UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 26

- Thanksgiving Mass – 9:30 am at St. Bernard



DECEMBER 6

- Joint Parish Advent Penance Service – 1:00 pm at St. Damian - please watch the bulletin for updates

DECEMBER 8

- Immaculate Conception – 7:45 am at St. Bernard and 7:00 pm at St. Damian

DECEMBER 13

- Our Lady of Guadalupe – 11:00 am Mass at St. Damian

We spent a few lessons on saints, including stories of saint names associated with theirs. A few of them discovered some interesting facts, including one who shared the same date of birth.

Our primary focus for the next few weeks will be in preparation for Christmas. [Hopefully, you are seeing some of the papers we finish in class; some papers end up in the recycle bin.] 😊

Please call or text with any questions (or email kate78@charter.net). Have a safe, Happy Thanksgiving!

-Kathy Engelmann

618-660-5974

Grade 4:

Hello everyone. I'm glad everyone was able to stay safe during this time away from class and I am ready to get to the Liturgical Year. I am hoping that everyone can have a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving this year.

The last month, in the fourth grade, we have been learning about important things such as different roles that parishioners and clergy have within the church. We have been covering the seven sacraments, and with the new year coming up soon, we also have been discussing the Liturgical Year, and the seasons within it. Speaking of which, I would like to remind everyone that the Advent booklets are going to be handed out on Monday, as long as we are back at school.

I hope that everyone has a blessed and wonderful Thanksgiving week.

-John Hilmes

Grade 5:

With the 5th grade in quarantine things have become difficult, but they are working hard in quarantine to retain the info we've learned as well as some other needed info. When we get back in class we will be right back on track and having great discussions.

-Mason Schrage and Judy Albers

Grade 6:

With the kids remote learning recently, it's been hard to touch base. The 6th grade has been reading petitions and serving at school masses and doing a good job with both.

We recently watched the movie, "God's Not Dead" and the kids really got into it! We began "discussing" God's relationship with His people by opening the Bible.

-Chris Kalmer and Jackie Toennies

Grades 7 and 8:

Thank you to those students who helped with the Thanksgiving food drive. It was greatly appreciated.

Information regarding Confirmation: The Sponsor info sheet was due on 11/23. Since we will continue remote learning, please try to enter in your confirmation sponsor information, as well as any completed projects into the Weebly site that was created during class. Reach out to your teacher if you need login information as your teachers will be checking progress.

During this time, encourage your child(ren) to continue praying the Rosary and refresh their knowledge on the 8 Beatitudes: All the beatitudes that Jesus gave us were simple statements that can guide us to living a good life that will bring us to God's kingdom. When we follow all the beatitudes, we are living in the way that Jesus and God want us to live. The importance of them is simple yet lead us to heaven.

Wishing everyone a happy, blessed Thanksgiving.

Please remember Rite of Enrollment Mass this Sunday for those who were unable to attend on 11/15.

Stay healthy and well,

-Kelly Jansen, Dana Lake and Jamie Jung

THE DEACON'S CORNER

If we can be aware of others around us and show others that we care for them and we love them as our neighbor, we become children of God. Take this time to show your children the true meaning of Advent, preparing for the coming of God. The best way to do this is to Pray.

“If participation in the eucharistic celebration becomes impossible because of the absence of a sacred minister or for another grave cause, it is strongly recommended that the faithful take part in a liturgy of the word if such a liturgy is celebrated in a parish church or other sacred place ... or that they devote themselves to prayer for a suitable time alone, as a family, or, as the occasion permits, in groups of families.” (can. 1248)

Of course, this is only dealing with the question of observing the obligation of participating at Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation. It is all the same, quite instructive.

The current tendency of Church leaders appears to simply be to dispense the faithful from the obligation of attending Mass. But this is not the only issue, spiritually speaking, that needs to be addressed. People are rightly scared and need a truly pastoral reassurance — and practical spiritual guidance.

We need to pray. We need to deepen our relationship with God and his Church. Even if it is wise to not congregate in numbers in churches, we should go to the Lord personally, praying in church before the Blessed Sacrament, observing “social distancing” while deepening our intimacy with God. For our own welfare, it is important that we tell God our fears, implore both his intervention to rescue us from this pestilence, and ask for the grace to accept his will and see this crisis through the eyes of faith.

Asking for assistance from various saints is also a good and very Catholic thing. Here is a list of Saints to ask for their intercession.

- [Edmund the Martyr of East Anglia](#) - patron saint of [pandemics](#)
- [Four Holy Marshals](#) – epidemics, diseases
- [Fourteen Holy Helpers](#) – epidemics, [bubonic plague](#) or the [Black Death](#)

And as always:

*The Blessed Virgin Mary and Jude Thaddeus

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

On the morning of Dec. 9, 1531, a Christian Indian named Juan Diego passed a hill at Tepeyac, not far from present-day Mexico City. Hearing a voice calling him by name, he looked up to see a young Indian maiden. Speaking in his native Nahuatl language, she instructed him to tell the bishop to construct a church on this hill. The bishop paid Juan no attention.

On following days, the maiden identified herself as the Mother of God and told Juan to gather roses that grew at her feet. When he returned to the bishop and opened his serape, Juan revealed a full-color image of the Lady imprinted on the rough fabric. This is the beginning of the devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe and the devotion of the Mexican people since she is their mother in a very special way.

We will celebrate the feast this year within the limits of the pandemic still with great faith. On Dec. 12 at 11pm we will gather in church for the Mananitas (like a serenade). Then on Sunday, Dec. 13, everyone is invited to join the procession from St. Bernard at 9:30 am. The Mass will begin at 11:00 am at St. Damian; reservations for the church and overflow into the gym where the Mass can be seen and heard. There will not be the traditional fiesta because of Covid.

Later in the week we will hold two posadas - the journey of Mary and Joseph seeking a shelter where their Child can be born. Then on Dec. 24 at 7:00 we will celebrate the Mass of Christmas. We wish everyone "Feliz Navidad y un Prospero Año Nuevo"! Merry Christmas and a prosperous (and peaceful and safe) New Year!

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En la mañana del 9 de diciembre de 1531, un indio cristiano por nombre Juan Diego paso por el cerro de Tepeyac, cerca del actual Ciudad de Mexico. Escuchando una voz llamandole por su nombre, el miro hacia arriba y vio una joven india. Hablando en su nativo Nahuatl, ella le instruyo a decir al obispo que construyera una iglesia en este cerro. El obispo puso poca atencion. En días siguientes la joven se identifico como la Madre de Dios y dijo a Juan que escoja rosas de las que crecian a sus pies. Cuando el regreso al obispo y abrio su serape, Juan revelo un imagen de pleno color de la Senora imprenta en la tela cruda. Esto fue el inicio de la devocion a Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe y el gran carino que la gente Mexicana la tiene porque ella es su madre de forma especial.

Este año vamos a celebrar esta fiesta dentro de los limites de la pandemia, todavia con gran fe. El 12 de diciembre a las 11pm, reunimos en la iglesia para cantar las mananitas. Y despues el domingo 13 de diciembre, todos son invitados a entrar en la procesion de S. Bernard a las 9:30am. La Misa empieza a las 11 en S. Damian; reservas para la iglesia y los demas en el gimnasio donde se puede ver y escuchar de la iglesia. Por el Covid, no va a haber la fiesta.

Mas luego en la semana vamos a presentar dos posadas - la jornada de Maria y Jose buscando hospedaje donde puede nacer el niño Jesus. Despues el día 24 a las 7pm habra la Misa de Navidad. Deseamos para todos una Feliz Navidad y Prospero Año Nuevo!

-Sr. Ellen

THE ADVENT SEASON

Advent is the season of expectations. This is the time of the taking the breath before the plunge, to prepare 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 Sunday's 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 humanity.



- 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."

CARDINAL CALENDARS – ST. BERNARD FAITH FORMATION

The St. Bernard Faith Formation will be selling St. Louis Cardinal calendars. The cost is \$16.00. Please contact any Faith Formation student or all Janel at Albers Elementary at 248-5146.

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.*

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS – KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

“Keep Christ in Christmas”

The Knights of Columbus will again sponsor the Poster Contest for 2020. Students in Kindergarten through 8th Grade are invited to participate.

Parents - please encourage your children to express the true meaning of Christmas in artwork on 11x17 paper using pencil, colored pencil, or crayon. **Please no markers.**

First and Second place winners in each parish group (St. Damian and St. Bernard) will be given monetary awards.

- Parish groups:
1. Kindergarten
 2. (1, 2)
 3. (3, 4)
 4. (5, 6)
 5. (7, 8)

The due date to return your artwork to the Faith Formation Teachers is December 2- 4th.

The 11-17 paper is available at St. Bernard School office.

The Kindergarten Coloring Page is attached and will also be available at the School in Albers. This is due by December 4th. Please have it finished or a good start on it by the scheduled start up. Thank you in advance as we help the children understand the true meaning of Christmas.

If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Glenn.

LIVE NATIVITY



Hope is Born! A “Live” Nativity

Are you looking for an opportunity to support your parish and share the true message of Christmas? If so, we are looking for actors (no speaking lines), crowd control (safety), costume assistance, grounds set-up help, and hospitality workers to help make our Live Nativity on Sunday, Dec. 20 a success!

If interested, contact the parish office by Sunday, Dec. 6 or attend the planning meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 6:30p at St. Bernard Parish Center (mask required).

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Mass	December 24, 2020	3:00 pm at St. Damian 5:00 pm at St. Bernard
Christmas Day Mass	December 25, 2020	9:30 am at St. Damian

