

SEPTEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

St. Bernard's Parish Faith Formation

WELCOME TO THE 2020/2021 FAITH FORMATION FAMILY!

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

This year the teachers will be submitting their classroom updates on a staggered schedule instead of a monthly schedule.

Classroom updates from the teachers will be included in the following monthly newsletters:

September 2020

November 2020

February 2021

April 2021



Father Anthony, Deacon Glenn, Deacon Kevin, and Sister Ellen will continue to share information on a monthly schedule. You will also find important dates, charity and fundraiser opportunities, etc. in the monthly newsletter.

2020 – 2021 Teachers

Grade 1	Josh Wieter	jdwieter@yahoo.com
Grade 2	Robbin Netemeyer & Shannon Netemeyer <i>(First Reconciliation and First Communion)</i>	gnetemeyer@msn.com netemeyershannon@gmail.com
Grade 3	Kathy Engelmann	kate78@charter.net
Grade 4	John Hilmes	johnhil1999.jh@gmail.com
Grade 5	Mason Schrage & Judy Albers	schrmd21@gmail.com richarda1212@charter.net
Grade 6	Chris Kalmer & Jackie Toennies	chriskalmer@icloud.com
Grades 7 & 8	Dana Lake, Kelly Jansen & Jamie Jung	danalake67@gmail.com kr_jansen@yahoo.com (kr_jansen) jambalam07@gmail.com
Mass Helpers	Melissa Netemeyer Phyllis Albers	5nets@charter.net pjalbie@gmail.com

Thank you all for taking up this duty.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Grade 1:

First Grade has had a great start this year. We started by learning about God's gifts, and how we can care for those gifts.

We have also started learning our prayers. So far, we have learned the sign of the cross and the Glory Be. Next week we will start on the Angel of God.

This year has started well, and I am looking forward to the rest of the year!

-Josh Wieter

Grade 2:

We are studying about the Ten Commandments and forgiveness in preparation for Reconciliation later this year. We are off to a great start.

-Robbin Netemeyer

Grade 3:

Welcome to Grade 3 Faith Formation! Everyone seemed eager to get back into a school routine.

In Grade 3, we begin each day with the "Peacemakers" prayer. (Under normal circumstances we would pray it in the cafeteria before being dismissed to our individual classrooms.) This prayer is followed by one of the students reading a class prayer and leading either the Hail Mary or Our Father. (They are in a rotation and all of them have been doing a great job awaiting their daily turn and in accepting the responsibility when asked.) We finish with the Vocation prayer; this prayer is said before the beginning of Mass on Tuesdays and Thursdays; this normally evolves into a role the third graders assume at Mass at some point during the school year.

After these daily prayers, we begin focusing on the current topic. Grade 3 Faith Formation started the year with stories and discussions of the seven days of Creation and will soon be finishing the topic of the Church Community, including various ways we gather (Mass, Wurstmart, etc.). We spend approximately two weeks on specific topics. Papers the students work on are sent home the same day; any review or test papers are used as a gauge to see what we may need to focus on.

Please call or text with any questions (or email kate78@charter.net). 618-660-5974

-Kathy Engelmann

Grade 4:

The fourth grad has started the year by reviewing the fundamentals of our faith. These include, but are not limited to, the Ten Commandments, Creation, God's will and love for humanity, human dignity, the human soul and what the soul is.

-John Hilmes

Grade 5:

The 5th grade class has been learning about God's creation and physical signs of his grace.

They've learned about the Sacraments and how they are signs of His grace as well.

They have been working super hard and will soon take a test reviewing the unit.

-Mason Schrage and Judy Albers

Grade 6:

My name is Jackie Toennies and I live in Damiansville. Shortly before school started, Deacon Glenn mentioned that St. Bernard's was still in need of a 6th grade Faith Formation teacher. Since St. Damian kids couldn't have Faith Formation in the morning this year, I was available in the mornings and said yes to the task! I am team-teaching St. Bernard 6th grade Faith Formation along with Chris Kalmer, a Mater Dei senior who is also from Damiansville.

We started the year with 9 students (7 boys, 2 girls) because of quarantining, but now have 11 students (9 boys, 2 girls). We will not have books this year, which makes teaching a little more of a challenge, but we have been blessed with a very talkative class that loves to respond to questions and offer their comments and asks very well thought out questions.

Most of the time, Chris and I will do OUR homework and read the material from our book, pick out the main points, and have lots of class discussions!

So far, we have done activities on getting to know each other, talked about different ways to pray, used different ways to pray, and played a game to see how much we remember from past years. We have not yet opened the teacher's manual but are having a good time and learning at the same time!

I am happy to spend this time every morning with your children and have felt very welcomed here since the first day!

-Chris Kalmer and Jackie Toennies

Grades 7 & 8:

One month into the school year and we have been busy preparing the students for Confirmation. We have set them up for on-line access via their Chromebooks to allow communications and tracking of events and/or projects throughout the year.

Parents, your child(ren) were given a paper to start thinking about who they want their Saint to be and also their Confirmation sponsor. *If they haven't already brought this to your attention please speak with your student about these items. Also, we will be setting up a parent meeting with regards to important dates and information for the upcoming year so please be watching for this in the near future.*

Finally, with everything that has been going on this year we are now, more than ever, discussing small acts of kindness that can be done to make a positive impact on others.

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Thank you and many blessings,

-Dana Lake, Kelly Jansen & Jamie Jung

FATHER ANTHONY'S GUIDANCE

Faith Article from the Los Angeles Times editorial

Among the other disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has been the closing of houses of worship and the cancellation of religious gatherings. The arrival of what could be called spiritual distancing was powerfully symbolized recently by images of Pope Francis offering a blessing to an empty St. Peter's Square. Christians around the world in the coming weeks will be "attending" services via YouTube and Jews will be participating in their practices on Zoom.

The alacrity with which mainstream religious groups have responded to the pandemic is admirable, but the idea of suspending public worship also has provoked dissent. We're referring not only to a handful of religious leaders who have behaved recklessly in holding services in defiance of social distancing norms or government decrees, but also to those clergy members and commentators who, without advocating violation of the law, have questioned the idea.

Stone, who wrote a handbook that suggests ways for churches to continue to meet in small groups, further argued: "Even as we take Communion from separate plates and cups to minimize risk, forgo hand-shaking or hugging, and sit at a distance from each other, we still commune." He also suggested that continuing church services would serve as "a societal roll call, especially for older people: Those who don't show up should be checked on during the week."

Many who worry about closing churches or suspending services aren't cheerleaders for capitalism; they want to defend religious values. Those values include fellowship with other believers — it was an Anglican priest who wrote that "no man is an island" — and of course contact with God. As Burke put it: "In considering what is needed to live, we must not forget that our first consideration is our relationship with God."

Of course a religious leader would say that. But the bishops and pastors who have decided to close churches for the time being in the interest of public health are also acting on a religious impulse, a reverence for human life.

In an editorial written partly as a response to Stone, the magazine *Christianity Today* made a powerful case for erring on the side of safety.

The editorial argued that "even if we do practice stringent hygiene and social distancing, coming together as congregations in the face of this pandemic actually mars our witness. Rather than looking courageous and faithful, we come off looking callous and even foolish, not unlike the snake handlers who insisted on playing with poison as a proof of true faith." It added: "The church remains the church online, too."

The same can be said of other faiths that must worship virtually as the price of protecting themselves and others from a rampant virus. In time, churches, synagogues, mosques and private homes will again be filled with worshipers. But it would be tragic — and fundamentally irreligious — to rush that return to normalcy and risk human lives.

-Fr. Anthony Onyango

THE DEACON'S CORNER

During this time of Covid, it would be good to ask for intercessions from our Holy Mother. Also do you have a patron Saint?

Does your classroom have a patron Saint? Here are 10 Saints with a special connection to education.

St. Thomas Aquinas, a brilliant scholar, is one of many patron saints of students.

St. Catherine of Alexandria was famous for her debating skills and is a patron of students, teachers, and librarians.

St. Joseph of Cupertino, famously a struggling student, is the patron of students taking exams.

St. Gregory the Great, a patron of teachers, was a Pope and writer who invented the calendar we use today as well as a form of church music that bears his name (Gregorian chant).

St. John Baptist de la Salle worked to improve schools and is a patron of teachers.

St. Gemma Galgani, a patron of students, is known for having been a conscientious student herself.

St. Albert the Great was one of St. Thomas Aquinas' teachers and is the patron of science students.

St. John Berchmans is a patron against gossip; he endeavored to say something nice about everyone.

St. Aloysius Gonzaga was so wise that by the age of 11 he was teaching catechism to other children. He is the patron of young students.

St. Thèrèse of Lisieux, known for her "little way" of kindness toward others, struggled with social relationships in school and is an excellent patron for students.

And of course; **Saints Bernard, Damian and Cosmas.**

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

HISPANIC MINISTRY

We continue – Sunday Mass each week with volunteers greeting us at the doors with hand sanitizer, a thermometer to check temperatures, a list of those who have called ahead and a longer list of those who have been coming rather consistently.

Several families have taken turns to serve at the door, but usually it has been Salvador and Inez Tehandon with their sons.

There are other volunteers – lectors and cleaners. One special lector is Emiliano Navarro, 7th grader from St. Bernard; another is Genesis Contreras a new freshman at Mater Dei from Damiansville.

Many hands, youth and adult, help to make sure the church is ready for whoever will come for the next service. All the help is appreciated. We hope to return to "normal" but in the meantime we do the best we can to be in Church.

Our thanks to Deacons Glenn and Kevin for recording the Mass each Sunday.

Seguimos – Misa dominical cada semana con voluntarios recibiéndonos en la puerta con sanitizado de manos, termómetro para chequear las temperaturas, una lista de los que han llamado y una lista mas grande de los que han habido asistiendo.

Varias familias han turnado sirviendo en la puerta, pero más que otra ha sido Salvador e Inez Tehandon con sus hijos.

Hay otros voluntarios – lectores y los que limpian. Un lector especial es Emiliano Navarro, estudiante del grado 7 de S. Bernard; otra es Genesis Contreras, nueva estudiante en Mater Dei de S. Damian.

Muchas manos, joven y adulta, ayudan a asegurar que la iglesia esté lista para quien vendrá próximo para un servicio. Apreciamos toda la ayuda. Esperamos el día cuando todo regrese a "normal" pero mientras hacemos lo posible de seguir siendo Iglesia.

Nuestros kudos a los Diáconos Glenn y Kevin por grabar la Misa cada domingo.

-Sister Ellen Orf

