

FEBRUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

St. Damian's Parish Faith Formation

Learn your faith, live your faith, love your faith.
-Bishop Braxton

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Kindergarten:

The Kindergarten class has learned some basic prayers. They will start memorizing the prayer before meals.

We will have a strong focus on the Lenten season and what it means. The children are eager learners and ask many questions.

We continue to work on the Ten Commandments, the sacraments and read bible stories.

-Arlene Korte & Rita Haukap

Grade 1:

The 1st graders have learned what prayer is, and that Jesus taught the Our Father to his friends. They also learned about Advent. They were pleased to make a Christmas Nativity ornament to bring home!

After Christmas, the students learned about saying 'yes' to God. They read the story, and watched a movie about Noah and the Ark, learning that Noah said 'yes' to God.

They learned about the Holy Spirit and how He guides the Church. They cut out a dove and made a mobile as a reminder to live as a friend of God.

The prayers the students have learned are the Glory Be, Angel of God, and the before Meal Prayer. They will also learn the after Meal Prayer and the Memorare.

Loving and serving God will be a focus in the coming weeks, as well as showing sorrow, and forgiveness. They will learn about Lent, too.

I believe that looking for, and talking about signs of spring is a great activity for any family during these last days of winter!

Please feel free to email me if you have any questions or comments about your child's Faith Formation. My email address is ljansen@frontier.com

-Lori Jansen

Grade 2:

The 2nd graders are learning the importance of going to church every Sunday - this is God's Day and He only asks us to share that one hour out of 168 hours in a week! We are encouraging these children to ask their parents to bring them to church on Sunday. They soon will be receiving the Body and Blood of Jesus for the first time and spending this time in church is a great way to help them prepare.



IMPORTANT DATES

FEBRUARY 26

- Ash Wednesday - Lent Begins



MARCH 15

- Sacrament of Reconciliation for all - 1 pm at St. Bernard

MARCH 25

- Sacrament of Reconciliation for the children – 7:45 am at St. Damian

MARCH 28

- First Communion Retreat - 9am to 12pm at the Albers School



We are looking forward to the mini-retreat in March which will prepare them for this Blessed Sacrament.

Reminder the date for the First Communion mini-retreat is Saturday March 28 from 9:00 am until noon (this is mandatory for all First Communicants and at least one parent should accompany them).

St. Damian's First Communion is Saturday May 2 @ 4:00 p.m.

-Denise & Savanna Luitjohan

Grade 3:

Third grade is reviewing the Apostle's Creed and the four marks of the church.

We watched the movie about St. Valentine and made valentines for the parents.

-Ruth Pingsterhaus

Grade 4:

The 4th grade has been working with different classes the last month while I was on vacation. They have done many of the same things as the 3rd grade.

We journal periodically and I think they enjoy this. I have not read any of their thoughts, but plan to send the journals home at the end of year. Maybe they will share them with you 😊.

We will also begin discussing Lent and the Easter season.

-Sharon Kalmer

Grades 5 and 6:

During last couple of months we focused on the textbook.

We talked about being thankful for God's creations--sea and sky, mountains and rivers, animals and pets, and all plant life. We had a discussion on pets and how the students who have them take responsibility in taking care of them.

We talked about a man named Chico Mendes, who worked in the rain forests of Brazil. We discussed how he learned to care properly for the trees; he organized protests, and alerted people to anyone who endangered the "rain forests".

We then followed up with how it is our duty to care for all of God's creations. We can practice stewardship and help the environment by "reusing, recycling, and reducing".

We did an activity that involved some scrambled verses of the Bible. The students needed to find the book, chapter, and verse in the Bible and unscramble the given verse. It was like a "scavenger hunt" using the Bible. An excellent learning tool, indeed.

This past week we have been learning the four cardinal virtues: Prudence, Temperance, Justice, and Fortitude and how they apply to our lives.

A saint we learned about was St. Cecelia, the patroness of music. We tied it to "singing is praying twice!"

Lastly, we learned the Memorare and reviewed the Apostles Creed.

Next is the Grace Before Meals prayer, which about half the class already knows.

Coming up is Lent and what we can do to make it a meaningful and prayerful season.

-Mary and Meredith Innes

Grades 7 and 8:

Since January focuses on the 47th anniversary of the legalization of abortion in our country, the 7th and 8th grade class watched the movie "October Baby", which is based on a true story of a girl who survived a botched abortion. I wanted to show the class the movie "Unwanted", which is the true story of the youngest abortion clinic director who, when she actually witnessed an abortion, left the clinic and is now an avid spokesperson for the right to life movement and against Planned Parenthood. However, the movie is rated R because it is very realistic!

Next week we will begin to focus on preparing ourselves for Holy Week by living a good Lenten season.

-Jackie Toennies

SERVERS ARE NEEDED

Servers will be needed for the Stations of the Cross on the following Thursday evenings at St. Damian's – February 27th, March 12th and March 26th. Please have your child let Ms. Sharon know if they are available to serve.

These students will get to put their name in twice for the Casey's gift card drawing at the end of the quarter.

FATHER ANTHONY'S GUIDANCE

On Lent...

"No act of virtue can be great if it is not followed by advantage for others. So, no matter how much time you spend fasting, no matter how much you sleep on a hard floor and eat ashes and sigh continually, if you do no good to others, you do nothing great."

— St John Chrysostom

-Fr. Anthony Onyango

THE DEACON'S CORNER

Lent

Written By: Melissa Petruzzello

Lent, in the Christian church, is 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.

A period of preparation and fasting likely has been observed before the Easter festival since apostolic times, though the practice was not formalized until the First Council of Nicaea in 325 AD. It was a time of preparation of candidates for baptism and a time of penance for sinners.

In the early centuries fasting rules were strict, as they still are in Eastern churches. One meal a day was allowed in the evening, and meat, fish, eggs, and butter were forbidden. The Eastern church also restricts the use of wine, oil, and dairy products. In the West these fasting rules have gradually been relaxed. The strict law of fasting among Roman Catholics was dispensed with during World War II, and only Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are

now kept as Lenten fast days. However, the emphasis on penitential practice and almsgiving remains, and most Catholics also observe a meatless fast on Fridays during Lent.

In addition, Catholics and other Christians often choose to give up specific pleasures, such as sweets, alcohol, or social media, during Lent as a way to foster simplicity and self-control; many use their cravings or desires for these items as a reminder to pray and to refocus on spiritual matters.

In the Anglican churches The Book of Common Prayer prescribes that Lent be observed with fasting. In Lutheran and many other Protestant churches, Lent is observed with various services and practices, though Lent is not formally observed in many evangelical or nondenominational churches.

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

ADORATION WITH BENEDICTION

The Weekly Holy Hour with Benediction held at St. Bernard and St. Damian parishes are as follows:

**Tuesday evenings from 7:00 – 8:00 pm @ St. Bernard (even months - Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec)
Wednesday evenings from 7:00 – 8:00 pm @ St. Damian (odd months - Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sept, Nov)**

Adoration starts at 7:00 p.m. and concludes with Benediction at 8:00 p.m.

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

THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY

The Hispanic community will begin Lent with a Service with Ashes on February 26 at 7:30 pm at St. Damian.

Each Sunday of Lent, starting at 12:30, all are invited to continue the video course: *Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible*.

At home each family will have a "rice bowl" to receive our sacrifices and to remind us that when we give something up, we do it with love. And our hearts will be renewed!

La comunidad Hispana empieza la Cuaresma con un Servicio con Cenizas el 26 de febrero a las 7:30 en S Damián.

Cada domingo de Cuaresma, a partir del 1 de marzo habrá estudio empezando a las 12:30: Abriendo el Misterio de la Biblia.

En casa cada familia tendrá su "fuente de arroz" para nuestros sacrificios y recordarnos que cuando sacrificamos algo, lo hacemos con amor. Así nuestros corazones son convertidos.

-Sister Ellen Orf

BIBLE STUDY – NO GREATER LOVE



Lenten Video Study

We often hear about Jesus' passion and death, but imagine experiencing them for the very first time. In *No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion*, we are going to walk step-by-step with Jesus on his journey from his agony in the garden to his crucifixion on Calvary.

No Greater Love is a five-part video study program that begins Sunday, March 8 and runs every Sunday, ending on Palm Sunday, April 5. We will meet from 6-8 pm at the St. Damian rectory.

To sign up, please call or text Kristen Templin at 314-651-8310. See you there!

FAITH FORMATION WEEKDAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

NOTE: Weekday masses at St. Damian are now on Wednesdays & Fridays at 7:45 am

St. Damian's Weekday Ministry Schedule 2020

Date	Voc Prayer	Servers	Reader	Petitions	Gifts	Choir
Wed - Mar 4	Miley Odell	Saul Contreras Ryan Oros Zachary Huegen	Reece Deiters	Natalie Lynch	Genesis Contreras Miranda Richter	7/8th
Fri - Mar 6	Lincoln Arentsen	CeCe Toennies Evelyn Ribbing Lauren Lynch	Genesis Contreras	Zachary Huegen	Aidan Toennies Eli Skelton	1st/5th/6th
Wed - Mar 11	Henry Ribbing	Brant Horstmann John Rojas Hunter Toennies	Arleth Rojas	Giovani Guerrero	Simon Toennies Evelyn Cleeton	7/8th
Fri - Mar 13	Reid Wuebbels	Trend Korte Chase Jansen Nolan Goebel	MaKenna Budde	Saul Contreras	Arleth Rojas Haylee Detmer	2nd/3rd/4th
Wed - Mar 18	Lincoln Arentsen	Kennedy Toennies Olivia Wilken Ryan Oros	Kevin Athmer	Aliya Henss	Reece Deiters Marris Penn	7/8th
Fri - Mar 20	Gracie Dieters	Reid Innes Reid Koch MaKenna Budde	Nolan Goebel	Ethan Korte	Jacob Athmer Connor Arentsen	1st/5th/6th
Wed - Mar 25	Reconciliation					
Fri - Mar 27	Olivia Wilken	Kevin Athmer Genesis Contreras Aidan Toennies	Chase Jansen	Kennedy Toennies	Nolan Goebel Nolan Hemker	2nd/3rd/4th

ST. DAMIAN WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Date	Communion Ministers	Readers	Ushers	Servers	Organist
Sunday, March 1 st 8:30 am	Rosann Horstmann Ken Mank	Denise Luitjohan	Gary Tonnies Marvin Toennies	Savanna Luitjohan Aliya Henss William Athmer	Geri Varel
Saturday, March 7 th 4:00 pm	Beth Brandmeyer Diana Jansen	Anita Rakers	Ed Kramer Sandy Kramer	Aidan Toennies Kennedy Toennies	Jan Hitch
Sunday, March 8 th 8:30 am	Sharon Kalmer Pete Toennies	Joseph Cleeton	Dave Albers Kevin Toennies	Reece Deiters Grace Deiters Brant Horstmann	Jan Hitch
Saturday, March 14 th 4:00 pm	Alice Toennies Monica Koch	Kathleen Hodges	Delmar Santel Ed Kramer (<i>Needy Collection</i>)	Reid Koch Lyla Koch	Chris Brandmeyer
Sunday, March 15 th 8:30 am	Florence Jansen Erin Korte	Mary Innes	Jerry Innes Butch Toennies (<i>Needy Collection</i>)	Reid Innes Trent Korte Kevin Athmer	Chris Brandmeyer
Saturday, March 21 st 4:00 pm	Chris Brandmeyer Mech Toennies	Anita Rakers	Volunteer Volunteer	Ethan Korte Aidan Toennies	Geri Varel
Sunday, March 22 nd 8:30 am	Arlene Korte Julie Langenhorst	Mason Schrage	Pete Toennies Dan Athmer	Ethan Toennies Simon Toennies Anthony Athmer	Geri Varel
Saturday, March 28 th 4:00 pm	Virgil Jansen Marilyn Jansen	Kathleen Hodges	Ed Kramer Delmar Santel	Reid Koch Lyla Koch	Jan Hitch
Sunday, March 29 th 8:30 am	Ruth Jansen Deb Santel	Susan Lynch	Brad Richter Kristy Richter	Lauren Lynch Natalie Lynch Jacob Athmer	Jan Hitch
Sunday, April 5 th 8:30 am	Ken Mank Sharon Kalmer	Chris Kalmer	Brent Goebel Garry Kalmer	Nolan Goebel Savanna Luitjohan Aliya Henss	Chris Brandmeyer
PLEASE SIGN UP FOR HOLY WEEK & EASTER					
<u>COLLECTION COUNTERS:</u>					
Sunday, March 1st – Tina Tonnies, Dave Kassen, Sandy Kramer Gonsalves			Sunday, March 8th – Pete Toennies, Kathleen Hodges, Kathy		
Sunday, March 15th – Mech Toennies, Anita Rakers, Kristy Richter Toennies			Sunday, March 22nd – Mel Toennies, Tina Tonnies, Gwen		
Sunday, March 29th – Dave Kassen, Kristy Richter, Sandy Kramer Rakers			Sunday, April 5th – Pete Toennies, Kathy Gonsalves, Anita		

LIVING THE BEATITUDES

Our Faith Formation focus this year is on Living The Beatitudes. Here the children are taking part in a guided meditation on the Good Samaritan story and asking themselves "who is my neighbor". How can we be clean of heart?

