

# APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER

## St. Damian's Parish Faith Formation

*God, the inspirer and author of both Testaments of the Bible, wisely arranged that the New Testament be hidden in the Old and the Old be made manifest in the New.*

*-Second Vatican Council Fathers*



### AN ACTIVITY REQUEST FROM THE TEACHERS

As a way to end this school year and to pray for an end/cure for COVID-19, we would like to do a rosary prayed by the students. It's still a work in progress, but **we are asking each parent/someone to send a short video of your child/family praying the Hail Mary.**

If you have more than one child in the Faith Formation Program they can do it together or individually.

**Text the video/s to Denise Luitjohan at 618-973-1913 by Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>.** Savanna is going to put the rosary together. When completed, it will be posted on the church website.

**-Damiansville Faith Formation Teachers**

### CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

#### **Grade 1:**

Dear First grade FF students,

I hope all of you are okay. I've missed you since we haven't had classes in school.

It was wonderful to have the times to pray with all of you in the beginning of classes. I hope you're all still saying prayers. The Angel of God prayer is a really good one to say now, and you can ask your Guardian Angel to tell everyone else's Guardian Angels to pray for their health and safety.

I want all of you to have a happy and safe summer, and to listen to your parents. Although I won't be teaching you in August, I'm still looking forward to seeing you again.

**-Ms. Lori Jansen**

#### **Grade 2:**

Dear 2nd grade,

It was with much regret that we had to postpone this year's First Communion. I cannot wait for the day to reconnect with all of you, have our retreat day and get to celebrate your First Communion Day in a packed church! More information on all of that will come as soon as the churches can be reopened.

### IMPORTANT DATES

APRIL 30

**STAY HOME**  
**STAY SAFE**  
**SAVE LIVES**

### DON'T FORGET TO PRAY TODAY



I hope you have all progressed through the videos and the book as this has lasted longer than first expected. Savanna and I continue to pray for you and your families.

If there is anything we can do to help you through these times please give me a call at 973-1913.

Praying for you always,

**-Mrs. Denise and Ms. Savanna**

### **Grade 3**

Dear 3rd grade,

I miss you, students; I usually always left the classroom with a smile on my face. You have improved and learned quite a bit since second grade.

Please review your prayers: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Angel of God, and the Apostles Creed. Remember what choa stands for: 4 marks of the church- catholic, holy, one, and apostolic.

Stay healthy in mind and body and try to have patience, be kind and considerate. Hopefully next year we can do some of the crafts and fun things that we usually do at the end of the year.

If you have some questions or need to talk, feel free to call me at 248-5336.

In Jesus name,

**-Ruth Pingsterhaus**

### **Grade 4:**

Dear 4th grade,

As you are now learning, life is not always what you want it to be. Jesus taught using life's challenges and we learn to be better Christians through them and Him.

I miss your smiling faces and "words of wisdom" and promise that somehow, next school year, you will get to complete the 2 craft projects that I had planned for you.

Don't forget to say your Prayer to St Francis and recite the Books of the Bible. Also, please pray they find a cure for this virus, watch Mass on Sundays, stay healthy and enjoy the LO-ON-NG break.

If there is anything I can do for you (besides homework), or if you just want to chat, give me a call at 420-3120.

Peace, Ms. Sharon

**-Sharon Kalmer**

### **Grades 5 and 6:**

This past quarter we have focused mainly on Lent. We learned the three observances that we all should follow: fast, give alms, and pray. We talked about "fasting", and what each student planned on "giving up" for Lent.

The students all received an Operation Rice Bowl. Some of them already contributed and made a special trip to church and deposited their cash in the big silver bowl. Unfortunately, they all didn't get a chance because

the school closed due to COVID-19. It's not too late to contribute. If anyone has any money in their boxes, please put the cash/money in an envelope, mark it Operation Rice Bowl, and drop it in the envelope drop box on the front porch of the rectory.

Instead of class one day, the entire student body went to church where we all participated in the Stations of the Cross. We had Lenten activity books that we used the first two weeks and the plan was to show a video on the Crucifixion. Again, all cut short due to the virus and the school closure.

In closing, we encourage our students to be prayerful during these stressful and challenging times. Have them start each day with the Guardian Angel Prayer, or some form of morning prayer. Say the Our Father and Hail Mary, or some form of evening prayer, before they go to bed at night. Also, make sure you attend one of the 'virtual' Masses that are streamed live on weekends on the Parish Facebook page. Information about Mass times can be found later in this newsletter.

We really do need to remain vigilant and pray that we all stay healthy. Hopefully the school will open again in August and we will see all your smiling faces beginning of next school year.

Stay safe and happy summer!

**-Mary and Meredith Innes**

**Grades 7 and 8:**

The students were contacted last week via text. Stay healthy.

**-Jackie Toennies**

FATHER ANTHONY'S GUIDANCE

When the churches are all empty  
and the temple doors barred shut  
while the mosque's call's long been silent  
then the voice starts: where is your God now?

When the morgues are overflowing  
and hospitals of dread are full  
while the sick lie slowly drowning  
the voice remarks, so cool: where is your God now?

When homeless beg streets empty  
and hoarders stuff fridges full  
while poor children lie in bed hungry  
the voice starts to rule: where is your God now?

Our God is in nurses and doctors  
exhausted teachers' endless screens  
cleaners countless corridors  
delivery men running between  
supermarket staff toiling through nights  
replenishing shelves stripped bare  
masked bus drivers sending you home  
strangers who offer to share  
whatever little that they have

whatever little they can spare.

In hearts filled with quivering hope  
God is often in you, when you care.

So where is our God? He's not in the tomb because it is an empty tomb.

Then where is our God? He is in the light of Easter candle which was held high in a darkened church as the priest proclaims:

"May the Light of Christ rising in glory,  
dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds."

That is the voice that we must listen to, because it is the voice of our Risen Lord Jesus, a voice that tells us,  
"Courage, do not be afraid. I am with you always, to the end of time."

So where is our God? He is risen and He is in our hearts shining His light in the midst of all this chaotic darkness.

-Anonymous

**-Fr. Anthony Onyango**

#### DEACON'S CORNER

Easter is the celebration of Christ's resurrection from the dead. It is celebrated on Sunday, and marks the end of Holy Week, the end of Lent, the last day of the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday), and is the beginning of the Easter season of the liturgical year.

As we know from the Gospels, Jesus Christ rose from the dead on the third day following his crucifixion, which would be Sunday. His resurrection marks the triumph of good over evil, sin and death. It is the singular event which proves that those who trust in God and accept Christ will be raised from the dead.

Since Easter represents the fulfillment of God's promises to mankind, it is **the most important holiday on the Christian calendar**.

In the Gospels, the precise details of the Easter narrative vary slightly, but none of these variances are critical to the main story. In fact, it is argued that the variances are simply matters of style and not substance. Despite the variances, the key aspects of the Easter story all match. Above all, they agree that the tomb of Christ was indeed empty, which is the most essential fact. (Catholic Online)

In these tough times the essential thing to remember is that we will come out of this just as Jesus came out of the tomb.

Just an added note....**Show your children regular prayer and devotionals.** Children need to be shown that praying for the return of normal times with their moms and dads is a valuable part of the community of Christ. 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**". So be a part of Joshua's Army and be a Prayer Warrior!

**-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

"Uncharted waters" - how often have we heard this phrase to describe our experience of these weeks going into months? Is it that there is so much uncertainty, or is it that the time of waiting is out of our hands?

The experience of the early Church gives us some guidance of how to live in uncertain times while becoming disciples of a new Way. And so we discover ways to celebrate the Mass and continue to participate in adoration and continue our studies. And while we plant fields and gardens might we spend a little time asking "what can I learn of this time?", "What have I discovered that is important to me because it's not so easily accessible?", "Have I learned some ways of connecting with family and friends that I want to remember when all this is over?" **In all things let us give thanks to God!**

"Aguas desconocidos" - con frecuencia escuchamos esa frase para describir nuestra experiencia de semanas que ahora son meses. ¿Es que hay tanta incertidumbre o es que el control está fuera de nuestro alcance? La experiencia de la comunidad apostólica nos da ciertas pautas en como vivir en tiempos nuevos mientras aprendemos. Así encontramos otras formas de asistir a la Misa y de participar en la hora santa y de seguir estudiando..

Mientras vamos sembrando los campos y las huertas, quizás podemos tomar un momento de preguntarnos "¿que puedo aprender de este tiempo? ¿Que he descubierto que me importa porque no es tan accesible? ¿He aprendido formas y tiempo de conectar con familia y amistades que quiero recordar después que pase esto? ¡En todo demos gracias a Dios!

**-Sister Ellen Orf**

## CHURCH MASSES/EUCHARISTIC ADORATION/SUNDAY CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

MASSSES are being streamed online live on the parish Facebook page at 4:00 pm on Saturday evenings and 9:30 am on Sunday mornings until the 'stay home' order is lifted. EUCHARISTIC ADORATION is also being streamed online live on the parish Facebook page at 7:00 pm on Tuesdays and 7:00 pm on Wednesdays. You can join at the Facebook link below:

[www.facebook.com/stbernardalbers](https://www.facebook.com/stbernardalbers)

Previously recorded masses and the **Sunday Children's Liturgy of the Word** are available on the Parish website:

<http://www.stbernardandstdamian.org/>

Note: You can also find Masses on the television at EWTN.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Communion to the home bound will continue. Please contact Deacon Glenn Netemeyer if you would like Communion brought to you.
- Check on your friends and neighbors, especially the elderly and those living alone.
- Please continually pray at home for us, and all people, in this time of trouble.
- Bulletins will continue to be printed weekly and be available in the jar located on the front steps of St. Damian House and the St. Bernard Rectory. Bulletins are also available on the website.

- The offices will be on limited hours on Monday - Friday (9:00 am-12 noon). Jeanne will be working from home at times or in an office as needed. Please do not hesitate to give Jeanne a call.
- Although we are unable to attend Mass or have any church activities, the parish will continue to be there to support you.
- **We also need your support!** Please mail in your contributions, fill out an ACH form, or if you bank online, have a check sent to the parish.

Your contribution envelopes can be dropped in the drop box on the rectory porch at St. Bernard or the drop box on the front porch of the St. Damian parish house. These locations will be checked daily and envelopes put in a safe place.

**St. Bernard Parish**  
**PO Box 10**  
**Albers, IL 62215**  
**618-248-5112**

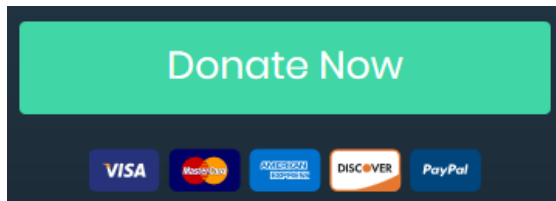
**St. Damian Parish**  
**One West Main Street**  
**Damiansville, IL 62215**  
**618-248-5134**

**CHECK THIS OUT!!!**

You can also make a donation directly on the Parish website home page located here:

<http://www.stbernardandstdamian.org/>

Click the Donate Now button under your parish name to make a donation through PayPal or a credit card through Pay Pal. Instructions on how to make an online contribution are on the website just above the Donate buttons.



**Thank you and God bless!**

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT**

The activities and services for First Communion and Confirmation will be rescheduled as soon as possible.



## PASTORAL STAFF

*If you need assistance, wish to meet with someone, or just wish to talk, please do not hesitate to give us a call.*

*Please be safe and stay healthy. God bless!*

### **Administrator**

Rev. Anthony Onyango  
**utugo@yahoo.com**  
618-248-5112 (Office)  
424-536-6906 (Cell)

### **Pastoral Associate/DRE**

Deacon Glennon J. Netemeyer  
**gnetemeyer@msn.com**  
618-248-5134 (Office)  
618-772-9343 (Cell)

### **Permanent Deacon**

Deacon Kevin Templin  
**deaconkevin18@gmail.com**  
314-660-3976 (Cell)

### **NC Vicariate Hispanic Minister**

Sr. Ellen Orf  
**ellen\_46@yahoo.com**  
636-293-8253 (Cell)

### **Parish Secretary**

Jeanne Langenhorst  
**st.bernard@charter.net**  
618-588-4323 (CLC Office)  
618-979-5933 (Cell)