

AUGUST 2018 NEWSLETTER

St. Damian's Parish Faith Formation

Welcome to the first issue of the Faith Formation Newsletter!

This monthly newsletter will be used to share Faith Formation news, class activities, important dates and upcoming events.

We want this newsletter to be valuable to you, so please feel free to provide feedback to help us improve.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Kindergarten:

Kindergarten has seven enthusiastic students. During the month of August we will be working on getting to know each other and learn good church behavior at mass. We will learn genuflecting, the sign of the cross, and parts of the mass. We will also take tours of the church.

-Arlene Korte

Grade 1:

In our first few days of Faith Formation at St. Damian's, we worked on getting comfortable with being in first grade and getting organized. We reviewed the Sign of the Cross, got reacquainted with each other, and prepared for weekday mass on Mondays and Wednesdays.

-Mary Innes

Grade 2:

In our first few days of Faith Formation at St. Damian's, we reviewed church procedures and the prayers we knew. Going forward, we will be learning new prayers and songs.

Also, this year will be preparing for and celebrating our First Reconciliation and First Communion!

-Ruth Pingsterhaus and Gabby Kramer

Grades 3 and 4:

Welcome! Grades 3 and 4 will be working from the 4th grade book this year along with learning The Apostle's Creed and the Books of the Bible.



UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 16

- 'Come to the Choir' and sing at 8:30 a.m. mass at St. Damian. Grades 3-8 will be singing
- The Catechist Day Blessing will be these masses:
 - 8:30 a.m. at St. Damian
 - 10:00 a.m. at St. Bernard

SEPTEMBER 23

- Feast of St. Damian Bilingual Mass and Celebration at 11:00 a.m. at St. Damian

SEPTEMBER 30

- St. Bernard Wurstmart (featuring a Faith Formation Basket Raffle)
- Blue Grass Music will be these masses:
 - 8:30 a.m. at St. Damian
 - 10:00 a.m. at St. Bernard
- Bring your Grandparents/ Godparents and others to these masses for a special blessing:
 - 8:30 a.m. at St. Damian
 - 10:00 a.m. at St. Bernard
 - 11:00 a.m. Hispanic Mass at St. Damian

I will be spearheading the ABC Program that collects caps and lids to make a bench for the school playground. More information about this initiative is in the Collection/Charity Opportunities section later in this newsletter.

-Sharon Kalmer

Grades 5 and 6:

Grades 5 and 6 will be joined together as one Faith Formation class this year. These two classes will be making their confirmation together when they are in 7th and 8th grade. Combining them this year will give them a chance to prepare each other more for their faithful path. We welcome 3 new students to the 5th grade Faith Formation class!!!

In the next few weeks we will practice saying petitions, refresh our minds on things they may already know, as well as go through the expectations of the things they need to know by the end of the year!

-Kathleen Hodges

Grades 7 and 8:

I am looking forward to a good, productive year! We already know each other since we spent lots of time together last year. Our focus will be on how to live out confirmation by becoming 'pray-ers', serving others and striving to be the best possible version of ourselves. We ended last year by watching the movie, "God's Not Dead". We will begin this year by watching "God's Not Dead II". We will spend a lot of time in my living room instead of the science room this year if it's okay with you parents. If you have any objections to that, please let me know.

If you have any questions/concerns, please contact me by email, text or phone call. God bless!

-Jackie Toennies

FATHER ANTHONY'S GUIDANCE

"Happiness can only be achieved by looking inward and learning to enjoy whatever life has and this requires transforming greed into gratitude."

- St. John Chrysostom

Folks! Catholics are joyful people. We even have a book on it (See Joy of the Gospel by Pope Francis). Joy is deeper than happiness because it is rooted in Christ. Everything we go through in this life is an opportunity to grow in holiness. We must be joyful about everything God has given us. God has given us a great opportunity, to be a saint. Each person on this earth has a different journey to become a saint. This is why we must thank God for everything and we do this by accepting the good, the bad, and the ugly with great joy.

Each one of you. Have a lovely week ahead.

-Fr. Anthony Onyango



UPCOMING EVENTS CONT'D

OCTOBER 5

- Mental Health Awareness and Memorial Walk in honor of Sydney Irizarry

IN THE COMMUNITY

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS AND MEMORIAL WALK IN HONOR OF **SYDNEY IRIZARRY**

Proceeds to benefit Swing for Sydney Foundation.

For more information, go to the **swingforsydney** Facebook page [here](#). To register, contact Andres at 618-920-6288 or Shelley at 314-541-2181.

Everyone is asked to pre-order (blue) Mental Health or (yellow) Suicide Awareness bows to display the weekend of October 5 – 8 for \$5.00 each. Bows are available at Albers Village Hall (248-5154) or by calling Andres or Shelley at the phone numbers above.

THE DEACON'S REMARKS

Welcome everyone to the 2018-2019 Faith Formation Class

I hope you have all had a fruitful summer and time to relax.

First of all, I would like to welcome our new students and Parents. This is where you will stay for the coming years. Most probably, this is where you will meet the best friends of your life. Please accept our best wishes. And to all the returning students, welcome back. And of course, to our teachers, welcome back too. Thank you for your hard work. I believe that with everybody's contribution, we will have a very successful year ahead.

What is meant by learning wisely? What is learning to you? More importantly what is learning to your children? Find out how your children learn.

How do you do that? My suggestion is, start asking questions. Young children ask a lot of questions. They are interested in many things around them. They want to know, so they ask, and this is how they learn. Unfortunately, the older we get, the less questions we ask, and the less we learn. To become a wise learner, the first thing to do is to re-build the habit of asking questions. Start asking questions again, like what you did when you were small. Always ask "WHY", 'Why is it like this', 'Why doesn't it happen like this', 'Why are they the same', 'Why are they different'. Ask "HOW". 'How is it related to me', 'How does it work', 'How is it made', etc. Ask "WHAT". Ask "WHERE". Ask "WHICH". Ask anything that you don't understand. When you get into the habit of asking questions, you will ignite your inquisitive mind. Remember to start asking your children questions. If you are interested in them, then you motivate them to learn because what they learn is important enough that you take the time to ask.

God teaches us to love our neighbors. When we follow the teaching and make an impact on the lives of others, our lives become meaningful. Are you living a Christian life now? Set it as another life-long goal of yours and get closer to it each day.

To sum up, the message I want to get across is asking you to: Learn Wisely and Live in Christ. I hope you will remember this for the rest of the year, and for the rest of your life.

On the next page you will find the contact information for our colleagues and your helpers in teaching your children the ways of faith.

Let me welcome everybody again, staff and students, new and old. Let's work closely together for another fruitful year and offer this to God, who is watching from above. Thank you!

-Deacon Glenn

[I believe though I do not comprehend, and I hold by faith what I cannot grasp with the mind.](#)

-St. Bernard



St. Damian Email Address and Phone List



Name	Grade/Title	Phone Number	E-mail Address
Rev. Anthony Onyango	Administrator	424-536-6906 or 618-248-5112	utugo@yahoo.com
Deacon Glenn Netemeyer	Director of Religious Education	618-772-9343 or 618-248-5134	deaconglenn36@gmail.com
Deacon Kevin Templin	Permanent Deacon	314-660-3976	deaconkevin18@gmail.com
Sister Ellen Orf	NC Vicariate Hispanic Minister	636-293-8253	ellen_46@yahoo.com
Arlene Korte	Kindergarten	618-954-9275 618-248-5548	amkorte2@aol.com
Mary Innes	1st Grade	618-248-5407	mkinnes@wisperhome.com
Ruth Pingsterhaus Gabby Kramer	2nd Grade (teaching First Reconciliation and First Communion)	618-420-6587 618-954-1297	rpingsterhaus@yahoo.com kramgr19@materdeiknights.org
Sharon Kalmer	3rd and 4th Grades	618-420-3120	skalmer@kalmerlumber.com
Kathleen Hodges	5th and 6th Grades	618-604-8953	tkjjhodges@aol.com
Jackie Toennies	7th and 8th Grades	618-335-9562	toennies9@wisperhome.com
Tammy Schrage	Faith Formation Newsletter Editor	618-210-1850	tammyiphone@charter.net

FEAST DAY MASSES

In many Spanish countries the feast of the parish patron saint is celebrated by the whole community with the Feast Day Mass, plenty of music and food.

The feast of St. Bernard was Monday, August 20. The community held a raffle at the August 19th 10:00 a.m. mass at St. Bernard announcing a few lucky winners!

The feast of St. Damian is September 26. This year the people of St. Damian will gather for a bilingual Mass (music and scriptures) on Sunday, September 23 at 11:00 a.m. and then celebrate with food and games.

The meal will be potluck so everyone is invited to come and bring something to share.

<u>Last Name begins with</u>	<u>Please bring</u>
A-D	Dessert
E-M	Salad or vegetable
N-R	Drinks
S-Z	Paper Products

Thank you,

-Sister Ellen Orf

FAITH FORMATION WEEKDAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

St. Damian's Ministry Schedule August/September 2018

Gym Door Openers

Monday	Kathleen
Tuesday	Ruth
Wednesday	Sharon
Thursday	Jackie
Friday	Mary

Date	Voc Prayer	Servers	Reader	Petitions	Gifts	Choir	Doors
Wed-Aug 22	Hunter Toennies	Jacob Athmer Reid Koch Nolan Goebel	Henry Toennies	Trent Korte	Brant Horstmann Randy Oros	7th/8th	8
Mon-Aug 27	Natalie Lynch	Ethan Toennies Kaylee Netemeyer Lupe Luevano	Julia Korte	Lauren Lynch	Lyla Koch Ryan Oros	2nd/6th	8
Wed-Aug 29	Edwin Oros	MaKenna Budde Reid Innes Evelyn Ribbing	Ethan Toennies	Chase Jansen	Grace Deiters Natalie Lynch	7th/8th	8
Wed-Sep 5	Zachary Huegen	Chase Jansen Trent Korte CeCe Toennies	Aaron Juarez	Reid Innes	Zachary Huegen Edwin Oros	7th/8th	7
Mon-Sep 10	Grace Deiters	Julia Korte Aaron Juarez Saul Contreras	Kaylee Netemeyer	Nolan Goebel	Henry Toennies Hunter Toennies	3rd/4th	7
Wed-Sep 12	Lyla Koch	Lauren Lynch Kennedy Toennies Ethan Korte	Lupe Luevano	Reid Koch	Lincoln Arentsen Ethan Toennies	7th/8th	7
Mon-Sep 17	Aliya Henss	MaKenna Budde Kevin Athmer Aidan Toennies	Simon Toennies	Evelyn Ribbing	Henry Ribbing Julia Korte	1st/5th	7
Wed-Sep 19	Brant Horstmann	Evelyn Ribbing Reid Koch Lauren Lynch	Reece Deiters	CeCe Toennies	Reed Wuebbels Kevin Athmer	7th/8th	7
Mon-Sep 24	Ryan Oros	Genesis Contreras Reece Deiters Simon Toennies	Aidan Toennies	Jacob Athmer	Charlotte Cleeton Kaylee Netemeyer	2nd/6th	7
Wed-Sep 26	Randy Oros	Saul Contreras Ethan Korte Jacob Athmer	Genesis Contreras	Aliya Henss	Reece Deiters Aaron Juarez	7th/8th	7

COLLECTION/CHARITY OPPORTUNITIES

Faith Formation students will be collecting caps and lids for a bench for the school playground. An 8' bench with a back needs 250 lbs of caps and lids (approx. 7-55 gallon garbage bags) along with \$300. We will be doing a fundraiser for this at some point.

You can send your caps and lids to school, or drop them off in the container in the back of church. Additional drop off sites may be added later. Our progress will be posted in the monthly newsletter!

Please review the attached sheet for acceptable caps and lids. You can also check out the website www.greentreeplastics.com. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Kalmer.