

SEPTEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

St. Damian's Parish Faith Formation

Strange, isn't it, that man has enough sense to acquire wealth, but not enough to get ready for eternity?

-Max Lucado

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Kindergarten:

The kindergarten class has grown. We now have nine students!!

Most of the students have memorized the Lord's Prayer and are comfortable with the sign of the cross.

A bible story is read every day. Some of the stories include the story of Creation, Adam and Eve in Paradise, Noah's Ark and Joseph and his brothers.

Also, we focus on a new word each day and color a picture each day related to the new word of the day. So far we have learned about angels, altar table, baptism, bible, chalice, communion, crucifix, disciples, and gospel.

All of the students are excited about learning.

-Arlene Korte

Grade 1:

First grade at St. Damian's is going very well and the students have settled into a routine. We are practicing the Sign of the Cross so they do it properly and with devotion. We have learned the Guardian Angel prayer—it's a great prayer to start each day—and we are currently reviewing the Our Father.

Using a children's bible, they learned about the story of creation, about how God made the world in 7 days, and about how he created Adam and Eve and the Garden of Eden.

This past Monday was the first time the first grade students sang in the choir and they "nailed it". Parents/guardians would have been proud. For planning purposes, the next date they are scheduled to sing in the choir is Monday, October 15th. All parents, grandparents, relatives, and special friends, are invited to listen to these enthusiastic young voices. Mark it on your calendars and come listen to them sing. I think you will be impressed.

Another date to remember is the grandparents/godparents blessing at the 8:30 and 11:00 Masses at St. Damian's on Sunday, Sept 30th. There will be



UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 30

- St. Bernard Wurstmarkt featuring a Faith Formation Basket Raffle
- Blue Grass Music 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

OCTOBER 20

- Food Drive for St. Vincent DePaul food pantry in Germantown – **bags will be dropped off**

OCTOBER 24

- REBOOT! Live! Event featuring Chris Stefanick at 7:00 p.m. in the Mascoutah High School Theater.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.holychildhoodchurch.com/REBOOT/Event.htm>

For tickets, contact Deacon Kevin at 314-660-3976, his wife Kristen at 314-651-8310, or the Real Life Catholic Website. Tickets are \$15.00 each.

Deaconkevin18@gmail.com

a special blessing for all grandparents and godparents attending Mass and there will be blue grass music played at the 8:30 Mass.

Come and sit with your grandchild or godchild, receive a blessing, and enjoy some great music together.

-Mary Innes

Grade 2:

Second grade has been busy learning about the Mass. We also made pop-up books that contain the story of Creation and the Garden of Eden. Lastly, we started watching our film and reviewing our book on Reconciliation which stresses gratitude.

-Ruth Pingsterhaus and Gabby Kramer

Grades 3 and 4:

The 3rd and 4th grades are busy learning the books of the Bible. They know the first 17 books of the Old Testament so far!

The 1st chapter in our book had us discussing the stories of Creation and Jonah and the Whale.

The 3rd graders have also started individually leading the Vocation Prayer from the podium at the beginning of Mass.

Great class that wants to learn and participate!

-Sharon Kalmer

Grades 5 and 6:

In the coming weeks we will be focusing more on the sacraments, the holy days of obligation, and the forms of writings in the Bible.

The 5th and 6th graders are collecting unwanted shoes, flip flops and boots until October 25th. They will be donated to The Franciscan sisters (Care for Creation program) who will teach business principles in developing nations and to provide footwear in areas where it is most needed. Shoes must be in pairs, have life left in them and no holes.

Shoes or boots can be brought to school or dropped off at my house anytime.

-Kathleen Hodges

Grades 7 and 8:

We've had a good first month. The 7th and 8th grade students are lectors for morning school Masses and they have been doing a great job! Also, they have set a good example for the younger students by singing and responding at Mass and acting appropriately in the gym before Mass or class.

As I said last month, we ended last school year by watching "God's Not Dead" and started this year by watching "God's Not Dead 2".



UPCOMING EVENTS CONT'D

OCTOBER 27

- Food Drive for St. Vincent DePaul food pantry in Germantown – **bags will be picked up**

We have been focusing on living out our Confirmation by praying, serving others, and striving to be the best possible version of ourselves. As a way to do this, we have taken apart the Our Father, rewriting it in our own words.

Each week, we are thinking of a way to perform an act of kindness for someone else until serving others becomes second nature. We had a "guest speaker" come to our class and talk to us about striving to do things for others (the speaker is a friend of mine from Atlanta who grew up in East St. Louis and has quite a story).

In a few weeks the youth choir will begin practicing for Christmas. New voices are always welcome!

Our textbook for this year is titled "Decision Point". It focuses on making good choices and becoming the best possible version of ourselves. We finally opened the book! We've been busy!

-Jackie Toennies

FATHER ANTHONY'S GUIDANCE

Attitude of Gratitude

An attitude of gratitude means making it a habit to express thankfulness and appreciation in all parts of your life, on a regular basis, for both the big and small things alike. As Howes puts it, "If you concentrate on what you have, you'll always have more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you'll never have enough."

Here is a menu of tactics (just pick a few!) he endorses to help develop this mindset:

- Wake up every day and express to yourself what you are grateful for
- Tell whoever you are with at the end of the day the 3 things you are most grateful for
- Tell whoever you are with right now (significant other, friend, family member, etc.) the 3 things that you are most grateful for in this moment
- Start a gratitude journal - Express gratitude in this journal every night by noting the things that you are grateful for, proud of, and excited about
- Acknowledge yourself for what you have done and accomplished in the last day/week/month/year. Instead of comparing yourself to others, give yourself credit for the big and small things you have been doing
- Acknowledge other people and thank them for inspiring/helping/supporting you – often times people wait their whole lives to be acknowledged (and yet it happens far too infrequently)

If the gratitude process is hard to get started, begin by asking yourself, "What could I be grateful for?", and see if the ideas start to flow. This is a mindset habit that is recommended by Tony Robbins in his book, Awaken the Giant Within.

Gratitude is not only the greatest of the virtues, but the parent of all of the others – Cicero (106–43bc)

Have a grateful month!

-Fr. Anthony Onyango

THE DEACON'S CORNER

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.

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!

Please remember – there won't be any Faith Formation report cards this year. If you have any questions, please contact me.

-Deacon Glenn

"May you always be doing those good, kind things that show you are a child of God."

Phil 1:11 Living Bible (TLB)

ADORATION WITH BENEDICTION

Starting Wednesday October 3rd – St. Bernard and St. Damian will be hosting a weekly Holy Hour with Benediction **every Wednesday**. (One exception Oct 24...due to the REBOOT event)

Adoration will start at 7:00 p.m. and will conclude with Benediction at 8:00 p.m.

The location will rotate on the SAME schedule as the Saturday Masses:

- October – St. Bernard
- November – St. Damian
- December – St. Bernard

And so on...

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

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

At Baptism, we are given the name chosen by our parents. It may give us a special connection with them or a particular friend. In Confirmation, we are invited to choose a name that encourages us to grow in a special virtue or lifestyle. Each parish is given a saintly patron or a title of our Savior.

As we celebrate St. Damian and St. Bernard, it is good opportunity to discover who they were and how each of them can be an example for us.

St. Damian was a twin. He and his brother Cosmas, as physicians, offered the gift of healing to their community. When accused of being Christians, they bravely confessed their faith and suffered martyrdom.

We can ask them to know our faith more truly and for the courage to live it practically.

-Sister Ellen Orf

FAITH FORMATION WEEKDAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <h2 style="color: #0070C0;">St. Damian's Ministry Schedule</h2> <h3 style="color: #0070C0;">October 2018</h3> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; font-size: small;"> <p style="text-align: center; color: #0070C0; margin: 0;"><u>Gym Door Openers</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">Monday</td><td style="padding: 2px;">Kathleen</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">Tuesday</td><td style="padding: 2px;">Ruth</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">Wednesday</td><td style="padding: 2px;">Sharon</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">Thursday</td><td style="padding: 2px;">Jackie</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">Friday</td><td style="padding: 2px;">Mary</td></tr> </table> </div> </div>								Monday	Kathleen	Tuesday	Ruth	Wednesday	Sharon	Thursday	Jackie	Friday	Mary
Monday	Kathleen																
Tuesday	Ruth																
Wednesday	Sharon																
Thursday	Jackie																
Friday	Mary																
Date	Voc Prayer	Servers	Reader	Petitions	Gifts	Choir	Doors										
Mon-Oct 1	Olivia Wilken	Kaylee Netemeyer Ethan Toennies Aidan Toennies	MaKenna Budde	Trent Korte	Reed Wuebbels Lupe Luevano	3/4th	6										
Wed-Oct 3	Gracie Deiters	Chase Jansen Trent Korte CeCe Toennies	Kevin Athmer	Lauren Lynch	Dylann Netemeyer Genesis Contreras	7/8th	6										
Wed-Oct 10	Lyla Koch	Kennedy Toennies Reid Innes Nolan Goebel	Henry Toennies	Chase Jansen	Charlie Sauer Aidan Toennies	7/8th	6										
Mon-Oct 15	Brant Horstmann	Reece Deiters Aaron Juarez Kevin Athmer	Julia Korte	Reid Innes	Reid Toennies Simon Toennies	1/5th	6										
Wed-Oct 17	Ryan Oros	Saul Contreras Ethan Korte Jacob Athmer	Ethan Toennies	Nolan Goebel	Haylee Yarber MaKenna Budde	7/8th	6										
Mon-Oct 22	Randy Oros	Lupe Luevano Julia Korte Genesis Contreras	Aaron Juarez	Reid Koch	Henry Toennies Hunter Toennies	2/6th	6										
Mon-Oct 29	Olivia Wilken	Simon Toennies Kevin Athmer Aidan Toennies	Kaylee Netemeyer	Evelyn Ribbing	Lincoln Arentsen Ethan Toennies	3/4th	6										
Wed-Oct 31	Hunter Toennies	Kennedy Toennies Reid Koch Evelyn Ribbing	Lupe Luevano	CeCe Toennies	Kenslie Engle Reece Deiters	7/8th	6										

COLLECTION/CHARITY OPPORTUNITIES

CAPS COLLECTION

Faith Formation students and their families have been collecting caps and lids for a bench for the school playground. An 8' bench with a back needs 250 pounds of caps and lids (approx. 7-55 gallon garbage bags) along with \$300.

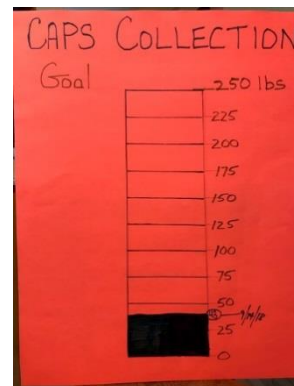
UPDATE: In the first 3 weeks, we have already collected 43 pounds!!

WOW!! Keep them coming!

You can send your caps and lids to school, or drop them off in the container in the back of church.

Please check the website www.greentreeplastics.com for acceptable items.

If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Kalmer at 618-420-3120.



ST. VINCENT DEPAUL FOOD DRIVE



The Albers and Damiansville Faith Formation students will be collecting food for the St. Vincent DePaul Food pantry in Germantown in October. Please be generous!

- Bags delivered to homes on October 20th
- Bags picked up from your homes on October 27th

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

As we prepare for the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Hispanic community will be offering raffle tickets for this beautiful embroidered tablecloth from Mexico and a Christmas crib set.

For more information, please contact Sister Ellen at 636-293-8253 or ellen_46@yahoo.com.



CARE FOR CREATION PROGRAM (SHOE DRIVE)

The Damiansville 5th and 6th grade Faith Formation class is collecting unwanted shoes, flip flops and boots until October 25th. They will be donated to The Franciscan sisters who will teach business principles in developing nations and to provide footwear in areas where it is most needed.

Shoes must be in pairs, have life left in them and no holes.

Shoes and boots can be brought to Damiansville School or dropped off at Kathleen Hodges' house any time. Please contact Kathleen at 618-604-8953 with your questions.

