

SEPTEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

St. Damian's Parish Faith Formation

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

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

School Faith Formation Project

All of the classes have decided to focus on the 8 Beatitudes this year. From September through April, we will concentrate on a different beatitude each month.

On Friday mornings, before we go to our individual classrooms, we will discuss what the particular beatitude means to us, and how we can live out that beatitude every day that month.

The kids have learned a catchy little song (with "actions" to go along with it) that sing about the beatitudes and how Jesus has blessed us with them.

Kindergarten:

The kindergarten class has been busy learning church etiquette and are doing well. I am so happy to see so many of them with their family attend Mass on the weekend.

We have been busy learning about sacred church items and their meaning. We are also reading bible stories and learning how to pray.

All of the students are excited about learning about their Catholic faith.

-Arlene Korte & Rita Haukap

Grade 1:

The 1st grade class has started the year learning about how Jesus called His apostles to become fishers of men. We acted out this Scripture passage, learning that we are called to follow Jesus.

We have also learned that God made us, and He gave us the world, filled with many gifts. We are learning ways we can use God's gifts, and how to care for creation.

Some of the words we have learned are:

- Creator
- Bible
- Praise
- Creation
- Caretaker



UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 29

- St. Bernard Wurstmart featuring a Faith Formation Basket Raffle
- Blue Grass Music Mass:
 - 8:30 a.m. at St. Damian
 - 10:00 a.m. at St. Bernard
 - Grandparent and Godparent blessing

OCTOBER 13

- Youth Choir practice – after 8:30 am Mass at St. Damian



OCTOBER 14

- No School – Columbus Day

We have reviewed the Sign of the Cross. Some students know the Hail Mary, and some are relearning it. Please practice this prayer with your children.

The students enjoy singing the Beatitudes song with signs. They have also learned some signs for the Jesus song we sing in class. We have been blessed with children who are interested in learning about their faith!

In upcoming lessons, we will learn about the Holy Spirit, the Holy Family, and family love. We will learn what a parable is.

Before Christmas, we will be discussing the true reason for our celebration of Christmas.

Going forward, the students will be learning the following prayers: Glory Be, the Angel of God, the Our Father, and the Meal Prayer.

-Lori Jansen

Grade 2:

The 2nd grade has begun their journey to the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

We have started learning the Ten Commandments and we are also focusing on how blessed we are.

-Denise & Savanna Luitjohan

Grade 3:

The 3rd grade has been reviewing prayers and learning about the miracles that Jesus performed.

We are beginning to learn the vocation prayer, and the boys will probably begin reciting the prayer in church this November.

We started our books and learned that Mary is the greatest saint.

We are also learning about God's creation and our responsibility for it.

-Ruth Pingsterhaus

Grade 4:

Welcome to 4th grade and "another year with Ms. Sharon". I am not sure they are excited about having me again this year but I enjoy this enthusiastic group of students.

In addition to the monthly beatitude project mentioned above, and server refresher training, we are learning the Prayer to St. Francis. We will also be doing some periodic journal writing and have only begun to open our workbooks.

The 4th grade lived this month's beatitude by picking up trash on the church and school grounds.

Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions/concerns or even suggestions for class. The year is off to a great start!

-Sharon Kalmer

Grades 5 and 6:

The 5th and 6th grade Faith Formation at St. Damian's is going very well and the students have settled into a routine. We are reviewing all the basic prayers—the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be. We will continue to work on the Before/After Meal prayers, the Memorare, and the Apostles Creed. We start each day with the

Guardian Angel Prayer. Parents, please remember to say these prayers with your children. They tend to “forget” if the prayers are not said on a frequent basis.

The past several weeks we have been learning about the church year, or the Liturgical Year. They are learning the chronological order of the Liturgical Year, what actually takes place during each season, and the color of vestments the priest/deacons wear during a particular season.

We have learned about Helen Keller, who had an illness that left her unable to see or hear. We read how she overcame her many obstacles in learning how to communicate and express her thoughts and feelings. Things that the rest of us take for granted, and how we should be thankful for God's gifts. Helen Keller is a true inspiration, indeed.

The 5th and 6th grades have teamed up with the first grade for singing in the choir. All parents, grandparents, relatives, and special friends are invited to listen to these enthusiastic young voices. The next date for singing will be on Monday, September 30th. Mark it on your calendars and come listen to your children sing. I think you will be impressed.

Lastly, I would like to welcome Meredith Innes, a Mater Dei student (and also my granddaughter), who will be helping me out this year with the 5th and 6th grades. She has been truly amazing, giving hints about doing “fun” activities with the class, and looking up little videos that apply to the topics we have been discussing. Welcome Meredith!!

-Mary and Meredith Innes

Grades 7 and 8:

Things are going quite well for the 7th and 8th grade Faith Formation class so far.

In addition to the monthly beatitude project mentioned above, we have done activities to get to know each other and ourselves a little better. We have also rewritten the Lord's Prayer in our own words, and we finally cracked open our Faith Formation workbooks.

Going forward, we will begin discussing some of our service projects (the Thanksgiving food drive and the 7th and 8th grade bake sale, which may happen in October with the help of you parents.)

Youth Choir practice for Advent and Christmas will begin on Sunday, October 13 after the 8:30 am Mass. All students from 4th grade through college and young adults are welcome to join us to praise God in song as we celebrate the Lord's coming.

-Jackie Toennies

FATHER ANTHONY'S GUIDANCE

Integrity.

Honesty and integrity are not just good habits, but they are precious values that build trust between people. More than that, honesty and integrity show our faith in God and that He is the top priority in our lives, and that He is above and over all others.

Good habits and values cannot be possible without prayer. Because when we come before the Lord, we cannot pray for blessings and yet play around with bad habits.

God has entrusted to us the power of prayer and we must use it faithfully and fervently so that goodness will prevail over evil.

Yes, prayer is a powerful gift from God. Let us use it to cultivate good habits and values.

Let us also use prayer faithfully and devotedly so that there can be peace in this world and that there will be salvation in the next.

-Fr. Anthony Onyango

THE DEACON'S CORNER

Few practices of the Catholic Church are so misunderstood today as devotion to patron saints. From the earliest days of the Church, groups of the faithful (families, parishes, regions, countries) have chosen a particularly holy person who has passed on to intercede for them with God. Seeking the intercession of a patron saint does not mean that one cannot approach God directly in prayer; rather, it's like asking a friend to pray for you to God, while you also pray—except, in this case, the friend is already in Heaven, and can pray to God for us without ceasing. It is the communion of saints, in actual practice. (*What Are Patron Saints?* by Scott P. Richert - Updated September 10, 2018)

Does your home or classroom have a patron saint? Here are some websites about saints:

www.catholic.org/saints

www.newadvent.org

www.mycatholic.life/saints

www.info.franciscanmedia.org/saints

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 – **CHANGE IN SCHEDULE**

Beginning October 1st, a Weekly Holy Hour with Benediction is held at St. Bernard and St. Damian parishes. Adoration starts at 7:00 p.m. and concludes with Benediction at 8:00 p.m.

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

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

FEAST OF ST. DAMIAN

A strong tradition in Catholic communities is the celebration of our patron saints. September 26 is the feast of St. Damian who with his twin Cosmas and other brothers were convicted of being Christians and so witnessed to Christ, by their deaths.

Sunday Sept 22 we gather for Mass and fellowship. It is a time we can strengthen our bonds as one Catholic community.

At the end of October, we will be holding a used clothing sale and volunteers are welcome. Please contact Sr. Ellen at ellen_46@yahoo.com.

Una tradición en las comunidades Católicas es la celebración de nuestra santos patronos. El 26 de septiembre es el día de San Damian quien con su gemelo Cosmas y otros hermanos fueron convencidos de ser cristianos y dieron testimonio a Cristo hasta su muerte.

Domingo 22 de septiembre nos reunimos para la misa y fraternidad. Es una oportunidad de unimos más como miembros de una misma comunidad católica.

A fines de octubre va a haber una venta de ropa y aceptamos cualquier ayuda voluntaria. Favor de llamar a Hermana Elena. Ellen_46@yahoo.com

-Sister Ellen Orf

FAITH FORMATION WEEKDAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

St. Damian's Weekday Ministry Schedule October 2019

Date	Voc Prayer	Servers	Reader	Petitions	Gifts	Choir
Wed-Oct 2	Grace Deiters	Edwin Oros Kennedy Toennies Saul Contreras	Nolan Goebel	Aliya Henss	Evelyn Ribbing Delaney Horstmann	7/8th
Mon-Oct 7	Brant Horstmann	Aidan Toennies Zachary Huegen Nolan Goebel	Reid Innes	Saul Contreras	Reid Koch Betizabeth Contreras	2nd/3rd/4th
Wed-Oct 9	Lyla Koch	Natalie Lynch Olivia Wilken Aliya Henss	Reid Koch	Giovani Guerrero	Trent Korte Conner Arentsen	7/8th
Mon Oct 14	NO SCHOOL					
Wed-Oct 16	Randy Oros	Gracie Dieters Lyla Koch Ryan Oros	Jacob Athmer	Ethan Korte	Lauren Lynch Paislyn Horstmann	7/8th
Mon-Oct 21	Olivia Wilken	Randy Oros Simon Toennies Trent Korte	Lauren Lynch	John Rojas	Chase Jansen Nolan Hemker	1st/5th/6th
Wed-Oct 23	Ryan Oros	Brant Horstmann Saul Contreras Ethan Korte	Kevin Athmer	Edwin Oros	Ryan Oros Reid Toennies	7/8th
Mon-Oct 28	Gracie Dieters	Lauren Lynch Jacob Athmer CeCe Toennies	MaKenna Budde	Natalie Lynch	Dylann Netemeyer Genesis Contreras	2nd/3rd/4th
Wed-Oct 30	Brant Horstmann	Edwin Oros Lyla Koch Aliya Henss	Genesis Contreras	Zachary Huegen	Kenslie Engle MaKenna Budde	7/8th

ST. DAMIAN WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Date	Communion Ministers	Readers	Ushers	Servers	Organist
Sunday, Sept. 22 nd 8:30 am	Kristy Richter Sharon Kalmer	Jackie Toennies	Pete Toennies Garry Kalmer	Reece Deiters Grace Deiters Jacob Athmer	Chris Brandmeyer
Saturday, Sept. 28 th 4:00 pm	Virgil Jansen Marilyn Jansen	Mary Innes	Jerry Innes Ed Kramer	Avery Budde Kenna Budde	Jan Hitch
Sunday, Sept. 29 th 8:30 am	Ken Mank Julie Langenhorst	Rosann Horstmann	Ron Horstmann Jerry Arentsen	Reid Innes Aliya Henss Brant Horstmann	Jan Hitch
Sunday, Oct. 6th 8:30 am	Deb Santel Ruth Jansen	Joseph Cleeton	Stan Heimann Dave Albers	Hunter Toennies Reid Koch Lyla Koch	Chris Brandmeyer
Sunday, Oct. 13th 8:30 am	Kevin Toennies Rosann Horstmann	Mason Schrage	Roger Toennies Brent Goebel (<i>Needy Collection</i>)	Simon Toennies Ethan Toennies Nolan Goebel	Geri Varel
Sunday, Oct. 20th 8:30 am	Arlene Korte Florence Jansen	Susan Lynch	Gary Tonnie Dan Athmer	Lauren Lynch Natalie Lynch William Athmer	Jan Hitch
Sunday, Oct. 27th 8:30 am	Sharon Kalmer Pete Toennies	Mary Innes	Jerry Innes Garry Kalmer	Reid Innes Avery Budde Kenna Budde	Chris Brandmeyer
Saturday, Nov. 2 nd 4:00 pm	Chris Brandmeyer Mech Toennies	Darlene Toennies	Ed Kramer Sandy Kramer	Aidan Toennies Kennedy Toennies	Geri Varel
Sunday, Nov. 3 rd 8:30 am	Deb Santel Julie Langenhorst	Denise Luitjohan	Brad Richter Kristy Richter	Aliya Henss Lauren Lynch Natalie Lynch	Geri Varel
<u>COLLECTION COUNTERS:</u>					
Sunday, Sept. 29th – Sandy Kramer, Gwen Toennies, Dave Kassen			Sunday, Oct. 6th – Mech Toennies, Anita Rakers, Mel Toennies		
Sunday, Oct. 13th – Gwen Toennies, Kathleen Hodges, Sandy Kramer			Sunday, Oct. 20th – Kristy Richter, Kathy Gonsalves, Tina Tonnie		
Sunday, Oct. 27th – Pete Toennies, Dave Kassen, Anita Rakers			Sunday, Nov. 3rd – Kristy Richter, Mel Toennies, Kathleen Hodges		