

# NOVEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

## St. Damian's Parish Faith Formation

Use what God has given you to honor Him.

### CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

#### Kindergarten:

The kindergarten Faith Formation students have been busy learning about saints and remembering people who have gone to heaven from our families and St. Damian's parish.

We are also learning the meaning of Thanksgiving and traditional ways of spending Thanksgiving Day.

As Christmas approaches, we will be spending time learning about Advent and the season of Christmas.

**-Arlene Korte & Rita Haukap**

#### Grade 1:

The 1<sup>st</sup> graders are learning a lot and doing many activities during the second quarter.

- they colored clovers to show three persons in one God, in the Holy Trinity lesson
- they learned about the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, and how they did many of the same things our families do
- they learned about how God is like a shepherd who watches over all people and cares for them
- they were introduced to parables, or stories that Jesus used to teach people about God
- they learned that the Great Commandment is to love God, and to love others
- they learned what prayer is

The class colored and cut out colorful turkeys to put on placemats that will be given to nursing home residents to brighten their Thanksgiving Dinner!

We have been saying the Our Father every day in class, as well as at Mass. Some students have recited it to me, and others are ready to do so. If your child does not yet know the Our Father, he/she needs to practice it. We will learn the Glory Be next.

In the next weeks, we will learn about Advent and Christmas, and later about the Church.



### IMPORTANT DATES

#### DECEMBER 1

- Parish Reconciliation at 1:00 pm at St. Damian
- First Reconciliation at 1:00 pm at St. Damian for both Albers and Damiansville 2<sup>nd</sup> graders



#### DECEMBER 9

- Faith Formation Reconciliation at 7:40 am at St. Damian

#### DECEMBER 14

- Church Decorating at St. Damian at regular time

#### DECEMBER 24

- Christmas Eve Mass
  - 4:00 pm at St. Damian
  - 10:00 pm at St. Bernard

The class will start drawing the Keep Christ in Christmas posters very soon. The posters are due on December 6th.

**-Lori Jansen**

**Grade 2:**

The second graders are anxiously awaiting this Sunday for their 1st Reconciliation. They are well prepared.

They enjoyed making angels that are now on display on one of the Christmas trees inside at the Way of Lights.

We will continue in the Reconciliation book and discuss Advent and Christmas after the Thanksgiving break.

**-Denise & Savanna Luitjohan**

**Grades 3 and 4:**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades watched the movie, *Heaven Is for Real*.

The children will be making a Thanksgiving craft, and they will add their blessings on the leaves.

They will also be making placemats to distribute to nursing homes for Thanksgiving as a way to perform this month's beatitude.

**-Ruth Pingsterhaus and Sharon Kalmer**

**Grades 5 and 6:**

The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades continue to do well. Since October was Rosary month, we learned all about the rosary, focusing on the four sets of mysteries: Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, and Glorious.

November 1<sup>st</sup> was the feast of All Saints, and November 2<sup>nd</sup> was all Souls Day. We walked to the cemetery to honor the deceased and visited the gravesites of our relatives.

The new prayer we are learning is the Memorare.

We are currently reviewing the books of the Bible, and incorporating the seven Catholic books in the Old Testament.

Going forward, we will be doing the Christ in Christmas posters, and will spend the rest of December focusing on Advent, the meaning of Advent, and the significance of each week before Christmas.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to all.

**-Mary and Meredith Innes**

**Grades 7 and 8:**

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Faith Formation class has been "living the beatitudes" this year.

**IMPORTANT DATES CONT'D**

**DECEMBER 25**

- Christmas Day Mass at 9:00 am at St. Bernard



- *Two Saturdays in October, the students participated in a food drive for our local St. Vincent de Paul food pantry*
- *Many of the students volunteered to help with the Family Fun night for the St. Damian and St. Bernard First Communion classes*
- *During a Faith Formation class period, they put book covers on new songbooks to protect them so they will last longer*
- *They decorated placemats for nursing home residents for their Thanksgiving dinner*
- *On November 24, they hosted a bake sale and donated the proceeds to little Maren Poettker's family*
- *After Thanksgiving, they will be donating hats, gloves, scarves etc. for our Christmas "giving tree"*

*This is what Christmas and Faith Formation is all about...not just learning about your faith, but also living what you've learned.*

**-Jackie Toennies**

#### FATHER ANTHONY'S GUIDANCE

### Opinions

*We can see the same thing and yet have our individual and differing points of view and opinions. We are entitled to our opinions. Our opinions are neither right nor wrong, because we see it from our own angle and perspective. However, when we impose our opinions on others, and put a judgement tag to it, then that is where other moral issues may arise.*

*Let us always remember that everyone's opinion is important, but not everyone's opinion is a fact! Others may be influenced by our judgements, which are actually mere opinions, and they in turn will subscribe to the same judgement.*

*"You should never pass judgement on a brother or treat him with contempt, as some of you have done. We shall all have to stand before the judgement seat of God. It is to God therefore that each of us must give an account of himself."(Rm. 14, 10)*

*When the tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what He had to say, the Pharisees and the scribes complained, and made a judgement when they said, 'This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.' In addition, even when we hear the parable of the shepherd leaving the ninety-nine in the wilderness to look for the missing one, we might think it is rather absurd to do so. However, if we are that missing one, then we will certainly change our opinions.*

*So instead of letting our opinions turn into a judgement, let us judge ourselves first. Then we will be able to give an account of ourselves before God.*

**-Fr. Anthony Onyango**

#### THE DEACON'S CORNER

*Advent is the season of expectations. This is the time of the taking the breath before the plunge, to prepare ourselves for the Advent of God coming to earth. Please explain to your children the meaning of the Advent wreath and the names of the four Sundays in Advent.*

## DARKNESS AND LIGHT

The Advent candles readily demonstrate the strong contrast between darkness and light. In the Bible, Christ is referred to as the "Light of the World" contrasted with the darkness of sin. Human history spanned long ages before our prophesied Savior would finally make his appearance, and God's promise to make all things new through Him.

As His Advent, or "coming," draws nearer another candle is lit, with each candle dispelling the darkness a little more. Thus, the Advent wreath helps us spiritually contemplate the great drama of salvation history that surrounds the birth of God Incarnate who comes to redeem the human race.

- The 1st Sunday of Advent symbolizes Hope with the "Prophet's Candle" reminding us that Jesus is coming.
- The 2nd Sunday of Advent symbolizes Faith with the "Bethlehem Candle" reminding us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem, which becomes ours through faith in Jesus Christ.
- The 3rd Sunday of Advent symbolizes Joy with the "Shepherd's Candle" reminding us of the Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus.
- The 4th Sunday of Advent symbolizes Peace with the "Angel's Candle" reminding us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."



**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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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**

## THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY

December is a very busy time for the Hispanic community. The first Sunday of Advent with the Advent wreath and the liturgy's focus on the coming of the Messiah in our time comes at the same time that we are preparing to celebrate the feast of our Lady of Guadalupe. This a very important celebration because it speaks not only of the apparition in a religious sense but it also proclaims Mary's particular intervention when Mexico and all of Latin America had been subjugated by Europe (Spain and Portugal) in the name of God. Mary shared the compassion of a mother and won the heart of the nation.

We gather on December 7 at 10 pm to serenade (las mañanitas) Mary. Then on Sunday, we celebrate with Mass at 11:00 am and the fiesta. A mariachi group will provide music for the Mass and the fiesta.

Also in December, with the posadas, we recall the journey of Mary and Joseph seeking shelter where Jesus could be born. Dec. 16 at St. Damian, Dec. 20 at St. Dominic, Dec. 21 at St. Bernard, Dec. 22 at St. Anthony in Beckemeyer. Each night at 6:30 pm. The Christmas Mass will be on December 24 at 7 pm.

Diciembre es un tiempo ocupado en la comunidad hispana. El primer domingo de Adviento con su corona de Adviento y el enfoque liturgico en la venida del Mesias en nuestro tiempo, viene al mismo tiempo que estamos preparando a celebrar la fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. este es un celebrante importantisima porque tiene que ver no solo con la aparicion een sentido religioso pero Tambien proclama la intervencion particular de Maria cuando Mexico y toda America Latina fue subyugada por Europa (España y Portugal) en el nombre de Dios. Maria compartia la compassion de una Madre y gano el corazon de la nacion.

Vamos a reunir el 7 de diciembre a las 10 pm para las mañanitas, serenar a nuestra Madre Morena. Desspues el domingo celebramos la Misa a las 11 y seguimos con la fiesta. Un grupo de mariachi acompaña la misa y la fiesta.

Tambien en diciembre por las posadas recordamos la busqueda de Jose y Maria a un albergue donde podria nacer su Hijo. Lunes 16 en S. Damian, viernes 20 en S. Dominic, sabado 21 en S. Bernard y domingo 22 en S. Antonio en Beckemeyer. Todas las noches a las 6:30 pm.

La misa de Navidad sera el 24 de diciembre a las 7 pm.

**-Sister Ellen Orf**

## FAITH FORMATION WEEKDAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

## St. Damian's Weekday Ministry Schedule 2019

Date	Voc Prayer	Servers	Reader	Petitions	Gifts	Choir
Mon-Dec 2	Randy Oros	Jacob Athmer Reid Innes Reid Koch	Ce Ce Toennies	Saul Contreras	Aliya Henss Eli Skelton	1st/5th/6th
Wed - Dec 4	Ryan Oros	Aliya Henss Ethan Korte Kennedy Toennies	Nolan Goebel	Giovani Guerrero	Evelyn Cleeton Natalie Lynch	7/8th
Mon - Dec 9 <b>Reconciliation</b>	**	**	**	**	**	
Wed - Dec 11	Gracie Dieters	Zachary Huegen Lyla Koch Ryan Oros	Chase Jansen	Ethan Korte	Bryn Wuebbels Hunter Toennies	7/8th
Mon - Dec 16	Lyla Koch	Lauren Lynch Evelyn Ribbing Ce Ce Toennies	Nolan Goebel	Kennedy Toennies	Marris Penn Saul Contreras	1st/5th/6th
Wed - Dec 18	Olivia Wilken	Natalie Lynch Gracie Dieters Olivia Wilken	Reid Innes	John Rojas	Edwin Oros Giovani Guerrero	7/8th

## ST. DAMIAN WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Date	Communion Ministers	Readers	Ushers	Servers	Organist
Sunday, Dec. 1 <sup>st</sup> 8:30 am	Erin Korte Sharon Kalmer	Lori Jansen	Bill Jansen Garry Kalmer	Hunter Toennies Trent Korte Jacob Athmer	Jan Hitch
<b>Sunday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup></b> 8:30 am	Deb Santel Julie Langenhorst	Rosann Horstmann	Dan Athmer Dave Albers	Savanna Luitjohan Aliya Henss Anthony Athmer	Geri Varel
<b>Sunday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup></b> 8:30 am	Ken Mank Florence Jansen	Chris Kalmer	Steve Kalmer Jerry Arentsen ( <i>Needy Collection</i> )	Kevin Athmer Reece Deiters Grace Deiters	Chris Brandmeyer
<b>Sunday, Dec. 22<sup>th</sup></b> 8:30 am	Kevin Toennies Kristy Richter	Joseph Cleeton	Roger Toennies Gary Tonnies	Ethan Toennies Simon Toennies Hunter Toennies	Jan Hitch
<b>PLEASE SIGN UP FOR CHRISTMAS EVE MASS</b>					
<b>Sunday, Dec. 29<sup>th</sup></b> 8:30 am	Arlene Korte Erin Korte	Denise Luitjohan	Ron Horstmann Stan Heimann	Savanna Luitjohan Aliya Henss Trent Korte	Chris Brandmeyer
<b>Tuesday, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup></b> <b>6:00 pm</b> <i>New Year's Eve</i>	Beth Brandmeyer Mech Toennies	Anita Rakers	Pete Toennies Marvin Toennies	Aidan Toennies Kennedy Toennies Ethan Korte	Geri Varel
Saturday, Jan. 4 <sup>th</sup> 4:00 pm	Chris Brandmeyer Diana Jansen	Kathleen Hodges	Ed Kramer Sandy Kramer	Avery Budde Kenna Budde	Jan Hitch
Sunday, Jan. 5 <sup>th</sup> 8:30 am	Sharon Kalmer Julie Langenhorst	Mason Schrage	Brent Goebel Jared Horstmann	Nolan Goebel Brant Horstmann William Athmer	Jan Hitch
Saturday, Jan. 11 <sup>th</sup> 4:00 pm	Monica Koch Alice Toennies	Darlene Toennies	<b>Volunteer</b> <b>Volunteer</b> ( <i>Needy Collection</i> )	Reid Koch Lyla Koch	Chris Brandmeyer
Sunday, Jan. 12 <sup>th</sup> 8:30 am	Roseann Horstmann Deb Santel	Susan Lynch	Dan Athmer Butch Toennies ( <i>Needy Collection</i> )	Lauren Lynch Natalie Lynch Jacob Athmer	Chris Brandmeyer
<b><u>COLLECTION COUNTERS:</u></b>					
<b>Sunday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup></b> – Anita Rakers, Mel Toennies, Tina Tonnies					
<b>Sunday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup></b> – Pete Toennies, Sandy Kramer, Kristy Richter					
<b>Sunday, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup></b> – Gwen Toennies, Kristy Richter, Tina Tonnies					
<b>Sunday, Jan. 5<sup>th</sup></b> – Mel Toennies, Sandy Kramer, Mech Toennies					
<b>Sunday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup></b> – Kathy Gonsalves, Mech Toennies, Dave Kassen					
<b>Sunday, Dec. 29<sup>th</sup></b> – Anita Rakers, Kathleen Hodges, Pete Toennies					
<b>Sunday, Jan. 11<sup>th</sup></b> – Dave Kassen, Anita Rakers, Kathleen Hodges					