

DECEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

St. Damian's Parish Faith Formation

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Jesus Christ.

Philippians 4:6-7

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Kindergarten:

The Kindergarten Faith Formation students have enjoyed learning about Advent using a chocolate Advent calendar with a Bible text for each day of Advent. It is very exciting for the students as they learn from the Bible verses the real meaning of Christmas.

We also read Christmas stories, worked together on Christmas puzzles and rehearsed for the Christmas Eve playlet. Five of the students will be participating in the playlet with parental consent.

-Arlene Korte

Grade 1:

The 1st grade students had a busy three weeks in December.

We started each morning (when we didn't have Mass), gathering around an Advent wreath. The students eagerly took turns "lighting the candle" and a prayer was said in anticipation of the birth of Jesus.

The first week was spent working on the "Keeping Christ in Christmas" contest posters sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Students enjoyed working on this project, and they were so proud of their drawings.

We had Advent activity booklets that the students worked on—one for each day in Advent.

Five of the 1st grade students will be participating in the Christmas Eve playlet at St. Damian's 4:00 pm Mass. Please come and see the angelic faces of these angels, shepherds and Mary and Joseph. You will be very proud of your sons/daughters as they take part in this activity—after all, it truly is the "reason for the season".

-Mary Innes



UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 24

- St. Damian 1st grade Faith Formation Christmas Eve playlet at St. Damian 4:00 pm Mass

DECEMBER 25



JANUARY 1



Grade 2:

The 2nd grade did very well at their First Reconciliation on December 2. They are also beginning to participate more in mass and learn the responses.

In class we have been learning about the meaning of Advent and the birth of Jesus.

We finished our Advent booklets and we made two Christmas ornaments.

-Ruth Pingsterhaus and Gabby Kramer

Grades 3 and 4:

It's been a busy month with Advent, Christmas and the Keep Christ in Christmas Poster contest.

When we come back in January, I will begin training the 3rd and 4th grade students to be Mass servers. I will send a letter home on this so look for it when we return from Christmas break.

Have a blessed and Happy Holiday!

-Sharon Kalmer

Grades 5 and 6:

The Advent and Christmas season got a little hectic with several unplanned things that came up.

We ended the year watching "The Christmas Shoes".

I am planning on having a fresh restart in January and getting back to the book.

Merry Christmas to everyone!

-Kathleen Hodges

Grades 7 and 8:

In December, the 7th and 8th grade class worked hard on their "Keep Christ in Christmas" posters. Congratulations to the winners and good job to everyone who worked hard, whether they won or not.

On Sunday, December 16, the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade classes sponsored a bake sale to raise money and awareness for childhood brain cancer and the after-effects of the disease. Leaps of Love, is an organization based in Highland, Illinois that supports families dealing with childhood brain cancer. They were the recipient of our efforts. We presented them with \$705.55!

Thank you to everyone who supported our fund raiser by baking things, buying things, or bringing your child to help at the bake sale. We couldn't have done it without you all!

For the last few days before the Christmas break, our class watched the movie, "The Nativity Story" which has some history of the times when Jesus was born. It made the kids more aware of what Mary and Joseph experienced on their trip to Bethlehem.

We also had a little party with donuts and chocolate milk.

It's been a good first half of the year, but we are all ready for a little break...Have a joyful family Christmas! Blessings!

-Jackie Toennies

FATHER ANTHONY'S GUIDANCE

"Christmas is usually a noisy party: we could use a bit of silence, to hear the voice of Love."

Christmas is you, when you decide to be born again each day and let God into your soul. The Christmas pine is you, when you resist vigorous winds and difficulties of life. The Christmas decorations are you, when your virtues are colors that adorn your life. The Christmas bell is you, when you call, gather and seek to unite. You are also a Christmas light, when you illuminate with your life the path of others with kindness, patience, joy and generosity. The Christmas angels are you, when you sing to the world a message of peace, justice and love. The Christmas star is you, when you lead someone to meet the Lord. You are also the wise men, when you give the best you have no matter who. Christmas music is you when you conquer the harmony within you. The Christmas gift is you, when you are truly friend and brother of every human being. The Christmas card is you, when kindness is written in your hands. The Christmas greeting is you, when you forgive and reestablish peace, even when you suffer. The Christmas dinner is you, when you serve bread and hope to the poor man who is by your side. You are, yes, Christmas night, when humble and conscious, you receive in the silence of the night the Savior of the world without noise or great celebrations; you are a smile of trust and tenderness, in the inner peace of a perennial Christmas that establishes the Kingdom within you. A very Merry Christmas for all those who look like Christmas.

Pope Francisco

-Fr. Anthony Onyango

THE DEACON'S CORNER

Christmas is the season of Love and Joy. God has come to earth, not as a warrior but as a defenseless child. This is the ultimate Hope that God has in us, and that we have in God.

DARKNESS AND LIGHT

So many times in the past it was illegal to worship as we wished, so we, as inventive people of God, came up with codes to teach our children. The twelve days of Christmas is one such code that teaches us our Catholic Faith.

It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning, plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which children could remember.

- The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.
- Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.
- Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.
- The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John.
- The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.
- The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.

- Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit - Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.
- The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.
- Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit-Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.
- The ten lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments.
- The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
- The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.



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 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.**

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

WE ARE ALL ALIKE

On January 6, we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany – Jesus, the Son of God revealed to the nations. This is also the beginning of National Migration Week. It gives us the opportunity to look around and see those who have come from other countries to be part of our community, village and parishes.

If we consider our own roots from Germany or other European countries, we may not notice many differences because we have melded into mid-western citizens of the United States.

In our community can you identify people from Guatemala, Honduras or Mexico? Although it may seem like “they” are all the same, some come from Oaxaca, o Jalisco, and o Guanajuato, which are states of Mexico like the 50 United States that we know.

Let's use this time to recognize how much we are all alike as children of our wonderful God.

-Sister Ellen Orf

COLLECTION/CHARITY OPPORTUNITIES

CAPS COLLECTION

Faith Formation students and their families have been collecting caps and lids for a bench for the school playground.

We reached our goal in 2-1/2 months....how awesome! 352 lbs of caps were collected! THANK YOU!



The original plan was to put a bench by the school playground. However, the school received a grant for benches and tables, so a decision was made to put the bench by the Church.

Thanks again to the CHFS for their generous donation and to everyone for collecting!

If you would like to keep collecting, Albers Lehrter Park is also in need of caps and lids. You can drop them off at the Albers American Legion. There is also a collection can at Lehrter Park under the concession pavilion.



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

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

For the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Hispanic community raffled off this beautiful embroidered tablecloth from Mexico and a Christmas crib set. The winners of the raffle were:

Tablecloth – Alvaro Onate

Christmas Crib set – Lorena Avalos

Congratulations!



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS "KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS"

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS CONTEST WINNERS

8 th Grade – 1 st Place	Julia Korte	3 rd Grade – 1 st Place	Grace Deiters
2 nd Place	Henry Toennies (tie) Lupe Luevano (tie)	2 nd Place	Lyla Koch
7 th Grade – 1 st Place	MaKenna Budde	2 nd Grade 1 st Place	Lincoln Arentsen
2 nd Place	Genesis Contreras	2 nd Place	Henry Ribbing
6 th Grade – 1 st Place	Reid Koch	1 st Grade 1 st Place	Charlie Sauer
2 nd Place	Chase Jansen	2 nd Place	Dylann Netemeyer (tie) Avelyn Jansen (tie)
5 th Grade – 1 st Place	Kennedy Toennies Ethan Korte	Kindergarten 1 st Place	Betzy Contreras
4 th Grade – 1 st Place	Edwin Oros	2 nd Place	Collins Hortsmann (tie) Delaney Horstmann (tie)
2 nd Place	Hunter Toennies (tie) Natalie Lynch (tie)		



FAITH FORMATION WEEKDAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

St. Damian's Ministry Schedule January 2019

Gym Door Openers

Monday	Kathleen
Tuesday	Ruth
Wednesday	Sharon
Thursday	Jackie
Friday	Mary

Date	Voc Prayer	Servers	Reader	Petitions	Gifts	Choir	Doors
Mon-Jan 7	Natalie Lynch	Genesis Contreras Kaylee Netemeyer Lupe Luevano	Simon Toennies	Kennedy Toennies	Prayer Service	1/5th	7
Wed-Jan 9	Edwin Oros	Jacob Athmer Nolan Goebel Saul Contreras	Reece Deiters	Ethan Korte	Prayer Service	7/8th	7
Mon-Jan 14	Hunter Toennies	Reece Deiters Simon Toennies Aaron Juarez	Aidan Toennies	Saul Contreras	Zachary Huegen Edwin Oros	2/6th	7
Wed-Jan 16	Zachary Huegen	Chase Jansen Ethan Korte Reid Innes	Genesis Contreras	Aliya Henss	Hunter Toennies Natalie Lynch	7/8th	7
Mon-Jan 21	<h1>No School</h1>						
Wed-Jan 23	Lyla Koch	CeCe Toennies George Herzing Evelyn Ribbing	MaKenna Budde	Kennedy Toennies	Ryan Oros Olivia Wilken	7/8th	7
Mon-Jan 28	Gracie Deiters	4th grader - TBD Ethan Toennies Aaron Juarez	Kevin Athmer	Ethan Korte	Brant Horstmann Lyla Koch	3/4th	7
Wed-Jan 30	Brant Horstmann	Aliya Henss Lauren Lynch Kennedy Toennies	Henry Toennies	Saul Contreras	Gracie Deiters Randy Oros	7/8th	7

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE - MONDAY, DEC. 24TH

- *4:00 pm Mass @ St. Damian*
- *7:00 pm Mass @ St. Damian - Mass in Spanish*
- *10:00 pm Mass @ St. Bernard*

CHRISTMAS DAY - TUESDAY, DEC. 25TH

- *9:00 am Mass @ St. Damian*

