

# DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

## St. Damian's Parish Faith Formation

God does not come to us just on Sundays.

Perhaps we should acknowledge His presence throughout the day through prayer and meditation.

We need that constant sense of God's presence.

### FATHER ANTHONY'S GUIDANCE

## CHRISTMAS

*As we rejoice and celebrate this wonderful season of Christmas, let us not forget to thank baby Jesus for coming into our lives. Let us together prepare ourselves to welcome Him into the homes of our hearts.*

*Merry Christmas to you and your loved ones.*

**-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.*

#### The Magi

*Their coming was foretold. "The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts, the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute. All kings shall pay Him homage, all nations shall serve Him" (72:10-11).*

*Isaiah also prophesied the gifts: "Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the Lord" (Isaiah 60:6).*

A source attributed to [St. Bede the Venerable](#) gives us the following clues about these men.

- The oldest of the Magi was Melchior, King of Arabia. He had a long gray beard and gave gold as a gift, symbolizing the acceptance of Christ as King.



### IMPORTANT DATES

#### DECEMBER 24

- Christmas Eve Mass
  - o 4:00 pm at St. Damian
  - o 7:00 pm at St. Damian (Hispanic)
  - o 10:00 pm at St. Bernard

#### DECEMBER 25

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



- *Balthazar, King of Ethiopia, was middle-aged, swarthy, bearded, and bore the gift of frankincense, symbolizing Christ as High Priest.*
- *Finally, Caspar was King of Tarsus, in his twenties. His gift was myrrh, which was used in making medicines. This symbolized Christ as the healer and great physician.*

*It is said that after discovering and honoring the Savior, the Magi returned home and surrendered their high positions, gave their property to the poor, and went to spread the Gospel. The apostle St. Thomas is said to have baptized them forty years later in India, ordaining them as priests. An excerpt from a Medieval saints calendar printed in Cologne reads: "Having undergone many trials and fatigues for the Gospel, the three wise men met at Sewa (Sebaste in Armenia) in 54 (AD) to celebrate the feast of Christmas.*

*Thereupon, after the celebration of Mass, they died: St. Melchior on 1st of January, aged 116; St. Balthazar on 6th of January, aged 112; and St. Caspar on 11th of January, aged 109." They became martyrs and were buried in the walls of Jerusalem.*

*The Empress St. Helena (circa 248-330, mother of Constantine I) supposedly discovered their bodies in Persia in 325 AD during her pilgrimage to the Holy Land and brought them to Constantinople, where their remains rested in the church of St. Sophia. It was she who established their identity within the early church although the Magi were not referred to as saints until the twelfth century. St. Helena died in 330.*

[\[hymnsandcarolsofchristmas.com\]](http://hymnsandcarolsofchristmas.com)



***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

The Weekly Holy Hour with Benediction held at St. Bernard and St. Damian parishes are as follows:

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

*Adoration starts at 7:00 p.m. and concludes with Benediction at 8:00 p.m.*

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

*Christmas is many celebrations both in our faith community and in our family and other groups to which we belong. The Hispanic community celebrated 8 nights of posada at different churches where we live. The simple celebration of prayer and song capped by sharing pozole and tamales helps us remember to make room for God.*

*Now after Christmas we thank the many generous people who brought gifts for the families.*

*On January 5<sup>th</sup>, we gather with the Magi and take the Good News of God among us out to the world.*

*Navidad tiene muchas celebraciones en nuestra comunidad de fe y en las otras agrupaciones donde pertenecemos. La comunidad hispana celebró 8 noches de posada en diferentes iglesias donde vivimos. La celebración sencilla de oración y cantos y tanto más mejor con el compartir de pozole y tamales y bolos para todos.*

*Ahora después de la Navidad compartimos nuestra gratitud por las muchas familias quienes trajeron regalos para las familias.*

*El 5 de enero reunimos con los Reyes y con ellos llevamos la Buena Nueva de Dios entre nosotros a todo el mundo. FELIZ AÑO NUEVO*

**-Sister Ellen Orf**

## FAITH FORMATION WEEKDAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

**NOTE: Weekday masses at St. Damian are now on Wednesdays & Fridays at 7:45 am**

## St. Damian's Weekday Ministry Schedule 2020

Date	Voc Prayer	Servers	Reader	Petitions	Gifts	Choir
Wed - Jan 8	Miley Odell	Hunter Toennies Ryan Oros Edwin Oros	Reid Koch	Saul Contreras	John Rojas Aubrey Odell	7/8th
Fri - Jan 10	Brant Horstmann	Simon Toennies Reece Deiters Kevin Athmer	Trent Korte	Edwin Oros	Giovani Guerrero Miley Odell	2nd/3rd/4th
Wed - Jan 15	Reid Wuebbels	Randy Oros Ethan Korte Kennedy Toennies	Simon Toennies	Natalie Lynch	Edwin Oros Charlie Sauer	7/8th
Fri - Jan 17	Lincoln Arentsen	MacKenna Budde Lyla Koch Evelyn Ribbing	Aidan Toennies	Giovani Guerrero	Gracie Deiters Charlotte Cleeton	1st/5th/6th
Wed - Jan 22	Henry Ribbing	Aliya Henss Natalie Lynch Gracie Dieters	Genesis Contreras	John Rojas	Brant Horstmann Blake Detmer	7/8th
Fri - Jan 24	Reid Wuebbels	Ce Ce Toennies Aidan Toennies Genesis Contreras	Reece Dieters	Hunter Toennies	Lyla Koch Avelyn Jansen	2nd/3rd/4th
Wed - Jan 29	Lincoln Arentsen	Brant Horstmann Zachary Huegen Hunter Toennies	MacKenna Budde	Edwin Oros	Randy Oros Kenslie Engle	7/8th
Fri - Jan 31	Henry Ribbing	Jacob Athmer Nolan Goebel Trent Korte	Kevin Athmer	Zachary Huegen	Ryan Oros Dylann Netemeyer	1st/5th/6th

## ST. DAMIAN WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Date	Communion Ministers	Readers	Ushers	Servers	Organist
<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>Tuesday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup></b> 4:00 pm	Sharon Kalmer Erin Korte Ken Mank Monica Koch Kristy Richter	Denise Luitjohan	Kalmer and Horstmann Families	Ethan Toennies Simon Toennies Trent Korte Reid Innes	Geri Varel
<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>COLLECTION COUNTERS:</b>					
<b>Sunday, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup></b> – Gwen Toennies, Kristy Richter, Tina Tonnies			<b>Friday, Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am (for Christmas Eve mass)</b> – Kristy Richter,		
<b>Sunday, Dec. 29<sup>th</sup></b> – Anita Rakers, Kathleen Hodges, Pete Toennies			Anita Rakers, Jeanne Langenhorst at St. Damian Rectory		
<b>Sunday, Jan. 5<sup>th</sup></b> – Mel Toennies, Sandy Kramer, Mech Toennies			<b>Sunday, Jan. 11<sup>th</sup></b> – Dave Kassen, Anita Rakers, Kathleen Hodges		

