

# FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

## St. Damian's Parish Faith Formation

Thank you for your constant presence in my life, Jesus. With you by my side, I can deal with anything that happens today.

**-Gary Zimak**

### CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

#### Kindergarten:

*Hello parents of the Kindergarten class:*

*Since we haven't been able to hold classes very often lately, I don't have much to report to you.*

*The students have learned about Jesus being a teacher. They learned that He is a leader who leads them to be kind, to obey, and to pray. They also learned about the Holy Spirit who guides the Church.*

*We have been saying the Hail Mary at the beginning of each class. Lent is a good time to practice this prayer of the Rosary with your children.*

*We will learn a little about Lent, and then we will learn about serving others.*

**-Lori Jansen**

#### Grade 1:

*Since we didn't have any class sessions in December, we focused on Advent during January. We talked about the Advent wreath, and the different colored candles on the wreath. To reinforce the discussion, we followed up with Advent activities/coloring pages.*

*The students are working on The Hail Mary (almost there) and we will begin learning the Our Father.*

*In the next few weeks, we will discuss the time before Lent and we will do Lenten activities.*

**-Mary Innes**

#### Grade 2:

*With very few class days, we will be concentrating even harder on getting prepared for First Communion.*

**-Denise Luitjohan**



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### MARCH 6

- March on the Arch 2021 – 10:00 am to 2:00 pm in St. Louis. Visit [STLMarch.com](http://STLMarch.com) for more info and to sign up. There is also a flyer at the end of this newsletter.

#### MARCH 17

- Faith Formation Reconciliation –St. Damian

#### MARCH 20

- First Communion Mini-Retreat – 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in the St. Bernard Parish Center (date is tentative)

#### APRIL 4

- Easter Sunday

#### MAY 1

- First Communion – 4:00 pm at St. Damian

#### MAY 8

- Confirmation – 4:00 pm at St. Damian

### **Grade 3:**

The 3rd grade will be learning about Lent and how we prepare for the joy of Easter. Children usually give up candy during Lent, but I am going to ask them to listen more and talk less.

We are also learning the Apostles Creed in class. Please practice this with your child at home.

**-Ruth Pingsterhaus**

### **Grade 4:**

The 4th graders are learning about Lent. They were asked to write down what they were giving up for Lent.

**-Sandy Kramer**

### **Grades 5 & 6:**

The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades made Valentines for the senior residents of Clinton Manor.

We will spend the next couple of weeks preparing/discussing Lent.

I plan on doing the Stations of the Cross with them at least once.

**-Sharon Kalmer**

### **Grades 7 & 8:**

The Confirmation class is very busy with service projects, learning facts about our faith, writing letters to the bishop, and attending our confirmation retreat.

We want to thank our small group leaders who shared the day with us. We especially want to thank Fr. Gene Neff, Msgr. Jack McEvilly, and Bishop Michael for ministering to us for the sacrament of Reconciliation.

Our Confirmation date is May 8th!

**-Jackie Toennies**

## THE DEACON'S CORNER

# Lent

**Lent**, in the Christian [church](#), a period of penitential preparation for [Easter](#). In Western churches it begins on [Ash Wednesday](#), six and a half weeks before Easter, and provides for a 40-day [fast](#) (Sundays are excluded), in imitation of [Jesus Christ's fasting](#) in the wilderness before he began his public ministry.

Saint Jerome, the brilliant doctor of the Church, lived for twenty-five years in the cave where the Child Jesus was born. One time he prayed to Jesus thus: "Dear Child, you have suffered much to save me; how can I make amends?" ("What can you give me, Jerome?") a Voice was heard. "I will spend my entire life in prayer, and I will offer all my talents into Your hands," Jerome replied. ("You do that to glorify Me, but what more can you give to Me?") the Voice asked again. "I will give all my money to the poor," Jerome exclaimed. The Voice said:

("Give your money to the poor; it would be just as if you were giving it to Me. But what else can you give to Me?") Saint Jerome became distraught and said: "Lord, I have given You everything! What is there left to give?" ("Jerome, you have not yet given Me your sins," the Lord replied. "Give them to Me so I can erase them.") With these words Jerome burst into tears and spoke, "Dear Jesus, take all that is mine and give me all that is Yours." Lent is the time to give our sins to God with repentant hearts. (Fr. Benitz) (From Father Tony Kadavil)

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**

## THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY

How deep does your Lent go? When someone comes to the swimming pool, there are different levels – from the deep end to the kiddie pool. We go in at the level we find comfortable and later with a little confidence we might dare a little deeper.

Lent, with its forty days, offers us many levels and we are offered a quantity of options. There is first the Sunday Mass with very powerful gospels, the Way of the Cross on Thursday evenings, and the books with daily reflections.

With access to the internet there are other reflections, sermons/meditations, and devotions. We also look to the example of Jesus during his forty days in the desert – prayer and fasting. Where do we find ourselves? Are we able to attend Sunday Mass more often or more prayerfully and perhaps another devotion, perhaps the fish fry?

To each of us is left the decision to do just a little or much more. This is the time to decide, to make a commitment if we have not already. During these weeks, we want to die to something in ourselves so that we will rise with Jesus at Easter.

¿Qué profundo va tu Cuaresma? Cuando uno entra a la piscina hay distintos niveles – profundo hasta lo para niños. Entramos donde sentimos cómodos y con tiempo quizás con confianza atrevemos un poco más.

La Cuaresma y sus cuarenta días nos ofrece muchos niveles y una cantidad de materiales. Hay la Misa de cada domingo y sus fuertes evangelios, El Vía Crucis los jueves y libritos con reflexiones diarias.

Con acceso al internet hay otras reflexiones, sermones/meditaciones y devociones. Miramos al ejemplo de Jesús en sus cuarenta días en el desierto – oración y ayuno. ¿Dónde nos encontramos? Podemos asistir mas a la Misa dominical y quizás otra devoción, quizás al frito de pescado.

A cada uno queda la decisión personal de hacer poco o mucho. Esta es la hora de decisión, de compromiso. Durante estas semanas queremos morir a algo en nosotros para resucitar con Jesús en la Pascua.

**-Sr. Ellen**

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

*Odd Months - Eucharistic Adoration will be held on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm at St. Damian.  
Even Months - - Eucharistic Adoration will be held on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm at St. Bernard.*

## YARD CLEANUP - ST. DAMIAN 7<sup>TH</sup> AND 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CONFIRMATION CLASS

*The St. Damian Confirmation class is offering their services to rake leaves/clean anyone's yard who might want it during this fall season. Snow shoveling in winter is also available.*

*If interested, please contact Jackie Toennies at 335-9562 and she will hook you up with some eager young lawn care workers who will gladly help you out. No charge!*

## FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION PARENT MEETINGS

*The parent meetings will be scheduled in March. Please watch your email for dates and more information.*

## THE WAY OF THE CROSS DURING LENT – THURSDAYS AT 7:00 PM

*The Way of the Cross **will not** be streamed live on Facebook this year. You can safely attend the Way of the Cross in church because there is plenty of room. You **do not** need to sign up if you plan to attend.*

*February 18 at St. Damian  
February 25 at St. Bernard  
March 4 at St. Damian*

*March 11 at St. Bernard  
March 19 at St. Damian  
March 25 at St. Bernard*

COALITION FOR LIFE ST. LOUIS - MARCH ON THE ARCH 2021



**BISHOP McGOVERN 11:30AM**  
**PRAYER WALK 12:00PM**

**BISHOP MICHAEL McGOVERN** is originally from the Archdiocese of Chicago. Ordained a priest in 1994, he has been involved in Project Rachel and respect life activities in Cook and Lake counties in Illinois. As Bishop of Belleville since July 22, he is a supporter of Project Rachel and introduced the Mass of Hope and Healing to the Belleville Diocese. He looks forward to working together to foster a culture of life in southern Illinois.

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 Secular Pro-Life • Diocese of Belleville Respect Life Ministry • Mosaic Pregnancy & Health Centers

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