

JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

St. Damian's Parish Faith Formation

Faith in God will increase your moral strength, increase your days of joy, and reduce your days of despair.

-Dr. Robert H. Schuller

THE DEACON'S CORNER

The church seasons change throughout the year. After Advent and the Christmas seasons we go back to Ordinary Time before we start on Lent. We stay in Ordinary Time year B until Ash Wednesday on February 17. This is the beginning of Jesus' ministry from the temptation of Jesus, to God talking to all of us on the Fifth Sunday of Lent. Please listen to Jesus carefully and apply that teaching to your own lives.

Some Lenten thoughts:

A well-known speaker started off his seminar by holding up a crisp new \$20 bill. There were 200 people in the room. The speaker asked them, "How many of you would like to have this \$20 bill?" Hands went up all over the room. Then the speaker said, "I'm going to give this \$20 bill to one of you, but first let me do this." He proceeded to crumple the \$20 bill up... and then he held it up and said, "Who wants it now?" Hands went up everywhere. "Well," he replied, "What if I do this?" He dropped it on the ground and stepped on it and started to grind it into the floor with his shoe. He picked it up and held it up for all to see. It was crumpled and smudged and dirty, and he said, "Who wants it now?" Still hands went up all over the place. Then the speaker said, "My friends, you have just learned a very valuable lesson. No matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it because it did not decrease in value. No matter how smudged and crumpled it became, it was still worth \$20."

Many times, in our lives, we get knocked around... dropped, crumpled, smudged, and ground into the dirt... by the decisions we make and the circumstances that come our way. And sometimes we feel as though we are worthless, and used up, and of no account. But no matter what has happened... or what will happen, you will never lose your value in God's eyes. Do you feel spiritually sick this morning? Do you have a fevered soul right now? The doctor is in the house!

Jesus Christ is the Great Physician... and just as His love healed so many in Scripture, His love can heal you, help you, cure you, redeem you, save you. In gratitude, you will want to serve, to help others. You will want to pass that love on to everybody you meet.



UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 13

- Confirmation Retreat – 8:45 am to 3:00 pm in the St. Damian Gym

FEBRUARY 14

- Confirmation Sponsor Retreat – 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm in the St. Damian Gym

FEBRUARY 17

- Ash Wednesday

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

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

Is Christmas over? Some of us take down the Christmas tree on December 26. We take the lights down as soon as weather permits, have trash cans full of wrapping paper and empty boxes. Other people keep Christmas until New Year's. Or maybe until Epiphany. The Sundays after Christmas quickly bring us to the Baptism of Jesus and the first miracle at Cana.

Many Hispanic families cherish traditions surrounding the Crib or the creche. On December 24th with great affection the Child is placed in the manger stall with song and prayer. Then close to Feb. 2, the feast of the presentation of Mary, when Jesus is brought to the Temple as the offering of Joseph and Mary, the family gathers around the crib again. With prayer, often the rosary, and song the Child is bathed and dressed in new clothing and very affectionately given a place of honor in the family shrine until Christmas comes again. There are tamales for all and bags of treats for the children.

Attention turns then to the approaching days of Lent, which this year begins on February 17.

? ¿Navidad ya se acabó? Algunos de nosotros quitamos el árbol navideño el 26 de diciembre. Quitamos las luces de la casa tan pronto que el tiempo permite, los basureros están repletos con papel y cajas de los regalos. Otra gente mantiene Navidad hasta el Año Nuevo. O quizás hasta el día de reyes y partir la rosca., En la Misa los domingos nos llevan muy pronto al Bautismo del Señor y el primer milagro en las bodas de Cana.

Muchas familias Hispanas tienen tradiciones preciosas alrededor del nacimiento. En la noche buena con gran cariño acuestan el Niño en la cuna o el pesebre con canto y oración. Después, cerca al 2 de febrero, La Candelaria o La presentación del Señor en el Templo, la familia se reúne otra vez alrededor del Nacimiento. Con oración, como el rosario, y cantos típicos, el niño es bañado y vestido con ropa nueva. Con gran afección es levantado a un lugar de honor donde espera hasta que la Navidad llega otra vez. Hay tamales para todos y bolsas de dulces para los niños.

Y ahora la atención se presta a los días de Cuaresma que acercan, empezando este año el 17 de febrero.

-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 7TH AND 8TH 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!