

NOVEMBER 2020 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



CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Kindergarten:

The Kindergarten students are learning about God's gifts to us, and to be thankful for the things that make them happy.

They learned about God's creation and drew pictures in their booklet about this.

They learned that God is our Father, and when we talk to Him, we are praying. Since they learned to care for God's world, they made the Bug Mobile.

Most students have learned to say the Sign of the Cross, as they cross their head, chest, and shoulders with the right hand.

We are learning the Hail Mary, which will help them in saying the Rosary before the All School Masses. Please practice saying this prayer with your child. The whole family, including grandparents, can get involved in teaching this powerful prayer to your child.

On December 2nd, the class will color their pictures for the Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest.

In the next weeks, we will be learning about Advent, and that Jesus is the reason for the Season!

-Lori Jansen

Grade 1:

The first grade continues to do well. We finished the Guardian Angel prayer and we have almost finished with the Hail Mary.

We are learning about God's creations and how we must all be "caretakers" by treating everything in our environment with care and respect. Caring is a way to thank God for all that he has given us.

The students were given special paper to take home so they can draw the Keep Christ in Christmas posters. Please have the posters back to us by the next FF class, scheduled for Dec 2nd.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 26

- Thanksgiving Mass – 9:30 am at St. Bernard



DECEMBER 6

- Joint Parish Advent Penance Service – 1:00 pm at St. Damian - please watch the bulletin for updates

DECEMBER 8

- Immaculate Conception – 7:45 am at St. Bernard and 7:00 pm at St. Damian

DECEMBER 13

- Our Lady of Guadalupe – 11:00 am Mass at St. Damian

The next several weeks we will be focusing on Advent and the Advent wreath. Hope all of you have a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving.

-Mary Innes

Grade 2:

The second grade is eagerly preparing for First Reconciliation which is on Sunday Dec 6th.

-Denise Luitjohan

Grade 3:

The third grade was only able to meet once this month. Hopefully the students have learned the prayers that were sent home.

We will be talking about the many things we are thankful for and what we will do in Advent to prepare for Christmas.

Hope all of you are well and have a great Thanksgiving.

-Ruth Pingsterhaus

Grade 4:

The 4th grade has been learning the 'Called to Love' models of faith. We also learned about the Saints, which they were very interested in.

Our next chapter is 'The Church Teaches'.

The children have been great and in wanting to learn.

-Sandy Kramer

Grades 5 & 6:

With only three class periods before Christmas, the 5th/6th grade classes will be discussing the Advent/Christmas season, making their own "prayer pillows" and receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

We are continuing to pray that everyone stays healthy this holiday season. 🙏

-Sharon Kalmer

Grades 7 & 8:

We have celebrated "Rite of Enrollment" on two separate weekend Masses because some candidates were quarantined on the original Saturday evening Mass.

Many of the candidates have been very busy cleaning yards for service projects. They have been working hard and doing a good job!

In class, we are talking about and finalizing our sponsors and our confirmation saint names. Soon we will research our saint names and write a report. Those reports will be orally presented to the class.

We have an afternoon for sharing faith with our sponsor planned for mid-December.

With class only once a week, we have lots to do in very little time.

-Jackie Toennies

THE DEACON'S CORNER

If we can be aware of others around us and show others that we care for them and we love them as our neighbor, we become children of God. Take this time to show your children the true meaning of Advent, preparing for the coming of God. The best way to do this is to Pray.

“If participation in the eucharistic celebration becomes impossible because of the absence of a sacred minister or for another grave cause, it is strongly recommended that the faithful take part in a liturgy of the word if such a liturgy is celebrated in a parish church or other sacred place ... or that they devote themselves to prayer for a suitable time alone, as a family, or, as the occasion permits, in groups of families.” (can. 1248)

Of course, this is only dealing with the question of observing the obligation of participating at Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation. It is all the same, quite instructive.

The current tendency of Church leaders appears to simply be to dispense the faithful from the obligation of attending Mass. But this is not the only issue, spiritually speaking, that needs to be addressed. People are rightly scared and need a truly pastoral reassurance — and practical spiritual guidance.

We need to pray. We need to deepen our relationship with God and his Church. Even if it is wise to not congregate in numbers in churches, we should go to the Lord personally, praying in church before the Blessed Sacrament, observing “social distancing” while deepening our intimacy with God. For our own welfare, it is important that we tell God our fears, implore both his intervention to rescue us from this pestilence, and ask for the grace to accept his will and see this crisis through the eyes of faith.

Asking for assistance from various saints is also a good and very Catholic thing. Here is a list of Saints to ask for their intercession.

- [Edmund the Martyr of East Anglia](#) - [patron saint of pandemics](#)
- [Four Holy Marshals](#) – epidemics, diseases
- [Fourteen Holy Helpers](#) – epidemics, [bubonic plague](#) or the [Black Death](#)

And as always:

*The Blessed Virgin Mary and Jude Thaddeus

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

On the morning of Dec. 9, 1531, a Christian Indian named Juan Diego passed a hill at Tepeyac, not far from present-day Mexico City. Hearing a voice calling him by name, he looked up to see a young Indian maiden. Speaking in his native Nahuatl language, she instructed him to tell the bishop to construct a church on this hill. The bishop paid Juan no attention.

On following days, the maiden identified herself as the Mother of God and told Juan to gather roses that grew at her feet. When he returned to the bishop and opened his serape, Juan revealed a full-color image of the Lady imprinted on the rough fabric. This is the beginning of the devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe and the devotion of the Mexican people since she is their mother in a very special way.

We will celebrate the feast this year within the limits of the pandemic still with great faith. On Dec. 12 at 11pm we will gather in church for the Mananitas (like a serenade). Then on Sunday, Dec. 13, everyone is invited to join the procession from St. Bernard at 9:30 am. The Mass will begin at 11:00 am at St. Damian; reservations for the church and overflow into the gym where the Mass can be seen and heard. There will not be the traditional fiesta because of Covid.

Later in the week we will hold two posadas - the journey of Mary and Joseph seeking a shelter where their Child can be born. Then on Dec. 24 at 7:00 we will celebrate the Mass of Christmas. We wish everyone "Feliz Navidad y un Prospero Ano Nuevo"! Merry Christmas and a prosperous (and peaceful and safe) New Year!

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En la mañana del 9 de diciembre de 1531, un indio cristiano por nombre Juan Diego paso por el cerro de Tepeyac, cerca del actual Ciudad de Mexico. Escuchando una voz llamandole por su nombre, el miro hacia arriba y vio una joven india. Hablando en su nativo Nahuatl, ella le instruyo a decir al obispo que construyera una iglesia en este cerro. El obispo puso poca atencion. En dias siguientes la joven se identifico como la Madre de Dios y dijo a Juan que escoja rosas de las que crecian a sus pies. Cuando el regreso al obispo y abrio su serape, Juan revelo un imagen de pleno color de la Senora imprenta en la tela cruda. Esto fue el inicio de la devocion a Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe y el gran carino que la gente Mexicana la tiene porque ella es su madre de forma especial.

Este ano vamos a celebrar esta fiesta dentro de los limites de la pandemia, todavia con gran fe. El 12 de diciembre a las 11pm, reunimos en la iglesia para cantar las mananitas. Y despues el domingo 13 de diciembre, todos son invitados a entrar en la procesion de S. Bernard a las 9:30am. La Misa empieza a las 11 en S. Damian; reservas para la iglesia y los demas en el gimnasio donde se puede ver y escuchar de la iglesia. Por el Covid, no va a haber la fiesta.

Mas luego en la semana vamos a presentar dos posadas - la jornada de Maria y Jose buscando hospedaje donde puede nacer el nino Jesus. Despues el dia 24 a las 7pm habra la Misa de Navidad. Deseamos para todos una Feliz Navidad y Prospero Ano Nuevo!

-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.

THE ADVENT SEASON

Advent is the season of expectations. This is the time of the taking the breath before the plunge, to prepare 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 Sunday's 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 to spiritually contemplate the great drama of salvation history that surrounds the birth of God Incarnate who comes to redeem humanity.

- 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."



CARDINAL CALENDARS – ST. BERNARD FAITH FORMATION

The St. Bernard Faith Formation will be selling St. Louis Cardinal calendars. The cost is \$16.00. Please contact any Faith Formation student or all Janel at Albers Elementary at 248-5146.

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!

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS – KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

"Keep Christ in Christmas"

The Knights of Columbus will again sponsor the Poster Contest for 2020. Students in Kindergarten through 8th Grade are invited to participate.

Parents - please encourage your children to express the true meaning of Christmas in artwork on 11x17 paper using pencil, colored pencil, or crayon. Please no Markers.

First and Second place winners in each parish group (St. Damian and St. Bernard) will be given monetary awards.

- Parish groups:
1. Kindergarten
 2. (1, 2)
 3. (3, 4)
 4. (5, 6)
 5. (7, 8)

The due date to return your artwork to the Faith Formation Teachers is December 2- 4th.

The 11-17 paper is available at St. Damian School office.

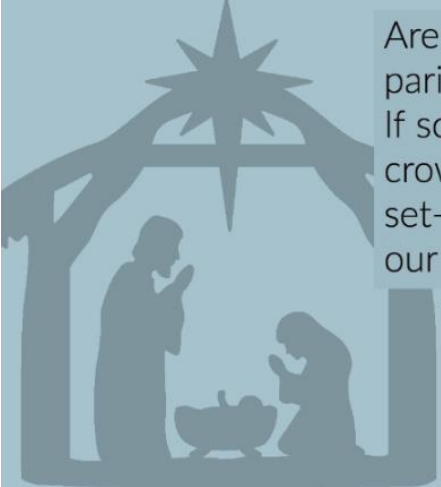
The Kindergarten Coloring Page is attached and will also be available at the School in Albers.

This is due by December 4th. Please have it finished or a good start on it by the scheduled start up.

Thank you in advance as we help the children understand the true meaning of Christmas.

If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Glenn.

LIVE NATIVITY



Hope is Born! A "Live" Nativity

Are you looking for an opportunity to support your parish and share the true message of Christmas? If so, we are looking for actors (no speaking lines), crowd control (safety), costume assistance, grounds set-up help, and hospitality workers to help make our Live Nativity on Sunday, Dec. 20 a success!

If interested, contact the parish office by Sunday, Dec. 6 or attend the planning meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 6:30p at St. Bernard Parish Center (mask required).

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Mass	December 24, 2020	3:00 pm at St. Damian 5:00 pm at St. Bernard
Christmas Day Mass	December 25, 2020	9:30 am at St. Damian

