

# SEPTEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

## St. Damian's Parish Faith Formation

**WELCOME TO THE 2021/2022 FAITH FORMATION FAMILY!**

### NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

*This year the teachers will be submitting their classroom updates on a staggered schedule instead of a monthly schedule.*

*Classroom updates from the teachers will be included in the following monthly newsletters:*

September 2021  
November 2021  
February 2022  
April 2022

*Father Steven, Deacon Glenn, Deacon Kevin, and Sister Ellen will share information on a monthly schedule. You will also find important dates, charity, and fundraiser opportunities, etc. in the monthly newsletter.*

### 2021 – 2022 Teachers

Kindergarten	Lori Jansen	<a href="mailto:ljansen@frontier.com">ljansen@frontier.com</a>
Grade 1	Mary Innes	<a href="mailto:mkinnes@wisperhome.com">mkinnes@wisperhome.com</a>
Grade 2	Denise Luitjohan	<a href="mailto:denise_luitjohan@yahoo.com">denise_luitjohan@yahoo.com</a> (First Reconciliation and First Communion)
Grade 3	Ruth Pingsterhaus	<a href="mailto:rpingerhaus@yahoo.com">rpingerhaus@yahoo.com</a>
Grade 4	Sharon Kalmer	<a href="mailto:skalmer@kalmerlumber.com">skalmer@kalmerlumber.com</a>
Grade 5	Florence Jansen	<a href="mailto:flojansen53@gmail.com">flojansen53@gmail.com</a>
Grade 6	Shelly Schuetz	<a href="mailto:maschuetz@hotmail.com">maschuetz@hotmail.com</a>
Grades 7 & 8	Jackie Toennies	618-335-9562

**Thank you all for taking up this duty.**



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### OCTOBER 11

- Columbus Day – NO SCHOOL

#### TBD

- Thanksgiving Food Drive (end of October/beginning of November)

#### NOVEMBER 16

- Faith Family Fun Night with reconciliation at 6:00 pm at St. Damian



### CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

#### Kindergarten:

*The kindergarten students have been learning about God's creation of the world, and that He made each one of them. They know that He loves them, and they made a booklet about God's creation.*

*Earlier this month, they colored a birthday cake for Jesus' mother, Mary, along with other pictures about Mary's life.*

Almost everyone has recited the Sign of the Cross. They are learning the Hail Mary, one line at a time. Please practice saying this prayer with your child.

**-Lori Jansen**

**Grade 1:**

First grade is off to a good start and the students have settled into a routine and are eager to learn.

We are practicing the Sign of the Cross, so they do it properly and with devotion. We have learned the Guardian Angel prayer--it's a great prayer to start each day--and most now know the Our Father. It would be helpful if parents said these prayers with their children, maybe before meals or perhaps at bedtime.

We will focus on the Hail Mary next.

We have also been learning about creation and how God made each of us special.

**-Mary Innes**

**Grade 2:**

We have started our journey towards the student's First Reconciliation. We are using the "Blessed" series from Dynamic Catholic. This series has worked very well the past few years. We have a video series that goes along with the book which reiterates what the books teaches.

In our first chapter, the students were reminded of the 7 Sacraments and can now name all 7. Our second Chapter is focused on the 10 Commandment. We will spend a few weeks discussing and learning them and the children will be asked to have them memorized.

On our Mass days I am very impressed with the class, for the most part they are attentive and participate – especially in singing! I have decided this year to make Friday a fun day and told the children that as long as their behavior and participation at Mass is good, we will do an activity or a game on Fridays.

I encourage all parents to bring the children to Mass on the weekends as this will reinforce with the children that parents are involved in their journey with Jesus and the Sacraments.

**-Denise Luijohan**

**Grade 3:**

As of right now I am taking Ms. Ruth's third grade class. Hopefully Ms. Ruth heals fast and will be back soon.

We made get well cards for her on Tuesday and the class misses her.

**-Florence Jansen (for Ruth Pingsterhaus)**

**Grade 4:**

Welcome to 4th grade!

The students have been busy learning to serve Mass along with starting the Books of the Bible. They are doing great.

Please feel free to contact me any time with comments/concerns.

**-Sharon Kalmer**

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

*I'm still getting to know the 5th & 6th graders, but it has been fun so far! Since they will be reading the petitions at our prayer services and Masses this year, we have been practicing reading on the microphone. We are also working on other Mass etiquettes.*

*One day we played Catholic Jeopardy just to see what they remembered from the year before. I think they enjoyed it because they ask every day if we can play it again.*

*I have lots of fun and exciting ideas for them to learn their Catholic faith this year!*

**-Shelly Schuetz**

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

*For this first month of Faith Formation, the 7/8 grade class has been doing a lot of lectoring and serving at school Masses and prayer services.*

*We have been talking about respect, being good role models, participating, volunteering...being good Christians. We do have a book series to use and learn from, however, we haven't gotten into it yet.*

*We have lots to do and lots to talk about and I look forward to it all.*

**-Jackie Toennies**

## FATHER STEVEN'S GUIDANCE

### **"Knowing about" someone vs. Knowing Someone**

*I know a lot about Winston Churchill. I got interested in him several years ago and made it a reading project. I read Churchill's seven-volume history of the Second World War. I read a three-volume biography of him. I'm not quite sure what got into me but after months had passed, and while reading plenty of other things alongside, I must have read three to four thousand pages at least. I know a lot about Winston Churchill. Many others know even more about him. Some people have encyclopedic knowledge about Abraham Lincoln, or Napoleon, or, for that matter, any number of Kardashians.*

*This kind of knowledge about someone is relatively easy to acquire and relatively easy to teach. You can present the information, test to assess comprehension and retention, and hey presto, your student knows about some important figure the way I know about Churchill. It's crucial, it's absolutely critical, that we teach our kids about Jesus of Nazareth. That they know about Him as a historically real figure, reliably known to us through the Gospels. No one can follow Jesus if they don't know about Him.*

*And yet... and yet, while knowing about Jesus is necessary, it just isn't enough. It's essential to getting to our goal, but it isn't our goal. I'm satisfied knowing about Lincoln or Churchill. I'm even more satisfied not knowing the first thing about any Kardashian. But I wouldn't say I know Winston Churchill. That's a different thing, and that's what we're after in raising up disciples of Christ. The mission isn't complete when they know about Jesus. The mission is complete when they know Jesus. When they've met Him, encountered Him, alive and powerful.*

*This is harder to do. In fact, we don't really "do" it at all. There's no process or flowchart that can reliably produce the desired outcome. Our job as formators, teachers, pastors, parents, is to arrange the meeting. To make the introductions. To do anything and everything in our power to encourage that relationship. In the end, it's up to them; no one can force a relationship between anyone else. But we can share our own relationship, witness to*

its power and importance in our lives, and encourage the all-important encounter between Jesus and the children He has called to be His.

**-Fr. Steven Beatty**

## THE DEACON'S CORNER

### **The Twelve Apostles of Christ**

Jesus Christ selected the 12 apostles from among his early followers to become his closest companions. After an intensive discipleship course and following his resurrection from the dead, the Lord fully commissioned the apostles (**Matthew 28:16-2, Mark 16:15**) to advance God's kingdom and carry the Gospel message to the world.

We find the names of the 12 disciples in **Matthew 10:2-4, Mark 3:14-19, and Luke 6:13-16**. These men became the pioneering leaders of the New Testament church, but they were not without faults and shortcomings. Interestingly, not one of the chosen apostles was a scholar or rabbi. These men had no extraordinary skills. Neither religious nor refined. They were ordinary people, just like you and me.

But God chose them for a purpose — to fan the flames of the Gospel that would spread across the face of the earth and continue to burn bright throughout centuries to follow. God selected and used each of these regular guys to carry out his exceptional plan.

(Mary Fairchild)

Does your home or classroom have a patron Saint? Here are some websites about Saints.

[www.catholic.org/saints](http://www.catholic.org/saints)

[www.newadvent.org](http://www.newadvent.org)

[www.mycatholic.life/saints](http://www.mycatholic.life/saints)

[www.info.franciscanmedia.org/saints](http://www.info.franciscanmedia.org/saints)

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**

## HISPANIC MINISTRY

The last Sunday of September is Migration Sunday when we consider how many people around the world – either as migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers – have left their homes for safety, freedom and/or opportunity.

*What do you know about when and how your family came to be where you now call home?*

*My family came from northern Germany in 1842 and found a new home in St. Charles County, Missouri. One great-grand-mother came from Ireland. There were religious reasons as well as economic ones and a hope for a better future.*

*In October, when we celebrate Columbus Day, or Día de la Raza, we recall the blending of the people of the Americas with those of Europe (Spain, Portugal, France and England) who would lay claim to parts of the "new world", even though established cultures were here to meet them.*

*Perhaps you could take some time to explore your family's migration history.*

*El último domingo de septiembre es Domingo de migración cuando podemos considerar los miles de personas alrededor del mundo – como migrantes, refugiados o gente buscando asilo – dejaron su hogar para seguridad, libertad y/o oportunidad.*

*¿Qué sabes del cuándo y cómo tu familia vino a vivir donde ahora tienes tu casa?*

*Mi familia vino del norte de Alemania en 1842 y encontró un nuevo lugar en el condado de S. Carlos, Missouri. Una bisabuela vino de Irlanda. Vinieron por motivos religiosos y también económicos y mas que todo con esperanza para un futuro mejor.*

*En octubre cuando celebramos el día de Cristóbal Colon, o Dia de la Raza, recordamos la mezcla de la gente de las Américas con los de Europa (España, Portugal, Francia e Inglaterra) quienes reclamarían partes del "mundo nuevo" a pesar de que culturas establecidas estaban a darles la bienvenida.*

*¡Quizá podrían tomar tiempo de platicar de tu historia familiar como migrantes!*

**-Sister Ellen Orf**

## FAITH FORMATION EXPECTATIONS

The expectations of the Faith Formation Program can be found on the final two pages of this newsletter.



## **Expectations of Kindergarten**

Sign of the Cross

Our Father

Hail Mary

Meal Prayers

\*\*Glory Be  
Angel of God

\*\* If time

## **Expectations of Grade 1**

Sign of the Cross

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory Be

Angel of God

Meal Prayers

## **Expectations of Grade 2**

Sign of the Cross

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory Be

Meal Prayers

Angel of God

Act of Contrition

Parts of the Mass

## **Expectations of Grade 3**

Sign of the Cross

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory Be

Angel of God

Meal Prayers

Act of Contrition

Parts of the Mass

Apostles Creed

The Church and its Marks

Names of Pope, Bishop, Deacon  
and Pastor

## **Expectations of Grade 4**

Law of Love/Great Comm.

Ten Commandments

Books of the Bible

**Review:**

\*Names of Pope, Bishop  
and Pastor

\*Church and its Marks

\* Parts of the Mass

\*Act of Contrition

\*Apostles Creed

\*Our Father

\*Hail Mary

\*Glory Be

\*Sign of the Cross

\*Angel of God

## **Expectations of Gr. 5**

Catholic Seven

The Rosary

Seasons of Church Yr.

Seven Sacraments

Summary of Bible

**Review:**

\*Books of the Bible

\*Law of Love/Great

Commandment

\*Ten Commandments

\*Names of Pope, Bishop  
and Pastor

\*The Church and its

Marks

\*Parts of the Mass

\* Act of Contrition

\*Meal Prayers

## **Expectations of Grade 6**

Four Gospel Writers

Books of the Bible

Holy Days of Obligation

Summary of Bible with "Seven"

**Review:**

\*The Rosary

\*Seasons of the Church

Year

\* Seven Sacraments

\*Ten Commandments

\*Names of Pope,

Bishop, Pastor, and Deacon

\*Parts of the Mass

\*Law of Love

\*Church and its Marks

\*Apostles Creed

## **Expectations of Grade 7**

Summary of Bible

Nicene Creed

Works of Mercy

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

**Review:**

- \*Some books of Bible
- \* 4 Gospel Writers
- \*Holy Days of Obligation
- \*The Rosary
- \* Seasons of the Church Yr.
- \*Seven Sacraments
- \*Ten Commandments
- \* Name of Pope, Bishop and Pastor

## **Expectations of Grade 8**

Beatitudes

Laws of the Church

Summary of Bible

**Review:**

- \*Apostles Creed
- \*Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- \*Nicene Creed
- \*Works of Mercy
- \*Some Books of the Bible
- \*4 Gospel Writers
- \*Holy Days of Obligation
- \*The Rosary
- \*Seasons of the Church Year
- \*Ten Commandments
- \*Law of Love
- \*The Church and its Marks
- \*Parts of the Mass
- \*Act of Contrition

**Mass Expectations:**

1. 2 and 3 grades-  
Vocation Prayer  
before Mass
2. 4 Prepare for serving
3. 5, 6, 7, and 8.  
Lector, serving and  
Cantoring.

**All classes take turns  
as Mass host.**