

St. Damian School

Weekly Principal Update



February 2, 2018

Dear St. Damian Families,

We enjoyed a wonderful Catholic Schools Week, beginning with a perfect Family Mass on Sunday, showcasing our beautiful school all week, and then the many activities that were planned.

Thanks to our Family and School and Student Council.

Thank you parents for overseeing lunch on Tuesday so our staff were able to enjoy a meal together! The 100 day "Workout Wednesday" was a great time with buddies. On Wednesday afternoon we watched our boys and girls basketball teams compete! What great games! To top it



off Thursday our teachers played volleyball against 5/6 and then 6-8th grade teams. The teachers were definitely exhausted at the end but everyone had a fabulous time!

We plan for this to be a tradition at St. Damian School!

Our next competition will be during Catholic Schools Week 2019! Practice, practice, practice!



IMPORTANT DATES

- Feb. 9** – Dismissal at 1 pm. Bus & extended day available
- Feb. 10** – First Communion Retreat 2:30-4:30 pm, Mass at 5 pm
- Feb. 12** – 7th grade Parent Mtg at 6:45 pm in Shaw Hall
- Feb. 14** – Ash Wednesday Mass: 7, 9 AM, 7 PM; Services: 12, 4, 5:15 PM
- Feb. 19** - No School – Presidents' Day Ext. Day Available



Do you need your tuition payments for taxes?

Here are the steps for FACTS:

1. Sign onto-factsmgt.com
2. View Details
3. View Print Summary
4. Print

Letter of Intent for 2018-2019 should have been turned in to hold your child's enrollment for next school year. All parents must be up to date with their tuition for their child's place to be guaranteed. The \$100 registration fee is due from our families, with any additional paperwork or monies owed, by February 23.

National Junior Honor Society

The National Junior Honor Society focuses on service to our school and the community. Last



Thursday, members of the NJHS gathered together to make fleece blankets for Project Linus. With chapters in all 50 states, Project Linus collects blankets locally and then distributes them to children of all ages in area hospitals, shelters, social service agencies, or anywhere that a child might be in need of a big hug. The students had a great time working together to create these beautiful fleece blankets. We ended the gathering with a prayer for all of the children who will be receiving these blankets.

From EmpowerIllinois.org

Yesterday (January 31), demand by Illinois families for the tax credit scholarship program exceeded every imaginable expectation. Our student application was suspended after nearly 30,000 applicants flooded the system, which caused severe, unexpected technical problems and made the process virtually inoperable.

We apologize to the parents, grandparents, guardians and foster families who attended events, or otherwise made accommodations to try to apply for the scholarship. We understand the inconvenience and frustration these technical problems caused for many of you, and we are committed to fixing them. Fairness to every student and every school across the state demands significant action, which is why we have decided to delay the relaunch of the scholarship application.

The application will not relaunch this week. We do not yet have a date for when the application will be available but we will provide you with ample notice.

Numerous technology upgrades and contingency systems are in development. The glitches seen yesterday, such as schools not listed, were all related. We are committed to ensuring this doesn't happen again. We will not risk the viability of scholarships or the integrity of the program for a quick solution.

Likewise, we will not forfeit our ability to grant scholarships by failing to meet the state imposed deadline of Feb 1. Empower Illinois will award one scholarship today from the small pool of students able to complete the application. We are still in the process of reviewing the others to understand how many are qualified or viable candidates. Processing one award will make the program viable for tens of thousands of other qualified students, while maintaining the first-come, first-served requirement.

If nothing more, what happened yesterday could not more clearly illustrate the demand for this program. Demand by students and families, in every corner of Illinois, for quality educational options. These were more than 30,000 people strong who said loud and clear: Invest in Kids.

We recognize many questions remain and we are working diligently to identify solutions. We will continue to communicate with you. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

The First, Second and Third Graders Present.

"The Melody of Love"

Tuesday, February 6th at 7:00 PM

On stage in the Father Grimmel Center

Doors open at 6:30pm.

Lent is just around the Corner!

On Friday, February 16th, the School Choir and their families are invited to the St. Damian Fish Fry beginning at 5:30 pm. At 7:00 pm, the school choir and their families will go over to the church. The choir will sing and lead The Stations of the Cross. All the families of St. Damian are welcome! What a great way to begin the journey of lent and come together as a community of St. Damian.



Alumni-High School Honor Roll - Congratulations to our St. Damian Alumni!

St. Lawrence High School

Gabe Chimera
Luke Baldwin
Anthony Wrenn

Marian High School

Alexis Hancock
Tanner Hancock
Rebecca Mogbo

Marist High School

Celeste Baur
Abram Camerena

Jack Carney
Elise Hetzel
Julia Hetzel
Nicko Jao Adrei
Connor Kelly
Emily King
Christopher Kralj
Mia Mesmer
Sara Mesmer
Alejandrina Perez Gabrielle Rivera
Jonathan Rivera
Ty Rogers
Madelyn Sullivan



LENT

Grow in Faith at St. Damian!

Ash Wednesday - Feb. 14, **Mass:** 7, 9 AM, 7 PM; **Services:** 12, 4, 5:15 PM

Fish Fry - Every Friday of Lent 4:30-7 PM in Shaw/O'Day Hall

Stations of the Cross - Every Friday of Lent at 7 PM in Church

Talk: Church's Teaching on Evil - Monday, Feb. 26, 7 PM in Church

Shroud of Turin Exhibit & Presentation - March 3- 5 in Shaw Hall

Parish Reconciliation Service - Sunday, March 11 at 6 PM in Church

Taizé Prayer - Tuesday, March 20 at 7 PM in Church

Passion Play - Friday, March 30 at 3 PM in Church

The mission of Saint School is to ensure that individual students reach their potential through the development of their Catholic faith, character, citizenship and academics.