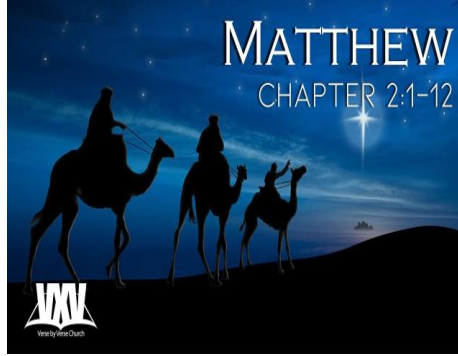
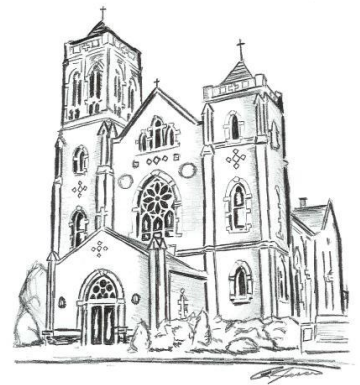




*The Epiphany of the Lord
January 4, 2026*



St. Damian Parish
Founded 1861
One West Main Street
Damiansville, Illinois 62215
Phone: (618) 248-5134

St. Bernard Parish
Founded 1908
202 N. Broadway – Box 10
Albers, Illinois 62215
Phone: (618) 248-5112

WEBSITE:
www.stbernardandstdamian.org

BISHOP OF BELLEVILLE:

PASTOR:

Father Matthew Elie
Office Phone: (618) 248-5112

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE & DRE:

Deacon Glenn Netemeyer
Email: deaconglen36@gmail.com
Cell Phone: 618-772-9343
Office at St. Damian

PERMANENT DEACON:

Deacon Kevin Templin
Email: deaconkevin18@gmail.com
Cell Phone: 314-660-3976

SECRETARY/BOOKKEEPER:

Angie Toennies
Hours: Mon-Thursday 8:00-4:00
Office Location Varies-Call and Leave a
Message or email at:
Email: stdamian1861@gmail.com
Email: st.bernard@charter.net
St. Bernard 248-5112 or St. Damian 248-5134

HISPANIC MINISTER

Maria Gimenez
Cell Phone: (618) 708-1487
Email: hispanicministrymg@gmail.com

CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTER:

Michelle "Shelly" Schuetz
Email: maschuetz@hotmail.com
Cell Phone: 618-401-6007

MASS SCHEDULE:

MONDAY, JANUARY 5th
NO SCHOOL/NO SERVICE

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6th
Prayer Service
7:45 am @ St. Bernard

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7th
Mass in St. Damian Church
7:45 am @ St. Damian
Rev. Ronald Weber

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8th
Mass in School
7:45 am @ St. Bernard
For the People

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9th
NO MASS/NO SERVICE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10th
Mass in Church-St. Damian Ministries
4:00 pm @ St. Damian
Alison Marella Korte
Todd Haselhorst
Melvin Toennies

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11th
Mass in Church-St. Bernard Ministries
9:30 am @ St. Damian
Del Kloeckner

Hispanic Mass in Church
11:00 AM @ St. Damian

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

Jesus, the light of the world, draws foreigners from all over the earth to bring gifts and proclaim their reverence. Isaiah foresees the light from Jerusalem attracting people from faraway lands, bringing gifts and praising the LORD. Paul himself travels to distant regions, preaching the message that Jesus came to Jews and Gentiles alike. The magi come from the east to pay homage and offer treasures to the newborn king. As God's word is proclaimed, may we show our reverence.

HAPPENINGS/MEETINGS:

Sunday, January 4th

Mass in Church – St. Bernard Ministries

9:30 am @ St. Damian Church

Hispanic Mass in Church

11:00 am @ St. Damian Church

Monday, January 5th

NO MASS/SERVICE

Tuesday, January 6th

Prayer Service

7:45 am @ Albers School

Wednesday, January 7th

Mass In Church

7:45 am @ St. Damian

Eucharistic Adoration

6:00 pm @ St. Damian

Thursday, January 8th

Mass in School

7:45 am @ Albers School

Friday, January 9th

NO MASS/SERVICE

Saturday, January 10th

Mass in Church – St. Damian Ministries

4:00 pm @ St. Damian

Sunday, January 11th

Mass in Church – St. Bernard Ministries

9:30 am @ St. Damian Church

Hispanic Mass in Church

11:00 am @ St. Damian Church

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MONTHLY DRAWING WINNERS

\$400 - Stanley Huegen

\$60 - John Wieter and Cindy Hubert

***From the Knights of Columbus Merry
Christmas and Happy New Year.***

***"LORD, EVERY NATION ON EARTH WILL
ADORE YOU."***

The Edge Middle School Youth Ministry hosted a "Baby Shower for Jesus" at their last gathering. As a service project, we will be collecting new or gently used baby items for a local pregnancy center from now until Epiphany. Please put donations in the designated bin in the back of church. Thank you in advance for your support. Contact Tina Wuebbels, Lacey Arentsen, Kati Schwierjohn, or Kristy Richter with questions.

JOINT PARISH MASS INFORMATION

Renovations have begun. All Weekend, Holy Day and Holiday Masses will be held at St. Damian Church. What we will be doing as far as ministry schedules is if you are scheduled for a Mass in either parish, you will be serving your ministry as shown on the schedule at St. Damian Church. (February & April Saturday Masses will be considered the St. Bernard Mass for the purpose of Ministries...so if you are a St. Bernard parishioner and you are scheduled for a ministry, you will be serving that ministry at St. Damian church during the month of February & April). Weekday Masses for St. Bernard will be held at the school gym with Faith Formation Prayer Service on Tuesday mornings at 7:45 and Mass on Thursday mornings at 7:45.

St. Bernard PSR Students are selling St. Louis Cardinals calendars to support the St. Bernard's Faith Formation program. The calendars are \$20 each, with a portion donated back to St. Bernard's. Please reach out to any Faith Formation student or text Janel Zurliene (402-2869) if you would like a calendar.

ST. DAMIAN PARISH CONCERNS:

CHURCH SUPPORT: December 25th

Loose: \$1080.00+ Envelope (4): \$345.00
+ Spanish: \$315.00 + Christmas: (39) \$6,645.00

CHURCH SUPPORT: December 28th

Loose: \$115.00+ Envelope (14): \$340.00
+ Spanish: \$ 344.00
+ Christmas: (6) \$1,445.00 \$10,629.00
Budget for week: \$3,536.00
Fiscal year-to-date collected: \$88,490.00
Fiscal year-to-date budget: \$88,400.00
Over (under) year-to-date budget: \$90.00
Fiscal year (7/24-6/25) budget: \$183,900.00

(Reminder: The fiscal year budget does not include the \$80,000.00 transferred from: Savings, Building Fund, & Picnic Checking Accounts, which is needed in order to balance the budget.)

MINISTRY SCHEDULE – January 10th

Ministers: Deb Santel, Kennedy Toennies, Beth Brandmeyer

Ushers: Roger Toennies & Volunteer

Servers: Lincoln, Connor & Silas Arentsen

Reader: Denise Luitjohan

Cantors: Chris Brandmeyer

Organist: Jan Hitch

Coll. Counters: Kathleen Hodges, Sandy Kramer

Thank you for being ministers of your parish!

St. Damian Parish is asking for people (men and women) who are willing to donate their time and or equipment to assist with the snow removal at the church to contact Dave Kassen at 618-248-5676. I will start a text group so I can reach out to the individuals when snow removal is necessary.

ST. DAMIAN MAINTENANCE POSITION

AVAILABLE. St. Damian is looking to hire an individual for maintenance position. We are opening this to St. Damian parishioners first before looking at external candidates. Hours for position are variable but anticipate a couple of hours a week, more or less depending on need. Individual would need to be able to complete general maintenance requests, find/diagnose potential issues, contact outside trades when necessary, and maintain outside lawn/landscape. If you are interested in the position please reach out to Adam Fuehne, Kristy Richter, or Emily Schirmer.

St. Damian Rectory also has a hutch and old dining table they are looking to get rid of. If you have any interest, please reach out to Angie.

ST. BERNARD PARISH CONCERNS:

CHURCH SUPPORT: December 25th & 27th

Loose: \$172.00+Envelopes: (28) \$1,343.00
+ Christmas: (50) \$5,695.00
+ Paypal (\$18.91) \$7,228.91
Budget for week: \$3,385.00
Fiscal year-to-date collected: \$75,793.67
Fiscal year-to-date budget: \$84,625.00
Over (under) year-to-date budget: (\$8,831.33)
Fiscal year (7/24-6/25) budget: \$176,000.00
(Reminder: The fiscal year budget **does not** include the **\$52,929.00** transferred from: Men's Club & Fund Raiser Checking Accounts, which is needed in order to balance the budget.)

MINISTRY SCHEDULE – January 11th

Ministers: Kati Schwierjohn, Jackie Farrar, Lynn Athmer

Reader: Lynette Huegen

Ushers: John & Linda Majchrzak

Servers: Riley, Gabrielle & Kelsie Rolves

Coll. Count: Sean Kennedy, Phyllis Albers, Janel Zurliene

Thank you for being ministers of your parish!

ST. BERNARD'S CHURCH IS PROCEEDING WITH THE MUCH-NEEDED RENOVATIONS.

Thanks to all who have returned their Letters of Intent. It is truly appreciated! Checks are being cashed; and for those who wish to do monthly auto ACH payments, they can now be set up upon request. ACH monthly payments can now be set up and will begin on January 22. ACH forms have been emailed to those who requested monthly automatic debits and are also available under St. Bernard on the parish website. Please return forms by as soon as possible to assure we get them set up correctly. For those who wished to send their payment at beginning of construction, please feel free to send your payments marked Church Reno. Donation amounts will remain anonymous. There will be a donation plaque at the end of the project; it will include names only, along with names of those whom their donations were pledged in memory of or in honor of. Please continue to pray for the success of our ongoing Capital Campaign as we begin to transition to the renovation project itself. Thank you! ***MANY THANKS TO ALL THAT HAVE DONATED AND PLEDGED FOR THIS PROJECT! WITHOUT ALL OF YOU THIS WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE!***

St. Bernard Church has an old organ that is likely 100 years old. If a parishioner is interested in the antique, please call Steve at 618-973-8860

Eucharistic Adoration Holiday Schedule. Adoration will resume at St. Damian on Wednesday, Jan. 7 at 6p.

9 DAYS FOR LIFE-PRAY TO PROTECT HUMAN LIFE. Join us in praying for the legal protection of all human life, from conception to natural end...and for the protection of the most vulnerable. January 16-24,2026.

RESPECT LIFE CORNER “O Blessed Mother, at the angel’s word you went in haste to the aid of your cousin Elizabeth. Although pregnant yourself, you placed her needs before your own. By your example of radical solidarity, teach us to reverence and protect those in need, without conditions or expectations... Obtain for us the grace to bring Christ to any expectant mother who is alone and afraid.”

VOCATION CORNER. What a wonderful Gospel account of the Magi traveling to meet the Lord. They followed the star – their “call” – to come and offer their gifts to the Lord. But the question arises as to how the Magi noticed a star at night and no one else really did. Perhaps we need to embrace the “night,” the stillness, to “see and hear” our call. How are we doing in discerning our call to Holiness – in living our vocation as man, woman, or child; married or single; priesthood or religious – of being called to something beyond ourselves?

St. Anne Cradle of Hope Coat Sponsor Drive for \$25. Sponsor a coat for \$25.00. Or drop off a gently used coat at your local Pregnancy Care Center. Our send check to Molly King, Diocese of Belleville, 222 South Third Street, Belleville, IL 62220. More information at www.stannecradleofhope.org.

Catholic Service & Ministry Appeal: May God’s blessings pour upon you and grant you and your loved ones a healthy, prosperous and joyful new year. Heartfelt thanks to all of you for your support of the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal and our Belleville Diocese in the past year. You are remembered always in our prayers.
Ministries and Programs Funded by
The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal

The Aviston Sons of American Legion 2026 Black Tie and Talent Show will be on **Sat. Jan. 10th,2026 @** 5:00 pm at the Aviston American Legion in Aviston IL. This formal event is a talent and glamour contest where we give away over \$10,000 in scholarships to (8) college bound contestants. We are selling tickets for the event at \$50.00 each. Ticket includes: happy hour, 4-course meal, talent contest, late night entertainment. Interested contestants can tryout at a **down select** competition at Aviston Legion at 6:00 pm on **Friday, Dec 19th.** A 3-minute speech on a topic of the contestant’s choice and a talent demonstration is required. Any Clinton County residents who will attend college or trade school in 2026 can enter contest. For tickets or entry info text: Jim Kues 618-973-5688 or Craig Timmermann 618-830-7737.

Our Village of Albers 2025 HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST WINNERS are:

1st Place - 103 Wildwood Drive, Scott & Lynette H.

2nd Place - 405 W. Dwight Street, Austin & Shannon H.

3rd Place - 501 W. State Route 161, Ben K & Jesse P.

4th Place - 602 N. Broadway Street, Tim & Diane L.

5th Place - 404 DelRay Drive, Tom & Diane W.

Mayor's Choice - 603 Rosewood Drive, Jacob R.

****Christ in Christmas - 103 Wildwood Drive, Scott & Lynette H.****

Congratulations to our winners! Thank you to everyone for decorating your homes for the holidays, Albers is certainly bright and cheery! MERRY CHRISTMAS!

CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY (HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS): Find the latest information at <http://www.stbernardandstdamian.org/catholic-youth-ministry.html>