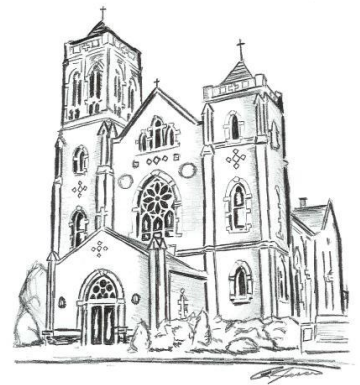




*Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time
February 15, 2026*



Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy them, but to fulfill them

Matthew 5:17
Knowing-Jesus.com

WEBSITE:

www.stbernardandstdamian.org

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

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, FEBRUARY 16th
NO MASS OR SERVICE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17th
Prayer Service
7:45 am @ St. Bernard (School)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18th

ASH WEDNESDAY
Mass in St. Damian Church
7:45 am @ St. Damian
Franklin & Marian Eversgerd
Prayer Service with Ashes
7:45 am @ St. Bernard (School)
Mass in St. Damian Church
7:00 pm @ St. Damian (St. Bernard Ministries)
For the People

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19th

Mass in School
7:45 am @ St. Bernard
For the People

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20th

NO MASS/NO SERVICE
7:00 PM @ St. Damian Church
Way of the Cross Stations

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21st

Mass in Church-St. Bernard Ministries
4:00 pm @ St. Damian
Bernard & Honey Brueggemann

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd

Mass in Church-St. Damian Ministries
9:30 am @ St. Damian
Clarence Goebel

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

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sirach 15:15-20; 1 Corinthians 2: 6-10; Matthew 5:17-37

Keeping the commandments will save us, Sirach says in the first reading, for God's wisdom is infinite and all-powerful. In the Gospel, Jesus expands on four commandments in particular, laying out their implications and explaining the spirit of each. For those who take the commandments to heart, the kingdom of heaven awaits. Let us examine our consciences, conscious that we have the power to choose between good and evil, between life and death.

HAPPENINGS/MEETINGS:

Sunday, February 15th

Baptism of Veronica Rensing

8:30 am @ St. Damian Church

Mass in Church – St. Damian Ministries

9:30 am @ St. Damian Church

Hispanic Mass in Church

11:00 am @ St. Damian Church

Monday, February 16th

NO MASS/NO SERVICE

Tuesday, February 17th

Prayer Service

7:45 am @ Albers School

St. Damian Adult Choir Practice

7:00 pm @ St. Damian Church

Wednesday, February 18th - Ash Wednesday

Mass In Church

7:45 am @ St. Damian

Prayer Service w/ Ashes

7:45 am @ Albers School

Mass in Church

7:00 pm @ St. Damian

Thursday, February 19th

Mass in School

7:45 am @ Albers School

Friday, February 20th

NO MASS/SERVICE

Stations of the Cross

7:00 pm @ St. Damian Church

Saturday, February 21st

Mass in Church – St. Bernard Ministries

4:00 pm @ St. Damian

Sunday, February 22nd

St. Damian Youth Choir Practice

8:30 am @ St. Damian Church

Mass in Church – St. Damian Ministries

9:30 am @ St. Damian Church

Hispanic Mass in Church

11:00 am @ St. Damian Church

Baptism of Spencer Olivia Theising

12:30 pm @ St. Damian W/ Deacon Kevin

"BLESSED ARE THEY WHO FOLLOW THE LAW OF THE LORD!"

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. DAMIAN & ST. BERNARD LENTEN FOOD DRIVE. Lent is just around the corner. A great way to observe the season is by performing sacrifices like corporals works of mercy. Our Faith Formation programs will be offering the opportunity to feed the hungry. We will once again have a food drive for the Cairo Community and the Diocesan Daystar Program. Rather than dropping off bags and asking you to fill them up for us to pick up, we are asking that you either drop off the items in church, send to school with a Faith Formation Student, or drop off at Jackie Toennies' house. Of course, you are welcome to donate any non-perishable food item but those most needed at this time are canned chicken, Hamburger helper, cornbread mix, oatmeal, protein bars, boxed potatoes of any sort, crackers. If you plan to participate, please bring your donation by March 30. Thank you for feeding the poor!

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

ST. DAMIAN PARISH CONCERNS:

CHURCH SUPPORT: February 8th

Loose: \$249.00+ Envelope (24): \$1,506.00
+ Spanish Mass: \$737.00 \$2,492.00
Budget for week: \$3,536.00
Fiscal year-to-date collected: \$102,191.25
Fiscal year-to-date budget: \$109,616.00
Over (under) year-to-date budget: (\$7,424.75)
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.)

Thank you for your continued support!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE – February 22nd

Ministers: Rosann Horstmann, Erin Korte, Arlene Korte
Ushers: Bud Jansen, Garry Kalmer
Servers: Collins, Delaney & Paislyn Horstmann
Reader: Susan Lynch
Cantors: Chris Brandmeyer
Organist: Jan Hitch
Coll. Counters: Kristy Richter, Sandy Kramer
Thank you for being ministers of your parish!

ATTENTION ST. DAMIAN YOUTH CHOIR!

Practice for Easter will begin on Sunday, Feb 22 at 8:30am (before Sunday mass). All youth in grades 3-12 and college-age youth are encouraged to join the youth choir. All voices welcome! St. Damian Youth Choir will sing on Easter Sunday morning, April 5, at 9:30am mass. If kids or parents have any questions, please call Jackie at 618-335-9562 or Geri at 618-444-5073. We look forward to seeing lots of smiling faces on Feb 22 at 8:30am!! :-)

The St. Damian Adult Choir will began rehearsals for Palm Sunday on Tuesday, February 10 at 7:00. New members are always welcome and are definitely needed. Practices are held on most Tuesdays at 7:00 and usually last less than 1 hour. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Brandmeyer at 618-792-2676.

The St. Damians Altar Sodality Mexican Fish

Fry! Thank you to everyone who worked, purchased food and cleaned up for this event. Special thanks to Jan Hitch for organizing the event this year. It is truly appreciated!

ST. BERNARD PARISH CONCERNS:

CHURCH SUPPORT: February 7th

Loose: \$164.00+Envelopes: (20) \$2,250.00
\$2,414.00
Budget for week: \$3,385.00
Fiscal year-to-date collected: \$97,771.52
Fiscal year-to-date budget: \$104,935.00
Over (under) year-to-date budget: (\$7,163.48)
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.)

Thank you for your continued support!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE – February 21st

Ministers: Melissa Netemeyer, Ken & Liz Nussbaumer
Reader: Steve Schomaker
Ushers: Brian & Janel Zurliene
Servers: Madison Athmer, Cole Huegen, Liam Jung
Coll. Count: James Williams, Tina Wuebbels, Janel Zurliene

ST. BERNARD'S CHURCH RENOVATIONS ARE WELL UNDER WAY.

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 began 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 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!***

Albers/Damiansville Friends of the Cougars Fish Fry will begin on Ash Wednesday and will run every Friday night throughout Lent from 4:30-7:30. All plates include baked potato or fries, slaw, applesauce or macaroni salad & 2 hush puppies. Hand battered cod chunks, catfish filets or jumbo shrimp. Small & large plates available for dine-in or carryout.

St Michael's Men's Club of Paderborn is sponsoring a Euchre Tournament on Saturday, February 28 at 7:00 PM. Doors open at 6:00 PM. All you can drink beer and soda and all you can eat fried chicken at the end of the last round. Text Rich Kreher 314-341-4904 with any questions

St. Mary Parish invites you to our Last One Standing Reverse Raffle on Saturday, February 21, 2026, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1471 Fairfax Street, Carlyle, IL 62231. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. with dinner from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Tickets are twenty dollars and admit one person with a chance at great cash prizes, including two \$1,000 for first prize, or \$2500 if you are present. Enjoy music, games, silent and live auctions, and a cash bar. All are welcome for a fun night in support of St. Mary Parish.

HEARTS AFLAME, an evening to celebrate and deepen love for couples married 10 years or less, March 7 at Corpus Christi Church in Shiloh, IL. Cocktails at 5:30 with dinner at 6:15. Tickets are \$50 a couple and include dinner, drinks, talks and blessing by Fr. Robert Flannery, dance lesson and babysitting. Email Molly King at mking@diobelle.org or Please RSVP to www.diobelle.org/life-marriage-family/events. QR code on parish website.

Mater Dei Mothers and Friends Dinner Auction: A Knight at the Derby. Join us for a night of fun, fellowship, and fundraising at the Mater Dei Mothers and Friends Dinner Auction on March 21st, 2026 at Mater Dei High School! Doors open at 5:00 PM. The theme for the evening is A Knight at the Derby, so come dressed for a night of derby fun! Tickets for the dinner auction and raffles can be purchased by scanning the QR code. Raffle forms are also in the back of the church, available to mail in. Don't miss out on this special event and opportunity to support Mater Dei. See you there! Auction Tickets and Raffle Tickets, please visit: MDDERBY.givesmart.com

RESPECT LIFE CORNER: "We often assume parenthood happens easily after 'I do,' but for many married couples, it does not. For some, the joy of conception never happens. Others suffer repeated miscarriages. Still others experience secondary infertility... If you experience difficulty bringing a child into your family, know that you are not alone. God is with you, and his Church desires to walk with you... God has a beautiful plan for your life as a married couple."

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. Send check to Diocese of Belleville, 222 South Third Street, Belleville, IL 62220. More information at www.stannecradleofhope.org.

The Messenger Newspaper Subscription Renewal Weekend was Feb. 7-8. Please stay connected with your Diocese through a subscription to *The Messenger* Catholic Newspaper. Payments can be made via your Messenger envelope or by credit card at www.bellevillemessenger.org and click SUBSCRIBE or call 618-722-5045 during business hours for phone payment. The cost for a 1-year subscription is \$40 for printed, home-delivery, \$35 for digital access and \$45 for both. **Please make checks payable to The Messenger and make sure to include your e-mail address if digital subscription is selected.**

VOCATION CORNER! "When I was little, I remember a teacher asking me, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Right away, I envisioned myself drawing buildings and houses. I wanted to become an architect. That dream became real but in a different way, for God had another blueprint for my life – to help build his kingdom. When I was 25 years old, I attended a "Come and See" retreat with the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit, not knowing what to expect. During that retreat, I realized I liked living in community, and I also love centering everything around the Eucharist. Letting go of my dreams of becoming an architect and of getting married was difficult, but I sensed a deep fire within me that could not be contained. I thought, "This is something I could happily see myself doing." Now, 20 years after joining the congregation, I'm blessed to serve as vocations director and a spiritual director. In this way, I firmly believe I am building God's kingdom as an architect for the Lord." Bro. Lucio Galicia; Missionaries of the Holy Spirit; Columbia Magazine, Sept 2025.

Quest - a 2-day faith experience for Freshmen and Sophomores. Learn about your relationships with yourself, others and God in fun ways -February 28-March 1 at St. Augustine parish Belleville IL. Sign up at www.bellevilletec.org. Any questions, please contact bellevillequest@gmail.com.

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