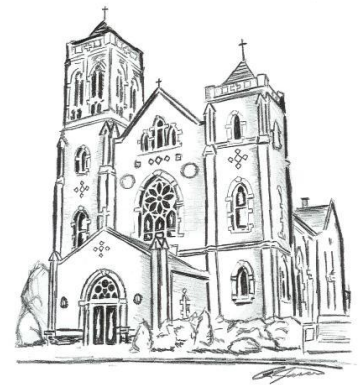




*First Sunday of Lent
February 22, 2026*



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, FEBRUARY 23rd

Prayer Service
7:45 am @ St. Damian Church

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24th

Prayer Service
7:45 am @ St. Bernard (School)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25th

Mass in St. Damian Church
7:45 am @ St. Damian
For the People

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26th

Mass in School
7:45 am @ St. Bernard
For the Intention of the Catholic Extension Donors

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27th

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28th

Mass in Church-St. Bernard Ministries
4:00 pm @ St. Damian
Albin Toennies
Living & Deceased Members of the
Lewis & Agnes Huegen Family

SUNDAY, MARCH 1st

Mass in Church-St. Damian Ministries
9:30 am @ St. Damian
Henry, Lucille, Glennon & Marvin Albers
Clara Schneider
St. Marciana Heimann
Rich & Darlene Toennies
Geri Brandmeyer
Joe & Lorraine Brandmeyer

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

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Genesis 2: 7-9, 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4: 1-11

On the first Sunday of Lent, we are reminded how easy it is to succumb to temptation. We are faced with it every day and it seems magnified during Lent. Today, we hear how Adam and Eve gave in to temptation while Jesus resisted it. Jesus found strength in the word of God, which he used effectively to outduel the devil in the desert. Let us listen now to God's powerful word, aware that Jesus' use of it to resist temptation enables us to share in his righteousness.

HAPPENINGS/MEETINGS:

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

Monday, February 23rd

Prayer Service

7:45 am @ St. Damian Church

Tuesday, February 24th

Prayer Service

7:45 am @ Albers School

St. Damian Adult Choir Practice

7:00 pm @ St. Damian Church

Wednesday, February 25th

Mass In Church

7:45 am @ St. Damian

Eucharistic Adoration

6:00 pm @ St. Damian Church

Thursday, February 26th

Mass in School

7:45 am @ Albers School

Friday, February 27th

NO MASS/SERVICE

Stations of the Cross

7:00 pm @ St. Damian Church

Saturday, February 28th

Mass in Church – St. Bernard Ministries

4:00 pm @ St. Damian

Sunday, March 1st

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

***“BE MERCIFUL, OH LORD,
FOR WE HAVE SINNED.”***

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 corporal 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, drop off at Jackie Toennies' house or drop off at Albers Village Hall. 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!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PLANNING MEETING. We will have a meeting for all those interested in helping with Vacation Bible School this summer on March 2 at 6:00 pm at St. Damian Rectory Meeting Room. Everyone welcome to come help and enjoy some time with the PSR children this summer.

ST. DAMIAN PARISH CONCERNS:

CHURCH SUPPORT: February 15th

Loose: \$182.00+ Envelope (30): \$3,100.00
+ Spanish Mass: \$272.00
+ ACH For February 16th: \$550.00 \$4,104.00
Budget for week: \$3,536.00
Fiscal year-to-date collected: \$106,080.25
Fiscal year-to-date budget: \$113,152.00
Over (under) year-to-date budget: (\$7,071.75)
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.)

MINISTRY SCHEDULE – March 1st

Ministers: Ken Mank, Diana Jansen, Deb Santel
Ushers: Brent Goebel, Ron Horstmann
Servers: Miranda Richter, Charlie & Henry Sauer
Reader: Jackie Toennies
Cantors: Kristy Richter
Organist: Chris Brandmeyer
Coll. Counters: Kathleen Hodges, Kathy Gonsalves

ST. DAMIAN ANNUAL WURSTMARKT will be held on Sunday, March 22 from 10:30-5:30. Dine-in and Carry outs available. Please be on the lookout for workers list.

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 began rehearsals for Palm Sunday. New members are always welcome and are definitely needed. Practices are held on most Tuesdays at 7:00 and last less than 1 hour. If you have questions, please contact Chris Brandmeyer at 618-792-2676.

A big **THANK YOU** to all who helped with the **Mexican Fish Fry**. Your help made a difference to make this event a success. Many hands make light work! Thanks also for the donations from El Arado Mexican Restaurant, Dairy King, 7 West, Fermin Herrera and his family for 100 tamales, and Buzz Seelhofer and Kevin Zurliene. There was certainly a big crowd. We served 462 plates which is 77 less than last year, and we are on track for a profit of \$8,500 for the St. Damian Ladies Sodality organization. Thanks again for all your help. Mark your calendars, next year the potential date will be February 5, 2027.

ST. BERNARD PARISH CONCERNS:

CHURCH SUPPORT: February 14th

Loose: \$96.00+Envelopes: (36) \$5,873.00
+ ACH For February 16th: \$2,950.00 \$8,919.00
Budget for week: \$3,385.00
Fiscal year-to-date collected: \$106,690.52
Fiscal year-to-date budget: \$108,320.00
Over (under) year-to-date budget: (\$1,629.48)
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 28th

Ministers: Tina Haas, Steve & Deb Schomaker
Reader: Ken Nussbaumer
Ushers: Nick & Kathy Friederich
Servers: Aiden Rudolphi, Cameron Warnecke, Gavin Wellen
Coll. Count: Keith Richter, Sean Kennedy, Dana Lake

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!

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS JANUARY WINNERS.

\$400 Rich Wuebbels, \$60 Toennies Service Co. and Dan Reeves

KC's annual free throw contest. The winners of the contest were Emily Jansen, Dylann Netemeyer, Emmerson Netemeyer, Crew Horstmann, Wyatt Barger, Will Jansen, Dylan Wuebbels, Bennett Winterbottom, Paislyn Horstmann, and Tucker Swinney.

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.

Breakfast at Albers Legion, Sunday March 1st, 8 to 11. Adults \$15.00, \$7.00 Kids 5-12, under 5 free. Adults carry outs available
Serving sausage, ham, pancakes, eggs, fried potatoes and Biscuit & gravy, milk & orange juice.

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.

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.

Reverse Drawing-St Augustine Church, Breese – March 7th, Saturday at Breese KC Hall. Your \$50 ticket includes fried chicken & drinks for two and a chance at the \$4,000 top prize, plus \$500 prizes for 2nd–4th place and \$50 for every 20th ticket drawn. You do not need be to present to win. Contact Dorise Schulte at 618-304-4174 or schulte@prodigy.net for tickets.

St. Dominic's Chicken Dinner, Sunday March 8 from 11-5. 4 piece chicken dinner or 3 piece chicken tender dinner with mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, dressing, slaw & dessert. \$15 per plate.

Support our Lookingglass EMS District by taking a chance to WIN our Cash Raffle!!! Enter to WIN the \$1,000 1st Prize or \$500 2nd Prize! *Drawing will be March 18, 2026. *\$10/ticket. *Need not be present to win! Stop by Albers Village Hall to get your tix or Venmo @Brenda-Morris-67. Proceeds directly benefit operations of Lookingglass EMS District.

St. Damian Holy Name Annual Wurstmarkt will be Sunday, March 22 from 10:30-5:30 at St. Damian Gym. Dine in or carry out. Pork Sausage, Sauerkraut, Mashed potatoes & gravy, Green Beans, Cor & Dessert.

National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows – Visitors Center. Church History Series: A History of Heaven and Hell. Presenter: Mark Etling, PhD. Saturdays, March 14, 21, 28, 2026, from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. A History of Heaven and Hell. For centuries, thinkers both religious and secular have pondered the mystery of the afterlife. What happens when we die? Is there a place of eternal bliss – or eternal punishment? Will everyone experience happiness in the afterlife – or just some? Will we continue to exist at all? In this three-session series, we will explore the mystery of heaven and hell as it evolved in ancient Greek thought, in ancient Judaism, at the time of Jesus and in the theology of early Christianity. Cost: \$15 per session/\$45 for the series. Register online at snows.org/church-history-series or call 618-394-6281.

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

Singles Late 50s and Above: Are you looking for a renewed sense of purpose & belonging? Register today for a life-changing RENEW weekend retreat at the Pallottine Retreat Center (30 min from downtown St. Louis), on April 10-12, 2026. Take a chance and get involved... you won't regret it! Visit www.RenewRetreats.org, e-mail renewretreat.stl@gmail.com, or call (314) 703-1002 for details.

Honor Your Loved Ones on Easter with a Personalized Tribute in the Messenger. Tributes will appear in the April 10th Messenger. Email advertising@bellevilemessenger.org. Send the name in Loving Memory of to Easter Tributes, The Messenger, 222 S. Third Street, Belleville, IL 62220 by March 20. \$20 donation for each name should be included with your request.

RESPECT LIFE CORNER: “The essence of our identity is that we are created in God's image and likeness and loved by Him. Nothing can diminish the priceless worth of any human life. Every person is cherished.” USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities Respect Life Reflection: Cherished, Chosen, Sent

VOCATION CORNER! ““From a young age, I desired to be noticed by Jesus in a particular way. By age 13, Good Friday left me with an ache to suffer with the crucified Lord. At age 16, I read the Song of Songs and declared “I want a love like that.” Jesus became my first love. Though I was open to religious life, I also love the idea of marriage. In college, I replaced Jesus as the center of my life with the man I thought I'd marry. Deep down, I felt Jesus' claim on my life and fought against Him for it, in restless pursuit of a tangible spouse. But Jesus brought me to surrender. In the Eucharistic presence of the divine bridegroom the attraction of all earthly bridegrooms faded away. Jesus gave himself entirely for me on the cross. I now yearned to give my whole self to him. Today, as a Passionist nun, I stand at the foot of the Cross, wedded to Redeeming Love. Jesus crucified does not disappoint. He is the fairest bridegroom of all.”

Mater Dei Class of 2030 Registration Continues. Families who were unable to attend “opening day” of registration for Mater Dei's Class of 2030 are invited to contact Mrs. Maria Zurliene to schedule an appointment (mzurliene@materdeiknights.org or 618-526-7216). While there is no deadline for registration, the application for scholarships is due May 1. Applications for memorial grants are accepted on a continual basis.

Mater Dei Jeans Drive Through February 26. Mater Dei's Theology Department is hosting a men's jeans drive for the benefit of St. Vincent de Paul Society - Belleville Council! Deliver your donation of clean, gently-worn men's jeans to the Mater Dei office through Thursday, February 26 (M - F, 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.).

Mater Dei Baseball Camp: March 1, 12:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Mater Dei's Baseball Knights look forward to hosting grade school students (grades 3 – 8) at their baseball camp on Sunday, March 1, from 12 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.! The cost is \$40 for an individual camper or \$60 for two or more campers from the same family. Detailed information and registration forms (online and printable) are available on Mater Dei's website: www.materdeiknights.org/camp-baseball. (The deadline to guarantee a shirt is February 21.)

Mater Dei Winter Concert: March 1, 6:00 p.m. Enjoy performances by Mater Dei's concert band, wind and percussion chamber ensembles, and soloists at their Winter Concert on Sunday, March 1, at 6:00 p.m., in the main gym.

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