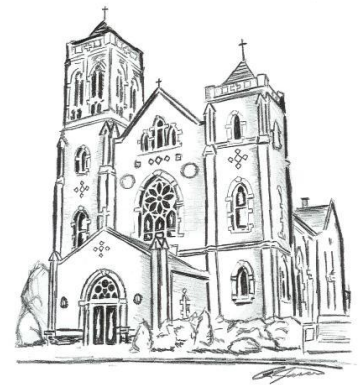




*Second Sunday of Lent
March 1st, 2026*



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, MARCH 2nd

Prayer Service

7:45 am @ St. Damian Church

TUESDAY, MARCH 3rd

Prayer Service

7:45 am @ St. Bernard (School)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4th

Mass in St. Damian Church

7:45 am @ St. Damian
Bernard & Honey Brueggemann

THURSDAY, MARCH 5th

Mass in School

7:45 am @ St. Bernard
For the People

FRIDAY, MARCH 6th

NO MASS/NO SERVICE

7:00 PM @ St. Damian Church
Way of the Cross Stations

SATURDAY, MARCH 7th

Mass in Church-St. Bernard Ministries

4:00 pm @ St. Damian
Eugene Schneider

SUNDAY, MARCH 8th

Mass in Church-St. Damian Ministries

9:30 am @ St. Damian
Vince & Leona Eilering
Edwin & Eileen Bietelspacher

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

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Genesis 12:1–4a; 2 Timothy 1:8b–10; Matthew 17:1–9

“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” we hear in today’s Gospel as Jesus is transfigured at the top of a high mountain. “Listen to him.” Listening is important, so important that it is the Father’s sole command to the three disciples who accompanied Jesus up the mountain. Let us now obey that command and listen to God’s word—to Abraham, from Paul to Timothy, and Matthew’s account of the Transfiguration—for we too are the Son’s disciples, eager to grow in faith and understanding.

HAPPENINGS/MEETINGS:

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

Monday, March 2nd

Prayer Service

7:45 am @ St. Damian Church

Tuesday, March 3rd

Prayer Service

7:45 am @ Albers School

St. Bernard Finance Council Meeting

6:00 pm @ St. Bernard Rectory

St. Bernard Parish Council Meeting

7:00 pm @ St. Bernard Rectory

St. Damian Adult Choir Practice

7:00 pm @ St. Damian Church

Wednesday, March 4th

Mass In Church

7:45 am @ St. Damian

Eucharistic Adoration

6:00 pm @ St. Damian Church

Thursday, March 5th

Mass in School

7:45 am @ Albers School

Friday, March 6th

NO MASS/SERVICE

Stations of the Cross

7:00 pm @ St. Damian Church

Saturday, March 7th

Mass in Church – St. Damian Ministries

4:00 pm @ St. Damian

Sunday, March 8th

St. Damian Youth Choir Practice

8:30 am @ St. Damian Church

Mass in Church – St. Bernard Ministries

9:30 am @ St. Damian Church

Hispanic Mass in Church

11:00 am @ St. Damian Church

***“LORD, LET YOUR MERCY BE ON US,
AS WE PLACE OUR TRUST IN YOU.”***

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, 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!

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

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 22nd

Loose: \$184.00+ Envelope (15): \$1,205.00
+ Spanish Mass: \$1,018.00 \$2,407.00
Budget for week: \$3,536.00
Fiscal year-to-date collected: \$108,487.25
Fiscal year-to-date budget: \$116,688.00
Over (under) year-to-date budget: (\$8,200.75)
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 – March 7th

Ministers: Mech Toennies, Denise Luitjohan, Kennedy Toennies
Ushers: Brad & Kristy Richter
Servers: Trey & Blakelyn Stiebel, Nolan Hemker
Reader: Rosann Horstmann
Cantors: Chris Brandmeyer
Organist: Geri Varel
Coll. Counters: Gwen Toennies, Adam Fuehne
Thank you for being ministers of your parish!

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!

Practices for Easter have begun! We practice in church on Sunday mornings at 8:30am! All youth in grades 3-12 and college-age youth are encouraged to join us. 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 at practice on Sunday mornings 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.

ST. BERNARD PARISH CONCERNS:

CHURCH SUPPORT: February 21st

Loose: \$106.00+Envelopes: (30) \$2,080.00
+ Paypal Donations (2) \$134.63 \$2,320.63
Budget for week: \$3,385.00
Fiscal year-to-date collected: \$109,011.15
Fiscal year-to-date budget: \$111,705.00
Over (under) year-to-date budget: (\$2,693.85)
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 – March 8th

Ministers: Robbin Netemeyer, Tina Wuebbels, Kristen Templin
Reader: Kelly Jansen
Ushers: Ken & Dana Lake
Servers: Cole Huegen, Liam Jung, Carter Eubanks
Coll. Count: Keith Richter, Sean Kennedy, Janel Zurliene
Thank you for being ministers of your parish!

ST. BERNARD'S CHURCH RENOVATIONS ARE WELL UNDER WAY. The scaffolds are down and it is looking beautiful. Flooring installation is beginning. Therefore, the doors will be locked until renovations are completed to ensure no one walks on the new flooring.

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 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 at any time. 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.

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.

Bartelso Firemen's Wurstmarkt, Sunday, March 8, from 11-5 at Bartelso School. Pork Sausage, Sauerkraut, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Applesauce, Dessert.

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, Corn & Dessert.

The North Central Vicariate Council of Catholic Women (NCVCCW) and the ladies of St. Theresa of Avila Parish, Salem invite all women to the NCVCCW Spring Meeting & Day of Spiritual Reflection on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, from 8:00 AM–2:30 PM at St. Theresa's Parish Center.

The day will focus on prayer and spiritual renewal and includes: An inspiring keynote, "Let Your Faith Shine Through Prayer", A practical session on meaningful prayer traditions for daily life, A panel sharing how prayer sustains women through every stage of life. Cost is \$25 (includes lunch). Registration forms are available at your parish office or from your CCW/Sodality President. Join your sisters in Christ for a joyful and faith-filled day!

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@bellevillemessenger.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 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.

The Diocese of Belleville is seeking a Buildings and Grounds Technician. The person in this position performs routine maintenance and repairs on building systems – plumbing, electrical, HVAC, carpentry, etc., and inspects and monitors safety equipment. The Buildings and Grounds Technician manages and repairs equipment, vehicles, and building furnishings such as boilers, furnace filters, and floor drains; works closely with outside contractors and vendors for specialized repairs and projects; responsible for snow/ice removal; and assists with lawn maintenance. Essential qualifications include a minimum of a high school diploma or GED, and five or more years' experience with building maintenance and repairs. A practicing Catholic preferred with thorough knowledge and understanding of Catholic teachings, practices, and organizational structure. To apply: Send cover letter and résumé to Catholic Diocese of Belleville at humanresources@diobelle.org or by mail at 222 South Third Street, Belleville, Illinois 62220. Application deadline: March 13, 2026.

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