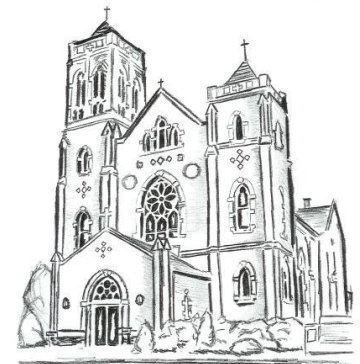




*Palm Sunday  
March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026*



**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](http://www.stbernardandstdamian.org)

**BISHOP OF BELLEVILLE:**

*Bishop Godfrey Mullen, OSB*

**PASTOR:**

*Father Matthew Elie*

Office Phone: (618) 248-5112

**PASTORAL ASSOCIATE & DRE:**

*Deacon Glenn Netemeyer*

Email: [deaconglen36@gmail.com](mailto:deaconglen36@gmail.com)

Cell Phone: 618-772-9343

Office at St. Damian

**PERMANENT DEACON:**

*Deacon Kevin Templin*

Email: [deaconkevin18@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:stdamian1861@gmail.com)

Email: [st.bernard@charter.net](mailto: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](mailto:hispanicministrymg@gmail.com)

**CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTER:**

*Michelle "Shelly" Schuetz*

Email: [maschuetz@hotmail.com](mailto:maschuetz@hotmail.com)

Cell Phone: 618-401-6007

**MASS SCHEDULE:**

**MONDAY, MARCH 30<sup>th</sup>**

*Prayer Service*

7:45 am @ St. Damian Church

**TUESDAY, MARCH 31<sup>st</sup>**

*Prayer Service*

7:45 am @ St. Bernard (School)

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1<sup>st</sup>**

*Mass in Church*

7:45 am @ St. Damian

For the People

**THURSDAY, APRIL 2<sup>nd</sup> - Holy Thursday**

*Mass in Church – St. Bernard Ministries*

7:00 pm at St. Damian

**FRIDAY, APRIL 3<sup>rd</sup>-Good Friday**

2:00 PM @ St. Damian Church-Good Friday Services

w/ St. Bernard Ministries

4:30 pm @ St. Damian-Way of the Cross in Spanish

6:00 pm @ St. Damian-Way of the Cross Stations

**SATURDAY, APRIL 4<sup>th</sup> – Holy Saturday**

*Mass in Church-St. Bernard Ministries*

8:00 pm @ St. Damian

For The People

**SUNDAY, APRIL 5<sup>th</sup>-EASTER SUNDAY**

*Mass in Church*

8:00 am @ St. Damian w/ St. Damian Ministries

Melvin Toennies

9:30 am @ St. Damian w/ St. Bernard Ministries

John Musenbrock

*Hispanic Mass in Church*

11:00 AM @ St. Damian

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah 50:4–7; Philippians 2:6–11 or 11:3–7, Matthew 26:14–27:66

The climax of today's liturgy of the word is a climax befitting a Hollywood blockbuster. Saint Matthew's account of Jesus' death is the most dramatic of the four Gospels. When Jesus breathes his last, the earth quakes, tombs burst open, and the sanctuary veil is torn apart. The soldiers at the foot of the cross, blown away by all of these natural and spiritual phenomena, look up at Christ and proclaim, "Truly, this was the Son of God." At the last moment of Jesus' earthly life, these witnesses have received the gift of faith. May our faith be strengthened as we listen as we do each year at this time to the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ

### HAPPENINGS/MEETINGS:

**Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**

*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

*Baptism of Ava Marie Benhoff & Eloise Ann*

*Diekmann @ 12:30 am @ St. Damian w/ Deacon Kevin*

**Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>**

*Prayer Service*

7:45 am @ St. Damian Church

**Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>**

*Prayer Service*

7:45 am @ Albers School

*St. Damian Adult Choir Practice*

7:00 pm @ St. Damian Church

**Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>**

*Mass In Church*

7:45 am @ St. Damian

*Eucharistic Adoration*

6:00 pm @ St. Damian Church

**Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> - Holy Thursday**

*Mass at Church w/ St. Bernard Ministries*

7:00 pm @ St. Damian

**Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> - Good Friday**

*Service in Church w. St. Bernard Ministries*

2:00 pm @ St. Damian

*Stations of the Cross*

4:30 pm @ St. Damian Church in Spanish

6:00 pm @ St. Damian Church

**Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> - Holy Saturday**

*Mass in Church – St. Bernard Ministries*

8:00 pm @ St. Damian

**Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> -Easter Sunday**

*Mass in Church – St. Damian Ministries*

8:00 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

Easter egg hunt after Hispanic Mass. All welcome!

***"WITH THE LORD THERE IS MERCY AND FULLNESS OF REDEMPTION."***

### The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal - Commitment Weekend.

On behalf of Father Godfrey Mullen, Bishop Elect, and diocesan ministries and programs, a most heartfelt thanks to all those who have already responded with a gift to the 2026 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal. If you have not done so as yet, there's still plenty of time. One-time donations or pledges – in any amount – are needed and can be made through your parish or at [www.diobelle.org](http://www.diobelle.org) (click on "Giving to the Diocese"). Your generosity supports 17 agencies and programs that daily serve thousands of people. Please consider making your gift today or at any time you are able in the coming months. We also ask for your prayers for the success of this year's appeal and all those we serve. Thank you and may God bless you always.

### 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!

**We congratulate bishop-Elect Godfrey Mullen, OSB, on his appointment to the Diocese of Belleville by our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV.** He has distinguished himself as a college professor, an able administrator and a proven pastor, serving the People of God and the Church with humility and devotion for more than 30 years. We are confident he will be a strong and compassionate leader for the Belleville diocese, and we look forward to working with him.



**MATER DEI FATHERS AND FRIENDS PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST: Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at Mater Dei from 8:00 – 12:00.**

Serving sausage, pancakes, eggs, potatoes, cornbread, biscuits and gravy. Milk, juice and coffee available for dine in.

**EASTER EGG HUNT ~ 1pm Saturday, April 04, 2026. American Legion Post #1026, Albers, IL.** \*Children will be divided into age groups: 0-2, 3-4 5-6, 7-8, 9-10. \*Prizes awarded in each age group! \*Please bring donations of personal care items (*soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, small snacks, etc.*) or non-perishable canned goods for the VA Hospitals, Wounded Warriors or Clinton County needy. \*Each child will receive a bag of Easter treats. \*Rain or shine!

**EASTER EGG HUNT at Noon on Easter Sunday** at St. Damian Church grounds sponsored by the Hispanic Community. All are welcome to attend.

**Albers/Damiansville Friends of the Cougars Fish Fry** 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.

**Chakota's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual "The Mane Event" fundraiser:** Join us at the Albers American Legion on Saturday, March 28th, 2026 for a fun night to raise money for your local non-profit equine therapy center! Tickets are \$40 per person in advance, or \$45 per person at the door. Includes a happy hour, great dinner, and dessert. Doors open at 4:00 pm, happy hour from 4:30 to 6 and dinner and silent auction are from 5 to 7 pm. That is followed by a live auction and music/dancing. Contact Jan Reinhardt at 618-604-6994 for tickets or to donate an item for the auction.

**OPERATION DIAPER DROP is coming March 2026!** Thank you for supporting our Metro East Diaper Bank! Diapers and monetary donations are always accepted at Albers Village Hall for local families served by the Metro East Diaper Bank! \*Diapers and monetary donations gratefully accepted! Venmo @diaperbank. \*Diapers may be shipped directly to Albers Village Hall, 206 W. Dwight Street, Albers, IL 62215-0132

**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](http://www.RenewRetreats.org), e-mail [renewretreat.stl@gmail.com](mailto:renewretreat.stl@gmail.com), or call (314) 703-1002 for info.

**CHICKEN DINNER: St. Felicitas Church, Beaver Prairie, 13322 Church Road, Carlyle, IL, March 29. Serving 11 A.M. - 5 P.M.** Drive-thru only. \$15. Dinner includes half fried chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, applesauce, slaw, gravy and dressing.

**RESPECT LIFE CORNER:** March 25th marks the anniversary of the papal encyclical Evangelium vitae (The Gospel of Life). Written by Pope St. John Paul II in 1995, this document on the value and inviolability of every human life remains an indispensable source of truth for all people. It reaffirms the "greatness and the inestimable value of human life" (EV 2) and addresses present-day legal, ethical, and moral threats to life.

**IT'S GOLDEN EGG TIME AGAIN.** St. Dominic is having their 27th Annual Golden Egg Raffle, with GRAND PRIZE OF \$20,000!! There are five \$1,000 winners and two \$500 winners. ALL DRAWINGS take place on Easter Sunday, April 5th. Tickets are \$50 and are available in the breezeway & the Parish Office.

**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](mailto: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.

**STUKENBERG-EILERMANN AMERICAN LEGION POST 1026 SCHOLARSHIP.** The Legion and its Auxiliary are each awarding a \$750 scholarship. Applicant must be a son, daughter, grandchild, or great-grandchild whose parent, grandparent, or great-grandparent or legal guardian (living or deceased) is or was a member of Stukenberg-Eilermann Post 1026 Legion or Auxiliary. Applications may be picked up at the Albers 'Legion, Monday – Friday from 9-11 a.m. and Sundays from 1-5 p.m., or by calling the Scholarship Chairman, Tamara Farrington at 618-531-6734. Submit a complete application to Stukenberg-Eilermann Post 1026, 600 N. Bertha St, Albers, IL 62215 or [AL1026Sch@yahoo.com](mailto:AL1026Sch@yahoo.com) by April 7th.

**VILLAGE OF ALBERS & DAMIANVILLE SPRING YARD SALES,** Saturday, May 9, 7:00 am – 2:00 pm. Details on Village of Albers Facebook Page. Sellers Include address and information on our Facebook page.

**GOOD FRIDAY HOLY LAND COLLECTION.** Pope Leo XIV has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Holy Land Collection which will be held on Good Friday. Your support helps the Church to minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools and offer religious education to our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land. The collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines. In times of crisis, the Pontifical Holy Land Collection also provides humanitarian aid to refugees. When you contribute to the collection, you become an instrument of peace and join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. For additional information go to [mail@myfranciscan.com](mailto:mail@myfranciscan.com). Please be generous!

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