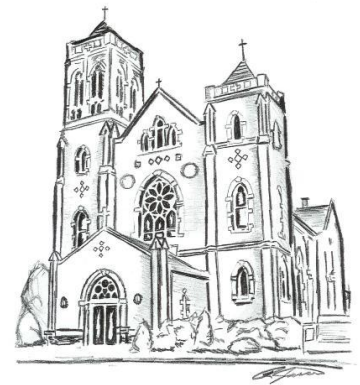


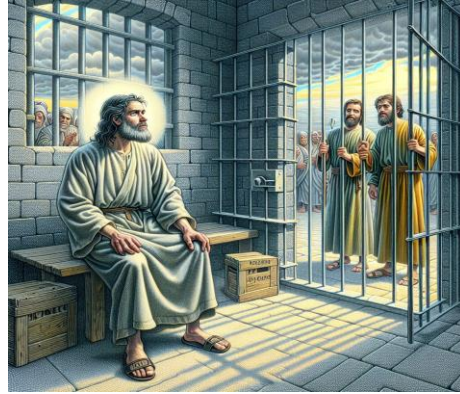


*Third Sunday of Advent
December 14th, 2025*



St. Damian Parish

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



WEBSITE:

www.stbernardandstdamian.org

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15th

Prayer Service
7:45 am @ St. Damian

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16th

Prayer Service
7:45 am @ Albers School Gym

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17th

Mass in Church w/ Refreshments after in Rectory
7:45 am @ St. Damian
Fr. Ronald Weber

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18th

Mass in School Gym
7:45 am @ Albers School Gym
For All Parishioners

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19th

NO MASS/NO SERVICE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20th

Mass in Church-St. Bernard Ministries
4:00 pm @ St. Damian
Barbara Friederich

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21st

Mass in Church-St. Damian Ministries
9:30 am @ St. Damian
Bill & Cecilia Jansen
Janice Mank
Louis Korte
Barb Steinmann
Bernard Heimann
Alfred & Pat Toennies

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

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah 35:1–6a, 10; James 5:7–10; Matthew 11:2–11 The powerful imagery in Isaiah's poetry overwhelms us with joy on this Gaudete Sunday. Deserts bloom with abundant flowers! Parched land exults in joyful song! The blind will see, the deaf will hear, and those who cannot walk will leap like a stag! In this season of watchful preparation for the Lord's coming into our lives, may we recognize his transformative presence in our world as we long for the coming of the kingdom, when all this and more will be fulfilled.

HAPPENINGS/MEETINGS:

Sunday, December 14th

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-Lady of Guadalupe

9:15 am @ St. Bernard Walk to St. Damian

11:00 am @ St. Damian Church

12:00 pm @ St. Damian Gym-Fiesta

Monday, December 15th

Prayer Service

7:45 am @ St. Damian

Tuesday, December 16th

Prayer Service

7:45 am @ Albers School Gym

St. Damian Finance Council Meeting

6:00 pm @ St. Damian Rectory

St. Damian Parish Council Meeting

7:00 pm @ St. Damian Rectory

Legion of Mary

5:00 in English @ St. Damian

5:00-8:00 Exposition of the

Blessed Sacrament

St. Damian Adult Choir Practice

7:00 pm @ St. Damian Church

Wednesday, December 17th

Mass In Church w/ Refreshments after

7:45 am @ St. Damian

Eucharistic Adoration

6:00-7:00 pm @ St. Damian

St. Bernard Choir Practice

7:00 pm @ Albers Grade School

Thursday, December 18th

Mass in Albers School Gym

7:45 am @ Albers School Gym

Friday, December 19th

NO MASS/SERVICE

Saturday, December 20th

Mass in Church – St. Bernard Ministries

4:00 pm @ St. Damian

Sunday, December 21st

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

The Edge Youth Ministry will meet this Sunday, December 14th at the Damiansville gym from 5:30 - 7pm. As our Advent celebration, we will be hosting a "Baby Shower for Jesus". All middle schoolers are welcome to join for faith, fun and food. Contact Tina Wuebbels, Lacey Arentsen, Kati Schwierjohn, or Kristy Richter with questions.

"LORD, COME AND SAVE US."

THANKS SO MUCH! To everyone who hung items on this year's "Community Giving Tree" Due to the closing of the BCMW office in Breese and a change in their donation policy, the items were brought to Coping-4-Kids in Breese which is helping many families cope with difficulties during this Christmas season and beyond. Your kindness and generosity is helping to make Christmas a little warmer for many families in the area. Jesus is the Reason for the Season!

ADVENT RECONCILIATION OPPORTUNITY

December 14, 2025	St. Boniface, Germantown	03:00 PM
December 14, 2025	St. Francis, Aviston	06:00 PM
December 15, 2025	St. Mary, Mt. Vernon	06:00 PM
December 16, 2025	St. George, New Baden	07:00 PM
December 17, 2025	OLPH, Posen	6:30-7:30 PM

JOINT PARISH MASS INFORMATION

Renovations will begin on Monday, December 8, 2025. 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. (December & February 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 December, February). 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.

CHRISTMAS MASSES will be held on Christmas Eve at 4:00 pm, 10:00 pm, Christmas Day at 9:30 am, and 11:00 am Hispanic Mass at St. Damian. Ministry sign-up sheets will be in the back of St. Damian for those who wish to volunteer from either parish for all the Masses.

NEW YEAR'S MASSES will be at 4:00 pm on December 31 and 9:30 on January 1.

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 7th

Loose: \$132.00+ Envelope (33): \$1,964.00
+ Spanish: \$953.00 + ACH Dec. 2nd: \$1,215.00
+ Thanksgiving Env (7) \$1,350.00 \$5,614.00
Budget for week: \$3,536.00
Fiscal year-to-date collected: \$65,214.00
Fiscal year-to-date budget: \$77,792.00
Over (under) year-to-date budget: (\$12,578.00)
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.)

CSMA RESULTS: \$5,071 Pledged (23) of \$9,133

MINISTRY SCHEDULE – December 21st

Ministers: Ken Mank, Erin Korte, Chris Brandmeyer
Ushers: Brent Goebel, Ron Horstmann
Servers: Bryn & Reed Wuebbels, Will Jansen
Reader: Jana Wuebbels
Cantors: Kristy Richter
Organist: Jan Hitch
Coll. Counters: Sandy Kramer, Kathy Gonsalves
Thank you for being ministers of your parish!

ATTENTION ST. DAMIAN YOUTH CHOIR!

Practice is in full swing for the Advent and Christmas season. Practices happen on Sunday mornings at 8:30am (before Sunday mass). The St. Damian Youth Choir will sing at the Christmas Eve Mass at 4pm on Dec 24. If kids or parents have any questions, please call Jackie at 618-335-9562 or Geri at 618-444-5073.

ATTENTION ST. DAMIAN FAITH

FORMATION STUDENTS! All St. Damian Faith Formation students are invited to come sing in the church balcony at the 9:30am Mass at St. Damian on Sunday Dec 14!

St. Damian Adult Choir began practicing for Christmas at 7:00 p.m. in church. Practices will be held each Tuesday and last about 1 hour. If you have some time to give, we would love to see you there. We are always looking for new members to join us. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Brandmeyer at 618-792-2676.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING AT ST. DAMIAN

will be on Saturday, December 20 at 8:00 am.
Everyone welcome to help with the decorating.

ST. BERNARD PARISH CONCERNS:

CHURCH SUPPORT: December 6th

Loose: \$157.00+Envelopes: (23) \$645.00
+ Thanksgiving (2) \$50.00
+ ACH For Dec. 2nd: \$2,345.00 \$3,197.00
Budget for week: \$3,385.00
Fiscal year-to-date collected: \$62,219.24
Fiscal year-to-date budget: \$74,470.00
Over (under) year-to-date budget: (\$12,250.76)
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 – December 20th

Ministers: Ken & Liz Nussbaumer, Melissa Netemeyer
Reader: Kathy Friederich
Ushers: Brian & Janel Zurliene
Servers: Westin, Levi & Tucker Schwierjohn
Coll. Count: James Williams, Tina Wuebbels, Lynn Athmer
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. 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.

Knights of Columbus November Drawing Winners! \$400 The Penn Children, \$60 Beth Brandmeyer and Dennis Holtmann

St. Ann Ladies Sodality will be holding a Bunco and Dessert Party on Monday, Monday, December 15 at 1:00 pm in the St. Anthony Parish Center in Beckmeyer. Cost is \$5 per person. Be sure to join in the fun! This event is open to everyone from all area parishes. St. Augustine, Breese - No BINGO in December

Everyone is invited to visit the Village of Albers Sunday, December 21, 2025, to enjoy our beautifully decorated town and drop by American Legion Post #1026 from 5p-8p to see Santa! *Photos with Santa!* *Goodie Bags!* *Stop in to celebrate!* Hot chocolate and cookies offered by the Metro-East Diaper Bank!

Albers Residents: Let's Celebrate the Season by Decorating Our Homes for the Village of Albers 2025 HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST. WINNERS ANNOUNCED 7p.m. ~ Sunday, December 21, American Legion Post #1026 AND MEET SANTA 5p.m. – 8p.m.! Sponsored by the Albers Commercial Club. Top 5 entries PLUS Mayor's Choice Award! Please have lights on 6p.m.-9p.m. weekend of December 19-21. ***CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS**** Knights of Columbus Council #9768 will be recognizing one home each in Albers AND Damiansville best displaying 'Keep Christ in Christmas'! \$25 prize to one home EACH in Albers AND Damiansville!

HOLY HOUR HAPPY HOUR FOR YOUNG ADULTS (AGES 21–35) on Friday, December 19th. We'll begin by attending the St. Boniface Parish Adoration scheduled in Germantown at 6:30 PM for a Holy Hour. Afterwards, around 7:30 PM, the young adults' group will meet at Slots and Scoops in Germantown with Father Thomas Luge for a Happy Hour. We'll end the evening with the Christmas light display in Carlyle. Come for some, or come for all—we hope to see you there!

RESPECT LIFE CORNER “St. Josephine Bakhita, you were sold into slavery as a child and endured untold hardship and suffering. Once liberated from your physical enslavement, you found true redemption in your encounter with Christ and his Church. O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free. Provide comfort to survivors of slavery and let them look to you as an example of hope and faith. Help all survivors find healing from their wounds. We ask for your prayers and intercessions for those enslaved among us. Amen.

VOCATION CORNER. “I had the great blessing of growing up in a family in which faith was lived in a simple, practical way. However, it was my paternal grandmother in particular who influenced my journey of faith. She was a woman who explained to us, who talked to us about Jesus, who taught us the catechism. The first proclamation is at home, in the family! And this makes me think of the love of so many mothers and grandmothers in the transmission of faith. One day in particular, though, was very important to me: Sept. 21, 1953. I was almost 17. It was “Students’ Day.” Before going to the celebration, I passed through the parish I normally attended, I found a priest that I did not know, and I felt the need to go to confession. For me this was an experience of encounter: I found that someone was waiting for me After making my confession, I felt something had changed. I was not the same. I had heard something like voice, or a call. I was convinced that I should become a priest.” Pope Francis; Vigil of Pentecost Address,

Discernment Day Topic: Sat, Dec. 20, 2025, 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM at St. Nicholas Parish, O’Fallon, IL Join us for a day of prayer, reflection, and fraternity to explore what it means to live as beloved sons of the Father and how that relationship shapes our understanding of spiritual fatherhood. The day will include conferences, Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, time for discussion & lunch. For single Catholic menages15-35.Emailmskorch@diobelle.orgformoreinformation.

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.

