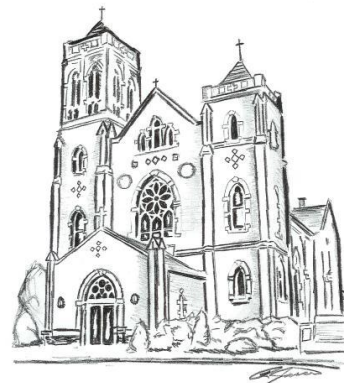




*Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21st, 2025*



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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22nd

NO SCHOOL/NO SERVICE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23rd

NO SCHOOL/NO SERVICE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24th

Mass in St. Damian Church

4:00 PM @ ST. DAMIAN

Albin Toennies

Alvin Toennies & Tom Reis

Dave Pingsterhaus

Lindy, Florence & Lynn Horstmann & Sean Howard

10:00 PM @ ST. DAMIAN

Doris Kloeckner

Robert Kloecker

Rich Hacker

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25th

Mass in Church

9:30 am @ St. Damian Church

Irene Horstmann

Melvin Toennies

Drew Toennies

Hispanic Mass in Church

11:00 am @ St. Damian Church

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26th

NO MASS/NO SERVICE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27th

Mass in Church-St. Bernard Ministries

4:00 pm @ St. Damian

Franklin & Marian Eversgerd

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28th

Mass in Church-St. Damian Ministries

9:30 am @ St. Damian

David, Marian & Dave Sudholt

Hispanic Mass in Church

11:00 AM @ St. Damian

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah 7:10–14; Romans 1:1–7; Matthew 1:18–24

Twice today we hear the words Isaiah proclaimed hundreds of years before Christ's birth: "the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel." This Hebrew name means "God is with us," and when Joseph, a devout and righteous man, is visited by an angel in his dream, he recalls Isaiah's prophecy. We know that God is also with us as we gather here to listen to God's word, and so at this time we allow ourselves to be immersed in God's presence as we actively listen to today's readings.

HAPPENINGS/MEETINGS:

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

Monday, December 22nd

NO MASS/SERVICE

Tuesday, December 23rd

NO MASS/SERVICE

St. Damian Adult Choir Practice

7:00 pm @ St. Damian Church

Wednesday, December 24th - Christmas Eve

Mass In Church

4:00 pm @ St. Damian

10:00 pm @ St. Damian

Thursday, December 25th -Christmas Day

Mass in Church

9:30 am @ St. Damian

Hispanic Mass in Church

11:00 am @ St. Damian

Friday, December 26th

NO MASS/SERVICE

Saturday, December 27th

Mass in Church – St. Bernard Ministries

4:00 pm @ St. Damian

Sunday, December 28th

Mass in Church – St. Damian Ministries

9:30 am @ St. Damian Church

Hispanic Mass in Church

11:00 am @ St. Damian Church

***"LET THE LORD ENTER;
HE IS KING OF GLORY."***

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. (December, 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 December, 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.

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

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE & DAY

Christmas Eve 4:00 pm: Servers: Charlie & Henry Sauer, Reid Toennies & Markus Richter

Reader: Denise Luitjohan

Eucharistic Ministers: Sharon Kalmer, Pete Toennies, Ken Mank, Kristy Richter, Arlene Korte

Ushers: Cole & Jared Horstmann, Brian & Keith Albers

Christmas Eve 10:00 pm: Servers: 4 Volunteers; Reader: volunteer; Euch. Ministers: Kristen Templin , Tina Haas; Volunteers; Ushers: 2 Volunteers

Christmas Day 9:30 am: Servers: Lincoln, Connor & Silas Arentsen

Reader: Jackie Toennies

Eucharistic Ministers: Deb Santel, Arlene Korte, Mary Innes

Ushers: 2 Volunteers

ST. DAMIAN PARISH CONCERNS:

CHURCH SUPPORT: December 14th

Loose: 185.00 + Envelope (9): \$4,780.00
+ Spanish: \$2,032.00 + Christmas: \$25 \$7,022.00
Budget for week: \$3,536.00
Fiscal year-to-date collected: \$72,236.00
Fiscal year-to-date budget: \$81,328.00
Over (under) year-to-date budget: (\$9,092.00)
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 Goal
Thank you for your continued support!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE – December 28th

Ministers: Rosann Horstmann, Kevin Toennies, Denise Luitjohan
Ushers: Cole & Jared Horstmann
Servers: Charlotte & Evelyn Cleeton, Brent Mitchell
Reader: Joe Cleeton
Cantors: Lindsey Mitchell & Shannon Sanders
Organist: Chris Brandmeyer
Coll. Counters: Pete Toennies, Gwen Toennies

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.

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.

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

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!

ST. BERNARD PARISH CONCERNS:

CHURCH SUPPORT: December 13th

Loose: \$142.00 + Envelopes: (18) \$995.00
\$1,137.00
Budget for week: \$3,385.00
Fiscal year-to-date collected: \$63,356.24
Fiscal year-to-date budget: \$77,855.00
Over (under) year-to-date budget: (\$14,498.76)
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.)

CSMA RESULTS: \$6330 Pledged (16) of \$10,446 Goal

MINISTRY SCHEDULE – December 27th

Ministers: Tina Haas, Steve & Deb Schomaker
Reader: Ken Nussbaumer
Ushers: Nick & Kathy Friederich
Servers: Dylan & Lydia Wuebbels, Colten Wuebbels
Coll. Count: Keith Richter, Sean Kennedy, Janel Zurliene
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. 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 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.

Damiansville Development Club IS HOSTING BREAKFAST WITH SANTA, TODAY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21st. There will be free breakfast, photos with Santa, letters to Santa, ornament decorating and face painting. 10:30-Noon.

Eucharistic Adoration Holiday Schedule. There will be no Eucharistic Adoration on Dec. 24 and 31 due to the holidays. Adoration will resume at St. Damian on Wednesday, Jan. 7 at 6p.

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!

Keep Christ in Christmas Poster contest:

Congratulations to the following who won 1st and 2nd place in the Parish. Thanks to the Knights of Columbus for sponsoring this annual event. Special thanks for coordinating this project with the DRE and all the religion teachers involved. Below are the winners for 2025. Thank you to all who participated.

St. Bernard in Albers:

- 1st – Maclin Short, Reese Hubert
- 2nd – Rhett Hubert, Logan Athmer
- 3rd – Harper Eubanks, Reagan Gebke
- 4th - Lyla Schroeder, Avery Athmer
- 5th: Aften Boeckmann, Madison Athmer
- 6th- Kennedy Porterfield, Harper Strubhart
- 7th- Sadie Pingsterhaus, Lydia Wuebbels
- 8th- Aubrey Winterbottom, Brody Schulte

St. Damian in Damiansville:

- K. Lawsyn Hortmann, Monroe Tonnies
- 1st: Lennon Tonnies, Ainslee Gebke
- 2nd: Brody Stiebel, Quinn Borkowski
- 3rd: Brooke Voss, Ellie Richter
- 4th: Abrielle Horstmann, Emery Jansen
- 5th- Will Jansen, Alexa Contreras
- 6th: Evelyn Cleeton, Miranda Richter
- 7th- Delaney Horstmann, Collins Horstmann
- 8th – Dylann Netemeyer, Reid Toennies

**During this Christmas Season,
we wish each of you the Peace and Joy of Christmas!**

Fr. Matthew Elie, Deacons Glenn Netemeyer & Kevin Templin, and Angie Toennies

Merry 
Christmas 

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