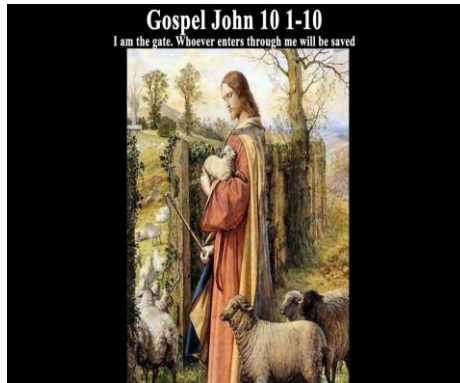
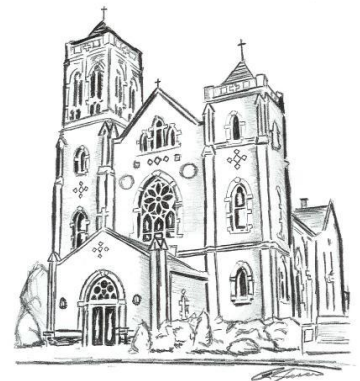




*Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 26th, 2026*



WEBSITE:
www.stbernardandstdamian.org

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

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
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, APRIL 27th

Prayer Service
7:45 am @ St. Damian

TUESDAY, APRIL 28th

Prayer Service
7:45 am @ St. Bernard

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29th

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 30th

Mass in Church
7:45 am @ St. Bernard
For the Intentions of our Catholic Extension Donors

FRIDAY, MAY 1st
NO MASS/NO SERVICE

SATURDAY, MAY 2nd
Mass in Church – First Communion

4:00 pm @ St. Damian
For The First Communicants
Rich & Darlene C. Toennies

SUNDAY, MAY 3rd
Mass in Church

9:30 am @ St. Bernard
Ben & Honey Brueggemann

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

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Acts 2:14a, 36–41; 1 Peter 2:20b–25; John 10:1–10

On this Good Shepherd Sunday, we hear Jesus call himself the gate to the sheepfold. He opens to lead the sheep to verdant pastures and closes to save them from danger. In the first reading, Peter reminds us that repentance acts as a gate as well. Repenting of our sins brings forgiveness and salvation. As we listen to God's word, let us pray that we will recognize the voice of the Lord calling us to repentance and the blessings within.

HAPPENINGS/MEETINGS:

Sunday, April 26th

Mass in Church w/ Blest Art Available

9:30 am @ St. Damian Church

Hispanic Mass in Church

11:00 am @ St. Damian Church

Monday, April 27th

Prayer Service

7:45 am @ St. Damian

Tuesday, April 28th

Prayer Service

7:45 am @ St. Bernard

Wednesday, April 29th

Mass In Church

7:45 am @ St. Damian

Eucharistic Adoration

6:00 pm @ St. Bernard Church

Thursday, April 30th

Mass in Church

7:45 am @ St. Bernard

Friday, May 1st

NO MASS/SERVICE

Saturday, May 2nd - First Communion

Mass in Church

4:00 pm @ St. Damian

Sunday, May 3rd

Mass in Church

9:30 am @ St. Bernard

St Damian Ladies Sodality Brunch

10:30 am @ St. Damian

Hispanic Mass in Church

11:00 am @ St. Damian Church

***"THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD;
THERE IS NOTHING I SHALL WANT."***

ONLINE DONATIONS AND GIVING

- On line giving is available for both St. Damian and St. Bernard Parishes.
- Donations can be made on the 2nd or 16th of the month or both if you choose.
- Donations can be split between accounts such as Sister Parish and General Account at St. Bernard's and Building Fund, Sister Parish or General Account at St. Damian's.
- You can still receive envelopes for special collections if you choose to.
- Please contact Angie if you have any questions or go on the parish website to find the form for ACH (Online Giving)

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES OF 2026.

St. Bernard: Reese Hubert, Wyatt Oliver, Aubree Schroeder.

We thank Maria Gimenez for teaching the faith to our students and to everyone who helps with the Religion Program. Thank you also to Joni Kloeckner and the Choir for making the First Communion Mass so beautiful.

St. Damian: Colt Albers, Kamden Albers, Quinn Borkowski, Patrick Cleton, Brady Scheibel, Johnny Siverly, Brody Stiebel, & Drew Wuebbels.

We thank Denise Luitjohan for teaching our 2nd graders and to all those who assist with our PSR Program. Thank you also to Chris Brandmeyer and St. Damian choir for the beautiful music provided at our First Communion Mass.

**CONGRATULATIONS AND MAY GOD BLESS
EACH AND EVERY ONE AS THEY
CONTINUE THEIR FAITH JOURNEY.**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026 WILL BE HELD JUNE 8-12 AT ST. DAMIAN.

This year will be **Cathletics...Training to be Champions for Christ.** Sign up sheet are available in church. Please consider signing up your child or volunteering to help the week of bible school. Sign up sheets are available in church and online.

FAITH FORMATION 2026-27 REGISTRATION.

Commitment forms have been sent via email. Please be sure to return these via the collection basket or through your PSR teacher before the due date of May 15th. IF you did not receive one, please contact Angie or Deacon Glenn and they will get it to you. They are also available on our parish website. Thanks so much!

ST. DAMIAN PARISH CONCERNS:

CHURCH SUPPORT: April 19th:

Loose: \$107.00+ Envelope (17): \$3,220.00
+ Spanish Mass: \$226.00 \$3,553.00
Budget for week: \$3,536.00
Fiscal year-to-date collected: \$137,910.77
Fiscal year-to-date budget: \$141,440.00
Over (under) year-to-date budget: (\$3,529.23)
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!

CSMA- 23 for \$3,221.00 of \$9,412.00 Goal

MINISTRY SCHEDULE – May 2nd

Ministers: Mech Toennies, Pete Toennies, Rosann Horstmann
Ushers: Brad & Kristy Richter
Servers: Marcus & Miranda Richter, Nolan Hemker
Reader: Jackie Toennies
Cantors: Kathy Gonsalves
Organist: Chris Brandmeyer
Coll. Counters: Sandy Kramer, Tina Tonnies
Thank you for being ministers of your parish!

ST. DAMIAN LADIES SODALITY. There will be an appreciation brunch for all ladies on Sunday, May 3 at 10:30am hosted by the St Damian's Ladies Sodality. This brunch is to recognize all the efforts the ladies have made to help make our events successful. The place will be determined based on the response. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of church or RSVP to Jan Hitch at 618.540.9974 by April 20 if you would like to attend. This will help to plan the menu best.

ST. DAMIAN PICNIC COMMITTEE MEETING

will be held on Wednesday, April 29 at 6:30 pm at St. Damian Rectory. Asking all picnic committee and stand chairs to attend if possible. Anyone else with ideas welcome to attend. **RAFFLE DONATION FORMS** were emailed to parishioners and are also available in church. Please return them by May 15 or contact Brent Goebel or Gary Tonnies.

April 26, 2026 Respect Life Corner

“Suicidal individuals—with or without a terminal illness—typically do not want to die; they want to escape what they perceive to be an intolerable situation, and they inaccurately believe that suicide is their only way out. The patient requesting assisted suicide is often asking, ‘Does anyone want me to be alive, or care enough to talk me out of this request and support me through this difficult time?’”

ST. BERNARD PARISH CONCERNS:

CHURCH SUPPORT: April 18th

Loose: \$164.25+Envelopes: (35) \$2,448.00
+ Easter Env (2): \$135.00 \$2,747.25
Budget for week: \$3,385.00
Fiscal year-to-date collected: \$137,659.40
Fiscal year-to-date budget: \$135,400.00
Over (under) year-to-date budget: \$2,259.40
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!

CSMA-15 for \$2,272.50 of \$10,375.00 Goal

MINISTRY SCHEDULE – May 3rd

Ministers: Kati Schwierjohn, Jackie Farrar, Lynn Athmer
Reader: Sean Kennedy
Ushers: John & Linda Majchrzak
Servers: Cayden & Claire Loepker, Jaxson Hubert
Coll. Count: Sean Kennedy, Phyllis Albers, Lynn Athmer
Thank you for being ministers of your parish!

MASS IS BACK AT ST. BERNARD AND THE CHURCH IS ABSOLUTELY BEAUTIFUL!

Please continue to send your monthly/quarterly/annual payments and for anyone who would like to donate, please submit it in an envelope marked Renovations and drop in drop box or collection.

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 or honor of.

SO MANY THANKS TO ALL THAT HAVE DONATED AND PLEDGED FOR THIS PROJECT! WITHOUT ALL OF YOU, THIS WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE!

Blest Art will be visiting St. Bernard & St. Damian on April 25 & 26th on behalf of the Christian families in Bethlehem, Palestine. Our mission is to support those families in the Holy Land. When Blest Art visits your parish, we will have hand-carved nativity sets, statues, crosses, rosaries, and many other pieces of beautiful olive wood art. We gladly accept cash, checks, and all major credit cards.

All are invited to join Father Godfrey for the Spring Farm Blessing which will be held on Tuesday, April 28th at 1:00 P.M. at the Ryan Peter Family Farm, 7755 Highway 15, Mt. Carmel, IL. We encourage everyone to come to this blessing a bring a nonperishable food item for donation.

CORPUS CHRISTI, SHILOH, IL CHICKEN & PASTA DINNER, Sunday, April 26th from 3-6:30 pm. All you can eat Fried Chicken, Mostaccioli, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Stuffing, Green Beans, Corn, Slaw, Rolls & Desser. \$15/person, 5-10 years-\$10/child, Under 5 free.

St. Anthony's Church Rummage/Bake Sale is April 30, May 1 & 2, 2026, at St. Anthony's Parish Center, 451 West Third Street, Beckemeyer IL. Hours are: Thursday – April 30 - 9am - 8pm (Full Price) Friday – May 1 - 9am - 8pm (1/2 Price), Saturday – May 2 - 9am -12pm (\$4 Bag). Rummage donations are accepted on Monday, April 13 (9am – 5pm) to Saturday, April 25 (9am - 5pm) or until full. NO donations on Sunday, April 19. No Tube TV's, Exercise Equipment, Car Seats, or Encyclopedias will be accepted!

MATER DEI SCHOLARSHIPS: Below are several scholarships to assist 8th grade students wishing to attend Mater Dei High School. If you are interested and did not receive a scholarship form, please contact Deacon Glenn or go on the www.stbernardandstdamian.org website as all forms are available on that Website.

- ⇒ ***Ralph & Delores Netemeyer Scholarship*** is a \$500 scholarship to a St. Bernard 8th grader. The student must type an essay describing their goals for the future and how their Catholic faith will help them on their journey to reach these goals. In the essay, they are also to explain how Albers School has prepared them to accomplish these goals. **Due by May 2nd.**
- ⇒ ***Knights of Columbus Scholarship*** is a \$500 scholarship in tuition assistance to one student from Albers & one from Damiansville. The student must submit a typewritten essay based on the subject, "My Catholic Faith". In the essay, they must describe how their faith has influenced different areas of their life up till now and how it will help with the challenges in the future. Include information about participation in parish activities, community volunteerism and how attending a catholic high school will help achieve your goals in the future. **Due by May 2nd.**
- ⇒ ***Scholarships to Mater Dei Catholic High School are available through St. Bernard and St. Damian Parishes.*** Those administered through the Church are on the Website and there are still those administered directly from Mater Dei such as: ***Randy Toennies Memorial*** and ***Bob Innes Memorial*** from St. Damian and ***Jansen Memorial*** from St. Bernard. Please contact Mater Dei High School directly at (618) 526-7216 to apply for these scholarships.

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.

VILLAGE OF ALBERS & DAMIANSVILLE 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.

ST. BONIFACE CHURCH 6TH ANNUAL QUILT RAFFLE. We will be giving away 20 beautiful hand quilted, queen-sized quilts! Tickets are \$25 each, with only 500 tickets sold. If your name gets drawn as a winner, your name goes back in for the remaining draws. To purchase a ticket, you can either place your check/cash in an envelope and put in the drop box at either parish office, or mail it to: St. Boniface Church, PO Box 280, Germantown, IL 62245. Please include your name and a valid phone number with your ticket purchase. You can also purchase a ticket at Germantown Trust and Savings Bank, either Germantown, Bartelso, or Breese location. The tickets cannot leave the bank since we have a limited number to be sold, so they will need to be purchased and filled out at the bank. The 20 winners will be drawn on Sunday, June 14!

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