



**THE EPIPHANY OF THE
LORD
JANUARY 7, 2024**



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:

Most Rev. Michael McGovern

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
Email: stdamian1861@gmail.com
Email: st.bernard@charter.net

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



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**St. Bernard and St. Damian
Catholic Churches**

MASS SCHEDULE:
MONDAY, JANUARY 8th

Prayer Service
7:45 AM @ St. Damian

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9th

Prayer Service
7:45 AM @ St. Bernard

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10th

Mass in Church
7:45 AM @ St. Damian
For All Parishioners

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11th

Mass in Church
7:45 AM @ St. Bernard
For All Cancer Patients

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12th
NO MASS/SERVICE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13th

Mass in Church
4:00 PM @ St. Damian
Rita & Clarence Netemeyer
Matt & Marcia Netemeyer
Herman & Vivian Jansen

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14th

Mass in Church
9:30 AM @ St. Bernard
Leo Litteken

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

LITURGY OF THE WORD:

Isaiah 60: 1-6; Ephesians 3: 2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2: 1-12

When Isaiah wrote the poem that we hear today, the Israelites had just returned from decades of exile in Babylon. Judah was devastated and left desolate, but Isaiah saw it through eyes of faith. The magi must have seen with eyes of faith as well in order to present a newborn in a feeding trough with expensive gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. As members of the one body of Christ, let us listen to God's word with ears of faith, recognizing ourselves in those who come to praise and worship the Lord.

HAPPENINGS/MEETINGS:

Sunday, January 7th-Epiphany

Mass in Church

9:30 am @ St. Bernard

Hispanic Mass in Church

11:00 am @ St. Damian Church

Monday, January 8th

Prayer Service

7:45 am @ St. Damian

Tuesday, January 9th

Prayer Service

7:45 am @ St. Damian

Eucharistic Adoration

7:00-8:00 @ St. Damian

Wednesday, January 10th

Mass in Church

7:45 am @ St. Damian

Thursday, January 11th

Mass in Church

7:45 am @ St. Bernard

Friday, January 12th

NO MASS/NO SERVICE

Saturday, January 13th

Mass in Church

4:00 pm @ St. Damian

Sunday, January 14th

Mass in Church

9:30 am @ St. Bernard

Hispanic Mass in Church

11:00 am @ St. Damian Church

**LORD, EVERY NATION ON EARTH
WILL ADORE YOU.**

ST. BERNARD & ST. DAMIAN PARISHIONERS

If you are currently not donating on-line but wish to do so, please contact Angie at (618) 248-5112 and she will help you get set up for this. Thank you!

2023 DONATION STATEMENTS

If you would like your donation statement for 2023, please email Angie at stdamian1861@gmail.com or st.bernard@charter.net and I can either mail or email them to you. Or you can call the parish offices and leave a message and I will get them to you. Thanks so much for your generous donations to our parishes.

RESPECT LIFE CORNER. "Through the Incarnation and birth of Christ, God reveals to us the dignity of all human life. Human life, as a gift of God, is sacred and inviolable. The Son of God has united himself with every human being and desires for us to share eternal life with him... Each of us is made in the image and likeness of God, and we reflect his glory in the world."
USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "The Gospel of Life: A Brief Summary"

The 2023 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal

The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord - Psalm 15

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul truly serves the poorest of the poor through its Cosgrove's Soup Kitchen, SVDP Thrift Store, Help Center and Night Drop-In Center. Men, women and children are provided the basic necessities of life – food, clothing and shelter – and the hope and the tools they need for a better tomorrow. Help St. Vincent de Paul serve those who have no place else to turn. Please make your gift to The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal today.



ST. DAMIAN PARISH CONCERNS:

CHURCH SUPPORT: December 31st

Loose: \$212.00+ Envelopes: (31) \$1,755.00
+ Mass in Spanish: \$ 428.00
+ Christmas \$3,770.00 \$6,165.00
Budget for week: \$3,121.00
Fiscal year-to-date collected: \$94,809.88
Fiscal year-to-date budget: \$84,267.00
Over (under) year-to-date budget: \$10,542.88
Fiscal year (7/23-6/24) budget: \$162,300.00

(Reminder: The fiscal year budget **does not** include the **\$71,350.00** transferred from: Savings, Building Fund, & Picnic Checking Accounts, which is needed in order to balance the budget.)

Thank you for your faithful and generous support!

ST. BERNARD PARISH CONCERNS:

CHURCH SUPPORT: December 30th

Loose: \$102.00+Envelopes: (21) \$2,475.00
+ Christmas (11) \$940.00
+ Thanksgiving (1) \$20.00 \$3,537.00
Budget for week: \$3,502.00
Fiscal year-to-date collected: \$92,687.50
Fiscal year-to-date budget: \$94,554.00
Over (under) year-to-date budget: **(\$1,866.50)**
Fiscal year (7/22-6/23) budget: \$182,100.00

(Reminder: The fiscal year budget **does not** include the **\$35,300.00** transferred from: Men's Club & Fund Raiser Checking Accounts, which is needed in order to balance the budget.)

Thank you for your faithful and generous support

MINISTRY SCHEDULE -January 13th

Ministers: Diana Jansen, Virgil & Marilyn Jansen
Ushers: Jerry Innes, Roger Toennies
Servers: Reed Wuebbels, Lincoln & Connor Arentszen
Lector: Beth Brandmeyer
Cantor: Lauren Cleeton
Organist: Jan Hitch
Collection Counter: Kristy Richter, Kathleen Hodges
Thank you for being ministers of your parish!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE – January 14th

Euch. Ministers: Tina Wuebbels, Kristen Templin,
Kati Schwierjohn
Reader: Lynette Huegen
Ushers: John & Linda Majchrzak
Servers: Oliver Varel, Brock & Brody Schulte
Coll. Counters: James Williams, Tim Schroeder,
Dana Lake
Thank you for being ministers of your parish!

RESPECT LIFE CORNER

“Dearest St Joseph... Help us to faithfully commit ourselves to the service and defense of human life —especially where it is vulnerable or threatened. Obtain for us the grace to do the will of God in all things.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities A Prayer to St. Joseph, Defender of Life

CHOIR DIRECTOR FOR ST. BERNARD. St.

Bernard Parish is still looking for a choir director. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Joni Kloeckner or Deacon Glenn.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GATHERING of the St Damian's Holy Name, St Damian's Altar Sodality, Damiansville Development Club, St. Damian & St. Bernard Parish and Finance Councils will be on Friday, January 19th at St. Damian Gym. Happy Hour at 5:30 and meal at 6:30. RSVP by call or text message to 618-973-2235 or email phonsokay@outlook.com by January 10th.

O Mary, Mother of Jesus and Mother of us all, we turn to you today as the one who said "Yes" to Life. "You will conceive and bear a son," the angel told you. Despite the surprise and the uncertainty about how this could be, you said yes. "Be it done unto me according to your word." Mary, we pray today for all mothers who are afraid to be mothers. We pray for those who feel threatened and overwhelmed by their pregnancy. Intercede for them, that God may give them the grace to say "Yes" and the courage to go on. May they have the grace to reject the false solution of abortion. May they say with you, "Be it done unto me according to your word." May they experience the help of Christian people, and know the peace that comes from doing God's will. Amen

**A WOMEN'S WEDDING RING WAS FOUND IN CHURCH AT ST. BERNARD'S.
PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU KNOW WHOSE IT MIGHT BE. THANK YOU!**

DIOCESAN DR. KING OBSERVANCE SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2024 AT ST. AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO CHURCH, EAST ST. LOUIS. Bishop McGovern will be the celebrant for the Mass at 9:30 AM followed by a Brunch at 11:00 and the Dr. King Memorial Program in the Church at 12, Noon. If you plan to attend the brunch, please RSVP to the Church Office at 618-274-0655.

CATHOLIC SPEED DATING. A social event for catholic singles age 21-30. Hors doeuvres and drinks will be served. Admission is \$5.00. Pre-registrations by January 28th. Thursday, February 4th at 6:30 PM at St. Nicholas Parish in O'Fallon, IL.

The Diocese of Belleville is hosting an informational meeting for men (and their spouses) who are interested in the Permanent Diaconate. This meeting will take place on Saturday, February 3, 2024, at 10:00 AM in the Undercroft of the Cathedral of St. Peter, 200 W. Harrison Street, Belleville, IL 62220. The Office of Permanent Deacon is considering another new class of aspirants starting in the fall of 2025. Eligibility is extended to men who have reached the ages thirty-three (33) to fifty-six (56) by September 2025. *Men older than fifty-six may still apply but require special approval from the Deacon Formation Office and the Bishop.* The formation process is a five-year commitment, including academic studies conducted by St. Meinrad School of Theology, spiritual direction, and learning about the deacon's role. Participants are required to attend a three-day meeting once per month over the course of the five-year program. Interested individuals should first discuss their interest with their pastor. For those unable to attend the initial meeting, another session will be scheduled later. This meeting is an opportunity to learn about the process and requirements for becoming a Permanent Deacon in the Diocese.

Singers from across the Belleville Diocese are invited to join in singing the Fauré Requiem on Sunday, March 3, 2024, at 3 PM at the Cathedral of St. Peter. Rehearsals will be held on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday evenings from January 8 through March 3. Rehearsal recordings of each individual part will be sent to each singer. If you are interested and would like more specific information, please contact Mr. Richard Thompson, Organist & Choirmaster at the Cathedral of St. Peter, by e-mail: rthompjd@gmail.com. The Fauré Requiem is a magnificent program to be presented in our beautiful Cathedral with its wonderful acoustics and rebuilt and enlarged pipe organ. I hope everyone interested can join us.

Living out Christmas in the New Year

How do we live out the message of Christmas in the New Year, rather than pack it away with the ornaments? Each year, the Octave Day of Christmas falls on the first day of the New Year, on which we also celebrate the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. Her open heart and courageous "yes" to God show us how to live year-round—with hearts open to the Lord, following where He leads. We are called to place our trust in Him, to enter compassionately into the suffering of others, and to love one another as Christ loves us. Like Our Blessed Mother welcomed Jesus, we are called to cherish and protect the gift of human life, at every stage and in every circumstance. One way to live out the message of Christmas and follow Our Lady's example is to join 9 Days for Life, a novena for the protection of human life, taking place Tuesday, January 16 – Wednesday, January 24. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life. Join today at 9daysforlife.com!

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Worldwide Marriage Encounter presents weekend experiences for married couples to rekindle romance, enhance meaningful communication, and deepen and renew commitment. Below are the next three opportunities. Sign up now as space is limited. For more information or to apply, go to wwme.org, or call Terry & Eric Engholm at 314-649-7317. 2/2-2/4, 2024, in St. Peters, MO or 3/15-3/17/2024 in Cape Girardeau, MO, 4/5-4/7/24 in St. Peter's, MO.

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