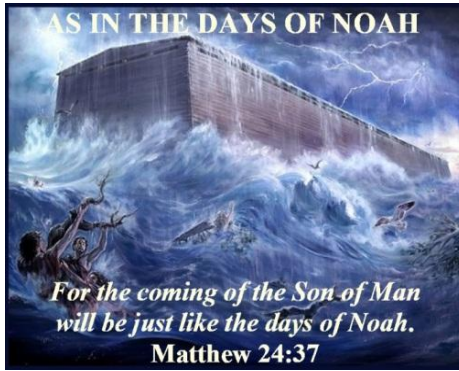
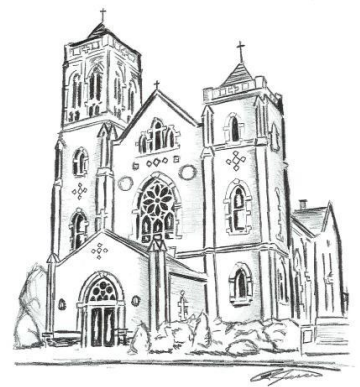




*First Sunday of Advent
November 30th, 2025*



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 1st
Prayer Service
7:45 am @ St. Damian

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2nd
Prayer Service
7:45 am @ Albers School Gym

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3rd
Mass in Church
7:45 am @ St. Damian
Herman Brandmeyer Family

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4th
Mass in School Gym
7:45 am @ Albers School Gym
For All Parishioners

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5th
NO MASS/SERVICE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6th
Mass in Church-St. Bernard Ministries
4:00 pm @ St. Damian
Delmond, Eleanor & Cynthia Huegen & Marcel Korte
Tripp Kharibian

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7th
Mass in Church-St. Damian Ministries
9:30 am @ St. Damian
Tracy Haukapp
Frank, Minnie & Ralph Heimann
Henry, Lucille, Allen, Glennon & Marvin Albers

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

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah 2: 1-5; Romans 13: 11-14; Matthew 24: 37-44

Jesus paints a scary picture of his second coming in today's Gospel, warning his disciples to be ready always. We too must prepare ourselves, not only for his return at any time, but also for his coming into our hearts in a deeper way at a time we least expect. The words of the prophet Isaiah and the apostle Paul can help. "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ," Paul says, or, as Isaiah puts it, "Let us walk in the light of the Lord." May God's word inspire us to prepare our hearts so that we may all "go rejoicing to the house of the Lord."

HAPPENINGS/MEETINGS:

Sunday, November 30th

NO YOUTH CHOIR PRACTICE

Mass in Church – St. Bernard Ministries

9:30 am @ St. Damian Church

Hispanic Mass in Church

11:00 am @ St. Damian Church

Monday, December 1st

Prayer Service

7:45 am @ St. Damian

Tuesday, December 2nd

Prayer Service

7:45 am @ Albers School Gym

Legion of Mary

5:00 in English @ St. Damian

5:00-8:00 Exposition of the
Blessed Sacrament

6:00 in Spanish @ St. Damian

St. Damian Adult Choir Practice

7:00 pm @ St. Damian Church

Wednesday, December 3rd

Mass In Church

7:45 am @ St. Damian

St. Bernard Finance & Parish Council Meet

6:00 pm @ St. Bernard Church

Eucharistic Adoration

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

St. Bernard Choir Practice

7:00 pm @ Albers Grade School

Thursday, December 4th

Mass in Albers School Gym

7:45 am @ Albers School Gym

Friday, December 5th

NO MASS/NO SERVICES

Saturday, December 6th

Mass in Church – St. Bernard Ministries

4:00 pm @ St. Damian

Sunday, December 7th

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

Advent Reconciliation Service

1:00 pm @ St. Damian Church

***"LET US GO REJOICING
TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD."***

COMMUNITY GIVING TREES: St. Damian Church will be the collection point for hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, socks & house slippers for children, teens, women & men. The items will be donated to BCMW Organization in Carlyle and distributed as Christmas presents to local families. BCMW serves Bond, Clinton, Marion & Washington counties. Items can be brought to St. Damian Church and hung on the Giving Tree in the gathering space from Nov 15 - Dec 8. Your generous donations will help make the holidays a little warmer for those in need. Any questions, please contact Geri Varel at 618-444-5073. Thanks in advance for your generous support!

Christmas "Giving Tree" drive at St. Bernard. This Advent all donated items through the St. Bernard Giving Tree event will be donated to the Coping 4 Kids program. Instead of gifts this year, we will be requesting gift cards and the drop box for these gift cards will be at St. Damian Church. The tree is located at St. Damian's with cards naming the facility to get the gift card from. **The places are Walmart, Dollar General, or Casey's.** If you have any questions, contact Melissa Netemeyer 618-691-9413 or Marilyn Venhaus.

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.

THANKSGIVING DAY MASS WILL BE HELD at St. Damian at **9:00 AM.**

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE will be held at St. Damian on Sunday, December 7 at 1:00 pm.

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.

ST. DAMIAN PARISH CONCERNS:

CHURCH SUPPORT: November 22nd

Loose: \$125.00+ Envelope (0): \$1,253.00
+ Mass in Spanish: \$325.00
+ Thanksgiving Env (2) \$210.00 \$1,913.00
Budget for week: \$3,536.00
Fiscal year-to-date collected: \$58,333.00
Fiscal year-to-date budget: \$70,720.00
Over (under) year-to-date budget: (\$12,387.00)
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.)

MINISTRY SCHEDULE – December 7th

Ministers: Mech Toennies, Kennedy Toennies, Kristy Richter
Ushers: Roger Toennies & Dave Albers
Servers: Brent Mitchell, Reid & Alexis Toennies
Reader: Kathleen Hodges
Cantors: Lindey Mitchell & Shannon Sanders
Organist: Chris Brandmeyer
Coll. Counters: Gwen Toennies & Mech Toennies
Thank you for being ministers of your parish!

WE'RE EXCITED! IT'S YOUTH CHOIR TIME!

Youth Choir practice for Advent and Christmas seasons is happening at St. Damian on Sunday mornings at 8:30 am. All youth in Grades 3-12 and college-age youth are welcome to participate and "Make a Joyful Noise!" If there are any questions, please call Jackie at 618-335-9562 or Geri at 618-444-5073. We look forward to seeing lots of smiling faces on Sunday mornings at 8:30am! Thanks in advance for your participation!

The 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.

LADY OF GUADALUPE RAFFLE.

LADY OF GUADALUPE RAFFLE TICKETS are available in the entryway of St. Damian Church. There is an envelope by the tickets to put the sold tickets and money. Thank you in advance for supporting the raffle. You can also contact Maria if you would like to purchase tickets.

ST. BERNARD PARISH CONCERNS:

CHURCH SUPPORT: November 23rd

Loose: \$146.00 +Envelopes: (32) \$1,241.00
+ Thanksgiving (1) \$25.00 \$1,412.00
Budget for week: \$3,385.00
Fiscal year-to-date collected: \$56,222.24
Fiscal year-to-date budget: \$67,700.00
Over (under) year-to-date budget: (\$11,477.76)
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 6th

Ministers: Ken & Liz Nussbaumer, Tina Haas
Reader: Steve Schomaker
Ushers: Ed Broeckling, Ryan Wuebbels
Servers: Kinley Barth, Harper Strubhart, Raelyn Hubert
Coll. Count: James Williams, Sean Kennedy, Lynn Athmer

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. 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. ACH monthly payments can now be set up and will begin on December 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 December 1 to give time 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. Thank you!
MANY THANKS TO ALL THAT HAVE DONATED AND PLEDGED FOR THIS PROJECT! WITHOUT ALL OF YOU THIS WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE!

THANK YOU TO EVERY VOLUNTEER THAT HELPED WITH PREPARING THE CHURCH FOR RENOVATIONS.

We are so appreciative of the donation of time by so many to prepare our church. We cannot say thank you enough. Also, special thanks to the Mater Dei Building Trades program and Mark Huelskamp for coming to help move the pews to the seed house for storage. And many thanks to Andrew Rensing and Eric Nordike for allowing us to store the statues and pews during the renovations. We are so thankful. Any questions, please contact Steve at (618) 973-8860.

The Faith Formation students at St. Bernard will be collecting new, unwrapped toys as well as new winter hats, gloves & scarves that will be donated to Toys for Tots and Coping 4 Kids to aid in providing some Comfort & Joy this holiday season! Flyers with additional information were sent home this week detailing which grades will be collecting what items - Jr. High students will be collecting toys - primary grades will collect hats, gloves & scarves. If you prefer, a monetary can be accepted and used to purchase additional items. All donations should be sent to Faith Formation classes starting Monday, November 3 and will be accepted through Sunday, December 7. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support!! If you have any questions, please contact Robbin Netemeyer, Grade 4 catechist at gnetemeyer@msn.com.

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.

Christmas Sounds of Harmony, December 6th at 4:00 pm at Central Community High School, Breese, IL

Metro East Community Christmas Chorale Concert, Sunday, December 7 at 3:00 pm at St. Paul United Church, Belleville, IL

ST. CECILIA PARISH IS SEEKING A PART TIME MUSIC LEADER AND ORGANIST! St. Cecilia Parish in Bartelso is looking for a joyful musician to play organ or piano and lead music for our 1-2 weekend Masses, which is approximately 4 – 6 hours per week, with additional pay for other events. If you love sharing your musical gifts in worship, please contact Fr. Thomas Lugge at frthomaslugge@gmail.com or call him at 618-523-4271.

RESPECT LIFE CORNER “Lord Jesus Christ, you chose to share our human nature and redeem all people. We ask your help for our brothers and sisters who are ill. Support them with your power and shelter them from sadness. Keep them firm in faith and serene in hope. Also, help those who assist the sick and care for them in their time of illness. Inspire our society to resist the temptation of assisted suicide for the elderly, the sick, the vulnerable, and all your people. May life’s beauty and sanctity be respected among all our brothers and sisters. All this we ask in your holy name. Amen.” Please continue to pray for the defeat of SB 1950, which would legalize assisted suicide in the state of Illinois, and consider contacting Governor Pritzker office at 312-814- 2121, asking him to veto the bill.

Catholic Service & Ministry Appeal Your contribution to the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal enables the Office of Education to impact the lives of over 9,140 students at 23 Catholic grade schools, three Catholic high schools and in PSR (Parish School of Religion) classes throughout our Belleville Diocese. If you haven’t already done so, we prayerfully ask you to consider making a gift to the 2025 Appeal today...no amount is too large or too small! Thank you..

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.Emailskorch@diobelle.org for more information.

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.



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