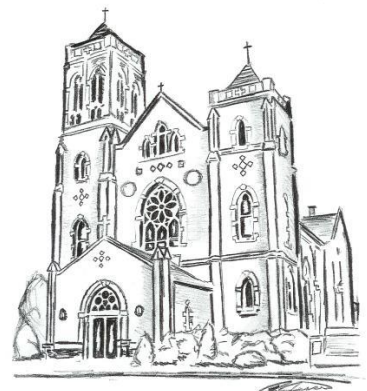




Third Sunday of Advent
December 17th, 2017



John 1:26 John answered them, saying, "I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. ²⁷ "It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose." ²⁸ These things were done in Bethabara beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.



St. Damian Parish
Founded 1861
One West Main Street
Damiansville, Illinois 62215
Phone: (618) 248-5134
Fax: (618) 248-5134

St. Bernard Parish
Founded 1908
202 N. Broadway – Box 10
Albers, Illinois 62215
Phone: (618) 248-5112
Fax: (618) 248-5595

WEBSITE:
www.stbernardandstdamian.org

BISHOP OF BELLEVILLE:
The Most Rev. Edward K. Braxton, Ph.D., S.T.D.

ADMINISTRATOR:
Fr. Anthony Onyango
Email: utugo@yahoo.com
Cell Phone: 424-536-6906
Residence at St. Bernard

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE & DRE:
Deacon Glenn Netemeyer
Email: stdamians@wisperhome.com
Personal Email: gnetemeyer@msn.com
Cell Phone: 618-772-9343
Office at St. Damian

NC VICARIATE HISPANIC MINISTER:
Sister Ellen Orf, CPPS
Email: ellen_46@yahoo.com
Cell Phone: 636-293-8253
Office / Residence at St. Damian

SECRETARY:
Jeanne Langenhorst
Email: st.bernard@charter.net
CLC Office Phone: 618-588-4323
Cell Phone: 618-979-5933
Monday (8 am-5 pm) @ St. Bernard or St. Damian;
Tuesday & Thursday
(9 am to 4 pm) @ CLC, New Baden
Wednesday (working from home);
Friday (8 am-1 pm) @ St. Bernard or St. Damian.

CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTER:
Michelle "Shelly" Schuetz
Email: maschuetz@hotmail.com
Cell Phone: 618-401-6007

MASS SCHEDULE:

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18TH

7:45 am Mass @ St. Damian
Sr. Mary Ann & Sr. Ann Clare

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

7:45 am Mass @ St. Bernard
For All Memorial Donors

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

7:45 am Mass @ St. Damian
Aloys & Estelle Heimann

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

7:45 am Mass @ St. Bernard
Dennis Gerling Family

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22ND

NO Mass or Prayer Service Scheduled

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23RD

4:00 pm Mass @ St. Bernard
For All Parishioners

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

8:30 am Mass @ St. Damian
Cliff Kolb; Bob Innes

10:00 am Mass @ St. Bernard

Paul & Dorothy Rensing
George, Alvina & Donald Rickhoff
Urban "Shorty" Behrman

11:00 am Mass @ St. Damian

Mass in Spanish

CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24TH

4:00 pm Mass @ St. Damian

Lindy, Lynn & Irene Horstmann
Alvin Toennies

8:00 pm Mass @ St. Damian

Mass in Spanish

10:00 pm Mass @ St. Bernard

For All Parishioners

LITURGY OF THE WORD:

Some very important people in scripture give testimony today. In the *1st Reading*, Isaiah testifies that God called him to share good news to those in need. Then in the *2nd Reading*, Saint Paul testifies to the expectations he has of the Thessalonians as he wraps up his letter to them. Finally in the *Gospel*, John the Evangelist writes that John the Baptist was sent to testify to the greatest news of all, **the coming of Jesus, so that all may believe.**

WAYS TO PREPARE FOR ADVENT:

- ❖ *Communion Ministers, Lectors, Servers, Ushers/Greeters, and Collection Counters* are needed for **Christmas Eve & Christmas Day.**
- ❖ *Candle Lighters* to light the Advent Wreath. Family & individual volunteers are needed.
- ❖ *Eucharistic Adoration* will be held **every Wednesday through Dec. 20th** during Advent from 9:00-11:00 am @ **St. Damian** and from 1:00-2:00 pm @ **St. Bernard.**
- ❖ *Please sign up* at the main entrance of church.

MASS SCHEDULE:

- *4th Sunday of Advent, Sunday, Dec. 24th*
8:30 am @ St. Damian;
10:00 am @ St. Bernard;
Mass in Spanish: 11:00 am @ St. Damian.
- *Christmas Eve – 4:00 pm @ St. Damian;*
Mass in Spanish: 8:00 pm @ St. Damian;
10:00 pm @ St. Bernard.
- *Christmas Day – 8:30 am @ St. Damian;*
10:00 am @ St. Bernard.
- *The Holy Family, Sunday, Dec. 31st*
8:30 am @ St. Damian;
10:00 am @ St. Bernard;
Mass in Spanish: 11:00 am @ St. Damian.
- *New Year's Eve – NO MASS.*
- *New Year's Day – 9:00 am @ St. Bernard.*

VOCATION CORNER: Our vocation starts as an indwelling, with the quiet whisper of God's pull on our heart. It's often personal and difficult to describe to others and often takes much prayer and discernment to see clearly. St. Francis de Sales reflected on this individual nature of our call, ***"We all have a vocation. We believe that God has placed us in this life to fill a special need that no one else can accomplish."***

DISCERNMENT RETREAT:

"A Hungry Heart" is a three-day *Co-Ed Discernment Retreat* from **Monday, Jan. 22 till Thursday, Jan. 25** @ White House Jesuit Retreat in St. Louis, MO. Making use of Saint Ignatius' rules of discernment, Fr. Jeff Putthoff, SJ will explore with you how the senses and imagination reveal God's presence in our daily lives, thus guiding us to greater unity with God's will. Making choices, big and small, are all occasions for connecting with God. Check-in is **Monday, Jan. 21** at 11:30 am with check-out **Thursday, Jan. 25** at 12:00 noon. A \$50 deposit is required at registration. A freewill offering can be made at the conclusion of the retreat if you wish.

"My soul rejoices in my God."

HAPPENINGS/MEETINGS:

Sunday, December 17th

St. Damian Youth Choir Practice 9:15 am @ Church
Santa Visits 9:30 am @ St. Damian Gym
Stations of the Crib 6:00 pm @ St. Bernard Church
Posada 6:30 pm @ St. Anthony, Beckemeyer

Monday, December 18th

RCIA 7:00 pm @ Breese

Tuesday, December 19th

English Classes 9:30 am @ St. Damian House
St. Damian Adult Choir Practice 7:00 pm @ Church

Wednesday, December 20th

Eucharistic Adoration
9:00-11:00 am @ St. Damian Church
1:00-2:00 pm @ St. Bernard Church
Advent Bible Study
7:00 pm @ St. Bernard

Thursday, December 21st

English Classes 9:30 am @ St. Damian House
St. Bernard Choir Practice 7:00 pm @ Church

Friday, December 22nd

Communion to Homebound
Christmas Decorating 6:00 pm @ St. Bernard Church
Hispanic Rosary 6:30 pm
Hispanic Bible Study 7:00 pm

Saturday, December 23rd

Reconciliation 3:15-3:45 pm @ St. Bernard
Mass 4:00 pm @ St. Bernard

Sunday, December 24th

Sunday Mass Schedule:
8:30 am @ St. Damian Church
10:00 am @ St. Bernard Church
11:00 am Mass in Spanish @ St. Damian Church
Christmas Eve Mass Schedule:
4:00 pm @ St. Damian Church
8:00 pm Mass in Spanish @ St. Damian Church
10:00 pm @ St. Bernard Church

ST. DAMIAN PARISH CONCERNS:

CHURCH SUPPORT: December 10th, 2017

Envelopes: \$2,369.00 + Loose: \$96.00 = \$2,465.00
Budget for week: \$2,903.85
Fiscal year-to-date collected: \$57,408.04
Fiscal year-to-date budget: \$69,692.40
Over (under) year-to-date budget: **(\$ 12,284.36)**
Fiscal year (7/16-6/17) budget: \$151,000.00

(**Reminder:** The fiscal year budget **does not** include the \$55,850.00 transferred from: Savings, Building Fund, Cemetery & Picnic Checking Accounts, which is needed in order to balance the budget.)

Hispanic Minister Salary:

St. Damian Collection: \$121.00

Guadalupe Mass Collection: \$530.77

Thanks for your faithful and generous support!

DAMIANSVILLE DEVELOPMENT CLUB:

Save the following dates: **Sunday, Dec. 17th:** Santa will visit following the 8:30 am Mass @ St. Damian Gym; and **Saturday, January 20th, 2018:** Development Club Annual Banquet.

ST. DAMIAN LADIES SODALITY:

Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 9th, 2018** at 7:00 pm in St. Damian Parish House. Hope to see you there.

ST. DAMIAN MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 24th, 2017 @ 8:30 am

Ministers of Communion — Ruth Jansen, Pete Toennies, *Kristy Richter*
Reader — Mary Innes
Ushers — Jerry Innes, Steve Kalmer
Servers — Meredith & Reid Innes, Evelyn Fuehne
Organist — Geri Varel
Collection Counters – Pete Toennies, Kristy Richter, Sandy Kramer
Children's Liturgy – NO SESSION

ST. BERNARD PARISH CONCERNS:

CHURCH SUPPORT: December 9th/10th, 2017

Envelopes: \$1,432.00 + Thanksgiving: \$35.00
+ Loose: \$86.00 = \$1,553.00
Budget for week: \$3,012.02
Fiscal year-to-date collected: \$60,791.75
Fiscal year-to-date budget: \$72,288.48
Over (under) year-to-date budget: **(\$ 11,496.73)**
Fiscal year (7/17-6/18) budget: \$156,625.00

(**Reminder:** The fiscal year budget **does not** include the \$33,000.00 transferred from: Men's Club, Ladies Sodality, Capital Fund, Cemetery & Fund Raiser Checking Accounts, which is needed in order to balance the budget.)

Hispanic Minister Salary: \$269.00

Thanks for your faithful and generous support!

ST. BERNARD MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 23rd, 2017 @ 4:00 pm

Ministers of Communion — Melissa Netemeyer, Nettie Broeckling, Liz Nussbaumer
Reader — Ken Nussbaumer
Ushers — Ed Broeckling, Brian Zurliene
Servers — Tyler Robertson, Kyle Athmer, Kalie Wellen

Sunday, December 24th, 2017 @ 10:00 am

Ministers of Communion — *Lynn Ahtmer*, Michelle Kennedy, Alyssa Winkeler, Ray Gill
Reader — Sean Kennedy
Ushers — Brian & Nolan Winkeler, Allison & Reagan Rickhoff
Servers — Carson Rickhoff, Ben Morris,
Volunteer
Counters – Lynn Athmer, Sean Kennedy, James Williams
Children's Liturgy – NO SESSION



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St. Bernard Catholic Church-Albers IL

ST. BERNARD PASTORAL COUNCIL:

Congratulations & Welcome to our newest members to the Pastoral Council: *Casey Etter & Ed Wuebbels!* **Thank you** to *Luke Niemeyer* for his willingness to serve another term. **Thank you** to *Lynette Huegen & Brian Zurliene* for their service on the Pastoral Council.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS!

Christmas Cards are a great way to send a little holiday cheer to your neighbors and friends. This year, we will be offering an opportunity to spread a little joy (and save a little \$) with holiday mailboxes! The boxes will be located in the gathering area at St. Bernard, lettered A-Z (If your last name begins with the letter "C", you would find your cards in the "C" mailbox) - Write out your cards, address the envelope to the family/friend the card is for and pop them in the lettered mailboxes! No stamps or mailing addresses needed! We will also have mail helpers available to help you distribute/gather your cards. **Mailboxes are available!**

THANK YOU!!

- ❖ **THANK YOU** to St. Bernard & St. Damian Parishioners for all your help with the *Thanksgiving Food Drive*. We appreciate all the hard work and the food. You are helping to feed the poor in our area. **God Bless!!**
-- St. Vincent DePaul Society, St. Boniface Conference
- ❖ **THANK YOU** to everyone for supporting *Hardee's Family Night in Breese!* A carload of donated food pantry items and \$163.28 will be delivered to Daystar Community Program in Cairo, IL thanks to your generosity! **CONGRATULATIONS** to *Tucker Schwierjohn* on being the winner of the \$25 Hardee's gift certificate!
- ❖ **THANK YOU** to St. Bernard & St. Damian Parishioners: St. Mother Teresa has a quote in her own words, *"The greatest good is what we do for one another."* And this is exactly what I thought when Daystar received your kind and caring donation to help others. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We have just finished the Thanksgiving Day dinner which served 312 seniors, poor and handicapped to those who had no one in their homes – delivered with a smile. Now the season continues with sharing a smile to children with clothes, toys, underwear, gloves and hats in the three counties on where needed for those in the eight counties we now serve. God is good. Again thank you and prayers and thoughts to you all.
-- Sherry Miller, Director of Daystar
- ❖ **THANK YOU** St. Bernard Parishioners!!! We had an empty *"Giving Tree"* this year!! What does an empty Christmas tree mean? This one represents giving, generosity, caring, kindness, thoughtfulness, love and all that is good!! It was filled twice with cards plus a list of larger items. You, the parishioners, and some community members made that happen!! *Community Link* greatly appreciates your over whelming support. May God bless all of you not only at this Christmas season but all year long! Thank you!!
-- Melissa Netemeyer

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS CONTEST:

Christmas light displays judging sponsored by *Albers Commercial Club & Damiansville Development Club* from **Sunday, Dec. 17th through Sunday, Dec. 24th**. Please have your lights displayed during this time from 6:00-9:00 pm.

St. Anthony Parish, Beckemeyer: *Special Christmas Bunko & Dessert Party* will be held on **Monday, Dec. 18th** at 1:00 pm in the parish center. \$5.00 per person includes drink and dessert. Must be 18 or older. Extra attendance prizes, first & last place for most bangers & bunks. *Benefits St. Anthony Cemetery Fund.*

Albers/Damiansville Community: *American Red Cross Blood Drive* on **Tuesday, December 26th** from 2:00-7:00 pm @ Albers Jaycees Building. All presenting donors will receive a long sleeved t-shirt.

Aviston Sons of American Legion: *2018 Black Tie & Talent Show* will be held on **Sat. Jan. 13th, 2018** at 5:00 pm @ the Hidden Lake Winery in Aviston, IL. This formal event is a talent and glamour contest where we give away over \$8000 in scholarships to (8) college bound contestants. Interested contestants can tryout at a **downselect competition** on **Friday, Dec 22nd** at 6:00 pm @ Aviston Legion. A 3-minute speech on a topic of contestants choice and a talent demonstration is required. Any Clinton County residents who will attend college or trade school in 2018 can enter the contest. Tickets for the event are selling at \$40.00 each. Ticket includes: happy hour, 4-course meal, talent contest, and late night entertainment. For tickets or entry info call: Jim Kues 228-7008 or Craig Timmermann 830-7737.

St. Patrick, Waterloo: *Life Line Screening* will be held on **Monday, Jan. 22nd, 2018**. Life Line Screenings go beyond regular checkups to look inside your arteries for signs of plaque build-up. All five screenings: *Carotid Artery/Plaque, Heart Rhythm (Atrial Fibrillation), Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm, Peripheral Arterial Disease & Osteoporosis Risk Assessment* is \$139. Get your special community circle pricing! Three ways to register: call toll-free at 1-866-2229-0469, online at www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle, or text the word "circle" to 797979.

The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal... join us as Partners in Hope:

The true joy of Christmas is in the everlasting love of Christ. May you find His peace, love and joy, now and in the coming New Year. With deepest gratitude for your prayers and generosity,

-- Ministries and Programs Funded by The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal