



**THIRD SUNDAY OF
ADVENT
DECEMBER 17th, 2023**



John 1:19-28
John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, Make straight the way for the Lord."

WEBSITE:

www.stbernardandstdamian.org



St. Bernard Parish

Founded 1908

202 N. Broadway – Box 10

Albers, Illinois 62215

Phone: (618) 248-5112

St. Damian Parish

Founded 1861

One West Main Street

Damiansville, Illinois 62215

Phone: (618) 248-5134

BISHOP OF BELLEVILLE:

Most Rev. Michael McGovern

PASTOR:

Father Matthew Eli

Office Phone: (618) 248-5112

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE & DRE:

Deacon Glenn Netemeyer

Email: deaconglenn36@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, December 18th

7:45 AM @ St. Damian

Prayer Service

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19th

7:45 AM @ St. Bernard

Prayer Service

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20th

7:45 am Mass @ St. Damian

For all People Battling Cancer

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21st

NO MASS/SERVICE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22nd

NO MASS/SERVICE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23rd

Mass in Church

4:00 PM @ St. Bernard

Diane & David Young

Debbie Ware

Beth Rochholz

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th

Mass in Church

9:30 AM @ St. Damian

For the People

Hispanic Mass in Church

11:00 AM @ St. Damian

Mass in Church-Christmas Eve

4:00 PM @ St. Damian

Deceased Members of the Lindy & Florence Horstmann Family

Sean Howard

Bob Innes & Frank & Minnie Heimann

David Pingsterhaus

Alvin Toennies & Tom Reis

Mass in Church-Christmas Eve

10:00 PM @ St. Bernard

Doris Kloeckner

Robert Kloeckner

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25th

Mass in Church-Christmas Day

9:30 AM @ St. Bernard

For Peace

Hispanic Mass-Christmas Day

11:00 AM @ St. Damian

LITURGY OF THE WORD:

Isaiah 61: 1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24; John 1: 6-8, 19-28

On Gaudete Sunday a theme of joy runs through our readings. Isaiah, returning to the promised land after years of exile, describes the wonders God will accomplish. In the psalm we sing that our souls rejoice in our God. Paul closes his letter to the Thessalonians by reminding them to rejoice always. Finally, we hear John the Baptist testify that he is not worthy to even untie the sandal strap of the One who is coming, the light, the Christ. May the joy we hear in God's word rub off on us.

HAPPENINGS/MEETINGS:

Sunday, December 17th

Children's Choir Practice

8:30 am @ St. Damian

Mass in Church

9:30 am @ St. Damian

Hispanic Mass in Church

11:00 am @ St. Damian Church

Monday, December 18th

Prayer Service in Church

7:45 am @ St. Damian

Tuesday, December 19th

St. Damian Parish Council Meeting

7:00 pm @ St. Damian Rectory Meeting Room

Eucharistic Adoration

7:00-8:00 @ St. Bernard

St. Damian Adult Choir Practice

7:00 pm @ St. Damian Church

Wednesday, December 20th-Refreshments at Rectory

Mass in Church W/ Refreshments to Follow

7:45 am @ St. Damian

Thursday, December 21st

Mass in Church

7:45 am @ St. Bernard

Netemeyer/Weiss Wedding

2:00 pm @ St. Bernard

Friday, December 22nd

NO MASS/NO SERVICE

Saturday, December 23rd

Mass in Church

4:00 pm @ St. Bernard

Sunday, December 24th

Mass in Church

9:30 am @ St. Damian

Hispanic Mass in Church

11:00 am @ St. Damian Church

Christmas Eve Mass

4:00 pm @ St. Damian Church

Christmas Eve Mass

10:00 pm @ St. Bernard Church

Monday, December 25th

Christmas Day Mass

9:30 am @ St. Bernard Church

Hispanic Christmas Mass

11:00 am @ St. Damian Church.

MY SOUL REJOICES IN MY GOD.

CHRISTMAS MASSES will be held on Christmas Eve at 4:00 pm at St. Damian, 10:00 pm at St. Bernard, Christmas Day at 9:30 am at St. Bernard, and 11:00 Hispanic Mass at St. Damian. Ministry sign-up sheets will be in the back of both churches for those who wish to volunteer.

LOCAL ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

12/17/23 - 3:45 pm – St. Charles, Dubois

12/17/23 – 3:00 pm – St. Francis, Aviston

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!

The 2023 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal
The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord - Psalm 15. Your contribution to The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal enables the Office of Education to impact the lives of over 9,500 students at 25 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 2023 Appeal today...no amount is too large or too small! Thank you.

"THANKS SO MUCH!" To all who hung items on the "Giving Tree" at St. Damian. The items were brought to BCMW for their annual Christmas distribution. Your kindness and generosity helped to make Christmas a little warmer for many families in need. Jesus is the Reason for the Season!

Thank you to everyone who donated to the St. Bernard's Giving Tree! Coping 4 Kids truly appreciate your generosity! Your gift of giving is a true example of the Spirit of Christmas! God bless you and may all have a Merry Christmas!

ST. DAMIAN PARISH CONCERNS:

CHURCH SUPPORT: December 10th

Loose: \$274.00+ Envelopes: (26) \$1,750.00
+ Mass in Spanish: \$ 1,278.00
+ Christmas (2) \$125.00 & Thanks \$50 \$3,477.00
Budget for week: \$3,121.00
Fiscal year-to-date collected: \$71,558.10
Fiscal year-to-date budget: \$74,904.00
Over (under) year-to-date budget: **(\$3,345.90)**
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!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE – December 24th -9:30 am

Euch. Ministers: Rosann Horstmann, Kevin Toennies, Arlene Korte
Ushers: Bill Jansen Sr & Gary Tonnies
Servers: Lincoln & Connor Arentsen, Kennedy Toennies
Lector: Joe Cleeton
Cantor: Lauren Cleeton

December 24th – 4:00 pm

Euch. Ministers: Sharon Kalmer, Pete Toennies, Arlene Korte, Beth Brandmeyer & 4 Volunteers
Ushers: 5 Volunteers
Servers: Connor & Lincoln Arentsen, 2 Volunteers
Lector: Denise Luitjohan
Children's Choir
Collection Counter for 24th & 25th: Anita Rakers, Dave Kassen, Mel Toennies, Gwen Toennies
Thank you for being ministers of your parish!

ST. DAMIAN CHOIR INFORMATION:

The St. Damian Adult Choir will practice on Tuesday evenings in December at 7:00 pm. We are in need of volunteers to keep this musical ministry thriving in our parish. Anyone high school age or older is invited to join. Contact Chris Brandmeyer at 618-792-2676 with questions.

YOUTH CHOIR NOTE! The last two Youth Choir practices will be at 8:30am before masses on Sunday Dec 17 and Dec 24. The Youth Choir will sing for Christmas Eve mass at St. Damian on Sunday Dec 24 at 4pm. Please be at church in the balcony by 3:30pm on Christmas Eve. Thanks for helping to "Make a Joyful Noise!"

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GATHERING of the St Damian's Holy Name, St Damian's Altar Sodality and Damiansville Development Club will be on Friday, January 19th. Happy Hour at 5:30 and meal at 6:30.

ST. BERNARD PARISH CONCERNS:

CHURCH SUPPORT: December 9th

Loose: \$155.00 +Envelopes: (40) \$1,645.00
+Thanksgiving:(1) \$100.00 \$1,900.00
Budget for week: \$3,502.00
Fiscal year-to-date collected: \$70,151.98
Fiscal year-to-date budget: \$84,048.00
Over (under) year-to-date budget: **(\$13,896.02)**
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 – December 23rd

Euch. Ministers: Ken & Liz Nussbaumer, Steve Schomaker
Reader: Janel Zurliene
Ushers: Nick & Kathy Friederich
Servers: Westin & Levi Schwierjohn, Brynley Albers
Coll. Counters: Phyllis Albers, Lynn Athmer, Janel Zurliene

December 24th – 10:00 PM

Euch. Ministers: Kristen Templin, Lynette Huegen and 2 Volunteers
Reader: Dana Lake
Ushers: 4 Volunteers
Servers: Cole Huegen, Dylan & Lydia Wuebbels, Liam Jung

December 25th – 9:30 AM

Euch. Ministers: 2 Volunteers
Reader: Volunteer
Ushers: 2 Volunteers
Servers: 3 Volunteers
Collection Counter: Volunteers needed to count Christmas Collection.
Thank you for being ministers of your parish!

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.

RESPECT LIFE CORNER

"O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free." USCCB, "Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita"

ST. MARY IMMACULATE PARISH IN MT. VERNON will have a one night Advent Retreat presented by Michael and Michelle Mette on December 17th starting at 6:30 pm.

Mater Dei Christmas Concert: Sunday, December 17, 6 p.m. Enjoy the sounds of the season as performed by our symphonic band, jazz combo, and chorus at our Christmas concert on Sunday, December 17, at 6:00 p.m., in the main gym.

VILLAGE OF ALBERS 2023 HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST. Sponsored by the Albers Commercial Club. Top 5 entries PLUS Mayor/s Choice Award. CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council will be recognizing one home in each Albers AND Damiansville best displaying “Keep Christ in Christmas”. \$25 prize to one home in each town. Judging will be Sunday, December 17th, from 6-9 pm.

National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows The Way of Lights – Shrine Grounds and Visitors Center through December 31, 2023, 5:00pm to 9:00pm. Indoor activities closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. *The Way of Lights Display depicts the journey of Mary and Joseph as they travel to Bethlehem using over 1.5 million beautiful lights. This year, we have added colored lights to celebrate the birth of Jesus and continue to offer activities for young and old alike!* Cost: No charge for display, donations accepted and additional charges for some activities. For more information, call 618-397-6700 or visit our website at <https://snows.org/wayoflights>.

SEEK 2024, January 1-5, 2024 at America’s Center in St. Louis. SEEK24 is put on by FOCUS, a Catholic outreach organization targeted towards college students and young adults. SEEK is a national conference with numerous universities as well as young adults from across the country attending. There will be keynote speakers such as Fr. Mike Schmitz, Mass, a concert, breakout sessions, adoration, confessions, vendors, and fellowship throughout the week. Age would be at minimum 18, 17-year-olds can attend but with a parent chaperone. Please see attached flyer for more information on this program. Contact Mark Loyet at Diocese of Belleville for more information.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Night-Time Drop-In Center continues to operate at full capacity every night, providing shelter and helping homeless men, women and children survive the dangers of the city streets. In addition, Cosgrove’s Soup Kitchen serves an ever-growing number of hungry people each day. We humbly ask for your prayers for St. Vincent de Paul staff and clients and, if you are able, to once again provide any of these much-needed items” Individually packaged cookies, fruit cups, tuna and chicken snack packs, chips, crackers, cheese sticks, yogurt cups, cereal, Pop Tarts, breakfast bars, soup or pasta in a cup, bottled water and other individual-serve drinks. In addition, laundry detergent pods, paper towels, toilet paper and tissues are always in short supply. Items can be dropped off Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., at: St. Vincent de Paul Office, 8800 West Main Street, Belleville, Illinois 62223 (across from Blessed Sacrament Church). SVDP Thrift Store/Soup Kitchen, 3718 State Street, East St. Louis 62205. If you have questions or need additional information, please call the SVDP Council office at 618-394-0126. Thank you and God bless you for your generosity which enables our ministry to the very poorest among us.

COINS FOR CARING

Join us on the journey of advent by bringing coins and cash donations to St. Bernard & St. Damian Churches Saturday, November 25-Sunday, December 23! Donations to Coins for Caring benefit the Metro East Diaper Bank and Coping 4 Life. Faith Formation students can bring their donations to class or Mass.

