



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 3rd, 2023

Another parable spoke he
to them; The kingdom of
heaven is like to leaven,
which a woman took, and
hid in three measures of
meal...

—Matthew 13:33



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: deaconglenn36@gmail.com
Cell Phone: 618-772-9343
Office at St. Damian

PERMANENT DEACON:

Deacon Kevin Templin
Email: deaconkevin18@gmail.com
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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
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CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTER:

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St. Bernard and St. Damian
Catholic Churches

MASS SCHEDULE:

MONDAY, December 4th

7:45 AM @ St. Damian
Prayer Service

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5th

7:45 AM @ St. Bernard
Prayer Service

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6th

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7th

7:45 am Mass @ St. Bernard
For The People
7:00 pm Mass @ St. Bernard (Vigil)
For the People

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8th

Immaculate Conception
7:45 am Mass @ St. Damian
For the People

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9th

Mass in Church
4:00 PM @ St. Bernard
Clara Kohrmann
Gary "Tripp" Kharibian

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10th

Mass in Church
9:30 AM @ St. Damian
Bob, Irene, Gary, Don & Alicia Strieker
Dec's Members of the Henry & Lucille Albers Family
Bill & Cecilia Jansen
Marilyn Breiner Fiedler

Hispanic Mass in Church
11:00 AM @ St. Damian
Lady of Guadalupe Celebration

LITURGY OF THE WORD:

Isaiah 63: 16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7; 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9; Matthew 13: 33-37

“Watch!” The final word of today’s Gospel binds together our readings on this first Sunday of Advent. Isaiah watched for the LORD, anticipating that one day God would come down from the heavens and rescue the Chosen People. Paul exhorted the Corinthians to be watchful for the day when the Lord would return. Jesus himself compared the Second Coming to the head of the house returning at a time you least expect. May God’s word remind us to wait watchfully for the Lord.

HAPPENINGS/MEETINGS:

Sunday, December 3rd

Children’s Choir Practice

8:30 am @ St. Damian

Mass in Church

9:30 am @ St. Damian

Baptism of Lane Joseph Thole w/ Deacon Glenn

10:00 am @ St. Bernard

Baptism of Madox Thole w/ Deacon Kevin

11:00 am @ St. Bernard

Hispanic Mass in Church

11:00 am @ St. Damian Church

Reconciliation Service

1:00 pm @ St. Damian Church

Monday, December 4th

Prayer Service in Church

7:45 am @ St. Damian

Tuesday, December 5th

Prayer Service in Church

7:45 am @ St. Bernard

St. Bernard Finance Council Meeting

6:15 pm @ St. Bernard Rectory Meeting Room

Eucharistic Adoration

7:00-8:00 @ St. Bernard

St. Damian Adult Choir Practice

7:00 pm @ St. Damian Church

Wednesday, December 6th

Mass in Church

9:30 am @ St. Damian

Thursday, December 7th

Mass in Church

7:45 am @ St. Bernard

Mass in Church-Immaculate Conception Vigil Mass

7:00 pm @ St. Bernard

Friday, December 8th - Immaculate Conception

Mass in Church

7:45 am @ St. Damian

Saturday, December 9th

Mass in Church

4:00 pm @ St. Bernard

Sunday, December 10th

Children’s Choir Practice

8:30 am @ St. Damian

Mass in Church

9:30 am @ St. Damian

Baptism of Demi Kaye Kalmer w/ Deacon Glenn

@ St. Bernard

Hispanic Mass in Church-Lady of Guadalupe

10:00 am Guadalupe March begins in Albers

11:00 am @ St. Damian Church

**LORD, MAKE US TURN TO YOU; LET US SEE
YOUR FACE AND WE SHALL BE SAVED.**

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.

WE WELCOME TO GOD’S FAMILY through the saving waters of Baptism:
-Demi Kaye Kalmer, daughter of Zachary & Sommer Kalmer, who will be baptized at St. Bernard’s on Sunday, December 10th.
May the Good Lord Bless you and keep you.

LOCAL ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

12/03/23 – 1:00 pm – St. Damian, Damiansville
12/05/23 – 6:30 pm – St. Theresa, Salem
12/10/23 – 3:00 pm – St. Mary, Carlyle
12/10/23 – 5:00 pm – St. Boniface, Germantown
12/11/23 – 6:30 pm – St. Mary, Centralia
12/13/23 – 12:30pm – St. Mary, Mt. Vernon
12/13/23 – 7:00 pm - St. George, New Baden
12/14/23 – 12:30 pm – St. Mary, Centralia
12/14/23 - 7:00 pm – St. Anthony, Beckemeyer
12/17/23 - 3:45 pm – St. Charles, Dubois
12/17/23 – 3:00 pm – St. Francis, Aviston
12/17/23 – 6:00 pm – St. Michael, Radom
12/18/23 – 6:30 pm – St. Mary, Mt. Vernon

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!

LADY OF GUADALUPE RAFFLE TICKETS

If anyone still has raffle tickets for the Lady of Guadalupe Raffle which will be held on Sunday, December 10, please get them turned into Maria Giminez or St. Damian Parish Office no later than Friday, December 8. Thank you for your support of the Hispanic Community.

ST. DAMIAN PARISH CONCERNS:

CHURCH SUPPORT: November 25th

Loose: \$144.00+ Envelopes: (22) \$1,043.00
+ Mass in Spanish: \$948.00
+Thanksgiving: (13) \$1,495.00 \$3,630.00
Budget for week: \$3,121.00
Fiscal year-to-date collected: \$63,045.10
Fiscal year-to-date budget: \$68,662.00
Over (under) year-to-date budget: **(\$5,616.90)**
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.)

MINISTRY SCHEDULE – December 10th

Euch. Ministers: Erin & Arlene Korte,
Julie Langenhorst
Ushers: Brad & Kristy Richter
Servers: Collins & Delaney Horstmann, Hunter Toennies
Lector: Simon Toennies
Cantor: Jackie Toennies
Organist: Geri Varel
Collection Counter: Kathleen Hodges, Anita Rakers
Thank you for being ministers of your parish!

ST. DAMIAN LADIES SODALITY will be collecting personal care items for the nursing home residents of the parish until December 17th. Items needed are lotion, body wash, shaving cream, deodorant, after shave, shampoo and conditioner. If you have a family member in the nursing home, please call Jan Hitch at (618)540-9974.

COMMUNITY GIVING TREE: 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 the BCMW Organization in Breese 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 18 - Dec 10. Your generous donations will help make the holidays a little warmer for those in need. Any questions, please contact Geri Varel at 248-5223. Thanks in advance for your generous support!

ST. DAMIAN CHOIR INFORMATION:

The St. Damian Adult Choir will practice on Tuesday evenings in November at 7:30 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. **WE'RE EXCITED! IT'S YOUTH CHOIR TIME!** Youth Choir practices have begun and will continue on Sunday mornings at 8:30. All youth in Grade 3-12 and college age students are welcome to participate and "Make a Joyful Noise! If kids or parents have any questions, please call Jackie at 618-335-9562 or Geri at 618-444-5073. Looking forward to seeing lots of smiling faces.

ST. BERNARD PARISH CONCERNS:

CHURCH SUPPORT: November 26th

Loose: \$32.00 +Envelopes: (29) \$1,515.00
+Thanksgiving: (4) \$485.00 \$2,032.00
Budget for week: \$3,502.00
Fiscal year-to-date collected: \$63,134.74
Fiscal year-to-date budget: \$77,044.00
Over (under) year-to-date budget: **(\$13,909.26)**
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 9th

Euch. Ministers: Ken & Liz Nussbaumer,
Steve Schomaker
Reader: Liz Nussbaumer
Ushers: Kent & Kati Schwierjohn
Servers: Owen Gauch, Kynley Barth,
Aubrey Winterbottom
Coll. Counters: James Williams, Tina Wuebbels,
Lynn Athmer
Thank you for being ministers of your parish!

Once again it is time for the Christmas "Giving Tree" drive at St. Bernard. St Bernard's Giving Tree event is November 23-Dec 8. This year all donated items through the St. Bernard Giving Tree event will be donated to the Coping 4 Kids program. The tree is located in the back of church filled with Christmas cards listing the items to purchase. The cards are colored coded to distribute so please return the yarn and the card with your items **unwrapped**, under the tree **no later than Dec. 8th**. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support for those less fortunate. May God bless you! If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Netemeyer.

ST. BERNARD'S CHOIR INFORMATION! **SING!! MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!!**

If you have ever thought of joining the choir, now is the time. We are looking for new members to join us in this important ministry for our church - come to rehearsal. Give it a chance. Just contact Joni or any of the choir members for more information!

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.

HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital in Breese is hosting a drive-thru live Nativity scene in the main parking lot near the hospital's front entrance, as well as other festivities such as carolers, children's activities, and hot chocolate and cookies in the hospital's front lobby on Sunday, December 10 from 4 – 6 p.m. This event is being held in celebration of the 800th year anniversary of St. Francis of Assisi beginning the tradition of commemorating the birth of Christ with a live Nativity near the city of Greccio, Italy on Christmas Eve in 1223.

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 From November 17 through December 31, 2023, 5:00pm to 9:00pm. Indoor activities closed on Thanksgiving Day, 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.



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