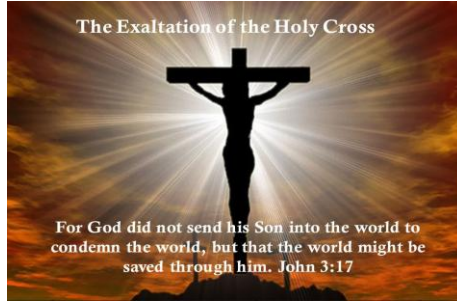
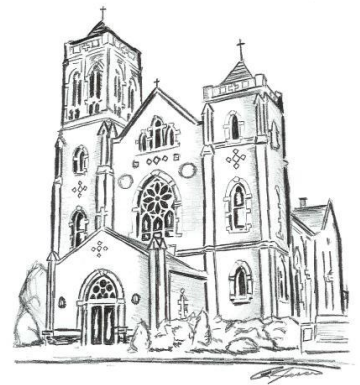




*Twenty-Fourth Sunday in
Ordinary Time
The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
September 14th, 2025*



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
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PERMANENT DEACON:
Deacon Kevin Templin
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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
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
Cell Phone: 618-2401-6007 Email: maschuetz@hotmail.com
St. Bernard and St. Damian

MASS SCHEDULE:

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th
Prayer Service
7:45 am @ St. Damian

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th
Prayer Service
7:45 am @ St. Bernard

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17th
Mass in Church w/ Refreshments After
7:45 am @ St. Damian
For all Parishioners

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th
Mass in Church
7:45 am @ St. Bernard
George & Rosie Becker

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th
NO MASS/SERVICE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th
Mass in Church
4:00 pm @ St. Damian
Franklin & Marian Eversgerd
Janice Mank
Louis Korte
Bill Gerdes

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21st
Mass in Church
9:30 am @ St. Bernard
Clarence & Isabelle Holtmann
Norman & Rosie Endres
Jim Engelmann
Leo, Pat & Glenn Litteken & Len Shields
Alice Book

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

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Numbers 21: 4b-9; Philippians 2:6-11; John 3: 13-17

In today's first reading, God has Moses make a bronze serpent, mount it on a pole, and lift it up so that those who were bitten by venomous snakes could look upon it and live. Centuries later, Jesus tells Nicodemus that the Son of Man must be lifted up in a similar way so that all who look upon him as their salvation will live. On this feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, let us consider that what Jesus did for us on the cross to save our immortal souls recalls what God had Moses do in the desert to save the Chosen People's mortal lives.

HAPPENINGS/MEETINGS:

Sunday, September 14th

Mass in Church – Timmons Baptism after

9:30 am @ St. Bernard

Hispanic Mass in Church

11:00 am @ St. Damian Church

Monday, September 15th

Prayer Service

7:45 am @ St. Damian

Tuesday, September 16th

Prayer Service

7:45 am @ St. Bernard

St. Damian Finance Meeting

6:00 pm @ St. Damian Rectory

Joint Liturgy Committee Meeting

7:00 pm @ St. Damian Rectory Meeting Room

Legion of Mary

5:00 in English @ St. Damian

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

6:00 in Spanish @ St. Damian

Wednesday, September 17th

Mass in Church

7:45 am @ St. Damian

Eucharistic Adoration

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

Thursday, September 18th

Mass in Church

7:45 am @ St. Bernard

Post Picnic Meeting

6:30 pm @ St. Damian Rectory

Friday, September 19th

NO MASS/NO SERVICES

Saturday, September 20th

Mass in Church

4:00 pm @ St. Damian

Sunday, September 21st

Mass in Church

9:30 am @ St. Bernard

Hispanic Mass in Church

11:00 am @ St. Damian Church

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DRAWING WINNERS FOR AUGUST

\$400 Doug Kuhl

\$60 Dan Poettker and Rita Poettker

Thank you to all who support the KC's.

Joint Liturgy meeting is set for Tuesday, September 16th at 7:00 pm at St. Damian rectory meeting room after the finance council meeting which is at 6:00 pm.

DO NOT FORGET THE WORKS OF THE LORD!

THINKING ABOUT BECOMING CATHOLIC

Let us walk with you on your journey. Classes begin Monday, Septe. 22 and meet every Monday evening from 7:00-8:30 pm at St. Dominic Annex in Breese.

For more information, contact Deacon Kevin at deaconkevin18@gmail.com or Kristen Templin at kmtemplin@gmail.com

St. Bernard's Children's Liturgy of the Word

began on Sunday, September 7th and will continue during the Sunday masses through May. Children in grades pre-k -4th grade are encouraged to participate. Father will gather the children in the front of the altar after the opening prayer. The children and leader will proceed to the church library. If you would like to be a leader or helper, please contact Karen Schroeder (618-691-9038). **St. Damian's Children's Liturgy of the Word** will begin on Sunday, October 5th and will follow the same guidelines as St. Bernard.

ST. DAMIAN PARISH CONCERNS:

CHURCH SUPPORT: September 6th

Loose: \$74.00+ Envelopes: (21): \$1,184.00

+ Mass in Spanish: \$1,440.00

+ ACH For Sept 2: \$1,215.00 \$3,913.00

Budget for week: \$3,536.00

Fiscal year-to-date collected: \$27,601.10

Fiscal year-to-date budget: \$35,660.00

Over (under) year-to-date budget: (\$8,058.90)

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.)

CSMA RESULTS: \$5,051 Pledged (23) of \$9,133 Goal

Thank you for your continued support!

ST. DAMIAN PARISH IS SEEKING

NOMINATIONS FOR PARISH COUNCIL. We are in need of 3 persons for St. Damian Parish Council. Nomination slips and box are located in the back of church. Please write in nominations and we will contact that person to see if they are interested. Elections will be mid October.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE – September 20th

Ministers: Beth Brandmeyer, Kennedy Toennies, Pete Toennies
Ushers: Brad Richter, Norm Horstmann
Servers: Jacob, Ryan & Randy Oros
Reader: Jackie Toennies
Cantor: Rosann Horstmann
Organist: Geri Varel
Coll. Counters: Tina Tonnies, Gwen Toennies

ST. DAMIAN POST PICNIC MEETING.

September 18 at 6:30 in the rectory meeting room.
Everyone welcome to attend.

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

The first Youth Choir practice for the Advent and Christmas season will be at St. Damian church on Sunday Oct 12 at 8:30am. All youth in Grades 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. We are looking forward to seeing lots of smiling faces on Sunday mornings beginning Sunday Oct 12 at 8:30am!

ST. BERNARD PARISH CONCERNS:

CHURCH SUPPORT: September 7th

Loose: \$116.00+Envelopes: (33) \$1,600.00
+ ACH For Sept 2nd: \$2,495.00 \$4,211.00
Budget for week: \$3,385.00
Fiscal year-to-date collected: \$27,754.00
Fiscal year-to-date budget: \$33,850.00
Over (under) year-to-date budget: (\$6,096.00)
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.)

CSMA RESULTS: \$6330 Pledged (16) of \$10,446 Goal
Thank you for your continued support!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE – September 21st

Ministers: Lynette Huegen, Dan & Lee Love
Reader: Dana Lake
Ushers: Cory & Andra Goestenkers
Servers: Kayle Reinhardt, Jack & Sam Reynolds
Coll. Count: Tina Wuebbels, Keith Richter, Lynn Athmer
Thank you for being ministers of your parish!

ST. BERNARD WURSTMARKT INFO: The Wurstmarkt committee is accepting donations to help cover the cost of the pork. If you are interested in donating, you can Venmo, drop the donation in the collection basket or drop box at rectory labeled Meat Donation, or give to a committee member. The Holy Name Wurstmarkt will be held on Sunday, September 28. Worker's list have been sent via email and is on our parish website. Copies are in church. Raffle tickets have been distributed. You can preorder fried pork sausage links. Please call or text Lyn Kloeckner at (618)789-8801 to place your preorder.

ST. BERNARD'S CHURCH IS CONSIDERING THE MUCH-NEEDED RENOVATIONS FOR OUR CHURCH.

Thank you to all who have already returned their Letters of Intent. It is truly appreciated! We are getting close to making this a reality so prayers for continued support of this project!

We are still receiving several Letters of Intentions a week so we thank you!

Our target date to reach our goal is October 1!

We ask for those who have yet to do so, please consider your donation and return your Letter of Intent as soon as possible. For those who have sent checks, they will not be cashed until we have the funding to be able to go forward with the renovations. For those who wish to do monthly auto ACH payments, we will also set those up when we are sure that we have the donations to go ahead with the project. Please know that all donors & donation amounts will remain anonymous and confidential. When we do the donation plaque at the end of the project, we will only list your name or who your donation was in memory of. There will never be an amount shown.

We will be talking about the much-needed renovations of our Church at the Masses. We will have renderings of the proposed renovations available in the back of church. Please consider what you would be willing to donate/pledge over the next 3 years to maintain our beautiful church. It has been over 40 years since our last renovation.

Wanted: St. Bernard Church decorators. St.

Bernard is in need of volunteers to help decorate the church. This is a great opportunity to help behind the scenes in your church. If interested, please call Peggy Fehrmann @ 618-910-9101, Penny Angeli - @ 785 -375-7895, Jamie Jung @ 618-401-2436, or Rachel Varel @ 618-541-0407.

ALBERS/DAMIANSVILLE VILLAGE-WIDE GARAGE SALES! Sat, Sept 13, 7am-2pm. All residents are welcome to participate. Set up in your own garages & driveways. Feel free to have your sales open on Thursday and Friday too. Set your own hours and put your own signs along the road. No maps will be printed. If you would like to list your address and hours, post your info on the Village of Albers and Damiansville, IL Facebook page

Chicken Dinner @ Albers Legion, September 21st, 4:30 to 7:00. 1/2 chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, slaw, bread & butter and dessert. Come play bingo and get \$2.00 off your meal. \$14.00 adult, Kids \$6.00 5-12, under 5 free. adult carryout available.

DDC Que & Brew, Oct 5! If anyone is interested in purchasing a \$20 ticket for the drawing happening at the event, contact Al Varel 618-973-8527. Prizes are \$1,000, \$300 & \$100. Only 200 tickets available!

All are invited to join Father Godfrey for the Blessing of the Harvest, which will be held on Friday, September 19, 2025, at 1:00 P.M. at the Boulds Farm, 100 Willow Lake Road, Eldorado, IL. "BOULDS FARM" signs will guide you along the way. Those attending are invited to bring harvested grain, fruit, vegetables and garden produce in sealed, marked containers along with animals and farm machinery to be blessed. You are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to be donated to the local food pantry. We look forward to having you join us!

YOU ARE INVITED. parishioners, families, young and old to OPEN HOUSE at HINCKE-SENSE RESIDENCE FOR RETIRED PRIESTS Sunday, September 21 from 3:00 to 6:00 PM. Please join us for a tour and refreshments and visit with your retired priests. 2620 Lebanon Avenue Belleville, IL 62221.

CHICKEN DINNER: St. Felicitas Church, Beaver Prairie, 13322 Church Road, Carlyle, Sunday, Sept. 21. 11:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. Drive-thru \$15

8th Annual Mental Health Awareness & Memorial Walk In Memory of Sydney Irizarry, Friday, September 26, 2025 @ Lehrter/JC Park. Proceeds benefit 'Swing for Sydney Foundation'. SIGN UP TODAY at <https://runsignup.com/Race/IL/Albers/MentalHealthAwarenessandMemorialWalk>. \$25 Early Registration until Friday, September 19 @ 11:59p.m. / \$30 On Site Registration

ST. BERNARD'S ANNUAL WURSTMARKT, Sunday, September 28th, 10:30-5:30 at St. Bernard Parish Center. Pork Sausage, Pork Roast, Sauerkraut, Mashed Potatoes/gravy, green beans, applesauce, and dessert. Drive thru & walk up carry-outs available. Small dine-in area in parish center available to sit and eat your carryout.

ALS Golf Scramble – 5th Annual Tee'd Off with ALS Golf Scramble, Saturday, Oct 4 at Roland Barkau Memorial Golf Course, Okawville, IL. All proceeds go to the Tim Miller Research Lab, Washington University to find a cure. Ways to support this cause include golfing, sponsors, monetary donation, or a memorial sign with mum in the memorial garden. Also, this year the reverse drawing is a cash raffle with 7 chances to win! Last ticket picked wins \$5000 and other winners are 4 - \$1000 and 2- \$500. Tickets are \$100 each. For more information go to FB page Tee'd Off with ALS or contact Melissa Netemeyer @ 618-691-9413

Honor your Loved Ones on All Souls Day with Your Personalized Tribute in The Messenger. Tributes will appear in our October 23rd publication. Please Print the name(s) of your deceased loved one(s) and send to All Souls Day Tributes to e Messenger (222 S. Third St. Belleville, IL 62220) by October 6, 2025. If you have any questions, please call 618-722-5047 or email advertising@bellevillemessenger.org.

Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) retreats for 2025/2026. The Belleville Diocese is providing 2 TEC retreat weekends for the 2025/2026 academic school year. TEC is a 3-day Catholic retreat weekend designed for young adults, juniors and seniors (or older) in high school, who are looking for an opportunity to develop a stronger relationship with God and/or their fellow Christians. If you, or someone you know, are looking for an opportunity to enhance your relationship with Jesus Christ or experience your Catholic faith in a dynamic and fun-filled setting, then a TEC retreat may be just what you are looking for. The TEC weekends are scheduled for October 11-13 at Mater Dei High School in Breese and January 17-19 at Immaculate Conception School in Columbia. To learn more, or attend a TEC weekend, please visit our website at bellevilletec.org. If you've attended a TEC weekend in the past and would like to attend one of the reunions, please visit bellevilletec.org for additional details.

RESPECT LIFE CORNER: "We pray to you, O Lord, that we always recognize each member of this human family as being made in your image and beloved by you, with worth and dignity." USCCB, "Prayer to Heal Racial Division"

VOCATION CORNER. Today's Gospel is the popular, often quoted, section from John 3:16 – "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son". We see it often proclaimed at professional sporting events. Do we embrace those words? Can we give of ourselves to consider a vocation to the Priesthood or Sisterhood? Can we encourage and support our young folks who might be pondering this path in life? Be bold and pose the question – "Are you considering a religious vocation?"

Catholic Service & Ministry Appeal. *The Messenger*, our diocesan newspaper, brings local, national and international news of our Catholic faith right into your home through its print and online editions. Your gift to the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal helps to support *The Messenger*. If you haven't done so, subscribe to *The Messenger* today and also make your gift to the Appeal! Thank you for your generosity.

JustFaith Program – Faith & Poverty: A Solidarity Response. Join us for this small-group series from the JustFaith program, which explores local poverty and provides participants with practical tools and insights to respond with compassion and action. This 8-week course will meet on Thursday evenings from 7:00–9:00 PM, beginning September 14, in the Mater Dei High School Library. The sessions will be facilitated by Deacon Jay Fowler (618-973-3162) and Helen Essenpreis (618-980-1875). Please contact them if you are interested in participating.

MATER DEI JUNIOR KNIGHTS. Mater Dei Catholic High School invites children grade 4 and younger to join Junior Knights! For the informational letter, as well as both the printable registration form and the link to the online registration form, please visit our website: www.materdeiknights.org. While children may join at any time, the registration form and fee are due by Wednesday, September 17, to guarantee a shirt by the homecoming parade (October 1). For questions, contact Maria Zurliene at 618-526-7216 or mzurliene@materdeiknights.org.

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