

**ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY**

**HECKER, ILLINOIS 62248**

**REV. LINUS UMOREN, ADMINISTRATOR**

**PARISH OFFICE 618-473-2217 FAX 618-473-9141**

**E-MAIL ADDRESS: [staug@htc.net](mailto:staug@htc.net)**

**PARISH WEBSITE: <https://www.staugustineofcanterburyhecker.com>**

**To contact Father Linus Umoren, CM; when not in Parish Office,**

**Cell #618-666-2217/ Father John Igwe cell #618-504-7005**

**St. Vincent de Paul Help Line 618-792-4059**

**House of Neighborly Service Help Line 618-939-8680**

**Confessions: heard each Saturday night from 4 to 4:45 pm**

**Parish Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays, 8:30 am to 3:00 pm.**

**VOL. 59 NO. 16- April 21st, 2024**

**THEME FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER:** Jesus is the “cornerstone rejected by the builders which has become the cornerstone.” He is the good shepherd who laid down his life for us. Through his paschal mystery we have become children of God.

**MASS INTENTIONS:**

Friday, 4/19 8:00am- - Marvin Eckart and Ruth Cortner

Saturday, 4/20 5:00pm- For Our Parish at St. Augustine’s

Sunday, 4/21 8:00am- Cletus & Agnes Gregson and John Rheinecker

Friday, 4/26 8:00am- Delmar and Wylma Wachtel

Saturday, 4/27 5:00pm- Deceased Members of the Knights of Columbus and A Special Intention

Sunday, 4/28 8:00am- For Our Parish at St. Augustine’s



**OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM 4/14/2024:**

Weekly Envelopes (108)-\$2,949.00

Loose- \$174.00

Youth-\$12.00

Carpet Fund Donations- \$1,000.00

Parking Lot/Resolution Projects Donations-**\$2,700.00**

***Scholarship Fund - \$2,579.00 (Total  
Donated since 8/1/2023)***

**Thank you very much for your generosity!**

## SCHEDULE FOR WEEK

### Saturday, April 27th, 5pm

Set Up: Donna Rheinecker

Servers: Mehrmanns

Lector: Ruth Wittenauer

Extraordinary Minister: Donna Rheinecker

Extraordinary Minister (W): Marvin Parker

Extraordinary Minister (W): Angie Parker

Camera:

### Sunday, April 28th, 8am

Set Up: Arnie Eckart

Servers: Lucas Gregson

Lector: Janella Neary

Extraordinary Minister: Raeleen Neary

Extraordinary Minister (W): Dale Haudrich

Extraordinary Minister (W): Bernadette Gregson

Camera:

### **Please pray for the following:**

Darlene Frisch, Jeanelle Dinan, Marge Abel, Madalyn Killebrew, Kenny Kern, Marcia Rheinecker, Ricky Wittenauer, Ava Kern, Nancy Grohmann, Jim & Joanne Cowell, Helen Parker, Mike Rheinecker, Evelyn Kelley Marquart, Roger Cortner, Frank Kohler, Josh Middendorf, Ethel Mae Kreher, Shirley Wittenauer, Annette Lovelace, Mel Parker, Geri Griffin, Melissa Stellhorn, Rhonda Mehring-Smith, Gary Rist, A Special Intention, and Delbert Wittenauer, and Dorothy Christiansen.

For Active Service Personnel: Justin S. Bushong, United States Coast Guard, Austin Grohmann, United States Marine Corps, and Austin Gregson, United States Marine Corps.



### **5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY COLLECTIONS...**

**JUNE 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> – St. Vincent de Paul Waterloo & Life Network (Waterloo)**

**SEPTEMBER 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> – House of Neighborly Services (Holiday Outreach)**

**And although there are five weeks during the month of December, there will NOT be a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Collection.**

We appreciate your generosity during these 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Collections. Once again, if you wish to have your donation listed on your annual financial statement, please indicate on your check memo line or put cash in an envelope with the designation of 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Collection. Thank you!

# FROM THE PASTOR...

**Father Linus Umoren, C.M.**

## **Reflection for Fourth Sunday of Easter Year C**

"I love my job!" exclaimed the farmer. "All you do is boss me around all day!" complained one of his sheep. "What did you say?" challenged the farmer. The sheep glared back and growled... "You herd me."

The fourth Sunday of Easter is sometimes known as the Good Shepherd Sunday. Today we do not read about the resurrection nor the appearance of Jesus Christ but about the familiar and comforting image of Jesus as the good shepherd. The characterization of Jesus as the good shepherd has many dimensions. Still, the gospel reading of this Sunday reveals two of them: the relationship Jesus has with those who follow him and the relationship he has with the father.

Pope Francis seems to find this image instructive as well.

He says that the shepherd must "have the smell of the sheep." Having the smell of something indicates proximity and attentiveness to the otherness of something or someone. Jesus' sheep are those who hear his voice, recognize it, and follow him. Interestingly, the sheep always know the shepherd's voice because the shepherd and the sheep are always together. Still, not only do they recognize the shepherd's voice, but they also perceive the presence of other sheep. There is mutual trust between them. On the other hand, Jesus does not take for granted the inner disposition of a shepherd. Some shepherds are like hired personnel- who does not claim ownership of his mission, nor risks his life for the sheep.

Consequently, in this discourse, Jesus makes three bold claims: He will lay down his life for his sheep and will not allow anyone to take them away from him; also, he has other sheep that do not belong to this fold which he must lead he must lead. In other words, the true shepherd wins the confidence of the sheep because he is ready to forgo his needs and deny his interest in the benefit of the sheep and the task of the sheep is to follow the shepherd. However, there are other sheep outside the contextual fold. Here Jesus refers to the missionary to the whole world. Here we remember the words of Jesus in which he said, "Thus it is written that the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem" (Lk. 24:46-47 NAB). Consequently, Jesus speaks of the inner life of the Church as well as the Church's missionary outreach.

In conclusion, this image of sheep and shepherd says something important about our relationship with Christ. Jesus wants to relate with us by attracting us. He does not want to force us to be with him, rather he wants us to trust him as a shepherd. Thus, he desires a relationship that is built on love. He wants us to see our faith in terms of gift and grace to we are invited to claim. Only in Jesus do we find the true model of shepherding.

**St. AUGUSTINE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

-200th St. Augustine's Celebration Committee Meeting will be Thursday, May 2nd @ 7pm inside the Parish Center.

-Ladies Sodality Meeting will be Tuesday, May 7th @ 7pm, Dessert will be served.

- Finance Meeting will be Monday, May 13th @ 7pm inside the Parish Office

-Parish Council Meeting will be Thursday, May 16th @ 7pm inside the Parish Center.

-Kirchenfest Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024; Mass @ 3pm, Dinner served 3-7pm, More to follow in next few weeks!!

-Green Graduation inserts are available and must be returned to Parish office or email/call with info by May 19<sup>th</sup> so the information can be shared in a special Graduation bulletin insert for Masses the weekend of May 25<sup>th</sup> and May 26<sup>th</sup>

**The 2024 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal**  
***Serve the Lord with gladness***  
***-Psalm 100***

Your contribution to The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal enables the Office of Education to impact the lives of over 11,128 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 2024 Appeal today...no amount is too large or too small! Thank you.

**ST. AUGUSTINE'S**  
**PLEDGES TO DATE: 21**  
**(\$4,720.00 Pledged)**

**72% OF OUR GOAL MET!!!**  
**(\$6,569.00 Parish Goal)**



## THE DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE

---

April 15, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The Catholic Home Missions Appeal will be held here in our diocese on April 27-28. Traits of a Mission Diocese includes having a small Catholic population dispersed over a vast territory, a shortage of priests to serve, and areas of concentrated poverty, to list a few. Our Belleville Diocese is designated a Mission Diocese and for many years has received generous grant funding from the Catholic Home Missions Appeal.

Your support of the Catholic Home Missions collection makes a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters here in southern Illinois as well as on a national level. Eight diocesan ministries and programs receive Catholic Home Missions funding, including our seminarians/Vocation Office, Youth Ministry, Newman Catholic Student Center, Sister Thea Bowman Catholic School, the Permanent Diaconate and the Offices of Worship, Hispanic Ministry and Education/Faith Formation.

Please consider how you can support the Catholic Home Missions Appeal this year. To learn more about the Appeal and those who benefit from it, visit: [www.usccb.org/home-missions](http://www.usccb.org/home-missions). Thank you for helping to strengthen the Church at home.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael McGovern".

Most Reverend Michael McGovern  
Bishop of Belleville



## NEWS FROM GIBAULT HIGH SCHOOL

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Shadow Program – LAST CALL**

Last call for Shadow Visits! Your 7<sup>th</sup> grader can spend the day at Gibault as a Shadow Visitor. Shadows will be matched with a current student with similar interests and together, they'll attend classes, meet teachers, enjoy lunch in our cafeteria, and more! 7<sup>th</sup> grade shadows are welcome to come back as 8<sup>th</sup> graders for another Shadow Visit, too!

### **Summer Camps**

Registration for our summer camps is now open! Choose from art, boys' and girls' basketball, boys' and girls' volleyball, and boy's soccer.

<https://gibalthawks.com/2024-summer-camps/>

### **Future Hawk Baseball Tailgate**

Cheer on the State Champion Hawks on May 1 at 4:30 p.m.

### **Summer Classic Golf Tournament**

Tee up for the students of Gibault Catholic High School as part of our 27th Summer Classic Golf Tournament! This year's tournament will be held on Friday, June 21, 2024, and there are lots of ways to get involved. You can sponsor our event, donate raffle prizes, or gather a team to play at the beautiful Annbriar Golf Course. For more info, email [dfrasure@gibalthawks.com](mailto:dfrasure@gibalthawks.com) or visit our event website: <https://SummerClassic.givesmart.com>

### **Poker Run**

Join the Gibault Women's Club for an afternoon of fun on April 28.



Join us for the fourth annual  
**Gibault Catholic High School  
Women's Club Poker Run  
Sunday, April 28, 2024**

Take a scenic Sunday afternoon drive!

**Stop by each bar and pull a poker card. Best hand wins. No skill necessary!**

Jeeps, motorcycles, and cars are welcome!

**Registration opens at 11:30 am at Hopskeller; ride starts at noon:**

- Hopskeller Brewing Company, 116 East Third Street, Waterloo
- Ott's Tavern, 20 E. Washington, Millstadt
- Pete's Hard Stop, 2 South Main Street, Smithton
- Insider, 116 North Main Street, Marissa
- Karban's Knotty Pines, 4569 Buss Branch Road, Paderborn

**Turn in hands by 5:30 at Karban's Knotty Pines**

*\*Designated Drivers get free soft drinks at each bar and entered in a special drawing!\**

**Two hands for \$25, each additional hand \$5**

**Five hands for \$40, get 6th free!**

50/50, cooler of booze raffle, silent auction!

Food available at every stop

***Prizes for three best hands!***

For more info, call Claudia at (618) 660-6703 or email  
bcpapenberg@gmail.com

*Proceeds to benefit GCHS Women's Club*



**Card swaps \$5 each!**

**Mary & Martha Society**

**Rummage Sale**

**SPPCS GYM**

**\*EARLIER DATES\***

**Friday & Sat. May 31 & June 1**

**8 am – 1 pm both days**

**“bag sale” & bargains all Saturday**

**Donations of items will be accepted**

**Saturday May 25 9 am - 1pm**

**Tuesday & Wednesday May 28 & 29**

**9 am to 3 pm & 6 pm to 8 pm**

**Please have items in clean condition. We cannot accept large furniture, TVs or computers**







## DIOCESAN INFORMATION

### DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE -- PROJECT RACHEL

Project Rachel is an active ministry in the Diocese of Belleville!!! Planned Parenthood continues to see women (some report one woman every 20 minutes six days a week). It is so vital that we be there for these women to offer free and confidential help in their time of need. It is our hope to continue to foster a sense of compassion in our communities making them a safe place to welcome those who suffer after an abortion and encourage reconciliation and healing in Jesus Christ. Those in need of help and counseling can confidentially contact someone by phone or email. Here's a link to Project Rachel on the diocesan website with additional information: <https://www.diobelle.org/respectlife/project-rachel>.

To stay informed of Pro-Life events in our Diocese, like and follow our FaceBook page, Respect Life Apostolate – Belleville

### Diocesan Spring Farm Blessing

All are invited to join Bishop McGovern for the **Spring Farm Blessing**, which will be held on Friday, April 26, 2024, at 1:00 P.M. at Braeutigam Orchards located at 2795 Turkey Hill Lane, Belleville, IL.

**From the West:** One heads East on Rt 15 for approximately 3.3 miles (past Green Mount Road intersection) keeping in left lane. Once reaching Tractor Supply (on the right), turn LEFT onto Turkey Hill Lane – frontage road to Maple Hill Subdivision. Keep straight on Turkey Hill Lane for 0.6 miles and veer right to enter the Orchard.

**From the North:** One heads South on N. Green Mount Road until you reach the intersection of Rt 15. Turn left onto Rt 15, heading East, keeping in left lane. Once reaching Tractor Supply (on the right), turn LEFT onto Turkey Hill Lane – frontage road to Maple Hill Subdivision. Keep straight on Turkey Hill Lane for 0.6 miles and veer right to enter the Orchard

“Farm Blessing” signs will guide you, too. 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!*



**Today we acknowledge the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. We implore our Blessed Mother to intercede for us, asking the Lord to grant us more men and women who answer the call to a religious vocation. To quote Pope Francis, “Each one of us is called – whether to the lay life in marriage, to the priestly life in the ordained ministry, or to a life of special consecration – in order to become a witness of the Lord, here and now.”**



The Serra Club of St. County is an organization of Catholic men and women dedicated to foster and affirm vocations to the Priesthood and vowed religious life. Our purpose is to pray for vocations and inform our community the need for vocations. We provide many social events for our Priests, Deacons and Nuns. We sponsor occasional visits to the Seminaries for our grade and high students guided by a priest or a seminarian. Our group meets every first and third Friday of the month at Corpus Christi Parish Hall 206 Rasp St. Shiloh, IL 62269. We begin Mass at 11:00 am, follow by lunch and a brief meeting, and a prominent speaker. Additional information please call Marvin Winkeler (402 214-1155 or Mel Lucash 618-531-4244 **Serra has a new web page: [serrastclair.org](http://serrastclair.org)**

## **RESPECT FOR LIFE CORNER**

**April 21<sup>st</sup>**

“Suicidal individuals—with or without a terminal illness—typically do not want to die; they want to escape what they perceive to be an intolerable situation, and they inaccurately believe that suicide is their only way out. The patient requesting assisted suicide is often asking, ‘Does anyone want me to be alive, or care enough to talk me out of this request and support me through this difficult time?’”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, “Every Suicide is Tragic”  
[usccb.org/every-suicide-tragic](http://usccb.org/every-suicide-tragic)

# Lunch & Card Party

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

St. Luke's Parish Center

226 North Church St., Belleville, IL



MOTHER'S DAY

Play Cards or a Board Game of your choice & BINGO

Doors Open-10:30am, Lunch Served-Noon, Event Ends-3pm

Delicious Lunch! Have fun & support St. Luke's Parish!

Menu: Baked Ham, Creamy Au Gratin Potatoes,  
Jello with Pineapple

Cake, Coffee, hot tea, iced tea & water

Tally: \$10 (includes lunch or lunch carryout)

Cards & BINGO with prizes

Bring canned goods  
for the Food Pantry



In case of bad weather, an post will be made on the parish website.

# LOCAL HAPPENINGS:

- **Queen of Hearts Drawing**- Benefitting Ss. Peter & Paul Catholic School  
*Tuesdays, Outsiders in Waterloo, IL,*  
Ticket sales end @6:30pm, drawings are held @ 7pm
- **Queen of Hearts Drawing**-Benefitting Freeburg High School Athletics  
Wednesdays, 6:30pm ticket sales, drawings held at 7pm
- **St. Barbara's Catholic Church- Parish Hall**  
*2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month; 305 N Front St, Okawville, IL 62271,*  
Doors open @5pm, Bingo @ 6pm; Food, drinks, and desserts for purchase- All games pay out \$50.00
- **RUMMAGE SALE AND BAKE SALE**, Friday, April 26 from 7 am to 2 pm and Saturday, April 27 from 7 am to 11 am inside St. Mary's Church Hall. 7362 Shawneetown Trail, Ellis Grove. 30 tables of miscellaneous items. (No clothing).



## 2024 VARIOUS QUILT OF THE MONTH RAFFLES IN THE AREA

- St. Michael, Paderborn – January thru December 2024. \$20 per ticket. 12 Chances to win!! Picture of quilts available inside Parish office. Contact Sue Walsh 473-2798. Limited number of tickets available in Parish Office at St. Augustine's.
- St. Patrick's Ruma – January thru December 2024; \$20 per ticket; tickets available in the Parish Office at St. Augustine's. Questions call Kathy Schmidt at 618/284-7274.
- St. James, Millstadt – Quilt-A-Rama, Tickets drawn the first Monday of every month during 2024. Tickets are \$25.00 each. See your Parish Office for tickets or contact St. James, 618/476-3513.
- Our Lady of Good Counsel Renault Quilt of the Month!  
Tickets are \$25.00 each for the year of drawings. Winner goes back into the box for a chance to be drawn next month. Please call Phyllis at 618-458-6854 or text Lisa 618-444-5544 to purchase a ticket.
- Holy Trinity Catholic Church- St. Ann's CCW, Quilt of the Month Raffle 2024  
Tickets are \$25.00 each, drawings are held 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month; Contact Carol Geluck for more info! 618-792-9439.



Memorial Day is fast approaching, and we hope to do a story related to this holiday. If anyone has a story to tell about someone they knew or a relative who died in war, please let us know. Send any information to [editor@bellevillemessage.org](mailto:editor@bellevillemessage.org).

We also print the names of military service members who were killed in action (WWII onward) in The Messenger. We have a list from years past, but if we have missed anyone, please send that person's name, rank if it is known, and the war in which they served and died.

In addition, we would like to include a list of military service people who are presently serving in harm's way, asking for prayers for their safe return home.

**Please submit the information to The Messenger by May 1.**

**Thank you for your past and continued support of The Messenger.**

# APRIL

## Is Child Abuse Prevention Month



***Did you know...*** Hope is rising. Throughout scripture, there is evidence that we are called to be ambassadors of hope and healing. Did you know children of abuse long to hear this message of hope? Victims of crime, their families, and loved ones need to know that their voices are heard. Organizations throughout the nation are striving to share the message that He has risen and that there is hope. Each of us has a unique ability to support individuals who are hurting, to promote healthy relationships, and to build communities that are safe from those who may want to do harm. How has He called you to be an ambassador of hope and healing?

***Did you know...***The Catholic Church is deeply committed to protecting children from abuse and holding people accountable for inflicting such pain. In December 2021, the revised *Book VI of the Code of Canon Law* went into effect. This is the most recent of several documents that specifically address the issue of the abuse of children. Other documents include *Vos estis lux mundi* and *Vademecum*. These documents expand the acts which are considered abusive, clarify the manner in which the cases are processed, and hold people accountable for their action or inaction with regard to processing of a case. Of significant importance is attention given to the care of victim-survivors and all who have been harmed. Bishops in the US lead the way for these changes with the implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People 20 years ago. Today every diocese and eparchy must have in place systems for tending to those who have been harmed, protecting those in our care, and seeking restorative justice.