

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

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. 17- April 28th, 2024

THEME FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER: Saul witnesses the risen Jesus and boldly proclaims his Lordship. We proclaim our belief in Jesus by our love for one another. He is the vine and we the branches. Together let us praise his name in our assembly of worship.

MASS INTENTIONS:

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

Friday, 5/3 8:00am- Dennis Holle

Saturday, 5/4 5:00pm- Lois Papenberg

Sunday, 5/5 8:00am- For Our Parish at St. Augustine's



Anointing of the Sick will be next weekend following both Masses.



OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM 4/21/2024:

Weekly Envelopes (39)-\$1,715.00

Loose- \$314.00

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, May 4th, 5pm

Set Up: Kevin Schreder

Servers: Mehrmanns

Lector: Kevin Schreder

Extraordinary Minister: Gary Wittenauer

Extraordinary Minister (W): Annette Schreder

Extraordinary Minister (W): Barb Bruss

Camera:

Sunday, May 5th, 8am

Set Up: Elaine Biffar

Servers: Doerrs

Lector: Janella Neary

Extraordinary Minister: Raeleen Neary

Extraordinary Minister (W): Dennis Biffar

Extraordinary Minister (W): Kyle Doerr

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, Sydney Furman, 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.

Congratulations, again, to our 2024 First Communicants, Blake Koester, Oliver Karban, Elias Edwin, Wade Mehrmann, and Mallory Kern! God Bless You All!



FROM THE PASTOR...

Father Linus Umoren, C.M.

Reflection for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

In the first paragraph of the gospel reading this weekend Jesus says to his disciples: “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and everyone that does, He prunes so that it bears more fruit... I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.” There cannot be a better image to describe the Christian identity than the image of the vine and the branches.

The image of Jesus as the vine and we as the branches is about people. It is not about vines. It is about life. The image is a way of saying that we as branches share in the very life of Christ. Furthermore, reveals that we can do so little if not for the grace of God. There is comfort in these words. A Priest once shared this experience; “This is one of the earliest lessons that I learned in ministry. One day while I was a deacon in Akron, a man came in to talk to me in great distress. He said, “My wife is divorcing me.” I expressed my regrets and then asked him, “Did you see this coming?” “Oh yes,” he said, “We’ve been living in a loveless marriage for at least ten years. We argue all the time and hardly ever talk about anything of substance. I can’t remember the last time that we made love. A while back I wanted to go to a counselor, but my wife refused. In time, I too lost the will even to try.” “Why did you stay together?” I asked. “It was for the kids, of course. We wanted to keep our family together. But now they are off to college, and my wife says that there is not anything left in our relationship.” “Do you disagree with her?” I asked. “Not really,” he responded. “But”—and here is the line that I will always remember— “All my life,” he said, “I dreamed of a perfect marriage. I dreamed of someone who would share their life with me for as long as I lived. I wanted a relationship around which we could build a family. It is so difficult to let that dream die.”

I have come to know from my years of pastoral ministry that a lot of us want to do good things. Many people want to bear good fruit, but sometimes, in trying to do good things, they get burned and even despairing because of what has happened to their dream or how people receive their well-intended works. But how does PRUNING work in this instance? Let’s go back to what Jesus say, “He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit and everyone that does he prunes so that he bears more fruit.” Dead branches in our life not only hinder us, but they can also at times kill us. That is why, when there is nothing else, we can do, we need to let go and let God remove what is dead from our lives. Moreover, Jesus says, whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit. Fruit is the excess, the overflow of the life that a plant has taken into itself. The more life that a plant takes into itself the more life it produces. In fact, we remain in the vine and produce fruit when we share a relationship with God that goes beyond the content of what we do and the social success we perceive. Being a branch on the vine is a matter of the heart and the will. The heart trusts God, and the will leads one to act, and when we act from the heart, God does the rest. He nourishes the action and blesses its fruits.

St. AUGUSTINE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Next **Choir practice** will be next Thursday, May 2nd @ 2pm.
- 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 17th, 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 19th so the information can be shared in a special Graduation bulletin insert for Masses the weekend of May 25th and May 26th

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)



NEWS FROM GIBAULT HIGH SCHOOL

7th Grade Shadow Program – LAST CALL

Last call for Shadow Visits! Your 7th 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! 7th grade shadows are welcome to come back as 8th 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://gibaulthawks.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@gibaulthawks.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

RESPECT FOR LIFE CORNER

“Virgin of Guadalupe, Patroness of unborn children, we implore your intercession for every child at risk of abortion. ...

Guide our public officials

to defend each and every human life through just laws. Inspire us all to bring our faith into public life, to speak for those who have no voice. We

ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ,

who is Love and Mercy itself.

Amen.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, “A Prayer to Our Lady of



"I grew up in a Byzantine-Ruthenian Catholic family in Pennsylvania and attended a Roman Catholic high school where some of the most joyful teachers were Sisters of Christian Charity. Every year, the school held a Forty Hours devotion that included all-night adoration, praise and worship, and a Eucharistic procession. During these powerful days, I experienced Jesus' unique and personal love for me, and I felt drawn to give myself to him as a Sister of Christian Charity. Visiting the sisters, I had learned about their foundress, Blessed Pauline von Mallinckrodt. Mother Pauline's devotion to the Mother of God and to the Blessed Sacrament also resonated with me. Entering the motherhouse chapel for the first time, I saw two familiar sights: an icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and Jesus on the altar during adoration. I knew I had found the place where I belong.

Sister Maria Angeline Weiss; Sisters of Christian Charity, Mendham, NJ; Columbia Magazine, Oct. 2023



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**



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 2nd Wednesday of each month; Contact Carol Geluck for more info! 618-792-9439.**

CORPUS CHRISTI CHURCH
CHICKEN & PASTA DINNER

Sunday, April 28th
3-6:30 PM

Menu: *All You Can Eat*

Fried Chicken, Mostaccioli,
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy,
Stuffing, Green Beans, Corn,
Slaw, Rolls, Dessert & Drink



\$15/PERSON
CHILDREN (5-10 YR) \$10
KIDS UNDER 5 FREE

Raffle: *\$5/Ticket or 3 for \$10*

Raffle Prizes: \$500, iPad (9th Generation), \$100 Restaurant Card
& \$50 Gas Card

205 Rasp St, Shiloh, IL 62269
618-632-7614

National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows – Visitors Center

Other Gospels: The Gospels of Peter and the Infancy Gospel of Thomas

Presenter: Mark Etling, PhD

Fridays, May 10 and 17, 2024, from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon

Besides Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, numerous other Gospels appeared in the decades following Jesus' death. These “other Gospels” offer insights into the diverse beliefs about Jesus and his mission held by early Christian communities. In this series we will focus on the Gospel of Peter, in which Jesus' cross actually speaks; and the Infancy Gospel of Thomas, which depicts the boy Jesus as a “holy terror.”

Cost: \$10 per session / \$20.00 for the series

Register online at <https://snows.org/ministries/spiritual-programs> or call 618-394-6281.

May Procession

Please join the Association of the Miraculous Medal on Sunday, May 5, at 1:00 p.m., for our annual May Procession at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Perryville, MO. The procession will form in front of Saint Mary's of the Barrens Church. Participants will pray the Rosary as we proceed to the historic grotto on the Rosary Walk. The traditional May Crowning and prayer service will be a part of this tribute to Our Blessed Mother. All are welcome to participate. You are encouraged to bring a chair or blanket, as there is limited seating at the grotto. There will be a Spanish Mass, with live music, in the Shrine Church at 3:00 p.m. For any questions, please call 1-800-264-6279 or visit our website, www.amm.org.

APRIL

Is Child Abuse Prevention Month



Did you know... Did you know... What is happening in the diocese to protect children?

- Training is provided for all adults and youth to identify warning signs and develop strategies for maintaining a safe environment for all.
- A designated Review Board Administrator and Victim Assistance Coordinator is available to receive reports and accompany victims through their journey.
- A volunteer independent Review Board assists the bishop in the review of cases and makes recommendations for moving forward.
- A Safe Environment Coordinator assists parish and school personnel with training and background screenings for anyone who may have access to children.
- An audit is conducted by an independent firm to evaluate the implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. Findings are incorporated with those of other dioceses and made available in an Annual Report.