

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. 7- February 18th, 2024

THEME FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT: Mindful of his covenant, the Lord promises never to destroy creation again by floodwaters. The waters of baptism bring salvation and forgiveness through the death of Christ. After fasting forty days and being put to the test, Jesus begins his public ministry.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Fri. 2/16 8:00am- Lois Papenberg
Sat. 2/17 5:00pm- For Our Parish at St. Augustine's
Sun. 2/18 8:00am- John Link
Fri. 2/23 8:00am- Eileen Wagner and Dave Bruss
Sat. 2/24 5:00pm- For Our Parish at St. Augustine's
Sun. 2/25 8:00am- Marie Kaiser



OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM 2/11/2024:

Envelopes (26)- \$1,674.00

Loose-\$211.00

Youth-\$11.00

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

*Scholarship Fund - \$1,960.00 (Total
Donated since 8/1/2023)*

Thank you very much for your generosity!

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, February 24th, 5:00pm

Set Up: Cindy Grohmann
Servers: Patrick Murphy
Lector: Cindy Grohmann
Extraordinary Minister: Gary Wittenauer
Extraordinary Minister (W):
Extraordinary Minister (W):
Camera:

Sunday, February 25th, 8:00am

Set Up: Elaine Rader
Servers: Tim Donius
Lector: Jonella Donius
Extraordinary Minister: Elaine Rader
Extraordinary Minister (W): Bernadette Gregson
Extraordinary Minister (W): Betty Schreder
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, and Gary Rist.

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



 **OCRS**
CATHOLIC RICE BOWL



FOR LENT FOR LIFE

WHAT YOU
GIVE UP
FOR LENT
CHANGES
LIVES.

Once again, this Lenten Season, the Rice Bowls are available for those who wish to participate. Boxes are located at each entrance of Church. We ask that you return your filled bowls prior to Holy Thursday, March 28th, 2024.

FROM THE PASTOR...

FR. LINUS UMOREN. C.M.

Reflection First Sunday of Lent B

A man took his young son to a baseball game. While they were sitting there, he asked the boy what he was going to give up for Lent. The boy replied, "I don't know, Dad. What are you going to give up?" His father said, "I've thought about this a lot and decided to give up liquor." Later in the game, the beer man came by, and the man ordered a beer. His son objected, "Hey, I thought you were giving up liquor!" His dad answered, "Hard liquor, son. I'm giving up hard liquor. This is just a beer." To which the boy replied, "Well then, I'm giving up hard candy."

On Ash Wednesday, most of us received ashes on our forehead marking the beginning of Lent and the forty-six days of preparation for the celebration of Easter. The Ash Wednesday practice of having one's forehead signed with ashes is a tradition that is rooted in the scripture. Wearing ashes on one's head was a common biblical expression of mourning and repentance (cf 1 Sam 13:19, Is 61:3; Jer 6:26, Ezekiel 27:30, Daniel 9:3, Matt 11:21, Lk 10:13).

The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us; whereas the marking of the forehead with ashes reminds Christians that death comes to everyone— all are sinners and are saved by grace, and grace seeks repentance in return. It is important to remember that without God, human beings are nothing more than dust and ashes. The Christians who observed Lent in the early church use it as a time for prayer, abstinence, and almsgiving. Although some Christians maintain the practice of abstinence during Lent, it is more common to see people resolving to give up specific behavior or addictions, such as foods or smoking, or drinking. Whatever the sacrifice anyone makes, it reflects Jesus' fast. Moreover, it is a participation in his struggles in the wilderness.

Purple or violet is the symbolic color used in the Catholic Church throughout Lent. The priests wear purple vestments, and the altar is decorated with a purple hue. The purple color in this context is associated with mourning. It anticipates the pain and suffering of the crucifixion. Friends, let us remember that we are dust, and unto dust, we shall return.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Knights of Columbus Meeting 7pm, Wednesday, February 21st

Father Linus has traveled to Nigeria this past week and will be away until March 13th, 2024. During this time, Father John will be available for any assistance you may need. Father Linus has email, and you can also use the "WhatsUp App" to call/text him as well. Many travel prayers and blessings to you Father Linus!!! Enjoy your family!!



The Hecker Community Center is looking for a volunteer to work with the American Red Cross in coordinating the blood drives held at the Hecker Community Center. There are three blood drives per year and requires about six hours the day of the blood drive and minimal time in between. Interested people please contact Kevin Schreder at 618-473-2925 or 618-406-7037.

From Deacon Tom's Desk (SSPPCC)

If your email subscriptions and social media feeds are anything like mine, you have been inundated the past several weeks with requests to buy or subscribe to daily Lenten prayer and reflection aids. Here's one that I just received last week from the Eucharistic Revival team - Eucharistic Prayer Companion for the Lenten Season & Sacred Triduum. It is new, different, and very timely for this Year of Parish Eucharistic Revival leading up to the Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Eucharistic Congress. This prayer guide will help you keep prayer and the Eucharist at the center of your Lenten practices by guiding you in prayer, but not daily; it is for each week of Lent as well as Ash Wednesday and the days of the Triduum and Easter. You can get it in pdf form with this QR code or this link will take you to it



https://national-eucharistic-revival.s3.amazonaws.com/2024+Eucharistic+Prayer+Companion+for+Lent+and+Triduum+%5BENGLISH%5D.pdf?_hsmi=293341244. If you want a paper copy of it, let me know and I'll get you one.

**2024 Super Bowl Bingo was a HUGE SUCCESS THIS YEAR!!!
A BIG THANK YOU to ALL of the volunteers!!! Heard so many compliments on the food and how wonderful our people always are!!! Way to go St. Augustine's!!!**

*Thank you to all the parishioners who donated desserts and also to all of the ladies that worked with us at the dessert table.
Thanks, Mary Kujawski*

**ADULT DINNERS SERVED: 510
KID DINNERS SERVED: 18**

**Super Bowl 2025
Sunday, Feb 9th**



SUPER BOWL RAFFLE WINNERS!! CONGRATULATIONS!!

- 1. Quilt- Nancy Huch of Smithton, IL**
- 2. Quilt Rack- Mel Parker of Hecker, IL**
- 3. Floral Arrangement- Laurel Jung of Red Bud, IL**
- 4. \$50.00 Cash- Tonya VonYeast of Waterloo, IL**
- 5. \$20.00 Grocery Gift card- Charlie Harbaugh of New Athens, IL**
- 6. \$20.00 Grocery Gift card- Delores Wild of Millstadt, IL**
- 7. \$20.00 Grocery Gift Card- Arline Wittenauer of Hecker, IL**
- 8. \$20.00 Grocery Gift Card – Jade Jolly of Chester, IL**
- 9. \$20.00 Grocery Gift Card- Amy Truttman of Smithton, IL**
- 10. \$20.00 Grocery Gift Card- Jean Colbert of Millstadt, IL**



NEWS FROM GIBAULT HIGH SCHOOL

Visit Gibault!

It's a great time to visit Gibault! Your 7th or 8th grader or current high school student 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! We also offer Private Tours for the whole family. See our campus and get your questions answered by our Director of Enrollment. Get started at: <https://bit.ly/GCHSInquire>


Taste of the Region

Join the Gibault Women's Club on March 2 for Taste of the Region. For full event info or to purchase tickets, visit: <https://givebutter.com/TasteoftheRegion>.

Gibault Women's Club presents:




*Saturday, March 2nd
5:00 - 10:00 \$35/person
in advance or \$40 at the door.
Enjoy an evening of food sampling from local establishments & entertainment by Gibault Jazz Band and Miranda Bury. Scan the QR code to purchase tickets!*



GRADES 6-8

AMPLIFY


ART, MATH AND POETRY CONTESTS

ART CONTEST
Categories: Drawing, Painting, Other 2D Art
Submit work to your school office by 3pm on Friday, March 1st. Mrs. LeSaulnier will collect it.

MATH CONTEST
3:30-3:45 Check-in 4:45-5:30 Break/Trivia
3:45-4:00 Welcome 5:30-5:45 Awards
4:15-4:45 Testing **Register at QR code below**

POETRY CONTEST
Submit an original poem, 40 line maximum, to Haley Kovarik at hkovarik@gibalthawks.com by 3pm on Friday, March 1st.

Awards for All Contests Presented on **THURSDAY, MARCH 14TH**
5:30PM





DIOCESAN INFORMATION

RESPECT FOR LIFE CORNER

“We often assume parenthood happens easily after ‘I do,’ but for many married couples, it does not. For some, the joy of conception never happens. Others suffer repeated miscarriages. Still others experience secondary infertility... If you experience difficulty bringing a child into your family, know that you are not alone. God is with you, and his Church desires to walk with you... God has a beautiful plan for your life as a married couple.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities “Seven Considerations While Navigating Infertility” respectlife.org/navigating-infertility

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

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.**

The 2024 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal

“Serve the Lord with gladness”

-Psalm 100

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

Thank you to the four households that have already pledged to support the mission of the Church to teach, preach, minister, and serve in the name of Jesus through their financial support of The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal. So far \$725.00 has been pledged by our parish members. If you have not yet responded, please make every effort to do so. Thank you for your consideration and generosity!

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECKS OUT TO ST AUGUSTINE'S- WE WILL MAIL CSMA PAYMENTS!

UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS- UPDATED 2-15-24!!

- **Queen of Hearts Drawing-** Benefitting Ss. Peter & Paul Catholic School
Tuesdays, Outsiders in Waterloo, IL,
Ticket sales end @6:30pm, drawings are held @ 7pm
- **NEW! 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**
2nd and 4th 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
- **Saturday, February 24th, 2024- Hecker Community Center Chicken & Beer**
Dance...Musci by Freefall. Call 618-473-2970 for ticket information.
- **Saturday, February 24th, 2024- St. Michael's Church (Paderborn) Euchre**
Euchre Tournament- doors open @ 6pm; Tickets \$25.00/person; All you can eat fried chicken dinner; all you can drink beer and soda; 6 rounds of Euchre; Contact Rich Kreher @ slark4@yahoo.com or call/text 314-341-4904 for reservations.
- **Sunday, March 3rd, 2024- St. Augustine (Belleville) Building and Grounds**
All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast- 8-12:30pm; Parish Hall; Adults \$ 10.00, Children ages 4-12 \$5.00; Families pay no more than \$30.00; Pancakes, Scrambled eggs, sausage, fruit cocktail, coffee, orange juice, and milk.
- **Sunday, March 3rd, 2024-St. Agatha Purse Bingo-**207 S. Market, New Athens
Doors open 11:30am, bingo starts at 12:30; Cost in advance is \$40.00n or \$50.00 at the door; Price includes 10 games, dabber and drinks; Bring your own snacks; Contact Debbie Matzenbacher 618-210-3318 or register online at Glo-Bingo.com/events.
- **Tuesday, March 5th, 2024- Lunch and Card Party- St. Luke's Parish Center**
226 North Church St, Belleville, IL; Doors Open 10:30am, Lunch served @ noon, event ends @ 3pm, Tally \$10.00, includes lunch, play cards or bingo; bring canned goods for pantry.



"I was born in El Salvador and came to the United States when I was 12. My family faced many challenges: civil war, immigration, a new language, and culture. Our faith held us together and provided solace during the hard times. After I was confirmed in 2011, I felt a deeper call to be active in the Church, and I began to teach catechism at my parish. One evening, I went out to measure a building for my job with an insurance company...and I got lost. Turning into another building, I went inside, where a receptionist welcomed me to Holy Trinity Seminary. I knew I couldn't keep running from my desire to give more. I ... entered seminary that summer. Being embraced by divine providence in my call to priesthood and through all the challenges of my life allows me to cry out with confidence: Viva Cristo Rey!
Fr. Elmer Herrerea-Guzman, Diocese of Dallas; *Columbia Magazine, March 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](http://www.serrastclair.org)

The **Serra Club of St. Clair County** is hosting an evening with Bishop Michael McGovern on "*Promoting Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life*".

Who: Any adult wanting to promote vocations

Where: St. Nicholas Parish, O'Fallon Il.

When: Tuesday, March 5th, 2024

6:00 P.M. - Mass celebrated by Bishop McGovern in the Parish Chapel

6:30 P.M.— Light dinner and drinks in Parish Hall

7:00 P.M.— Remarks by Bishop McGovern on encouraging Vocations.

The evening is **free**. We ask for an RSVP to ensure we have enough dinner/refreshments.

Contact Marvin Winkeler for more info— mewinkel51@gmail.com or call/text 402-214-1155.

Or RSVP from our website—www.serrastclair.org



Kings House at the
NATIONAL SHRINE of
OUR LADY of the SNOWS

Kings House at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows Visitors Center – I Want to See You

Presenters: Br. Pat McGee, OMI and Virginia Herbers

Weekends in March and April, March 8, 9 and 10; March 15, 16 and 17; March 22, 23 and 24; April 5, 6 and 7; April 12, 13 and 14, 2024. Starts on Friday at 4:00pm through Sunday's at 2:00pm

Our women's retreat allows you to experience our "I Want to See You" retreat while encompassing your inner light. This retreat centers on the story of the man born blind. Come and share the experience of being noticed by Jesus, touched, healed and called to witness to the new sight God's love provides. Spend the weekend learning the realization – no matter where we are or what we're doing, Jesus sees us.

Cost: \$200.00 per person (includes lodging and meals).

Register online at <https://kh.snows.org/events/> or call 618-397-0584.

WURSTMARKT

Sunday, February 25th
All you can Eat
Sausage Dinner
Adult - \$15
12 and under \$8
Serving 11am - 5pm
Dine In or Carry Out
Quilt & Cash Bingo
1:00-4:00pm

Ss. Peter & Paul
Cafeteria & Gym
217 W. Third St.
Waterloo, IL



LENTEN REGULATIONS 2024

The season of Lent extends this year from Ash Wednesday, February 14th, to the Mass of the Lord's Supper, Holy Thursday, March 28th, inclusive.

1. Everyone 14 years of age or over is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all Fridays of Lent.
2. Everyone 18 years of age and under 59 years of age is also bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
3. On these two days of fast and abstinence, only one full meatless meal is allowed. The other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to one's needs, but altogether they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted on these two days, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed.
4. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the obligation of the law is modified. Those that are excused from fast and abstinence outside the age limits include the physically or mentally ill including individuals suffering from chronic illnesses such as diabetes. Also excluded are pregnant and nursing women. In all cases, common sense should prevail, and ill persons should not further jeopardize their health by fasting.

**2024 SCHEDULE FOR LENT, TRIDUIM, EASTER
ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY- HECKER**

- **WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT:
St. Augustine Stations of the Cross held at 7pm**
- **FRIDAYS DURING LENT:
St. Augustine - Mass at 8 am followed by
Stations of the Cross**
- **PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 23rd and 24th, 2024
Saturday Mass 5pm, Sunday Mass 8am**
- **HOLY THURSDAY, MARCH 28th, 2024
7:00 PM Mass, ST. AUGUSTINE**
- **GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29th, 2024
7:00 PM STATION OF THE CROSS FOLLOWED BY
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE, ST. AUGUSTINE**
- **EASTER VIGIL, SATURDAY, MARCH 30th, 2024
7:00 PM Mass, ST. AUGUSTINE**
- **EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31st, 2024
8:00AM Mass, ST. AUGUSTINE**

SSPPCC and St. Mary's (Valmeyer) Lenten schedule of Masses, Reconciliation, Stations of the Cross, and Holy Week will be published soon