

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. 8- February 25th, 2024

THEME FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT: Abraham offers the ultimate sacrifice of thanksgiving, the gift of his very son. This sacrifice prefigures the sacrifice of Jesus who died for us all. In his transfiguration, Jesus discloses a suffering messiahship.

MASS INTENTIONS:

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
Fri. 3/1 8:00am- Delmar and Wylma Wachtel
Sat. 3/2 5:00pm- Joe Wittenauer and Ervin Eckart
Sun. 3/3 8:00am- For Our Parish at St. Augustine's



OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM 2/18/2024:

Envelopes (22)- \$1149.00

Loose-\$87.00

Youth-\$11.00

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

*Scholarship Fund - \$2109.00 (Total
Donated since 8/1/2023)*

Thank you very much for your generosity!

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, March 2nd, 5:00pm

Set Up: Joan Powell

Servers: Mehrmanns

Lector: Elaine Rader

Extraordinary Minister: Alice Kuehn

Extraordinary Minister (W): Barb Bruss

Extraordinary Minister (W): Joan Powell

Camera: Lori Amann

Sunday, March 3rd, 8:00am

Set Up: Arnie Eckart

Servers: Lucas Gregson

Lector: Janella Neary

Extraordinary Minister: Raeleen Neary

Extraordinary Minister (W): Ryan Grohmann

Extraordinary Minister (W): Tiffany Gregson

Camera: Mike Karban

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.



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



Choir practice will be next Thursday, February 29th @ 2pm- Sr. Joan

Father Linus has traveled to Nigeria 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!!

FROM THE PASTOR...

FR. JOHN IGWE

INTRO TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

On the second Sunday of Lent, we move from Jesus' retreat to the desert and temptation by the devil to the glory shown in Jesus's transfiguration. Today Christ is revealed through his transfiguration as the son of God. The only thing that God demands from us is: "Listen to him!" If we listen to Christ, we shall be successful in our journey with him this season.

LISTEN TO JESUS THE SON OF GOD

In the first reading Abraham the father of faith was put to test, and he remained faithful to God. God did not require him to do anything that He Himself would not do. In fact, the command to Abraham to offer his only son prefigures how God would later offer his own son for our salvation. God prevented the sacrifice of Isaac because, Abraham's faith was firm.

What do we learn from Abraham today? The first is that he was attentive to the word of God and obeyed God's command. The second is his trust in God. The third is, his generosity towards God. This is a season to pause, and to ask God: "Please Lord, what must I do to make you happy? The answer is simple. We must be ready to listen to God and, to do what he asks us to do as Abraham did. This season God wants our close relationship with him through prayer, fasting and caring for those who are in needs.

The second reading today is full of hope, especially during this season of Lent. Paul offers us three assurances: "There is no opposition; there is no condemnation; and there is no separation." This is because: "God graciously gave His Son for us." So, like Abraham, God was not selfish. Rather, He willingly gave up his Son for our sake: "*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...*" (Jn 3:16).

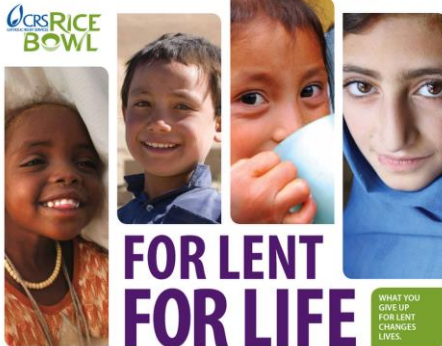
This means that, God is ready to do anything good to save us. All that we need to do is to continue to listen to Christ attentively. God is ready to make sure that we get to our destination this season, because Christ is with us on our journey.

Today's gospel from Mark, presents the scene of the transfiguration of Jesus. He manifests his glory to three of his disciples. The transfiguration reflects the divinity of Jesus. Transfiguration is simply a glimpse of the gift and glory of God. Today, Christ reveals his future Glory. However, to attain the fullness of this glory, He must first suffer and be crucified. This is a road that we must also walk to partake in this glory. Jesus demands only one thing from us: "Listen to him!"

Listening to Christ means transforming our lives and changing our ways. It means living according to the word of God we hear every day. Listening to Jesus means obeying His will and paying attention to what the church teaches us every day.



Happy birthday to Sister Joan on February 26th!! We hope this next year is full of blessings for you and we thank you for all that you do for our parish!!



Once again, this Lenten Season, the Rice Bowls are available for those who wish to participate. Boxes are



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 REPORT

Tallies Sold 393

Deposit for Bingo \$4,027.50

Adult Dinners Sold 510

Child Dinners Sold 18

Dinner Deposit \$8,688.00

Lightning Round \$1,093.00

Attendance Prizes Awarded 81

Thank you to the following who donated quilts for this Bingo: Stefanie Cope, Ryan and Dawn Grohmann, Dale and Kay Haudrich, Michael and Sarah Karban, Mary and Larry Schaltenbrand and Ladies Altar Sodality.



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

A 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.

M 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***

P 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

“The essence of our identity is that we are created in God's image and likeness and loved by Him. Nothing can diminish the priceless worth of any human life. Every person is cherished.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities Respect Life Reflection: Cherished, Chosen, Sent usccb.org/cherished-chosen-sent-reflection

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

Thank you to the 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 **\$1,555.00** 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!

PLEDGES TO DATE: 8

24% OF OUR GOAL MET

UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS- UPDATED 2-22-24!!

- **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 3, 2024-St. Charles Church, DuBois, IL; 10:30 AM Polka Mass**
Polish food served at parish hall from 10 AM till gone. Raffles, 50/50 drawing, baskets, silent auctions, and Polka dancing will be available. The big parade starts at 1 PM down main street DuBois.
- **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.



“People often discover their vocation to religious life at Mass or in adoration, but I “heard the call” while literally receiving a phone call! Before this life-changing moment during my last semester of college, I had spent about a year growing in my spiritual life through spiritual direction and getting to know members of Pro Ecclesia Santa. I was attracted to their joy, their charism to live and promote holiness, and their closeness to the Sacred Heart. But I was wrestling with the question of whether God was really calling *me* to religious life. Speaking on the phone with a potential roommate for the following year, I knew deep down that I was fooling myself. I didn’t need to make housing plans; God wanted me to say “yes” to my vocation and move in with the sisters. Whatever your state of life, say ‘yes’ to God’s will and let yourself be surprised by his loving plans for you. “

Sister Leann Luecke; Pro Ecclesia Santa; *Columbia Magazine – July/Aug. 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**

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



Honor your Loved Ones on
Easter
With Your Personalized Easter Tribute
In *The Messenger*

Tributes will appear in our
March 28th publication
of *The Messenger*.

Sample Tribute



Please Print the name (s) of your deceased loved one (s)
on the line (s) below. \$20 donation for each name.

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Loving Memory of: _____

Please return your Easter Tributes by March 14, 2024.

If you have any questions, please call 618-722-5047



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: Fr. Salvador Gonzalez, OMI, Karen and Scott Seaborn

Friday, April 19 at 4:00 pm through Sunday, April 21, at 2:00 pm

Our couples retreat allows you to experience our “I Want to See You” silent retreat while encompassing your togetherness as a couple. 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.

Cost: \$400.00 per couple (includes lodging and meals).

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

LEARN MORE ABOUT BECOMING A PRIEST

Bishop Michael McGovern will host a St. Andrew Dinner for young men interested in learning more about the Catholic priesthood on Sunday, March 10. The St. Andrew Dinner will be held at Gibault Catholic High School in Waterloo. All young men ages 14-32 are invited to attend; parents or guardians are also welcome to join us.

The event will begin at 4:30 PM with gathering and introductions and Evening Prayer and will be followed by dinner and conversation.

This is a terrific opportunity to gather information for discerning a call to the priesthood; there will also be time for questions and conversation with Fr. Joel Seipp, Vocation Director.


Please contact Judy Hoffmann at (618) 722.5003, or email to: jhoffmann@diobelle.org by March 5 to RSVP or obtain more details.



SYMBOLS OF LENT AND EASTER


Bulletin Board

Lamb



Jesus is called the "Lamb of God" because he died for us.

Easter Eggs




The egg hatches and is the chick is a symbol of new life just like Jesus's resurrection from the tomb.

Fish



We make a sacrifice to not eat meat on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays during Lent. The fish symbol reminds us of this.

Easter Lily




The Easter Lily is the symbol of the resurrection and everlasting life.

Ashes



The ashes we receive on Ash Wednesday remind us that God made us and we will go back to Him someday.

Palm Leaves



The people waved palm leaves and cheered when Jesus rode in on a donkey.


SYMBOLS OF LENT & EASTER

Crown of Thorns



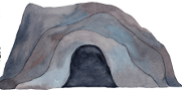
A crown of thorns was placed on Jesus's head.

The Bread & Wine




Jesus changed the bread and wine into His Body and Blood.

The Tomb




After Jesus died, His body was laid in a tomb.

The Crucifix



The crucifix is a picture of Jesus on the cross that reminds us of his love for us.

Easter Candle



The candle represents the light of Christ! It has the Greek symbols for beginning (alpha) and end (omega) because Jesus is our beginning and end.

Purple



Purple is the color that the priest wears during lent. It is also the color the priest wears for confession. It reminds us to be sorry for our sins.

**Society of St. Vincent de Paul
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Conference**

We are a Catholic lay organization providing service to the needy and suffering. Our Conference includes the parishes of:

- St. Augustine of Canterbury-Hecker
- St. Mary-Valmeyer
- St. Patrick-Tipton
- Saints Peter & Paul-Waterloo

Telephone numbers are 939-0605 and 618-792-4059

Mailing address is P.O. Box 443, Waterloo, IL 62298

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at Adult Faith Formation House at 7:00 PM. New members are always welcome

SEXUAL ABUSE HOTLINE:

Anyone wishing to report an allegation of sexual misconduct by priest or other diocesan personnel please call the hotline:

800-640-3044.

**Purchase SPPCS “Scrip Cards” for your shopping
and gift giving needs!**

Scrip cards make great gifts and in addition, consider
purchasing “scrip cards” to use in place of cash, checks or
credit cards for purchases you make.

How does that help St. Augustine families? Each SPPS student family is required to earn \$250 each year in fund raising. Plus, each student must pay \$400 registration and book fees. Then the tuition begins. At the end of each month the rebates from scrip sales are tabulated and applied to the family’s account. You may designate a particular family or St. Augustine students as a group in which case it will be equally divided. Please consider trying this program and perhaps add an item each month to help our parish support the SPPS/St Aug. families with absolutely no cost to you. **St. Augustine’s contact for the Scrip Program is Angi Kern. You may reach her at 618/973-7580 (call or text) or email her at 51014wedding@gmail.com.**

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