

**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. 4– January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**THEME FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME:** As Moses challenged the Israelites to listen to God's voice, so we are called to hear the voice of Jesus and live out his teachings by what we say and do, whatever our vocation in life may be.

**MASS INTENTIONS:**

Fri. 1/26 8:00am- Norbert Wittenaurer,

Sat. 1/27 5:00pm- For Our Parish at St. Augustine's

Sun. 1/28 8:00am- Roy Schreder and Jerry Mollet

Fri. 2/2 8:00am- Jerry Mollet and Deceased Members of the Knights of Columbus

Sat. 2/3 5:00pm- James McTigue

Sun. 2/4 8:00am- For Our Parish at St. Augustine's



**OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM 1/21/2024:**

Envelopes (39)- \$2,054.00

Loose- \$181.00

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 3rd, 5:00pm

Set Up: Cindy Grohmann

Servers: Mehrmanns

Lector: Cindy Grohmann

Extraordinary Minister: Alice Kuehn

Extraordinary Minister (W): Gary Wittenauer

Extraordinary Minister (W): Barb Bruss

Camera:

### Sunday, February 4th, 8:00am

Set Up: Arnie Eckart

Servers: Doerrs

Lector: Jonella Donius

Extraordinary Minister: Kyle Doerr

Extraordinary Minister (W): Ruth Wittenauer

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, Debra Harbaugh, 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.



**Next weekend,  
Blessing of the  
Throats will take  
place following  
both Masses.**



Anyone interested in assisting with Stations of the Cross on Wednesday evenings at 7pm during Lent? Please contact Kevin Schreder at 618-473-2925 or 618-406-7037.

# FROM THE PASTOR...

FR. LINUS UMOREN. C.M.

## Reflection for Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Some time ago, a lady called me to pray in her office. It was strange since it was the first time I had such a call since my ministry in the USA. According to her, there seems to be an evil spirit present in her office. She explained some manifestations and happenings that sounded convincing that some evil forces were operating in the office. While in Africa, the invitation to pray against suspected evil spirits at people's homes, offices, stores, and farmlands was a frequent experience. But how does the evil spirit operate?

Some branches of psychiatry have claimed that evil spirit is an "archaic," first-century view of disease and that medical science can explain all these biblical descriptions in scientific terms. For example, psychiatry claims that people with schizophrenia hear voices or see things that aren't there and may even seem disconnected from reality or caught up in a different world. The movie "A Beautiful Mind (2001)" compellingly illustrates some of the principles of psychiatry and recovery from mental illness. While the movie is not entirely accurate about all life struggles, it does offer a representation of schizophrenia. Although mental illness and spiritual possession are different, many psychiatrists see belief in demonology as a culturally determined explanation for problems that can otherwise be fully explained in psychological or psychiatric terms.

To this end, psychiatry has not done justice to the dilemma in our world as regards disturbed minds and hearts. From the experience of my ministry, I am of the view that Satan does affect human beings and obstruct them with discernible bondages and harassment. I also believe these bondages can be broken, and the victims released and healed by the power of Christ. We must consider a truly holistic view of the human condition, which involves spiritual, psychological, social, and physical dimensions. In the Gospel this weekend, Jesus casts out evil spirits. In Jesus' time, evil spirits were believed to lead people from the right path, cause pain, or drive people to perform acts beyond their control. Consequently, the people feared evil spirits as much as they feared the evil perpetrated by the Romans. Therefore, evil had many names: Demon, Beelzebub, Prince of Devils, Satan, Dragon, Dominations, etc.

As Christians, we believe that the devil is the source of evil in the world. Whenever we encounter something that we cannot explain or understand, we often attribute it to the influence of the evil spirit. The demonic can influence us in many different ways, and it can be challenging to deal with its manifestations. There are many voices in the world that claim to have the solution to our problems, but the demons seem to persist.


In the Gospel, Jesus uses his authority to calm and drive out the evil spirit from a possessed man. This demonstrates Jesus' power over evil, and even the demons recognize his authority. Everyone in the story is amazed by Jesus' teaching, but the story never tells us what he is teaching. Instead, the focus is on Jesus' powerful expulsion of the demon.

Demonic possession is a spiritual problem that requires a spiritual solution. As Christians, we are called to speak with the authority of Christ against evil. We can do this by driving out the evil spirits of hatred, selfishness, and discrimination from our society and families through prayer and other acts of love and generosity.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## St. Augustine's Parish ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Be sure to take the new edition of the Word Among Us available at both entrances!
- Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 7pm- Parish Council Meeting in the Parish Center
- Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024- Ladies Sodality Meeting 7pm
- Super Bowl Bingo, Sunday, February 11, 2024, Lunch served 10-1pm, Bingo 1:30pm
- ASH WEDNESDAY, FEB 14<sup>th</sup>, Mass @ 8am and 7pm
- The Knights of Columbus Meeting has moved to Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> to accommodate Ash Wednesday.
- Please be sure to take a bottle to support Life Network of Waterloo if you have not done so! They are due back in February! Thank you for your support!!



*A very special thank you to my 2023 money counters... Geri Griffin, Margie Holle, Joan Powell, Mary Schaltenbrand, and Sister Joan Weiler...you are all very special to me and I appreciate your time and support during my first year as Parish secretary!! - Lori Rozhon*



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.

**Super Bowl Bingo Reminders**...our event is fast approaching!! Please, if you can, for the dinner we will need **2 PIES OR 1 "9X13" DESSERT (NO CAKES) from all parishioners if possible.** Additionally, all parishioners are also asked to bring **non-perishable items** for the **Attendance Prizes** (one or two) valued at \$5.00. Some ideas for attendance prizes are dish towels, candles, puzzles, small crafts, card games, crosswords, etc...

Thank you for your continued support at our annual Super Bowl Bingo and Dinner.





**ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH  
HECKER, ILLINOIS**

(15 miles South of Belleville on State Route 159)

# **SUPER BOWL SUNDAY**



# **QUILT/CASH BINGO**

**FEBRUARY 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Hecker Community Center  
Hecker, Illinois  
Smoke Free Facility**



**Lightning Round Prior to Bingo**



**BINGO 1:30 P.M.**

No one under 18 allowed in hall during bingo. BL #50884

Attendance Prizes – Raffle – Pot of Gold

**Fried Chicken & Pork Sausage Plates**

Serving 10:00 am-1:00 pm





## NEWS FROM GIBAULT HIGH SCHOOL

### Raffle-Mania

LAST CALL to get in this year's drawing! Prizes will be drawn on Feb. 1.

Visit <https://givebutter.com/Raffle-Mania> to purchase your tickets!

**GRAND PRIZES of \$5000, \$1000, \$500, and \$250, and 6 @ \$100**

Tickets are being sold exclusively online. If anyone has difficulty with their online purchase, contact Desiree Frasure at Gibault Catholic High School. ([dfrasure@gibaulthawks.com](mailto:dfrasure@gibaulthawks.com) or 618-939-3883)

### Visit Gibault!

We are accepting Shadow Visitors for the second semester. Your 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> 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>

### 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.





## DIOCESAN INFORMATION

### RESPECT FOR LIFE CORNER

Many people are unaware that someone they know personally is silently suffering from participation in abortion. If a friend confided in you tomorrow that she had an abortion, would you be able to respond in a way that brings her closer to healing?

Learn how in “How to Talk to a Friend Who’s Had an Abortion”: <http://bit.ly/friend-had-abortion> USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

### 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

**PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE MESSENGER WHEN TURNING INTO COLLECTION BASKET!! THANK YOU!!!**

**Messenger Subscription Renewal Weekend is February 3-4, 2024**



Please stay "connected" through a subscription to **The Messenger**. Payments can be made in The Messenger envelope, or on-line at [www.bellevillemessenger.org](http://www.bellevillemessenger.org)

**SUBSCRIPTION COST: Print - \$30 | Electronic - \$25 | Both - \$35**  
Make checks payable to **The Messenger**



“Though I was raised in a Catholic family and blessed with good priests throughout my life, the priesthood did not attract me when I was young.

In fact, during college, I didn’t even practice the faith. The Lord eventually led me back to the Church, and when he began to call me to the priesthood, I was both terrified and excited. He was asking me to sacrifice my will and to trust and follow him. This meant breaking up with the girl I was dating and placing my desires for fatherhood and family into his hands. Had I been called when I was younger, I wouldn’t have been mature enough in my faith to answer with the generosity and trust that let me to the priesthood.”

Father Jonathan Schnobrich, Diocese of Burlington, Vt. *Columbia Magazine October 2020*



**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)**

PLEASE PRAY FOR VOCATIONS!

## UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS- **UPDATED WEEKLY!!**

- **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**  
*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
- **Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024- Hecker Community Center Chicken & Beer**  
Dance...Musci by Freefall. Call 618-473-2970 for ticket information.



Ss Peter & Paul  
**HOLY NAME**  
SOCIETY



## 15th Annual Euchre Tournament

- Friday, Feb. 2 @ SPPCS Gym
- Gym Doors open at 6:30 p.m.
- Tournament starts at 7 p.m.
- Tickets \$25 (7 Rounds of Euchre)
- Prizes Awarded for Top 3 Places
  - Beverages, Fried Chicken
- Contact Tim Huels 406-6399 or  
Josh Phelps 978-4048



**SSPP's Women's ACTS  
Retreat Coming Soon:  
Feb. 8-11, 2024**

**Are you craving rest? Meaningful friendships? A closer relationship with Jesus? A Church on fire? If so, please join some amazing women on our upcoming ACTS retreat!**

All women over the age of 18 are invited to join us for our Women's ACTS Retreat to be held February 8-11, 2024 at the King's House at Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville. This parish-based retreat offers the opportunity to renew your spirituality, strengthen your faith and build lasting relationships with women at Ss. Peter & Paul and surrounding parishes. You may register for the retreat through the QR code below or on the parish website: <https://www.ssppcc.org/acts> The retreat begins on Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at SSPPCC and concludes on Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 10 am Mass at SSPPCC. The cost of the retreat is \$295 and includes all lodging, transportation, and meals.

We are SO excited to welcome you on this spiritual experience - **PLEASE REGISTER SOON!** If you have any questions, please contact:  
Courtney Harper at 314-922-8459 or  
Tara Phillips at 618-340-2138





## *Ss. Peter & Paul Catholic Church*

204 W. Mill Street, Waterloo, IL 62298 (618) 939-6426

### Eucharistic Revival

You may have noticed a new Eucharistic Revival poster on display in church. This is one of 3 posters regarding the National Eucharistic Revival that will be on display on a rotating basis between our partner parishes for the next several months. This past June we started our Year of Parish Eucharistic Revival, a phase of the National Eucharistic Revival (started in June 2022) that is focused on revival at the parish level. The National Eucharistic Revival is a movement to restore understanding and devotion to this great mystery here in the United States by helping us renew our worship of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. The posters on display in our parishes address the upcoming Eucharistic Congress in July 2024 in Indianapolis (the last Eucharistic Congress was 83 years ago), the Eucharistic Pilgrimages that will be making their way to the Eucharistic Congress from across the country including one that goes through our diocese on July 7 & 8, 2024, and general information about the Eucharistic Revival. More information on all of this can be found at <https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/>. Keep an eye out in the bulletin, parish websites, and Facebook pages for opportunities for you to learn more about, experience, get involved, and maybe re-engage you in your faith, especially focused on our belief and understanding in the Eucharist. If you haven't had an encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist, this will be an opportunity for what might be transformative for you.

- Deacon Tom Helfrich

### ***Jesus and the Eucharist Study***

Every parish across the country is invited to host this exciting study. This seven-session series produced by the National Eucharistic Revival Team (free of charge to parishes) will be held here at Ss. Peter and Paul. This will replace any other 2024 Lenten series offered by the AFF Commission.



#### **Starts First Sunday of Lent**







Sessions will be held after Sunday 10 am Mass (@ 11:15-12:45), and also on Thursday mornings from 9-10:30 and Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:30 in AFF House.

- Session 1: Sun Feb 18<sup>th</sup> or Thurs Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Session 2: Sun Mar 3<sup>rd</sup> and Thurs Mar 7<sup>th</sup>
- Session 3: Sun Mar 10<sup>th</sup> and Thurs Mar 14<sup>th</sup>
- Session 4: Sun Mar 17<sup>th</sup> and Thurs Mar 21<sup>st</sup>
- Session 5: Sun Apr 14<sup>th</sup> and Thurs Apr 18<sup>th</sup>
- Session 6: Sun Apr 21<sup>st</sup> and Thurs Apr 25<sup>th</sup>
- Session 7: Sun Apr 28<sup>th</sup> and Thurs May 2<sup>nd</sup>

Contact Joyce Springer at [jspringer@ssppcc.org](mailto:jspringer@ssppcc.org) by **Feb 13<sup>th</sup>** to register for Sunday or Thursday sessions.

# KIDS CORNER

 **Following**   
**in His footsteps**



**START  
HERE**  
→



**St. Blaise**  
Pray  
for us!





**“Grace and Gratitude...In the Grief of Our Everyday Lives”**

**Presenter: Madeleine Lane, SSND, MA, LMFT**

**Monday, March 18, 2024, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm (Lunch included)**

**Join Sr. Madeleine Lane for a day of reflection to discuss how we live knowing that we and all**

**that we love will one day die and in the presence of grief, how one lives ingratitude for all that**

**has been given. When we open ourselves to the pain, we receive an invitation to deeper loving through grief. Our day will include input, sharing, and quiet time for reflection. Cost: \$50 (Lunch included)**

**For more information, call 618-397-0584 or visit [www.snows.org/Grief](http://www.snows.org/Grief)**

**St. Agatha Designer Purse Bingo**

**St. Agatha Parish, New Athens will be hosting a Purse Bingo on Sunday March 3rd in the Parish**

**Hall at 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](http://Glo-Bingo.com/events).**



**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.**

**For more information, or to RSVP, contact Judy Hoffmann at (618) 722.5003, or email to: [jhoffmann@diobelle.org](mailto:jhoffmann@diobelle.org).**



# *Lunch & Card Party*

**Tuesday, February 6, 2024**

**St. Luke's Parish Center**

226 North Church St., Belleville, IL



*Happy  
Valentine'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: Chicken à la King over Biscuit,  
Seasoned Green Beans, Chunky Applesauce,  
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 announcement  
will be made on the parish website.**

## DID YOU KNOW...?

### St. BLAISE

The Blessing of the Throats that take place on this day. Two candles are blessed, held slightly open, and pressed against the throat as the blessing is said. Many Catholics might remember Saint Blaise's feast day, February 3, because of the Blessing of the Throats that take place on this day. Two candles are blessed, held slightly open, and pressed against the throat as the blessing is said. ***The Blessing of the Throats will take the place of the anointing of the sick usually held the first weekend of the month in February.***

Very few facts are known about Saint Blaise. It is believed he was a bishop of Sebastea in Armenia who was martyred under the reign of Licinius in the early fourth century. The legend of St. Blaise tells us that he was born into a rich and noble family who raised him as a Christian. He became a bishop. Later, a new persecution of Christians began. He received a message from God to go into the hills to escape persecution. Hunters discovered a cave surrounded by wild animals who were sick. Blaise walked among them unafraid, curing them of their illnesses.

The hunters recognized Blaise as a Bishop, so they captured him to take him back for trial. On the way back, he talked a wolf into releasing a pig that belonged to a poor woman. When Blaise was sentenced to be starved to death, the woman, in gratitude, sneaked into the prison with food and candles. Finally, the governor had Blaise killed.

Saint Blaise is the patron of physicians, sick cattle, wax- chandlers, wool combers, and of wild animals because of his care for them and of those with throat maladies. He is invoked against afflictions of the throat (Bentley, Roeder). ([www.vaticansite.com/prayer-saint-blaise](http://www.vaticansite.com/prayer-saint-blaise))

