

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**

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. 1– January 7th, 2024

THEME FOR THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD: All nations are invited to sing the Lord's praises, for they have been called to hear the good news and worship the long-awaited Messiah and King with the gift of their lives.

MASS INTENTIONS:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Fri. 1/5 | 8:00am- Delmar & Wylma Wachtel |
| Sat. 1/6 | 5:00pm- Virginis Parker, Mary Rettinghouse, and Janice Mahoney |
| Sun. 1/7 | 8:00am- For Our Parish at St. Augustine's |
| Fri. 1/12 | 8:00am- Deceased Members of the Knights of Columbus |
| Sat. 1/13 | 5:00pm- Delmar & Wylma Wachtel and John & Jeanne Huss |
| Sun. 1/14 | 8:00am- For Our Parish at St. Augustine's |



OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM 12/31/23:

Envelopes (136)- \$5,442.00

Loose- \$107.00

Youth-\$11.00

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

*Scholarship Fund - \$1,442.00 (Total
Donated since 8/1/2023)*

Thank you very much for your generosity!

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, January 13th, 5:00pm

Set Up: Elaine Rader
Servers: Patrick Murphy
Lector: Kevin Schreder
Extraordinary Minister: Gary Wittenauer
Extraordinary Minister (W): Annette Schreder
Extraordinary Minister (W): Angi Kern
Camera:

Sunday, January 14th, 8:00am

Set Up: Sr. Joan Weiler
Servers: Lucas Gregson
Lector: Jonella Donius
Extraordinary Minister: May Stellhorn
Extraordinary Minister (W): Bernadette Gregson
Extraordinary Minister (W): Tiffany 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, Debra Harbaugh, Geri Griffin, and Melissa Stellhorn.

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 held THIS weekend following both Masses.



Congratulations to Nicolette Birkner and Tyler McPherson on their marriage here on Sunday, December 31st, 2023. May they become one in heart and mind as witnesses to God's presence in their marriage.



Next choir practice will be Thursday, January 18th @ 2pm. -Sr. Joan

FROM THE PASTOR...

FR. LINUS UMOREN. C.M.

Reflection Page for the Solemnity of the Epiphany

Dear Parishioners,

On this Solemnity of the Epiphany, I choose to express my gratitude for the love, care, and warm wishes you have shown us throughout last year and especially during Christmas. As we start the new year of 2024, I thank all those who volunteered in various capacities during the previous year and the Christmas celebrations. The decorators, lectors, extraordinary ministers, ushers, choir members, knights of Columbus, sodality Society, Mary and Martha, and indeed the groups and ministries of the parishes all deserve a word of appreciation. You all form the heart of the parish, and I am grateful for your support to our parish communities.

I am thrilled to serve you as your pastor and am committed to guiding you and showing you the path to God. This is my daily mission, and I will do it as long as I am with you. I have been at St. Peter and Paul Waterloo and St. Augustine, Hecker for three Christmases, but this is my first Christmas at St. Mary's Valmeyer. I am excited to serve you there, too.

I want to commend the staff of our parishes and parish volunteers for their hard work and dedication throughout the year 2023. We all worked as a team, and I could not be prouder of them. Their faith and ownership of their work in our parish have made it what it is today. I could not have done it without them.

Finally, on behalf of Fr. John and I, I pray that the grace and peace of Christ, born into our world, will bless your homes and families abundantly.

God is Good is Good all the time.

Sincerely,

Fr. Linus Umoren, CM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Augustine's Parish ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Give the Gift that keeps on Giving... *The Messenger!*
To subscribe online for Family or Friends go to: www.bellevillemessenger.org or
Call 618-233-8670.
- Wednesday, January 10th, 2024-Knights of Columbus Meeting 7:30pm
- Monday, January 15th, 2024, 7pm- Finance Committee Meeting
- Thursday, January 18th, 2pm, Choir Practice
- **Monday, January 29th, 2024, 7pm- Parish Council Meeting ** DATE CHANGE
- Tuesday, February 6th, 2024- Ladies Sodality Meeting 7pm
- Super Bowl Bingo, Sunday, February 11, 2024



Choir members, your dedication to the music ministry of this parish is deeply appreciated. Thanks for your hard work, time, and energy. Your beautiful voices enhance the liturgy. I'm not aware of most other people in their 80s, who would brave the challenge of those choir loft steps like you do!

Most gratefully,
Sr. Joan



NEWS FROM GIBUALT HIGH SCHOOL

Apply to the Class of 2028

Winter break is the perfect time to get your application in! Apply by Jan. 26, 2024, in order to be part of this year's Acceptance Day festivities. Application available at: <https://bit.ly/GCHSApply>
Visit Gibault!

We'd love to see you in 2024! Our Shadow Program and Private Tours resume in January. On select Tuesdays and Fridays, 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>

Family Sports Pass

Show you're #gibaultproud all year long! For \$125, Hawk Fans can purchase a Family Pass that covers admission to most of our home games (some exclusions apply.) This pass is valid for girls' and boys' volleyball, girls' and boys' basketball, girls' soccer, softball, baseball, and select boys' soccer home games throughout the 23-24 school year!

Visit GCHSSportsPass.givesmart.com to purchase your pass!

11th Annual LIFE NETWORK BABY BOTTLE COLLECTION

Here is an opportunity for you and your family to have hands-on involvement in a project that saves lives of unborn children and makes an eternal difference in the life of their mothers and fathers.

Each financial gift placed in a bottle, whether great or small, will be a simple way to support Life Network of Southern Illinois and will enable us to continue offering free and confidential services to men, women and families in this area facing an unplanned pregnancy.

You are encouraged to take home one of the baby bottles which will be placed at the entrances to church. We just ask that you **return the bottle to church no later than Sunday, February 11th, 2024.** If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office at 618-473-2217, or email staug@htc.net. Thank you!!





DIOCESAN INFORMATION

RESPECT FOR LIFE CORNER

“Through the Incarnation and birth of Christ, God reveals to us the dignity of all human life. Human life, as a gift of God, is sacred and inviolable. The Son of God has united himself with every human being and desires for us to share eternal life with him... Each of us is made in the image and likeness of God, and we reflect his glory in the world.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities “The Gospel of Life: A Brief Summary”

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

The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal 2024

The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord - Psalm 15

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul truly serves the poorest of the poor through its Cosgrove's Soup Kitchen, SVDP Thrift Store, Help Center and Night Drop-In Center. Men, women and children are provided the basic necessities of life – food, clothing and shelter – and the hope and the tools they need for a better tomorrow. Help St. Vincent de Paul serve those who have no place else to turn. Please make **your gift** to The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal today.

Pledges to Date: 36 \$6,403.00 100% of our goal has been matched!!

THANK YOU to all who contributed!!!!!!

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.



What a wonderful Gospel account of the Magi traveling to meet the Lord. They followed the star – their “call” – to come and offer their gifts to the Lord. But the question arises as to how the Magi noticed a star at night and no one else really did. Perhaps we need to embrace the “night”, the stillness, to “see and hear” our call. How are we doing in discerning our call to Holiness – in living our vocation as man, woman or child; married or single; priesthood or religious – of being called to something beyond ourselves?



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**

PLEASE PRAY FOR VOCATIONS!



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

Friday, January 5, 4:00 pm through Sunday, January 7, at 2:00 pm., given by Fr. Salvador Gonzalez and Peggy Keilholz

Friday, January 12, 4:00 pm through Sunday, January 14, at 2:00 pm., given by Br. Pat McGee and Danielle Harrison

Friday, January 19, 4:00 pm through Sunday, January 21, at 2:00 pm., given by Fr. Mark Dean and Virginia Herbers

Our men'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.

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

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

King's House Retreat Center at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows – Visitors Center

"The Power, Presence and Provision of Black Spirituality in a Time of Reflection and Discernment"

Presenter: Danielle Harrison, Monday, February 26, 2024 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm (Lunch included)

Join Danielle Harrison as she explores the richness and giftedness of Black Spirituality, and how its embrace of

Scripture, Ritual, Community and Justice serves as a refreshing catalyst for experiencing the time of lent.

We will spend time reading God's Word, singing God's Praises, and responding to God's call on our life.

Cost: \$50 (Lunch included)

For more information, call 618-397-0584 or visit www.snows.org



Ss. Peter & Paul Women's ACTS Retreat Coming Soon – February 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 and on the parish website (<https://www.ssppcc.org/acts>). The retreat begins on Thursday, February 8th at 6:30pm at Ss. Peter & Paul Church and concludes on Sunday, February 11th at 10am mass at Ss. Peter & Paul. 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 618.340.2138.

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**
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, January 27th, 2024- Hecker Volunteer Fire Department Trivia Night**
at the Hecker Community Center... Silent Auction, raffles, gun raffle, and cash prizes for Trivia...call 618-473-2597 for reservations!
- **Saturday, February 24th, 2024- Hecker Community Center Chicken & Beer Dance...** Musci by Freefall. Call 618-473-2970 for ticket information.



Singers from across the Belleville Diocese are invited to join in singing the Fauré Requiem on Sunday, March 3, 2024, at 3 PM at the Cathedral of St. Peter. Rehearsals will be held on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday evenings from January 8 through March 3. Rehearsal recordings of each individual part will be sent to each singer. If you are interested and would like more specific information, please contact Mr. Richard Thompson, Organist & Choirmaster at the Cathedral of St. Peter, by email: rthompjd@gmail.com. The Fauré Requiem is a magnificent program to be presented in our beautiful Cathedral with its wonderful acoustics and rebuilt and enlarged pipe organ. I hope everyone interested can join us.



**DIOCESAN DR. KING
OBSERVANCE SUNDAY,
JANUARY 14, 2024 AT ST.
AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO
CHURCH, EAST ST. LOUIS.**

Bishop McGovern will be the celebrant for the Mass at 9:30 AM followed by a Brunch at 11:00 and the Dr. King Memorial Program in the Church at 12, Noon. If you plan to attend the brunch please RSVP to the Church Office at 618-274-0655.



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

The Epiphany of Our Lord

(Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12)

WE SAW HIS STAR AT ITS RISING
AND HAVE COME
TO DO HIM HOMAGE.



THEY WERE OVERJOYED
AT SEEING THE STAR
AND ON ENTERING THE HOUSE,
THEY SAW THE CHILD
WITH MARY HIS MOTHER.

