

**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. 10- March 10th, 2024**

**THEME FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT:** God pardons and raises up those who have been unfaithful, those who have loved the darkness rather than the light. For God so loved the world that he sent his only Son, to deliver the world from exile.

**MASS INTENTIONS:**

- Fri. 3/8 8:00am- Deceased Members of the Knights of Columbus
- Sat. 3/9 5:00pm- For Our Parish at St. Augustine's
- Sun. 3/10 8:00am- Don Braun, Mary Rettinghouse, and A Special Intention
- Fri. 3/15 8:00am- Marvin Eckart
- Sat. 3/16 5:00pm- For Our Parish at St. Augustine's
- Sun. 3/17 8:00am- Roy Schreder, Jerry Mollet, and A Special Intention



**OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM 3/3/2024:**

Envelopes (92)- \$4,614.00

Loose-\$141.00

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

*Scholarship Fund - \$2339.00 (Total  
Donated since 8/1/2023)*

**Thank you very much for your generosity!**

## SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

### Saturday, March 16th, 5:00pm

Set Up: Kevin Schreder  
Servers: Koesters  
Lector: Kevin Schreder  
Extraordinary Minister: Alice Kuehn  
Extraordinary Minister (W): Angie Kern  
Extraordinary Minister (W): Annette Schreder  
Camera:

### Sunday, March 17th, 8:00am

Set Up: Elaine Biffar  
Servers: Lucas Gregson  
Lector: Kay Haudrich  
Extraordinary Minister: Margie Holle  
Extraordinary Minister (W): Dale Haudrich  
Extraordinary Minister (W): Dennis Biffar  
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, A Special Intention, and Delbert Wittenauer.



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



**Daylight savings  
(SPRING AHEAD) this  
WEEKEND! Officially  
beings Sunday,  
March 10th @ 2am...  
Turn your clocks**

**Father Linus is currently in Nigeria and will  
be back later NEXT WEEK! 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 prayers  
traveling back to us and blessings to you  
Father Linus!!! Enjoy your family!!  
SEE YOU SOON!!!**

# FROM THE PASTOR...

FR. JOHN IGWE

## INTRO TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

Today is Laetare Sunday. Laetare is a Latin word meaning “rejoice” similar with the third Sunday of Advent called Gaudete Sunday. It is unique because the church expresses hope and joy in the midst of our Lenten fasts and penances. The church also exalts us to rejoice in the hope of our salvation. As we gather to worship God today let us give thanks to God and rejoice because God has shown us his mercy through his grace.

## REFLECTION FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B

Our first reading of this Sunday presents to us what seem to be the two sides of a coin. That is, the wrath and the mercy of God. These are revealed in both, the exile and liberation of his people. Three complaints were made against Israel and their leaders. These include: *“That they were unfaithful; they defiled the temple; and, they laughed at the prophets.”*

This led to their deportation and exile. However, in his mercy, God decided to restore them at his own time. Hence, this reading is essentially a message of hope anchored on the grace of a loving, merciful and sovereign God. This is a demonstration of how God chose to save humanity through his only son Jesus Christ.

Unfortunately, for some obvious reasons, only few of those granted freedom by king Cyrus took advantage of the opportunity to return home. The rest continued living in the land of exile. When God is ready to save us, we must respond positively to his offer of salvation both from physical and spiritual captivity. It is only through this that our joy will be complete.

In the second reading, Paul reminds us of our former state and how God did redeem us: *“...When we were dead through sin, He brought us to life with Christ.”* This is simply a manifestation of God’s love and mercy. Most importantly, it highlights the grace of God in action. Today, we rejoice because God has shown us mercy through his grace.

However, Paul call our attention to a very important point and question *“...Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?”* (Rom 6, 1). Of course, the answer is, no!

The reason is that, we must not take anything for granted. We have a part to play. God’s grace has been poured out to save us. However, we must reach out to fetch it. The gospel speaks of the greatness of God’s love for us sending his only son Jesus Christ, so that everyone who believes in him will be saved. Therefore, we must believe in Jesus so that we will not be condemned but to receive salvation on the last day.

## ST. AUGUSTINE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Choir practice Thursday, March 14th @ 2pm
- **Stations of the Cross is held weekly on Wednesday evenings at 7pm and following Friday 8am Mass.**
- We still need Usher volunteers for Easter Mass and volunteers for Holy Thursday Washing of Feet...please let the parish office know by emailing [staug@HTC.com](mailto:staug@HTC.com) or calling 618-473-2217. Also, students in Confirmation or 1<sup>st</sup> communion are encouraged to serve during Holy week Masses.
- Next 200<sup>th</sup> Year Committee meeting is set for Thursday April 4<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm inside the Parish Center
- Lenten Rice Bowls are now available for your participation. Feel free to pick up if you are lead to. Please pick up at the parish office.
- If you need a copy of the 2024 Parish Directory, there are more copies here in the parish office.
- Please be sure to turn in your flower envelopes if you wish to honor a loved one this Easter with flowers on the altar.
- Ss. Peter and Paul Fish Fry Friday March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 4:30-7pm

### **The 2024 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal**

*"Serve the Lord with gladness" -Psalm 100*

On behalf of Bishop Michael McGovern and diocesan ministries and programs, a most heartfelt thanks to all those who have already responded with a gift to The 2024 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal. If you have not done so as yet, there's still plenty of time. One-time donations or pledges – **in any amount** – are needed and can be made through your parish or at [www.diobelle.org](http://www.diobelle.org) (click on "Giving to the Diocese"). Your generosity supports 17 agencies and programs that daily serve thousands of people. Please consider making your gift today or at any time you are able in the coming months. We also ask for your prayers for the success of this year's appeal and all those we serve. Thank you and may God bless you always.

**PLEDGES TO DATE: 17**

**52% OF OUR GOAL MET!!!**



**Lunch & Card Party**

**Tuesday, April 2, 2024**

**St. Luke's Parish Center**

226 North Church St., Belleville, IL



**Play Cards or a Board Game of your choice & BINGO**  
**Doors Open-10:30am, Lunch Served-Noon, Event Ends-3pm**  
**Delicious Lunch! Have fun and support St. Luke's Parish!**

**Menu: Mostaccioli, Salad, Roll & Butter,  
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 post will be made on the parish website.**



# NEWS FROM GIBAULT HIGH SCHOOL

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Shadow Program

Parents of 7<sup>th</sup> Graders!! Spring is a great time for your student to visit Gibault Catholic! Your 7<sup>th</sup> 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! 7<sup>th</sup> grade shadows are welcome to come back as 8<sup>th</sup> graders for another Shadow Visit, too!

If your 8<sup>th</sup> grader or current high school student is interested in shadowing, there are visit days open for them. 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>

**GIBAULT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

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@gibaulthawks.com](mailto:hkovarik@gibaulthawks.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 are facing an enormous and dramatic clash between good and evil, death and life, the ‘culture of death’ and the ‘culture of life’. We find ourselves not only ‘faced with’ but necessarily ‘in the midst of’ this conflict: we are all involved and we all share in it, with the inescapable responsibility of choosing to be unconditionally pro-life”  
(*The Gospel of Life* 28).

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

**Bibles & Bourbon**  
**March 17, 6:30 pm**  
**AFF House**

**Save the date!**

Bourbon tasting with short Bible study sessions between tasting. Light snacks provided. You may want to bring your favorite palate-cleansing beer. If you are planning on attending, please call or text David or Nathan for planning purposes; however, reservations are not required.

David Miskell  
618-406-4250

Nathan Higerson  
618-980-9078

**UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS- UPDATED 3-7-24!!**


- **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**  
*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
- **St. Joseph Parish Center- Quilt and Cash Bingo- Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
Doors open 9:30am, Lunch served 11-1pm sloppy joes, pork sandwiches, chips, fruit cups, and desserts; Snacks and desserts served all afternoon; Lightening raffle 12:30pm; Quilt and Cash Bingo 1:30pm; All Prizes are hand quilted; quilt raffle, 50/50 drawing, theme basket raffle, and more! Cash only, no debit or credit cards.
- **St. Luke's Lunch and Garden Party- Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024** Doors Open 10:30am  
226 North Church Street Belleville, IL; Lunch served @ noon, event ends @ 3pm; Play cards or board game of your choice and Bingo; Menu: Mostaccioli, salad, roll and butter, cake, coffee, tea, iced tea, and water, Tally \$10.00; Bring canned goods for the pantry; IN case of bad weather, a post will be made on the parish website.
- **Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024- St. James Parish Center,** 405 W. Madison, Millstadt, IL  
**Presents Born in the USA (A Noon Luncheon Experience)** \$15/person, 12-2:30pm;  
Menu: Pulled pork, vegetables, hash brown casserole, coleslaw, Jello salad, and apple pie; Featuring basket raffle, sweet shoppe, quilt/cash raffle, bingo, attendance prizes; Paid RSVP's are required in advance. Doors open at 10:00am; Call Jane Kuester @ 618-476-1395 to RSVP.





“Early in my time in seminary, I was wandering down a hallway – about the most mundane place in the whole campus – when I had an epiphany. I had just heard a conference on the sacrificial nature of the priesthood, and at that time in my discernment, my chief struggle was the sacrifice of celibacy. Had an acute, daily awareness of my desire for a family of my own. There in the hallway, it struck me that if the life of the priest is one of sacrifice for God’s people, what better sacrifice could a man offer than his greatest human desire? From there, discernment became a bit easier. I could see this sacrifice as a gift... I wasn’t excited about it, but I could see the good of the sacrifice in God’s plan for me. In my many experiences as a priest, some heavenly, some mundane, I’ve been frequently aware of a consequence of that epiphany – joy.”

Fr. Brian Becker; Diocese of Charlotte *Columbia Magazine April 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://serrastclair.org)**



## **Administrative Assistant Job Opening**

Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic Church is seeking a passionate, talented, and mission-driven professional to join our pastoral staff.

This person is responsible for executing day-to-day administrative operations for the parish. The Administrative Assistant is a steward of the parish office, acting as a minister of hospitality to the parish and community.

Candidates should be kind, dedicated, hard-working, enthusiastic, and organized. They will also have the capacity to establish positive relationships with parishioners, families, and other staff members. Candidates should approach challenges with a growth mindset and seek to grow.

### **Qualifications:**

- Proficient in Microsoft Word and Publisher

**Call Emily Kimutis, Business Manager, for questions or inquires 618-939-6426 ext. 20**  
[pbm@ssppcc.org](mailto:pbm@ssppcc.org)



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

***“Being Disciples of Jesus in Charity, Justice, and Prophecy – Why Simply Being Good-Hearted Is Not Enough”*** Presenter: Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

**Friday, June 14, 2024, 4:00 pm through Sunday, June 16, 2024, at 1:00 pm**

Join Fr. Ron for a weekend retreat focusing on developing a spirituality of charity, justice, and prophecy. Our communities, civil and church, have never been more divided about what constitutes charity, justice and prophecy. Faith issues and moral issues have never been more divisive. Today, the sincere are being divided from the sincere. What is taught in scripture and what is the Church’s rich tradition on charity, social justice and prophecy.

**Cost: Based on Packages; For more information, please call 618-397-0584 or visit <https://kh.snows.org/events/>**

**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.**

...EST. THE 1967...  
**HONEY BAKED**  
*Ham* CO

**NEW THIS YEAR...**

**HONEYBAKED HAMS FOR EASTER**

HoneyBaked Ham order forms available  
at the exits of church or on our parish website [www.ssppcc.org](http://www.ssppcc.org)

Return completed order forms and payments to the parish or collection baskets or call-in orders to Barb Reinholz (618-578-8697) by **Sun, March 24<sup>TH</sup>**.

Pick up orders from the SPPCS gym lobby on **Thursday, March 28<sup>TH</sup>** from 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM. Thank you for supporting the Ss. Peter & Paul Life Team!