

**ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY**

**HECKER, ILLINOIS 62248**

**REV. LINUS UMOREN, ADMINISTRATOR**

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**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. 15- April 14th, 2024**

**THEME FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER:** Peter proclaims the wonders of the Lord: The suffering Messiah is raised from the dead and has been glorified. This Jesus is our intercessor, and our offering for sin, our peace.

**MASS INTENTIONS:**

Friday, 4/12 8:00am- Marcia Rheinecker

Saturday, 4/13 5:00pm- For the First Communicants of St. Augustine's

Sunday, 4/14 8:00am- For Our Parish at St. Augustine's

Friday, 4/19 8:00am- Marvin Eckart and Ruth Cortner

Saturday, 4/20 5:00pm- For Our Parish at St. Augustine's

Sunday, 4/21 8:00am- Cletus & Agnes Gregson and John Rheinecker



Thank you for your donations...we were able to raise **\$89.94** for Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl!

**OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM 4/7/2024:**

Weekly Envelopes (66)- \$3,118.00

Loose- \$185.00

Youth-\$12.00

Carpet Fund Donations- \$1,000.00

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

***Scholarship Fund - \$2,579.00 (Total Donated since 8/1/2023)***

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

## SCHEDULE FOR WEEK

### Saturday, April 20th, 5pm

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

### Sunday, April 21st, 8am

Set Up: Arnie Eckart  
Servers: Tim Donius  
Lector: Jonella Donius  
Extraordinary Minister: John Kaiser  
Extraordinary Minister (W): Betty Schreder  
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, Geri Griffin, Melissa Stellhorn, Rhonda Mehring-Smith, Gary Rist, A Special Intention, and Delbert Wittenauer, and Dorothy Christiansen.

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



**We wanted to thank everyone for your continued prayers, support and encouragement through Ava's leukemia journey these past two years. We are happy to announce she has officially completed her treatment earlier this month and continues to do well.**

**~Ava Kern and Family**

# FROM THE PASTOR...

**Father Linus Umoren, C.M.**

## **Reflection for Third Sunday of Easter Year B**

Sr. Anita was teaching Sunday school class. The topic for the day: Easter Sunday and the Resurrection of Christ. "What did Jesus do on this day?" she asked. There was no response, so she gave her students a hint: "It starts with the letter R." One boy yelled, "Recycle!"

The Easter story is more astonishing than the Nativity story because it is easier to proclaim that Jesus was born of a woman than to say He rose from the grave. Even Jesus' disciples, who were closest to him and spent the most time with him, had difficulty understanding the resurrection. For example, when the women first brought the message that they went to the grave and did not find His body but that an angel told them Jesus rose, the disciples did not jump up to sing alleluia. Instead, they dismissed the women's testimony as a piece of idle talk.

The Gospel narratives this Easter octave present the stories of Jesus' appearance to the disciples at different times and places. However, the highest common factor in all the apparitions is their inability to recognize him. Despite them not recognizing Jesus continued to surprise the disciples with his appearance.

This is the interesting part of the Gospel. The disciples are not looking for Christ. As far as they are concerned, He is dead and buried. About his resurrection, they are confused. Therefore, it is Christ who is looking for them. It is Christ who comes into their midst. It is Christ who decides the time to reveal Himself to them, to strengthen them and to lead them to a deeper understanding. This is how faith works. In every moment of our lives, in the brightest and in the darkest of times, it is God who reveals Himself in new and unexpected ways. And God reveals Himself to us not when we seek, demand or ask for it, rather in His own time, even in moments when we do not search for Him or even try to hide from His presence.

But we want our God to be there when we most need Him. In the same way we want our spouses to be there and attentive when we need them. But they often fall short and appear distant from our problems and needs. So, we feel like giving up. Like the disciples of Jesus who do not quickly recognize Jesus as he stands close by, we feel helpless. Our wounded hearts blind us from recognizing how God comes to walk with us in our distress, and our misery makes us see nothing but a dark tunnel. But when we realize God is standing by us, He takes our minds away from our fate and directs us to our destiny. Then, finally, we can say, "it is the Lord."



**First Communion at St. Augustine's is  
THIS weekend,  
Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 5pm Mass.  
First Communicants are Elias Edwin,  
Oliver Karban, Blake Koester,  
Mallory Kern and Wade Mehrmann.  
There will be a small reception  
following Mass in the Parish Center.  
Congratulations to our Communicants  
and God Bless each one of you!!!**

*Thank  
you*

**A huge and sincere thank you to all who  
served above and beyond during Lent  
and especially during Holy Week...we  
want to thank the choir, servers, lectors,  
ushers, extraordinary ministers, and  
camera operators...thank you for serving  
with giving hearts!**

**St. AUGUSTINE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- 200th St. Augustine's Celebration Committee Meeting will be Thursday, May 2nd @ 7pm inside the Parish Center.
- Ladies Sodality Meeting will be Tuesday, May 7th @ 7pm, Dessert will be served.
- Finance Meeting will be Monday, May 13th @ 7pm inside the Parish Office
- Parish Council Meeting will be Thursday, May 16th @ 7pm inside the Parish Center.
- Green Graduation inserts are available and must be returned to Parish office or email/call with info by May 19<sup>th</sup> so the information can be shared in a special Graduation bulletin insert for Masses the weekend of May 25<sup>th</sup> and May 26<sup>th</sup>

**The 2024 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal**  
***Serve the Lord with gladness***  
***-Psalm 100***

Each year the faithful of our Belleville Diocese are asked to help the works of Christ continue and grow through their support of The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal. By making a gift you are helping build up the Body of Christ in our various ministries and providing help for the poor and vulnerable.” - Bishop Michael McGovern

Please consider a gift to the appeal today!

**ST. AUGUSTINE'S**  
**PLEDGES TO DATE: 20**  
**MET!!!**

(\$4,695.00 Pledged)

**72% OF OUR GOAL**

(\$6,569.00 Parish Goal)

- **Queen of Hearts Drawing-** Benefitting Ss. Peter & Paul Catholic School  
*Tuesdays, Outsiders in Waterloo, IL,*  
Ticket sales end @6:30pm, drawings are held @ 7pm
- **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
- **RUMMAGE SALE AND BAKE SALE,** Friday, April 26 from 7 am to 2 pm and Saturday, April 27 from 7 am to 11 am inside St. Mary's Church Hall. 7362 Shawneetown Trail, Ellis Grove. 30 tables of miscellaneous items. (No clothing).



## NEWS FROM GIBAULT HIGH SCHOOL

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

There are only a few weeks left 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!

### **Future Hawk Events**

Join us at these fun events!

#### 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Scavenger Hunt

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to participate in our Junior High Scavenger Hunt on April 5 from 6-8 p.m. at Gibault Catholic High School. Pizza and Drinks will be included.

Bring your own team or sign up individually, and we can create a team.

RSVP: <https://bit.ly/gchshunt24>

#### 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Future Hawk Hangout

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to hang out in the Gibault gym! Shoot hoops, bump volleyballs, play bags, and MORE. Drinks and Snacks included. Come HANGOUT and HAVE FUN! RSVP: <https://bit.ly/hawkhangout>

Future Hawk Baseball Tailgate

#### Future Hawk Baseball Tailgate

Cheer on the State Champion Hawks on May 1 at 4:30 p.m. More info to come!

### **Spring Rummage Sale**

The Gibault Catholic Women's Club Rummage Sale is Sat. Apr. 13, from 8 a.m.— 2 p.m.

(1/2 price and bag sale after noon.) Donations can be dropped off April 8 & 9 from 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. and April 10 & 11 from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

### **Summer Classic Golf Tournament**

Tee up for the students of Gibault Catholic High School as part of our 27th Summer Classic Golf Tournament! This year's tournament will be held on Friday, June 21, 2024, and there are lots of ways to get involved. You can sponsor our event, donate raffle prizes, or gather a team to play at the beautiful Annbriar Golf Course. For more info, email [dfrasure@gibaulthawks.com](mailto:dfrasure@gibaulthawks.com) or visit our event websi



## DIOCESAN INFORMATION

### 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

### Diocesan Spring Farm Blessing

All are invited to join Bishop McGovern for the **Spring Farm Blessing**, which will be held on Friday, April 26, 2024, at 1:00 P.M. at Braeutigam Orchards located at 2795 Turkey Hill Lane, Belleville, IL.

**From the West:** One heads East on Rt 15 for approximately 3.3 miles (past Green Mount Road intersection) keeping in left lane. Once reaching Tractor Supply (on the right), turn LEFT onto Turkey Hill Lane – frontage road to Maple Hill Subdivision. Keep straight on Turkey Hill Lane for 0.6 miles and veer right to enter the Orchard.

**From the North:** One heads South on N. Green Mount Road until you reach the intersection of Rt 15. Turn left onto Rt 15, heading East, keeping in left lane. Once reaching Tractor Supply (on the right), turn LEFT onto Turkey Hill Lane – frontage road to Maple Hill Subdivision. Keep straight on Turkey Hill Lane for 0.6 miles and veer right to enter the Orchard

“Farm Blessing” signs will guide you, too. Those attending are invited to bring harvested grain, fruit, vegetables and garden produce in sealed, marked containers along with animals and farm machinery to be blessed.

*You are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to be donated to the local food pantry. We look forward to having you join us!*



“A monastery is a place where God is sought. Yet, I have always been terrible at seeking. As a boy, I even once forgot to look for my grandmother in a game of hide-and-seek. When I first visited St. Benedict Abbey as a college student in 2013, I heard a call from Christ that I didn’t really understand at the time. I loved the liturgy, the fraternity, the whole daily life – but I couldn’t explain why I wanted to be here. I believe our Lord called me to seek him in the monastery by my prayer and work, and by charity to my brothers and our guests, ultimately to find him in eternity. Christ sometimes seems to hide himself and call out so that He will seek him more eagerly, but often he is simply hidden by my distractions. Despite my forgetfulness, I am encouraged by his constant reminders and his promise: “Seek and you will find” (Mt 7:7)” **Bro. Jerome Daignault; St. Benedict Abbey, Still River, Mass. Columbia Magazine June 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)**

### **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.**





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

**King's House at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows – Visitors Center- Directed Retreat from June 17 through June 24, 2024.**

The 7-day summer Directed I Retreat is a primary way to hear the voice of God through the people and events of daily experiences. The goal of the directed retreat is to allow you to go deeper into your relationship with God while savoring what is happening in your life. The retreat includes daily meetings with your own Spiritual Director and a period of personal prayer, using scripture. Also available are optional periods for group Centering Prayer experiences, Eucharist, and Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Directed I Retreat is designed so you may adjust the length of your retreat according to your personal schedule. This year you also have the option to commute.

Cost: Please visit [kh.snows.org/events/directed-1-2024](https://kh.snows.org/events/directed-1-2024), or for more information, call 618-397-0584.

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

***“How Women Further the Reign of God”***

**Presenter: Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA PhD**

**Friday, July 14, 2024, 4:00 pm through Sunday, July 21, 2024, at 10:00 am**

**Join Sr. Dianne for a week of inspiration with both Old and New Testament stories of women who were instrumental in furthering the establishment of the Reign of God, in our time. This retreat offers a great opportunity for women and men religious, priests, deacons and everyone who wants to delve deeper into Sacred Scripture.**

**Cost: Lodging for Single Occupancy - \$525, Double Occupancy/per person - \$475 or Commuter \$365**

For more information, call 618-397-0584 or visit <https://kh.snows.org/events/>

## **RESPECT FOR LIFE CORNER**

“Like us, Christ entered the world through the womb of a woman. He willingly experienced the fullness of human suffering. He breathed his last on the Cross at Calvary in order that He might save us. Therefore, ‘God is the foundation of hope: not any god, but the God who has a human face and who has loved us to the end’ (Spe salvi 31).”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities “Respect Life Reflection: Christ Our Hope in Every Season of Life” (citing Pope Benedict XVI, Spe salvi © 2007, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved.)

## **APRIL** Is Child Abuse Prevention Month



Did you know...Child abuse can occur in every culture and every socio-economic demographic. Peer-reviewed research, especially that of the past 30 years, repeatedly shows this to be true. This same research indicates that the vast majority of child abuse occurs at the hands of someone known to the victim. Those who seek to do harm to children will pursue opportunities that provide access to children and may even ingratiate themselves into the home. You can protect children by respecting the safe environment protocols established at youth-serving organizations. More importantly, you can implement many of these protocols in your home and be ever observant and vigilant in all public and private settings.