

WELCOME TO ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY

HECKER, ILLINOIS 62248

REV. LINUS UMOREN, ADMINISTRATOR

PARISH OFFICE 618-473-2217 E-MAIL ADDRESS: staug@htc.net

PARISH WEBSITE: <https://www.staugustineofcanterburyhecker.com>

To contact Father Linus Umoren, CM, please call Parish Office

St. Vincent de Paul Help Line 618-792-4059

House of Neighborly Service Help Line 618-939-8680

Confessions: Heard Saturdays from 4:30 to 4:50 pm (When priests are available)

VOL. 60 NO. 17 April 27th, 2025

Second Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy): As Thomas believed because he saw the risen Jesus, so too were many brought to faith through the various signs and wonders wrought by the apostles. They proclaimed as Lord “the stone rejected by the builders”, “the First and the Last of the One who lives.”

MASS INTENTIONS:

Friday, 4/25	8:00am- Norma Reichman, Joe Wittenauer, and A Special Intention
Saturday, 4/26	5:00pm- For our Parish at St. Augustine's
Sunday, 4/27	8:00am- Jerry & Duane Mollet, and Shirley & Urban Wittenauer
Friday, 5/2	8:00am- Dennis Holle
Saturday, 5/3	5:00pm- Norbert Wittenauer
Sunday, 5/4	8:00am- For Our First Communicants



OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM 4/20/2025:

Weekly Envelopes- \$3,878.00

Loose- \$446.00

Youth-

Scholarship Fund (beginning 8-1-24)-

\$2,975.14

Thank you very much for your generosity!

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK/ WEEKEND

Saturday, May 3rd, 2025, 5pm

Set Up: Kevin Schreder
Servers: Mehrmanns
Lector: Kevin Schreder
Extraordinary Minister: Gary Wittenauer
Extraordinary Minister (W): Barb Bruss
Extraordinary Minister (W): Annette Schreder

Sunday, May 4th, 2025, 8am

Set Up: Elaine Biffar
Servers: Lucas Gregson
Lector: Kay Haudrich
Extraordinary Minister: Dale Haudrich
Extraordinary Minister (W): Dennis Biffar
Extraordinary Minister (W): Raeleen Neary



Please pray for the following:

Darlene Frisch, Jeanelle Dinan, Madalyn Killebrew, Kenny Kern, 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, Annette Lovelace, Geri Griffin, Melissa Stellhorn, Rhonda Mehring-Smith, Gary Rist, Sydney Furman, Delbert Wittenauer, Dorothy Christiansen, Gary Wittenauer, Jerry Castens, and Robin Booth.

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 following both Masses NEXT weekend.



Gathering to pray the Rosary will be next weekend before Sunday 8am Mass, May 4th, 2025 @ 7:40am. Contact Scott Gregson if you would like to volunteer. Scott can be reached at 618-581-3368.

FROM THE PASTOR...

Father Linus Umoren, C.M.

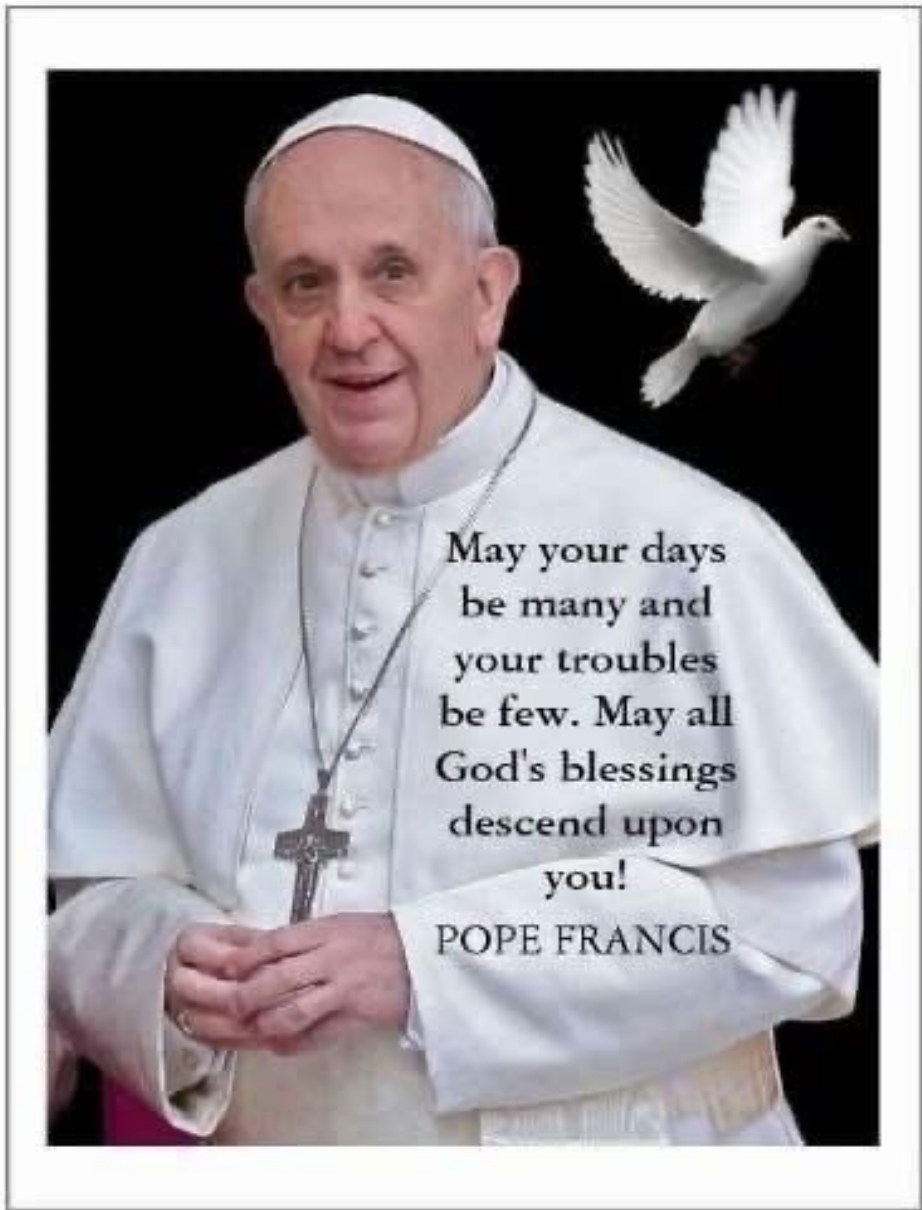
Reflection for Second Sunday of Easter- (Divine Mercy Sunday)

The ambulance brought Mr. Smith to Mercy Hospital for surgery. The operation went well. The nun waiting by his bed said, "You're going to be just fine," and asked him, "We want to know how you intend to pay for your stay here. Does insurance cover you?" He whispered, "No, I'm not." The nun asked, "Can you pay in cash?" He replied, "I'm afraid I can't, Sister." She continued, "Do you have any close relatives, then?" The patient replied, "Just my sister in New Mexico, but she's a spinster nun." The nun said, "Nuns are not spinsters, Mr. Smith. They are married to God." Mr. Smith, with a smile, said, "Okay, then send the bill to my brother-in-law."

This second Sunday of Easter, we celebrate the feast of the Divine Mercy. Both Catholics and some Anglicans observe this feast. The Divine Mercy's devotion is based on encounters with Jesus by Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun. The Divine Mercy's devotion is associated with the special promises made by Jesus to Faustina and the indulgences granted by the Church. According to Faustina's vision, those who receive communion and attend confession on the Feast of Mercy receive total forgiveness of sins.

In the Jubilee Year 2000, Saint John Paul II established this new feast indicating that he was fulfilling the will of Christ. He believed that our Church needed to re-emphasize the tremendous gift of Divine Mercy that the Lord pours out on every one of us. In today's gospel, Jesus said to His Apostles: "Receive the Holy Spirit, whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." The Holy Spirit will unveil God's salvation plan and the proclamation of his Divine Mercy by his Church. Jesus gave this authority to the Apostles on the night of the Resurrection. Thomas was not there that night. So when Thomas heard of the visit of Jesus, the fantastic news did not convince him. It sounded too good, or maybe, like a quick fix to the puzzle of death and burial. However, the next time Jesus visited, Thomas was there. The drama of his encounter with Jesus was graphic. He let Thomas touch him and feel his wounds and humanity. Thomas realized then that Jesus has indeed risen. This second appearance proved to be an effective witness. The human mind is always searching for order to make sense of things, understand the world, and organize all the data to his awareness. Faith, for instance, is a mystery of the heart that the mind wants to solve. Unfortunately, the mystery of Divine mercy cannot be solved but experienced.

As Pope Francis would say, the Divine Mercy leads us through Christ's wounds into the mystery of God's love. Mercy is not simply one of God's qualities among others, but the very beating of his heart. Therefore, the celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday is an opportunity to reflect on how God's mercy overcomes sin and God's special invitation to all Christians to face the world with confidence in the divine benevolence. Therefore, Divine mercy is about God revealing himself to us, forgiving us, and not condemning us even in our doubts. Jesus, I trust in You.



*Rest in Heavenly Peace
Pope Francis 1936-2025*

Announcements:

-The Kirchenfest Committee is looking for a Tiki Trot Chairman- please reach out to Aaron Eckart if you are interested @ 618-920-5258.

- **Rice bowls are due back!**

-Graduation Mass request forms are now available at all church entrances and on the Parish Office door. They are also available on our website www.staugustineofcanterburyhecker.com.

They are due back NTL May 15th, 2025.



First Communion at St. Augustine's is **next** Sunday, May 4th, 8am Mass. First Communicant will be Forrest Doerr.

Gibault Catholic High School News

The 24-25 School Year is very quickly winding down! We are still scheduling shadow visits – this is a great time for 7th graders to check out what life like a Hawk is all about! Our Glow Game Night for 6th-8th graders starts at 6pm tonight, in the school cafeteria.

Students can be dropped off and picked up by the gym door. Come have some Glow in the Dark fun with us! Our sports teams are gearing up for summer camps! Our student actors are working hard to present "Little Women". The show will be open from April 24-27.

Hope you can join us!

The 2025 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal

Hope in the Lord

Your contribution to the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal enables the Office of Education to impact the lives of over 10,283 students at 25 Catholic grade schools, three Catholic high schools and in PSR (Parish School of Religion) classes throughout our Belleville Diocese. If you haven't already done so, we prayerfully ask you to consider making a gift to the 2025 Appeal today...no amount is too large or too small! Thank you.

PLEDGES TO DATE: 17 58% OF OUR GOAL MET

\$3,910.00.00 Pledged as of 4/25/2025 \$6,718.00 is the Parish Financial Target

BIBLES AND BREWS

**WEDNESDAY
MAY**

14



Speaker: Fr. Michael Caruso, SJ - Director of Education/Superintendent of Schools

Topic - Pray Like a Pro:

Jesuit Spirituality for Everyone

**FOR YOUNG ADULTS
AGES 21 - 35**

Location: Bennie's Pizza Pub

113 East Main Street, Belleville, IL 62220

6:30 - 7:00PM SOCIAL

7:00 - 8:30PM EVENT



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Diocese of Belleville Young Adults

DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE 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

RESPECT FOR LIFE CORNER

If you or someone you know has had an abortion, be assured that it is never too late to seek God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Additionally, other confidential, compassionate help is available. Select "Find Help" from the menu on www.hopeafterabortion.org to find the diocesan Project Rachel Ministry near you.

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, "Bridges of Mercy for Healing after Abortion"
www.usccb.org/bridges-of-mercy



Today's Gospel is the familiar story of Thomas' declaration of unbelief in the Resurrection until "I put my finger in the nail marks." These kinds of thoughts often attack the minds of those discerning a religious vocation. They are seeking that "definite" sign that the path they are pursuing is the right one. The Lord does not always afford that. Let us pray, often and loudly, for these discerners that they "hear the call" of the Lord and continue to respond to it.

Mary & Martha Society

Rummage Sale



SPPCS GYM

May 30th & 31st

8 am – 1 pm both days



Bargains Saturday !

Donations of items will be accepted:

Saturday May 24th / 9 am to 1pm

Tuesday May 27th / 9 am to 6 pm

Wednesday May 28th / 9 am to 6 pm

Volunteers welcome to help sort items

Please have items in clean condition.

We cannot accept large furniture,TVs, or computers.



Contact info:

Carol @ 618-980-5827

