

ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY

HECKER, ILLINOIS 62248

REV. LINUS UMOREN, ADMINISTRATOR

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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. 14- April 7th, 2024

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY): Thomas believed because he saw the risen Jesus. Although we have never seen him, we believe that Jesus is the Christ, begotten by God. We give thanks to the Lord that he has formed us into a community of believers, united in the Spirit.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Friday, 4/5 8:00am- Jerry Mollet and Clarence & Emma Sandidge

Saturday, 4/6 5:00pm- For Our Parish at St. Augustine's

Sunday, 4/7 8:00am- Roy Schreder and Mary Rettinghouse

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 the First Communicants of St. Augustine's



Anointing of the Sick will be held after both Masses this weekend.

OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM 3/31/2024:

Weekly Envelopes (52)- \$2,089.00

Loose- \$405.00

Easter Collection (18)- \$930.00

Holy Land Collection (5)- \$110.00

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 13th, 5pm

Set Up: Cindy Grohmann

Servers: Koesters

Lector: Cindy Grohmann

Extraordinary Minister: Alice Kuehn

Extraordinary Minister (W): Barb Bruss

Extraordinary Minister (W): Angi Kern

Camera:

Sunday, April 14th, 8am

Set Up: Margie Holle

Servers: Doerrs

Lector: Betty Schreder

Extraordinary Minister: Margie Holle

Extraordinary Minister (W): Ryan Grohmann

Extraordinary Minister (W): Kyle Doerr

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.



First Communion at St. Augustine's is
NEXT weekend,

Saturday, April 13th, 5pm Mass.

First Communicants are Elias Edwin,
Oliver Karban, Blake Koester, Cruz Kern,
Mallory Kern and Wade Mehrmann.

There will be a small reception
following Mass in the Parish Center.

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 Catholic Church's indulgences. 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 humanness. 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. The invitation by God is always there. He does not drag us home, but he looks out for us every day. He waits on us to repent of our sins and receive his forgiveness.

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. Divine mercy is a special invitation to all Christians to face the world with confidence acknowledging divine benevolence. Moreover, it is about God revealing himself to us, forgiving us, and not condemning us even in our doubts. That is why we can confidently say, Jesus, I trust in You.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **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**
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
- **Thursday, April 11th, 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.
- **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).

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: 19
(\$4,670.00 Pledged)

71% OF OUR GOAL MET!!!
(\$6,569.00 Parish Goal)



NEWS FROM GIBALT HIGH SCHOOL

7th Grade Shadow Program

There are only a few weeks left for your student to visit Gibault Catholic! Your 7th 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! 7th grade shadows are welcome to come back as 8th graders for another Shadow Visit, too!

Future Hawk Events

Join us at these fun events!

7th & 8th Grade Scavenger Hunt

7th and 8th 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>

5th & 6th Grade Future Hawk Hangout

5th and 6th 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

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@gibalthawks.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



Bishop Michael McGovern and the Diocese of Belleville
invite you to

Emmaus Days

Come encounter Jesus, the Bread of Life,
as the Diocese of Belleville celebrates the Eucharistic Revival.

Sunday, July 7 – National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows

Monday, July 8 – Cathedral of St. Peter



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!



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 doesn't 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.



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



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/>

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, or for more information, call 618-397-0584.

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

A PRAYER FOR HEALING VICTIMS OF ABUSE

God of endless love,
ever caring, ever strong,
always present, always just:
You gave your only Son
to save us by his blood on the cross.

Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace,
join to your own suffering
the pain of all who have been hurt
in body, mind, and spirit
by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.

Hear the cries of our brothers and sisters
who have been gravely harmed,
and the cries of those who love them.
Soothe their restless hearts with hope,
steady their shaken spirits with faith.
Grant them justice for their cause,
enlightened by your truth.

Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts,
heal your people's wounds
and transform brokenness into wholeness.
Grant us the courage and wisdom,
humility and grace, to act with justice.
Breathe wisdom into our prayers and labors.
Grant that all harmed by abuse may find peace in justice.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



APRIL Is Child Abuse Prevention Month



Did you know... Child abuse comes in many forms. Most people identify child abuse as physically hitting a child. Neglect is also a form of abuse. Failing to provide a child with proper nutrition, housing, and supervision can cause irreparable harm. Expectations that a child be an active participant in the care of home and family, or even age-appropriate jobs is a part of healthy development. However excessive demands can cross into a form of servitude that is beyond the societal norms. Child pornography is a form of sexual abuse, with real victims in every image. The viewing of these images is an offense against the human dignity.