

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. 61 NO. 33 August 17th, 2025

Theme for the Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Lord came to the aid of Jeremiah whose preaching brought upon him rejection and ill treatment. For those who take the gospel seriously, misunderstanding and division must likewise be expected. Like Christ, we must never grow despondent or abandon the struggle to proclaim and live the truth.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Friday, 8/15	8:00 am- For Our Parish at St. Augustine, Holy Day of Obligation Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Saturday, 8/16	5:00pm- For a Successful Kirchenfest
Sunday, 8/17	8:00am- Don Braun, Special Intention
Friday, 8/22	8:00am- Gary & Glenn Weber
Saturday, 8/23	5:00pm- For Our Parish at St. Augustine's
Sunday, 8/24	8:00am- Lois Papenberg, Cletus & Agnes Gregson

OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM 8-17-25:

Weekly Envelopes- \$2375.00

Loose- \$149.00

Youth- \$

*Scholarship Fund (beginning 8-1-25)-
\$330.00*

Thank you very much for your generosity!

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK/ WEEKEND

Saturday, August 23rd, 2025, 5pm

Set Up: Donna Rheinecker

Servers: Mehrmanns

Lector: Donna Rheinecker

Extraordinary Minister:

Extraordinary Minister (W): Marvin Parker

Extraordinary Minister (W): Angie Parker

Camera:

Sunday, August 24th, 2025, 8am

Set Up: Elaine Biffar

Servers: Lucas Gregson

Lector: Betty Schreder

Extraordinary Minister:

Extraordinary Minister (W): John Kaiser

Extraordinary Minister (W): Dennis Biffar

Camera:

Please let Kevin or Annette know dates you are not available for September and October.



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.

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



The 2025 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal *Hope in the Lord*

Did you know **YOUR GIFT** to the 2025 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal can be made online? Visit your Belleville Diocese's website at www.diobelle.org and click on "Giving".

It's that simple! Every donation – large or small – is needed to continue our diocesan ministry to those in need. We are counting on **YOU**. Please visit www.diobelle.org today!

PLEDGES TO DATE: 28 88 % OF OUR GOAL MET

\$5,955.00 pledged of 8/3/2025 \$6,718.00 is the Parish Financial Target

Reflection for 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

Jesus says that he has come to set fire on earth. He has a mission which must be accomplished. The drive to finish this mission is causing his inner anguish. It is probable that the fire he wants to cast on earth is also inside him as a propelling force. One can recall the saying of Jeremiah when he recounts that within him there is something like a burning fire shut up in his bones which he cannot hold and control (Jer 20:9). This fire has been placed there by God for a divine purpose. The fire of Jesus is also from God, and he is not a reluctant prophet trying to control it. This fire could also be connected with the experience of the Spirit. John the Baptist predicted that the one who is to come will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire (Lk 3:16).

Nevertheless, this image of casting fire on earth could closely be connected with the experience of the coming of the Holy Spirit on the apostles which purifies, empowers and help them to be committed to the mission of Christ. Today's gospel does not focus on the teaching of Jesus but on its effects. There are some people who would accept the teachings of Jesus while some would refute them. Thus, the offer of Jesus' peace, love and reconciliation would lead to inevitable division. Therefore, he cast fire on earth that will bring judgement. The fire that purifies separates the good and the bad, the wheat and the chaff, the gold and the dross. The Christian life requires total commitment and radical decision in life. It is like fire that consumes.

However, commitment to Jesus means taking a stand on certain things which may cause opposition to other people. This commitment which is like fire may cause us to be persecuted as prophet Jeremiah was in today's first reading. It can also make us to struggle as St Paul noted in the second reading. At times it may cause us to oppose our family members as Jesus warns us today in the gospel. This was one of the reasons why the early Romans hated Christianity so much because once a son becomes a Christian, he could no longer participate in pagan worship. He could no longer participate in orgies and immoral life that was common of Rome in its decadent epoch. Commitment to Jesus then has to take priority over everything else, even commitment to our own family. This fire of commitment may seem cool, but it is still burning.

Let us take note that while our Christian commitment may bring division even in our families, it should not make us to neglect them. We still have obligations to care for our family members. We have an obligation to honor and respect our parents and senior ones even when they are in opposition to our faith (Sirach 3). St Peter advised us to always be ready to give account of our faith to anyone who demands of it with respect and prudence (1 pt 3:15).

We ask God to grant us the courage to follow him with deep commitment even though it may cause us to struggle, to be persecuted and even be in opposition with our family members.



Diocese of Belleville Anniversary Mass

Fr. Godrey will celebrate the annual Anniversary Mass at St. Peter's Cathedral on September 28th, 2025, at 1pm.

If you are celebrating the following milestone anniversary this year, 5, 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 and every year after 60 years and would like to attend this mass please contact the parish office by August 21, 2025, at 618-473-2217 and an invitation will be sent to you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Father Linus will be traveling to Nigeria to visit his family from July 11- August 19th, 2025.
- We need Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers. If you are interested in becoming a Lector or an Extraordinary Minister, please contact Kevin Schreder at: 618-406-7037 or the parish Office at: 618-473-2217.
- The 5th Sunday collection will take place on the weekend of August 30th/31st. The money collected will go to Life Network in Waterloo.
-

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

“God’s love—individual, real, unchanging—is the true source of our worth, identity, and dignity. It really is not a question of who we are, but rather *whose* we are. Because his love will never change, nothing can reduce our God-given dignity, and nothing can diminish the immeasurable worth of our lives.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

[“How to Build a Culture of Life”](#)

“When I was 7, my older sister joined the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity and took the name Sister Celine. This sparked in me a deep curiosity about her religious vocation, which eventually led me to spend several weeks with her community in a remote island mission in the Bicol region of the Philippines. The conditions were stark; the area lacked electricity and clean water. Yet, I discovered extraordinary richness in the lives of the people. And, undiminished by material poverty, the SOLT sisters radiated joy that stemmed from their faith and dedication to serving others. During my stay, I felt an unprecedented sense of peace, as if enveloped by God’s love. I saw Jesus in the faces of those we served, each interaction revealing the transformative beauty and power of faith. Now, as a SOLT sister, I find fulfillment in living the Gospel’s message, witnessing to hope and the miracle of faith in action.



The 2025 Catholic Service & Ministry Appeal

Hope in the Lord

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.

From the Deacons Desk

Ever struggle with prayer, don't fret, here's some great insight/advice that might help. Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 2560 says this "Whether we realize it or not, prayer is the encounter of God's thirst with ours. God thirsts that we may thirst for him." Chris Stefanick said in a recent The Daily Anchor, "This should completely change the way you enter God's presence every time you pray. I'll never forget when my daughter, Clementine, sat on my lap at Mass, staring at me with that sweet (and distracting) smile for ten minutes, then said without looking away, 'You're my dad.' When you pray, don't get caught up in: Am I doing it right? Are my hands in the right position? Is my soul in the right place? While those questions have their place, first and foremost enter prayer knowing you're stepping into the arms of a Father who's thrilled you're here. If you even think of praying, it's because He thought of you first—He put the idea in your mind and the urge in your heart. Your overriding thought when you bow your head at home or in church should simply be, 'You're my dad,' as you look up and smile." These links

<https://aleteia.org/2024/01/09/how-god-thirsts-for-us-during-prayer/> and

https://wau.org/resources/article/god_is_thirsting_for_me or the