

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. 34 August 24th, 2025

Theme for the Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

No one is to be excluded from the kingdom for all peoples are called to proclaim the praises of the Lord and confess his holy name. No ethnic or religious group possesses exclusive rights to the kingdom. Suffering and pain are part of the human conditions.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Friday, 8/22	8:00 am- 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
Friday, 8/29	8:00am- Michael Amann
Saturday, 8/30	5:00pm- Jerry & Duane Mollet
Sunday, 8/31	8:00am- For Our Parish at St. Augustine's

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

Weekly Envelopes- \$1569.00

Loose- \$281.00

Youth- \$

*Scholarship Fund (beginning 8-1-25)-
\$350.00*

Thank you very much for your generosity!

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK/ WEEKEND

Saturday, August 30th, 2025, 5pm

Set Up: Kevin Schreder

Servers: Mehrmanns

Lector: Kevin Schreder

Extraordinary Minister: Gary Wittenauer

Extraordinary Minister (W): Annette Schreder

Extraordinary Minister (W): Ruth Wittenauer

Camera:

Sunday, August 31st, 2025, 8am

Set Up: Sister Joan

Servers: Doers

Lector: Kay Haudrich

Extraordinary Minister: Dale Haudrich

Extraordinary Minister (W): Kyle Doer

Extraordinary Minister (W): Ryan Grohmann

Camera:

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 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

Today's gospel presents a man who asked Jesus whether few people would be saved. This questioner would believe that only the Jews will receive salvation while gentiles would be shut out. But Jesus' answer gave him a shock. Jesus' answer to the man indicates that entry into the kingdom of God can never be easy and automatic but will be the result and reward of a struggle. Jesus says, "keep on striving to enter", the word for striving is the word from which the English word 'agony' is derived, indicating that the struggle to enter the kingdom of God must be so intense that it may be described as an agony of soul and spirit. In the past so many people believe that it would be difficult and hard to enter the kingdom of God. As such people worry about the smallest things like not eating one hour before communion, not eating meat on Fridays, not receiving communion before confession etc. People were very conscious of the sense of sin. But most people in today's generation are gradually losing the sense of sin. They think salvation is easy and without much struggle. A lot of Catholics think they can be good without attending church every Sunday, some feel they can be good Catholics without donating time or money to help the poor and the church. It is like saying that we can love God while choosing to ignore the important ways Jesus commanded us to worship and serve him. To strive or to struggle is like to do daily training like those preparing for the Olympics to win a gold medal.

The Christian way of life is like climbing up a mountain pathway towards a peak which will never be reached in this world. The Christian need to struggle daily and win the self, the human tendencies of laziness, pride, selfishness, self-centeredness, unbridled love for pleasure, comfort and material possessions, the crave for fashion, sexual orgies and the sinful attraction of the society or the daily temptation of the devil. There is a battle in life that we have to win and which we must not take for granted but must strive and struggle because it will not be easy. However, Jesus used the image of the closed door to warn the Jews not to take for granted their position as the chosen people of God. The same warning goes to the Catholics who are complacent and think that being a catholic is a criteria to be saved. There is no such thing as borrowed spirituality. You have to wake up and struggle, train and persevere to be saved. Attendance of daily Mass is recommended, with regular confession, practice of good work, being a member of some of the Pious organizations in the church, fight the human tendencies mentioned above, the struggle to enter the narrow gate has ensued.



Please pray for Gary Rist, who passed away this week. Gary was the husband of Kay Rist and father to Kim Holbrooks, Karen Looper, Kori Rist and Kyle Rist. May his soul and all the souls of the faithfully departed rest in peace.

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 25, 2025, at 618-473-2217 and an invitation will be sent to you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A Big Thank You to all who braved the heat and worked the Kirchenfest. More details to follow in the upcoming weeks.
- The 5th Sunday collection will take place on the weekend of August 30th/31st. The money collected will go to Life Network in Waterloo.
- Ladies Sodality will meet on Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2025, at 7:00pm

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

“Death is a decisive moment in the human person’s encounter with God the Savior. Helping the Christian to experience this moment with spiritual assistance is a supreme act of charity. It encompasses the patient with the solid support of human relationships to accompany them and open them to hope... While palliative care cannot entirely eradicate suffering from people’s lives, it provides an authentic expression of human and Christian care—allowing us to ‘remain’ at the side of a suffering person, as the Blessed Mother and the beloved disciple *remained* at the foot of the Cross.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

[“The Witness of the Good Samaritan: Palliative Care and Hospice”](#)

Vocations

“I was born in a small town in Michoacan, Mexico. My mother, a woman of great faith, instilled in me and my five siblings trust in God and kindness toward others. When I turned 15, my family moved to California. It was difficult to leave home, but I soon got used to the new school, friends, and culture. One afternoon, I accompanied a friend to church, more out of duty than desire, and Jesus reminded me that had been waiting for me. I realized how much I had been moving away from him, how much I needed him, and I went to confession. I later encountered the Servants of Mary, Ministers of the Sick, who were visiting the parish. I began to discern, and after high school, I entered my postulancy. I am now a professed junior sister.”

Sister Maritza Madrigal; Servants of Mary, Ministers to the Sick; New York City; Columbia Magazine, June 2020



The 2025 Catholic Service & Ministry Appeal

Hope in the Lord

Do you remember your or your children's or, perhaps, your grandchildren's first time away from home attending college? While greatly anticipated, it can also be a challenging, sometimes overwhelming experience. Today hundreds of young adults find a comfortable, secure, faith-based home during their college years as a "family" member of the **Newman Catholic Student Center at Southern Illinois University**. Your contribution to The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal helps make this experience possible. Partner with Newman's students and staff by making **your gift** to The Appeal today!

Special Collection Today August 23rd and August 24th

With the ongoing crisis in the Holy Land and Gaza, our Holy Father Pope Leo continues to call for a cease fire and that the basic elements for survival be provided for families and civilians who are struggling there. Today we will take a second collection to help provide humanitarian relief to our brothers and sisters in this war-torn area. If you are unable to participate today, you may also donate funds directly through Catholic Relief Services:

[Support.crs.org/donate/holy-land-conflict](https://support.crs.org/donate/holy-land-conflict) or by calling (877)HELP CRS – (877) 435-7277. Please offer your prayers and a donation if you are able; thank you so much.

Very Rev. Godfrey Mullen, OSB
Diocesan Administrator