

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. 62 NO. 15 April 12th, 2026

Theme for the Sunday of Devine Mercy

Thomas believed because he saw the risen Jesus. Although we have never seen Him, we believe in Him. We give thanks to the Lord for this gift of faith, especially when we gather for the breaking of the bread and the prayers.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Friday 04/10	8:00 am – Wally & Michael Amann
Saturday, 04/11	5:00 pm – Ruth Cortner
Sunday, 04/12	8:00 am - For the Parish of St. Augustine
Friday, 04/17	8:00 am – John Rheinecker
Saturday, 04/18	5:00pm- Cletus and Agnes Gregson
Sunday, 04/19	8:00am- For the Parish of St. Augustine



OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM 03-05-26:

Weekly Envelopes- \$4620.00

Loose- \$375.00

Good Friday- \$335.00

Easter - \$1885.00

*Scholarship Fund (beginning 8-1-25)-
\$3422.30*

Thank you very much for your generosity!

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK/ WEEKEND

Saturday April 18th, 2026, 5:00pm

Set Up: Cindy Grohmann
Servers: Mallery Kern & Blake Koester
Lector: Cindy Grohmann
Extraordinary Minister: Angie Kern
Extraordinary Minister (W):Kevin Schreder
Extraordinary Minister (W):Barb Bruss
Camera:

Sunday April 19th, 2026, 8:00 am

Set Up: Elaine Biffar
Servers: Anne & Oliver Karban
Lector: Ryan Grohmann
Extraordinary Minister: Raeleen Neary
Extraordinary Minister: Dennis Biffar
Extraordinary Minister: Betty Schreder
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, Sydney Furman, Dorothy Christiansen, Arline Wittenauer, Andy Amann.



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 2026 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!

PLEDGES TO DATE: 19 39% OF OUR GOAL MET

\$2735.00 Pledged as of 3/29/20256 \$6856.00 is the Parish Financial Target

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Anointing of the sick will be this weekend, April 11 and 12 after masses.**
- **A Kirchenfest Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 13, 2026, at 7:00 at the Parish Center. This meeting is for Stand Chairmen and anyone from the parish who is interested in helping to plan the Kirchenfest for 2026.**
- **Extra palms are being stored in the confessional in the back of church. Please help yourself.**
- **Let the office know if you would like to donate items or cash to the rectory project for our new Priest, Fr. Bala.**



Welcome Father Bala. We are so looking forward to having a priest at our parish full time. Thank you for taking on this new assignment.



Pray for Vocations

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 for these discerners that they "hear the call" of the Lord and continue to respond to it.

Respect Life Corner

On the Second Sunday of Easter, the Church celebrates the Sunday of Divine Mercy. It provides an important opportunity to share Christ's message of mercy, especially with those who suffer because of their participation in one or more abortions. By the age of 45, as many as 1 in 3 women have had an abortion, and a similar number of men and family members have been involved. Many feel that abortion is "the unforgivable sin." They need to hear that, through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, God forgives every sin of a repentant heart, even the sin of abortion. In fact, Jesus' message to St. Faustina is that the greater the sinner, the greater the right to His mercy.

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:

Reflection for the Divine Mercy Sunday

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 news was too good to be true. It sounded, 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 humbling for Thomas. The risen Jesus let Thomas touch him and feel his wounds and humanness. Thomas realized then that Jesus has indeed risen.

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.

Gibault Update

Upcoming Events:

- Rummage Sale Saturday, April 11 8am-2pm, NOW accepting donations!
- Jr. High Mexican Fiesta Block Party – April 17, 6-8pm
- Gibault Theater Club presents the Musical “Godspell” – April 24-25 7pm, April 26 2pm

Be in the Know!

- We are still Taking Applications – go to <https://gibaulthawks.com> and click “APPLY” to apply today.
- 7th and 8th graders can schedule a shadow visit and spend the day with one of our Student Ambassadors – go to <https://gibaulthawks.com> and click “INQUIRE” to request a shadow day.
- Check out our Instagram pages @gibaultproud and @gibault_ambassadors to find out more about all the great things we have going on!

Spring Farm Blessing

All are invited to join Father Godfrey for the **Spring Farm Blessing** which will be held on Tuesday, April 28th at 1:00 P.M. at the Ryan Peter Family Farm, 7755 Highway 15, Mt. Carmel, IL.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS – (FROM THE BELLEVILLE AREA - HEADING EAST ON I-64)

Take I-64E toward Mt. Vernon (59.3 Miles)
Keep Left on I-64 toward Louisville (51.3 Miles)
At Exit 130: Head toward IL-1/Grayville/Carmi/Mt. Carmel
Turn Left onto S. Court Street (IL-1) (12.9 Miles)
Turn Left onto E 700RD (CR-5/CR-700) toward Maud (1.2 Miles)
Turn Right onto E 700 RD (CR-5/CR-700) (2.1 Miles)
Turn Right onto Hwy 15 (IL-15 (0.8 Miles)

“Farm Blessing” signs will guide you along the way. Those attending are invited to bring seeds, farm animals, farm equipment and 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!