

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. 16 April 19th, 2026

Theme for the Third Sunday of Easter

Through the blood of Jesus, we have been delivered from the power of sin. We recognize him in the breaking of the bread, the one whom God raised from the dead and who now sits at his right hand forever.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Friday 04/17	8:00 am – John Rheinecker
Saturday, 04/18	5:00 pm – Cletus and Agnes Gregson
Sunday, 04/19	8:00 am - For the Parish of St. Augustine
Friday, 04/24	8:00 am – Joann Wuller & Mary Jerome
Saturday, 04/25	5:00pm- Mary Rettinghouse
Sunday, 04/26	8:00am- For the Parish of St. Augustine



OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM 03-12-26:

Weekly Envelopes- \$2440.00

Loose- \$197.00

Youth-\$

Easter- \$100.00

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

Thank you very much for your generosity!

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK/ WEEKEND

Saturday April 25th, 2026, 5:00pm

Set Up: Donna Rheinecker
Servers: Mehrmanns
Lector: Donna Rheinecker
Extraordinary Minister: Gary Wittenauer
Extraordinary Minister (W): Annette Schreder
Extraordinary Minister (W): Ruth Wittenauer
Camera:

Sunday April 26th, 2026, 8:00 am

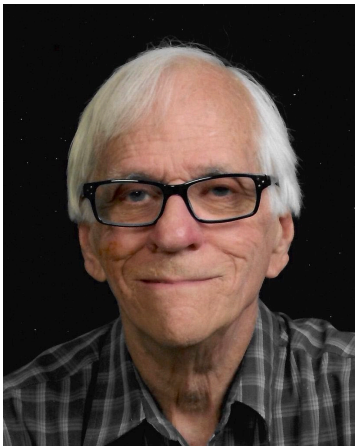
Set Up: Sister Joan
Servers: Doerr's
Lector: Kay Haudrich
Extraordinary Minister: Dale Haudrich
Extraordinary Minister: Margie Holle
Extraordinary Minister: Lucas Gregson
Camera:

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, Vickie and Tim Grant



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



PRAY FOR Roger Cortner, who died and was buried this past week. Roger was father to Brian (Jeanette) Cortner and Denise (Chris) Rennegarbe. Roger was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth Cortner. Please remember him and his family in your prayers. May his soul and all souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Let the office know if you would like to donate items or cash to the rectory project for our new Priest, Fr. Bala.**
- **Parish Council/Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday evening, April 23rd, 2026 at 6:30 pm in the Parish Center**
- **Graduates Mass is scheduled for May 16th and 17th. To be recognized please complete the form in the bulletin and return it to the parish office or collection basket by May 8th, 2026**



PRAY FOR Arline Wittenauer, who died last week and will be buried on Monday, April 20th, 2026. Arline was mother to Gary (Joan) Wittenauer, Vicki Wittenauer, Jolene Wittenauer, Annette Lovelace, Ricky (Anne) Wittenauer and Mary (Jeff) Hooten. Arline was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph Wittenauer. Please remember her and her family in your prayers. May her soul and all souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.



Pray for Vocations

"Growing up in a Catholic homeschooling family, I knew my faith well. Though our cattle ranch was 45 minutes from the closest church, Sunday Mass was always a priority. My parents' example of praying with Scripture each morning inspired me to do the same during high school. As my relationship with God grew, I began to hear his call to the priesthood. The priests I knew influenced me greatly, and reading about the life of Blessed Michael McGivney strengthened my desire to serve as a priest. After my ordination as a transitional deacon, I had to take a couple of years for health reasons. During that time, I reread biographies of and letters from Blessed Solanus Casey – who is my great-great-great-uncle – and was inspired by how he always thanked God despite his own suffering and difficulty during seminary. Today, more than a year since my priestly ordination, I cannot thank God enough for the great blessings he gives me as I serve his people, especially by celebrating the Mass and hearing confessions."

Respect Life Corner

Virgin of Guadalupe, Patroness of unborn children, we implore your intercession for every child at risk of abortion. Help expectant parents to welcome from God the priceless gift of their child's life. Console parents who have lost that gift through abortion, and lead them to forgiveness and healing through the Divine Mercy of your Son. Teach us to cherish and to care for family and friends until God calls them home. Help us never to see others as burdens. Guide our public officials to defend each and every human life through just laws. Inspire us all to bring our faith into public life, to speak for those who have no voice. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who is Love and Mercy itself. Amen.

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

Third Sunday of Easter: A

Twin seven-year-old boys were always getting into trouble. Their parents knew if any mischief was reported in town, the twins were probably involved. Their mother heard that a preacher in town had been successful in disciplining children, so she asked if he would speak with her boys. The preacher agreed, but he asked to see them individually. The mother sent one boy in the morning, with the other boy to see the preacher in the afternoon. The preacher, a huge man with a deep booming voice, sat the boy down and asked him sternly, "Do you know where God is, son?" The boy made no response, sitting there wide-eyed with his mouth hanging open. So, the preacher repeated the question in an even sterner tone, "Where is God?!" Again, the boy made no attempt to answer. The preacher raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the boy's face and bellowed, "WHERE IS GOD?!" The boy screamed, ran directly home, and hid in his closet. When his twin brother found him in the closet, he asked, "What happened?" His brother replied, "We are in BIG trouble this time! GOD is missing, and they think WE did it!"

The Easter story is more astonishing than the nativity story. It is easier to proclaim that Jesus was born of a woman than to say he rose from the grave. Even Jesus' disciples, the ones who were closest to him and spent the most time with him had difficulty in understanding the resurrection. When the women first brought the message to them, they did not jump up to sing alleluia, instead they dismissed the women's testimony as idle talk.

In the Gospel narrative this weekend, we are presented with the report of the encounter between the risen Lord and the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. This narrative depicts the unfolding character of revelation and the revelatory nature of the Eucharist—the breaking of bread. The two disciples were probably returning home from the celebration of the Passover. Emmaus was seven miles from Jerusalem; a distance one could cover by foot ordinarily.

But from another perspective, the story seems to tell of two people going the wrong way. In Luke's Gospel, Jerusalem is the spiritual center: it is the location of the Last Supper, the cross, the resurrection and the sending of the Holy Spirit. It is the location where everything begins and ends. So, in walking away from Jerusalem to Emmaus (7 miles), these two individuals identified as disciples of Jesus are going against the grain. These disciples were walking away from their Promise! However, this is where Jesus met them. He simply met them where they were and began the revelatory interpretation of what had happened. Finally, it is at the breaking of bread that their eyes are opened, and they recognized him for who he was. Luke provides a way of understanding **divine presence as seeming absence**. Christ vanished out of their sight. But they recognized his presence. Perhaps, visible apprehension does not always sustain enduring faith.

Who does not feel disappointed in times of distress, sickness or broken dreams? But sometimes our wounded heart can blind us from recognizing how God comes to walk with us in our distress. Our misery can make us myopic that we see nothing but a dark tunnel. Nevertheless, when we recognize God standing by us, he takes our minds away from our fate and directs us to our destiny.

The 2026 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal

Those who are kind to the needy honor Him.

“It is only through your prayers, kindness and generosity that our diocesan ministries can continue providing services to our parishes, schools and the needy among us throughout the 28 southernmost counties of Illinois. Please support the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal today!” -Bishop-elect Godfrey Mullen, OSB

PLEDGES TO DATE: 19 39% OF OUR GOAL MET

\$2735.00 Pledged as of 4/13/2026 \$6856.00 is the Parish Financial Target



Jackie Bushong

Congratulations to Jackie Bushong for becoming a Gold Award Girl Scout – a designation she earned by helping younger scouts learn to appreciate and care for the outdoors.

Jackie is the daughter of Steve and Teresa Bushong who are members of St. Augustine Catholic Church.

CONGRATULATIONS