

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. 17 April 26th, 2026

Theme for the Fourth Sunday of Easter

God has made Jesus both Lord and Messiah. Through his wounds, we have been healed and have returned to our Shepherd. Let us listen for his voice and follow him.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Friday 04/24	8:00 am – Joann Wuller & Mary Jerome
Saturday, 04/25	5:00 pm – Mary Rettinghouse
Sunday, 04/26	8:00 am - For the First Communicants
Friday, 05/01	8:00 am – Norbert Wittenauer
Saturday, 05/02	5:00pm- For the Parish of St. Augustine
Sunday, 05/03	8:00am- Dennis Holle, Special Intention



OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM 04-19-26:

Weekly Envelopes- \$2010.00

Loose- \$242.00

Youth-\$4.00

Scholarship Fund (beginning 8-1-25)-
\$3442.30

Thank you very much for your generosity!

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK/ WEEKEND

Saturday May 2nd, 2026, 5:00pm

Set Up: Kevin Schreder
Servers: Mallory Kern & Blake Koester
Lector: Kevin Schreder
Extraordinary Minister: Angie Kern
Extraordinary Minister (W):Marvin Parker
Extraordinary Minister (W):Angie Parker
Camera:

Sunday May 3rd, 2026, 8:00 am

Set Up: Elaine Biffar
Servers: Doerr's
Lector: Shelly Fizer
Extraordinary Minister: Kyle Doerr
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, Frank Kohler, Josh Middendorf, Ethel Mae Kreher, Annette Lovelace, Geri Griffin, Melissa Stellhorn, Rhonda Mehring-Smith, Sydney Furman, Dorothy Christiansen, 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.

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 4/19/2026 \$6856.00 is the Parish Financial Target

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Let the office know if you would like to donate items or cash to the rectory project for our new Priest, Fr. Bala.
- The Parish Secretary will be out of town starting April 30th, 2026, through May 4th, 2026. The office will be open on Tuesday, May 5th, 2026.
- Graduation Mass request forms are now available at all church entrances and on the Parish Office door. Please return them no later than May 8th, 2026.
- Anointing of the sick will take place next weekend May 2nd and May 3rd after the masses.



**Congratulations to
Ryann Happel and
Wyatt Mehrmann from our
parish, who were
confirmed at Saints Peter
and Paul on Friday, April
24th, 2026.**

**Congratulations on this
milestone in faith.**



Pray for Vocations

Today we acknowledge the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Will you make a special effort to ask the Lord for vocations to the priesthood and religious life? Pray for the priests who have ministered to you throughout your life, both living and dead. Encourage your children, grandchildren, or other young people to consider a vocation as a priest or religious brother, or sister. Pray a rosary for more young men and women in our diocese to respond to God's call. To quote Pope Francis, "Each one of us is called – whether to the lay life in marriage, to the priestly life in the ordained ministry, or to a life of special consecration – in order to become a witness of the Lord, here and now."

Respect Life Corner

"Suicidal individuals—with or without a terminal illness—typically do not want to die; they want to escape what they perceive to be an intolerable situation, and they inaccurately believe that suicide is their only way out. The patient requesting assisted suicide is often asking, 'Does anyone want me to be alive, or care enough to talk me out of this request and support me through this difficult time?'"

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, "Every Suicide is Tragic"
usccb.org/every-suicide-tragic

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 Fourth Sunday of Easter: A

Whispering firmly, the priest said to a dying man, "Denounce the devil! Let him know how little you think of his evil!" The man said nothing, so the priest repeated his order. Still the dying man said nothing. The priest asked, "Why do you refuse to denounce the devil and his evil?"

The dying man said, "Until I know where I'm headed, I don't think I ought to aggravate anybody."

The fourth Sunday of Easter is sometimes known as the "Good Shepherd Sunday." That is because, in all three cycles of the Liturgical Year, the Gospel presents us with an image of Jesus the shepherd whose voice we should hear.

Our conversation this weekend would begin with a question about who we listen to in our life. We all desire to have leaders who would lead us. Sometimes we follow someone who has the attribute that we lack or those we admire. Some people are attracted by those who would inspire, encourage, and affirm them. Still, others follow someone who would challenge them to go beyond the confines of their feelings and circumstances to strive after things they would like to achieve. We call these people heroes or models. What is familiar about them is that they inspire, encourage, and are visionaries.

Jesus uses the image of a good shepherd to talk about his leadership qualities: "The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his sheep by name and leads them out" (John 10:2-3 NRSV). The true shepherd wins the confidence of the sheep because he is ready to forgo his needs and to deny his interest in the benefit of the sheep.

But there is also another person who poses as a shepherd. "He comes only to steal and kill and destroy" (John 10:10). Here Jesus warns his disciples not to be confused. The impostors come to use the sheep or steal and to destroy. In the history of Christianity, we learn of false prophets, bad popes, bishop, and priests. We also have wicked kings and queens, dictators and oppressive emperors. There are also abusive parents, relatives, friends, and teachers. Jesus came that we may have life and have it abundantly (John 10:10). Frequently, people who kill the life in us are so close to our eyes. Only we cannot see them because we get blinded by their empty promises. We are not faithful disciples when we accept the manipulations of our world, the imperfections of our government, the flaws of our culture. We are not following the Gospel when we take abuse in our workplace or our home, imagining that such acts of violence are acceptable. Jesus is the good shepherd. He knows his sheep and the sheep know him.



Congratulations to Isaac Edwin who will make his First Communion at St. Augustine's on Sunday April 26th at the 8:00 Mass.

May God Bless you always.

Upcoming Events:

- Gibault Theater Club presents the musical **"Godspell"** April 24-25 @7pm, April 26 @2pm
- Girls' Soccer Alumni Game – Saturday April 25 after game against Murphysboro

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!