# WELCOME TO ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY

**HECKER, ILLINOIS 62248**

**REV. BALAIAH ERY, Administrator**

**PARISH OFFICE 618-473-2217 E-MAIL ADDRESS: staug@htc.net**

**PARISH WEBSITE: https://www.staugustineofcanterburyhecker.com**

**To contact Father Balaiah Ery, 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 4:15 to 4:45 pm

**VOL. 62 NO. 34 August 23th, 2026**

## Theme for The Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

As Eliakim is given authority as master of the palace, so does Jesus confer upon Peter authority to bind and loose. To Jesus, who promised to be with his Church for all time, be glory for ever and ever.

## MASS INTENTIONS:

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| Tuesday 08/18 | 8:00 am- For the Parish at St. Augustine |
| Friday 08/21 | 8:00 am – For the Parish at St. Augustine |
| Saturday, 08/22 | 5:00 pm –Cletus & Agnes Gregson |
| Sunday, 08/23 | 8:00 am – Ray Mavers |
| Tuesday 08/25 | 8:00 am – Special Intention |
| Friday, 08/28 | 8:00 am – Michael Amann |
| Saturday, 08/29 | 5:00 pm-Geri Griffin |
| Sunday, 08/30 | 8:00 am- For the Parish at St. Augustine |

**OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM 08-16-26:**

Weekly Envelopes- $1620.00
Loose- $403.00
Youth-$
*Scholarship Fund (beginning 8-1-26)- $22.30*

**Thank you very much for your generosity!**

**SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK/ WEEKEND**

***Saturday August 29, 2026, 5:00pm***

Set Up: Kevin Schreder
Servers: Mehrmanns
Lector: Kevin Schreder
Extraordinary Minister: Gary Wittenauer
Extraordinary Minister (W):Annette Schreder
Extraordinary Minister (W):Barb Bruss
Camera:

**Sunday August 30, *2026, 8:00 am***

Set Up: Sister Joan
Servers: Karbans
Lector: Ryan Grohmann
Extraordinary Minister: Lucas Gregson
Extraordinary Minister: Raeleen Neary
Extraordinary Minister: Betty Schreder
Camera:

**Please pray for the following:**
Darlene Frisch, Jeanelle Dinan, Madalyn Killebrew, Kenny Kern, Ricky Wittenauer, Ava Kern, Jim & Joanne Cowell, Helen Parker, Mike Rheinecker, Evelyn Kelley Marquart, Frank Kohler, Ethel Mae Kreher, Annette Lovelace, Melissa Stellhorn, Rhonda Mehring-Smith, Sydney Furman, Dorothy Christiansen, Andy Amann, Walter Krysnoski.

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 Nancy Grohmann**, (Mother of Ryan (Dawn) Grohmann and Renee Grohmann, who died and was buried this past week. Please remember her and her family in your prayers. May her soul and all souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

**PRAY FOR Walter Wittenauer**, (stepfather ) of Raeleen Neary and Shirleen Schaefer, who died and was buried this past week. Please remember him and his family in your prayers. May his soul and all souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Father Bala will be anointing and bringing communion to the homebound on the 2nd Friday morning of the month. If you are interested in having Fr. Bala come to your house or know someone who would like a visit from Fr. Bala, please contact the parish office at: 618-473-2217.**

- **Next Weekend is the 5th Sunday of the month collection. Money collected will go to Life Network, Waterloo.**

- **The Blessed Virgin Altar Sodality will hold its meeting on September 1, 2026 at 7:00 in the Parish Center.**

- **A Big Thank You to all the first-time workers and those who show up every year to help make our Kirchenfest a success. Total Deposit for the Kirchenfest was $31,431.00. There were 873 dinners sold and 108 Runners for the Tiki Trot. We will have the final totals for the Kirchenfest in the next couple of weeks. Many people braved the hot weather and came out to enjoy the Kirchenfest. Thank you for all the help in the days prior and the day of the Kirchenfest. God Bless you!**

**Pray for Vocations**

"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."
Sr. Mary Louis Granadillos; Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity; Columbia Magazine April 2025

**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:
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# Homily for the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today's readings invite us to answer one central question: **Who is Jesus Christ for me?** Peter gives the great confession of faith: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus then entrusts Peter with a mission of service and leadership in the Church.

In the first reading, Shebna is removed from his office because he treated authority as personal privilege rather than a responsibility before God. Eliakim is appointed in his place and receives "the key of the House of David." Authority in God's kingdom is never about status; it is about faithful service, opening doors for others, protecting the vulnerable, and carrying responsibility with humility.

St. Paul, in the second reading, responds to God's plan with wonder: "Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!" We do not control God's ways. We do not earn our salvation by our own strength. Everything is grace. Our lives, our faith, our gifts, and our vocation all come from the Lord.

Then, in the Gospel, Jesus takes the disciples to Caesarea Philippi and asks, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" The crowd has many opinions: John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. But Jesus makes the question personal: "But who do you say that I am?"

That is the question each of us must answer—not merely with words, but with our lives.

It is easy to say that Jesus is Lord when things are going well. But do we confess him as Lord when life is difficult, when prayer seems unanswered, when forgiveness is costly, or when the world's values pull us in another direction? Peter's answer was not the result of human cleverness; it was a gift of revelation from the Father. Faith is God's gift, but it calls for our response.

Jesus tells Peter: "You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church." The Church is built upon faith in Christ. The Church has endured not because its members are always perfect, but because Christ remains faithful to his promise. He is still the foundation. He still gives the Church the keys of mercy, forgiveness, truth, and hope.

Each of us shares in this mission. In our homes, workplaces, parish, and community, we are called to help open the door to Christ for others. We do this through kindness, patience, prayer, honesty, and a willingness to speak of our faith when the opportunity comes.

Today, let us ask ourselves: *Who is Jesus for me?* May our answer be like Peter's—not only with our lips, but through a life that says: "Jesus, you are the Christ, the Son of the living God. I belong to you."

**Respect Life Corner**
**Real Answers, Not Just an Alternative**

What if infertility isn't just something to work around, but a signal your body is asking you to listen to? Restorative Reproductive Medicine, including NaProTechnology, does exactly that: it identifies and treats the root causes behind infertility, from hormonal imbalances to endometriosis to cycle irregularities, often restoring a couple's natural fertility altogether. This isn't the Church's consolation prize for those who won't pursue IVF. It's genuine, evidence-based medicine that treats both body and marriage with dignity, working with a woman's cycle instead of overriding it. For many couples, it succeeds where other approaches couldn't, because it heals rather than bypasses. This week, we invite you to see RRM not as a "no," but as a hopeful and faithful "yes." If you or someone you love is walking this road, follow the QR code to learn more about RRM and find doctors in our area who can help.

**We are in need of someone to take over the mowing of the cemetery grounds starting in the spring of 2027. This is a paid position and would be utilizing the parish's cemetery lawn mower. Please contact the parish office for more information 618-473-2217.**

**The 2026 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal**
***Those who are kind to the needy honor Him.***

The homebound, sick and seniors living in the southernmost part of the state are assured they will have food to eat thanks to **Daystar Community Program**'s mobile food pantry, which delivers groceries on a regular basis to those not able to visit Daystar's on-site food pantry. **YOUR GIFT** to the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal makes Daystar's truly life-saving ministry possible. If you haven't already done so, please donate today and help Daysta to serve truly the poorest of the poor; they are counting on **YOU**!

**PLEDGES TO DATE: 24 60% OF OUR GOAL MET**

**$4160.00 Pledged as of 8/16/2026 $6856.00 is the Parish Financial Target**