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. 35 August 30th, 2026

Theme for The Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Following the Lord means nothing less than the cross: offering ourselves with Jesus as a living sacrifice and not conforming ourselves to this world. Following Him will entail derision and scorn, yet the Lord is our help.

MASS INTENTIONS:

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
Tuesday 09/01	8:00 am – For the Parish at St. Augustine
Friday, 09/04	8:00 am – Philip Rheinecker
Saturday, 09/05	5:00 pm- For the Parish at St. Augustine
Sunday, 09/06	8:00 am- Joe & Ariline Wittemauer, Paul and Terry Petre

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

Weekly Envelopes- $1673.00
Loose- $276.00
Youth-$3.00
Scholarship Fund (beginning 8-1-26)- $42.30

Thank you very much for your generosity!

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK/ WEEKEND

Saturday September 5th, 5:00pm

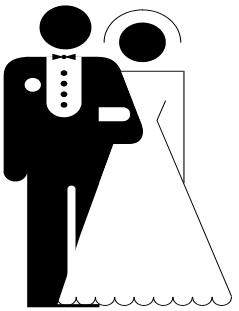
Set Up: Kevin Schreder
Servers: Mallory Kern & Blake Koester
Lector: Ruth Wittenauer
Extraordinary Minister: Gary Wittenauer
Extraordinary Minister (W):Marvin Parker
Extraordinary Minister (W):Angie Parker
Camera:

Sunday September 6th, *2026, 8:00 am*

Set Up: Margie Holle
Servers: Doerrs
Lector: Shelly Fizer
Extraordinary Minister: Kyle Doerr
Extraordinary Minister: Raeleen Neary
Extraordinary Minister: Margie Holle
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.



Congratulations to Taylor and Brice Griffin on their recent marriage on Saturday, August 8, 2026. May they become one in heart and mind as witnesses to God's presence in their marriage.

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.**

- **This 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.**

- **The secretary will be out of the office Monday August 31 thru Wednesday September 2, 2026. Returning to work on Thursday, September 3.**

- **Winners from the Raffle at the Kirchenfest are:**

1st Jamie Papenberg	**$500.00**
2nd Sidney Grohmann	**$250.00**
3rd Betty Schreder	**$150.00**
4th Alice Kuehn	**$100.00**
5th Ray Borage	**$ 50.00**

Congratulations to the Winners!

Pray for Vocations

"I have a vivid childhood memory of my mom and dad kneeling to pray after receiving Communion. They first taught me how to pray, and their marital witness continues to teach me about fidelity to one's vocation. Years later, at my first Mass, I told my father that I hoped my spiritual fatherhood would reflect his fatherhood – and I still hope for that. I wouldn't be a priest without my parents. Likewise, I wouldn't be a priest without the good men who witnessed to the joy of the priesthood, or the parishioners whose ceaseless prayers and encouragement sustained me. There was also the religious sister who taught me not just calculus, but what it means to leave home and everything behind to follow Jesus. And it was a close friend's offhand remark – "You'd make a good priest" – that sparked a period of serious self-reflection and prayer that led me to the seminary. The Church teaches that a vocation is discovered, nourished, and accepted within one's community. "
Fr. Christopher Murphy; Diocese of Providence, Riverside, Rhode Island Columbia Jan/Feb 2026

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 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last Sunday, Peter made his great confession of faith: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Today, however, Peter is shocked by what Jesus says next. Jesus begins to reveal that He must go to Jerusalem, suffer, be rejected, be killed, and on the third day be raised. Peter cannot accept it. He takes Jesus aside and insists that such suffering must never happen.

Peter wants a Messiah of triumph without the Cross. Yet Jesus makes clear that there is no resurrection without Calvary, no saving love without self-giving, and no true discipleship without following Him on the way of the Cross. The Gospel calls us not merely to admire Christ, but to walk behind Him: “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me

The Cross that Jesus asks us to carry is not a search for suffering, nor is it a command to accept injustice or abuse silently. Rather, it is the daily decision to remain faithful to God when faithfulness costs us something. It is the sacrifice of forgiving when we would rather hold on to resentment; serving when we are tired; speaking the truth with charity; caring for a family member; remaining honest when dishonesty seems easier; and continuing to pray when God feels distant.

Jeremiah understands this struggle. Called to speak God’s word, he experiences rejection, ridicule, and exhaustion. He wants to remain silent, but he cannot, because God’s word has become “like fire burning in my heart.” The prophet teaches us that a genuine encounter with God changes us. It gives us a holy restlessness: a desire to live truthfully, to love more generously, and to bear witness even when it is difficult.

St. Paul gives the same teaching in another form: “Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God.” Paul also urges us not to be conformed to this age, but to be transformed by the renewal of our minds.

To deny oneself does not mean denying one’s dignity or worth. It means saying no to sin, selfishness, pride, and whatever keeps us from loving God and neighbor. It means placing Christ at the center and trusting that His way, even when difficult, leads to life.

Each of us has crosses that may not be visible to others: grief, illness, loneliness, anxiety, family burdens, disappointment, or concern for the future. Christ does not stand at a distance from these burdens. He has carried the Cross before us, and He walks with us now. When our crosses are united to His, they are no longer meaningless. They become places where grace can deepen our faith, strengthen our love, and draw us closer to the Lord.

Today, let us ask for the grace not to think merely as the world thinks, but to see with the mind and heart of Christ. Let us follow Him faithfully—not only when the road is easy, but also when the path leads through sacrifice.

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.

ACTS Retreat
You're Invited
Deepen your faith and renew your spirit by joining us on the 2026 Women's Acts Retreat
When: September 24 – 27, 2026
Where: Our Lady of the Snows Shrine
Hosted by Ss. Peter& Paul Catholic Church

For additional information and to register, contact:
Mary Kay Dreps 314-973-5238
Angie Griffin 618-719-8012