

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. 08 February 22nd, 2026

Theme for The First Sunday in Lent

Like Adam and Eve, Jesus was tempted but did not sin. Our Sinfulness is acquitted through one man, Jesus Christ, in whom we are justified.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Friday 02/20	8:00 am- For the Parish of St. Augustine
Saturday, 02/21	5:00 pm – Mary Rettinghouse
Sunday, 02/22	8:00 am- Ruth Cortner
Friday, 02/27	8:00am- Norbert Wittenauer
Saturday, 02/28	5:00pm- For the Parish of St. Augustine
Sunday, 03/01	8:00am- For the Parish of St. Augustine

*The
Season
of
Lent*



OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM 02-015-26:

Weekly Envelopes- \$2019.00

Loose- \$155.00

Youth- \$

*Scholarship Fund (beginning 8-1-25)-
\$2868.30*

Thank you very much for your generosity!

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK/ WEEKEND

Ash Wednesday

Saturday, February 28th, 2026, 5:00pm

Sunday March 1st, 2026, 8:00 am

Set Up: Cindy Grohmann

Servers: Mehrmanns

Lector: Cindy Grohmann

Extraordinary Minister: Marvin Parker

Extraordinary Minister (W): Angie Parker

Extraordinary Minister (W): Gary Wittenauer

Camera:

Set Up: Elaine Rader

Servers: Anne & Oliver Karban

Lector: Elaine Rader

Extraordinary Minister: Raeleen Neary

Extraordinary Minister (W): Shelly Fizer

Extraordinary Minister (W): 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.

St. Peter and Paul Catholic Cemetery - Semi-Annual Cleanup

Please be advised that the semi-annual cemetery clean-up will take place on **Sunday, March 1, 2026**. In preparation for this maintenance, we ask that families and friends remove all decorations, flowers or ornaments they want to keep. Anything not removed by Sunday, March 1 will be removed. You may put decorations back on Tuesday, March 3.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Stations of the Cross will take place on Friday mornings after 8:00 am mass and on Wednesday evenings starting on February 25th at 7:00 pm during lent. If anyone could help with Stations of the Cross on Wednesday evenings, please contact Kevin Schreder at 618-406-7037**
- **Please help yourself to the Little Black Books for Lent. They are in the back of church.**
- **Rice Bowls are available for the Lenten Season. They can be picked up in the back of church.**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
SISTER JOAN on February 26th!**



**Thank You for all you do for our Parish
You are truly Appreciated.**

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:

<https://www.diobelle.org/respectlife/project-rachel>.



“From a young age, I desired to be noticed by Jesus in a particular way. By age 13, Good Friday left me with an ache to suffer with the crucified Lord. At age 16, I read the Song of Songs and declared “I want a love like that.” Jesus became my first love. Though I was open to religious life, I also love the idea of marriage. In college, I replaced Jesus as the center of my life with the man I thought I’d marry. Deep down, I felt Jesus’ claim on my life and fought against Him for it, in restless pursuit of a tangible spouse. But Jesus brought me to surrender. In the Eucharistic presence of the divine bridegroom the attraction of all earthly bridegrooms faded away. Jesus gave himself entirely for me on the cross. I now yearned to give my whole self to him. Today, as a Passionist nun, I stand at the foot of the Cross, wedded to Redeeming Love. Jesus crucified does not disappoint. He is the fairest bridegroom of all.”

Sr. Maria Faustina Carmichael; Passionist Nuns of St. Joseph Monastery;
Columbia Magazine Oct. 2025

Respect Life Corner

“The essence of our identity is that we are created in God's image and likeness and loved by Him. Nothing can diminish the priceless worth of any human life. Every person is cherished.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

Respect Life Reflection: Cherished, Chosen, Sent

Reflection for the First Sunday in Lent

A priest is walking down the street when a man pushes him into an alleyway and points a gun at him. "Give me all your money or I'll shoot you."

The priest opens his jacket to grab his wallet and the man sees his collar.

"Oh, I'm sorry Father, I wouldn't have robbed you if I knew you were a priest."

The priest then asks, "I'm sorry, I don't have any money, but may I offer you a cigarette?"

The man shakes his head and replies, "No, thank you. I gave up cigarettes for Lent."

The readings for the first Sunday of Lent introduce us to the meaning of the seasons of Lent and Easter. The texts not only describe the human condition—vulnerable and broken, but they also present God as rich in mercy through Jesus Christ, who is the word of God made flesh.

Humans are placed in the garden to till it and keep it, which explains how we are called to be caretakers of the creation of God. Besides, while God gives us expansive freedom, the exercise of that freedom is not boundless: "You are free to eat from any of the trees of the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and evil. From that tree, you shall not eat; when you eat from it, you shall die" (Genesis 2:17 NAB). The tree's appearance here underscores the connection between obedience to God and human flourishing. Thus, when we break God's commandment, human flourishing gets compromised.

The twist of the creation story begins with the description of the serpent as the most cunning of all the animals created by God. Also, Adam and Eve are presented as being naked. We need to pay attention to the tricky question of the serpent which is intended at challenging the relationship between God and the first humans. Here the serpent questions the foundation of their relationship and proposes some exciting experience to them: "You certainly will not die! God knows well that when you eat of it, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like gods, who know good and evil." The woman discovered just as the serpent said that the fruit was good for food, delightful to the eyes, and gave "knowledge."

However, after eating the fruit, Adam and Eve's first knowing was the experience of nakedness and shame. This nakedness is a distraction from the mission of caring for the garden to the need for some self-covering. Now it is this "mission and distraction" experience that circumvents our journey through Lent. God's purpose has not changed, despite our vulnerable condition and the activities of the crafty and talking serpents has not changed either. Nevertheless, God still calls us back on the right path to concentrate on our mission in life. This is where lent begins.

Ss Peter and Paul Catholic Church
Annual Wurstmarkt and Quilt Cash Bingo

Sunday, February 22, 2026
Dine-In Carry Out
SSPPCS Cafeteria 11:00 – 3:00

Quilt & Cash Bingo
SSPPCS Gym Starting at 1:00 PM
Paper Cards will be used
\$1.00 /Card

HOUSE OF NEIGHBORLY SERVICE

The House of Neighborly Service is requesting items for the Summer Lunch Program. Most needed items are Canned Chicken, Peanut Butter and Shelf Stable Milk. The House of Neighborly Service is also in great need of paper products and cleaning supplies. If anyone wishes to donate, these items can be dropped off at 217 West Mill Street in Waterloo, Monday – Friday 8:30 to 3:00.

Gibault Update

5th-8th Graders are invited to participate in our annual AMPlify contest on March 5th - Show off your Art, Math and Poetry skills! Sign up by going to our website and clicking on the AMPlify link. We are still taking applications - Go to <https://gibaulthawks.com> and click "APPLY" to apply. **Tuition Assistance Applications are also being accepted until February 28, 2026.** All 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 more information. Questions can also be emailed to our Admissions Coordinator, Pam Kueker at pkueker@gibaulthawks.com. We want to welcome your student Home at Gibault!

2026 BINGO REPORT

Tallies Sold	Bingo 377
Deposit for Bingo	\$4,167.00
Adult Dinners Sold	562
Child Dinners Sold	16
Dinner Deposit	\$8,624.00
Lightning Round Deposit	\$1,536.00
Attendance Prizes Awarded	78
Raffles Sold --	\$2,339.00
Parish --	\$ 742.00
Friends --	\$1,597.00

Raffle Prize Winners --	\$25.00 Gift Cards
Quilt- Yvonne Murry	Dale Haudrich
\$150.00 - Patricia Kennedy	Judy kreitler
\$100.00 - Ann Haudbich	Angela Voss
\$50.00 - Tammy Peeler	Bernita Maurer
	Andrea Sutter

Quilts for the BINGO - Donated by:

Michael and Nancy Gregson

Marvin & Angie Parker

Marilyn Haudrich

John and Vickie Kaiser

Ruth Wittenauer

Joan and Lowell Powell

David Amann

Ed and May Stellhorn

Jim & Elaine Rader

Diane and Darryl Mehrmann

Vickie Wittenauer

Arline Wittenauer