

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)

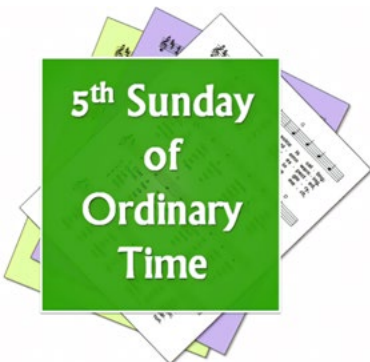
VOL. 62 NO. 06 February 8th, 2026

Theme for The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Through the power of God, we can be a light to the world by our loving concern for others, especially the poor and the oppressed.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Friday 02/06	8:00 am- Ruth Cortner
Saturday, 02/07	5:00 pm – For the Parish of St. Augustine
Sunday, 02/08	8:00 am- Gary Rist, Cletus & Agnes Gregson
Friday, 02/13	8:00am- For the Parish of St. Augustine
Saturday, 02/14	5:00pm- David Bruss
Sunday, 02/15	8:00am- For the Parish of St. Augustine



OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM 01-25-25:

Weekly Envelopes- \$3170.00

Loose- \$250.00

Youth- \$4.00

Scholarship Fund (beginning 8-1-25)-

\$2803.30

Thank you very much for your generosity!

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK/ WEEKEND

Saturday, February 14th , 2026, 5pm

Set Up: Cindy Grohmann
Servers: Mehrmann's
Lector: Cindy Grohmann
Extraordinary Minister: Marvin Parker
Extraordinary Minister (W): Angie Parker
Extraordinary Minister (W): Kevin Schreder
Camera:

Sunday, February 15th , 2026, 8am

Set Up: Elaine Rader
Servers: Anne & Oliver Karban
Lector: Elaine Rader
Extraordinary Minister: Shelly Fizer
Extraordinary Minister (W): Raeleen Neary
Extraordinary Minister (W): Margie Holle
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, Joan Wittenauer, 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.



Messenger Subscription Renewal Weekend Feb. 7-8, 2026

Please stay connected with your Diocese through a subscription to *The Messenger* Catholic Newspaper. Payments can be made via your Messenger envelope or by credit card at www.bellevillemessenger.org and click **SUBSCRIBE** or call 618-722-5045 during business hours for phone payment. The cost for a 1-year subscription is \$40 for printed, home-delivery, \$35 for digital access and \$45 for both.

Please make checks payable to The Messenger and make sure to include your e-mail address if digital subscription is selected.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026, Mass times are 8:00 am and 7:00 pm.**
- **Stations of the Cross will take place on Friday mornings after 8:00 am mass beginning on February 20th and on Wednesday evenings starting on February 25th at 7:00 pm. If anyone could help with Stations of the Cross on Wednesday evenings, please contact Kevin Schreder at 618-406-7037**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
to Father Longenus on February 12th.



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>.



A sage once wrote that a good marriage is like a fire around which others come to warm themselves. So, as we celebrate World Marriage Day on this Sunday, we realize that no matter what our station in life - married, single or religious - we have benefited from this sacred covenant relationship whether through the example of our parents, grandparents, and other role models or through our own stewardship of the marriage covenant.

Respect Life Corner

“Married love differs from any other love in the world. By its nature, the love of husband and wife is so complete, so ordered to a lifetime of communion with God and each other, that it is open to creating a new human being they will love and care for together.”

USCCB, *Married Love and the Gift of Life*

Reflection for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom as the children drew pictures. The teacher would occasionally walk around and see each child's artwork. As she approached one little girl who was working especially hard, she asked what the drawing was. The little girl told her: "I'm drawing God!" "But sweetie," the teacher replied, "no one knows what God looks like." The little girl continued drawing and said, "Well, they certainly will in a minute.

Following up with the teaching on the BEATITUDE that we heard last week, Jesus uses the metaphors of salt and light to explain discipleship. SALT AND LIGHT are essential part of our life. In Jesus' time and culture, salt was used as a preservative: for flavoring, and as a catalyst for healing. Light, on the other hand make objects visible to the human eyes. Additionally, salt has a distinctive flavor and light always shines, no matter how tiny it may be.

Jesus calls us to a similar kind of active intervention in the world in today's gospel. Thus, metaphor of being salt and light means that discipleship involves a certain distinctiveness. Putting it more radically, Jesus says to all Christians, "You can't simply taste like everyone else". The flavor of the disciple must be distinctive to season the world and upsets its status quo. Therefore, every disciple is called to practice whatever humanizes life on earth.

Now looking at the other side of the coin, today it's not easy to be the light of the world, especially in the face of religious intolerance in public places. Also, today many people feel inadequate when they compare themselves to the saint whose stories we read in religious books and history books. But the truth is that we don't have to be another person or do anything extraordinary or even be the brightest bulbs of our time. Let us remember that the disciples of Jesus also faced the challenge of losing the capacity to elicit goodness in their time given the aggression against the nascent Christian community, but Jesus kept encouraging them not to give up bringing light to a dark and broken world. Without complications, to be the light of the world we just need to share the gift that God has given us. For example, clothing people with love and care; or paying more attention to what is happening around us and helping out wherever and whenever I can. So, the questions we can think about is: whose life has my actions as a Christian impacted positively?

There will be a marriage enrichment event on March 7, 2026, to celebrate couples that have been married for ten years or less. It will be held at Corpus Christi Parish in Shiloh, IL. The event will include Mass (optional), dinner, a presentation and renewal of vows by Fr. Robert Flannery, and then dancing (with a lesson from professional dance instructors).

This is not a free event, the cost will be \$50 per couple to help defray the cost of dinner, drinks and babysitting, so everyone will have to register and pay.

Please contact the office by phone, (618) 473-2217 or email at staug@htc.com if you are interested in attending.

PURSE BINGO

St. Agatha Parish is hosting a designer Purse Bingo on March 1st in the Parish Hall. Doors open 11:30 am, Bingo starts at 12:30. Advanced registration is \$40.00, Cost at the door is \$50.00. This includes bingo cards, daubers and drinks. BYO snacks. There will extra 50/50 games, lightening rounds, and Basket raffle. For advanced registration contact Debbie Matzenbacher 618-210-3318 or Glo-Bingo.com/events.



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! Email pkueker@gibaulthawks.com to sign up. 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!



Hearts Aflame

AN EVENING TO CELEBRATE AND
DEEPEN LOVE FOR COUPLES
MARRIED 10 YEARS OR LESS

7 MARCH	Corpus Christi Church 205 Rasp Street, Shiloh, IL 62226	
	COCKTAILS 5:30 DINNER 6:15	<i>Please RSVP</i> <i>Before February 27</i>

Tickets are \$50 per couple and include
dinner, drinks, talk and blessing by
Fr. Robert Flannery, dance lesson,
and babysitting

For info, e-mail Molly King (mking@diobelle.org)
Register with QR code at or
www.diobelle.org/life-marriage-family/events



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.

HOUSE OF NEIGHBORLY SERVICE

The House of Neighborly Service is requesting monetary donations for the Summer Lunch Program. You can make your donation and label it for House of Neighborly Service Summer Lunch Program and put it in the collection basket. 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 the church office or placed in the back of church for pickup.

EUCHRE TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28 AT 7:00 PM

(Doors open at 6:00)

Sponsored by St. Michael's Men's Club

- 6 Rounds of Euchre; 12 hands per round
- Partners randomly rotated each round
- Team Points follow player for all rounds
- All you can drink beer and soda
- All you can eat fried chicken (at end of last round)
- Prizes awarded for top 3 places
- Tickets = \$25 per person

Location: St. Michael's Church (Paderborn) Parish Hall
4576 Buss Branch Road
Waterloo, IL 62298

Contact for reservations:
email Rich Kreher at slark4@yahoo.com
or call/text 314-341-4904

