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. 29 July 19th, 2026

Theme for The Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In his patience, the Lord allows both weeds and wheat to grow together, both saints and sinners to respond to salvation in the Kingdom. This Lord is good and forgiving, lenient to all, desiring repentance for our sins. May the Spirit assist us in our weaknesses.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Tuesday 07/14	8:00am- For the Parish at St. Augustine
Friday 07/17	8:00 am – Geri Griffin
Saturday, 07/18	5:00 pm – Lawrence & Marie Kaiser Arline Wittenauer
Sunday, 07/19	8:00 am – Ruth & Roger Cortner
Tuesday 07/21	8:00 am – For the Parish at St. Augustine
Friday, 07/24	8:00 am – Geri Griffin
Saturday, 07/25	5:00pm- For the Parish at St. Augustine
Sunday, 07/26	8:00am- John Rheinecker

OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM 06-28-26:

Weekly Envelopes- $3570.00

Loose- $195.00

Youth-$4.00

Divine Word Missionaries - $973.00

Scholarship Fund (beginning 8-1-25)- $4916.30

Thank you very much for your generosity!

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK/ WEEKEND

Saturday July 25th, 2026, 5:00pm	**Sunday July 26th, *2026, 8:00 am***
Set Up: Cindy Grohmann	Set Up: Sr. Joan
Servers: Mallory Kern & Blake Koester	Servers: Doerrs
Lector: Cindy Grohmann	Lector: Kay Haudrich
Extraordinary Minister: Angie Kern	Extraordinary Minister: Dale Haudrich
Extraordinary Minister (W):Donna Rheinecker	Extraordinary Minister: Betty Schreder
Extraordinary Minister (W):Gary Wittenauer	Extraordinary Minister: Kyle Doerr
Camera:	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, Melissa Stellhorn, Rhonda Mehring-Smith, Sydney Furman, Dorothy Christiansen, Andy Amann, Vickie and Tim Grant, 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.

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

Did you know **YOUR GIFT** to the 2026 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal can be made online? Visit your Belleville Diocese's website at www.diobelle.org and click on "Giving". It's that simple! Every donation – large or small – is needed to continue our diocesan ministry to those in need. We are counting on **YOU**. Please visit www.diobelle.org today!

PLEDGES TO DATE: 24 60% OF OUR GOAL MET

$4160.00 Pledged as of 6/28/2026 $6856.00 is the Parish Financial Target

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Confessions will be heard every Saturday afternoon from 4:15 to 4:45, before the 5:00 pm mass.**

- **Father Bala will be celebrating mass at 8:00 am on Tuesdays and Fridays during the week. Please try to attend if possible.**

- **We are in need of volunteers for Wednesday evening August 12, 2026 at 6:15 to break bread and debone chicken and Friday morning August 14th at 8:45 to prepare dressing for the dinner at the Kirchenfest. There will be sign up sheets in the back of church. Please sign up if you are available to help. Please realize many volunteers are needed to make our picnic a success.**

- **Plastic Bags have been placed at the entrances of church to be used for the Adult Basket Stand and the Kids Basket Stand. Once you made your baskets you can drop them off at the parish office or contact Vicki Wittenauer for Adult Baskets at 815/922-3769 and Laurel Jung for the Kids Baskets at 618/340-1906.**

Pray for Vocations

"The countless gravestones at Normandy American Cemetery in France stirred my heart. These brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives challenged me: Would I be willing to lay down my life, as these men did, for the Lord and his people? Long before this pivotal moment, the seeds of my vocation had been planted by family role models. My grandfather served his family and parish sacrificially for many years after his WWII duty. Likewise, my father coached me in self-discipline, and my dear mother raised me to serve others. It was at college that the Lord Jesus truly captured my heart. After graduation, I served as a missionary and met the Brotherhood of Hope. I admired the brothers and their work evangelizing students at secular universities, but I resisted the idea of celibacy and did not have the courage to explore a vocation with them until after my experience at Normandy Beach. My years with the Brothers of Hope have strengthened my conviction that Jesus Christ alone can satisfy our deepest desires."

The National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows 83rd Annual Healing and Hope Novena to Our Lady of the Snows begins on Tuesday, July 28, through Wednesday, August 5, 2026, 7:00 p.m. nightly at Church of Our Lady of the Snows.

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 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's Gospel presents us with the Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds (Matthew 13:24–43), a story that speaks deeply to the reality of our lives, our Church, and our world. In this parable, Jesus teaches us that good and evil exist side by side, and that God, in His mercy and wisdom, allows both to grow together until the harvest—the final judgment.

Life is not always black and white. Often, what appears to be good may have flaws, and what seems entirely bad may still hold potential for conversion and growth. The servants in the parable are eager to pull out the weeds immediately, but the master wisely tells them to wait. Why? Because in their haste, they might uproot the wheat along with the weeds.

This speaks to us in several ways:

- We all struggle with sin and weakness. Yet, God does not give up on us. He gives us time to grow, to repent, and to bear fruit.
- We may be tempted to judge others harshly, to label people as "weeds" and exclude them. But only God knows the heart. Our role is to love, to pray, and to trust in God's mercy working in every soul.
- The Church is holy, yet made up of sinners. We are called to be patient with one another, recognizing that God is at work even in the midst of human frailty.

The first reading from the Book of Wisdom reminds us that God is "a judge who is just" and yet "shows mercy to all" (Wisdom 12:13, 16–19). God's justice is tempered with compassion. He does not delight in the destruction of the wicked but desires their conversion.

As St. Augustine once said, "God judges with mercy, and His patience is an invitation to conversion." St. Paul speaks of the Holy Spirit's role in our weakness. He reminds us that we are not alone in the struggle. Even when we feel weak or unworthy, the Sprit is at work drawing us closer to Christ.

One day, the harvest will come, and the angels will separate the wheat from the weeds. Until then, we are called to live with hope, trust, and love. We are not the final judges; that role belongs to God alone. Our task is to remain faithful, to grow in virtue, and to help others do the same.

Let us remember the words of Pope Francis: "God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking His mercy. As Christians, we are called to be good wheat in God's field. Choose to live faithfully and spread goodness wherever we are. Through our words, actions, and love, we help Gods Kingdom grow. As we celebrate this Eucharist, let us ask Him to strengthen the good within us, and to remove whatever keeps us from him, and to give us patient and merciful hearts like His own. May we grow each day in holiness and be found among the good wheat when the Lord comes at the final harvest.

Respect Life Corner

So, how do you actually learn NFP? Start by choosing an NFP method that you prefer. Most take about 3 months to learn, guided by a certified instructor. Contact our diocesan NFP Coordinator, Emily Joost, at mejoost@gmail.com for guidance. The payoff? A lifetime of body literacy — a gift from God to be used in harmony with His design — to avoid or achieve pregnancy, navigate PMS, PCOS, postpartum, infertility, and even perimenopause. And yes — it works. Modern NFP methods are 97–99% effective at avoiding pregnancy, backed by continually advancing research and rooted in the Church's teaching on the beauty of the human person. Scan the QR code to see how the numbers compare and get more information about methods.

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Smithton, Illinois, is seeking a qualified and mission-driven Part-Time Parish Business Manager (26–28 hours per week) to oversee the financial, administrative, facilities, and operational functions of the parish and school.

The Parish Business Manager works closely with the Pastor, School Principal, parish staff, and parish leadership to ensure the effective stewardship of parish resources and support the mission of the Church.
A practicing Catholic is preferred, with a thorough knowledge and understanding of Catholic teachings, practices, and organizational structure.
The successful candidate will possess strong financial and organizational skills, excellent communication abilities, and the capacity to maintain confidentiality while serving in a collaborative leadership role.

To apply: Send cover letter and résumé to St. John the Baptist Catholic Church at malvarez@stjohnsschool.us or by mail at 109 Stroeger St, Smithton, IL 62285 - ATTENTION: Mary Alvarez
Application deadline: July 20, 2026.